

## DAILY TRACKER

### NUCLEAR ISSUES

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1. Belgium has been dedicated to phasing out nuclear power since 2003, and the country is also committed to investing in research for smaller modular nuclear reactors. The French Utility operates two nuclear power stations in Belgium, totaling seven reactors. Almost half of the country's electricity is generated by them.

Source: <https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/belgium-to-close-all-its-nuclear-power-plants-by-2025-1640335971-1>

2. As the government concentrates on electric vehicles, green hydrogen, solar equipment manufacturing, and meeting the ambitious 175 GW renewable capacity target, India's renewable energy sector is predicted to boom with a likely investment of over USD 15 billion in 2022. India, which now has a renewable energy generation capacity of just over 150 GW, plans to increase that to 175 GW by 2022.

Source: [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/brighter-days-await-renewable-energy-space-investments-likely-to-cross-usd-15-billion-in-2022/articleshow/88468211.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/brighter-days-await-renewable-energy-space-investments-likely-to-cross-usd-15-billion-in-2022/articleshow/88468211.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

3. Nuclear power has become increasingly crucial for addressing the issues in electricity production and heating following the United Nations Climate Conference in Glasgow (COP26) and declarations from key economies around the world to achieve net zero targets by 2050 or 2060. In a recent statement, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) remarked, "It will require us to use all energy sources that do not emit greenhouse gases" (GHG). Nuclear power is part of the solution.'

Source: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/nuclear-the-cleaner-energy-option-for-bangladesh-1640183694>

4. After years of scepticism, optimism is growing that nuclear fusion is finally a reality that could aid in the fight against climate change. It's the final word in clean, easily available energy.

Source: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/12/22/science/after-years-doubts-hopes-grow-that-nuclear-fusion-is-finally-real-could-help-address-climate-change/>



## MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

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1. China has begun moving Type 056 (NATO name Jiangdao) corvettes from the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN or Chinese Navy) to the Chinese Coast Guard in response to rising tensions in the first island chain (CCG).

Source: <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2021/12/china-transferring-navy-type-056-corvettes-to-the-coast-guard/>

2. Russia's President Vladimir Putin announced on Friday that the Russian military successfully launched a salvo of Zircon hypersonic missiles at the same time, calling it "a big event" for the country. Russia has conducted a number of successful tests of its Zircon hypersonic cruise missile as world powers strive to build sophisticated weaponry.

Source: <https://www.news18.com/news/world/russias-vladimir-putin-hails-multiple-launch-test-of-hypersonic-missile-4590896.html>

3. At the end of five days of military training, Iran's paramilitary Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fired 16 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, which generals said were a warning to archenemy Israel. The missiles fired during the military exercise across the country's south were named Emad, Ghadr, Sejjil, Zalzal, Dezful, and Zolfaghar, according to the official IRNA news agency on Friday. Their ranges range from 350 kilometres to 2,000 kilometres (220-1,250 miles).

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/24/iran-ballistic-missiles-military-drills-warning-israel-irgc>

4. Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) has cautioned that a reported arrangement between Saudi Arabia and China to assist the latter grow its ballistic missile arsenal might trigger a new arms race in the region. According to CNN, US intelligence sources believe Riyadh is seeking to develop its own ballistic missiles, with Beijing's help. Previously, Riyadh has only imported them from foreign vendors.

Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/saudi-arabia-china-ballistic-missile-deal-deeply-alarming-senator-ed-markey-iran-1662987>

5. According to the country's Air Force chief of staff, Indonesia has acknowledged defeat in its bid to purchase Russian fighter jets and will now choose between the Boeing F-15EX Eagle II and the Dassault Rafale. Speaking to media during a gathering at Halim Perdanakusuma Air Base near the Indonesian capital Jakarta, Air Chief Marshal Fadjar Prasetyo said the Southeast Asian nation is seeking a 4.5-generation mediumweight or heavyweight fighter.

Source: <https://www.defensenews.com/air/2021/12/22/indonesia-gives-up-on-russian-aircraft-purchase-instead-turning-to-us-and-french-options/>

6. Iran's top military commanders said on Friday that the country's war games in the Gulf this week



were meant to convey a message to Israel. Iran's use of ballistic missiles in war exercises is condemned by the United Kingdom.

Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/uk-condemns-irans-launch-ballistic-missiles-war-games-2021-12-24/?taid=61c60e2d5bce710001f10e03&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk-condemns-irans-launch-ballistic-missiles-war-games-2021-12-24/?taid=61c60e2d5bce710001f10e03&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

7. In an interview with the Defense Ministry's Krasnaya Zvezda newspaper on Friday, Russia's Battlefield Air Defense Chief Lieutenant General Alexander Leonov claimed that work on the Pantsyr-SM-SV new surface-to-air missile/gun system modification will be finished in 2022. According to Russia's Battlefield Air Defense Chief Lieutenant General Alexander Leonov, the system will use two types of surface-to-air missiles and will have an increased strike range.

Source: <https://tass.com/defense/1380391>

8. Video of large-scale Iranian short and medium-range ballistic missile launched today by the IRGC Aerospace Forces.

Source: <https://twitter.com/ELINTNews/status/1474415648356896785>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. According to reports, North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un has been using hackers to fund nuclear weapons. North Korea's government has engaged in a variety of "malicious cyber activities," according to a study by the US Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency.

