



Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf



Massoud Pezeshkian



Saeed Jalili

# Six candidates to vie for presidency

**National Desk**

Iran's Guardian Council on Sunday approved six candidates for the June 28 election to succeed the late President Ebrahim Raisi who lost his life in a tragic helicopter crash last month. The candidates announced by the Interior Ministry were selected from 80 registered hopefuls by the 12-member election supervisory council. Among those approved are the Conservative Speaker of Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and the former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili from the Steadfast Front. Qalibaf ran unsuccessfully for president in 2005 and 2013. He

withdrew from the 2017 presidential campaign to support Raisi in his first failed presidential bid. Just one Reformist candidate, Massoud Pezeshkian, 69, who is a lawmaker representing northwestern city of Tabriz in Iran's Parliament, has been given the green light. The Conservative former interior minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi has also been authorized to run. Others on the list include Conservative Tehran mayor Alireza Zakani and incumbent Vice President Amirhossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi, the head of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs. In a Sunday post on the X social

media platform, Zakani said he would "compete until the end to continue the path of" Raisi. **Ahmadinejad, Larijani disqualified** The Guardian Council once again barred former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from running. He was previously disqualified from entering the presidential races in 2017 and 2021. The politician had said he was only heeding "a call from people from across the country" to run again, and he was confident he could resolve Iran's domestic and international issues. Others including former three-time parliament speaker Ali Larijani and Vahid Haqanian,

a former commander in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, were also barred from standing. Larijani was disqualified in 2021 presidential election. Four women had also registered their candidacy but were disqualified. According to Iran's electoral law, campaigning should officially start from Sunday until 24 hours before the elections. The campaign likely will include live, televised debates by the candidates on Iran's state-run broadcaster. They also advertise on billboards and offer stump speeches to back their bids. Iran's presidential elections were originally slated for 2025 but were brought forward

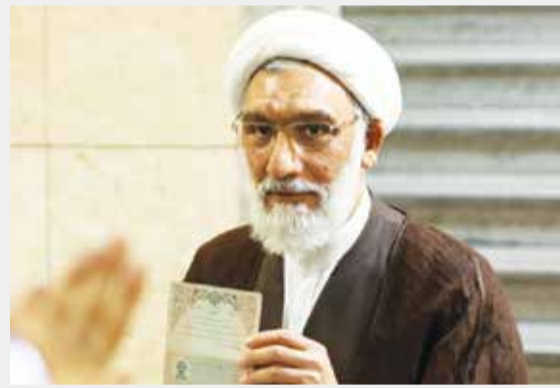
following Raisi's unexpected death on May 19. Raisi and seven members of his entourage, including foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, were killed when their aircraft came down on a fog-shrouded mountainside in northern Iran. Raisi is the second Iranian president to die in office. In 1981, a bomb blast killed former President Mohammad-Ali Rajai in the chaotic days after the country's Islamic Revolution. Following Raisi's death, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei appointed Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, 68, as caretaker president in accordance with the Constitution.



Alireza Zakani



Amirhossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi



Mostafa Pourmohammadi

## Ansarallah targets 3 ships off Yemen's coast



AFP

Yemen's Ansarallah resistance movement said on Sunday they targeted ships off the country's coast with missiles and drones after maritime security firms said two vessels had caught fire after being hit by projectiles. The strikes are the latest in a flurry of attacks by the resistance group which says is in solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. In a statement on social media platform X, Yemen's military spokesperson Yahya Saree said the group attacked "two ships belonging to companies that violated" directives by the group not to enter Israeli ports. He identified the vessels as the Liberia-flagged MSC Tavvishi and the Norderney, which sails under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda. Saree said Temeni forces also targeted the HMS Diamond, a British naval warship. The announcement came after maritime security firm Ambrey said an Antigua and Barbuda-flagged cargo ship caught fire after being hit by a missile off Yemen on Saturday night. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UK-MTO), run by Britain's Royal Navy, said an "unknown projectile" hit a vessel off Yemen around 2000 GMT on Saturday, starting a small fire in the mooring station that was extinguished.

# Global outrage after Israel's 'massacre' in Nuseirat camp

Several countries and international organizations condemned the Israeli killing of at least 274 Palestinians, many of them civilians, during an operation to free four Israeli captives in central Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp. Authorities in the Gaza

Strip on Sunday said at least 698 others were injured in "an unprecedented brutal attack", some in critical condition, as hospitals struggle to cope with the flow of wounded or dead bodies. Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa said

the Palestinian Authority is seeking an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council over the Nuseirat attack. Hamas resistance group said Israel's release of four captives "will not change the Israeli army's strategic failure in the Gaza Strip",

especially after taking eight months to enact the operation. It also said reports that the United States facilitated the Israeli operation prove again that Washington is "complicit and completely involved in the war crimes being perpetrated" in the besieged territory.

**'Bloodbath must end'**

Josep Borrell, the foreign policy chief of the European Union, had a stronger reaction, writing in a post on X that "the bloodbath must end immediately". "Reports from Gaza of another massacre of civilians are appalling. We condemn this in the strongest terms," he said. Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, deputy foreign minister of Norway, wrote on X that he was "appalled by reports of another massacre of civilians in Gaza" and said the country condemns attacks on civilians while calling for the release of captives and an immediate ceasefire. The Organization of Islam-

ic Cooperation (OIC), representing 57 member states, most of whom are Muslim-majority, condemned "the horrific massacre" and called for an investigation. In a statement, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said the country "deplores" the Israeli attack, which it called "barbaric" and another in a long list of "crimes" committed by Israel which has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians since October 7.

**World's inaction**

Iran's Foreign Ministry blamed the latest killing of hundreds of Palestinians on "inaction" by world governments and the UN Security Council. "These horrific and shocking crimes... are the result of the inaction of governments and responsible international bodies, including the United Nations Security Council, in the face of eight months of war crimes and violations by the Zionist regime [Israel]," spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in a statement.



A Palestinian girl walks amidst the debris a day after Israel's attacks on the Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip on June 9, 2024. EYAD BABA/AFP

"The butchered and bloodied bodies of Palestinian civilians and children are the result of the continued injection of American and European arms to the arsenals of the Zionist regime, and the continued support of the US and a number of European countries for the regime." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a post on X that "scores of Palestinian civilians" continued to be killed in Israeli attacks after the organization this week paid tribute to a record 188 UN staff

killed in Gaza. Martin Griffiths, the UN relief chief, called the Nuseirat refugee camp "the epicenter of the seismic trauma that civilians in Gaza continue to suffer" and said all remaining captives must be released and the war ended.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

