

UK Headlines — 19 Sep 2026

? Headlines — 19 September 2026

Saturday 19 September 2026 · Compiled 08:03 BST

? Top Stories

Earl Spencer doubles down on Diana book claims

Princess Diana's brother has told the BBC he is "telling the truth" about a phone call with King Charles in the days after her death. In a new book, *Swan Song: Diana, My Sister*, Earl Spencer claims the then-Prince of Wales said "we'll forget her soon enough" during an argument over whether Princes William and Harry should walk in Diana's funeral procession.

Speaking to Laura Kuennsberg at his Althorp estate, Earl Spencer said: "I can tell you here and now, those are exactly the words he said." He claimed Charles "went ballistic" and "ranted for a while", saying he told family and friends at the time "because it was so monstrous". Buckingham Palace responded that the King was "mindful that the pain of fraternal grief can cloud reason, affect judgement and colour memory". Spencer's reply: "Is he furious? Is he furious or is he embarrassed?"

The book, expected to be highly critical of the Royal Family, is published next week. The full interview airs on BBC iPlayer on Sunday from 16:00 BST and BBC One at 18:30 BST.

US and Denmark reach deal over Greenland after Trump annexation threats

The US and Denmark have announced a security deal on Greenland, resolving a diplomatic dispute sparked by President Trump's threats to seize the territory by force. Trump said the agreement

grants the US "permanent control over security, and all other needs".

Danish PM Mette Frederiksen said the deal "strengthens our common security in the Arctic and the North Atlantic area" while recognising "the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom". The deal will be signed at the UN General Assembly next week and requires parliamentary approval. No text has been released. Among reported provisions: the US gains unilateral power to build military structures without Greenlandic or Danish approval, non-Nato countries are banned from building bases, and the deal would not expire even if Greenland became independent.

NATS chaos caused by 'millisecond' software defect

An air traffic control failure that cancelled more than 2,000 flights was caused by a "software defect" affecting the system underpinning UK airspace management, NATS has said. The problem happened "in the space of a millisecond", producing corrupted data.

Chief executive Martin Rolfe said he would not resign, calling the defect "very, very obscure". Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander called the disruption "completely unacceptable". Airlines UK is writing to NATS to demand immediate compensation. The defect occurred at 10:00 on 8 September but was not identified as serious for another two and a half hours; restrictions were not lifted until 19:30. It is the third national air traffic incident in three years.

No 10 leak inquiry launched

A leak inquiry has begun after a Sky News exclusive revealed Number 10's strategy papers on Sir Keir Starmer's plan to stay in power. Sky's analysis of the leaked document found that of 50 ideas studied, 20 were announced by Starmer before his departure in July, six have already been announced by Andy Burnham, and a further eight are expected within weeks.

Trump moves against the press

President Trump says he is banning CNN and Politico from the White House. It comes as he signed a sweeping Russia sanctions bill, and told reporters he had "banned" three broadcasters from the press pool.

Saudi Arabia issues first air raid alerts for Riyadh

Saudi Arabia issued air raid alerts for its capital for the first time since the Houthis escalated attacks, as the group's biggest land grab in years reignites Yemen's 12-year civil war and pushes up global fuel prices.

Pakistan mosque attack kills 21

A car-bomb attack on a mosque at a police compound in north-western Pakistan killed at least 21 people and injured more than 100. Fifteen police officers and a four-year-old child were among the dead in the attack in Kohat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A faction of the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) is suspected.

?? UK Politics

- **Ireland visit a "very good start"** — Ireland's relationship with the UK under Andy Burnham is off to a positive beginning, days after Trump made comments about supporting a united Ireland. A top Tory told Trump: "Don't be silly" over the Falklands and Irish unity.
- **Reform's mega-donations row** — Reform UK received a record £36m from crypto billionaire Ben Delo, plus another £36m matching pledge from Thailand-based crypto investor Christopher Harborne. Context: Labour's entire 2024 election budget was about £9m. Police are investigating alleged breaches of foreign funding laws after a Channel 4 News undercover broadcast; Farage also faces a parliamentary standards inquiry over an undeclared £5m gift. A senior figure called it "a gobsmacking sum".
- **Burnham vs Badenoch** — Politics has revived a red-versus-blue dynamic. Burnham told the Commons that "national security couldn't come at the expense of social security" — a line the Tories have seized on as evidence he would never cut welfare to fund defence.
- **Youth Parliament to be axed** — The UK Youth Parliament looks set to be scrapped; "disappointment" reported at 07:47 BST today.
- **Tom Watson joins Palantir** — The ex-Labour deputy leader has taken a role at the US data firm.
- **Lib Dem conference** — Party members are eager for their leader to show a radical side; "not just 'Nice Guy Eddie'".
- **Badenoch instructs lawyers** — The Tory leader is challenging the government over a Tory-run council's 94% tax hike.
- **Healey lobbies the EU** — The Business Secretary will ask EU finance ministers to let the UK into the "Made in Europe" scheme.
- **Thames Water rescue deal should be rejected, say MPs** — As is the British Steel plan, which MPs say "lacks credibility".
- **RNLI under pressure** — The charity warned volunteers not to wear branded clothing after far-right threats; an RNLI video received "pure hatred" after anti-migrant protests.
- **Housing crunch warning** — The Resolution Foundation warns of a "cost of housing" crunch looming for low-income families.
- **Reform immigration plan** — Reform UK has pledged immigration spot checks and fines at the Irish border.
- **Parliament rises** — MPs have retired from a gruelling two-week session for a month-long recess.
- **Eurovision scrutiny** — MPs will examine the UK's "dismal" song choices.

