
King's Speech Overshadowed by Pressure on Starmer Leadership



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LONDON – Britain's King Charles III delivered the King's Speech on Wednesday, presenting Prime Minister Keir Starmer's legislative programme amid mounting political pressure on the Labour leader. The speech outlined 34 proposed bills focused on economic growth, public service reform, stricter immigration measures, expansion of green energy, and strengthening ties with the

European Union.

Addressing Parliament, the King said the government would seek closer cooperation with European partners to support regional security and reduce trade barriers. The agenda also emphasized investment, infrastructure development, and regulatory alignment in selected sectors aimed at boosting Britain's economy.

Despite the broad policy programme, political attention remained fixed on Labour's internal tensions following recent local election setbacks and the resignation of four junior ministers. Reports of growing divisions within the party intensified speculation over Starmer's political future.

In a written message to Labour MPs, Starmer called for unity and urged lawmakers to support the government's reform plans. Pressure increased further after reports that Health Secretary Wes Streeting held discussions with the Prime Minister amid speculation about a possible leadership challenge.

Under Labour Party rules, 81 MP nominations are required to trigger a leadership contest. Reports indicated Streeting has not secured enough backing, while other possible challengers include Andy Burnham and Energy Secretary Ed Miliband. Trade unions also warned Labour of potential electoral risks if party divisions continue.

