UK Headlines — 07 Nov 2026

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Saturday's sweep: Brand fallout widens, Meghan's father charged, BoE hikes to 4%, bomb-threat wave across Europe.

? Top Story — Russell Brand aftermath widens

- **Police suspect Brand attacked at least 10 more women** — the Guardian leads with detectives anticipating further formal complaints after Thursday's conviction (one count of rape, three of sexual assault involving four women). Brand faces a substantial prison sentence.
- **Met Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley** said he "wouldn't be surprised" if more allegations are made, and warned Brand's defence arguments "head towards... victim blaming" — Ian Winter KC had told jurors none of the complainants "resisted or screamed or even tried to leave". Rowley: "Some people will fight. Some people will freeze... There isn't one way of reacting."
- **Winter KC has referred himself to the barristers' regulator** after reports he confronted a journalist.
- **PM Andy Burnham** called the crimes "horrific", praised the victims' courage and the investigative journalists, and said he had "no idea of the full extent of what he was doing" — pressed on his supportive 2014 tweet when Brand faced criticism over housing arrangements ("It's not always the case that people know everything about people in public life").
- **Rape trial law change under consideration** — Burnham says he will study reforms so complainants are not made to feel "on trial", aiming to raise conviction rates.
- Katherine Ryan says she feels "grief and relief" after the conviction; the i Paper revisits what Labour insiders made of Brand's notorious 2015 Ed Miliband interview.

?? UK Politics

- **Brexit reset without a plan?** Cabinet ministers fear Burnham has "no plan" for his EU reset, one telling the Telegraph: "He's opened up a debate without a plan... reignited support for Reform that was waning." He'll set out only "principles" ahead of the 20 November UK-EU summit; Treasury officials asked to model economic benefits of future-relationship options. Sir Iain Duncan Smith: "sounds like Project Fear all over again." Burnham has separately raised rejoining the EU after the next election — "all options" from "stay as we are" to "all the way" (customs union, single market, full membership).
- **Welfare timebomb:** Alan Milburn's NEET/youth-unemployment review and Stephen Timms' disability-benefits review land as early as next week, triggering new legislation next year (Pat McFadden). Burnham will be told to spend up to £6bn more on back-to-work support; UK spends 0.1% of GDP vs Germany 0.3%/Denmark 0.4%; youth unemployment 15.6%; benefits bill projected £353bn → £431bn by 2031-32. Burnham: "investment up front... in time, the savings will come". The i Paper flags the threat of his first major backbench rebellion.
- **Bank of England raises rates to 4%** — first increase in more than three years (from 3.75%). Bailey points to the Iran war pushing up energy prices; inflation forecast to peak at 4.9% next year. Not the first of an "inevitably long sequence of hikes" — but unlikely to be the last unless the war ends. Chancellor John Healey says the Iran conflict is "reaching deep into the pockets of families"; shadow chancellor Andrew Griffith calls for tax/welfare/regulation cuts. Homeowners face mortgage misery — typical tracker up ~£200/month.
- **Putin will not be invited to the 2027 G20 summit in Manchester**, Burnham confirms, citing sanctions.
- **Chagos:** UK to "recast" the Mauritius deal to address US concerns; Burnham wants progress "by the end of the year".
- **Pay transparency:** employers to be required to include salaries in job adverts under a new law; Burnham urges firms to publish pay ahead of it taking effect.
- **Farage & Reform:** Farage says he is worried Trump will step up the Iran war after his midterm "disaster", and dodged media questions about his "friend's" humiliation; Burnham says he feels "confident" about populist decline. Reform unveiled ex-RAF Wing Commander **Angus MacIntyre** as armed forces spokesman — he pledges to end Forces prosecutions within 100 days "or resign".
- **Holyrood:** committee conveners unanimously approved a £15,500 salary boost; the burqa-ban motion was defeated this week, with Reform MSPs criticised for using a "far right anthem" (L'Amour Toujours) on a promo video.
- **Tube drivers to strike in the Christmas run-up**; Commons Speaker calls Parliament restoration delays "frustrating".

? World / International

- **Trump names Stephen Miller White House chief of staff** (from Monday), replacing Susie Wiles, who moves to his political operation. "Sometimes in life, you have to make moves." He confirms Cabinet changes are coming after Republicans lost both chambers in

