

Labour set to surpass 1997 landslide in election: poll

AFP, London

The UK Labour party is 99 percent "certain" to secure more seats in today's general election than when it won a landslide victory in 1997, a major new poll said on Tuesday.

The centre-left opposition party -- out of power since 2010 -- is predicted to claim 484 out of a total of 650 seats in what would be an unprecedented victory in modern British history, pollster Survation said.

Meanwhile, the right-wing ruling Conservatives and the centrist Liberal Democrats (Lib Dems) are in a close race to come a distant second and form the country's official opposition, it added.

The prediction is the latest in a series of so-called MRP polls -- which use large national samples to forecast results for every UK constituency -- that estimate Labour will win emphatically today.

Such a scenario would see its leader Keir Starmer replace the Conservatives' Rishi Sunak as prime minister.

Labour has led the Tories in the polls by double-digit margins for nearly two years, and the gap has failed to narrow during a six-week election campaign widely seen as having gone badly for Sunak.

Survation said its data indicated that Labour would win around 42 percent of the overall vote, ahead of the Conservatives on 23 percent.

However, due to the UK's winner-takes-all electoral system in each of its 650 constituencies, that would see the Conservatives capture just 64 seats, with the Lib Dems predicted to claim 61.

Labour's estimated 484 seats would exceed the 418 won by ex-prime minister Tony Blair in 1997, and even top the Tories' landslide haul of 470 in 1931.

The pollster also predicted that Labour would again become the largest party in Scotland, winning 38 of its 57 seats.

2024 UK ELECTION

Sunak: Conservative leader still hoping for unlikely win

AFP, London

The UK Conservatives hoped Rishi Sunak would stabilise the party and country when they made him leader following his predecessors' chaotic tenures. Instead, he has led them to the brink of electoral wipeout.

The party's MPs installed the 44-year-old former financier in October 2022, after Liz Truss's 49-day premiership imploded when spooked markets moved against her tax-slashing plans.

Sunak succeeded to a point in stabilising the country's economy, but failed to stop bitter Tory infighting, or to make a dent in the persistent polling lead held by the opposition Labour Party. Buoyed by rare pieces of economic good news, Sunak called today's election in late May, despite not having to face the voters until early 2025.

He hoped the shock announcement would catch right-wingers Reform UK by surprise, and Labour's 20-point polling lead would shrink during the campaign.

But Sunak's campaign has lurched from one disaster to another. By far the most damaging was Sunak's decision to leave early from D Day commemoration events in France, provoking unilateral outrage and alienating right wing whose votes he desperately needs.



Starmer: Britain's next prime minister?

AFP, London

Labour leader Keir Starmer is a former human rights lawyer turned-state prosecutor whose ruthless ambition and formidable work ethic look set to propel him to Britain's highest political office.

The 61-year-old, named after Labour's founding father Keir Hardie, is the centre-left opposition party's most working-class leader in decades.

"My dad was a toolmaker, my mum was a nurse," Starmer tells voters often, countering depictions by opponents that he is the epitome of a smug, liberal, London elite.

With his grey quiff and black-rimmed glasses, Starmer remains an enigma in the eyes of many voters, who are predicted to propel him to Downing Street after today's general election.

Detractors label him an uninspiring opportunist, but supporters insist he is a managerial pragmatist who will approach being prime minister the same way he did his legal career: tirelessly and forensically.

"Politics has to be about service," Starmer said in a recent campaign speech, repeating his mantra to put "country first, party second" following 14 years of Conservative rule under five different prime ministers.

Sometimes appearing uncomfortable in the spotlight, the devoted Arsenal fan, who came to politics late in life, has struggled to shed his public image as buttoned-up and boring.



Britain's Liberal Democrat party leader Ed Davey, right, and Liberal Democrat candidate for Winchester Danny Chambers pose for a photo during a visit to the Winchester Abbey Gardens, in south England, yesterday, as part of a party general election campaign event in the build-up to the UK general election today.

PHOTO: AFP

Russian forces advance in Ukraine's eastern region
Kill five in Dnipro strikes; dozens injured

AFP, Kyiv

Russia said yesterday its forces had captured a district in the key hilltop town of Chasiv Yar near Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, where Moscow has been pressing for months.

The claim from Moscow came just after Kyiv said that Russian strikes on the industrial city of Dnipro had killed five people and wounded nearly three dozen more including a 14-year-old girl.

The defence ministry said its troops had "liberated" the Novy district of Chasiv Yar, but it was unclear if it was claiming its forces had crossed a canal which runs through the eastern part of the town.

