

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Referendum of November 1st, cornerstone for building new Algeria

SOUK AHRAS (Algeria) - The referendum of 1 November 2020 on the constitutional amendment bill is the "cornerstone for the building of new Algeria," the vice chairman of the National Independent Authority for Elections (ANIE), Abdelhafid Milat, said Tuesday.

In an address at a regional awareness meeting on the constitutional amendment bill, held in Miloud Tahri conference hall in the presence of representatives of ANIE coordinators in 11 provinces in the country's east, Milat said the date of November 1st will be "an important event during which we will all be mobilized for the construction of the new Algeria."

The vice chairman of ANIE invited the civil society representatives attending the meeting "to effect change by voting in large numbers during the referendum on the constitutional amendment bill, to establish the rule of law to which the people aspire, especially during the Hirak movement of 22 February 2019."

"We are at the outset of establishing the foundations of the new Algeria to meet the demands of the blessed Hirak," Milat said.

The National Independent Authority for Elections has prepared the referendum of next November 1st by taking advantage of its experience during the presidential election of 12 December 2019.

"The election of 12 December 2019 was 100% clean and independent for the first time in the history of Algeria, allowing the election of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune by the will of the people in spite of schemes, at home and abroad, to thwart the election."

First version of criminal court reform project completed

ALGIERS - The ministry of Justice said the development of the first version of the criminal court reform project has been completed, adding that the working group assigned to the task has submitted his final report late last September.

The Ministry said on its official website that the report, prepared by a working group composed of Supreme Court judges, examines the various issues raised in terms of criminal court reform, and it has come up with the proposal to amend the legal provisions relating to this jurisdiction.

In view of the importance of this issue, the minister of Justice has ordered the extension of consultation to all jurisdictions, the Supreme Court, the Council of State, the National Union of Attorneys Orders, university teachers and legal experts to contribute to the enrichment of the final version of this amendment.

Based on the comparative study, the report sets out the different experiences of other countries in the field, and made a series of amendment proposals relating to the component and jurisdiction of the criminal court.

The report also includes an assessment of the Algerian experience in the adoption of the jury system in criminal matters, noting its advantages and disadvantages.

Draft amendment of the Constitution: Campaign on referendum starts Wednesday

ALGIERS - The campaign for the referendum on the draft amendment to the Constitution, due on November 1st, will begin Wednesday under the slogan "November 1954: liberation, November 2020: change".

The campaign, for which all the conditions of "transparency and impartiality" have been met, will be marked by awareness-raising actions on the importance of this popular consultation intended to lay the foundations of a "modern State at the service of the citizen."

The National Independent Authority for Elections (ANIE) announced on September 28 the launch on October 7th of an awareness campaign in preparation for the referendum on the Constitution revision. It also defined the rules of the campaign referendum, in application of the organic law on the electoral system.

They provide for that this campaign is run by the governmental staff, the political parties which have a parliamentary group at both houses of the Parliament, or seats at People's Local Assembly in at least 25 provinces.

Associations that have representations in 25 provinces and political figures are also authorized to conduct actions as part of the campaign.

Posters, distributing leaflets, and all written or electronic means are also authorized. Abroad, posting is done at the headquarters of diplomatic and consular representations.

The awareness-raising operation and the referendum campaign, whether in audiovisual media or poster, written or electronic means are subject to prior authorization from the ANIE, which is responsible exclusively for the preparation, organization, management and supervision of elections and referendums. As such, "all those involved in the referendum campaign are required to comply with the laws and regulations in force".

President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune signed on September 15 the decree convening the electorate for the referendum on the amendment of the Constitution, thus honoring one of his main political commitments.

Constitutional amendment to address everything that has disadvantaged State, Society

ALGIERS – Adviser to the President of the Republic in charge of legal and judicial affairs, Boualem Boualem said in Algiers that the amendment of the Constitution to be voted a popular

referendum on November 1 will "address everything that has disadvantaged the State and the society".

"The new constitutional amendment will address everything that has disadvantaged the State and the Society," Boualem said in his address on the Constitutional Court. He was speaking on the second day of the International Colloquium on the theme "The Constitution, at the service of the citizen: major lines of the constitutional amendment," organized under the high patronage of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

The Committee of Experts appointed by the President of the Republic to submit proposals for the Constitution revision had received from political parties and associations 5,083 amendment proposals "reflecting reality," he recalled.

President Tebboune's advisor emphasized that "some proposed the maintenance of the Constitutional Council while others favored its transformation into a Constitutional Court," since the competences of the Constitutional Council have changed.

In this regard, Boualem explained that in addition to the former prerogatives of the Constitutional Council such as the examination of appeals relating to the provisional outcomes of elections, the Constitutional Court may be referred to all disputes that may arise between the constitutional powers and the question of stripping the immunity from members of the National People's Assembly (APN).

