

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Grey areas: State determined to implement projects as soon as possible

SAIDA - Adviser to President of the Republic in charge of grey areas Brahim Merrad affirmed Tuesday, in Saida, that the “State is determined to implement, as soon as possible, all the projects initiated in isolated regions nationwide.”

On the sidelines of his second day of an inspection visit to grey areas in Saida, Merrad said that the State is keen to implement successfully these projects “as soon as possible” in order to improve the living conditions of citizens living in these regions, stressing that the State “is working to smooth out the difficulties and obstacles that could hinder the development efforts in these areas.”

The same official said that an important budget allocated by the State to execute these projects, in several development aspects, citing, amongst others, the connection to drinking water and sanitation network, the opening of rural tracks, the construction of treatment rooms and primary schools and also the State’s support to rural construction.

After taking note of the citizens’ concerns in Ouled En Nadhri, Ouled Ali and El Houadir in the sub-prefecture of Ouled Brahim, Merrad underlined that “President Tebboune attaches special interest to the revitalization of development in grey areas. He created a commission at his level in charge of monitoring the pace and progress of development projects, as well as the executed projects or those that are being executed.”

Merrad welcomed the efforts made by the local authorities for the execution of a good number of projects. Saida province includes 308 grey areas that benefitted from 423 development projects in water resources, public works, education and energy.

Freeze on health sector’s projects to be lifted progressively

MASCARA - Minister of Health, population and Hospital Reform Abderrahmane Benbouzid underlined Tuesday, in Mascara, that the Government is progressively lifting the freeze on the projects of health sector, insisting on the need to make up for the delay of the projects under execution.

The minister, who was on his visit to the province of Mascara with Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Abdelbaki Benziane and Delegate Minister to the Prime Minister in charge of Knowledge Economy and Startups Yacine El Mehdi Oualid, said that the government is progressively unfreezing the projects of the health sector that have been frozen previously because of the difficult economic conditions.

The freeze on the most pressing projects will be lifted like the 700-bed hospital of Algeria and the cancer hospital in Djelfa, followed then by other projects, including the project of constructing a 120-bed hospital in Mascara, he said.

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Benbouzid said that the government is currently working to make up for the delay in some projects under execution in some provinces to be delivered shortly, like the 240-bed hospital in the province of Mostaganem, as well as the hospital specialized in orthopedics in the city of Bouhanifia in Mascara.

COMMUNICATION

Communication Ministry files complaint against M6 TV channel

ALGIERS - A complaint was filed Wednesday by the Ministry of Communication against M6 TV channel for filming "without accreditation" the Enquête exclusive show, said the ministry.

"The Ministry of Communication on Wednesday filed a complaint for filming a show in Algeria without the accreditation provided for by the legislation in force against the French TV channel M6 that broadcast a documentary on Algeria on Sunday," the Ministry told APS.

On Sunday, the TV channel broadcast a documentary on "Enquête exclusive" show entitled "Algeria, the country of all revolts," in which M6 had "a biased view" on the popular movement (Hirak).

COVID-19 NEWS

Coronavirus: Algeria calls for "new methodes of teaching" in Arab world

ALGIERS - Algeria stressed Wednesday, through the voice of Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Abdelbaki Benziane, on the need to adopt "new methodes of education" in the Arab world, such as distance learning and double-shift teaching because of the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19).

In his speech by videoconference during the meeting of Arab Ministers of Higher Education and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) on the theme "adoption of a document for the development of education in the Arab world", the minister proposed the introduction of new trades to fit with the socio-economic development of our countries in the long term, such as artificial intelligence, internet and robotics, to improve the quality of education."

"The curricula must meet international standards, thanks to the training provided by the elite training schools," he said.

In this context, Benziane insisted on the need to move towards a "school without a schoolbag", adding that "digital clusters are challenges imposed by the development of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) to access, safely, knowledge societies."

The Minister stressed the imperative "to improve the management of educational and research institutions to move from management based on the administrative approach to management based on the management approach" and "the opening of education in the Arab world to the global human dimension."

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

President of Republic receives AFRICOM Commander

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune received Wednesday General Stephen Townsend, commander of the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), who was accompanied by members of the American embassy in Algeria,” said a communiqué of the Presidency of the Republic.

