

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

15th December 2020

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Prime Minister starts working visit to M'sila

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad started Tuesday a working visit to the province of M'sila where he will open the university year 2020-2021 and inspect socio-economic development projects.

Djerad pledges to solve students' socio-pedagogical problems

M'SILA (Algeria) - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad on Tuesday promised to resolve "all the socio-pedagogical problems the students are facing, mainly those relating to the exceptional health situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic."

The resolution of these problems will be done in coordination with all the actors of the university, under the aegis of the ministry of higher Education, Djerad said at Mohamed Boudiaf University of M'sila (248-km southeast of Algiers), adding that all the appropriate measures have been taken to improve the situation of the students, particularly with regard to the prevention against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

During his visit to the province, the prime minister is scheduled to inaugurate 2000 teaching places in the Institute of Physical and Sports Education, at Mohamed Boudiaf University. He will lay the foundation stone for projects under two different housing programs and chair the ceremony for the distribution of 400 flats in the province's chief town.

In his working visit to M'sila, the prime minister is accompanied by the minister of the Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning, Kamel Beldjoud, the minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Abdelbaki Benziane, the minister of Housing, Urban Planning and the City, Kamel Nasri and the advisor to the president of the Republic, Abdelhafid Alahem.

Djerad kicks off Academic Year 2020-2021

M'SILA (Algeria) - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad on Tuesday kicked off the academic year 2020-2021 at Mohamed Boudiaf University Center, as part of a working visit to the province of M'sila (248-km southeast of Algiers).

The Prime Minister, who attended a presentation at the university on the match between training and higher education professions, visited a workshop of innovative project leaders and another dedicated to the digitization of educational and governance activities. Djerad will also attend the signing of a framework agreement between Mohamed Boudiaf University and the provincial administration of M'sila.

The agreement is about the university's contribution to improving the management of local public affairs. In his working visit to M'sila, the Prime Minister is accompanied by the minister of the Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning, Kamel Beldjoud, the minister of Higher

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Education and Scientific Research, Abdelbaki Benziane, the minister of Housing, Urban Planning and the City, Kamel Nasri and the advisor to the president of the Republic, Abdelhafid Alahem.

The University of M'sila welcomes, this year, about 35,000 students, including more than 7,000 new students.

Zeghmata stresses major importance of human element for quality justice

TIPASA - Minister of Justice, Belkacem Zeghmata, highlighted, Tuesday at the inauguration of the new Higher School of Magistracy (ESM) in Kolea (Tipasa), the major importance of the human element in the consecration of quality justice. "Our presence today is an opportunity to underline the major importance of the human element in the consecration of a quality justice, a justice that reassures the weak while being respected by the strongest," said Zeghmata, during this ceremony, in the presence of President of the Constitutional Council, Kamel Fenniche, First President of the Supreme Court, Abderrachid Tabi, and Prosecutor General of the Supreme Court, Abderrahim Madjid.

Noting that it was not "easy to guarantee a human resource with the expected quality," pointing to the training, the minister referred to "persistent shortcomings in this area, despite the multiple and successive reforms undertaken in Algeria, like many other countries." "Gaps that appear, in particular, during access to the function, but sometimes persist several years later," he lamented.

"The task is all the more difficult because it requires a thorough review of the training system, starting with the consolidation of the knowledge of the ESM exam's winners, the revision of the programs and duration of training, strengthening the administrative and pedagogical supervision of the ESM and, finally, the creation of an incentive system to attract competent trainers," said Zeghmata in this regard.

On the other hand, Zeghmata said that the completion of the training system's reform "requires that the magistrate be provided with the working tools consisting of the various laws that currently require updating and revision.

M'sila: PM inaugurates 2000 teaching seats at Institute of Physical Education, Sports

M'SILA - Djerad received explanations on this achievement which required the mobilization of a financial envelope of DZD1 billion. This achievement includes classrooms, a library and administrative offices, according to the explanations presented to the Prime Minister.

This infrastructure was named after the name of late Mujahid Abdelmadjid Allahoum (1934/1996) who held after independence several positions in the state under the presidency of late President Houari Boumediene.

Djerad calls on university community to put research at service of economic development

M'SILA - Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad, called Tuesday in M'sila, on the university community to put scientific research at the service of a real economic development to meet the current needs of the country.

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"I call on all researchers, including those living abroad, to take charge of the current needs of society to achieve a real development that effectively exploits scientific research," said Djerad in a speech delivered at Mohamed Boudiaf University (M'sila), on the occasion of the opening of the academic year 2020/2021, in the presence of Adviser to the President of the Republic, Abdelhafid Allahoum and members of the Government.

