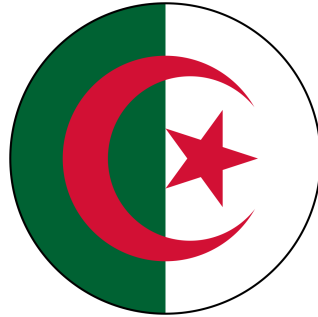


# **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

**Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia**



## **Press Review**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

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### **DOMESTIC NEWS**

#### **"I perceived in President Tebboune strong will to build new State," says former President Zeroual**

*ALGIERS* - Former president Liamine Zeroual said Monday he perceived in President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune a "strong will to build a new State, the dream of our valuable martyrs."

Following the audience granted to him by President of the Republic, Zeroual told reporters "I visited President Tebboune because I saw in him, since his electoral campaign to date, a strong will to build a new State."

"This State, dreamed of by the valiant martyrs, was claimed by millions of Algerians during their peaceful, singular revolution," said former President Zeroual.

"As a citizen, I pride myself every day on belonging to this great people," he concluded.

#### **Corona virus in Algeria: Dr. Moeti's statements were "misinterpreted by some media outlets"**

*ALGIERS* - The regional directorate of the World Health Organization (WHO) for Africa affirmed that the statements of its first official Dr. Matshidiso Moeti on the situation of the corona virus pandemic in Algeria were misinterpreted by some media outlets.

"In a virtual press briefing with international journalists on 11 June 2020, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO's Regional Director for Africa, was asked about the current prospects of the regional pandemic of Covid-19. (...) The regional directorate's statements were misinterpreted by some media outlets which assimilated them to an identification of Algeria as being a zone with high incidence in the region," said the source.

According to the source, "in her reply, Dr. Moeti said that the region is experiencing a constant increase in Covid-19 cases and that a certain number of countries, including Algeria, manage the areas with high incidence by taking strong public health measures."

"Dr. Moeti cited +..... some areas with high incidence that have to be managed in a certain number of countries, as it is the case currently in South Africa, Algeria, Cameroun for example," she added.

WHO general directorate for Africa said, in this respect, that "Dr. Moeti refers to Algeria as an example to follow of a country which manages the areas with high incidence, as made by a certain number of other countries," pointing out that "the epidemiological analysis underlines a decrease in the number of the new confirmed Covid-19 cases since 25 May 2020."

## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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WHO Africa said that “the recent measures taken by Algeria, which includes the creation of an investigation, monitoring committee of epidemiological enquiries, could strengthen the response and containment in the areas with high incidence.”

### **Zeghmati: Electronic prosecutor's office to be launched soon**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Justice, Belkacem Zeghmati, announced Tuesday the upcoming launch of the "electronic prosecutor's office" at the level of the Public, and the General prosecutor Office allowing citizens to electronically file complaints or requests.

"We plans to launch, as part of the modernization and improvement of the relationship with the citizen, the public prosecutor's office system electronic at the level of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the General Prosecutor's Office," said Zeghmati during the installation ceremony of the new Director General of the modernization of justice, Kamel Bernou.

This system will allow the citizen to introduce "electronic complaints or requests to the public prosecutor's office," added the Minister who highlighted the many uses of this new device.

### **Defense Ministry denies “unfounded allegations” that accuse Army’s units of shooting at individuals on Malian border**

*ALGIERS* - Ministry of the National Defense has absolutely denied “the unfounded allegations” following the information, circulated Monday on social networks, that accuse the units of the People’s National Army of shooting at individuals in the Malian locality of Ikhraben, bordering on the commune of Tinzaouatine, calling for vigilance as for this kind of rumors and disinformation aimed at disrupting the situation in this region.

