

Kazakistan'da Latin
alfabesi projesi hakkında
New York Times, 16 Ocak 2018
Timur Kocaoglu ile söyleşi

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

National Edition

Michigan: Mostly cloudy. A couple of snow showers south. Highs in the lower teens to the mid-20s. Mainly cloudy tonight. Flurries and lake-effect snow. Weather map, Page B6.

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Defending a Vision of America

President Trump's comments drew protests in New York and criticism from children of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Page A14.

Can Lawyer Ignore Wishes Of His Client?

By JEFFERY C. MAYS

Larry English left the Louisiana courtroom knowing that he had tried his last criminal case.

His attempt to save his client's life had failed. Over repeated objections from his client, Robert McCoy, who insisted on his innocence, Mr. English had told the jury that Mr. McCoy was "crazy" and had killed three people. The jury's verdict was death.

"I walked out of that courtroom saying I could never put myself through that again, emotionally," Mr. English said during a recent interview in his Harlem office. "I went into a deep depression. My wife was urging me to see someone. That had never happened before in my legal career."

March United Women, but Goals Split Them Up

By FARAH STOCKMAN

Amber Selman-Lynn wanted to help plan a women's march in Mobile, Ala., this month to mark the first anniversary of last year's huge protests across the country. The day had been significant for her.

With no experience in political activism, she had helped organize a bus full of women to go from Mobile to Washington. After they came back from the euphoric trip, they formed a group called Mobile Marchers that met monthly. They spoke up for the Affordable Care Act at town-hall-style meetings, and knocked on doors for the Alabama Senate candidate Doug Jones, the Democrat who beat Roy S. Moore in a stunning victory last month.

But when Ms. Selman-Lynn

One Year On, 2 Groups With Differing Tacks Vie to Carry Torch

tried to register her anniversary event on the website for Women's March Inc., the high-profile group formed by the organizers of last year's event in Washington, she received an unusual letter. It said that while the group was "supportive of any efforts to build our collective power as women," it asked that she "not advertise your event as a 'Women's March' action."

"It's kind of silly," Ms. Selman-Lynn said. "We are clearly the women's march in Mobile."

The Women's March a year ago

aimed to start a movement of women from all walks of life who would continue their activism long after they had gone home.

In many ways, that goal has been realized. In the wake of the march on Washington — and simultaneous marches in more than 600 towns and cities across the country — thousands of women threw themselves into activism for the first time in their lives, especially in red states where the events provided a rare chance to build a network of like-minded people.

In Texas, emails collected by the organizers of the Women's March in Austin are being repurposed to promote candidates who support abortion rights. In Arkansas, Gwen Combs, the elementary school teacher who organized the

Continued on Page A14

Republican Bill Curtails Reach Of Bank Rules

Rollback Has Support of Some Democrats

By ALAN RAPPEPORT

WASHINGTON — The most significant attempt to loosen rules imposed in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis is underway in Congress as the Senate looks to pass legislation within the next month that would roll back restrictions on swaths of the finance industry.

Buoyed by their success in re-writing the tax code, the Trump administration and Republican lawmakers have now set their sights on helping the financial industry, which has been engaged in a quiet but concerted push to relax many post-crisis rules and regulatory obligations, particularly for thousands of small- and medium-sized banks.

But unlike the \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul, which passed along party lines, the effort to loosen the post-crisis rules is somewhat bipartisan. A group of Senate Democrats has joined Republicans to support legislation that would mark the first major revision of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, a signature accomplishment of President Barack Obama that has been deemed "a disaster" by President Trump.

The bill would allow hundreds of smaller banks to avoid certain elements of federal oversight, including stress tests, which measure a bank's ability to withstand a severe economic downturn. Under current law, banks with assets of \$50 billion or more are considered "systemically important financial institutions" and therefore governed by stricter rules. The bill would raise that threshold to institutions with assets of \$250 billion or more, leaving fewer than 10 big banks in the United States subject to the stricter oversight.

