

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. Despite internal disagreement over whether nuclear electricity and natural gas actually qualify as sustainable solutions, the EU plans to identify them as "green" sources for investment.  
Source: <https://www.deccanherald.com/international/world-news-politics/eu-moves-to-label-nuclear-gas-energy-as-green-1066901.html>
2. According to the daily Yomiuri on Saturday, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd are planning to collaborate with the United States and Bill Gates' venture company to develop a high-tech nuclear reactor in Wyoming.  
Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/japan-to-help-build-bill-gates-high-tech-nuclear-reactor-in-wyoming/article38085424.ece>
3. Even as Europe suffers one of its worst-ever energy crises, Germany will shut down three nuclear power reactors on Friday, following Angela Merkel's plan to phase out atomic energy. With energy costs already rising and relations between Europe and its main gas supplier, Russia, at an all-time high, the shutdown of the plants in Brokdorf, Grohnde, and Gundremmingen might exacerbate the situation.  
Source: <https://japantoday.com/category/world/germany-to-close-nuclear-reactors-despite-energy-crisis>

### **MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS**

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1. The Defense Ministry said on Thursday that Israel has signed a long-awaited agreement with the United States to purchase a dozen heavy transport helicopters and two additional refueling planes in a weapons deal valued more than \$3 billion. These planes, as well as a number of other F-35 fighter jets that Israel expects to buy from the US, are designed to resist Iran's threats, particularly its nuclear programme.  
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/with-iran-in-mind-israel-signs-deal-with-us-for-heavy-choppers-refueling-planes/>
2. The Ministry of Defense has signed an agreement to buy 12 Lockheed Martin CH-53K helicopters and two additional Boeing KC-46 refueling planes from the US government. On Thursday evening, the US Defense Department's procurement delegation signed letters of acceptance with Israel to replace the Israel Air Force's CH-53 Yasur heavy-lift helicopters and Ra'am (Boeing 707) tanker planes, which are needed for long-range missions.



Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-690271>

3. Russia's military staged a huge test-firing of no less than 10 hypersonic cruise missiles less than 24 hours after the Biden-Putin phone chat, which the Kremlin touted as a "good" start toward the cooling of tensions over Ukraine. It comes after a smaller-scale hypersonic test last week, which Putin praised as "a major event in the country's history" that represents "a significant stride" in strengthening Russia's defence capabilities.  
Source: <https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/russia-tests-12-hypersonic-missiles-days-ahead-de-escalation-talks-nato>
4. The Indian Express has learned that the first unit of the S-400 Triumph, a state-of-the-art air defence missile system purchased from Russia, has been deployed in Punjab to protect against any attack from Pakistan or China. According to sources, the device has been implemented at one of the state's five IAF facilities, which border Pakistan. China has already installed the system along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in the midst of the border impasse.  
Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/eye-on-china-pakistan-s-400-unit-deployed-punjab-7700617/>
5. Amid China's aggressive territorial claims, the Philippines could be the first customer of BrahMos supersonic missile systems, which are jointly developed by India and Russia.  
Source: [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-in-advanced-stage-of-negotiations-with-philippines-for-export-of-brahmos-missiles/articleshow/88604945.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-in-advanced-stage-of-negotiations-with-philippines-for-export-of-brahmos-missiles/articleshow/88604945.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)
6. A Chinese individual was arrested Tuesday by Japanese authorities in connection with a cyberattack on the JAXA space agency, an attack believed to be linked to China's military.  
Source: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Technology/Japan-aerospace-cyberattacks-show-link-to-Chinese-military-police>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. In the midst of a protracted military stalemate with India along their disputed border in eastern Ladakh, China's new land border law is set to take effect on January 1. Beijing has the ability to seize the territory with nuclear weapons.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-india-border-laws-comes-into-effect-nuclear-weapons/>
2. According to a media source on Saturday, Pakistan loaded fuel in the Chinese-assisted Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit-3.  
Source: <https://www.news18.com/news/world/pakistan-loads-fuel-in-chinese-assisted-karachi-nuclear-power-plant-unit-3-4614158.html>

3. Iran's negotiator Ali Bagheri said Thursday that ongoing discussions in Vienna to resurrect a 2015 nuclear deal between world powers and Iran had made "relatively satisfactory progress." Bagheri said in a video published by Tasnim news agency that "some written changes on the lifting of sanctions were established between the two parties and relatively satisfactory progress has been made over the first days of the eighth round of negotiations"  
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-nuclear-talks-in-vienna-are-seeing-satisfactory-progress/>
4. If nuclear discussions intended at resurrecting the stalled 2015 nuclear deal collapse in 2022, tensions between Iran and the United States could rise. While analysts believe that a deal can still be reached if ongoing conversations are entered into the new calendar, the US and EU governments have cautioned that there are just "weeks" left to save the agreement, technically known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action (JCPOA).  
Source: <https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-nuclear-talks-2022-options/31634579.html>
5. France criticised Iran's satellite rocket launch on Friday, calling it "all the more regrettable" because nuclear talks with international powers were progressing, echoing US and German worries.  
Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/france-says-irans-space-launch-regrettable-amid-nuclear-deal-talks-2021-12-31/?taid=61cf78b293d1920001ce3739&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/france-says-irans-space-launch-regrettable-amid-nuclear-deal-talks-2021-12-31/?taid=61cf78b293d1920001ce3739&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)
6. Despite the world's optimism that diplomacy is still the greatest option to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons, the Iranian leadership continues to expand its nuclear programme at full speed. The dictatorship is currently enriching uranium in Natanz, Iran, to a purity of greater than 63 percent, which is close to weapons-grade 90 percent enrichment. It is accumulating more enriched uranium, employing more modern centrifuges, and testing uranium metal, a substance required for weaponization.  
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-690310>
7. According to Israel's latest intelligence, Iran is now six to eight weeks away from obtaining the fissile material needed to create a nuclear weapon. Israeli broadcaster Kan 11 quoted security sources saying that Tehran was able to shorten the timetable for developing nuclear weapons. It can currently produce 90 percent enriched uranium, the percentage required to begin making a nuclear weapon.  
Source: <https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3387856/israeli-intelligence-estimate-iran-8-weeks-developing-nuclear-weapons>
8. Iran's launch into space The rocket failed to launch its three payloads into orbit on Thursday because it couldn't attain the needed speed, according to a defence ministry spokesman who spoke on state television on Friday. The failed launch, which occurred while indirect US-Iran discussions were taking place in Austria to try to save a 2015 nuclear deal, sparked condemnation from the US, Germany, and France. "For a payload to enter orbit, it needs to reach speeds above 7,600 [meters per second]. We reached 7,350," the spokesman, Ahmad Hosseini, said in a documentary about the launch vehicle broadcast on state TV and posted online.  
Source: <https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-space-launch-fails-to-put-payloads-into-orbit-official-says-/6377410.html>

