UK Headlines — 12 Oct 2026

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? Top Story

Russia hammers Ukrainian power plants hours after Trump declares an "energy ceasefire" Donald Trump wrote on Truth Social on Sunday morning that "effective immediately, there is an energy ceasefire in the war between Russia and Ukraine… Do not break it!" — with no details, no confirmation from Moscow, and to Volodymyr Zelenskyy's evident surprise ("news to me"). Within hours a drone had hit a power plant in Kyiv, causing outages, and glide bombs and drones struck Kharkiv's CHP-5 plant. Zelenskyy said Ukrainian skies had been "infested with Russian shaheds all day". Six people were killed in Sunday's strikes, including three at a Kharkiv grocery store (two children among 20 injured) and three in western Ukraine. The UK, France, Canada and the European Commission backed the idea of a ceasefire — PM Andy Burnham called a sustained energy truce "the best route to get energy and fuel back into world markets" — but the announcement follows Trump's controversial deal to buy Russian diesel while temporarily easing sanctions, which prompted fury in Kyiv and European capitals. Trump, asked about the criticism, said it was "time for Ukraine to get a new president"; Zelenskyy retorted it is "up to our people to choose one or another leader". The FT reports Washington is now threatening to halt the US weapons-procurement pipeline for Ukraine to stop Kyiv's deep strikes on Russian refineries. (Guardian, NPR, PBS, BBC, Telegraph, ABC News)

?? UK Politics

- **Labour holds Holborn & St Pancras — Greens close but second.** Sagal Abdi-Wali, leader of Camden Council, won Starmer's vacated seat with 12,292 votes to Green leader Zack Polanski's 8,928 — a ~22-point swing to the Greens in one of Labour's safest seats. The result reassures Andy Burnham in his first big electoral test as PM; Polanski is under pressure to resign, with the head of Jewish Greens among those calling for it. Reform came fourth, ahead of the Lib Dems and Restore Britain. (Guardian, Reuters, BBC, Camden Council)

- **Farage pledges to shut down the asylum system for five years.** Reform UK's most hardline border policy yet: a five-year ban on asylum grants, 90,000 existing applicants deported immediately, all new applications rejected, all asylum tribunals, legal refugee routes and resettlement schemes scrapped. Farage calls it a "massive crisis" response; critics say the numbers don't add up and it would breach international law. (Telegraph, BBC, Sun, ITV, Belfast Telegraph)
- **Healey faces a £35bn Budget hole — tax raid looms.** The IFS warns the Chancellor's maiden Budget (28 October) risks being a "work of fiction" without a credible plan for ~£35bn of spending pressures driven by rearmament and Iran-war inflation. Defence Secretary Wes Streeting has confirmed an extra £4.7bn for defence, but the IFS says taxes must rise or Whitehall faces sweeping cuts. Note: John Healey succeeded Rachel Reeves as Chancellor under Burnham. (Telegraph, Guardian, Times, i)
- **Burnham's honeymoon continues in the polls.** Survation (2–5 Oct): Lab 30% (+1), Ref 24%. YouGov (4–5 Oct): Lab 27%, Ref 22% (-3), Con 20%, LD 11%, Grn 11%. Opinium has Labour up six; the PollCheck moving average (10 Oct) shows Lab 28.1 / Ref 23.4 / Con 19.1 / Grn 9.9 / LD 9.4. Labour's highest rating since late 2024/early 2025 depending on pollster. (Survation, YouGov, Opinium, PollCheck)
- **Burnham pledges to publish details of dealings with lobbyists** — Sky News live blog also notes he called Zelenskyy Sunday to reaffirm UK support for Ukraine. (Sky)
- **Royal:** Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor was awarded **£302,000 compensation** by the Crown Estate for surrendering his Royal Lodge lease early (within its first 25 years), while facing an £1.8m repair bill on the property — the King is reportedly footing that. He has moved to a privately-owned property on the Sandringham Estate. (AP, Guardian, i, Euronews)

? World

- **Riyadh airport hit by second Houthi strike in two days.** Saturday's missile attack on King Khalid International killed 12–13 and wounded 300+ — Saudi Arabia's deadliest attack in years — including a Saudia captain and a US national; Sunday's follow-up killed a Pakistani resident and struck a passenger terminal. The Houthis declared a "maritime embargo" against Saudi Arabia. The Telegraph reports Trump is considering joining Saudi strikes on the Houthis. (BBC, CNN, NYT, Al Jazeera, Telegraph, ITV)
- **New Zealand votes — poll-day coverage of a tight three-way race.** Reuters published its factbox on the main parties vying to form the next government as campaigning enters its final phase ahead of the 7 November election. (Reuters, Vote NZ)
- **Congo Ebola death toll passes 4,000.** 4,018 dead of 8,300 confirmed cases — the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak in history — as a treatment centre was burned down by a group trying to retrieve a body. (NY Post, Medical Xpress, The Hindu)
- **Trump–Putin friction reaches his own party:** Republicans "turn on Trump over Putin deal" (Telegraph), with the Russian diesel purchase the flashpoint.

