

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Iran has started enriching uranium at its Fordo plant using sophisticated centrifuges, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, in yet another breach of the multilateral nuclear agreement that world powers are trying to rescue. Tehran began enriching uranium to up to 20% purity with a cluster of 166 modern IR-6 machines at Fordo, 135 kilometres outside Tehran, according to the UN's nuclear watchdog.
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-starts-enriching-uranium-at-fordo-plant-amid-nuclear-talks-in-further-breach/>
2. Uranium Royalty (NASDAQ: UROY, TSX-V: URC) said on Thursday that it has signed a supply stream agreement with CGN Global Uranium of China to buy 500,000 pounds of U3O8 from CGN delivered at Cameco from 2023 to 2025 at a weighted average price of \$47.71 per pound.
Source: <https://www.kitco.com/news/2021-12-02/China-s-CGN-Global-to-supply-Uranium-Royalty-with-physical-uranium.html>
3. According to a statement released on Nov. 19 by the Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory (INL), the lab is collaborating with NASA to establish a "durable, high-power, sun-independent" fission reactor on the moon within the next 10 years. The two organisations are presently seeking ideas from outside partners to help them get this ambitious initiative off the ground, with a deadline of February 19, 2022.
Source: <https://www.space.com/nasa-moon-nuclear-fission-reactor>
4. On Thursday, Shikoku Electric Power Co reactivated a nuclear reactor in Ehime Prefecture, western Japan that had been shut down since December 2019 owing to routine inspections and a court injunction. Following the overturning in March of an injunction issued by the Hiroshima High Court in January 2020 prohibiting the reactor from functioning due to safety concerns, the utility restarted the No. 3 reactor at the Ikata nuclear power facility.
Source: <https://japantoday.com/category/national/update1-ehime-nuclear-reactor-in-western-japan-restarted-after-2-yr-halt>
5. GE On Friday, Ontario Power Generation (ONPWG.UL) announced that Hitachi Nuclear Energy, a joint venture between General Electric Co (GE.N) and Japan's Hitachi Ltd (6501.T), will build a small modular nuclear reactor (SMR) with Ontario Power Generation (ONPWG.UL).
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/ge-hitachi-nuclear-build-small-reactor-canada-2021-12-03/>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. In Huludao, Liaoning Province, Russian-made equipment for the construction of China's Xudapu-3 nuclear power plant has arrived. The 476-tonne equipment arrived 90 days after leaving the Port of St. Petersburg.
Source: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-12-02/Sino-Russian-nuclear-power-project-enters-peak-phase-of-construction-15FKaHWB61i/index.html>
2. Near the Kuril Islands, a Pacific group claimed by both Russia and Japan, the Russian military has placed coastal defence missile systems. The move looked to be meant to emphasise Moscow's steadfast attitude in the conflict. The Bastion systems were relocated to Matua, a barren volcanic island in the chain's midsection. The four southernmost islands are claimed by Japan.
Source: <https://japantoday.com/category/politics/russia-sends-missiles-near-pacific-islands-claimed-by-japan>
3. The orbits of SpaceX's Starlink satellites have been changed, most likely to avoid clashing with debris from Russia's anti-satellite missile test. After NASA abruptly postponed a spacewalk on the International Space Station owing to the possibility of space debris, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk addressed the issue on Tuesday.
Source: <https://in.pcmag.com/networking/146588/starlink-satellite-orbits-changed-to-avoid-debris-after-russias-missile-test>
4. General Designer at KBM Valery Kashin told TASS that Russia's primary design, research, and production centre, the Machine-Building Design Bureau (KBM, part of Rostec state enterprise), is updating the Khrizantema missile, one of the world's most potent anti-tank missiles.
Source: <https://tass.com/defense/1369587>
5. Defence Minister Suh Wook and his US counterpart, Lloyd Austin, approved the "Strategic Planning Guidance (SPG)," a document to set the tone for updated wartime operation plans (OPLANs), during the allies' annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM).
Source: <https://www.dtnext.in/News/World/2021/12/02212644/1331862/South-Korea-US-to-update-war-plans-to-deter-North-.vpf>
6. Following rumours that China had recently launched two hypersonic missiles, a top US Orbit Force official claimed that China's hypersonic weapon might stay in space for a lengthy amount of time.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/chinas-hypersonic-missile-can-stay-in-orbit-longer-claims-us-space-force-general-433271>
7. A UN panel has agreed to create an open-ended working group aimed at preventing an arms race in space, a major concern among UN member nations. "The prevention of an arms race in outer space is a UK priority," James Cleverly, the minister leading the UK portfolio on space security, said after the vote.
Source: <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2021-12/news/un-panel-approves-working-group-space>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Putin's Arctic aspirations are likely to be aided by Russia's floating nuclear power plant, the world's first.
Source: <https://www.news18.com/videos/ivideos/indian-army-to-introduce-new-digital-pattern-combat-uniform-1-how-it-will-make-forces-more-lethal-4511843.html>
2. Even as Tehran made draught proposals following the reopening of talks in Vienna, the US sought to play down the possibility of resuming a nuclear deal between Iran and global powers on Thursday.
Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1979721/world>
3. Iran began enriching uranium with upgraded centrifuges at its Fordow site just two days after resuming talks with Western powers to resurrect the dormant 2015 nuclear pact. In response to the reimposition of US sanctions, Iran stopped abiding by its obligations and made significant progress.
Source: <https://www.ft.com/content/97f62e45-39b9-4126-b2a7-8b190703a531>
4. Recent comments from Iran have endangered the nuclear deal as talks in Vienna resume, according to the United States. Tehran doubts Washington's determination to revitalize the 2015 accord.
Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/iran-nuclear-deal-us-unhappy-with-tehrans-rhetoric/a-60001882>
5. A top Kuwaiti diplomat stated late Monday that there will be no peace, security, or stability until the world is free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, told the Second Session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction that his country would continue to take steps to reduce the use of such weapons against humanity.
Source: <https://news.kuwaittimes.net/website/kuwait-to-un-session-peace-through-ridding-world-of-nuclear-weapons/>
6. Egypt's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Osama Abdel Khalek, took part in the second session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East, which took place in New York. In his speech during the meeting, Abdul Khaliq referred to the challenges facing the international nuclear non-proliferation system, of which the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone.
Source: <https://dailynewsegypt.com/2021/12/02/egypt-renews-call-for-nuclear-weapon-free-zone-in-middle-east/>
7. Israel has urged the United States to halt the nuclear talks with Iran immediately, accusing Iran of having begun to enrich uranium with advanced centrifuges. The call was made on Thursday during a phone talk between Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken,



