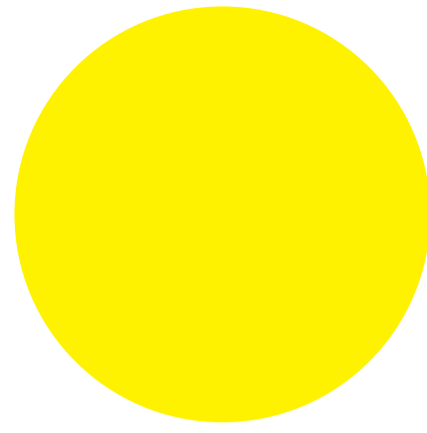




Iranian cueist Sarkhosh crowned 2023 Six-red Asian Snooker champion

Iran's 7th Development Plan forecasts 5% yearly decline in drug consumption: Minister



Iran Daily

Iran's two-month exports to Eurasia up 70%



'Look to the East' policy is in line with new global developments

By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff Writer



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi has stressed that restoring balance to the country's foreign policy is his government's overriding priority. Has the performance of his government in the past two years been in line with this principle? What has been the role of 'Look to the East' policy in keeping the balance in foreign policy? Iran Daily has conducted an exclusive interview on this subject with Hamed Vafaei, who is a researcher in international affairs and a lecturer at the University of Tehran.

differ based on the interests of countries? **HAMED VAFAEI:** Ensuring national interests is the main principle in foreign policy for countries. In fact, diplomacy is a tool for ensuring national interests. Countries sort out their priorities based on their goals and policies. Since national interests should not be endangered, the issue of balance in foreign policy comes to light. It means that countries do not focus on one subject or, as the saying goes, they do not put all their eggs in one basket.

IRAN DAILY: What does keeping the balance in foreign policy mean? Does it have a universal framework, or does it

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Economy Desk

An official of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said on Monday that the country's exports to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states from March 21 to May 21, 2023 grew by 70 percent following the conclusion of preferential trade agreement (PTA) with the union.

Director of the Department of Central Asia, Russia and Caucasus at TPOI Rahmatollah Khormali revealed the organization of an expert-level meeting of the second round of specialized exhibition of EAEU's member states in Tehran and added that the first round of the exhibition was held in Tehran in July 2021, with the participation of senior authorities and leading companies of the member states, IRNA reported.

Referring to the significance of the 180-million market of these countries for developing the export of non-oil products and their politico-economic proximity with Iran, as well as the successful completion of talks with the union's member states, he stated that the second edition of the exhibition will be held in Tehran on December 4-7, 2023.

Upon the conclusion of the PTA with the union's member states, Iran's exports to these countries showed a 28 percent growth in 2022 compared to the same period last year, Khormali underlined.

In this period, Iran's exports to the member states of the union registered a 70 percent growth in the two months to May 21, he said.

Iranian president voices Tehran's support for Russia's national sovereignty

International Desk

In a phone call with his Russian counterpart, the Iranian president expressed Tehran's support for Russia's national sovereignty, following the aborted mutiny by the Wagner mercenary group.

According to Deputy Chief of Staff for Political Affairs Mohammad Jamshidi, Ebrahim Raeisi and Vladimir Putin discussed the Friday mutiny by Yevgeny Prigozhin. The Kremlin also confirmed the phone call between Raeisi and Putin and said, "The Iranian president expressed

full support for the Russian leadership in connection with the June 24 events."

According to Jamshidi, Putin briefed Raeisi on the recent developments in his country and emphasized that the events failed to challenge Russia's national sovereignty.

Mutiny

A feud between Wagner group leader Prigozhin and Russia's military brass that has festered throughout the war erupted into a mutiny that saw the mercenaries leave Ukraine to seize a military headquarter



in a southern Russian city and roll seemingly unopposed for hundreds of miles toward Moscow, before turning around after less than 24 hours on Saturday. The Kremlin said it had made a deal that Prigozhin will move to Belarus and not be prosecuted, along

with his soldiers.

Tensions in Caucasus region

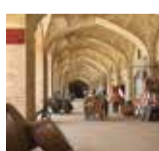
The presidents of Iran and Russia also underlined that the presence of foreign forces in the Caucasus region is a threat to all countries in the region, calling for cooperation between the coun-

tries to resolve their problems, Jamshidi said.

The Iranian president also held a separate phone conversation with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

Raeisi welcomed peace talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan, saying that any change in the geopolitics of the region is detrimental to the security of the Caucasus.

Baku and Yerevan are locked in a decades-long territorial dispute over Azerbaijan's Armenian-populated region of Nagorno-Karabakh, over which they have fought two wars.



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Mitsotakis sworn in as Greek PM after landslide election victory

Greece's center-right leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis was formally sworn in as prime minister Monday after easily winning a second term with a record-high margin over the left-wing opposition, in an election that also ushered new far-right parties into Parliament.

With 99.70% of the vote counted, Mitsotakis' New Democracy party had 40.55% — more than twice the main opposition Syriza's 17.84%. It was the largest margin of victory seen in half a century and slightly expanded ND's 20-percentage-point lead

in a previous election five weeks before.

Mitsotakis, 55, was sworn in after being formally handed the mandate to govern by Greek President Katerina Sakellariopoulou, and was due later Monday to name his new cabinet that's to assume its duties on Tuesday.

"My aim was to secure a stable government with a parliamentary majority. Unfortunately, two elections were needed for that," he said in a televised meeting with Sakellariopoulou, who as head of state holds a mainly ceremonial role.

"I have committed to implement major, deeply-needed reforms over the next four years, (and) have a strong mandate to do that," he said. Held under a new electoral law that boosts the first party, Sunday's vote gave ND a comfortable majority of 158 seats in the 300-member Parliament, with Syriza getting 48. The May election had failed to provide Mitsotakis with a majority due to the one-off electoral system then in force, which prompted the new vote. Mitsotakis campaigned on a platform of securing eco-



nomical growth and political stability, cutting taxes and boosting incomes as Greece gradually recovers from a nearly decade-long financial crisis.

Kyriakos Mitsotakis (L) attends the swearing-in ceremony to become the Greek prime minister at the Presidential Palace in Athens, Greece, on June 26, 2023. **LOUIZA VRADI/REUTERS**