PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES

MR. ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA REELECTED TO A FOURTH TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, was reelected to a fourth term with 81.53% of the votes cast at the presidential election of April 17, 2014, Minister of State, Minister of Interior and Local Governments Tayeb Belaiz announced on April 18.

In a statement released on April 22, the Constitutional Council made public the definitive results of the April 17, 2014, presidential election, declaring a voter participation rate of 50.70% and proclaiming the incumbent president, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Republic of Algeria, with 8,531,311 votes won, representing the absolute majority of the votes cast.

At an official swearing-in ceremony held at the Palace of Nations in Algiers and attended by the members of the government, national leading personalities, historic and political personalities, and the diplomatic corps accredited to Algeria, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika read the terms of the oath as called for by Article 76 of the Constitution, thus inaugurating his fourth term.

PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA RECEIVES THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who was in Algeria for a two-day working visit, was received on April 3 in Algiers by the president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

The presidential audience took place in the presence of Minister of State and Chief of Staff of the presidency of the Republic, Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia, and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra.

Mr. Kerry's visit was taking place within the framework of the "strategic dialogue" between Algeria and the United States and the consolidation of their cooperation.

President Bouteflika conveyed to Mr. Kerry Algeria's wish to benefit from U.S. technology and intelligence, to which Mr. Kerry responded that his country will favorably consider Algeria's request for assistance in those areas.

In that regard, the president of the Republic said Algeria wished to see the commitment expressed by the head of American diplomacy materialize and noted that such commitments had repeatedly been expressed in the past but "materializing them had been difficult."
PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA HOLDS TALKS WITH EMIR OF QATAR

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, held talks on April 3 in Algiers with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Ben Hamad Al Thani, who arrived for an official visit at the invitation of the president of the Republic.

The visit provided an opportunity for the president of the Republic to discuss with the Emir the "ways and means to strengthen and advance bilateral relations in various spheres with the objective of meeting the expectations of the two brotherly peoples."

It also enabled the two heads of state to pursue their coordination and concertation and to exchange views on various Arab, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA RECEIVES SPAIN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika received on April 12 in Algiers Spain's foreign minister, Mr. José Manuel Garcia-Margallo y Marfil, who arrived in Algeria for a visit at the invitation of his Algerian counterpart, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra.

The Spanish foreign minister's visit was part of the deepening of concertation and political dialogue between Algeria and Spain, in keeping with the terms of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-Neighborliness that the two countries signed in Oct. 2012.

It was also taking place within the framework of the preparation of the 6th high-level meeting between Algeria and Spain, scheduled to take place during the last term of this year.

In a statement made after his meeting with President Bouteflika, Mr. Garcia-Margallo y Marfil noted the existence of the "great opportunities" for cooperation, namely in the housing and tourism sectors.

"In the cultural area, we have decided to increase our cooperation through collaboration from the Cervantes Institute," Mr. Garcia-Margallo y Marfil said, adding that his meeting with the president was a "special event."
PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA HOSTS JOINT UN-ARAB LEAGUE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SYRIA LAKHDAR BRAHIMI

The president of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, hosted on Sunday, April 13 in Algiers Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, the Joint UN-Arab League Special Envoy for Syria.

Speaking to the media after the presidential audience, Mr. Brahimi said he had discussed with the president several regional and international, namely the "worsening" situation in Syria.

He declared that he would strive to help the Syrian people get out of the crisis which has engulfed his country.
MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES

ACTING PRIME MINISTER YOUSFI RECEIVES BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE FOR NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The Acting Prime minister, Mr. Youcef Yousfi, met on Wednesday in Algiers with Mr. Hugh Robertson, Britain's Minister of State for North Africa and the Middle East, who was in Algeria on a working visit.

During the meeting, Mr. Robertson, speaking on behalf of British Prime Minister David Cameron, conveyed to the Algerian people and their leaders the congratulations of his country for holding a successful presidential election on April 17, 2014.

The discussions between the two officials covered a wide array of issues relating to the evolution of bilateral relations, both at the political level and with regards to the economic cooperation between the two countries.

