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**YOU CAN CALL IT TORONTO NOW
 Tory Wins Toronto, Crombie Wins Mississauga**

AL-Mersal, Toronto:- As predicted by AL -Mersal, in our last October 15th Edition, John Tory won the Toronto Mayoralty Campaign by a comfortable lead while Bonnie Crombie wins Mississauga Mayoralty Election by a landslide.



As John Tory will be the next mayor of Canada's largest city, after winning the Toronto municipal election, he vowed to bring stability and professionalism to city hall after four tumultuous years under Rob Ford. Tory won with 40.3 per cent of the votes, followed by Doug Ford with 33.7

want results and together with the city council, we will deliver."

Tory said her personal story personifies what is possible in Toronto.



While Bonnie Crombie rode her momentum in the final stretch of a closely contested race to replace the beloved Hazel McCallion, she begins a new era for Canada's sixth-largest city.

"You have my commitment that we're going to honour her legacy and continue to build a great city... We have an opportunity to rewrite an reinvigorated. We have limitless potential and

together, I know we will achieve greatness."

Knowing she'd have huge shoes to fill, Crombie at 54, vowed to create her own legacy through "smart-growth" principles.

**Congratulations
 Mr. Mayor**



By: Ziad Malawi

As John Tory prepared to take the oath of office as the mayor of the largest and most economically important City in Canada, many Torontonians have a sigh of relief. While the previous Mayor Rob Ford had Toronto's best interest at heart, unfortunately his unusual behavior in public due to his drugs and alcohol abuse had hindered the city's business and made Toronto the laughing stock in the World.

In a refutation of the past four years and a sign of expression of hope for the next four coming years, Toronto's voters have elected John Tory as their next mayor. John is charismatic, sensible, level-headed, sound minded and a fiscal constrained business oriented individual. John has all the rights to celebrate his victory... After all, he never took his victory for granted, and he worked so hard sticking to his agenda, attending every debate and making personal touch contacting the voters in every possible way, opportunity and accession. He is also very likable by his counterparts from the province and the Feds which enhance his way to negotiate a better deal for Toronto.

Torontonians have also good reason to celebrate. They finally have a mayor who is down to earth, very approachable, fit to govern and ready to work on his agenda right away. Although the result of the election was closer than we predicted, we had no doubt that Tory will be our next Mayor. Many of the ethnic voters, including the Arab Canadian Communities supported John Tory's bid for the election and they were instrumental in John's victory.

Doug Ford who replaced his brother the controversial Rob Ford on a last minute change for the Mayoralty election, due to a sudden illness, surprisingly came second and close to John, which says much about the Ford brothers' popularity and make a strong testament to the resilience of the Ford Nation.

On the other hand, Olivia Chow, who started out the marathon campaign as the front-runner,

ended at a distant third. Instead of enduring "Ford more years" Torontonians voted for a new direction, with Tory promising stable, competent, sensible and accountable leadership. That will be a welcome and uplifting change. As mayor of Canada's largest city, Tory will be in a unique position: no politician in the country is directly elected by more people. And he alone on city council will represent all residents - everyone - not just those in a particular ward. That should put him on solid ground when recruiting political allies in support of his policies.

Tory pledged to work with city council to move Toronto "not left, not right, but forward." And that's exactly the direction it needs to go. His first order of business will be to take the measure of Toronto's new council and pull together a coalition of sympathetic councillors to back his agenda. No doubt he will easily achieve that as he is well-liked among his peers in the new city council.

Flexibility is also essential in dealing with 44 council members from all aspect of politics and views. It may be necessary for John to compromise and appoint different coalitions on various issues that work with him in order to accomplish his agenda. Rob Ford has been confrontational and hard to deal with and just the opposite, floundering about with minimal support in his last term, sometimes barely getting two to three votes in favour of what he wanted to do, and getting nothing accomplished.

Given Tory's centrist views and a proven ability to draw support from across the political spectrum, he is well-placed to move his issues successfully through council.

Congratulations and Good luck Mr. Mayor on your well deserved victory and all the best wishes for you and your family and may God Bless you and Guide you to the right path in governing our Great City of Toronto.

Season Greetings and all the best wishes for the holiday season to you and yours...!

Ontario Gets It's First Snowfall,

AL-Mersal Toronto:- Toronto and surrounding area was spared from the heavy snowstorm that moved in, with a slightly 2-4 inches snowfall, while Northern Ontario, Buffalo and Western New York got the bulk of it with five feet of snow in the Buffalo area.



A second band of lake-effect snow pounded cities and towns near Buffalo, New York, piling more misery on communities already paralyzed by a 5-foot blanket of snow. Authorities confirmed an eighth death blamed on the storm.

"A few areas are getting close to a foot right now, but the worst of it is the additional accumulation which occurred last week."

The Buffalo area was buried under as much as 5½ feet of snow last week. Two additional feet fell in some areas, topping off with another 5 to 8 inches. The eighth death was a

60-year-old man who had a heart condition and was stricken while operating a snowblower.

The latest storm began falling as troopers in all-terrain vehicles and rescue crews working without sleep were still trying to reach drivers trapped in the first wave of the ferocious storm.

About 140 miles of Interstate 90, the main artery running east and west across New York state, was closed for several days, from Rochester to the New York-Pennsylvania state line.

More than 100 cars were reported trapped at one time. Drivers ran out of food and patience.

"Mother Nature is showing us who's boss once again," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Wednesday. "This is an historic event. When all is said and done, this snowstorm will break all sorts of records, and that's saying something in Buffalo."

A Greyhound bus was stranded for a day and a half on I-90. People stared out the windows at a highway littered with abandoned

cars. The bus was running on a generator, and passengers could charge their phones, but they were hungry.

After 34 hours, the people on board were finally rescued by a state trooper.

Authorities around Buffalo reported the fifth, sixth and seventh deaths from the snowstorm: a 46-year-old man found in a car, someone who had a heart attack while operating a snowblower and an elderly man who needed care for what doctors called an "urgent cardiac condition" who died because rescue crews couldn't get him to a hospital. Four deaths were reported. One in a car crash and three from heart attacks, including two people who were shoveling snow.

