

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) means that NuScale, Nuclearelectrica and E-INFRA will carry out engineering studies, technical analyses and licensing activities for the site of a former thermal power plant at Doicești, the location selected for Romania's first small modular reactor.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Nuclearelectrica-and-NuScale-sign-MoU,-site-chosen>
2. Fennovoima has withdrawn its construction licence application for the planned Hanhikivi 1 nuclear power plant project at Pyhäjoki in northern Finland. The move follows the company's termination of the plant's engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract with Russia's RAOS Project earlier this month.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Fennovoima-ends-Hanhikivi-1-licensing-process>
3. Belgium's SCK-CEN nuclear research centre will receive a budget of EUR100 million (USD107 million) from the federal government to conduct research into small modular reactors (SMRs).
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Belgium-government-allocates-funding-for-SMR-resea>
4. More than 30 kilograms of highly-enriched uranium (HEU) has been removed from three Japanese research sites and sent to the USA for downblending or disposal, the US National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/HEU-from-three-Japanese-sites-transported-to-USA>
5. The preliminary conclusion of an experts' review of the sites for existing and new nuclear power units in Czech Republic is that they were selected correctly, CEZ says.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/International-review-backs-suitability-of-Czech-si>
6. The terms of the 2009 sale of seven advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) nuclear power plants to EDF Energy "placed a disproportionate amount of risk for meeting future decommissioning costs on the taxpayer," the UK House of Commons Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said in a report published on 20 May.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Government-committee-questions-AGR-decommissioning>

7. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has instructed Uzbekistan to develop a four-year uranium exploration programme, as well as transforming state mining company Navoi and training suitably qualified personnel for the country's minerals sector.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/President-calls-for-Uzbek-exploration-programme>
8. The single-unit nuclear power plant in Michigan was permanently shut down on 20 May - slightly earlier than planned - after more than 50 years in operation.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Palisades-bows-out-after-record-operation-run>
9. While several world powers are demonstrating their support for nuclear power projects, after years of opposition, many are still concerned about the potential implications of developing new nuclear plants.
<https://oilprice.com/Alternative-Energy/Nuclear-Power/Why-Are-Environmentalists-Pushing-Back-Against-Nuclear-Energy.html>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. Touted As “World’s Biggest Firefighter Aircraft” – ‘Crippled’ Iran Sends Its Massive Plane To Help Pakistan. Despite being subject to harsh sanctions, Iran’s aviation industry has devised measures to circumvent them and continue operations.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/crippled-iran-sends-its-massive-plane-to-help-pakistan/#:~:text=Despite%20being%20subject%20to%20harsh%20sanctions%2C%20Iran%E2%80%99s%20aviation%20industry%20has%20devised%20measures%20to%20circumvent%20them%20and%20continue%20operations.>
2. With 32 F-35B stealth fighter jets, US Marine Corps Fighter Attack Squadron 242 at Iwakuni, Japan, was recently declared fully operational, significantly boosting the US and Japan’s shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/2nd-f-35b-fighter-attack-squadron-now-fully-operational-in-japan/>
3. While China keeps the information about its military strictly under wraps, the latest interview of a Chinese fighter pilot offers valuable insight into the PLA Air Force

and its J-20 stealth fighter jet.

Chen Liu, a pilot of China's fifth-generation J-20 fighter plane, was recently interviewed by CCTV, China's state-run media. Chen is regarded as one of the PLA Air Force's finest fighter pilots and also one of the few in China who has flown J-10, J-16, and J-20 fighter jets.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinese-pilot-reveals-how-plaaf-uses-j-10-to-train-pilots-on-20-fighters/>

4. South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol has denied the possibility of redeploying nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula, despite rising missile and nuclear threats from North Korea.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/redeploying-tactical-nuclear-weapons-in-south-korea-biden/>

5. Turkey's most advanced and complex drone, the Akinci Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), flew for the first time from northwestern Turkey to Azerbaijan, which is thought to be one of the first countries to get the advanced combat drone.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/new-milestone-for-turkeys-next-gen-akinci-drone-uav/>

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. Foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said late Saturday that Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, made no mention of compromise to Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, when they met in Tehran earlier this month.