The capture of Chasiv Yar -- a prized

military hub that was once a sleepy town home to some 12,000 people -- would pave the way for Russian advances towards the last Ukrainian-controlled civilian centres in the Donetsk region.

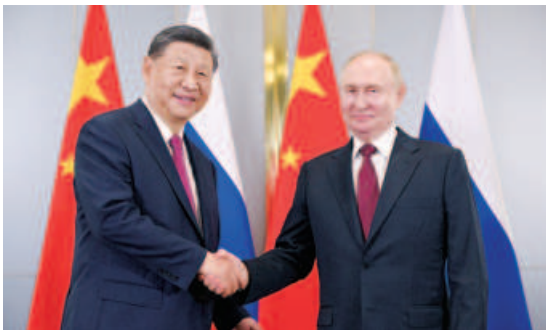
Russia's capture of the district was also reported by the DeepState military blog, which has links to the Ukrainian army.

It said the area had been flattened by Russian bombardments, and that withdrawing was "a logical, albeit difficult decision." There was no immediate reaction from officials in Kyiv.

The Russian attack on Dnipro prompted Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky to call on allies to help bolster its air defences and provide more long range weapons to thwart Russian strikes.

CENTRAL ASIAN SUMMIT

Putin, Xi vie for influence



AFP, Astana

The leaders of Russia and China were in Kazakhstan yesterday for a regional summit, seeking to harden anti-Western alliances and press their influence in the strategic Central Asian region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin touched down in the Kazakh capital of Astana yesterday morning for a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) -- a Beijing-led regional bloc that covers Central Asia, India and Iran.

Moscow and Beijing have deepened their political, military and economic ties since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Alongside Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who arrived in Kazakhstan on Tuesday, the pair see the SCO as a key forum for advancing their strategic interests across Eurasia. "We attach great importance to partnership cooperation within this organisation," Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told Russian state media outlets ahead of Putin's arrival.

"We believe that the SCO, as well as the second major association of BRICS, are the main pillars of the new world order, a locomotive in the context of establishing genuine multilateralism in world affairs," he added.

Both Russia and China have railed against what they call a US-led "hegemony" on the world stage.

China's Foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said earlier this week that Beijing believed the SCO summit would "help build more consensus among all parties and make contributions to promoting security, stability and development of member countries", and advance "lasting peace and common prosperity in the world".

Key issues at stake in UK polls

AFP, London

Here are some key issues at stake in the UK general election today:

WILL JADED VOTERS TURN OUT?

The main opposition Labour party is widely predicted to win and has been determined not to take any risks, making for a lacklustre election campaign.

For the past two years, polling has suggested that Labour is 20 points ahead of the Conservatives, and no amount of campaigning has managed to shift the dial. But if that indicates a desire for change after 14 years of Tory government, there does not appear to be much enthusiasm for Labour's plans.

Indeed, Labour has repeatedly warned that it does not have a "magic wand" to change the country overnight.

The apathy extends to both leaders, with 72 percent having an unfavourable opinion of Tory leader Rishi Sunak and 51 percent of Labour's Keir Starmer, according to a YouGov poll this month.

That has prompted questions about whether voters will turn out in large numbers spurred on by the promise of change or remain at home jaded by years of chaos and no great love for party leaders.

LUCKY NUMBER EIGHT FOR FARAGE?

An unexpected addition to the campaign, Nigel Farage -- the Brexit figurehead who has now become the spokesperson of hard-right, anti-immigration views -- entered the race as the leader of Reform UK.

Despite a surge in the polls, the UK's first past-the-post system makes outright victory for the 60-year-old former European parliamentarian and his party unlikely.

If he succeeds at his eighth attempt to get a seat in parliament as the MP for Clacton-on-Sea in east England, Farage -- a Donald Trump ally -- will have even more visibility.

If he fails, his startup Reform UK party, currently polling around 19 percent, would still play a decisive role in the race between the Tories and Labour in several constituencies.

TORY WIPEOUT?

Several polls suggest the party of Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher and Boris Johnson will win fewer seats than the 141 it secured in 1906, in what would be the worst result since its creation in 1834.

Speculation has already started about who would succeed Rishi Sunak to lead the fragmented party. It remains to be seen how many big names will save their seats and what direction the party, which was centrist under David Cameron (2010-2015) and then drifted to the right, can take. In the event of Reform's success, some Tories would not object to an alliance.

WEAKENED SCOTTISH NATIONALISTS?

Nothing seems to be going right for the Scottish National Party (SNP), which has dominated the devolved nation's politics for the last 15 years.