Banks with assets of \$50 billion to \$100 billion would be immediately freed from those requirements. Financial institutions with \$100 billion to \$250 billion in assets, such as BB&T and American Express, would no longer be subject to tougher rules after 18 months, although the Federal Reserve would retain the authority to periodically conduct stress tests on those firms.

Senator Mitch McConnell, the

TRUMP LANGUAGE TANGLES SOLUTION FOR A SHUTDOWN

A DEADLINE APPROACHES

Fiery Immigration Talk and Election Calculus Dampen Hopes

This article is by Jonathan Martin, Michael D. Shear and Sheryl Gay Stolberg.

WASHINGTON — President Trump's incendiary words about immigration have dampened the prospects that a broad spending and immigration deal can be reached by the end of the week, raising the possibility of a government shutdown with unknown political consequences for lawmakers in both parties.

Democrats facing re-election in states that Mr. Trump carried in 2016 fear that a government funding crisis, precipitated by an im-



CAROLYN KASTER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senator Claire McCaskill faces a daunting race in Missouri.

migration showdown, could imperil their campaigns. And they are growing increasingly uneasy that liberal colleagues eyeing White House bids are demanding that any spending bill beyond a stopgap measure that expires on Jan. 19 include protections for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children.

"Welcome to our world," said Senator Claire McCaskill, Democrat of Missouri, who is running for re-election in a state that Mr. Trump carried by 19 percentage points.

"We've got people running for president all trying to find their base, and then you've got people from Trump states that are trying

jections from his client, Robert McCoy, who insisted on his innocence. Mr. English had told the jury that Mr. McCoy was "crazy" and had killed three people. The jury's verdict was death.

"I walked out of that courtroom saying I could never put myself through that again, emotionally," Mr. English said during a recent interview in his Harlem office. "I went into a deep depression. My wife was urging me to see someone. That had never happened before in my legal career."

On Wednesday, Mr. English will revisit that trial in Washington, where he will watch lawyers argue McCoy v. Louisiana before the United States Supreme Court. The question before the court, which will decide if Mr. McCoy should get a new trial, is whether it is unconstitutional for a lawyer to concede a client's guilt against the client's wishes.

"When you're in a courtroom fighting for someone's life, you bring every skill and trick of the trade to save that person's life," Mr. English said. "A death penalty case is not normal."

That much was clear from the start.

Mr. English was hired in 2010, after Mr. McCoy had fired his public defenders and was seeking to represent himself. He had been charged with killing his mother-in-law, Christine Colston Young; her husband, Willie Ray Young; and her grandson Gregory Lee

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due to Washington. After they came back from the euphoric trip, they formed a group called Mobile Marchers that met monthly. They spoke up for the Affordable Care Act at town-hall-style meetings, and knocked on doors for the Alabama Senate candidate Doug Jones, the Democrat who beat Roy S. Moore in a stunning victory last month.

But when Ms. Selman-Lynn

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MELISSA GOLDEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Amber Selman-Lynn, center, and others preparing for the coming women's march in Mobile, Ala.

Rewriting Alphabet, Kazakh Leader Looks to Leave His Mark

By ANDREW HIGGINS

ALMATY, Kazakhstan — In his 26 years as Kazakhstan's first and only president, Nursultan A. Nazarbayev has managed to keep a resurgent Russia at bay and navigate the treacherous geopolitical waters around Moscow, Beijing and Washington, keeping on good terms with all three capitals.

The authoritarian leader's talent for balancing divergent inter-

ests, however, suddenly seems to have deserted him over an issue that, at first glance, involves neither great power rivalry nor weighty matters of state: the role of the humble apostrophe in writing down Kazakh words.

The Kazakh language is currently written using a modified version of Cyrillic, a legacy of Soviet rule, but Mr. Nazarbayev announced in May that the Russian alphabet would be dumped in favor of a new script based on the

Latin alphabet. This, he said, "is not only the fulfillment of the dreams of our ancestors, but also the way to the future for younger generations."

