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# Iran

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## Iran's snap Presidential election ends in a Run-off

On 28 June, a nationwide [snap presidential election](#) was held following the death of Iranian President Raisi in a helicopter accident on 19. May. With a voter turnout of 40% from the over 61 million eligible voters, the vote ended in a runoff between reformist Masoud Pezeshkian receiving 42.45% votes, and hardliner Saeed Jalili Jalili securing 38.61 %. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, a former IRGC commander, former Tehran mayor, current parliament speaker, who according to some pre-poll survey was a [front-runner](#), received 13.78 % of votes. A runoff election is scheduled for 5 July. On 9 June, vetting body the [Guardian Council](#) had qualified six candidates including Pezeshkian, Jalili, Qalibaf, Alireza Zakani, mayor of Tehran since 2021, Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, a former parliamentarian and head of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, and lastly Mustafa Pourmohammadi, who served as deputy intelligence minister under former President Rafsanjani. Ali Larijani, former parliament speaker, and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, former president, Abdonnaser Hemmati, Ex-Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, who had contested as a sole reformist in 2021 election, and Eshaq Jahangiri, Vice President under Rouhani were disqualified. Pezeshkian, five-time parliamentarian from Tabriz and the sole reformist in the race, received backing of several prominent reformist and moderate presidents, while Mohammad Javad Zarif, former foreign minister was among his two foreign policy advisors. Jalili, who is known for uncompromising stance as chief nuclear negotiator under President Ahmadinejad, received support of hardliner [Jebeh Paydari](#). In March 2024 parliament elections, Paydari has done better than more pragmatic conservatives led by Qalibaf. A day before the vote, Zakani and Ghazizadeh Hashemi declared support for Jalili, but neither Jalili

nor Qalibaf agreed to withdraw to have a consensus conservative candidate. In the two [presidential debates](#), the focus was on economic issues, especially sanctions. Jalili disapproved of any dependence on accords with foreign countries, Pezeshkian highlighted internal corruption, inefficiencies and losses under sanctions, as he argued for implementing global financial standards set by the FATF. On the occasion of Eid al-Ghadir on 25 June, Iran's [Supreme Leader](#) Ayatollah Khamenei noted that people's participation in the election is a part of the essence of the Islamic Republic and also a key factor in dealing with the enemies' hostilities. While maintaining that Iran believes in interaction with the whole world, in an indirect criticism of the reformist candidates, he said that certain politicians who believe that progress can only be achieved by relying on foreign powers and have the illusion that the US is the only path to development, do not see these capacities of the nation.

## The IAEA passes resolution on Iran

On 3 June, at the quarterly meeting of the 35-nation Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, a [resolution](#) was passed calling on Iran to step up cooperation with the watchdog and reverse its recent barring of inspectors. The resolution drafted by Britain, France and Germany – called the E-3—was passed by a vote of 20 in favour and 12 abstentions, while China and Russia voted against it. IAEA Director General [Rafael Grossi](#) spoke of the lack of cooperation on Iran's side on certain issues, alleging that Iran has yet to provide the agency with “technically credible explanations” about the presence of uranium particles at two of its nuclear sites. Iran, Russia and China made a [joint statement](#) declaring support for the JCPOA and noting that the “imposition of unilateral illegal sanctions and the implementation of a policy of maximum pressure on Iran

became a turning point for this agreement.” In response to Grossi’s report, Iran submitted a note urging the agency to observe impartiality in its reports on the country’s nuclear activities.

### **Iran hosts ministerial meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue**

On 24 June, the 29th ministerial meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue was organised in Tehran. Iran has held the rotating presidency of the ACD summit since 2023. A total of 41 delegations of including 25 foreign ministers and deputy foreign ministers and international organizations from Asia participated. Iranian Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani noted that holding of the meeting at this juncture shows Iran's determination to use all opportunities to [strengthen multilateralism](#), cooperation and convergence in Asia. [Bagheri Kani](#) held talks with Foreign Minister of Bahrain Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Waleed El Khereiji, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Burhanettin Duran, Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey, Chang Byung-wan, and Deputy Foreign Minister of South Korea. India was represented by Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary, Economic Relations of the MEA. According to Iran's [Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy](#), Mahdi Safari, creating peace and security in the Asian region is the main goal of this summit. Referring to 6 committees in the field of transit, human resource, tourism, innovation, trade, science and culture, Safari said that these mechanisms will boost Iran's economy.

### **Iran and Bahrain agreed to resume diplomatic relations**

On 24 June, Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Bagheri Kani following a meeting with Foreign Minister of Bahrain Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, issued a [joint statement](#)

declaring their readiness to start negotiations on exploring ways of resuming their political relations. Al Zayani was visiting Tehran to take part in the Asian Cooperation Dialogue. The breakthrough comes after Bahraini [King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa](#) during a meeting with President Putin in Moscow in May and few days later in a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing expressed interest in resuming diplomatic ties with Iran, and welcomes [Beijing’s support](#) in promoting peace and stability in the region

### **Iran’s Acting Foreign Minister attends BRICS Foreign Minister Meeting in Russia**

Iran’s acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani participated in the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. On the side-lines, Bagheri Kani met with Russian President Vladimir Putin’s special assistant, Igor Levitin for an exchange of views on political, economic, commercial, regional and international issues. While stressing on speeding up the implementation of the [Rasht-Astara](#) railway project, he called for taking advantage of the capacities of the eastern part of the North-South corridor. Letvin noted that Russia aims to connect the INSTC to other corridors and pave the way for enhanced [cooperation in transit](#). On 16 June, Igor Khovaev, [Russia’s special representative](#) for the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan met Bagheri Kani in Tehran. Khovaev was briefed on Iran’s policy regarding developments in the Caucasus as it seeks a peaceful settlement to the regional issues. Bagheri Kani called for further consultations between Tehran and Moscow on the Caucasus issue, emphasizing the need for both countries to make maximum use of regional mechanisms such as the 3+3 format and close interactions to fight against the interventions of foreign players in the region.