

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. European electricity prices rocketed to new highs when Electricite de France SA announced that two nuclear reactors will go down abruptly and two others will be shut down for an extended period of time, just as the continent braces for a cold spell with already depleted gas supplies.
Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-12-16/europe-s-energy-crunch-deepens-as-france-extends-nuclear-halts?sref=aN0yrHoF>
2. The new Dutch government has announced the construction of three nuclear power stations. Great news for the environment, the EU's decision to include nuclear energy in the taxonomy, and everybody who has campaigned for nuclear (together with us).
Source: <https://twitter.com/RePlanetNL/status/1471130109683904514>
3. The government announced on Wednesday that India's installed nuclear power capacity has increased by more than 40% in the last seven years, from 4,780 MW to 6,780 MW. According to Dr. Jitendra Singh, the country is pursuing an indigenous three-stage nuclear power programme to offer long-term energy security in a sustainable manner.
Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/installed-nuclear-power-capacity-grew-by-over-40-in-last-7-years-govt-11639559995324.html>
4. The Czech parliament issued a resolution calling for EU support on nuclear energy, stressing that “nuclear power must be fully recognised as part of the solution to the low-carbon economy” and “as a tool enabling the low-carbon transformation of the economy.” “It cannot be assessed as a temporary category only, but must be viewed as a tool enabling the low-carbon transformation of the economy and making it socially sustainable in the long run,” the resolution adopted on Tuesday reads.
Source: https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/short_news/czechia-urges-eu-to-award-nuclear-energy-enabling-status/?utm_source=piano&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=17202&pnespid=reFuEiNAP7JKxKmQ_C66Q52e50KyBI dwLrK.zLZprEFmTNDnkTlueCignFgztl3liS_dYSKbJw
5. Countries in the European Union clashed ahead of a meeting on Thursday on whether nuclear energy should be classified as a climate-friendly investment, as leaders awaited a decision from Brussels.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/eu-countries-odds-over-green-investment-label-nuclear-energy-2021-12-16/>
6. Outside France's foreign ministry on Tuesday, demonstrators unfurled a banner declaring "Gas & Nuclear are Not Green" in protest of a government push to classify nuclear energy and natural gas as climate-friendly investment areas.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/protesters-denounce-french-push-label->

[nuclear-sustainable-energy-2021-12-14/](#)

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. Russia is stepping up its military footprint in the Pacific. In ultra-sensitive maritime zones near Japan, Moscow is giving freedom of navigation and coastal defence a new priority.
Source: https://asiatimes.com/2021/12/russia-stepping-up-its-pacific-military-presence/?mc_cid=19020a2ab0&mc_eid=00400db71d
2. A permanent Chinese military base in Equatorial Guinea is the result of nearly a decade of investment in Africa, and it will not be the last of its kind along the continent's Atlantic coast. Africa is the most important regional component of China's \$1 trillion Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to reshape global trade architecture.
Source: <https://ecfr.eu/article/chinas-new-military-base-in-africa-what-it-means-for-europe-and-america/>
3. A recent spy case demonstrates how China has managed to complete its rapid military modernisation. Yanjun Xu, a senior Chinese intelligence officer, was lured out of China in 2018 and extradited to the United States to face charges of attempting to steal advanced aircraft-engine technology, which China's military has struggled to produce.
Source: https://news.yahoo.com/recent-spy-case-shows-china-230103621.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=tw&tsrc=twtr
4. According to the Ministry of National Defense (MND), China's military will have a difficult time invading Taiwan due to three significant weaknesses. Deputy Minister of National Defense Wang Hsin-lung () pointed out to lawmakers the details of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) plan of attack in the MND's latest assessment, titled "Strengthening the military's combat effectiveness in response to an all-out Chinese invasion of Taiwan in 2025," on Monday (Dec. 13).
Source: <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4375424>
5. Russia's Defense Ministry said its latest anti-submarine missile, the 'Otvet,' was successfully tested in the Sea of Japan by a warship from its Pacific fleet.
Source: <https://twitter.com/Reuters/status/1471124133714952193>
6. The United States said on Wednesday that it was ready to proceed with the sale of F-35 fighter planes and drones to the United Arab Emirates after Abu Dhabi informed Washington that talks on the \$23 billion deal, which also includes munitions, had been suspended.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/us-set-move-forward-with-f-35-sale-after-uae-threatens-withdrawal-2021-12->