"Research is now an effective tool for taking appropriate decisions and measures and rigorous management of the crisis," said the PM. "The Algerian university today faces several challenges requiring the involvement of all stakeholders to reach an integrated reform able to give a new impetus in a world full of constant changes," said the Prime Minister.

Fight against urban crime: 3587 people arrested in Algiers last November

ALGIERS - A total of 3587 people were arrested, last November, by units of the judicial security police of Algiers, as part of the fight against urban crime, including 1670 for possession and use of narcotics and psychotropic substances and 228 for carrying prohibited weapons, said Tuesday the Directorate of National Security (DGSN) in a statement.

As part of the fight against urban crime, units of the judicial security police of Algiers dealt, during the month of November, with "3013 cases, leading to the arrest of 3587 alleged perpetrators who were brought before the competent judicial authorities, including 1670 for possession and use of narcotics and psychotropic substances, 228 for carrying prohibited weapons, and 1689 for various crimes," said the source.

Regarding the carrying of prohibited weapons, the same units dealt with "217 cases, involving 228 persons brought before the competent judicial authorities, of which 10 were placed under arrest," the same source added.

Regarding the fight against drug trafficking, "1,541 cases, involving 1,670 people, were processed, following the seizure of 287,113 kg of cannabis resin, 1,486 tablets of psychotropic drugs, 1.6 grams of cocaine, 38 grams of heroin and 156 vials of psychotropic products," concluded the directorate.

CULTURE

"Abdelkader Alloula" theatre management digitized by early 2021

ORAN - The digitization operation of Oran's "Abdelkader Alloula" regional theater, which started after cultural events stopped due to the coronavirus pandemic, is expected to be finalized by early 2021, said the theater director.

The digitization of the theater management and its modernization has reached more than 60% and will be finalized by early 2021, Mourad Senouci told APS. The operation affected three departments, namely accounting, documents and programming services, and will be broadened to human resources, said Senouci.

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The theater hall with a capacity of 500 seats has also been digitized allowing the public to choose a seat through an application. The electronic ticket will also be introduced soon, said Senouci. "The theater is ready to propose online booking once cultural events resume," he stated.

DEFENCE

Army: mooring of minesweeper "Al Kassih-2" at Admiralty northern quay

ALGIERS - The minesweeper warship "Al Kassih-2", docked on Tuesday at the northern quay of the Admiralty, as part of the implementation of the Algerian naval force's fleet modernization programme and in order to consolidate the battle corps of the National People's Army and the Naval Forces, a statement from the Ministry of National Defense (MDN) said.

"The new-generation "Al Kassih-2" minesweeper is the second of its kind approved by Algeria, with the aim of securing maritime navigation and defending merchant ships against the dangers of mines in times of war or crisis," said the same source.

ECONOMIC NEWS

El Hemdania Central Port, renewed Air Algerie fleet to get into African market

ALGIERS - Minister of Transport Lazhar Hani said Monday in Algiers that the building El Hemdania Central Port of Cherchell, Tipaza (70-km west of Algiers), and the renewal of the fleet of national airline Air Algerie will be the main keys to enter the African market.

Speaking as the guest of the National Radio Forum, the Minister said the renewal of the fleet of national airline Air Algerie, made up of 56 aircrafts, "will make it possible for us to open 10 to 12 air connections to African countries." With regard to the construction of the central port of El Hemdania, Hani dubbed the port infrastructure as the "project of the century" as it will benefit "Algeria, African countries, including neighboring countries."

The port will receive nearly 6.5 million containers and will serve as a hub for commercial services in the region, he pointed out. The minister mentioned the issue of improving Air Algerie services, adding that the airline must develop and modernize its services to be competitive after a nearly total shutdown of several months because of the Covid-19 pandemic. He disclosed the possibility of creating a new state-owned airline for domestic flights.

First innovative projects, startups to be labeled soon

ALGIERS - Projects, startups and incubators will be labeled for the first time by late December-early January 2021, announced Tuesday the Delegate Minister in charge of Knowledge Economy and Startups Oualid El-Mahdi Yacine.

On the occasion of the installation of the committee on the labeling of "Startups", "Incubators" and "Innovative Projects", the minister said that "the timing (of the beginning of labeling) is

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rather correct" since it will coincide with the implementation of the Finance Act 2021 which introduces "new tax exemptions for startups."

The labeling will thus allow startups to take advantage of these exemptions. This committee will meet periodically "on average twice a month" and will study applications that will be received "exclusively" on the website www.startup.dz.

