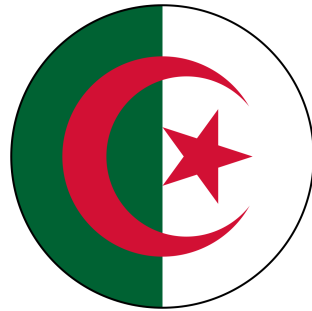


# **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

**Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia**



## **Press Review**

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **DOMESTIC NEWS**

#### **Higher education: Government approves creation of school of computer science and technology in Bejaïa**

*ALGIERS* - A draft executive decree on the creation of a higher school of computer science and technology in Bejaïa was approved by the Government during a videoconference meeting chaired on Wednesday by Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad.

This Higher School is meant to "reinforce the network of national higher education schools which are designed to be centres for technological and economic development aiming at creating regional hubs of excellence through the training of highly qualified human resources," the statement said.

Training in this area is also provided, according to the same source, by the National School of Computer Science (ENSI) of Algiers and the School of Computer Science (ESI) of Sidi Bel Abbas. However, the "training offer cannot meet the national needs in the specialties of IT, digital technology and the internet."

"This school, which is based in university center of Amizour, in the province of Bejaïa, has all the necessary infrastructure as well as material and pedagogical means," added the source. The school is "operational to welcome students to the next academic year".

### **COVID-19 NEWS**

#### **Covid-19: State's efforts to contain pandemic remain ineffective if citizens do not respect prevention measures**

*ALGIERS* - The State's efforts to contain Covid-19 pandemic will remain ineffective if the citizens do not respect the prevention measures, said Tuesday, in Algiers, spokesman of the Scientific Committee for monitoring the corona virus pandemic progress Djamel Fourar.

On the sidelines of the daily press briefing devoted to the progress of Covid-19 pandemic, Fourar insisted on "the importance for citizens to become aware of their major role to contain the pandemic and break the contamination chain," underlining that "the efforts made by the State and the means mobilized in the hospitals remain ineffective if citizens do not protect their health and that of their relatives and fellow citizens."

Concerning the increase in the number of cases in the last few days, the expert said that this situation "spares no country in the world," pointing out that "the countries which lifted the lockdown are thinking today about other means to face this virus."

While broaching the warnings of the World Health Organization (WHO), which reported more than 200,000 new cases in the last 24 hours, Fourar affirmed that the situation is "worrying".

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Concerning this bounce-back in the contaminations which exceeded 500 cases in Algeria in the last 24 hours, Fourar said that these results “were predictable” and that “the only way to overcome this ordeal is the awareness and respect by the citizens of prevention measures to preserve their health and that of others.”

### **ECONOMIC NEWS**

#### **OPEC+ agreement: Very satisfactory compliance**

*ALGIERS* - The overall compliance with the agreement on output cut, concluded between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, has reached a very satisfactory level in June, Minister of Energy Abdelmadjid Attar said Wednesday in Algiers.

"The compliance rate is very satisfactory with nearly 112% for OPEC countries and around 100% for non-OPEC countries," Attar told reporters at the opening ceremony of Sonelgaz Group Ethics Committee.

The commitment of OPEC+ countries has helped to raise the price per barrel, which is currently between 42 and 43 dollars for the Brent (compared to 25 dollars at the end of April), the minister said.

The average price per barrel for 2020 is expected to exceed 40 dollars, Attar said, referring to the latest studies and analyses of the oil market.

The OPEC and non-OPEC Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) will hold its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting this afternoon by videoconference, with the participation of Attar.

#### **AfDB: Algerian Rabah Arezki appointed chief economist, vice president**

*ALGIERS* - The African Development Bank (AfDB) has appointed Algerian Dr. Rabah Arezki as Chief Economist/Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management, from 1 October 2020, the pan-African institution said.

An Algerian national, Dr. Rabah Arezki is currently Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa at the World Bank, a position he had held since 2017.

At the World Bank, he spearheaded the development of the Bank's "moonshot" approach to the Middle East and Africa, which aims to achieve full connectivity to the internet and digital payment.

"He has championed the agenda on fair competition and transparency of data in order to empower and unleash the potential of young people in the region," the African Development Bank said.

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Prior to joining the World Bank, Dr. Arezki worked at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 2006 to 2017.

He began his career at the IMF as an economist and was promoted to head of the Commodities and Environment Unit in the Research Department.

