UK Headlines — 28 Sep 2026

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Monday morning sweep — UK, world, Wales and politics.

? Top Story

Five arrested over suspected bomb plot near RAF Fairford — police probe Iran link

Counter-terrorism police have arrested five men on suspicion of preparing a terrorist act and explosives offences after armed officers found explosives on three vans parked minutes from RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire — the base used by US military bombers. The arrests followed a member of the public calling 999 after "suspicious vehicles" were reported travelling towards the base in the Whelford area. Residents were briefly evacuated during the operation. Counter-terror officers are investigating whether Iran is behind the plot: Fairford was the subject of a warning from Iran's Revolutionary Guard in July, when the regime cautioned Britain against allowing US bombers to fly from the base. Donald Trump said the suspects were "looking to do big damage" to US forces and had been "watched for a long time".

- BBC: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqrm99mm9l84o
- Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2026/sep/27/arrests-suspected-terrorism-charges-explosives-found-near-raf-base-us
- NPR: https://www.npr.org/2026-09-27/nx-s1-5982480/multiple-arrests-suspicion-explosives-offenses-uk-base-us-forces

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?? UK Politics

Labour Conference (Liverpool): Burnham to fight next election on NHS-style social care

Prime Minister Andy Burnham announced he will go to the next general election with plans for a free-at-the-point-of-delivery, NHS-style social care system for England, saying the current means-tested system is as "unfair as American healthcare" and that "broken social care will eventually break the NHS". He said he would take "difficult but real decisions" on funding — including possible tax rises — but detailed funding proposals won't come until the election manifesto. He is a month away from delivering his first budget.

- BBC: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crwyzd3gv519o
- Independent live blog: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-party-conference-burnham-brexit-b3056968.html
- Sky politics latest: https://news.sky.com/story/politics-latest-burnham-labour-conference-social-care-12593360

"Your First Home": new 2.5% deposit scheme for first-time buyers

Burnham also unveiled a new Help to Buy-style scheme — "Your First Home" — giving first-time buyers in England a 20% equity loan on new-build homes with an initial interest-free period and a minimum deposit of just 2.5%. Household income and deposit caps apply; the government says support is targeted at those without the "bank of mum and dad".

- BBC: https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cv8e33gdw17no
- Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/sep/26/andy-burnham-announces-new-scheme-for-first-time-home-buyers-england

Benefits row: McFadden tells activists not to defend the "status quo"

Chancellor Pat McFadden told Labour activists they should not defend the benefits system "status quo" because it "writes off" claimants — a signal of further welfare reform to come ahead of the budget.

- Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2026/sep/27/uk-politics-live-labour-party-conference-andy-burnham-angela-rayner-latest-news-updates

End-of-life care "broken" — MPs told

A Guardian front-bill story today: "MPs, you told us clearly that end-of-life care in the UK is broken" — pressure mounts on parliament over palliative and end-of-life provision.

- Guardian UK news: https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/all

? World / International

South Africa: at least 27 killed in two mass shootings in one night

Two separate mass shootings near South Africa's two biggest cities killed at least 27 people. Seventeen died when eight gunmen armed with assault rifles stormed a bar in Wedela township, southwest of Johannesburg, on Saturday evening, injuring 15 more; gunmen torched vehicles as they fled. A separate shooting near Durban (KwaMakhutha township) claimed more lives. It brings the week's shooting toll to around 38, as the country grapples with one of the world's highest murder rates amid corruption investigations inside the police.

- BBC: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ck5ywnp075d1o
- Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/sep/27/mass-shootings-south-africa-johannesburg-cape-town
- NPR: https://www.npr.org/2026-09-27/nx-s1-5982488/south-africa-mass-shootings-killed-38-week

Ukraine: overnight drone and glide-bomb attacks on Kyiv and Kharkiv

Russian attacks killed at least three people in Ukrainian cities over the weekend. A jet-powered drone struck a residential building in Kyiv on 27 September; a drone hit a gas station and office building in Kyiv's Holosiivskyi district this morning, and a glide-bomb strike on Kharkiv injured 22, including children (early reports). Two people were also wounded by MLRS shelling in Izium. The US is working to revive Russia–Ukraine ceasefire talks.

