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Bank of England expects UK to fall into longest ever recession

November 3, 2022 *bbc.com* reported: "The Bank of England has warned the UK is facing its longest recession since records began, as it raised interest rates by the most in 33 years. It warned the UK would face a "very challenging" two-year slump with unemployment nearly doubling by 2025.

Bank boss Andrew Bailey warned of a "tough road ahead" for UK households, but said it had to act forcefully now or things "will be worse later on". It lifted interest rates to 3% from 2.25%, the biggest jump since 1989.

By raising rates, the Bank is trying to bring down soaring prices as the cost of living rises at its fastest rate in 40 years. Food and energy prices have jumped, in part because of the Ukraine war, which has left many households facing hardship and started to drag on the economy.

A recession is defined as when a country's economy shrinks for two three-month periods - or quarters - in a row. Typically, companies make less money, pay falls and unemployment rises. This means the government receives less money in tax to use on public services such as health and education.

The Bank had previously expected the UK to fall into recession at the end of this year and said it would last for all next year. But it now believes the economy already entered a "challenging" downturn this summer, which will continue next year and into the first half of 2024 - a possible general election year.

While it will not be the UK's deepest downturn, it will be the longest since records began in the 1920s, the Bank said. The unemployment rate is currently at its lowest for 50 years, but it is expected to rise to nearly 6.5%." ..."

New Swedish PM says open to nukes under NATO

November 2, 2022 *spacewar.com* reported: "Sweden's new prime minister said Tuesday he was open to allowing nuclear weapons on Swedish soil once the country becomes a NATO member, a turnaround from the previous government's stance.

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, who took over the reins in Sweden two weeks ago, was speaking in Helsinki at a press conference with his Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin, whose country is applying for membership in the Atlantic alliance together with Sweden.

When asked if the two nations would accept nuclear weapons on their soil, Marin replied: 'We shouldn't put any preconditions... We have decided that we don't want to close any doors for the future.'

Kristersson agreed. 'You will receive exactly the same answer from me as from the Finnish prime minister', he said..."

Russian army discussed when, how to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine

November 2, 2022 *jpost.com* reported: "Senior Russian military commanders recently discussed how and when the Kremlin would use tactical nuclear weapons (TNWs) in Ukraine, *The New York Times* reported on Wednesday.

According to the report, President Vladimir Putin was not part of the conversation. Pentagon Press Secretary Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said on Tuesday that there were no indications that the Russian leader 'has made a decision at this time to employ nuclear weapons.'

Also on Tuesday, Security Council of the Russian Federation deputy chairman Dmitry Medvedev said on Telegram that Kyiv's objectives to return all occupied territories to its control constituted an existential threat to Russia and would allow for the use of nuclear weapons. According to the *Times*, intelligence reports about the nuclear weapons conversations were shared within the US government in mid-October..."

Iranian teen girl beaten to death by police for tearing Khomeini's photo

November 1, 2022 *jpost.com* reported: "An Iranian girl in middle school was beaten to death after police officers found a torn-up photo of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini in one of her schoolbooks, local news outlet in the Sistan and Baluchestan Province Haalvsh reported on Sunday night.



The girl, identified as Parnis Hamnava, was at her school in Iranshahr in the Sistan and Baluchestan Province when security forces entered the school in order to search the books of the students, discovering the torn-up photo in Hamnava's textbook. According to Haalvsh, security forces severely beat Hamnava in front of the other students and she later died of her wounds in the hospital. The incident reportedly took place last week.

The security forces reportedly forced Hamnava's family and teachers to promise that they would not speak to the press about the incident before handing over her body to them to bury.

The IRGC-affiliated *Tasnim News Agency* rejected the report, claiming that there was no such student in the Iranian education system and that no students were killed in Iranshahr..."

North Korea Demands US, South Korea Halt Joint Military Drills

November 1, 2022 voanews.com reported: "North Korea on Monday demanded that the United States and South Korea stop large-scale military exercises, calling them a provocation that may draw 'more powerful follow-up measures' from Pyongyang.

'The situation in the Korean Peninsula and its vicinity has entered the serious confrontation phase of power for power again due to the ceaseless and reckless military moves of the U.S. and south Korea,' North Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement carried on the country's official KCNA news agency.

The United States and South Korea began one of their largest combined military air drills on Monday, with hundreds of warplanes from both sides staging mock attacks 24 hours a day for the better part of a week.



The operation, called Vigilant Storm, will run until Friday, and will feature about 240 warplanes conducting about 1,600 sorties, the U.S. Air Force said..."

US to 'hold Russia accountable' if satellites attacked

October 30, 2022 spacewar.com reported: "The United States will respond in an 'appropriate' way to any Russian attack against US commercial satellites, the White House said Thursday after a Russian official suggested they could become legitimate targets in space.

'Any attack on US infrastructure will be met with an appropriate response in an appropriate way,' National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters. The United States will 'hold Russia accountable for any such attack, should it occur.'

Kirby was responding to comments by a Russian foreign ministry official, Konstantin Vorontsov, at the United Nations on Wednesday that use of commercial satellites 'in outer space for military purposes' by Western countries is an 'extremely dangerous trend.'

'These states do not realize that such actions in fact constitute indirect participation in military conflicts,' Vorontsov said. 'Quasi-civilian infrastructure may become a legitimate target for retaliation.'

The Russian official did not specify what commercial satellites he meant but Starlink satellites deployed by Elon Musk's SpaceX company are playing a major role in communications for the Ukrainian military fighting Russia's invasion..."

US sees 'acute threat' from Russia, but says China is main challenge

October 30, 2022 spacewar.com reported: "Russia's invasion of Ukraine highlights the 'acute threat' posed by Moscow, but China is the most consequential challenge for the United States, the Pentagon said Thursday.

The dangers are both conventional — Moscow's aggression toward its neighbors and Beijing's efforts to gain control of Taiwan — and nuclear, with Russia possessing an extensive arsenal and China's stocks of atomic weapons growing fast.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin highlighted the different challenges posed by China and Russia as he unveiled the unclassified versions of several military strategy documents. China 'is the only competitor out there with both the intent to reshape the international order, and increasingly the power to do so,' Austin said..."