The surprise resignation of first minister Nicola Sturgeon in 2023 destabilised the party. Her successor Humza Yousaf only lasted a year.

The left-wing party is still the target of a probe into its finances in which Sturgeon's husband was implicated and does not have a viable strategy to deliver independence, a fight that was revived by Brexit but blocked by London.

First Minister John Swinney insists that winning in a majority of Scotland's 59 constituencies would be a green light for him to launch fresh negotiations on another referendum with the new government in London.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources
Energy and Mineral resources Division
BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong.
www.bpc.gov.bd

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e-Tender Notice

This is an 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 of following package from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank up to the time given below:

Sl No	Package No	Name of Goods	Tender ID	Last date & Time of Tender Security Submission Date: 22-7-2024 Time: 15:00	Last date & Time of Closing & Opening Date: 22-7-2024 Time: 16:00
01	JPE-02-23	Repair & Renovation of Bungalow nos. 05 at Joypahar Estate, Sarson Road Chattogram.	1001070		

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd.

Muhammad Ashraf Hossain
Secretary, BPC

Size: 4" x 3 col

GD-09

BANGLADESH KRISHI BANK
Head Office
83-85 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000
ADC Management Department
Website: www.krishibank.org.bd

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance/Banking and Financial Institutions Division																										
2	Agency	Autonomous Bodies and Other Institutions																										
3	Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Krishi Bank																										
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present																										
5	Procuring Entity District	Head Office, Dhaka.																										
6	Invitation for	Supply of Proprietary Magstripe Plastic ATM Card, PIN Mailer & Card Pouch.																										
7	Invitation Ref No	HQ/ADC/07(5)-21(3)/24-25/04																										
8	Date	02-07-2024																										
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)																										
FUNDING INFORMATION																												
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Bank's Own Fund.																										
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A																										
PARTICULAR INFORMATION																												
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A																										
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A																										
14	Tender Package No.	01/2024-2025																										
15	Tender Package Name	Supply of Proprietary Magstripe Plastic ATM Card, PIN Mailer & Card Pouch.																										
16	Tender Publication Date	02-07-2024																										
17	Tender Last Selling Date	16-07-2024 within 03.00 PM.																										
18	Tender Closing	Date	Time																									
19	Tender Opening	16-07-2024	03.30 PM.																									
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	04.00 PM.																										
- Receiving Tender Document (Tender Document can be submitted by Hand / by Mail/ By courier. Services at any time before Closing time schedule.)																												
ADC Management Department Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, 3 rd Floor, 83-85 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.																												
- Opening Tender Document																												
21	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	No Pre-Tender Meeting will be held.		Time : N/A																								
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER																												
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	According to the ITT 4 & 5 of the Tender Document																										
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works	5,000 Proprietary Magstripe Plastic ATM Card, 7,000 PIN Mailer & 7,000 Card Pouch.																										
24	Brief Description of Related Services	N/A																										
25	Price of Tender Document (TK)	Tk. 1,000/- (One Thousand) + VAT(15%) (Non-Refundable)																										
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>S/N</th><th>Name of Product</th><th>Quantity</th><th>Location</th><th>Tender Security</th><th>Time Schedule</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>01</td><td>Proprietary Magstripe Plastic ATM Card</td><td>5,000</td><td>ADC Management Department BKB, Head Office, 3rd Floor, 83-85 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.</td><td>10,000/- (Ten Thousand Taka)</td><td>04(Four) Weeks from Date of contract signature.</td></tr><tr><td>02</td><td>PIN Mailer</td><td>7,000</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>03</td><td>Card Pouch</td><td>7,000</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>					S/N	Name of Product	Quantity	Location	Tender Security	Time Schedule	01	Proprietary Magstripe Plastic ATM Card	5,000	ADC Management Department BKB, Head Office, 3 rd Floor, 83-85 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.	10,000/- (Ten Thousand Taka)	04(Four) Weeks from Date of contract signature.	02	PIN Mailer	7,000				03	Card Pouch	7,000			
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27 Name of Official Inviting Tender		Md. Farid Hasan																										
28 Designation of Official Inviting Tender		Deputy General Manager(Additional Charge)																										
29 Address of Official Inviting Tender		ADC Management Department Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, 83-85 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.																										
30 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender		Tel. No. 88-02-9513891 E-mail: dgmac@krishibank.org.bd																										
31 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.																												

দুইটি- অসিদ্ধ দূর হলে সব দেশ ছাড়া বাকি থাকে যদি-করাব।
- বাকি থাকে

Sd/-
(Md. Farid Hasan)
(Deputy General Manager)
(Additional Charge)

GD-06