The choice of fully digital administrative procedures for obtaining the label is motivated by my determination to end the "bureaucracy that has taken root in our administrations" and which is "the major obstacle that has hindered the completion of hundreds of projects," said the minister.

Obtaining the label "Startup" is conditioned by two essential factors, namely innovation and non-linear growth, explains Nouredine Ouaddah, an executive at the Ministry. The granting of the "Innovative Project" label will depend primarily on "the growth of the project and its business plan," said Ouaddah.

Finally, the "Incubator" label requires services such as coaching and training, a good qualification of the team and convincing results. Once the label obtained within a period that "does not exceed 15 days", startups will be entitled to tax exemptions related to profit tax and value added tax (VAT), which can last up to 5 years, recalled the minister.

El-Mahdi Yacine also referred to the possibility of benefiting from the support of the Start-up Financing Fund which received a budget DZD1.2 billion. The creation of the "Startups" and "Innovative Project" labels aims to provide project holders with an "organizational and legal framework" that allows them to benefit from "facilities."

Djerad: Start-ups are the future of Algeria

M'SILA (Algeria) - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad on Tuesday in M'sila emphasized the importance of start-ups in the efforts aiming the development of the national economy, considering them as "the future of Algeria".

The Premier, on an inspection visit to M'sila Mohamed Boudiaf University business incubator said that start-ups have an "important role in economic development," recalling that "President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, has dedicated a ministry to support this type of business." "I have noticed within the business incubator, the immense importance of the work proposed by the students, initiators of projects, which reflects the commitment of the university to develop them," added Djerad.

He has commended the activities carried out in the incubator, calling for responding to all concerns of doctoral students and researchers. M'sila University business incubator encompasses more than 200 projects and registers more than fifty patents, according to the explanations provided to Djerad. The "State will continue to support start-ups in order to develop the national economy" the Premier said.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Western Sahara: Appointment of new envoy is “absolute urgency”

ALGIERS - Human rights activist Claude Mangin Asfari underlined Tuesday “the absolute urgency” of appointing a new personal envoy of the United Nations’ Secretary General for Western Sahara. “The appointment of a new envoy of the United Nations for Western Sahara is an absolute urgency,” said Asfari in a statement to APS. “We have been waiting for this appointment for 19 months (...),” she added.

While broaching the situation in El-Guerguerat after the Moroccan aggression on the Sahrawi civilians, in violation of the ceasefire agreement signed in 1991 between the Polisario Front and Morocco, under the aegis of the United Nations, Asfari underscored that the Polisario has “always remained loyal to its ceasefire’s signing.”

“If the international community has done its job, the war wouldn’t have resumed,” she underlined, affirming that “there is no other solution but the implementation of the UN resolutions” and the resumption of the peace process.

Regarding the decision of the outgoing US president Donald Trump on Morocco’s alleged sovereignty over Western Sahara, Asfari said that “this decision is a bargaining.”

Concerning the respect of human rights in the occupied territories of Western Sahara, Asfari denounced the “daily human rights violations” by the forces of the Moroccan occupation which, she added, “are not new,” describing the humanitarian situation in the occupied territories as an open-air prison since January 2014, where every person who shows solidarity with the Sahrawi people is expelled.”

President Tebboune receives phone call from German Chancellor

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune received Monday a phone call from German Chancellor Angela Merkel who enquired about his health and in which the two sides broached the bilateral cooperation and ways to promote it in the future, the Presidency of the Republic said in a communiqué.

“President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune received Monday a phone call from German Chancellor Angela Merkel who enquired about his health,” said the source, adding that “President of the Republic expressed his heartfelt thanks to her for the medical care he received in Germany.”

On this occasion, the two sides broadly broached “the epidemic and economic situation in both countries, the bilateral cooperation and ways of its promotion in the future as well as regional issues of common interest, notably the latest developments in Libya,” said the source.

“The German Chancellor expressed his wishes for speedy recovery to President Tebboune, asking him to transmit the expression of her friendship to the Algerian people,” concluded the source.

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Trump's proclamation is "shameless position with no legitimacy"

ALGIERS - Sahrawi ambassador to Algeria Abdelkader Taleb Omar on Monday underlined that the Moroccan occupier's betrayal to the Palestinian cause is "an evil worse than the Coronavirus epidemic," underlining that Trump's proclamation on "the alleged Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara" is "a shameless position and with no legitimacy."

In a press conference organized by the National Human Rights Council (CNHD), in partnership with the Algerian National Committee of Solidarity with the Sahrawi People (CNASPS), on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Resolution 1514 related to the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, Taleb Omar underlined that "this resolution, which is an achievement for the colonized peoples, was the fruit of fierce struggles, to which the Algerian Revolution had greatly contributed."

