

Front runners for Iran's top job

Iranians will elect a new president in June 2021 from conservative candidates whose influence has surged since U.S. President Trump quit the nuclear deal in 2018 and imposed devastating sanctions



■ **Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf:** Veteran **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** hardliner and ex-mayor of Tehran. Pilot and former commander of IRGC Air Force. **Opposed by voters that support nuclear deal with West**

■ **Hossein Dehghan:** Former IRGC Air Force officer, Defence Minister from 2013-17. Close aide of Iran's Supreme Leader **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**. **Sanctioned by U.S. treasury for his alleged links to Hezbollah**



■ **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad:** Hardline president from 2005-13, led confrontational relations with U.S. and Europe. Has offered to mediate in Yemen conflict between Saudi-led coalition and Iran-backed **Houthi** rebels



■ **Saeed Mohammad:** Chief of **Khatam al-Anbia** – construction and engineering arm of IRGC. During his tenure, Khatam has taken over contracts abandoned by foreign companies due to sanctions imposed by Trump administration



■ **Ezzatollah Zarghami:** Former state TV chief who imposed censorship and increased religious and conservative content. Close ally of Ahmadinejad. **Took part in 1979-81 student takeover of U.S. Embassy in Tehran**