In that respect, the two sides agreed to examine all ways and opportunities likely to strengthen the ongoing dynamics enjoyed by the Algerian-British relationship, namely through the concertation and coordination mechanism represented by the Bilateral Cooperation Committee.

ACTING PRIME MINISTER YOUSFI MEETS WITH NIGER'S HEAD OF DIPLOMACY

Acting Prime Minister Youcef Yousfi met on April 23 in Algiers with Niger's Minister for Foreign Affairs Mohamed Bazoum, who arrived in Algeria for a working visit taking place as part of consultation meeting on security and development in the Sahel region.

During their meeting, the two officials reviewed the situation prevailing in the whole sub-region, essentially its security and political aspects.

In this respect, the acting prime minister assured his interlocutor of Algeria's availability to sustain, as it has always done to this day, its efforts with a view to strengthening further relations of cooperation and coordination with all its neighbors and partners in the region.
VISIT BY U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY: OPENING OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE ALGERIAN-AMERICAN STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrived on April 2 in Algiers for a two-day working visit conducted as part of the "strategic dialogue" between Algeria and the United States and the consolidation of their cooperation.

The proceeds of the 2nd session of the Algerian-American Strategic Dialogue opened on April 3 in Algiers and were co-chaired by Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

Working groups focusing on cooperation in the areas of security, political affairs, economic and trade affairs were put in place on that occasion. During the proceedings, wide discussions were held on strengthening Algerian-American relations, counterterrorism, and Middle East peace negotiations.

In their opening addresses, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry both underscored the need to strengthen cooperation between the two countries and to expand it to other areas as well.

The two countries agreed to share their experience and know-how in the sectors of education, higher learning, and science and technology and, in that same vein, agreed to open in Sept. 2015 an American international school in Algiers.

The fight against terrorism was discussed at length during the session and at the joint press conference which followed the opening ceremony, where the two sides were "unanimous" in calling terrorism a scourge "which targets and threatens all nations."

On that point, Mr. Kerry affirmed U.S. support to Algeria in its fight against terrorism and hailed the efforts deployed to restore stability in the Sahel region.

Again in the security area, the two countries reaffirmed their support to the Global Counter-terrorism Forum (GCTF) and agreed to work jointly to combat this scourge, share information, and fight against kidnappings against ransom.

In the economic area, the two countries agreed to deepen their economic and trade relations. The United States supports development of the Algerian energy sector, namely in the area of renewable energy technologies and non-fossil hydrocarbons.
MR. LAMAMRA TAKES PART IN ARAB LEAGUE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING IN CAIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra traveled to Cairo to take part on April 9 in the proceedings of the extraordinary meeting of the Arab League devoted to the Palestinian question.

The meeting by the Arab foreign ministers was devoted to "the latest developments relating to the Palestinian question." Participants have also discussed ways to reenergize peace negotiations with a view to enabling the Palestinian people to recover their legitimate national rights, including creating an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

On that occasion, Mr. Lamamra reaffirmed Algeria's steadfast position and its indefectible support for Arab and African decisions and for just causes throughout the world.

He indicated in that regard that Algeria will host next May a ministerial meeting of Non-Aligned Countries, all the more, he said, that the current international context demands a "strong movement which reflects the wills, values and ideals that Algeria has steadfastly defended to consolidate national independence and solidarity among developing countries to enable them to impose their rights on the international scene."

Mr. Lamamra held activities on the sidelines of the meeting as well, holding talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. During the meeting with President Abbas, Mr. Lamamra reiterated Algeria's support of the struggle by the Palestinian people for the recovery of their legitimate national rights, including establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

He also expressed to Mr. Abbas Algeria's support of the decision by the Palestinian Authority to join 15 international organizations, conventions and treaties.

Furthermore, Mr. Lamamra met with the secretary general of the Arab League, the first vice-president of the council of ministers and foreign minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah, Egypt's foreign minister Nabil Fahmi, Libya's foreign minister Mohamed Abdelaziz, and Tunisia's State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Faycal Gouia.

