

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

1st October 2020

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Upper House passes bill on order amending Criminal Procedure Code

ALGIERS – The members of the Council of the Nation have adopted on Thursday the bill on the order amending the Criminal Procedure Code.

The debateless voting session followed a presentation made by Justice Minister Belkacem Zeghmati of the new provisions of the bill. The “bill aims at improving the performance of the Algerian justice and the quality of its rulings, in order to enable it to handle all types of cases and disputes that are presented to it, whatever their degree of complexity,” he added.

Under the order amending the Criminal Procedure Code, an economic and financial criminal centre will be created. It will be in charge of ensuring the fight against the economic and financial crimes across the national territory.

Regarding the fight against terrorism and cross-border crime, the bill provides for an extension of the territorial jurisdiction of the Court of Algiers, which will be endowed with exclusive material jurisdiction concerning serious crimes, of national or international scope ”.

The revision of the provisions relating to the privilege of jurisdiction aims to enshrine the constitutional principle of equality of everyone before the law.

Referendum on the Constitution, "crucial step" to build new Algeria

BOUIRA - The referendum on the Constitution amendment, due on November 1st constitutes a "crucial step" in building new Algeria and a Rule of Law governance to which aspire the people through February 22 Hirak movement, said Thursday spokesman of the National Independent Authority for Elections (ANIE), Ali Draâ.

Draa attended a meeting organized by the Algerian Academy for the Promotion of Civil Society he branded "important as the referendum approaches."

"The next referendum will be a historic date for the start of a new era and a new Algeria," insisted the spokesperson for ANIE. In his address, the ANIE spokesman called on citizens to go to the polls en masse to express their choice and participate in "the building of a Rule of Law, and in order to preserve the stability of the country in this difficult situation."

As for him, the spokesperson for the Algerian Academy for the Promotion of Civil Society Abdelkader Sabkha said that "this constitutional referendum attaches particular importance to civil society through the creation of a national observatory of civil society as an advisory body, presided over by the President of the Republic."

Sabkha said this addition "will help involve civil society in high-level decision-making".

Council of Nation adopts Order modifying, completing law on health

ALGIERS - The members of the Council of the Nation adopted Thursday the bill approving the order modifying and completing the law on health.

The vote took place without debates in a plenary session chaired by acting Speaker of the Council of the Nation Salah Goudjil after the presentation of the law by Minister of Pharmaceutical Industry Lotfi Benbahmed, in the presence of Minister of Relations with the Parliament Besma Azouar.

Benbahmed underlined that the Ministry of Pharmaceutical Industry, set up as a strategic sector, is working for a coherent industrial and pharmaceutical policy at the organizational and economic levels, while covering all the drug manufacturing process in Algeria.

He added that the ministry “will regulate the import activity in aid of the national production and the orientation towards exportation, which will allow the ministry to develop and intervene in the policy of recording and approving pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, to set prices, profit margins and refund and support local products.”

In order to achieve the expected objectives, the minister underlined the amendment of some provisions of the law 18-11 of 2 July 2018 on Health, notably the aspect related to the inspection of pharmaceutical companies and the definition of the list of necessary equipment and pharmaceutical products.”

This amendment also aims at “placing the national Agency of pharmaceutical products under the supervision of the Ministry of Pharmaceutical Industry, the temporary authorization to use medicines as well as the provisions on the clinical studies to carry out with local industrialist and foreign partners.”

SOCIAL

Malaria cases in country's south: Health Minister reassures about medical care for the sick

ORAN - All the cases of malaria recorded in the southern provinces of Algeria have been imported by Sub-Saharan Africans or Algerian nationals that lived for a period of time in the Sahel countries, said Thursday in Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform Abderrahmane Benbouzid, who reassured about the capacities of providing medical care for the sick.

On a working visit, along with Minister of National Solidarity, Family and Women Condition Kaoutar Krikou, the Minister of Health said that "no case of indigenous malaria has been reported among the cases recently recorded in the South". The Minister of Health reassured that there were no "particular fears" about the 1,000 cases of malaria recorded in southern Algeria.

"Hundreds of cases of malaria are usually recorded during the month of September," he recalled, adding that rains which fell on southern Algeria and neighboring countries have spurred the

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spread of the disease. This is quite usual even if some cases have been recorded in provinces that close to the north, namely Ouargla and Ghardaïa, said the Minister.

With regard to the risk of the disease spread in the northern part of Algeria, the minister said that the zero risk doesn't exist. More than 1,000 cases of malaria have been recorded in the southern provinces, killing two.

CULTURE

Tamanrasset: Involving local population in cultural heritage preservation

TAMANRASSET - Minister of Culture and Arts Malika Bendouda put Thursday, in Tamanrasset, the emphasis on the involvement of the local population in the preservation of the cultural heritage.

“It is necessary to involve the local population in the actions aimed at developing and preserving the cultural heritage notably in the isolated regions,” affirmed the minister when inspecting the vantage point at Taguemart village (30km north of Tamanrasset).

