

UK Labour MPs mull challenge to PM frontrunner

AFP, London

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

US no longer an 'objective mediator' in Ukraine

Says Russia; Zelensky to skip key meet in Poland over WWII row

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday said the United States was no longer an "objective mediator" in its efforts to broker an end to the Ukraine war as it blasted Europe's plans to bolster defence spending.

US-led talks on ending Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II remain effectively frozen as President Donald Trump has shifted his attention towards the Middle East after ordering strikes on Iran in late February.

"As for the United States, judging by their actions, they appear to be abandoning any claim to the role of an objective mediator and are instead pursuing a course of escalating sanctions pressure on Russia," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told foreign envoys in Moscow yesterday.

At the G7 summit in France earlier this month, leaders -- including Trump -- agreed to increase pressure on the Russian "war economy" by strengthening sanctions, including on energy.

Since returning to the White House in 2025, Trump -- who had pledged he would end the Ukraine war within a day of taking office -- has been pushing both sides to engage in negotiations.

There has been little progress in the US-brokered shuttle diplomacy, with Kyiv refusing to give in to Moscow's demands to cede territory, limit the size of its army and renounce Western support.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and millions in Ukraine forced from their homes since Russia launched its full-scale offensive in February 2022.

Speaking separately yesterday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Europe was "openly" preparing for war through its massive rearmament programme -- which is being urged on by Trump.

"Now in the West they openly say that they are preparing for war with us, and are increasing their military, offensive budgets," the Kremlin chief told a ceremony of newly-qualified military and law enforcement officials.

Meanwhile, President Volodymyr Zelensky will skip this year's Ukraine Recovery Conference hosted in Poland, Kyiv announced yesterday, amid a spiralling diplomatic spat between the allies and neighbours over World War II memory.

The annual event -- which kicks off on Thursday in Gdansk -- is due to gather business leaders and officials to discuss the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.

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.

As Europe bakes under a second heatwave in as many months, Guterres delivered a speech in London that painted a stark picture of a planet that has just endured its 11 hottest years on record.

"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".

"It is clear that our world is facing a Tale of Two Crises," Guterres said.

"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.

Guterres pushed for a rapid transition to renewable energy while announcing new initiatives to combat methane emissions and address concerns over the environmental impact of energy-hungry data centres.

The growing energy, water and land use of data centres -- vast server warehouses powering AI and other digital services -- is putting pressure on local communities and the environment.

"It is time to come clean," Guterres said. "If AI is to help build a better future, it must be honest about what it costs us now."

Guterres launched an AI Environmental Transparency Initiative, urging every major artificial intelligence company to measure and publicly disclose their environmental impact as well as commit to powering every data centre with renewable energy by 2030.

A UN study earlier this month found that the facilities consumed more electricity than all but 10 countries in 2025. By 2030, they could use more power than all but five countries, the study found.

About 30 percent of the electricity consumed by data centres comes from coal, followed by renewables at 27 percent, natural gas at 26 percent and nuclear at 15 percent, according to the International Energy Agency.

A coalition of dozens of cities announced Tuesday a "Global Urban Data Centres Pact" aiming to ensure that the facilities are built in a way that minimises their environmental impact.



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).

Sd/-

Deputy General Manager

GD-1610

S Arabia executed 100 people so far this year: AFP tally

AFP, Dubai

Saudi authorities yesterday executed seven people, bringing the total number of people executed in the kingdom this year to 100, according to an AFP tally based on official announcements.

Five of those executed yesterday were convicted on drug trafficking charges, bringing to 65 the number of those executed over drug-related offences, 43 of them foreigners, according to the tally of interior ministry figures.

On Monday, Amnesty International condemned "a grim milestone exposing the authorities' unconscionable and unlawful use of the death penalty".

"Foreign nationals have borne the brunt of Saudi Arabia's ruthless use of the death penalty for drug-related offences, frequently after grossly unfair trials," the London-based rights group said.

"It is profoundly alarming that at least 63 Ethiopian nationals, held in a single ward of Khamis Mushait detention facility in south-west Saudi Arabia, may be at imminent risk of execution solely for drug-related offences," it added.

Of the 100 executed this year, 48 were Saudis, 12 Ethiopians, seven Pakistanis, six Sudanese, four Yemenis and four Syrians.

In 2025, the kingdom executed 356 people, 243 of them over drug-related offences -- a record figure since Amnesty began recording in 1990.

Saudi Arabia reinstated the death penalty for drug-related offences in late 2022, after having suspended it for about three years.

The kingdom has ranked third in highest number of executions in the world over the past three years, following China and Iran, according to Amnesty.

ALI KHAMENEI FUNERAL

Three-day holiday declared in Tehran

AFP, Tehran

Irani yesterday announced three days of public holidays in the capital Tehran for late supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral ceremonies, state television reported.

"The farewell ceremony and prayers for the martyred leader's body will be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 4th and 5th, in Tehran's Grand Mosalla, and the funeral will be held on Monday, July 6th, and Tehran province will be off for these three days," IRGC commander Hassan Hassanzadeh, in charge of the ceremonies, was quoted as saying.

Tehran authorities expect an attendance of around 20 million. The northern holy city of Qom will also host a tribute on July 7.

Ali Khamenei will be laid to rest on July 9 in the northeastern holy city of Mashhad, his birthplace.



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).

(Dhruba Lal Datta Banik)

Executive Engineer

Pirojpur Pourashava, Pirojpur

Ph: +8802478890373

GD-1615



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

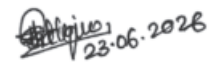
Date: 23/06/2026

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)



Md. Abu Zafar Siddique

Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)

Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)

NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD-1613

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Feni.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No-46.02.3000.000.07.001.25- 1411

Date: 22/06/2026

e-Tender Notice No - 49/2025-2026 (NOTM)

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

SL No	Package No	Tender ID No.	Description of Works	Tender Security Last Submission (Date/Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date/Time)
01	BSTRONG -LGED- Feni/RD-2	1263264	Rehabilitation of 10.452 km Emergency Evacuation Rural Road including re-construction of 10.00 m Box Culvert under B-STRONG Project (LGED Part) at Sonagazi Upazila, District: Feni.	23/07/2026 11.00 AM	23/07/2026 1.00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off-line/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 registered Bank's branches **date up to 22-July-2026 4:00 PM**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP held desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



(Mohammad Tasawor)

Executive Engineer

e-mail: xen.feni@lged.gov.bd

GD-1611