People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Ouargla: 75 grey areas connected to landline, internet

OUARGLA - No less than 75 grey areas across the province of Ouargla have been connected to landline network and high-speed Internet, the Local Directorate of the incumbent operator Algerian Telecom (A.T) told APS.

The operation, which is part of a supervisory program aimed at opening up areas of uncertainty and improving telecommunications services in the areas of fixed telephony and high-speed Internet, was carried out through several projects to deploy and modernize the fiber optic network, the MSAN (Multi-Service Access Node) system and 4G LTE, said the source.

Efforts are being made for the installation of other similar equipment in order to bring the maximum benefit to the citizens in these areas, added the source.

As part of bringing the administration closer to citizens and modernizing the telecommunications network, 37 communal antennas and 67 post offices, particularly in rural and landlocked areas throughout the province, have been connected to optical fiber, according to the same source.

The number of subscribers to fixed telephony in the province of Ouargla stands at 60,760, ADSL (38,588), MSAN (60,760) and 4G LTE (28,862), it was reported.

A total of 134 localities considered to be "grey areas" requiring upgrading of living conditions have been identified by the province services in 19 of its communes.

Inter-ministerial Council devoted to start of school, academic, professional training year

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad chaired Saturday an inter-ministerial Council devoted to the examination of the start of the school, academic and professional training year as well as the preparations for the examinations of the Baccalaureate and the intermediate school certificate (BEM), said Sunday a communiqué of the Prime Minister's Office.

This Council was attended by ministers of National Education, of Higher Education and Scientific Research and of Vocational Training as well as ministers of Interior, Finance and of Housing.

University conference presidents of the regions of the center, east and west also participated in this Council, said the communiqué.

The Council listened to presentations by ministers of National Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research and Vocational Training on the preparations for the next start of the new school year 2020-2021.

He also listened to a communication of the minister of National Education on the preparations for the Baccalaureate and BEM examinations.

In this respect, the Council underlined "the significant progress in the measures taken to ensure the best conditions for the start of the new school, academic and professional training year, as well as the measures adopted under the national plan for the organization of Baccalaureate and BEM examinations in their health, security, organizational and logistic aspects, added the source.

In this respect, the Council reviewed "the different health protocols adopted by the competent health authority which include a series of measures of protection and prevention against the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, by insisting notably on the need to implement them rigorously."

It recommended "the full involvement of the different players at the central and local levels, as well as the direct participation of other players of the civil society and associative movement, particularly student representations, associations of parents of social partners for awareness-raising and psychological support, as well as in all the organizational aspects that guarantee the most favorable conditions to succeed the start of 2020-2021 year and the conduct of the examinations," added the source.

Tremor in Mila: Locality of Kherba declared affected area

ALGIERS - A Ministerial Order has been jointly promulgated on Sunday by the Ministries of Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning, and Finance, which declares the locality of El Kherba, in the province of Mila, as an affected area, said the Ministry of Interior in a communiqué.

"Following the tremors that occurred on 17 July and 7 August, and as part of the implementation of the provisions of Article 7 of the executive decree No.90-402, promulgated on 15 December 1990 and pertaining to the declaration of affected areas, a Ministerial Order has been jointly promulgated on Sunday by the Ministries of Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning, and Finance, which declares the locality of El Kherba, in the province of Mila, as an affected area," said the source.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Forests: About 80,000 quintals of cork harvested during 2019-2020 season

ALGIERS - A harvest of about 80,000 quintals of cork is expected at the end of the season 2019-2020, against 59,607 quintals during the previous season, affirmed Sunday Director General of Forests (DGF) Ali Mahmoudi.

"Since the launch of this season on 15 June and until the first week of August, a quantity of 36,800 quintals has already been harvested against 29,000 quintals during the same period of last year, Mahmoudi told APS.

He said that theoretically, the harvesting of cork will continue until mid-September, except for unexpected major events like very hot weather, forest fires or rainfalls.

Algeria's average production is between 60,000quintals per year he said, affirming that there are 22 provinces which produce cork nationwide.

He affirmed that a part of the national production is intended for foreign market after its transformation, underlining that the exportation of raw cork is forbidden by the law.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

President Tebboune receives USA Ambassador

ALGIERS - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, received Sunday in Algiers Ambassador of the United States of America, John Desrocher, who paid him a farewell visit at the end of his mission in Algeria.

The meeting, held at the headquarters of the presidency of the Republic, took place in the presence of the Director of Cabinet at the Presidency of the Republic, Noureddine Baghdad Daidj.

President Tebboune, US ambassador discuss bilateral issues

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Sunday received the Ambassador of the United States of America (USA) John Desrocher, with whom he discussed bilateral relations and regional issues.

"I talked with President Tebboune about bilateral relations and regional issues," said Desrocher ahead of the audience President Tebboune granted him.

"I would like to express my best feelings to all Algerians because I have always felt at home here. They (Algerians) have been generous and hospitable to my wife and me. I went to several regions of Algeria during the years spent in this country. I will be back to visit the rest," said the US diplomat.

Desrocher paid a farewell visit to President Tebboune at the end of his mission in Algeria.

MISCELLANEOUS

COMMUNICATION

Belhimer hands over new accreditations to journalists, correspondents

ALGIERS - Communication Minister, Spokesperson for Government Ammar Belhimer has handed over new accreditations for the year 2020 to representatives of foreign media accredited in Algeria so that they fulfill their mission in accordance with the rules of the profession.

Speaking on this occasion, Belhimer hailed "the noble work" of correspondents who build bridges between peoples, especially as they now constitute a "link in a world that is being built as a village."

The granting of accreditations is part of "opening the media scene in Algeria so that foreign correspondents fulfill their mission in the best conditions, in calmness and serenity, and in accordance with the requirements of the profession," said the Communication Ministry in a communiqué.

"Algeria has received several requests from representatives of foreign media interested in covering events of national importance in Algeria. The second stage of the accreditation granting has come in response to these requests," said the source.

Moreover, this operation is in line with the fundamental principles of Algeria's Constitution, which ensures the right to an exact information from its official source, and enables journalists to access to sources under full compliance with the rules of the Republic, its sovereignty, its security and ethics, without undermining the values and components of the Algerian society, known for its hospitability."

Nearly 20 correspondents received their accreditations, including those of AFP and Reuters press agencies, Russia Today channel, France 24 channel, Al Mayadeen channel and Al Hadath channel.

Accreditations can be granted to representatives of foreign media in Algeria interested in covering activities and events of national importance, in accordance with the 2012 organic law on information.