

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Repatriation flights: Concerned nationals must respect five conditions

ALGIERS - National airline Air Algérie underlined, in a communiqué, the conditions that the Algerian nationals stranded abroad must respect to be eligible to take the repatriation flights. “As part of the repatriation program operated by Air Algérie, the following conditions must be respected concerning foreign countries-Algeria,” said the public company in a statement published Sunday on its Facebook page.

Air Algérie enumerated five conditions, namely to be holder of an Algerian passport, to be registered at the Algerian consular representations abroad and to have a confirmed Air Algérie ticket on repatriation flights. Concerning sanitary conditions, the Algerian nationals stranded abroad must be holders of a certificate of negative PCR test carried out at least 72 hours before the flight.

They also must fill in a health identification form on the link <https://airalgerie.dz/fiche-sanitaire-fr-en-ar>.

Some media outlets do not respect ethics requirements

ALGIERS - The Audiovisual Regulatory Authority (ARAV) underlined with “distress,” that some media outlets do not respect “the requirements of ethics,” ARAV said Sunday in a statement. ARAV underlined that “some media outlets and their journalists debate themes and contents that are, to say the least, contrary to the good morals, human values and professional ethics.”

In this regard, ARAV affirmed that it followed the trailer of the program "Ma waraa el djoudrane" (Behind the walls), which was scheduled to be broadcast Wednesday at 9.00 p.m. on Ennahar TV channel. The presenter hosted on the set a person “known for his devotion to charlatanism and mystification and who claimed even to cure witchcraft, demonic possession and various organic and psychological diseases,” said the source.

ARAV affirmed that it summoned the channel’s manager to warn him against the repercussions resulting from the broadcast of this program and said that the directorate of the same channel “ensured that it will not broadcast the program.”

PM on working visit to M’sila Tuesday

ALGIERS - Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad, will pay Tuesday at the head of a ministerial delegation, a working visit to the province of M’sila where he will kick off the new academic year 2020-2021 and inspect development projects and others of a social nature, said Monday the Prime Minister’s office in a statement.

"Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad will pay, Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at the head of a ministerial delegation, a working visit to the province of M'sila where he will kick off the

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academic year 2020-2021 and inspect development projects and others of a social nature," according to the source.

COVID-19 NEWS

Covid-19: CRA solidarity caravan heads to marginalized areas

ALGIERS - As part of the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) on Monday has held a solidarity caravan carrying 200 tons of aids that departed from Algiers to marginalized areas countrywide. The CRA Chairperson Saïda Benhabyles kicked off this humanitarian caravan.

"The caravan includes 26 lorries carrying 220 tons of aids. It is part of CRA's strategy to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic," said Benhabyles. The aids are composed of food products, disinfectants, masks, mineral water, baby milk and adult diapers. The caravan includes a donation to the medical staff of Aïn Oussara's Hospital from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), she continued.

"China has recently donated 200,000 masks to Algeria in order to encourage the CRA and express its solidarity with the Algerian people. They will be distributed to families and pupils in marginalized areas," stated Benhabyles. The CRA banks on the donations it receives from donors, including Lorries put at our disposal by a benefactor, she said.

As for donations outside the country, Algeria's policy in terms of humanitarian action has been implemented through solidarity operations for the benefit of Sahrawi refugees, citizens in Libya, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire, said the CRA chairperson. These aids stem "from the precepts of Islam and are not part of a political agenda," affirmed Benhabyles.

Covid-19 vaccine "will be inevitably free for all," says Benbouzid

ALGIERS - The recommended coronavirus vaccine "will be inevitably free for all," announced Monday in Algiers Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform, Abderrahmane Benbouzid, reiterating Algeria's "supervisory" approach regarding the choice of this product which is yet not made.

"I do not engage in sovereign decisions. Nevertheless, medicine has always been free in Algeria, why would you want to make citizens pay. The Covid-19 vaccine will therefore inevitably be free of charge for all categories of the population," the minister retorted to a question of the press, on the sidelines of a virtual meeting, hosted by the headquarters of his department.

Alongside Benbouzid, the Minister Delegate for Hospital Reform, Smail Mesbah, and a representative of the Minister of Finance were present at this two-day meeting. While emphasizing that "the announcement of the choice and date of the vaccine is the responsibility of the President of the Republic or the Prime Minister," the Health Minister recalled that it is the latter who will "arbitrate" the choice submitted to them by the ad hoc Scientific Committee, stressing that "the final choice has not yet been made among the most advanced vaccines.