The snow storm was part of a punishing blast of cold air so broad that temperatures in all 50 states fell to freezing or below. In all, 22 deaths have been reported across the united states.

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KLM Says Goodbye to MD11

AL-Mersal- Toronto: - In July of this year, KLM started retiring their fleet of MD-11s with plans to replace them with more fuel efficient aircraft.

"Phasing out the MD11 aircraft forms part of KLM's ongoing fleet renewal programme, the last of KLM's ten MD11s is expected to leave the fleet by the end of 2014.

For the long term, KLM plans to replace the MD-11s with 787-9s, but until then, they will be operating the Boeing 777s and the Airbus A330s.

On Saturday Oct., 25th 2014, KLM Director of operation for Toronto and Western Canada Mr. Karan Deswal and his staff made a fare well retirement/ Goodbye celebration event for the departing crew and passengers at Gate 31 terminal 3 / Pearson Airport.

Several airport officials, suppliers, ground handlers and staff who have been serving the KLM MD11 during the past 25 years, were on hand to join in the celebrations. CDC Crew Transport president, Mr. Harry Malawi, and AL-Mersal reporter and photographer Ms. Tanangie were among the guests of honor to witness and report on this historic and memorable occasion.

There was a ribbon and cake



cutting ceremony, as well as lucky draws held among all the passengers traveling on this last flight of the MD-11 from Toronto, for valuable and commemorative prizes.

The MD-11 came about when the aviation engineers at McDonnell Douglas decided

an upgrade to the DC-10 was warranted. Instead of inventing a new aircraft, McDonnell Douglas took an already existing popular wide-body aircraft, whose biggest user and launch customer was American Airlines, and made it better.

The new advanced

technological improvement on the DC-10 Super 60 project, which eventually became the MD-11, made the MD11 the best choice for many airlines at that time. What made the MD-11 better than its predecessor is that the MD-11 has advanced in aerodynamics, propulsion,

and aircraft systems, cockpit avionics and interior design. The MD-11 is also became a leaner and meaner version of the DC-10, which included advanced Cockpit, Fly-by-wire technology, CRT displays, dual flight management system computer (eliminates need for a

flight engineer), hydraulic fuses to prevent loss of control in catastrophic conditions, central fault display system, GPS, and Cat III automatic landing capability for extremely bad weather.

- Composite Materials: Usage of light weight composites reduced overall weight and allowed for a fuselage 40 feet longer than the DC-10.

- Aerodynamic design: Added winglets produce 2.5% more efficiency in drag as well as wing and tail improvements.

- MD11 has more efficient aircraft engines were developed by Pratt & Whitney, GE and Rolls Royce. the new engine types resulted in greater thrust as less fuel usage and longer range. But it continues to be one of the most expensive aircraft to operate. Due to its high fuel consumption compare to the new Airbus technology, this earned the MD11 the reputation as one the most fuel guzzler Aircraft in the Airline industry.

Unfortunately, with the fuel prices going faster than the MD11 speed and the Airline carriers thirst to save on fuel cost, made the MD11 undesirable, unprofitable and obsolete. Fare well MD-11 it has been our pleasure to serve you during the past 25 years.





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Who Did the United States Just Attack in Syria and Why?



By: Aron Lund

On the night of November 5, U.S. fighter jets, bombers, and drones struck several targets in the Sarmada region of Idlib Province in northwest Syria, near the Turkish border. This is only the second time that the United States has struck this far west in Syria. The first round of airstrikes in this region took place during the first night of attacks in Syria on September 22 and—just like that time—the targets of the attack have proven to be both disputed and controversial.

The overwhelming majority of the airstrikes in Syria have so far been aimed at members of or facilities linked to the so-called Islamic State, the extremist al-Qaeda splinter faction that operates in both Syria and Iraq. But the Islamic

State's forces are located much further east, along the Euphrates and in places like Kobane, and the attacks in Syria's northwest on September 22 and November 5 were aimed at another enemy.

Identified by the Pentagon as the "Khorasan Group," this collection of veteran jihadist has been the subject of considerable confusion. Much of the U.S. and international media have portrayed it as a jihadi organization of its own—but that was never true.

From the very beginning, the U.S. military and government described the group as a cell of senior al-Qaeda members who have been plotting attacks against the West, while operating out of Nusra Front facilities in Syria. The Nusra Front, of course, is the official al-Qaeda franchise in Syria. What that means is that the Khorasan Group moniker is simply a roundabout way to describe a certain sub-faction within the broader al-Qaeda movement, which seems to be at least partially integrated with and fully reliant on protection from al-Qaeda's Syrian wing,

the Nusra Front.

There's a further twist to this story. Immediately after the attacks, leading members of Ahrar al-Sham, a Salafi movement within the so-called Islamic Front, an alliance of rebel groups fighting Assad's government, began to protest on social media that one of their headquarters near Bab al-Hawa had been destroyed by a missile strike.

While Ahrar al-Sham can seem like a close cousin of the Nusra Front in ideological terms, and has certain proven connections to international jihadism, it has always reiterated that it is not part of al-Qaeda. The group has never publicly threatened attacks against the West and in fact often states that it is solely working to destroy the Assad regime and erect an Islamic government inside Syria—not abroad. Indeed, in the past months Ahrar al-Sham has appeared to try to moderate its image somewhat and seeks to broaden its contacts with U.S.-backed groups. This was presumably in response to a cutoff in funds from Qatar, reportedly after U.S. and Saudi pressure,

and in order to escape a relationship with the Nusra Front that was becoming too close for comfort—especially after the Nusra Front began to take a more hardline ideological approach this summer.

On September 9, a mysterious explosion wiped out most of Ahrar al-Sham's leadership. The group's future has hung in the balance since then. And now, a second mystery explosion has hit the group—but this time, definitely, from the air.

What is the motive? Why would the United States fire missiles into an Ahrar al-Sham headquarters? When it would seem to have every reason to avoid pushing other Islamist factions into the arms of al-Qaeda?

The most obvious explanation is that this could be a case of mistaken identities or flawed intelligence—the United States was aiming for al-Qaeda but hit Ahrar al-Sham. But it's also possible that the attack struck a specific Ahrar al-Sham unit that was believed to host, hide, or support veteran al-Qaeda members like Drugeon and his associates, for whatever reason.

