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Mayor Bonnie Crombie Declare Mississauga the Best Place to Invest and Grow

Al-Mersal-Toronto:

Since the election of the charismatic new Mississauga mayor the honorable Bonnie Crombie, the citizens of Mississauga have been very optimistic and looking forward for her worship leadership and vision for Mississauga Future.

The City of Mississauga is said to be at a decisive moment in its history as most of its Greenfield lands have been developed and much of its infrastructure is in place. The City has issued many building permits for more than \$1.1 billion in construction in 2014. Total permits issued so far have increased by



more than 15 per cent to 3,800 in 2014 from 3,300 in 2013.

The City also issued an additional \$400 million in conditional permits to help get construction underway. New growth

will take place primarily through infilling and development in appropriate areas. Vacant land is at a premium in Mississauga.

Planning and Building commissioner Ed Sajecki

said the numbers show the City is transitioning well from suburban residential building to more complex infill projects. "It is further proof that more and more people and businesses are choosing Mississauga as the best place to invest, grow and succeed. Mississauga is a city that thrives. Said Mayor Bonnie Crombie.

The population of the City of Mississauga is expected to grow from about 757,000 currently to 878,000 in 2041. This significant increase in building permits is a signal of greater investment in Mississauga, which will create jobs and economic growth," Said Crombie.

Islam and Terrorism...!!!

By: Harry Ziad Malawi



After the recent terrorist attack in Paris by some Muslim extremists, many people began to question the Islamic faith, which fuelled some of radical right wing critics of Islam. Many Muslims have been singled out, ridiculed, discriminated against, and labeled as terrorists, because of the despicable acts of some violence extremists, who calls themselves, Muslims.

The world has witnessed many tragic events and terrorists' acts in the past decades by criminal minded individuals, groups or organizations. Unfortunately, many acts were committed by some fundamentalists Muslims who are either ignorant or misinterpret the true meaning of Islam, or may have their own special agenda or objectives for personal motivation and gain.

The meaning of Islam is "Peace", and it is derived from the Arabic word 'Salam' which means "peace." Moreover, God has chosen Islam from one of His most glory names as stated in the Holy Qur'an; {Allah no God but Him, the King, the Holy the Peace},

Muslims are also commanded to greet one another and all other strangers by saying; "Al Salam Alay Kum" which means; Peace upon you, thus the teaching of Islam is all about peace and mercy, and there are many verses in the Holy Qur'an that refers to peace, compassion, love and kindness.

On the other hand, the literal translation of terrorism in Arabic is: intimidation, bullying, and terrorizing. Hence terrorism in Islam is forbidden and undesirable and whoever thinks terrorism is associated with cold blooded murder is surly mistaken, because God said though shall not kill the innocent soul and shall not kill any soul without just cause.

Islam has many verses that command Muslims to give mercy and to save all of mankind's lives, properties and honour.

Islam also forbid Muslims from eating pork, drinking alcohol, involved in murder, theft, adultery or slander and sanction those who intimidate, terrorize and scare others.

Allah said in the Holy "Qur'an"; (For those who spread mischief on earth, God will to judge them in the strongest sanctions, for their evil acts).

Terrorism is a global phenomenon, which is not exclusive to any particular religion, group, nationalities, creeds or colour. There are all kinds of extremisms, and terrirsims which vary between religious, political, intellectual, and nationalist extremism.

Who are we to label Islam as a religion of terrorism...?

Religious extremism is not limited to a particular faith, and the fact that some individuals who call themselves Muslims or converts to Islam, engage in despicable acts of terrorism - either out of ignorance, or maliciously has nothing to do with or should not be attributed to Islam, because Islam forbids all acts of violence.

Surly it is very offensive and wrong to insult or discriminate against any religion, faith, belief, nationalities, gender, creed or colour or make fun of them... but that is not a justifiable reason for committing acts of violence and killing innocent lives...

Muslims everywhere should stand united and reject and condemn, all forms of terrorist and criminal acts of violence.

We must let the whole world know that extremism is not and will not be tolerated, condoned or sympathized with...

The way I see it anyway. May God Bless you all...!!!



Canada's Economy is Threaten As Oil Prices Plunges and the Loonie Declines



Al-Mersal-Toronto: -The Canadian Dollar dobed as "The loonie" has declined drastically in the past year, and Canadians are going to be paying more for their imported goods.

"It's down roughly 10 per cent from a year ago. That's a very deep decline in a relatively short period of time," says Douglas Porter, chief economist and managing director of BMO Financial Group.

Last year, Canadians spent \$22.3 billion in the United States, a figure

that has doubled over the past decade. Canadians now have less of a reason for cross-border shopping because of the decline of the loonie by almost 10 per cent of its value.

The TD bank says it expects Canadians will take 3 million fewer trips to the U.S. in the next 2 years. That's going to bring total



spending down by an estimated \$4.5 billion.

About 80% of the trips that Canadians take to the U.S. are same-day trips where they don't stay overnight. Canadian retailers now have a reason to hike their price as U.S. dollar costs go up; while Targert a major U.S retailer is pulling out of Canada due to plunging

in sales, putting 17,000 Canadians out of work.

While the plunging of oil prices takes over 500 jobs out of Alberta. As for Canadians travelling to the U.S, it's estimated that as many as 500,000 Canadians travel to the U.S for as long as 3 to 6 months every year.

Florida being is the No. 1 destination for snowbirds. In 2012, Canadians spent \$4.4 billion in Florida. Almost three times as much as they spent in New York.

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What Happens to a Woman's Brain When She Becomes a Mother...?

By: M. H.
Al-Mersal Reporter

Scientists are only recently beginning to definitively link the way a woman acts with what's happening in her prefrontal cortex, midbrain, parietal lobes, and elsewhere.

Activity increases in regions that control empathy, anxiety, and social interaction. On the most basic level, these changes, prompted by a flood of hormones during pregnancy and in the postpartum period, help attract a new mother to her baby. In other words, those maternal feelings of overwhelming love, fierce protectiveness, and constant worry begin with reactions in the brain.

Mapping the maternal brain is, the key to understanding why so many new mothers experience serious anxiety and depression. An estimated one in six women suffers from postpartum depression, and many more develop behaviors like compulsively washing hands and obsessively checking whether the baby is breathing.

Much of what happens in a new mother's amygdala has to do with the hormones flowing to it. The region has a high concentration of receptors for hormones like oxytocin, which surge during pregnancy.

Oxytocin also increases as women hear their babies' coos

and cries, or snuggle with their babies. An increase in oxytocin during breastfeeding may help explain why researchers have found that breastfeeding mothers are more sensitive to the sound of their babies' cries than non-breastfeeding mothers.

