

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

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



## **Press Review**

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

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### **DOMESTIC NEWS**

#### **Mila: Housing units, financial aid for victims of earthquake**

*MILA* - The families affected by the double earthquake, which hit Friday the province of Mila, will benefit from 100 public rental housing units (LPL) and financial aid, said Monday the provincial services.

“The decision to allocate this quota of housing units and financial aid to the victims comes after the visits paid Friday and Saturday by five members of the Government to the province to assess the damage caused by these two earthquakes,” said the provincial services in a communiqué.

The earthquake’s victims will benefit from this aid on the basis of the results of the technical expertise of the services of the Building Technical Control Body (CTC) and the value will be determined according to the classification of each structure,” added the source.

The same source underlined the public authorities’ willingness to release the necessary financial aid and additional programs to assist the victims of the two earthquakes of Mila.

#### **Guermi and Darouiche imprisoned, arrest warrant against General Belksir for "high treason"**

*ALGIERS* - The military investigating judge of Blida has remanded in custody retired Chief Warrant Officer Bounouira Guermi and Commander Darouiche Hichem, while an arrest warrant was issued against retired General Belksir Ghali for "high treason," the Ministry of National Defense announced Tuesday in a communiqué.

"In accordance with the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 3 of the code of criminal procedures, the Director of Military Justice at the Ministry of National Defense informs the public opinion of the legal proceedings initiated by the military prosecutor's office in Blida on the charge of high treason (possession of information and secret documents handed over to agents of a foreign country), against retired Chief Warrant Officer Bounouira Guermi, Commander Darouiche Hichem and retired General Belksir Ghali, in accordance with Article 63, paragraph 2 of the Penal Code," said the source.

The military investigating judge of Blida "has remanded in custody the two accused Bounouira Guermi and Darouiche Hichem under a warrant of detention at the military prison of Blida, and issued an arrest warrant against the accused Belksir Ghali," said the ministry’s communiqué.

#### **Efforts underway for greater anticorruption efficiency**

*ALGIERS* - Efforts are underway to develop the current legal mechanisms in order to make the fight against corruption more effective, especially with regard to the "recovery of embezzled funds," said Tuesday Minister of Justice Belkacem Zeghmati.

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In a speech during the installation ceremony of the new president of the Algiers court Mokhtar Bouchrit, Zeghmami said that "the fight against all forms of corruption remains one of the main goals of justice, today more than ever."

"Efforts are underway to develop the current legal mechanisms and make anticorruption more effective, especially with regard to the recovery of embezzled funds," he said.

As regard to the recent reshuffle conducted by President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune among the presidents of jurisdictions, the minister said that it differed from previous reshuffles both in the presidents and prosecutors general and the objective criteria adopted, notably "specialization" to address "complex disputes."

Zeghmami stressed that the magistrates, "who have had the confidence" of the President of the Republic through this reshuffle, have served for several years as vice-presidents or deputy public prosecutors.

President Tebboune's consideration reflects "the firm will to reward merit and to banish considerations based on allegiance, clientelism and other abject considerations that have undermined good will and prevented the judiciary from addressing the legitimate needs of litigants," said the Minister.

In the same vein, the minister stated that "paramount importance was attached in this reshuffle to the virtues of uprightness, neutrality and independence."

On this occasion, Zeghmami urged the presidents and prosecutors general at the courts of justice to "scrupulously respect" the ethics, to work to improve the quality and efficiency of judicial action, and to supervise magistrates who are under their administrative authority within the framework of the law and full respect for the independence of the judiciary.

Referring to the proliferation of the scourge of verbal and physical aggression against health workers under the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, which required the enactment of a law to protect them, the minister urged "rigour and firmness" in the application of the new provisions.

### **COVID-19 NEWS**

#### **COVID-19: Algeria attaches "utmost" importance to vaccine acquisition**

*ALGIERS* - Algeria attaches "the highest" importance to the acquisition of the vaccine against the Covid-19 virus, affirmed Tuesday Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform Abderrahmane Benbouzid, said a statement from the ministry.

Speaking at an audience granted to the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Algeria Li Lianhe, Prof. Benbouzid stressed that "our country attaches utmost importance to the acquisition of the vaccine against the Covid-19 virus," especially since the discussions also focused on the availability of the vaccine in Chinese production laboratories.

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In his presentation on the availability of the Chinese vaccine, Lianhe said that it "will be ready in the short period ahead."

This audience, which took place in the presence of Minister Delegate in charge of Hospital Reform Prof. Smaïl Mesbah, is part of bilateral cooperation between the People's Republic of China and Algeria in the field of health, particularly in these circumstances marked by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Director General of Pharmacy and Medical Equipment, the Director General of the Pasteur Institute of Algeria and the Director General of the Central Pharmacy of Hospitals also attended the audience.

The ambassador of the People's Republic of China also hailed the "fruitful and special" cooperation between the two countries, whose origins date back to the sixties of the last century, particularly through several actions highlighting the friendship between the two countries, through exchanges and scientific and medical missions in Algeria.

