



Saudi gov't. may have funded 9/11 'dry run': new data **3**



Cycling group promotes protecting water resources in Iran **12**



Flowers are part of Iranians' daily life: Carlos Queiroz **15**



Iranian artist returns award over disrespect in Italy's visa section **16**

## Venice honors “No Date, No Signature” director, actor



Vahid Jalilvand poses with the Orizzonti Award for Best Director for “No Date, No Signature” at the award winners photocall during the 74th Venice Film Festival at Sala Casino in Venice, Italy on September 9, 2017.

### Progress entails political stability, Rouhani tells OIC leaders

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that a stable political, economic, social and cultural situation is necessary for Islamic countries to make scientific and technological advances.

Rouhani made the remarks as he

was addressing the Organization of Islamic Cooperation summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

“Yesterday, in the world of Islam it was the era of scientific, cultural and civilizational progress. Is it not possible today for the world of Islam to move toward innovation, **→2**

### Iran’s first data vending agreement signed with Inforex

**By Mahnaz Abdi**

**TEHRAN** — The first ever data vending deal in the Iranian capital market was signed between Iran Financial Center (IFC) and Greece’s Inforex S.A. data vendor company on Sunday.

Based on the deal, which was signed by Inforex Managing Director Eleni Pateropoulou and IFC Managing Director Ali Naqavi in Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) headquarters, IFC will provide Inforex with

data about Iranian companies listed on the exchanges for a period of two years and the Greek company is committed to offer them to the foreigners interested in making investment in Iran.

Inforex is servicing the largest securities firms, banks and financial institutions of the Greek market while also providing services to individuals with high interest in the Greek and international markets. **→4**

### Oberbank to ink deal with Iran on Sept. 21

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Austria’s Oberbank will sign a deal with the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) on September 21 to finance Austrian projects in Iran, the bank’s chief executive has said.

“I think we are the first European bank (to reach such an agreement),” Franz Gasselsberger told Reuters, adding that he was relying on information from the Iranian authorities.

“Evidently some Germans and

Italians are also negotiating,” he said, adding that a Danish bank was also in talks. He declined to name any of those companies, but Denmark’s Danske Bank said in January that it was negotiating with the CBI.

Signing the deal at its headquarters in the city of Linz will make Oberbank, Austria’s seventh biggest lender, among the first European lenders to do so since sanctions were eased against Iran. **→4**

### Turkish politician: U.S. won’t be the only game setter in Syria

**By Payman Yazdani**

**TEHRAN** — Emphasizing the role of Russia, Iran and Turkey in Syria, a senior member of Turkey’s Peoples’ Democratic Party (CHP) said the United States is not the only game changer in the conflict-stricken Syria.

“Whatever the outcome of the conflict, the U.S. will not be the only game setter in Syria. There are other powers: Russia, Iran and Turkey,” Osman Faruk Logoglu told the Tehran Times.

The remarks by Logoglu came after former U.S. Ambassador to Damascus Robert Ford told the pan-Arab Mayadeen TV late on Wednesday that Syrian President Bashar

al-Assad’s government is in its strongest military position after six years of war but, the opposition, whether the political and military groups, is at its weakest.

Ford, now a senior fellow at the Washington-based Middle East Institute, also said the Syrian opposition has made mistakes during the crisis. He said Iran is helping the Russians to shrink the U.S. influence in the region, adding the U.S. has, to some extent, lost in Syria.

Regarding the U.S. support for Syrian Kurds, Ford remarked the idea that the U.S. will militarily defend the Kurdish interests is wrong, warning that the Kurds shouldn’t rely

on the U.S. help. Instead, he said, the Kurds should embark on direct talks with the Damascus government.

For his part, Logoglu said the United States is not seeking to establish a Kurdish state in northern Syria, noting, “The U.S. priority is to defeat ISIL, not to set up an independent Kurdish state in Syria.”

Logoglu also said it is the Syrian people who must decide about the future of their country.

“At the end of the day and after so much bloodshed, it will and must be the Syrians themselves, Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen and others to determine the future design of their country.”

