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TEHRAN TIMES



IRGC chief says commands most powerful regional force

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Rouhani sees no hurdle to mutually beneficial ties between Tehran, Helsinki

POLITICS TEHRAN — With the removal of sanctions against Iran at the back of the nuclear deal, President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday he will see no hurdle to expansion of all-encompassing relations with Helsinki.

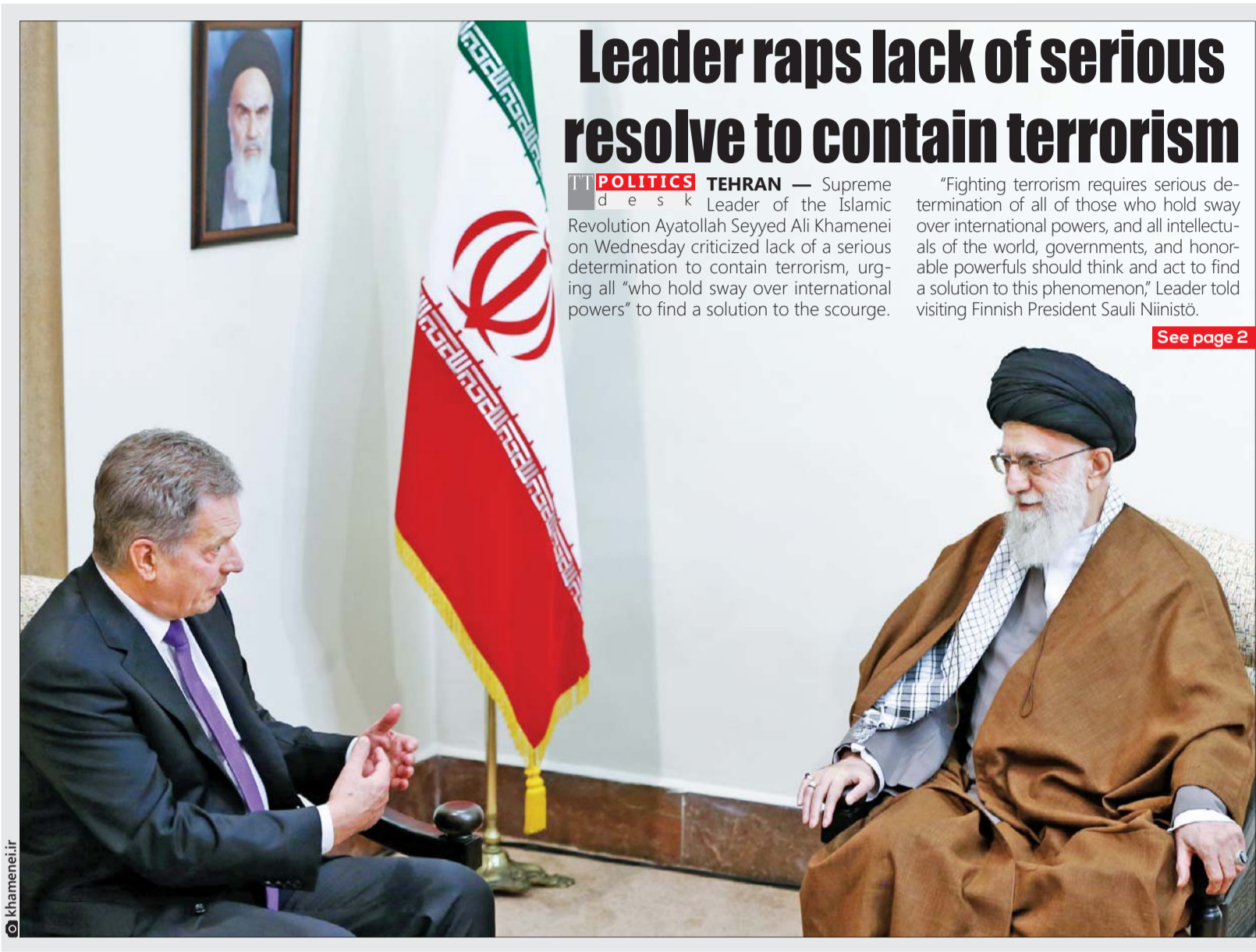
"Sanctions which used to be a main hurdle to expanding bilateral ties are now removed," Rouhani told visiting Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, who arrived here at the head of a large business delegation.

