

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Release

8th June 2020

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Lower House: Bill establishing May 8, National Day of Memory examined

ALGIERS - The National Popular Assembly (APN) Bureau submitted, Sunday, the bill establishing May 8, a National Day of Memory, to the Committee on Legal, Administrative and Freedoms for examination, said a press release from the Lower House of parliament.

After adoption of the Agenda, the Lower House bureau, meeting under the chairmanship of Speaker Slimane Chenine submitted the bill establishing May 8, National Day of Memory to the Committee on Legal, Administrative and Freedoms for examination.

The Finance and Budget Committee has also been instructed to hold hearings for ministers as part of the review of the budget regulation bill for the 2017 financial year, said the same source.

National Gendarmerie captures terrorist supporter in Bordj Bou Arreridj

ALGIERS - The National Gendarmerie on Sunday captured a supporter of terrorist groups in Bordj Bou Arreridj, announced Monday the National Defense Ministry in a communiqué.

“As part of counterterrorism, units of the National Gendarmerie arrested a supporter of terrorist groups in Bordj Bou Arreridj (5th Military Region),” said the source.

In Naama (2nd Military Region), a detachment of the People’s National Army (ANP) seized a large quantity of cannabis amounting to 08 quintals and 33kg during a patrol conducted near the commune of Djenniène Bourezag.

As part of fighting smuggling and organized crime, another Army detachment arrested 07 drug traffickers and seized 37.350kg of cannabis, 500 grams of cocaine and 1161 units of various drinks under distinct operations in Oran, Tlemcen (2nd Military Region), Boumerdes (1st Military Region) and Bordj Bou Arreridj (5th Military Region), said the source.

Besides, units of the National Gendarmerie apprehended 06 illegal immigrants in Oran while 14 would-be immigrants of various nationalities were intercepted in Guzzam.

National Artist Day: Prime Minister extends best wishes to artists

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad has expressed his wishes to Algerian artists on the occasion of the National Artist Day (June 8th).

"I join you in celebrating your national day, which is also the day of every man who loves freedom and is imbued with human values," Djerad said in a tweet posted on the account of the Prime Minister's Office.

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Many virtual cultural activities and artistic events are scheduled by the ministry, through the provincial culture departments and cultural houses nationwide.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Covid-19: After three months of stoppage, commercial activities cautiously resume

ALGIERS - After three months of lockdown measures imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic, certain businesses have cautiously resumed their activities on Sunday. Both traders and customers showed commitment to hygiene rules.

The resumption which is part of the Government's decision to “gradually” lift the restrictions, starting as of June 7, aims at helping traders and service providers to make up for the losses suffered during the lockdown period.

On the first day of resumption of activities, APS reporters made a tour to Algiers streets housing the largest shopping centers and markets. Business owners and service providers were actively preparing and cleaning their stores to welcome customers.

Some traders had started equipping their premises as early as last week, according to Farid, a fabric vendor, who said he had started the redevelopment of his store long before reopening.

A number of traders printed the government's press release containing preventive measures to be observed by the merchant and customers and displayed it on the facades of their stores; posters with the guidelines to be followed before access to shops are everywhere.

"No more than one person allowed in the shop," "wearing a protective mask is mandatory", "wait your turn please", "respect the safety distance" are the most common displays seen in Algiers shops and stores.

El Hadj Tahar Boulenouar, President of the National Association of Traders and Craftsmen (ANCA), said that the traders authorized to resume fully comply with preventive measures decreed by the Government.

The association has noted with satisfaction the gradual return of economic life and the reopening of commercial, craft and services activities, which will help reduce the losses suffered by the sector, Boulenouar told APS.

Customs revenue rose to 270.35 billion dinars in Q1 2020

ALGIERS - Algeria's Customs revenue stood at 270.35 billion dinars during the first quarter of 2020, compared to 267.33 billion dinars in the same period of last year, thus recording a slight increase of 1.13%, the Directorate General of Customs (DGD) told APS on Monday.

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The revenues made by the Customs, during the 1st quarter of 2020 were used to supply the State budget up to 227.62 billion dinars, against 229.17 billion dinars in the same period 2019, registering a slight decrease of 0.68%, said the Statistical Data from the Customs' Studies and Foresight Department (DEPD).

The receipts allotted to the State budget represented 84.2% of all Customs revenues during the three first months of 2020.

The share of revenues allotted to the Guarantee and Solidarity Fund for Local Authorities (CGSCL) is 21.66 billion dinars, compared with nearly 23.25 billion dinars, down 6.82%.

According to the DEPD, revenue for the National Pension Fund (CNR) stood at 19.25 billion dinars, against almost 13.22 billion dinars, up 45.68%.

As for those intended for Special Assignment Accounts (CAS), they stood at 1.59 billion dinars, against 1.41 billion dinars, during the same comparison period, up 12.90%.

For revenues assigned to municipalities, they decreased by 22.13% during the 1st quarter of 2020 compared to the same period of the previous year, totaling almost 222.79 million dinars against nearly 286.09 million dinars, detailed the same source.

The revenues of last March, the DEPD indicated that they fell by 4.8% to reach 97.93 billion dinars, compared to the month of February 2020.

The month of February saw a "remarkable" increase of 47.95% to total 102.87 billion dinars, compared to the month of January (69.54 billion dinars).