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

UN REFORMS

1. China has recently published alarming footage of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) landing operation drills, increasing speculations that President Xi

Jinping is prepping his military to annex Taiwan.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-ground-strike-plan-to-attack-gobble-taiwan-watch/>

2. The UN special envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons met with the representatives of local women and “Taliban representatives” in Mazar-e-Sharif, according to UNAMA.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178161>

3. Leaked #Xinjiang/#China police documents reveal thousands of photos of survivors and details of life inside the concentration camps, including a police shoot to kill policy for those trying to escape.

Source: <https://twitter.com/EnesFreedom/status/1529125547653181443>

4. Thousands of photographs from the heart of China’s highly secretive system of mass incarceration in Xinjiang, as well as a shoot-to-kill policy for those who try to escape, are among a huge cache of data hacked from police computer servers in the region.

Source: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/85qihtvw6e/the-faces-from-chinas-uyghur-detention-camps?at_medium=custom7&at_custom2=twitter&at_custom4=D18D86A2-DB44-11EC-8DF4-F88931EBDC67&at_custom3=%40BBCWorld&at_custom1=%5Bpost+type%5D&at_campaign=64

5. "Our leaders need to ensure all firms implicated in the horrible and ongoing violations in the Uyghur region are held accountable." Mahmut Rahima said on the necessity of cutting ties with corporations implicated in the Uyghur Genocide

Source: <https://www.politics.co.uk/comment/2022/05/24/how-the-uk-can-stop-chinese-firms-profiting-from-pain/>

6. Two senior speakers at the Davos World Economic Forum say Afghanistan's most urgent need is to save its economy from complete collapse.

Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/142983/davos-economic-forum-afghanistans-most-urgent-need-is-to-save-economy/>

7. A number of artists protesting against the latest restrictions imposed on women held a painting competition in Kabul, featuring artwork by women. They say their artwork depicts the current situation of women in the country and the restrictions on women in Afghanistan.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178142>

8. Amnesty International said that despite the Islamic Emirate's continued assurances that they respect the rights of women and girls, "millions of women and girls have been systematically discriminated against since the Taliban became the de-facto authorities," the organization said.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-178144>

9. A new social media campaign, #FreeHerFace, has Afghan male journalists and others posting selfies with their faces covered, in solidarity with the Afghan women journalists facing a harmful new Taliban decree.

Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/05/23/afghans-call-freeherface>

10. The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from Afghanistan was a “disaster,” and a “betrayal” of the country’s allies, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the UK House of Commons said on Tuesday.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/disaster-betrayal-uk-parliaments-foreign-committee-slams-unplanned-withdrawal-from-afghanistan/>

11. Officials at a charity say they have distributed food to about 60,000 needy and destitute families in six provinces to prevent the spread of poverty and hunger

Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/143024/a-charity-distributed-food-to-60000-families-in-six-provinces/>

12. Afghan female journalists defiant as Taliban restrictions grow. Taliban decree ordering female news anchors to cover their faces on air is the latest in a series of escalating restrictions.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/24/afghan-female-journalists-defiant-as-taliban-restrictions-grow>

13. Just a few days after Afghanistan's Taliban leaders issued a decree ordering women journalists to cover their faces on-air, their male colleagues have donned masks in solidarity. On May 21, the Taliban's Ministry of Vice and Virtue ordered female presenters on all TV channels to cover their faces while presenting on-screen. The ministry called this a "final and non-negotiable verdict".

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/freeherface-afghan-male-journalists-stand-in-solidarity-with-their-female-colleagues-481708>

14. Taliban authorities must investigate the arbitrary detention, questioning, and intimidation of Afghan journalist Jebran Lawrand and allow local press members to work freely, the Committee to Protect Journalists said Monday.

Source: <https://cpj.org/2022/05/taliban-intelligence-agents-detain-pressure-afghan-journalist-jebran-lawrand-to-stop-critical-reporting/>

15. Television journalists in Afghanistan have started covering their faces on-air in recent days. Male Afghan TV anchors cover faces in solidarity with women after a Taliban order.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/24/1100957881/free-her-face-afghan-tv-anchors-face-coverings-taliban>