

# Iranians vote to replace prez killed in helicopter crash

AP ■ DUBAI

Iranians were voting Friday in a snap election to replace the late President Ebrahim Raisi, killed in a helicopter crash last month, as public apathy has become pervasive in the Islamic Republic after years of economic woes, mass protests and tensions in the Middle East.

Voters face a choice between hard-line candidates and a little-known politician who belongs to Iran's reformist movement that seeks to change its Shiite theocracy from within. As has been the case since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, women and those calling for radical change have been barred from the ballot while the vote itself will have no oversight from internationally recognised monitors.

The voting comes as wider tensions have gripped the Middle East over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. In April, Iran launched its first-ever direct attack on Israel over the war in Gaza, while militia groups that Tehran arms in the region — such as the Lebanese Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthis rebels — are engaged in the fighting and have escalated their attacks.

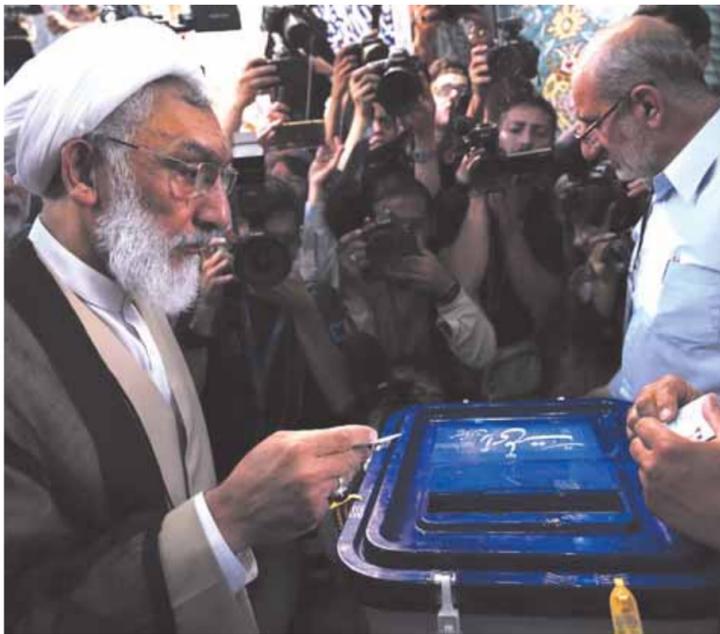
Meanwhile, Iran continues to enrich uranium at near weapons-grade levels and maintains a stockpile large enough to build — should it choose to do so — several nuclear weapons.

While Iran's 85-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has the final say on all matters of state, presidents can bend the country's policies toward confrontation or negotiation with the West.

However, given the record-low turnout in recent elections, it remains unclear just how many Iranians will take part in Friday's poll. Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi, who is in charge of overseeing the election, announced all the polls had opened just at 8 am local time. Khamenei cast one of the election's first votes, urging the public to turn out.

"People's turnout with enthusiasm, and higher number of voters — this is a definite need for the Islamic Republic," Khamenei said.

State television later broadcast images of polling places across



Candidate for the Iranian presidential election Mostafa Pourmohammadi casts his ballot in a polling station, in Tehran, Iran, on Friday. AP/PTI

the country with modest lines. Analysts broadly describe the race as a three-way contest. There are two hard-liners, former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili and the parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf. A Shiite cleric, Mostafa Pourmohammadi, also has remained in the race despite polling poorly.

Then there's the reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian, who has aligned himself with figures such as former President Hassan Rouhani under whose administration Tehran struck the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

The nuclear deal eventually collapsed and hard-liners were back firmly at the helm. The 69-year-old heart surgeon seeks a return to the atomic accord and better relations with the West. After voting, he told journalists: "God willing, we will try to have friendly relations with all countries except Israel."

Coming after he faced a thinly veiled warning from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei over his outreach to the United States, the comment

marked the candidate's effort to energise those who want more engagement with the West after the collapse of the country's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

However, close ties to the West — particularly the US — would be anathema to the hard-liners he faces. A higher turnout could boost Pezeshkian's chances, but it remains unclear if he can gain the momentum needed to draw voters to the ballot. There have been calls for a boycott, including from imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi.

The voting began just after President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump concluded their first televised debate for the US presidential election, during which Iran came up.

