

Saudi seeks death for suspect in Germans' shooting



Riyadh
Prosecutors in Saudi Arabia are seeking the death penalty for a suspect accused of opening fire on German diplomats, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The two envoys escaped unharmed when bullets hit their car in Awamiya area three years ago, police said at the time.

A trial began yesterday in

Riyadh for the suspect, who was not named but could face the death penalty.

Almost a year after the shooting the interior ministry said it had arrested a suspect, Salem bin Abdullah bin Hussein, who was wanted for a number of violent crimes.

Sources reported that the man on trial before a court specialising in "terrorist" cases is accused of several offences.

These include attacking a diplomatic vehicle, attempting to kill police, participating in demonstrations, inciting sedition and causing sectarian strife.

The Germans' car was hit by fire from an automatic weapon which caused the vehicle to burn, it said.

The accused asked the court for one month to prepare his defence. -(AFP)

Turkey puts 47 on trial for 'coup plot'



People accused of trying to assassinate Turkish President are escorted by security forces towards the courthouse

Mugla

One of the nearly 50 suspects in an alleged plot to assassinate Turkey's president admitted involvement in the botched July 15 putsch bid as the mass trial opened yesterday.

Forty-four suspects, mainly soldiers, are under arrest over the alleged plot to kill Recep Tayyip Erdogan, while three others still on the run are being tried in absentia at the court in the southern city of Mugla.

Onlookers heckled the accused as they stepped out of the buses

that took them from prison, shouting "we want the death penalty!".

The trial was taking place under the highest security with snipers posted on rooftops and helicopters circling overhead.

Erdogan, who was holidaying at a hotel in the upmarket Aegean resort of Marmaris with his family on the night of the

coup, has said the plot left him 15 minutes from death.

Turkish officials say the bid to kill Erdogan was a key part of the plan to depose the elected government they allege was masterminded by the US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen and his so-called Fethullah Terror Organisation (FETO).

Saudi starts hunt for solar, wind firms

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia ministry yesterday took the first step towards a goal of generating 9.5 GW of energy through solar and other renewable means.

It invited local and international firms to try to qualify for bidding on two projects. One is for 300 MW of solar energy to be built in Al-Jouf province and the second is for a 400 MW wind power development in Tabuk.

Government estimates say energy demand is expected to exceed 120 gigawatts by 2032.

"This marks the starting point of a long and sustained program of renewable energy deployment," said Khaled al-Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources.

Heart of the Matter

Lamees Alhassar



You were born with wings; why insist on walking through life?

We humans are a member of a privileged species that dominates all forms of life on planet Earth and the way things are shaping up we will doubtless be able to colonise and dominate other planets in the future. But we didn't start off like that. In the beginning we were little better than other animal life forms and in fact competed with them for food and shelter.

But humans had something that other species of animals did not have-a sense of our destiny, which told us that we are made for better things. In the past this sense of destiny or purpose changed us from savages to civilized beings and today we are pushing the frontiers of science with Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.

In spite of all that mankind has achieved and notwithstanding an even more glorious future that awaits us, many of us get bogged down in little things that do no credit to our true potential. In fact we are all sometimes guilty of missing the wood for the trees. We involve ourselves in petty ego clashes with our relatives, play silly one-upmanship games with our colleagues and in extreme cases even take the neighbors to court.

While it is true that everyone has the right to live their life the way they think fit, it would do well to remember one basic fact about human existence- You were born with wings; why insist on walking through life? There is a very old Eastern legend that demonstrates this fact beautifully. There used to be a very promising disciple under the tutelage of a hermit in the forest. One day the disciple took leave of his master, taking his permission to spend time in intense prayer.

He reappeared in front of his tutor many years later, looking quite pleased with himself. On being asked, as to what he had been up to all these years, and why he appeared to be so pleased with himself, the disciple proudly narrated his tale. Apparently he had prayed intensely to God for many years, who pleased with his devotion granted him a boon.

"And what did you ask for?", asked the teacher.

"To be able to walk on water," replied the pleased as punch student.

"After years of intense prayer, you asked for something, which a boatman would have helped you with for a penny?!"

The moral of the story is that one should set one's sights high in life. You will inevitably become what you want to be. This is not based on hearsay or any social conventions that one might follow, but on scientific fact. The human brain can be trained to function and perform the way one likes it to, as it is an amazingly malleable tool that can help us achieve incredible tasks.

If this were not so, would mankind be today thinking of traveling to Mars and back. This was something that used to be in the realm of science fiction barely a hundred

years back. But all these years there were bright scientists who first visualized what it would be like on Mars and then over the years as technology advanced, were able to corroborate many of their theories. The advent of space craft capable of traveling to Mars and actually lowering land-vehicle based probes on to its surface, pretty much opened the world of that planet to them! This is the extent to which the near savage that man once was, has advanced. How did this happen?

By broadening one's horizon beyond looking for food, shelter and mate. If anyone hasn't endeavoured to rise above their circumstances and striven for a nobler objective, they have only themselves to blame. Like Cassius says to Brutus, in Shakespeare's immortal Julius Caesar, "The fault dear Brutus is not in our stars; but in ourselves that we are underlings" Human beings are meant for a higher purpose than just sleeping, eating and procreating. That is why mankind always rebels if put under bondage, unlike most animals who will willingly be herded, if sufficient incentive and force is applied.

The famous psychologist, Abraham Maslow's needs hierarchy triangle ably demonstrates the unique nature of human motivation. At the bottom level of this triangle lie the basic physiological needs like food and sex. The next level is that of safety, where one wants to keep danger away from oneself. The next stage pertains to one's needs for love and a sense of belonging. After this comes the stage of ego and self-esteem. Last and on top of the pyramid comes the need for self-actualization or finding out the true reason behind one's existence.

All human beings are wired to achieve self-actualization and given a chance we will all go for it. However every so often we get stuck in one or two of the stages on account of our losing sight of the bigger picture. The thing is that in the case of most of us, we spend a lifetime at these stages without getting down to the task of doing what one is born to.

Take the case of someone who has a way with words and would like nothing more than write, but has been toiling away at a thankless job, because it provides security to the person and their family. Often that person will continue to toil away at their dreary job, even years after financial security has been achieved and their children have settled in their lives, out of force of habit or because of the fear of change.

Fear of change, timidity or just plain lack of ambition-there could be many reasons for one's not taking wings and flying. But the fact is that we all possess the ability and capability to do so if only we learnt to pick up and dust ourselves and prepare to soar into the bright sky. Maybe we need someone to remind us of what our true nature. I hope this article does just that.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)



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Trafco Group B.S.C.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Directors of Trafco Group B.S.C. decided during their meeting on 20th February 2017 to recommend the distribution of cash dividend for the year ending 31st December 2016 to the Ordinary Equity Shareholders who are registered on the date of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The proposed distribution is 17% of the paid-up capital equivalent to (17) fils per share and amounting to a total dividend amount of BD 1,309,594.

This recommendation is subject to the approval of the AGM and the Regulatory Authorities.

Ebrahim Mohamed Ali Zainal
Chairman