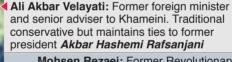
Reformist drops out of Iran presidential race

The decision by Mohammad Reza Aref to withdraw from the upcoming presidential election is seen as an attempt to bolster the reformist vote in favour of moderate cleric Hassan Rohani

CANDIDATES STILL RUNNING

Saeed Jalili: Nuclear negotiator since 2007. Hardline conservative close to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Hassan Rohani: Former nuclear negotiator known for conciliatory approach. Backed by former president Mohammad Khatami, head of reformist movement



Mohsen Rezaei: Former Revolutionary Guards chief. Wanted by Argentina for 1994 bombing of Jewish centre in Buenos Aires

Mohammad Bager Qalibaf: Charismatic Tehran Mayor, former national police chief and pragmatic conservative Mohammad Qarazi: Oil minister in 1980s

and post minister under Rafsanjani in 1990s. Running on anti-inflation platform

Pictures: Getty Images