Trump described Iran as "broke" under his administration and highlighted his decision to launch a 2020 drone strike that killed Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani. That attack was part of a spiral of escalating tensions between America and Iran since Trump unilaterally withdrew the US in 2018 from

Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

More than 61 million Iranians over the age of 18 are eligible to vote, with about 18 million of them between 18 to 30. Iranian law requires that a winner gets more than 50 of all votes cast. If that doesn't happen, the race's top two candidates will advance to a runoff a week later. There's been only one runoff presidential election in Iran's history, in 2005, when hard-liner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad bested former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The 63-year-old Raisi died in the May 19 helicopter crash that also killed the country's foreign minister and others. He was seen as a protégé of Khamenei and a potential successor as supreme leader.

Still, many knew him for his involvement in the mass executions that Iran conducted in 1988, and for his role in the bloody crackdowns on dissent that followed protests over the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini, a young woman detained by police over allegedly improperly wearing the mandatory headscarf, or hijab.

## Japan's space agency delays launch of upgraded observation satellite

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Tokyo (AP): Japan's space agency said on Friday its planned launch this weekend of a satellite on its new flagship H3 rocket will be postponed until Monday due to expected bad weather. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, said it is postponing the launch because of rain and thunder predicted for Saturday night when the rocket was to be moved to the launch site at the Tanegashima Space Centre on a southwestern Japanese island.

The launch was initially scheduled for Sunday. The rocket will be carrying an Advanced Land Observation Satellite, ALOS-4, tasked primarily with Earth observation and data collection for disaster response and mapping, as well as with monitoring military activity, such as missile launches, with an infrared sensor developed by the Defence Ministry. The ALOS-4 is a successor to the current ALOS-2 and can observe a much wider area.

# ISIS ideology resonates in Southeast Asia: Minister

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) ideology continues to resonate in the Southeast Asian region and is fuelled by a virtual network of supporters, Singapore's Home Affairs and Law Minister K Shanmugam has warned. "ISIS' violent ideology continues to resonate in this region and is fuelled by a virtual network of supporters," The Straits Times quoted the Minister as saying on Friday.

Shanmugam expressed concern in comments that the latest spate of arrests in Malaysia shows that violent ISIS ideology continues to resonate in the region. While the authorities in Singapore will do their best to detect and prevent any terrorist attack here, Singaporeans need to stay vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour, he underscored.

Shanmugam spoke to reporters four days after Malaysia's Home

Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail announced the arrest of eight people — six men and two women, aged 25 to 70 — over the past weekend, which thwarted possible threats against Malaysia's leadership. Preliminary investigations into the eight arrested for suspected links to extremist ideologies had shown the existence of threats against Malaysia's King, Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and other VIPs, said Saifuddin on June 24. The suspects came from various occupational and economic backgrounds and included housewives, retirees and professionals.

Noting that the targets were top Malaysian leaders, Shanmugam said: "The ultimate aim of the terrorists was to topple the Malaysian government."

"Extremist narratives have radicalised many individuals, including here in Singapore. As long as these ideologies persist, they will continue to inspire

attacks," the Singapore daily quoted Shanmugam as saying. Following the May 17 pre-dawn attack on the Ulu Tiram police station in Johor that left two police personnel dead and another injured, Malaysian police arrested five family members of the attacker, as well as at least 15 other pro-ISIS suspects in a series of operations. Asked if his assessment of Singapore's terror threat has shifted given the latest developments, Shanmugam said the Internal Security Department (ISD) makes regular assessments, and while the arrests are something to be factored in, "I won't say it comes as a big shock".

"If you look around the region, ISIS ideology is prevalent in many countries, and this must be seen in that context," he added. But what happens in Malaysia will have an impact on Singapore's security landscape, given the two countries' proximity to one another, he added.

# Xi lauds relevance of Panchsheel to put an end to world conflicts

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday highlighted the relevance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which gained traction with the Non-Aligned Movement, to end the present-day conflicts and sought to expand influence in the Global South amid its tussle with the West.

Xi, 71, invoked the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, termed as Panchsheel by India, at a conference here to mark its 70th anniversary and also sought to juxtapose them with his new concept of Global Security Initiative envisaging a shared future for mankind.

