

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has approved Westinghouse Electric Company's PARAGON2™ fuel energy transport code. PARAGON2 is an important part of the company's High Energy Fuel effort, which offers utility customers with the technologies and hardware they need to improve their fuel capabilities.

Source: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20211206005579/en/Westinghouse-Reaches-New-Milestone-in-Advanced-Nuclear-Fuel-Development>

2. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States is looking for proposals from nuclear and space industry leaders to develop novel technologies for a fission surface power system for lunar power applications, with the goal of deploying one by 2030.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2021/12/06/nasa-is-looking-for-a-few-good-nukes/?sh=347da04c57d4>

3. The Rt. Hon. Rukia Nakadama, Uganda's Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister without Portfolio, has stated that safe nuclear power is one of the options that will enable Uganda to achieve the global goals of universal access to affordable and clean energy for all by 2030, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) number 7. Hon. Nakadama was speaking at the end of a one-week IAEA Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) tour to Uganda, which was hosted at Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala's capital.

Source: <https://www.ugandaupdatenews.com/uganda-set-to-have-safe-nuclear-power-generation-by-2031-says-third-deputy-prime-minister-nakadama/>

4. The outlook for nuclear energy has shifted dramatically in recent weeks. Major center-left forces have switched their posture from opposition to support in time for the global COP26 session. While a year ago, French President Emmanuel Macron called for reducing the nuclear share of France's electric power from 75 percent to 50 percent (thus eliminating the world's only truly decarbonized major electric-power grid), on November 9 he called for “relaunching construction of nuclear reactors in our country . . . to guarantee France’s energy independence, to guarantee our country’s electricity supply and achieve our objectives, in particular carbon neutrality in 2050.”

Source: <https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/12/the-new-nuclear-moment/>

5. EDF Energy plans to begin construction of two EPR units at Sizewell C in Suffolk, UK, as soon as it receives government approval, which may happen within six months, according to Julia Pyke, the project's director of financing. She went on to say that the corporation is working on using recycled uranium to power the reactors. Pyke made her remarks on the 2nd of December during a presentation at the UK Nuclear Industry Association's Nuclear2021 conference in London.

Source: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/07122021-uk-sizewell-c-could-use-recycled-uranium/>



MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. On Monday, a ballistic missile was fired at Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, according to Saudi state TV. The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen reportedly said Saudi defenses intercepted the missile. The missiles were apparently launched from Yemen, as the Houthis, who are associated with Iran, increased cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia using armed drones. The Saudi alliance has launched 47 airstrikes against Houthi sites in Marib in the last 24 hours.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/ballistic-missile-launched-towards-riyadh-destroyed-by-saudi-arabia-688004>
2. According to the Wall Street Journal, Saudi Arabia has a critical shortage of missiles used to intercept strikes. Saudi Arabia has requested resupplies of ammunition used to defend the country from drone and missile assaults from the United States and its allies in Europe and the Gulf, according to the Wall Street Journal (paywall), citing US and Saudi officials.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/12/7/saudi-pleads-with-us-for-missile-defense-resupply-report>
3. According to Interfax, Russia's national arms exporter said on Monday that it hopes to deliver more S-400 missile systems to India within the current deal's option.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/russia-hopes-supply-india-with-more-s-400-missile-systems-ifx-2021-12-06/>
4. The Vertically Launched Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) was successfully test-fired by India from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha, the ministry of defense announced on Tuesday.
Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-successfully-test-fires-vl-srsam-off-odisha-coast-101638882187256.html>
5. On Tuesday, Yemen's Houthi movement claimed responsibility for firing multiple ballistic missiles and 25 armed drones at Saudi Arabian targets, including Aramco installations in Jeddah and the Saudi Defense Ministry in Riyadh.
Source: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/88141568.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst
6. Fears of a new arms race between the US, Russia, and China are being fueled by hypersonic missiles. The new-generation missiles are launched at five times the speed of sound into Earth's upper atmosphere before manoeuvring towards a target. According to Washington media sources, the Biden administration wants to talk to China about arms control and non-proliferation.
Source: <https://scroll.in/article/1012047/hypersonic-missiles-are-fuelling-fears-of-a-new-arms-race-between-us-russia-and-china>



7. According to a top defense official, the US has finished the construction of a new long-range radar in Alaska that will provide early notice of approaching ballistic missiles from North Korea and other countries.

Source: <https://english.lokmat.com/politics/us-completes-construction-of-radar-designed-to-detect-missiles-from-nkorea/>

8. The Pentagon said Monday that it has finished military construction and will start testing a long-range radar for a homeland missile defense system that can track intercontinental ballistic missiles as well as next-generation threats like hypersonic weapons.

Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/12/07/world/alaska-hypersonic-missile-radar/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Indirect U.S.- Iranian discussions in Vienna to save the 2015 Iran nuclear deal will restart on Thursday, according to Iranian news outlets. "We will continue the talks on Thursday ... and await practical steps by the West," Iran's top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani was quoted as telling Iranian media during a visit to Moscow by the semi-official news agency ISNA.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/iran-nuclear-talks-with-world-powers-to-resume-on-thursday/articleshow/88148625.cms>

2. As international powers meet to resurrect the 2015 nuclear deal, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman embarked on a rare visit to the Persian Gulf area in an attempt to shore up his position with neighbours and forge consensus on the threat presented by rival Iran.

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/saudi-crown-prince-tours-gulf-as-iran-nuclear-talks-stall-11638801218>

3. The Biden administration confronts the potential of having to rely on two of its largest foreign foes, Russia and China, to end the nuclear dispute with Iran, with discussions on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal on the verge of collapsing. Even as tensions between the United States and Russia over Ukraine and China over Taiwan and other issues rise, Western leaders recognise that the quickest way to increase economic and political pressure on Iran's new hard-line administration is through Moscow and, in particular, Beijing.

