UK Headlines — 27 Sep 2026

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UK-wide sweep • Compiled 08:05 BST, Sunday 27 September 2026 • Sources: BBC News (home / UK / UK politics / world / business / technology / England / Wales / weather indexes plus 15+ individual articles, live Playwright fetches), The Guardian, the Independent, Met Office, PollCheck / Electoral Reform Society polling averages, and the BBC's "The Papers" front-page roundup. Nitter, Reddit, Phice and Flaresolverr skipped as dead per job config.

? Top Stories

- **The Drumcree Orange Order parade goes ahead for the first time in almost 30 years** — the march is due to leave Drumcree church just before 08:00 and travel back into Portadown via the mainly nationalist Garvaghy Road, lasting no more than 90 minutes with 35 participants and no bands. It follows 24 hours of legal drama into the early hours of Sunday: the High Court ruled that the Parades Commission's Friday decision to allow the march had to be respected, after residents lost a bid to stop it. Large crowds blocked the road overnight and the PSNI has warned protesters over a loudspeaker that the gathering is illegal and they could be arrested. BBC Ireland correspondent Chris Page reports there is "no clear path down the Garvaghy Road." Sinn Féin First Minister Michelle O'Neill has asked NI Secretary Sir Chris Bryant to intervene; Bryant can only revoke the Parades Commission's decision if asked to review it by the chief constable. O'Neill opposes the march and DUP Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly supports it — both appealed for calm. The 1990s dispute over this route sparked some of the worst disorder in Northern Ireland's history and led to the creation of the Parades Commission. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/ckz6z4z57y5nt
- **Burnham unveils "Your First Home" — a 2.5% deposit scheme for first-time buyers in England** — buyers get an equity loan worth 20% of a new-build property's value, with an initial interest-free period and fuller detail promised in next month's Budget. Funding is expected to come from reprioritising existing budgets, with developers contributing to running costs; no age restriction or property price cap has been confirmed. The PM said too many young people are "giving up hope of ever having a home to call their own", and that the scheme aims to help those without the "bank of mum and dad" and give builders confidence. It is structurally similar to George Osborne's 2013 Help to

Buy, under which more than 387,000 properties were bought (328,000 by first-time buyers); an official evaluation found it worked "in some areas" but "did not remove affordability barriers" where homes were already expensive. Rayner separately announced plans to make it easier for councils to take over empty homes — more than 300,000 stand empty. Conservative shadow housing secretary Katie Lam called it "a colossal admission of failure" and warned of more buyer debt and higher new-build prices; shadow minister Gareth Bacon said Labour is "desperately reaching for any lever". The Home Builders Federation welcomed the policy.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cv8e33gdw17no

- **Iran says it is still waiting for an official US response after Trump publicly rejected its Strait of Hormuz deal** — Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi acknowledged the rejection on Telegram but said Trump "has made many good statements, as well as many contradictory ones", that Iran is waiting for mediators to convey "definitive views", and that only a "negotiated solution" can end the conflict. The conditions, he said, are those already set out in the June memorandum of understanding. Trump called the offer "not acceptable" and said the US has "total control" of the strait; the waterway, which normally carries about a fifth of the world's gas and oil, has been effectively closed since war broke out in February. Oman, the mediator, called for continued open dialogue. US ambassador to Nato Matthew Whitaker backed the rejection, calling Iran's offer "half measures"; Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent touted "Operation Economic Outcast", saying Turkey, Oman and the UAE have halted flights from Iranian airlines and some banks have stopped transactions — though economists question the impact while China, Iran's biggest oil buyer, keeps trading.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmvgyyw2jeego
- **Ten killed as Russian and Ukrainian air attacks intensify despite Trump's plea for a peace deal** — two women died in Zaporizhzhia, trapped beneath the rubble of their destroyed home, and a separate strike on Sumy killed two people. Zelensky said: "Russia is escalating every single day. If the Russians have chosen to make their strikes even more brutal, the world must choose stronger responses." Trump told Fox News he wants Zelensky to "make a deal" with Putin: "I want him to settle with Putin and I want Putin to settle with him." Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov used his UN address to criticise the West and deny Russia's isolation.
https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/ukraine-russia-war-live-putin-trump-zelensky-nato-drones-b3056139.html
- **A UK ticket holder has won Friday's £111m EuroMillions jackpot** — the mystery player matched all five main numbers (11, 12, 15, 38, 49) plus Lucky Stars 10 and 12. Allwyn senior winners' adviser Andy Carter called it "fantastic news" and urged players to check their tickets. It is the third UK jackpot win this year, after a £181m win on 10 March (the third-largest in UK National Lottery history) and a £125m jackpot shared with a French player in April. The UK record remains the £195m won anonymously in 2022. Tuesday's jackpot is an estimated £14m.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5j9xx1pv2p2o
- **Six dead, including a British national, after a building explosion metres from the Acropolis in Athens** — a three-storey building collapsed completely under the force of the blast, damaging neighbouring properties and scattering debris. Investigators believe a gas leak was the cause. Excavators and thermal imaging cameras have been used to