What scientists do know, is that becoming a parent looks—at least in the brain—a lot like



falling in love.

Which helps explain how many new parents describe feeling when they meet their newborns?

At the brain level, the networks that become especially sensitized are those that involve vigilance and social salience—the amygdala—as well as dopamine networks that incentivize prioritizing the infant.

"In our research, we find that periods of social bonding involve change in the same 'affiliative' circuits," said brain researcher Ruth Feldman. "We showed that during the first months of 'falling

in love' some similar changes occur between romantic partners." Incidentally, that same circuitry is what makes babies smell so good to their mother.

The greatest brain changes occur with a mother's first child, though it's not clear whether a mother's brain ever goes back to what it was like before childbirth, several neurologists told me. And yet brain changes aren't limited to new moms.

Men show similar brain changes when they're deeply involved in care-giving. Oxytocin does not seem to drive nurturing behavior in men the way it does in women, Feldman and other researchers found. Instead, a man's parental brain is supported by a socio-cognitive network that develops in the brain of both sexes later in life, whereas women appear to have evolved to have a "brain-hormone-behavior constellation" that's automatically primed for mothering. Another way to look at it: the blueprint for mothering behavior exists in the brain even before a woman has children.

Perhaps, then, motherhood really is like secret space in a woman's brain, waiting to be discovered. In other words, the act of caring for one's baby forges a new and neural pathway, like undiscovered rooms in the parental brain.

Learn the Secret to Aging Gracefully... From Bowhead Whales

To learn the secret behind aging gracefully, you may want to check out the bowhead whale, the majestic denizen of the Arctic waters to learn the secret behind aging gracefully.

Scientists recently, unveiled the genetic blueprint for the bowhead whale that boasts a lifespan topping 200 years.

By comparing its genome to other mammals, they have discovered differences in the whale's genes related to DNA repair, cell cycle, cancer and the aging process that may help explain its lifespan and vitality.

"This is the biggest animal whose genome has been sequenced thus far and the first big whale to

be sequenced," said University of Liverpool geneticist João Pedro de Magalhães.

"By identifying novel maintenance and



repair mechanisms, we hope to learn what the secret for living longer, healthier lives is and may be able apply this knowledge to improve human health and preserve human life," Magalhães added.

Bowhead whales, which live longer than any other mammal, are among Earth's largest creatures. They reach up to 60 feet (18 meters) and are the

second heaviest whale after the blue whale. They are mostly black, with the front part of their upturned lower jaw white. Bowhead whales are filter feeders that eat huge amounts of zooplankton.

They weigh between 50 and 100 tons when fully grown and have probably 1,000 times as many cells as humans.

They apparently have an anti-tumor response at the cell level that is far more efficient than what is found in humans. So the whale's genome may also help explain its physiological adaptations relative to size.

The bowhead whale genome is slightly smaller than the human genome and the typical mammalian genome.

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Etre, ou ne pas être...**To Be or Not To Be French**

By: Lana Richards.

The January 7, 2015, attack on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, was the most murderous France has known since the end of the Algerian War.

"We've been predicting this for a long time," said Jean-Marie Le Pen, the founder of the French radical-Right National Front Party. "It was to be expected.

This attack is probably the beginning of the beginning. He added.

What did the killers sought to achieve? The trails of colonialism are deeper in France than anywhere else in Europe. The country has the largest population of Muslims in Europe.

A population that feels disenfranchised, isolated and

mainstream no one is left out. Liberte', E'galite', Fraternite'

In 2005, the decision by the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten to publish a series of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad and a year later Charlie Hebdo's choice to reproduce the cartoon, may have felt dangerously

provocative, unnecessary and insulting. What is most sacred to others need to be respected.

It seems we living in a very religious era?

Charlie Hebdo was merciless toward Christianity and politics, religion was just another ideology. Their ability to write, draw, and publish anything



misunderstood. But does that constitute a recipe for disaster.

Cultural and religious resolutions need to be addressed in France. Xenophobia, racism, anti-immigration polemics, and the baiting of Islamophobic and anti-Semitic sentiments, are the core of the war that is being waged. And how France emerges from these, remain yet to be seen.

"We will emerge from this stronger than ever." Said French President Francois Hollande.

Unlike America, France has a long history of poking fun at its politicians and celebrities. France does not want to think that its ability to speak freely is compromised.

A right obtained after the French Revolution. As the French say, "the extremes touch," and when it came to ridiculing the

was their metaphor for life and freedom. The cover story Charlie Hebdo released on the day of the massacre was about the author Michel Houellebecq and his new novel, "Submission," a political fiction that describes the takeover of France by an Islamist party in the 2022 elections.

But in recent year's efforts to integrate Muslims into the French society has been mired with controversy of headscarves, Halal food, and the construction of mosques.

How can this be when the French National Front, Right Political Party has a slogan that reads "The French Come First," Then, who is French?

The blindness and deafness of our leaders, for years, is in part responsible for these kinds of attacks." Said Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The World's Oldest Hockey Stick Belongs to Canada

Photo by Steven Darby

Al-Mersal-Toronto:

The Canadian Museum of History has recently acquired the world's oldest known ice hockey stick. Known as the Moffatt stick, it was hand hewn in the 1830s in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, from a single piece of sugar maple.

The Museum purchased the short-handled, long-bladed stick for \$300,000 from Mark Presley of Nova Scotia.

The stick was used by his grandfather in hockey games on Pottle Lake, near North Sydney. Later on It was then given to the owner of a barbershop in North Sydney, Nova Scotia,

where it was displayed until purchased by Mr. Presley in 2008.

"Our Government is proud that the Canadian Museum of History has acquired this important part of our history," said the Honourable Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages. "Through its acquisitions, the Canadian Museum of History provides Canadians with greater access to our rich and diverse history.

As we approach Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017, this is an opportunity for all of us to appreciate our great heritage."

Does Canadians Really Know Who is John. A. McDonald...?

Al-Mersal-Toronto:

A recent survey conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of Historical Canada reveals that a large percentage of Canadians do not know Canadian history.

According to the survey one in four Canadians could not correctly answer that 1867 was the year of Canada's Confederation.

A similar proportion did not know that Sir John A. Macdonald was Canada's first Prime Minister, one in ten having no guess the answer.

When asked what important events will occur in 2017, 56% correctly say that Canada's 150th birthday



will occur in 2017, with a handful saying it is either The Centennial of the First World War, The Pan-Am Games - happening this year, the 50th anniversary of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms occurring in 2032 or The PyeongChang Olympics in 2018.