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Perhaps in a few days, one vaccine will give better results than others," he said pointing out that there are some 321 vaccine research initiatives worldwide.

The same official reiterated Algeria's decision to wait until the product is "qualified," in the light of the experiences of countries already engaged in vaccination. Asked about the logistics of vaccination, the minister said that "if the vaccine will be similar to the products that Algeria is accustomed to use, it won't be a problem," recalling that the country "had to vaccinate 10,000 children in one week."

On the other hand, if the choice is made for another vaccine, there is "a whole logistics which is being studied" concerning, among others, its transport and packaging," he said.

ECONOMIC NEWS

OPEC+: Meeting on January 4th to examine oil market situation

ALGIERS - The countries of the OPEC+ will hold a meeting on 4 January 2021 to examine the situation of the oil market after the recent decision to set a production ceiling to 500,000 barrels a day as from next year instead of the initially scheduled 2 million barrels, Minister of Energy, current chairman of OPEC Conference Abdelmadjid Attar announced on Sunday.

In a statement to the press, after a wrap-up session of the 105th Council of Energy ministers of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), held by videoconference under the presidency of Algeria, Attar underlined that "the OPEC+ countries will examine, in this meeting, the global oil market situation to take the decision to increase production if the prices stabilize or exceed USD50 a barrel."

Chairman of the OPEC Conference said that "it was decided to hold a series of meetings every month, as from next February, to follow the oil market situation and be able to implement progressively a production ceiling of 500,000 barrels, regardless of the oil prices in the global markets."

OPEC+ decided also, after negotiations, to increase the oil production of its members to 500,000 barrels a day as from next January instead of 2 million barrels a day, provided for in the agreement of last April.

This decision has been taken at the proposal of Algeria, Kuwait and Azerbaijan in order to maintain the stability of oil prices in the global market, which was affected by the drop in demand because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Civil engineering: Algerian companies have capacity to invest in Africa

ALGIERS - Algerian civil engineering companies have the required material and human capacities to export their services, especially at the African level, Minister of public Works Farouk Chiali said. "We have found that Algerian companies, both public and private, have the

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skills and equipment to export their know-how and carry out some infrastructure projects in the African region," Chiali told APS in an interview.

African countries, such as Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, have already requested the services of Algerian companies to participate in the implementation of infrastructure projects, he disclosed. The Minister said the public authorities examine the various proposals with a view to facilitating procedures for the transfer of material to these countries. According to him, Algerian companies have acquired sufficient experience and expertise to consider this type of investment, especially after the removal of remaining constraints in this area.

It is all the more possible with the successful experiences of some Algerian companies in the execution of projects in Niger and Burkina Faso, as part of the trans-Saharan road project, Chiali added.

Ongoing civil engineering projects to be completed, delivered from 2021

ALGIERS - The priority of the civil engineering sector is to complete and deliver all ongoing infrastructure projects, to continue the measures taken to preserve the existing infrastructures and launch the projects meant to support shadow areas, the minister of Public Works, Farouk Chiali, said. "It is not reasonable to launch new projects when those in progress have not been finalized yet. The completion of these projects is one of the priority actions of our sector in 2021," Chiali said in an interview with APS.

The minister stressed that the sector's action plan includes the implementation and delivery of the projects in progress, the continuation of the modernization and preservation of existing infrastructures, and the achievement of projects for shadow areas initiated under the program of President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Chiali listed four major public infrastructure projects completed in 2020, which had a direct impact on people and the national economy. He cited the 52-km Chiffa-Medea-Berrouaghia road section and the renovation of the main runway of Houari Boumediene International Airport of Algiers.

The Minister also mentioned the delivery of the 52-km expressway connecting the city of Mostaganem to the East-West Highway. According to him, the road bypass of Cherchell should be received before the deadline, initially set during the first quarter of 2021, while the project linking the bypass of Cherchell and the city was delivered last August 15.

El Hamdania Central Port project implementation entrusted to national agency

ALGIERS - The management of the implementation of El Hamdania Central Port project in the commune of Cherchell will be entrusted to a national agency that will be created in accordance with a decree adopted by the Government on 4 November 2020, announced Minister of Public Works Farouk Chiali.

