# Algeria Today

## July 2015

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President Bouteflika hosts leader of Tunisia's Ennahda movement

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, hosted on Wednesday, July 1, in Algiers, Mr. Rashed Ghannouchi, president of the Tunisian political movement Ennahda.

During their meeting, the head of the state and his guest reviewed the situation prevailing in the Maghreb-Middle East region and underscored "the significance of dialogue as a means of resolving conflicts."

Mr. Ghannouchi declared that his discussions with President Bouteflika were an occasion to "affirm the principle of consensus and to underline the imperative necessity of avoiding conflicts and any foreign interference in the domestic affairs of the countries of the region."
President Bouteflika hosts India's Prime Minister's Special Envoy

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, hosted on July 13 in Algiers Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Indian Minister of State for Agriculture and Special Envoy of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Balyan was carrying a letter from the Indian prime minister to President Bouteflika inviting him to take part in the 3rd India-Africa Summit Meeting, scheduled to convene next Oct. 29 in New Delhi.

President Bouteflika partially reshuffles his Cabinet

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, partially reshuffled on Thursday, July 23, his Cabinet, in keeping with the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution, a statement released by the Presidency of the Republic announced on Thursday.

Begin Quote

"In keeping with the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, president of the Republic and Minister for National Defense, has taken today, upon consultation with the Prime Minister, a presidential decree partially reshuffling his government," the statement indicated.

Appointed are Messrs.:
- Belaïb Bakhti, Minister of Commerce
- Ferroukhi Sid Ahmed, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Fisheries
- El Hadi Ould Ali, Minister of Youth and Sports

End Quote
President Bouteflika chairs Council of Ministers

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, chaired on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, in Algiers a meeting by the Council of Ministers.

Several items were on the meeting's agenda, including the 2015 Supplemental Finance Law and measures leading up to resumption of social developments after the summer break.

(To read Statement issued by the Council of Ministers, click here)

President Bouteflika signs five decrees ratifying international cooperation conventions

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, signed five (05) decrees ratifying agreements and conventions of international cooperation, in keeping with Article 77-11 of the Constitution.

The first decree dealt with the ratification of the "Financial Protocol between the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Government of the Tunisian Republic, signed in Algiers on March 10, 2015."

The second decree dealt with the ratification of "the convention on the extradition of accused and convicted persons between the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, signed in Riyadh on April 13, 2013."

The third decree dealt with the ratification of "the convention between the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Government of the State of Kuwait to avoid double taxation and prevent tax evasion on income taxes, signed in Kuwait City on April 20, 2008."

The fourth decree dealt with the ratification of "the agreement for cultural cooperation between the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Government of the Republic of Colombia, signed in Bogotá on January 24, 2007."

The fifth decree dealt with the ratification of "the amendment of paragraph (c)(ii) of Article 12 of the agreement on the International Satellite Telecommunications Organization (Intelsat), approved by the thirty-first extraordinary session of the parties, convened in Paris on March 20-23, 2007."
Prime Minister Sellal hosts Special Envoy of Prime Minister Modi of India

Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal met on July 13 in Algiers with Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Indian Minister of State for Agriculture and Special Envoy of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During their meeting, the two officials reviewed the state of the Algerian-Indian bilateral relations and renewed the shared commitment of both countries to intensify their efforts to diversify and further develop the volume of exchanges between Algeria and India.

They also agreed the one of the major chapters of Algerian-Indian cooperation will include joint development in the agricultural sector of enterprises for agricultural production and veterinary medicines and vaccines.
Prime Minister Sellal makes a working visit in Spain

Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal made a working visit in Spain on July 21, responding to an invitation extended to him by Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

During his visit, Mr. Sellal led an important ministerial delegation taking part in the proceedings of the 6th Algerian-Spanish high-level bilateral meeting, which he chaired jointly with his Spanish counterpart.

During their meeting, the two sides reviewed their bilateral relations, namely in the economic sector, and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest, including the fight against terrorism.

The meeting concluded with the signature of nine agreements passed in various areas, including youth, agriculture, rural development, animal husbandry, fisheries, aquaculture, higher education, education, health, transport, and archives.