Boualem Boualem said that even if the number of the Constitutional Court members "remains unchanged (12 members)", the change occurs in its component as it will include "a representative from the Supreme Court and the Council of State with a single member for each body and six members specializing in constitutional law, in addition to the "cancellation" of members representing the Lower House and the Council of the Nation.

He also indicated that the president of this Court "is appointed by the President of the Republic and is subject to the same conditions of candidacy of the post of President of the Republic, except as regards age," adding that "the length of experience has been increased to 20 years instead of 15 years."

Several laws will be adapted to the new Constitution if it is approved by the people, he stressed.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

State makes huge efforts to open up grey areas

MASCARA - Minister of Public Works Farouk Chiali affirmed Monday, in Mascara, that the State has made huge efforts to open up grey areas thanks to several programmes whose results are already tangible on the ground.

In a statement to the press, on the sidelines of a working visit to the province, the minister said that the State "has mobilized in the last few months a huge budget, through a number of

development programs devoted notably to the opening up, construction and maintenance of rural roads, communal tracks and forest tracks."

A good number of roads have already been completed, contributing thereby to the opening up and revival of the economic activities in several regions of the country, said the minister, expressing his satisfaction at the pace of the construction of roads in the province of Mascara.

A budget of DZD1,470,000,000 has been destined to the project of the opening up and construction of rural roads and forest tracks, making it possible to open up 53 grey areas in the province.

The minister supervised, as part of his visit, the commissioning of a number of communal and provincial road projects as well as rural roads.

Chilai listened to the concerns of the inhabitants who expressed their satisfaction at the opening up of their regions.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Digitization and statistics: Sector-based action plans unveiled before end of 2020

ALGIERS - Urgent sector-based action plans as part of the national digitization strategy will be unveiled before the end of 2020, Minister of Digitization and Statistics, Mounir Khaled Berrah, said in Algiers on Tuesday.

Speaking during a coordination meeting with managers on digitization in various ministries, the minister said that the objective of this meeting was to validate the urgent action plans before their publication in late December.

"Each sector has defined the actions that fall within the scope of its competence as part of this digitization move," he said. An instrument to determine the advancement level of the digitization has been presented.

"We have set up an instrument which collects information in order to determine the advancement level of the digitization process in the various sectors," Berrah told the press following the meeting.

The next step would be to define the suitable actions to reinforce the assets and adjust the shortcomings.

Tosyali steel complex exports 3000 tonnes of wire rod to Senegal

ORAN (Algeria) - The steel complex Tosyali of Bethioua, Oran (432-km west of Algiers) has exported 3,000 tonnes of wire rod to Senegal, the complex's communication department said Tuesday.

The cargo was shipped on Monday, as part of the 6th export operation of various products from the complex this year, through the port of Mostaganem, to the port of the Senegalese capital Dakar, the source said.

In addition, 18,000 tons of concrete ring and 400 tons of wire rod will be exported this week to Canada, from the port of Mostaganem.

There are also plans to export 5,000 tons of wire rod to Romania from the same port, the complex's communication department said.

Oran's Tosyali steel complex exported over 49,000 tons of concrete ring to England, Canada and the United States of America in 2020, as well as nearly 3,000 tons of steel tubes to Angola.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Libyan crisis: Algeria calls on UN to speed up appointment of special envoy

ALGIERS - Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabri Boukadoum called on Monday the United Nations Security Council to "speed up" the appointment of a special envoy for Libya and to make sure that its decision on arms embargo is fully respected.

"I call on the Security Council to make sure its own decision-I think especially of the arms embargo, as set in Berlin conclusions, be fully respected. Supporting the UN-led process, means, beforehand, abiding by the arms embargo, and not sending mercenaries (in Libya)," said Boukadoum in a speech in the ministerial meeting on Libya, held Monday by videoconference.

"The responsibility of the Security Council lays also in speeding up the appointment of a special envoy" in Libya, underlined Boukadoum.

"We now need an action from the Council and the Berlin membership and need results-quickly. Algeria and Libya's neighboring countries cannot afford a lingering crisis," he pointed out, adding "We owe success and peace to the Libyan people. We need to relaunch the political process. That is our responsibility. Algeria intends to fully stand by it. »

Reiterating that the solution to the Libyan crisis must come only from the Libyan themselves, Boukadoum insisted that this solution "must preserve the security, unity and sovereignty of Libya."

"In this regard, we have strongly welcomed the ceasefire and we continue to call and act for its respect. We ask at the same time the quick resumption of the inclusive political dialogue, "he added.

"We call on all Libyan brothers to engage in this dialogue. Making peace between all the Libyans is not an impossible goal. It is high time to demonstrate that the supreme interest of Libya prevails over any other consideration," he said, reiterating Algeria's strong support to Libya.