How Denmark is Becoming a Wind Energy Power-House

Over the past decade, Denmark's share of power generated by wind has roughly doubled. Last year wind power accounted for 39% of the country's energy.

And someday, Denmark says it will get all of its energy from renewable sources. In the meantime, it is well on its way to hitting an interim goal of 50% renewable power by 2020 (link in Danish). That was a world record, well ahead of other heavy wind users.

Denmark has not been shy in subsidizing new, expensive technologies to turn wind into power. Wind is an obvious renewable choice for the Scandinavian country, given its short winter days without much sunshine, flat terrain, and long windswept coastlines.

Other countries are also touting their wind abilities. Over a quarter of UK homes were powered by wind in 2014, according to Renewable UK, an

industry body.

That was an all-time high, and a 15% increase from the previous year. The UK is particularly strong in offshore wind, with three times the capacity of Denmark, its nearest rival.

In absolute terms, Denmark (population 5 million) is a small player in the wind-power scene, even if it is a world leader relative to its size. Neighboring Germany, for example, has seven times the wind capacity of Denmark, although this accounts for less than 10% of its power usage.

The real star, in terms of wind capacity growth, is China, which has boosted its wind capacity by an annual average of nearly 50% over the past 5 years. But unlike in Denmark, which trades the surplus wind power it can't immediately use or store with neighboring countries, more than a quarter of Chinese wind capacity isn't even connected to the grid yet.

China Seeks to Increase Arabic Language

Al-Mersal-Toronto:

The Chinese government is seeking Arabic speaking specialists to teach the Arabic language in Chinese universities in response to an increasing interest in learning the Arabic language in China.

Former Lt. Gen. Talal bin Mohsen Angawi, representative and a member of the Alliance of Education and Training in Saudi Arabia, said that some 44 Chinese universities have requested for Arabic language experts and specialists to develop the language in its Arabic departments.

He said that the Chinese government has expressed its intention to achieve regular investments in human capital through the development of their knowledge, qualifications and skills in the Arabic language.

"The Arabic language has been able to accommodate different

civilizations, and even become the dominant language in literature, politics and culture as well as being the language of religion and worship," Angawi expressed.

Some 4,000 students graduate in the Arabic language annually from Chinese universities and language schools and an additional 100,000 students are learning the language through the mosques. And they are expecting the number of Arabic learners to increase into the millions.

Dr. Ding Hui, chairman of the Board of Chinese Islamic Relations Council, said that the Arabic language has become an important tool to link China to all Arab and Islamic countries. The learning of the Arabic language is vital to enhance China's economic position and to raise the volume of trade with the Arabic and Islamic countries.

The Front Line Reporters Within



By: David Rothkopf

The latest controversial movie "The Interview" about North Korean Supreme leader Kim Jong-Un, was not a very good movie. Charlie Hebdo magazine who published satire that strained the bounds of good taste, was also controversial. Journalists who ventured into war-torn Syria put their own lives at risk. From Danish cartoonists mocking the Prophet Mohammed to Salman Rushdie's novel The Satanic Verses, creative artists knowingly provoked extremists.

While each of these statements may be true, each one is absolutely extraneous to the crimes committed or threatened in response to the free expression of the filmmakers, journalists, cartoonists, editors, and others who dared challenge the twisted parameters of the sociopaths who have gone to war against the words and images that threaten them.

Once again, as with the attacks on the schoolchildren of Peshawar or on Malala Yousafzai, the worst among us have revealed just how terrified they are of ideas. Their fear may be understandable given that just a hint of reflection or examination reveals their objectives to be as indefensible as their methods and that their own intolerance completely disqualifies any claims they may assert to be acting in the name of a higher power or what is right.

Nonetheless, in the wake of the attack in Paris that claimed the lives of more than 10 journalists at the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, even venerable publications like the Financial Times produced "instant analysis" — a piece by columnist Tony Barber that suggests that there was some hint of fault on the part of the French editors because

they had published a cartoon portraying the life of the Prophet Mohammed or, in their current issue, coverage of a new novel depicting France "in the grip of an Islamic regime led by a Muslim president."

In Barber's analysis, which is really a disgrace to the journalistic values for which the FT has historically stood and is inconsistent with the FT's own editorial on the subject, the following paragraph whose last six words have since been deleted from the website stands out:

"This is not in the slightest to condone the murderers, who must be caught and punished, or to suggest that freedom of expression should not extend to satirical portrayals of religion. It is merely to say that some common sense would be useful at publications such as Charlie Hebdo, and Denmark's Jyllands-Posten, which purport to strike a blow for freedom when they provoke Muslims, but are actually just being stupid."

The argument made by a self-anointed arbiter of what is and isn't stupid echoes those made around the release of The Interview.

We will set aside for a moment the stunning and ironic stupidity of offering up such "hot takes" on breaking news, analyses that sacrifice judgment for the sake of timely posting on the Internet. A debate raged about many aspects of the movie, including, specifically, whether the filmmakers had crossed a line in depicting the death of Kim Jong Un at the end of the movie. It was debated whether this was tasteless or whether it would be tolerated regarding a different leader.

Setting aside the fascinating — and in itself comically golden — debate over just how gory that death should be, as revealed in the emails released following the Sony hack, these discussions again miss the point. Similarly, so did the White House's Jay Carney when, in a Sept. 19, 2012, press conference, in response to a question about the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed by Charlie Hebdo, he said, "We have questions about the judgment

of publishing something like this. We know that these images will be deeply offensive to many and have the potential to be inflammatory.... We don't question the right of something like this to be published; we just question the judgment behind the decision to publish it."

In free societies, there are no prohibitions based on the opinions of a few over whether something is smart or stupid, tasteful or repugnant. Indeed, it is the freedom to cross those lines or openly flaunt them that marks societies as truly open and encourages the kind of intellectual and artistic vibrancy that, whenever it has been fostered, has driven civilization forward.

Publications like Charlie Hebdo and the work of satirists everywhere often deliberately cross those lines not simply to get attention but to challenge the way we think, to force our perspective to shift.

Sometimes those who employ this technique do so for the wrong reasons or without much talent or finesse. But we deliberately and consciously allow them the latitude to do so because it leaves room for others to make constructive use of the creative space provided.

Similarly, we do know that in the years ahead growing numbers of potential attackers are likely to infiltrate our cities and those of our allies. This will come both as the number of extremists continues to grow as it has in recent years and, more specifically, as a result of the growth in the number of foreign fighters joining groups like the Islamic State in the Middle East, fighters who will no doubt return to their countries of origin with new and dangerous skills to go with their distorted and radicalized perspectives.

