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- North Korea slams AUKUS as US 'tool for war'

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- Iran talks did not resolve nuclear issues - IAEA
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A. India

'Navy's plan for a 170-ship force on course'

Dinakar Peri

The Hindu, November 17, 2021

The Navy's plan for a 170 ship force is under way, and some changes in timelines which are being finalised, Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff S.N. Ghormade said on Tuesday. Vice-Admiral Ghormade also said the maritime environment was a complex one and it only increased when more number of players were involved. He said that the Navy had budgeted for a second indigenous aircraft carrier in its Maritime Capability Perspective Plan (MCP). (MCP).

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/navys-plan-for-a-170-ship-force-on-course/article37531724.ece>

India set to seal \$3 billion Predator drone deal with U.S.

The Hindu, November 17, 2021

India is set to finalise a long-conceived proposal to procure 30 multi-mission armed Predator drones from the U.S. for the three services at an estimated cost of over \$3 billion (around ¹ 22,000 crore), official sources stated. The proposal to acquire the MQ-9B long-endurance drones, armed with air-to-ground missiles, is likely to be cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in the next few weeks.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-set-to-seal-3-billion-predator-drone-deal-with-us/article37531475.ece>

DRDO shows offensive drone swarm capabilities in Jhansi

The Hindu, November 17, 2021

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) demonstrated offensive capabilities of its drone swarms at a three-day 'Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv' in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi on November 17, an official statement said. DRDO Young Scientist Laboratory for Asymmetric

Technologies has been working on drone swarm technologies towards strengthening the asymmetric warfare capabilities, its statement noted.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/drdo-shows-offensive-drone-swarm-capabilities-in-jhansi/article37546374.ece>

Will India face sanctions for S-400? | Worldview with Suhasini Haidar

Suhasini Haidar

The Hindu, November 19, 2021

Russian President Putin will be in India in early December and so will the Russian S-400 Triumf long range air defense systems – and the question is, will the US government place sanctions on India, or will President Biden use his powers for sanctions waiver. Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is a 2018 American law, pushed by the Democrats during US President Trump's tenure that mandates the US government to put financial sanctions, travel bans on any country or its officials who are part of transacting any significant defence or intelligence deal with Russia, Iran or North Korea.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/will-india-face-sanctions-for-s-400-worldview-with-suhasini-haidar/article37583595.ece>

Indian Navy to enhance surveillance capability; to focus on acquiring new-age tech

The Hindu, November 21, 2021

The Indian Navy plans to acquire a sizeable number of unmanned aerial and underwater platforms in the next few years to significantly ramp up its surveillance capability in the backdrop of China's increasing forays into the Indian Ocean region, people familiar with the development said on November 21. The acquisition will be made as part of a roadmap on unmanned platforms, which was finalised at a conference of the top naval commanders last month that had

extensively deliberated on the need to procure new-age platforms,

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-navy-to-enhance-surveillance-capability-to-focus-on-acquiring-new-age-tech/article37611539.ece>

Scorpene class submarine INS Vela joins Navy

Dinakar Peri, November 26, 2021

The fourth Scorpene class conventional submarine, INS Vela, was commissioned into the Navy in the presence of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh at a ceremony in Mumbai on November 25. "Vela has taken the 'Make in India' spirit a notch higher with the fitment indigenised battery cells, which power a very silent permanently magnetised propulsion motor," the Navy said in a statement.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/scorpene-class-submarine-ins-vela-joins-navy/article37695124.ece>

'Jaitapur would be the world's most powerful nuclear plant'

Laltendu Mishra

The Hindu, November 28, 2021

After 11 years of being on the drawing board, there is some progress in the Jaitapur nuclear power project in Maharashtra with the French company EDF and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) working together to take this project off the ground said Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet, Consul General of France in Bombay.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/jaitapur-would-be-the-worlds-most-powerful-nuclear-plant/article37732393.ece>

India to develop jet engines for aircrafts

The Hindu, November 30, 2021

While the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas is at present integrated with an imported engine, in future it is proposed to

develop indigenous engines for powering aircraft such as LCA variants and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) in association with an International Engine House, the Government informed the Parliament on November 29. "LCA Tejas, Flight Operational Clearance (FOC) configuration demands higher thrust than the intended engine requirement. Hence the Kaveri in the present architecture cannot be integrated.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-to-develop-jet-engines-for-aircrafts/article37762645.ece>

B. Russia

Russia's S-550 missile defence system to intercept warheads free of nuclear blast – expert

TASS, November 16, 2021

Russia's latest S-550 missile systems will serve as a mobile follow-up of the A-135 'Amur' - A-235 'Nudol' strategic missile defence system and will feature the kinetic energy interceptor principle to avoid a nuclear detonation when a warhead is struck, military expert Dmitry Litovkin stated. "In the case of the Soviet ABM system, nuclear warheads were intended to be intercepted over the country's Central Industrial Region by a counter nuclear blast. It was believed that both dummy targets and warheads would burn up in the emerging plasma.

Therefore, the nuclear ash would all the same fall down on the country's territory. The S-550, to follow the logic, will employ a different principle, a kinetic intercept," the expert explained. This will make it possible to "physically destroy the warhead and prevent nuclear blasts," Litovkin said. "In the case that a warhead is destroyed, its fragments will create a radioactive background, albeit to a lesser degree compared to a shell explosion," he explained.

<https://tass.com/defense/1362271>

Russia accuses US of hypocrisy over satellite destruction

DW, November 16, 2021

Russia has acknowledged destroying a satellite in a missile test, as the US had reported. But the Kremlin denies creating a risk to others in space — and says the US is being hypocritical on space safety. Russia's Defence Ministry on November 16 admitted that it destroyed a Russian satellite in a missile test but rejected claims that it had endangered the International Space Station or other spacecraft in the operation.

<https://www.dw.com/en/russia-accuses-us-of-hypocrisy-over-satellite-destruction/a-59834986>

Sibir nuclear-powered icebreaker leaves shipyard for running trials

TASS, November 17, 2021

The first serial nuclear-powered icebreaker of Project 2220, the Sibir (Siberia), left for running trials. "On November 16, the Sibir first serial nuclear-powered icebreaker of Project 2220 left the Baltic Shipyard heading for the Gulf of Finland, where the running trials will begin."

The specialists will conduct a set of tests, including the steam turbine unit, the ship's electric propulsion system, and the anchor and steering control. They will test the icebreaker's speed and manoeuvrability, as well as other general and automation systems. The Sibir is expected to be commissioned before the year ends. Project 2220 nuclear icebreakers are the biggest and most powerful icebreakers in the world. Their task is to provide year-round navigation in the Arctic's western part. The project's icebreakers will make the base of Russia's civil icebreaker fleet.

<https://tass.com/economy/1362573>

Russia's Sberbank to lend \$800 mln for Turkish nuclear power station

Reuters, November 17, 2021

Russia's largest lender Sberbank (SBER.MM) said on November 17 it would provide \$800 million in loans for the construction of the

Akkuyu nuclear power plant in Turkey, having provided \$400 million in 2019.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/russias-sberbank-lend-800-mln-turkish-nuclear-power-station-2021-11-17/>

Russia-US cybersecurity dialogue achieves results since Geneva summit – Foreign Ministry

TASS, November 17, 2021

Russia and the United States have achieved results in the bilateral cybersecurity dialogue since the Geneva summit, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova stated. The Geneva summit, she said, demonstrated the potential of further bilateral dialogue and allowed for setting in motion joint work for strategic stability and cybersecurity.

<https://tass.com/politics/1362925>

Russia, India plan to ink largest-ever contract for Kalashnikov assault rifles

TASS, November 18, 2021

India will sign an agreement with Russia on the licensed production of 700,000 Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles for its armed forces, a source close to the Russian military-technical cooperation system and a source at one of the defence industry enterprises confirmed. This is the largest export agreement for Russian small arms in all of post-Soviet history, and in monetary terms, in the entire history of the Kalashnikov assault rifle since its development in 1947.

<https://tass.com/pressreview/1363029>

Russia upholds its forestry, peaceful nuclear energy interests in Glasgow, says envoy

TASS, November 18, 2021

The results of the Glasgow-hosted COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference have turned out to be more

favorable for Russia than expected earlier as Moscow managed to protect its interests in the forest and nuclear sectors, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Ruslan Edelgeriyev said at the Valdai Discussion Club. The forest projects were a priority for the Russian delegation, Edelgeriyev said, adding though that it was an immediate goal. The development of peaceful nuclear energy was another issue, equally important for Russia, he noted.

<https://tass.com/politics/1363377>

Moscow concerned about US attitude towards role of nuclear weapons - senior diplomat

TASS, November 19, 2021

Moscow is concerned about Washington's attitude towards the role of nuclear weapons and its readiness to lower the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov stated. On November 2, the United States Strategic Command announced the start of the annual Global Thunder 22 exercise in the US. The aim of the exercise is to assess the possibilities of increasing readiness of nuclear forces and capabilities of strategic deterrence.

<https://tass.com/politics/1363555>

Russian diplomat calls for coordinated global efforts to enact Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

TASS, November 19, 2021

The international community needs to coordinate its steps to make sure that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty becomes an effective legal tool, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

According to Zakharova, the Preparatory Commission has been taking effective steps to create conditions and infrastructure facilities necessary for the treaty's effective operation. The Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman emphasized that Moscow had been actively engaged in the

Preparatory Commission's work for 25 years.

<https://tass.com/politics/1363719>

Diplomat slams NATO's lack of transparency in its actions as evidenced by AUKUS pact

TASS, November 19, 2021

NATO member states are sometimes unaware of each other's plans as evidenced by the trilateral security pact (AUKUS) created by Washington, London and Canberra, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on November 19, commenting on NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's call on Russia for transparency. The Russian diplomat branded NATO claims as ludicrous that the alliance observes Russia's desire to use its force and military capabilities against neighboring countries.

<https://tass.com/politics/1363885>

Russia's intermediate-range missile moratorium initiative still in force – senior diplomat

TASS, November 19, 2021

Russian President Vladimir Putin's initiative to declare a moratorium on the deployment of shorter-and intermediate-range missiles in Europe is still in force, with its topicality only growing in the present-day conditions, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko stated.