Bendouda also pointed out the interest to include the microenterprises in this initiative, through mechanisms enabling them to contribute to the development of the cultural heritage and thereby strengthening the tourist attractiveness of these regions.

The efforts will focus on the development of a new programme for the exploitation of the cultural heritage in order to give it the place that suits it, she added.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Pharmaceutical industry to provide citizens with “effective and quality” medicines

ALGIERS - Minister of Pharmaceutical Industry Abderrahmane Lotfi Benbahmed on Wednesday affirmed that his department worked to provide citizens with “safe, effective and quality” medicines.

“The Ministry of Pharmaceutical Industry, established as a strategic sector, is working for a pharmaceutical and industrial policy that is coherent from an organizational and economic point of view, by supervising the entire manufacturing process of medicines in Algeria,” said the minister during the presentation of the bill approving Ordinance No. 02-20 amending and supplementing the law on health before the Health and Social Affairs Committee of the Council of the Nation (Upper House).

According to the same official, the sector is expected to “provide the Algerian citizen with safe, effective, quality and economically accessible medicines, in accordance with the commitments of the President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune.”

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In order to achieve this goal, the public authorities seek to develop and diversify the pharmaceutical industry in order to reduce the import bill of pharmaceutical products and move towards export," he said.

"This strategy aims to ensure the permanent availability of pharmaceutical products, especially the necessary medicines and their accessibility to citizens, as well as organizational arrangements to ensure the quality and efficiency of pharmaceutical products and medical supplies. It also aims to elevate the pharmaceutical industry to a wealth-generating sector," he continued.

Benbahmed referred to "the content of bill as well as its importance and the goals of the introduced amendments relating to the inspection of pharmaceutical companies, the listing of pharmaceutical products, basic medical supplies and activities within the pharmaceutical sector."

The bill also provides for "placing the National Agency for Pharmaceutical Products under the supervision of the Ministry of the Pharmaceutical Industry, the use of medicinal products and provisions concerning clinical studies to be carried out with local industrialists or foreign partners."

At the end of the presentation, the committee members debated the new provisions of this bill and raised a series of observations and concerns to which the Minister promised to provide the necessary explanations.

Algiers Underground to be managed by Algerian company as of Nov. 1st

ALGIERS - The Algiers Underground will be managed by a subsidiary of the Algiers Underground Company (EMA) as of November 1st, has announced Thursday Minister of Transport Hani Lazhar.

"The management of the Algiers Underground will be entrusted to an Algerian company," Lazhar told the press, adding that the contract binding the EMA to the foreign partner (RATP- El Djazaïr, a subsidiary of the French company RATP-Développement), will end on October 31st.

Inspecting the works of the Algiers Underground's east line extension works (to Algiers International Airport), the Minister commended the national competences, ensuring that "the eight-year-long foreign partnership set up in the matters of the technical assistance had enabled Algerian executives and engineers to acquire the necessary experience."

The Minister said the resumption of passenger transport by Algiers Underground depends on the health situation and must be decided by the Covid 19 monitoring committee.

Regarding the progress of the Algiers Underground extension, at the line linking El Harrach district to Algiers international airport, the project officials said that the works are progressing well despite the health situation prevailing in the country.

Thanks to the tunnel boring machine, acquired by the public company Cosider in October 2019, the drilling of tunnels and the extension works on this line have been achieved rapidly.

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"The 104 meter long and 10 meter diameter tunnel boring machine is equipped with the latest technology for drilling and pumping reinforced concrete, will allow excavation between 16 and 24 meters / day," the source added.

Emphasizing the socio-economic aspect of the project, officials said that the extension of Algiers Underground line linking El Harrach to Houari Boumediene International Airport over a length of 9.5 kilometers, will connect the densely populated districts in the eastern suburb of Algiers such as Beaulieu, Oued Smar, Bab Ezzouar, the university center of El Harrach, the business district of Bab Ezzouar and the Houari Boumediene University (USTHB).

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

President Tebboune receives phone call from Faïz Serradj

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Wednesday received a phone call from President of the Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord (GNA) Faïz Serradj, with whom he discussed the latest developments of the crisis in Libya, said the Presidency of the Republic in a statement.

"The President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Wednesday received evening a phone call from his brother Faïz Serradj, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord (GNA) of the brotherly Libyan state, with whom he discussed the latest developments in the Libyan crisis," the statement said.

"During this telephone conversation, the President of the Republic responded favourably to the request of Faïz Serradj for urgent assistance to repair a breakdown in the power plant supplying Tripoli. In this regard, the President of the Republic instructed the energy minister to send, tomorrow Thursday, a technical team of the Algerian Electricity and Gas Company (Sonelgaz) to the capital of this sister country," the same source said.

President Tebboune receives US Secretary of Defense

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune received Thursday US Secretary of Defense Mark Thomas Esper who is on a working visit to Algeria, said a communiqué of the Presidency of the Republic.

