

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The world has lost an unwavering advocate for peace and justice with the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Nuclear “disarmament is not an option for governments to take up or ignore. It is a moral duty owed by them to their own citizens, and to humanity as a whole.”

Source: <https://twitter.com/CNDuk/status/1475190954697142289>

2. In response to French President Emmanuel Macron's push for additional nuclear power plants, Alsace President Frederic Perry suggested that Wiesenheim be considered as the host city. It is a small town on the German border with a population of approximately 3,000 people, and when it comes to nuclear power, it is unlike everywhere else.

Source: <https://hardwoodparoxysm.com/will-the-nuclear-power-plant-in-wiesenheim-be-reconstructed/>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. The foundation stone for the BrahMos Missiles production unit and the DRDO Lab in Lucknow was laid by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.

Source: <https://twitter.com/ANINewsUP/status/1475009016526893058>

2. According to Japan's Kyodo news agency, the US and Japanese forces have drawn out a draught plan for a coordinated action if an emergency with Taiwan arises. At the first sign of a Taiwan emergency, the US Marine Corps would send soldiers and set up temporary bases on the Nansei island chain, a Japanese archipelago that runs toward Taiwan, Kyodo said.

Source: <https://news.yahoo.com/defense-national-security-us-japan-221419026.html>

3. Russia's President Vladimir Putin said that a salvo of Tsirkon hypersonic missiles was successfully launched early Friday morning.

Source: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-12-25/Russia-successfully-salvo-launches-Tsirkon-hypersonic-missiles-16gQ0XWod1e/index.html>



4. According to the Serbian newspaper Politika, a shipment of Kornet anti-tank missile systems arrived from Russia on Friday. An Il-76 military transport aircraft transported the missiles to the Belgrade military airfield Batainitza on Thursday, according to the report. The newspaper said, the Russian missiles, which are among the most advanced of their kind, will greatly enhance Serbia's armed capabilities.

Source: <https://tass.com/defense/1380739>

5. According to the Fars news agency, Iran announced the development of an anti-missile system that will be mounted on the turrets of T-72M tanks to protect them from attack. The declaration came on the third day of military maneuvers on land and sea in three provinces in the Islamic Republic's south.

Source: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20211223-iran-announces-development-of-an-anti-missile-system/>

6. The salvo launch was hailed as a "big event" by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who added that the "tests were conducted successfully and immaculately." This was also the first time Russian officials announced the successful launch of multiple Tsirkon missiles at the same time.

Source: <https://asiatimes.com/2021/12/russia-doubles-down-on-hypersonic-missile-tests/>

7. The Pakistan Navy has subcontracted ASFAT, a Turkish government-owned defence manufacturing company, to produce 8 A244/S light-weight anti-submarine torpedos. These torpedoes, manufactured by WASS, have a range of 12-13 kilometres and can be launched from surface ships and aircraft.

Source: <https://www.timesnownews.com/international/article/with-fewer-countries-supplying-weapons-to-pakistan-it-is-resorting-to-subterfuge/843110>

8. New weapons export control legislation is in the works, according to German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock. Angela Merkel's administration approved about €5 billion in arms sales during its final days in power.

Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-baerbock-vows-new-law-to-curb-weapons-exports/a-60260511>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Iran's top military commanders stated on Friday that military drills conducted this week were aimed to send a 'message' to Israel. These drills were held in the Persian Gulf.

Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/iran-fires-missiles-during-drills-in-warning-to-israel/a-60253795>

2. The director of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, told Sputnik that his country can produce nuclear fuel on its own and will start utilising it at the Bushehr nuclear power plant soon.
Source: <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/468439/Self-sufficient-Iran-plans-to-power-nuclear-plants>
3. The largest joint Russian-Iranian project is the development of power units at the Bushehr nuclear power station. In September 2011, the first block of the nuclear power plant, which was built in collaboration with Russia, was connected to Iran's national power grid. The second block is now being built, and a contract for the building of the third power unit has been signed. Moscow provided Tehran with the nuclear fuel required for the first unit's reactor to operate. Russian fuel was last delivered in April of 2020.
Source: <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/468425/Eslami-says-Iran-will-soon-use-its-nuclear-fuel-to-power-Bushehr>
4. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) threatened to blow up the city of Dimona in the Negev desert, where a nuclear facility is located, on Twitter on Friday.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/article-689758>
5. According to Bonnie Jenkins, the State Department's top arms control official, the US is reviewing its "declaratory policy" on the use of nuclear weapons as part of President Joe Biden's commitment to reducing the role of such weapons.
Source: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20211227/p2g/00m/0in/008000c>
6. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fired 16 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles at the end of a five-day military exercise, which military sources said was a message to Israel, according to Al Jazeera.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/iran-simulates-deadly-strikes-on-israeli-nuclear-facility/>