That is why it is important not to view such attacks as we tend to, spinning them up in media coverage for a few days, framing them in televised discussions as to whether they are the latest in the never-ending stream of "watersheds" and "turning points" — points upon which hyperbolic cable and Internet analysis seems to depend. We must prepare for an ongoing future of such

threats and learn to deal with them in the course of our daily affairs. We cannot go to war over every such attack.

Rather, we need multilayered strategies involving the effective coordination of the intelligence community and domestic police forces in order to anticipate risks, public-private collaboration to harden our assets, civil and military responses to attacks and attackers, international collaboration on deterrence and on bringing bad actors to justice, harsh sanctions for any states that support such activities, and, where required, military responses against terrorist groups that pose an ongoing threat.

But the most important reaction in all these cases will not come from government officials. It will come from each of us. We must stop periodically and examine what is important to us within our societies.

We must fortify ourselves to resist the temptation to give in to the threats we receive and encourage or embrace or even tolerate changes that might seek to buy security at the price of other vital freedoms. That's not easy.

Not only has some of the debate around these recent incidents illustrated that, but we engaged in the same kind of trade-offs that compromised our values when we chose to accept torture and mass surveillance as options to contain terrorism.

We do likewise when we let our commercial interests persuade us to overlook facts like the reality that today one of our most important partners, China, has also imprisoned more journalists than any other country.

With each of these steps we give up some of what all in open societies have fought for over the centuries. It is in the concessions and compromises we make on these issues that we actually lose to terrorists and despots.

That's why, on the issues of our most important rights and freedoms, each of us as individuals makes up the first line of defense, and the really important battles of our era go on in our hearts and minds.

It's Tunisia's Economy



By: Olin L. Wethington

On Dec. 21, 2014 Tunisia completed a remarkable democratic transfer of power, with the election of Beji Caid Essebsi, the leader of the secular political party Nidaa Tounes. As with the parliamentary election in Oct. the process of choosing a president was, for the most part, fair and free of violence.

For the moment, Tunisia is the only Arab Spring country that appears to be on a path to genuine democratic governance.

Since the ouster of President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali in 2011, the country has endured pressures from Islamic radicals. But it has also written and adopted a new constitution structured to encourage the separation and balance of powers, and it seems to be on track to pull off a successful change in government.

Tunisia is relatively homogeneous ethnically and lacks sharp sectarian divisions; nonetheless, owing partly to its porous borders with Algeria and Libya, the specter of violence is always present. Indeed, the issue of security dominated both the parliamentary and presidential elections, with all sides claiming to be the best qualified to counter extremism.

In the coming weeks, Nidaa Tounes, which won 86 of the parliament's 217 seats, will face a difficult decision as it attempts to form a government. The party's leaders could strike a power-sharing arrangement with the moderate Islamist Ennahda party, which finished second, with 69 seats, and risk a stalemate over policy. Distrust of political parties and disappointment in their ability to govern is widespread, as evidenced by low voter turnout in the recent elections.

Tunisia's political achievements could rapidly be reversed if the new government cannot quickly revive the economy and improve citizens' daily lives.

Nidaa Tounes must take the lead in forging support from all major parties for a national-unity agenda on economic reforms. In its first 30 days, the new National

Assembly should publicly announce a consensus vision for economic growth and job creation. A broad multi-party commitment would likely help discipline subsequent legislative action and assist in generating the necessary public support.

There is already broad agreement among the major political parties on the necessary priorities: bringing public spending under control, encouraging private-sector growth and employment, promoting regional development and social inclusion, and investing in essential infrastructure. In the previous assembly, work stalled on several significant pieces of legislation, including laws on public-private partnerships, foreign investment, and banking reform. The unity agenda should include early passage of these bills.

Tunisia's politicians will be able to draw on existing work. The program developed by acting Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa in September 2014 deserves serious consideration. The International Monetary Fund Stand-By Arrangement of 2013 provides a similar starting point. To maintain support from the IMF when its current program ends in summer 2015, Tunisia will need to negotiate new commitments. A consensus reform package could serve as a credible point of departure.

In the meantime, Western democracies must do their part and sustain engagement with Tunisia.

The 2011 Deauville Partnership with Arab Countries in Transition, in which G-8 members pledged to support Arab countries' efforts to move toward "free, democratic, and tolerant societies," has a role to play. This mechanism may be unlikely to mobilize significant new financing, but participating countries can provide valuable political and technical support on structural reform, regional integration, and private-sector development. Provided the security threats are contained, an early consensus within Tunisia on a credible economic agenda

would open the taps of the largest potential source of capital: international financial markets. The incoming funds, and the subsequent growth and job creation would undergird the consolidation of democracy — and thus help cement the impressive gains that Tunisia has made so far.

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Foreigners Buying-Up Real Estate in Turkey

Aydın which includes Didim and Kusadasi is now a hotspot for foreign investors.

Its natural beauty and easy living conditions has made the area attractive proposition especially British nationals. Some of the tourists who went on vacation have decided to not just buy property, but to stay.

Falling in love with the natural beauty and easy living conditions of the regions, even the warm disposition of the locals has made the region an attractive proposition.

Apart from the

British, tourist, other investors who have chosen to acquire real estate in Didim are from the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Russia, Libya, Iran and Azerbaijan.

As a real estate price continues to remain affordable, foreigners have been buying houses even before construction begins. Varying from TL 70,000 to TL 500,000.

The president of Kuşadası Real Estate Advisors Beneficial Association, Müslüm Yıldırım, claimed that district promotions at international

fairs, as well as the construction companies that take part in international fairs, have helped increase the interest in the Kuşadası district.

Due to Kuşadası's location as a coastal district and being close to ancient sites such as the House of Virgin Mary and Ephesus, tourists who visit the district are tempted to buy real estate and settle down. "Apart from the Europeans, people coming from Middle Eastern countries have begun to buy acquire property in Kuşadası."

President Bouteflika Condemns Attack on Charlie Hebdo



Al-Mersal-Toronto: Algeria's President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has strongly condemned the attack perpetrated against the Paris offices of the French weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo, in a letter of condolence to his French counterpart François Hollande. President Bouteflika stated "I have learnt

with consternation of the terrorist attack on the office of Charlie Hebdo newspaper, which resulted in the loss of many lives.

At a the time when France is going through this tragic ordeal, I would like to extend to you as well as to the families of the victims, on behalf of the Government

and the people of Algeria and on my own behalf, our most heartfelt condolences as well as our strong condemnation of the barbaric act that nothing can justify.

I also would like to assure you of Algeria's commitment to the fight against terrorism, which requires greater mobilization of all the international community.

The Algerian people, who suffered for years from the throes of terrorism, understand the emotion of the friendly French people and extend to them, through you, their solidarity and sympathy.

