

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Recent incidents: President Tebboune orders speeding up of investigations

ALGIERS - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, ordered the government on Sunday, at the Council of Ministers meeting, to speed up investigations into the incidents and dysfunctions reported recently and to punish their perpetrators with "the utmost firmness."

"Reacting first of all to the Prime Minister's report, the President of the Republic recalled the serious incidents and dysfunctions recorded in recent weeks like forest fires, disruption of electricity and drinking water and sudden unavailability of cash at postal centers," said the Presidency of the Republic published in a statement at the end of the meeting.

In this regard, President Tebboune urged the government to "complete the investigations carried out, to inform the population of their results, with supporting evidence, and to make sure that the perpetrators are punished with the utmost firmness," the source added.

The President of the Republic took this opportunity to inform the ministers that "arrests have just been made in connection with acts of destruction of electricity poles in the province of Bouira, as well as that of an arsonist who confessed to having deliberately set fire to the forest of Aït Laaziz in the same province," concluded the source.

Tebboune orders deep reforms of university services, opening of post-graduate

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Sunday ordered "deep" reforms of university services, notably transport and accommodation, in addition to the opening of post-graduate courses to all students.

The examination of the university file was at the heart of the periodic meeting of the Council of Ministers, held yesterday, during which the President of the Republic instructed the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research to carry out "deep structural" reforms of the sector "as soon as possible and in the widest possible consultation without losing sight of the indispensable global reflection on university services," the Presidency of the Republic said in a communiqué.

The planned reforms involve the rationalization of expenses and the improvement of services provided to students, including accommodation and transport.

The President of the Republic stressed the need to review the university transport system and to envisage new solutions that avoid monopoly situations and promote competition.

As for the pedagogical aspect, President Tebboune focused on the need to open the post-graduate courses of master's and PhD to all students who wish to continue their studies, without selection, in particular by resorting to distance learning provided that it is supported by national technological and satellite means.

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He also recalled the importance of connecting the university to the economy.

While stressing the need to establish the city of Sidi Abdallah as an exclusive technology hub, the Head of State focused on the importance of developing the system of grandes écoles throughout the country.

COVID-19 NEWS

Covid-19: Gradual return to university

ALGIERS - The Council of Ministers, chaired on Sunday via a video-conference by President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, has once again emphasized a gradual return to the banns of universities taking into account all health conditions.

To this end, he insisted on taking into account the "need to spread out the return to classes over time, taking into account the imperatives linked to health conditions and their evolution on the ground", according to the terms of the communiqué published at the end of the Council.

In order to be ready for the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, a health protocol has been put in place in the context of the Covid-19 corona virus pandemic, by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

This protocol was presented to the social partners, explaining in detail the important points on which school heads must base the organization of the resumption of courses and pedagogy in its various facets (assessment, competitions and examinations).

According to the document, head teachers are empowered to assess the situation in their schools and take appropriate measures on the basis of the "framework" modus operandi and also in consultation with those responsible for teaching, those in charge of university works and with the support of local authorities.

The Ministry proposes, in this framework, the organization of distance learning (courses and tutorials) to complete the current year, the reservation of partial teaching when conditions permit (the sections or groups of students are established by name and well programmed) and the reduction of teaching time (1 hour for courses, 1 hour for tutorials and 2 hours for practical work).

ECONOMIC NEWS

Trade: Multidisciplinary team to combat over-invoicing

ALGIERS - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, has ordered the establishment of a multidisciplinary team to fight against over-invoicing, the Presidency of the Republic said in a communiqué.

Chairing the periodic meeting of the Council of Ministers, held Sunday by a video-conference, Tebboune ordered "the establishment of a multidisciplinary team for the fight against over-

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invoicing to remove it permanently from the national landscape, including through strengthening cooperation with international bodies such as the European Union (EU), including by adhering to international legal instruments that can make such a fight more effective," the same source said.

This instruction was given by President Tebboune after hearing a presentation by the Minister of Trade on the roadmap for the revival of activities in the trade sector, according to the source.

Thus, and after having noted the relevance of the approach presented, which goes in the direction of the moralization of commercial activity and the fight against fraud, the President of the Republic has also instructed the Minister of Trade to strengthen the intervention capacity of the Ministry of Trade, especially in qualified human resources to be able to implement the program.