<https://tass.com/politics/1363909>

Vaygach icebreaker leads caravan towards ships drifting near New Siberian Islands

TASS, November 22, 2021

The Vaygach nuclear-powered icebreaker, leading a caravan of ships, left the Pevek port (Chukotka) to join the vessels, drifting near the New Siberian Islands, the nuclear fleet's authority, Atomflot, stated.

Presently, Atomflot's three nuclear-powered icebreakers are working in the Northern Sea Route - the Yamal, the Taimyr and the Vaygach. However, due to the conditions in the NSR's eastern part, the efforts of those three icebreakers are not sufficient - quite many vessels there have been waiting to be led through the ice.

<https://tass.com/economy/1364573>

Russia to resume test-launches of Tsirkon hypersonic missile from submarine in 2024

TASS, November 23, 2021

The flight development tests of the Tsirkon hypersonic missile from an underwater carrier after two successful test-launches will resume from the Project 885M (Yasen-M) modified nuclear-powered submarine Perm in 2024, a source in the domestic defence industry stated. The modified submarine Perm, which is the Project 885M fifth nuclear-powered sub, will be the first regular underwater carrier of Tsirkon hypersonic missiles. The submarine is set to enter service with the Russian Navy in 2025.

<https://tass.com/defense/1364875>

US bombers practiced using nuclear weapons against Russia this month – Shoigu

TASS, November 23, 2021

Russia sees US strategic bombers' intensified activity in close proximity to its borders, Russia's Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu said on November 23. "We are witnessing a considerable increase in the US strategic bombers' activity near the Russian borders. Over the past month, they conducted about 30 flights to the borders of the Russian Federation, or 2.5 times more compared to the same period of last year," Russia's defence chief said during talks with his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe.

<https://tass.com/defense/1365179>

NATO's activity near state borders

prompts Russia to bolster its combat potential – Shoigu

TASS, November 24, 2021

NATO's growing activity near the Russian borders prompts the need to maintain the nuclear forces' combat readiness and bolster the non-nuclear deterrence potential, including the provision of the troops with precision weapons and effective destruction capabilities, Russia's Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu said on November 24. The Russian defence minister highlighted as priorities in developing the armed forces the tasks of "raising their combat capability, maintaining the nuclear forces' combat readiness and strengthening the non-nuclear deterrence forces."

<https://tass.com/defense/1365547>

Iran's nuclear activities deviating more and more from JCPOA parameters – Russian envoy

TASS, November 25, 2021

Russia is concerned about an increase in Tehran's nuclear program, which is gradually deviating from the parameters agreed by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), known as the Iran nuclear deal, Russian Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said on November 24. In this regard, the Russian envoy called to "fix the situation urgently" and to examine the reasons why Iran opted to divert from the nuclear deal. According to Ulyanov, the only solution may be the Vienna negotiations aimed at renewing the Iran nuclear deal. However, the envoy urged their participants "not to start the dialogue from scratch."

<https://tass.com/politics/1365933>

Russia hopes Iran, IAEA will be able to ensure monitoring at all facilities – diplomat

TASS, November 25, 2021

Russia hopes that Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA) will find ways to ensure monitoring at all facilities to restore the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Russia's Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov said on November 24.

"Of principal importance is the continuation of the IAEA monitoring at Iranian nuclear infrastructure facilities that are critically important from the point of view of the JCPOA restoration. As long as the director general confirms the possibility of restoring the integrity of knowledge about that, the participants in the talks will work in relatively comfortable conditions. Naturally, this conclusion of the director general should cover all corresponding facilities, including the facility for the production of centrifuge components at Karaj," he said at session of the IAEA Board following IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's visit to Tehran.

<https://tass.com/politics/1365981>

Russia Launches Classified Military Satellite

The Moscow Times, November 25, 2021

Russia on November 25 successfully placed into orbit a military satellite believed to be part of the Kremlin's early warning anti-missile system. A Soyuz rocket carrying a classified payload blasted off from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northern Russia in the early hours of Thursday morning, the Defence Ministry said.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/11/25/russia-launches-classified-military-satellite-a75665>

Russia begins serial production of Tsirkon hypersonic missiles for Navy – source

TASS, November 27, 2021

Russia's Military-Industrial Corporation Research and Industrial Association of Machine Building (MIC NPO Mashinostroyenia) in the Moscow Region town of Reutovo started a serial production of Tsirkon hypersonic missiles for the country's Navy, a source close to the

situation stated. "A serial production of Tsirkon missiles is underway at the NPO Mashinostroyenia, although state trials of this product's surface launches will continue," the source stated.

<https://tass.com/defense/1367215>

Russia expects AUKUS participants to ditch nuclear sub project – diplomat

TASS, November 28, 2021

Russia expects that after 18 months of additional review, members of the AUKUS security partnership (Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States) would realize the need to ditch the nuclear submarine project, Russia's Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov said.

"We expect that common sense would eventually prevail, and when the 18 months that AUKUS participants had reserved for additional study run out, they would come to a conclusion about the need to wrap up the implementation of the nuclear sub project, taking into account the opinion of the international community," Ulyanov said in a statement, posted by the Russian Foreign Ministry's official website.

<https://tass.com/world/1367389>

China, Iran, Russia held useful informal consultations on nuclear deal – Russian diplomat

TASS, November 29, 2021

Iran, China and Russia held useful informal consultations ahead of the beginning of the Vienna talks on the restoration of the Iran nuclear deal, Russia's Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov said on November 28. "China, Iran and Russia held today trilateral informal consultations in preparation of the official resumption of the Vienna Talks on November 29. The exchange of views was useful, first of all

for better understanding of the updated negotiating position of Tehran.”

<https://tass.com/politics/1367579>

Russia's newly-built Tu-160M 'White Swan' strategic bomber to enter trials by yearend

TASS, November 29, 2021

A completely new Tupolev Tu-160M strategic missile-carrying bomber nicknamed the 'White Swan' by Russian military pilots will make its debut run along the runway of the Kazan Aviation Enterprise (part of the Tupolev Aircraft Company) in December, a source in the domestic aircraft-building industry stated. "The aircraft is in a hangar readymade and fueled. Before the end of this year, the Tu-160M will surely make a run along the runway. A flight is not planned," the source said. The new strategic missile bomber has a "flexible" date of trials that depends on the management that will attend the event, he said.

The Tu-160 (NATO reporting name: Blackjack) is a Soviet and subsequently a Russian supersonic variable-sweep wing strategic missile-carrying bomber. Along with the Tu-95MS bombers, these aircraft are the mainstay of the Russian Aerospace Force's long-range aviation. The Tu-160M is designated to strike enemy targets in remote areas with nuclear and conventional weapons. The Tu-160M is the world's heaviest supersonic military aircraft to date.

<https://tass.com/defense/1367641>

Russia's top brass uploads video of Yars ICBM 'being loaded into silo'

TASS, November 29, 2021

Russia's Defense Ministry posted video footage showing a Yars intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) being loaded into a silo at the Kozelsk missile formation in the Kaluga Region in central Russia. As Russia's top brass reported, the process lasts several hours. "The missile is being installed in a silo-based launcher with the help of a special transporter-loader. Complex technological

operations last several hours," the ministry said. The Kozelsk missile formation in the Kaluga Region is the first unit in Russia that is being rearmed with advanced silo-based Yars ICBMs. The rearmament of Russia's Strategic Missile Force also envisages creating new social infrastructure.

<https://tass.com/defense/1367663>

Russian Navy warship test-launches Tsirkon hypersonic missile to over 400 km range

TASS, November 29, 2021

The frigate Admiral Gorshkov successfully test-launched a Tsirkon hypersonic missile from the White Sea hitting a sea target at a range of over 400 km, Russia's Defence Ministry reported on November 29. As reported by the Defence Ministry, the Northern Fleet's frigate Admiral Gorshkov conducted another test-launch as part of the final stage of hypersonic missile armament trials. The Northern Fleet engaged its surface ships and naval aircraft to provide for the test-launch and close off the area, it said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1367819>

Putin praises significant development of energy cooperation between Russia and China

TASS, November 29, 2021

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent his greetings to the participants, organizers and guests of the 3rd Russian-Chinese Energy Business Forum, noting the unprecedented high level of strategic interaction between the two states. The text of the statement was published on the Kremlin's website on November 29.

"The construction of new units of Russian design has begun at two Chinese nuclear power plants," the head of state said.

<https://tass.com/politics/1367855>

Russian Finance Ministry warns NPP construction in Hungary could face political obstacles

TASS, November 29, 2021

'Political factors' are bound to emerge during the course of carrying out the construction of the Paks-2 nuclear power plant (NPP) in Hungary, Russian Deputy Finance Minister Timur Maksimov said on November 29. It is rather difficult to forecast the political context of the situation. "I believe some clouds will at first be hovering above our projects simply because they are ours," the official noted. "Considering the timeframe for this project's implementation, I believe problems will periodically occur," he stated. In December 2014, Rosatom and Hungary's MVM signed a contract for the construction of new power units belonging to the Paks nuclear power plant. Two power units are intended to be built.

<https://tass.com/economy/1367975>

Faltering arms control affecting Russia-NATO relations – Russian diplomat

TASS, November 29, 2021

Faltering arms control is affecting relations between Russia and NATO, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko said, addressing the Valdai International Discussion Club. At the same time, in the diplomat's words, NATO's ambitions are going global, which is another factor complicating relations with Russia. In particular, it is about NATO's move to declare space and cyberspace as operational domains. "Another step has been taken towards weaponizing and militarizing them instead of turning these areas into fields of purely peaceful cooperation," the Russian deputy foreign minister noted. "Our proposals on the matter, including on how to build an international cyber security system and prevent the militarization of outer space, are well known," he said.

