

UK Labour MPs mull challenge to PM frontrunner

Two Labour lawmakers were yesterday considering whether to challenge Andy Burnham to become Britain's next prime minister, with some concern in the party about a so-called coronation.

Burnham, 56, is the overwhelming frontrunner to succeed outgoing leader Keir Starmer, who announced on Monday he was stepping down after losing the support of his own MPs.

Burnham only became eligible for the top job after winning a parliamentary by-election last week but could be in 10 Downing Street by July 17 if he is unchallenged.

Former armed forces minister Al Carns told an event Tuesday that he wanted to hear Burnham's "vision" for the country before deciding whether or not to stand.

"We'll see where we go from there," he added.

UK media reported that government minister Darren Jones was being encouraged to run by some MPs.

A person close to Jones told AFP that Jones was keeping his options open until Burnham lays out more detailed plans for government, particularly on the economy, but that he considered a run "very unlikely".

Government minister Nick Thomas-Symonds echoed the views of many Labour lawmakers on Tuesday when he told Sky News that a "swift transition" was in "the best interests of the country".

A contest would last for several weeks and could be bitterly divisive, but some MPs insist forcing Burnham to win a contest would add legitimacy to his premiership since he would have become prime minister without winning a general election.

The Labour party won a landslide victory in July 2024 general elections and is the biggest party in parliament, thus its leader automatically has the right to be prime minister.

Burnham's path to No. 10 looks clear after his nearest rival for the top job, Wes Streeting, announced on Monday he would not challenge the ex-Manchester mayor for the top job.

Any challenger would likely find it difficult to secure the support of the 81 of Labour's 403 MPs needed to join a race.



Cars queue as displaced people make their way back to their homes in southern Lebanon following an interim deal between the US and Iran, in Sidon, Lebanon, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Hormuz ship traffic highest since war began: monitor

Iran says it will not allow IAEA to inspect bombed nuclear sites

Shipping through the Strait of Hormuz climbed to its highest level since the war began, as Iran yesterday announced it would block UN nuclear inspections at sites struck by the US and Israel last year.

Analytics platform Kpler recorded at least 37 crossings on Monday, one week after a memorandum of understanding was reached between the United States and Iran.

AXSMarine, another shipping data provider that tracks transits by commercial vessels, including container ships, counted 42 crossings on Monday — also a record.

AFP found that 51 different vessels passed through the strait by cross-referencing the two lists.

This represents 42.5 percent of normal peacetime traffic — around 120 vessels a day — through the strategic waterway, which normally carries about a fifth of the world's oil and gas exports.

According to the MoU, both parties will embark on a 60 day period of talks to settle broader issues, including Iran's nuclear programme and sanctions relief.

The negotiations, launched over the weekend at Switzerland's luxury Burgenstock resort, raised hopes for a lasting settlement and pushed down oil prices.

They agreed to set up four negotiating groups on nuclear issues, sanctions and other matters, Iranian state media said.

The US Treasury said it had temporarily lifted sanctions on Iran to allow it to

produce, sell and deliver crude oil and related products until mid-August.

As part of the deal, Washington also agreed to release \$12 billion in frozen funds to Iran, Iranian state media reported.

Meanwhile, Iran yesterday denied US Vice President JD Vance's claim that Tehran had agreed to invite International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors back.

"We have not had a meeting with the director general of the IAEA, nor do we have any plans for the agency to inspect Iran's nuclear facilities damaged by US and Zionist military aggression," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told a press briefing.

However, US President Donald Trump later said Iran had agreed to comprehensive nuclear inspections.

CLIMATE CRISIS

UN chief urges AI firms to 'come clean'

AFP, Paris

UN chief Antonio Guterres challenged AI firms on Tuesday to disclose their growing environmental footprint as part of a push for faster global action to curb climate change.

"Climate chaos is accelerating before our eyes," Guterres said, while the energy crisis, fuelled by war in the Middle East, is "exposing the folly of a world hooked on hydrocarbons".

"On the surface, these crises may seem separate. But they share the same destructive origin: Fossil fuels," he said at London Climate Action Week, an annual gathering of policymakers, company executives and NGOs.

'Hazardous' status

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only after broad agreement had been reached across ministerial and institutional levels.

"There is a strict constitutional and institutional process for such a declaration. We can react and begin the process once a formal application is submitted, but the momentum must come from the stakeholders themselves."

While clarifying the legal framework, he acknowledged the risks faced by child domestic workers, noting that children in households are often exposed to sharp objects, open flames, electricity and gas appliances without adequate awareness of the risks.

Referring to several fatalities involving child domestic workers earlier this year, he said the demand to classify domestic work as hazardous was justified.

On World Day Against Child Labour this year, The Daily Star reported renewed calls from rights groups to include domestic work in the list of hazardous occupations for children.

