

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. Nuclear power stations, according to billionaire Elon Musk, should be kept operational unless they are vulnerable to terrible natural disasters. The world's wealthiest man's comment adds to the increasing chorus of opposition to the projected closure of California's last nuclear power facility.  
Source: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/current-affairs-trends/elon-musk-says-nuclear-power-plants-shouldnt-be-shut-down-unless-7806781.html>
2. During the second half of next year, Rosatom and the Nuclear Power Plants Authority will get approval to begin construction and pour the first concrete at the El-Dabaa nuclear power plant. Egypt's leading engineering, construction, and infrastructure company Hassan Allam Holding has partnered with the Russian company Titan Holding to launch a joint company to carry out construction works of the El-Dabaa nuclear power plant.  
Source: [https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/story/Hassan\\_Allam\\_Titan\\_launch\\_new\\_company\\_to\\_construct\\_ElDabaa\\_nuclear\\_power\\_plant-SNG\\_267873267/](https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/story/Hassan_Allam_Titan_launch_new_company_to_construct_ElDabaa_nuclear_power_plant-SNG_267873267/)
3. Professionals at Israel's Nature and Parks Authority support the idea of employing modern nuclear reactors to transition to a low-carbon energy economy. Nuclear reactors will allow us to escape the environmental consequences of wind and solar systems, which take up enormous expanses of open land and damage animals such as birds.  
Source: <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-nature-authority-staff-back-advanced-nuclear-reactors-for-israel-s-clean-energy-1.10450090>
4. Carbon-free hydrogen will need to be produced in big quantities at a cheap cost to compete with hydrocarbons if it is to play a significant part in decarbonization. Hydrogen will most likely find cost-effective use in power storage for grid balancing in a future power system highly reliant on intermittent renewables.  
Source: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/why-hydrogen-needs-nuclear-power-220000655.html>
5. In Wyoming, a \$4 billion nuclear power facility sponsored by Bill Gates and Warren Buffett will be built. Warren Buffett and Bill Gates have chosen a remote Wyoming hamlet for the construction of a new modest nuclear power station to help replace the state's coal-fired units. TerraPower plans to develop a \$4 billion, 345-megawatt plant at the Naughton Power Plant in Kemmerer, Wyoming, roughly 130 miles northeast of Salt Lake City, pending federal and local permission, the company revealed Tuesday.  
Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/11/16/warren-buffett-bill-gates-build-nuclear-power-plant-wyoming/8634699002/>



## MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

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1. On Saturday, India successfully tested the Stand-Off Anti-Tank (SANT) missile, which was created and developed in-house and launched from a helicopter from the Pokhran ranges. The flying test was carried out jointly by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF). The SANT missile features a cutting-edge millimetre wave (MMW) seeker that allows for high accuracy strikes from a safe distance. The weapon has a range of 10 kilometres and can neutralise targets.  
Source: <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/india-successfully-tests-indigenous-stand-off-anti-tank-missile-from-pokhran-ranges-watch-video/839719>
2. These experiments were conducted at the Pokhran ranges in Rajasthan by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Officials reported the test utilised longer range rockets, area denial munitions (ADM), and indigenously designed fuses for the Pinaka rocket launcher. The Pinaka-ER system is a multi-barrel rocket launcher. The system was developed by the DRDO, Pune's Armament Research and Development Establishment, and Pune's High Energy Materials Research Laboratory.  
Source: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/page1/chopper-fired-anti-tank-missile--rocket-launcher-tested-successfully.html>
3. The head of the United States Army in Japan said this week that the first island chain region needed more integrated air and missile defence capabilities to bolster deterrence against potential threats from China, Russia, and North Korea.  
Source: <https://www.defensedaily.com/u-s-army-japan-head-says-more-air-and-missile-defense-capabilities-needed-in-the-region/army/>
4. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) of the United States has given the Stratolaunch aerospace business a contract to build a target that simulates specific hypersonic threats. When it comes to intercepting and eliminating possible hypersonic threats, current defensive capabilities are inadequate. To address this problem, the United States is investing heavily in research and development to close the deficit.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/hypersonic-missiles-us-draws-big-plan-to-engage-intercept-shoot-down-china/>
5. On December 6, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had summit-level talks in New Delhi, following the signing of 28 agreements/MoUs to increase cooperation in defence and space, among other sectors. After the S-400 and AK-203 deals, a top Russian official warned a key Indian daily that the next significant agreement between India and Russia might be on the Igla-S man-portable missile defence system.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/igla-s-missile-india-likely-to-acquire-air-defense-system-from-russia/>
6. South Korea's state-run defence quality assessment agency and Navy officials announced Friday that



crucial performance tests of an indigenous ship-based guided missile conducted successfully ahead of its deployment next year. The Haegung missile, according to the Defense Agency for Technology and Quality (DTaQ), hit the intended target in two tests, one on Wednesday and one on Friday. In Korean, Haegung means sea bow.