<https://tass.com/politics/1368001>

Seventh round of talks on restoration of Iran nuclear deal begin in Vienna

TASS, November 29, 2021

The Joint Commission of Iran and the five international mediators (Russia, the United Kingdom, Germany, China, and France) gathered for a meeting in Vienna to discuss ways of restoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear program, Russian Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov said on November 29. On Sunday, Russia, Iran and China held informal consultations in Vienna to clarify the negotiating position of Iran's new delegation, Ulyanov said earlier. Apart from that, other participants in the talks also held informal consultations

<https://tass.com/politics/1368025>

Russian state-controlled firm enters lithium project in Argentina

Reuters, November 29, 2021

Uranium One, a subsidiary of Russia's state nuclear company Rosatom, has signed an agreement to form a joint venture to develop a Tolillar lithium deposit in Argentina to diversify its business. The South American country, part of the region's so-called lithium triangle, is trying to ramp up production of the metal, demand for which is surging worldwide due to its use in batteries that power electric vehicles. Many consumers and governments scour the world for it.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-state-controlled-firm-enters-lithium-project-argentina-2021-11-29/>

Iran still not ready to speak directly to US at talks in Vienna - Russian envoy

TASS, November 30, 2021

The new Iranian delegation taking part in the Vienna talks on restoring the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear program is not ready to directly speak to the US delegation, Russian Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov told journalists on November 29. The Russian envoy stated that the working process aimed at the return to the JCPOA could be considered launched. It will not be easy due to major differences between Iran and Western participants on many items, the diplomat warned.

<https://tass.com/politics/1368151>

Talks on Iran nuclear deal to use progress reached during previous rounds - diplomat

TASS, November 30, 2021

The Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear program will continue its work with the progress that was reached during the previous rounds of its consultations that were held before June 2021, Russian Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Mikhail Ulyanov said on November 29.

<https://tass.com/politics/1368153>

C. China

China sends long-range bomber to border with India

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 16, 2021

The People's Liberation Army has deployed at least one long-range strategic H-6K bomber to its borders with India in a move meant as a warning to the Indian military not to escalate tensions over winter, analysts said. To mark the PLA Air Force's 72nd anniversary on November 11, state broadcaster China Central Television aired footage that included a brief shot of an H-6K flying over a mountain range, indicating the aircraft had been sent to the Himalayas. The aircraft was armed with short-range KD-63 missiles – and not the long-range CJ-

20 cruise missiles that it is also designed to carry.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3156258/china-sends-long-range-bomber-border-india>

China's military looks to J-20 jet-drone match-up for combat edge

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, November 20, 2021

China has again hinted at a potential pairing of its most advanced aircraft, the J-20, with drones in a tandem strategy that would expand Beijing's combat capabilities. "The future is a big era for drone development. Important questions are: what role should drones play in future battlefields, how to team up manned and unmanned vehicles, and what tactical goal can be achieved," Chinese air force pilot Liu Qihong was quoted as saying about the J-20 in an interview with state broadcaster CCTV.

"If teamed with four drones during a mission, the manned vehicle can have a wider surveillance area and clearer sense of danger. What's more, drones can overcome long endurance periods, high temperature and a lot of noise, which might become unbearable for human pilots."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3156742/chinas-military-looks-j-20-jet-drone-match-combat-edge>

China's military: the huge civilian ships that could back up the PLA in a Taiwan invasion

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, November 20, 2021

Civilian resources could provide valuable backup if Beijing were to launch an attack across the Taiwan Strait, analysts said.

This came after a US government advisory agency concluded that the mainland Chinese military already had or would

soon achieve the ability to invade Taiwan. Beijing considers the self-ruled island a breakaway province to be brought into its fold, by force if necessary, and rising cross-strait tensions have fuelled speculation over what such a conflict might look like.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3156678/chinas-military-huge-civilian-ships-could-back-pla-taiwan>

China tests high-altitude weapons performance near border with India

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 23, 2021

China's live-fire drills near its Himalayan border with India, revealed on November 21 by state media, showed the PLA had set up comprehensive training standards specifically designed for high-altitude artillery operations, according to military analysts. Footage broadcast by China Central Television showed infantry troops from the Xinjiang military district, part of the Western Theatre Command, conducting precision strike drills at an elevation of 5,200 metres (17,000 feet) in the Karakoram mountains.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3156980/china-tests-high-altitude-weapons-performance-near-border-india>

China backs nuclear weapon-free zone in Southeast Asia in move to 'contain Aukus'

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, November 24, 2021

China has voiced support for a nuclear weapon-free zone in Southeast Asia as it seeks to strengthen regional alliances, pushed by concerns over the new Aukus security pact, according to observers. While Beijing has yet to sign the protocol to the Asean treaty to keep nuclear weapons out of the region – despite indicating a willingness to do so for more than two decades – pressure from the new partnership

between Australia, the UK and the US could speed up the process, they said.

President Xi Jinping told Association of Southeast Asian Nations leaders on Monday that China backed efforts to build a nuclear weapon-free zone and was willing to sign the protocol to the treaty “as early as possible”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157117/china-backs-nuclear-weapon-free-zone-southeast-asia-move>

After shaking up nickel, China's Tsingshan sets sights on lithium

Mai Nguyen and Tom Daly

Reuters, November 26, 2021

Tsingshan Holding Group, the Chinese firm that shook the nickel world by rapidly boosting output in Indonesia, is among the latest entrants to the white-hot lithium sector, potentially making it a one-stop shop for electric vehicle (EV) battery ingredients.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/after-shaking-up-nickel-chinas-tsingshan-sets-sights-lithium-2021-11-26/>

Why wind tunnels are key in China's race for hypersonic weapon supremacy

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 27, 2021

Development of China's new-generation hypersonic weapons and aircraft is expected to get a boost with construction of a wind tunnel simulator to test vehicles and missiles at many times the speed of sound – with more such facilities in the pipeline. Recent announcements and tests involving vehicles and spacecraft suggest China has accelerated its hypersonic arms race with the United States as Beijing tries to gain a generation's edge, according to defence experts.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157606/why-wind-tunnels-are-key-chinas-race-hypersonic-weapon>

How does China really view Aukus? This military assessment may offer a clue

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, November 27, 2021

A Chinese military researcher has downplayed the strength of the newly formed security alliance Aukus, arguing that lack of cohesiveness will prevent it becoming an Asian version of Nato. Neither Aukus nor the informal strategic alliance the Quad “could replicate Nato in the true sense of the word”, wrote Hu Fengsheng, an assistant researcher, this month in the foreign ministry-affiliated journal World Affairs. China has expressed anger over the Aukus pact, formed in September by Australia, the UK and the United States, describing it as an “extremely irresponsible” threat to stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The pact gave Australia access to US technology to build nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157563/how-does-china-really-view-aukus-military-assessment-may-offer>

Design flaw could explain problem at EDF’s Chinese nuclear plant- NGO

Reuters, November 29, 2021

A design flaw in the reactor pressure vessel could be the cause of a problem that was made public in June at French company EDF’s jointly-owned nuclear power plant in China, a French non-governmental organisation said, quoting a whistleblower. One of the reactors at the facility in Taishan, which is operated by China General Nuclear Power Group with state-controlled EDF, was halted in August for maintenance pending the outcome of an investigation into fuel damage.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/design-flaw-could-explain-problem-edfs-chinese-nuclear-plant-ngo-2021-11-29/>

Beijing tests flying oil tanker near Taiwan, in show of extended air

force range

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, November 29, 2021

An oil tanker aircraft joined mainland China’s air patrol near Taiwan for the first time on November 28, according to the island’s defence ministry, a move an analyst said was to show the PLA’s boosted attack ability. The Y-20 aerial refuelling aircraft was sent with 26 military planes – 18 fighter jets, five nuclear-capable H-6 bombers, two KJ-500 airborne early warning and control aircraft and a Y-9 transport aircraft – into Taiwan’s air-defence identification zone (ADIZ), prompting Taipei to scramble fighter jets and deploy missile systems for monitoring.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157750/beijing-tests-flying-oil-tanker-near-taiwan-show-extended-air>

Chinese nuclear submarine spotted sailing on the surface in Taiwan Strait

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 30, 2021

A Chinese nuclear-powered submarine surfaced in the Taiwan Strait on November 29, a US defence analyst said, citing satellite imagery – a rare move that could be a message for Washington.

US Naval Institute columnist H.I. Sutton posted the image – taken by the European Space Agency’s Sentinel-2 satellite around 10am – which he said showed a ballistic missile submarine in the waterway, accompanied by another vessel. “Although Sentinel-2 is low resolution, the wake patterns are characteristic of a submarine with typical rounded bow. The length best fits the Type 094 and the context aligns,” Sutton wrote on his personal website Covert Shores.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157931/chinese-nuclear-submarine-spotted-sailing-surface-taiwan-strait>

D. Pakistan

Pakistan successfully test-fires Shaheen-1A ballistic missile

The Express Tribune, November 25, 2021

Pakistan has conducted a successful flight test of Shaheen-1A surface-to-surface ballistic missile, aimed at re-validating certain design and technical parameters of the weapon system, the military said. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Thursday, the flight test was witnessed by Director General Strategic Plans Division Lieutenant General Nadeem Zaki Manj, NESCOM Chairman Dr Raza Samar, Commander Army Strategic Forces Command Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali and the scientists and engineers of strategic organisations.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2331059/watch-pakistan-successfully-test-fires-shaheen-1a-ballistic-missile>

E. U.S.A.

U.S. says Russia carried out irresponsible anti-satellite test

Reuters, November 16, 2021

The U.S. State Department said Russia on November 15 tested an anti-satellite missile against one of its own satellites in a test that generated debris, jeopardized outer space and showed that Russian opposition to weaponization of space was hypocritical. "Russia's dangerous and irresponsible behavior jeopardizes the long-term sustainability of ... outer space and clearly demonstrates that Russia's (claims) to oppose the weaponization of space are disingenuous and hypocritical," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters, saying the Russian missile generated more than 1,500 pieces of "trackable orbital debris."

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-says-russia-carried-out-irresponsible-anti-satellite-test-2021-11-15/>

NASA not expected to send crew to moon until 2026 or later -U.S. watchdog

David Shepardson

Reuters, November 16, 2021

A U.S. government watchdog on November 15 said NASA failed to accurately estimate the cost of returning astronauts to the moon and forecast the space agency would not likely complete the mission until "2026 at the earliest." Last week NASA extended its target date to 2025 at the earliest in its Artemis program, an initiative launched by former President Donald Trump's administration with an initial goal of returning humans to the lunar surface by 2024.