In remarks delivered at the opening of the meeting, Mr. Sellal called for setting up a stronger Algeria-Spain strategic partnership benefiting the peoples of both countries. In that regard, Mr. Sellal noted that everything acted in support of a "strong" and "mutually beneficial" relationship between Algeria and Spain.

During his visit, Mr. Sellal was also hosted by Spain's King Felipe VI at the Zarzuela Palace. Following his audience with the King, Mr. Sellal held talks with his Spanish counterpart, Prime Minister Rajoy.
Mr. Lamamra meets for talks with South Korean counterpart

Minister of State, minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ramtane Lamamra hosted his South Korean counterpart Yun Byung-Se for talks on July 16 in Algiers.

During their meeting, the two officials affirmed the willingness of the two countries to "further develop their bilateral cooperation in various areas."

Speaking at a joint press conference held with Mr. Lamamra, Mr. Yun Byung-Se declared that South Korea was "ready" to share with Algeria and other African partners its experience in economic development.

Pursuing, the South Korean official called his country a "perfect" partner for Algeria with regards to economic growth and an "ally" at the regional and international levels. "Algeria is the only country in Africa with whom South Korea has signed a strategic partnership agreement," Mr. Yun said, adding that the two countries share "common approaches" at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

He also insisted to note that Algeria plays a "primordial" role in support of securing peace and stability in the Sahel and Maghreb region.

The head of South Korea's diplomacy hailed as well the efforts deployed by Algeria as leader of the international mediation to try to secure a peace and national reconciliation agreement in Mali.

With regards to Libya, Mr. Yun praised the "very important" role played by Algeria in seeking a political and peaceful solution to the crisis prevailing in that country.

In that context, he said his country "appreciates the leadership and all that is contributed by the president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, to support peace and stability in the whole region."
Mr. Lamamra conveys a message from President Bouteflika to Tunisia's President

Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ramtane Lamamra conveyed to Tunisian President Béji Caïd Essebsi on July 14 in Tunis a message from President Abdelaziz Bouteflika sent as part of regular consultations between the two countries, according to Foreign Ministry statement released on July 15.

Mr. Lamamra conveyed the message from President Bouteflika at an audience granted by President Essebsi to Mr. Lamamra in the framework of his two-day working visit on July 13 and 14 in Tunis. That visit was part of "the consultations held by the two countries in view of the specific events and challenges imposed by terrorism, in addition to their commitment to work toward strengthening their bilateral relations and intensifying coordination between the two sisterly countries."

He added that the visit also offered the two sides an opportunity to discuss "a number of fundamental issues of mutual interest."

Mr. Lamamra was also hosted by the head of the Tunisian government, Mr. Habib Essid, and held talks with his Tunisian counterpart Taïeb Baccouche.

In remarks made to the media, Mr. Lamamra expressed "Algeria's support and full solidarity with Tunisia as it experienced these difficult times, namely in the aftermath of the odious terrorist attack targeting the city of Sousse."
Mr. Lamamra holds talks with UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs

Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ramtane Lamamra met for talks on July 7, in Algiers, with Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, UN Under-Secretary General and head of the organization's Political Affairs department.

Speaking to media representatives after his meeting with Mr. Lamamra, Mr. Feltman said UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon "appreciates the existing strong relation between the Algerian government and the United Nations."

He said his discussions with the head of Algerian diplomacy covered regional and international issues, in particular those related to security in the region, and hailed Algeria's support of UN efforts to resolve the conflict in Libya.

Mr. Lamamra takes part in ministerial informal consultations held in lead-up to COP21 climate change conference

Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ramtane Lamamra was in Paris, France, on July 20, to take part in informal ministerial consultations as part of the preparation for the Conference on Climate Change, scheduled to convene next December in the French capital.

At the first session of consultations, Mr. Lamamra said Algeria calls for a Paris Agreement on Climate planned for next December that is "strongly anchored and shaped" by ethics, fairness, and inter- and intra-generational solidarity, and meeting the expectations of the peoples."