- **Dementia target** — Andy Burnham has been urged to set a dementia waiting-time target.
-

? World

- **Greenland** — US and Denmark strike security deal after Trump's annexation threats (see Top Stories).
 - **Trump sanctions** — Sweeping Russia sanctions bill signed; Macron separately warned that Russian hybrid attacks against Europe are "intensifying".
 - **White House press ban** — CNN and Politico barred from White House access.
 - **Yemen & Gulf** — Houthi land grab reignites the civil war and pushes up global fuel prices; first air raid alerts for Riyadh.
 - **Pakistan** — Mosque car-bombing at a police compound in Kohat kills at least 21, injures 100+.
 - **North Korea** — The IAEA says North Korea has built a two-storey uranium enrichment facility, describing it as "cause for serious concern".
 - **Google Gemini hacked three companies** in a security test, the company has disclosed.
 - **South Africa** — Grim discoveries of murdered women spark fear.
 - **Russia** — A Pussy Riot member recruited by Russian spies to inform on fellow activists tells her story.
 - **Ryanair apology** — Michael O'Leary has said he is "truly sorry" for describing rival airlines as "high-fare rapists", having previously refused to apologise to the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre.
 - **US** — Row over plans to demolish the Kennedy Center; Kerry Kennedy says "it would be a tragedy".
 - **World Cup** — Cristiano Ronaldo named in Portugal's first squad since the World Cup, at the age of 41.
-

??????? Wales

- **Sheen meets the First Minister** — Michael Sheen held a "constructive" meeting with First Minister Rhun ap Iorwerth over the toxic dumping claims raised in his BBC documentary *Buried*. Sheen said it was "early days but that's really encouraging". The film tested 14 sites in Wales and north-west England linked to Monsanto for cancer-causing PCBs, finding elevated levels at all but one. Sheen has urged MPs to back a national testing programme for historic toxic dumps.
- **Wales stun South Africa** — Wales ended a nine-match losing run with an emphatic victory over South Africa in the autumn opener.
- **Swiss Alps crash** — Tributes paid to a "deeply caring" Welsh dad killed in a plane crash in the Swiss Alps.

- **Rail fares warning** — Train passengers could be overcharged by a new pay-as-you-go scheme, a council has warned.
 - **Emergency food aid** — Welsh councils are to share £5m in "emergency food aid" as living costs rise.
 - **Constituency names** — New Welsh constituency names could be changed again.
 - **Far-right march** — A far-right march forced the cancellation of a children's procession in Swansea.
 - **Reform's 20mph claim** — Reform UK has been accused of twisting 20mph road death figures.
 - **Senedd** — Commentators ask whether a new leader will end the turmoil engulfing the Reform group at the Senedd; "the Senedd's back with a bump".
 - **Cancer services** — Welsh Conservatives have called for urgent action over cancer failings in south-east Wales.
 - **Wales Covid Inquiry** — Module 3 report published 17 September.
 - **Sport** — Rhys Carre named Wales men's player of the year; Glamorgan beat Surrey to seal Division One status; Wilson a major Wales injury concern for the Nations League.
 - **Culture** — Matthew Rhys celebrated a historic Emmy Awards double win; Zeta-Jones said "nepo baby is a horrific term".
-

? Business & Economy

- **NATS report** — "Millisecond" software defect behind 2,000+ cancelled flights; Airlines UK demands compensation.
 - **Tata Sons** — India's corporate crown braces for change.
 - **AI scams** — Food festivals across the UK are being exploited in an AI-powered scam, the BBC found.
 - **Learner drivers** — Rising costs are pushing learners to YouTube and TikTok, but instructors warn of risks.
 - **Housing** — Resolution Foundation warns of a coming cost-of-housing crunch.
-

? Crime & Justice

- **Gary Glitter charged** — Prosecutors have charged former pop star Paul Gadd, better known as Gary Glitter, with unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl aged under 13 and three counts of indecency.
- **Channel crossing** — A teenager who piloted a small boat carrying 165 migrants across the Channel has been jailed.
- **Nottingham attacks** — The family of the victims condemned a police promotion.
- **MI5 admits false evidence** — MI5 accepts it gave evidence based on lies in a neo-Nazi spy case.

- **Putney pusher** — The sisters of suspect Nicholas Brandram say DNA will clear his name, telling the BBC their brother did not match the description.
- **Armadale shooting** — A man has appeared in court charged with murder.
- **Leicestershire** — A driver who killed a woman celebrating her 60th birthday has been jailed.
- **Missing Lillia, 13** — A new sighting has been reported in Manchester.
- **A Very British Cult** — Three men lost their appeal against convictions for harassing a BBC journalist.

?? Feel-Good Roundup

- **A "mind-blowing" gift** — A mum's Facebook plea for a kidney prompted a total stranger to donate.
- **Giant jellyfish** — Footage captured a giant jellyfish with "40ft tentacles" on camera.
- **'Get in'** — A woman joined a police chase by giving an officer a lift in her Nissan Micra.
- **Homeless World Cup** — A Welsh student has been selected to represent Wales at the tournament in Mexico.
- **Forced adoption records** — Newly accessible records could "unlock" missing family histories.

? Quick Summary

Category	Lead story
📄 Top	Earl Spencer insists Diana book claims are true in BBC interview
📄 Politics	No 10 leak inquiry launched after Sky News exposé
📄 World	US and Denmark strike Greenland security deal after Trump threats
📄 World	Saudi Arabia issues first air raid alerts for Riyadh
📄📄📄📄📄📄📄📄 Wales	Sheen holds "constructive" talks with First Minister on toxic dumping
📄 Business	NATS blames "millisecond" software defect for flight chaos
📄 Crime	Gary Glitter charged over historic child sex offences
♥ Feel-good	Stranger donates kidney after Facebook plea

Revision #3
Created 2026-09-19 07:03:07 UTC by Admin
Updated 2026-09-19 07:03:24 UTC by Admin