Civil Protection launches national awareness campaign on crop fires

ALGIERS - The Civil Protection announced the launch on Monday of a national prevention and awareness campaign on the fight against crop fires from the province of Tiaret, especially in the High Plateaus known for cereal production, announced the Civil Protection.

The campaign, which is part of the annual prevention and awareness program, will target farmers and growers with a view to "raising their awareness of the need to respect and fully apply preventive measures to avoid the outbreak of fires."

During the last five years, the main causes of the outbreak of fires consist of the lack of application of preventive measures to protect agricultural land, the lack of a safe distance between roads and agricultural land, and the lack of water tanks with sufficient capacity to control the outbreak of fires, recalled the source.

At the same time, the Civil Protection provides farmers with an operational system consisting of human and material means of fire extinction, aimed at controlling fires as soon as they start and thus avoid crop losses, said the statement.

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The Civil Protection services have strengthened and renewed the material means of fighting this type of fires.

Benharrats calls to stop irrational consumption of fossil energy

ALGIERS - Minister of Environment and Fossil Energy Nassira Benharrats calls to stop the irrational consumption of fossil energy resources in Algeria, the Ministry announced Sunday in a communiqué.

On the occasion of the Month of Environment, Benharrats urged industrial operators, companies, associations and citizens in general to “stop the irrational consumption of fossil energy resources, respect nature and preserve terrestrial and marine ecosystems so as to ensure food and energy security to future generations.”

The minister also highlighted Algeria’s efforts to preserve the environment under its international commitments.

Algeria “has made great strides” in this field, notably in the extension of green spaces as well as protected and listed fields in order to move towards a circular economy,” said the minister.

Benharrats recalled the adoption by Algeria of the environment strategy and action plan 2020 that include 21 goals and 113 actions.

She referred to the goal 19 that provides for investment in natural ecosystems and the valorization of biodiversity fields to create sustainable jobs and generate income for local populations.

As regards the goal 12, it provides for the preservation of 50% of lands, 44% of Algeria’s area, and 5% of marine and coastal areas.

Concerning the National Climate Plan, the minister stressed that it includes several activities and measures to mitigate climate change, like the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, support and governance.

Recently adopted under the Government’s Action Plan, the Ministry’s action plan focuses on three key thrusts, namely ecological transition towards circular economy, green economy oriented towards green technologies and the integrated management of the desert and landlocked regions as well as the protection and enhancement of southern regions’ wealth and resources, detailed Benharrats.

The energy transition thrusts include the gradual integration of renewable energy and their use in houses and agro-pastoral development, said the minister.

The third thrust relates to socio-environmental transition aimed at achieving green growth through environmental citizenship, desert ecotourism and involvement of civil society.

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Lockdown lifting: Passenger transporters get ready for activity resumption

ALGIERS - Public and private transporters are planning for different protection measures against the spread of the novel Coronavirus, ahead of a safe return to work after the lift of the lockdown, sector professionals told APS.

Ahead of the resumption of their activities, passenger transport professionals plan to implement new health protection measures to avoid a new spread of the epidemic among passengers.

For the president of the National Federation of Passenger and Freight Transport (FNTV), affiliated to the General Union of Tradesmen and Craftsmen (UGCAA), Abdelkader Boucherit, the protection of drivers as well as passengers will be a priority through the various barrier gestures recommended by the country's health authorities.

Making sure workers and passengers are wearing face covering, making hydro alcoholic gel available and upholding social distancing are the first main points in the federation's resumption activity plan.

The industry's representative said passenger and freight transporters are ready for resuming activity, even a limited activity, in total respect of the health and safety rules.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Next OPEC+ meetings: Output resumption in Libya taken into account

ALGIERS - Minister of Energy, chairman of the Conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mohamed Arkab, said Monday the forthcoming meetings of the organization and its non-OPEC partners will take into account the resumption of production in Libya's main oil fields.

At a meeting organized by the OEC general secretariat in Vienna, Austria, with the international press via videoconference, in the presence of the heads of OPEC+ group, Russian and Saudi Energy ministers, Alexander Novak and Abdelaziz Ben Salmane, Arkab answered a question about the resumption of Libyan production, saying "we will be looking at all of these issues through our mechanisms, including the joint ministerial oversight committee, and there is no doubt the latter development will be taken into account in future meetings."

Arkab welcomed "the resumption of oil production by our brothers in Libya," highlighting coordination with his Libyan counterpart on oil issues and the resumption of production.

"We agree with the Libyan side on all the decisions taken within the framework of OPEC and OPEC+," he said, adding that Libya is participating through different proposals.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Ghardaïa: twelve housewives awarded in writing and poem contest

GHARDAIA - Twelve women were awarded in Arabic and Berber writing and poem contest, dedicated to the creativity of housewives.

Organized by Ghardaïa radio, in collaboration with a local sponsor, in order to encourage poetic and literary creations, the contest is designed to reveal the talents of housewives in the region, said an anchor at the Radio.

The initiative aims to help housewives to develop their artistic, cultural or literary capacities and to promote literary and artistic production under different local modes of expression, said journalist Ahmed Guerni.

One of the winner told APS that sanitary confinement prompted her to express herself through a literary work.

In the presence of Ghardaïa governor, Boualem Amrani, the twelve winners of this competition received prizes and certificates on the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the Artist.

A total of 123 women participated in this contest.