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Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue, Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Presidential Polls Enter Interesting Runoff Stage

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The 14th presidential elections of the Islamic Republic of Iran took an interesting turn on June 28 and headed next Friday for the second round to determine the winner from the two candidates who polled the highest number of votes of the almost 25 million ballots cast.

All eyes are focused on the turnout for July 5 runoff between former health minister and lawmaker Masoud Pezeshkian who got 10.4 million votes Friday last, while former lead nuclear negotiator and chief of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Saeed Jalili, received 9.4 million.

The two candidates are to begin their election campaign from today Sunday until Wednesday, since campaigning has to stop 24 hours before the vote.

Anyway, Friday will determine the country's new president following the tragic May 19 helicopter crash that resulted in the martyrdom of President Seyyed Ibrahim Raisi and four of his colleagues including the energetic foreign minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

The nation wants the next Chief Executive to continue the dynamic policies of the Late President who within three years transformed the Islamic Republic into a respected and powerful world country.

The Iranian voters are mature and those who for various reasons could not cast their ballots are now determined to participate to elect the person deserving to follow in the footsteps of Raisi, who forced the enemies of the Islamic Republic, especially the US and the illegal Zionist entity, on the back foot.

Today, Iran is unmoved by the pressures of the West. It has neutralized the sanctions of the US. It has rightfully taken uranium enrichment to 60 percent purity for peaceful use of nuclear energy. It has launched a variety of satellites into outer space. It has greatly strengthened the Axis of Resistance. It is determined to end the illegal presence of the US and other outside powers in the region.

This means the incoming president should be the one fully committed to these developments, and resolved to increase the power and prestige of the Iran with full commitment to the goals and ideology of the Islamic Revolution.

The most important point is the commitment of the Iranian President to the guidelines of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and wholehearted devotion to the ideology of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA).

Leader: Holy Shrine Defenders are Source of Honor



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei meets with organizers of the international meeting of the Holy Shrine Defenders in Tehran, June 19, 2024.

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has praised sacrifices made by fighters of the Resistance Front and those who embraced martyrdom in their relentless fight against takfiri terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria, known as Defenders of the Holy Shrine.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with organizing members of the International Meeting of the Holy Shrine Defenders and the Resistance Front Martyrs, held in Tehran on June 19, but they were published on Saturday.

The Leader commended the Holy Shrine Defenders as an extraordinary and important phenomenon and one of the manifestations of the Islamic Republic of Iran's internationalism.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the presence of young people of different nationalities in the ranks of the Holy Shrine Defenders showed that the 1979 Islamic Revolution, after more than four decades, has the power to re-create the very same passion and epic of the time.

The Leader touched on the events following the Islamic Revolution.

"As part of its plot, the enemy intended to destroy the Islamic establishment by invading the region and concurrently by imposing economic and political as well as ideological and religious pressures on Iran, but a group of young believers, revolving on the Islamic Republic, vanquished this project by the global arrogance," he said.

"With such a view, it should be stated that the Defenders of the Holy Shrine saved Iran and the region."

Ayatollah Khamenei also pointed to the "violent, merciless and inhumane nature" of Daesh and other terror outfits aligned with it, which were formed through the arms and propaganda support of the United States and the West.

"The goal of this organization was to make the region, especially Iran, insecure, but the Holy Shrine Defenders also neutralized this grave danger," he noted.

The Leader said, "The Holy Shrine

Defenders and their families are a source of honor and pride, and salvation and prosperity for Islamic Iran, and the Islamic Revolution is definitely indebted to such martyrs and their families."

Since March 2011, Syria has been gripped by a campaign of militancy and destruction sponsored by the U.S. and its allies. In recent years, however, Syrian government forces have managed to win back control of almost all regions from terrorist groups.

The Daesh terrorist group began a campaign of terror in Iraq in 2014, taking control of vast swathes in lightning attacks across the region. Iraq declared victory over the terror outfit in December 2017 after a three-year counter-terrorism military campaign, in which Hashd al-Sha'abi, also known as Popular Mobilization Units, played a major role.

Daesh has already been driven out of all its urban bastions both in Iraq and Syria, but its remnants carry out sporadic terror attacks in both neighboring Arab countries.