Time To Remember

Jordanian Canadian Society Joins Remembrance Day Memorial At Mississauga City Hall Cenotaph



Al-mersal, Mississauga:- Hundreds gathered at Mississauga City Hall on November 11th, 2014, to pay respect and homage to those who sacrificed during the the past wars.

This year was a special and moving ceremony with the tragic terrorist act against two of our brave soldiers in Ottawa and Quebec. Mr. Ziad Malawi, President of the Canadian Arab Network and Chief Editor of AL-Mersal and the President of the Jordanian Canadian Society was among the crowd who gathered to commemorate this event with two minutes of silence and the laying of the poppy on the tomb of the unknown soldier at Mississauga City Hall Celebration Square.

The Sunni Arc of Instability



By: Brahma Chellaney

While international observers fixate on the Sunni-Shia rivalry's role in shaping geopolitics in the Islamic world, deep fissures within the Sunni arc that stretches from the Maghreb-Sahel region of North Africa to the Afghanistan-Pakistan belt are increasingly apparent.

Moreover, it is Sunni communities that produce the transnational jihadists who have become a potent threat to secular, democratic states near and far. What is driving this fragmentation and radicalization within the ranks of Sunni Islam, and how can it be managed?

The importance of addressing that question cannot be overstated. The largest acts of international terror, including the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, DC, and the 2008 Mumbai attack, were carried out by brutal transnational Sunni organizations; Al Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Taiba, respectively.

The Sunni militant group Boko Haram, known internationally for abducting 276 schoolgirls in April and forcing them to marry its members, has been wreaking havoc in Nigeria for years. And

the Sunni extremists of the Islamic State, whose dramatic rise has entailed untold horrors to Iraq and Syria, are seeking to establish a caliphate, by whatever means necessary.

The influence of these organizations is far-reaching. Just last month, individuals inspired by these groups' activities carried out two separate attacks, one in the Canadian parliament and another on police officers in New York.

Political and tribal sectarianism in the Sunni Middle East and North Africa is both a reflection and a driver of the region's weakening political institutions, with a series of failed or failing states becoming hubs of transnational terrorism. A lawless Libya, for example, is now exporting jihad and guns across the Sahel and undermining the security of fellow Maghreb countries and Egypt. Several largely Sunni countries – including Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Somalia, and Afghanistan – have become de facto partitioned, with little prospect of reunification in the near future. Jordan and Lebanon could be the next states to succumb to Sunni extremist violence.

The Sunni tumult has underscored the fragility of almost all Arab countries, while diluting the centrality of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The post-Ottoman order – created by the British, with some help from the French, after World War I – is disintegrating, with no viable alternative in sight.

The sectarianism plaguing the Sunni belt is affecting

even the relatively stable oil sheikhdoms of the Gulf, where a schism within the Gulf Cooperation Council is spurring new tensions and proxy competition among its members. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates view Qatar's efforts to aid Islamists like the Muslim Brotherhood as an existential threat, even as their own wealth has fueled the spread of Salafi jihadism and Al Qaeda ideology. Both countries, along with Bahrain, have recalled their ambassadors from Qatar.

This rupture is compounded by a rift between the Middle East's two main Sunni powers, Egypt and Turkey, whose relationship soured last year, after the Egyptian military ousted the Muslim Brotherhood government, backed by pro-jihad and guns across the Sahel and undermining the security of fellow Maghreb countries and Egypt. Several largely Sunni countries – including Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Somalia, and Afghanistan – have become de facto partitioned, with little prospect of reunification in the near future. Jordan and Lebanon could be the next states to succumb to Sunni extremist violence.

A similar divide exists between Afghanistan and Pakistan over the latter's provision of aid and sanctuary to Afghan militants – a divide that will only deepen when the United States-led NATO coalition ends its combat operations in Afghanistan this year. Pakistan's support has spawned two incarnations of the Taliban: the Afghan

Taliban, sponsored by the Pakistani military, and the Pakistani Taliban, the Pakistani military's nemesis. Successive Afghan governments have refused to recognize the frontier with Pakistan known as the Durand line, a British-colonial invention that split the large ethnic Pashtun population.

Such conflicts are spurring the militarization of Sunni states. The UAE and Qatar have already instituted compulsory military service for adult males. And Kuwait is considering following in Jordan's footsteps by reintroducing conscription, which is already in place in most Sunni states (and Iran).

Against this background, efforts to tame the deep-seated Sunni-Shia rivalry (by, for example, improving relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran), though undoubtedly important, should not take priority over a strategy to address the sectarianism plaguing the Sunni belt. That strategy must center on federalism.

Had federalism been introduced in Somalia, for example, when the north-south rift emerged, it probably would not have ended up as a failed state. Today, federalism can allow for the orderly management of key Sunni countries, where a unitary state simply is not practical.

The problem is that federalism has become a dirty word in most Sunni countries. And the emergence of new threats has made some governments, most notably Saudi Arabia's, staunchly opposed to change. What

these countries do not seem to recognize is that it is the petrodollar-funded export of Wahhabism – the source of modern Sunni jihad – that has gradually extinguished more liberal Islamic traditions elsewhere and fueled the international terrorism that now threatens to devour its sponsors.

Stagnation is not stability. On the contrary, in the Sunni arc today, it means a vicious cycle of expanding extremism, rapid population growth, rising unemployment, worsening

water shortages, and popular discontent. Political fissures and tribal and ethnic sectarianism add fuel to this lethal mix of volatility and violence.

It is time for the Sunni world to recognize the need for a federalist approach to manage the instability and conflict that plagues it. Even the US must reconsider its regional policy, which has long depended on alliances with despotic Sunni rulers. In a region ravaged by conflict, business as usual is no longer an option.



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POWER VERSUS TRUTH FIRST PEOPLES STRUGGLE, WARAO TRIBE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Lana Richards.

I recently attended a Parliament Committee meeting for the internment of Indigenous Peoples of Trinidad and Tobago. It was chaired by the Honourable Wade Mark, Speaker of the House and The Honourable Timothy Hamel Smith President of the Senate. And representatives from three groups of Indigenous Peoples: The Santa Rosa First Peoples, Partners for First Peoples and The Warao Nation of Trinidad and Tobago. They all came together to deal with the internments

Cerro Manoa to the South in Venezuela, Naprima Hill to the North in San Fernando Trinidad, the West mountains in Guyana and the East by sunken mountains within the Atlantic Oceans.

