

BLAIR REAPPEARS ON SHORTLIST TO HEAD EU

Jan 09. Tony Blair, the former UK prime minister, is re-emerging as a possible choice to be the European Union's first full-time president after four momentous crises reinforced the argument for having a high-profile international personality in the job.

According to EU officials and diplomats, the impressive performance of Nicolas Sarkozy, France's president, during his six-month spell in charge of the EU last year has strengthened the hand of those who say a big name should guide the 27-nation bloc.

In one sense, the discussions are premature. The full-time president will take office next year only if the EU's Lisbon institutional reform treaty, which creates the position, is ratified by all member-states – notably, Ireland, which is expected to hold a second referendum on the treaty between September and December.

www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ba0753fe-e004-11dd-9ee9-000077b07658.html?nclick_check=1

ZIMBABWE INTRODUCES \$100 TRILLION NOTE

16 Jan 09. In an attempt to fight cash shortages amid spiraling inflation, a few days ago, Zimbabwe's central bank introduced Zim-dollar notes in denominations of 10 billion, 20 billion and 50 billion. The 50 billion note was enough to buy just two loaves of bread.

Today the bank is introducing new notes in denominations of 10 trillion, 20 trillion, 50 trillion, and 100 trillion, according to the government mouthpiece *Herald*.

The new 100 trillion (100,000,000,000,000) Zim-dollar note would be worth about \$US300 at yesterday's exchange rate on the informal market, where most currency trading now takes place, but the value of the local currency erodes dramatically every day.

The trillion zim-dollar notes, are Zimbabwe's latest attempt to keep pace with hyperinflation that has left the once-vibrant economy in tatters. The last official estimate put [inflation at 231 million percent](#) last July, but outside experts now believe it is many times higher. – CNN

HUGE GAS RESERVES DISCOVERED OFF HAIFA

JAN 18/09. Three massive gas reservoirs have been discovered 80 kilometers off the Haifa coast, at the Tamar prospect, Noble Energy Inc. announced.

The Tamar-1 well, located in approximately 5,500 feet of water, was drilled to a total depth of 16,076 feet. The thickness and quality of the reservoirs found were greater than anticipated at the location.

Speaking on Army Radio, an exhilarated Yitzhak Tshuva, owner of the Delek Group Ltd, one of the owners of the well, called the discovery "one of the biggest in the world," promising that the find would present a historic land mark in the economic independence of Israel. "I have no doubt that this is a holiday for the State of Israel. We will no longer be dependent [on foreign sources] for our gas, and will even export. We are dealing with inconceivably huge quantities; Israel now has a solution for the future generations," Tshuva added.

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EVERY PERSON TO HAVE BIBLE TRANSLATION BY 2025

Jan 17/09. JERUSALEM, ISRAEL ([Worthy News](#)) -- The world's main Bible translation organization has unveiled a plan to ensure that every person will be able to read the best-selling and most-translated book of all-time in its own language by 2025.

In a statement to Worthy News Saturday, January 17, [Wycliffe Bible Translators](#) said its initiative, Last Languages, will involve translating the Bible in the last remaining 2,400 languages within 20 years. It said the speed of translating the Bible increased since the 19th century, but "most significantly" in the past 20 years, allowing staff to work in "a full-sprint" to complete the goal set by Wycliffe.

Wycliffe said it has currently some 6,400 workers in the field in 93 countries, but admitted it would need an additional 3,000 staff for its billion-dollar project. Out of the 6,909 language groups in the world today, about one in three do not have a Bible translation program yet, the organization added.

It said some 200 million people in 2,400 languages have "yet to be reached" with a copy of the Bible in their own language. It said it was encouraged that its project, launched in November last year, has already received a \$50 million capital injection from an anonymous donor. The organization apparently believes it will be able to raise enough cash to finish the program.

<http://www.worthynews.com/3801-every-person-to-have-bible-translation-by-2025>