

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Justice: New electronic platform to submit complaints remotely

ALGIERS - The Ministry of Justice has put in place a new electronic platform that will enable citizens, mainly those living abroad, to submit their requests or complaints remotely, the ministry said Tuesday in a communiqué.

Moreover, a detailed presentation will be given Wednesday at the Headquarters of the Directorate-General for the Modernization of Justice in Bir Mourad Rais (Algiers), for the benefit of media representatives, said the source.

7,740 Algerian citizens repatriated since July 20

ALGIERS - The second phase of the repatriation operation of the Algerian nationals stranded abroad, which started on July 20th, is still underway, with the repatriation until now of 2582 additional citizens since the last partial report provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 26 July morning, bringing thereby the total number of repatriated people to 7,740 citizens, said Tuesday the spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry Abdelaziz Benali Cherif.

The repatriation operation will continue this Tuesday and until 30 July 2020 through 10 flights scheduled to repatriate 2349 stranded citizens registered on the digital platform in France, Russia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Qatar and United States of America, added Abdelaziz Benali Cherif.

Seven drug traffickers arrested, over 145 kilograms of cannabis seized in Tlemcen, Oran and Béchar

ALGIERS - Combined detachments of the National People's Army (ANP) on Tuesday arrested seven drug traffickers and seized 145.3 kilograms of cannabis resin in separate operations in Tlemcen, Oran and Bechar, a statement from the National Defence Ministry (MDN) said on Wednesday.

"As part of the fight against organized crime, combined detachments of the Army arrested, on July 28, 2020, seven drug traffickers and seized (145.3) kilograms of cannabis during separate operations carried out in Tlemcen, Oran in the 2nd Military Region and Béchar in the 3rd Military Region," added the ministry.

In the same regard, detachments of the Army, in coordination with units of the National Gendarmerie and Police arrested three drug traffickers and seized (31,496) psychotropic tablets in various operations conducted in Constantine, Setif in 5th Military Region and El-Oued in 4th Military Region, while one (01) smuggler was arrested and (1000) cartridges for hunting rifles and (5000) packets of cigarettes were seized in Tébessa /5th RM.

Other Army detachments arrested, in coordination with the Customs services, in Tamanrasset, Bordj Badji Mokhtar in 6th Military Region and Djanet in 4th Military Region, 21 individuals

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and seized four all-terrain vehicles, two trucks, 3,800 litres of fuel as well as 20 generators, 09 jackhammers, 18 pieces of dynamite and 04 metres of detonation fuse and other objects used in illicit gold mining operations.

In addition, the Coast Guard units thwarted attempts of 103 individuals to illegally board homemade boats in Oran, Tlemcen, Annaba, Skikda and El-Tarf, while 46 illegal immigrants of different nationalities were arrested in Bordj Badji Mokhtar and In Amenas.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Post liquidity: Inter-ministerial meeting to examine current situation

ALGIERS - Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad, chaired on Tuesday an inter-ministerial meeting to examine the current situation of post liquidity in the face of the pressure resulted from the customers' excessive demands through 22 millions active postal accounts, the Prime Minister's office said in a statement.

It is also important to point out that the total amount of money withdrawn from Algerian post offices totals nearly DZD400 billion per month, said the source.

The health crisis linked to the corona virus (Covid-19) has generated additional constraints induced by the new rules of work organization, respect for physical distance and access to post offices. In addition, some of the female staff with childcare responsibilities and some of the staff who were victims of Covid-19 contamination were unavailable.

As a result, the current situation does not arise in terms of the availability of cash, but is rather the result of a very specific economic situation linked to the impact of the health situation which has caused a slowdown in the economy with its consequences on the circulation and recycling of cash, added the source.

In order to address this situation and reduce its impact, the Prime Minister has instructed the departments and services concerned on:

- The need to stagger, throughout the calendar month, the payment of salaries, pensions and State social assistance and to adapt the working hours of post offices according to the demand expressed.
- The widening of the access to the automatic teller machines of banks by quickly implementing the interoperability of the electronic money systems of Algeria Post and that of banks.
- The necessary involvement of the walis (governors) to supervise and accompany by escorts the movements of funds between the surplus and deficit branches.
- The acceleration of the process allowing banks and financial institutions to pay their cash surpluses in the post offices.

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- Finally, encouraging civil society actors to assist in organizing queues outside post offices and enforcing the rules of physical distancing with the help of security services that are constantly mobilized for the safety of citizens concluded the Prime Minister's office.

Higher education: Excellence, Innovation backbones of sector's work-plan

CHLEF (Algeria) - Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Abdelbaki Benziane, highlighted Tuesday, in Chlef, the major role of excellence and innovation in the sector's work-plan.

