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# Iran

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## Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visits Iran

On 18 June, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited Tehran, first such visit by an Uzbek president in two decades. In the joint meeting of the high-ranking delegations of the two countries, Raisi described the ties between Iran and Uzbekistan as [“historical and civilizational”](#). They issued a joint statement citing [10 agreements](#) to strengthen their bilateral economic cooperation. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, in his meeting with the Uzbek President, while noted “that for many years the relations between Iran and Uzbekistan were very limited” expressed hope that his visit will be the beginning of a better future in the bilateral relations. Noting the importance of trade and transport cooperation between the two countries, Khamenei argued that “Iran has the capability to easily [connect Uzbekistan to international waters](#) through Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.” Transport Ministers of the two countries signed [MoU for strengthening transport and transit cooperation](#) in international transport corridors, developing road and rail transport, facilitating the connection of Iran to the Central Asian countries through the territory of Uzbekistan, removing all official duties for the road freight transport in the territory of each country. Iranian side urged Uzbekistan Railways to make necessary efforts to increase its rail freight through Iran to third countries, and expressed readiness to provide incentives related to maritime and port services for freight transit from Uzbekistan through the southern ports of Iran. Also, the Ministers of Industries, Mining and Trade from both sides agreed to prepare a roadmap to achieve [a US\\$1 billion target in bilateral trade](#). The two sides also stressed the importance of [exchanging experience in areas](#) such as innovation, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, cybernetics and technology transfer.

## Saudi Foreign Minister visits Iran

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud was welcomed at the airport by [Alireza Enayati](#), the head of the Persian Gulf Bureau at the Iranian foreign ministry, who has been recently been appointed as Iran’s ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Bin Farhan in his joint press conference with Amir Abdollahian noted within 100 days since the signing of March 10 agreement between the two countries embassies and consulates of the two countries were reopened in Tehran, Riyadh, Jeddah. Abdollahian thanked Saudi Arabia for its assistance in reopening the Iranian embassy and Iran's mission to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Jeddah. He also noted that they had discussed the formation of joint committees on political, economic, border issues such as fight against drug smuggling, and environmental issues. [President Raisi](#) welcomed the expansion of relations between Tehran and Riyadh. He noted that “Only the enemies of Muslims, and at the head of them, the Zionist regime, are upset with the development of bilateral and regional cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia.”

## Iran’s Foreign Minister conducts a Persian Gulf regional tour

On 20 June, Iran’s foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian started his Persian Gulf regional tour with Qatar, and then to Oman, Kuwait, and the UAE, just days after Saudi foreign minister’s visit to Tehran. The key objective for Iran is to deepen bilateral economic cooperation, and seek support for Tehran’s proposal for formation of a [regional forum for dialogue](#) and cooperation on security matters. In [Doha](#), Abdollahian called on the Qatari Emir, where they concurred that the upcoming meeting of the joint economic commission should further development of economic relations between the two countries. In Oman, discussions focussed on the implementation of bilateral economic cooperation signed during the Sultan of Oman’s recent visit to Tehran, and also on

progress in Oman-mediated dialogue between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthi rebels. Abdollahian together with Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr Albusaidi highlighted the necessity of joint efforts to alleviate Yemeni people's suffering and support [political processes, stability](#), and long-term peace. He also met with Mohammed Abdul-Salam, head of Yemen's national negotiating delegation, at the Iranian embassy in Muscat. Further, Oman is facilitating [indirect negotiations](#) between the United States and Iran on a potential deal for the release of Americans imprisoned in Tehran. In Muscat, Abdollahian, noted the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's invitation for diplomatic discussions among the Persian Gulf countries, saying that there is "also an agreement between the Omani Foreign Minister and his Qatar counterpart to continue this initiative that would lead to further strong cooperation". In his talks with the Kuwaiti prime minister, Amir Abdollahian noted that in addition to cooperation in the areas of transportation, economy and commerce, political and security consultations are "absolutely necessary". In Abu Dhabi, Abdollahian and the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed discussed bilateral ties and the "importance of [building on the positive developments](#) achieved in the region." Iran and the UAE signed an agreement aimed at expanding air transport services between them.

### **President Raisi's three-nation tour of Latin America focuses on economic cooperation**

President Raisi, before embarking on a five-day tour to Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba, noted that Iran's relations with [independent Latin American states](#) are strategic. In Venezuela, during a joint press conference with President Nicholas Maduro, Raisi stated that Iran-Venezuela relations are "[not ordinary diplomatic relations](#)", "having common interests, views and enemies has deepened and strategic the cooperation between them". Raisi lauded the rise of bilateral trade from \$600 million in 2021 to more than US\$3 billion

currently, and said that "it can be increased to \$10 billion in the first step and to \$20 billion in the second step". In both Nicaragua and Cuba, Raisi suggested establishment of a [joint commission on technological cooperation](#). Raisi also met with Raul Castro, and noted that "political relationship" between Iran and Cuba is at its best shape and this necessitates to promote wider economic ties. Following his return, Raisi told reporters that a total of 35 cooperation documents were signed with Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba in the fields of energy, industry, mining, construction of power plants and biotechnology." Raisi outlined [three-fold priorities for economic ties](#) with these countries "firstly, in the field of technical-engineering services, secondly, the export of knowledge-based products, and thirdly, the supply of raw materials at reasonable prices, and fourthly, the creation of new markets."

### **President Raisi visits East Azerbaijan Province**

President Raisi visited East Azerbaijan province, as his fifth provincial tour. Raisi visited various industrial establishment, such as Charmshahr (Leather Industrial Town), Azerbaijan Diesel Automobile Company manufacturing line, which is owned by Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company. He also met with a group of activists affiliated with the Popular Front of the Islamic Revolution, a coalition of principlist political factions to which Raisi belongs. He called on the activists to make the aware of the dimensions of "[cognitive war](#)" being waged by Iran's enemies. Raisi said, enemies have "spread rumours, attacked the psychological security of the society with false figures in the economy and created inflationary expectations" in the economy. While noting "common cultural ties with [neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan](#)", Raisi said "that the message of the people of Azerbaijan is that they support unity and integrity. It is a message of standing against the enemies and building the country with the capable hands of over beloved young people."