

## DAILY TRACKER

### NUCLEAR ISSUES

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1. The International Atomic Energy Agency stated on Wednesday that Iran has taken more steps to develop its nuclear programme, while Iranian diplomats vowed they will not rush negotiations with Western powers in Vienna to limit its uranium enrichment.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/iran-hints-at-long-drawn-out-nuclear-talks-687531>

2. Senior European diplomats cautioned on Tuesday that if Iran moves to create weapons-grade nuclear fuel, efforts to restart nuclear talks could be called off. “It would seriously imperil the process” if Iran did something “as provocative as going to 90% enrichment,” said a senior diplomat from the three Western European nations that are participating in the talks—Britain, France and Germany.

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/irans-nuclear-enrichment-could-imperil-nuclear-talks-diplomats-say-11638292190>

3. According to a French non-governmental organisation citing a whistleblower, a design issue in the reactor pressure vessel could be the origin of a problem that was made public in June at EDF's jointly-owned nuclear power facility in China.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/design-flaw-could-explain-problem-edfs-chinese-nuclear-plant-ngo-2021-11-29/>

4. Commonwealth Fusion Systems LLC, a nuclear fusion business that has collected more than \$1.8 billion in the industry's largest private investment, is attracting investors. According to the Wall Street Journal, investors in the latest investment round for the Massachusetts-based startup include Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and George Soros' Soros Fund Management LLC.

Source: <https://www.thestreet.com/investing/commonwealth-fusion-secures-big-investment-round>

5. World Nuclear Association Director General Sama Bilbao y León stated today at the World Nuclear Exhibition in Paris that nuclear energy presents a "golden opportunity" to create a cleaner and more equal world. However, she pointed out that the nuclear business faces three significant hurdles in delivering its full contribution to sustainable development and climate change mitigation: money, perception, and regulation.

Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Game-on-for-nuclear,-declares-Bilbao-y-Leon>

6. President Emmanuel Macron reminded IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi in Paris that France supports the IAEA's work in monitoring and verifying Iran's nuclear programme, as well as its efforts to ensure a continuity of knowledge about Tehran's nuclear operations.

Source: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/french-president-iaea-director-general-discuss-the-role-of-nuclear-energy-irans-nuclear-programme-and-ramping-up-fight-aga-inst-cancer>

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## MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

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1. DRDO developed Radar Warning Receiver (RWR) and Missile Approach Warning Systems (MAWS) to be procured by Airbus, Spain from BEL for C295 Programme to be delivered to IAF. The state-of-the-art RWR system is capable of intercepting the radio emissions of Radar systems periodically by scanning across the frequency bands.  
Source: [https://twitter.com/DRDO\\_India/status/1463747846973255680](https://twitter.com/DRDO_India/status/1463747846973255680)
2. Russia announced on Monday that it had successfully launched another test of its Zircon hypersonic cruise missile, which President Vladimir Putin has hailed as part of a new generation of unrivalled weaponry systems. In its second test in a fortnight, the missile was launched from the Admiral Gorshkov destroyer in the White Sea and hit a naval target more than 400 kilometres (250 miles) distant, according to the defence ministry.  
Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/russia-zircon-hypersonic-missile-test-launch-president-vladimir-putin-1882699-2021-12-01>
3. China ramps up pressure as Manila tries to maintain its foothold in the South China Sea. In 1999, the BRP Sierra Madre ran aground on the Second Thomas Shoal, also known as Ayungin Shoal in the Philippines. In the contested waters, it operates as a Philippine military outpost. The Philippine government claims the shoal is part of the Philippine continental shelf, over which it has sovereign rights and jurisdiction, but China claims it is "part of China's Nansha Qundao (Spratly Islands)" and demands "that the that the Philippine side honour its commitment and remove its illegally grounded vessel."  
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/philippines-southchinasea-11292021151419.html>
4. President Vladimir Putin stated on Tuesday that if NATO violated Russia's "red lines" in Ukraine, Moscow would be forced to intervene, adding that the deployment of certain offensive missile systems on Ukrainian land would be a trigger.  
Source: [https://www.reuters.com/markets/stocks/putin-warns-russia-will-act-if-nato-crosses-its-red-lines-ukraine-2021-11-30/?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/markets/stocks/putin-warns-russia-will-act-if-nato-crosses-its-red-lines-ukraine-2021-11-30/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=twitter)
5. According to a copy of the project proposal obtained by the Washington Free Beacon, the Biden administration has hired two nuclear-disarmament activists to give the Defense Department with "alternatives" to the US' long-standing intercontinental ballistic missiles system.

Source: <https://freebeacon.com/national-security/biden-enlists-nuclear-disarmament-proponents-to-study-icbm-alternatives/>

6. Official U.S Army twitter page shared that the Long Range Precision Fires missile system is being upgraded. Further stating that it will provide the warfighter with a precise, surface-to-surface, deep-strike capability that can be used 24/7 in any weather.

Source: <https://twitter.com/USArmy/status/1465820218144563201>

7. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) appeared to rule out the likelihood of the Senate enacting a \$1 billion upgrade to Israel's Iron Dome missile-defense system as a stand-alone issue by unanimous consent on Tuesday. Senators are considering various avenues for passing the supplement, which has been stalled by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), including inserting it in the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, Portman stated at a virtual gathering organised by the Ohio Jewish Communities. The Senate leadership is hoping to approve a big defence policy bill this week, but it is also stuck.

Source: <https://jewishinsider.com/2021/12/portman-rules-out-quick-passage-of-senate-iron-dome-supplement-bill/>

8. The Army conducted a test firing of its new Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) in the Arizona desert as part of its Project Convergence 21 exercise to establish the weapon's multi-domain capability. The PrSM is envisioned as a long-range precision-strike weapon capable of destroying targets on land or at sea, and it smashed new range records in a test earlier this year. Those capabilities were tested at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz.