### Lebanon to file UN Security Council complaint against Israel

Lebanon’s Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil says the Arab country will lodge an “urgent complaint” with the United Nations Security Council against Israel over an airstrike conducted from the Lebanese airspace on a military facility in the western Syrian province of Hama.

Bassil issued a directive to Lebanese Ambassador to the UN Nawaf Salam on Saturday, calling on him to take the measure “after Israeli authorities admitted to have carried out a missile attack against targets on Syrian territories from Lebanese airspace.”

The Syrian army said in a statement on September 7 that Israeli warplanes had fired a number of missiles at 2:42 a.m. local time (0042

GMT) from the Lebanese airspace against one of its military positions near the town of Masyaf, located approximately 40 kilometers west of the provincial capital city of Hama.

The army statement then warned about the “dangerous repercussions of this aggressive action to the security and stability of the region.”

Syria’s official news agency, SANA, later reported that the air raid had killed two people at the site and caused material damage.

The Syrian army operates a military facility north of Masyaf, which includes a training camp and a branch of the Scientific Studies and Research Center, according to an AFP report.

Israel violates Lebanon’s airspace on an almost daily basis, claiming the flights serve surveillance purposes.

Lebanon’s government, the Hezbollah resistance movement and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, have repeatedly condemned the overflights, saying they are in clear violation of UN Resolution 1701 and the country’s sovereignty.

UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which brokered a ceasefire in the war of aggression Israel launched against Lebanon in 2006, calls on Tel Aviv to respect Beirut’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(Source: Daily Star)



#### ARTICLE

**By Mehdi Sepahvand**  
Tehran Times journalist

### Irma: Could you resist remembering 9/11?

Once again, and at a squarely round number of years, 16, we are going to mourn the rise of humanity to a nightmarish realization: that we are living up to our barbarity and doing a great job feeding our resident evil.

George W. Bush’s “war on terror” that ensued the shameful 9/11, no intention to discuss the hypothetical origins of it no matter how these hypotheses verge on the statement of reality, drew world attention away from under the Texas-based “oil-rich” family’s rug, the corner of which was to be lifted four years later when Hurricane Katrina did bring about yet another era of enlightenment to human history: that the best nation on earth (reach the 1 percent) was trampling the buried underprivileged millions who, when struck by a natural disaster, the only thing they inspired was the deployment of security forces to prevent them from robbing places in keeping with their basic instinct of survival.

The rise of a black Barack Obama later put, for some eight years, a calming hand over the disadvantaged shoulders of the world, the toiling shoulders of Uncle Toms all around the world. But then again, two years before the 2016 presidential election, mass media divulged their intention they were about to bring yet another Mr. Bush figure to The So White House. The earthen-black revolt that put Mr. Obama over the mantle was now going to be beaten by a Corporate America revolt that was to culminate in an empire builder.

The empire builder went on to announce his best of wishes to make the empire great again. His actions later spoke for themselves of how he was going to go about doing so: by disregarding the hardest-earned consent of nations to care for their green origins, the Paris Agreement; by putting a ban on “the wretched of the earth” from setting foot in the empire; **→13**



### Marivan Intl. Street Theater Festival opens

An Iranian troupe performs during the 12th Marivan International Street Theater Festival on September 10, 2017. The festival will run in the northwestern Iranian city of Marivan until September 12.

### Critics circle Aung San Suu Kyi over Rohingya crisis

Myanmar’s Nobel Peace Prize winning Aung San Suu Kyi is facing intense scrutiny over her response to the plight of her nation’s Rohingya population.

Almost 300,000 Rohingya have fled into neighboring Bangladesh, according to the UN, since renewed violence between state security forces and the minority group began more than two weeks ago.

The disruption started on August 25 after Rohingya fighters attacked police posts in Rakhine, on Myanmar’s (formerly Burma) western coast, triggering a military crackdown.

Aung San Suu Kyi, the nation’s state counsellor and de facto leader, claimed this week that the situation is being twisted by a “huge iceberg of misinformation.”