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/science/us-watchdog-forecasts-nasa-will-not-launch-human-moon-mission-2025-2021-11-15/>

Russian anti-satellite missile test endangers space station crew - NASA

Idrees Ali and Steve Gorman

Reuters, November 16, 2021

An anti-satellite missile test Russia conducted on November 15 generated a debris field in low-Earth orbit that endangered the International Space Station and will pose a hazard to space activities for years, U.S. officials said. The seven-member space station crew - four U.S. astronauts, a German astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts - were directed to take shelter in their docked spaceship capsules for two hours after the test as a precaution to allow for a quick getaway had it been necessary, NASA said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us-military-reports-debris-generating-event-outer-space-2021-11-15/>

Bill Gates' \$4 bln high-tech nuclear reactor set for Wyoming coal site

Timothy Gardner

Reuters, November 17, 2021

An advanced nuclear power venture founded by billionaire Bill Gates said it has chosen a town in Wyoming as the site to build a \$4 billion demonstration plant that will get half its funding from the U.S. government. TerraPower's Natrium plant will be built in Kemmerer, a remote western Wyoming town where the Naughton coal plant is due to shut in 2025. Pending permits, the 345 megawatt plant will open in 2028, which is the timeline mandated by Congress.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/bill-gates-4-bln-high-tech-nuclear-reactor-set-wyoming-coal-site-2021-11-17/>

Biden, Xi discuss how to 'align' stances on Iran nuclear issue

Reuters, November 17, 2021

U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping talked about how they might harmonize their positions ahead of the Nov. 29 resumption of indirect U.S.-Iranian talks on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, a top U.S. official said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/biden-xi-discuss-how-align-stances-iran-nuclear-issue-2021-11-16/>

U.S. says it is not engaged in formal arms control talks with China

Reuters, November 17, 2021

The United States and China will aim to have "conversations" on arms control, "not formal talks", the White House National Security Council said downplaying contact on the issue following a meeting between the two countries' leaders. U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed this week to "look to begin to carry forward discussions on strategic stability," national security advisor Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday, in a reference to U.S. concerns about China's nuclear and missile buildup.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/us-says-it-is-not-engaged-formal-arms-control-talks-with-china-2021-11-17/>

Russia's Roscosmos, NASA to renew agreement on space flight seats -Ifax

Reuters, November 17, 2021

Russia's space agency Roscosmos and NASA are set to renew an agreement on the mutual provision of seats on space flights, the Interfax news agency reported on November 17. Interfax, citing Roscosmos, said the agreement still required government approval.

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/science/russias-roscomos-nasa-renew-agreement-space-flight-seats-ifax-2021-11-17/>

U.S. regulator to raise oversight at Georgia Vogtle nuclear power reactor

Reuters, November 19, 2021

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ay said it will increase oversight at one of the Southern Co (SO.N) operated Vogtle nuclear power plants under construction in Waynesboro, Georgia. The decision to increase oversight comes after finalizing two inspection findings involving the safety-related electrical raceway system at Unit 3, the NRC said

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-regulator-raise-oversight-georgia-vogtle-nuclear-power-reactor-2021-11-18/>

U.S. won't stand idly by if Iran gets 'too close' to nuclear weapon

Reuters, November 24, 2021

The United States will not stand idly by if Iran gets too close to a nuclear weapon, U.S. Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley said in interview excerpts released on November 24 ahead of next week's resumption of talks on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us-wont-stand-idly-by-if-iran-gets-too-close-bomb-2021-11-24/>

NASA launches test mission of asteroid-deflecting spacecraft

Steve Gorman

Reuters, November 25, 2021

A spacecraft that must ultimately crash to succeed was launched late on November 23 from California on a NASA mission to demonstrate the world's first planetary defense system, designed to deflect an asteroid from a potential doomsday collision with Earth.

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/science/nasa-launch-test-mission-asteroid-deflecting-spacecraft-2021-11-23/>

U.S. threatens escalation with Iran at IAEA next month

Reuters, November 26, 2021

The United States threatened on Thursday to confront Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency next month if it does not cooperate more with the watchdog - an escalation that could undermine talks on reviving a 2015 big-power deal with Iran. Tehran is locked in several standoffs with the IAEA, whose 35-nation Board of Governors is holding a quarterly meeting this week.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-threatens-escalation-with-iran-iaea-next-month-2021-11-25/>

Pressure likely to be exerted on Iran if it uses talks to boost nuclear programme -U.S. envoy

Reuters, November 28, 2021

The United States and its partners are likely to exert pressure on Iran if it uses talks scheduled to resume in Vienna on Monday as pretext to accelerate its nuclear programme, the U.S. special envoy to Iran said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/pressure-likely-be-exerted-iran-if-it-uses-talks-boost-nuclear-programme-us-2021-11-27/>

Washington caps year of drills to deter China with ten-day military exercise

Tim Kelly

Reuters, November 30, 2021

The United States on Tuesday completed ten days of joint military drills in Asian waters with Japan and other allies as it ups the ante on deterring China from pursuing its territorial ambitions amid growing tension in the region over Taiwan.

The ANNUALEX drill included 35 warships and dozens of aircraft in the Philippine Sea off Japan's southern coast. The U.S. and Japanese forces were led by the nuclear-powered USS Carl Vinson carrier, which was also joined by ships from Canada, Australia, and for the first time, Germany. On Tuesday, the Vinson was being shadowed by a Chinese navy ship.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/washington-caps-year-drills-deter-china-with-ten-day-military-exercise-2021-11-30/>

Senators say U.S. must strengthen space debris monitoring

David Shepardson

Reuters, November 30, 2021

A group of U.S. senators on Tuesday asked the Biden administration to do more to monitor and respond to space debris following Russia's anti-satellite test. Commerce Committee chair Maria Cantwell, ranking Republican Roger Wicker and two other senators asked Vice President Kamala Harris and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo about debris issues. The Russian test, which created over 1,500 new objects, has drawn U.S. condemnation.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/senators-say-us-must-strengthen-space-debris-monitoring-2021-11-30/>

NASA postpones spacewalk, citing 'debris notification' for International Space Station

Reuters, November 30, 2021

NASA has indefinitely postponed a spacewalk planned for Tuesday by two astronauts outside the International Space Station, citing a "debris notification" for the orbiting research laboratory. Astronauts Thomas Marshburn and Kayla had been due to venture outside the space station to replace a failed antenna, facing what NASA officials had said was a slightly elevated risk posed by debris left over from a Russian anti-satellite missile test weeks ago. It was not immediately clear whether the debris NASA referred to in its Twitter announcement of the delayed spacewalk was related to the missile test.

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/science/nasa-postpones-spacewalk-citing-debris-notification-international-space-station-2021-11-30/>

F. Europe

Transfer of used fuel to Ukrainian facility set to start

World Nuclear News, November 18, 2021

Ukraine's nuclear power plant operator, Energoatom, is conducting the final pre-commissioning trials of the Central Spent Fuel Storage Facility (CSFSF) at the site of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The company's acting president recently inspected simulation tests of the removal of nuclear fuel from unit 3 of the Rovno nuclear power plant using technology supplied by Holtec International of the USA. The transfer of fuel to the CSFSF is scheduled to begin next year.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Transfer-of-used-fuel-to-Ukrainian-facility-set-to>

Westinghouse signs initial contract for Ukrainian AP1000s

World Nuclear News, November 22, 2021

A contract signed by the Ukrainian nuclear operator Energoatom and US vendor

Westinghouse will trigger the engineering and procurement of components for the first of several AP1000s planned for Ukraine. The country is planning as much as 11 GWe of new build by 2040.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Westinghouse-signs-initial-contract-for-Ukrainian>

Contract for Romanian lead-cooled reactor research facility

World Nuclear News, November 23, 2021

A consortium including Italy's Ansaldo Nucleare and Romania's Reinvent Energy has been awarded a contract worth about EUR20.0 million (USD22.5 million) for the design, procurement, installation and commissioning of a research facility for the development of lead-cooled reactors. The Advanced Thermo-Hydraulics Experiment for Nuclear Application (ATHENA) facility will be built at the RATEN-ICN research centre near Pitesti in southern Romania.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Contract-for-Romanian-lead-cooled-reactor-research>

Czech nuclear security regime is robust, says IAEA

World Nuclear News, November 23, 2021

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts last week completed a follow-up nuclear security advisory mission to the Czech Republic. The two-week International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission included a review of the legislative and regulatory framework for the physical protection of nuclear material and associated facilities and activities, including transport.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Czech-nuclear-security-regime-is-robust,-says-IAEA>

Spain: Worker dies from gas leak at nuclear plant

DW, November 24, 2021

One person has died and others were injured after CO₂ leaked at a nuclear power plant in Spain. Emergency services said the accident was not linked to radioactive material. A leak of carbon dioxide at a nuclear power plant in Spain on November 24 killed one person and left three injured, emergency services said. The fault at the Asco plant in the region of Catalonia was related to a fire prevention system and had no connection with the radioactive material.

<https://www.dw.com/en/spain-worker-dies-from-gas-leak-at-nuclear-plant/a-59925661>

Package ready for Czech used fuel disposal

World Nuclear News, November 25, 2021

Škoda announced it has completed development of a geological disposal package for the Czech Republic's used nuclear fuel. Made of corrosion resistant steel, it is a hermetically sealed container for the highly radioactive used fuel assemblies from its VVER reactors.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Package-ready-for-Czech-used-fuel-disposal>

Iran's nuclear stockpiles enough for producing more than one nuclear weapon – E3

TASS, November 25, 2021

Iran has enough nuclear materials to manufacture more than one nuclear warhead after extra enrichment, the foreign ministries of the United Kingdom, France and Germany (E3) said in a joint statement on November 24. The E3 nations expressed concern over "the recent installation of modular infrastructure of advanced centrifuges." Such a step will make it possible for Iran to "change the operating configuration of such cascades more easily and to enrich to higher levels," the statement says. "Iran has also developed essential knowledge critical to the production of a

nuclear weapon, in particular in the field of uranium metal." According to the statement, Iran's "nuclear programme is now in a significantly more advanced state."

<https://tass.com/world/1365967>

Ukraine holds military drills, warns Russia against invasion

DW, November 25, 2021

Ukrainian and Russian troops have each been holding exercises amid Kyiv's fears of a Russian invasion. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called for further sanctions against Russia if the situation deteriorates. The Ukrainian military carried out tank drills in the eastern Donetsk region, it said November 25, after holding a "special operation" involving 8,500 extra troops, drone exercises and anti-tank and airborne units at its border with Belarus.