Tebboune also urged the Minister to clean up entries in the commercial register to put an end to its fraudulent use and false certificates, in particular by ensuring age requirements and by strengthening digitization and cooperation with customs and tax services, as well as with the security services.

Tebboune also ordered the resumption of cross-border trade in the southern areas of the country after consultation with the services of the Ministry of National Defense (MDN), while strengthening security and control measures.

The President also requested, in consultation with the authorities of the two countries, to examine the possibility of direct investment by Naftal in the neighbouring regions of Mali and Niger to reduce the traffic and smuggling of fuel and butane gas.

He also instructed the Government to review the system for reimbursing transport costs to and from the south of the country and to update the list of products that are now available while combating false invoices.

New vehicles: New specifications to be presented before end of week

ALGIERS - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, said that the specifications on new vehicles need to be presented before the end of the week, the Presidency of the Republic said in a statement.

Chairing the periodic meeting of the Council of Ministers, held yesterday Sunday by videoconference, Tebboune "stressed the need to present, before the end of the week, the specifications on new vehicles which, in accordance with the decisions taken at the last Council of Ministers, should only concern nationals," the source said.

A separate text should be taken with regard to foreigners, mentioned in the communiqué.

In addition, the Council of Ministers heard a communication from the Minister of Industry on the specifications relating to the conditions and modalities of exemption from customs duties and value added tax of components and raw materials imported or acquired locally by subcontractors.

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Thus, the President of the Republic has ordered the adoption of the draft specifications that are the subject of the communication and its publication, stressing "the importance of ensuring the effective and transparent implementation of this mechanism so that the real economic operators acting in the field of subcontracting can benefit from it."

Tebboune also highlighted "the need to monitor strict compliance by beneficiaries with the provisions of the specifications and the rigorous application of penalties in the event of non-compliance," according to the same source.

President Tebboune gives instructions to make special fund for startups operational

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Sunday gave instructions to make the special fund for startups operational rapidly and to adopt the draft regulatory texts related to these companies as soon as possible, said the Presidency of the Republic in a communiqué.

The Head of State chaired the periodic meeting of the Council of Ministers, held on Sunday by videoconference.

After hearing a presentation by the Minister Delegate in charge of the Development of the Knowledge Economy and Start-ups, Tebboune stressed "the relevance of the presented program and expressed the full support of the Government for the implementation of its thrusts," said the source.

Tebboune instructed the Minister Delegate in charge of the sector to adopt, as soon as possible, the draft regulatory texts relating to start-ups, and to quickly make operational the special fund for them so as to create the first companies in the coming weeks.

The President of the Republic also gave instructions to provide the sector with land for the establishment of incubators and accelerators and to ensure the relocation of Algerian start-ups based abroad by creating the same environment they currently work in.

Startup financing fund to be operational next week

CONSTANTINE - The Startup Financing Fund will be operational "next week," announced Monday Yacine El-Mahdi Oualid, Delegate Minister to the Prime Minister in charge of Knowledge Economy and Startups.

"This fund, dedicated to start-ups, will allow financing in line with the nature and demand of innovative companies," said the Minister Delegate in a press briefing on the sidelines of a working visit to the province of Constantine.

Governed by financing mechanisms based essentially on "venture capital", this fund, a specific mode of financing for young innovative high-tech companies, "reflects the State's willingness to invest in energy, ideas and projects of young people in the service of the national economy," he said.

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Reporting the existence of about 3,000 start-ups nationwide, Yacine El-Mahdi Oualid said that the number of these companies would be revised upwards as and when the activation of the various organizational and support measures and other facilities provided by the State, including "the removal of bureaucratic constraints and reduction of tax burdens."

Referring to the forthcoming creation of "technology zones" dedicated to start-ups, the Minister stressed the importance of this project which should address the concern expressed in terms of land and "support the climate of innovation that promotes competitiveness."

As for the issue of the legal framework governing the activity of start-ups, he said that the State was working to organize this area "that remained opaque for a long time", through the promulgation of texts and regulatory framework to adapt to the specific profile of start-ups and ensure their progress.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

President Tebboune receives Spanish Interior Minister

ALGIERS - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, received Monday in Algiers Interior Minister of the Kingdom of Spain, Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gomez, who is on a one-day official visit to Algeria at the head of an important delegation.