He said, Naparima Hill is where the first father "Haburi" would come to visit and meditate, and the Holy Cave in the mountain which few people know exist, is inaccessible.

Defiant he stated, in Trinidad there is a national holiday for African descendants and Indian descendants. And recently Prime Minister Kamala Persad Bissessar granted a five-acre parcel of land in Couva to be



NEWSDAY : PHOTO BY SUREASH CHOLAI
First Peoples Street Parade - Port-of-Spain

of remains, based on discovery of artifacts found recently at The Red House; the country's seat of Parliament. Of which six complete skeletons were found, 13 sets of long bones, shell samples and bottles, all dating between the 16th and 17th century. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is at a cross - road. Its history has the Caribs and Arawaks as the first inhabitants of the island. But to their surprise, the now vocal Warao Tribe with much to their credibility is disputing that claim.

Now, the Government has to rethink its history.

According to Warao Elder Rabina Shar, their struggle "is a simple one." As they have outlined in a proposal to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago that for 7000 years and more the Warao's inhabited the land.

Tireless and fed-up Rabina Shar believes he's losing the battle, where old rules make it difficult for change. His mood expressed this; when I attended a Friday pray ritual with him and two other Elders at Naparima Hill - a once majestic looking mountain, now half its size because of destruction and excavation.

Rabina said, there cosmological world is bounded by four mountains:

used for the establishment of a Ramleela Heritage and Festival Village, for the preservation of The East Indian culture.

"From a Warao perspective most of our ideas are not appreciated or comprehended, we have lost our land and our sovereignty, and we are struggling not to lose our dignity or who we are." He said.

Certainly the Warao's have confidence. According to Elder Felix Vosin Jones, "Confidence is expressed in our ability to re-discover our sense of purpose and resurrect faith in our future. If only the government would make their power accountable to the people. And build bridges across the many divided.

Elder Voisin Jones goes on to say, these insights are food for thought, and the Warao's have the capacity to distinguish between right and wrong and exercise these choices to this effect. More critically, the struggle is about power versus truth and a cursory analysis of the situation reflects alarm." Not as much as where the country is heading, but where it has reached. What lessons have they learnt that will inform the transition of a more hopeful and secure future for the Warao and other indigenous people in this country?

First Jordanian Canadian to Hold Elected Office At Canada's Nation Capital Ottawa City Hall

Michael Qaqish replaces former boss in Gloucester-South Nepean

AL-Mersal Toronto; Ian McLoad of the Ottawa Citizen wrote a column about one of our Jordanian Canadian community Members Mr. Michael Qaqish. After knocking on doors since January, Michael Qaqish was awarded with the top job in Gloucester-Nepean South. In a ward that was up for grabs, the new councillor-elect is a familiar face after working for retiring councillor Steve Desroches for four years.

He credited his win to good organization and hard work visiting every inch of the ward numerous times. "We started early, went to every door three times, worked hard, presented good ideas and people liked what they saw," he said before a small but jubilant crowd of about 80 supporters.

"They were all battlegrounds: Riverside South was strong for (candidate) Scott Hodge, Barrhaven was a three-way split, and Findlay Creek was a two-way split. We didn't take anything for granted. We started working hard on Day 1 and continued working hard until the polls closed today at 8 p.m."

Monterey Inn, and high-profile candidate Ottawa Sun City affairs columnist Susan Sherring, who placed third. Ottawa Sun columnist, Susan Sherring, who attracted the help of many other city councillors during her campaign, placed third in Gloucester-Nepean South.

Qaqish, who has also worked for Capital ward Councillor David Chernushenko, promoted himself as the best prepared candidate to be on council. His platform included holding regular

office hours in the ward, returning a \$6,000 councillor car allowance and bringing more infrastructure and transportation to the ward.



Originally from Toronto, Qaqish, a radio and television columnist, who worked for Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson when he was a provincial minister and two Liberal MPs on Parliament Hill.

Qaqish expects the big issue facing the new council will be light rail. "We're heading into Phase 2 and there are lots of questions about that. People want LRT, they are sick and tired of going back and forth and they want to continue to see shovels in the ground ready to go."

Qaqish, who has worked for politicians at three levels of government, bested Jason Kelly, former general manager of the

office hours in the ward, returning a \$6,000 councillor car allowance and bringing more infrastructure and transportation to the ward.

Originally from Toronto, Qaqish, a radio and television columnist, who worked for Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson when he was a provincial minister and two Liberal MPs on Parliament Hill.

Qaqish expects the big issue facing the new council will be light rail. "We're heading into Phase 2 and there are lots of questions about that. People want LRT, they are sick and tired of going back and forth and they want to continue to see shovels in the ground ready to go."

Amazon, Hachette Settle Pricing Dispute

The battle between Hachette and Amazon ended with a joint announcement that the companies have reached a multi-year agreement for e-book and print sales in the U.S.

According to the agreement, Hachette is being given "financial incentives" to lower prices for its books sold by Amazon.

During the protracted dispute, Amazon delayed sometimes by weeks the availability of Hachette Group books, and also failed to prominently promote the company's titles.

In one case — that of The Silkworm by Robert Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling) — Amazon backed down under consumer pressure and shipped the book



in a timely fashion. Big-name authors also took up an advertising campaign critical of Amazon's tactics.

Michael Pietsch, Hachette Book Group CEO said in a news release, "This is great news for writers. The new agreement will benefit Hachette authors for years to come. It gives Hachette enormous marketing

capability with one of our most important bookselling partners."

"We are pleased with this new agreement as it includes specific financial incentives for Hachette to deliver lower prices, which we believe will be a great win for readers and authors alike," said David Naggar, vice president, Kindle.

The new e-book terms will take effect early in 2015.

According to the release, Hachette will have responsibility for setting consumer prices of its e-books, and will also benefit from better terms when it delivers lower prices for readers. The release also said Hachette books will be prominently featured in Amazon promotions.

