UK Headlines — 27 Oct 2026

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? Top Stories

Israel votes today in first election since 7 October attacks

Israelis head to the polls for the 26th Knesset — the first national election since the Hamas attack of October 2023. PM Benjamin Netanyahu (Likud, projected 21–23 seats per Al Jazeera) faces his toughest test yet from former IDF chief Gadi Eisenkot's "Together" alliance, with neither bloc holding a clear path to a majority in final polls. Arab, haredi and overall turnout could prove decisive. The Telegraph frames it as "Victory or prison: Bibi's last stand"; both main contenders oppose an independent Palestinian state. (Reuters, DW, JPost, Al Jazeera)

Oleshky truce begins in southern Ukraine — brokered by Melania Trump

A localised ceasefire took effect early Tuesday around the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky, ahead of a humanitarian mission brokered by the US First Lady directly with Russian and Ukrainian leadership. The BBC reports residents had eaten weeds to survive; the truce allows aid deliveries and evacuations from the front-line city (population once 24,000, ~2,000 evacuated so far). Missile attacks resumed in Kyiv even as the local truce began. (NPR, Reuters, White House, BBC)

UN inquiry: Russia committed crimes against humanity in Ukraine

An independent UN investigations panel (reported by OHCHR on Monday 26 October) concluded Russian authorities committed war crimes and crimes against humanity through systematic attacks

on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, deliberately depriving civilians of heat and power. (OHCHR, UN News, CNN)

?? UK Politics

Budget eve: Healey's "everyday fixes" and the marmalade pledge

Chancellor John Healey delivers his first Budget tomorrow (Wednesday 28 October, ~12:30pm after PMQs) — the biggest indication yet of PM Andy Burnham's priorities. Ahead of it, Healey announced a pre-Budget package of cost-of-living "everyday fixes" including tariff cuts on some staple goods — pledged to make "marmalade and gherkins" cheaper. The BBC's Chris Mason analysis: Burnham faces crunch decisions and tricky trade-offs in his next 100 days. Retailers also report a rise in sales of radios and tinned foods after official calls to stock up. (BBC, Institute for Government, PwC)

Burnham in retreat over EU freedom of movement

Downing Street was forced to clarify the PM's stance after Burnham told the Sunday Times he wanted an "honest discussion" about a new relationship with Brussels that could include full EU membership or single market membership — which would require free movement. Burnham then insisted he would not return the UK to freedom of movement without a referendum ("never move ahead" of the public), and No 10 played down single market joining — while the Telegraph reports UK and EU officials have actually discussed options for reinstating free movement. Labour's 2024 manifesto ruled all three out. Nigel Farage slammed the comments as "Brexit betrayal". (Guardian, BBC, Independent, Telegraph, Irish Times)

Henry Nowak murder: independent review announced

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood launched an independent review into whether opportunities were missed to prevent the December 2025 murder of Henry Nowak, the 18-year-old University of Southampton accountancy student stabbed to death in Southampton. Ex-Justice Secretary Alex Chalk KC will lead the two-part review — examining what was known about the killer, missed chances to intervene (including whether reports were held back through a "misplaced sense of cultural sensitivity"), and the family's treatment by the justice system. It reports within five months. The IOPC is separately investigating the police response after bodycam footage showed Nowak handcuffed and left dying despite repeatedly telling officers he'd been stabbed and couldn't breathe. Kemi Badenoch welcomed the review; the Nowak family called it "a significant moment in

our fight for justice". (BBC, Guardian, GB News)

NHS consultants to strike 25–26 November

England's most senior hospital doctors will walk out for two days over pay, hours and workload — the BMA says pay has fallen 25% in real terms since 2009-10 and last week's 2.4% offer (well below inflation) was "the last straw"; consultants also want a 10% cut in working hours. Hospitals will run Christmas-Day-style emergency cover only. NHS Alliance chief Ciarán Devane said leaders were "astonished and dismayed" given the 6m+ patient waiting-list backlog; Health Secretary Yvette Cooper urged consultants not to take "irresponsible action". DHSC sources counter that the BMA's demands would cost taxpayers over £2bn, citing £152k average consultant earnings. More than three-quarters of balloted consultants voted for action. (Guardian, BMA, BBC, Sky)

Also in Westminster

- **Rosebank cabinet split:** The Guardian reports a split over approving drilling at the Rosebank oilfield (biggest undeveloped field in UK waters, ~500m barrels), with Chancellor Healey in favour and the Energy Secretary reported to resist — decision looming.
- **Conversion practices:** The Joint Committee on the Draft Conversion Practices Bill published its call for evidence today.
- **Lords business:** Third reading of the Armed Forces Bill; second reading debate on the general purposes of the Elections Bill.
- **VAWG strategy:** Commons committee takes oral evidence this morning on the update to the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (published December 2025).
- **BBC payout:** An Oscar-winning producer says the BBC paid her £400,000 after she raised antisemitism concerns.

