

# **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

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



## **Press Review**

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

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### **COVID-19 NEWS**

#### **Covid-19: 255 Algerians repatriated from USA to Oran**

*ORAN* - The national airliner Air Algerie on Friday repatriated 255 Algerians stranded in the United States of America (USA) to Oran.

An “Air Algerie” airplane carrying 255 Algerian nationals from Washington landed on the tarmac of the Ahmed Benbella International Airport at around 9 a.m.

The repatriated Algerians were welcomed by representatives of the local civil and security authorities, who facilitated the completion of the usual administrative procedures.

A medical team was also mobilized to accompany them during their stay in the hotels designated to receive for a seven-day lockdown, said the same source.

#### **Covid-19: Faithful discipline will speed up reopening of mosques**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Religious Affairs and Wakfs Youcef Belmahdi underlined Saturday, in Algiers that the discipline of the faithful and their respect of the preventive measures against Covid-19 will speed up the total reopening of mosques.

“The discipline of the faithful and their respect of the preventive health measures will speed up the total reopening of all the mosques of the Republic,” said Belmahdi who supervised the reopening of the mosque Khaled Larbi in the commune of Heraoua.

Hailing the discipline and good conduct of the faithful during the prayer of al-Fadjr throughout the 19 provinces where the lockdown has been totally lifted, the minister said that he has had reassuring echoes on the compliance with the health protocol by the faithful who wore their masks and brought their hydro alcoholic gels as well as their prayer rugs.”

He commended the imams, associations, committees, volunteers and organizers for their efficient role in the progressive reopening of mosques, hoping that the mobilization, prudence and vigilance will remain valid to preserve the country’s health security.

The Minister insisted on the strict respect by the imams of the time for the call to the prayers decided by the ministerial committee of fatwa and other measures that have been taken in this regard.

### ECONOMIC NEWS

#### **Investment: Census of production assets in public and private sectors**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Industry Ferhat Ali Braham on Thursday announced a census of the production assets in the public and private sectors in order to determine the added value brought to the economy.

This study will help us to know, in a precise manner, the saturation levels of the production chains and their processing capacities.

It is inconceivable to put on the same footing a factory that is involved in the total and local processing of raw materials and another that is limited to the packaging of materials produced abroad, the minister told the press ahead of the Government-Walis meeting.

The short and medium term goal is that the country's ports receive more raw materials than manufactured products. Algeria currently exports raw materials and human skills, and imports finished products, said Ait Ali Braham said.

Algeria is faced with a strategic choice, namely to embark on a real industrialization and totally abandon the import of non-essential consumer products, but this choice requires time to materialize, affirmed the minister.

The only solution to guarantee products, including vehicles, at prices within everyone's reach, lies in the revival of industry, and thus an increase in wages and purchasing power.

#### **ENIEM to increase integration rate of one of product range to 70%**

*TIZI OUZOU* - The National Company of Household Appliances Industries (ENIEM) has developed a plan to increase the integration rate of a range of its products to 70% with the Lebanese Matic, said CEO Djillali Mouazer.

"The integration of 70% of the ENIEM product over time is an important part of the company's recovery plan. A plan that is in line with Government policy," Mouazer said in an interview with APS.

"The refrigeration industry will be the first concerned by this project. The integration will cover 10 products (refrigerators, freezers and glass door refrigerators) of various colors. We already have the appropriate equipment to produce this range," he said.

The project, which started in the second half of 2018 under a partnership with the Lebanese supplier of raw materials Matic, is "progressing well" and is "more than 90% complete," said Mouazer. Prototypes have even been manufactured. "We will soon produce a pre-series," he announced.

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"We are going to reach the 70% integration rate eventually. Everything that is sheet metal, plastic, copper, aluminum, wire, will be produced locally, only the engine will not be," said the CEO.

In addition to the refrigeration range, the leader of household appliances in Algeria has also contacted a supplier for the integration of other products, including heating, stated Mouazer.

