

# Summary of Today's News

## SKY

### Suspending parliament 'a constitutional outrage', says Bercow

It was also down by a cent versus the euro at less than 1.10.

### Boris Johnson asks Queen to suspend parliament - cutting time to block no-deal Brexit

*Boris Johnson has asked the Queen to suspend parliament from the middle of next month, which will restrict MPs' ability to block a no-deal Brexit.*

"We are bringing forward a new legislative programme on crime, hospitals, making sure we have the education funding we need." He added there would be "ample time" for MPs to debate Brexit both before and after a "crucial" Brussels summit of EU leaders on 17 October. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said: "I am appalled at the recklessness of Johnson's government, which talks about sovereignty and yet is seeking to suspend parliament to avoid scrutiny of its plans for a reckless no deal Brexit. 3 September - MPs return from summer recess 4 September - Parliament sits 5 September - Parliament sits Week beginning 9 September - Parliament suspended 14-17 September - Liberal Democrat conference 21-25 September - Labour Party conference 29 September to 2 October - Conservative Party conference 14 October - Queen's Speech opens new session of parliament 17/18 October - European Council summit 31 October - UK leaves the EU The prime minister has promised to take the UK out of the EU on Halloween "do or die", despite a majority of the House of Commons being opposed to a no-deal Brexit. Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage predicted such a scenario, posting on Twitter: "The government's announcement today makes a confidence motion now certain, a general election more likely and is seen as a positive move by Brexiteers." Former chancellor Philip Hammond was also among those to claim it would be a "constitutional outrage" if parliament were "prevented from holding the government to account at a time of national crisis". He is trying to stifle their voices." The SNP's Westminster leader Ian Blackford claimed Mr Johnson was "acting like a dictator".

"But this is so controversial because, in effect, it looks like the government is using the Queen to try and put a stop to any potential actions by MPs."

### Boris Johnson's suspension of parliament shows Downing Street wants a Brexit deal

*The British constitution is fraying by the day.*

It is true to say that parliament was due to be in recess for the conference season in late September and early October. It is true that, technically, only a week of parliamentary time will be lost, with parliament returning on 14 October not 7 October. Likewise, the parliamentary furniture of the Queen's Speech will consume much of the debating time in late October, which would have been available to discuss and frustrate a no-deal Brexit.

There will be five days of debate before a Queen's Speech is voted upon. Remainers think the much fabled "Cooper-Letwin" bill, which legally compelled Mrs May to seek an extension to Article 50, avoided a no deal in the spring.

There is a world of difference from trying to force a prime minister who basically doesn't want no deal to avoid one, than it is trying to force one who does.

### Anouska de Georgiou: British actress accuses Jeffrey Epstein of sexually abusing her as a teenager

*A British actress has come forward and claimed she was a victim of convicted paedophile Jeffrey Epstein.*

Jeffrey Epstein manipulated me, coerced me and sexually abused me. Epstein was a registered sex offender after

pleading guilty in 2008 to Florida state charges of unlawfully paying a teenage girl for sex.

### **Amazon fires: Brazil makes U-turn on 16m international aid offer**

*Brazil appears to have backtracked on its rejection of G7 funds to fight the Amazon forest fires, saying it will accept as long as it has control over how the money is spent.*

On Tuesday, Brazil's president Jair Bolsonaro said he would only accept an offer of international aid if French leader Emmanuel Macron withdrew "insults". Brazil's reversal came as a congressional committee approved a proposed constitutional amendment to allow commercial agriculture on indigenous reserves, a practice that is currently prohibited. In Brazilian cities near to the areas where the forest fires are worst, lingering smoke has been causing health problems - particularly among children and the elderly.

### **Dean Saunders: Former Liverpool player jailed for refusing drink-drive breath test**

*Former Liverpool striker Dean Saunders has been jailed for 10 weeks for refusing to give a roadside breath test.*

Clare Bate, prosecuting, said: "The defendant was unsteady on his feet and, on exiting the vehicle, the defendant had to steady himself against the vehicle." The court heard Saunders refused to give a breath test at the roadside three times - and again several times at a police station after he was arrested. Outside court, Mr Johnstone said Saunders was "in shock" and "disappointed". "Throughout these proceedings you have shown yourself to be arrogant, thinking you are someone whose previous and current role in the public eye entitles you to be above the law," he said. "You consistently refused to co-operate." Mr Johnstone said Saunders' legal team planned to apply for bail later today so he does not have to spend time in custody ahead of any future appeal court proceedings.

### **Donald Trumps slams 'false and nasty' claims his luxury Miami golf resort has bedbugs**

*Donald Trump has dismissed "false and nasty" claims that his luxury golf resort in Miami has bed bugs.*

The US president said the allegations were "not nice" and blamed "radical left democrats" for "spreading" rumours about the complex which he insisted was the "perfect" venue to host the next G7 summit. Here's the copy of the original bedbugs complaint filed by Eric Linder in 2016 against Trump's Doral resort. Government ethics watchdogs, however, have long expressed concerns about Mr Trump earning money off his presidency and hosting foreign leaders at his properties.