“Following the provocative information circulated, on 15 June 2020, on the social networks accusing the units of the People’s National Army of shooting at individuals in the Malian border locality of Ikhraben, bordering on the commune of Tinzaouatine in the 6<sup>th</sup> Military Region, the Ministry of the National Defense has absolutely denied these unfounded allegations and affirms that these events are related to an attempt, conducted by individuals known for their suspicious activities in smuggling and organized crime, aimed at damaging the wall of security, by calling the inhabitants for violence and demonstrations in order to break the grip on their interests in the regions, said the source.

“At the moment when the units of the border guards intervened to appease the situation, unknown shots from Ikhraben were fired at our border guards, hitting an individual among the crowd and who was immediately evacuated by the border guards to receive treatment by the health services but he unfortunately succumbed to his injuries,” said the source.

“After these events, the High Command of the People’s National Army ordered the opening of an enquiry to clarify the circumstances of this incident, and called for vigilance as for this kind of rumors and disinformation used by hostile sides to disrupt the situation in this region,” concluded the source.

## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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### Over 3 quintals of cannabis resin seized in Naâma

*ALGIERS* - Three quintals and fourteen kilograms of cannabis resin were seized Monday by border guards in the province of Naâma, the National Defense Ministry said Tuesday in a statement.

"As part of the fight against smuggling and organized crime, and following an ambush conducted near the town of Sfisifa, prefecture of Aïn Safra, province of Naama (2nd military region) Border Guards arrested, on 15 June 2020, four drug traffickers and seized a large quantity of cannabis resin amounting to three quintals and fourteen kilograms," said the source.

According to the same source, 44 individuals were arrested in Djanet (4th military region), In Guezzam and Bordj Badji Mokhtar (6th RM) in separate operations conducted by detachments of the People's National Army (ANP), in coordination with National Security units.

During these operations, four off-road vehicles, 17 power generators, 15 jackhammers, one metal detector, as well as one satellite telephone and many other objects and products used in illegal gold panning were also seized.

"Moreover, thirteen 13 illegal immigrants of different nationalities were intercepted in In Amenas (4th military region)," added the ministry.

In addition, and as part of preserving the national historic material heritage, units of the National Gendarmerie have dismantled, in El Khroub, Constantine (5th military region), a criminal network trafficking in several archaeological items.

"This operation also enabled the arrest of six individuals and to seize 2351 archaeological coins dating from the Roman period," concluded the National Defence Ministry.

### Updating of school methods and syllabuses: Draft plan soon

*ALGIERS* - Minister of National Education Mohamed Ouadjaout, said on Monday that the sector's unions "will soon receive" a draft plan relating to the review and updating of teaching methods and syllabuses.

The minister made this announcement during a hearing session at the National People Assembly (APN)'s Finance and Budget Committee on the draft budget regulation law 2017.

The unions would make additions or modification in the draft plan which will "address teaching methods, syllabuses and content of textbooks," said the minister, adding "the success of this plan is everyone's responsibility."

In this regard, the minister said that the updating of methods, content of textbooks and school syllabuses "is an extremely important project," adding that workshops on this matter will be conducted "with the contribution of all the players."

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### **Zeghmati announces amendment to generalize videoconference court trials**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Justice Belkacem Zeghmati, announced Tuesday in Algiers a legislative amendment to generalize the technique of videoconference court trials, and the cancellation of the "prior agreement of the defendant, "in this kind of trial which will be extended to the criminal proceedings.

In the moment when the Covid-19 has largely paralyzed several sectors, the judicial authorities had experienced significant activity by videoconference, allowing trials to be held for prisoners involved in crimes, added Zeghmati.

He announced that as part of the Government's action plan, a legislative amendment will be launched in order to generalize videoconference technique to trials and investigations, and the cancellation of the prior approval of the defendant, while extending this technique to the criminal proceedings with well-defined conditions and safeguards.”

The minister chaired the installation ceremony of Kamel Bernou as the new Director General responsible for the modernization of justice.