Population of Iran Hits 80 million

Al Mersal Toronto: The head of the Iranian civil registration organization said that the population of Iranians has reached 80 million. Of which Two million are living abroad.

Iran now holds one percent of the world's population, ranking 10th to Asia and third in the region.

According to Nazemi Ardakani, there are about 46 people in one square kilometer and about 360 people living in the same area., about 30 percent of the population

is concentrated in villages and 70 percent in cities, 49 percent of the population is female, 51 percent is male; 24 percent is below 15 and 31 percent between 15 to 30, about 39 percent between 30 to 64, while 6 percent is 60 and above.

He also stated that 14 percent of Iranians are not interested in procreation, while 10 percent have one child.

These estimates also reveal that Iran is experiencing a demographic window; a period of time in a

nation's demographic evolution when the proportion of population of working age group is particularly prominent. adding that the situation will not remain the same because the country is facing an ageing population.

The figures show the average annual child birth is 1.4 million, while the death rate comes to 400,000. The report also reveals reduction in the rate of both marriage and birth and rise in the number of death and divorce.

Palestine will join the International Criminal Court on April 1st, 2015

Al Mersal - Toronto: The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced his acceptance of the documents of ramification that will enable the Palestinians to pursue war-crimes charges against Israel. Saying he was "acting in his capacity as depository."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas signed the documents to join the ICC a day after the UN Security Council rejected a resolution on Dec. 30 that would have set a three-year deadline for the establishment of a Palestinian state on lands occupied by Israel.

Joining the ICC is part of a broader Palestinian strategy to pressure Israel into withdrawing from the territories and agreeing to Palestinian statehood.

President Abbas has been under heavy domestic pressure to take stronger actions against Israel after a 50-day war between the Jewish state and militants in Gaza over the summer, tensions over holy sites in Jerusalem, and the failure of the last round of U.S.-led peace talks.

The Palestinian decision to join the ICC has already sparked retaliation from Israel which froze the

transfer of more than \$100 million in tax funds collected for the Palestinians on Saturday. It promised tougher action on Sunday.

The United States also opposed the move, calling it an obstacle to reaching a permanent peace agreement that would give the Palestinians an independent state. The Obama administration said Monday it was reviewing its annual \$440 million aid package to the Palestinians because of the decision to join the ICC.

While Palestinian membership in the ICC doesn't automatically incur U.S. punishment, any Palestinian case against Israel at the court would trigger an immediate cutoff of U.S. financial support under American law.

Palestinian Ambassador Riyad Mansour said last week that the Palestinians are seeking to raise alleged crimes committed by Israel, including during last summer's war in Gaza.

He said the Palestinians will also seek justice for Israeli settlements on Palestinian territory, which he said constitute "a war crime" under the Rome statute.



An ICC investigation could also lead to possible war crimes charges against Palestinians, but Mansour said the Palestinians don't fear any possible action by the court.

The ICC said the Palestinians submitted a document to the court's registrar, Herman von Hebel, in The Hague, Netherlands on Jan. 1 stating that Palestine accepts the jurisdiction of the ICC starting June 13 — about a month before the Gaza war started.

The International Criminal Court was created to prosecute individual perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Palestine will become the 123rd member.

The secretary-general also approved Palestinian documents joining 16 other international treaties, conventions and agreements on Tuesday night.

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BETTER BUSINESS BUREAUS

Fifth Dynasty Queen's Tomb Found in Egypt



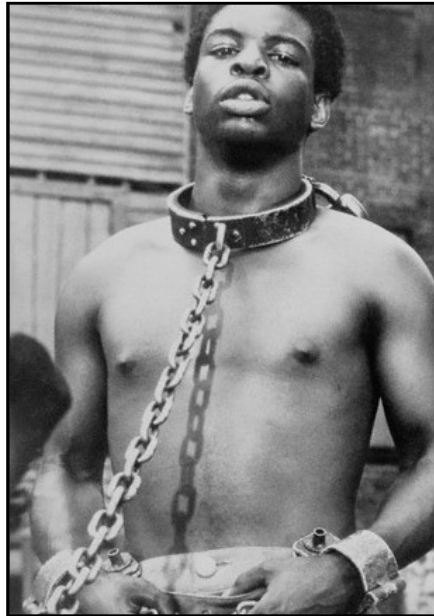
Archaeologists in Egypt have unearthed the tomb of a previously unknown; Queen Khentakawess III's the tomb was found in Abu-Sir, South-West of Cairo, and is thought to be the wife or mother of Pharaoh Neferefre who ruled 4,500 years ago. The tomb was discovered in Pharaoh Neferefre's funeral complex, Abu-Sir that was used as an Old Kingdom cemetery for the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis.

Egyptian Antiquities Minister Mamdouh el-Damaty said that her name, Khentakawess, has been found inscribed on a wall in the Necropolis. As well as 30 vessels made of limestone and copper were found at the tomb. Mr. Damaty said that the discovery would shed some light on the "Fifth Dynasty, which along with the Fourth Dynasty witnessed the construction of the first pyramids."

Black Slavery Still Exist Today...

There exist a wide range of forms that forced servitude can take, however, and definitions of slavery have evolved to include human rights violations not always associated with traditional slavery. According to the 1956 UN supplementary convention on slavery, the practice can include, "debt bondage, serfdom, forced marriage and the delivery of a child for the exploitation of that child...all [of which are] slavery-like practices and require criminalization and abolishment." Recent studies have shown that, under its expanded definition, modern-day slavery exists on a much larger magnitude than previously thought. The Walk Free Foundation (WFF), an Australia-based NGO that publishes the annual global slavery index, reported in November 2014 that 35 million people around the world are victims of modern

slavery. According to WFF, five countries account for 61 percent of slavery: India tops the list with about 14.29 million, followed by China with 3.24 million, Pakistan 2.06 million, Uzbekistan



1.2 million, and Russia 1.05 million. "Modern slavery includes hiring people in return for food only, taking passports of maids and foreign employees to ensure that they will not leave without permission, hiring people for low

payment and sending them to work in other places like security services companies, child labor and early marriage," he explained. With an estimated 106,100 people living in slavery, Yemen is ranked 64 globally and 14 regionally. Despite being illegal according to the Yemeni penal code, modern day slavery is still practiced in many parts of the country. Najib Al-Saadi, the director for Wethaq Foundation, a non-governmental human rights group operating in Yemen, explained "Modern slavery includes hiring people in return for food only, taking passports of maids and foreign employees to ensure that they will not leave without permission, hiring people for low payment and sending them to work in other places like in security services companies, child labor and early marriage,"