The audience took place at the headquarters of the presidency of the Republic in the presence of Director of Cabinet at the Presidency of the Republic, Nouredine Baghdad Daidj, and Minister of Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning, Kamal Beldjoud.

Polisario denounces installation of African Network of Francophone headquarters in Dakhla

BRUSSELS - The Representation of the Polisario Front for Europe and the European Union (EU), has described the installation of the African Network of the Francophone headquarters in occupied Dakhla as an "irresponsible act that violates international law, African law and European law."

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Polisario Front Representation for Europe and the EU, said it was aware of the installation of the headquarters of the African Network of Francophone Houses in the town of Dakhla in Western Sahara under Moroccan military occupation, describing the act as "irresponsible which violates international law, African law and European law, and aggravates the tension in the region."

The Polisario Front Representation "strongly denounces in the strongest terms" this decision, which it also considers as "an act of aggression" against the Sahrawi people who are fighting in all legitimacy and legality against the invasion and annexation of their country by a foreign force, namely the Kingdom of Morocco.

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The Polisario also denounces, "The provocative style of the Moroccan occupation, which aims to mislead public opinion in the French-speaking world and to make people believe in the non-existent legitimacy of its presence in Western Sahara."

To carry out this media-political operation, the Kingdom of Morocco is using, this time, the Polisario Front notes, "a cultural institution that depends on the French government, a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a member of the European Union, two organizations that nevertheless recognize Western Sahara as a non-autonomous territory, in the process of decolonization, distant and separate from the Kingdom of Morocco."

For the Polisario Front, endorsing such an "illegal" and "immoral" act on the part of France is in addition to a series of French positions which, "instead of helping to pave the way for a peaceful solution to the conflict, reinforces Morocco in its policy of intransigence and consequently fuels tension and escalation in the region."

Boukadoum receives Spain's Interior Minister

ALGIERS - Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabri Boukadoum on Monday received Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Spain Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gomez.

The meeting took place at the headquarters of the Foreign Ministry.

Previously, the Spanish official met with President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune and Minister of Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning Kamel Beldjoud.

Spain seeks to develop cooperation with Algeria, says Gomez

ALGIERS - Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Spain Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gomez on Monday expressed his country's willingness to develop multifaceted cooperation with Algeria.

In a statement to the press ahead of his meeting with President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gomez expressed his country's willingness to "develop" bilateral ties with Algeria.

I handed over a message from Spain's Head of Government Pedro Sanchez to President Tebboune, in which "he expressed Spain's willingness to boost multifaceted cooperation with Algeria," he continued.

"Bilateral ties between Algeria and Spain as two friendly countries are strong," Gomez told the Head of State.

The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation, notably in the fields of security, the fight against organized crime and road security," said the Spanish Interior Minister.

Furthermore, the meeting was an opportunity to discuss trade and economic cooperation as well as "high-level visits."

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Beldjoud, Spanish counterpart discuss security cooperation

ALGIERS - Minister of Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning Kamal Beldjoud and his Spanish counterpart Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gomez stressed the “need” to pool efforts between Algeria and Spain with a view to developing bilateral ties and cooperation in the fight against organized crime.

In a statement to the press ahead of his meeting with Spain’s Interior Minister, who is currently on a visit to Algeria, Beldjoud called relations between the two countries “excellent.”

I exchanged with my Spanish counterpart viewpoints on the issues of common interest in the fields of security and civil protection, said Beldjoud.

The meeting was also an opportunity for both officials to discuss illegal migration.

In this regard, Beldjoud said that he clearly focused on the “very significant” financial, material and human means Algeria had mobilized to address this scourge.

He also stressed the need to pool both countries’ efforts, notably in terms of information exchange, in order to combat “drug mafia networks.”

Speaking to the press, the Spanish minister said he discussed with Beldjoud security cooperation in order to fight organized crime and terrorist groups in the region and the Sahel.

The meeting also focused on the continuous training of security forces in both countries and cooperation in the fields of civil protection and road security, he continued.

“The Covid-19 health crisis has changed many things. However, it has not undermined our willingness to boost our relations and cooperation,” stressed Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gomez.

The Spanish official said that his visit to Algeria, third of its kind, “clearly shows that bilateral cooperation still exists despite the current situation, and will even develop further.”