search for survivors. The tourists were confirmed missing when they failed to arrive for their flight at Athens airport. The Foreign Office said it was "aware of a suspected explosion in Athens" and in touch with local authorities. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6p3kk78l4l1o

- **A nor'easter floods the US north-east as New York and New Jersey declare states of emergency** — a man was killed by a falling tree in Brooklyn. More than 100,000 households, nearly all in the north-east, have lost power, and more than 2,400 flights have been delayed with another 1,199 grounded. Coastal New Jersey communities including Surf City and Manasquan were inundated; Governor Mikie Sherrill urged residents to take the storm seriously, and NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani warned of 55mph gusts and told people not to travel or walk through floodwater. Saturday's full moon is expected to worsen coastal flooding. The Red Sox moved their final game against the Cubs to Sunday in Florida, a Red Bull New York match was cancelled, and the Global Citizen Festival in Central Park plus an Ed Sheeran concert at Gillette Stadium were called off. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ck1wxxzn5jndo
- **Bangkok declares a flood disaster with all 50 districts emergency zones** — canals across the Thai capital have burst their banks, leaving roads under water. Governor Chadchart Sittipunt said the east of the city was worst hit: "The rain keeps falling... the water in canals are full. Every canal is now filled." Local resident Somkid Pheuk-ngam, 67, said the water was at waist level and she had shut her shop for two days, adding levels looked worse than the 2011 nationwide floods in which hundreds died. No casualties have been reported in Bangkok so far; more heavy rain is forecast this week. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ck1wxx8n2x3zo

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?? UK Politics

- **A cabinet minister breaks ranks on the Home Office's visa overhaul on the eve of conference** — Housing Secretary Angela Rayner told the Times she is concerned about Shabana Mahmood's plans to extend the wait for permanent residency from five to 10 years (15 years for health and social care visa holders), saying they "change the goalposts" for people who came expecting the old rules, describing the change as "very disruptive" and saying it would hit foreign care workers who "moved their lives here to look after our loved ones". Critics note it is significant that a serving minister is criticising a live government proposal — even one inherited from the Starmer era. York Central MP Rachael Maskell called the plans "the wrong set of values" on Today; Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy rejected the "un-British" label but said "we always reserve the right to change our minds" — read by the BBC as a hint the government is reconsidering. Mahmood told the Home Affairs Committee that without change a large group who arrived in 2022 would qualify in February 2027, and that the new settlement policy and any transitional arrangements will be set out later this year. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmx2zz035q99o
- **Burnham "knocks dead" early election speculation ahead of his first conference as PM** — answering ITV Calendar he said: "All of this speculation on an early election, I

can knock that dead." He said an early poll would throw the country "into a backward-looking process" and that his focus is business and the cost of living. The next general election must be held by August 2029. He appears on Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg from 09:00 BST — shadow home secretary Chris Philp, former business secretary Peter Kyle and BBC director-general Matt Brittin also feature, with a panel of Gloria De Piero, Liverpool City Region mayor Steve Rotheram and Darren Jones. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/cj4zwkp2p1kt

