

How will a new UK PM be chosen?

REUTERS

Under the current rules, candidates need the support of eight Conservative MPs to stand. Once all the candidates have declared - if there are more than two candidates - Tory MPs will hold a series of votes until only two remain. In the first round, candidates must get 5 percent of the votes to stay in the running. In the second round, they must get 10 percent. In the following rounds, the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated. When two MPs are left, all Conservative Party members around the country will vote for the winner. The leader of the party with a majority in the House of Commons is the de facto prime minister. He or she does not have to call a snap election, but has the power to do so.

HOW LONG WILL IT ALL TAKE?

The duration of the leadership contest can vary, depending on how many people put themselves forward. Theresa May became leader less than three weeks after David Cameron resigned in 2016 and all other contenders dropped out mid-race. Local media reported that Johnson had agreed with the chairman of the 1922 Committee, who will oversee the ballot that a new leader should be in place before the party's annual conference in October.

FRONTRUNNERS TO BE THE NEXT PM

LIZ TRUSS: The 46-year-old foreign secretary is the darling of the party's grassroots and has regularly topped polls of party members carried out by the website Conservative Home.

BEN WALLACE: Defence minister Ben Wallace, 52, has risen in recent months to be the favourite to replace Johnson. According to results of a YouGov poll, he was the favourite among Conservative party members to be the next party leader.

RISHI SUNAK: Sunak, who resigned as finance minister on Tuesday was until last year the favourite to succeed Johnson. Revelations about his wealthy wife's non-domiciled tax status and a fine he received, along with Johnson, for breaking Covid rules have damaged his standing.



Liz Truss Ben Wallace Rishi Sunak



BREXIT TO EXIT

The rise and fall of Boris Johnson

AFP, London

Boris Johnson rode his luck throughout his career, bouncing back from a succession of setbacks and scandals that would have sunk other less popular politicians.

But the luck of a man once likened to a "greased piglet" for his ability to escape controversies finally ran out, after a slew of high-profile resignations from his scandal-hit government.

The departure comes just three years after he took over from Theresa May in an internal Conservative leadership contest. He called a snap general election that December, winning the biggest Tory parliamentary majority since the heyday of Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s.

That allowed him to unblock years of political paralysis after the 2016 Brexit vote, to take Britain out of the European Union in January 2020.

But he has faced criticism since, from his handling of the

Covid pandemic to allegations of corruption, cronyism, double standards and duplicity.

Some drew parallels between his governing style and his chaotic private life of three marriages, at least seven children and rumours of a host of affairs.

Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson had a conventional rise to power for a Conservative politician: first the elite Eton College, then Oxford University.

At Eton, his teachers bemoaned his "cavalier attitude" to his studies and the sense he gave that he should be treated as "an exception".

After university, he was sacked from The Times newspaper after making up a quote, then joined the Telegraph as its Brussels correspondent.

From there he fed the growing Conservative Euroscepticism of the 1990s with regular "euromyths" about supposed EU plans for a federal mega-state threatening British sovereignty.

He became an MP in 2004,

with the Tory leader at the time, Michael Howard, sacking him from his shadow cabinet for lying about an extra-marital affair.

From 2008 to 2016 he served two terms as mayor of London, promoting himself as a pro-EU liberal, a stance which he abandoned as soon as the Brexit referendum came about.

His former editor at the Telegraph, Max Hastings, described it as cynical - but not unexpected. Johnson, he said, "cares for no interest save his own fame and gratification".

On Wednesday, as calls mounted for Johnson to go, Hastings wrote in The Times that the prime minister had "broken every rule of decency".

But he was "the same moral bankrupt as when the Conservative party chose him, as shambolic in his conduct of office as in his management of his life".

"We now need a prime minister who will restore dignity and self-respect to the country and its governance," he added.

MI5, FBI warn of China espionage

AFP, London

The heads of MI5 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation warned Wednesday about China's commercial espionage thrust in the West, in a rare joint address at the British intelligence service's London headquarters. Speaking to an audience of officials and business executives in Thames House, MI5 Director General Ken McCallum and FBI Director Chris Wray said the threat from Chinese spies is paramount in both countries and only continues to grow. They urged businesses to stay alert and report possible threats.

Pakistan flood kills 9

AFP, Karachi

A 12-year-old boy suspected to be working illegally at a coal mine was among at least nine people killed by a flash flood at a quarry in southern Pakistan, officials said yesterday. Police said torrential monsoon rain inundated the mine in Jhampir, 120 kilometres east of Karachi.