CANADIANS ARE MOST LIKELY TO BLOW THEIR BUDGET

(NC) The holiday season is the time where Canadians are most likely to blow their budget, with over half (56%) identifying Christmas and New Years as the most likely occasions where they spend more than planned.

This time of year trumps birthdays, weddings, and Thanksgiving as the biggest budget blow-out occasion, according to a new study commissioned by Procter & Gamble.

While Christmas and New Years is a great time to celebrate with friends and family, personal finance

expert Gail Vaz-Oxlade is urging Canadians to stop and think about their holiday spending habits.

"Year end can wreak havoc on your personal finances," says Vaz-Oxlade. "A lot of Canadians will throw the budget out the window during the holidays, but it's surprisingly easy to stay in budget and still cover all the season's essentials."

Making a plan is key to surviving the holidays with minimal financial stress. Vaz-Oxlade suggests sitting down to analyze the expected cost of presents, travel, celebrations and

household items to ensure all your holiday expenses will fit into budget. Shopping for well-known, trusted brands can often equal savings during the festive season.

"You don't have to sacrifice on quality when shopping on a budget," says Vaz-Oxlade. "Save on household expenses by shopping for trusted brands like Tide Simply Clean and Fresh, Dawn, or Charmin Basic. These products represent the best value for money based on overall performance and cost."

CURRY May Boost The Brain



Turmeric may have cancer-fighting properties

A spice commonly found in curries may boost the brain's ability to heal itself, according to a report in the journal Stem Cell Research and Therapy.

The German study suggests a compound found in turmeric could encourage the growth of nerve cells.

Scientists say this work, based in rats, may pave the way for future drugs for strokes and Alzheimer's disease.

But they say more trials are needed to see whether this applies to humans.

Researchers from the Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine in Julich, Germany, studied the effects of aromatic-turmerone — a compound found naturally in turmeric.

Rats were injected with the compound and their brains were then scanned.

Particular parts of the brain, known to be involved in nerve cell growth, were seen to be more active after the aromatic-turmerone infusion.

Scientists say the compound may encourage a proliferation of brain cells.

Dr Laura Phipps at, Alzheimer's Research UK, said: "It is not clear whether the results of this research would translate to people, or whether the ability to generate new brain cells in this way would benefit people with Alzheimer's disease."

Five-Year-Old PASSES MICROSOFT EXAMINATION...!



Ayan Qureshi is now a Microsoft Certified Professional after passing the tech exam usually taken by people who want to become IT technicians. He was just five years old. And said, he found the exam difficult but enjoyable, and hopes to set up a UK-based tech hub one day.

His father introduced him to computers when he was three years old. By letting him play with old computers, so he could understand hard drives and motherboards.

Giving Food to the Homeless, Illegal

Al - Mersal Toronto- World War II veteran Arnold Abbott made national headlines when he got busted by cops in Fort Lauderdale, Florida twice in one week—for giving out food to homeless people. While serving a public meal on November 2, "a policeman pulled my arm and said, 'Drop that plate right now, like it was a gun.'" Abbott runs a nonprofit group that regularly distributes food in city parks. Because of an ordinance the city passed this September that restricts feeding the homeless in public, his charity work is now potentially illegal.

Abbott was cited again three days later in a different city park. Now the retired jewelry salesman is facing up to 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine. And he's not the only one risking jail time for generosity: 71 cities across the country have passed or tried to pass ordinances that criminalize feeding the homeless, according to Michael Stoops, director of community organizing at the National Coalition for the Homeless.

The number of cities trying to pass these so-called "feeding bans" is on the rise, says Stoops. An October report by the National Coalition for the Homeless found that since January of 2013, 22 cities have successfully passed restrictions on food-sharing, and the legislation is pending in nine other cities.

Most of these measures regulate public property use, especially parks, by either requiring permits to share food on public property or banning the practice

altogether. Citations for violating these laws are not uncommon. In Orlando in 2011, more than 20 activists got arrested while ladling food for about 35 people in a park, in violation of the city's restrictions on feeding



90-year-old Arnold Abbott retrieves his driver license to present to police during an altercation over Fort Lauderdale's new law restricting distributing food to the homeless. Lynne Sladky/AP

the homeless. In 2013, police threatened to arrest members of a Raleigh, North Carolina church group who regularly hand out coffee and sausage biscuits to the needy on weekend mornings. Just this May, six people in Daytona Beach, Florida were fined more than \$2,000 for feeding homeless people at a park. (The fines were ultimately dropped.)

"They don't want the homeless in the downtown areas. It interferes with business."

A few cities have imposed food safety precautions, like requiring charities to get a food handler's permit, or mandating that they only serve hot food prepared in approved locations or in the form of pre-packaged meals. These sorts of restrictions regularly shut out donated meals. And in many cases, they seem to be unfairly targeting the homeless: When the issue of food safety was

raised during a court hearing on Myrtle Beach, South Carolina's food-sharing law, the legal director of the state's ACLU chapter pointed out that similar restrictions weren't being levied against family reunions in parks,

for instance, and that it had never received a single report of homeless people getting sick from the food. A Utah state representative said the same thing about Salt Lake City's food-sharing law.

Data doesn't back up the notion that homelessness has grown more apparent: Between 2007 and 2014, homelessness decreased by 11 percent, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's. Numbers of the unsheltered homeless, who are typically more visible, fell by 23 percent between 2007 and 2013.

Others say that food-sharing should be curbed because it enables homeless people to stay homeless. But Stoops disagrees with that view. He notes that challenges like lack of job opportunity and mental or physical disability are what cause homelessness—not the occasional free meal.

Banned Plastic Chemical Found in Premature Babies Medical Equipment

(Al - Mersal Toronto)- Dr. Eric Mallow, a neonatologist and researcher at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, has long suspected that preterm infants are being overexposed to chemicals in the plastic medical equipment intended to nurse them to health.

Phthalate plasticizers are chemicals added to plastics to make them durable and pliable, and Mallow was concerned about a chemical called DEHP. The only phthalate plasticizer allowed in medical equipment, it helps soften breathing tubes, intravenous (IV) lines, fluid bags, and catheters. Mallow had read studies showing overexposure to DEHP to be associated not only with hormonal disruption (similar to the effect of BPA, another plasticizer) but with nonhormonal effects like liver damage, a problem common in preemies. He had noticed that if a breathing tube was in a patient for a long time, it came out much stiffer than when he put it in. He suspected that DEHP, which doesn't chemically bind to the plastic of the tube, had leaked out.

