

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

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DOMESTIC NEWS

One killed in military helicopter crash off Bouharoune coast

ALGIER - An officer of a three-member crew lost his life in a crash of a military search and rescue helicopter Wednesday, off the town of Bouharoune, Tipaza (70-km west of Algiers), while the search for the two other officers is still ongoing, the ministry of National Defense said in a statement.

"During a technical training flight mission this morning, Wednesday, 16 December, 2020, at 11:25 a.m., a military search and rescue helicopter, MS-25 Merlin, under the Naval Forces Command, crashed two nautical miles off the north-west coast of Bouharoune, province de Tipaza (1st military region), where we mourn the death in martyrdom of Lieutenant Bouzayda Nouredine, one of the crew members of the aircraft composed of three officers," the statement said.

"The search operation for the other two pilots is still underway and the necessary search and rescue means are mobilized," the statement added.

Following this tragic accident, the chief of Staff of the People's National Army, Lieutenant General Saïd Chanegriha expressed, in his name and on behalf of all the Army personnel, his sincere condolences to the family of the martyr and his compassion in this painful trial. He also gave instructions to "immediately" open an investigation to elucidate the causes and circumstances of the crash, the statement concluded.

Helicopter crash in Tipasa: President Tebboune offers condolences to deceased's family, Army

ALGIERS - President of the Republic, Supreme Chief of the Armed Forces, Minister of National Defence Abdelmadjid Tebboune has sent a condolence message to the family of the deceased lieutenant Bouzayda Nouredine and the People's National Army (ANP) after a military search and rescue helicopter crashed off the commune of Bouharoune (province of Tipasa).

"Following the death of Lieutenant Bouzayda Nouredine, one of the crew members of the Naval Forces Command, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the martyr's family and the staff of the People's National Army (ANP), worthy heir of the National Liberation Army (ALN). I pray to Almighty Allah to help resume teams to find the other two missing officials," President Tebboune tweeted.

"During a technical training flight mission this morning, Wednesday, 16 December, 2020, at 11:25 a.m., a military search and rescue helicopter, MS-25 Merlin, under the Naval Forces Command, crashed two nautical miles off the north-west coast of Bouharoune, province de Tipaza (1st military region), where we mourn the death in martyrdom of Lieutenant Bouzayda Nouredine, one of the crew members of the aircraft composed of three officers," said the National Defence Ministry in a communiqué.

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"The search operation for the other two pilots is still underway and the necessary search and rescue means are mobilized," said the source.

Three killed in crash of a military helicopter off Bouharoune, in Tipasa

ALGIERS - Three senior officials have been killed on Wednesday in the crash of a military search and rescue helicopter off the coast of Bouharoune (the province of Tipaza, 55 west of Algiers), said a statement from the Ministry of National Defence (MDN).

"Following the crash, on Wednesday at 11:25 am, of the military search and rescue helicopter (MS-25 Merlin) of the command of the Naval Forces, during a commanded mission two nautical miles off the north-west coast of Bouharoune, the province de Tipaza, Lieutenant-Colonel Kharoussa Nouredinne, Lieutenant-Colonel El Ouafi Mohamed Lamine and Lieutenant Bouzayda Nouredine passed away," said the same source.

COVID-19 NEWS

Covid-19: Partial lockdown extended by 15 days in 34 provinces

ALGIERS - The Government has decided on Wednesday to extend by 15 days the partial lockdown measure in 34 provinces as from 17 December, said a communiqué released by the Prime Minister's Office ahead of a Government meeting chaired Wednesday Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad.

"As part of the implementation of the instructions of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Supreme Chief of the Armed Forces, Minister of National Defence and following consultations with the scientific committee monitoring the coronavirus pandemic evolution, Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad has decided measures to fight against the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)," said the source.

The 34 provinces concerned by partial lockdown from 08:00 p.m. to 05:00 a.m. the following day include Adrar, Laghouat, Oum El Bouaghi, Batna, Bejaia, Biskra, Blida, Bouira, Tebessa, Tlemcen, Tiaret, Tizi-Ouzou, Alger, Jijel, Sétif, Guelma, Annaba, Constantine, Médéa, Mostaganem, M'Sila, Ouargla, Oran, Illizi, Bordj BouArréridj, Boumerdes, El Tarf, Tindouf, Tissemsilt, El Oued, Khenchela, Souk Ahras Tipaza et Ain Temouchent.

Fourteen (14) provinces are not concerned by the partial lockdown measure, namely Chlef, Béchar, Tamenghasset, Djelfa, Saïda, Skikda, Sidi Bel Abbes, Mascara, El Bayadh, Mila, Ain Defla, Naâma, Ghardaïa et Relizane.

