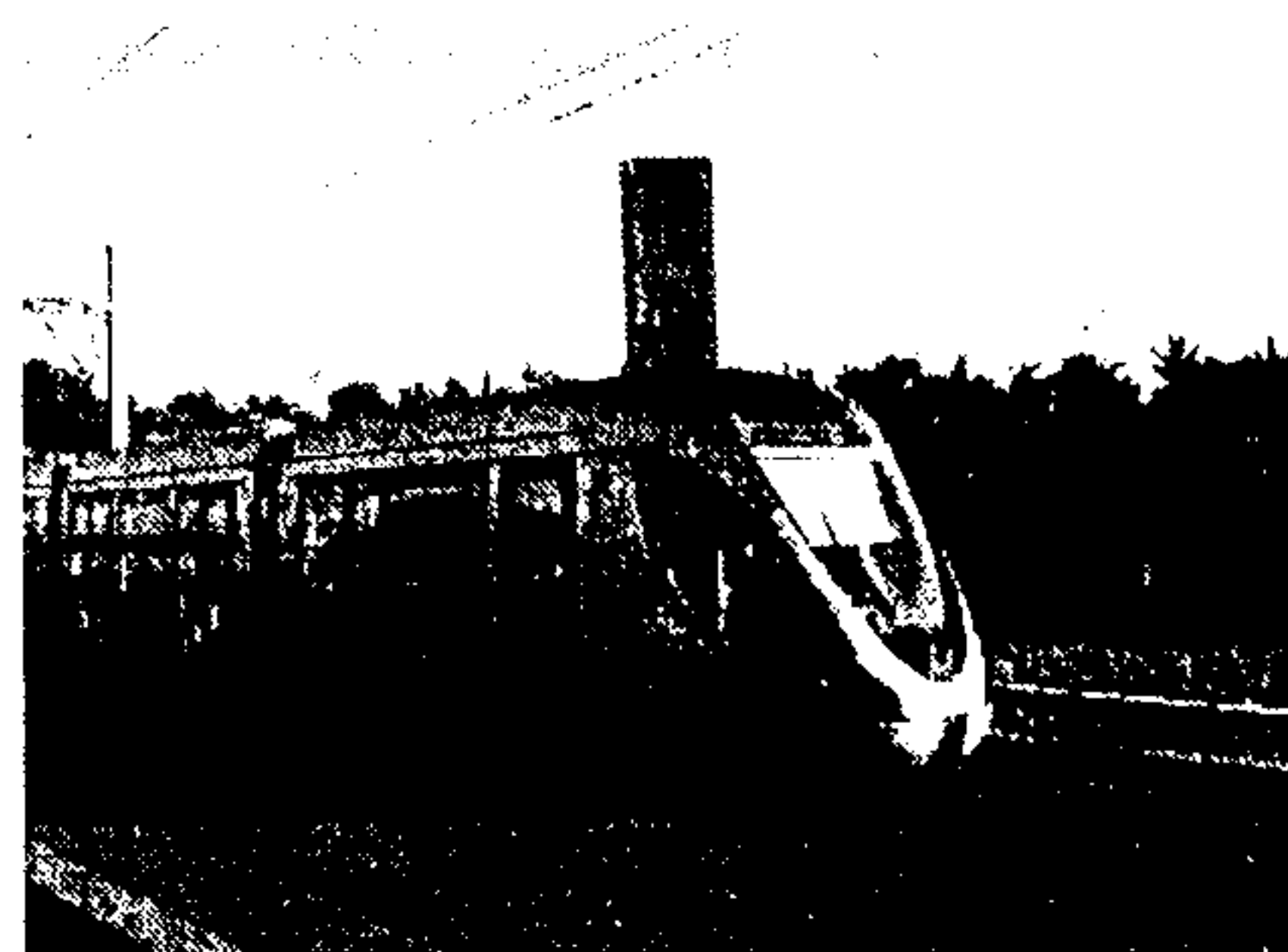


Sale-Rabat tramway on time for January departure

Engineers of Morocco's long awaited Sale-Rabat tramway began conducting test runs for the trains Tuesday March 30th.

- 1 Morocco's first-ever tramway will be up and running by January 2011, said Essakel Mghari, of the Bouregreg Valley development agency, during a March 30th press conference. The agency oversees the construction of the 3.8 billion dirham project, which took three years to build. The first tram from France arrived in Morocco March 13th. Test runs will begin in the neighbourhood of Karima in Sale to ensure trains are compatible with the mobile machinery and land lines. Tests will also be conducted on the



starting, braking and speed systems. "The phase that started today is a testing phase that will keep going until the end of this year," said Mghari. "During this time, we will examine the infrastructure, as well as the train... in order to ensure the safety of the equipment."