9. On Saturday, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen delivered a New Year address to China, saying that armed conflict is not the answer. Beijing, however, issued a severe warning, saying that if Taiwan violated any red lines, it would result in "profound catastrophe."  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/new-years-speech-taiwan-president-warns-china-against-military-adventurism-2022-01-01/>
10. President Joe Biden reminded his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Friday that a move against Ukraine would result in sanctions and a stronger US presence in Europe, where tensions are high following Russia's military buildup along the border.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/biden-speak-with-ukraine-president-sunday-white-house-2021-12-31/>

## UN REFORMS

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1. According to Penpa Tsering, President of the Tibetan Government in Exile, there has been an increase in the intensity of control since Xi's visit in May 2020. Tibetans have dubbed the Chinese monitoring system the Grid Lock system since it has intensified all types of surveillance, including electronic surveillance, on Tibetans living both inside and outside Tibet.  
Source: <http://tehelka.com/we-are-dying-a-slow-death-genocide-in-whatever-form/>
2. The Washington Post revealed on Friday that China is using part of its own internet surveillance network to mine data from Western social media and transmit information on foreign targets to its government agents. The Post discovered that China's public opinion analysis software, which is used to detect politically sensitive information online, was also being used to collect information on foreign targets through U.S. companies like Twitter and Facebook, after reviewing hundreds of Chinese bidding documents, contracts, and company filings.  
Source: <https://thehill.com/policy/international/china/587839-documents-show-chinese-government-collects-droves-of-data-from>
3. The Taliban come to a halt in front of the vehicles, remove the passengers, and then shoot them. Under the Talibani regime, this is the new normal in Afghanistan. Every day, the Taliban terror massacres former army members and government officials around the country.  
Source: <https://twitter.com/natiqmalikzada/status/1477061713677590532>
4. The Indian Foreign Ministry has declared that 500,000 doses of corona vaccination have been given to Kabul's Indra Gandhi Child Health Hospital.  
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/134226/india-sent-500000-doses-of-corona-vaccine-to-afghanistan/>
5. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has announced that 2021 will see a wave of serious violations against children in long-running conflicts.

Source: <https://www.etalatroz.com/134215/in-last-16-years-27-percent-of-child-deaths-worldwide-recorded-in-afghanistan/>

6. Four ladies were beaten by Ministry of Enjoining the Good and Forbidding the Evil authorities on the Darulaman road on Wednesday because they did not have a religious Muharram. Women were likewise prohibited from driving by the Taliban two weeks ago.  
Source: <https://www.etalatroz.com/134202/four-and-a-half-months-after-24-assad-why-do-women-protest/>
7. As winter approaches, Afghan widow Kubra needs to find fuel to heat the one room in which her eight family members dwell in Bamiyan's central region. Food is getting scarce as the flour they purchased months ago runs gone. "We got two sacks of flour last spring which we are still using. After that, we have to have faith that God will help us," the 57-year-old said in a room lined with rice sacks to keep out the cold.  
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/gallery/2021/12/31/afghanistan-poverty-drought-food-crisis-struggling-families-winter>
8. After a journalist documenting the plight of refugees in the southern state of Kayin was killed during an army artillery strike near the Thai border, the Paris-based NGO Reporters Without Borders called on the international community to impose sanctions on Myanmar's military regime.  
Source: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/international-community-urged-to-impose-sanctions-on-myanmar-junta-after-journalist-killing20211231100246/>
9. Mah Tial claimed she owned a modest store in Thantlang, a town in northwest Myanmar, for more than a decade, earning enough money to send her four children to school and watch her eldest daughter get a government position. The family escaped Myanmar for India, with no intention of returning anytime soon.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-family-flees-india-with-no-plans-return-soon-2021-12-31/>
10. Officials said on Wednesday that the United Nations and other countries are in talks with Somalia's prime minister and president to persuade them to ease tensions in their political rift, which has fueled fears of a military battle.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/somali-pm-discusses-political-situation-with-us-official-2021-12-29/>
11. A joint military force announced on Thursday that Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) militants killed six troops from Nigeria and Niger during an operation earlier this month.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/six-nigerian-niger-troops-killed-by-islamic-state-security-forces-say-2021-12-30/>
12. A doctors' committee claimed on Friday that five persons were killed on Dec. 30 during a crackdown by Sudanese security forces on statewide protests against military authority.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/internet-services-disrupted-sudanese-capital-a-head-protests-reuters-witnesses-2021-12-30/>