"The work plan of the higher education sector proposed as part of the government's action plan is based, essentially, on excellence and innovation," said the minister at the opening of the regional symposium of western universities hosted by the university pole of Ouled Farès de Chlef.

Raising the performance of educational and research institutions to the level of international benchmarks in this area is also among the action plan in question, he added, noting that the goal is to transform these places of science and knowledge into "real support for the overall development of the country."

In addition to combining efforts and mobilizing the active forces of the sector, the realization of this aspiration requires the development of communication methods at all levels as well as the consolidation of the capacity to listen to the legitimate interests and concerns of the components of the academic and scientific family "in order to take them on board in time."

In order to achieve these objectives, it is, according to him, more than necessary to mobilize energies and capacities in order to "change visions and organizational processes and working methods, using participatory approaches in administration and management, within the framework of new university governance based on the implementation of the concepts of transparency and participation.

CNES, Competition Council seal cooperation agreement

ALGIERS - The National Economic and Social Council (CNES) and the Council of Competitiveness on Wednesday sealed a cooperation agreement to promote the principles of competitiveness in the national economy.

Signed by the CNES President Rédha Tir and the President of the Competition Council Amara Zitouni, the agreement provides for the organization of joint activities such as meetings with social partners and various organizations, studies on issues of common interest, the exchange of experiences between the two parties, the revision of certain legal texts and the verification of their conformity with the general principles of competition.

At the signing ceremony, Tir stressed the "pre-eminent" place competition rules will have in the new socio-economic recovery plan as the "main" instrument of reforms relating to the organization of markets (trade, finance, real estate, labour, etc.).

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"We are convinced that there can be no market economy without a strong competition policy, competition being the only means of improving the quality of goods and services, reducing delays, lowering costs and developing activities in general, while playing a key role in restoring confidence between the various market players," the CNES President said.

"The agreement signed today is part of our vision on the importance of the Competition Council in the Algerian institutional edifice, alongside the sectoral regulatory authorities, for the enshrinement of the principles of fair competition and protection against the risks of economic concentrations, monopolies and abuses of dominant market position," he continued.

In this connection, Tir said that a new statute for the CNES was currently being prepared and included several proposed reforms, including the allocation of a permanent post within the Council to 45 public bodies, including the Competition Council.

Zitouni said that the signing of this agreement constitutes "a major event" for the Competition Council and is part of the rehabilitation of this body which has suffered for years from "marginalization and deliberate exclusion."

Fishing sector: Revival program to produce 166,000 tons per year

MOSTAGANEM - Minister of Fisheries and Fish Production Sid Ahmed Ferroukhi announced Tuesday, in Mostaganem, a new program of economic and social revival of the fishing sector which provides for a fish production of 166,000 tons per year.

In a statement to APS on the sidelines of his visit to the province of Mostaganem, Sid Ahmed Ferroukhi said that the annual national average is currently 100,000 tons, pointing out the objective is to reach 166,000 tons a year.

This objective will enable, according to the minister, meeting the consumers' needs and strengthening the national market with diversified species of fishery products.

He added that the sector has mapped out annual objectives to develop the activities of fishing and aquaculture and is currently implementing the roadmap at the provincial level.

This program will enable developing fishing activity on the high sea by preserving the coastal fishing activities, in addition to developing the aquaculture industry in parallel with the revival of industry and fishing economy that will help create wealth and new jobs.

Hydrocarbons: Sonatrach, Spanish group CEPSA sign MoU

ALGIERS - National Hydrocarbon Group Sonatrach and Spanish Group CEPSA signed Wednesday, in Algiers, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to examine joint investment possibilities in the field of exploration, development and production of hydrocarbons in Algeria and internationally.

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The MoU was signed by Sonatrach's CEO Toufik Hakkar and CEPSA's CEO Philippe Boisseau at the headquarters of Sonatrach, in the presence of several officials and senior managers of the two companies.

This agreement will enable the two sides to "strengthen their existing partnership through new cooperation opportunities in hydrocarbons," said Hakkar, pointing out that CEPSA is a "historical" partner for Sonatrach and that the collaboration between the two sides started in 1992.

In this respect, the official underlined that there are four agreements on hydrocarbon exploitation and production in force until 2040 between Sonatrach and CEPSA, adding that there is also a commercial relation on natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) with CEPSA which is an important client of Sonatrach.

This relation will be consolidated with the production of gas on some perimeters in Algeria, while in Spain; Sonatrach is CEPSA's partner on two projects destined to the marketing of gas and the production of electricity.