Mr. Lamamra explained that this "universal Agreement should therefore be ambitious, sustainable, and based on the most recent scientific data" and needs to be "flexible so as to be able to quickly react to the evolutionary requirements of tomorrow and to the unanticipated unknowns of a world that's constantly changing".
Mr. Lamamra and French counterpart hold talks

Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ramtane Lamamra held talks on July 23 in Paris with his French counterpart Minister for Foreign affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius.

Held on the heels of Mr. Lamamra's participation in informal ministerial consultations convened in the lead-up to the Paris conference on climate change scheduled for next December, the meeting was an opportunity for both ministers to assess the progress achieved toward that end and the prospects of narrowing the gap between various positions on key issues such as differentiation, adaptation, financing and transfer of technologies.

The two ministers also "exchanged views on a wide range of issues regarding Algerian-French relations in the light of the orientations issued on the heels of the discussions held by presidents Abdelaziz Bouteflika and François Hollande on July 15 in Algiers.

Messrs. Lamamra and Fabius also discussed in a constructive manner issues relating the movement of persons between the two countries and taking into account circumstances related to the ongoing delivery operations for the issuance of biometric passports.
Mr. Messahel takes part in the international conference on countering extremism and on de-radicalization

Proceedings for the International Conference on Countering Extremism and on De-Radicalization opened on July 22 in Algiers with delegates representing over fifty countries and specialized international organizations.

The two-day conference was a forum for "exchange of experience in combating terrorism and extremism and discussions of topics including Islamophobia and xenophobia, which is also a form of extremism," while calling for "combating this phenomenon through promulgation of laws."

Initiated by Algeria and encouraged by the United Nations, the gathering offered an opportunity to present major actions conducted by Algeria in combating terrorism and extremism.

In remarks he delivered at the opening of the conference, Minister for Maghreb, African Union and Arab League Affairs Abdelkader Messahel said Algeria is convinced that its fight against terrorism and its ideological matrices is a long-term enterprise which calls for joint efforts by the whole international community.

He also noted that combating terrorism and extremism must also include countering xenophobia and Islamophobia, which now strongly appear as the new faces of violent extremism.

According to the minister, xenophobia and Islamophobia contribute to radicalization and recruitment into extremist and even terrorist groups, adding that audacious institutional responses should be the foundation of the fight against those dangerous scourges.

Speaking before delegates from over fifty countries and international specialized organizations, Mr. Messahel said separating Islam, a religion of peace and tolerance, from extremism "is an imperative demand which challenges the entire international community."

The Algiers conference issued 30 recommendations, which will be submitted for consideration at the summit meeting scheduled to convene in New York next September.
Algeria-Spain: Ten agreements signed at the conclusion of the 6th high-level meeting

Ten cooperation agreements were signed in Madrid between Algeria and Spain, at the conclusion of the 6th high-level meeting held between the two countries under the joint chairmanship of Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal and the head of the Spanish government, Mr. Mariano Rajoy.

The agreements were signed, for Algeria, by Minister of State, minister for Foreign affairs and International Cooperation Ramtane Lamamra and, for Spain, by the ministers of Agriculture, Food Industry, and Environment; Health and Social Services; Equipments; Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the minister of Education, Culture and Sports, with each signed for their respective sector.

The agreements included four memorandums of accord relating to the sectors of health, infrastructures and transports, scientific research, and youth.

Three executive programs were also signed in the areas of agriculture, rural development and animal husbandry, fisheries, aquaculture, and education.

A program for implementation of the MOU in the area of archives was also signed on that occasion, as well as a schedule for sports cooperation for 2015-2016, along with an additive to the executive program on agriculture.
Algiers hosts 8th International Youth Literature and Book Festival (FELIV)

The El-Harrach, Algiers, Metro Station was selected to host an exhibition and photo show by Algerian writers, as the 8th edition of the International Youth Literature and Book Festival (FELIV) opened on July 23 in the Algerian capital.

Titled "Diverse Perspectives on Algerian Literature", the exhibition featured portraits of some forty Algerian authors immortalized through the lens of the talented photographer Kais Djilali, with texts penned by Khadidja Chouit.