The agenda of Mr. Lamamra's discussions included bilateral relations, developments in the situation prevailing in the Arab world, the ongoing peace negotiation process between the Palestinians and Israel, support for the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people's claims.
MR. LAMAMRA MAKES AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO RIYADH

Responding to an official invitation extended to him by his Saudi counterpart, Emir Saud Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra traveled on April 15 to Saudi Arabia for an official visit in the country.

On that occasion, the minister co-chaired with his Saudi counterpart the 2nd session of the mechanism for political concertation between Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

The two sides reviewed the state of bilateral relations in the political and economic areas, as part of the concertation and coordination between the two sisterly countries, and exchanged views on Arab, regional and international issues of mutual interest, namely the latest development regarding the Palestinian question and the crisis in Syria, reiterating their support for the latest decision by the Arab League on the negotiation process.

The head of Algerian diplomacy was received by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Prince Salman Ben Abdelaziz, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the kingdom, who conveyed a message of fraternity and respect to the president of the Republic and to the Algerian people, hailing at the same time the privileged fraternal relations binding the leaders of the two countries and their two peoples.

Moreover, Mr. Lamamra met with the Governor of Riyadh, Prince Khaled Ben Bandar Ben Abdelaziz, and with the Saudi minister of Interior, Prince Mohamed Ben Nayef Ben Abdelaziz. Their talks centered on bilateral cooperation and the means to strengthen it in the areas of security, and the fight against terrorism and organized crime.
MR. LAMAMRA CHAIRS MEETING ASSESSING VOTING OPERATIONS DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

On April 20, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra chaired in Algiers a technical assessment meeting with representatives of foreign observers devoted to the voting operations during the presidential election of April 17, 2014.

Participants in the meeting included Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs Madjid Bouguerra, the chairman of CNISEP, the Independent National Commission in charge of monitoring the Presidential Election of April 17, 2014, Mr. Fateh Boutbik, the chairman of CNSEL, the national election supervision commission, Mr. Lachemi Brahimi, and the director of general liberties and legal affairs at the Ministry of Interior and Local Governments, Mr. Mohamed Talbi.

The meeting also included representatives from observer teams from the United Nations, the Arab League, the African Union, the European Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Global Network for Rights and Development, and the vice-president of the Pan-African Democracy Observatory, Mr. Falilou Diallo.

The meeting "highlighted the significance of good practices in continuously improving the administrative and technical organization process of elections. It also allowed matching the observations made by various observer teams and harmonizing the conclusions and recommendations made by the presidents of election observation teams."
MR. LAMAMRA MEETS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICO OBSERVER TEAM

On Saturday, April 19, Minister for Foreign affairs Ramtane Lamamra met with the president of the observer team from the Islamic Cooperation Organization (ICO) dispatched for the April 17 presidential election, Mr. Mohamed Habib Kaabachi.

After the talks, Mr. Kaabachi said the meeting provided an opportunity to congratulate, on behalf of his team, Mr. Lamamra for "the victory of democracy in Algeria and the strengthening of the foundations of good governance."

The meeting was also an occasion for Mr. Kaabachi to extend his congratulations to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika for his reelection.

The team of observers dispatched by the ICO for the presidential election included members representing several countries, namely Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Turkey.
FOREIGN MINISTER LAMAMRA CHAIRS CONSULTATION MEETING IN ALGIERS BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE SAHEL REGION

Mr. Ramtane Lamamra chaired the proceedings of the countries of the Sahel region convened on April 22 in Algiers.

The meeting included Mali's Minister for National Reconciliation Ould Sidi Mohamed Zahabi, the foreign ministers of Burkina Faso, Yipene Djibrill Bassolé, of Niger, Mohamed Bazoum, as well as the Chadian ambassador to Algeria, Mr. Salah Hamid Heguerra.

In brief remarks made at the opening of the proceedings, Mr. Lamamra said the proceedings were "a proactive consultation meeting" and underlined that they were taking place on the eve of a meeting by the UN Security Council to decide whether to renew the mandate of MINUSMA, the UN integrated multidimensional mission for the stabilization of Mali.

