

**People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

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



# Press Review

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

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## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### DOMESTIC NEWS

#### **President Tebboune signs decree exempting 30-year-olds and over from military service**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune signed Thursday a decree on the exemption from the military service for citizens aged 30 years old and above on 31 December 2020, and not yet incorporated, the presidency of the Republic said Thursday in a statement.

"President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune signed, this morning (Thursday), a presidential decree exempting from the obligations of the national (military) service citizens having reached the age of 30 and over on 31 December 2020, and are not yet incorporated," the statement said.

It added that "citizens who have reached 30 years old and above by 31 December 2020 and who have not yet regularized their situation with the national service are also exempt from these obligations."

#### **Health projects unfreezing in accordance with priorities of each region, says Benbouzid**

*ALGIERS* - The unfreezing of health sector projects has been decided in accordance with the priorities of each region, Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform, Abderrahmane Benbouzid, said Thursday in Algiers.

Speaking during a National People Assembly's plenary session, the minister said that "health sector projects had been suspended in many provinces due to the lack of financial resources, but that the government has decided to lift their freeze according to the priorities and the needs of the populations."

In the province of Illizi (south of Algiers), a number of projects have already been completed while others are underway. The Minister cited 6 projects for the construction of hospitals with a capacity of 60 to 120 beds, polyclinics, treatment rooms, as well as the opening of specialized health facilities. Benbouzid also announced the creation of a paramedical training school.

Regarding the province of Tiaret (west of Algiers), Prof. Benbouzid said that it includes three hospitals specializing in mother-child care, psychiatric illnesses, ENT and maxillofacial surgery in addition to a capacity of some 1,400 beds.

The occupancy rate of beds in Illizi does not exceed 53%, which is well below the national rate per 100,000 inhabitants, he said. A new health map would be elaborated soon in order to address shortcomings, Benbouzid announced.

For the city of Djelfa, the minister provided accurate figures on health care coverage. In 2019, it counted 22 anesthesiologists- intensive care specialists, out of a total of 1590 medical and paramedical staff working in hospitals.

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### ECONOMIC NEWS

#### **LNG: Sonatrach, Total renew partnership agreement**

*ALGIERS* - National oil company Sonatrach and French group Total have concluded an agreement renewing, for additional three years, their partnership in the field of liquefied natural gas (LNG), the company said Thursday in a statement.

The agreement will enable the French market to be supplied with two million tonnes a year of Algerian liquefied natural gas, according to the company. The statement added that deliveries will be made, as a matter of priority, at the Fos Cavaou LNG terminal.

The two sides stressed the importance of the agreement, which "is part of the long history of cooperation between Sonatrach and Total."

Commenting on the agreement, CEO of Algerian Oil Company Toufik Hakkar said "Sonatrach confirms its status as a reliable partner, meeting its contractual commitments and enjoying a high degree of credibility in the international energy market."

The quality of the relationship between the two long-standing partners has enabled the conclusion of this agreement in a highly volatile market context, the release noted.

The agreement paves the way for the deepening of partnership between Sonatrach and Total in various areas, in the mutual interest of both sides, the statement points out.

#### **M'sila: Medjedel dam to be constructed in 2021**

*ALGIERS* - The construction of Medjedel dam in the province of M'sila, with a storage capacity of 15 million m<sup>3</sup>, will be proposed during the fiscal year 2021, said Thursday, in Algiers, Minister of Water Resources Arezki Berraki.

In his reply to oral questions at the People's National Assembly, in a plenary session chaired the Assembly's speaker Slimane Chenine, the minister said that this project, which will be destined to the irrigation of about 3,000 hectares of agricultural lands and the supply of bordering residential areas, will be proposed during the fiscal year 2021.

In this regard, he explained that this financial shortage that the country had experienced in 2019 didn't allow executing the project, pointing out that the preparations for the project are currently at the level of the evaluation of bids.

For this purpose, studies were conducted as well as transfer works of power lines.

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### **Trade: Creation of listening committee for exporters**

*ALGIERS* - Ministry of Trade has set up a listening committee chaired by Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Aissa Bekkai, in charge of monitoring export operations and addressing the operators' concerns, said Thursday a ministerial communiqué.

Created at the level of the ministry under the instruction of Trade Minister Kamel Rezig, this committee's main task is to monitor export operations and to address the hindrances faced by the Algerian operators exercising in this field while proposing appropriate solutions.

The committee also aims at bringing the administration closer to the exporters by accompanying them in the marketing of their products abroad and at increasing the volume of non-hydrocarbon exports.

The services of Trade Ministry made its electronic website [www.algex.dz/CNCPE](http://www.algex.dz/CNCPE) available to the economic operators to receive any concerns, concluded the communiqué.