The decision, however, raised a tricky issue: how to write down a tongue that has no alphabet of its own but has always used scripts imported from outside.

The president's ardent intervention in Kazakhstan's passionate debate over a new script and his proposed solution — he wants

lots and lots of apostrophes — has highlighted how virtually everything in this former Soviet land, no matter how small or obscure, hinges on the will of a single 77-year-old man, or at least those who claim to speak for him.

"This is the basic problem of our country: If the president says something or just writes something on a napkin, everybody has to applaud," said Aidos Sarym, a

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10 big banks in the United States subject to the stricter oversight.

Banks with assets of \$50 billion to \$100 billion would be immediately freed from those requirements. Financial institutions with \$100 billion to \$250 billion in assets, such as BB&T and American Express, would no longer be subject to tougher rules after 18 months, although the Federal Reserve would retain the authority to periodically conduct stress tests on those firms.

Senator Mitch McConnell, the majority leader and Kentucky Republican, is expected to bring the bill to the Senate floor within the next month.

Hurdles remain. The House has already passed its own far more sweeping deregulatory effort. And progressive Democrats who warn that the legislation would re-

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stopgap measure that expires on Jan. 19 include protections for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children.

"Welcome to our world," said Senator Claire McCaskill, Democrat of Missouri, who is running for re-election in a state that Mr. Trump carried by 19 percentage points.

"We've got people running for president all trying to find their base, and then you've got people from Trump states that are trying to continue to legislate the way we always have — by negotiation," Ms. McCaskill said. "And never

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MORE CONDEMN REMARKS Africa experts say America may face setbacks in the region. PAGE A8

Raids at 7-Elevens Signal Shift In How U.S. Polices Immigrants

By NATALIE KITROEFF

The Trump administration is taking its campaign against illegal immigration to the workplace.

The raids by federal agents on dozens of 7-Eleven convenience stores last week were the administration's first big show of force meant to convey the consequences of employing undocumented people.

"We are taking work-site enforcement very hard," said Thomas D. Homan, the director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in a speech in October. "Not only are we going to prosecute the employers who knowingly hire the illegal aliens, we are going to detain and remove the illegal alien workers."

When agents raid workplaces, they often demand to see employees' immigration documents and make arrests. But after the agents leave, it is difficult for the government to meaningfully penalize

businesses that hire unauthorized immigrants.

Instead, according to law enforcement officials and experts with differing views of the immigration debate, a primary goal of such raids is to dissuade those working illegally from showing up for their jobs — and to warn prospective migrants that even if they make it across the border, they may end up being captured at work.

Targeting 7-Eleven, a mainstay in working-class communities from North Carolina to California, seems to have conveyed the intended message.

"It's causing a lot of panic," said Oscar Renteria, the owner of Renteria Vineyard Management, which employs about 180 farmworkers who are now pruning grapevines in the Napa Valley.

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Infamous Dublin Landmark

The last of Ireland's laundries for "fallen women" is facing the wrecking ball. Some are seeking a memorial. PAGE A9

Afghan Governor Fights Kabul

Atta Muhammad Noor was fired as provincial governor, but he is refusing to leave, and elevating his profile. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A10-14

In Atlanta, Poor Stay in Jail

In what advocates say is a distressingly common occurrence, the mentally ill and homeless who can't afford bail often languish behind bars. PAGE A10

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An End-of-Life Grace Note

Music therapy is becoming more common in hospices, where it can improve a patient's quality of life. PAGE A19

'Coywolf' Sightings Upstate

A supposed hybrid predator in Clarks-town, N.Y., has neighbors debating what to do. PAGE A17



SPORTSTUESDAY B7-11

Towering Artistry

Brian Hanlon is a prolific sculptor of sports-related statues that originate in a New Jersey chicken coop. PAGE B7

Biles Says Doctor Abused Her

Simone Biles, the Olympic all-around champion, became the latest gymnast to accuse him of sexual assault. PAGE B7