Last Muslim lawmaker leaves India's BJP

CNN ONLINE

The last remaining Muslim lawmaker in India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has resigned, leaving the party without a single representative from the minority community among its 395 members of parliament. Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi resigned on Wednesday, one day before his term was expected to come to an end. The Indian parliament has nearly 800 lawmakers in total.



Ukrainian service members install a national flag on Snake (Zmiinyi) Island, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Odesa region, Ukraine, in this handout picture released yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UKRAINE WAR NZ PM decries UN 'failure'

AFP, Sydney

The UN Security Council has failed in its response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said yesterday, describing Moscow's role as "morally bankrupt".

Ardern, who has long argued against the Security Council veto powers held by the five permanent members Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, reiterated her call for reform of the body.

The UN's "failure" over Ukraine was caused by Russia's position with a veto in the Security Council, she said in an address to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute think tank during a trade visit to Australia.

"We must reform the United Nations so that we don't have to rely on individual countries imposing their own autonomous sanctions," Ardern said.

Russia had used its place on the council to take a "morally bankrupt position in the wake of a morally bankrupt and illegal war", she said, added that Russia must be held to account for its invasion.

Ardern called for the International Criminal Court in The Hague to get the resources it needs to probe and prosecute war crimes.

New giant dinosaur discovered with tiny arms

AFP, Washington

Paleontologists yesterday said they had discovered a new giant carnivorous dinosaur species that had a massive head and tiny arms, just like Tyrannosaurus rex.

The researchers' findings, published in the journal Current Biology, suggest that small forelimbs were no evolutionary accident, but rather gave apex predators of the time certain survival advantages.

Meraxes gigas - named after a fictional dragon in the Game of Thrones book series - was dug up over the course of four years during field expeditions in the northern Patagonia region of Argentina, starting with the skull which was found in 2012.

"We won the lottery and found it literally on the first morning," senior author Peter Makovicky from the University of Minnesota told AFP.

The fossilized remains were remarkably well preserved. The skull is just over four feet long (127 centimeters), while the entire animal would have been some 36 feet long, and weighed four metric tons.

Its arms were two feet long, "so it's literally half the length of the skull and the animal would not have been able to reach its mouth," said Makovicky.

T. rex didn't get its tiny arms from M. gigas. The latter went extinct 20 million years before the former arose,

and the two species were far apart on the evolutionary tree.

Instead, the authors believe the fact that tyrannosaurids, carcharodontosaurids - the group Meraxes belonged to - and a third giant predator species called abelisaurids all evolved tiny arms points to certain benefits.

Makovicky believes that as their heads grew larger, it became the dominant tool of their predatory arsenal, taking on the function that forelimbs would have had in smaller species.

His co-author Juan Canale, the project lead at Ernesto Bachmann Paleontological Museum in Neuquen, Argentina, went further in suggesting other advantages. - Mating and movement support -

"I'm convinced that those proportionally tiny arms had some sort of function. The skeleton shows large muscle insertions and fully developed pectoral girdles, so the arm had strong muscles," he said in a statement.

"They may have used the arms for reproductive behavior such as holding the female during mating or support themselves to stand back up after a break or a fall."

Meraxes roamed the Earth between 90 to 100 million years ago during the Cretaceous, at a time when the region was wetter, more forested, and much closer to the sea, said Makovicky.



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e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works:

e-Tender ID No.	Name of the work	Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission	Tender/Proposal Closing Date and Time
715571	Construction of Staff Nurse Hostel at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital	07-August-2022 11:30	07-August-2022 12:00

This is online tender where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered Banks' Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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GD-1357

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Expressions of Interest (EOI)

1	Ministry/Division	Financial Institution Division, Ministry of Finance,
2	Agency	Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Vice Chairman, Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA)
4	Title of Service	Selection of a Solution Provider for Developing, Updating, Maintaining of Integrated Microfinance Solution (MRA-IMS) Including an Automated SMS Solution, a central e-KYC platform and a Call Center System portal for the Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA)
5	Procuring Entity District/ Location	Dhaka
6	Expressions of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm for software Development.
7	EOI Ref. No	53.04.0000.002.011.22-1432
8	Date	05.07.2022

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement Sub-Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and Source of Funds	MRA Own Fund
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	EOI Closing Date & Time	26/07/2022, Time: 12:00 PM
12	Details	For Full Expressions of Interest (EOI) and Terms of Reference (ToR) Please visit www.mra.gov.bd

Md. Fashiullah
Executive Vice Chairman
Microcredit Regulatory Authority

GD-1358