<https://www.dw.com/en/ukraine-holds-military-drills-warns-russia-against-invasion/a-59936726>

First contract signed for Cernavoda completion

World Nuclear News, November 26, 2021

A year-long, CAD8.4 million (USD6.6 million) contract will see Canada's Candu Energy prepare the licensing basis for two new Candu pressurised heavy water reactors at Romania's Cernavoda nuclear power plant. The signing was celebrated by the governments of Romania and Canada, as well as the USA.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/First-contract-signed-for-Cernavoda-completion>

Nuclear power in Hungary: Green, cheap and independent?

Ferenc Gaal

DW, November 26, 2021

The Hungarian government is convinced that nuclear power is the path to a green future. A new Russian reactor block is to

be constructed that allegedly guarantees low emissions and low energy prices. While Germany is phasing out nuclear power and many EU states don't have any atomic plants at all, others are expanding their nuclear programs as part of the fight against climate change. These states argue that atomic energy is low in CO2 emissions and allows them to produce cheap electricity and be more energy-independent.

<https://www.dw.com/en/nuclear-power-in-hungary-green-cheap-and-independent/a-59950544>

Italy and France sign agreement on space launchers

Reuters, November 27, 2021

Italy and France clinched an accord to strengthen their cooperation on space launchers as part of a broader bilateral treaty. Among the goals laid out in the bilateral treaty were pledges to reinforce military connections, including at an industrial level, and work together in the space sector.

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/science/italy-france-sign-agreement-space-launchers-2021-11-26/>

First Hunterston B reactor enters retirement

World News Network, November 29, 2021

Hunterston B Reactor 3 - a 490 MWe advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) - was taken offline for the final time at midday on 26 November, marking the end of 46 years of operation. Its twin - Hunterston B Reactor 4 - is scheduled to shut down in January, which will see the end of power generation for the site in North Ayrshire, Scotland.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/First-Hunterston-B-reactor-enters-retirement>

Spanish uranium project denied authorisation

World Nuclear News, November 29, 2021

Spain's Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO) has rejected Berkeley Energia's authorisation

to build a uranium processing plant at the company's Salamanca project in western Spain. The company has questioned the legality of the decision.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Spanish-uranium-project-denied-authorisation>

Pressure vessel segmented at Bohunice

World Nuclear News, November 29, 2021

A milestone was reached in the decommissioning of Slovakia's Bohunice V1 reactor when Javys completed cutting up its pressure vessel. Most of the component has been disposed of as low-level radioactive waste.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Pressure-vessel-segmented-at-Bohunice>

Eni ready to spend more on nuclear fusion in green drive

Stephen Jewkes

Reuters, November 29, 2021

Italian energy company Eni (ENI.MI) is ready to invest more in a nuclear fusion project it feels could be a game-changer in the race to produce limitless clean electricity to power cities and industry, the head of the project at Eni said. In 2018 Eni injected \$50 million, as starting investment, to become the single biggest shareholder in Commonwealth Fusion System (CFS), a firm set up by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to produce energy by fusing atoms at temperatures as hot as the sun.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/eni-ready-spend-more-nuclear-fusion-green-drive-2021-11-29/>

G. U.K.

First community partnership established in Cumbria

World Nuclear News, November 16, 2021

The first of two community partnerships has been formed in Copeland, Cumbria, UK, to take forward discussions around siting a geological disposal facility (GDF)

for high-level radioactive waste. The move comes a year after an initial Copeland Working Group was established. A second partnership is expected to be formed soon in neighbouring South Copeland.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/First-Community-Partnership-established-in-Cumbria>

Rolls-Royce asks to submit mini nuclear technology to Britain's regulator

Reuters, November 17, 2021

Rolls-Royce (RR.L) has asked Britain's government for clearance to begin the 4-5 year long process of seeking regulatory approval for its small modular nuclear reactor, it said on November 17, the first step towards commercializing the technology.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/rolls-royce-asks-submit-mini-nuclear-technology-britains-regulator-2021-11-17/>

Hinkley Point C cleaner than renewables, study shows

World Nuclear News, November 22, 2021

Carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity generated by the UK's newest nuclear power plants will be even lower than wind and solar power, a new analysis has confirmed. A detailed and independently verified study into lifetime emissions from Hinkley Point C (HPC) was carried out for EDF by environmental specialists Ricardo Energy & Environment and verified by engineering consultants WSP.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Hinkley-Point-C-cleaner-than-renewables,-study-sho>

H. France

France says IAEA governors must help send strong message to Iran

Reuters, November 18, 2021

The U.N. nuclear watchdog's governing board must send a strong message to Iran when it convenes next week, France said on

Thursday after two agency reports highlighted Iran's continued disputed nuclear activities and lack of cooperation.

France warns Iran against "sham" nuclear negotiating stance

John Irish

Reuters, November 19, 2021

France's foreign minister warned Iran on November 19 not to come to the next round of talks on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal with a "sham" negotiating stance, a day after Paris urged the board of the U.N. atomic watchdog to send Iran a tough message.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-calls-depolitisation-iaea-after-france-urges-it-act-2021-11-19/>

Post-AUKUS, France turns to Indonesia, eyes Rafale jet sale

John Irish

Reuters, November 23, 2021

France will try to cement deeper ties in the Indo-Pacific region when its foreign minister arrives in Indonesia on November 23 as it counters the loss of a strategic defence deal with Australia in September.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/post-aukus-france-turns-indonesia-eyes-rafale-jet-sale-2021-11-23/>

Iran must engage constructively to save nuclear deal - Macron

Reuters, November 30, 2021

Iran must engage constructively in talks to revive a 2015 nuclear deal, French President Emmanuel Macron told his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi by phone on November 29. As talks to save the deal got under way in Vienna, Macron "stressed the need for Iran to engage constructively ... so discussions can allow a quick return to the accord," Macron's office said in a statement after the call.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-must-engage-constructively-save-nuclear-deal-macron-2021-11-29/>

I. Germany

Germany to remain part of NATO's nuclear sharing under new government

Reuters, November 24, 2021

Germany will remain part of NATO's nuclear sharing agreement under its new government, according to a coalition deal agreed on November 24, a move that will prevent a rift in the Western military alliance at a time of rising tensions with Russia.

Germany does not possess nuclear weapons, but hosts U.S. nuclear bombs that German Tornado fighter jets are meant to carry to target during a conflict.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germany-remain-part-natos-nuclear-sharing-under-new-government-2021-11-24/>

Germany's incoming government won't ditch U.S. nuclear bombs

Reuters, November 24, 2021

NATO allies received a reassuring message from Germany's incoming government on Wednesday when they scoured its policy plans: Berlin will remain part of NATO's nuclear sharing agreement. According to the coalition deal, Germany will not ask the United States to remove its nuclear bombs from German soil as some allies had feared. While such a move might have been popular among some Germans, it would have revealed a rift within NATO at a time when the alliance's relations with Russia are at their lowest since the end of the Cold War.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/will-germanys-next-government-ditch-us-nuclear-bombs-2021-11-22/>

Germany hits renewable accelerator, targets coal exit by 2030

Vera Eckert and Joseph Nasr

Reuters, November 24, 2021

Germany's incoming government will step up climate protection efforts with far-reaching reforms, including a faster

expansion of renewables and an accelerated coal exit, as Europe's top economy intensifies efforts to phase out fossil fuels. The agreement of the incoming coalition government, presented on Wednesday, includes plans to ideally bring forward Germany's coal exit to 2030, from a previous target of 2038 at the latest. The coalition, comprising Social Democrats (SPD), Greens and Liberal Democrats (FDP), said it would aim to be climate neutral, and be open to all technologies, except nuclear energy, which will be ditched by the end of 2022 under a previous plan.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/german-coalition-commits-faster-decarbonisation-2021-11-24/>

J. West Asia

Components headed to Akkuyu

World Nuclear News, November 23, 2021

Russian manufacturers are dispatching several components to Turkey's first nuclear power plant, Akkuyu, which is currently the largest nuclear construction site in the world with 13,000 people working on a daily basis on the site that will house four large reactors.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Components-headed-to-Akkuyu>

K. Iran

Iran to host international nuclear energy meeting in early March

Tehran Times, November 16, 2021

The Research Center for Atomic Technology plans to hold the 28th national and first international conference on nuclear technology on March 2-4. The conference will be held virtually at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI). The AEOI public relations office announced on Tuesday that those who are willing to participate at the conference can submit their research works to the secretariat of the conference by December 20. The nuclear energy conference, which is held annually, is considered the greatest

scientific event in the country. For the first time it will be held at international level. The conference will cover a long list of technical and specialized issues. Subjects such as nuclear management, nuclear rights, nuclear safety and safeguards will be discussed at the meeting.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467111/Iran-to-host-international-nuclear-energy-meeting-in-early-March>

Iran's 1st thermal solar power plant to be launched by 2023

Tehran Times, November 19, 2021

Iran is going to launch its first thermal solar power plant by the fiscal year 1402 (starts on March 2023), Managing Director of Iran's Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH) Mohsen Tarzatab announced. Located near the central city of Yazd in central Iran, the new power plant will produce 17 megawatts of clean energy, according to Tarzatab.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467181/Iran-s-1st-thermal-solar-power-plant-to-be-launched-by-2023>

Iran rejects U.S. sanctions, joint statement with E3 and Arab states

Tehran Times, November 19, 2021

Iran has reacted to the U.S. move in imposing sanctions and issuing a joint statement with a number of European and Arab countries on Iran. On the sanctions, which were imposed on six Iranian individuals for allegedly interfering in the U.S. 2020 presidential election, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh called them a continuation of the failed "maximum pressure" campaign of former U.S. President Donald Trump.

Regarding new U.S. sanctions against six Iranian individuals and an Iranian institution under the false pretext of interfering in U.S. elections, Khatibzadeh said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the new U.S. sanctions efforts as a continuation of the failed policy of Trump's maximum pressure and as actions out of desperation." He stated that the sanctions

have no legitimacy and are condemned. Khatibzadeh emphasized that these kinds of blame games by the U.S. government, which has a long history of interfering in different countries in various forms, are considered baseless and meant to deceive the public in America.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467198/Iran-rejects-U-S-sanctions-joint-statement-with-E3-and-Arab>

Iran FM consults with Swiss counterpart on JCPOA, Afghanistan, Yemen

Tehran Times, November 25, 2021

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Swiss counterpart Ignazio Cassis held phone talks over bilateral ties, the JCPOA, the Yemen war, and the situation in Afghanistan. Pointing to Switzerland's important position in Europe, Amir Abdollahian said bilateral relations are on the right track, and that the recent visit by the Swiss parliament speaker to Tehran was a turning point in parliamentary relations between Tehran and Bern.

