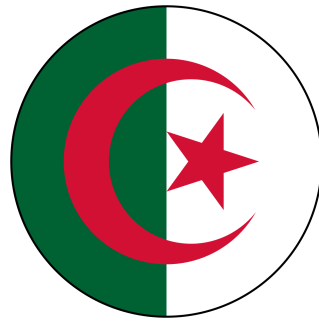


People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

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Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Air Algérie starts revalidating unused tickets during Coronavirus suspension

ALGIERS - The National airline Air Algérie has started the revalidation of some 600,000 tickets, for domestic and international flights, said Monday the spokesperson of the company, Amine Andaloussi.

These tickets have been bought but not consumed due to the suspension of air traffic on March 18 to curb the spread of Coronavirus pandemic.

"Air Algérie is currently updating its ticketing data. Since March 18, 17,000 flights have been cancelled, which equates to 600,000 domestic and international tickets," he told APS.

Since the launch of this update operation, on Sunday, customers flocked to Air Algérie agencies "to revalidate their tickets for later date travel," he said.

On Sunday, the commercial agencies of Air Algérie reopened in five cities, namely Algiers, Oran, Constantine, Annaba and Ouargla. These agencies have been equipped with means of prevention against the pandemic, in line with the sanitary recommendations.

The decision of reopening the air traffic exclusively falls within the public authorities, said the official. The suspension of Algerian air traffic since mid-March has already resulted in Air Algérie losses of around DZD38 billion. The losses may reach DZD 89 billion by the end of 2020.

Over three tons of cannabis seized by Army in Tindouf

ALGIERS - Three tons of cannabis were seized Sunday by a combined Army detachment in Tindouf (around 1000 km southwest of Algiers), the ministry of National Defence said Monday in a statement.

"As part of the fight against smuggling and organized crime and the sustained efforts to stem the spread of drug trafficking scourge in our country, a combined detachment of the People's National Army seized on 21 June 2020, a very large quantity of cannabis, amounting to three tonnes and 22 kilograms, in an operation near Oum Laachar, province of Tindouf (3rd military region)," the statement said.

In addition, an Army detachment "arrested five individuals and seized five power generating sets and three jackhammers used in illegal gold mining in Bordj Badji Mokhtar (6th Military Region)," while Coastguard units "thwarted attempts to smuggle 57 individuals aboard a makeshift boat in Oran (2nd military region).

In Bordj Badji Mokhtar and Tlemcen, nine illegal immigrants of different nationalities were intercepted.

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Awareness campaign on palm and fruit tree fires

ALGIERS - A prevention and awareness campaign on palm and fruit tree fires, kicked off on Monday from the province of Biskra (south of Algiers), is organized by the Directorate General of Civil Protection, as part of campaigns against the risks associated with the summer season, said a press release from this institution.

In 2019, 8,035 palm trees were ravaged by fire, a slight increase compared to 2018 during which the Civil Protection services had recorded the destruction by fire of 7,861 palm trees, recalled the same source. The main causes of these fires are attributed to various factors, in particular "non-compliance with safety and prevention rules against palm forest fires, farmers' recklessness and scorching heat".

In view of the economic consequences arising from these fires and in order to preserve the national agricultural product and food security, the Civil Protection operational units were instructed to "strengthen awareness-raising actions and carry out local campaigns to inform palm plantation operators and the population of the dangers of these fires and the measures to be taken to prevent them from breaking out."

In addition to the prevention program, the Civil Protection Directorate policy for the fight against palm fires is based on the establishment of an operational system composed of mobile columns, recently installed in all provinces, especially the southern provinces of the country, added the press release.

ECONOMIC NEWS

SAFAV-MB de Tiaret: 80 vehicles delivered to Directorate General of Forests

TIARET - The Directorate General of Forests (DGF) on Monday has received 80 class C all-terrain extinguishing vehicles, delivered by the Algerian Mercedes Benz Vehicle Manufacturing Company (SAFAV-MB) of Ain Bouchekif (Tiaret), under the Ministry of National Defense (MDN), Ali Mahmoudi the Head of the DGF said.

Speaking to the press, Mahmoudi said that the DGF has received a total of 164 all-terrain fire-fighting vehicles, including 44 in 2018 and 40 in 2019. The DGF now possesses 20 mobile columns operating in 40 provinces.

The same official also said that since the start of the firefighting campaign on June 1st, 110 forest fires have been recorded across the country, destroying 200 hectares of forest trees.

Omari calls on investors to get involved in food processing

OUM EL BOUAGHI (Algeria) - Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cherif Omari on Monday called investors to become involved in processing of agricultural products, pledging his department's support.

