

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

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



## **Press Review**

**11<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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### **DOMESTIC NEWS - COVID-19 NEWS**

#### **Covid-19: Benbouzid urges quick distribution of protective equipment to medical staffs**

*ALGIERS* - The minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform Abderrahmane Benbouzid gave instructions Saturday to the Central Hospital Pharmacy to start distributing protection equipment against the Covid-19 to the medical staff "as soon as possible."

"The situation generated by the pandemic is worrying. The problem we are currently facing is how to protect medical personnel in health facilities across the country," Benbouzid said during an inspection visit to the Central Hospital Pharmacy headquarters.

"It is urgent and a priority to provide medical personnel with the necessary means of protection," the top health official said. "Strategy and safety stocks in overcoats, overshoes, goggles, hooded suits and other necessary products are sufficient for the time being."

The Minister added that "to overcome the lack of protection in some healthcare facilities, the Central Hospital Pharmacy needs to launch the distribution of this equipment, as soon as possible, to the facilities concerned."

### **ECONOMIC NEWS**

#### **Goods' prices: Exports down by 14.3%, imports up by 1.3% in 1st quarter of 2020**

*ALGIERS* - Export prices of goods in dinars, including hydrocarbons, recorded a drop of 14.3% during the first quarter of 2020 and compared to the same period in 2019, when import prices showed a slight increase of 1.3%, the National Statistics Office (ONS) told APS.

The drop in the Index of Unit Values (IVU) for the export of goods (export prices) is mainly explained by a 14.8% drop in the price of hydrocarbons and an 8% drop in the price of exports of non-hydrocarbon products (PHH) during the same period of comparison, according to the source.

The drop in export prices of goods, dominated by hydrocarbons, which accounted for 92.40% of total Algerian exports during the first three months of the current year, is mainly due to the drop in international prices of hydrocarbons, Algerian exports fell by 27% to total DZD814.5 billion during the first three months of the current year against DZD1, 116.5 billion during the same period of the previous year, the same source added.

Imports amounted to DZD1,099.3 billion in the first quarter of 2020 against DZD1,344.5 billion during the same period in 2019, thus recording a drop in current values of 18.2%.

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The upward trend (1.3%) of the import price index was mainly driven by fatty oils and waxes of animal or vegetable origin (+13.8%), machinery and transport equipment (+6.2%), beverages and tobacco (+3.4%) and food products and live animals with (+2.3%).

On the other hand, other product groups experienced declines in import prices. These include the product groups of inedible raw materials excluding fuels (-11%), mineral fuels, lubricants and related products (-3.9%) and chemicals and related products (-2.8%).

These recorded evolutions led to a "widening" of the trade deficit which passes from DZD 228 billion in the 1st quarter of 2019 to DZD284.8 billion in the same period of 2020.

These results of foreign trade have lowered the rate of coverage of imports by exports from 83% to 74.1% during the same period of comparison.

During the whole year 2019, the export prices of goods in dinars fell by 7.3% compared to 2018, while import prices posted a slight increase of 0.9%.

The Office reported that the data for the first three months of the current year, as well as those for the year 2019, are provisional.

### **Trade Ministry opens communication space destined to national investors**

*ALGIERS* - A communication space destined to investors, economic operators and businessmen has been opened by the Ministry of Trade through its website. This space is also intended for consumers, academics, researchers, and all users of commercial information, said the source.

## **FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

### **Boukadoum reiterates Algeria's rejection of foreign interference in Libya**

*ALGIERS* - Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum on Saturday reiterated Algeria's rejection of any foreign interference in Libya, adding that all Libyan parties call on Algeria to "continue its efforts for the settlement of the crisis" in this neighboring country.

Invited to the Forum of Echaab daily newspaper, the minister said Algeria "coordinates with all the parties concerned by the Libyan issue, in particular the neighboring countries, with a view to achieving, as soon as possible, a solution ensuring the restoration of peace and stability in this brother country."

"The approach Algeria has adopted in coordination and consultation with neighboring countries aims to put an end to all forms of escalation and to bring the Libyan brothers together around a single dialogue table, without foreign interference."

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This "process must begin with a ceasefire, far from the settling of short-term accounts, in order to build trust between Libyans and embark on a dialogue bringing together the different components of the Libyan people, to restore peace and fulfil the expectations of this brotherly people."

Algeria's chief of diplomacy said Algiers "remains on an equal footing with the Libyan belligerents, while urging them to join the political settlement process, supported by the Libyan people, through a broad consultation backed by the neighboring countries under the auspices of the United Nations."

In this regard, he recalled the decision of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune who, at the Berlin conference in early 2020, expressed "Algeria's availability to host meetings among the Libyan brothers, to resume the political process under the auspices of the UN, in line with the political will of the Libyan people."

Boukadoum also mentioned the consultation meeting of ministers of Libya's (Arab-African) neighbors, held in Algiers last February, under the dialogue mechanism to discuss the Libyan issue and find a solution ending the suffering of the Libyan people.

### Memory, a priority, French President willing to settle it

*ALGIERS* - Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum said Saturday, in Algiers, that the issue of Memory is a priority for Algeria and the major issue between Algeria and France, stressing the "positive will" of the French President to settle it.

Speaking to the forum of Echaab daily newspaper, Boukadoum said there was a "positive will on the part of the French president, Emmanuel Macron, for the settlement of the issue," noting that "the next step will show if there are good intentions." "We wish to be partners of France and not antagonists, because the Memory file is a priority and comes before any economic or human relations, just as the recognition of the harm done to Algerians during the colonial period will facilitate things in the future," the chief of Algerian diplomacy said.

"We will never forget the Memory issue, and it is not only about the recovery of the mortal remains," he said. "Technical work is being done to identify the skulls of the Algerians who are in France." "There are also the issues of the archives and nuclear tests carried out by colonial France in Algeria, which are of paramount importance," the minister stressed."

### Morocco uses "corruption and intimidation" to maintain occupation of Western Sahara

*GENEVA* - The Human Rights Organization "France Libertés" said during the proceedings of the 44th of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva that Morocco used "corruption and intimidation" in its foreign policy to sit down and maintain its illegal occupation of Western Sahara.

"Countries use corruption and intimidation in their foreign policy to establish an illegal situation incompatible with international law. This is the case of the Kingdom of Morocco which illegally

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occupies Western Sahara, which is on the UN list of non self governing territories," said "France Libertés" by the voice of Lucia Tramer, during the debate of Item 3 on the agenda of the 44th UN Human Rights Council (HRC) (Promotion and protection of all human rights).

The Human Rights organization has dubbed unacceptable the illegal exploitation of natural resources in Western Sahara by Morocco's Office Chérifien des Phosphates (OCP), which recently opened a branch in Geneva (SAFTCO), owned by the Moroccan royal family.

Such exploitation "contributes to establishing and maintaining the illegal presence of Morocco, as an occupying force, in several parts of Western Sahara," added the source.

In its statement published by the Sahrawi press agency SPS, "France Libertés" supported the "recommendations made in the report of UN group's working group on human rights to fight corruption," calling for "fighting corruption which a State, illegally occupying another territory, is practicing."

The organization said in this regard that "corruption is one of the factors that undermine the work and legitimacy of institutions and undermine the rule of law and the rights of groups and individuals subject to marginalization, discrimination and other illegal acts. »