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News Worth Knowing

Editor's note

Algeria's army chief of staff Ahmed Gaid Salah on Monday [called for the country's electoral commission to announce a date](#) for delayed presidential elections - to take place this year - by mid-September.

This comes [seven months into unexpected mass protests](#) against the country's entrenched political establishment. This led to the resignation of president Abdelaziz Bouteflika in April, after the military turned on the longtime ruler.

Since then there has been a [high profile purge](#) of influential figures linked to Bouteflika's 20-year rule, a bid to appease demonstrators and distance the military and ruling National Liberation Front from the former president.

Despite this demonstrations continue, calling for more meaningful political reform.

The impasse is also [making things worse](#) for Algeria's oil-dependent economy. Reforms including subsidy cuts and diversification plans have stalled, firms are struggling to pay wages, and strategic investment into the automotive and oil and gas sectors are on hold due to political uncertainty.

This will likely fuel protests, with a lack of economic opportunity - including estimated youth unemployment of 25% - being a key catalyst in the first place.

The call for presidential elections is a bid to break the impasse. Assuming they go ahead, it's

doubtful that this will address the deeper political and economic issues at play.

There is much unfinished business in Algeria.

Today's picks

From the continent

Zambia's Chamber of Mines has said mineral royalties should be capped at 7.5% in the country's 2020 budget to avoid risking a drop in investment, amid government plans to raise taxes on the industry. Africa's second-biggest copper producer - struggling with mounting debt - is among a number of mineral-rich African countries that have hiked royalties in the last 12 months. **More:** [Reuters](#)

An estimated 27m people across seven countries in East Africa and the Horn of Africa - including Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda - are facing acute food insecurity according to new figures from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Food Security Information Network (FSIN). Food security across the continent is deteriorating, fueled by climate shocks, conflict, and economic instability. **More:** [Anadolu Agency](#)

The Daily Stat

1.6 tonnes

The amount of cocaine seized by authorities in Guinea-Bissau on Tuesday - the biggest in the country's history - said to be bound for Islamist Militants in the Maghreb. **More:** [Reuters](#)

The Global Perspective

French power utility ENGIE has acquired Africa-focused off-grid solar company Mobisol, which has operations in Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya. The investment into the Germany-based business is part of growing interest in the off-grid solar sector on the continent. **More:**

[ENGIE](#)

Russia's state-controlled VTB Bank has announced plans to enter grain markets in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to boost Russian grain exports. This comes amid efforts by Moscow to increase political and economic engagement with African countries. **More:**

[Reuters](#)