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. A top Ukrainian security official said on Wednesday that while Russia has made no attempt to evacuate soldiers gathered along the Ukrainian border, there is no indication that a Russian invasion is imminent.
Source: https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/exclusive-ukraine-sees-no-sign-russia-withdrawing-troops-border-2021-12-15/?taid=61ba0eb0c672dc0001d71e4d&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter
2. During a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State Karen Donfried in Moscow on Wednesday, Russia presented the US with tangible suggestions for the binding security guarantees it seeks from the West, according to the Kremlin.
Source: https://www.reuters.com/world/russia-us-discuss-moscows-demand-security-guarantees-2021-12-15/?taid=61ba0fdd4bd3090001f12143&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter
3. Early this year, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released a report outlining "very disturbing" activities at North Korea's main Yongbyon nuclear facility. While some in South Korea and elsewhere were unsurprised, the discovery represents the most substantial nuclear activity on the Korean Peninsula in years, implying that another nuclear test is on the way. This action at Yongbyon intensifies North Korea's hostile nuclear posture just 30 months after a disarmament deal with the US appeared to be within reach.
Source: <https://www.nknews.org/pro/in-muted-yongbyon-response-china-signals-unwillingness-to-confront-north-korea/?t=1647427910797>
4. For the time being, the door to reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal is open, but "we are rapidly reaching the end of the road" in terms of reviving an accord that is being gutted by Iran's nuclear achievements, France's UN envoy said on Tuesday.
Source: https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/nearing-end-road-save-iran-nuclear-deal-france-2021-12-14/?taid=61b9150fc672dc0001d6e747&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter
5. Iran has granted the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) access to a centrifuge parts production facility in Karaj for the purpose of replacing cameras that were damaged or destroyed when the location was attacked by a sabotage attack in June of this year. According to a report by Nournews, a publication close to Iran's security forces, Iran stated it "voluntarily" agreed to provide access to the global nuclear watchdog in an effort to avoid misconceptions.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/15/iran-allows-iaea-to-re-install-cameras-at-contested-karaj->

[site?taid=61bad9664bd3090001f14c28&utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/nato-rejects-russian-accusations-missile-deployment-2021-12-14/?utm_source=AM+Nukes+Roundup&utm_campaign=4ffedfa346-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_07_25_12_19_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_547ee518ec-4ffedfa346-391858093)

6. NATO said on Tuesday that it has no plans to deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe, dismissing Russian charges and a proposal from Moscow for a moratorium on such weapons in Europe. Source: https://www.reuters.com/world/nato-rejects-russian-accusations-missile-deployment-2021-12-14/?utm_source=AM+Nukes+Roundup&utm_campaign=4ffedfa346-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_07_25_12_19_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_547ee518ec-4ffedfa346-391858093
7. Three senior Israeli officials tell Axios that White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan is expected to visit Israel next week for talks on Iran as negotiations in Vienna continue on a possible return to the 2015 nuclear deal. Source: https://www.axios.com/jake-sullivan-visit-israel-discuss-iran-731a9493-950d-47dd-b439-6fcdd3e4a20f.html?utm_source=AM+Nukes+Roundup&utm_campaign=4ffedfa346-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_07_25_12_19_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_547ee518ec-4ffedfa346-391858093

UN REFORMS

1. President Vladimir Putin of Russia spoke via phone with his French colleague, Emmanuel Macron, on the EU-Belarus migrant problem as well as the situation in Ukraine, among other topics. Putin spoke in favour of direct dialogue between representatives from EU member states and Minsk on Tuesday while discussing the situation on the Belarus-EU border, according to the Kremlin. Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/putin-macron-discuss-eu-belarus-migrant-crisis-ukraine-over-phone-121121500085_1.html
2. Humanitarian organisations are sceptical of an EU plan to suspend asylum laws in order to deal with the border situation in Belarus. According to Brussels, the strain at the EU's eastern border necessitated speedier deportations, lengthier processing deadlines, and ensuring only the most basic needs of asylum applicants. Source: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/2021/12/15/eu-asylum-changes-in-belarus-may-violate-human-dignity/>
3. After decades of violence and insecurity, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has asked for a "lifeline" for millions of Afghans "who face perhaps their most perilous hour." Despite the bleak outlook, this disaster can be avoided. The United Nations system, international organisations, and humanitarian agencies have all assisted in mobilising and supplying crucial food, medicines, and other life-saving supplies thanks to the generosity of numerous contributors.