Dr. Arezki is a senior research fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (USA), an external research associate at the University of Oxford (UK), and a researcher at CESifo, an independent global research network.

### **Oil: OPEC+ countries "on track" to support prices**

*ALGIERS* - OPEC+ countries are "on the right track" to sustain oil prices, even if uncertainties related to a new wave of the global Covid-19 pandemic persists, Energy Minister Abdelmadjid Attar said Wednesday in Algiers.

Speaking at a press conference via videoconference on the sidelines of the 20th meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC), Attar said that OPEC+ member countries are "on the right track, even if there are still uncertainties related to a possible second wave of the global pandemic.

"We in Algeria are optimistic, we are 103% compliant with the Compliance Agreement and we continue to stand in solidarity with the other OPEC+ member countries," he said.

Welcoming the "excellent production compliance rate" of OPEC+ countries at 107%, the minister said that this rate has enabled markets to stabilize above \$40/barrel.

"This is good news. This compliance rate will certainly improve during the third quarter, thanks to the member countries that were unable to reach this rate of compliance during the month of June," he added.

The work of the 20th meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) is devoted to the examination of the situation of the international oil market and its short and medium-term development prospects.

### **Yacine Oualid takes part in regional congress of World Economic Forum**

*ALGIERS* - Minister Delegate for the Knowledge Economy and Start-ups, Yacine Oualid, took part Wednesday in the regional congress of the World Economic Forum, the ministry delegated to the Prime Minister.

The event will be held by videoconference in the presence of many ministers in charge of economic sectors in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, including the Minister of Industry and Mines of Saudi Arabia, the Minister of Foreign Trade of the United Arab Emirates and the Minister of International Cooperation of Egypt, the same source said.

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The Congress will also see the presence of the most important economic players in the region and will address various topics, including the interest of Stakeholder Capitalism in the region, the impact of Covid-19 on economic sectors and especially the management of supply chains.

### **Car industry: Government approves two draft executive decrees**

*ALGIERS* - The government approved Wednesday during a videoconference meeting chaired by Prime Minister Adelaziz Djerad, two draft executive decrees defining the conditions and procedures for the practice of car manufacturing activity and new vehicle dealers as well as the related set of specifications.

The draft decree establishing the conditions and procedures for the practice of vehicle construction activity and the relating set of specifications aims to "define a new strategy for the car assembly industry, which breaks with the rent approach adopted until then.

This approach has been detrimental to State resources and consumer interests," said a statement from the Prime Minister's office.

The draft decree establishing the conditions and procedures for the exercise of the activity of new vehicle dealers and the relating set of specifications introduces "new rigorous measures regarding the granting of authorizations for the car dealer activity exercise, in particular those aiming to protect the consumer."

Consumer protection will be achieved by "providing them with a product that is technically reliable and safe," while limiting the impact of these (vehicle) imports on the country's foreign currency resources, the statement said.

The two draft executive decrees were presented by the Minister of Industry at this meeting.

## **FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

### **Polisario Front calls on UN to assume responsibilities in occupied Western Sahara**

*BIR LAHLOU* - The Polisario Front called Wednesday the United Nations to assume its responsibilities in Western Sahara and to organize, as soon as possible, of a referendum on self-determination so that the Sahrawi people decide freely on their future.

In a communiqué culminating the works of the meeting of its National Secretariat, the Polisario Front called on the United Nations and Security Council to "play their role efficiently in this conflict to maintain peace and international security."

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The Polisario Front reiterated its position adopted after the 15<sup>th</sup> congress, held at the end of 2019 in the liberated city of Tifariti. During this congress, the Polisario Front announced that it will reconsider its participation in the ongoing political process.

“In the face of the repeated failure of the international community to prevent Morocco from imposing the terms of the peace process and the UN’s role in Western Sahara, the Polisario has no other choice but to reconsider its participation in the peace process as a whole,” said the Front in a communiqué published following the meeting of its executive.

In this regard, The Polisario Front condemned “the systematic human rights violations against defenseless Sahrawi civilians in the occupied territories and the south of Morocco,” emphasizing the “need to lift the blockade and the siege imposed by the Moroccan occupation State, and to stop immediately the plundering of the natural resources of Western Sahara.”

### **Borrell buries fiction of Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara**

*BRUSSELS* - The European Union (EU), through the voice of its High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell “has struck a deadly blow to the fiction of Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara,” said Wednesday Algeria’s ambassador to Brussels Amar Belani.