The Panchsheel pointers were first formally enunciated in the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India signed on April 29, 1954, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

The five principles formed part of the legacy of the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his Chinese counterpart Zhou

Enlai in their unsuccessful quest to find a solution to the vexed boundary issue.

"The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence answered the call of the times, and its initiation was an inevitable historic development. The Chinese leadership in the past specified the Five Principles in their entirety for the first time, namely, 'mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity', 'mutual non-aggression', 'mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs', 'equality and mutual benefit', and 'peaceful coexistence'," Xi said. "They included the Five Principles in the China-India and China-Myanmar joint statements which jointly called for making them basic norms for state-to-state relations," Xi said at the conference where the invitees included former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and several political leaders and officials from various countries closely associated with China over the years.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence were born in Asia but quickly



ascended to the world stage. In 1955, more than 20 Asian and African countries attended the Bandung Conference, Xi recalled in his address.

The Non-Aligned Movement that rose in the 1960s adopted the Five Principles as its guiding principles, he said.

"The Five Principles have set a historic benchmark for international relations and interna-

tional rule of law," he said, highlighting their relevance to ending the present-day conflicts. They fully conform with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, with the evolving trend of international relations of our times, and with the fundamental interests of all nations, Xi said and sought to juxtapose them with his new concepts of Global Security Initiative (GSI) which advocates for joint security of nations and the "Vision of Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind".

Xi, who commenced his unprecedented third five-year term in power last year, has been advocating several initiatives, including his billion-dollar pet project the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), to enhance China's global influence. Under the BRI, Beijing has made huge investments in infrastructure projects in smaller countries which in subsequent years attracted allegations of debt diplomacy as many countries struggled to pay back loans taken from China.

# EU leaders agree on top officials to be face of largest trading bloc

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European Union leaders signed off on a trio of top appointments for their shared political institutions on Thursday, reinstalling German conservative Ursula von der Leyen as president of the European Commission for another five years.

At the side of von der Leyen, who heads the EU's executive branch, would be two new faces: Antonio Costa of Portugal as European Council president and Estonia's Kaja Kallas as the top diplomat of the world's largest trading bloc.

"Mission Accomplished," outgoing EU Council President Charles Michel told reporters after chairing a summit of the bloc's leaders, as von der Leyen and Kallas accompanied him at a joint news conference. Costa took part via video-link.

Von der Leyen expressed her gratitude for a shot at a second term of office, saying: "I'm very honored and I'm delighted to share this moment."

Kallas, who as the EU's top diplomat will lead the bloc's foreign and security policy with Russia's war on Ukraine in its third year, noted that "there is war in Europe, also growing instability globally. My aim is definitely to work for the European Union."

Both von der Leyen and Kallas should now be approved by European lawmakers. Costa's nomination only needed the leaders' approval, and he will start in his new role in fall.

After the three centrist political families in the European Parliament struck a deal earlier this week, the top jobs package was widely expected to be approved without controversy at the summit in Brussels. But far-right politicians, emboldened by their strong showing in

EU parliament elections earlier this month, slammed it as a stitch-up.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni made clear her displeasure at being excluded from preparatory talks with a small group of leaders who divvied up the top jobs. Her nationalist European Conservatives and Reformists group emerged as the third force in the EU parliament elections earlier this month.

Meloni voted against Portugal's Costa and Estonia's Kallas, two sources close to the discussions told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Meloni abstained on von der Leyen for European Commission president, the same sources confirmed. The officials requested anonymity in line with EU practice.

In a post on X, Meloni said the way that mainstream parties put forward the trio "is wrong in method and substance. I decided not to support it out of respect for the citizens and the indications that came from those citizens during the elections."

In the end only one leader, nationalist Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, rejected the three outsiders.

"European voters were cheated," he said on Facebook Thursday evening. "We do not support this shameful agreement!" His objections were moot: the package only needed a two-thirds majority to pass. The June 6-9 election saw the EU's legislature shift to the right and dealt major blows to mainstream governing parties in France and Germany, but the three mainstream groups managed to hold a narrow majority of seats. Costa, a former Portuguese prime minister, hails from the center-left Socialists and Democrats group, which came second. Kallas is prime minister of her tiny Baltic home country.