UN REFORMS

1. According to the Boston Herald, the Taliban are starving their ethnic opponents, particularly Hazaras, and preventing them from trading in the market.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/133955/taliban-are-deliberately-starving-ethnic-rivals-like-the-hazara/>
2. The Talibanis have detained Mohammad Arif Nouri, the network's executive director, according to

Nourin Radio and Television.

Source: <https://twitter.com/Etilaatroz/status/1475154907560910855>

3. Tibetan children are being transported to Chinese special camps to be indoctrinated with a Sinicized worldview that disregard Tibetan Buddhist ideals and prepares them to be soldiers.

Source: https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/china-sends-tibetan-teens-to-camps-for-indoctrination-military-training-101640356948828.html?utm_source=twitter

4. The Taliban has dissolved Afghanistan's election commission, which oversaw elections under the previous Western-backed administration.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/25/taliban-dissolves-afghanistan-election-commission>

5. Due to a deadly combination of rising malnutrition, an unprecedented food crisis, drought, disruptions to vital health and nutrition centres, lack of access to and poor quality of water and sanitation services, and crippling winter weather, children across Afghanistan are becoming increasingly vulnerable to disease and illness. As the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan worsens, outbreaks of life-threatening diseases put children's lives at jeopardy.

Source: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/rising-health-risks-children-across-afghanistan-disruption-health-and-nutrition>

6. According to international aid group Save the Children and a local militia that opposes the military, at least 38 people, including children, were killed in an attack by Myanmar's military in an area of the country where resistance groups have been fighting junta forces.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/politics/news/myanmar-military-attack-kills-dozens-including-children-aid-group-says-11640532190245.html>

7. Two members of a humanitarian organisation located in the United Kingdom have gone missing after the charred remains of more than 30 individuals were discovered following an attack blamed on the military. Save the Children said in a statement on Saturday that two of its staff members who were returning home after doing humanitarian work were caught up in the event in eastern Mo So village and "remain missing."

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/25/save-the-children-myanmar-staff-missing-deadly-burning-attack>

8. According to the Haaretz daily on Saturday, Israel will begin giving temporary residency to 2,440 Sudanese asylum seekers who have been waiting for a judgement on their bids to stay in the country for several years. The status will be granted until a final judgement on their destiny is reached, in accordance with a High Court of Justice judgement earlier this year.

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-grant-temporary-residency-to-2440-sudanese-asylum-seekers-next-month/>

9. Sudan's security forces have been accused of employing excessive force during rallies in the capital, Khartoum, against military rule. On Saturday, 178 protesters were hurt, according to a doctors' union affiliated with the movement, and security forces were accused of using live rounds.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-59795213>

10. The UN Security Council has extended the travel restriction exception for prominent members of Afghanistan's Taliban for another 90 days.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/un-security-council-extends-exemption-of-travel-ban-on-taliban-leaders-121122500145_1.html

11. The Taliban has been in Afghanistan for 133 days, and in the last 100 days, the dictatorship has curtailed women's rights, thrown the country into economic and humanitarian disaster, and thrown democracy out the window. The Taliban has recently disbanded Afghanistan's election commission, which was in charge of overseeing elections during the previous Western-backed administration.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/videos/taliban-forces-plunge-afghanistan-into-economic-humanitarian-crisis-440122>

12. On December 24, the Japanese government decided to extend an Emergency Grant Aid of 28.95 million dollars to vulnerable refugees and internally displaced individuals in Syria and adjacent countries who are facing humanitarian crises.

Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/emergency-grant-aid-response-humanitarian-crisis-syria-and-neighborin>

13. The bodies of more than a dozen migrants who drowned while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe washed up on Libya's coast late Saturday, according to the country's interior ministry and the local Red Crescent. Libya is a key transit hub for migrants seeking better chances in Europe, many of whom are from African countries.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-689818>

14. Israel has complained to the UN about Lebanon's decision to issue a tender for offshore drilling in disputed maritime waters over which both countries claim control.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-689837>