## **FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

### **President Tebboune receives phone call from Ethiopian President**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune received a telephone call on Thursday from President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, the Presidency of the Republic said in a press release.

"The two presidents welcomed, during this telephone interview, the privileged level of relations existing between Algeria and Ethiopia, and held an in-depth exchange of views on the main issues in Africa," added the same source.

### **Major General Chanagriha received by top official in Russian Defence Ministry**

*ALGIERS* - Major General Saïd Chanagriha, acting chief of staff of the People's National Army was received Wednesday, the second day of his visit to Russia, by Colonel General Fomin Alexander Faslivitch, the deputy minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, to whom he hand-delivered a letter from President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and minister of National Defence, addressed to his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, the ministry of National Defence said Wednesday on a statement.

In the meeting, held at the headquarters of the Russian ministry of Defence, the two sides discussed "ways and methods to promote bilateral relations between the two armies and the two countries, and to develop the bilateral military cooperation through exchange of experiences," the statement said.

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For his part, the Russian deputy minister of Defence said his country "is continuously working to develop its relations with Algeria, a key strategic partner, in the interests of the two countries, the two armies and the two peoples."

General-Major Chanegriha, for his part, emphasized "the depth of relations between the two countries and the two armies, and which date back to the era of the Glorious Liberation Revolution."

The members of the Algerian delegation accompanying Major General Chanegriha and senior advisers to the Russian Minister of Defence attended the meeting.

### **Symposium on Western Sahara: call for resumption of UN process**

*BRUSSELS* - Participants in the political symposium, entitled "Settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara: one year after the resignation of UN Envoy Horst Kohler," on Wednesday called for the resumption of negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front, urging the UN chief to hasten the designation of a personal envoy for Western Sahara.

The symposium, held via videoconference, has been attended by Oubi Bouchraya Al-Bashir Sahrawi ambassador to Europe and the European Union, Pierre Galand President of the EUCOCO, Said Ayachi Head of the Algerian Committee for Solidarity with the Sahrawi People (CNASPS), and Gilles Dover Lawyer of the Polisario before the European courts and Francesco Bastagli former representative of the UN Secretary General in Western Sahara.

In the Final Declaration, a solemn appeal was launched to the UN chief to designate as soon as possible a new envoy for this non-self-governing territory with a view to relaunching the negotiations in a deadlock since Horst Kohler's resignation in May 2019.

The Participants stressed the importance of the effective implementation of the right to self-determination, and the liberation of political prisoners.

They condemned Morocco's destabilizing actions aiming at evading its international obligations and slowing down the process of decolonization of Western Sahara territory, reminding the Spanish government of its responsibilities to end the colonization and to recognize the inalienable right of the Sahrawis to build their state as affirmed by the African Union.

In the same context, the speakers denounced the position of the European Commission with regard to this conflict between the Polisario Front in Morocco, demanding that it respect the relevant decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) on the Association Agreement between the European Union and Morocco.

They also recalled that the decisions of the CJEU on this conflict say that Morocco and Western Sahara are two distinct and separate territories.

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Reaffirming their support for the legitimate demands of the Sahrawi people, the participants stressed the urgency for the UN Security Council to fulfill its promises regarding the Western Sahara decolonization.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Dangerous criminal network dismantled in Birtouta, over DZD32 billion recovered**

*ALGIERS* - The National Gendarmerie units of Birtouta, in Algiers, dismantled a dangerous criminal network specialized in the burglary of plants, recovering DZD3.26 billion and a sum in foreign currency and arrested thirteen (13) individuals, said Commander of Birtouta's territorial company Toubal Nacer.

In a press conference, in which the seized products and the criminal network's elements were presented, Commander Toubal said that the operation was triggered on the basis of a complaint was received by the territorial brigade of Chaibia coming under the territorial company of Birtouta, stating a burglary of a plant by a group of hooded criminals carrying bladed weapons and wearing special clothes and gloves to avoid leaving marks of their crime.

The criminals grabbed an important amount of domestic and foreign currency, said the source, adding that they also stole a bus reserved for the staff transportation. The exploitation of surveillance cameras and the resort to experts and technicians coming under the National Gendarmerie allowed the identification of one of the perpetrators in one of the border provinces, he added.

The other individuals of the criminal network, who are from several provinces, were identified after in-depth investigations, he said.

This qualitative operation enabled the arrest of 13 individuals and the recovery of an important amount of money exceeding DZD3.26 billion as well as foreign currency USD39, 000, €8,340 and 20 Tunisian dinars.

The National Gendarmerie also seized tools used in the execution of crimes, namely cutting tools, clothes and various engines as well as different types of bladed weapons, banknotes, chips and mobile phones.