

UK Headlines — 06 Sep 2026

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? Top Stories

Reform donations scandal: Farage says he "wasn't listening" as family begs him to quit

Nigel Farage has told the BBC he "frankly wasn't even listening" during a conversation with his former chief of staff and an undercover reporter that appeared to discuss funnelling foreign money to Reform UK. The Channel 4 News/Verbatim Investigations film shows Farage and former chief of staff **Dan Jukes** present when it was suggested a US donor give £500,000 to Reform through his UK-based son — which would breach electoral law requiring donors to be UK-registered voters or companies. Jukes and ex-head of policy **James Orr** have both stepped down; Jukes denies wrongdoing, Orr says he'll co-operate with the party's internal investigation. In an interview airing this morning on *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg*, Farage said his family are "begging" him to leave the job and "would rather I packed it up and walked away", though he has not considered standing down. Labour and the Lib Dems have reported the party to the Met Police, which is assessing whether to investigate; the Electoral Commission says it is considering "all relevant information". Chris Mason's analysis: Reform is "winded" by the row, with insiders privately admitting it was a "genuine mistake" — one source said "the people that got us here, aren't the people for the next stage". <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0qxgn7q1vdo>

US envoys head to Kyiv after three-hour Putin talks in Moscow

Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner — Trump's top negotiators — are set to land in Kyiv today for their **first trip to Ukraine's capital**, after holding talks with Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Saturday. The White House says they discussed "substantive plans for next steps"; Putin adviser Yuri Ushakov called the talks "constructive, extremely frank", also covering economic ties and "major Russian-American projects". Putin and Zelensky have agreed a three-day halt to strikes on each other's capitals. An announcement is expected in the coming weeks. [1]

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6248nvqy8po>

Hundreds of masked "stop the boats" protesters shut Port of Dover

Major disruption at the UK's busiest ferry port on Saturday as **hundreds of masked men in black** blocked roads and roundabouts from ~07:00, stopping traffic in and out of the port. Kent Police made no arrests and described it as "spontaneous"; Hope Not Hate claims the **Patriot Platform** network — which it says began meeting in July and draws together anti-migrant groups — organised it. Tommy Robinson and Danny Thomas posted in support. Dover MP Mike Tapp wants answers on why police "didn't know about it"; local Tory leader Chris Vinson said men had "loaded into rental vans and descended" on the town. Operations returned to normal by early afternoon. Farage "deplored" the masked protests. Separately, Reform UK councillor for Dover West Paul King confirmed the "stop the boats" framing to the BBC. [1]

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy8znyzgkjj0>

?? UK Politics

- **Reform's flagship conference pledge: £15,000 tax-free personal allowance.**

Robert Jenrick promised the rise (from £12,570) within his first 100 days as chancellor, saying it would save most taxpayers ~£500/yr and lift 2.9m out of income tax. Costed at £17.7bn in year one, rising to £21bn by year five, funded by £80bn of planned spending cuts including £50bn from welfare, £10bn by scrapping net-zero programmes, £8bn from civil service cuts and £7.1bn from capping foreign aid. [1]

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgk5g51xk57o>

- **Farage threatens to overhaul the Lords and judges** to meet Reform's pledges, and **unveiled a small boats deal with France's National Rally** — leader Jordan Bardella, a serious contender in France's presidential race, appeared at the Birmingham conference.

[1] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyeq5jvd2po> ·

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gk35qnzp3o>

- **Reform aides' donor comments were "loose pub talk"**, Farage claimed on Friday — the party says it took legal advice and did nothing wrong. [1]

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3eqvyj5qg5o>

- **Badenoch accuses PM of kicking defence spending into the long grass**, as the defence row continues. [1] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crk3xdv0z71o>

- **Burnham and Macron agree to "scale up" small boats action** — the French president was the new PM's first foreign visitor at No 10 (3 Sep); they also discussed SCALP missile assembly lines in Ukraine and Burnham condemned Israeli settlement tenders in the E1 area as "unacceptable". <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c62ezg7gkzwo>
 - **Greens' Zack Polanski will run for former PM Starmer's seat** in the upcoming by-election. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cge41ee40vwo>
 - **"Stock up on food" for extreme weather**, a minister has advised, as the government pushes resilience planning. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp931m8n3p5o>
 - Met Police assessing Reform complaints; Electoral Commission in contact with police. Two Reform officials (Jukes, Orr) stood down after the undercover report. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c86xj5z7x61o>
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? World

- **US and Iran trade retaliatory attacks on ships as conflict flares** — new escalation around the Strait of Hormuz; de-escalation was on the Burnham-Macron agenda. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj64rrne643o>
- **Germany: AfD bids for first taste of state power** — Saxony-Anhalt votes today, with the far-right party led by Ulrich Siegmund ("Germany's Most Dangerous Man" per *Der Spiegel*) hoping for an outright majority that would be a post-war first. Other parties hold the *Brandmauer* firewall, so the AfD needs 50%+. The vote could also decide embattled CDU Chancellor Friedrich Merz's fate. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgypkzgy4wo>
- **Egypt: TV presenter among 11 sentenced to death** in a drugs case. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y7gk9knnlo>
- **Indonesia: volcano eruption suspends flights at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta airport** ; stranded passengers pictured. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgy5k4n07ko>
- **Nepal: 64-year-old woman found alive in mud-buried home** as rescuers race to reach dozens still trapped in the Trishuli 3A tunnel after monsoon floods. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gd24d1d0do> · <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c7903j1vpe5o>
- **Bolivia: at least two dead in an explosion at a military barracks** in Viacha. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3v45xy67g5o>
- **US: Mistrial declared in the Lindsay Clancy murder case** after the jury deadlocked — the trial divided America on whether she is victim or criminal. Separately, Trump signed an order **removing endangered-species protection for grey wolves**. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpwlrj2je1po> · <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c62k677d4lzo>
- **Europe targeted by a "spiralling campaign of sabotage" — Russia the chief suspect**, after Berlin blamed Moscow for a failed drone attack on Leipzig/Halle Airport (Kremlin denies). <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y4g6meekro>