After approval from the relevant authorities, the Governors may take any measures according to the epidemiological situation of each province, particularly the establishment, modification or adjustment of schedules of partial or total lockdown measures in one or more municipality, locality or neighborhood experiencing a surge of contaminations.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Giving fresh impetus to university, putting scientific research at service of economic take-off

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad called Tuesday, in M'sila, to give a fresh impetus to the university, insisting on the need to put the scientific research at the service of a real economic take-off.

The Algerian university is facing today many "challenges" requiring the involvement of all the players in order to form an integrated reform vision able to give a new dynamics in terms of the training of highly qualified specialists and also to enable the future university to adapt to the current changes and become, thereby, ready to meet the needs of the new jobs and skills in a permanently changing world," said Prime minister in a working and inspection visit to the province where he kicked off the academic year 2020/2021, and inspected several development projects.

The main challenges that the university must take up include "the promotion of the quality of teaching, training and scientific research, the improvement and modernization of the governance" and "the strengthening of the employment of graduates as well as the opening of the university on the national and international scenes, without omitting the need to consolidate the good morals and ethics in universities," he underlined.

In his speech at the University Mohamed Boudiaf of M'sila in the presence of ministers of Interior, of Higher Education and of Housing as well as President of the Republic's adviser Abdelhafid Allahoum, Prime minister insisted on the need to "put the scientific research at the service of a real economic take-off," pointing out that the research "is henceforth an efficient tool for taking appropriate decisions and measures and for the strict crisis management."

Djerad also emphasized the need for "a complementary and integrated vision" to reform the university works system according to "a participatory approach" in order to improve the quality of services for students.

Prime minister underlined that the sector defined in its action program, under the governmental action plan, "priority actions aimed at improving university works related to the fundamental tasks of higher education and scientific research."

Agriculture: Instruments established to implement roadmap 2020-2024

ALGIERS - The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hamid Hemdani, said Tuesday that the tools for the execution of the sector's roadmap 2020-2024 have been put in place, the ministry said in a statement.

The minister, according to the statement, said "all the tools for implementing the sector roadmap 2020-2024, especially in terms of national production development, investment, agricultural financing, insurance and professional organization, have been put in place." Hemdani spoke at an

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audience granted to head of the Algerian Confederation of Citizens' Employers, Mohamed Sami Agli, who was leading a delegation of economic operators.

During this meeting, attended by some of the sector's executives, several issues were discussed, including the agricultural investment strategy, the mechanisms and tools for implementing it, and incentives for investments. The minister said the laws and regulations relating to the development of strategic and industrial crops are being finalized.

He cited the publication of the executive decree on the creation of the Office for the Development of Saharan Agriculture and the specifications setting out the rights and obligations of agricultural and agro-industrial investors in Saharan areas. Hemdani assured that the sector's new approach to investment aims to remove all constraints, including the bureaucratic ones, which could hinder the efforts of both domestic and foreign investors.

Sharp increase in Algerian exports to Mauritania in 3rd quarter 2020

ALGIERS - Algerian exports to Mauritania sharply increased during the third quarter of 2020, after substantial declines during the first two quarters of the year. According to recent statistics published by the Mauritanian General Directorate of Customs, Algerian exports reached during the third quarter the amount of 8,772,696 dollars, making Algeria the second largest African supplier to Mauritania.

Algerian exports to this partner increased from 1,229,530 dollars during the first quarter of 2020 to 6,456,931 dollars during the second quarter of the same year.

On the other hand, and according to the same source, Algeria's imports from this country during the same period are insignificant (25,000 dollars).

Trade relations between the two countries have experienced a great leap forward from 2016 to 2019, reaching \$53 million, a performance for Algeria. Before this upturn, they did not exceed one million dollars.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Algeria firmly condemns terrorist act targeting defenseless civilians in Niger

ALGIERS - Algeria has firmly condemned the terrorist aggression which targeted Sunday the village of Tomour, in the region of Diffa, south-east of Niger, leaving several people dead and injured among the defenseless civilians, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Tuesday in a statement.

“In these circumstances, Algeria extends its deep condolences to the grief-stricken families,” said the source, adding that it renews “its support and solidarity with Niger’s State and people.” The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed also “its determination to continue its support to the fight against terrorism, and regional and international efforts for the eradication of this scourge, a negation of human values.”

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The attack, claimed by the terrorist group “Boko Haram,” left 28 people dead, according to a communiqué of Niger’s government, which declared a three-day national mourning.

“During the night of 12 to 13 December, the village of Tomour (75-km east of Diffa) was subjected to an armed attack, which targeted civilian populations and left 28 people dead, 10 of whom by bullets, 14 by fire and four by drowning,” concluded the source.

