

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. "There is a role for natural gas and nuclear as a means to facilitate the transition towards a predominantly renewable-based future," the European Commission said in a statement released on Saturday. Under certain conditions, gas and nuclear power could be regarded as "sustainable investments."
Source: https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertbryce/2022/01/05/eu-finally-admits-natural-gas-and-nuclear-are-key-to-decarbonization/?utm_campaign=socialflowForbesMainTwitter&utm_source=ForbesMainTwitter&utm_medium=social&utm_term=Valerie&sh=57db57576636
2. Uranium prices have risen as Kazakhstan, the world's largest producer of the radioactive metal, grapples with violent protests that provide the country's leadership with its most serious challenge in decades.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/1/6/bb-uranium-prices-surge-on-kazakhstan-unrest>
3. If all goes according to plan, more than 650 truckloads of spent nuclear fuel might be shipped to Northwestern Ontario each year by the 2040s. However, if the Nuclear Waste Management Organization were to ship old fuel rods by rail as well, the number of trucks carrying them would be drastically decreased - to less than 250 per year.
Source: <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/design-build/nuclear-waste-management-organization-studies-road-and-rail-for-shipping-used-fuel-bundles-4927172>
4. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission denied Oklo Inc., a California-based business, a licence to create the first commercial reactor that generates electricity while reducing nuclear waste on Thursday. The Oklo Aurora microreactor, which will be built on the Idaho National Laboratory site west of Idaho Falls, is planned to run on recovered material from old nuclear fuel. The abbreviation for this new type of fuel is HALEU, which stands for "high assay, low-enriched uranium."
Source: https://www.postregister.com/news/inl/nrc-denies-license-to-oklos-nuclear-reactor-project-at-inl/article_ee664b5e-d06d-515c-a1d3-0721007fec62.html



1. According to reports, China is selling its CM-501GA anti-ship missiles to Pakistan. These missiles will be carried by the Pakistan Navy's Z-9 helicopter and deployed on the 054 A/P frigates.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-to-arm-pakistan-navy-z-9-helicopters-anti-ship-missiles/>
2. On December 5, amid escalating tensions with China, Taiwanese F-16V (Viper) fighter planes screamed through the sky as part of a war-simulation exercise. In the previous year, the self-governing island has consistently reported PLA Air Force planes violating its airspace.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/taiwan-f-16-vipers-challenge-chinese-j-16-fighters/>
3. The Aircraft Carrier Abraham Lincoln has been dispatched to the Indo-Pacific, armed with F-35C fighters, in response to China's 'Muscle Flexing.' The US Marine Corps has sent F-35C stealth fighter fighters as part of a carrier strike group for the first time. The USS Abraham Lincoln is on its way to the Indo-Pacific region for a scheduled deployment.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/decoded-how-did-israeli-spy-agency-mossad-attempt-to-bust-pakistans-nuclear-program-and-its-islamic-bomb/>
4. To intercept hostile hypersonic missiles, Japan's Ministry of Defense has chosen to create an electromagnetic weapon system. The decision to build 'railguns' comes as Tokyo considers how to respond to the threat presented by hypersonic weapons being developed by neighbours including as China, North Korea, and Russia, according to Nikkei Asia.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/japan-looks-to-shoot-down-hypersonic-missiles-with-railgun/>
5. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on December 6 that Australia and Japan had inked a new accord to improve defence and security cooperation between the two countries.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/can-chinas-150-j-20s-stop-a-mammoth-fleet-of-f-35-stealth-jets-as-australia-japan-sign-historic-defense-pact/>
6. Islamabad's decision to include a flypast of J-10C on the Pakistan Day parade on March 23 has led to an intense debate. "J-10 fighter jets have the potential to play a key role in defending maritime or water borders as well as enhancing overall presence," a former Pakistan Air Force officer told the BBC on condition of anonymity.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/j-10c-fighters-why-is-pakistan-showing-the-might-of-chinese-jets/>
7. To deter China in the region and adopt a stronger defensive military posture, Japan has made a clear and determined effort to dramatically boost its military strength. As part of a concerted effort to expand military coordination earlier in 2021, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with his Japanese counterpart, Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi.
Source: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/japan-stepping-its-readiness-counter-chinas-actions-198922>
8. Northrop Grumman has conducted the first in a series of company-funded flight tests of an anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) missile system intended to address the US Air Force's (USAF's) requirement for an enhanced Stand-in Attack Weapon (SiAW) to equip the F-35A Lightning II



multirole stealth fighter.

Source: <https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/northrop-grumman-tests-a2ad-missile-design-for-usaf-siaw-requirement>

9. U.S. State Secretary Antony Blinken says North Korea's nuclear and missile programs "pose an ongoing threat." He was speaking at a virtual U.S.-Japan foreign and defense chiefs' meeting on Thursday. Referring to the North's missile test this week, the Secretary called the regime's nuclear and missile programs "unlawful." North Korea, on Wednesday, test-fired what it claims to be a hypersonic missile.

Source: http://www.arirang.com/News/News_View.asp?sys_lang=Eng&nseq=290999

10. Military training includes a lot of live-fire drills. With a highly uncommon firing of multiple air-to-air missiles from its Flanker multi-role jets, the Russian Aerospace Forces appear to have pushed things "up a notch."