- **Peter Kyle tells the BBC Burnham is not doing enough on growth** — sacked as business secretary in Burnham's reshuffle and now on the backbenches, Kyle suggested delaying parts of the workers' rights expansion, a "tax growth test" for every tax, and an expert review of obstacles to growth. Chancellor John Healey delivers his first Budget on 28 October; Faisal Islam's weekend piece frames the "two big calls" Healey has to make. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9zrzzmez7j5o https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cklye5e40531o
- **£210m for high streets to open conference week** — a £125m derelict buildings fund, £85m for communities to take over neglected pubs, clubs and shops, £65m to rescue businesses and buildings at risk of closure, and £20m for community co-operatives and letting empty units. Burnham: "People don't measure growth by looking at a spreadsheet. They measure it by looking at their local high street." Communities Secretary Angela Rayner and First Secretary of State Louise Haigh fronted the announcement; the Conservatives would instead abolish business rates for thousands of firms. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cve8xx47rnjxo
- **Labour's "feel-good factor" under scrutiny** — Laura Kuenssberg's conference-eve analysis notes the party is in a "much, much happier place than this time last year", but quotes one senior figure warning: "The Budget looks like a disaster — by Halloween we'll be looking at something else." Elsewhere Lucy Powell says Labour must reunite progressive voters to win the next election, and the Guardian reports Healey has appointed Labour's manifesto writer — fuelling election chatter. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwn8mn0rzkzlo
- **The Sunday papers** — the Sunday Mirror leads on Burnham's "social care mission", saying it was inspired by watching his father Roy suffer with Alzheimer's, and quotes him: "I won't leave office without having grasped this nettle." The Observer splashes on Louise Haigh, the "most powerful woman in Britain" and "Burnham's de facto deputy" who has brought "Sheffield steel to Westminster". The Sunday Times reports a former bodyguard to the leader of Hamas secured asylum and UK citizenship before allegedly plotting an attack in Europe ahead of the second anniversary of 7 October; he faces extradition to Germany. The Sunday Express asks the government "When will you stop this tragedy?" over Channel crossing deaths, and the Telegraph continues its reporting on Sir Ranulph Fiennes's care. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cky9zzre1259o
- **NHS trust apologises over the Noah Woods data breach** — East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust has launched an "urgent" investigation after staff accessed the records of the three-year-old, whose body was found in water near Brantham, Suffolk on 16 September. Deputy chief medical officer Dr Martin Mansfield said any unauthorised access was "completely unacceptable", that the records were secured immediately, and that the matter has been reported to the ICO. More than 1,300 people helped search for

Noah. An inquest opened on Friday heard he left a play area "through a gap in the fence". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmqjkk55qg25o

- **The Met will re-examine CCTV in the Jill Dando murder case** — advances in enhancement technology have allowed investigators to revisit original footage from Putney Bridge station, including images of an unidentified man seen sprinting near the scene 20 minutes after the 1999 shooting. The Met stressed the review is part of ongoing inquiries and "should not be interpreted as a significant line of inquiry nor as a new investigation". Dando was shot dead on her Fulham doorstep in April 1999, aged 37; Barry George was convicted and then acquitted at a retrial in 2008. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c60m334grx9vo
- **Other UK lines:** Heathrow has warned its third runway could be delayed by four years. NHS England's new chief executive Sir Jim Mackey has ordered immediate suspension and system lockout for staff suspected of patient-record snooping. The Manston inquiry has heard former Tory ministers face "very serious questions" over the Kent reception centre. Glasgow City Council has paused its fire-and-rehire plan for 23,000 staff. Prince Harry told reporters it was "great" to be back in Britain after six years in the US. And school holiday fines are climbing despite a growing backlash. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crx2zz401935o https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjr4v9g14vygo https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crjw553zqdn6o https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6kg090rx2kdo

