

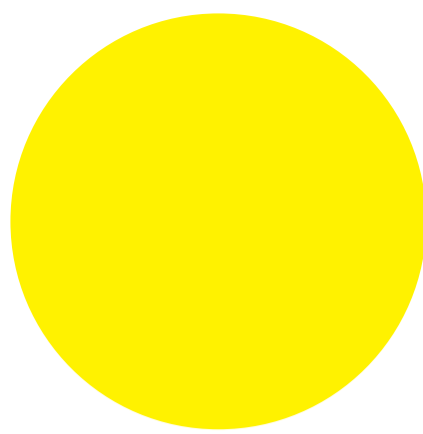


Germany says Russia set to expel German diplomats, teachers, cultural staff **3** >

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EXCLUSIVE



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# Turkey at crossroads of destiny **3** >



**3** >

## Raeisi: OPEC success result of members' constructive interaction



National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi called the constructive interaction among the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) an important factor behind the success of the international organization. President Raisi made the comment during a meeting with Secretary General of OPEC Haitham al-Ghais in Tehran on Saturday. Raisi noted that Iran has always maintained its constructive cooperation with the organization and aims to continue and promote it. The purpose of the formation of OPEC was to protect the rights of oil producers and prevent discrimination against them, the Iranian president underlined, while expressing hope that OPEC would be able to stabilize the oil market. **Page 2** >

## Iranian border guard killed in clashes with Taliban forces

Police chief calls for firm response to aggression

National Desk

An Iranian border guard was killed in clashes with Taliban forces on the common border amid high tensions between the two neighbors over water rights from Hirmand River. The incident happened after Taliban forces opened fire on a border police station in southeastern city of Zabol in Sistan and Baluchestan Province. Iran's deputy police chief Brigadier General Qassem Rezaei said Taliban forces began shooting at Iran's Sasoli border police station around 10 a.m., which was faced with a response from Iranian border guards, according to IRNA. Despite being warned by the Iranian side about the continuation of shooting, the Taliban forces continued to fire at the police station. Chief of the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran Brigadier General Ahmadreza Radan has ordered the border forces to decisively defend the country's borders and not to allow anyone to trespass and approach the borders. He underlined that Iran will decisively respond to any aggression towards its borders. Radan added that the current rulers of Afghanistan must be held accountable for their ill-considered actions that are in violation of international principles.

## Mediator in Tehran: Main goal of Omani sultan's visit



By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff Writer

Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said will arrive in Tehran today, a year after Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi paid an official visit to Muscat. Iran and Oman signed 12 cooperation documents and memoranda of understanding during Raisi's trip to Oman in May 2022. Ministers and high-ranking

officials of the two countries signed documents in the fields of energy, politics, transportation, economy, tourism, sports and the environment. It seems that Sultan Haitham's visit to Iran will pave the way for accelerating the implementation of the deals that were signed last year. New documents are expected to be signed between the two Persian Gulf nations. Sultan Haitham has already traveled to Iran, but this is his first visit as Oman's monarch

after succeeding Sultan Qaboos bin Said in 2020. Iran and other Middle Eastern countries consider Oman a mediator because of its role as a facilitator of talks between certain countries that are engaged in a dispute. Oman's efforts, which led to a prisoner swap deal between Iran and Belgium, is the latest example in this regard. Oman also played a constructive role by mediating talks over Iran's nuclear case. A week after the Sultan of

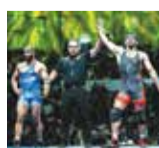
Oman visited Cairo, some media outlets in the region have suggested that Oman is seeking to establish rapprochement between Iran and Egypt. The Sultan of Oman is traveling to Iran while his country is playing a role as a trustworthy mediator between Iran and some other countries. It has also helped facilitate talks over the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

### Sultan Haitham's policies

Morteza Rahimi, Iran's former ambassador to Oman, is among experts and diplomats who remain optimistic about the outcome of the Sultan of Oman's visit to Tehran. "Haitham bin Tariq al-Said will continue the policies of Sultan Qaboos regarding Iran, as well as regional and international developments," Rahimi told Iran Daily. **Page 2** >



## Development of handicraft sector in South Khorasan Province, a must **4** >



## Yazdani, Zare' among gold winners, set to wear Iranian singlet at World Championships **5** >



## FDI needed to achieve 8% economic growth: VP **6** >

## Iran's maestro Rahbari stages concert in St. Petersburg

Arts & Culture Desk

Ali Rahbari, the Iranian maestro and permanent conductor of the Mariinsky Orchestra in Saint Petersburg, staged a remarkable concert held in Russia on Friday night. The event served as a commemoration of two renowned Armenian composers, Aram Khachaturyan and Alexander Grigori Arutiunian, showcasing their exceptional musical contributions. The program featured Khachaturyan's magnificent 'Suite from Gayane No. 2' (1943) and Arutiunian's captivating

'Trumpet Concerto', ISNA wrote. The concert witnessed the spotlight shining on the Russian trumpeter, Timur Martinov, who graced the stage as the featured soloist under the baton of the legendary conductor Valery Gergiev. Martinov, celebrated for his extraordinary talent, has collaborated with Gergiev in numerous concerts across various countries, leaving a lasting impression on audiences worldwide. In addition, Ali Rahbari mesmerized the crowd with his rendition of Antonin Dvořák's enchanting 'Symphony No. 8'.

## Iran respects outcome of Turkish presidential election **EXCLUSIVE**

A member of the Iranian Parliament said that whoever is elected as the next Turkish president in the imminent second round of elections will represent the majority of the Turkish people and, as such, will be acknowledged by Iran. In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Shahriar Heydari said that regardless of the outcome of the presidential election, the Islamic Republic only aims to develop and deepen its relations with Turkey. "We hold no bias, and favor no candidate, in Turkey's elections," Heydari maintained, adding that the only thing that matters to Tehran is to see the will of the Turkish nation

realized. "Therefore, whoever they choose will naturally be backed by the Islamic Republic of Iran as the next Turkish president." After neither the sitting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, nor his rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu cleared the threshold to win outright on May 14, the presidential race is to be taken to the second round on May 28. The member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament pointed out that the future of Turkey is important to Iran. **Page 2** >