- **Pope Leo XIV urges Oxford's Oriel College to "seek truth courageously"** during a visit marking the college's links. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn74xpjekpro>
 - Ireland: **toddler dies following a hit-and-run**; gardaí investigating. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0kl3pe1z2no>
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? Wales

- **Reform's Welsh leader: Plaid may not finish its term.** Dan Thomas claims it is "hard to see how this Welsh government will last the duration of the term" after Plaid Cymru failed to get its mid-year spending plans through the Senedd this summer with no major opposition support. FM **Rhun ap Iorwerth** says he has learned lessons; Welsh Labour leader **Ken Skates** has indicated he wants a budget deal. Reform won 34 of 96 Senedd seats in May and is the official opposition. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqxxv49gw999o>
 - **Gender surgery halted in Wales** over concerns patients were not properly assessed; the FM wants a quick resolution to the pause. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8x2jglljpo>
 - **Rhosneigr "taken over" by outsiders not speaking Welsh**, an Anglesey councillor complains — aerial shots of the seaside village feature in the row over second homes and language. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czezln5y1z2o>
 - **Richard Hammond to "find a way" to share his mansion with bats** after renovation plans were paused. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj4j5zn5n75o>
 - **Sepsis warning: Elle Black brushed off a sore throat as a hangover** — doctors told the student the outcome could have been very different had she waited. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp30121n24xo>
 - **Ancient cave art discovery suggests the first known humans in Ireland walked over from Wales.** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y75dl0jpko>
 - **Teen freestyle footballer James Taylor comes third in the world championships.** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c70l5pgek9ro>
 - Also: tonnes of rubble including "bits of old toilets" dumped in a village; Rob Brydon's regret at turning down a Dolly Parton interview; praise for Catherine Zeta-Jones using her Welsh accent in a new series; Welsh actor on "surreal" fights with Hugh Jackman in *The Death of Robin Hood*; Michael Sheen asks whether Wales "should be asked if it wants its title back"; BBC Wales reviews Plaid's first 100 days in charge.
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?? Weather

- **Late burst of warmth: up to 28C possible today** across south-east England, central-southern England and the Welsh Marches, with mid-20s widely and 25C in south-west England and eastern Wales — well above the 15–21C early-September average. Short-lived: cooler by Tuesday as fronts push through.

- Heavy rain for northern Scotland and unseasonably blustery conditions (40–45mph gusts) in western Scotland.
 - Continental heat: Spain saw its hottest day of 2026 on Thursday — **45.7C in Huelva** — with 40C+ continuing this weekend; southern France high 30s, possibly 40C locally.
 - **BBC InDepth: aviation faces hotter, stormier skies** — and passengers might have to accept more disruption. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm274p8m88lo> · <https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/cvgydp1247ro>
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?? Other UK & Sport

- **Heathrow Airport train services resume** after trackside fire disruption. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cnvl1r1080go>
 - **Prince William to attend King Harald's funeral in Norway.** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp301rw6kvro>
 - **Thieves steal 70,000 pints of Guinness in two lorries.** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yjred1dle0>
 - **Katie Taylor crowns her career in a stylish Croke Park triumph.** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/boxing/articles/clyeg4n8l98o>
 - **South Africa finish strongly to take a 2-1 series lead over the All Blacks.** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/rugby-union/articles/c7830m55lklo>
 - Zheng comes back from 5-0 and match point down; De Zerbi says misfiring Spurs need time ("not Football Manager"); Man Utd's plan to compete with richer rivals; Hunt takes a second podium in two days (athletics).
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? Feel-Good Roundup

- **"Fantastic" moment: blind veteran, 95, drives again** after giving up his licence — out on the road at a training circuit in a helmet and hi-vis. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgyw8np7nmo>
 - **64-year-old Nepali woman pulled alive from a mud-buried home** after monsoon devastation. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/videos/c4gd24d1d0do>
 - **Dog reunited with her 12 puppies on their birthday.** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/videos/c4gd24d1d0do> (BBC Wales video playlist)
 - Small Welsh football club's victory over Italian giants brought to life on stage. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgye02npjjo>
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? Quick Summary

Section	Top line
☐☐ Reform scandal	Farage "wasn't listening" during undercover foreign-donor talks; Jukes & Orr out; Met assessing
☐☐ Ukraine	Witkoff & Kushner in Kyiv today after Moscow talks; capital-strike pause agreed
☐☐ Dover	Hundreds of masked "stop the boats" protesters shut the port Saturday
☐☐ UK Politics	Reform conference: £15k tax-free pledge, Lords/judges overhaul threat, Bardella small-boats deal
☐☐ World	AfD eyes first state power in Saxony-Anhalt; US-Iran ship attacks flare; Egypt death sentences
☐☐ Wales	Reform's Thomas: Plaid may not last the term; gender surgery paused; Rhosneigr language row
☐☐ Weather	Up to 28C today, short-lived; Spain hit 45.7C
☐☐☐ UK/Sport	Heathrow rail back; Taylor's Croke Park crowning; SA lead All Blacks 2-1

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