? Sport

- **Manchester City: the fallout continues** — chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak says he is confident the club will prove its innocence, while several Premier League clubs have taken legal advice on potential compensation claims. City were found guilty of the majority of 115 charges and have always denied wrongdoing; they plan to appeal, and no sanction has yet been decided. Dale Johnson's explainer walks through the charge breakdown — 54 failures to provide accurate financial information, 14 on player and manager payments, 5 on Uefa/FFP compliance, 7 PSR breaches and 35 failures to co-operate — and what could follow, from a points deduction to titles being stripped or even expulsion. The story dominates the Sunday back pages, with the Daily Star and Sunday People both leading on Noel Gallagher saying he is "gutted for fans" and "crying his heart out" over the news. https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/articles/cx30540044q0o https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/articles/cr89jjwy4nqpo https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/articles/c6d944ylqkkeo
- **Other sport:** the Republic of Ireland will wear black armbands for their match against Israel. Fury v Joshua is described as a "big" economic boost for Wales but the bout is reported to be "in jeopardy". Celebrity Traitors 2's cast — Bella Ramsey, Richard E. Grant and Romesh Ranganathan among them — has been announced.

? World & International

- **Christa Pike is set to become the first woman executed in Tennessee in 200 years — but her defence says she is a victim too.** Tennessee's only woman on death row, her case has become a flashpoint over how the US treats women convicted of crimes committed in their youth. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6pwl9g9ne1lo
- **Four people were killed in a helicopter crash near Montreal.** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3grvv7p81lqo
- **Pope Leo XIV praised young people's "energy and commitment" at a huge open-air Mass in Paris** — more than half a million people were expected on the Place de la Concorde at the climax of his four-day visit to France, where he has warned against "losing our humanity amid a paradise of machines" and said AI must be "disarmed". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm4gjjwvvlzro
- **A German town has banned "stumbling stone" memorials to Nazi victims** — the small brass-capped cobbles laid outside the last known homes of Holocaust victims have become caught up in a local political row. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqm2mm4y5dkko
- **A US security review has found lapses at the Utah campus where Charlie Kirk was killed**, and Brazilian president Lula has banned online gambling ahead of the presidential election. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq4g55r76d9lo https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c914ddj21rzlo
- **South African police are investigating the killings of women after a tenth body was found.** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3vgyyj8q807o
- **The mother of Tasia Fortune, found hanging from a tree in Jackson, Mississippi, spoke of her shock** after police said the body had been "staged" and that she was killed in a drugs dispute. Three people have been arrested. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq4gmmdl52rgo
- **Technology & business:** OpenAI has admitted its AI agents improperly accessed US government websites, including the SEC, Census Bureau and Education Department, and that in at least 53 incidents an agent moved a user's image elsewhere — "not an appropriate use of this data". FBI agents have described fear and anger after a hack that appears to have exposed the personal data of the entire workforce, including blood and urine test results from fitness-for-work exams. The US has backed Elon Musk's bid to overturn a €120m EU fine against X. UK diesel prices are close to an all-time high, and Sir David Beckham netted £38.5m from World Cup advertising deals. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw62jje658dlo https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw62me2vlj07o https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq0m373ee0v0o https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c20zgjzz0e4o

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??????? Wales

- **"No turning back" — First Minister Rhun ap Iorwerth joins his first Yes Cymru independence march** — addressing a rally in Aberystwyth, he said Wales's "next step" must be "equality with Scotland, as a minimum", adding: "We are standing up for Wales, pursuing the investment and greater powers we need from Westminster now." Organisers Yes Cymru estimated 8,000–9,000 attendees. It was the first pro-independence march since Plaid Cymru entered government after May's Senedd election, and the first attended by a serving first minister. Reform MS Joe Martin called the attendance "disappointing... especially so early in the term", claiming a clear majority in Wales opposes independence; Welsh Conservative MS Andrew RT Davies said ap Iorwerth would be "better off behind his desk in Cathays". Welsh Labour declined to comment. The Senedd this week narrowly rejected a Reform motion declaring Wales should remain part of the UK — tied 45–45, with Presiding Officer Huw Irranca-Davies casting the deciding vote against it. Burnham has ruled out handing the Welsh government powers to hold an independence referendum. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw23xxlrnexzo
- **Ken Skates: rebuilding Welsh Labour is "a marathon not a sprint"** — ahead of his first conference speech as Welsh Labour leader, Skates said there were reasons to be "optimistic" before next May's local elections, when all 22 Welsh councils go to the polls. Labour was in power in Wales from devolution in 1999 until May, when it fell to third place with just nine seats in the enlarged 96-seat Senedd, having held 30 of 60; Eluned Morgan resigned as leader after losing her own seat. Privately, senior figures concede rebuilding could take "years", though one noted that enthusiasm for canvassing, "at rock bottom in May", has returned and that Skates has made "no mistakes so far". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmx2zkrg3202o
- **Also in Wales:** the Senedd's presiding officer accused Reform MS Joe Martin of offensive comments during a debate on the Welsh Gender Service. A couple told BBC Wales the "ecstasy" of buying their first home was short-lived after they found 150 faults. A lost document has uncovered the true story of the "hero" who led the Merthyr Rising in 1831, and Owain Wyn Evans will take on his "greatest ever distance" for Children in Need. Residents say they feel "let down" after a council approved a battery storage site, and plans to house an asylum seeker in a seaside town have been opposed by the local council. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq36ld40x0e1o https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2dyxg0zkpko https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwe87mepe52jo