Algeria’s accession to AfCFTA in time gives it power of influence

ALGIERS - Minister of Trade Kamel Rezig underlined Tuesday that the accession of Algeria to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in the beginning of 2021 will give it the quality of a founding country and the power to influence decisions and formulation of conditions.

In a session before the Committee on foreign, cooperation affairs and on community at the People’s National Assembly on the bill comprising the approval of the agreement on the creation of AfCFTA, concluded on 21 March 2018 in Kigali, Rezig pointed out that the factor of time was “very important” as it allowed the country to enter this area with a power of influence and effectively, especially as Algeria has seven border crossings to the African countries.

AfCFTA includes 53 countries with a population density exceeding 1.2 billion inhabitants, in anticipation of 2.5 billion expected in 2050.

For Rezig, these data require speeding up the regulation of legal procedures and regulations of entering this area, enabling the access of Algerian goods and services into the African countries, the investment, the protection of intellectual property and other important privileges able to revive trading with the African countries, notably neighboring ones.

It will also help increase the volume of inter-African exchanges with a rate of 52% compared to their current volume which is at 15% at the international level. It will also help revive the commercial activities in the grey areas of the South and improve the living conditions in border provinces.

Palestinian Prime minister welcomes President Tebboune’s position against normalization policy with Zionist entity

ALGIERS - Palestinian Prime Minister Mohamed Shtayyeh welcomed Tuesday the position of Algeria and of its President Abdelmadjid Tebboune against the normalization policy with the Zionist entity and its consistent support to the Palestinian cause.

“We welcome the statements of Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune who affirmed that his country will not support and will not participate in the alacrity for normalization;” said the Palestinian Prime minister in the meeting of the Council of ministers in Ramallah, underlining that Algeria “has always supported our people and our cause at the popular and official levels.”

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“At a time when some regimes hasten to normalize relations with Israel which occupies our land, oppresses our people and controls our saint places, we see the consistent position of Algeria which refuses to remain neutral before the historical injustice faced by the Palestinian people,” said the Palestinian official, stressing that “the ties between the Palestinian and Algerian peoples will remain forever solid.”

In his meeting on Sunday with the managers of national media outlets, President of the Republic reaffirmed Algeria’s consistent position vis-à-vis the Palestinian cause, pointing out that it is “scared for us and for all the Algerian people.”

Underlining that the Palestinian cause is a “central cause in the Middle East,” President Tebboune said that “there can be no solution in this region without the settlement of this issue.”

Boukadoum holds talks with Commander of AFRICOM

ALGIERS - Foreign Minister, Sabri Boukadoum, held talks Wednesday in Algiers, with General J. Townsend, commander of the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM). Previously, the AFRICOM commander was received by President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Describing Algeria as a "reliable and very strong" partner, General Townsend said Algeria "can play a very important role in ensuring security and peace throughout the region.

Algeria-Italy: Renewable energy at center of energy cooperation

ALGIERS - Minister of Energy, Abdelmadjid Attar, received Wednesday in Algiers, Italian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and International Cooperation, Manlio Di Stefano, with whom he discussed ways to intensify energy cooperation between the two countries especially in the field of renewable energy.

"We want to develop our cooperation with Italy in the Energy sector, especially in the field of renewable energies that have been an important part of our discussions today," Attar told the press at the end of his audience with Di Stefano. Describing relations with Italian energy companies as "very good," the Minister stressed the important role that these companies can play in the realization of projects in the sector.

"We mainly discussed the future. We aspire to build a new Algeria and this cannot be achieved without a different vision of the past and new achievements in this sector, because without energy there will be no development. Italian companies have a great expertise in the Energy sector and can have an important contribution given the opportunities for cooperation," he said.

Attar recalled, in this sense, that Italians were the most present during the last decades among foreign operators active in Algeria in the Energy sector, in different areas (exploration and production of hydrocarbons, construction of power plants, studies, etc.).

For his part, Di Stefano reiterated the "strategic" importance of Algeria for Italy.

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"We have an extraordinary relationship with Algeria from the economic, political and social point of view. This meeting aims precisely to strengthen this type of relationship," he said, stressing that great opportunities for cooperation are offered for both countries in the future.

