

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

4th October 2020

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DOMESTIC NEWS

President Tebboune gives instructions to open domestic airports

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, chairing a Council of Ministers meeting on Sunday, gave instructions to open domestic airports that have been closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

President Tebboune also gave instructions to create private airlines to ensure domestic flights and generate economic dynamism, absorb unemployment and reconsider the management approach at the national airline Air Algérie, so as to take part in the international competition in the field, and reduce the number of its commercial offices abroad.

The President gave orders for the preparation of a platform for an Algerian central airport in Tamanrasset, in cooperation with specialists and experts, paving the way for an access to African markets. He also called for taking advantage of the current global economic situation to open new international lines, especially toward the Americas and Africa.

The Council of Ministers listened to and endorsed a plan of action presented by the minister of Transport, including proposals, as part of the new economic and social approach, relating to a new way to operate the National Aeronautics Corporation and the renewal of the national air fleet.

The proposals also include the opening of new international lines and the establishment of a pivotal airport in Algeria to increase traffic, especially for Africans.

Start of school year: Oct 21st for primary, Nov 4th for intermediate, secondary education

ALGIERS - The new school year is to start nationwide on October 21st for the primary education and November 4th for the intermediate and secondary education, according to the statement of the Council of Minister meeting held Sunday under the chairmanship of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

The date of October 21st is set for the start of the new school year countrywide in primary education and November 4th in intermediate and secondary education after consultation with social partners and parent associations, the statement said, stressing the imperative to ensure transport and school catering.

The statement pointed out that the scientific committee "has the prerogative to study and assess the back to school situation."

November 15th is the set for the start of the New Year in the vocational training sector.

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The new university year will start on 22 November 2020, with "rearrangements in university dormitories so as to avoid overcrowding, especially in lecture halls, due to the health situation resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic."

With regard to the preventive measures relating to the back to school, the statement underscored the need for a "strict respect of hygiene requirements, in line with the health protocol relating to the start of the new school year."

"The health of students is a matter of paramount importance and a top priority."

The Council of Minister's statement also underlined the need for "cleaning and disinfecting all educational facilities 72 hours before their opening for the new school year and the necessity for high school students to wear masks."

Abductions: President Tebboune orders application of maximum punishments

ALGIERS - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune ordered Sunday, during the meeting of the Council of Ministers, the application of maximum punishments, without possible relief or pardon, against the perpetrators of crimes of abductions, and this "whatever the ins and outs of the act of kidnapping".

During the presentation of the bill on the prevention and the fight against the crimes of kidnapping, the President of the Republic insisted on "that the law shall distinguish between the cases of kidnapping of children resulting from mixed marriages, and the cases relating to acts of kidnapping to avoid dilutions."

He also urged that civil society associations be given a key role in the fight against this scourge foreign to Algerian society.

Commenting the bill, the President of the Republic underlined "the State is commitment to protect citizens, to strengthen justice and the rule of law in order to consolidate the democratic process and restore the authority of the State to be fair and protective of the weak in view of the propagation of the phenomenon of kidnapping, foreign to our society".

Towards implementing national digital map of all civil society's players

GUELMA - Advisor to the President of the Republic in charge of Civil Society and National Community Abroad Nazih Berramdane affirmed Saturday, in Guelma, that a national digital map of all the players of the country's civil society will be soon implemented.

In a consultation meeting with the associative movement and the civil society in the presence of local authorities, Berramdane said that a group of experts are working, since about a month, in coordination with the directorate of computer system development at the Presidency of the Republic and develop a digital platform containing a national map of associations.

This platform will enable identifying all the associations nationwide, including the district committees as well as communal, provincial and national associations, said Berramdane, adding

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that the associations, institutions and organizations of the national community abroad will be included.

Every organization or associative player will be able to publish its activities in this digital space, he added, underscoring that this digital map will also enable “a detailed assessment of the associations’ activities and their areas of interest and orientation of associations towards some fields neglected by the civil society.”

Berramdane called on the players of the civil society to coordinate among themselves and to organize themselves into provincial and national federations to better communicate with the public authorities.

He also underlined the importance placed in the civil society as an “active partner to build the new Algeria” in the draft amendment of the Constitution whose six articles and preamble strengthen the role of the civil society.

