UK Headlines — 01 Oct 2026

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? Top Story: Hundreds of prisoners released early today as new scheme begins

Around 700 eligible prisoners in England and Wales are walking free today (1 October) under the expanded early-release scheme introduced by the Sentencing Act 2026. The change means most adults serving standard sentences are released at an earlier point in their term, in an effort to ease severe overcrowding in the male prison estate.

- The government's "progression model" changes to automatic release dates came into force today after being delayed from September pending a review of the scheme. (House of Commons Library, gov.uk)
- Probation officers warn some of those freed risk homelessness, with supervision services already stretched. (The Guardian, 1 Oct)
- The Prison Reform Trust and victims' groups have published guidance on what the changes mean for victims of crime. (gov.uk, 1 Oct)

? World: Flydubai flight chaos — co-pilot stabbed pilot in attempt to crash Dubai–Tel Aviv jet

Passengers and crew on Flydubai flight FZ1073 (Dubai → Tel Aviv) foiled an apparent attempt by the co-pilot to crash the aircraft, which plunged roughly 13,000 feet in 30 seconds and was diverted to Saudi Arabia after the co-pilot stabbed the captain.

- Israel scrambled fighter jets over hijacking fears; a passenger and crew member entered the cockpit to subdue the attacker. (ABC News, 1 Oct)
- Netanyahu named the pilot who fought back — reportedly an Indian national — a "true hero" for opening the cockpit door after being stabbed, and met passengers who helped subdue the co-pilot. (Independent, CNN live blog, Times of Israel)
- Flydubai has suspended Israel flights pending an investigation; a rescue flight brought the ~150 passengers (almost all Israeli) home safely. (Times of Israel, Reuters)

Ukraine: massive overnight strike on Kyiv

- Russia launched a huge combined drone and missile attack on Kyiv overnight (29–30 Sep), primarily targeting energy infrastructure — the opening salvo of Moscow's autumn/winter campaign against the grid. At least four killed in the Kyiv region. (ISW, Al Jazeera)
- NATO condemned Moscow's "irresponsible nuclear rhetoric" after Russia warned it would "deploy its entire arsenal" if Kaliningrad were threatened. (The Guardian war briefing, 30 Sep)
- Estonia's PM Kristen Michal said the attack on Milrem Robotics was "ordered by Russian special services" — hybrid warfare concerns growing. (The Guardian)

Gaza

- The BBC World Service has released *Gaza's Ceasefire Summer*, a BBC Eye film on life under the fragile October 2025 ceasefire, which monitoring groups say has been violated nearly 1,000 times. (BBC, Al Jazeera, Middle East Eye)

Other world headlines

- The 81st UN General Assembly general debate continues in New York through 2 October. (Education Times)
- Iran's foreign ministry warned the UAE of "highly dangerous consequences" in a regional row. (Indian Express roundup)

?? UK Politics: Burnham floats second Brexit referendum as Macron and Sánchez urge UK to rejoin

- PM Andy Burnham said a second Brexit referendum — or rejoining the EU without another vote — is "possible" for the Labour election manifesto, insisting he could go "all the way" on rejoining. (BBC, Independent, Telegraph)

- Emmanuel Macron called a UK return "good news" during a visit to Spain, with Pedro Sánchez also embracing the idea. (DW)
- At Labour Conference in Liverpool (Burnham's first as PM), the party announced a cross-party convention on electoral reform that could replace FPTP with proportional representation. (The Guardian, labour.org.uk)
- The government is to set out new restrictions on trade with West Bank settlements. (BBC Politics Live)

Other UK politics / public life

- **BBC licence fee:** the BBC's chair/boss signalled a major change in which "everyone" could have to pay, as licence income has fallen £1bn in real terms over a decade; only 80% of households now pay vs 90%+ in 2016/17. (Mirror, BBC)
- **Northern Ireland:** young drivers in NI become the first in the UK to get new driving licensing laws from today. (BBC)

? Cost of Living: Energy price cap rises 4% today

- Ofgem's price cap rose 4% from 1 October — a typical direct-debit household now pays £1,723/year, a three-year high, even with the VAT cut. Running to 31 December 2026. (Ofgem, Independent, PayPlan)
- Fuel poverty campaigners warn bills are rising just as cold weather arrives and national support has been pared back. (National Energy Action)

??????? Wales

- **Welsh Government (1 Oct press release):** Welsh citizens could claim extra money to help with living costs — new support announced today. (gov.wales)
- **Reform UK Wales:** Neath-born former teacher Helen Jenner continues as the party's new Senedd leader and Leader of the Opposition, unveiled by Nigel Farage on 22 September after Dan Thomas's arrest on suspicion of assault and coercive behaviour. Farage called the loss a "bump in the road". (BBC, Guardian, Wikipedia)
- **Hundreds of Welsh prisoners** are among those released early across England and Wales today under the expanded scheme. (WalesOnline)
- BBC Wales weatherman **Derek Brockway is leaving the BBC**. (BBC Wales)

?? Weather

- No Met Office weather warnings in force for today. October is forecast to be unsettled and changeable, with spells of rain and strong winds; the Met Office has warned of a possible "strongest El Niño in a century" driving stormier autumn weather. (Met Office, LBC, Telegraph)

? Quick Summary

#	Story	Key detail
1	Early prisoner releases begin	~700 freed today under Sentencing Act 2026; homelessness warnings
2	Flydubai FZ1073 cockpit attack	Co-pilot stabbed captain; plunged 13,000ft; passengers subdued him; Israel flights suspended
3	Russia hits Kyiv	Massive overnight energy-infrastructure strike; 4 dead; NATO condemns nuclear rhetoric
4	Burnham on Brexit	Second referendum "possible" in manifesto; Macron and Sánchez back UK rejoining
5	Energy price cap +4%	£1,723/yr typical bill from today — three-year high
6	BBC licence fee	Boss suggests "everyone pays" model as income drops £1bn
7	Wales: living-cost support	Welsh Government announces extra claimable money (1 Oct)
8	Labour Conference aftermath	Cross-party PR convention announced; West Bank trade restrictions coming

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Compiled 1 October 2026, 08:05 BST — sources: BBC, Reuters, Guardian, Independent, CNN, Times of Israel, ABC News, Al Jazeera, ISW, Ofgem, gov.uk, gov.wales, House of Commons Library, Met Office, WalesOnline, Mirror, Telegraph, DW.

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