Pointing out the positive impact of this technique on the rights of persons appearing in the courts, particularly to a trial within a reasonable time, the minister reported 1,052 trials held by this technique during April and May.”

Zeghmati said that the justice ministry "has decided to introduce Information and Communication Technologies in the management of both legal proceedings and services provided by the sector to citizen.”

## **ECONOMIC NEWS**

### **Agriculture: Action program to support youth, rural women's micro-business projects**

*ALGIERS* - The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development announced in a communiqué that it has agreed with the Ministry of Micro-enterprise, Startup and Knowledge Economy, on a joint action program to support investment projects in favor of young people and rural women, especially in grey areas.

This agreement was concluded on Monday during a working session chaired by Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Cherif Omari, accompanied by Minister Delegate in charge of Sahara Agriculture and Mountains, Foued Chehat and Minister Delegate in charge of Incubators to the Minister of Microenterprise, Startups and the Knowledge Economy, Nassim Diafat, devoted to examining the opportunities for cooperation and coordination between the two sectors for the support of national enterprises, particularly micro-enterprises in the field of storage and valorisation of agricultural products, according to the source.

The meeting was marked by the presence of executives from both sectors, members of the National Interprofessional Council of the cereal sector, the representative of the National Union of Algerian Peasants (UNPA), the Director General of the Algerian Interprofessional Cereals

## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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Office (OAIC), the Director General of the consultancy firm for rural development, directors of technical institutes and university experts, said the ministry.

During this meeting, the ministers heard a presentation by the managers of the Algerian public company ALRIM, a subsidiary of the IMETAL group specializing in the construction of small and medium-sized equipment and installations for the storage of agricultural products, the source further added.

Speakers referred to the importance of these installations, which can be carried out at or near farms, as well as the technical issues relating in particular to the control of climatic parameters, especially in the South.

In this regard, Omari stressed the importance of this type of facility to preserve the quality of the product in correct and adequate conditions and thus avoid pressure, especially during the peak harvest period.

The Minister of Agriculture has given instructions for the elaboration of a technical study identifying the production areas and the capacities of farmers in order to find adequate formulas for the realization and the accompaniment of this type of project of facilities that contribute to the valorization of the national production, concluded the source.

### **Energy efficiency: Four Sonatrach production units obtain ISO 50001 certification**

*ALGIERS* - Four production units of the National Hydrocarbon Company Sonatrach have obtained ISO 50001 certification, for their optimized energy management, said Tuesday Sonatrach in a press release.

"Committing to meet to the major challenges of the energy transition with the establishment of an Energy Management System (EMS) at its most energy-consuming installations, Sonatrach, through its Exploration and Production Activity and with the support from the Central R&D Department, won the challenge of optimizing energy by obtaining ISO 50001 certification," the oil and gas group said in a press release published on its official Facebook account.

The winning four units are the Southern Crude Processing (UTBS) and LDHP -ZCINA Units in Hassi Messaoud, the Gas Processing Unit in Gassi Touil, and finally the Gas Processing Unit in-Rhourd Nouss, adds the same source.

"This certification attesting to optimized energy management, issued by the German body TÜV Rheinland constitutes a genuine benchmark for Sonatrach, enabling it to continuously improve energy management by promoting the reduction of consumption, reinforcing competitiveness and environment protection," added the Group.

### **FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

#### **Boukadoum holds phone talks with Tunisian, Libyan, Mauritanian, Serbian counterparts**

*ALGIERS* - Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum on Monday held discussions with his Tunisian, Libyan, Mauritanian and Serbian counterparts, the ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

"Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum on Monday, "15 June 2020, has a telephone conversation with his counterparts Noureddine Erray of Tunisia, Mohamed Tahar Siyala of Libya, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed of Mauritanian and Ivica Dacic of Serbia," the statement said.

"The phone talks focused on issues relating to bilateral cooperation in the light of the situation caused by the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, as well as the latest developments in Libya and international issues of common interest," according to the statement.