Source: <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/opinion/humanitarian-crisis-in-afghanistan-is-preventable-if-we-have-the-will>

4. According to Russian news agency Sputnik, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid claimed on Tuesday that the Taliban have restarted work with China on the Aynak Copper Mine project, the world's second-largest copper mine.

Source: <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202112/1241583.shtml>

5. On Monday, India voted against a draught UN Security Council resolution aimed at 'securitizing' climate action, undercutting the hard-won Glasgow agreement. TS Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, stated the country's position at the UN. In his remarks, Ambassador TS Tirumurti argued against drawing a dividing line between security and climate change.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/india-votes-against-western-nations-backed-unsct-draft-resolution-on-climate-change-436687>

6. In a year marked by crimes by Myanmar's military, convincing claims of an 11-person massacre, including five children, who were bound, shot, and then burned, have prompted outrage and revulsion. The victims' corpses have been photographed and videotaped in Don Taw village, Sagaing Region, in northwestern Myanmar.

Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/12/15/myanmar-atrocities-show-need-international-action>

7. An independent group of former United Nations human rights observers, the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SACM), says the military junta should be designated and treated as a terrorist organization because of its extreme acts of criminal violence against civilians.

Source: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/international-envoys-label-myanmar-junta-terrorist-organization.html>

8. Eleven villagers in northwestern Myanmar "were rounded up and beaten by soldiers hunting down resistance fighters. Some, if not all, were shot before they were trapped inside a hut next to a betel farm and set alight." They were all killed. That's Myanmar's ruling junta.

Source: <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-12-14/myanmar-villagers-burned-alive>

9. The Human Rights Foundation (HRF) is pleased to announce the release of the "Uyghur Forced Labor Checker," a Google Chrome extension plug-in that alerts shoppers to whether or not the clothes manufacturers they're considering are using Uyghur forced labour.

Source: <https://hrf.org/hrf-launches-new-tool-to-raise-awareness-about-brands-linked-to-uyghur-forced-labor/>

10. The House unanimously passed a bill on Tuesday evening that would prohibit all imports from the Chinese region of Xinjiang unless the US government confirms that the products were not created using forced labour.

Source: https://www.axios.com/congress-uyghur-forced-labor-bill-d4699c95-16ea-4b42-bda4-eb5baa29326a.html?utm_campaign=organic&utm_medium=socialshare&utm_source=twitter

11. Several dozen Afghan women have marched to the streets of Kabul to demand that the Taliban-installed government provide them with access to education, jobs, and political representation. On December 16, demonstrators marched across Kabul in terrible cold, chanting slogans demanding food, jobs, and

freedom, and holding banners demanding women be given political positions.

Source: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/kabul-women-protest-taliban/31612463.html>

12. According to the United Nations, the Taliban's first four months in power in Afghanistan were marked by "credible allegations" of over 100 extrajudicial killings, denial of women's rights, and the recruitment of boys as soldiers. Addressing the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on December 14, Nada al-Nashif, the world body's deputy rights chief, said she was deeply alarmed by continuing reports of such killings despite a general amnesty announced by Afghanistan's new rulers.

Source: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-taliban-extrajudicial-killings/31608422.html>

13. According to Amnesty International, the Taliban perpetrated torture and extrajudicial murders after seizing control in Afghanistan in August. Amnesty International said in a report released on December 15 that Taliban members have "tortured and killed ethnic and religious minorities, former ANDSF (Afghan National Defense Security Forces) soldiers, and those perceived as government sympathizers in reprisal attacks."

Source: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/amnesty-afghanistan-taliban-abuses-/31609671.html>

