

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Campaigns  
begin for  
parliamentary  
run-off

## National Desk

Iran's Election Headquarters said on Wednesday that campaigns for the parliament's run-off elections will begin from today (Thursday) and will last for one week.

Candidates running for seats in Iran's Parliament will compete in second round of the elections slated for May 10.

A total of 90 candidates are going to run for the 45 remaining seats in the parliament. The spokesperson for Iran's Election Headquarters, Mohsen Eslami, said on Sunday that the elections will be held in 22 constituencies across the country where the candidates had failed to receive an absolute majority (more than 50%) of votes cast during the first round which was held on March 1.

He noted that the upcoming run-off elections will be held with electronic voting machines in 22 districts across 15 provinces, including in the capital, Tehran.

The first round of the elections was held on March 1. On the same day, Iranians also voted to elect the members of the Assembly of Experts.

Over 130 IAEA  
inspectors  
allowed  
in Iran

## International Desk

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said on Wednesday that more than 130 inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are permitted to work in the country.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet session, Mohammad Eslami, said Iran has not barred any IAEA inspector from entering the country.

Currently, more than 130 IAEA inspectors are permitted to conduct inspections in Iran, he said, noting that the UN agency is regularly carrying out its inspection activities at Iran's nuclear sites.

His comments came after spokesman of Iran's atomic agency Behrouz Kamalvandi said on Tuesday that the head of the UN's atomic watchdog will travel to Iran next week to attend a conference and hold talks with Iranian officials regarding the country's nuclear program. Rafael Grossi will visit Iran to attend the "the nuclear sciences and technologies of Iran" conference, which will be held from May 6 to May 8 in the central city of Isfahan.

Leader calls for mounting pressure  
on Israel over its war in Gaza

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called for piling up pressure on the Israeli regime so that the issue of Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip cannot be undermined.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in an address to a group of teachers and academics on Wednesday on the occasion of the National Teachers' Day, which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Morteza

Motahhari, Press TV reported. "Today, the issue of Gaza tops the world's issues. At the international scene, the Zionists and their American and European supporters are doing whatever they can to cross out the issue



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of teachers and academics on the occasion of Iran's National Teachers' Day on May 1, 2024.

● leader.ir

of Gaza from the agenda of the world's public opinion, but all in vain," Ayatollah Khamenei said. The Leader pointed to the pro-Palestine protest by students in American and European universities, and said, "Nations have become sensitive to the Gaza issue as it is the world's top one. We should not allow this issue to be removed from the world's public opinion, and pressure must increase on the Zionist regime day by day." Touching on the US police violence and excessive force against student protesters, the Leader said the harsh treatment attested to the Islamic Republic's rightful stance regarding its mistrust of America. "Look at how the Americans and the relevant bodies in the country are dealing with verbal opposition to Israel. The students of US universities did not van-

dalize anything, did not shout destructive slogans, did not kill anyone, did not set fire to any place, did not break any glass; [but] this is how they are being treated," the Leader said.

"What people see in practice shows America's partnership and complicity in this horrific crime, in this unforgivable sin, with the Zionist regime. They are accomplices. How can one be optimistic about such a system, about such a regime? How is it possible? Or how can one trust their words?" he added. Ayatollah Khamenei underlined that Palestine belongs to its "original owners" and normalization attempts will not calm the situation in the West Asia region.

"Palestine must return to its original owners. Palestine belongs to the Palestinian people, including Muslims, Christians and Jews; Palestine is for them and should return to them ... this is how the problem of the West Asia region will be solved," the Leader said.

"Some imagine that forcing neighboring countries to normalize their ties with the Zionist regime will iron out the problem. No, they are mistaken," the Leader added.

US police arrests dozens of  
pro-Palestinian protesters in universities

## International Desk

Dozens of students have been arrested after hundreds of New York City police officers entered Columbia University on Tuesday night to clear out an academic building that had been taken over as part of a pro-Palestinian protest.

Live video images showed police in riot gear marching on the campus in upper Manhattan, the focal point of nationwide student protests opposing Israel's war in Gaza.

Before long, officers were seen leading protesters handcuffed with zip ties to a line of police buses waiting outside campus gates.

One protester at Columbia, who only gave their name as Sophie, told the Guardian that police had barricaded protesters inside buildings before making arrests. "It will not be forgotten," she said. "This is no longer an Israel-Palestine issue. It's a human rights and free speech and a Columbia student issue."