The countries taking part in the meeting, essentially devoted to the security situation in Mali, agreed on an "operational approach" aimed at strengthening the dynamic generated by the exploratory consultations initiated by Algeria as an active platform aimed at creating the required conditions for a successful inclusive dialogue among Malians.

According to the final communiqué, the Malian delegation reaffirmed its "high appreciation" of the efforts deployed by Algeria to secure reconciliation of views among the movements from northern Mali with a view of opening the inter-Malian dialogue.

The Algerian side, represented by the minister, laid out the items considered for the next step and recalled that "the objective is this case is to get the inter-Malian dialogue started as soon as possible which, ultimately, aims to preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Mali and to strengthen its national unity."
MR. LAMAMRA RECEIVES VATICAN SPECIAL ENVOY, CARDINAL JEAN-Louis Tauran

Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra met on April 29 in Algiers with Vatican Special Envoy, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran.

Cardinal Tauran, who is also president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, arrived in Algeria for a visit as part of the centennial celebration of the building of the Saint Augustine Basilica in Annaba, east of Algeria.

Talking to reporters after his meeting with Mr. Lamamra, Cardinal Tauran said the two (Muslim and Catholic) communities "have a lot in common that they should develop and use to serve society."

The meeting included a "fruitful" exchange on the role to be played by religions in finding and proposing solutions to current societal issues.

Mr. Lamamra and his guest also discussed issues relating to strengthening dialogue and cooperation between Algeria and the Holy See.

MR. BOUGUERRA HOSTS FOR TALKS THE BRITISH STATE MINISTER FOR NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. Hugh Robertson, British Minister of State for North Africa and the Middle East, who was in Algeria on a two-day visit, co-chaired with Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs Madjid Bouguerra, a meeting by the Bilateral Cooperation Committee, which is a framework for regular political consultations between Algeria and Great Britain.

The two ministers exchanged views on regional and international political issues of mutual interest, namely the Maghreb, the Middle East and the Sahel region.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mr. Robertson declared that no British firm had withdrawn from Algeria after the terrorist attack directed at the Tiguentourine gas plant, in In Amenas, south of Algeria.

He mentioned as evidence of that that a conference "exclusively devoted to investment in Algeria" will convene next fall in London.

He also indicated that his country has "complete trust" in the ability of the Algerian government and institutions to ensure the security of British firms, recalling that the two sides work "in close collaboration" on the issue.
COOPERATION

SONATRACH AND SPAIN'S VILLAR MIR SIGN TWO AGREEMENTS IN THE PETROCHEMICAL SECTOR

The national hydrocarbon company Sonatrach and the Spanish group Villar Mir, who have been in a partnership since 2005 with two fertilizer production units in Annaba and Arzew, signed on April 30 two agreements to further develop their activities in Algeria.

The first agreement involves the revision of some provisions of the partnership agreement on Fertial, a joint venture with 66% ownership for Villar Mir and 33% for Asmidal, a Sonatrach subsidiary.

The second agreement will restart the El Bahia Fertilizer project with annual production of 1.1 tons of ammoniac. The agreement will enable renewed operations at the El Bahia Fertilizer plant, which was created in 2006 through a joint venture agreement between Sonatrach and Fertiberia, a subsidiary of the Villar Mir Group.

ALGERIA AND BELGIUM ESTABLISH JOINT BUSINESS FORUM

The Algerian business leaders' forum FCE and the Wallonia agency for exports AWEX signed on April 3 in Charleroi, Belgium, an agreement protocol for the creation of a business forum involving Algerian and Belgian economic operators, scheduled to start operations next June.

The forum's main missions will focus on strengthening exchanges of experience between the two sides and ensuring transfer of technology geared to benefit Algerian economic operators, namely those involved in the textile industry.

The agreement was signed on the occasion of the first edition of the African-Belgian business week which opened in the French-speaking region of Wallonia, Belgium.
TUNISIA RETURNS THE GORGON HEAD TO ALGERIA

Algerian Culture Minister Khalida Toumi and her Tunisian counterpart Mourad Sakli signed on April 13 in Tunis the minutes of the agreement to return by Tunisia to Algeria of the Gorgon Head, a rare archeological piece stolen in 1996 in the east of Algeria and later found in Tunisia.