Underlining that the two sides will continue to work with win-win spirit, Hakkar said that "the concluded memorandum of understanding will lead to the partnership on all the hydrocarbon chain (oil and gas) to look for new opportunities in Algeria and worldwide."

For his part, Boisseau said that the partnership of CEPSA with Sonatrach is "essential," adding that the cooperation is for the long term and "we hope to develop these relations with Sonatrach in the existing joint projects or others that will come in the future."

Expressing his satisfaction about the signing of this agreement, Boisseau said that it "will allow strengthening the close relations," and thanks to it "the two companies will search together for other opportunities."

Bejaia port: freight traffic up 7.43% in Q1 2020

ALGIERS - The Béjaïa Port Company (EPB) said Wednesday that the general freight traffic through the port grew 7.43% in the first half of 2020 compared to the same period of 2019.

This progress was made at a time when the majority of Algerian ports have been experiencing a slowdown in their traffic, the same source said. The company turnover also jumped during the same period 5.56%, while the added value achieved during this period recorded an increase of 15.96%, and this, despite the decrease of hydrocarbon export traffic by - 17.16%.

The policy of expense rationalization pursued by the General Management cut by 7.80% of the operating expenses, added the press release, noting the improvement in operating income hiked by 468.60%.

"Since the end of 2019, many projects and initiatives have been elaborated and executed. A new managerial policy has been put in place," said the company, citing in particular the projects initiated in order to enhance revenues.

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The new projects of the port company include the berth window system, which is a new system designed to schedule the arrivals of container ships, set up in May 2020, with the support of regular line ship owners.

The system allows to reduce or even eliminate waiting times in the harbour for container ships and thus reduce the demurrage charges paid by the public treasury, said the source.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Algeria victim of human trafficking by dint of recurrent crises in the region

ALGIERS - Director-General of Multilateral Relation at the Foreign Ministry, Lazhar Soualem, called for strengthening international efforts to counter human trafficking, stressing that Algeria is victim of this scourge by reason of recurrent crises in the region.

In a statement to the press on the occasion of a Study Day on the theme "No to the exploitation of persons", organized by the National Committee for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons, in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Soualem stressed the need to intensify international efforts to combat the crime of trafficking in persons, explaining that "Algeria suffers from this scourge because of the recurrent crises in the region, which is a breeding ground for the activities of criminal groups", he added.

The organization of this event despite the Covid-19 pandemic aims to "show our solidarity with the victims of trafficking in persons, highlight the seriousness of this transcontinental phenomenon, and raise awareness of society in all its components (institutions, civil society, private sector and security forces) on this scourge that is the responsibility of organized crime," he said about this meeting, held at the Abdelatif Rahal International Conference Centre (ICC), on the occasion of the World Day for the Dignity of Victims of Human Trafficking (30 July).

Algeria, he added, "suffers from the problem of trafficking in persons because the region is the scene of recurring crises that provide a breeding ground for criminal groups and networks that inject the proceeds of organized crime into other criminal activities, such as terrorism, arms and drug trafficking and trafficking in persons."

President Tebboune receives Turkey's ambassador to Algeria

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune received Tuesday, in Algiers, Turkey's ambassador to Algeria Mahinur Ozdemir Goktas, said a communiqué of the Presidency of the Republic.

"President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune received today afternoon, Her Excellency Mahinur Ozdemir Goktas, Turkey's ambassador to Algeria," said the source.

"I thank the President (Abdelmadjid Tebboune) for receiving me. For me, it is an honor to be here. This is the second time that I have come; the first was to present the credentials. I am

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working in a brotherly and friendly country with which we share long traditions,” she said following the audience.

“Today, we have had the opportunity to exchange our viewpoints on the bilateral relations and broach issues of common interest.”

Death of former President of Republic of Tanzania: Djerad signs register of condolences

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad signed on Wednesday at the Embassy of the Republic of Tanzania in Algiers the register of condolences following the death of former President of the Republic of Tanzania Benjamin William Mkapa.

"I have learned with great sorrow and sadness the news of the death of Benjamin William Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, on July 24, 2020, after a life rich in contribution and dedication to the supreme interests of the brotherly Tanzanian people," wrote Djerad.

"In this painful circumstance, I extend to you on behalf of the Algerian Government and on my own behalf my sincere and fraternal condolences and deep feelings of compassion and sympathy," the Prime Minister said in his message.

Libya crisis: Algeria urges UN to work for inclusive solution

NEW YORK - Algeria's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) Sofiane Mimouni urged the UN Security Council to fully engage in the search for an inclusive political solution in Libya under "a genuine multilateral action" against this country, which has been plagued by violence since 2011.