COVID-19 NEWS

Airspace reopening: “Sovereign decision” dependent on Covid-19 progress

ALGIERS - Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform Abderrahmane Benbouzid underlined Saturday, in Algiers, that the reopening of the airspace “is a sovereign decision dependent on the progress of the Covid-19 pandemic, both inside and outside the country.

In a statement to the press on the sidelines of the National Startup Conference, whose opening was chaired by President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Health minister underlined that the epidemiological situation of the new Coronavirus “is stable” in Algeria thanks to the “efforts of the public authorities.”

“We hope that the situation improves in the future,” said Benbouzid who pointed out that “the reopening of the airspace is a sovereign decision dependent on the epidemiological situation both inside and outside the country.”

The number of infections “remains high in several countries, notably neighboring European countries,” he said, insisting on “the respect of the prevention measures” and the “continuation of awareness and prevention campaigns.”

In his reply to a question on the steps undertaken by Algerian to acquire Covid-19 vaccine, Benbouzid said that Algeria “will not import Covid-19 vaccine before it is administered in the producing countries and before being sure that it doesn’t have any side effects.”

ECONOMIC NEWS

OPEC-non-OPEC alliance must continue to maintain oil market stability

ALGIERS – The Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its non-OPEC partners must “absolutely” continue their cooperation in order to maintain the oil market stability, which

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should experience slower-than-expected recovery of prices compared to their 2019 level, said Minister of Energy Abdelmadjid Attar.

"The OPEC+ agreement implemented on May 1st 2020 and the full compliance by the largest producers, namely Saudi Arabia and Russia, allowed the increase of prices to \$40 the barrel. This Union is still necessary and must absolutely continue to prevent a period of absence of short term visibility," said Attar in an interview to the French-speaking daily "Liberté", issued on Sunday.

According to him, without the OPEC-non OPEC alliance, "we would have an extremely instable market and prices below the current level."

The continuation of this Alliance is particularly important amid the uncertainties surrounding the health crisis and the recovery of demand, which characterize the market today.

"Currently, it is true that the whole world only follows a possible end of the pandemic, then a recovery in global demand. But this is not enough in my opinion, as further parameters which result from the pace and the mode of this recovery will certainly cause slow increase of prices to the level experienced in 2019 and probably never reach that of 2013," he explained.

2021 draft finance law to preserve economic balances

ALGIERS - The preliminary draft of the 2021 Finance Law, one of the files presented to the Council of Ministers meeting, chaired Sunday by President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, aims at preserving the financial balances so as to help achieve the economic reforms, said a statement from the Presidency of the Republic.

"In order to reinvigorate the national economy and initiate a new start in line with the economic recovery plan", the President of the Republic emphasized the imperative of "achieving a flexible formula for the capital budget under the 2021 finance law, which would take into account the major economic balances, "according to the press release.

President Tebboune instructed the government not "to introduce taxes that would not have an impact on the volume of the budget, and to continue to reduce the charges on citizens to preserve jobs".

He also instructed to "monitor the support intended for the agricultural sector, during major development operations notably, applied for years but without assessment of reports or appropriate data, and to investigate the support mechanisms intended for the various agricultural sectors."

The President of the Republic has also ordered the creation of "slaughterhouses in the southern borders (Tinzaouten and Bordj Badji Mokhtar), in particular with Mali and Niger to supply the national market with meat instead of importing them", and expand the list of products subject to the barter system.

President Tebboune ordered "to institute tax exemptions of up to five (5) years for the start-ups,

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to exploit in the best way the special funds and put in place a law penalizing fraud and tax evasion to fight against money laundering and corruption."

The head of the State also called for tightening "wealth tax control in order to dispel any opacity, which is the main obstacle to digitization, to encourage small investors and innovative project leaders, because they constitute a fundamental source for the achievement of self-sufficiency and job creation, and to avoid introducing or increasing taxes on fishing professionals".

He called for the development of shipbuilding in partnership with foreign partners, in particular from Mediterranean countries.

Startups constitute "central focus" in Government's action policy

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad affirmed Saturday, in Algiers that the startups constitute "a central focus" in the action policy of the Government, insisting on their utmost importance in the programme of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

The State makes sure to "support and accompany young people to create startups," said Prime minister at the end of the national conference of startups "Algeria Disrupt 2020," organized at the International Center of Conferences by the Delegate Ministry in charge of Knowledge Economy and Startups.

