



Top Democrats endorse Harris after Biden's exit from election race

US Vice President Kamala Harris and President Joe Biden arrive to deliver remarks during National Small Business Week, in the White House in Washington, DC, on May 1, 2023.
● BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP

International Desk

A majority of Democrats in Congress and nearly half of the country's Democratic governors announced their support for Vice President Kamala Harris to lead the Democratic ticket in the

hours after President Joe Biden stepped out of the race on Sunday. Most Democrats were quick to issue statements commending Biden for his years of service after he announced he was dropping his re-election bid. Many of

ferred their support for Harris to be the party's nominee, though several key leaders did not immediately back her. After weeks of fighting among Democrats on whether Biden, 81, should stay in the race, a rush of support coalescing behind Har-

ris, if she is to be the nominee, is crucial with just over 100 days before the November election.

Doubts about Harris success

But there are plenty of doubts inside the Democratic Party about

whether Harris can beat Donald Trump, the Republican nominee and former president. Some Democrats have suggested the party should hold a mini-primary before the August convention. Biden himself endorsed Harris on Sunday, in a separate statement following his letter saying that he is stepping down. He was quickly followed by the powerful Congressional Black Caucus, several key donors, various lawmakers and super PACs including Priorities USA and Unite the Country. Former president Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton, who served as secretary of State under president Barack Obama, also endorsed Harris in a statement. Still, others, including former house speaker Nancy Pelosi and Obama, under whom Biden served as vice president for eight years, thanked Biden for his patriotism but have yet to throw their support behind Harris or any other candidate. "We will be navigating uncharted waters in the days ahead," Obama said in a statement. "But I have extraordinary confidence that the leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges." Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, who praised Biden's

decision to step aside, also was silent on who should be the Democrats' nominee. Trump's vicious attack on Biden and his legacy led the Republican party's reaction to the president's decision to withdraw from the 2024 race. "Crooked Joe Biden was not fit to run for president, and is certainly not fit to serve – and never was!" Trump said in a post to Truth Social, repeating his favored insult for the man who beat him in the 2020 election, and rehashing a familiar litany of unsubstantiated grievances. "He only attained the position of president by lies, fake news, and not leaving his basement. All those around him, including his doctor and the media, knew that he wasn't capable of being president, and he wasn't. "And now look what he's done to our country, with millions of people coming across our border, totally unchecked and unvetted, many from prisons, mental institutions, and record numbers of terrorists. We will suffer greatly because of his presidency, but we will remedy the damage he has done very quickly." Trump said he thinks Harris will be easier to defeat in November's election than Biden. "Harris will be easier to beat than Joe Biden would have been," Trump told CNN.

Foreign leaders accept invite to attend Pezeshkian's swearing-in ceremony

International Desk

An Iranian lawmaker said five presidents and 10 parliament speakers have so far accepted invitation to attend President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian's swearing-in ceremony which is scheduled to be held on July 30. Mojtaba Yousefi, a member of the Iranian Parliament's presiding board, said on Monday that names of more foreign officials will certainly be added to the list of the

guests in the coming days and before the ceremony. He said that the ceremony will be held in the Parliament after the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has endorsed Pezeshkian's presidential mandate in a separate ceremony. Pezeshkian won the runoff vote against Conservative Saeed Jalili on Friday. The 69-year-old Reformist garnered around 54 percent of the 30 million votes cast. The election was called early after



the death of president Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash in Iran's northwest on May 19.

Sudan, Iran trade ambassadors after eight-year hiatus

Sudan's de facto leader, army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, received an Iranian ambassador and sent his own to Tehran, the government said, cementing a rapprochement after an eight-year rupture. Sudan and Iran agreed last October to resume diplomatic relations. The Sudanese government announced in a statement that Burhan had received Tehran's new ambassador Hassan Shah Hosseini in Port Sudan.

The Red Sea city has become Sudan's de facto seat of government since Khartoum became wracked by fighting. This is "the beginning of a new phase in the course of bilateral relations between the two countries," foreign ministry undersecretary Hussein al-Amin said as Burhan sent off Sudan's new ambassador to Iran, Abdelaziz Hassan Saleh. Sudan broke off relations with Iran in 2016 in a show of solidar-

ity with Saudi Arabia, after the kingdom's embassy in Tehran was attacked following the Saudi execution of a prominent Shia cleric. Several Saudi allies in the region also cut ties with Iran at the time. In March 2023, however, Riyadh and Tehran announced the restoration of their relations following an agreement brokered by China. Iran has since moved to cement or restore relations with neighboring Arab countries.

Iran hosts search, rescue drill with Caspian states

International Desk

Iran's Navy hosted a naval rescue and relief exercise in the Caspian Sea with the participation of all five littoral states in order to increase coordination on maritime security. Captain Abbas Hassani, spokesperson of the drill dubbed the relief, rescue and maritime security of the Caspian Sea 2024, (Casarex 24),

said the airborne division of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, Iranian Sina-class fast attack craft Paykan, Derafsh and Separ, as well as two Augusta-Bell AB-212 helicopters took part in the naval exercise. Hassani added that a flotilla of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy, named Martyr Baseer, also participated in the maritime drill. Russian SB45 vessel, which

had entered the Iranian territorial waters the previous day, was also in attendance. The spokesman noted that representatives from other Caspian Sea littoral states, including the Republic of Azerbaijan, are monitoring various stages of the drill as observers. During the drill, Iranian and Russian maritime and airborne units extinguished a fire on board of a commercial vessel,

rescued the injured crew members, and repaired the damage caused to the ship. Iran has staged joint naval exercises with other countries, including Oman and Pakistan, as well. Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great progress in developing and manufacturing a broad range of military equipment.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



'Independent' Europe needed to mend Iran ties: FM spox

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said if Europe acts independently in its relations with Iran, both sides will witness the improvement of relations. During his weekly press conference on Monday, Kanaani said that the poor relations between Tehran and the European countries is the result of their miscalculation or pursuit of the wrong policies adopted by the United States toward Iran.

Kanaani noted that Tehran considers Europe as an important part of its foreign relations, adding that, "Based on its dynamic diplomacy, common interests and mutual respect, Iran is ready to develop relations with all countries that are interested in improving ties with Iran." Responding to a question about the recent developments in the US presidential election and its impact on relations between the two countries, he said any potential improvement in

relations with the US hinges on Washington's change of "hostile" policies irrespective of who becomes president. "As we have previously said, the comings and goings of governments and individuals do not matter to us," the spokesman said. "The thing is the US government has always taken a hostile approach and a hostile policy on Iran over the past years, and what can change the atmosphere of relations is the change of the hostile behavior of the



United States towards the Iranian nation." US President Joe Biden abandoned his bid for re-election on Sunday as he caved to relentless pressure from his closest allies to drop out of the race amid concerns that he was too old and frail to defeat former president Donald Trump.