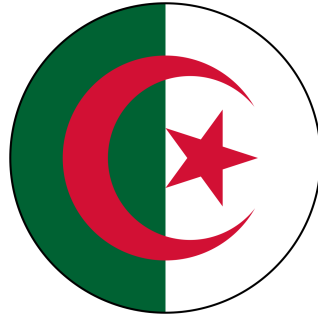


People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

17th June 2020

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ECONOMIC NEWS

Omari: Digital database to list agricultural lands

ALGIERS – Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cherif Omari on Tuesday in Algiers announced that the ministry is completing a digital database to list the agricultural lands across the national territory and a number of applications that would provide data on farmers, breeders and cattle.

"The agriculture and rural development digitization programme reached advanced stages thanks to the Algerian experts and capabilities working both inside and outside the country," the minister said during a meeting with members of the National People's Assembly (APN)'s Finance and Budget Committee, on the review of the Budget Law for 2017, chaired by the Committee President Tarek Tridi and in the presence of Minister of Relations with the Parliament, Basma Azouar.

The Minister added that the digital database, currently being completed, includes data on agricultural lands, particularly in the southern regions, as well as their quality and their owners. The data base will allow an optimal exploitation of national wealth, lands and water resources, and thereby achieve the objective of "smart farming".

Omari also announced the creation of several applications to collect data on farmers, breeders and livestock.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Covid-19: Lower House takes part in international meeting on economic emergencies

ALGIERS - People's National Assembly (lower house of Parliament) will take part on Tuesday in a video conference parliamentary meeting, organized by the World Bank and IMF Parliamentary Network, on the response of those financial institutions to the economic emergencies resulting from the Covid-19, the house said in a statement.

The People's National Assembly will be represented at this parliamentary meeting by MP Amar Moussa, as a permanent member of the Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation Council at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the statement said.

Rezig discusses with EU Trade Commissioner

ALGIERS - Minister of Trade Kamel Rezig discussed Tuesday by video conference with European Union Commissioner for Trade Phil Hogan with whom he reviewed several commercial issues of common interest, said the Ministry in a communiqué.

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The two sides broached the state of this partnership notably since the spread of Covid-19 behind trading disruptions in the world, said the source.

The officials agreed on the need to lead “a serious strategic dialogue” in order to address the commercial situation and absorb the pandemic’s negative effects on the bilateral commercial relations, through the revival of the technical commissions whose date of resumption will be set via diplomatic channels”, concluded the source.

Illegal exploitation of Sahrawi phosphate: Polisario Front launches court battle against two New Zealand firms

WELLINGTON - The Polisario Front is determined to launch a “court battle” against two New Zealand firms which continue to invest illegally in the Sahrawi territories and to import phosphate ore of Western Sahara occupied by Morocco since 1975, according to the Sahrawi news agency SPS and New-Zealand’ media.

The Polisario Front lodged last March a formal complaint at the Supreme Court of New Zealand to prevent the pension fund of New Zealand from investing illegally in the occupied Sahrawi territories.

The Polisario Front and a New Zealand Association “will go to the Supreme Court of New Zealand to advocate against the investments and importation of phosphate from these companies in the occupied territories” said Tuesday New Zealand’s paper *Stuuf*.

The representation of the Polisario Front in Australia and New Zealand underlined that it brings the case of the New Zealand’s Pension Fund to the jurisdictions of New Zealand so as to “stop importing Western Sahara’s phosphate”, denouncing “New Zealand and Australia which seek to grow rich from the natural resources of an occupied territory without its people’s consent.”

New Zealand’s firms, namely Ravens down and Balance Agri-Nutrients, import around USD30 million of Sahrawi phosphate every year for the needs of the farms in New Zealand.

The Polisario Front warned, in a note published recently, that these investments “damage the reputation of New Zealand as a responsible country within the international community.”

“The Sahrawi people are committed to protecting their natural resources by all available means. This legal action is a clear message to all those who are involved in the exploitation of the Sahrawi natural resources,” said Sahrawi representative in Australia and New Zealand Kamel Fadel.