Headquartered in Tipasa, the agency will act as a delegated project manager on behalf of the state, Chiali said in an interview with APS. Contacts and procedures are underway in

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collaboration with the concerned services, notably the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Transport, in order to start this project as soon as possible, said the Minister.

“We are in constant negotiations with our Chinese partners in order on funding-related issues. The agency will be tasked with implementing the project and following-up construction works,” said Chiali.

The port will be connected to the national road network, particularly the East-West highway, and the railway one. We will start the construction work of a 37 km parkway connecting the port to the East-West highway at El-Afroun and a 48 km double electrified track between the port and El-Alfroun station, announced the minister.

The calls for tenders for the two projects will be launched as soon as possible. 90% of the operations of land expropriation, compensation and right-of-way release have been finalized, recalled the minister. “We will start construction works once we finish negotiations with our Chinese partners on funding. We hope to begin before March 2021. The detailed preliminary draft of this project is ready,” affirmed the minister.

“Algerian companies will be involved in the implementation of this strategic project whose technical and economic study has proved its impact on the national economy,” said the minister. “Negotiations are underway with our Chinese partners to determine the port operation mode. African countries which have no ports will access the Mediterranean through El Hamdania Port,” said Chiali.

Benabderrahmane announces reassessment of public investments portfolio

ALGIERS - The portfolio of public investments, which hit more than DZD14,000 billion devoted to urgent projects, is being reassessed at the Directorate General of Budget (DGB), Finance Minister Aymene Benabderrahmane announced Monday.

In a response to questions from the members of the Finance Committee of the People’s National Assembly (Lower House), the minister said that “the public investments portfolio, which hit more than DZD14,000 billion devoted to urgent projects, is being reassessed at the Directorate General of Budget (DGB).”

“It is inconceivable that these urgent and important projects have not been implemented,” said the minister. “We must reassess the public investments portfolio locally. We must also review the operational procedures of the National Planning Schema so that marginalized areas can benefit from various local development projects instead of concentrating them in communes or provinces,” said the minister.

“We are in the process of re-evaluating all the projects that have been completed and are in progress in order to see what is important for local development, especially in marginalized areas,” stated Benabderrahmane. Projects should be studied for a longer period of time “like in developed countries,” advocated the minister. “The shortest period of maturity of a project must be 36 months before starting implementation,” said the same official.

Innovation: 34 startups take part in 2nd “Algeria Startup Challenge”

ALGIERS - More than 40 startups with innovative projects will take part next Saturday, in Algiers, in the second Algeria Startup Challenge (ASC), said the event’s organizers.

This sponsorship will offer the six winning start-ups a guarantee of signing contracts in each theme with the ministries and public administrations concerned, organizer of the ASC program, Abdelfatah Harizi, told APS.

"These six startups will also have access to funding from the investment fund that will soon be created for start-ups and they will be accompanied by a ministerial delegation throughout the program," added Harizi.

According to a press release from Capcowork, among the themes that will be addressed during this second edition will be the circular economy, social entrepreneurship, e-government, tourism, telemedicine and processing of files as well as logistics, distribution and transport.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

UN resolution 1514: Algeria insists on Sahrawi people’s right to self-determination

ALGIERS - Algeria reaffirmed Monday its solidarity with the right of the Sahrawi people and all peoples of non-self-governing territories to self-determination, on the occasion of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the resolution 1514 of the United Nations General Assembly on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, the Minister of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Algeria “whose history of the glorious struggle for independence made from it an essential player in the people’s liberation movement, reaffirms its solidarity with all the peoples of non-self-governing territories who aspire to exercise their right to self-determination within the framework of intentionally guaranteed legality, freedom and integrity,” said the ministry.

Algeria “reiterates its categorical rejection of the colonial ideology and reaffirms its deep conviction that the completion of the decolonization is inevitable everywhere in the world,” added the source.

The ministry pointed out that “in Africa, the last colonialism’s remnants, Western Sahara, which is experiencing a worrying escalation of armed tensions, combined with desperate attempts of disgraceful barter, at the expense of legitimate aspirations and rights of Sahrawi people, is entitled to expect from the international community a stronger support and a more resolute action in order to complete its decolonization process.”

“The commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the resolution 1514 of the UN General Assembly, on the declaration of the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, occurring on this 75th anniversary of the United Nations, offers the opportunity to assess the achievements that have been made in terms of decolonization and to take stock of the remaining challenges to complete this task worldwide,” added the source.

