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# Iran

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## President Raisi visits Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe

President Ebrahim Raisi's three-day trip to Africa starting 12 July was a first by an Iranian president in 11 years. Outlining the aim of strengthening economic and trade relations, Raisi said that relations with African countries, like Asian countries, are significant for Iran and described Africa as the [continent of opportunities](#) that should not be neglected. In Kenya, foreign ministers of the two countries signed five MoUs on related to information technology, fisheries, livestock products and investment promotion. At a joint press briefing, Kenyan President William Ruto said that he had sought Raisi's commitment to [facilitate the export](#) of more Kenyan tea, meat and other agricultural products to Iran and via Iran to Central Asian countries. Raisi described Kenya as the [gateway to East Africa](#). The Iranian [Pelican-2 drone](#) which is equipped with "spraying" and "farm inspection" systems was also unveiled in the presence of President Raisi in Kenya. In his meeting with the Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Raisi expressed Iran's readiness to share its knowledge and [experience in the energy sector](#) with Uganda. He also highlighted the establishment of Iran's Innovation and Technology Office in Uganda, emphasizing Iran's eagerness to transfer its extensive expertise in medicine, science and technology, and agriculture. Raisi was received at the airport by [Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa](#), together with hundreds of people holding welcome banners, including from the country's Muslim community. "When we went to war, Iran was our friend," said Mnangagwa, referring to Zimbabwe's fight against Britain for independence, which it attained in 1980. Notably, Zimbabwe has been under Western sanctions since the 1990s. The two sides reached 12 agreements including jointly

establishing a tractor manufacturing plant in Zimbabwe, and enhancing cooperation across various sectors including energy, telecommunications, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, research, science and technology projects.

## Iran supports peace talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on July 24 met his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan in Tehran. Abdollahian noted that Iran supports peace talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan, welcoming the ["recent progress in the negotiation process."](#) Stating Tehran's position, Abdollahian argued that the Caucasus should not be turned into a battleground for major powers. He further stated that "we believe that the age of war-based order is over and now is the time for peace-based order in the Caucasus region". He emphasized that Iran appreciates the so-called 3+3 dialogue format between regional countries (including three Caucasus countries of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, and Russia, Iran, and Turkey) and that Tehran will continue its efforts to host a summit attended by Armenia and Azerbaijan. Mirzoyan also briefed President Raisi of the latest [developments in the normalization process](#) of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations. Raisi declared Iran's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the region, and that Tehran does not accept any changes to borders or the geopolitics of the region. In an indication of Tehran's ongoing efforts to [de-escalate with Azerbaijan](#), Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Mohammad Hossein Baqeri while on a visit to the country's shared border with the Azerbaijan noted that our relationship with Azerbaijan is developing and we do not have any problems in border and security issues. Noting that the economic relations between

the two countries are developing, he maintained that his visit is just a periodical visit that takes place on the borders of the country annually.

### Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council attends BRICS meeting

On 25 July, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian, attended '[Friends of BRICS Conference](#)' in Johannesburg. In his remarks at the meeting, Ahmadian said that joining of Iran, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela would raise the BRICS's share of world energy resources to an excellent level. He also outlined Iran's position on cyber security, among other things. On the side-lines, [Ahmadian met with Wang Yi](#), director of the Office of the Communist Party of China Central Commission for Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, Wang stressed that China is willing to strengthen synergy with Iran on the implementation of the China-Iran comprehensive cooperation plan, advance Belt and Road cooperation, and help Iran improve people's livelihood and promote its economic and social development. Earlier on 16 July, Iranian Finance Minister, Seyed Ehsan Khandouzi, following the meeting of [the Iran-China Joint Economic Cooperation Commission](#), which was held after a hiatus of four and a half years noted that the officials from both nations have committed to accelerating economic cooperation.

### Iran's Foreign Ministry summons Russian Ambassador

Alireza Enayati, head of the Foreign Ministry's Persian Gulf Department, summoned Russian ambassador to Iran Alexey Dedov to convey Iran's dissatisfaction with joint statement issued at the sixth ministerial meeting of the Russia-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Moscow, which called for resolving the issue of three

Iran controlled [Persian Gulf islands disputed by the UAE](#) through "bilateral negotiations or the International Court of Justice [ICJ], in accordance with the rules of international law and the United Nations Charter, to resolve this issue is in accordance with international legitimacy." Enayati told the Russian ambassador that the three islands Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb belong to Iran forever and [Iran will not negotiate](#) over them. A day after the statement, Iran Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kannani had noted that "[these islands belong to Iran forever](#) and issuing such statements is in contradiction with the friendly relations between Iran and its neighbours." He said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasises the continuation of the policy of good neighbourliness and mutual respect, and considers the development and stability of the region to be the collective responsibility of the countries of the region."

### President Raisi receives Commander of the Pakistan Army

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi in a meeting with [General Syed Asim Munir](#), Commander of the Pakistan Army in Tehran stressed on Iran's strategy of transforming security borders into safe and economic borders, developing border markets and cooperation in the energy sector. Gen. Munir and Chief of Staff for the Armed Forces of Iran Mohammad Baqeri discussed [expanding bilateral interactions](#) to military, educational, defence and security cooperation. The military leaders of the two sides concurred that terrorism posed a threat to their respective nations and the region as a whole. By exchanging intelligence and taking decisive action against the terrorist networks, they committed to end the threat of [terrorism in border regions](#) and look into ways to improve their collaboration in the security field. Notably, Gen Munir's visit came a week after two Iranian policemen were killed in an attack on a police station in the south-eastern city of Zahedan, bordering Pakistan.