President Tebboune to China-Africa summit on COVID-19: Algeria had rigorous response

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Wednesday in Algiers said that Algeria had a rigorous response to the Covid-19 pandemic from the start and had overcome the

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difficult circumstances thanks to the combination of national efforts and the innovative spirit of youth as it achieved self-sufficiency.

At the address during the virtual extraordinary China-Africa summit on solidarity against COVID-19, held by videoconference, President Tebboune said that "Algeria has responded rigorously to this pandemic from the start."

"In addition to a series of decisions taken to reinforce preventive measures, and as 'crises reveal good will' my country has overcome this difficult situation thanks to the combination of national efforts and the innovative spirit of our youth," he said, adding that "this is how we have achieved today self-sufficiency in terms of prevention means, production of drugs and screening tests."

"Algeria has been among the first countries to express its full solidarity with China" facing difficult economic conditions, President Tebboune said, urging the international community to "objectively evaluate the situation spurred by the pandemic, far from any politicization."

Outlining Algeria's efforts in the fight against the Coronavirus, President Tebboune mentioned the financial contribution to the Covid-19 Response Fund, established by the African countries, and the appointment of former minister, Abderrahmane Benkhalfa, Special Envoy of the African Union (AU) as part of the organization's efforts to ward off the epidemic.

"My country, in coordination with the neighboring countries and with the help of friendly countries, has drawn up an action plan to alleviate the pandemic impact," he added.

"It is incumbent upon all of us to foster coordination and cooperation as part of Agenda 2063 for Africa, the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the national development strategies of China and African countries for the implementation of common interest projects," the head of the State stressed.

In this regard, the President of the Republic stressed that "Algeria strongly advocates that vaccines be fairly and effectively provided to developing countries, particularly the African countries,"

He praised "the commitment of Chinese President Xi Jinping to declare global public property any vaccine developed in China against the Coronavirus (Covid-19)."

President Tebboune also called on the international financial institutions to "assist the developing countries, in particular in Africa, by approving a series of initiatives to reduce debt burden and encourage in national post-Covid policies."

Covid-19: President Tebboune attends Extraordinary China-Africa Summit

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune will take part Wednesday in a videoconference Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19, the presidency of the Republic said.

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OPEC +: Arkab will take part in 19th JMMC meeting on Thursday

ALGIERS - Minister of Energy Mohamed Arkab will participate on Thursday in the works of the 19th meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) which will review the situation of the international oil market and the prospects of progress, a ministry statement said on Wednesday.

"The Minister of Energy and President of the OPEC Conference, Mr. Mohamed Arkab, will participate in the work of the 19th Meeting of the OPEC / non-OPEC Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC), which will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2020, by videoconference," said the same source.

This meeting will review the situation of the international oil market and its short and medium-term development prospects, the statement added.

The JMMC members will also assess the level of compliance with the oil output cut commitments by the signatory countries of the Declaration of Cooperation for the month of May 2020, as decided on April 12 during the 10th OPEC and Non-Opec Ministerial meeting, the ministry said.

The JMMC is composed of seven member countries of OPEC (Algeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria and Venezuela) and two non-OPEC member countries (Russia and Kazakhstan).

CNDH calls on African states to continue fight against children's exploitation in armed conflict

ALGIERS - The National Council for Human Rights (CNDH) called Wednesday, on the occasion of the celebration of the Day of the African Child, on African states to pay more attention to children by fighting against their exploitation in armed conflicts and labour.

In the wake of the Day of the African Child celebrated on 16 June each year, CNDH welcomed the efforts made by African countries to strengthen the rights of the child in Africa, warning of the threats still looming over this category due to armed conflicts, terrorism and lack of development.

The same institution recalled, on this occasion, the struggle of African children, in particular their exploitation by gangs operating in this field, thus depriving them of the slightest rights.

Street in Brussels named after Algerian resistance fighter, Lalla Fatma N'Soumer

BRUSSELS - The municipality of Etterbeek, in Brussels, has named a street after the Algerian resistance fighter Lalla Fatma N'Soumer, a heroine who fiercely opposed the French colonizer during the 1840s and 1850s.

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"This initiative is carried by the two aldermen of the municipality, in charge of equal opportunities and diversity, with a view to raising public awareness of the role of women in society and their contribution to the history of Belgium and the world in general," the source said.

