

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Technology such as small modular reactors and spent fuel repositories are increasing nuclear accessibility and safety. As a team of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts and I made our way to the UN's COP26 climate conference in Glasgow last November, the growing energy crisis was already apparent in queues at petrol stations and among concerned conversations about the 400% rise in natural gas prices, Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Source: <https://www.utilities-me.com/utilities/opinion-nuclear-energy-can-be-the-turning-point-in-the-race-to-decarbonise>

2. Romanian nuclear energy producer Nuclearelectrica has selected the site of the old coal-fired power plant in Doicești, 90 kilometers northwest of the capital, for the installation of the first small modular nuclear reactor (SMR) technology in Romania. It broke the news in Bucharest at an SMR workshop organized by the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).

Source: <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/romania-picks-site-of-old-coal-power-plant-for-first-small-nuclear-reactor-in-europe/>

3. Boris Johnson hopes his dream of “a new nuclear plant every year” will be aided and abetted by the recent publication of the government's Energy Security Strategy. But with little interest from the investment market, and the fact that utility-scale solar and onshore wind cost less than a quarter of new nuclear, perhaps the Treasury's concerns should be taken more seriously.

Source: <https://www.newstatesman.com/spotlight/energy/2022/05/debate-nuclear-already-well-past-sell-by-date>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. North Korea launched a “likely” intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and at least two other ballistic missiles from the Pyongyang area toward the East Sea on Wednesday morning, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

Source: <https://www.nknews.org/2022/05/north-korea-launches-ballistic-missile-towards-east-sea-jcs/>



2. The UK is set to become the first European nation to operate a Maritime Ballistic Missile Defence capability that can detect and destroy Anti-Ship Ballistic Missiles as it commits to a significant upgrade of Britain's fleet of Type 45 destroyers.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/type-45-ballistic-missile-defence-upgrade-to-support-more-than-100-uk-jobs>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Iran's foreign ministry has rejected reports of the country's willingness to "compromise" its stance in ongoing indirect negotiations with the United States to restore its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/22/iran-denies-compromise-in-nuclear-deal-negotiations>

UN REFORMS

1. TOLONews and other TV channels in Kabul on Sunday followed an order of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue regarding covering female presenters' faces. The Ministry of Vice and Virtue named Sunday morning as the final deadline, calling this order mandatory.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178127>

2. Child laborers in Kunduz province said that if they are provided with educational opportunities, they can continue their education in addition to working. The children work on roads, but say that they are forced to do hard work instead of learning in order to find a piece of bread for their families.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178106>

3. The United States Department of State again criticized what it called the ban on schools for girls over sixth grade in Afghanistan. "We have heard these types of comments before, what we care much more about rather than rhetoric is action and we await Taliban acting on these positive signals and reopening schools at all levels across the country which itself would be a welcome development," Price said.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178099>

4. The US special envoy for Afghanistan, Thomas West, said that he and Rina

22 May

Amiri, US envoy for Afghan women and human rights, spoke with acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amir Khan Muttaqi, during which they “conveyed unified international opposition to ongoing and expanding restrictions on women and girls’ rights and role in society.”

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178122>