Western Sahara: Trump's decision may create instability in Maghreb

WASHINGTON (United States) - The recognition of the alleged Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara territory, announced recently by outgoing US president Donald Trump may undermine U.S. policy and raise significant problems of stability across the Maghreb, former United States National Security Advisor John Bolton said Tuesday.

"Trump's recognition of Moroccan sovereignty (over Western Sahara) dangerously undermines decades of carefully crafted U.S. policy," John Bolton said in an article published on the specialized American website Foreign Policy. He stressed that the recognition of the alleged Moroccan sovereignty over the territory of Western Sahara was part of the normalization between the kingdom and Israel.

John Bolton, who left his post at the White House in 2018, echoed the arguments of U.S. Republican Senator James Inhofe who said that Moroccans and Israelis "could have made this deal without trading away the rights of this voiceless people."

"The best outcome would be for Biden, once inaugurated, to reverse Trump’s acquiescence to Moroccan sovereignty. This will not be easy, given the expectations—misguided though they are—already built up in Rabat and Jerusalem," Bolton stressed.

"If Biden wants to do a 180-degree turn, he should do so immediately on taking office, which would minimize any damage."

The former head of the National Security Council (NSC) said "in making his rash decision, Trump consulted neither the Polisario Front—which has long represented the Sahrawis—nor Algeria and Mauritania, the most concerned neighboring countries, nor anyone else." Trump's "casual approach to notching one more ostensible international victory raises significant problems of stability across the Maghreb."

Conspiracies against Algeria will in no way change its position vis-à-vis just causes

ALGIERS - Minister of Communication, Spokesman of the Government, Ammar Belhimer, said that the threats and conspiracies against Algeria will not change its position on the Palestinian question and all just causes around the world, adding that the recent decision of Morocco to normalize its relations with the Zionist entity was not a surprise.

In an interview to the electronic site "Almayadeen.net," Belhimer said that Algeria "was not surprised by Morocco's decision to normalize its relations with the Zionist entity, in the sense that this step constitutes the completion of a process of 60 years of relations between the two parties." "We have followed the situation closely and we take things seriously, taking into account what is

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most appropriate for our country," said the Government Spokesman, adding that the statement by President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune in which he deplored "the normalization with the Zionist entity, in which we will never take part" and stressed that "Algeria was and remains ready for any eventuality" reflected the position of all the Algerian people.

Moreover, Belhimer noted the attempts of some parties to interfere in the internal affairs of the country, saying that "Algeria will not hesitate to take the necessary measures to respond to such actions". The Algerian state has adopted the legitimate demands of the People's Hirak, opting for its constitutionalization and the organization of presidential elections and referendum on amending the Constitution, which insists on building a state of institutions and promoting democracy, which has helped to block the way to troublemakers, preachers of the fitna.

Regarding the fierce campaign conducted against Algeria, the Government Spokesman stressed that "the lived reality confirms that all the maneuvers and scenarios concocted in the laboratories of neo-liberalism by former colonial forces prove that Algeria and the so-called equilibrium countries that are not in the orbit of these forces, are truly targeted countries, by all means, in their security and unity."

Referring to the latest resolution of the European Parliament on the human rights situation in Algeria, the minister described this resolution as "insulting" for its authors and not for Algeria, because it is simply based on allegations.

5+5 meeting: Algeria has mobilized “significant” means for border security

ALGIERS - Algeria has mobilized “significant” human and material means in order to secure its land borders and maritime access. It also cooperates with some neighbouring countries for this purpose, said Secretary General of the National Defence Ministry Major General Abdelhamid.

“Given the instability prevailing in the West Mediterranean Basin and the Sahelian band, my country has mobilized significant human and material means to secure its land borders and maritime access. It has also engaged in a cooperation process with some neighbouring countries for this purpose under the principles of our external policy and international law,” said Major General Ghriss at the 16th meeting of the Defence Ministers of the member countries of the “5+5 Defence” Initiative.

Major General Ghriss represented by videoconference the President of the Republic, Supreme Chief of the Armed Forces, and National Defence Minister under the activities of the “5+5 Defence” Initiative for 2020, said the National Defence Ministry in a communiqué. According to the same source, Malta’s Interior Affairs and National Security Minister chaired the meeting. The country holds the rotating presidency of the Initiative for the current year, said the source.

"Let me, first of all, on behalf of the President of the Republic, Supreme Chief of the Armed Forces, Minister of National Defense, whom I have the immense honor to represent, to convey to you his most heartfelt greetings and his best wishes for success on the occasion of the 16th meeting of the Ministers of Defense of the member countries of the 5+5 Defense Initiative, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the (5+5) Dialogue,” said the communiqué.

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The meeting's agenda included regional issues and common challenges facing the Initiative member countries, namely Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia. The participants also evaluated the implementation rate of the Initiative's Action Plan for the current year. They also approved the 2021 Action Plan.