- 2 Each tram is equipped with 118 seats and can carry up to 580 passengers per trip. They will carry an estimated 180,000 passengers between Rabat and Sale each day. The remainder of the trams will be shipped by the end of 2010. Moroccans are eager to ride the new transport link when it opens. "The project will reduce the time needed to move between the two cities in complete comfort," Karim, a student, told Magharebia. "Moreover, it is eco-friendly since it runs on electricity." Aliae Bidoui, 20, is a Sale student who attends Souissi University in Rabat. She said the tram will bring a welcome change to her arduous commute. "I lose no end of time on my journey. It takes me an average of three hours a day for the round trip, and that's without including the wait for the four buses I have to catch. I think the tram, which will just reach the university neighbourhood, will resolve the problem. And I'll be able to keep on with my studies," she told Magharebia.

- 3 Ticket prices on the new tram concern some potential riders, however. Tickets will cost between 6.50 and 7



dirhams each, Rabat-Sale Tramway Company director Loubna Boutaleb said. The price is currently less than the 8 dirhams currently needed to journey from Sale to Rabat, she said. The fare has been designed to meet two major constraints – affordability for users and the financial needs of the tramway required to function, Boutaleb said at a March 30th press conference.

- 4 "It's good that we'll have the train. But it still needs to be within the reach of the majority of the population," said Ahmed Garouji, a Sale commuter who works in Rabat. Other potential riders are concerned about how drivers will adapt to the new railway system. "Some reckless drivers using the same route as the tram will definitely cause problems," Karima resident Ahmed told Magharebia. "There should be a solution to this." Boutaleb promised future riders that an awareness campaign will be launched to encourage drivers to "adapt to the new situation"

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS.

(3 PTS)

1 How much did the tramway cost?

.....
.....

2 What is the aim of the testing phase according to Mr. Mghari?

.....
.....

3 What are the two benefits of the project according to Karim?

.....
.....

B ARE THESE SENTENCES TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY.

(2 PTS)

1 Moroccans are longing to ride the Tramway.

.....
.....

2 Aliae bidoui makes a comfortable commute to Souissi University in Rabat.

.....
.....

C COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES FROM THE TEXT.

(3 PTS)

1 The tests in the neighbourhood of Karima are intended to.....

.....

2 The number of the commuters will reachper day.

3 Certainly, careless drivers.....

.....

D PICK OUT FROM THE TEXT EXPRESSIONS WHICH SHOW THAT:

(2 PTS)

1 The tramway won't harm the environment.....

.....

2 The ticket is cheaper than the price needed to go from Sale to Rabat.....

.....

E WHAT DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE TEXT REFER TO?

(3 PTS)

1 It:

2 The two cities:

3 She:

F FIND IN THE TEXT WORDS OR EXPRESSIONS THAT MEAN THE SAME AS:

(2 PTS)

1 The security (paragraph 2) =

2 The cost (paragraph 4) =

II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)

A Rewrite the following sentences as indicated. (3pts)

1 "Please, please, come and stay with me for the weekend!" The girl said on the phone.
The girl begged her grandmother

2 "When I retire from my job, I'll set up my own business" The man said.
The man told his colleagues

3 "How much did you pay for your new flat" My neighbour asked.
My neighbour wanted to know.....

B Rewrite the following sentences as indicated. (3pts)

1 Scientists have made great progress in genetic studies.
Great progress

2 Passengers mustn't use mobile phones on planes.
Mobile phones.....

3 Many developing countries are exhausting their natural resources at a high rate.
Natural resources.....

C Fill in the blanks with the appropriate phrasal verbs from the box. (3pts)

Take off – run out of – check in – get away – set off

- 1 On international flights, passengers need to about two hours before departure.
- 2 You'd betterreally early if you want to avoid the heat of the day and the traffic jam.
- 3 We can't have lunch at home. We've gas. We'd rather go to the restaurant to have lunch there.

D Complete the following sentences with these idioms. (3pts)

butterflies in the stomach – slept like a log – dead tired – in high spirits – single file

- 1 I think you should take the rest of the day off, because you really look
- 2 The children were at the prospect of a trip to the circus.
- 3 Her mouth was dry, there were, and her knees were shaking, it was hard to walk on stage.

E Use the words in capitals at the end of each sentence to make words which fit in the space. (3pts)

1 You can walk, or, I'll drive you there in my car. **Alternative**

2 The pay isn't that great, but it's clean work with hours. **Reason**

3 One of the human rights activists' concern is to fight forbetween men and women in public and political life. **Equal**

III WRITING (10 POINTS)

Your teacher has just asked you to write an essay with the following title: what do you think could be done to improve the education service in your country.

Write an essay in which you discuss some problems and suggest solutions to enhance this service.

A large rectangular box with a solid top and bottom border and dotted horizontal lines inside, intended for writing an essay.