Conservatives win big in Iran's parl. runoff



National Desk

Conservatives managed to secure more seats in the second round of Iran's parliamentary elections, official

results showed Saturday, tightening their hold on the chamber.

Voters had been called to cast ballots again on Friday in regions where candidates

failed to gain enough votes in the March 1 election. Conservative won the majority of the 45 remaining seats up for grabs in the vote held in 15 of Iran's 31

For the first time in the country, voting on Friday was a completely electronic process at eight of the 22 constituencies in Tehran and the cities of Tabriz in the northwest and Shiraz in the south, state TV said.

"Contrary to some predictions, all the candidates had a relatively acceptable and good number of votes," Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi told reporters in Tehran.

Candidates needed at least 20 percent of all valid votes in their constituency to be elected in the initial round. 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.

Second Announcement N.I.S.O.C NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140001 National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment are requested to send their " Intention To Participate" Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material letter via fax to the following number along with their procurement management tab ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P. resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO participation in the tender will be disregarded. NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL The applicants should have relevant background in FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT supplying the required goods and capability to provide and Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management submit a bid bond of 131,340/04 EURO or 57,492,000,000 Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran RIAL, in favor of NISOC Tel. No.: 061 34 12 3589 Tender documents including the materials thorough Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37 http://iets.mporg.ir



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UNGA backs Palestinian bid for membership

Iran denounces US for choosing to blind eyes to reality

International Desk

The UN general assembly voted overwhelmingly to back the Palestinian bid for full UN membership, a move that reflects growing global solidarity with Palestinians and a rebuke to Israel and the United States amid alarm over the war in Gaza and the extent of the humanitarian crisis in the territory.

The assembly voted by 143 to nine, with 25 abstentions, for a resolution that called on the UN Security Council to bestow full membership to the state of Palestine, while enhancing its current mission with a range of new rights and privileges, in addition to what it is allowed in its current observer status.

The highly charged gesture drew an immediate rebuke from Israel. Its envoy to the UN, Gilad Erdan, delivered a fiery denunciation of the resolution and its backers before the vote

"Today, I will hold up a mirror for you," Erdan said, taking out a small paper shredder in which he shredded a copy of the cover of the UN charter. He told the assembly: "You are shredding the UN charter with your own hands. Yes, yes, that's what you're doing. Shredding the UN charter. Shame on you."



The Palestinian envoy, Riyad Mansour, pointed out the vote was being held at a time when Rafah, the southernmost city that is the last haven for many Palestinians in Gaza, faced attack from Israeli forces. "As we speak, 1.4 million

Palestinians in Rafah wonder if they will survive the day and wonder where to go next. There is nowhere left to go," Mansour said. "I have stood hundreds of times before at this podium, often in tragic circumstances, but none comparable to the ones my people endured today ... never for a more significant vote than the one about to take place,

a historic one." The US mission to the UN, which voted against the resolution, said it would use its veto again if the question of Palestinian membership returned to the security council for another vote.

The resolution does not mean a Palestinian state will be recognized and admitted to the United Nations as a full member anytime soon. The Assembly can only grant full membership with the approval of the Security Council, and, if history is a guide, the United States would almost inevitably wield its veto power to kill such a measure, as it did in April.

Iran's Permanent Ambassador to the UN Amir Saeid Iravani lashed out at the US, as a staunch supporter of the Israeli regime, for choosing once more to blind its eyes to this reality and make cynical efforts to hinder the realization of the noble aspiration of the Palestinian people for full membership.

"However, today's vote shows how the United States is isolated in its unconditional support of the Israeli regime," Iravani said.

More than 300 dead in Afghanistan flash floods

More than 300 people were killed in flash floods that ripped through multiple Afghan provinces, the World Food Programme said on Saturday, as authorities declared a state of emergency and rushed to rescue the injured.

Heavy rains on Friday sent roaring rivers of water and mud crashing through villages and across agricultural land in several provinces, according to AFP.

Northern Baghlan Province was one of the hardest hit. with more than 300 people killed there alone, and thousands of houses destroyed or damaged, according to



"On current information: in Baghlan Province there are 311 fatalities, 2,011 houses destroyed and 2,800 houses damaged," Rana Deraz, a communications officer for stan, told AFP.

Another 20 people were reported dead in northern Takhar province and two in neighboring Badakhshan, he added.

Iran strongly condemns 'unwise' **Canadian motion against IRGC**

Iran hit out at an "unwise" motion at the Canadian House which calls on the Ottawa government to designate Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Saturday highlighted the role which the IRGC plays in countering threats against the country and terrorism in the region, Press TV reported.

"Along with other elements of the armed forces, the IRGC is responsible for guarding the national security and borders of the country, as well as contributing to lasting security and stability in the region by confronting the sinister phenomenon of terrorism," he said.

His remarks came after the Canadian House of Commons on Wednesday adopted a non-binding resolution calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to blacklist the IRGC and expel an estimated 700 Iranians.

Kanaani strongly condemned the move, calling it "unwise, hostile and contrary to the accepted standards and principles of the international law, including the equality of sovereignties and non-interference in the internal affairs of states".