

LONDON (IRNA) — England's police on Friday arrested some anti-Revolutionary elements who attempted to disrupt the voting process of Iran's 14th presidential election at Birmingham's polling station.

Police have not yet issued an official statement on the incident, but a Birmingham polling station election executive member informed IRNA in London that police officers were present and preparing reports. They dispersed individuals, and the voting process at the polling station is ongoing despite rioters' attempts to dissuade Iranian nationals.

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Friday reiterated his readiness to restore ties with Syria after more than a decade of severed relations between the two neighboring countries.

Answering a question about President Bashar al-Assad's recent remarks on the Syrian-Turkish ties, Erdogan said Ankara and Damascus could act to restore bilateral ties. "There is no reason for it not to happen," Erdogan said, stressing that Ankara had no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of Syria.

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Iran: Canada to Bear Full Responsibility for Blacklisting IRGC



Biden, Trump Trade Insults, Accusations of Lying in Presidential Debate



Ahmad Aminzadeh Snatches Two Golds at Para Powerlifting World Cup



UNRWA: Gazans Living in 'Unbearable' Conditions



Epic Election Race: Nation Wins!



This comb shows Ayatollah Khamenei and other Iranians casting their votes in the snap presidential election across the country on Friday.

TEHRAN -- Iranians voted Friday in a snap election to replace the late President Ebrahim Raisi, choosing from a group of four candidates in a race marked by a high voter turnout.

Voters in Tehran and many other cities braved sweltering heat to queue up at polling stations to cast their ballots.

Polls opened at 8 a.m. local time (0430 GMT) and were planned to close at 6:00 p.m. (1430 GMT), but they were extend-

ed for four hours by the time this paper was going to print amid high turnout reported across the country.

There were reports of growing congestion at polling stations during evening hours when simmering temperatures drop. In the past, an eleventh-hour turnout at ballot boxes has been a common sight.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called on

voters to turn out at polling stations to determine the country's future and make the "best and most useful choice".

Ayatollah Khamenei cast his ballot at a polling station in Tehran just as the voting began on Friday morning.

"Election day is a day of joy and happiness for us Iranians, especially when the election is for selecting the president as the future of the country will be determined by this choice of the people.

"However, I think there is one important issue besides this, and that is the enthusiastic turnout of the people and the increase in the number of voters. This is a definite need for the Islamic Republic," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the Islamic Republic by its name indicates that the participation of the people is included in the essence of the system.

"Therefore, the durability, consistency,

dignity and reputation of the Islamic Republic in the world depend on the turnout of the people. That is why we recommend our dear people to take voting seriously and participate in this important political test."

Ayatollah Khamenei said, "I hope that God will choose the best option for this country and that the coming years, God willing, will be good and favorable years

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Nasrallah: Iran's Holy Path is for All Nations

TEHRAN -- Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Thursday described Iran as the "strong fortress of resistance" against oppressors, saying the Islamic establishment serves as a role model.

Nasrallah addressed via video link from Beirut a ceremony here to mark the 40th day since the passing of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, hailing the country for taking the upheaval in its stride with fortitude and composure.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran emerged proudly and admirably from this tragic incident and presented an advanced and lofty model that is strong in facing all challenges," he said.

Nasrallah said the incident, in which President Raisi lost his life along with Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian and six others in mountainous terrain in northwest Iran, was "very painful and historic" which left Iran faced with threats.

"However, the rule is that we must turn threats into opportunities, as always emphasized by Eminent Leader of the Revo-

lution" Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, he said.

"We have faced similar big and dangerous incidents in recent years. As an example, we can point to the assassination of two dear commanders, Hajj Qassem Soleimani and Hajj Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, that was a huge damage and at the same time a threat," he added.

Lieutenant General Soleimani, head of Iran's Quds Force, and Abu Mahdi, an Iraqi commander of the Popular Mobilization Forces, were assassinated in a U.S. airstrike ordered by then-president Donald Trump at Baghdad airport in January 2020.

"But this threat turned into an opportunity. These bloodsheds marked the breakout of the uprising and a new life for the resistance and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all the resistance movements in the region," Nasrallah said.

Iran responded to the assassination by launching a barrage of missiles at U.S. bases in Iraq, causing brain concussion injuries among at least 110 American soldiers stationed there. Iranian

officials have repeatedly vowed to take further steps and imposed sanctions on individuals taking part in the crime.

In April, Iran responded with its first-ever direct operation against Israel, launching over 300 missiles and attack drones from its territory at targets in the occupied territories, after an Israeli airstrike destroyed the consular section of Iran's embassy in Damascus, martyring 12 people.

The operation left Israel, still reeling from coordinated armed incursions from the Gaza Strip into the Gaza envelope of southern territories under Israeli occupation, further shell-shocked.

"All this was thanks to wise leadership [of Ayatollah Khamenei] and management and responsibility [of Iranian officials] in Iran and the region," Nasrallah said.

He said the tragic loss of President Raisi and his companions is "also an example, the outcome of which depends on our behavior".

"Thank God, the people of Iran became a model for the whole world through their direct presence (Continued on Page 7)

'Biggest Rocket Barrage in Weeks': Hezbollah Hits Zionist Base

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Hezbollah has fired dozens of Katyusha rockets at a military base located in the northern part of the occupied territories following Israeli attacks against southern and eastern Lebanon.

The Lebanese movement fired the projectiles towards "the main air and missile defense base of the northern area command" on Thursday, causing a blaze and a power outage.

Israeli media outlets referred to the attack as one of Hezbollah's biggest rocket barrages in recent weeks.

Also on Thursday, the group's "Unmanned Air Force launched several kamikaze drones at the Israeli Al-Naqoura naval base on the Mediterranean coast," Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen television said, citing a Hezbollah statement.

"The drones impacted the positions and dwelling areas of Israeli occupation officers and soldiers, killing and injuring several of them," the network added.

The operations came after the Israeli military attacked the city

of Nabatieh in southern Lebanon, targeting a two-storey building and wounding "more than 20" people. Israel had also struck the village of Sohmor in Lebanon's east, martyring a Hezbollah member.

The exchange of fire between Hezbollah and the occupying regime has intensified since the Israeli assassination of senior Hezbollah commander Sami Taleb Abdullah.

The movement has retaliated by firing hundreds of rockets into the northern parts of the occupied territories.

The Zionist military said earlier this month that it had approved plans for a full-scale attack on Lebanon.

Deputy chairman of Hezbollah's Executive Council Sheikh Nabil Qaouq downplayed the threats on Monday, saying they "do not lend assurance to the regime, but rather drown them in a sea of fear."

"The enemy's senior officials threaten, but are trembling with fear," he said, noting that "the resistance's missiles and drones

are capable of reaching their sensitive targets wherever it wants."

The United States is in the midst of an intense diplomatic push to prevent full-on war between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon, as the risks rise that either side could initiate a broader regional fight, the New York Times wrote Friday.

In recent days, U.S. officials have pressed their Israeli counterparts and passed messages to Hezbollah's leaders with the goal of averting a wider regional conflict, the paper said.

Zionist war minister, Yoav Gallant, met with several Biden administration officials in Washington this week, in large measure to discuss the escalating tensions along the border with Lebanon. That visit followed one last week by the occupying regime's security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, and its minister of strategic affairs, Ron Dermer.

The United Nations humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths on Wednesday warned of "apocalyptic" consequences if Israel's military (Continued on Page 7)