Bangladesh Bishwa Ijtema



Al-Mersal-Toronto: Bishwa Ijtema (or Bishsho Istema, Bengali or the World or Global Congregation or Meeting) is an annual Tablighi Jamaat Islamic movement congregation held at Tongi, Bangladesh organised on the bank of the Turag river. It is the 3rd largest Muslim congregation in the world after the Arbaeen gathering in Kerbala, Iraq and annual Muslim Pilgrimage to Mecca known as the Hajj. The event focuses on prayers and supplication and does not allow political discussion. The estimated annual number of attendees of the Ijtema ranges between 3 and 5 million attendees. The first meeting was reportedly held in 1946 and continues to be organized by the Bangladesh Tablighi Jamaat. It lasts three days

Etihad Airway's New Uniform Couture to Glamorous



Al Mersal Toronto: Etihad Airways revealed its new uniforms for a new age of glamorous and sophisticated flying. Created by Italian haute couturier Ettore Bilotta at his atelier in Milan, the new uniform exudes a classic elegance seldom seen in the aisles of modern airliners. It cleverly merges dramatic elements of old-world haute couture from 1960s Paris and Rome with the more contemporary fashions evident on the runways of London, New York, Milan and Tokyo. The collection possesses a style which has come to characterize the Etihad Airways brand and which will enhance the airline's reputation as the standard-

bearer of superlative customer service. "Ettore, working with our teams, has once again delivered a new uniform which will showcase our brand with characteristic flair at every city on our ever-growing network," said Peter Baumgartner, Chief Commercial Officer of Etihad Airways. "The world has been paying very close attention to us this year and our new collection will not disappoint. It is the embodiment of the Etihad Airways brand, service ethos and unshakable commitment to excellence, marking our arrival as a leader of sophisticated flying." They feature new designs for the airline's butlers in

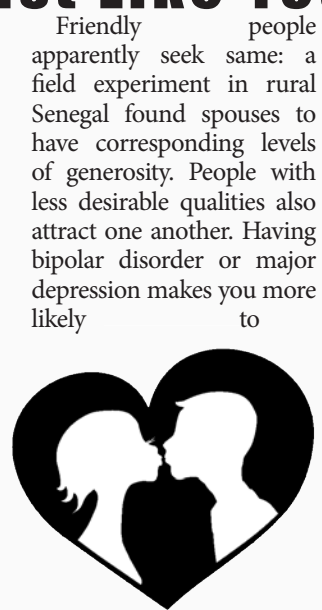
The Residence by Etihad, first-class in-flight chefs, business class food and beverage managers, cabin managers, cabin crew, flying nannies and airport and lounge teams. Made from 100 percent Italian wool, the uniforms feature an intricate jacquard design and were made across Italy. Additional manufacturing took place in Shanghai, Tunis and Bucharest by a team of approximately 400 staff. Approximately 30 percent of the outfits were handmade or hand-stitched. Stylishly cut and fitted, each ensemble is easy to wear, flexible and practical, allowing cabin and ground personnel ease of movement as they carry out their duties. The uniforms have been created incorporating almost all the colors of Etihad's brand palette. A warm chocolate brown has been chosen as the base color for the different uniform variations, with a deep purple accent color for cabin crew and lounge teams, and a burnt orange accent for ground crews and special services teams..



Is Your Partner.. Just Like You?



But when it comes to choosing partners do opposites attract or do Birds of a feather flock together? Well the data is in: we tend to end up with partners just like ourselves. A study of 291 newlywed couples found spouses to be closer in values, religiosity, and political attitudes. Scientists have a term for this: positive assortative mating. The human species isn't the only one that flocks together. A meta-analysis of assortative mating in animals based on traits such as size and color found that nearly all the assortment was. Not that sorting by size and color is limited to animals: humans tend to marry people with a similar level of body fat while others stick to their own race. Some also gravitate toward mates whose faces look like theirs. In one study, participants were presented with a series of photos, they were able to pair an image with that of their partner, based on facial similarities—even when only isolated features like the nose, mouth, and eyes were displayed.



Friendly people apparently seek same: a field experiment in rural Senegal found spouses to have corresponding levels of generosity. People with less desirable qualities also attract one another. Having bipolar disorder or major depression makes you more likely to marry someone else with an affective disorder. Alcoholics, too, tend to pair up, with potentially disastrous results for their future offspring. Perhaps most consequential, we sort ourselves by socioeconomic status. On this count, income similarity matters, but similar schooling seems to matter more, maybe because it strongly implies cultural commonalities. The results of class-based mating are profound. A 2014 study examined

the growing tendency of Americans to partner with people of similar educational backgrounds, and found a clear connection between this shift and the growth in household income inequality between 1960 and 2005. Some of this sorting can be explained by shared environments. For example, religious people meet in church and wealthy people meet in college. Market forces also play a role: couples match in attractiveness because the tens pair up, leaving the nines to settle for each other, and so on. One study found that less attractive people realize certain dates are out of reach and adjust priorities accordingly, learning to value traits like a sense of humor]. A final factor in sorting is intrasexual competition. Take the mangrove snail: males prefer larger females, and when two males mount a female's shell, they fight it out, with the larger male winning the prize. Unfortunately, the loser can't comfort himself by finding a mate who's really funny.

The Battle for Santa Claus Home

A couple of years ago, Jason Kenney, the minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, proudly said that Santa Claus was a citizen of Canada, and that his home and toy factory are in the North Pole. "The Government of Canada wishes Santa the very best in his Christmas Eve duties and wants to let him know that, as a Canadian citizen, he has the automatic right to re-enter Canada once his trip around the world is complete."

Somehow, it is now clear that he could choose several passports when he travels the world. In 2007, Russia planted a flag directly beneath Santa's alleged home. And in December 2014, Denmark, which has sovereignty over Greenland, staked its own territorial claim of the North Pole.

By filing its claim with the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, Denmark has joined our era's "great game": the contest for economic control over a large part of the Arctic.

And Denmark's claim is massive. Not only does it seek sovereignty over everything between Greenland and the North Pole; it is also extending its claim to nearly 900,000 square kilometers, all the way to the existing limits of the Russian economic zone on the

other side of the Pole – an area 20 times Denmark's size.

How to assess countries' claims to Arctic territory hinges on the status of the Lomonosov Ridge, a vast formation that rises from the sea floor and stretches 1,800 kilometers from Greenland to the East Siberian continental shelf. However, the key question remains whether it is an extension of the Greenland shelf or an extension of the East Siberia shelf.



Denmark, together with the government of Greenland, now claims that it is the former, giving it the right to extend its economic zone across a huge area at the top of the world. Though nothing is yet known about the claim that Russia says it will present in the spring of this year.