Rouhani saw an upgrade in ties with the north European country in line with Tehran's interest in stronger contacts with EU member states.

"During today's discussions, we addressed the [existing] capacity of relations between Iran and the European Union, especially after the JCPOA and the European side's willingness to expand [bilateral] economic, scientific, and technological relations."

Rouhani further referred to the fertile ground for mutually beneficial cooperation between Tehran and Helsinki.

"Today, there are good potentialities and grounds for investment in different sectors of industry, energy, transportation, and telecommunication in Iran, and we welcome Finnish companies' participation and investment in these areas," he was quoted as saying in the meeting. →2



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Leader raps lack of serious resolve to contain terrorism

POLITICS TEHRAN — Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday criticized lack of a serious determination to contain terrorism, urging all "who hold sway over international powers" to find a solution to the scourge.

"Fighting terrorism requires serious determination of all of those who hold sway over international powers, and all intellectuals of the world, governments, and honorable powerfuls should think and act to find a solution to this phenomenon," Leader told visiting Finnish President Sauli Niinistö.

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Iran's non-oil exports up 4.3% yr/yr

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's exports of non-oil products in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21) stood at \$24.657 billion, with 4.34 percent rise from \$23.633 billion in the same period last year, Fars news agency reported on Wednesday citing the country's customs administration.

Iran also imported \$24.051 billion of non-oil goods during the mentioned time span, witnessing a 0.1 fall from the figure of the previous year.

Gas condensate, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and fuel oil were the main exported items, with China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iraq, Turkey and South Korea as the major export destinations.

Corn, soy bean, rice and auto parts were the major products imported during the first seven months of this year. China, UAE, South Korea and Turkey were the top exporters of goods to Iran in the mentioned time.

According to customs data, in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 19, 2016, the value of the country's non-oil trade reached over \$83 billion.

In the past year, Iran exported \$42.415 billion worth of goods while its imports reached \$41.499 billion, showing a 16.11 percent decrease in the value of exports and a 22.53 percent decline in the value of imports when compared to its previous year.

EGFI inks MOUs with German, Swiss insurance companies

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) has signed memorandums of understanding with Swiss Export Risk Insurance (SERV) and Germany's Hermes Insurance Company.



According to the MOUs, which were signed on the sidelines of the Berne Union annual meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, the insurers will collaborate with the Iranian fund on the exchange of economic, commercial, and banking data, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

"After the implementation of the nuclear deal, different European insurance companies have expressed tendency towards participating in Iranian projects and financing them," Kamal Seyyedali, the head of EGFI, said.

The Berne Union was founded in 1934 by private and state export credit insurers from France, Italy, Spain and the UK. Its vision is to be the leading network of the international credit and investment insurers for the purpose of information exchange, sharing of expertise, and networking among its 50 members.

Trump appeals mostly to white middle class: Georgetown professor

INTERVIEW
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — A professor of political science at Georgetown University tells the Tehran Times that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is mostly capitalizing on the white middle class.

"Trump appeals mostly to the White Middle class and, especially men, who feel that they have been neglected by Washington and its internationalist elites," Hunter notes.

Hunter says Trump is appealing to the white middle class because they see their living standards have fallen and their job being lost due to globalization.

Following is the text of the interview:
■ What is your prediction of the U.S. presidential election?

A: There is still three weeks until the election. A lot could happen in three weeks. Already the divulgence of some of Hilary Clinton's e-mails have raised questions about her pro-



They have also shown her close ties to Wall Street and the

financiers who many people in America blame at least for part of America's economic problems. Therefore although most opinion polls indicate that Hillary Clinton is likely to win the elections, a surprise Trump victory cannot be totally ruled out. Much would also depend on the turnout of the respective candidates supporters. For example, a low turnout by African-Americans and the Latinos would diminish Hillary's chances of victory. →13

Young Iranian artists honored at Korea's Bio-Art Contest

ART TEHRAN — Young Iranian artists Shahrzad Kusha and Mana Sorahi have won prizes at the 4th Bio-Art Contest in Seoul, South Korea.

Kusha received the Gwacheon National Science Museum Award for her painting entitled "Blue" and Sorahi won the Jury Award for her painting entitled "The Egg of Life" during a special ceremony on Tuesday, the organizers announced.