Source: <https://www.the-sun.com/tech/4330214/kim-jong-un-hackers-nuclear-weapons/>

2. The Yomiuri Shimbun has learned that Prime Minister Fumio Kishida may give a statement at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, which begins on January 4 in New York. The presence of a major country's leader at an NPT review meeting is unusual. If Kishida attends, he will be the first Japanese prime minister to do so.

Source: <https://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0008119008>

3. According to US intelligence assessments and satellite photographs, Saudi Arabia is developing its own ballistic missiles with the support of China. According to a source familiar with the situation and a US official, US intelligence agencies believe the monarchy, which has long been considered to have received missiles from Beijing, is now producing its own.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/saudi-arabia-building-ballistic-missiles-china-iran-rcna9893>

4. The EU ambassador chairing the negotiations said on Thursday that talks to resuscitate the 2015 Iran nuclear deal will continue next Monday, encouraging a "picking up of the pace." Officials have

indicated that if Iran continues to ramp up its nuclear activity as it has since 2019, a year after the US pulled out of the historic agreement and reimposed sanctions, the deal will become obsolete in weeks.

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-nuclear-talks-to-resume-on-monday-says-eu-diplomat/>

5. Business executives around the world are watching to see if President Joe Biden will waive US sanctions on the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism as indirect talks between the US and Iran continue in Vienna. Multinational firms should think twice before entering into any agreements if he does. Since 1984, when the United States first identified Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism, there has been bipartisan support for terrorism sanctions on the Islamic Republic. Since then, Congress and every president of the United States have reiterated the United States' policy of rejecting Iran's support for international terrorism.

Source: <https://www.barrons.com/articles/if-the-u-s-rolls-back-iran-sanctions-business-beware-51640214830>

## UN REFORMS

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1. President Joe Biden signed a bill on Thursday prohibiting companies from importing items from China's Xinjiang region unless they can prove they were not created with forced labour, escalating tensions over Beijing's treatment of the country's Uyghur minority.  
Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/12/24/world/uyghurs-bill-joe-biden/>
2. According to a security officer familiar with the incarceration system, some 120,000 ethnic Uyghurs are currently being imprisoned in political re-education camps in Kashgar (in Chinese, Kashi) prefecture of northwest China's Xinjiang province alone.  
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/detentions-01222018171657.html>
3. Chinese social media users are rallying behind Hunan teacher Li Tiantian, who is reported to be in a psychiatric facility after speaking out against the expulsion of a Shanghai journalism lecturer who encouraged her students to double-check official accounts of the Nanjing massacre.  
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/outcry-12222021122829.html>
4. Hundreds of millions of Chinese Christians have been warned not to gather to celebrate Christmas by police and religious leaders around the country.  
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/christmas-warning-12242021123357.html>
5. Following the removal of the "Pillar of Shame" sculpture from the University of Hong Kong, authorities at two other universities in Hong Kong removed mementos to the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and the civilian killing that ended them on Friday. A 6.4-meter bronze replica of the "Goddess of Democracy" figure used by students protesting for democracy and the rule of law on Tiananmen Square in the spring and early summer of 1989 was taken down by authorities at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/hongkong-statues-12242021110901.html>

6. Despite the ruling Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) broad suppression of the country's feminist and #MeToo movements, including sexual assault charges against tennis star Peng Shuai, Chinese lawmakers to tighten legislative laws on sexual harassment and other women's rights concerns.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/laws-12222021100706.html>

7. Observers and rights groups stated that by mid-December, more than two dozen Myanmar civilians had killed at the hands of militias supporting and opposing the country's military authorities, the greatest number documented in a single month since the junta took control of the government in a Feb. 1 coup.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/killings-informers-12232021180651.html>

8. Myanmar's military carried out further airstrikes on a rebel-controlled territory near the Thai border on Friday, according to the rebel group, in the latest round of violence that has seen hundreds flee to Thailand.

Source: [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/myanmar-airstrikes-displace-more-people-along-thai-myanmar-border/articleshow/88478102.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/myanmar-airstrikes-displace-more-people-along-thai-myanmar-border/articleshow/88478102.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

9. On Saturday, opponents of military authority in Sudan planned their ninth major protest since an October 25 coup, as internet access in the capital, Khartoum, appeared to be halted, according to a Reuters witness.

Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/internet-service-disrupted-sudans-khartoum-ahead-protest-witness-2021-12-25/?taid=61c6d1dc5bce710001f12475&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/internet-service-disrupted-sudans-khartoum-ahead-protest-witness-2021-12-25/?taid=61c6d1dc5bce710001f12475&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

10. Qurban Mamut vanished from East Turkistan four years ago. He was verified to be imprisoned by Chinese authorities in 2020. Mamut was a renowned Uyghur journalist and publicist as the former editor-in-chief of the official Xinjiang Cultural Journal. This is part of a pattern of CCP abuse in which relatives of people residing abroad, particularly famous Uyghurs, are jailed as part of a bigger genocidal campaign.

Source: <https://campaignforuyghurs.org/qurban-mamut-4-years-with-no-information/>

11. President Joe Biden signed legislation on Thursday prohibiting imports from China's Xinjiang region due to concerns over forced labour. The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act is part of the United States' response to Beijing's treatment of China's Uyghur Muslim minority, which Washington has described as genocide.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/biden-signs-bill-banning-goods-china-s-xinjiang-over-abuse-n1286561>