? World

- **Brazil — Lula wins historic fourth term:** The 80-year-old left-winger defied the polls with a dramatic comeback, taking ~51.8% against Flávio Bolsonaro; Bolsonaro refuses to concede. Lula faces a conservative Congress and economic strain — and the BBC notes the comeback "dents Trump's ambitions for Latin America". (BBC, Telegraph, ITV)
- **Jordan strikes Syria:** Jordan carried out a deadly air strike in Syria in retaliation for a church attack. (BBC)
- **Comey charged again:** Ex-FBI director James Comey faces federal charges for the third time. (BBC)
- **North Korea:** Test-fired missiles amid regional tensions (NY Post world desk); follows ballistic missile tests on 12 October and a submarine-launched cruise missile test on 14 October. (AP, France24)

- **Mbappé dropped by Chinese sponsors:** Major Chinese brands are dropping Kylian Mbappé as backlash grows over a "Mao joke". (BBC)
- **Apple iPhone Duo:** Apple says it will replace iPhone Duo handsets with screen problems. (BBC)
- **US midterms loom:** With Israel and the US both going to the polls, the BBC's analysis desk notes "the consequences will be global".

??????? Wales

First Minister: "Lessons learned" after summer budget defeat

Rhun ap Iorwerth says his minority Plaid Cymru government has learned "lessons" after its £300m supplementary budget was defeated in the Senedd in July, promising to "improve the way we engage with others" before the winter budget. He told BBC Wales he could have pulled the vote but it was "useful in the broader picture, for everything to have been laid bare". Welsh Conservative leader Darren Millar said he was "pleased to see this humility" but warned of "how little headroom there is in the Welsh budget"; Reform's finance spokesman Cai Parry-Jones called the summer debacle "a masterclass in how not to achieve things as a minority government". The Welsh government must pass its annual budget, usually in the winter months. (BBC Wales)

? Weather — Storm Boelo aftermath

Storm Boelo left thousands without power as the Met Office issued a new wind warning, with tributes paid to a man killed by a falling tree. Disruption continues on some routes as cleanup proceeds. (BBC)

? Feel-Good Roundup

- **Busted's James Bourne:** The singer says his "hero" brother saved his life with a kidney donation. (BBC)
- **Jay-Z** announced as Super Bowl half-time show performer. (BBC)
- **V&A strike called off:** Unions suspended the planned Victoria & Albert Museum strike after an improved pay offer. (Guardian)

? Quick Summary

Story	Status	Key detail
Israel election	Voting today	Netanyahu vs Eisenkot; no bloc near majority in final polls
Oleshky ceasefire	In effect since early Tue	Melania Trump-brokered; aid + evacuations; Kyiv strikes continue
UN Ukraine report	Published Mon 26 Oct	War crimes + crimes against humanity — energy infrastructure attacks
UK Budget 2026	Tomorrow 12:30pm	Healey's first; pre-Budget tariff cuts on staples ("marmalade and gherkins")
Burnham/EU row	Clarified, not closed	No free movement without referendum; Telegraph: UK-EU discussed options
Henry Nowak review	Launched	Alex Chalk KC leads; reports in 5 months; IOPC probe continues
NHS consultants	Strike 25–26 Nov	Emergency cover only; 75%+ of ballot voted for action
Rosebank	Cabinet split	Healey for drilling; decision looming
Brazil	Lula wins (51.8%)	4th term; Bolsonaro refuses to concede
Wales budget	Winter budget ahead	Ap Iorwerth: "lessons learned" after July defeat
Storm Boelo	Aftermath	Thousands without power; one death; new wind warning

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Compiled: Tuesday 27 October 2026, 08:00 GMT — sources: BBC News, The Guardian, Reuters, NPR, OHCHR/UN News, Al Jazeera, JPost, DW, Telegraph, Independent, GB News, BMA, Sky News, Welsh Government/BBC Wales, SearXNG sweep.

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