

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Construction has begun of the foundation slab for the turbine building of unit 4 at the Akkuyu nuclear power plant in Turkey. Some 17,500 cubic metres of concrete and 3500 tonnes of steel reinforcement will be used in the construction of the foundation slab, which once complete will be 7-metres thick and cover an area of 6000 square metres.
<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Work-starts-on-Akkuyu-4-turbine-building>
2. Brazil's Nuclebrás Equipamentos Pesados (Nuclep) and Eletronuclear have signed an agreement for the manufacture and delivery of new heat exchangers for the Angra 3 plant in a contract said to exceed BRL400 million (USD84 million).
<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Nuclep,-Eletronuclear-sign-Angra-3-heat-exchangers>
3. The "vast majority" of uranium delivered in the USA in 2021 was of foreign origin, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). Uranium inventory held by US brokers and traders has grown for the second consecutive year, and has almost tripled since 2019.
<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/US-brokers-and-traders-increase-uranium-inventorie>
4. Nuclear reactors generate reliable supplies of electricity with limited greenhouse gas emissions. But a nuclear power plant that generates 1,000 megawatts of electric power also produces radioactive waste that must be isolated from the environment for hundreds of thousands of years. Furthermore, the cost of building a large nuclear power plant can be tens of billions of dollars.
<https://news.stanford.edu/2022/05/30/small-modular-reactors-produce-high-levels-nuclear-waste/>
5. A planned new generation of small nuclear reactors will create more waste than conventional reactors, while treatments to make some types of waste safe could be exploited by militants trying to obtain fissile materials, a study published on Tuesday said. The projects, called small modular reactors (SMR), are designed to be simpler and safer than conventional plants in the case of accident. They are also expected to be built in factories as opposed to today's massive light-water reactors that are built on site and typically run billions of dollars over budget.
<https://www.deccanherald.com/international/world-news-politics/small-nuclear-power-projects-may-have-big-waste-problems-1114242.html>
6. Vietnam's industry minister has told the national assembly developing nuclear power is an "inevitable trend" around the world, signalling that authorities may be considering resuming a plan to construct nuclear power plants after the programme was suspended six years ago.
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/vietnam-floats-prospect-of-resuming-nuclear-power-development-101653980290327.html>

7. Electricite de France SA said it won't extend the lifespan of one of its nuclear power plants even as the UK government seeks solutions to cope with an energy crunch that's sent power and gas bills to record levels. The French utility said it will shut down its Hinkley Point B station in the west of England this summer as planned, according to an emailed statement. That's despite having previously said it would consider keeping it open throughout the winter if asked to do so by the British government.
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-05-31/edf-rules-out-keeping-nuclear-plant-open-despite-energy-crisis>
8. EDF said in the statement that it hasn't received a request from the UK government, but a person familiar with the matter added the company would only keep the plant open if it was forced to. "EDF will not pursue another extension," the company said in the statement. "Though we have not been asked by government, we have nonetheless looked in detail at what a short extension would require and decided not to pursue it." Hinkley Point B has already stayed open 15 years open longer than originally planned, with its lifespan extended in 1996, 2006 and again in 2016.
<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2022/05/31/French-electricity-company-rules-out-keeping-nuclear-plant-open-despite-energy-crisis>
9. A much-vaunted first wave of mini nuclear power stations may produce more radioactive waste than traditional large-scale ones when generating the same amount of power. Small modular reactors (SMRs) have been mooted by their developers and proponents as a cheaper and faster way to build new nuclear power capacity, with UK prime minister Boris Johnson claiming they could be generating electricity by 2030. The US government has provided financial support to the firm NuScale Power to develop its version of the technology.
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2322252-mini-nuclear-power-stations-may-produce-more-waste-than-large-ones/>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. US President Joe Biden has said twice over the last year that Washington will militarily defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion attempt. His latest explicit security guarantee to Taiwan was made in Tokyo last week.
<https://eurasianimes.com/us-threatens-china-with-military-action-if-it-breaches-the-red-line/>
2. Turkey is on track to develop the indigenous SIPER high-altitude long-range air defense missile system, said the head of Turkey's top defense body on Sunday.
<https://eurasianimes.com/turkey-on-an-indigenization-spree-now-works-on-missile-defense-system-siper/>
3. Royal Air Force Warplanes and the Royal Navy will assist Qatar in protecting its airspace during the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the British Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced.
<https://eurasianimes.com/f-15ex-eurofighter-typhoon-french-rafale-2022-fifa-world-cup/>