Amir Abdollahian also spoke of the efforts to solve some problems in expanding the activities of Swiss companies in Iran and stressed the need to expand bilateral relations in various fields, including science, education, agriculture, transportation, health and banking. Iran's foreign minister announced that Tehran is ready to hold a joint economic commission with Switzerland, and expressed hope that this will occur soon.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467397/Iran-FM-consults-with-Swiss-counterpart-on-JCPOA-Afghanistan>

Karaj centrifuge-producing plant is not subject to Safeguards Agreement: Iran

Tehran Times, November 26, 2021

An official from the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said that production of centrifuges at the Karaj

nuclear facility is not subject to Safeguards Agreement because there is no nuclear material there.

“At the Karaj nuclear facility, we don’t have nuclear material, and that’s why the site is not subject to the Safeguards Agreement,” AEOI spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi told the national TV. Kamalvandi also said Iran does not need permission from anyone to produce centrifuges.

Iran is entitled to producing advanced centrifuges without having to endure any limits under Article 4 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), he explained. The comments by Kamalvandi came two days after International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director general Rafael Grossi visited Tehran for talks with AEOI chief Mohammad Eslami and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian. The visit took place as Iran and the parties who signed the 2015 nuclear deal are set to resume talks on September 29 to discuss ways to lift illegal sanctions on Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467439/Karaj-centrifuge-producing-plant-is-not-subject-to-Safeguards>

Iran chief negotiator calls for removal of all U.S. sanctions

November 26, 2021

Iran’s top negotiator in the Vienna talks, due to be held later this month, has called on the United States to remove all the sanctions it imposed on Tehran, warning that not doing so would doom the talks.

Ali Bagheri Kani, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran who will lead the Iranian negotiating team in Vienna, outlined conditions for the talks to succeed. He stressed that any progress on U.S. return to the 2015 Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), must be preceded by the scrapping of all American sanctions, and a guarantee that a future administration in Washington will not once again renege on the agreement as former U.S. President Donald Trump had done.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467432/Iran->

chief-negotiator-calls-for-removal-of-all-U-S-sanctions

Iran firm on constructive cooperation with IAEA based on CSA: diplomat

Tehran Times, November 27, 2021

Tehran is resolute on continuing constructive cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in line with its commitments under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA), acting head of Iran’s mission in the Vienna-based IAEA stated. The Iranian diplomat emphasized that Iran has never decreased its interactions with the IAEA under the CSA.

He insisted on Iran’s long-held position that observing the principles of independence, impartiality, and professionalism would play a very important role in serving the interests of Tehran and the UN nuclear watchdog alike. Ghaebi urged all IAEA member states to heed the Agency’s long-term interests and avoid any political interference.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467462/Iran-firm-on-constructive-cooperation-with-IAEA-based-on-CSA>

Iran to issue verdict against assassination of nuclear scientists soon

Tehran Times, November 28, 2021

Kazem Gharibabadi, the Iranian deputy judiciary chief for international affairs and the secretary of the High Council for Human Rights, said on November 26 that the Tehran Justice Department has completed its legal investigation into assassination of four Iranian nuclear scientists and it will soon issue verdicts in these regards,

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467515/Iran-to-issue-verdict-against-assassination-of-nuclear-scientists>

Iran's nuclear chief dismisses reports that talks with Grossi failed

Tehran Times, November 29, 2021

Mohammad Eslami, chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), has dismissed as untrue claims that the recent talks in Tehran between Iran and IAEA director general Rafael Grossi failed. However, Eslami told that some issues required more time to be finalized in talks between Iran and the IAEA.

Grossi held talks with Eslami and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on November 28. Grossi described his talks in Tehran as constructive and said the IAEA is seeking to "continue and deepen our dialogue with the government of Iran." Eslami also said those who left the 2015 nuclear deal - officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - have no right to make any comment about the TESA Karaj Complex, a centrifuge component manufacturing workshop in north-central Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467529/Iran-s-nuclear-chief-dismisses-reports-that-talks-with-Grossi>

Iran to unveil first marine diesel engine soon

November 29, 2021

The commander of the Iranian Navy has announced that the first marine diesel engine, which is designed and built entirely by Iranian experts, will be unveiled soon. The top commander noted that this engine has "very special features" and was built in accordance with the continuation of naval missions and made Iran self-sufficient in the production of diesel engines. The Navy chief also referred to Operation Morvarid (Pearl) during the Holy Defense, saying, "Operation Morvarid was the result of a series of operations, and in fact it was the result of our forces in the Navy that changed the course of the war." The admiral was referring to the early days of Saddam Hussein's war against Iran in the 1980s in

which the Iranian Navy destroyed the Iraqi warships in the Persian Gulf.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467558/Iran-to-unveil-first-marine-diesel-engine-soon>

Iran has entered Vienna talks in good faith, Iran FM tells UN chief

Tehran Times, November 30, 2021

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and UN Secretary General António Guterres have held talks over the phone about regional and international issues including the developments in Afghanistan and the nuclear talks in Vienna.

The phone conversation came after Iran and the P4+1 group of countries - Russia, China, France and the UK plus Germany - resumed the Vienna talks on how to remove U.S. sanctions on Iran after a months-long hiatus. Amir Abdollahian reiterated in the telephone call that despite the violation and inaction of the U.S. and the European troika, Tehran has attended the Vienna talks in good faith and is trying to reach a good agreement, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The Iranian foreign minister enumerated the characteristics of a good deal, saying the other side must return to full compliance with its obligations under the 2015 nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). He said in that case, the Islamic Republic of Iran will reverse its remedial measures. Amir Abdollahian added that the key point is that any resulting deal must be effectively verifiable.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467586/Iran-has-entered-Vienna-talks-in-good-faith-Iran-FM-tells-UN>

Iranian team must only focus on result-oriented negotiations, MP says

Tehran Times, November 30, 2021

A member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian

Parliament has said the new round of the Vienna talks, which started on November 27 after a five-month break, must prove “fruitful” in lifting sanction on the Islamic Republic.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/467595/Iranian-team-must-only-focus-on-result-oriented-negotiations>

L. Israel

Israel launches two missiles at southern Damascus building

Reuters, November 17, 2021

Israel launched two missiles targeting an empty building in southern Damascus from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-launches-two-missiles-southern-damascus-building-syrian-state-to-2021-11-17/>

UAE, Israel to jointly develop unmanned military, commercial vessels

Reuters, November 18, 2021

Emirati and Israeli state-owned weapons makers on November 18 signed a strategic agreement in Dubai to jointly design unmanned vessels capable of carrying out anti-submarine warfare. United Arab Emirates defence conglomerate EDGE and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) announced the partnership on the final day of the biennial Dubai Airshow.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/uae-israel-jointly-design-unmanned-military-commercial-vessels-2021-11-18/>

Iran nuclear programme: Threat of Israeli strike grows

Yolande Knell

BBC, November 23, 2021

In the turquoise waters of the Red Sea, Israeli, Emirati and Bahraini naval forces for the first time just days ago rehearsed joint security operations with a US warship. It followed a war-game at a desert airbase just north of the Israeli port city of Eilat last

month, which sent fighter planes from Israel and seven other countries roaring into the skies.

Such drills aim to send a strong warning to Iran, which has recently been holding its own large military exercises, and stress strategic alliances. But they come at a time when many in Israel are worrying about whether this small country could soon feel forced to act alone to attack Iran’s nuclear programme militarily. The government has allocated \$1.5bn (£1.1bn) to prepare the Israeli armed forces for a potential strike against Iranian nuclear sites, and there are near-daily warnings from political and military leaders.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-59322152>

Israel sees Iranian atomic bomb in five years, deal or no deal

Dan Williams

Reuters, November 23, 2021

Iran is five years away from developing a nuclear weapon, and international talks due to restart next week will do nothing to slow it down, Israel said on November 23, adding it reserved the right to act to protect itself.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-signals-readiness-escalate-iran-confrontation-amid-nuclear-talks-2021-11-23/>

Don’t yield to Iranian “nuclear blackmail,” Israel urges powers

Reuters, November 29, 2021

Israel cautioned world powers to beware of what it described as Iranian “nuclear blackmail” as diplomats convened in Vienna to discuss resurrecting a 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran. “Today, Iran will be arriving at negotiations in Vienna with a clear goal: to end sanctions (on it) in exchange for almost nothing,” Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/dont-yield-iranian-nuclear-blackmail-israel-urges-powers-2021-11-29/>

M. . Saudi Arabia

Saudi minister visits Barakah

World Nuclear News, November 17, 2021

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud this week visited the Barakah nuclear power plant in the UAE. The minister said his visit to the Middle East's first operational multi-unit nuclear power plant "comes in line with the growing awareness of the importance of nuclear energy."

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Saudi-minister-visits-Barakah>

Saudi Arabia calls on Iran to stop nuclear escalation

Saudi Gazette, November 24, 2021

Prince Abdullah Bin Khalid Bin Sultan, Saudi Arabia's governor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), called on Iran to fully comply with the IAEA instructions with regard to inspections of its nuclear facilities. He also urged Tehran to stop its nuclear escalation. "Iran's nuclear commitments should not be mixed with negotiations," he said in a statement on his Twitter account on Tuesday. Prince Abdullah said that Iran is taking arbitrary measures against the IAEA inspectors.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/613948/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-Arabia-calls-on-Iran-to-stop-nuclear-escalation>

N. East Asia

Nuclear plant start 'impossible': DPP

Hsieh Chun-lin and Kayleigh Madjar

Taipei Times, November 17, 2021

Activating the Fourth Nuclear Power Plant would be impossible, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) lawmakers said yesterday, presenting reasons that they believe completing construction of the plant would be more complicated than it appears.

