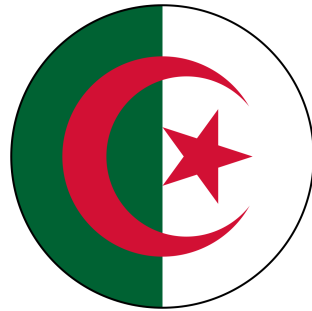


People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Release

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Draft amendment to Constitution: Constitutional Council submits proposals to President of Republic

ALGIERS - The Constitutional Council announced Friday in a communiqué that it submitted to President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune a document comprising observations and proposals concerning the draft amendment of the Constitution.

The document, which includes observations and proposals of the Constitutional Council concerning the amendment of the Constitution, is related to seven paragraphs of the preamble and proposes the rearrangement of the version so as to highlight the balance and separation between the three powers in accordance with the nature of the political regime that the amendment will enshrine, namely the semi-presidential regime, said the source.

In addition to its observations, the Constitutional Council made addition, suppression and reformulation proposals concerning 102 articles of the draft, with a report on the grounds of each proposal, added the source, pointing out that “these observations and proposals were submitted to President of the Republic.”

After receiving the version of the draft amendment of the Constitution from the services of the Presidency of the Republic on 7 May, the Constitutional Council held 18 meetings between 11 May and 11 June, said the communiqué.

Air Algérie repatriates 302 passengers stranded in Turkey

ALGIERS - An Air Algérie aircraft coming from Istanbul (Turkey) landed on Thursday evening at Algiers International Airport carrying 302 Algerians stranded in this country following the suspension of air traffic due to the Covid-19 Pandemic said the company’s Communication Officer Amine Andaloussi.

As part of the repatriation of Algerians stranded aboard, an Airbus A330 aircraft landed at Algiers International Airport at 08:00 p.m., said Andaloussi.

Other citizens will be repatriated from Turkey on Friday aboard an Air Algérie airplane, he continued.

These flights are part of the program for the repatriation of Algerian nationals stranded abroad because of the suspension of air traffic and the implementation of the instructions of the President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune concerning the repatriation of all Algerian nationals stranded abroad as a result of the spread of the covid-19 pandemic.

The Algerian embassies in the countries where Algerians are stranded organized repatriation flights and communicated with them by e-mail and SMS.

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Nearly 13,000 citizens have been repatriated since the suspension of air traffic on 18 March.

Covid-19: Over 200,000 families received CRA's aid

BLIDA - About 200,000 families nationwide benefited from aid comprising foodstuffs offered by the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA), announced Friday, in Blida, CRA's president Saida Benhabiles.

In a statement to APS on the sidelines of a loading operation, at the air base of Boufarik, of 90 tons of aid to Mali, Benhabiles said that "200,000 families from different provinces, notably those of isolated areas benefited from foodstuffs offered by CRA since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic."

"This surge of solidarity with the poor families and those affected by the lockdown measures will continue to help in this health crisis," she said, underlining that in addition to this aid consisted in foodstuffs, CRA also initiated since last March actions aimed at strengthening the capacities of hospitals in the fight against the new Coronavirus.

Benhabiles announced, in this regard, the coming launch of a new solidarity operation consisting in the sending of travelling clinics to the isolated areas for the vaccination of children in response to the concern of families who expressed their fear to head for the health centers during this pandemic.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Algeria imported nearly US\$2 billion of food products in Q1 2020

ALGIERS - Algeria's food import bill reached US\$1.93 billion in the first quarter of 2020 against US\$1.92 billion in the same period in 2019, up by +0.6%, after having declined by 3.5% during the first two months of the current year, APS learnt from the General Directorate of Customs (DGD).

This increase is mainly due to a rise in imports of cereals, milk and milk products, sugar and edible fruit, according to Customs statistics. During the first three months of the current year, food imports occupied the third position of the country's imports, i.e. 21.23%, after industrial capital goods (29.48%) and semi-finished products (21.27%).

