



Iranians vote at a polling station in Tehran during the parliamentary runoff elections on May 10, 2024.
● HOSSEIN NAQIZADEH/IRAN DAILY

Iran holds parl. runoff

National Desk
Iranians had the chance to cast ballots for parliament again on Friday in regions where candidates failed to secure enough votes in

March. Candidates needed at least 20 percent of all valid votes in their constituency to be elected in the initial round. Friday's vote was to fill the

seats of 45 deputies, out of the 290 in parliament, in 15 of Iran's 31 provinces, including Tehran, officials said. In the capital, Tehran, 16 representatives will be

chosen from 32 candidates. Final results are expected on Monday, though counts in smaller constituencies are likely before that. Leader of the Islamic Rev-

olution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was among the first to cast a ballot as voting began.

Ayatollah Khamenei said that every person, who wants Iran's progress, has a national duty to take part in the election.

"The importance of the second round is not less than the first one, and God willing, our beloved people will all participate, vote and complete the parliament," the Leader added. "The more votes, the stronger the parliament is, and the stronger the parliament, the more opportunities to work in the country."

The first round of the parliamentary election was held along with the Assembly of Experts vote on March 1, saw a turnout of 41 percent.

Twenty-five million Iranians out of 61 million eligible voters took part in the elections.

Back then, 245 candidates managed to pass the 20-percent threshold to win the ticket to the parliament.

In the 2016 parliamentary elections, first-round turnout was above 61 percent, before falling to 42.57 percent in 2020 when elections took place during the Covid pandemic.

Iran says it will change its nuclear doctrine if existence threatened



International Desk

Head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations Kamal Kharrazi said that Iran will have to change its nuclear doctrine if Israel threatens its existence.

In an interview with Al Jazeera Television network, Kharrazi, a former foreign minister, emphasized that if Israel makes a mistake and attacks Iran's nuclear facilities, Tehran's level of deterrence will be different.

"Two years ago, in an interview with Al Jazeera, I announced that Iran has the potential to produce a nuclear bomb; and today we still have that capacity, but we have no decision to produce a nuclear bomb," he said, IRNA reported.

In April, in the middle of a tense standoff with Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear weapons, a senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps also said Israeli threats could prompt Iran to change its nuclear doctrine.

Brigadier General Ahmad Haqhtalab, who is the commander of Iran's Nuclear Centers Protection and Security Corps, warned of potential revisions to Iran's nuclear policies if Israel continues to threaten attacks on its nuclear sites, Tasnim News Agency reported.

"If Israel attempts to use the threat of attacking nuclear facilities to put pressure on Iran, a revision of the nuclear doctrine and a departure from the previously announced considerations is likely," stated the com-

mander. Haghtalab highlighted Israel's history of sabotage and terrorist acts against Iran's nuclear industry alongside its ongoing threats.

Iran and Israel have long been arch enemies, but what was for decades a shadow war erupted into open confrontation on April 13, when Tehran launched about 300 missiles and drones against Israel in retaliation for an Israeli strike on its embassy compound in Damascus on April 1, which killed seven members of the Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

In response, Israel reportedly launched an attack on Iranian territory on April 19. On the same day, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said drones that sources say Israel fired at the central city of Isfahan caused no damage or casualties, in comments made to the envoys of Muslim nations in New York. The foreign minister said they were "more like toys that our children play with" than a serious threat.

"The Zionist regime's media supporters, in a desperate effort, tried to make victory out of their defeat, while the downed mini-drones have not caused any damage or casualties," Amir-Abdollahian said.

Kharrazi said it is not considered a military operation. The move was not against Iran's nuclear facilities, but they wanted to target only one of the military bases. If they attack Iran's nuclear facilities, Tehran's level of deterrence will be different.

Borrell: Spain, Ireland to recognize Palestinian state on May 21

International Desk
Spain, Ireland and other European Union member countries plan to recognize a Palestinian state on May 21, the EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, said late on Thursday ahead of an expected UN vote on Friday on a Palestinian bid to become a full member. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said in March that Spain and Ireland, along with Slovenia and Malta, had agreed to take the first steps toward recognition of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, seeing a two-state solution as essential for lasting peace. Asked on local Spanish radio station RNE if May 21 was when Spain, Ireland and other EU countries would recognize a Palestinian state,

Borrell said yes, mentioning Slovenia as well. "This is a symbolic act of a political nature. More than a state, it recognizes the will for that state to exist," he said, adding that Belgium and other countries would probably follow. Previously, Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares had said the decision on recognition had been made, although he did not give a date. International calls for a cease-fire and permanent end to Palestinian-Israeli conflict have grown along with the death toll from Israel's offensive in Gaza since Oct. 7. On Friday the United Nations General Assembly was to back a Palestinian bid to become a full UN member by recognizing it as qualified to join and sending the applica-

tion back to the UN Security Council to "reconsider the matter favorably." Ireland's national broadcaster RTE said on Thursday that Spain, Ireland, Slovenia and Malta had been waiting for the UN vote and were considering a joint recognition on May 21. Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob said earlier this week his country would recognize Palestine's statehood by mid-June. Since 1988, 139 out of 193 UN member states have recognized Palestinian statehood.

Suspending Israeli ties
Meanwhile, Spanish universities expressed willingness Thursday to suspend ties with any Israeli educational institution that failed to express "a clear commitment

to peace" as the war rages in Gaza. Student protests have gathered pace across Western Europe in recent weeks with protesters demanding an end to the Gaza bloodshed and to cut ties with Israel, taking their cue from demonstrations that have swept US campuses. In a statement, the university chancellors' governing board (CRUE) denounced the violence and threw its support behind the protests that have recently popped on Spanish campuses. Demanding an immediate

end to Israel's actions in Gaza, they pledged "to review ties and if necessary, suspend collaboration with Israeli universities and research centers that haven't expressed a firm commitment to peace and respect for international humanitarian law." The Gaza war, which began on October 7, has sparked a wave of pro-Palestinian protests that have rocked US campuses for weeks in an intensity not seen for decades, with the movement then spreading to cities in Europe and even Australia.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Tender Notice
No. Z/1403/03
Deadline Extension

Hereby **Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.** announces selling and export 140,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 10:00 A.M. on 18. May.2024 to Golgohar office in Tehran (Fatemi Ave. opposite of Laleh hotel building No. 273). Bidders are invited to the mentioned address of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 10:00 A.M. on 18 May.2024 at the office of the Seller.

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