# 1 Indian, 2 Indian-origin persons charged in \$2.75-bn fraud

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

At least one Indian and two Indian-origin persons were among 193 medical professionals charged by the US for their alleged participation in massive health care fraud schemes involving approximately USD 2.75 billion in intended losses and USD 1.6 billion in actual losses, the Justice Department has said.

The Justice Department on Thursday announced the 2024 National Health Care Fraud Enforcement Action, under which criminal charges were filed against 193 defendants, including 76 doctors, nurse practitioners, and other licensed medical professionals in 32 districts across the US. The fraud schemes for which the people were charged involved approximately USD 2.75 billion in intended losses and USD 1.6 billion in actual losses," the department said in an official statement.

The government seized over USD 231 million in cash, luxury vehicles, gold, and other assets, it said.

Dr Vijil Rahulan, 52, of Hyderabad, was charged with conspiracy to commit health care fraud in connection with an alleged scheme to fraudulently obtain over USD 82 million in Medicare funds. "Rahulan caused the submission of false and fraudulent claims for durable medical equipment and genetic testing that were medically unnecessary or otherwise ineligible for reimbursement through Medicare because they were not the product of a doctor-patient relationship and examination," according to the case summary. The indictment further alleged that his fraudulent conduct resulted in over USD 28.7 million being paid by Medicare. Jaspreet Jagpal, the owner of One World Therapy, was charged with insurance fraud and an enhancement for aggravated white-collar crime in connection with billing for behavioural analysis services

not rendered to five minor children. The 34-year-old's fraudulent scheme caused a loss of approximately USD 166,755.50 over ten months, the case summary said.

As alleged in the complaint through which he was charged, the California resident claimed that behavioural analysis services were provided to minor children that never occurred. Rama Prayaga, 59, a psychiatrist with offices in northern Virginia and the District of Columbia, was charged by criminal complaint with healthcare fraud in connection with a USD 27.1 million insurance scheme to defraud health insurance companies.

The case summary said that Prayaga, of Virginia, allegedly used billing codes associated with longer, moderately complex patient visits to bill for negligible telemedicine patient encounters, some of which lasted less than a minute. This overbilling resulted in his billing insur-

ance companies for "impossible days" — i.e., billing more than 24 hours a day. Prayaga also pushed medically unnecessary transcranial magnetic stimulation treatments on patients, which were administered either by him or his untrained staff members. He also pushed ketamine treatment, which his staff administered to patients mixed with soda. "Prayaga was paid over USD 14.8 million based on the false and fraudulent claims," it said. The Justice Department said that the charges filed under the 2024 National Health Care Fraud Enforcement Action include "over USD 900 million fraud scheme committed in connection with amniotic wound grafts; the unlawful distribution of millions of pills of Aderall and other stimulants by five defendants associated with a digital technology company and an over USD 90 million fraud committed by corporate executives distributing adulterated

and misbranded HIV medication." The charges also included "over USD 146 million in fraudulent addiction treatment schemes; over USD 1.1 billion in telemedicine and laboratory fraud; and over USD 450 million in other health care fraud and opioid schemes."

# 'Pak can target TTP sanctuaries in Af under new counter-terrorism op'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has warned that Pakistan can target sanctuaries of the outlawed terrorist group TTP in Afghanistan under the newly launched military operation, as he ruled out any dialogue with the dreaded outfit as there was no "common ground". The government announced the launch of 'Operation Azm-i-Istehkam' last week to tackle the rising threat of terrorism in the wake of lukewarm support by the Afghan Taliban to stop the use of their soil by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) rebels against Pakistan. In an interview with the Voice of

America, Asif said that the decision to launch the counter-terrorism operation was not made in haste. The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

"The decision about Azm-e-Istehkam was taken because of the economic difficulties, and it may also target TTP's sanctuaries across the border," he told the state-owned American news network and international radio broadcaster. The minister said that it would not be against international law since Afghanistan had been "exporting" terrorism to Pakistan, and the "exporters" were being harboured there, the Dawn newspaper reported. Asif said that although the TTP

was operating from the neighbouring country, its cadre, about a few thousand in number, "are operating from within the country". He also ruled out any chances of dialogue with the banned outfit, saying there was no common ground.