BUSINESS DAY B1-5

A Demand for Social Purpose

Laurence D. Fink wants companies to do more than make profits — they need to contribute to society as well if they want to receive the support of Black-Rock. DealBook. PAGE B1

Alexa, Earn Your Keep

Many people use digital assistants for the basics, like the weather forecast or music, but the devices' makers want users to further explore digital home management. PAGE B1

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Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo PAGE A21



ARTS C1-6

A World Full of Music

The Iberi Choir, from (the country) Georgia, sang gorgeously harmonized songs at the 15th annual Globalfest in Manhattan, Jon Paresles writes. PAGE C5





President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan decreed last year that the Cyrillic alphabet should be dropped, and many applauded.

Kazakh Leader Looks to Leave His Mark on Language

From Page A1

political analyst and member of a language reform commission set up last year.

Mr. Nazarbayev, he added, deserves credit for turning Kazakhstan into the most stable and prosperous country in a region that has been battered by political upheaval and economic decay. But language, Mr. Sarym noted, “is a very delicate sphere that cannot be dictated by officials.”

As in many newly independent countries struggling to create a sense of national identity after subjugation by a foreign power, language in Kazakhstan is a highly sensitive issue. Many people here, including ethnic Kazakhs, still often speak Russian.

But since emerging from the ruins of the Soviet Union as an independent country in 1991, Kazakhstan has steadily chipped away at the legacy of Moscow’s political and cultural hegemony.

It has replaced Russian with Kazakh as the main language of education and government, put English on a par with Russian in foreign language teaching and produced a torrent of Kazakh-language films and television programs that celebrate the country’s culture and long-vanished nomadic traditions.

The shift to the Latin alphabet, to be completed by 2025, has been widely cheered as a long overdue assertion of the country’s full in-

dependence, which dropped Cyrillic in favor of the Latin script to write its own Turkic language in the 1990s, has an alphabet that sometimes requires apostrophes but nowhere near as many as those mandated by Mr. Nazarbayev.

“Nobody knows where he got this terrible idea from,” said Timur Kocaoglu, a professor of international relations and Turkish studies at Michigan State, who visited Kazakhstan last year. “Kazakh intellectuals are all laughing and asking: How can you read anything written like this?”

The proposed script, he said, “makes your eyes hurt.”

The uproar is testing the limits of Mr. Nazarbayev’s approach to government: He brooks no opposition but is also keenly attuned to the public mood. Signaling a possible willingness to change course, an influential ally of the president, the head of the Senate, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, said last month that it was “still too early” to start using apostrophes in newspapers and elsewhere because “a final decision” had not yet been made.

How to transcribe Kazakh, a Turkic language developed by nomadic herders without an alphabet of their own, has long been a particularly fraught issue. For centuries, it was written using the

Latin script of the Soviet Union,” said Anar Fazylyzhanov, the deputy director of the Institute of Linguistics in Almaty, the country’s business and cultural capital. “But changing the alphabet was much more politically difficult in Kazakhstan.”

In the past two decades, however, the demographic balance has shifted in favor of ethnic Kazakhs, following the departure of many ethnic Russians, whose numbers fell from about 40 percent of the population at independence to about 20 percent today. This opened the way for Mr. Nazarbayev to endorse the axing of Cyrillic.

“Cyrillic was part of Russia’s colonial project and many see the Latin alphabet as an anti-imperial move,” said Dossym Satpayev, a prominent Kazakh political commentator.

The Russian Orthodox Church and Russian nationalists protested what they interpreted as a sellout to the West and an attack on Russian culture. Kazakhstan even had intelligence reports, according to experts familiar with the matter, that the Russian Parliament was preparing a statement praising Mr. Nazarbayev as a great statesman and pleading with him to preserve Cyrillic so as to cement his legacy as a leader who has kept the peace among different ethnic groups.

The move to the Latin alphabet accelerated in April with the establishment by Mr. Nazarbayev of

straight into a computer,” he said in September. He also complained that using digraphs to transcribe special Kazakh sounds would cause confusion when people try to read English, when the same combination of letters designate entirely different sounds.