Speaking at virtual informal consultations with Libya's neighbouring countries and other concerned countries, held Tuesday by the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on Libya, Mimouni deplored "the inertia" of the Security Council in the face of the "recurrent violations" of its resolutions, notably the one relating to arms embargo.

On this occasion, Ambassador Mimouni called the UN executive body to "cease foreign interference and revive the political process."

He also warned against the major impact of the situation in Libya on neighbouring countries. In this regard, the diplomat said that sanctions "should not be an end in itself but should be rather considered as an essential tool to back the political process. Therefore, they should be fully implemented at the risk of losing all meaning and credibility."

In the same vein, the representative of Algeria focused on the main thrusts of Algeria's approach on the situation in Libya.

The first thrust is based on a principle; "there can be no military solution in Libya and this should not be just a slogan," said Mimouni who stressed the urgent need to "act in a decisive way in order to ensure a sustainable ceasefire and reopen dialogue between the Libyan parties."

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Algeria is committed with all Libyan actors, neighboring countries and concerned partners to avoid a military escalation in Libya, recalled the Algerian diplomat.

The second thrust relates to the duty of "all relevant stakeholders to reaffirm once again their commitment to the conclusions of the Berlin Conference and to refrain from fuelling division and bloodshed in Libya."

In this regard, Ambassador Sofiane Mimouni reiterated Algeria's "firm" commitment to the conclusions of the Berlin Conference and its determination to continue its engagement within the International Follow-up Committee in order to ensure a favorable environment for the Libyan political process.

Thirdly, the diplomat stressed "the paramount importance of the centrality of an inclusive approach that would lead to an inclusive political solution defined by the Libyans and for the Libyans".

"It is up to the Libyans to bring peace to their country and to rebuild strong and unified institutions without foreign interference, be it political or military," he insisted.

Mimouni also assured that Algeria, as a neighboring country, "will always strive to preserve the legitimate rights of the Libyans and the stability of neighboring countries and to act as part of the solution and not part of the problem."

The fourth and last point is the need for "a strong international commitment to respect Libya's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the right of its people to benefit from their natural resources."

He considered that "there can be no West or East, no North or South. There is only one Libya and one Libyan people with legitimate aspirations for a peaceful future in a prosperous country."

In line with Africa's goal of silencing guns, the diplomat said that Algeria's vision and its efforts "are in the context of full respect for the dignity of human life and its sanctity, which cannot suffer any more from political haggling."

In the end, he called on the Security Council as well as the international community to "move away from narrow national agendas and promote concrete multilateral action in support of a political solution in Libya."

South Africa reiterates support to Sahrawi people's right to self-determination

GENEVA - South Africa on Wednesday reiterated its support to the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and independence, and reaffirmed the responsibility of the United Nations (UN) and its various bodies vis-à-vis the Western Sahara issue, said the Sahrawi Press Agency (SPS).

Quoted by SPS, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations Office in Geneva Nozipho Joyce Mxakato-Diseko, during an audience granted to Oubbi

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Bouchraya Bachir, representative of the Polisario Front in the EU, stated that "decolonization in Western Sahara is a historical imperative. Like South Africa, which today enjoys freedom, the victory of the Saharawi people is only a matter of time."

After having discussed with the South African ambassador the latest developments of the Saharawi issue "on all fronts," Bouchraya said that "the inability of the UN to achieve progress, at its various bodies in New York and Geneva, is undeniable proof of the lack of willingness of the Security Council and the International Council of Human Rights to boost the settlement process and avoid the region the repercussions of a new confrontation caused by Moroccan intransigence.

On behalf of the Saharawi people, the diplomat thanked South Africa for its constant solidarity positions towards the Saharawi issue and the central role of the South African diplomatic missions in New York, Geneva and other cities, in order to advocate the Saharawi cause and reaffirm the legal responsibility of the United Nations in the process of self-determination of the Saharawi people, through the organization of a free and transparent referendum, being the only way to define the final status of the territory."

MISCELLANEOUS

"Intangible heritage month" dedicated to traditional costume launched

ALGIERS - The Ministry of Culture and Arts announces the launch of the "month of intangible heritage" dedicated to traditional costume, under the name of "National days of Algerian costume", from August 3, said a press release from the Ministry.

This virtual event, organized as part of the project of the Ministry of Culture and the Arts to safeguard the intangible heritage, aims to "enrich the achievements in this field since 2003 by involving specialists, craftsmen and associations," added the press release.

This event includes weekly virtual conferences on intangible heritage and a festival of Algerian traditional costume.

Two competitions on the "oldest traditional family costume" and the "best redesigned costume" are also planned to be organized.