During a visit to the facility in New Taipei City's Gongliao District on Monday, a

bipartisan group of six lawmakers found that restarting construction would "indeed be a disaster," DPP caucus whip Liu Shyh-fang told a news conference at the legislature in Taipei. The Control Yuan has issued 19 censures and the Atomic Energy Council has issued 45 code violations linked to the site, not to mention the construction troubles, Liu said.

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2021/11/17/2003768032>

Let the Gongliao nuclear plant go

Taipei Times, November 19, 2021

On Dec. 18, Taiwanese are to vote on whether to restart construction of the mothballed Fourth Nuclear Power Plant in New Taipei City's Gongliao District one of four questions in the referendum. In a televised debate on Saturday last week, nuclear power advocate Huang Shih-hsiu – who initiated the referendum – crossed swords with Vice Minister of Economic Affairs Tseng Wen-sheng who argued against starting the plant.

Huang focused mainly on cost and revenue, saying that starting the plant would pay for itself after five years, and failure to commission it would bankrupt Taiwan Power Co (Taipower). Tseng addressed safety concerns, saying that the plant has failed 32 of 187 safety tests conducted by the Atomic Energy Council since 2007.

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2021/11/19/2003768109>

Indonesia's defence minister says 'understands, respects' AUKUS pact

Kate Lamb

Reuters, November 22, 2021

Indonesia's defence minister has said his country understands the reasons behind the United States, Australia and Britain establishing the AUKUS security agreement, though at a forum at the weekend repeated concerns about an arms race in the region. The trilateral security

pact, formulated in part to respond to a rising China, has sparked regional worries given it allows for Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/indonesias-defence-minister-says-understands-respects-aokus-pact-2021-11-22/>

Nation lacks resources for a nuclear disaster: report

Wu Su-wei and William Hetherington

Taipei Times, November 28, 2021

Taiwan has less funds available and less robust disaster-response procedures than Japan in the event of a nuclear disaster, Control Yuan member Tien Chiu-chin said Taiwan is prone to earthquakes, and a nuclear plant would also be a dangerous target if China were to attack, Control Yuan member Eugene Jao said. Tien made the comments while presenting the results of an assessment of the response measures and costs of a potential nuclear disaster in Taiwan, and compared the data with Japan's response to the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant disaster on March 11, 2011. Such a disaster at a Taiwanese nuclear power plant could require the resettlement of up to 10 million people, the report said.

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2021/11/28/2003768646>

Bullying, dishonesty mar nuclear discussion

Chin Ching

Taipei Times, November 29, 2021

Nuclear power advocate Huang Shih-hsiu who initiated next month's referendum question about restarting the mothballed Fourth Nuclear Power Plant in New Taipei City's Gongliao District is behaving like a hoodlum. During a televised debate with Taiwan Power Co's Nuclear Power Division head Hsu Yung-hui who opposes the initiative, Huang said: "You should watch your mouth." "Are your affairs in order?" Hsu later asked. Huang's apparent threat

to Hsu and his family has rightly caused a stink, but Hsu's reply deserves equal attention.

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2021/11/29/2003768686>

Taiwan scrambles to see off 27-plane Chinese incursion

Taipei Times, November 29, 2021

The air force scrambled again yesterday to warn away 27 Chinese aircraft that entered its air defence identification zone (ADIZ), the Ministry of National defence said, the latest increase in tensions across the sensitive Taiwan Strait. Taiwan has complained for a year or more of repeated missions by China's air force near the nation, often in the southwestern part of its ADIZ, close to the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands (Dongsha Islands).

Over a four-day period beginning on Oct. 1, when China marked its national day, Taiwan said that nearly 150 Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) military aircraft entered its ADIZ, not territorial airspace, but a broader area Taiwan monitors and patrols that acts to give it more time to respond to any threats.

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2021/11/29/2003768699>

O. South Korea

Senior S. Korean, U.S. diplomats discuss N. Korea, end-of-war declaration: ministry

Yonhap, November 17, 2021

South Korea's vice foreign minister held talks with his U.S. counterpart and discussed ways to bring North Korea back to dialogue, including the possible declaration of a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, Seoul's foreign ministry said.

<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20211117001752325>

S. Korea, Japan hold working-level talks amid renewed spat over Dokdo

Yonhap, November 22, 2021

South Korea and Japan held working-level diplomatic talks in Seoul on November 22 amid a renewed spat over the former's easternmost islets of Dokdo. On the same day, South Korea's top nuclear envoy, Noh Kyu-duk, met Funakoshi who doubles as Japan's chief nuclear negotiator. The two sides discussed cooperation to make substantive progress for the efforts to achieve the complete denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, and agreed to continue close communication on North Korea-related issues, the ministry said.

<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20211122009600325>

Holtec and Hyundai finalise SMR design and deployment agreement

World Nuclear News, November 24, 2021

Holtec International has finalised an agreement with Hyundai Engineering & Construction of South Korea for the turnkey supply of Holtec's SMR-160 small modular reactor (SMR) plant worldwide. Holtec is considering deploying the first SMR-160 at Oyster Creek in New Jersey, where it is currently in the process of decommissioning a former boiling water reactor.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Holtec-and-Hyundai-finalise-SMR-design-and-deploym>

Lee says appeasement more effective than sanctions in deal with N. Korea

The Korea Times, November 25, 2021

Ruling Democratic Party presidential nominee Lee Jae-myung said he believes a policy of appeasement has been more effective in dealing with North Korea than a policy of confrontation and sanctions. The remark suggests Lee will largely inherit the

policies of the Moon Jae-in administration when it comes to the ongoing effort to get North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

"Judging based only on the current situation, I believe the current policy of appeasement is proving to be more effective than a hard-line confrontational policy or sanctions policy," he said during a discussion with the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/11/113_319492.html

Satellite imagery indicates continued operation of North Korea's nuke reactor: 38 North

The Korea Times, November 25, 2021

North Korea appears to be continuing the operation of a plutonium-producing nuclear reactor at its mainstay Yongbyon complex, a U.S. monitoring website has said, citing satellite imagery. 38 North reported Wednesday recent commercial satellite imagery of the complex north of Pyongyang provided further evidence of activity at the 5-megawatt reactor, which can produce up to 6 kilograms of plutonium – a fissile material used for a bomb – a year.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/11/103_319433.html

Seoul monitoring possibility of new N.K. event marking 2017 ICBM launch

Yonhap, November 25, 2021

South Korea is closely monitoring the possibility of North Korea holding an event celebrating its 2017 launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), a unification ministry official stated.

<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20211125004800325>

Seoul monitoring North Korea's nuclear, missile activities: unification ministry

The Korea Times, November 26, 2021

South Korea is monitoring North Korea's nuclear and missile activities in close cooperation with the United States, the unification ministry said Friday, following reports the North appears to be continuing the operation of a nuclear reactor at its mainstay Yongbyon complex.

38 North, a U.S. monitoring website, said steam was detected emanating from the 5-megawatt reactor in an indication at least one generator is in operation, citing recent satellite imagery. Asked to comment on the report, deputy ministry spokesman Cha Duck-chul declined to confirm "intelligence matters" but said the government is keeping tabs on the North's nuclear facilities.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/11/103_319515.html

Yoon slams government's nuclear phase-out scheme

Yonhap, November 26, 2021

Yoon Seok-youl, the presidential candidate of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) slammed the Moon Jae-in administration's nuclear phase-out policy, calling it "disaster caused from ignorance." The nuclear phase-out scheme set by Moon's government centers on slowly breaking away from nuclear energy by refraining from building additional plants while retiring old ones. Under the roadmap, South Korea plans to decrease the number of nuclear plants in operation to 17 by 2034, from this year's 24. To cover costs of nuclear power plant closures and expenses already incurred from nuclear power projects, the government decided to use an electricity industry infrastructure fund that is financed through electricity bills paid by people.

<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20211126003500315>

P. Japan

Fukushima water release will have minimal impact, Tepco says

World Nuclear News, November 17, 2021

The effects on the public and the environment of the discharge of treated water at the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea will be minimal, Tokyo Electric Power Company (Tepco) said today. The company has released the results of a radiological impact assessment using methodology developed in accordance with internationally recognised methods.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Discharge-to-sea-will-have-minimal-impact-Tepco-sa>

Japan, U.S. conduct their 1st anti-sub drill in South China Sea

Asahi Shimbun, November 17, 2021

Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force conducted its first joint anti-submarine drill with the U.S. Navy in the South China Sea, the MSDF announced on Nov. 16. The joint exercise is aimed at highlighting their capabilities and keeping China, which is building military bases in the South China Sea, in check. "The ability to conduct an advanced (joint) drill in any areas of the sea shows a high level of interoperability between Japan and the United States," MSDF Chief of Staff Hiroshi Yamamura said at a news conference held the same day. "It also represents the deterrence and response capability of the MSDF and the U.S. Navy."

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14483506>

Entire nation should share in disposal of spent nuke fuel

Asahi Shimbun, November 22, 2021

One year has passed since the start of the initial phase of assessing two municipalities in Hokkaido for their

suitability to host a final disposal facility for high-level radioactive waste from nuclear power plants. The first stage of the process, called “bunken chosa” (literature survey), or reviews of geological maps and research papers concerning local volcanic and seismic hazards and other related factors, has been under way since November last year for the town of Suttsu and the village of Kamoenai.

Under the government’s plan, the first-stage surveys take two years and will be followed by the second phase, called “gaiyo chosa” (preliminary investigation), which will include geophysical exploration, geological reconnaissance surveys and drilling surveys.

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14486486>

Q. North Korea

N. Korea slams U.S. military drill as a ‘nuclear war exercise’

Yonhap, November 17, 2021

North Korea on Wednesday slammed the United States for its ongoing nuclear command training exercise, calling it a nuclear war drill targeting the entire world. Global Thunder, led by the U.S. Strategic Command, is an annual command military exercise that provides training opportunities, with a specific focus on nuclear readiness. The exercise, which kicked off on Nov. 1, involves a number of countries, including South Korea.