Although Bangladesh has identified 43 hazardous occupations for children following ratification of the ILO convention, the exclusion of child domestic work leaves an estimated 1.5 million children unprotected, according to the Domestic Workers Rights Network, the report said.

Unlike other forms of child labour, domestic work remains uniquely dangerous because the abuse is effectively hidden behind closed doors, shielded from public scrutiny and law enforcement.

Rights advocates have long argued that the lack of institutional recognition leaves these children acutely vulnerable to physical, psychological and verbal abuse.

By formally expanding the hazardous occupations list to include domestic work, the government would provide a legal mechanism to monitor private households and protect vulnerable children trapped in exploitative conditions.

Sonali Bank PLC
Information Technology Division
(IT Procurement & Maintenance)
Head Office, Dhaka

Memo No.: HO/ITD (IT P&M)/purchase/

Date: 21/06/2026

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

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Tender	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	1301379	Procurement of Core Communication Device for Data Center (DC) of Sonali Bank PLC.	23-Jul-2026 15:00	23-Jul-2026 15:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no office/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP 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 through any registered online Banks up to respective time schedule.

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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Sd/-
Deputy General Manager

'This system cannot continue'

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present, saying children today face more brutal violence, including rape and murder.

Prof Serajul said women had made progress in education and work, but insecurity still shaped their public life. Women were visible in schools, colleges, and workplaces, even in villages, but harassment, social pressure, and fear continued to restrict them, he said.

He said the rising use of burqa among female students should not be seen only as fashion but also as a sign of self-protection. "This development is a capitalist development."

Prof Serajul criticised the historical role of elections in the subcontinent, saying they had repeatedly been used to contain revolutionary possibilities.

Referring to 1946, 1954, 1970, and the post-Ershad period, he said mass aspirations had often been diverted through electoral arrangements. "In our history, elections have played a counter-revolutionary role."

On the student-led mass uprising, Prof Serajul said the political opening that followed was again taken over by bourgeois forces.

He said electoral politics had earlier been shaped by BNP-Awami League competition, but Jamaat-e-Islami has now emerged alongside BNP with Awami League out of the field. He labelled both parties as right-wing.

He said leftist forces had failed to seize openings created by the mass uprisings, as they moved towards electoral politics and failed to form

united fronts.

Prof Serajul said Pakistan's attempt to impose Urdu as the only state language showed how the state tried to create a single national identity. Bangladesh, too, made a mistake after independence by imposing a singular Bangalee identity that denied the existence of smaller ethnic communities, he said.

Bangladesh should have become a democratic state, not a one-nation state, he added.

Turning to education, Prof Serajul questioned why Bangladesh still has three streams despite the language movement. He said the divisions among Bangla medium, English medium, and madrasa education reflected class divisions. He said teachers needed dignity, proper conditions, and equal opportunity.

Prof Serajul criticised NGO-led microcredit activities, saying modern NGOs promoted the "religion of capitalism" by trapping poor people in debt and installments.

Globally, he said capitalism had concentrated wealth in the hands of a tiny minority while the overwhelming majority remained deprived.

He said small reforms would not be enough. "The real movement is the movement to establish social ownership against private ownership. There lies liberation," he added.

Cultural activist ASM Kamal Uddin presided over the programme, while academic Azfar Hussain conducted it. A documentary on Prof Serajul's life, directed by Jubair Shawn, was screened.

Office of The Pirojpur Pourashava
District-Pirojpur.

Memo No.-Pir-Pou/ Pro/2026/ 510

Date: 23.06.2026

e-GP Tender Notice : 04/2025-2026 (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Tender ID no.	Package No.	Description of the Goods/Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing and Opening Date & Time	Last Date & Time for Tender Security Submission
1302589	e-GP/P. P/ ADP/2025-26/W-03	1. Upgrading of Freedom Fighter Abdur Razzak Sarak (Signature Road) Start from Mahmud Monjil to Town School More (Ch. 300.00m-430.00m) by RCC at ward no-05 under Pirojpur Pourashava, Pirojpur. 2. Construction of RCC Drain with Footpath of Freedom Fighter Abdur Razzak Sarak (Signature Road) Start from Mahmud Monjil to Town School More (Ch. 300.00m-430.00m) by RCC at ward no-05 under Pirojpur Pourashava, Pirojpur.	08/07/2026 16:00	09/07/2026 14:00	09/07/2026 12:30

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 Document from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any 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).

GD-1615

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North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.000.208.07.0002.25.129

Date: 23/06/2026

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1285472	Supply of BOP Accessories and Spares	16/06/2026	13/07/2026, 15:00	14/07/2026
2	1302720	Procurement of CT Basin Dosing Chemicals Through Framework contract	23/06/2026	13/07/2026 15:00	14/07/2026

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

GD-1613

Md. Abu Zafar Siddique
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.