

Economy cornerstone of Iran's first presidential debate

National Desk

Six presidential candidates on Monday exchanged their views on Iran's economic problems, especially high inflation rate, in a live televised debate ahead of the June 28 presidential election.

It was the first of five debates planned in the 9 days remaining before the vote in a campaign to replace late president Ebrahim Raisi who was killed in a helicopter crash on May 19.

The candidates discussed their proposals and plans for Iran's economy, struggling under sanctions from the United States and other Western nations.

They all promised they would try and get the sanctions lifted and introduce reforms. The candidates also discussed inflation, the budget deficit, Iran's housing problem and ways to fight corruption.

All the candidates had an understanding on imbalance between increase in salaries and inflation rate.

One of the candidates and

current lawmaker, Masoud Pezeshkian, said that the country's high inflation has made it difficult for the government's employees and retirees to provide their families with the essentials for a normal life.

The candidates also talked about the effect of liquidity volume on inflation. The current Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, who is the most prominent candidate, believes that increase in liquidity is one of the main factors behind high inflation in the country.

However, candidate Alireza Zakani, the mayor of Tehran, believes that the liquidity will be useful if it is used in appropriate sectors.

Mostafa Pourmohammadi, another candidate and a previous interior minister under former president Hassan Rouhani, criticized the policies of Iran's central bank to control the price of foreign currencies. He said that the Central Bank of Iran has ordered the banks to stop granting loans to companies - the issue that has



affected production in the country. He considers curbing inflation as a prerequisite for financial stability in the country. Saeed Jalili believes that to curb inflation, foreign currency market should be controlled. Five of the candidates are conservatives while the

sixth candidate, lawmaker Pezeshkian, 69, is a heart surgeon who has the support of some pro-Reformists. Among those running for president are also Iran's Vice President, Amir Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi. During the four-hour debate, Qalibaf also promised

he would be a "strong" president who would support the poor, better manage the economy and effort to remove sanctions through diplomatic means. Pezeshkian said the sanctions were a "disaster" and also lobbied for less restrictions on the internet.

All the candidates pledged to strengthen the country's currency, the rial, which has plunged to 580,000 against the dollar. The rial was 32,000 to the dollar when Iran and world powers reached a deal with world powers in 2015 on Iran's nuclear program.

Iranian presidential candidates take part in the first debate in Tehran ahead of the election scheduled for June 28.
● MORTEZA FAKHRINEJAD/IRIB



President Biden's second possible freezing episode in the last week has sparked renewed speculation that Democrats are secretly plotting to replace him on the ticket and shifted focus to his make or break first debate with Donald Trump later this month.

According to a Democratic strategist quoted by DailyMail.com, only a quartet of influential figures - former president Barack Obama, former president Bill Clinton, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, possess the clout to force the 81-year-old president out, India Today reported.

However, Biden, noted for his tenacity and the most recognized leader of the Democratic Party, could dig in his heels and continue running in the run-up to the election, which could potentially exacerbate party discontent.

What is also complicating matters further is Biden's "complicated" relationship with Obama. Biden is believed to harbor lingering resentment towards Obama, who endorsed

Hillary Clinton over him in the 2016 primaries and reportedly discouraged his 2020 run, according to the DailyMail.com report.

In late May, Obama briefly appeared at a White House state dinner for the Kenyan president and his wife Michelle was not present. According to a Democratic source, Michelle Obama, who harbors no close personal feelings for the Bidens, flatly refused to accept the invitation, the report claimed.

The Obamas have intentionally maintained a distance from the White House since Biden, the oldest US president, was elected in 2020, knowing that their public appearances would trigger a sense of nostalgia among the people when they once liked their nominees.

However, Obama was present at a recent Democratic fundraiser at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles, along with Biden. The 81-year-old president, who has faced criticism over his advancing age and his decision to run for a second term, appeared to freeze up on stage. At the event, Biden

seemed to lock eyes with the crowd, standing still like a statue for about 10 seconds until Obama, still smiling and waving, swooped in, taking his hand and gracefully guiding him offstage. The incident came days after he appeared to wander away from other world leaders during the G7 Summit in Italy last week.

Meanwhile, in a strategic move, the Democratic Party has opted for an online nomination with a virtual roll call to formally select Biden as their nominee ahead of the DNC convention in Chicago in mid-August, the DailyMail.com reported. This virtual framework could also facilitate a more controlled process should the party decide to pivot and nominate a replacement candidate.

If a swap was to be executed, the new nominee would likely be introduced and endorsed by high-ranking Democrats in a public event. Notably, Vice President Kamala Harris is reportedly not the preferred replacement, according to sources, adding another layer of complexity to the situation.

Gaza gov't says 3,500 children at risk of dying

Gazan Government Media Office issued a stark condemnation on Tuesday, accusing the Israeli regime and the US administration of exacerbating the famine that threatens 2.4 million Palestinians in Gaza.

The declaration highlighted the immediate threat of famine, particularly to Palestinian children, with approximately 3,500 at risk of death due to severe malnutrition and lack of medical supplies. The media office emphasized the widespread suffering across Gaza, exacerbated by a 40-day total closure of

crossings leading to severe shortages in local markets. It described the blockade as a deliberate policy targeting vulnerable groups, including children and patients, denying them essential food, medicine, nutritional supplements, and vaccinations crucial for survival. Urging swift intervention, the Gazan government demanded the immediate reopening of Rafah and Karam Abu Salem crossings to facilitate the entry of critical aid. United Nations rights chief Volker Turk told the UN Human Rights Council in Gene-

va he was "appalled by the disregard for international human rights" and "unconscionable death and suffering". The United Nations has said aid access to Gaza has been severely hindered by factors including insecurity, the closing of crossing points to the territory, and Israeli procedural delays. Since the start of Israeli military operations around Rafah in early May, when the vital crossing was seized and closed, "aid delivery and humanitarian access deteriorated further," Turk said.

Hamis demanded the opening of both the Kerem Shalom and Rafah crossings, the group said in a statement accusing Israel and its close ally the United States of the "crime of preventing the entry of aid and food as a tool for political pressure". Displaced Palestinian Ali Hassan, sheltering in a tent in central Gaza's Deir al-Balah, told AFP "Eid al-Adha this year is not like previous holidays." "There is no meat or sacrificial animals, we don't even have clothes for the children," he said.

Second Announcement


N.I.S.O.C
 NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
 AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0240003

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	COILED TUBING REEL STRING, QT-800 TAPERED TYPE H2S SERVICE, 15000 FT.	5RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 39,185/76 EURO or 17,347,730,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab. ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P.

NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.
NOTE: Based on enactment issued by Nisoc's Tender committee, foreign companies must submit a Bid Bond Guarantee amounting to aforementioned (paragraph 1) Euro amount. Otherwise, their quotations will not be considered.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

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