What about the Canadian's claim? There have been reports that Prime Minister Stephen Harper is dissatisfied that Canadian scientists are not being sufficiently aggressive in pressing the country's case.

It remains to be seen if race for the Arctic all but a great big

hype. Under the terms of the 2008 Ilulissat Declaration, all of the countries bordering the Arctic Ocean agree to resolve their claims peacefully under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Such talks, to put it mildly, could take time. Norway and Russia negotiated over a far smaller territorial delimitation for four decades.

Both Denmark and Russia have been devoting significant resources to exploring the Lomonosov Ridge. Denmark has hired Swedish icebreakers for repeated expeditions, and Russia has been deploying special submarines to obtain samples from the ridge and the ocean floor.

The Arctic region has always been strategically vital for Russia, accounting for roughly 85% of Russia's natural-gas production, which is based primarily in Western Siberia.

The stakes are too high for Canada, Denmark, and Russia to allow the region's remoteness and its hostile environment to influence how resolutely they press their claims. Boundaries like these are fixed once and forever, and no one knows what discoveries, technologies, and opportunities the future might bring.

As for Santa Claus, he has no reason to be worried; he can either have dual citizenship or diplomatic immunity.

Merkel Says Islam "Belongs to Germany"

Al Mersal Toronto:- Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel said Islam "belonged to Germany", in a clear repudiation of anti-immigration protesters gathering in Dresden and other cities.

After walking arm-in-arm with French President Francois Hollande at the front of a massive march in Paris to honor the victims of killings by Islamic militants, the chancellor received the Turkish prime minister and urged dialogue among religions.

Merkel pointed to comments made by former German president Christian Wulff, who in 2010 said that Islam was part of Germany, triggering a fierce debate.

"Former president Wulff said Islam belongs to Germany. That is true. I also hold this opinion," Merkel said at a news conference with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who also took part in the Paris march.

She was speaking at a PEGIDA event that was due to begin in several German cities; Patriotic Europeans against the Islamisation of



the West.

Such demonstrations, launched in Dresden, have been dwarfed by counter-protests. Merkel has said PEGIDA's rallies are organized by people with "hatred in their hearts".

Merkel said her government was doing everything it could to ensure migrants were being successfully integrated into German society regardless of their religion.

But she acknowledged the need for better dialogue between religions, praising Muslims for publicly rejecting the use of violence

after the Paris killings and calling Turkey an ally in the fight against terrorism.

She and Davutoglu announced that their governments would begin regular German-Turkish consultations, a format in which the cabinets meet once a year and which is reserved for some of Berlin's closest allies, like Israel and France.

Merkel and other German politicians are due to take part in a solemn vigil at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.

Muslim organizations called the event to remember the victims of Islamist militant attacks on French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and a kosher shop in Paris.

Davutoglu said it was important to combat all forms of Islamophobia in Germany. Nearly two in three of the four million Muslims in Germany are of Turkish origin. Roughly half are German citizens.

A Thrilling Jordanian Journey

Bahraini adventure-seekers Hussain Almosawi and Mariam Alarab can cross the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan off their bucket list, after exploring its rich history, lush greenery and impressive sights.

They started their journey from the north of Jordan in Irbid. Known as Arabella in ancient times, Irbid is Jordan's second largest city located about 85km north of Amman. It is a bustling community housing a popular university and two museums. There are also artefacts and graves in the area that proves that Irbid was inhabited since the Bronze Age. And still maintains the charm of a provincial Middle Eastern town.

"We visited an open air area where shepherds gather to sell their sheep and people come over to buy and sacrifice them; something we don't see nowadays in Bahrain. Also, we were introduced to a delicious Jordanian dish, made up of rice and lamb smothered with yoghurt known as mansaf.

"Afterwards, we took a tour close to the Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian borders where we peered over Lake of Tiberias, the lowest freshwater lake on Earth and Al Jolan, otherwise known as the Golan Heights."

The Golan Heights is a hilly and elevated plateau overlooking the Lake of Tiberias, the Jordan River and Mount Hermon.

On their way to Amman, they stopped to admire the ancient city of Jerash where they were transported back to Greco-Roman times. The next morning, they made a quick visit to Madaba, a pleasant little town known for its Byzantine mosaics. It's an ideal location for exploring the holy sites nearby, and Jordan as a whole; as everything is within easy reach.

Hussain said: "We were fascinated with the mosaic

work and the city itself is very special including its streets, churches and mosques."

They ventured into the south to Wadi Rum, a protected area covering 720 square kilometres of dramatic desert wilderness. The area boasts huge mountains of sandstone and granite along with wide sandy valleys. There



are also narrow canyons and fissures that cut deep into the mountains concealing ancient rock drawings etched by the people of the desert.

Bedouin tribes still live among the mountains of Wadi Rum and their large goat-hair tents are a special feature of the landscape. Tourists have enjoyed jeep, camel and hiking tours there as well as camping out under the stars in Bedouin tents.

The couple spent a day with the Bedouins followed by a night of camping and stargazing. According to Mariam, Wadi Rum is beautiful and charming in a strange way and is an absolute must-see when visiting Jordan.

Eventually, they made it to the magical place – Petra. Mariam said: "The size of the site was totally unexpected. It is so huge! We spent a full day wandering in Petra and were lucky to have the chance to visit it at night, too.

"The ancient archaeological city known for its rock-cut architecture is opened at night on specific days and is lit with candles all the way to Al Khazneh, the treasury, which is one of the most elaborate temples in the ancient Edomite city of Petra. It was a romantic evening with candles and a special performance of Bedouin music."

The highlight of the daring

duo's trip was skydiving over the Dead Sea. Hussain said: "We consider ourselves lucky because during the time of our visit, the Royal Aero Sports Club of Jordan had joined up with Skydive Dubai to offer parachuting over the lowest point on Earth!"

"We didn't want to miss this opportunity. It was an amazing experience. Afterwards, we enjoyed a relaxing time floating in the Dead Sea."

Located near the Dead Sea is Wadi Mujib, a natural reserve where the couple trekked through the challenging canyon trails including Al-Siq trail, walking through water and rope-climbing for two hours.

On their way back to Amman, they made one last stop at the hot springs of Jordan known as Hammamat Ma'in. They ended their adventure by spending the last night in Amman's old-downtown called Al-Balad which they found full of life.

Overall, the travelling twosomes were delighted with the trip. Mariam said: "We got to know the beautiful diversity of Jordan from its people to its warm environment.

"It was really interesting to see the urban and fast life in Amman as well as how a modern Bedouin manages to keep his or her tradition alive.