<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20211117009400320>

Under decade of Kim’s rule, North Korea makes strides in nuke, missile capabilities

The Korea Times, November 21, 2021

A decade after taking power, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un boasts significant progress in menacing nuclear and missile programs – a pivotal element of his regime’s security in the face of the close-knit South Korea-U.S. alliance, analysts said. Since rising to power right after the death of his father Kim Jong-il in late 2011, Kim has pushed for a full-throttled security drive

that has culminated in refined nuclear capabilities, long-range missiles and other formidable weapons like submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and a hypersonic one.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/11/103_319154.html

North Korea likely continuing nuclear activities: IAEA

Ji Da-gyum

The Korea Herald, November 25, 2021

North Korea appears to have operated its Yongbyon nuclear reactor, which can produce weapons-grade plutonium, and continued nuclear activities at Kangson and Pyongsan, a UN watchdog revealed. Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of International Atomic Energy Agency, said Wednesday the continuation of nuclear program is “a clear violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and is deeply regrettable.”

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211125000612&ACE_SEARCH=1

North Korea slams AUKUS as US ‘tool for war’

The Korea Times, November 30, 2021

North Korea has criticized a new trilateral security partnership among Australia, Britain and the United States as an American “tool for war” that poses “serious threats” to world peace.

In a commentary posted on the North’s foreign ministry website November 29, the Korea-Asia Association said the international community should be wary of the initiative, called AUKUS, that “brings dark clouds of a nuclear war to the world.” “(The concerns) come from the fact that the security platform plans to transfer to Australia the technologies to build a nuclear-powered submarine from the U.S. which is the world’s largest country of war and invasion,” it said. Announcing the launch of the initiative in September, U.S. President Joe Biden said the member countries will consult on

Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines as a first step.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/11/103_319697.html

R. Global/Misc.

Metsamor 2 to operate until 2026

World Nuclear News, November 17, 2021

A collaboration with Armenia has extended the service life of the country's only nuclear power plant, Metsamor, to 2026, said Russia's state nuclear company, Rosatom. "I am proud that we are participating in a project that helped make the Armenian nuclear power plant safer and more efficient," said Rosatom head Alexey Likhachev, attending a ceremony at the plant.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Metsamor-2-to-operate-until-2026>

U.N. nuclear watchdog's reports show conflicts with Iran festering

Francois Murphy

Reuters, November 17, 2021

The U.N. nuclear watchdog on Wednesday issued reports detailing its conflicts with Iran, from rough treatment of its inspectors to re-installing cameras it deems "essential" for the revival of Tehran's nuclear deal. Indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States on reviving the 2015 deal are due to resume on Nov. 29, after a quarterly meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation Board of Governors at which diplomats say no action is likely to be taken against Iran for fear of harming the talks.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-still-denying-inspectors-essential-access-workshop-iaea-report-2021-11-17/>

Vimy reviewing its options at Mulga Rock

World Nuclear News, November 18, 2021

Vimy Resources has begun a strategic review process at Mulga Rock in Western Australia

after receiving unsolicited approaches from "several parties" interested in becoming involved in the uranium project. Vimy will continue working on its development of the project, where an early works programme is under way, in parallel with the strategic review.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Vimy-reviewing-its-options-at-Mulga-Rock>

NATO expects Germany to stay in alliance's nuclear sharing - Stoltenberg

Reuters, November 19, 2021

NATO expects Germany to remain part of the military alliance's nuclear sharing, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on November 19, referring to U.S. nuclear bombs on German soil that can be carried by German fighter jets in case of a crisis.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/nato-expects-germany-stay-alliances-nuclear-sharing-stoltenberg-2021-11-19/>

Iran, IAEA ready to settle all existing problems on short notice - head of IAEA

TASS, November 23, 2021

Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are ready to settle all existing problems between the sides on short notice, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi reported on Tuesday at a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian which was held in Tehran. For its part, Amir-Abdollahian noted that "according to Iran, it is necessary to continue cooperation with the IAEA within the framework of technical tasks, avoiding politicization." Earlier, Grossi held negotiations with Head of Atomic Energy Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Vice-President Mohammad Eslami.

<https://tass.com/world/1365255>

Kazakhstan-based physical uranium fund begins operations

World Nuclear News, November 23, 2021

Kazakh national nuclear company Kazatomprom has signed a framework agreement with Genchi Global to invest in the newly established ANU Energy OIEC Limited physical uranium fund, meaning the fund can begin operations. Meanwhile, Kazatomprom has exercised an option to buy back uranium previously sold to Yellow Cake plc.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Kazakhstan-based-physical-uranium-fund-begins-oper>

Message: The Nuclear Saves Partnerships - an IAEA initiative for the private sector

World Nuclear News, November 24, 2021

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi talks about the Nuclear Saves Partnerships through which industry and others can partner with the Agency to expand its efforts to support development projects in low- and middle-income countries.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Message-The-Nuclear-Saves-Partnership-an-IAEA-init>

Major components set in place at Rooppur

World Nuclear News, November 24, 2021

All four of Rooppur 1's steam generators have been lifted into position, Russia's Rosatom has announced. Separately, Rosatom's export subsidiary Atomstroy export is working with the Bangladesh Ministry of Health on a vaccination programme to protect workers at Rooppur from COVID-19. Bangladesh's first nuclear power reactor is slated to start up in 2023.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Major-components-set-in-place-at-Rooppur>

Iran talks did not resolve nuclear issues - IAEA

November 24, 2021

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said it did not succeed in resolving key issues in the Iranian nuclear dossier during the talks in Tehran on November 23. In a statement at a virtual meeting of IAEA's governors council on November 24, the agency's Director General Rafael Grossi noted that he had met with senior Iranian officials including Vice President and Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian. He added that IAEA had monitored Iran's commitment to its nuclear pledges until Feb. 23 of this year. However, since that date, Iran decided to quit committing to its pledges, Grossi said.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/613946/World/Mena/Iran-talks-did-not-resolve-nuclear-issues-ndash-IAEA>

South Australian site to host national radwaste facility

World Nuclear News, November 29, 2021

Napandee near Kimba in South Australia has been formally selected as the location of a national low and medium-level radioactive waste facility. Under the relevant legislation, the declaration today by Australia's Minister for Resources and Water Keith Pitt has the effect of the Commonwealth acquiring about 211 hectares of land for the purpose of hosting the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF).

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/South-Australian-site-to-host-national-radwaste-fa>

Atucha 1 works towards long-term operation

World Nuclear News, November 30, 2021

Nucleoelectrica Argentina has been given feedback on its preparation of Atucha 1 for long-term operation by an International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team. It is the third such mission at the request of the Argentinian government.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Atucha-1-works-towards-long-term-operation>

Drilling completed at first Canadian repository candidate site

World Nuclear News, November 30, 2021

Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has completed borehole drilling work at Ignace, which is being studied as a possible host area for a deep geological repository for Canada's used nuclear fuel. Some 6 km of rock has been retrieved during the four-year drilling programme.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Drilling-completed-at-first-Canadian-repository-ca>

UN chief calls for nuclear weapons-free Middle East

Saudi Gazette, November 30, 2021

The UN Secretary-General called on all Middle East States to transform the vision of a region with no nuclear weapons, or other weapons of mass destruction, into a working reality. Antonio Guterres was speaking in New York at the second session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Since 1967, five such zones have been established around the world: Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa and Central Asia. They include 60 per cent of all UN Member States and cover almost all of the Southern Hemisphere. For the Secretary-General, expanding such zones would help build a safer world. "That is particularly the case in the Middle East, where concerns over nuclear programmes persist, and where conflicts and civil wars are causing widespread civilian casualties and suffering,

undermining stability and disrupting social and economic development", Mr. Guterres explained. The UN chief also reiterated his call for all parties to exercise restraint and avoid escalation.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/614159/World/UN-chief-calls-for-nuclear-weapons-free-Middle-East>

S. Opinion

Keeping a close eye on China's nuclear capabilities

Harsh V. Pant and Kartik Bommakanti

The Hindu, November 21, 2021

The only real substantive outcome of last week's virtual summit between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping has been some unconfirmed reports of the two sides, the United States and China, agreeing to hold strategic nuclear talks sometime in the near future. This development comes against the backdrop of the China Military Power Report (CMPR) recently released by the Pentagon that categorically underscores the growing challenge posed by the increasing capabilities of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and its ambitions across various dimensions of military power.

The PRC's nuclear capabilities, in particular, are undergoing a fundamental transformation and a shift seems to be evident in both the quantity and the quality of the PRC's atomic arsenal. Even before the release of the CMPR, there was significant concern globally about the trajectory of China's strategic capabilities. Confirmation provided by the CMPR reveals four specific areas where change is underway – quantitative strength, atomic yield, delivery capabilities and posture.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/keeping-a-close-eye-on-chinas-nuclear-capabilities/article37615273.ece>

Should US support ROK's nuclear armament?

Lee Jong-eun

The Korea Times, November 22, 2021

As nuclear talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continue to face diplomatic gridlock, public sentiment in the Republic of Korea (ROK) has shifted in favor of either a redeployment of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons or the ROK's independent nuclear armament. Several stalwart politicians from the opposition People Power Party have also expressed at least conditional support for the redeployment of U.S. tactical nukes in South Korea.

Until now, U.S. policy circles have generally been opposed or skeptical toward deploying nuclear assets in South Korea or supporting its nuclear armament. But could this stance change? Recently, the Washington Post published an op-ed describing nuclear armament as a "highly unpalatable but increasingly likely solution" for South Korea's security.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2021/11/137_319082.html

Debating nuclear disarmament at UN First Committee

Angela Woodward

The Korea Times, November 24, 2021

Nuclear disarmament is always a hot topic at the U.N. General Assembly First Committee, which wrapped up its annual four week discussion on disarmament and international security issues on Nov. 3. This year's debate was no exception. The meeting took place against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, persistent nuclear weapon modernization by all nuclear weapon possessor states, and enduring risks of nuclear proliferation, nuclear arms races and nuclear conflict.

Nuclear disarmament proponents cited these challenges in their First Committee engagements seeking the urgent achievement of eliminating nuclear weapons.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2021/11/137_319253.html

Contribute Articles

Indian Pugwash Society welcomes research articles from students, researchers and faculties on Space, Missile, nuclear technology, WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, export controls and other related issues. Articles should be crisply written and should address contemporary debates in the policy arena. Manuscripts submitted for the consideration of the Indian Pugwash Society should be original contributions and should not have been submitted for consideration anywhere else. For further assistance, please contact us at : indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com

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