Algeria-Italy: Official installation of technical committee in charge of delimitation of maritime borders

ALGIERS - The Joint Technical Committee in charge of the delimitation of maritime borders between Algeria and Italy, was officially installed Wednesday in Algiers, on the occasion of the visit to Algeria of Italian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Manlio Di Stefano.

"Manlio Di Stefano and I have just officially installed the Joint Technical Committee in charge of the delimitation of the maritime borders between Algeria and Italy," said the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chakib Rachid Kaid, at the end of the audience he granted to the Italian Secretary of State.

This committee, which is currently in a negotiation meeting, is "called, eventually, to set the maritime borders between our two countries, in continuation of the excellent political and economic relations that traditionally unite Algeria and Italy," said Kaid.

He expressed "the satisfaction of the Algerian Government" for the launch of this negotiation process, which is, according to him "the fruit of regular bilateral consultation and political decision taken at the highest level of our two states during the visit to Algeria of the President of the Italian Council of Ministers Giuseppe Conte.

He also stressed that this visit of Di Stefano "which is not limited to the ceremony of launching negotiations on the borders, even if the symbolism attached to this issue is sufficiently strong and expressive of the level of our relations," allows to take stock of all issues of bilateral political and economic cooperation," he added.

In this context "We have already considered the principles bilateral high-level deadlines, including the bilateral strategic dialogue, the bilateral follow-up committee, the bilateral high-level meeting and the Business Forum," heavy files that "mobilize our attention and on which the discussion will continue throughout the day."

It is also planned that the Secretary of State may meet other senior Algerian officials to discuss with them the bilateral relations and their prospects.

For his part, the Secretary of State at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs described Algeria as an "extraordinary partner" for his country and for the Mediterranean and with whom "we share enormous opportunities and history."

Algeria is a country with which "we have excellent relations both politically and commercially, a country that contributes in a real way to very important chapters for Italy such as energy supply and management of the Mediterranean in terms of security and wealth," said Di Stefano.

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In addition to cooperation in the economic and political fields, Algeria, for the Italian Secretary of State, is the country with which Italy "shares today also the political effort for the stability of Libya" he said.

He also considered that the installation today of the Technical Committee is a "fundamental" step, adding that the delimitation of exclusive economic zones in the Mediterranean "can only be achieved through consultation between neighboring countries.

"We share a small but rich space and instead of this sea divides it should rather unite", said Di Stefano noting that Italy and Algeria "do not need any factor of misunderstanding."

AFRICOM commander: Algeria can play "very important role to ensure security, peace in the region"

ALGIERS - Algeria is a "reliable and strong partner" and it can play a "very important role to ensure security and peace in the region," said Wednesday in Algiers General Stephen J. Townsend commander of United States Africa Command.

"Algeria is a reliable and very strong partner, and if I am here it is because we are convinced that Algeria can play a very important role to ensure security and peace in the whole region," added the General following his meeting with President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Describing Africom's relations with Algeria as "good", General Stephen Townsend expressed the wish to "extend them to other areas".

President Tebboune had received General Stephen Townsend, who was accompanied by members of the American Embassy in Algeria ".

MRAP: Activities of Moroccan Human rights council in Western Sahara, illegal

PARIS - The activities of the Moroccan National Human Rights Council (CNDH) in Western Sahara are "illegitimate" and openly violate the most basic standards of international law and international humanitarian law, said the Movement against Racism and for Friendship Between Peoples (MRAP) in a briefing, forwarded to the UN chief.

"The activities carried out by the Moroccan National Human Rights Council in Western Sahara openly violate the most elementary standards of international law and international humanitarian law," said the MRAP, in this presentation prepared as part of the follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Action Programme (VDPA).

"The protection and promotion of the fundamental rights of a people under military occupation cannot be entrusted to an organ belonging to the occupying power, which exercises systemic and serious violations of international law on human rights and the international Humanitarian Law," denounced the MRAP, in its document, calling on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to "monitor respect for fundamental rights and freedoms in a territory under military occupation and to report regularly the noticed violations."