"Jordan creates a great atmosphere for tourists. The people were really hospitable and generous. We got invited to lunch by the locals more than once and we got help whenever needed during our journey through Jordan.

"Going through the mountains in Irbid, Jerash and Amman, followed by visiting the deserts of Wadi Rum and Petra as well as the Dead Sea and Wadi Mujib, made us appreciate the natural beauty of this country!"

The pair is already planning their next trip, discovering Socotra Island in Yemen.



Binding Friendship Between Bahrain And Kuwait



Al Mersal Toronto:- Bahrain and Kuwait has pledged to consolidate their historic ties.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and the Amir of Kuwait, Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, stressed the need for unified GCC action to ensure regional security.

Co-operation among member states should meet

the current requirements, they said as the Kuwaiti Amir received the Premier in Kuwait City in the presence of Kuwaiti Crown Prince Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah and Prime Minister Shaikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah.

The Premier reiterated Bahrain's keenness to build on the solid base of long-standing bilateral

relations.

The leaders also underscored the importance of co-ordination between the two countries in facing attempts to subvert regional security.

They also pledged measures to safeguard the GCC and the region from conflicts.

The Amir of Kuwait and the Premier also reviewed regional and international developments.



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ROGER FEDERER'S 1000th



Federer celebrates with the trophy after winning the Brisbane International tennis tournament, which was his 1000th ATP Tour victory.

2015 Paris- Dakar Rally



Alessandro Bottturi on his Yamaha motorcycle

Colts Beat Broncos in NFL Playoffs

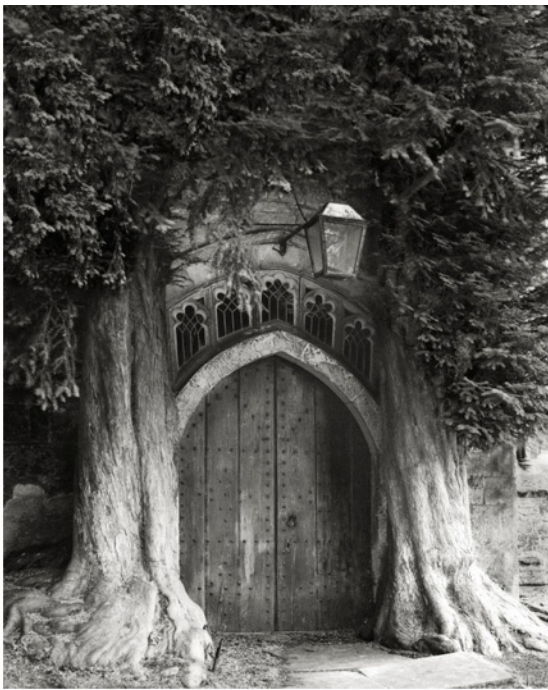


Broncos wide receiver DEMARYIUS THOMAS, right, catches a TD pass in the 1st. quarter over Colts safety LARON LANDRY, left, at Sports Authority Field at Mile High

TRAVEL TRAVEL

Some of the World's Oldest Trees

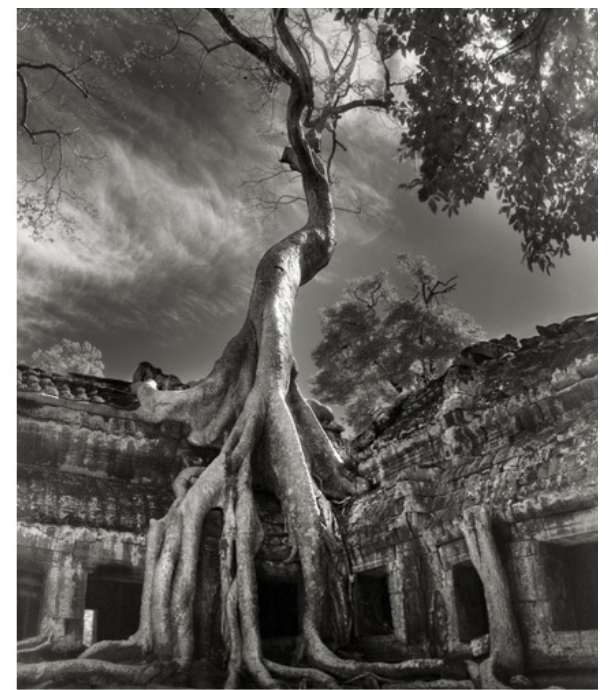
Some of the world's oldest trees are tucked away on untouched mountainsides, isolated lands, and private islands. Photographer Beth Moon traversed these far flung places to capture photographs of ancient trees before they died or got cut down.



BethMoon/Abbeville Press
The Sentinels of St. Edwards, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, England: Two yews frame the door of a church, which is said to be the inspiration for J.R.R. Tolkien's Doors of Moria in *The Lord of the Rings*.



BethMoon/Abbeville Press
The Bowthorpe Oak, Bourne, Lincolnshire - circumference of 40 feet, one of the oldest living oak trees, about 1,200 years old.



BethMoon/Abbeville Press
Rilke's Bayon, Ta Prohm, Siem Reap Province, Cambodia - the tree can reach a height of 150 feet.



The dragon blood tree can live up to 500 years



BethMoon/Abbeville Press
The Baobabs of Kubu Island in Makgadikgadi Pans - the baobabs as more like creatures than trees.



Moon/Abbeville Press
Yews of Wakehurst, Ardingly, West Sussex, England

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شاركوا "ميرنا سرني الدين" في احتفال عيد ميلادها و مرور سنة على تأسيس برنامجها العربي "أسك ميرنا" مع تغطية على قناة روجرز التلفزيونية. سوف يحيي السهرة الفنان المتألق "داني الأشقر" وعدد من الفنانين في مطعم زوبيا في ميسيسجا في ١٧ كانون الثاني.

ترقبوا حلقات جديدة من البرنامج العربي "أسك ميرنا" نهار السبت الواقع في ١٠ كانون الثاني الساعة العاشرة صباحا مع الاعادات يومي الثلاثاء في ١٣ كانون الثاني الساعة الخامسة والنصف مساء و صباح السبت في ١٧ كانون الثاني الساعة الرابعة صباحا. تتبعها حلقة مميزة نهار السبت الواقع في ٢٤ كانون الثاني الساعة العاشرة صباحا مع الاعادات يومي الثلاثاء في ٢٧ كانون الثاني الساعة الخامسة والنصف مساء و صباح السبت في ٣١ كانون الثاني الساعة الرابعة صباحا على قنوات روجرز التلفزيونية Channels 10/ 59/ HD510

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الخدمة العربية الإنجيلية - تورنتو

الاجتماعات الاسبوعية:

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