In a literature review published in Nature's Journal of Perinatology, Dr. Mallow and Johns Hopkins colleague Dr. Mary Fox present an alarming conclusion: The "daily intake of DEHP for critically ill preterm infants is on the order of 4,000 and 160,000 times higher than desired to avoid reproductive and hepatic



Britta Pederson/DPA/ZUMA

[liver-related] toxicities, respectively."

The study exposes a gaping loophole in the regulation of DEHP: While federal law bans childcare products and toys for kids from containing more than 0.1 percent phthalate content, there is no upper limit on the DEHP in medical equipment; some flexible plastic tubing in hospitals contains as much as 40 percent DEHP. And, Mallow points out, "fluids are running through [the equipment] and blood is being stored in it. The way the product is used guarantees that there's substantial exposure."

While federal law bans childcare products and toys for kids from containing more than 0.1 percent phthalate content, some flexible plastic tubing in hospitals contains as much as 40 percent DEHP.

Medical equipment for adults also contains plasticizers, but because preemies are so much smaller, they have relatively higher exposure rates; a sick preemie who is on a ventilator and receiving blood and nutrients from an IV line takes in about 16 mg per kg of body weight per day. When coupled with

the fact that infants can spend weeks or months in treatment at a NICU, you have a "sick and developmentally vulnerable" population, says Mallow.

Of course, there's a reason why plasticizers are used to begin with: Durable and bendable plastics make it easier to deliver nutrients, blood, and air to infants. Julie Herbstman, an environmental-health professor at Columbia's School of Public Health, says that tackling the problem isn't as simple as getting rid of the chemical: "The question is, do we know anything about replacements? That's a pervasive problem in our field. We find something that's bad and you have to take it out. Then you have to replace it, and you end up in this crazy cycle. People."

Still, the John Hopkins researchers remain cautiously optimistic: "We do have to make tradeoffs and we want to save these babies," Fox said in a recent press release. "But can we save them by using alternative products that reduce their exposures to substances that may be harming them?"

Remarriages on the RISE

By AL-Mersal Staff Writer:- A recent study reported that forty percent of the newlywed, were previously married or widowed people are tying the knot for the second time, a phenomenon driven by an aging society where traditional patterns of marriage have shifted dramatically in recent decades.

This report on remarriage, was released by the Research Center. It also confirmed the longstanding perception that remarried men are far more likely than remarried women to have a spouse at least 10 years younger.

And it captured a sharp disparity in the way men and women view marriages: most men are eager to marry a second time, while most women say one time was enough.

The findings offer a striking glimpse at the flip side of marriage's long decline in the U.S. With cohabitation on the rise, divorce more common, and many people delaying marriage until they're older, only 70 percent of adults now say they had been married at some point in their lives, compared with 85 percent in 1960. But because of the huge demographic bulge of Baby Boomers, there are now more people who are divorced

or widowed and are once again looking for love inside the bonds of marriage.

"We're not seeing an outbreak in remarriage fever. We're seeing an increase in the number of people who are in a position to remarry," said Andrew J. Cherlin, a sociology professor at Johns Hopkins University. "What's happened is that the share of the population that's divorced has risen greatly. In particular, the baby boomer generation -- which experienced more divorce than any generation in history-- is now in their 50s and 60s. They've lived long enough, and there are now more of them to get remarried."

Galina Rhoades, a psychology professor at the University of Denver, said the report shows that the aftershocks of the 1960s Sexual Revolution continue to reverberate through American culture.

"A lot of these trends are related to big shifts we had in the 1960s. That really changed how relationships function," Rhoades said.

The report is based on analysis of the Census Bureau's newly-released 2013 American Community Survey, along with data from the 1960 and 1980 censuses, of people who were

divorced or widowed at least once. The Pew analysis did not include data on same-sex marriages, which only became available for the first time last year and is limited in scope.

Pew's report says 42 million adults remarried in 2013, up from 22 million in 1980. Among married couples today, 23 percent had been married before compared with 13 percent in 1960. It found that 8 percent of newlyweds in 2013 had been married three times or more. It also found that 20 percent of all marriages in 2013 involved spouses who had both been previously married.

Gretchen Livingston, senior researcher at Pew, said she was surprised by the finding that four of 10 new marriages involved people who had been married before.

"I was struck by that number,"

she said.

The report also highlighted ways in which views of marriage have diverged along gender and generational lines.

While older Americans are more likely to remarry today than in 1960, younger Americans -- ages 25 to 34 -- are less likely to remarry, with 43 percent remarrying in 2013 compared with 75 percent in 1960. Among older adults, 50 percent remarried in 2013, up from 34 percent in 1960.

Among previously married or widowed men, 65 percent would remarry or at least aren't sure. But only 43 percent of women would walk down the aisle again or consider doing so. Among men, only 30 percent do not want to remarry; among women, the figure is nearly twice that, at 54 percent.

"Older divorced men are used

to being cared for by their wives on a daily basis. Older divorced women may not want to do that anymore," Cherlin said.

The report notes that those attitudes are reflected in the pattern of remarried couples: 64 percent of men have remarried, compared with 52 percent of previously married or widowed women.

"It may be that women feel they have more to lose, essentially, by getting [re]married," Rhoades said. "I think we are still, unfortunately, in a society where women have less power than men do. And not being married to someone is a more powerful position to be in. Maybe they don't want to feel stuck again. Maybe it feels like there's some more freedom in that."

The report notes, however, that this gender gap has shrunk, as

men have become more reluctant to remarry than in the past, while women are more likely to do so.

And the report suggests that when men remarry, they are more likely to marry someone younger. About 16 percent of newly remarried couples include a husband who is at least 10 years older than his wife, compared with 4 percent in first marriages.

Cherlin said the data may reflect the law of supply and demand as much as cultural views.

"Men have a more favorable marriage market because they're allowed and encouraged to marry younger women. Divorced women are less likely to marry a younger man," Cherlin said.