The exhibition was also on display at six other subway stations in the Algiers area offering drawing workshops as well.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony opening the festival was attended by several high officials, including Minister of Culture Azzedine Mihoubi, Minister of Transportation Boudjemaa Talai, Minister for National Solidarity Mounia Meslem, and Advisors to the President of the Republic Mohamed Ali Boughazi and Saadeddine Nouiouat.

For this year's edition, the festival initiated a new space for meeting and exchanges called the "Café littéraire", where members of the public could meet and greet invited writers, attend conferences and workshops held in municipalities around the Algiers metropolitan area, including in the cities of Rouiba and El-Harrach, and even farther west of the capital in the ancient city of Roman times, the world-renowned Cherchell, Province of Tipaza. The events were organized in addition to numerous other literary get-togethers and conferences scheduled to take place in Algiers and centered on the themes of "exile" and "return".

Similarly to every year, the FELIV festival will offer until July 29 shows for young children and musical events featuring this year stars like Ali Amrane, Amel Zen, Anis Benhallak, as well as a Chaabi-Flamenco music performance moderated by P'tit Moh and Juan Carmona.
Open-air Movie Shows featured throughout Algeria

Movie projection cycles for about a dozen documentary films and long-feature films included in the "Ciné Madina" and "Ciné Plage" city and beach movies projection programs got started throughout Algeria with the launch of the national program on July 20.

Organized by the Algeria Agency for Cultural Radiance AARC in partnership with Provincial Cultural Departments across the country, the program will continue through the month of September and includes open-air movie projections over a period of seven days at beach areas along the Algerian coastline and four days inland in several cities of the country.

The "Ciné Madina" (Ciné is short for cinema and Madina means city in Arabic) program will start in the cities of Djelfa, Blida and Batna and continue on across a long list of cities in the country.

The program will feature movies shown in open-air spaces in city squares of cities including Aïn Temouchent, Mostaganem, Sidi Bel Abbès, Mascara, Jijel, Skikda, Béchar (Bel Abbès), Constantine, Souk Ahras, and Khenchela.

Long-feature movies including "Parfums d'Alger" by Rachid Benhadj, "Harraga Blues" by Moussa Haddad, "Yema" by Djamila Sahraoui, "Titi" by Khaled Barkat, and "Héroïne" by Chérif Aggoun will be shown along with documentaries such "Algérie vue du ciel" (Algeria Seen from Above) by Tann Arthus Bertrand and "Abdelkader" by Salem Brahim, as well as animation films.

The "Ciné Plage" (Plage is French for the word Beach) will take place on Aug. 1-16 and will feature projection of movies, shorts and animation films at beach sites in the cities of Oran, Béjaïa, Annaba, Tlemcen, Boumerdès and Algiers.
Taekwondo/Jeonju International Open: Algeria wins four medals, including one Gold

The Algerian men and women team taking part in the international taekwondo competition Jeonju International Open meeting in South Korea brought home four medals (1 gold and 3 bronze).

The gold medal was won by Samia Zeggane in the under-67 kg women's category, whereas her teammate Sarah Dad won a bronze medal in the under-62 kg women's category. Their male teammates were not left out since Youcef Khelfallah (under 54 kg) and Sofiane Merzouk (under 68 kg) won two other bronze medals as well.

The eight-member (5 men and 3 women) Algerian selection has been in South Korea since July 2 as it went through preparing for the competition at Gyonggido University until July 15.

In addition to taking part in the Jeonju International Open competition, the Algerian selection will also participate in several other world competitions, including the prestigious "World Taekwondo Hammadang", from July 30 to Aug. 2.
World Rowing Competition: The Algerian athlete Amina Rouba gets 2nd place in B Finals, 8th in general ranking

Competing in the rowing world cup held in Lucerne, Switzerland (July 10-12), the Algerian rowing champion Amina Rouba earned a good second place in the B Finals third stage classification.

Rouba ended in 8th place in the skiff lightweight general ranking in the women's category, after having earned a decent fourth place in her series.

The team's technical leaders expressed their satisfaction with Amina's result, calling it great performance. The Algerian athlete scored a competition time of 8:37:90 in a four-lap heat, each 500-meter long.