But others saw another possible motivation: Mr. Nazarbayev may be eager to avoid any suggestion that Kazakhstan is turning its back on Russia and embracing pan-Turkic unity, a bugbear for Russian officials in both tsarist and Soviet times.

Also likely playing a role in the president’s active involvement has been his advancing age and the question of how he will be remembered when he eventually steps down or dies.

“The president is thinking about his legacy and wants to go down in history as the man who created a new alphabet,” said Mr. Satpayev, who supports the switch to Latin script but not the president’s version. “The problem is that our president is not a philologist.”

Turkey’s Leader Deplores ‘Terror Army’ on Border

By ERIC SCHMITT

WASHINGTON — President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey lashed out on Monday against a proposed American-trained force that would potentially position thousands of Kurdish militia fighters along Turkey’s southern border.

The allied military headquarters in Baghdad that is leading the fight against the Islamic State in Syria said Sunday that it had started recruiting and retraining members of a Syrian Kurdish and Arab militia to protect the borders of territory captured by the group. The militia, the American-backed Syrian Democratic Forces or S.D.F., currently controls a large swath of northeastern Syria.

The Trump administration has said it would gradually scale back its military assistance to the Kurds as major combat winds down. The proposed border force appears to signal how the Pentagon would support its Kurdish proxies in the longer term in Syria.

Over several years, the new border force could grow to 30,000 members, the headquarters said in an email.

American commanders consider the Kurdish fighters the most capable of the S.D.F., and of any future border-security force, but Turkey views the Syrian Kurds as terrorists. The new plan threatens to escalate tensions between the United States and Turkey — two NATO allies — that were papered over during the offensive last year to seize Raqqa, which had been the Islamic State’s self-proclaimed capital in Syria.

“The U.S. has now acknowledged that it has established a terror army along our borders,” Mr. Erdogan said in a tweet on Monday. “Our duty, in return, is to nip this terror army in the bud.”

The Turkish president’s comments came as he has been threatening to attack other Kurdish fighters in Afrin, an enclave in Idlib in northwest Syria near Turkey’s border. The area is Kurdish-held but not contiguous with the Kurds’ main territory in northeast Syria. Heavy Turkish artillery shelling has targeted Kurdish positions in Afrin in recent days.

All this is unfolding as the Syr-

Anne Barnard contributed reporting from Beirut, Lebanon.

ian military, backed by Russia, is intensifying its assault on Idlib, the last remaining redoubt of rebels opposed to the government of President Bashar al-Assad. Many people have migrated there from other surrendering rebel areas around Syria.

The proposed border security force adds a new dimension to this highly combustible mixture, and drew sharp criticism from the Turkish government.

“Turkey, as a member of the coalition, was not consulted with regard to the establishment of the so-called ‘Syrian Border Security Force,’” according to a statement issued on Sunday from the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

The statement added that such a force would hamper efforts to wipe out the last remaining pockets of Islamic State fighters along the Euphrates River Valley near the border of Iraq and Syria, as well as in the deserts of western Iraq and eastern Syria.

The American military command in Baghdad, which oversees allied operations in eastern Syria against the Islamic State, sought to portray the new border force as no big deal.

It said the new force would essentially repurpose as many as 15,000 of the more than 40,000 members of the S.D.F. to prevent the resurgence of the Islamic State. About 230 militia in the first class of recruits are currently undergoing training.

“These individuals will bring much-needed experience and discipline to the force,” the American military command said in the email, adding that recruiting is underway to fill an additional 15,000 positions, for an eventual total of 30,000 members.

The American command said the force would be drawn from “a force reflecting the populations they serve, both in gender and ethnicity” — an effort to deflect Turkish criticism that the border patrol would be dominated by Kurdish militia.

The new border force will be stationed along the borders of areas now controlled by the S.D.F., including “portions of the Euphrates River valley and international borders to the east and north of S.D.F.-liberated territory” — meaning Iraq and Turkey, the command said.