“We make sure that all the people in our country are entitled to protection of their rights as well as, the right to, not just political but social and humanitarian defense,” she reportedly told Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a phone call on September 5.

The Rohingya, frequently described as “the world’s most persecuted minority,” are a mostly Muslim ethnic group, who have lived in majority Buddhist Myanmar for centuries.

There are currently around 1.1m residents in the Southeast Asian nation, which is home to more than 100 ethnic groups and approximately 55 million people.

A number of high-profile individuals have publicly criticized Aung San Suu Kyi, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her campaign supporting democracy in Myanmar, in light of the crisis.

However, not all world leaders have been united in condemning Aung San Suu Kyi.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for example, has refused to speak out and has instead offered his support to her.

“We share your concerns about extremist violence in Rakhine state and especially the violence against security forces,” he said during a state visit to Myanmar on September 6. **→13**

## Kazakhstan to reintroduce wild tigers after 70-year absence

Wild tigers are to be reintroduced to Kazakhstan 70 years after they became extinct in the country.

The animals will be reintroduced in the Ili-Balkhash region in a project that involves the creation of a nature reserve and the restoration of a forest that is part of the animal's historical range.



If successful, Kazakhstan will be the first country in the world to bring wild tigers back to an entire region where they have been extinct for nearly half a century. Previous relocation projects have only been considered in existing tiger habitats, such as in reserves in India.

Poaching and habitat loss has decimated the wildlife on which wild tigers once fed, including the kulkan, or wild donkey, and bactrian deer, both native to central Asia. The animals will be reintroduced to the nature reserve to provide enough food for the tigers when they are relocated from elsewhere in Asia.

The project, which is being supported by WWF, is likely to take many years. The landscape has to be prepared and the wildlife they feed on reintroduced before the first tigers are brought in in 2025 at the earliest.

Igor Chestin, the director of WWF-Russia said: "Thanks to years of close collaboration between Kazakhstan and Russian conservation experts, we have now identified the best possible territory in Ili-Balkhash for the restoration of a thriving wild tiger population.

"Our continued cooperation will be key in the successful creation of a new reserve, the restoration of rare native species and, in a few years' time, achieving an unprecedented trans-boundary relocation of wild tigers to central Asia."

Since the beginning of the 20th century, wild tigers have lost more than 90% of their historical range, including in central Asia (modern Turkey and Iran to north-west China). Wild tigers completely disappeared from Kazakhstan in the 1940s due to poaching and the loss of territory, WWF said.

There were thought to be about 100,000 wild tigers at the beginning of the 20th century. Now there are about 3,900, but it is hoped the Kazakhstan project will play a key role in increasing tiger range and populations.

Askar Myrzakhmetov, the minister of agriculture, said: "Kazakhstan is moving along the path of green development. We are honored to be the first country in central Asia to implement such an important and large-scale project, that not only will bring wild tigers back to their ancestral home but also protect the unique ecosystem of the Ili-Balkhash region." Ekaterina Vorobyeva, the director of WWF-Russia's Central Asia program, said there was hard work ahead to make the area ready. "That means tackling poaching and illegal activities, having well-trained and equipped rangers, thriving prey populations and engaged local communities."

(Source: The Guardian)

## LEARN ENGLISH

### New Guy In Town V

A: What the **heck** is going on! Did you see that? What was that thing?

B: I don't know! I'm just glad we **made it out!** Look, there is a police car! Help! Help! Please stop!

C: Howdy man. What seems to be the problem? Is this man bothering you?

A: Officer, officer, there is, like, a witch **creature** back there! We tied her up but she **broke free**, and she was about to have us for dinner!

C: Okay, calm down, calm down. **Lemme** see your eyes please. Have you been drinking tonight, son?

B: We are telling the truth! She's in there! We **suspected** her of being a **kidnapper** or **rapist** but it turns out she's an alien or something.

C: Okay, calm down, calm down. Lemme see your eyes please...

B: Ugg! Seriously! Are you gonna help us or not?