Libya: Boukadoum denounces “contradictory initiatives” that nurture conflict

ALGIERS - Foreign Affairs Minister Sabri Boukadoum denounced Monday, in Algiers, the “contradictory initiatives” for the settlement of the Libyan crisis, which according to him, nurture the conflict rather than solving it.

“It is however obvious that we cannot sustain a lingering conflict, with multiple contradictory initiatives which nurture the conflict rather than solving it and that do not fit in the Berlin process and the principles agreed upon in the Berlin Conference,” said Boukadoum in his speech in the ministerial video conference on Libya, held at the initiative of Germany and the United Nations.

He said that since the Berlin Conference, Algeria “has strongly engaged in supporting the process, including through putting on hold our own efforts that were sought and called for by all Libyans,” underlining that it “will remain committed to doing its best for a constructive solution through the Berlin process, backed by the Security Council, and for an inclusive political dialogue and an appropriation by the Libyans of the crisis settlement process.

Boukadoum pointed out that Algeria and also neighboring countries cannot assume “a lingering crisis,” calling on the Security Council to enforce the arms embargo.

“Libyans need to fix their problems through ballots and not through bullets,” he insisted.

UN General Assembly: Algeria elected vice-chair of third Committee

NEW YORK - Algeria was elected by acclamation on Monday, in New York, the vice-chair of the third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in charge of social, humanitarian and cultural affairs, including human rights issues.

This important committee deals with varied issues related to the social development, women promotion, child protection, refugee assistance, racial discrimination, the right to self-determination and the protection of human rights and basic freedoms.

The Committee examines also issues related to young people, families, elderly, disabled people, crime prevention, penal justice and also international drug control.

This Committee’s works usually culminate in the adoption of resolutions or decisions with major impact on the issues related to development, human rights promotion and humanitarian assistance.

This election definitely reflects the member States’ trust in Algeria and in its recognized capacities to further this committee’s programme of work.

National police chief receives Spanish counterpart in Algiers

ALGIERS - National police chief Khelifa Ounissi received Tuesday his Spanish counterpart, Francisco Pardo Piqueras, who is on a visit to Algeria, the General Directorate of National Police said in a statement.

"As part of the Algerian-Spanish bilateral police cooperation, a high-level delegation led by Francisco Pardo Piqueras, the director general of the Spanish Police, made a visit to Algeria," the source said.

Speaking to his Algerian counterpart, the Spanish police chief stressed "the importance of the meeting, meant to boost bilateral cooperation and examine issues of common interest."

Piqueras also underlined the "excellent Algerian-Spanish relations in terms of cooperation, especially training and transnational organized crime in all its forms."

At the end of the meeting, the two police officers expressed their desire to enhance bilateral police cooperation in terms of "exchange of expertise, mutual technical assistance and specialized training in various police fields."

MISCELLANOUS

National Maritime Museum reopens to Public in Algiers

ALGIERS - National Maritime Museum, which is meant to shed light on the history of the Algerian navy and the life of Man since his first contacts with the sea, has reopened to the public after several months of closure as a preventive measure against the spread of the Covid-19.

The National Maritime Museum of Algiers, like all public buildings, has established a strict health protocol to welcome visitors, who will first have to disinfect their hands and have the temperature taken at the very entrance of this place full of history, and once inside, are required to wear masks and abide by social distancing measures.

The museum, which has a historical, ethnological and scientific vocation, is located at the foot of the Kasbah of Algiers, within the imposing "Kheireddine vaults," built in 1814 by Hajj Ali Pasha and which served as repair shops for the fleet under the Ottoman Regency, before French colonial forces put there large ovens to provide bread for their soldiers.

Going back to the prehistoric, ancient, medieval and Ottoman periods, the Marine Museum "highlights the life of man since its first contacts with the sea."

It focuses on the Ottoman period of "the Regency of Algiers," which preceded the French colonization of Algeria, said Amel Mokrani Boukari, director of the Museum.

In the museum's lobby, visitors can discover tools used in the manufacture and repair of ships, navigational instruments or marble steles, semaphores and other items discovered in the seabed.

CULTURE

Two Algerian feature films among 20 best films in Africa

Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

LONDON - The British daily newspaper “The Guardian” ranked, in a recent issue, the two Algerian films “The Battle of Algiers” and the “Chronicle of the Years of Embers” among the twenty best feature films in the history of the African cinema.

Directed by Gillo Pontecorvo in 1966, “The Battle of Algiers” deals with one of the periods of the Algerian Liberation War, by shedding light on the resistance of the Casbah’s inhabitants against the French occupier.

The film received several awards, including the “Golden Lion” in the Monstra de Venise in Italy in 1966.

Released in 1974, the “Chronicle of the Years of Embers” deals with the suffering of the Algerians at the socio-economic and cultural levels during the colonial period in the 1940s and 1950s.

Directed by Mohamed Lakhdar Hamina, the feature film won, among others, the “Golden Palm” of the 28th Cannes Film Festival in 1975.