Source: <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211210000524>

7. China is working on a hypersonic nuclear missile based on a design that the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration abandoned (NASA). The prototype, which is said to travel at speeds of nearly 9,000 kilometres per hour (6,000 mph), was tested by Chinese researchers based on a radical design developed by NASA some 20 years ago.

Source: <https://www.indiatimes.com/technology/news/china-new-hypersonic-nuclear-missile-nasa-abandoned-prototype-556512.html>

8. Australian Defence Minister Peter Dutton announced on Friday that the MRH-90 Taipan military helicopters will be replaced by multi-role American Black Hawk helicopters. The 41 Taipan helicopters, according to the minister, were unreliable and did not meet expectations. Australia will replace them with up to 40 Black Hawk helicopters from the United States.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/australia-dumps-european-military-helicopters-for-us-black-hawks/>

9. On Thursday, Russia warned that rising tensions over Ukraine might lead to a rerun of the Cuban missile crisis, when the world was on the verge of nuclear Armageddon.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/rates-bonds/russia-says-ukraine-could-turn-into-re-run-cuban-missile-crisis-2021-12-09/>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. A State Department official stated on Saturday that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had a "constructive" meeting with counterparts from the United Kingdom, Germany, and France on Friday, which included a discussion of the Iran nuclear deal. On Thursday, talks between Iran and international powers to revive a 2015 nuclear deal resumed in Vienna.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/us-secretary-of-state-met-with-european-counterparts-to-discuss-iran-deal-688472>

2. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi stated on Saturday that Tehran is serious about the nuclear talks, as evidenced by the suggestions that European negotiators described as impossible. Negotiations between world powers and Iran have reached a stalemate and cannot be extended indefinitely, according to German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock. Baerbock, who was sworn in last week, cautioned, "Time

is running out."

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/germany-says-time-is-running-out-for-iran-nuclear-deal-688495>

3. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (TEM) of Finland has declared that legislative preparations for a major overhaul of the country's Nuclear Energy Act have begun. It stated that future nuclear energy use, including new technologies like compact modular reactors, will necessitate "appropriate and up-to-date legislation."

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Finnish-nuclear-laws-to-be-revised>

4. On Thursday, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida urged all nuclear-weapons states to boost transparency in their capabilities, promising to do everything possible to ensure the acceptance of a final text at a United Nations summit on nuclear nonproliferation. "Unfortunately, the reality facing the world is that discussion has not progressed over reducing the number of nuclear weapons, let alone nuclear abolishment. Rather, there are fears that the number of nuclear weapons will increase," Kishida told the virtual meeting of government officials and experts from Japan and abroad organized by the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Source: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20211210/p2g/00m/0na/008000c>

5. According to a recent study conducted by the Israeli Democracy Institute, about half of Israelis would support a military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities even if the United States did not agree.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/poll-half-of-israelis-would-support-strike-on-irans-nuclear-facilities-without-us-support-688497>

6. According to Dafydd Wigley, the case for nuclear power 'must be presented urgently' in order to tackle climate change. Dafydd Wigley, the former leader of Plaid Cymru, has stated that the case for nuclear power "has to be made with conviction and confidence and with some urgency". Lord Wigley stated that he was speaking on his own behalf. In its 2019 General Election manifesto, his party stated that it "opposes the development of new sites for nuclear power stations".

Source: <https://nation.cymru/news/dafydd-wigley-says-that-the-case-for-nuclear-power-has-to-be-made-with-urgency-to-combat-climate-change/>

7. Japan's nuclear regulators have published a video of an emergency mechanism used to cool a reactor during the earliest stages of the March 2011 nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power facility. On November 26, the Nuclear Regulation Authority looked into a structure that houses the No. 1 reactor. Following a large earthquake and tsunami, it experienced a meltdown disaster and a hydrogen explosion.