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Collectors gather here.

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away at the legacy of Moscow's political and cultural hegemony.

It has replaced Russian with Kazakh as the main language of education and government, put English on a par with Russian in foreign language teaching and produced a torrent of Kazakh-language films and television programs that celebrate the country's culture and long-vanished nomadic traditions.

The shift to the Latin alphabet, to be completed by 2025, has been widely cheered as a long overdue assertion of the country's full independence from Russia — and its determination to join the wider world. The main objections have come from the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow and ethnic Russians living in Kazakhstan.

Far less popular, however, has been a decision by the president in October to ignore the advice of specialists and announce a system that uses apostrophes to designate Kazakh sounds that don't exist in other languages written in the standard Latin script.

The Republic of Kazakhstan, for example, will be written in Kazakh as Qazaqstan Respy'bli'kasy.

In a country where almost nobody challenges the president publicly, Mr. Nazarbayev has found his policy on apostrophes assailed from all sides.

Linguists, who had recommended that the new writing system follow the example of Turkish, which uses umlauts and other phonetic markers instead of apostrophes, protested that the president's approach would be ugly and imprecise.

Others complained the use of apostrophes will make it impossible to do Google searches for many Kazakh words or to create hashtags on Twitter.

"We are supposed to be modernizing the language but are cutting ourselves from the internet," Mr. Sarym said.

Amid a storm of mockery and protest on social media, a Kazakh film director, Saken Zholdas, produced a music video ridiculing the president's apostrophe-laden approach as a recipe for turning written Kazakh into an unsightly and unreadable gobbledygook.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, said last month that it was "still too early" to start using apostrophes in newspapers and elsewhere because "a final decision" had not yet been made.

How to transcribe Kazakh, a Turkic language developed by nomadic herders without an alphabet of their own, has long been a particularly fraught issue. For centuries, it was written using the

A lot of apostrophes, enough to make 'your eyes hurt.'

script of Arabic, the language of Islam, which most Kazakhs have long at least nominally practiced.

Kazakhstan switched briefly to the Latin alphabet at the start of the last century, and Russia's Communist leaders after the 1917 revolution initially supported the use of a Latin script.

Later, growing fearful of pan-Turkic sentiment among Kazakhs, Uzbeks and other Turkic peoples in the Soviet Union, Moscow between 1938 and 1940 ordered that Kazakh and other Turkic languages be written in modified Cyrillic as part of a push to promote Russian culture. To try to ensure that different Turkic peoples could not read one another's writings and develop a shared non-Soviet sense of common identity, it introduced nearly 20 versions of Cyrillic, Mr. Kocaoglu said.

After leading Kazakhstan to independence, Mr. Nazarbayev, concerned with a backlash from the country's large ethnic Russian population, stalled on demands from nationalists for a swift revival of the Latin script. Other newly independent countries with similar Turkic languages like Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan all stopped using Cyrillic, but they had far smaller Russian populations.

"We all wanted to create our own states and our own cultures to help us escape from the col-

lused what they interpreted as sellout to the West and an attack on Russian culture. Kazakhstan even had intelligence reports, according to experts familiar with the matter, that the Russian Parliament was preparing a statement praising Mr. Nazarbayev as a great statesman and pleading with him to preserve Cyrillic so as to cement his legacy as a leader who has kept the peace among different ethnic groups.

The move to the Latin alphabet accelerated in April with the establishment by Mr. Nazarbayev of a National Commission for the Modernization of Society, which included a panel of linguists entrusted with working out how Kazakh sounds should be transcribed.

Because Kazakh features many sounds that are not easily rendered into either the Cyrillic or Latin alphabets without additional markers, a decision needed to be made whether to follow Turkish, which uses the Latin script but includes cedillas, tildes, breves, dots and other markers to clarify pronunciation, or invent alternative phonetic pointers.

In August, the linguists proposed using an alphabet that largely followed the Turkish model.

The president's office, however, declared this a nonstarter because Turkish-style markers do not feature on a standard keyboard.