IRGC Chief: Resistance to Respond to Any Aggression in Region

TEHRAN -- The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Saturday said anti-terror resistance groups will respond proportionally to any act of aggression in West Asia.

Major General Hussein Salami made the remarks on Saturday as he addressed a conference dubbed "Defenders of Holy Shrine and Resistance Front" in Iran's northeastern city of Mashhad.

Gen. Salami gave assurances that Palestinians will continue to vigor-

ously confront the Zionist regime.

"The fallen defenders of the holy shrine and the fighters of the resistance front are clear manifestations of courage and sacrifice, the standing pillars of martyrdom, epitomes of freedom and dignity, and God's testimonies upon us," he said.

"The history of Islam shows that the path towards the honor and dignity of Muslims passes through jihad and martyrdom."

Gen. Salami said the Westerners are well aware that no power can

secure glory and grandeur in the world without the Muslim world.

The Westerners, he said, have been seeking to dominate the whole world by establishing full control over Muslims.

He said Western powers have been wielding influence over a wide array of issues, ranging from economy to culture and social affairs, in the Muslim world for nearly a century, and that the 1947 creation of the Israeli Zionist is the

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FM Bagheri: Ties With Saudi Arabia Progressive

TEHRAN -- Iran's interim Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani has described relations between the Islamic Republic and Saudi Arabia as "progressive," stressing that Tehran is determined to expand all-out ties with Riyadh.

During a telephone conversation with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Friday night, Bagheri Kani extended his gratitude to Saudi authorities for the facilities and services provided to Iranian pilgrims during Hajj rituals.

He hailed the recent face-to-face meeting with Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed al-Khereiji in Tehran on the

sidelines of the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) ministerial meeting, terming the current state of diplomatic relations between the two countries as "promising."

The senior Iranian diplomat also shed light on the ongoing Israeli atrocities against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank.

"The Zionist regime's threats against Lebanon are in line with its crimes against Gaza's population. The ill-thought-out occupying Israeli regime is trying to make up for its defeat in Gaza by expanding the scope of war and crimes to other regions," Bagheri Kani said.

He then called upon all Muslim states to employ all their capacities to put an immediate end to Israeli crimes, threats and acts of aggression in Gaza and elsewhere in West Asia.

For his part, bin Farhan expressed satisfaction over the meeting and negotiations between Saudi and Iranian officials on the fringes of the ACD meeting in Tehran, stating that Riyadh-Tehran relations are favorably consolidating.

The Saudi foreign minister also voiced his concerns over escalating tensions along the border between Lebanon and the 1948 Israeli-occupied territories, demanding initiatives aimed

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The Holy Qur'an

They who turn (to Allah), who serve (Him), who praise (Him), who fast, who bow down, who prostrate themselves, who enjoy what is good and forbid what is evil, and who keep the limits of Allah; and give good news to the believers.

The Holy Qur'an (9.112)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:08
Evening (Maghreb)	19:45
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:52
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:06

Iran Envoy to UN: All Options on Table if Lebanon Invaded

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations has dismissed Israel's threats of launching a war on Lebanon as "psychological warfare", stressing that all options, including full involvement of all resistance groups in West Asia, are on the table in case of such military aggression.

"Albeit Iran deems as psychological warfare the Zionist regime's propaganda about intending to attack Lebanon, should it embark on full-scale military aggression, an obliterating war will ensue. All options, incl. the full involvement of all Resistance Fronts, are on the table," the mission said in a post published on its official X account on Saturday.

Earlier this week, the secretary general of Iraq's Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq resistance group warned Israel against waging a new war on Lebanon, emphasizing that the strategic interests of its main ally, the United States, in West Asia will be targeted in such a case.

"If America continues to support the usurping Israeli regime, and the Zionist enemy expands its assaults on Lebanon and Hezbollah, Washington's interests in the region and Iraq will be in jeopardy," Qais al-Khazali said.

Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging deadly fire since early October last year, shortly after the regime launched a genocidal aggression against the Gaza Strip following a surprise operation by the Palestinian Hamas resistance group.

Hezbollah has vowed to keep up its retaliatory attacks as long as the Tel Aviv regime continues its Gaza war. Hezbollah officials have repeatedly said they do not want a war with Israel but if it happens they are ready.