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It is the opportunity to commemorate “the sacrifices of the colonial peoples for the recognition of their right to self-determination and independence, including those of our brave Algerian people, including the peaceful demonstrations of 11 December 1960 which directly speeded up the adoption of the resolution 1514,” underlined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Trump’s proclamation on Western Sahara is “foolish,” “ill-considered,” says Ross

WASHINGTON - Former UN Secretary General’s Personal Envoy for Western Sahara Christopher Ross underlined Sunday that the recognition by Trump of the alleged Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara is a “foolish and ill-considered decision” which goes against the peoples’ right to self-determination.

“This foolish and ill-considered decision flies in the face of the US commitment to the principles of the non-acquisition of territory by force and the right of peoples to self-determination, both enshrined in the UN Charter,” he wrote on his Face book page.

“It is true that we have ignored these principles when it comes to Israel and others, but this doesn’t excuse ignoring them in Western Sahara and incurring significant costs to ourselves in terms of regional stability and security and our relations with Algeria,” warned Christopher Ross who served as UN personal envoy for Western Sahara from 2009 to 2017.

Ross, requested to give his opinion on Trump’s proclamation, refuses the argument of some circles in Washington, according to which an “independent State in Western Sahara would be another failed mini-state.” This is “false,” affirmed Christopher Ross.

Trump's decision sparks new surge of international solidarity with Sahrawi cause

ALGIERS - The recent deal between the United States and Morocco has generated involuntarily a "new surge" of international solidarity with the just cause of Western Sahara, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) President's advisor, Bachir Mustapha Sayed, said Sunday.

In a statement to APS, the Saharawi President’s advisor dubbed outgoing US President Donald Trump' decision on Western Sahara as "ephemeral" and "irresponsible," saying that "it has made the Saharawi question known on a larger scale." The Saharawi official explained that "the whole world now knows the justice of Western Sahara cause and the injustice suffered by the Sahrawi people since 1975, because of the neighboring country (Morocco) and the relentless efforts of other international parties".

UN's recent reaffirmation of the legal status of Western Sahara as a decolonization issue pending completion and Sahrawi people's right to self-determination are likely to create a "new dynamic" for the settlement of Western Sahara conflict, Bachir Mustapha Sayed said.

He stressed that the position of the United Nations, reiterated by its Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, comes to remind us that "the unilateral position of a country cannot alter the UN's role and responsibility since the 1960s."

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Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: Algeria chairs 55th session of CTBTO preparatory commission

ALGIERS - The preparatory commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) will hold its 55th session on December 14-17 in Vienna, Austria, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Faouzia Mebarki, Algeria's permanent representative to the Office of the United Nations and International Organizations in Vienna, the ministry of Foreign Affairs said Sunday in a statement.

"The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a major milestone in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation process. Opened for signature in 1996, the Treaty has been signed by 184 States and ratified by 168 States, but has not yet entered into force," the statement said. "Algeria was one of the first countries to sign the CTBT and ratified it in 2003," according to the statement.

"The Preparatory Commission is the main decision-making body whose task is to carry out the necessary preparations for the implementation of the CTBT," it noted.

"The election of Algeria as the head of this Commission for 2020 is a tribute to our country's efforts to build a world free of nuclear weapons that came in recognition of Algeria's role as a key player on the international stage."

Morocco impeded UN envoys' work, says Ross

WASHINGTON - Morocco "has shown disrespect" and impeded the work of United Nations (UN) envoys, former UN Envoy for Western Sahara Christopher Ross wrote on his Facebook page. According to Christopher Ross, who served as a UN Envoy for Western Sahara from 2009 to 2017, Horst Kohler, another UN envoy, would have not resigned "for health reasons" but more likely out of disgust for Morocco's lack of respect and efforts to impede his work (as they did with me)."

"It was in that year that Morocco and the Polisario agreed to a UN settlement plan that promised a referendum in exchange for a ceasefire. Thirteen years were spent trying to reach agreement on a list of eligible voters, the last seven of them under the supervision of James Baker. In the end, these efforts failed because Morocco decided that a referendum was contrary to its (claims of) sovereignty and, in doing so, got no push back from the Security Council. In 2004, this caused Baker to resign," wrote the former US diplomat."