"President of the Republic expressed his satisfaction at the juvenile potentialities which contribute to the construction of a new economy for a new Algeria," he said.

Djerad stressed the importance of instituting a national fund of startup funding, in addition to the huge efforts that have been made to offer the opportunities and ensure the means to people with innovation projects in order to implement their projects, notably by simplifying bureaucratic measures.

For the Prime minister, this Fund will contribute to the gradual development of these companies to play the key role in the strengthening of the national economy.

"The conference helped define and emphasize the strong link between the startups and the knowledge economy, and economy whose basis are the human resources," he added.

He underlined that the conference is meant to be an important interactive space that enabled achieving a new conception on "the role of the new generation in the new Algeria based on knowledge and skills."

Tourism: Several measures to root out bureaucracy, encourage investment

ALGIERS - Minister of Tourism, Craft Industry and Family Work Mohamed Hamidou affirmed Saturday, in Algiers, that several measures have been taken to root out "the bureaucratic obstacles and encourage investment" in the sector.

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“In order to encourage investment in the sector of tourism and root out bureaucracy, several measures have been taken, including the examination of the granting of authorization to tourism agencies and hotels within a period not exceeding one month at the least, as well as others aimed at creating wealth and jobs in the sector,” the minister told the press on the sidelines of the National Startup Conference whose works kicked off under the chairmanship of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

As part of the procedure aimed at encouraging domestic tourism, the minister said that his department concluded “agreements with hotels, the National Company of Rail Transport and the National Company Air Algerie in order to reduce prices by 50%.”

These agreements “will give a fresh impetus to domestic tourism and revive Saharan tourism whose season will start as from October until March,” he added.

In his reply on the losses that have been recorded in the sector because of the new Coronavirus pandemic, the minister said that “national and local committees are working to reach real figures.”

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Libya: Ministerial videoconference on Monday to consolidate comprehensive solution

NEW YORK (United Nations) - The countries present at the Berlin Conference on Libya are meeting at the ministerial level on Monday to renew their commitment to a comprehensive solution that would allow the return to peace in this country plagued by violence since 2011.

The high-level videoconference to be held on the sidelines of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly chaired by German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will see the participation of all the countries that took part in the Berlin 1 conference, including Algeria.

The meeting, as Günter Sautter, Germany's deputy ambassador to the UN has confirmed, comes at a "crucial moment" marked by "encouraging developments in Libya" have been noted recently. Germany, which wanted a "strong message" on Monday, indicated that it was going to demand that "all renew their commitments made in early at the beginning of 2020 and above all to apply them".

Its delegation in New York said they hoped for "the end of the continuous and flagrant violations of the arms embargo" imposed on Libya in 2011, as well as the strengthening of the UN role as "key mediator of political dialogue in Libya.

The summit will also be an opportunity to assess the respect by the stakeholders of the commitments to implement the conclusions of the first Berlin Conference, endorsed by the Security Council.

The Berlin 1 Conference - held with the participation of 12 countries, including Algeria and 4 international and regional organizations - resulted in a final declaration through which an appeal

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was made to strengthen the truce in Libya and to work constructively within the framework of the Joint Military Commission (5 + 5), to achieve a ceasefire in the country.

The parties further committed to the cessation of attacks on oil installations, the training of Libyan unified military forces and the ban on supplying arms to Libya.

Death of Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah: Djerad in Kuwait to extend condolences

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad, leading a ministerial delegation, will pay a State visit to Kuwait on Sunday, as a representative of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, to offer condolences for the death of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the presidency of the Republic said in a statement.

"Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad, as a representative of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, will make a State visit to the sister country Kuwait, at the head of a ministerial delegation made up of the minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the minister of Religious Affairs to extend condolences on behalf of the government and the Algerian people, following the death of the Emir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah," the statement said.

Higher education: Launch of Algerian-Spanish twinning program

ALGIERS - The ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Spain's Council of Education of Castile and León has launched an institutional twinning program as part of the Support Program for the Implementation of the Association Agreement (P3A), the ministry said Sunday in a statement.

The program is meant to "strengthen teaching, digital skills of teachers and governance capacities of managers," the statement said, adding that a steering committee meeting was held on 30 September 2020 and resulted in several resolutions.