The police operation follows nearly two weeks of tensions, with pro-Palestinian protesters at the university ignoring an ultimatum on Monday to abandon their encampment or risk suspension. On Tuesday, Columbia University officials threatened academic expulsion of the students who had seized Hamilton Hall, an eight-story neo-classical building blocked by protesters who linked arms to form a barricade and chanted pro-Palestinian slogans.

New York congressman Jamaal Bowman said he was "outraged" by the level of police presence at Columbia and other New York universities. Separately, the New York Times



NYPD officers in riot gear arrest pro-Palestinian protesters as they evict a building that had been barricaded by pro-Palestinian student protesters at Columbia University's encampment in New York City on April 30, 2024.

● JIA WU/AFP

reported dozens of arrests at City College of New York, part of the City University of New York system (CUNY), when some students left Columbia and moved north to the campus where a protest sit-in was still in effect. One protester who offered their name as OS, told the Guardian: "We need to keep protesting peacefully and the truth needs to come out. This is a genocide happening in front of us, and the people in power are allowing this to happen. Meanwhile, clashes broke out on Wednesday at pro-Palestinian demonstrations on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles. Protesters and counter-protesters were seen clashing with sticks, and tearing down metal barricades, TV footage showed. The weeks of demonstrations – the most sweeping and prolonged unrest to rock US college campuses since the Vietnam war protests of the 1960s and 70s – have already led to more than 1,000 arrests of students and other activists. In another of the newest clashes, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, police moved in Tuesday to clear one encamp-

ment, detaining some protesters in a tense showdown.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk voiced concern at the heavy-handed steps taken to disperse the campus protests, saying "freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly are fundamental to society." Pro-Palestinian students are calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and an end to college ties with companies supplying weapons to Israel.

The United States has been providing Israel with unrestrained military, intelligence, and financial support since October 7, when the regime unleashed the war against the besieged Palestinian territory. Washington has also vetoed several United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for a cease-fire in Gaza.

## Why do Iranian ...

This news, along with military secrets of Iran, reached the Russian camp.

As a result, the morale of the Russians was boosted, and with the help of this superior military and intelligence advantage, they attacked Abbas Mirza's camp in Aslan Duz in the middle of the night. The Iranian army, under the control of British officers, did not function properly that night.

The Iranian forces were scattered, and many soldiers were martyred, leading the remaining forces to retreat to Tabriz. As a result of this major defeat, Iran was forced to negotiate. The Treaty of Gulistan was written under the mediation of Augustus Ouseley, and swathes of Iranian territory were separated. Later, when Ouseley's reports were published by the British government, he expressed his strategy as follows: "We must ensure that the Iranian nation remains in savagery and barbarism." This perpetual policy of the UK has been to keep Iran backward and to exploit it to the fullest extent possible in any situation.

Iran witnessed a major famine in 1917, which according to historical records, is considered the most horrific event in Iranian history—a catastrophe in which the UK played a central role. Following this, the exploitation of Iran's national resources by the UK began during the reign of Mozaffar ad-Din Shah through an individual contract known as "Knox D'Arcy." Subsequently, with the establishment of the "Anglo-Persian Oil Company" by Lord Fisher and its transformation into the An-

glo-Iranian Oil Company, various unilateral agreements heavily favoring the British side were concluded between the two countries, allowing British control over our oil resources.

The imposition of the "Reuter concession" in 1872, which effectively sold Iran to the UK for 70 years, is another issue that has added to Iranians' historical resentment towards the UK.

Simon Shercliff, the current British ambassador to Iran, like the first British envoy, now seeks to showcase his affinity for Iran and Iranian culture on various occasions. One day in the embassy courtyard, he grills chicken kebabs, and the next day, he tries to mimic popular Iranian figures on social media, pretending that the UK is a friend to Iran and Iranians. However, this approach can no longer win the trust of Iranians. Thinking about how the UK can gain the trust of Iranians is very challenging, as there is likely no other answer to this question.

The BBC, which launched its Persian television in 2009, initially aimed to be an opposition media outlet against the Islamic Republic, drawing attention from some of its opponents. However, gradually along its course of operation, it even failed to gain the trust of the opposition. The reasons behind this could serve as a subject for researchers. It's even recommended that the BBC World Service take more oversight of this sub-division's activities, as the publication of inaccurate, forged, and unsubstantiated news multiple times has irreparably damaged the reputation of this media brand.