"Survival" was the central theme of the contest, which is jointly organized by the Medicinal Bioconvergence Research Center (Biocon) at the Seoul National University, the Seoul Bio-



science Company and the Gwacheon National Science Museum.

"This contest is the cultural event for science and art to decipher the beauty of our life and to project this beauty onto artwork" the organizers said.

Six winners are honored with cash prizes every year. In addition, 20-30 artists are presented with honorable mentions.

Parisa Pur-Ranjbar, Alireza Nosrati, Zohreh Mehravipur and Reza Nasr Esfahani, all from Iran, received honorable mentions at the competition.

An exhibition that opened at the Gwacheon National Science Museum on Tuesday is showcasing a selection of works through November 6.

Defense minister: U.S., allies should stop backing terrorists

POLITICS TEHRAN — To end the crises in Middle East the U.S. and its allies should stop supporting terrorists and abandon the idea of partitioning countries in the region, Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan said on Wednesday.

There are reports that the

Al-Nusra Front, an al-Qaeda affiliate, is using civilians as human shield in the Syrian city of Aleppo and prevents them from leaving the city.

"The U.S. and its regional and extra-regional allies chant humanitarian slogans while giving the terrorist groups such as Jabhat Fateh al-Sham or Al-Nusra Front

green light and prevent the people from getting out of the military regions so that they be used as human shields."

Russia and the Syrian army resumed bombing Aleppo after a pause. The United States and its allies have been critical of Russia and Syria for targeting Al-Nusra militants in eastern Aleppo.

Dehghan said the Islamic Republic has repeatedly warned about the danger of terrorist groups to international security, however the hegemonic powers are backing these groups.

He also said that spread of terrorism and extremism in the region is aimed at serving the interests of the Zionist regime of Israel.

Dutch expertise ready for Iran's dredging, desalination projects: minister

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Dutch experts are ready to help Iran implement its dredging and water desalination projects, the Netherlands Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment, Melanie Schultz van Haegen, said on Tuesday.

Heading a high ranking trade delegation comprising officials in the fields of water, sea and port development, Haegen made the remarks over a visit she paid to the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas, neighboring the Persian Gulf, IRNA news agency reported.

"Dutch companies are prepared to cooper-



Melanie Schultz van Haegen is paying a visit to a water treatment plant in southern Tehran

ate in the implementation of desalination and dredging projects with Iran," Minister Haegen said.

She further expressed readiness for transferring knowledge in the aforesaid fields to Iran.

Mentioning the importance of taking the environmental issues into consideration in development she stated that with economic growth comes a greater responsibility to protect the environment so it is essential to look for ways to conserve the environment and water resources.

PERSPECTIVE
By Heidar Soheili
Political expert

Erdogan and the Mosul dilemma

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is strongly insisting to participate in the battle to liberate the northern Iraqi city of Mosul from ISIL occupation.

He has also come up with some reasons. He argues that he is concerned about the condition of Sunni Arabs. He also has a strong emphasis on fighting ISIL.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has sarcastically thanked Erdogan accusing him of spreading his influence in northern Iraq. Taking into consideration the founder of the Republic of Turkey's insistence on domination over of Kirkuk's oil and a regret by the new Turkish leaders for losing northern Iraq and parts of northern Syria, always highlight the real intention of Ankara's new leaders, including Erdogan.

However, the story is different this time. Baghdad holds the current Turkish leaders mostly responsible for supporting terrorist groups. Nonetheless the official charges against Ankara are few, yet lots of accusations are made against Turkey unofficially. Baghdad believes ISIL, to a very high extent, owes its existence to Turkey, and the aim of Ankara is to covertly support and protect key ISIL figures and also to protect the confidential documents regarding the hidden relations between Turkish officials and the ISIL leaders as well as other terrorist groups.

Another issue is that Baghdad suspects that Ankara might create a new network comprising of tribes, nomads and the ISIL sympathizers under the guise of fighting terrorism.

Turkey categorically rejects such claims, however it does not hide its claim that it is seriously concerned about the fate some Sunni Arab tribes and nomads. Turkey is also very worried about the activity of the Kurds. →13

EMSCO
Production Capacity to Hit 10m Tons by Yearend
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