The UN Secretary-General is looking for yet another envoy. Those approached to date have demurred, probably because they recognize that Morocco wants someone who will in effect become its advocate instead of remaining neutral and that, as a result, they would be embarking on "mission impossible," said Ross.

SPLA conducts new attacks against Moroccan occupation forces for 32 day

BIR LAHLOU (Sahrawi Liberated Territories) - Units of the Sahrawi People's Liberation Army (SPLA) conducted new attacks against the Moroccan occupation forces, behind the wall of shame, said Monday the Sahrawi Defence Ministry in a communiqué.

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"Intense attacks were carried out, Sunday and Monday, by our army, targeting large sections of the Moroccan army," the Ministry said in its statement No. 32, quoted by the Saharawi agency (SPS). "SPLA units bombed, on Sunday, positions of the Moroccan occupier, targeting bases in the region of Alfiyine (town of Forsiya), the town of Smara and the region of Rous Benamira (town of Forsiya).

The Sahrawi army also targeted, Monday, "positions of soldiers of the occupier in the region of AmkeliEnebka (Amkala town), the area of SbkhetTnouched (Mehbes town), Bakari town, the area of Rous FedratLektitra (Houza town) and the region of Ben Zekka (Houza town). "SPLA units continue their attacks against the forces of the Moroccan occupying forces who have suffered heavy human and material losses along the wall of shame," the same source concluded.

Christopher Ross: International community's approach to Sahrawi question remains unchanged

WASHINGTON - Former UN Envoy for Western Sahara Christopher Ross said on Monday that the decision of the outgoing US president Donald Trump, recognizing Morocco's alleged sovereignty over Western Sahara doesn't change the international community approach on this conflict, recalling Algeria's "clear" position on the right of peoples to self-determination.

"By denying this right, the United States is turning its back not only on centuries-old support for this principle, including in Algeria in 1959, but also on the principle of annexation of territories by force," Ross told the National Radio's channel 3. It is "obvious that the outgoing US president's proclamation recognizing a sovereignty that belongs neither to him nor to Morocco is foolish, ill-considered and dangerous," said Ross.

He explained that "this decision does not change the approach of the international community on Western Sahara issue and the urgent need to implement successive Security Council resolutions" on the Sahrawi file.

In this regard, Ross said that Algeria's position "is clear as it supports the right of peoples to self-determination," adding that "the Trump administration is blatantly ignoring this need, turning its back on the principle of self-determination."

"We all wonder why President Trump made this statement given that since the beginning of his mandate there were strong voices calling for the United States not to alter position," said the former UN Secretary General's envoy to Western Sahara.

He argues that Trump's decision "will make it more complex to reaching an agreement and will lead to a dangerous and growing tension" which "threatens peace and security" in the region.

Ross finally called on the administration of President-elect Joe Biden, who will take office on January 20, to "reverse" the decision of his predecessor. Christopher Ross was appointed in 2009 the UN Secretary General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara. He resigned from his post on March 6, 2017.

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Celebration of Resolution 1514, cry of revolt of countries longing peace, justice

BELGRADE - Algerian Ambassador to Belgrade, Abdelhamid Chebchoub said on Monday that "the adoption of this Resolution came in response to a cry of revolt launched by countries longing to peace and justice". The Ambassador's contribution marked the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to the Colonial Countries and Peoples (1514)

"The adoption of this Resolution came in response to a cry of revolt launched by countries longing to peace and justice, which were more united in action since Bandung's uprising against the inhuman colonial system that still raged in certain regions of the world, practicing oppression, injustice and denial of freedom, contrary to the principles set out in the United Nations Charter," wrote Chebchoub.

This "resolution also came to echo the liberation struggles led by peoples of Asia and Africa, and that Algeria's November Revolution reported to the cozy lounges of the United Nations Palace in New York, the daily atrocities of colonialism and the acts of bravery of the Algerian people against colonialism and their determination to eradicate it."

In this regard, Chebchoub said that "the demonstrations of December 11, 1960 in Algeria, where the Algerians took to the streets en masse, -a few days before the adoption of this resolution-, defying the colonial forces to loudly express their rejection to oppression and their desire for freedom and independence, undoubtedly helped to dissuade negative votes and to ensure this declaration very broad support."

According to the diplomat, "this resolution had set out the general principles and laid the legal basis for the eradication of the colonial system and it served as a legal framework for the United Nations to implement the decolonization of the territories that were administered by the colonial powers in Africa and Asia."