according to a statement issued by Bennett's office, Xinhua news agency reported.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/israeli-pm-urges-us-to-halt-nuclear-talks-with-iran-immediately-121120300431_1.html

UN REFORMS

1. Iran has begun manufacturing enriched uranium at its Fordow project, which is excavated into a mountain, according to the UN atomic watchdog, further undermining the 2015 Iran nuclear deal during talks with the West to save it.

Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1979956/middle-east>

2. On Monday, the United Nations Secretary-General urged all Middle Eastern countries to make the vision of a region free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction a reality.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1106732>

3. According to a coalition of more than 60 organisations, the United Nations General Assembly should move quickly to establish an investigation mechanism to acquire and preserve evidence of major human rights violations and violations of the rules of war in Yemen. Failure to act would not only be a vote for impunity in Yemen, but it would also be a green light for more abuses and war crimes to be committed.

Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/12/02/civil-society-groups-seek-urgent-un-action-yemen>

4. The United Nations said on Wednesday that urban poverty in Myanmar is on track to treble next year, bringing nearly half of the population below the poverty line, as the epidemic and a military takeover threaten gains made in the previous decade.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/un-says-about-half-myanmars-people-could-sink-into-poverty-2022-2021-12-01/>

5. Last month, Uganda's president called for leaders of the East African Community (EAC) to meet to form a consensus perspective on Ethiopia's predicament. Ethiopia's civil war is on track to surpass Yemen's for the dreadful title of world's greatest humanitarian disaster, with 2 million uprooted in just a year and 400, 000 already living in starvation.

Source: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2021-12-02/african-leaders-must-take-the-lead-on-an-african-crisis>