C: Okay, let's go **have a look**, shall we? Hello? Is anyone in here?

A: Be careful! She might be hiding!

C: It's perfectly safe... there isn't anyone...

#### ■ Key vocabulary

**heck**: hell in a more polite form

**make it out**: able to escape or flee

**creature**: a living thing

**break free**: get out of something

**lemme**: let me

**suspect**: regard someone as a criminal or to be guilty

**kidnapper**: the kind of criminal that catches someone and asks the family for money

**rapist**: the kind of criminal who forces someone to have sex

**have a look**: take a glance

#### ■ Supplementary vocabulary

**larceny**: act of stealing something

**homicide**: the act of killing another person

**wanna**: want to

**gonna**: going to

**DUI**: abbreviation for driving under the influence, to drive while being intoxicated

(Source: irlanguage.com)

# NGOs can help improve literacy: education minister

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian **d e s k** NGOs should play a more efficient role in helping the Literacy Movement Organization to improve the rate of literacy in the country, Education Minister Mohammad Bat'haee said on Sunday.

The state-run Literacy Movement Organization of Iran should benefit from supports of the private sector and non-government organization, ISNA quoted the minister as saying on Sunday.

He made the remarks at a press conference held on the occasion of International Literacy Day, September 8, which is celebrated annually worldwide by the United Nation.

"Unfortunately, there are still illiterate people in Iran. Although the illiteracy rate has declined to 10 percent among individuals over six years old in Iran, but [having] even a single illiterate person in the society is high," he said.



Literacy is not only reading and writing but it is an ability, which develop relation skills, he explained.

"The only solution to decrease the rate

of illiteracy is practical planning for different regions," he said.

Bat'haee went on to say that traditional methods cannot solve the illiteracy

## Trained shepherds, dogs minimize human-carnivore conflicts

By Farnaz Heidari

Dr. Igor Khorozyan is well known for his works on large mammalian carnivores and wildlife assessment.

He and his Iranian colleagues tried to study individual leopard attacks on sheep and goats in 34 villages near Golestan National Park.

They obtained and analyzed data on 39 attacks and evaluated the effects of shepherds and dogs on livestock depredation by leopards in north-eastern Iran.

Tehran Times had an interview with Dr. Khorozyan to discuss some of the latest issues in this field.

Below are excerpts from the interview.

■ The current status of dogs (feral, stray and livestock guarding dogs) in Iran has raised some concerns among conservation biologists. Why is that?

A: Our research is related to livestock guarding dogs, not feral or stray ones. There are two categories of dogs dealing with livestock: guarding dogs and herding dogs.

Guarding dogs like Kangals or German shepherds are able to detect and successfully deter predators from livestock. Herding dogs like collies are used to move livestock and keep them in a group.

Both guarding and herding dogs require careful training since the early days of a pup's life and untrained dogs can create lots of problems, also for conservation.

Some dogs may attack livestock and other animals, the others hunt wild animals and some even may attack

humans. It is well known that getting killed by dogs is one of the most important mortality factors for critically endangered Asiatic cheetahs which survive today only in Iran.

Wildlife hunting can be an everyday pastime for dogs which are not properly fed by owners and need to find food elsewhere.

A serious conservation issue that we found in our research is that guarding dogs in villages around Golestan National Park cannot protect sheep and goats from leopards efficiently. As a result, leopards keep on killing livestock and die from human persecution. The presence of dogs near sheep and goats is not a guarantee of safety and dogs themselves can often be killed by leopards. Cattle usually graze on their own, without shepherds or dogs, what also may increase vulnerability of cattle to leopard attacks.

Regarding feral or stray dogs, they can be even more dangerous than wild predators because they do not avoid humans and may openly exert aggressive actions towards people, pets and livestock. Importantly, stray and feral dogs may transmit diseases dangerous for humans and domestic animals like rabies, canine distemper, parasites and others.

■ Why dogs are among the most preferred prey species for leopards? What dangers can it bring?