The 320 kg white-marble archeological piece, exhibited at the Carthage Museum at the time of the restitution ceremony, will travel back to Algeria next Sunday and will be exhibited the next day at the National Antiquities Museum in Algiers.

Discovered in 1930 by the team led by French archeologist Choupaut, the Gorgon head had decorated until being stolen in 1996 the front of a public fountain from which underground water jetted out.

The Gorgon Head was later spotted at one of the residences of Sakhr El Materi, son-in-law of former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, after the latter was deposed in 2011.

"LA BÉQUÉE", A PAINTING BY FRENCH VISUAL ARTIST JEAN-FRANÇOIS MILLET, RETURNED TO ALGERIA AFTER 29 YEARS

"La Béquée", a painting by French visual artist representing a woman feeding her children, vanished in 1985 from the Musée Communal (now Zabana Museum) museum but was recovered on April 10 by the Ministry of Culture.

Minister of Culture Khalida Toumi, accompanied by a team of officials and experts from her ministry, was on hand at Houari Boumedienne International Airport for the return ceremony of the 1848 painting by Millet. Once restored, the painting will be returned to the Zabana National Museum in Oran. In the meantime, the painting will be temporarily exhibited at the Fine Arts Museum in Algiers.
ALGERIA PARTICIPATES IN THE 24TH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR IN ABU DHABI

The 24th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair opened on April 30 at the National Exhibitions Center in the Emirati capital city and included participation by Algerian writers and publishers.

Visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy the most recent Algerian publications, already translated in numerous foreign languages and covering various areas of interest to readers.

Some 30 Algerian publishers are participating in the fair, including the national graphic arts company ENAG, the national agency for publishing and publicity ANEP. Dar Chihab, Dar El-Houda, Dar Houma, to name but a few.

At the fair, which features celebration of Swiss literature and El Mutanabi, the great 10th Century Arab poet, Algeria will be represented by the academician and former cabinet minister Mustapha Chérif and by Khaled Louai, a young poet, and Louise Dihya, a novelist.

Seventy renowned novelists, poets, writers, academicians, visual artists and cartoonists, including 26 from Sweden, are due to take part in this literary event.

Over 125 exhibitors from 50 countries will show over 500,000 literary pieces, taking part in an event organized by the Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation and the Book Project, a joint program involving the foundation and the Frankfurt Book Fair.
SPORTS

WORLD SURFBOARD CHAMPIONSHIPS (BYTE CII): ALGERIA’S AMINE GUEDMINE QUALIFIES FOR YOG-2014 IN CHINA

Algerian surfboarder Amine Guedmine won second place at the Byte CII World Surfboard Championships which ended this last Sunday in Riva Del Garda (April 21-27), northern Italy, thus snapping a qualification for the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) scheduled to take place in Nanjing, china, on Aug. 16-28, 2014.

JUDO: ALGERIAN JUNIOR TEAM (GIRLS) SACRED ARAB WORLD CHAMPION

The Algerian female judo team (18-20 category) won top title, ahead of the Egyptian team, at the third day of the Arab Judo Championship competition (16-17 and 18-20 age categories) held in Sharm El Sheikh.

The Algerian 16-17 (girls) category squad won the silver medal in the team competition, coming behind Egypt, which won the tournament.

In individual competition (Girls 16-17 category), the Algerian athletes, led by internationally-ranked Soraya Haddad, won six medals (3 gold, 2 silver and one bronze) in an event involving nine countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Kuwait.)

The three gold medals were won by Yasmine Mesrem (44 kg), Hadjer Mesrem (48 kg) and Djazia Haddad (57 kg). The two silver medals were won by Imane Aouissi (63 kg) and Sara Kerdjadj (70 kg). Sadjia Amrane won bronze.

In the Boys Junior category (18-20), the Algerian team, coached by Nabil Benhizia, won five medals (2 gold and 3 silver.)