### **US TV presenter apologises for comparing black co-host to gorilla**

*A white US TV anchor has apologised after saying her black co-host looked liked a gorilla live on air.*

Ms Housden had made the remark as the pair introduced a segment on the programme about an ape caretaker who had taken over the social media accounts of Oklahoma City Zoo. Mr Hackett told Ms Housden that he accepted her apology and considered her a good friend, but said he wanted the incident to be a "teachable moment" and that "words matter". The stereotype of comparing black people to monkeys and apes has made headlines several times in recent years.

### **Costco forced to close first store in China as shoppers jostle over chickens**

*US retail chain Costco was forced to close its first store in China on its opening day due to overcrowding after large crowds flocked there, sparking traffic jams in the area.*

Costco said: "We'd like to apologise for the inconvenience caused to our members on our warehouse opening day in Shanghai." It pledged to send text messages to members when the store was nearing capacity or if there were long waiting times. A newspaper run by the Shanghai authorities reported that the Costco store had shut early on its opening

day on Tuesday, citing local government officials.

## **SpaceX tests prototype rocket that could pave way to Mars**

*SpaceX has successfully tested a prototype rocket that could help pave the way for trips to Mars and the moon, sending it to its highest altitude yet during a practice launch in Texas.*

The trashcan-looking craft, which Mr Musk has compared to Star Wars mascot R2-D2, was powered by an engine that will also be used on an upcoming rocket named Starship. Starship will be equipped with six methane-fuelled Raptor engines, compared to one on Spacehopper.

## **Fans mourn as the lights go out at Bury FC for the last time**

*At close to midnight last night, the lights went out at Gigg Lane, the sign which reads Bury Football Club plunged into darkness one final time.*

Hundreds of volunteers had hopefully presented at Gigg Lane at 9am, many with armfuls of cleaning products and mops, scrubbing the floors and the seats inside.

Bury football club as we know it, as this town has known it for the last 134 years, will not play again. "All I have is my TV and Bury FC," he said.

"I can't imagine my life without it." Steven Farrar had proposed to his fiancée just outside the main gates at the stadium and had hoped to hold their wedding reception at the social club. About whether the "fit and proper persons test" introduced by the Premier League and the EFL as a sort of quality control for prospective owners is fit for purpose, given that the previous owner Stewart Day was able to run up more than £7million of debt against the club.

Within 15 miles of Bury are Manchester United and Manchester City, two of the richest football clubs in the world.

The latest domestic TV rights deal saw the 20 Premier League clubs secure £5.1 billion over three years.

## **The strategy to stop a no-deal Brexit changed today - here's how and why**

*It was, according to a source, "much better than expected".*

We saw the Labour leader invite his fellow opposition leaders into his parlour, not to lecture but effectively to concede that what he has sought, a motion of no-confidence, is not the priority.

Instead "legislative solutions", an attempt to bind the government by law to abandon no-deal, will be focused on by all the opposition parties. Either of these could present backbench MPs with an opportunity to seize control and begin the difficult process of drafting legislation to forbid a no-deal Brexit. In other words, either side represents the true fault line of what's divided British politics since 2016 or certainly since the 2017 general election: direct democracy (the referendum) vs representative democracy (parliament).

## **Relegations and record-breakers: The life and times of Bury FC**

*Bury FC have been expelled from the English Football League after more than 120 years, following financial problems and failed takeovers.*

But behind the collapse is a team with a proud footballing history, including two FA Cup titles, and a record for goals scored in four divisions of the EFL.

125: Number of years in the Football League, having been elected in 1894.

The Shakers are the only club to have reached four figures for the number of goals scored in each of the four divisions in the Football League. 129: The number of goals scored by Craig Madden, the club's record league goalscorer, with 35 in one season in Division Four, between 1981-2.

Fourth: Bury's highest ever finish comes in 1925 in the First Division.

## **'We are the resistance': The indigenous communities in the path of the Amazonian wildfires**

*They describe the Amazon rainforest as "their mother."*

The indigenous people who live in this unique habitat number around a million but are split between hundreds of different groups. "It's dead," he told me as we walked through the charred vegetation - the crops they grow here - pineapple, cashew and vegetables on neat raised beds - are under real threat along with their very existence in this land.

### **Can MPs really block a no-deal Brexit? Here's how they might try**

*Boris Johnson has promised that the UK will leave the EU by 31 October, even if that means departing without an exit deal.*

The House of Commons has repeatedly voted against a no-deal Brexit, with opposition MPs - and some Tories - vowing to block Britain quitting without a withdrawal agreement. MPs are likely to pursue a similar strategy in their efforts to stop a no-deal Brexit, with the possibility of trying to seize control of the Commons timetable again in order to pass legislation to force a further delay to Brexit beyond 31 October. Under Mr Corbyn's plan, he wanted MPs to back him as a caretaker prime minister, putting him in Downing Street long enough to secure an extension to Article 50 and call a general election. If the prime minister does take such action to prorogue parliament in the period leading up to 31 October - in order to overcome MPs' efforts to block no deal - the issue is highly likely to be subject to legal challenge. Mr Bercow has recently vowed to "fight with every breath in my body" to stop Mr Johnson suspending parliament to force through a no-deal Brexit.

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