The resolutions adopted included the establishment of a "virtual learning environment and a platform for the implementation of the activities that will take place online, support in the governance aspect of the themes related to the issues of employability, accreditation, learning and service management."

They also provide for "support to trainers in teaching practice and personal development, the adaptation and integration of information and communication technologies, especially the media and audiovisual solutions."

Security Council: Western Sahara issue back on agenda

ALGIERS - The question of Western Sahara is back on agenda in October at the UN Security Council as the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) is to be renewed following the consultations scheduled for October 14, according to UN body's meetings timetable.

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The mandate of MINURSO, to expire on October 31, will be renewed, at a meeting to be preceded by a report presented by the special representative for Western Sahara, Colin Stewart. The consultations come while the UN secretary-general has not yet appointed a new personal envoy since former German President Horst Köhler gave up his mediation mission in May 2019.

According to sources close to the Security Council, several members are "frustrated" by the slow pace of the process for the appointment of a new envoy and by the "concomitant" lack of political progress, concerned that nothing has happened for more than a year.

In the coming days, the Security Council members may focus on the continued lack of a personal envoy and, in turn, the lack of any political progress on one of the Council's oldest issues.

MINURSO was created in 1991 with the main aim of facilitating a referendum for the self-determination of Western Sahara people.

Today, its main tasks are to monitor a ceasefire.

MISCELLANEOUS

SPORT

Football: League 1 championship to kick-off on Nov. 28, Ligue 2 on Dec. 21

ALGIERS - The League 1 Football Championship 2020-2021, initially scheduled for November 20, has been postponed to November 28th, the Federal Bureau of the Algerian Federation (FAF) said on Sunday.

Regarding the League 2 championship, the federal bureau, currently in an ordinary meeting, has set the date of December 21 for the start of the 2020-2021 season.

The Covid-19 pandemic, which hit the world in 2020, has caused dramatic change in the calendars of global and national competitions.

Algerian Football Super Cup: USMA vs. CRB on Nov. 21

ALGIERS - The Algerian football Super Cup's USM Alger versus CR Belouizdad encounter will take place on November 21st, the Federal Bureau of the Algerian Federation (FAF) announced Sunday.

The clubs of USMA of Algiers, Algeria's champions 2018-2019, and CR Belouizdad, the Algerian Cup defender during the same season will square off.

OMSE Bologhine launches first international chess academy in Algeria

ALGIERS - OMSE Bologhine club has launched the first international chess academy in Algeria, with the objective of boosting the practice of this discipline among young people through training programmes for chess players, trainers and referees.

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“OMSE club has traditions that date back to the 1970s in practicing chess and has several champions in its credit. Through this international academy, we hope to attract the youngest people towards this discipline and to take them away from the society’s scourges,” said Sunday the trainer Abdelkrim Yahiaoui.

“Our objective is also to propose training programmes to trainers and referees, in collaboration with the Algerian Federation FADE in order to develop our discipline and later on organize international competitions,” he added.

For his part, FADE’s chairman Azeddine Djelloul welcomed this initiative of Bologhine club, considered as the first international academy in Algeria, hoping that this initiative will encourage the clubs of other regions to do the same, by launching their own academy as it is done in other countries.

This academy will enable the Algerian young chess players to participate in international competitions and thereby to progress when facing other players with higher level, he added.

CULTURE

Algeria’s biggest bookstore opens

ALGIERS - Nadji Mega Bookstore, the biggest in Algeria, opened on Saturday in the commune of Hussein Dey.

Covering an area of 1,300m², the bookshop includes three levels, containing 1,400 exhibited works and others in stock, dealing with different specialties, including scientific and literary books, preschool books, notably dictionaries, Atlas and encyclopedias.

This new bookshop offers an array of novels and other literary works through notably the publishing house "Dar El Izza wal El Karama Lil Kitab" which already has bookshops in Oran, Tlmeccen, Setif, Bechar and other provinces of the country.

Redouane Lemsioui, one of the managers of this publishing house, affirmed that a big interest is attached to the quality of the content, to the shape and manner of presentation to provide the reader with a quality product.

He said that the team which runs this mega bookstore has a rich experience in the publication and the distribution and collaborates with big Egyptian, Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian and even French publishing houses.