While broaching the normalization of relations between the Moroccan system and the Israeli entity, the Sahrawi diplomat underlined that "the Moroccan system's betrayal harms not only his own country but all the peoples, pointing out that the Moroccan occupation is an "evil worse than the Coronavirus epidemic," adding that it is "a moral and psychological assassination of the nation."

Concerning the proclamation made by Trump, Taleb Omar said that this is "a shameless position with no legitimacy from a president who is on his way out and who tries to make from the territories and rights of oppressed peoples a stock-in-trade for blackmail," stressing that "this is a personal position which involves in no way the institutions and consequently has legally no effect."

For the Sahrawi diplomat, "the Moroccan regime's resort to a defeated president counters the argument of its occupation," adding that "if the Makhzen had the strength of legitimacy; it wouldn't need to resort to such a sinister deal.

Decolonization: Polisario Front calls on UN to enforce its own resolutions

NEW YORK (United Nations) - Polisario Front mission to the United Nations called Monday on the UN to "implement its own resolutions" on the decolonization of Western Sahara, deploring the new obstacles to the international efforts to reach a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Africa's last colony.

"The Sahrawi people who have resumed their legitimate struggle of self-defense against Morocco's occupation of parts of their territory are still counting on the UN to implement its own resolutions on the decolonization of Western Sahara," said the Polisario Front mission in a statement marking the 60th anniversary of Resolution 1514 (XV) of the United Nations General Assembly on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

"Many UN resolutions have since been adopted calling on the Saharawi people to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, but decolonization of Western Sahara is still ongoing," she said. The Polisario Front expressed regrets that "all the efforts made by the

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United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU, currently the African Union) to achieve a peaceful and lasting solution to the expected decolonization of Western Sahara have been met with obstructionism and rejection of Morocco."

Rabat continues to set up obstacles in this direction, mainly through its military aggression launched on 13 November 2020 against peaceful Saharawis in the buffer zone of El-Guerguerat. The incident led to the rupture of the ceasefire in place since 1991 and the resumption of military confrontation.

UNWTO praises Algeria's proactive experience to contain Covid-19 pandemic

ALGIERS - The secretary general of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Zurab Pololikashvili, on Monday praised Algeria's proactive experience to contain the Covid-19 pandemic and all the measures taken to mitigate its impact on national economy, and especially the tourism industry. In a meeting by video conference with the minister of Tourism, Crafts and Family Work, Mohamed Hamidou, as part of the bilateral cooperation, Pololikashvili stressed "the importance of Algeria's pioneering role in development programs as a member of the UNWTO Executive Board," the ministry of Tourism said in a statement.

The UNWTO Secretary-General reiterated his call for "the development of cooperation with Algeria, especially in the promotion of domestic and rural tourism, innovation, digital change, training and tourism investment." He said that his meeting with the minister was an opportunity to "exchange views on the revival of tourism and ways to boost ties between Algeria and the World Tourism Organization." Pololikashvili presented the UNWTO Action Plan 2021 in its section on tourism development in Africa.

For his part, the minister outlined Algeria's experience in addressing the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, through containment and the implementation of health protocols. The steps taken by Algeria were aimed "to ensure the permanence of economic, social and educational activities, including the tourism industry, in which operators have been supported by the State in order to maintain their activities."

Normalization, a disaster that shocked Moroccan people

RABAT - President of the Moroccan Observatory against normalization, Ahmed Wihmane, called the normalization of relations between Morocco and Israel a "disaster," "affirming that the Moroccan people "will remain committed to its constants and principles 'Palestine an oath,' and 'normalization a betrayal'."

The announcement of normalization by Morocco of its relations with the Israeli occupier, "is a disaster that shocked the Moroccan people," said Ahmed Wihmane at a conference, broadcast Monday night by the channel "Arabi 21" on its Facebook page.

Regarding the reasons behind this normalization, he put forward "the economic aspect, including previous or new loans" and "the strategic agreements by which Morocco is bound," and which constitute, he explained "an axis of conflict in terms of dependence on the West."

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Regarding the reaction of the Moroccan street to the announcement of this normalization, the president of the Moroccan Observatory referred to "a spontaneous reaction," citing "meetings of coalitions in support of the Palestinian cause, which have denounced the normalization and reiterated the constants of the Moroccan people, namely: "Palestine, an oath, and normalization, a betrayal. A march against normalization in the region of Fez was repressed by Moroccan security forces, said Wihmane adding that "the capital, Rabat, remains surrounded to prevent demonstrations.