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/sukhoi-su-30-fighter-jets-firing-eight-air-to-air-missiles-simultaneously/>

11. Amid rising tensions with Iran, US Marine F/A-18s have been deployed to Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan Airbase. In late December, the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 115, better known as the "Silver Eagles," deployed its F/A-18C/D Hornets to Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan Airbase to augment US Central Command's (CENTCOM) presence in the region.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-marine-f-a-18s-deployed-to-saudi-arabias-iran/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Iran's foreign minister has stated that an agreement on Iran's nuclear deal may be reached if Western parties have the desire and purpose to do so. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian claimed an agreement could be achieved if all sanctions were lifted in an exclusive interview with Al Jazeera broadcast on Thursday.

Source: [https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/6/iran-fm-says-vienna-deal-can-be-reached-if-us-](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/6/iran-fm-says-vienna-deal-can-be-reached-if-us-sanctions-)

[sanctions-lifted?taid=61d7cfe0ed344f00012ee7fc&utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/6/iran-fm-says-vienna-deal-can-be-reached-if-us-sanctions-lifted?taid=61d7cfe0ed344f00012ee7fc&utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

2. Israeli resistance to Pakistan's nuclear programme and efforts to undermine it have been highlighted in recent media reports. According to Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ) "The suspicion that the Mossad might be behind the attacks and threats soon arose. For Israel, the prospect that Pakistan, for the first time, could become an Islamic state with an atomic bomb posed an existential threat."

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/decoded-how-did-israeli-spy-agency-mossad-attempt-to-bust-pakistans-nuclear-program-and-its-islamic-bomb/>

3. While Israel campaigned vehemently against the 2015 nuclear deal, and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett maintains conservative attitudes on Iran diplomacy, Maj. Gen. Aharon Haliva's remarks

reflect a broader shift in the Israeli defence establishment's thinking.

Source: <https://www.axios.com/israel-iran-deal-military-intel-chief-434b6757-88a0-4df2-91c0-9cec5286828c.html>

4. The US wants to employ "snapback sanctions" to dissuade Iran from enriching weapons-grade uranium – a mechanism that was supposed to be utilised if the 2015 nuclear deal was violated. An Israeli diplomatic source confirmed a report in Walla News that US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan informed Israelis that snapback penalties might be used to prevent Iran from refining uranium to 90% purity.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-691807>

5. According to Walla, Military Intelligence Chief Aharon Haliva indicated at a meeting of the security cabinet on Sunday that returning to the JCPOA – often known as the Iran nuclear deal – is preferable to a situation in which no agreement is achieved.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-691561>

6. On Wednesday (local time), US Secretary of State Antony Blinken reviewed a number of regional and global issues, including the growing tensions between Russia and Ukraine, according to State Department Spokesperson Ned Price (local time). Blinken underlined the Administration's unwavering commitment to Israel's security during a phone discussion with the Israeli Foreign Minister.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/blinken-israeli-foreign-minister-discuss-russia-iran-issues-state-dept-122010600109_1.html

UN REFORMS

1. Huang Xiao-min, a former Olympic swimmer, is voicing disapproval over the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympic Games. Specifically, the fact that the Chinese Communist Party, or CCP is hosting the event.
Source: https://www.ntd.com/china-has-more-peng-shuais-former-olympian_722884.html#comment_block
2. Kalbinur Ghenni fights for her innocent sister Renagul Ghenni who is imprisoned by CCP without any trial. She is one of million Uyghur victims subjected to China's Uyghur Genocide
Source: <https://twitter.com/Qelbinur10>
3. The Chinese regime has launched a massive propaganda campaign in the far-western Xinjiang province, aimed at Western countries, particularly the United States, for criticising Beijing's human rights violations and genocidal tactics against the Uyghur minority.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/universities-propaganda-01042022154547.html>
4. Ekpar Asat, a Uyghur, came to the United States for the prestigious State Department's programme for foreign citizens. He was detained by Chinese security three years ago, branding him a "enemy of the state," only weeks after returning from the United States.
Source: <https://twitter.com/TheRWCHR/status/1478879759115464704>
5. Thousands of people took to the streets across Kazakhstan as violent protests erupted. The protests started on January 2 after the government lifted fuel price caps.
Source: <https://twitter.com/InsiderNews/status/1479318266472538112>
6. With the Taliban in power, journalists' activities as well as the free flow of information are difficult, and the Taliban as a group disregards freedom of expression, free media, and information access, preferring to cover events through their own eyes.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/134455/suspension-of-the-activity-of-access-to-information-commission/>
7. In Kabul, a group of protesting women started a protest demanding for "rule of law, popular, just, and inclusive government."
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/134445/women-in-kabul-once-again-protested-against-the-taliban/>
8. The World Food Organization (WHO) has announced that it has sent aid to 2,000 needy households in Badakhshan's Shohada area. Food products were included in the help, according to the World Food Organization's Twitter account.
Source: <https://twitter.com/TOLOnews/status/1479349820506746881>
9. When the Taliban took power in August, the terrorist group promised not to reintroduce the deadly religious policing it had implemented during its previous reign. The hardliners argued that they would only preach humility and dignity as Islamic virtues. The Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice has recovered its role as the enforcer of the group's hardline version of

Islamic law, some five months after seizing control.

Source: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-taliban-religious-policing/31642688.html>

10. In a Kabul hospital on a recent day, seventeen babies lay side by side on little beds, their bony elbows touching. As nurses ran by, some of them, pink and plumper, wailed and wriggled. Others were still, save for the silent rise and fall of their skeleton rib cages, which were colours of blue and grey. When they arrive in the neonatal intensive-care unit, the babies usually weigh less than four pounds. This is the current state of affairs in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime.

Source: <https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/afghanistan-has-become-the-worlds-largest-humanitarian-crisis>