Representing more than 32.5% of food imports, cereals, semolina and flour reached US\$629.50 million during the first three months of 2020, against US\$614.39 million during the same period in 2019, up by 2.46%.

Algeria's foreign purchases of dairy products also augmented to US\$363.96 million, against US\$339.15 million (+7.32%).

This upward trend also affected imports of sugar and sweets which hit US\$180.75 million against

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US\$168.01 million (+7.58%), edible fruits (fresh or dried fruits) which increased by nearly 54.5%, totaling US\$87.61 million against US\$56.71million and miscellaneous food preparations which stood at US\$81.30 million against US\$73.39 million (+10.78%) during the same period of comparison.

Imports of fresh or chilled meat reached US\$55.71 million against US\$45.23 million, up by nearly 23.2%.

However, Customs noted that imports of other groups of food products decreased during the 1st quarter of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.

The decline in imports concerned foreign purchases of residues and wastes from food industries, including press cakes and other solid residues, which reached US\$110 million against US\$126.35 million, down by nearly 13%, as well as imports of the coffee, tea and spices group which hit US\$83.34 million against 89.02 million (-6.38%).

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Boukadoum holds phone talks with Spanish, Italian and Irish counterparts

ALGIERS - Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabri Boukadoum on Thursday held phone talks with his counterparts of Spain Arancha Gonzalez Laya, Italy Luigi di Maio and Ireland Simon Coveney, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a communiqué.

“The talks focused on the recent developments in Libya and a solution to the crisis shaking this country, as well as the effects induced by the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic,” said the source.

Peace Agreement in Mali: “Important progress has been registered” over past year

NEW YORK (United Nations) - The implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Mali, resulting from the Algiers process, “has registered important progress” over the past year, the United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Thursday.

“It has been five years since the Peace Agreement was signed by the Malian parties in Algiers. In spite of protracted delays in its implementation, important progress has been registered over the past year,” stressed Guterres.

“An inclusive national dialogue was held in Mali and with Malians of the Diaspora. This provided an opportunity for Malian men and women to express their concerns and discuss solutions, resulted in a number of resolutions and enabled the parties to refocus on the implementation of the Peace Agreement,” he continued.

Stressing that “these mostly positive developments are promising,” Guterres said: “I encourage the signatory parties to strengthen mutual trust and to work together to keep up the momentum in

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the peace process, which remains the only pathway to a politically stable and more secure Mali. My Special Representative stands ready to redouble the use of good offices to help create conditions for progress.”

“Building a politically stable and more secure Mali requires our collective and sustained commitment and MINUSMA’s continued support. We owe this to the people of Mali and the Sahel region, who deserve a better future”, affirmed the UN official.

According to him, the conclusions of the 2019 inclusive national dialogue, which have raised much hope among the Malian people, “deserve diligent implementation.”

“The growing calls of civil society to improve governance and fight insecurity, as heard at last weekend’s demonstrations in Bamako, must be answered through this dynamic. I welcome the President's openness to dialogue in this regard,” said Guterres.

Boufarik Air Base: Loading of 90 tons of humanitarian aid to Mali

BLIDA - A quantity of 90 tons of humanitarian aid to Mali has been loaded Friday in a military aircraft at the Air Base of Boufarik, in Blida, to send it Saturday to the capital Bamako.

President of the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) Saida Benhabiles, who chaired the loading operation of this aid, consisting in foodstuffs and means of protection from Covid-19, said that it is the second action of its kind for Mali since the beginning of the pandemic, after the sending last week of an aid of 30 tons.

This action is added to other several initiatives through which the Algerian people expressed their support and solidarity with their neighbors, observed Benhabiles who ensured that this momentum of solidarity will continue by the organization of other similar operation soon.

In this respect, she said that since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Algeria has initiated a number of solidarity actions with its neighbors, including the sending of 120 tons of humanitarian aid to Niger, 200 tons for Sahrawi refugees as well as solidarity aid to Libya and the area located between the province of Souk Ahras and Tunisian border.