This choice was made following research carried out on emblematic female figures from the North Africa region, taking into account the sociological component of the Etterbeek commune, which led to the selection of this national figure, whose personality and contribution to her country were highly appreciated by the initiators of the project.

China-Africa summit on solidarity against COVID-19: Algeria has overcome difficulties thanks to national efforts

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Wednesday in Algiers said that Algeria had a rigorous response to the Covid-19 pandemic from the start and had overcome the difficult circumstances thanks to the combination of national efforts and the innovative spirit of youth as it achieved self-sufficiency.

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Africa-China Summit: Strengthening solidarity against Covid-19, promoting cooperation

ALGIERS - Africa and China organized Wednesday an extraordinary video conference summit to strengthen the solidarity against the Covid-19 pandemic and further promote China-Africa cooperation relations.

President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune is participating in this extraordinary summit, already considered as an opportunity for China and the African countries "to increase mutual trust and solidarity, boost the multilateral cooperation, reduce the effects of Covid-19 and to achieve a better development for all sides."

The summit is marked by the participation of other African leaders, including the members of the Conference and AU heads of State of Government, rotating presidents of the main African sub-regional organizations and chairman of AU Commission.

The United Nations Secretary General and director general of the World Health Organization (WHO) will also take part in this summit as special guests.

"China has always attached a particular importance to the friendly cooperation relations with Africa and always been ready to work with the African countries to build a closer destiny community," said Zhao Lijin, spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry in a press briefing.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, China and Africa helped each other and joined their efforts to fight Covid-19," he added.

At the height of China's fight against the coronavirus pandemic, appeared for the first time in the Chinese city of Wuhan, the African countries provided valued support to China, their leaders expressed their solidarity and support notably via telephone calls with their Chinese counterparts or public statements, said a Chinese diplomatic source cited by the media.

The Chinese-African anti-epidemic cooperation "reflects the strong position" of China on the promotion of international cooperation against the global crisis, said another diplomatic source, pointing out that China has organized 400 training programs for tens of thousands of African medical professionals.

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Culture minister meets managers of world heritage sites

ALGIERS - Minister of Culture Malika Bendouda met Tuesday in Algiers with the managers of archaeological sites classified by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as world heritage sites.

Organized at the Moufdi-Zakaria Palace of Culture, the meeting was attended by the managers of the sites of the Kalaa of Beni Hammad in Msila, the archaeological sites of Djemila (Setif), Timgad (Batna) and Tipasa, of the Valley of M'zab (Ghardaia).

It was also attended by the director of the National Agency for Protected Areas, Karima Sadki, representing the Kasbah of Algiers, the director of the Algerian Cultural Parks project, Salah Amokrane, representing the Cultural Park of Tassili N 'Ajjjer, and the director general of the Office for the Management of Cultural Property, Abdelkader Dahdouh, operating several sites.

At this consultative meeting, the heads of the different sites made presentations on the preservation, conservation and development of each site, raising specific concerns and outlining relevant plans.

The minister of Culture stressed the need to adapt the way these sites are managed so as to make it a "vehicle for wealth creation and local development."

MISCELLANEOUS - CULTURE

Algerian Muslim Scouts award winner of "Pandemic Will Not Defeat Us" contest

ALGIERS - Algerian Muslim Scouts on Tuesday presented awards to the young winners of the national contest "The Pandemic Will Not Defeat Us," in which they competed for the best drawings and videos relating to the health crisis of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) that has affected all countries of the world, including Algeria.

The prizes were divided into two categories, one for the best videos and the other for the best drawings.

In the Best Videos category, young Wassim Bouchlaghem, from the province of Setif, took the first prize while Houdifa Zouiche, from Annaba, received the second.

The third prize went to Ikram Ameur, from Algiers.

Regarding the Best Drawings, the first prize was won by Amina Doukani, from Mascara, Mohammed Zeralda took the second and Tasnim Ouali, from Algiers, received the third.

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"The contest allowed us to discover young talents in various fields from across the country," the commander general of the Algerian Muslim Scouts, Abderrahmane Hamzaoui, said on the sidelines of the award ceremony.