President Tebboune offers “warmest congratulations” to US President Biden

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Tuesday has offered his “warmest congratulations” to the United States (US) President elect Joe Biden.

“Mister Joe Biden, President elect of the United States of America, I offer you and the United States Electoral College my warmest congratulations on the occasion of your popular election. I am sure that your election will bring a lot of hope for the whole world and the US. Good luck,” twitted President Tebboune.

SPLA Continues attacks on Moroccan Army bases for 33rd consecutive day

BIR LEHLOU (WESTERN SAHARA) - The Sahrawi People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on Tuesday continued its attacks "on Morocco's military bases behind the wall of shame," said the military communiqué number 33 released by the Sahrawi Ministry of Defense.

"The SPLA units on Tuesday continued their strikes against the positions of the enemy in the region of Rous Echaydimia (area of Mehbes), the Aoudi ASF area (Smara sector) and the Techla sector," said the source. The SPLA also targeted "the region of Rous Essabti (Mesbes sector), the Benkaret region (Smara sector) and the KelbEnoss region (Aousserd area)."

Russian Ambassador to Algeria: Trump's announcement will not change Sahrawi cause reality

ALGIERS - Russian Ambassador to Algeria Igor Beliaev said on Tuesday that the announcement by US President Donald Trump of the recognition of the alleged sovereignty of Morocco over occupied Western Sahara constitutes "a violation of the international legality" and "will in no way change the reality of the Sahrawi cause which will remain a question of decolonization."

Speaking to the newspaper "El Bilad", Beliaev said that "this announcement will not change the reality of the Sahrawi cause which will remain a question of decolonization," affirming contacts established by his country with the UN Secretary General about the Sahrawi file.

Last Friday, Russia had denounced announcement of US President, saying that this decision is completely beyond the scope of the international law.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov stated that this announcement did not meet the "decisions of UN Security Council, on which the Americans themselves agreed."

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In this regard, he added that "there are relevant resolutions and the United Nations Mission for the referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The American approach is a unilateral decision which contradicts international law and decisions of the UN Security Council voted by the Americans.

President Tebboune congratulates US president-elect, affirms willingness to strengthen bilateral ties

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, on Tuesday congratulated US President-elect, Joseph Robinette Biden on his election as the 46th President of the United States of America. The Head of the State also affirmed his willingness to combine efforts, as part of the strategic dialogue, to "strengthen the bilateral ties" and "meet the challenges" facing the two countries.

"Following your election as the 46th President of the United States of America, I am pleased to address you, on behalf of the Algerian people and Government and on my behalf, my warmest congratulations and my best wishes for success in your noble mission, which coincides with difficult times for the American people and for all mankind," President Tebboune wrote in his congratulatory message.

"Your election as president of the United States of America reflects the recognition and gratitude for your constant commitment to serve the American people, the unitary spirit which characterizes you and the values of openness and tolerance driving your political project which has been approved by your fellow citizens. Your long and rich experience, your mastery of international causes as well as your attachment to diplomatic virtues and dialogue, gives you so much credit for strengthening the United States role on the international scene with a view to building a safer, more just and more stable world."

"I would like to take this opportunity to praise the historic relationship between our two countries and based on friendship, respect and mutual support. Just as I would like to confirm our determination and our willingness to work together to strengthen the bilateral relations and meet the challenges we are facing at regional and international levels, as part of the Algerian-US strategic dialogue. A dialogue which constitutes an important framework favoring the promotion of our common interests and the broadening of the perspectives of close bilateral cooperation," wrote the President of the Republic.

MISCELLANEOUS

Coastguards rescue five missing sailors off Bouharoune

ALGIERS - Coastguards on Tuesday rescued five sailors who were aboard a boat reported missing after an engine breakdown off Bouharoune (province of Tipaza), announced the National Defence Ministry in a communiqué.

"As part of its humanitarian missions, the National Center for Surveillance and Rescue Operations under the National Coastguards of the Naval Forces Command received information

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on 14 December 2020 at 03:05 p.m. regarding the disappearance of the boat +Amar Chinoui + which was in a state of capsizing after an engine failure near the coast of Bouharoune, province of Tipaza, with five (05) sailors on board," said the source. Immediately, a search and rescue operation started with two (02) search and rescue helicopters of the Naval Forces, two (02) rescue superboats, (02) Coast Guard patrol boats and four (04) semi-rigid boats," said the source.

"After the location of the missing boat by SAR helicopters 17 nautical miles north of Bouharoune, the rescued the five sailors and evacuated them to the port of Bouharoune safe and sound, before handing them over to the Civil Protection which transferred them to hospital," said the source.