### **Covid-19: 69 deaths, 4025 contaminations among health workers**

*ALGIERS* - Sixty-nine (69) doctors and paramedics died from the novel corona virus pandemic (Covid-19) and 4,025 have been contaminated, announced the Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform in a report.

The Spokesman for the Scientific Committee for monitoring the evolution of the pandemic of the new coronavirus, Dr. Djamel Fourar told APS that "the sector has lost 69 workers and 4025 others have been contaminated since the pandemic declared in Algeria."

He deplored "this situation which is primarily the result of the irresponsible behavior of some citizens who do not respect the rules of prevention."

In this regard, Dr. Fourar said that the last victim of this pandemic in the sector was Professor Amiour, Head of the gynecology-obstetrics department and chairman of the medical board at the Public Hospital of Zeralda (west of Algiers).

Dr. Fourar urged all citizens to comply with the rules of prevention, in anticipation of the gradual opening of mosques, beaches and recreational areas and the expected high attendance due to the heat, with a view to avoiding the risk of contamination.

He also blamed some citizens for the spread of the pandemic due to non-compliance with barrier gestures despite the efforts made by public authorities to contain the pandemic.

He also welcomed the improvement in the epidemiological situation in recent days, with a slight decrease in the number of cases of contamination and deaths, and in the number of patients in intensive care.

### ECONOMIC NEWS

#### **Trade: Lifting suspension on local product exports, except those subsidized**

*ALGIERS* - Ministry of Trade announced Monday lifting the suspension on local products' exports, except those subsidized or made from subsidized materials as well as garlic.

“Trade Ministry informed all the economic operators exercising in exportation about the lifting of the suspension on the exportation of products, of which Algeria has production potential, except the products that are subsidized or made from subsidized materials as well as garlic,” said the source.

The ministry underlines “given the health crisis, it is forbidden to export protection masks, hydro-alcoholic gel and liquid soap because of the need to provide them in sufficient quantities to meet the growing local demand.”

A monitoring committee has been set up in the ministry to follow the supply of national market, to ensure its stability and to take all the measures able to protect the market from any malfunctioning,” concluded the source.

### FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

#### **Algeria strongly condemns terrorist attack in Niger**

*ALGIERS* - Algeria has strongly condemned the terrorist attack that targeted civilians in the South of Niger, expressing its full solidarity with this country, people and government, said Monday a communiqué of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“Algeria strongly condemns the terrorist attack that targeted civilians in the region of Koure in the South of Niger, and expresses its full solidarity with Niger’s government and people and its sincerest condolences to the families of the victims of this despicable act,” said the communiqué.

“Algeria reiterates its firm determination to fight against terrorism and support the international and regional efforts aimed at eradicating this scourge,” added the Ministry.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### *CULTURE*

#### **National Algerian Costume Days kick off in Algiers**

*ALGIERS* - The National Algerian Costume Days kicked off Monday, in Algiers, under the theme “My costume, my memory, my culture,” under the supervision of Minister of Culture and Arts Malika Bendouda.

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The inauguration ceremony of this event, which is part of the intangible heritage month that will be held until the first week of September, took place in the presence of Adviser to the Presidency of the Republic Abdelhafid Allahoum, Director General OF National Archives and adviser to President of the Republic, in charge of National Archives and National Memory Abdelmadjid Chikhi, adviser to President of the Republic in charge of Associative Movement and National Community Abroad Nazih Berramdane as well as several members of the Government.

In her opening speech, Bendouda shed light on the importance of the authentic costume “as cultural legacy and integral part of our identity.”

This cultural legacy that we celebrate through this event “is rich and diversified, through which one can know a lot of things about the social life of the region that it represents,” she said.

In this regard, the minister called on researchers and historians to be more interested in studying the development of this costume throughout the centuries, underscoring that this kind of events constitute “an opportunity to shed light, protect, develop and promote the legacy worldwide.”

The exhibition, devoted to the authentic Algerian outfit, includes traditional costumes representing different regions of the country, like “Karakou” of Algiers, “Chedda” of Tlemcen, “Djebba” of Kabylie and “Blouza” of Oran.

### *SPORT*

#### **Football/Women’s Championship: JF Khroub Champion of Algeria for 2019-2020**

*ALGIERS* - JF Khroub was declared women’s football champion of Algeria for the season 2019-2020, five months after the suspension of the competition because of the new coronavirus pandemic, announced Tuesday the Algerian Federation of Football (FAF) on its official website.

Chairman of the National League for Women’s Football (LNFF) Djamel Kashi presented Monday, in the meeting of the federal office, the final placing which outperformed the team of JF Khroub to AS Sureté Nationale in terms of points (45 against 40), index (2.37 against 2.35), because of the difference in the played matches (19 against 17), said the source.

FAF’s secretary general Mohamed Saad said that the International Federation FIFA “will help women’s football with US 500,000 in solidarity against the effects of Covid-19.”