

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. Brazil has started the process of identifying potential locations for the new nuclear power plants it hopes to have operational by 2050. The Ministry of Mines and Energy has enlisted the help of experts at Cepel to conduct a siting study.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Brazil-looks-to-nuclear-expansion>
2. Slovenia's coal-fired power stations will be shut down in 2033, according to the country's administration. Before 2030, a new nuclear reactor will be built at the Krško facility to facilitate this.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Slovenia-sets-date-to-exit-coal>
3. The licencing process for Finland's planned Hanhikivi 1 nuclear power station has reached "the homestretch," with the final licence paperwork scheduled to be presented to the nuclear regulator in the coming months, according to Fennovoima.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Hanhikivi-1-licensing-work-nears-completion>
4. The Koeberg nuclear power plant's Unit 2 has been shut down for refuelling and replacement of its three steam generators and reactor pressure vessel head. The repair, which is expected to take five months, is part of a plan to extend the company's operations for another 20 years.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Koeberg-offline-for-replacement-of-steam-generator>
5. Nuclear power is on schedule to be phased out by 2025, despite accounting for a considerable 39 percent of Belgium's generating mix in 2020. The country is set to start shutting down the rest of its facilities this year, with wind and solar power to take their place.  
Source: <https://www.power-technology.com/comment/belgium-phase-out-nuclear/>
6. NE-54's primary objective is to support activities connected to the nuclear fuel cycle's front end, such as mining, milling, conversion, and enrichment.  
Source: <https://www.energy.gov/ne/fuel-cycle-technologies/uranium-management-and-policy/nuclear-fuel-cycle>

### **MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS**

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1. The single-seat, twin-engine F-22 Raptor is widely regarded as one of the world's best tactical fighters. However, a lesser-known aspect about this jet is that it was being developed as a naval variant in the United States.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-35-joint-strike-fighters-outflanked-f-22-raptors-aviation-deals/>

2. Representatives from Japan, South Korea, and the United States spoke on the phone on Monday to compare viewpoints on Pyongyang's recent missile launches, reiterating their commitment to continue working together to tackle regional concerns, according to the Japanese foreign ministry.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/japan-south-korea-us-discuss-north-koreas-highly-alarming-missile-tests/>
3. By 2025, China wants to be a global leader in robotics. Beijing launched a five-year strategy to boost this project last month. The communist country is also recognised for its dual-use technological research and development with potential military applications.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-says-worlds-largest-quad-robot-ready-for-action/>
4. According to media reports, India will deploy the first regiment of S-400 Triumph surface-to-air missile defence systems in April, with the first unit going into service.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/india-to-operationalize-first-s-400-missile-defense-system-unit/>
5. Lockheed Martin's ambitious plans to buy Aerojet Rocketdyne, a US defence and aerospace company, appear to have met snags. The planned acquisition of rocket engine manufacturer Aerojet Rocketdyne has already sparked controversy, with claims that it will give Lockheed an unfair competitive advantage in the highly competitive missile defence, propulsion, and hypersonic development sector.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/lockheed-martin-hypersonic-aerojet-rocketdyne/>
6. After three persons were killed and six others were injured in a drone attack by the Houthis on Abu Dhabi, the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen hit a number of their sites in Sana'a on Monday evening.  
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-692806>
7. The Philippines has agreed to buy a U.S. \$375-million package of BrahMos supersonic anti-ship missiles from India to bolster its defences in the disputed South China Sea.  
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/missile-01142022153653.html>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. South Korea will supply mid-range surface-to-air missiles to the UAE under a preliminary agreement reached recently.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/south-korea-inks-deal-with-uae-to-sell-mid-range-surface-to-air-missiles-445289>
2. On Monday, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock stated that Germany would do everything possible to ensure Ukraine's security. She was visiting Ukraine for the first time.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/germany-will-do-all-to-ensure-ukraines-security-says-foreign-minister-445555>

3. The countdown has begun to the end of the six-month-long Vienna discussions on the future of the Iran nuclear deal. If no progress is made in less than two weeks, the process will be terminated, creating a potentially dangerous vacuum.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/17/iran-nuclear-talks-deadlock-risks-dangerous-vacuum>

4. One of the main barriers to the Biden administration's efforts to resurrect the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement is Tehran's demand that the US provide a guarantee that it will not exit the treaty and reimpose sanctions, according to diplomats involved in discussions in Austria.