Said Livingston, a senior researcher at Pew: "I feel like there's another whole report to be written about that."



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Iran Donates Books To German Library

Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) has donated more than 32 titles of books to Wetzlar Library in Germany.

ISIS NEW CURRENCY



Al -MERSAL Toronto - Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State group, ordered the group to start minting for its own currency — the Islamic dinar.

A website affiliated with the group posted the order, saying IS leader instructed his followers to mint the coins to “change

Based on the Doctrine of the Prophet.”

It's unclear where the Islamic State group intends to get the gold, silver and copper for the coins. It said the dinar's purchasing power would be its weight in gold, silver or copper.

One of the gold coins carries the symbol of seven stalks of wheat,



the tyrannical monetary system” modeled on Western economies that “enslaved Muslims.”

The order was approved by the Islamic State group's Shura Council, an advisory board, according to the website. The authenticity of the posting could not be independently verified but the website has been used in the past for IS postings.

After seizing large swaths of Iraqi and Syrian territory earlier this year, the Islamic State group proclaimed a caliphate on lands under its control. It has also sought to implement its harsh interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia, and al-Baghdadi has proclaimed himself the caliph.

According to photographs of coin prototypes, they carry the words in Arabic: “The Islamic State / A Caliphate

mentioned in the Quran, while another has the map of the world, a reference to Islam someday ruling the entire world.

One of the silver coins shows a sword and a shield in a reference to holy war, or jihad while another has a minaret symbolizing Damascus mentioned in one of the Prophet Muhammad's sayings.

Another coin carries the symbol of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, where the Prophet prayed. It's revered as Islam's third-holiest place, complete with the site's iconic gold-topped Dome of the Rock, which enshrines the rock from which Muslims believe the Prophet ascended to heaven.

The copper coins carry the symbol of the crescent moon and three palm trees, also significant in Islam.

TURKEY MOST INNOVATION – READY NATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SAYS GENERAL ELECTRIC REPORT

Turkey and Algeria stand out as among the most innovation-ready countries in the region, based on the Innovation Barometer's results. Both rank among the top five countries measured, stating the two countries must encourage creative behaviors and disruptive processes in business.

“Turkey is an industrialized country and its population is very young and well-educated. Turkey can play a big role around how we apply our concept of future of manufacturing,” said Nabil Habayeb, President and CEO of GE's MENAT Region.

General Electric announced a \$900 million investment plan for three-year projects in Turkey.

“We already have one of the nine global innovation centers for aviation in Turkey. In five years, we achieved 300 percent of growth. Now we employ 320 young engineers and we are very proud of them,” said Canan Özsoy,



President and CEO of GE Turkey.

GE Turkey opened a new building for the innovation center in June 2014.

“In our new building, we'll start with 15-20 young engineers with new projects and ideas. The idea is to position our innovation center as a hub for our customers, academia and stakeholders. We start with 15-20 engineers and we can talk about their work and our progress in a year,” Özsoy added.

The MENAT region is composed of diverse economies.

“For instance, the Gulf countries have very rich

natural resources and they want to use this money for public benefit. And it is attractive for many companies to finance such projects. We are very positive about these countries, as well as others in the region, which includes Turkey,” said Habayeb.

In the report, Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Pakistan and Jordan are grouped as countries where oil production is either small or non-existent, but where significant progress has been made in improving the business environment and strengthening policy frameworks, fostering a more diversified economy.

2016 FIFA Under-17 takes place in Jordan



FIFA's Live Your Goals programme at the Polo Arena in Amman. (Photo courtesy of FIFA.com)

Jordan will make history as the first Arab nation to host a global women's tournament when the 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup takes place in Amman.

FIFA recently launched (LYG), Live Your Goals campaign, which features a number of the best players of women's football who are living their dreams by having competed in the FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany and other top international competitions..

Over 150 girls aged six-14 were in attendance at the Polo Arena in Amman, enjoying skill-based activities and small-sided games.

According to FIFA, currently 29 million women and girls play football worldwide.

Iraqis Show No Sign Of Uniting

Toronto, AL-Mersal-Islamic State's (IS) systematic massacre of hundreds of Iraq's Albu Nimr tribe should have been an unmistakable wake-up call for a country that may not be able to stabilize without long-term support from Sunni tribesmen.

But nearly a month after members of the tribe were hunted down in groups and executed, the Baghdad government appears to be doing little to assimilate Sunnis in any much-needed move towards unity.

The Albu Nimr were one of the Sunni tribes that helped the US Marines defeat Al Qaeda in Iraq's vast Western Anbar province during the 2006-2007 “surge” offensive, a strategy Washington hopes Iraq can now repeat against IS..

But there are few real signs of momentum needed to bury sectarian differences and create a united force to counter IS in Anbar, which it has engulfed steadily throughout 2014 to the point where senior US military officials last month described the situation there as fraught.

Sabah Karhoot, provincial

council chief of Anbar, home to the Albu Nimr, said, there were still enough fighters to take on IS but they needed effective weapons and ammunition from Baghdad.

“If the government can't give us the military support soon, we will resort to other options including the demand of the ground help from the international coalition,” he said.

Some tribal leaders have acknowledged that weapons from the government had previously fallen into the hands of IS sympathizers, many through corruption.

Now American forces have begun advising Iraqi troops in Anbar in a faster-than-expected time.

As the strategic Iraqi airbase Ain Al Asad is currently encircled by IS.

An according to Albu Nimr leaders there are about 3,000 fighters primed and ready to join up with Iraqi forces at the Ain Al Asad base, but security forces would only allow about 100 Albu Nimr members.

That mistrust goes both ways: word spread that Iranian-backed Shiite militia fighters were gearing up to help the



Tribal fighters take part in a military training to prepare for fighting against the Islamic State militants, on the outskirts of Ramadi, west of Baghdad. (Reuters photo)

Albu Nimr. But Anbar council chief Karhoot likened the Shi'ite militias' fighters to IS militants and said he would not work with them.

“We absolutely refuse the militias in Anbar... we need people from the south, centre and north as forces within the army and police,” Karhoot said. Later he said he would welcome them.

Other parts of Iraq are also complaining that the Baghdad government should be doing more to reach out to them.