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-hope-for-iran-nuclear-talks-now-rests-on-china-russia-11638790536>

4. The US, NATO allies, and Ukraine accuse Russia of massing troops along Ukraine's border in preparation for an attack. NATO members are also "prepared to impose significant costs" on Moscow if it undertakes an invasion, according to the US. Russia denies that such a plan exists, but it has



cautioned Ukraine against any provocation that could lead to an invasion. "It is unclear whether Western authorities comprehend the gravity of their actions. "It's improbable that Russia will allow nuclear weapons or even large-scale NATO army movements into Ukraine," Richard H. Black, a former Virginia state senator, told Press TV.

Source: <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2021/12/05/672022/Russia-policies-driven-US-bureaucrats-powerful-lobbyists>

5. In a resolution voted 178-1 on Monday with two abstentions, the United States and Cameroon, Israel was the only country to vote against the UN General Assembly's request for a Middle East nuclear-free zone. Iran, which the international community fears is on its way to becoming a nuclear threshold state, supported the text.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israel-was-only-un-country-to-oppose-middle-east-nuclear-free-zone-688096>

6. State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman announced on Tuesday that his office has begun an investigation into Israel's readiness to cope with Iran's nuclear programme, following recent criticism from former officials of how the country's leaders handled the situation. "The matter is on my desk," Engelman said at a conference in Herzliya organized by the Walla news website. "We have begun a review of this matter with the perspective that it is a central danger."

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/comptroller-to-grade-israels-handling-of-iran-nuclear-threat/>

7. According to the ministry's press service, the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement praising the outcomes of the P5 Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. On December 2-3 in Paris, representatives from the five Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), also known as the P5, including the US, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China, met to discuss the agenda for the 10th NPT Review Conference. The NPT meeting will be held in New York from January 4 to 28, 2022, at the United Nations headquarters.

Source: <https://astanatimes.com/2021/12/kazakhstan-praises-results-of-recent-p5-conference-on-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons/>

UN REFORMS

1. The country's ruling junta sentenced Myanmar's deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi to two years in prison on December 6, garnering international outcry. She was accused with inciting against the military junta as well as violating the coronavirus ban.

Source: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/dispatches/aung-san-suu-kyi-jailing-in-myanmar-sparks-global-outrage/article37880958.ece>

2. Myanmar's military-appointed foreign minister met with Cambodian officials in the Southeast Asian

country's new chair of the regional bloc, which is leading diplomatic attempts to end the country's political turmoil. Wunna Maung Lwin's journey to Cambodia on Tuesday comes a day after a Myanmar court sentenced deposed civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi to jail on politically motivated charges, according to her supporters.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/7/myanmar-official-in-cambodia-for-talks-as-global-censure-grows>

3. As the African nation confronts rising insurgencies, the United Nations Security Council will convene on Monday afternoon for a report on sanctions against the Democratic Republic of Congo. The 'State of Siege' imposed on two eastern provinces of Ituri and North Kivu since April to quell an insurgency is of immediate concern. Militia attacks have increased in both provinces, including a recent slaughter of more than 50 persons in an Ituri refugee camp.

Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202112070431.html>

4. Toby Harward, the UNHCR's Principal Situation Coordinator for the region, told journalists in Geneva that the agency is highly concerned about the situation. Nearly 10,000 Sudanese have fled a wave of intercommunal violence in the Jebel Moon, a location in West Darfur, one of the five Darfur States, according to him. Over 2,000 of them have sought asylum in Chad, the most of them are women and children. Tensions have remained high in Jebel Moon, and violent incidents have happened in other West Darfur towns in recent days, notably El Geneina on December 5.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1107292>

5. A UN human rights expert praised the Uzbek government today for repatriating and reintegrating women and children from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, but advised authorities to modify the country's extremism and counter-terrorism laws significantly.

Source: <https://www.miragenews.com/un-expert-applauds-return-of-women-and-children-688925/>

6. On Monday, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolved to postpone action on representatives from Afghanistan and Myanmar at the UN's most representative organ. The General Assembly's decision on Monday means that the two representatives will continue to represent their respective countries.

Source: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-12-07/UN-defers-action-on-representatives-of-Afghanistan-Myanmar-15N9kWwBDKE/index.html>

7. Fewer migrants are trying to cross the frontier between Poland and Belarus, but the Polish Border Guard told journalists visiting the previously off-limits border zone on Monday that it still faces provocations from Belarusian forces.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/polish-belarus-border-migrant-crossings-decrease-tension-remains-2021-12-06/>

8. Along the border between Belarus and the European Union, a crisis has erupted. Thousands of migrants seeking to enter the EU have been stranded between Poland and Belarus for several weeks, living in frigid camps with little access to humanitarian help. The migrants have been relocated to warehouses for shelter today, but the crisis is far from ended.

Source: <https://www.vox.com/videos/22822426/belarus-lukashenko-eu-migrant-crisis-poland>

9. The decision by the Biden administration to reintroduce Migrant Protection Protocols along the US-



Mexico border. The decision to relaunch the programme, dubbed "Remain in Mexico," was made on Thursday. Starting Monday, US Customs and Border Protection will resume transferring asylum claimants to seven Mexican border communities, including Nogales, Sonora, to await the result of their cases.

Source: <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/border-issues/2021/12/02/remain-mexico-restart-brings-human-rights-concerns-arizona-sonora-border/8837148002/>