“For the third time, within ten day 3, 7 and 13 July 2020), the European Union, through the voice of its High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell has struck a deadly blow to the fiction of Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara,” said Belani in a statement to APS.

In a response to the growing pressure within the European Union on the issue of Western Sahara (status, resources, human rights ,....) as evidenced by the increase in the number of written questions sent by the Euro-deputies to the European Commission which is called to respond within six weeks, the latter “has reaffirmed that for itself, as well as for all its member States, Western Sahara remains a non-self-governing territory whose final status hasn’t been decided yet and which will be determined by the results of the current process conducted by the United Nations,” added Belani.

To this reassertion of an unshakeable and firm position on the non-recognition of the so-called Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara, the High Representative added that “EU supports the efforts of the UN Secretary General to reach a fair, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, guaranteeing the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.”

### **Calls for urgent action to liberate Sahrawi detainees**

*CHAHID EL-HAFEDH* – The Sahrawi National Commission for Human Rights (CONASADH) urged the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to undertake urgent action to release all Sahrawi civilian prisoners illegally detained in the Moroccan prisons.

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Abba Al-Hussein, chairman of CONASADH, quoted on Wednesday by the Sahrawi Press Agency (SPS), told the participants of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held Tuesday via videoconference, that "the Sahrawi State have taken since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, a series of precautionary and preventive measures," stressing that "all the Sahrawi citizens are involved in the strict application of these measures."

The same official also welcomed "Algeria for its multifaceted solidarity" with the Sahrawi people, recalling "the humanitarian assistance provided by Algeria for the construction of a field hospital in the Sahrawi refugee camps."

The Sahrawi official expressed his organization's concern over the danger posed by the Coronavirus spread in the occupied territories of the Sahrawi Republic, which threatens the lives of the Sahrawi population living under occupation, in particular in prisons in Morocco.

Al-Hussein held "the Moroccan state, fully responsible for the lives of Sahrawi civilian prisoners", calling on the African Commission for Human and peoples' rights "as part of its mandate to urgently intervene to end the suffering of Sahrawi civilian prisoners to protect and release them."

In this regard, he affirmed the need to implement the AU Executive Council's "Resolution [EX.CL/Dec.775](#) (XXIII) and [EX.CL / 1164](#) (XXV) ", which calls on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to visit the occupied Sahrawi territories to investigate the situation in these occupied territories.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### *SPORT*

#### **FIFA pays tribute to late referee Mohamed Kouradj**

*ALGIERS* - The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) paid a glowing tribute to former Algerian international referee Mohamed Kouradj who died with coronavirus on Thursday in Constantine at the age of 68.

In a letter sent to Chairman of the Algerian Federation of Football (FAF) Kheireddine Zetchi, FIFA's head Gianni Infantino offered his heartfelt condolences as well as those of the international community of football to the family of the deceased, his relatives and friends as well as to FAF.

FIFA's head praised the qualities of this referee "who passed away a few days ago, victim of coronavirus, leaving an important legacy and a reputation which went past our borders."  
"An accomplished sportsman, football referee for more than two decades, an important name in the African and Algerian refereeing, his legacy and achievements in and outside the field won't be forgotten", said Infantino in his message.

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### ***CULTURE***

#### **Feature film, "Abou Leila," screened in French cinema**

*ALGIERS* - The feature film "Abou Leila," by Algerian director Amine Sidi Boumediène, screened this Wednesday in cinemas across France, announced the film's distributor on its website.

"Ufo distribution" announces the screening of the film "Abou Leila" for the general public in four theatres in Paris and around 40 theatres in major French cities in particular, subject to a reduction in the number of admissions and reinforced hygiene measures against the spread of the corona virus.

A 140-minute Algerian-French-Qatari co-production, "Abou Leïla" looks back on the tragic events of the 1990s through the story of young people, Samir, played by Slimane Benouari and Lotfi, camped by Lyes Salem, who track down Abou Leïla, a dangerous terrorist, in the Algerian desert, in a thriller that explores the major impact of violence and related traumas on society.

Amine Sidi Boumediene's debut feature, after his two shorts, "Demain Alger" and "El Djazira", was awarded the Critics' Prize at the Barcelona Film Festival "D'A" in 2020, after a remarkable programme in 2019 at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival, in the "Critics' Week" section.