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-demands-legal-pledge-that-u-s-wont-quit-nuclear-deal-again-11642429074>

## UN REFORMS

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1. According to a source, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) will begin imposing the ruling Chinese Communist Party's patriotic education programme on all students in the fall of 2022. Newly revised core curriculum requirements will ensure that no student who doesn't complete the one-credit course titled "Understanding China Today" will be allowed to graduate, the source said.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/hongkong-university-01172022121957.html>

2. According to RFA, authorities in western China's Sichuan province seized a life-size statue of revered Tibetan religious leader Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche that was being transported into Tibet and arrested those involved in its manufacture and transit.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/seized-01142022152320.html>

3. The Uyghur issue exposed sports' contradictory attitudes toward sportsmen' political remarks. More athletes are voicing outrage as the world learns more about the situation in the Uyghur homeland.

Source: <https://lawliberty.org/let-the-athletes-dissent-against-china/>

4. Idris Hasan, whose Chinese name is Yidiresi Aishan, an ethnic Uyghur who escaped to Morocco is facing the possibility of being sent back to China while his wife fights for his freedom.

Source: <https://www.voanews.com/a/uyghur-man-s-long-journey-to-freedom-may-end-with-return-to-china/6395787.html>

5. According to a credible source, two Tibetan monks who were arrested by Chinese officials in Kham Karze's Drakgo County five months ago have been held incommunicado since then. Tenzin Norbu and Wangchen Nyima of Drakgo's Nenang Monastery were apprehended on August 15, 2021. They are currently being imprisoned in the Tawu (Ch: Daofu) County Prison in Karze, according to the source (Ch: Ganzi).

Source: <https://tibet.net/two-tibetan-monks-held-incommunicado-for-five-months-chinese-governments-poultry-and-pig-farming-projects-in-drakgo/?fbclid=IwAR0naZMsGOpP71LsAFozjAxXKuwJww30tmaEvmkZgqfceWMqbJBQTf2gglc>

6. The destruction of a 99-foot-tall Buddha monument in Tibet by Chinese authorities on December

12th, runs counter to the CCP's assertion of religious freedom in Tibet and indicates religious repression across Tibet.

Source: <https://twitter.com/CWangchok/status/1483115070888775681>

7. The Chinese regime demolished a 99-foot tall Buddha statue in Tibet on December 12, 2021. After obtaining the necessary licences from the local Chinese authorities, the statue was created by and with the help of the local people of Drango in eastern Tibet. According to reputable sources, the Chinese government also demolished a school that educated roughly a hundred pupils in the region and tore down 45 Buddhist prayer wheels before destroying the statue.

Source: <https://tibet.net/tearing-down-the-buddha-how-xi-jinping-is-destroying-traditional-buddhism-in-tibet/>

8. Sources claim crime rates are growing across Myanmar nearly a year after the military seized power, owing to authorities' concentration on the political consequences from the coup and combating armed resistance to junta rule.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/crime-01142022181101.html>

9. When the military junta overthrew Myanmar's democratically elected government and shut down news organisations like hers, Htet Htet Eindra Aung was a news anchor at 7-Day TV in the commercial hub Yangon. She's now one of a group of young journalists working remotely, frequently on the run, for internet outlets dedicated to countering the regime's propaganda in order to help restore democracy.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/journalist-jungle-01112022125727.html>

10. A group of 36 UN human rights experts warned on January 17 that the Taliban are aiming to institutionalise large-scale and systematic gender-based discrimination and violence against Afghan women and girls.

Source: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/taliban-womens-rights-united-nations/31658370.html>

11. The United Nations and a number of human rights organisations have expressed alarm, particularly when local media reports said that the militants' acts were at odds with the moderate image the group's leaders were attempting to create.

Source: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/taliban-beard-trimming-turbans/31658539.html>

12. Many Afghan ambassadors watched from afar as the government they were supposed to be serving collapsed in August. However, five months after the Taliban takeover, many of them remain loyal to the deposed Western-backed government and refuse to give over their diplomatic missions to the militants.

Source: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghan-embassies-taliban-limbo/31657924.html>

13. Taliban burnt down the Panjshir University. This criminal act shows how much hate the Taliban has towards other ethnic groups, especially Tajiks.

Source: <https://twitter.com/Massoud151/status/1483030524486684676>