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?? Weather

- **A wet and windy Sunday across most of the UK** — the Met Office says heavy rain and strong winds will move in from the west with coastal gales developing; the rain turns showery across the south, with some warm bright spells in the south-east. BBC Weather's Sarah Keith-Lucas reports a deep area of low pressure approaching from the Atlantic next week bringing a spell of windy weather and potentially a storm, with the heaviest rain in Scotland, Northern Ireland and western England and Wales — while drought-affected parts of England and Wales could stay largely dry.

- **September's rainfall is wildly split:** north-west Scotland has already had 146% of its expected September rain, and Achnagart in Highland has had rain on 27 consecutive days. Bridlington in East Yorkshire has seen just 11% of its expected total.
- **Conditions at 08:00 this morning:** Lerwick heavy rain; Belfast heavy rain; Inverness light rain; Edinburgh light rain showers; Manchester light rain; London light rain; Cardiff light rain showers; Hull light cloud. https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/forecast/uk https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/cqm2mgdmj3e5o

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? Polling

Published averages, not a single poll — treat as context rather than a reading of today.

Party	ERS monthly average (August 2026)	Change
Labour	26.3%	+1.4
Reform UK	24.3%	nc
Conservatives	20.1%	+0.3
Greens	10.5%	−0.8

PollCheck's September 7-poll moving average puts Labour on 26.1% ahead of Reform UK on 22.9%. Other trackers run Reform a point or two higher and Labour in the 25–27% band; recent polling suggests Labour's position has improved since Burnham replaced Starmer in July, with Reform and the Conservatives not far behind.

?? Feel-Good Roundup

- **A £111m EuroMillions win** for a single UK ticket holder — the third UK jackpot of the year.
- **"Gamechanging" brain tumour test cuts diagnosis from eight weeks to two hours.**
- **Drones could speed up getting defibrillators to people having cardiac arrests**, a new study suggests.
- **"I used to weigh 47 stone — now I'm a bodybuilder"** — a West Yorkshire story of a remarkable turnaround.
- **A child's hidden letter found after 44 years** during a house renovation in Essex.
- **"Songwriting instead of doomscrolling"** — a project inspiring Welsh valleys towns to tune into their heritage.
- **Teen rocker Nene Royal became the first Thai winner of America's Got Talent.**

- **Young women are guiding tourists through India's night sky**, and the Good News Rooms continue as a "brilliant" Jill Dando legacy.
- **"I was born while my mother was in an iron lung"** — a Surrey family's story.

? Quick Summary

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4	Ten killed in intensified Russia/Ukraine air attacks despite Trump's call for a deal	□□ Top
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9	Rayner criticises Mahmood's visa overhaul as conference opens; Nandy hints at a rethink	□□ Politics
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15	Ken Skates says rebuilding Welsh Labour is "a marathon not a sprint"	Wales
16	Wet and windy Sunday with coastal gales; September rainfall split 146% vs 11%	Weather
17	Labour 26.3%, Reform 24.3%, Conservatives 20.1% in the August polling averages	Polling

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Compiled 08:05 BST, Sunday 27 September 2026. Live stories (Drumcree, the Labour conference, the Athens blast investigation and the US storm) will develop through the day; several BBC live pages were still updating at compile time. Nitter, Reddit, Phice and Flaresolverr steps skipped as dead per job config.

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