Western Sahara: Trump's decision goes against international law

PRETORIA - South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Naledi Pandor, criticized the decision of outgoing US President Donald Trump to recognize Morocco's alleged sovereignty over Western Sahara, believing that this move is "recognition of illegality" and goes against international law.

Trump's decision to recognize the alleged sovereign right of the Moroccan Kingdom over the Sahrawis "has no force or effect because it is essentially an acknowledgment of an illegality," Pandor, also a Member of Parliament, told a press conference on international developments for 2020. The UN resolutions "confirmed the occupied status" (of Western Sahara), and Trump's announcement "does not change the legal position of United Nations resolutions...", insisted the South African Minister.

Expressing Pretoria's concern over recent developments relating to the situation in Western Sahara, Pandor underlined also that Trump's decision "goes against international law and the AU Constitutive Act."

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For the minister, these developments "may further fuel hostilities between Morocco and the Sahrawi people". She said that "silencing guns in these situations requires dealing with the root causes of conflicts, which invariably include governance deficits and human rights violations."

Our support would always be for the cause of the people of Western Sahara, we will continue to speak on their behalf in international platforms and we will continue to work in solidarity with the Sahrawis by offering them any form of humanitarian aid and support they may need from South Africa, she said.

Regarding the last AU summit on "Silencing the Guns", the South African Minister recalled that it was agreed during this meeting, that "the role of foreign interests in conflicts deserves greater attention". And to conclude, Pandor reiterated her country's "firm support" for the Sahrawi cause: "South Africa remains determined to support the cause of the Sahrawi people in the search for self-determination and the liberation of the Sahrawis from the Moroccan occupation. We therefore stick to the position of United Nations and to the resolutions that the Western Sahara people must be able to decide their own future."

MISCELLANEOUS

SPORT

World wrestling championships: Fergat Abdelkrim wins bronze

BELGRADE (Serbia) - Algerian Fergat Abdelkrim (55 kg) won a bronze medal by beating Moldave Artiom Deleanu on Sunday, the second day of the Greco-Roman wrestling events at the World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia. Directly qualified for the quarter-finals, Fergat was beaten on Saturday by Turkey's Serif Kilic (10-0).

The Algerian athlete competed later in repechage bout where he took over his opponent, Romania's Cristian Vasile Vagiunic (14-5). Abdeldjebar Djebbari (63 kg) will play the bronze medal after being beaten in the semi-final by Hungarian Erik Torba. Sid Azara Bachir (87 kg) was eliminated on Saturday in the quarter-finals, losing to Iran's Hossein Ahmad Nouri (5-2).

In the last 16, the Algerian beat Azeri Islam Abbasov (2-1). Laouni Abdennour (60 kg), Ouakali Abdelkrim (77 kg), Douliche Chawki (82 kg) and Boudjemline Adem (97 kg) were eliminated in the first round on Sunday. In free wrestling, Kherbache Abdelhak (57 kg) will compete on Wednesday while Benattallah Abdelghani (61 kg) will start the competition the next day.

CULTURE

Minister of Culture of Arts on visit to Casbah of Algiers

ALGIERS - Minister of Culture and Arts Malika Bendouda paid a working visit to two sites in the Casbah of Algiers, as part of the celebration of the 28th anniversary of the classification of this thousand-year-old city as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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The Minister visited the archaeological excavation site of the Place des Martyrs, a small open-air museum which contains archaeological remains, retracing more than 2,000 years of the capital's history.

On site, the Minister received explanations about this operation, which began in 2013 by a group made up of the National Archaeological Research Center and the Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research (Inrap, France). This operation helped unearth archaeological remains which are exposed at the entrance and inside the metro station.

Bendouda instructed the ministry's executives to "revive" the site museum project initially planned at the end of the excavations in 2017 and which was to be delivered with the Martyrs Square metro station.

Later, she also visited the Center of Arts at the Palais des Rais-Bastion 23. The Centre manager and the director general of the Office for the management and exploitation of cultural property (Ogebc) gave a presentation on safeguarding and renovation efforts.

Malika Bendouda announced new projects to be implemented soon in order to safeguard the Casbah as well as the commercial exploitation of the Citadel of Algiers (upper Casbah), partially opened to visitors.

Recently Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad, chaired an interministerial council devoted to the examination of the matter relating to the safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers, recalling the "commitments" made for the safeguard and renovation of the old medina.