The meeting wrapped up with the approval of the Joint Declaration that defines the thrusts of multilateral military cooperation for the coordination of actions to strengthen security and stability in the Western Mediterranean.

Bolton: Morocco has prevented the referendum from taking place

WASHINGTON - Morocco, supported by France, has spent nearly three decades preventing the referendum from taking place," said Tuesday, former security adviser of the American president Trump, John Bolton.

"Together with France and other Security Council allies, it has tried, unfortunately with some success, to blur Resolution 690's referendum commitment," he said in a column published in the online magazine, Foreign Policy.

"Rabat has offered a variety of so-called autonomy proposals, not one of which has ever come close to being acceptable to the Polisario, proposing a referendum on incorporation versus "autonomy."

To the Sahrawi, "this is a take it or leave it proposition, and has therefore always been unacceptable," he explained.

Bolton said that "from Morocco's perspective, this kind of so-called peace process could go on forever: Rabat not only controls the vast bulk of the Western Sahara's territory militarily, but, through successive waves of settlement from Morocco proper, is trying to overwhelm the ethnic Sahrawi population."

-- The referendum or war --

John Bolton recalled that the "The Polisario did not abandon its war against Morocco for a "peace process," but for a referendum," referring to the cease-fire, in force in 1991 and breached on last November 13th. "If Morocco won't accept a referendum, it doesn't deserve a cease-fire or a false "peace process," he said. "But make no mistake; the Polisario is at a crucial juncture. It would be fully justified if it chooses to return to the battlefield," he added.

"For the Polisario, Trump's about-face is more than disappointing," he said referring to the US President Recognition of the alleged Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara.

"It broke a U.S. commitment that once looked rock-solid, and which I tried to defend and advance during my time as national security advisor—often in the face of the State Department's determination to find a way to solidify Moroccan control of Western Sahara," said the former official who left administration Trump in 2018.

--- Algeria should have been consulted---

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Former National Security Council (NSC) chief believes Algeria should have been consulted by US before Trump's announcement be made, in the same way as "the Polisario, Mauritania and other countries concerned by the question".

"Trump's casual approach to notching one more ostensible international victory raises significant problems of stability across the Maghreb," he added. "This is what happens when dilettantes handle U.S. diplomacy, and it is sadly typical of Trump's nakedly transactional approach during his tenure. This is what happens when dilettantes handle U.S. diplomacy, and it is sadly typical of Trump's nakedly transactional approach during his tenure. To him, everything is a potential deal, viewed in very narrow terms through the attention span of a fruit fly," he said.

"Trump knows exactly how Inhofe feels about the Western Sahara; I was there in the Oval Office on May 1, 2019, when the Oklahoma senator explained his support for a referendum. Trump said he had never heard of Western Sahara, and Inhofe replied, "Oh, we spoke before, but you weren't listening," said Bolton.

CULTURE

Couscous listed in UNESCO's intangible heritage of humanity

ALGIERS - Couscous and its knowledge, know-how and practices related to its production, have been registered in the representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity by the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), announced Minister of Culture and Arts Malika Bendouda on Wednesday.

Couscous has been listed by UNESCO, on behalf of Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania and Morocco. For Algeria, the classification file was prepared by academic Ouiza Galleze from the Center for Prehistoric, Anthropological and Historical Researches (CNRPAH), while the Tunisian Institute of Heritage and the Moroccan Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Mauritanian experts have also took part in the elaboration of the file.

This new classification brings to seven the number of Algerian cultural properties inscribed, to date, on the representative list of UNESCO intangible heritage of humanity.

The file was presented during the 15th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage which runs virtually until December 19.

The other cultural properties inscribed on the representative list of the intangible heritage of humanity are: the Ahellil of Gourara (2008), the "Chedda" wedding costume of Tlemcen (2012), the Imzad (2013), on behalf of Algeria, Mali and Niger, the pilgrimage of the Rakk de Ouled Sidi Cheikh (2013), the feast of Sbeiba (2014), an annual event celebrated in Djanet (south-eastern Algeria) as well as the "Sbuâ of mawlid ennabaoui "(2015).

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Algerian films on Carthage Film Days' program

TUNIS - Several Algerian films, short films and documentaries are on the program of the 31st Carthage Film Day, scheduled from 18 to 23 December in Tunis without official competition, the organizers announced. The organizers of this event, dedicated to African and Arab cinema, have chosen to hold the event without official competition.

In the "Best of short films" section, the organizers have chosen to screen "Les jours d'avant" (2014) by Karim Moussaoui, "Khouya" (2010) by Yanis Koussim, "Demokratia" (2002) by Malek Bensmail, "Lumdja" (2015) by Omar Belkacemi, and "Le voisin" (1990) by Belkacem Hadjadj.