

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. In accordance with Germany's nuclear phase-out programme, the Brokdorf, Grohnde, and Gundremmingen C nuclear power reactors were permanently shut down on December 31.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Three-German-reactors-cease-operation>
2. Rosatom, the Russian state nuclear business, has pre-approved Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power Co (KHNP) as the sole bidder for a contract for secondary construction, including the turbine building, for AtomStroyExport's four-reactor power station in El Dabaa, Egypt (ASE). The plant's turbine hall equipment will be provided by AAEM LLC, a joint venture between Atomenergomash and General Electric.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/KHNP-named-as-sole-bidder-for-El-Dabaa-contract>
3. China General Nuclear (CGN) has reported that the first safety-related concrete has been laid for the nuclear island of unit 2 at the San'ao nuclear power facility. The second of six Hualong One pressurised water reactors planned at the site in China's Zhejiang province has officially begun construction.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Second-San-ao-unit-under-construction>
4. The second of two demonstration Hualong One (HPR1000) reactors at the Fuqing nuclear power station in China's Fujian province has started producing electricity to the grid, according to China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC). In 2021, the first two Hualong One units, Fuqing unit 5 and unit 2 of the Karachi facility in Pakistan, went into commercial operation.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Third-Hualong-One-unit-connected-to-grid>
5. The Czech Republic will seek allies to amend the terms of the European Union's hotly-debated green investment plan, which includes gas and nuclear power projects.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/czechs-want-tweaks-nuclear-gas-conditions-eu-green-plan-2022-01-04/>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. According to Nikkei Asia, the Japanese Defense Ministry is working on a way to intercept hostile missiles using magnetically driven projectiles, as the country scurries to respond to China, North Korea, and Russia's hypersonic weapons development.
Source: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Japan-set-to-develop-railguns-to-counter-hypersonic->



[missiles?utm_campaign=GL_asia_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_source=NA_newsletter&utm_content=article_link&del_type=1&pub_date=20220104190000&seq_num=5&si=76961#](https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/can-australian-early-warning-system-counter-chinas-missiles-198861)

2. By developing a sovereign space-based early warning and tracking capability, Australia has a new potential to contribute to countering Chinese long-range missile threats. Enhancing Australia's ability to detect and respond to long-range missile threats through the Defence Department's AIR 6500 programme, as well as expanding regional involvement through the Quad and AUKUS to share burdens and support key allies.
Source: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/can-australian-early-warning-system-counter-chinas-missiles-198861>
3. To expand its defence export business and gain an advantage over China, India is likely to sell its BrahMos cruise missiles to Vietnam and the Philippines. The contract is expected to mark a significant improvement in India's relations with both countries, who have been focusing on improving their naval capabilities in the light of continuing tensions with China in the South China Sea.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/in-a-bid-to-boost-defence-export-market-india-likely-to-sell-brahmos-missiles-to-vietnam-philippines-442067>
4. According to an official from Iran's defence ministry, an attempted space launch on Thursday failed to place the country's three satellites into the appropriate orbit. The ministry's spokesman, Ahmed Hosseini, informed Iranian state media that the rocket was unable to acquire the required speed to deliver its cargo into a stable orbit.
Source: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/iran-satellite-launch-narrowly-misses-orbit-198896>
5. The Russian Aerospace Forces launched eight missiles almost simultaneously from four Flanker multirole fighters.
Source: <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/43729/watch-these-russian-su-30-fighter-jets-fire-eight-air-to-air-missiles-simultaneously>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. A day after world powers committed to avoid the spread of nuclear weapons, China said it will continue to "modernise" its nuclear arsenal and called on the US and Russia to cut their stockpiles.
Source: https://news.yahoo.com/china-continue-modernise-nuclear-arsenal-040816605.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall
2. On Tuesday, Boris Johnson, the British Prime Minister, warned Iran that time was running out to salvage a 2015 nuclear deal with major powers.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-pm-johnson-warns-iran-time-is-running-out-nuclear-deal-2022-01-04/>
3. Outside the hamlet of Krymske in the Luhansk region of Ukraine, service personnel of the Ukrainian

armed forces stand guard at fighting positions on the line of separation.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/snowy-trenches-ukrainian-soldiers-vow-stand-firm-against-russia-2022-01-04/>

4. According to a NATO official, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has called a special meeting of ally ambassadors and top Russian officials for next week as both sides attempt to avoid open conflict over Ukraine.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/nato-head-convenes-council-with-russia-jan-12-2022-01-04/>