Asif blamed jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's government for the resettlement of the Taliban militants in Pakistan, according to the report. Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) "government brought back the 4,000 to 5,000 Taliban after negotiations. If that experiment was successful, let us know we can replicate it," he said. Talking about the Opposition's criticism of Operation Azm-i-

Istehkam, Asif said that the concerns of political parties would be addressed. "The government will bring this matter to the National Assembly so that the questions and concerns of the members can be answered and they are taken into confidence," he said. "This is also our duty," he was quoted as saying. Major opposition parties, including the PTI of Imran Khan, who was also dubbed as "Taliban Khan" for his support for the Taliban, right-wing Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) of Maulana Fazlur Rehman and secular Awami National Party (ANP) of the family of Ghaffar Khan opposed any new military offensive.

**PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY MARINE DEPARTMENT**  
 No. MD/ACCTS/W/R-18/2023/703 Date: 25.06.2024  
**E-TENDER CALL NOTICE-DUM-E-AUCTION**  
 Name of the work: Manning, Maintenance and Commercial Operation of PPA Dry Dock and Other Ancillaries on payment of Licence Fee for a period of 05 (Five) years. **Reserved price: Rs.13,97,52,584/- plus GST as applicable for 05 years.** Last date & time of Submission of tender through on-line bidding is **15:00 hours on dt.16.07.2024.** Date & time for opening of Technical Bid is **15:30 hours on dt.17.07.2024.** For details, please log on to the website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
 Sd/- Deputy Conservator, Paradip Port Authority  
**PPA/PR/19/2024-2025 dtd.27.06.2024**

**JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED**  
**CIN NO. : L60231CT2008PLC016434**  
**Registered Office:** A-11(7), Udaya Society, Sector-3, Tatibandh, Raipur-492099, Dharsiwa, Chhattisgarh, India  
**Website:** [www.jindalinfra.com](http://www.jindalinfra.com), **E-mail:** [contactus@jindalinfra.com](mailto:contactus@jindalinfra.com)

**NOTICE OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the 17th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held on Monday, 22nd July 2024 at 12.30 P.M. at Hotel Grand Rajputana, Telghani Naka Chowk, Station Road, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh to transact the business as set out in the Notice convening the said Annual General Meeting. The Notice of AGM along with Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2024 has been sent to the members who hold shares as on record date, i.e., 21st June 2024, by email, whose email id is registered with the Company/Depository(s) and the physical copy to all the other members. The said documents can also be viewed on the company's website at [www.jindalinfra.com](http://www.jindalinfra.com).

Notice is also hereby given that pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 and regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from 16th July 2024 to 22nd July 2024 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.

Further, pursuant to the provisions of section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 20 of Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is providing remote e-voting facility to its members to cast their vote electronically on the resolutions to be transacted at 17th AGM of the Company.

The member please note the following:

- The remote e-voting shall commence at 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 19th July, 2024 and shall end at 5.00 p.m. on Sunday, 21st July 2024.
- The remote e-voting shall not be available beyond 5.00 p.m. on Sunday, 21st July 2024.
- The cut-off date for determining the eligibility of members for remote e-voting and voting through poll at AGM is 16th July 2024.
- Any person who becomes member of the Company after dispatch of notice of the meeting and holding shares as on cut-off date i.e. 16th July, 2024, may obtain the user id and password by contacting RCMC Shares Registry (Pvt.) Ltd., R & T Agent of the Company at B-25/1, Okhla Industrial Area Phase II, New Delhi - 110020, phone-011-26387320-21, Fax-011-26387322, Email-[evoting.services@rcmc.com](mailto:evoting.services@rcmc.com).
- The members who cast their vote through remote e-voting may also attend the AGM but shall not be allowed to cast their vote at AGM.
- The facility of voting through poll shall be available at the AGM to those members who have not casted their vote through remote e-voting.
- Members may go through the e-voting instructions provided in the AGM Notice or visit <https://evoting.nsl.com> and in case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting User Manual for members available at the download section of <https://evoting.nsl.com>.

**For JITF Infra Logistics Limited**  
**Sd/-**  
**Alok Kumar**  
**Company Secretary**  
**ACS-19819**

**Place: New Delhi**  
**Date: 28.06.2024**