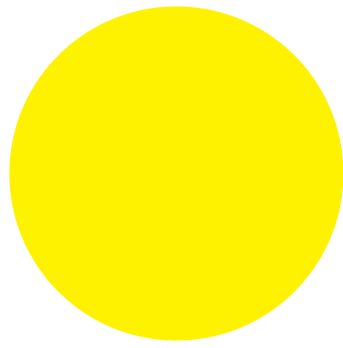




NIGC signs memo with Gazprom on Russian gas supplies 2 >



Iran Braces for Seminal National Event

Presidential election campaigns hit high gear

PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

As the rivalry among six presidential candidates in Iran reaches its peak, the nation gears up for a life-changing election. Campaigning is set to conclude today at 8:00 AM, making way for the commencement of voting tomorrow morning. Following a heated final television debate on Tuesday evening, hopefuls went full throttle with their campaign efforts on Wednesday.

The race remains tight between three key contenders: Massoud Pezeshkian, backed by reformists and moderates, and Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Saeed Jalili, both endorsed by conservatives. Polls indicate that none of the three holds the required majority to secure a first-round victory, with the trio running neck and neck.

Unofficial sources claim attempts to persuade either Qalibaf or Jalili to drop out, consolidating the conservatives' camp to avoid fragmentation and boost the likelihood of a first-stage triumph. At the time of this piece, however, all candidates remain in the race. Of the current candidates, four – Jalili, Qalibaf, Amir Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, and Alireza Zakani – align with the conservative camp and share close ties to the late president Ebrahim Raisi's administration. Their platforms emphasize the continuation of his policies.

On the other side of the political spectrum stands reformist candidate Pezeshkian, an outspoken critic of Iran's current policies. His platform centers on ramping up efforts to lift sanctions, bolster domestic unity, and remove restrictions on the Internet, while leveraging the expertise of specialists and elites to tackle economic challenges.

[Page 7 >](#)



Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf



Saeed Jalili



Massoud Pezeshkian



Alireza Zakani



Mostafa Pourmohammadi



Amir Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi

Trump's trial shows legal system works, but his rhetoric left scars

[4-5 >](#)



SPECIAL ISSUE

'On the Zero Line' hits Japanese cinemas

[8 >](#)



Wrestling U17 Asian Championships: Iranian young guns crowned freestyle champion

[6 >](#)



Margoon Waterfall holds immense ecological and cultural significance

[3 >](#)



Iran-Russia cooperation agreement fully laid out: Envoy

Russia's Ambassador to Tehran Alexey Dedov said on Wednesday that the process of a new comprehensive cooperation agreement between Iran and Russia has been completed. In an interview with ISNA, Dedov said that two agreements on establishment of the two countries' cultural centers as well as an agreement on cooperation on data security, which had been earlier approved by Iran's Parliament, were announced by Iran's acting President Mohammad Mokhbar for implementation on Sunday.

[7 >](#)