5. According to a statement from the State Department, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed Russia's military buildup along Ukraine's border with the Bucharest Nine group of NATO allies on Monday.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/blinken-discusses-russias-military-buildup-with-nato-allies-2022-01-03/>

6. With all of the attention on Iran's nuclear-weapons programme, it is important to remember that Iran is far from the only country that poses a nuclear-weapons threat, and there are many other countries that are far more hazardous prospects for causing global nuclear Armageddon. In this context, the five powers' proclamation against nuclear weapons on Monday — the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France — may appear hollow.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-691523>

7. From severing Russia from the world's banking system to further arming Kyiv, US President Joe Biden is hoping threats of painful consequences will deter his counterpart Vladimir Putin from invading Ukraine. The Biden administration has agreed to discussions in Geneva next week with Moscow, which has suggested accords to limit NATO's expansion, amid tens of thousands of Russian troops amassing on Ukraine's border.

Source: https://news.yahoo.com/biden-strategy-ukraine-talks-clear-013002358.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall

8. According to a joint statement released by the Kremlin, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, the United States, and France have agreed to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and to avert a nuclear war.

Source: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/no-one-wins-nuclear-war-023809574.html>

UN REFORMS

1. Chow Hang-tung, a jailed democracy campaigner, accused Hong Kong's courts of criminalising speech and assisting authorities in erasing the Tiananmen Square crackdown on Tuesday, as she was convicted for the second time of inciting people to memorialise the fatal event.
Source: https://news.yahoo.com/hong-kong-activist-chow-convicted-034132723.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall
2. According to Uyghur sources and police, Abliz Orhun, a Uyghur historian and editor who was arrested in Beijing, was handed over to police in China's far-western Xinjiang province, where he has been jailed for three years.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/abliz-orhun-01032022190735.html>
3. On Tuesday, 19 members of China's Uyghur Muslim ethnic group filed a criminal complaint against Chinese officials with a Turkish prosecutor, accusing them of genocide, torture, rape, and crimes against humanity.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/uyghurs-turkey-file-criminal-complaint-against-chinese-officials-2022-01-04/>
4. Tesla's (TSLA.O) New Year's Eve statement that it would open a showroom in Xinjiang drew criticism from US rights and trade groups, making it the latest foreign company to be embroiled in Xinjiang tensions.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/tesla-criticised-opening-showroom-chinas-xinjiang-region-2022-01-04/>
5. Carrie Lam, the leader of Hong Kong, said on Tuesday that she could not accept claims that the city's press freedom is under danger, just days after police raided an online media outlet and arrested seven people, including senior editors.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/hong-kong-leader-says-she-cannot-accept-claims-press-freedom-faces-extinction-2022-01-04/>
6. On Tuesday, a Hong Kong court sentenced a 36-year-old barrister to 15 months in prison for organizing a gathering to remember those killed in China's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protestors in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/hong-kong-activist-behind-tiananmen-vigil-convicted-inciting-illegal-assembly-2022-01-04/>
7. France's Alize Cornet stated she is still concerned about Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai and needs more information on the former world number one's predicament.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/cornet-says-still-worried-about-chinas-peng-2022-01-04/>
8. The Chinese government has placed more than 13 million people in the northwestern city of Xi'an under stringent lockdown circumstances in an attempt to eradicate the mutating coronavirus in time for

the Winter Olympics in Beijing next month. Residents are restricted to their homes and are not allowed to leave in order to get food or supplies.

Source: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/disturbing-videos-emerge-as-13-million-remain-chinas-lockdown-015858695.html>

9. Sudanese security forces have fired tear gas at pro-democracy activists in the latest round of anti-military rallies since the coup in October. Thousands of people flocked to the streets in many towns, chanting anti-coup chants and demanding the overthrow of Sudan's ruling council.
Source: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/sudan-coup-sudan-forces-fire-170756893.html>
10. People quarantined in Xi'an, China, are bartering supplies amid ongoing concerns about food shortages. Since December 23, almost 13 million people have been confined to their homes.
Source: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/china-xian-residents-lockdown-barter-042538607.html>
11. A group of women protested in Parwan province as they are being victimised by recent developments in the country. They demanded that the world community refuse to recognise the Taliban until women's rights are restored.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/134349/protesting-women-in-parwan-say-the-international-community-does-should-not-recognize-taliban/>
12. Khaisor residents have been holding a protest sit-in in Mir Ali. The demonstrators are calling for peace in their communities and challenging the government's failure to ensure it despite many military operations. Their voices continue to be ignored by the state and the political mainstream.
Source: <https://twitter.com/mjdawar/status/1478066359779086348>