- Reuters (via The Star): https://www.thestar.com.my/news/world/2026-09-28/russian-attacks-kills-three-in-ukrainian-cities-strikes-hit-kyiv-districts-officials-say
- RBC-Ukraine live: https://newsukraine.rbc.ua/war-in-ukraine
- Al Jazeera: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/9/25/us-seeking-to-revive-russia-ukraine-ceasefire-talks

Gaza: humanitarian situation at "absolute breaking point" ahead of winter

The UN Security Council heard Gaza's humanitarian situation is at "an absolute breaking point", with 2 million people still trapped and families facing winter in rubble and tents. Gaza's economic collapse has wiped out decades of development — people now earn an average of just 58 cents a day. Aid workers face the delicate task of clearing an estimated 61m tonnes of rubble concealing up to 10,000 bodies. Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said the army should "go to war" in the occupied West Bank and "do there what we did in Gaza".

- UN press release: https://press.un.org/en/2026/sc16440.doc.htm
- Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/world/gaza
- UN News: https://news.un.org/en/story/2026-09-1168427

South Africa refugee deadline looms

Refugees in South Africa fear new attacks as a 30 September deadline looms, with anti-immigrant protests marching in Durban.

- Al Jazeera: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/

??????? Wales

Ken Skates calls for a "new phase of devolution" at Labour Conference

In his first conference speech as Welsh Labour leader, Ken Skates called for a new phase of devolution — distributing power beyond the Senedd to councils, regional institutions and local communities: "We didn't create devolution just to reproduce a Welsh Westminster." He accused Plaid Cymru leader Rhun ap Iorwerth of focusing too much on "constitutional process" while neglecting GP access, schools and the cost of living. Newly elected Scottish Labour leader Michael Marra gave a parallel "renewal" speech.

- ITV Wales: https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2026-09-27/welsh-labour-leader-calls-for-new-phase-of-devolution-in-wales
- WalesOnline: https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/welsh-labour-leader-accuses-rhun-34679152
- LabourList (speech in full): https://labourlist.org/2026/09/welsh-labour-leader-ken-skates-sets-out-vision-to-rebuild-party-his-speech-in-full/

Wales rugby: optimism despite another Test defeat

Wales may have suffered another Test defeat, but BBC Wales sport says Sean Lynn's new-look side has given fans plenty to be optimistic about before next month's trip to Japan.

- BBC Wales: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/wales

Weather

Monday in Wales: sunny intervals, high around 18°C, low 11°C; light rain returning Tuesday. Across the UK, the late-summer warmth has faded — frost, wind and rain as autumn takes hold.

- BBC Weather: https://www.bbc.com/weather/articles/cwp80lxpr71go

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? Business

Beckham nets £38.5m World Cup windfall

Sir David Beckham has taken a £38.5m payout from his sports, fashion and media business after the 2026 Men's Football World Cup helped deliver record profits at DRJB Holdings.

- AGCC business headlines: https://www.agcc.co.uk/news-article/monday-september-28-2026-todays-business-headlines

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? Feel-Good

Son of Nottingham attacks victim runs Robin Hood Half Marathon in his dad's memory

Darren Coates, 45, completed the 13.1-mile Robin Hood Half Marathon in Nottingham on Sunday in memory of his father Ian Coates, the 65-year-old school caretaker killed in the June 2023 Nottingham attacks — raising money for Huntingdon Academy, where Ian worked. Darren says training helped him cope with the trauma of the public inquiry into the killings.

- BBC: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmwyzlj2p771o

- Nottingham Post: https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/nottingham-attacks-victims-son-completes-11174099

World News Day

Today (28 September) is World News Day — the global celebration of fact-based journalism uniting newsrooms worldwide.

- https://worldnewsday.org/

? Quick Summary

Story	Status
RAF Fairford bomb plot	5 arrested; explosives found on 3 vans; Iran link probed
Labour Conference	Burnham: NHS-style free social care at next election; McFadden on benefits reform
Housing	"Your First Home" — 20% equity loan, 2.5% deposit for first-time buyers
South Africa	≥27 dead in two mass shootings (Johannesburg + Durban); ~38 in a week
Ukraine	Kyiv drone strikes, Kharkiv glide bomb (22 injured); US pushes ceasefire talks
Gaza	UN: "absolute breaking point" ahead of winter; 58c/day average income
Wales	Ken Skates calls for new phase of devolution; attacks Plaid on "constitutional process"
Business	Beckham takes £38.5m payout after World Cup record profits
Weather	Autumnal: frost, wind, rain; Wales sunny intervals, 18°C Monday
Feel-good	Nottingham victim's son completes Robin Hood Half for dad's school

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Compiled: Monday 28 September 2026, ~08:10 BST. Sources: BBC, Guardian, Sky News, Independent, ITV Wales, WalesOnline, LabourList, NPR, Al Jazeera, UN News, Reuters, RBC-Ukraine, Nottingham Post, AGCC, Met Office/BBC Weather. Search via SearXNG + web_search; Nitter/Phice/Reddit skipped (dead).

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