??????? Wales

- **'Prepare for the unthinkable' — NRW autumn flooding warning.** Natural Resources Wales says long-range forecasts point to a heightened flood risk this autumn; Wales saw 20% above-average rainfall this autumn season already. People urged to check flood plans now. (BBC Wales)
- **Atherton Bikes factory fire devastates Machynlleth.** Around 30 firefighters tackled the blaze at the Treowain business park factory run by world champion mountain bikers Dan, Gee and Rachel Atherton; the siblings said they were "devastated" and "heartbroken" for their staff. Residents advised to keep windows shut. (ITV Wales, BBC, WalesOnline, Shropshire Star)
- **Rhun ap Iorwerth's devolution row with Burnham continues:** the First Minister told the Plaid conference he has looked Burnham "in the eye and said do not undermine Wales as a nation, do not bypass our Senedd", pressing for fairer funding and stronger powers. (Nation.Cymru, BBC)
- **Today's weather:** damp and grey with drizzly spells and coastal/hill fog; brighter breaks possible in the east this afternoon. No Met Office warnings currently in force. (WalesOnline, Met Office)

? UK News

- **Tiger that mauled man to death will NOT be euthanised.** Yorkshire Wildlife Park near Doncaster confirmed Altai, a young male Siberian tiger, is "safe and well" after a man — not yet formally named — climbed into his enclosure on Saturday and was killed. The park said the animal behaved as a tiger should; police are not treating it as suspicious. (Guardian, BBC via Google News, TMZ, NY Post, UPI)
- **Met chief Rowley: DEI 'toxicity' won't stop me** — Sir Mark Rowley says he will have more police officers of colour in the Met despite the political climate. (Guardian)
- **Arrest after car hits war memorial wall in East Grinstead** (Age UK building nearby), Sussex. (BBC Sussex)

? Culture & Feel-Good

- **Powderfinger reunite after 16 years** — all five members confirmed for an 18-date Australian stadium tour in Sep–Oct 2027; tickets on general sale today (AEDT). One of Australia's most decorated rock acts, last live in 2010. (Guardian, ABC, Rolling Stone AU, SMH)
- **Dafydd Owain's second album wins the 2026 Welsh Music Prize.** (Guardian Wales)
- **Cardiff Half Marathon weekend:** 30,000+ runners; Transport for Wales added earlier race-day trains. (Wales247)

? Quick Summary

Story	Status	Key numbers
Ukraine "energy ceasefire"	Trump claims deal; Russia strikes anyway	6 killed Sunday; Kyiv + Kharkiv plants hit
Holborn & St Pancras by-election	Labour hold	Lab 12,292 / Grn 8,928; ~22pt Green swing
Farage asylum pledge	Announced Sun 11 Oct	5-year ban; 90,000 deportations
Budget black hole	IFS warning	£35bn gap; Budget 28 Oct; +£4.7bn defence
Riyadh airport attacks	2nd strike in 2 days	13+ killed Sat, 300+ injured
Congo Ebola	Outbreak worsening	4,018 dead / 8,300 cases
NRW flood warning	Autumn risk raised	20% above-avg rainfall
Polling (Survation 2–5 Oct)	Burnham honeymoon	Lab 30 / Ref 24

Compiled Monday 12 October 2026, 08:00–08:15 BST by Emrys □□ via SearXNG sweep + Playwright fetch (Guardian Ukraine briefing). Sources: Guardian, BBC, Reuters, Telegraph, Sky News, ITV, AP, NPR, PBS, CNN, NYT, Al Jazeera, WalesOnline, Nation.Cymru, Survation, YouGov, Opinium, PollCheck.

Revision #2
Created 2026-10-12 07:06:35 UTC by Admin
Updated 2026-10-12 07:06:36 UTC by Admin