

## 2024 UK ELECTION



Left, Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Rishi Sunak arrives with his wife Akshata Murty to cast their votes at a polling station in Kirby Sigston, Northallerton, England yesterday as Britain holds a general election. Right, Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer and his wife Victoria arrive to cast their votes at a polling station in London yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

## What do govts abroad want from UK polls?

AGENCIES

The UK is not the diplomatic powerhouse it once was, with Brexit leaving it looking inward and years of economic failures meaning the Conservatives and Labour are both sidelining foreign policy in their campaign messaging. Still, leaders around the world will be taking an interest in the election. Here are some of the key issues:

### RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

Kyiv is desperately fighting off the battlefield for money, weapons and diplomatic support and the backing of the next UK government could be critical. London still retains diplomatic sway in Europe and is a vocal member of Nato.

Stakes are high for the Ukrainian leader, Volodymyr Zelensky, as he faces the prospect of Donald Trump winning the US presidential election in November. Trump is expected to cut off US military support to Ukraine.

The Tories claim they "led the world in support of Ukraine against Putin's aggression" and will continue to do so, but it is expected that Keir Starmer would be equally supportive of Kyiv if Labour came to power.

### ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

In previous elections, Israeli governments would have probably favoured conservative candidates, who have traditionally followed Washington in near-unconditional backing of Israel over Palestine.

Starmer, however, could prove the exception to the rule as his policies on the occupation have been seen through the prism of the Labour party antisemitism scandal, which he promised to fix.

Whatever his personal views

on the destruction of Gaza, Starmer has been criticised by party members for a Middle East stance that could be seen as more pro-Israel than that of the Tories. More than 38,001 Palestinians have been killed and 87,445 have been injured in Israeli military offensive on Gaza since October 7, reports Reuters.

For Palestinian officials,

of all the UK parties, playing up migration as a threat. Farage has previously joined Trump on campaign rallies.

### CHINA

Relations between Beijing and London have nosedived under Conservative administrations. Sunak has said that "authoritarian" China, the world's

in Asia. The party's manifesto promises its policy on China will be to "cooperate where we can, compete where we need to, and challenge where we must".

### THE EUROPEAN UNION

As a supranational body, the political and economic union across Europe will be facing the prospect of the first non-



neither a Tory nor a Labour government will give hope for the radical policy change they have been calling for.

### THE UNITED STATES

The White House is too focused on its own election to be concerned about the smaller half of the "special relationship". Joe Biden has maintained good ties with both Labour and Conservative politicians, although Trump has a soft spot for the more extreme, populist wing of the Tory party.

Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, has the most Trumpian politics

second largest economy, is the "greatest state-based threat to our economic security", reports The Guardian. Beijing's embassy in London condemned what it called Sunak's "malicious slander against China" and urged British politicians "to end their belligerent rhetoric" and "instead, focus more on domestic economic and social issues".

In a sense, that has happened, with Sunak largely avoiding international issues on the campaign trail. Still, Labour has not indicated any big policy shift

conservative government in London since David Cameron called the referendum that led to Brexit.

All three big parties are seeking to improve their relationship with the EU, but Labour – and certainly the Liberal Democrats – may find that easier to achieve.

Senior Brussels sources said this week that while the EU leadership would welcome a change of UK government, it would not revise its Brexit red lines, but was open to improving existing agreements.

## What has Labour promised to do if elected?

REUTERS, London

Britain's Labour Party was projected to win yesterday's national election with a large majority. Below are some of the party's main domestic policy plans, set out in its manifesto ahead of the July 4 vote:

### ECONOMY

Labour has said sustained economic growth will be its first mission for government. Its plan focuses on wealth creation. It has said it will be "pro-business and pro-worker" and introduce a new industrial strategy, which will end short-term economic policy.

### TAXES

It has pledged not to raise taxes "for working people", with no increase in the basic, higher, or additional rates of income tax, insurance, or VAT. It will cap corporation tax at the current level of 25 percent.

### HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE

Labour plans to cut waiting times in the National Health Service by adding 40,000 more appointments every week. This will include incentivising staff to carry out extra appointments out of hours, pooling resources across neighbouring hospitals and using spare capacity in private sector.

### IMMIGRATION

Labour has pledged to reduce net migration. It wants to reform points-based immigration system, by bringing in restrictions on visas and by training workers where there are domestic shortages.

## SCO SUMMIT IN ASTANA India, China FMs agree to work on border issues

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar yesterday met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Kazakhstan where the two agreed to step up talks to resolve issues along their border, New Delhi said in a statement.

India and China share a long Himalayan border, much of it poorly demarcated, and relations between the two countries have been sour since a military standoff in July 2020.

India said Jaishankar met Wang on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Astana where they agreed that "prolongation of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side."

The two agreed to enhance meetings between their diplomatic and military officials "to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest," the Indian foreign ministry said. China and India should properly handle their differences and ensure relations advance on a stable track, a Chinese foreign ministry statement quoted Wang as saying during the talks.

"We must maintain a positive mindset, properly handle and control the situation in the border areas on the one hand, and actively resume normal exchanges on the other hand," Wang said. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in April that the two countries should urgently address the "prolonged situation" on their border.

## Modi to visit Russia for talks with Putin on July 8-9

AFP, Moscow

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia on July 8 and 9, the Kremlin said yesterday, in his first trip to the country since Moscow launched its military offensive in Ukraine.

That campaign has tested relations between Moscow and New Delhi, even though India has ramped up its purchases of Russian oil and not joined Western sanctions.

Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin will discuss "prospects for further development of traditionally friendly Russian-Indian relations, as well as relevant issues on the international and regional agenda," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Putin sees Modi as a key potential diplomatic and economy ally, with Russia isolated in the West. But Ukraine has complicated ties.

In a September 2022 meeting between Putin and Modi at a regional summit in Uzbekistan, the Russian president told Modi he understood he had "concerns" about the conflict and that Modi wanted it to end "as soon as possible."

Earlier this year, India said it was pushing Russia to release some of its citizens who had signed up for "support jobs" with the Russian army, following reports some were stranded in Russian border towns and forced to fight in Ukraine.

New Delhi has not been a staunch backer of Kyiv, notably declining to sign a joint statement at a peace summit in Switzerland last month that called for Ukraine's territorial integrity to be respected in any peace agreement.

## Court orders confiscation of customs officials assets

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the case, accusing Enamul of amassing Tk 9.76 crore, which is inconsistent with his income and beyond his known sources of income.

According to the case statement, the accused bought land, flats, and commercial spaces at 64 places for Tk 21.52 crore between 1993 and 2022. He had gold ornaments, savings, and investment in share market, and fish farm worth Tk 58.32 lakh.

In another development, the same court directed the

authorities to confiscate four flats and 866 decimals of immovable assets of Matiur Rahman, former member of the National Board of Revenue, and his family members over graft allegations.

The properties are in the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area and Dhanmondi, Barishal's Muladi, and Narsingdi's Raipura. The family members are Matiur's wife Laila Kaniz Lucky, also upazila chairman of Narsingdi's

Raipura; his son Ahmed Taufiqur Rahman Arnob; daughter Farzana Rahman Ipsita; and second wife Shammi Akhter Sheuly.

Judge Joglur Hossain made the order after ACC Deputy Director Md Anowar Hossain, also the inquiry officer, submitted a petition, said an ACC lawyer.

Anti graft body Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam moved the application on behalf of the graft watchdog.

In the appeal, the

ACC said Matiur, former president of NBR's Customs, Excise and VAT Appellate Tribunal, amassed hundred crores of illegal money. He and his family members were trying to hand over their properties. So, an order is needed to stop their move.

The ACC has formed a three member committee to enquire into the allegations.

On June 24, the same court issued a travel ban on Matiur, his wife Lucky, and son Taufiqur.

At the meeting told this

newspaper.

should be required every year, sources said.

Since Covid-19, all the ministries were asked to take steps to maintain austerity to keep the economy afloat, but no visible steps have been taken so far, said another secretary.

In a circular yesterday,

the finance ministry called for lowering expenses by ministries, state agencies, and public corporations.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Cabinet Secretary Mahbub said the conduct rules were being updated.

Additional secretaries and above have to get permission from the Prime Minister's Office to travel abroad. "But joint secretaries and those below them need permission from the ministry concerned. That's why the number of foreign trips has been surging," the source added.

The bureaucrats unanimously agreed to submit their wealth statements as per the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1979, another secretary present

inspection of goods. And it must stop", said a source.

There should be a cell to monitor whether officers are submitting their wealth statements. The cabinet division, public administration, legislative division, and National Board of Revenue will decide how the cell will function, they said.

It is common knowledge among bureaucrats that many officers do not come up with their wealth statement every five years as per the conduct rules.

There were also talks of whether such statements

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ  
সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর।  
ফোন: ০২৫৮৮৮৭১২১০ ফ্যাক্স: ০২৫৮৮৮৭১৩১০  
ইমেইল: rhdnator@gmail.com/ eenat@rhd.gov.bd  
তারিখ: ০৫/০৭/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ

### নির্মিত দরপত্র পক্ষতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/লাইসেন্স নথায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতেরার সংশ্লিষ্ট কলেগের অবস্থানে যাচ্ছে যে, সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর কর্তৃক পারিলিক প্রক্রিয়ামেট বিভাগালোক-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালন (ৰাজস্ব) বাজেটের অঙ্গে তালিকাভুক্ত প্রক্রিয়ামেট মাধ্যমে অভিযোগ কর্তৃত আন্তর্জাতিক প্রযোজন ক্ষেত্রে নির্মান কর্তৃত আবেদন করে আন্তর্জাতিক প্রযোজন ক্ষেত্রে নির্মান কর্তৃত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) প্রস্তুত করতে পারবেন। নির্মান কর্তৃত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সঠিকভাবে পূর্ণ প্রযোজনীয় কাগজগতসহ নিয়ে বর্ণিত (ক্ষেত্র-০১) সময়ের মধ্যে নাটোর সড়ক বিভাগে জমা প্রদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। নির্মান দরপত্র পক্ষতে প্রযোজনের ক্ষেত্রে পারিলিক প্রক্রিয়ামেট বিভাগালোক-২০০৮ এর বিধি-৬৩ ও ৬৪ অনুসৃতযোগ্য এবং এ তালিকাভুক্তকরণ দরপত্র আহরণ/কাগজ প্রদানের নিষ্পত্তি বিধান করে না।

উল্লেখ যে, ইতিপূর্বে অতি দরপত্রের তালিকাভুক্ত কাগজগত ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের লাইসেন্স নথায়ন করার জন্য পূর্বে দরপত্রের জমা প্রদান করা হয়ে আছে।

ক্ষেত্র-০১  
বিবরণ তালিকাভুক্তি ফরমের মূল্য ১০০০/- ০৭/০৭/২০২৪ হতে ০৭/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ  
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ক্ষেত্র-০২  
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ক্ষেত্র-০৩  
বিবরণ নথায়ন ফরম সংগ্রহের মূল্য ১০০০/- ১০/০৮/২০২৪ হতে ১১/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ  
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