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"All investors wishing to get involved in the processing of agricultural products will benefit from support and assistance," Omari told APS on the sidelines of a working visit to the province of Oum El Bouaghi, He urged local officials managing the agricultural sector to launch initiatives to attract investors, especially young investors, adding that Oum El Bouaghi has important agropastoral potential, especially in the production of wool, leather, milk and garlic.

The Minister began his working visit to the province by the inauguration of a cereal storage complex, with a capacity of 30.000 tonnes, in Tagza, municipality of Sigus.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Western Sahara: Morocco's failure to abide by international legality, threat to regional peace

SIDNEY (Australia) - Polisario Front representative in Australia and New Zealand, Kamal Fadel, said Morocco's refusal to respect the international legality and UN silence are a "danger to peace and security in the region," and which, according to him, may lead to a war, and "Morocco and its allies will be the only side to blame."

The Saharawi diplomat, in a virtual conference held Saturday by the group of solidarity with Saharawi people in Australia, denounced "the existence of an occupying power in Western Sahara, which refuses to uphold the resolutions of the international legality."

Kamal Fadel said the silence of the international community is "one of the reasons that led the Moroccan regime to ignore the settlement plan sponsored by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations."

Asked about the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Saharawi people, Polisario's representative in Australia and New Zealand said the Moroccan regime "takes advantage of the pandemic to further suppress (the local population) in the occupied Saharawi territories and violate the human rights of Saharawi civilians, such as the repression of a peaceful demonstration in El-Ayoun on June 17."

COVID-19 LATEST NEWS

Covid-19: Slight increase in confirmed cases number isn't worrying for now

ALGIERS - The slight increase in the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases isn't worrying for the moment, said Sunday, in Algiers, the spokesman of the Scientific Committee for Monitoring the Progress of Coronavirus Pandemic Djamel Fourar.

In a statement following a daily press briefing devoted to the pandemic progress in Algeria, Fourar said that "the slight increase in the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases (140 new cases

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in the last 24 hours) is “normal,” in view of the resumption of some commercial, economic and social activities, after the partial and total lifting of the lockdown, reassuring that this increase “isn’t worrying for the moment.”

In this respect, he underlined that the non-respect of prevention measures, notably the wearing of masks, physical distancing and hygiene rules are the main causes of the increase that has been recorded recently.

Fourar stressed the citizens’ key role in the fight against the spread of this pandemic by respecting the prevention measures which remain until now the only solution to get out of this health crisis.

Covid-19: Locally produced screening kits found to meet requirements

ALGIERS - The validation batches of the screening kits locally produced by the "Vital Care" laboratory have been found to comply with the requirements of the National Agency for Pharmaceutical Products (ANPP), said the Algerian laboratory on Monday.

"On June 15, 2020, an on-site analysis of the three validation batches was carried out in the presence of experts from the National Agency for Pharmaceutical products. An evaluation report was established for this purpose and the three lots were declared compliant," said the same source.

As a reminder, Vital Care has launched the production of the three validation batches dated May 11, 2020 and the file for approval of these tests was filed on June 08, 2020 with the ANPP in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

With the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, "Vital Care started the manufacturing of rapid screening tests in order to contribute to the country’s capacities of response through screening and epidemiological surveys.

MISCELLANEOUS - CULTURE

Algiers’ Art Galleries resume activity progressively

ALGIERS - Private Art Galleries in Algiers have announced the gradual reopening of the exhibition spaces after nearly three months of closure due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Following the publication of Executive Decree 20-145 of June 7, 2020, reorganizing the system for preventing and combating the spread of the Coronavirus and authorizing the reopening of Art Galleries, among other commercial and economic activities, some galleries in the capital have decided to reconnect with plastic art fans while respecting the necessary prevention measures.

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The "Seen Art Gallery" facility, specializing in contemporary art, has decided to extend the retrospective exhibition on the works of the painter Ali-Khodja Ali entitled "Mystical Garden" which was visible on the gallery's Facebook page during the three month closure.

The gallery manager announces a collective exhibition of artists Malek Salek, the Yellow Man, Mehdi Djelil, Adlane Samet, or even photographer Hocine Zaourar.

Other spaces have also resumed their activities such as the "Aïda" gallery and "Ifru Design" which offers an extension of the embroidery exhibition by photographer and visual artist Allmuth Bourenane entitled "When the thread ends".

The "Colors and Heritage" Gallery also reopened its doors, mainly offering its visitors, handicrafts and ceramic works while the "Le paon" gallery announces the reopening of its space at the Ryadh El Feth Office from June 28.