The integration of the washing machine, water heater and built-in cooking products is also on the agenda and steps have already been taken.

Parallel to this approach, the company is also working on improving the design of its products in order to be up to date and satisfy the consumer.

We also seek to be in line with the energy saving policy of the Government, ENIEM being certified ISO 14001 version 2015 (relating to the environmental management system), stressed the CEO.

He acknowledged that the ENIEM refrigerator model, which is solid and safe, "is obsolete and outdated in technical terms, and does not meet the requirements of energy consumption and design."

Some products have been "face-lifted" but this remains "insufficient", since the design changes after a few years, hence "the need for a fundamental change in the design of our products", said the ENIEM CEO.

### **Sonatrach: Increasing efforts to safeguard Algeria's energy security**

*ALGIERS* - Chief Executive Officer of Sonatrach Group Toufik Hakkar stressed the need to intensify efforts to increase production in order to safeguard Algeria's energy security as well as its foreign currency revenue, said Saturday the national oil company in a communiqué.

Hakkar paid a working and inspection visit to the maintenance directorate coming under the pipeline transport activity of Laghouat where he stressed "the need to increase efforts and renew national oil and gas reserves," said the communiqué.

He insisted on the rationalization of expenditure given the current economic situation marked by the drop in oil prices worldwide.

During his visit, Hakkar followed a detailed presentation on the missions and activity of the directorate before having an exchange with the executives on the different concerns of the staff as well as this structure's objectives.

Hakkar then headed for the industrial park of Hassi Rmel where he enquired about the progress in the works of gas treatment and compression station (center).

He also listened to a presentation on this strategic project whose objective is to recover the reserves of gas fields of Hassi Rmel with an additional volume of about 400 billion m<sup>3</sup>.

### FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

#### **EU satisfied that humanitarian aid delivery to Sahrawi refugees goes smoothly**

*BRUSSELS* - The European Union said it is satisfied that the delivery of the humanitarian aid to the Sahrawi refugees went smoothly, affirming that it didn't record any irregularities in this process, contrary to the false allegations circulated by the Moroccan propaganda machine.

After the World Food Program (WFP) which has swept away the false information circulated by Morocco on a supposed "misuse" of humanitarian aid destined to Sahrawi refugees, the European Commission has just released two official reactions, putting an end to the misleading campaign conducted by the Moroccan authorities on this issue.

In a report sent to the European Parliament and Council, dating back to 7 August 2020, the European Commission said it is satisfied that the delivery operations of the humanitarian aid to the Sahrawi refugees went smoothly, underlining that it didn't record any irregularities in this process.

After four decades of unresolved political conflict resulting in humanitarian consequences, tens of thousands of Sahrawi refugees are living in a forgotten and prolonged crisis, said the report, adding that they live in five camps in the desert of Algeria's south-west, dependent on humanitarian aid for survival.

In the report, the Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) at the European Commission affirmed that it deployed operations for €9 million, providing food and fighting against the increased malnutrition among the Sahrawi refugee children and women, as well as supply of drinking water.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### **3.4-magnitude quake jolts Oran**

*ALGIERS* - A 3.4 magnitude quake on the Richter scale jolted the commune of Bettioua (province of Oran) on Saturday at 09:18 a.m., announced the Research Centre in Astronomy, Astrophysics and Geophysics (CRAAG) in a press release. The epicenter of the quake was located 10 km south-east of Bettioua, said the same source.

#### **Tremor in Bettioua: No casualty or property damage reported**

*ORAN* - The tremor that shook Bettioua (east of Oran) on Saturday has caused no casualty or human loss, Communication Official at the provincial directorate of Civil Protection told APS.

"As soon as the alert was given, the Civil Protection units of Bettioua, supported by those of Oran, went to the scene to inquire about the situation in this commune, located near an important industrial area, and prepare for any eventuality," said Captain Abdelkader Benllala.

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“Neither casualty nor property damage have been reported as a result of this tremor, which many citizens did not even feel,” he said.