"Le président de la République, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, a reçu ce matin Mark Thomas Esper, secrétaire à la Défense des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, qui effectue une visite de travail en Algérie", lit-on dans le communiqué.

"President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune received this morning US Secretary of Defense Mark Thomas Esper, who is on a working visit to Algeria," said the communiqué.

"The audience took place in the presence of the delegation accompanying the US Secretary of Defense and of chargé d'affaires at the American embassy in Algeria, on the American side, and of Lieutenant General Said Chanegriha, Chief of Staff of the People's National Army, Private

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Principle Secretary at the Presidency of the Republic Nouredine Bardad-Daidj, and of Major General Mohammed Bouzit, director general of Information and Exterior Security at the Ministry of National Defense, on the Algerian side,” said the source.

The talks focused on “the bilateral relations and prospects of their development in various fields.”

After reviewing the latest developments in Libya and the region of Sahel, the two sides agreed to continue “consultations and coordination to strengthen the foundations of peace and security in the region, as part of the respect of the unity and sovereignty of these countries.”

At the end of this fruitful meeting, President of the Republic offered lunch, at the headquarters of the Presidency of the Republic, to his guest and the delegation accompanying him.

Libyan power plant failure: Sonelgaz to dispatch team of 13 technicians

ALGIERS - The national company of gas and electricity SONELGAZ will dispatch this evening a team of 13 technicians of its subsidiary SPE, headed by the subsidiary’s first official, to participate in the repair of a failure that occurred in the power plant supplying Tripoli, said Thursday, in Algiers, the group’s CEO Chaher Boulakhras.

This action comes following the instructions of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune who received Wednesday a phone call from Chairman of the Presidential Council of Libya’s Government of National Accord (GNA) Fayez Al-Sarraj, asking him for “an urgent aid to repair a failure in the power plant supplying Tripoli.”

President Tebboune responded favorably to this request and ordered the minister of Energy to dispatch on Thursday a technical team of Sonelgaz to the capital of this brotherly country, according to a communiqué of the Presidency of the Republic.

“We will dispatch this evening to Tripoli a team of 13 technicians of the Algerian company of gas and electricity (SPE), headed by the subsidiary’s CEO, to diagnose this failure and assess the situation of the plant in order to repair it,” Boulakhras told the press.

Polisario representative to UN denounces maneuvers compromising peace process in Western Sahara

ALGIERS - The representative of the Polisario Front to the United Nations Sidi Mohamed Omar said that 29 years after the ceasefire, the Sahrawi people are still waiting for self-determination, without any favorable conditions to the organization of a referendum in Western Sahara.

In an interview granted Wednesday to the International Algeria Radio (RAI) Sidi Mohamed Omar underlined that the “issue of Western Sahara is waiting for a settlement, in accordance with the UN peace plan,” lamenting “the absence of favorable conditions to the organization of a referendum on self-determination.”

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He pointed out that the Polisario Front's decision of 30 October 2019 to review its participation in the UN peace process in Western Sahara, after being deviated from its initial framework, fixed in the joint settlement plan between the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU).

He underscored that this plan, accepted by the parties to the conflict (Polisario Front and Morocco) in 1988, was even adopted by the Council of Security.

Algeria, USA wants to strengthen military cooperation

ALGIERS - US Secretary of Defense Mark Thomas Esper underlined Thursday, in Algiers, his country's willingness to strengthen cooperation with Algeria in the military field and the fight against terrorism.

We broached ways and means to strengthen the bilateral cooperation, notably in the field of counterterrorism and cooperation between the two countries' armies, said Esper at the end of the audience granted to him by President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Other issues were also broached like the respect of the States' sovereignty and freedoms, as well as issues of common interest, he added.

I also had the honor to go to the Martyr's Sanctuary to lay a wreath to the memory of the martyrs of the Revolution for the independence of Algeria, won thanks to the sacrifice of 1.5 million martyrs, said the US Secretary of Defense.

He thanked the President of the Republic for "the warm welcome and hospitality" he received during his visit to Algeria. The audience was also an opportunity to examine the situation in the Sahel, notably the crisis in Libya.

In this respect, the two sides agreed to continue their consultations and coordination to strengthen peace and security in the region as part of the respect of the unity and sovereignty of States.

At the end of this meeting, the President of the Republic offered lunch, at the headquarters of the Presidency of the Republic, to his guest and the delegation accompanying him. The two sides exchanged symbolic presents.

The audience took place in the presence of the delegation accompanying the US Secretary of Defense and of Chargé d'Affaires at the American embassy in Algeria, on the American side, and of Lieutenant General Said Chanegriha, Chief of Staff of the People's National Army, Private Principle Secretary at the Presidency of the Republic Noureddine Bardad-Daidj, and of Major General Mohammed Bouzit, director general of Information and Exterior Security at the Ministry of National Defense, on the Algerian side.