A: Yes, leopards like to eat dogs and in some areas, like agricultural lands in southern India, dogs become the main prey for leopards. Leopards are tempted to kill



medium-sized or small dogs as they are easy to catch, and their barking and nervous behavior may even provoke leopards for attacks.

In Golestan, the situation is different as leopards frequently kill dogs, but consume them quite rarely. It means that dogs are killed more in retaliatory attacks rather than as prey.

■ Would you please tell me about the importance of shepherd and guarding dog assessment in Golestan National Park?

A: Our team works in Golestan for many years and considers this national park as a model for leopard conservation in all Iran and even in the Middle East.

Please read the full text of the interview on the Tehran Times website.

## Cycling group promotes protecting water resources in Iran

**ENVIRONMENT** **d e s k** Nafas, an Iranian eco-conscious cycling group, pedaled from Gorgan Gulf - the largest Gulf in the Caspian Sea in northern Iran - to Lake Urmia, northwest of the country, with the aim of raising awareness about protection of seas, lakes and freshwater.

Cyclists Hadi Bayazi and Ahmad Soltani began their tour on August 31 and ended on September 9, Bayazi told the Tehran Times.

Gorgan Gulf covers an area of about 400 square kilometers. In recent years, it has been facing severe drought due to the drying up of the Caspian Sea.

Its maximum depth is 4 meters and this depth increases from west to east till the southern side of Ashoura Deh peninsula.

In the western part its salinity is more than salinity of the Caspian Sea because of its reducing depth and increase of evaporation.

Generally the water entrance capacity is less than its exit and its water shortage is supplemented by the Caspian Sea.

Lake Urmia, which has been shrinking substantially since 2000s, was once the sixth largest saltwater lake on Earth.

The decline is generally blamed on a combination of drought, increased water diversion for irrigated agriculture within the lake's watershed.

The lake used to a natural habitat for migratory birds, and a tourist attraction as it is believed to have some therapeutic properties and healing effects.



## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → C

### New subway lines to become operational

Three new subway lines will be fully operational by summer, the managing director of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company said on Friday. Subway tunnels to the total length of 100 kilometers and 24 subway stations have been completed in the current Iranian calendar year, ending on March 20, 2017, YJC quoted Habil Darvish as saying. Tehran Municipality has spent more than 60 trillion rials (nearly \$1.5 million) on subway development projects over the current year, he added. He went on to say that soon 100 kilometers of subway line will come into operation in Tehran and the plans for subway lines of 9 and 10 will be discussed afterward.

### ENGLISH PROVERB

#### A miss is as good as a mile

■ **Explanation:** almost having done something is the same as not having done it at all, since in both cases the thing does not get done

■ **For example:** We only missed the train by one minute? Well, a miss is as good as a mile.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Doss around/about

■ **Meaning:** to spend your time in a lazy way, doing very little

■ **For example:** We just dossed around all day Saturday.

### ENGLISH IDIOM

#### Bet your bottom dollar

■ **Explanation:** if you bet your bottom dollar on something, you are absolutely certain of it

■ **For example:** Jack is very punctual. You can bet your bottom dollar he'll be here at 9 o'clock on the dot.

### پرونده خطوط ۷،۶ و ۸ مترو، سال آینده بسته خواهد شد

مدیر عامل شرکت متروی تهران گفت: پرونده خطوط ۶،۷ و ۸ مترو قبل از شهریور سال بسته خواهد شد.

به گزارش باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان هابیل درویش بیان داشت: امسال ۲۴ ایستگاه مترو را افتتاح کرده ایم و بیش از ۱۰۰ کیلومتر و تونل ساخته شده است.

درویش ادامه داد: امسال بیش از ۶ هزار میلیارد تومان توسط شهرداری تهران در پروژه‌های مترو هزینه شده است.

مدیر عامل شرکت مترو تهران با اشاره به اینکه به‌زودی ۱۰۰ کیلومتر مترو در شهر تهران به بهره‌برداری می‌رسد، تصریح کرد: برای پروژه خط ۹ و ۱۰ نیز مطالعاتی در حال انجام است.