The scholars on the language commission, led by Erden Kazhybek, the head of the Institute of Linguistics in Almaty, then suggested using digraphs, or several letters to indicate a single sound, like "ch" in English.

This approach initially got a warmer reception from the president's entourage but was then banished when Mr. Nazarbayev suddenly issued a decree on Oct. 27 ordering that apostrophes be used instead of Turkish-style markers.

The modified Latin alphabet put forward by Mr. Nazarbayev uses apostrophes to elongate or modify the sounds of certain letters.

For example, the letter "I" with an apostrophe designates roughly the same sound as the "I" in Fiji, while "I" on its own sounds like the vowel in fig. The letter "S" with an apostrophe indicates "sh" and "C" is pronounced "ch." Under this new system, the Kazakh word for cherry will be written as s'i'i'e, and pronounced she-ee-ye.

"When scholars first learned about this, we were all in shock," Mr. Kazhybek said. Tipped off about the president's proposals in advance, he had rushed to Astana, the Kazakh capital, to plead for a reconsideration but was told that apostrophes were not going away.

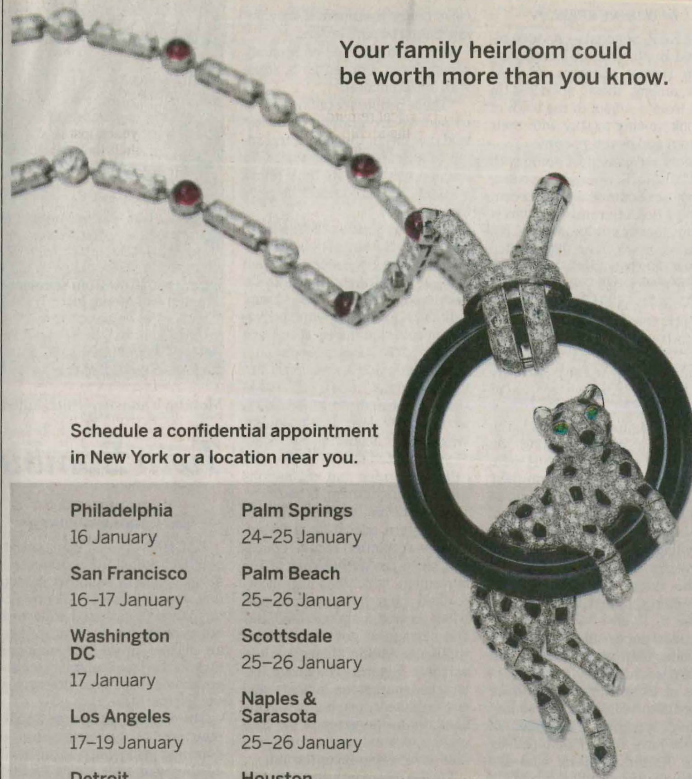
The only reasons publicly cited by Mr. Nazarbayev to explain why he did not want Turkish-style phonetic markers is that "there should not be any hooks or superfluous dots that cannot be put

Satpayev, who supports the switch to Latin script but not the president's version. "The problem is that our president is not a philologist."

All this is unfolding as the Syrian borders to the east and north of S.D.F.-liberated territory — meaning Iraq and Turkey, the command said.

Anne Barnard contributed reporting from Beirut, Lebanon.

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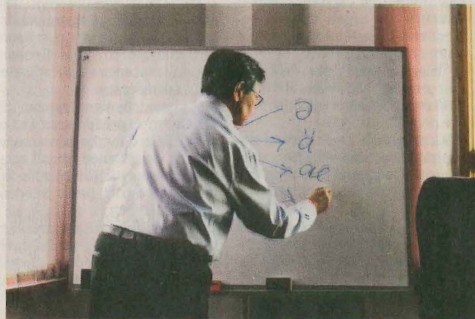
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Erden Kazhybek, of the Institute of Linguistics in Almaty, illustrating different spellings of one sound in the Kazakh language.