4. At a time when Russia is facing isolation from the West, its Iron Brother' China, has been cementing closer ties with Moscow. In the latest revelation, the Chinese PLA Air Force (PLAAF) has said that its J-20 and Russia's Su-57, both stealth fighter jets, could participate in a joint combat patrol.
<https://eurasianimes.com/chinas-j-20-russias-su-57-stealth-fighters-ready-for-joint-combat-patrols-to-challenge-us-hegemony-state-media/>
5. The Jaguar fighter aircraft has been a dominant asset in Indian Air Force's (IAF) fleet for decades. With the unveiling of the Jaguar upgrade suite, designated as Jaguar MAX (Mothership for Augmented Xploitation), the fighter is being kept relevant, even after 40 years since its induction.
<https://eurasianimes.com/indian-fighter-pilot-explains-the-new-jaguar-max-concept-with-amca/>
6. US military base in Guam has emerged as one of the most vulnerable targets for China as the communist nation develops powerful weapons to thwart possible American intervention in its potential confrontation with Taiwan, Japan, and other neighbors.
<https://eurasianimes.com/us-to-boost-its-military-base-that-china-is-practicing-to-obliterate/>
7. Earlier this month, the S-300 air defense system attacked Israeli jets in northwestern Syria, marking the first instance of Russian-made S-300 missiles attacking Israeli warplanes.
<https://eurasianimes.com/f-35-under-attack-did-russian-s-300-missile-down-stealth-jet/>
8. The Ministry of Defence said on Tuesday (May 31) that it has signed a contract with the Hyderabad-based public-sector Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) for supply of the Astra Mark-1, at a cost of Rs 2,971 crore, for deployment on fighter jets of the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy. The Astra Mk-1 is a beyond visual range (BVR), air-to-air missile (AAM).
<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-astra-mk-1-air-to-air-missile-features-strategic-significance-7946070/>
9. The U.S. will provide Ukraine with more advanced rocket systems and munitions, President Biden announced Tuesday in an opinion piece published by the New York Times.
<https://www.axios.com/2022/06/01/biden-longer-range-missiles-ukraine-defense-aid>
10. U.S. President Joe Biden has agreed to provide Ukraine with advanced rocket systems that can strike with precision at long-range Russian targets as part of a \$700 million weapons package expected to be unveiled on Wednesday.
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/1-biden-agrees-ukraine-longer-003406660.html>
11. The Sapporo District Court on Tuesday ordered a nuclear power plant in Hokkaido to remain halted in response to a request by over 1,000 plaintiffs concerned about safety, in a rare decision issued while an operator was seeking permission from authorities for a restart. The court ruled that Hokkaido Electric Power Co. should not resume operations at all three reactors at its Tomari Nuclear Power Plant west of Sapporo. The suit was filed in November 2011.
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/05/31/national/hokkaido-tomari-nuclear-power-reactor-court-sapporo/>
12. The Astra Mark-1 missile, which has been developed by the Defence Research &



Development Organisation (DRDO), can engage enemy fighter aircraft at ranges of up to 75 kilometres.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/bharat-dynamics-to-supply-astra-mark-1-missiles-worth-rs-2-971-crore-122060100019_1.html

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Iran has said that a report by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog on undeclared nuclear material found at three sites was "not fair". "Unfortunately, this report does not reflect the reality of the negotiations between Iran and the IAEA," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters on Tuesday, referring to a report issued the previous day by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/31/iran-says-international-atomic-energy-agency-report-not-fair>

UN REFORMS

1. Almire Erkin, 32, a former hospital nurse, is the daughter of Erkin Tursun, a Uyghur police officer in Kashgar (in Chinese, Kashi), who confirmed that she was jailed in 2017. "A problem was discovered from her phone and she was taken to re-education," he told RFA. The daughter of a Uyghur police officer who has won commendation for detaining Uyghurs in "re-education" programs in China's Xinjiang region is serving a 10-year prison sentence for watching Turkish movies on her cell phone, the woman's father and a Uyghur knowledge of the situation said.
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/almire-erkin-05312022165331.html>
2. Raising an alarm over the rights situation in Myanmar, Amnesty International has said the death penalty increased at an alarming rate under military rule, with nearly 90 people sentenced to death by military tribunals since the coup last year.
https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/death-penalty-cases-soar-in-myanmar-under-military-rule-amnesty-122053100075_1.html
3. Myanmar's military has been systematically committing widespread atrocities in recent months, including unlawfully killing, arbitrarily detaining and forcibly displacing civilians in two eastern states, Amnesty International said today in a new report.



<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/05/myanmar-military-onslaught-in-eastern-states-amounts-to-collective-punishment/>

4. The US special envoy for Afghanistan, Thomas West, said that in meetings with key Afghans over the weekend he heard them say "violence is not a good path for Afghan people," and they "prefer and are eager to engage in political process."

<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178265>

5. The UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, spoke to Voice of America (VOA Persian) about the "exclusion" of Afghan women from society, expressed skepticism about a move toward inclusive governance, saying that may take a while, and also said the international community was responsible for leaving Afghans in this position.

<https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-178261>

6. Some Afghan traders living abroad said current problems caused by the banking system and international sanctions, as well as the closed girls' schools, are causing obstacles to investment in Afghanistan.

<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178248>

7. Women protesters gathered in Kabul on Sunday to emphasize that the Islamic Emirate should immediately lift restrictions on women and reopen girls' schools above the sixth grade.

<https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-178230>

8. 256 days have passed since the closing of schools for girls over grade 6, and although the Islamic Emirate says it has recently formed a committee of nine people to work on reopening the schools for girls, there have been no details provided yet about the progress of the committee.

<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178262>