#### **Algeria strongly condemns terrorist attacks on military convoy in central Mali**

*ALGIERS*- Algeria has strongly condemned the bloody terrorist attacks on a military convoy in the locality of Bouka Weré in central Mali, leaving several fatalities among the Malian soldiers, said the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abdelaziz Benlai Cherif in a statement.

"We strongly condemn the bloody terrorist attacks which targeted Sunday 14 June 2020 a military convoy in the locality of Bouka Weré in Central Mali, leaving several deaths among the Malian soldiers," said Benali Cherif.

"While paying tribute to the sacrifices continuously made by the Malian army and security forces to defend their people and country, we offer our condolences to the bereaved families and affirm our solidarity with Mali's Government and brotherly people."

The spokesman of Foreign Affairs Ministry pointed out that Algeria "remains convinced that this neighboring country and its brotherly people will be able to overcome all the difficulties and face all the challenges to establish the foundations of a united, reconciled, peaceful and prosperous State."

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Football: Dr. Bekkat Berkani calls for cancellation of sports season**

*ALGIERS* - Dr. Mohamed Bekkat Berkani, member of the National Commission in charge of monitoring the evolution of the new Coronavirus epidemic (COVID-19), ruled Tuesday against the resumption of football championships in Algeria, suspended since mid-March, believing that a possible cancellation of the sports season would be "the best decision."

## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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"There has been a partial deconfinement; the authorization of gatherings has not yet been decreed. So I think it would be better to cancel the sports season, in order to preserve everyone's health. The health situation in the country is stable, but not yet controllable," Dr. Bekkat Berkani, also President of the National Council of the Medical Association, a specialist in respiratory pathologies, told APS.

The 2019-2020 football season, suspended since 16 March due to COVID-19, would resume after "the lifting of the lockdown," as decided at the recent meeting of the Executive Board of the Algerian Federation (FAF).

### **Illizi: Collared Pratincole observed for first time in Tassili N'ajjer**

*ILLIZI* - The collared pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*), also known as the common pratincole was seen for the first time in the region of Tassili N'ajjer, during a recent outing to observe migratory birds by a group of ornithologists from the Forest Conservation of the province of Illizi, the institution announced Tuesday.

This rare migratory bird was first observed at a lake in the Tinemri region, the province of Illizi, by an ornithological observation team, according to the same source.

The collared pratincole is 20 to 25 centimetres long, with a short, thick bill, brown plumage and a yellowish throat patch delimited by a thin black border. It is a rare bird in danger of extinction, given the significant reduction in its population over the years, according to explanations gathered by the APS of the Office for the Protection of Flora and Fauna at the Forest Conservation Service.

The Conservation of Forests of the wilaya of Illizi has identified more than 20 species of migratory birds, including the Black Grouse, White Stork and Grey Egret, at different wetlands and water bodies in the Tassili N'ajjer, concluded the source.

### **British Council puts its online digital library in Algeria**

*ALGIERS* - The British Council has put on Tuesday, in Algiers, its online digital library which gives Algerian subscribers free access to many cultural, educational and scientific contents.

The launch of this digital library, rich with thousands of books, newspapers, e-books and recordings, among others, took place during a ceremony at the Moufdi-Zakaria Palace of Culture in the presence of the Minister of Culture, Malika Bendouda.

This project "reflects the depth of cultural relations between Algeria and the United Kingdom and also confirms the will to preserve in all circumstances the ties of exchange and rapprochement" between the two peoples, stressed the minister in her speech.

The launch of this digital platform is "an opportunity to strengthen bilateral cultural relations" which, she said, will be supported in the future by other cooperation projects.



## **Algerian Embassy in Windhoek**

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For his part, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Algeria, Barry Lowen, said that this library is a "prelude" to develop partnership between his country and Algeria, particularly in the field of culture which, he said, is a "basis for the development of the knowledge economy."