President Tebboune urges acceleration of UN reform

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Wednesday delivered a speech by videoconference on the occasion of the 75th ordinary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization (UN), in which he particularly urged the acceleration of the UN reform, notably the Security Council.

This year's session is themed "The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism/Confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action."

Speaking about the action of the UN in the light of the current evolutions, the President of the Republic "urged the acceleration of its reform, and particularly that of the Security Council, and the enhancement of multilateralism to face multiple challenges like poverty, development, diseases, human trafficking, climate change and counterterrorism."

President Tebboune also recalled the doctrinal principles of Algeria's foreign policy, its support to the just Palestinian and Sahrawi causes, and its positions on regional and international issues of interest, notably the crisis in Libya and Mali, especially as Algeria is making significant efforts for their resolutions.

He also reaffirmed Algeria's commitment to various international and regional issues and its action in the fight against terrorism for the achievement of sustainable development and environmental goals, and in favor of disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and to strengthen integration at the Maghreb and African levels.

Internally, the President of the Republic said that Algeria was "fully committed to a new era, following a peaceful, civilized and blessed popular movement, which will result in the organization, on November 1, 2020, of a referendum on the revision of the Constitution that will lay the foundations of a democratic system and the rule of law, and guarantee the balance of power, respect for freedoms and rights, and the moralization of public life.

Referring to the national news, President Tebboune stressed that "the difficult situation imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic has not prevented Algeria from continuing its efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals."

Algeria "is in the process of completing the establishment of a national framework for indicators to measure the rate of progress in achieving the objectives of sustainable development. The 2030 sustainable development agenda will soon be introduced in the annual finance acts and a legal framework will be developed to boost the work of stakeholders."

"Algeria is advancing, today, with sure steps towards democracy, the rule of law and social justice, following the democratic change resulting from a peaceful, civilized and blessed Hirak (popular movement) that led to the organization of a presidential election in December 2019, which has enshrined the sovereignty of the Algerian people and their freedom of choice and decision," he continued.

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Despite the difficult health situation, Algeria has taken, in recent months, "great strides in the process of political and socio-economic reforms to build a new, strong, secure and prosperous Algeria, ," said the Head of State, recalling that "our country will hold, in early November, a referendum on the draft revised Constitution to lay the foundations for a democratic political regime that ensures the protection of rights and freedoms, enshrines the balance of power and guarantees the moralization of public life."

Finally, the President of the Republic called on the international community to be "united and to show solidarity to transcend differences and face the difficult situation the world is going through, to bring our countries and peoples out of the risk zone and to continue together our path towards stability, security and development."

Lieutenant General Chanegriha receives AFRICOM commander

ALGIERS - Lieutenant General Said Chanegriha, Chief of Staff of the People's National Army (ANP) received Wednesday at the Army headquarters, Army General Stephen J. Townsend, Commander of AFRICOM, said the Ministry of National Defense in a statement.

In addition to the Secretary General of the Ministry of National Defense and the commanders of the Forces and the National Gendarmerie, the meeting was attended by heads of departments and central directors of the Ministry of National Defense and the ANP staff, as well as members of the U.S. delegation, said the same source.

During this meeting, both parties held discussions that focused on "military cooperation between the two countries and exchanged analyses and views on issues of common interest."

"I hope that our meeting today will be fruitful and that it will bring new perspectives, knowing that my country and the United States of America have an important potential to strengthen their partnership through different mechanisms, based on transparency, openness and shared interests," said Lieutenant General Said Chanegriha.

"It is clear that thanks to a strong national mobilization, led by the People's National Army, Algeria has been able to defeat, in the long run, through a relentless fight, the terrorism it has faced since the 1990s and this at the cost of huge human and material sacrifices," he said.

"Today, the terrorist nuisance in my country has been reduced to its simplest expression and we are determined to continue the fight until its total eradication," he continued.

"Algeria was able to defeat terrorism alone and without any foreign aid whatsoever, thanks to the determination and self-sacrifice of its armed forces and close cooperation between the various security services, as well as the great convictions of its people," said the Chief of Staff of the ANP.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides exchanged symbolic gifts and Army General Stephen J. Townsend signed the guestbook of the ANP staff, the statement concluded.