Source: [https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20211212\\_08/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20211212_08/)

8. The seventh round of talks to restore the 2015 Iran nuclear deal took place in Vienna last week, with little progress made over the five-day gathering. Instead, the negotiations appeared to take a step back, with Ali Bagheri Kani, a spokesman for the Iranian regime, declaring that the regime wanted to reexamine the terms agreed upon during the previous round of talks. Because Ebrahim Raisi was appointed as the regime's latest president, there was a pause in negotiations following the previous session. Raisi's ascension to power was widely expected to herald the start of more harsh policies and procedures, but his government mostly ignored the matter as he settled into his new job.

Source: <https://www.iranfocus.com/en/nuclear/48154-no-progress-made-at-latest-round-of-iran->

[nuclear-talks-in-vienna/](#)

9. On Saturday, Unit 6 of the China National Nuclear Corporation's (CNNC) Fuqing Nuclear Power Plant in Southeast China's Fujian Province reached criticality for the first time, marking the country's second nuclear unit to use Hualong One technology, a domestically developed third-generation reactor design. Source: [https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202112/1241246.shtml#.YbWSzah\\_p6Y.twitter](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202112/1241246.shtml#.YbWSzah_p6Y.twitter)

## UN REFORMS

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1. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has stated that his country will not be used as a safe haven for refugees who the West is unwilling to accept. He claimed that the international community failed the humanitarian crisis test in Syria, claiming that western countries were callous and racist in their treatment of refugees. Source: <https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3353516/turkey-refuses-take-more-syrian-refugees>
2. This briefing exposes the categorical failure of key Syria actors to address the protection needs of Syrian children, based on a World Vision desk analysis of child protection and education pledges by selected international actors at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF). Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/crossroads-syrian-children-s-rights-and-global-refugee-forum>
3. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has released a paper titled Impact of Myanmar's Twin Crises on Human Welfare. The report provides a grim picture of the country's humanitarian predicament following the junta's coup on February 1. According to the UNDP estimate, urban poverty would triple in Myanmar, primarily in Yangon and Mandalay, and more than half of the country's children will be poor. Source: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/opinion/guest-column/myanmar-needs-urgent-humanitarian-assistance.html>
4. Today, 38 million Afghans are suffering one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with millions unable to pay for food or basic necessities, placing half of the country in danger of hunger this winter. Mary Ellen McGroarty, director of the United Nations World Food Program in Afghanistan said "I've been with WFP for a long time, 20-plus years, and I've never seen a crisis unfold and escalate at the pace and scale that we are seeing," Mary Ellen McGroarty told 60 Minutes correspondent Sharyn Alfonsi. Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/afghanistan-humanitarian-crisis-60-minutes-2021-12-10/>
5. According to humanitarian organisations, half of Afghanistan's population is at risk of acute starvation,

and the situation has been described as the "greatest humanitarian crisis on Earth." As Afghanistan's humanitarian and economic crisis worsens, the UN will receive a \$280 million (£210 million) boost for food and health services.

Source: <https://inews.co.uk/news/world/afghanistan-humanitarian-crisis-un-funding-boost-1347988>

6. Following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, India delivered medical supplies to the country on Saturday, in keeping with its promise to assist Afghans in their hour of need.

Source: <https://www.cnbctv18.com/world/afghanistan-crisis-india-sends-medical-supplies-to-kabul-11784122.htm>

7. Farid Mamundzay, Afghanistan's envoy to India, has issued a warning "People are not getting paid on time, there is little business activities," he says of the "catastrophic situation" in his nation. There is a humanitarian crisis, unfolding economic crisis". Since the Taliban took control in August, the country has deteriorated in every metric, even as the coming of winter has exacerbated the situation.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/catastrophic-situation-right-across-the-country-says-farid-mamundzay-afghanistans-envoy-to-india-436061>

8. On December 10, Ambassador Pham Hai Anh, Vietnam's Chargé d'Affaires a.i. to the United Nations, presided over a regular meeting of the UN Security Council's Informal Working Group on International Tribunals in New York. This is Vietnam's fourth and final meeting as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2020-2021 term.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-chairs-meeting-of-unsc-informal-working-group-on-intl-tribunals/217985.vnp>