the midterms ("I do, yeah. Little bit").
- **Iran:** Trump says the US "could be an occupier" in Iran, claims control of the Strait of Hormuz and acknowledges "minor strikes" after an incident near Qeshm Island. Zelenskyy warns the "big agreement" voiced by Trump could be "dangerous".
- **Russia-Ukraine:** Putin confirms the next round of Russia-US-Ukraine talks begins **Tuesday in Abu Dhabi** (two days, delegation led by Vladimir Medinsky); Witkoff says security guarantees, de-escalation and humanitarian issues are on the agenda. Spain announced a €437m military aid package for Ukraine after Zelenskyy met Sánchez in Madrid.
- **Bomb-threat wave across Europe:** flights, airports and media outlets targeted in at least five countries — two aircraft from London and Brussels diverted to Sofia; nine planes inspected in Prague; four over French airspace; checks at Copenhagen airport; RTÉ and other Irish broadcasters evacuated. Taoiseach Micheál Martin: "worrying". Follows Thursday's threats against at least 18 flights.
- **Thomas Markle, 82, charged over child sex abuse material** in Florida — the Duchess of Sussex's father is under house arrest; Mirror and Independent front pages.
- **Markets/AI backlash:** Nasdaq fell 5.5% Thursday (correction territory) on AI-spending and data-centre-regulation fears; Nikkei −6.16%, Kospi −5.54%, Taiex −4.51%; SoftBank −10.4%, SK Hynix −9%. Texas governor-elect Gina Hinojosa pledges data-centre restrictions; OpenAI drops NDAs with officials and will cover full electricity/infrastructure costs under a new "National Community Compact"; pro-Palestinian activists occupied an Amsterdam Microsoft data-centre site; "Stop Dirty Data Centres" calls for Europe-wide protests and a moratorium.
- **New Zealand general election:** polls have closed, counting under way; final results expected by 27 November.
- **Paraguay's president impeached and under house arrest** after a bank collapse.
- **Belgium:** King Philippe rejects PM Bart De Wever's resignation, orders budget talks to resume.
- **Kenya:** cult leader Paul Mackenzie sentenced to 200 years over the Shakahola fasting deaths (191 dead, including 190 children).
- **Ethiopia:** at least 34 Orthodox Christians killed in Oromia — 94+ worshippers dead in under three weeks.
- **Malaysia:** Najib Razak paid a RM50m 1MDB fine, clearing the way for house arrest until August 2028.
- Also: bus crash in France's Ain département kills 2, injures 16 (15 minors aboard); ex-US senator Jay Rockefeller dies aged 89; Justin Trudeau joins Oxford's Blavatnik School as distinguished fellow; FIFA legal chief Emilio Garcia Silvero steps down.

??????? Wales

- **Swansea shooting:** a man, 41, and a boy, 16, were arrested after a car was damaged by gunshots in Morriston — South Wales Police declared a critical incident; one person suffered minor injuries.

- **Devolution row:** the UK Government has been told to back off after Wales Office minister Anna McMorrin warned the Welsh Government that Westminster could legislate over a "drones" college — accused of threatening to break the devolution settlement (Nation.Cymru).
- **£30m station grant concerns** over a re-announced UK Government grant tied to a project claiming 6,000 jobs (Martin Shipton).
- **Conversion practices:** survivors, including Ian Smith ("They shouted at demons inside me"), call for a ban on gay conversion practices.
- **Under-16s could be banned from buying energy drinks** in Wales; a council moves to retain 150% premiums on second/empty homes; Wales scraps the controversial Uganda tree-planting scheme.
- **Culture:** MTV Dirty Sanchez star Michael "Pancho" Locke dies aged 47; Dolly Parton's Imagination Library book scheme returns; Bonnie Tyler honoured with a mural in her hometown; a Cold War missile in the Welsh countryside is being sold for a cat charity.
- **Sport:** □□ Wales v Japan at the Principality Stadium this afternoon (Autumn Nations Championship, round 4) — road closures in Cardiff city centre.

?? Saturday's Front Pages

Paper	Splash
The Guardian	"Brand suspected of attacks on at least 10 more women"
Daily Mirror	"MEGHAN'S DAD CHARGED OVER CHILD ABUSE PICS"
The Independent	"Meghan's father charged over child sex abuse images"

(BBC's Papers roundup: "Meghan's father charged" and "Brand investigation widens".)

?? Weather

Cool and mostly cloudy for the Wales/England rugby crowd — light cloud, high around 10°C, low around 4°C. Met Office: unsettled Atlantic-driven weather through late November, with heavy rain and strong gales possible at times.

? Also in the UK

- **Manhunt in Gloucester** after a boy was injured by a sword, sparking school lockdowns.
- A man, 35, has been charged with the murder of Carrie Mullane.
- **Married at First Sight UK axed** — cast react with "relief, tears and sadness".
- A Gladiator II stuntman sues over injuries from an on-set explosion.
- "Misleading" student loans information left out examples of higher-salary repayments.

- Dutch launch shows people-smugglers are adapting, warns MP.

? Quick Summary

Story	Key point
Russell Brand	Convicted Thu (rape + 3 sexual assaults); police eye 10+ more complainants; rape-trial law review
Thomas Markle	Charged over child sex abuse material; house arrest in Florida, aged 82
Bank of England	Rates up to 4% — first hike in 3+ years; Iran war driving energy prices
Brexit reset	Ministers fear "no plan"; Rejoin door open per Burnham; 20 Nov EU summit
Welfare	Milburn + Timms reviews due next week; up to £6bn back-to-work spend
Trump	Stephen Miller new chief of staff; Cabinet shake-up after midterm wipeout
Ukraine talks	Russia-US-Ukraine in Abu Dhabi from Tuesday
Europe threats	Bomb threats hit flights/airports/media in 5+ countries
Markets	AI/data-centre sell-off: Nasdaq in correction, Nikkei −6.2%
Wales	Swansea shooting arrests; drone college devolution row; Wales v Japan today
G20 2027	Putin will not be invited to Manchester summit

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