Source: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/us-army-sees-precision-strike-missile-multi-domain-weapon-197159>

9. According to Taiwan News, this most recent breach of Taiwan's outer defenses, which took place on the Sunday the 28th, involved twenty-seven total aircraft, including "eight Shenyang J-16 fighters, six Chengdu J-10 fighters, four Shenyang J-11 fighters, five Xi'an H-6 bombers, one Shaanxi Y-9 electronic warfare aircraft, two KJ-500 airborne early warning and control aircraft (KJ-500 AEW&C), and one Xi'an Y-20U aerial tanker."

Source: [https://patriotfetch.com/2021/11/uh-oh-red-china-sends-dozens-of-fighter-jets-and-nuclear-capable-bombers-to-breach-taiwans-airspace/?utm\\_source=86752](https://patriotfetch.com/2021/11/uh-oh-red-china-sends-dozens-of-fighter-jets-and-nuclear-capable-bombers-to-breach-taiwans-airspace/?utm_source=86752)

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe warned on Wednesday that Japan and the United States could not stand by if China invaded Taiwan, and Beijing needed to understand this. Tensions have increased over China's claim to Taiwan, as President Xi Jinping wants to impose his country's sovereignty over the democratically governed island. Taiwan's leadership claims to want peace but is prepared to defend itself if necessary.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/former-pm-abe-says-japan-us-could-not-stand->



[by-if-china-attacked-taiwan-2021-12-01/](#)

2. In a joint essay, Britain's and Israel's foreign ministers stated that they will "work night and day" to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power. "The clock is ticking, which heightens the need for close cooperation with our partners and friends to thwart Tehran's ambitions," the UK's Liz Truss and her Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid wrote in the Telegraph newspaper on Sunday.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk-israel-work-together-stop-iran-gaining-nuclear-weapons-2021-11-28/>
3. The foreign ministers of Israel and the United Kingdom announced Monday that they will fight tirelessly to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons. Their remarks came as nuclear discussions in Vienna were poised to resume later that day, following the signing of a bilateral agreement on broad cooperation.  
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-vienna-talks-resume-israel-uk-say-theyre-working-jointly-to-block-nuclear-iran/>
4. According to two US sources briefed on the matter, Israel has provided intelligence with the US and several European partners over the past two weeks suggesting that Iran is taking technical steps to prepare to enrich uranium to 90% purity — the threshold required to manufacture a nuclear bomb.  
Source: <https://www.axios.com/iran-enrich-weapons-grade-uranium-israel-f624e90a-2283-4b55-adca-d5aae1403912.html>
5. Ely Karmon, a former counsellor to the Israeli Ministry of Defense, spoke to WION on Tuesday to discuss Iran's uranium enrichment strategy. He claimed that Iran has 3,000 kg of enriched uranium and can build a nuclear weapon in two months.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/iran-has-3000-kgs-of-enriched-uranium-says-israels-former-national-advisor-ely-karmon-433094>
6. The International Atomic Energy Agency stated on Wednesday that Iran has taken more steps to develop its nuclear programme, while Iranian diplomats vowed they will not rush negotiations with Western powers in Vienna to limit its uranium enrichment. Iran began enriching uranium to 20% quality with sophisticated centrifuges at its Fordow plant, which is concealed beneath a mountain, according to the IAEA.  
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/iran-hints-at-long-drawn-out-nuclear-talks-687531>
7. The US does not have a nuclear hotline with China. The two countries have never had a genuine, in-depth discussion regarding American missile defenses in the Pacific or China's attempts to blind US satellites in the event of a conflict. Chinese leaders have persistently rejected the idea of engaging in arms limitation discussions, pointing out — correctly — that the United States and Russia each have deployed five times more nuclear weapons than Beijing.  
Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/28/us/politics/china-nuclear-arms-race.html>

## UN REFORMS

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1. As per the United Nations' human rights chief if insecurity in Burkina Faso continues, the West African country risks becoming a humanitarian and human rights "catastrophe,"  
Source: <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-12-01/un-rights-chief-burkina-faso-is-facing-a-security-crisis>
2. The Taliban's move to restrict women from working could immediately cost the Afghan economy up to \$1 billion, or 5% of GDP, the United Nations Development Programme said in a new report.  
Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/taliban-curbs-on-working-women-could-cut-afghanistan-s-gdp-by-5-121120100996\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/taliban-curbs-on-working-women-could-cut-afghanistan-s-gdp-by-5-121120100996_1.html)
3. The town of Lalibela, a United Nations World Heritage Site, has been reclaimed by Ethiopian government forces and regional allies, according to the prime minister's office. In early August, forces allied with the Tigray People's Liberation Front took control of the town in the Amhara area.  
Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/12/01/africa/ethiopia-conflict-lalibela-recaptured-intl/index.html>
4. India has constantly condemned acts of violence in Syria, as well as human rights violations, according to Pratik Mathur, Counsellor at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.  
Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/condemn-human-rights-violations-in-syria-irrespective-of-their-perpetrators-india-at-unsc-1882329-2021-11-30>
5. A young Afghan man, identified as 22-year-old Ahmad Sah, is being treated for third-degree burns after he set himself on fire during a protest on Tuesday, in front of the Medan office of the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) in North Sumatra. A coordinator of the protest said that Sah had apparently resorted to self-immolation out of desperation from living in legal limbo for years in Indonesia.  
Source: <https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/12/01/afghan-refugee-sets-himself-on-fire-at-medan-protest.html>