Further complicating attempts to unify Iraq in order to counter the Al Qaeda offshoot are uneasy ties between Baghdad and

the Kurdistan regional government in the north.

The Kurds also want arms from Baghdad to fight IS but the issue has become embroiled in political tensions over Baghdad's payments for Kurdish oil exports.

“It's their duty to send us weapons because we are part of Iraq. We are defending the region as part of the country,” said Jabbar Yawar, secretary general of the Kurdish ministry responsible for the fighters known as Peshmerga — meaning “those who confront death” — who recently crossed the Turkish border to help defend the Syrian town of Kobani from IS.

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Opposites Meet



The world's shortest man ever, Chandra Bahadur Dangi, 54.6 centimeters, met the world's tallest living man, Sultan Kösen, 2 meters 51, for the very first time in London. The two were together to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Guinness World Record.

Christie's Makes History

Andy Warhol's 'Triple Elvis' Sells for \$82 Million



© 2014 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc./Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York ...

Christie's International in New York made auction history when it sold \$853 million of contemporary

art. But the sale's biggest pop belonged to Andy Warhol, the market mainstay whose 1963 silk-screen of a trio of overlapping, gun-toting images of Elvis Presley, "Triple Elvis [Ferus Type]," sold to an anonymous European telephone bidder for \$82 million. Warhol famously appropriated the image of the singer and actor from a 1963 postcard for one of Mr. Presley's westerns,

"Flaming Star." Warhol then silk-screened the image three times on a nearly 7-foot-tall canvas painted in shimmering silver, resulting in an artwork that echoes the shaky look of a paused snipet of film.



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Cairo's 36th International Film Festival



The 36th Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF) will be held for the first time at the 10th Century Saladin Citadel on Muqattam Hill in Cairo. This year CIFF will pay tribute to the prolific director Henry Barakat, in celebration of his 100th anniversary. Sixteen films will compete for the festival's International Award, representing 14 countries. And this year the jury is headed by renowned Egyptian actress Yusra.

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Novak Ends The Year AT NO. 1



Novak Novak Djokovic ATP Win

Novak Djokovic, the Wimbledon champion, will finish the season on top for the third time in four years. He's the seventh man to accomplish the feat at least three times. "I've been playing since I was four. I was very fortunate to have very knowledgeable people, people who believed in me, and believed in my talent." "It's an incredible achievement. Being No. 1 in the world is one of the biggest challenges a tennis player can have," he said.

Hamilton Favored To Win Formula One Title



Hamilton still in good position to win F1 title but Rosberg carrying momentum.

The Canadian Press

TRAVEL

'Vacation Breasts' May Be Here Soon

(AL - Mersal Toronto) - Offering women the ability to test-drive breast implants first led plastic surgeon Norman Rowe to invent the InstaBreast—a "lunchtime lift" offering "instant breast enlargement" that lasts 24 hours. Now he's hard at work on "Vacation Breasts." The NYC doctor expects this new augmentation

the InstaBreast procedure, he wanted to prolong the experience. "Twenty-four hours is great, but it's still just 24 hours," he tells ABC. He claims it wouldn't just appeal to women considering bikinis for their next cruise or sending in their RSVP to a wedding or class reunion: He says



A silicone gel breast implant (Photo: Donna McWilliam, AP)

will last two to three weeks, which would work out for a vacation or a special occasion. Rowe isn't revealing the chemical makeup that would be injected into patients, but he says it's a saline solution with an additive that's already used in medical circles for other reasons. Although Rowe is able to increase women's breast sizes a whole cup to a cup and a half using

it would help women who are thinking of getting permanent augmentation to "see what the weight will actually feel like and what it will be like to live with the new breasts." Rowe says he's been in touch with the FDA and anticipates getting the procedure to market by 2016. Guys might be able to take advantage of it, too: Rowe suggests they could use the procedure to benefit their Pecs and calves.

Toronto THE COOL



Balzac Cafe

INDUSTRIAL VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE IN TORONTO DISTILLERY DISTRICT



NOTICE From The City of MISSISSAUGA

The second annual Abilities Awards are being held in Mississauga on Wednesday, December 3, 2014. The event is a community-inspired celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The Awards celebrate the achievements of persons with disabilities and their contributions to the community. The Awards will also highlight community partners who are dedicated to providing quality accessible services in our community.

The evening will feature live music, exhibitors and raffles. Light refreshments will be available for cash purchase. Admission is free.

What: 2nd Annual Abilities Awards
When: Wednesday December 3, 2014
 6 p.m. - Reception
 7 - 9:30 p.m. - Awards & Entertainment
Where: Mississauga Convention Centre
 75 Dery Rd W, Mississauga, ON L5W 1G3
Who: Hosted by:
 Jahmeelah Gamble from A Voice for All on Rogers TV
Performances by:
 Justin Hines, Singer/songwriter

Both individuals and organizations can be nominated in one of the following categories: citizenship, advocacy, arts, lifestyle, media, caregiver and service provider. Nominations have been extended to Monday, November 17, 2014.

For more information about the Abilities Awards visit abilitiesawards.org or contact abilities.awards2014@mississauga.ca.

ترقبوا هذا الاسبوع حلقة جديدة من البرنامج العربي أسك ميرنا - Ask Mirna



يسر ميرنا ان تعلن ان برنامج الجالية العربي التلفزيوني الكبير سيبت يوم السبت الموافق 29 نوفمبر 2014 الساعة العاشرة صباحا على قناة روجرز التلفزيونية على القنوات (510HD & 59.10). وسيبدأ بثه صباح السبت 6 ديسمبر 2014 الساعة الرابعة صباحا لمنطقة تورنتو وسكاربورو فقط. لمعرفة كل ما يجري من نشاطات الجالية العربية في تورنتو، تابعوا "أسك ميرنا AskMirna" على الفيسبوك. بإمكانكم المشاركة في البرنامج في أي موضوع أو إذا كان لديكم أية موهبة للكبار أو الصغار. للراغبين في ترويج مناسبتهم على قناة روجرز التلفزيونية أو للإعلان في البرنامج، يرجى الاتصال مع: www.rogerstv.com/askmirna أو للمزيد من المعلومات، زوروا الموقع التالي www.askmirna.com



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