

**Mihalj Njilaš remains
as the Head of the Provincial
Secretariat**

**Declaration between
Serbia and Croatia
Signed**

25 Minority **News**

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Opening of Chapter 23 Delayed

**Bosniak National
Council Took over
the Presidency of the
NMCs Coordination**

**Completion
of a Five-year
Project to Support
Roma Inclusion**

HIGHLIGHTs



Declaration between Serbia and Croatia Signed

Croatian community in Serbia welcomes the signing of the Declaration on improving relations and resolving open issues between Serbia and Croatia, Slaven Bačić, president of the National Council of the Croatian National Minority, notes in an interview.



Completion of a Five-year Project

The five-year project of infrastructure works and projects to support employment of Roma, which was funded by the Kingdom of Sweden, was completed on June 27, with 2,500 Roma from 13 different municipalities having been direct beneficiaries of the Program.



Ardita Sinani – President of the Municipal Assembly of Preševo

The head of the Municipal Assembly of Preševo in the forthcoming period will be Ardita Sinani. This is the first time in the history of Preševo that a woman has received such a high leadership position in a state body.



New Educational Television Series in Slovak

After many years, an educational television series in the Slovak language "U potrazi za mekim F" ("In search of the soft F") has been filmed. The series is a co-production of Radio-Television of Vojvodina, Association of Slovak Journalists, the National Council of the Slovak National Minority and the Antifriz Film.

EDITORIAL 25

Will Interculturalism Indeed Be Developed?

End of the school year, in addition to the usual joy among primary school students, caused an uproar in the form of questionnaires asking them to decide which language of the national community with the elements of national culture they are going to study beginning next school year. The parents, who were unable to help their children choose a language (out of 14 offered) in addition to the existing elective subjects, may have been in an even greater dilemma.

Certain media have reported that, in one Belgrade elementary school, the students have mostly opted for Slovak and Hungarian languages. This raises the question: What does it seem to be the problem? Of course, the problem does not lie in the languages, but in the implementation of the teaching process itself. Namely, it is still unknown whether the study of elective subjects - or languages of national communities - will be available in every school or whether it will be carried out at the level of more schools.

According to unofficial information from the Ministry of Education, the manner of organizing the teaching will be determined only when the number of those interested becomes known. Summer and winter schools have been mentioned as an option, which automatically raises the question of their funding.

Although the summer break is afoot, there is no time to relax. Let us hope that, by September 1, we will have solved the problem of elective subjects and that this is not a move of the Ministry that gets abandoned at the first sign of a problem. If solving of open issues between Serbia and Croatia has started, and the question of Serbia's progress towards the EU has been addressed, it is only logical to also try and solve this problem.

30 different national minorities live in Serbia



and ONE newsletter for all

OPENING OF CHAPTER 23 DELAYED

SOURCE: Tanjug

At the meeting held on June 30, the EU Member States have not reached an agreement on the opening of chapters 23 and 24 in membership negotiations with Serbia. Despite expectations, the decision could not be made, because the two states did not agree with the opening of these chapters, Croatia - as has been said - on substantive grounds, and the United Kingdom - for technical reasons. Officials of the Slovak Republic, which took over the EU presidency, announced that these chapters could be opened in July or September.

Although the Republic of Croatia has previously approved the continuation of preparations for the opening of Chapter 23, in agreement with the European Commission that some of the requirements of Zagreb are integrated into the common negotiating position of the EU, it turned out that Zagreb has additional requirements in relation to the established compromise formulations.

In addition to the known requirements in relation to the rights of the Croatian minority and jurisdiction of the court for war crimes, Zagreb has insisted that the text of the transitional criteria, which Serbia needs to fulfill during the negotiations, includes the issue of compensation for victims of war crimes and solving the issue of missing persons, which was not acceptable to European Commission and other Member States.

The European Commission and the Dutch Presidency of the EU continued consultations with Zagreb on this subject, with a view of reaching eventual consensus at the meeting of ambassadors of the Member States on June 30, however, the opening of the chapter is yet to happen.

Surprising attitude of Great Britain has been explained by "technical reasons resulting from the Brexit". However, these reasons did not constitute an obstacle to the opening of new chapters in negotiations with Turkey and Montenegro.

As of July 1, reaching a consensus on this issue will be the job of Slovakia, which in the second half of the year will preside over the EU. Slovak representatives have announced that the opening of chapters with Serbia will be one of the priorities of its presidency of the EU enlargement policy. Ambassadors of the Netherlands, Slovakia and Germany in Serbia expressed their support for the continuation of EU enlargement process and hope that the chapters 23 and 24 in the membership negotiations with Serbia "will be opened as soon as possible".

On the occasion of not opening the chapters, the first Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ivica Dačić has reac-



ted. He said that he was shocked by the decision of the EU: "Such a decision is shameful, incomprehensible and humiliating for Serbia. It is the result of political intentions to stop or slow down Serbia's European path".

**Vučić: We are opening
chapters 23 and 24
on July 19**

After the Summit of the leaders of the Western Balkans in Paris, Prime Minister designate Aleksandar Vučić said that Serbia has got the green light for chapters 23 and 24, which will be opened on July 19.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, speaking of British and Croatian blockade of the opening of chapter 23, said that Serbia wants to have the best relations with the UK and will continue to develop them, although it is unclear as to what technical bar-

riers made them withhold their consent for the opening of chapters in negotiations with Serbia, but not with Montenegro and Turkey. He added that Serbia will do its job when it comes to the agreement with Croatia.

Mišćević: We are ready to open the chapters as early as tomorrow

The head of Serbia's Negotiating Team, Tanja Mišćević, said that the procedures in connection with the opening of chapters 23 and 24 continue through working bodies, that Serbia is ready to open them immediately, and that it depends on the agreement of the Member States when that will be.

She emphasizes that Member States need to compromise among themselves in order to enable Serbia to move forward in the European integration process and thanks the Netherlands, as the presiding country in the first six months of this year, as well as other Member States, on the involvement in the issue.

Mišćević points out that Member States have got a "good grasp of why it is important to open the chapters relating to the rule of law".

"These are supporting chapters for the reform of a society, but also for the development agenda of Serbia," said Mišćević in Brussels.

The head of Serbia's Negotiating Team says that she expects Member States to continue to support Serbia on the long road to European integration in the coming years, but also hopes to promptly get an internal approval of the members of the Union on the opening of chapters 23 and 24.

"The opening of these two chapters is an important factor of motivation for the entire administration, from the Minister of European Integration to the whole team that participates in the negotiation process. We were engaged to open these chapters, and not only that but to move forward, to be able to talk to the EU on other chapters which are about to open. I hope that this opportunity will come very soon," said Mišćević.

She adds that there are no precise deadlines as to when the opening of chapters 23 and 24 might take place. According to the calendar of EU it could be as early as July, at the beginning of the Slovak presidency of the EU.

Nonetheless, Mišćević says that Serbia is ready to open these chapters as early as tomorrow.

Mihalj Njilaš Continues to Head the Provincial Secretariat



By the decision of majority members of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, Mihalj Njilaš, who is also one of the three vice-presidents of the provincial government, will continue to be the head of the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities. Mihalj Njilaš was born in Orom, Kanjiža, in 1962. He graduated from the Faculty of Law in

Novi Sad, and worked as the director of the furniture factory "Budučnost" in Subotica from 1990 to 1993. He was a judge of the Municipal Court in Kanjiža. He ran his own law firm, and from 2008 to 2014 he was the Mayor of Kanjiža, while from 2014 he was the Provincial Secretary for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities. He is a member of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians.

COORDINATION OF NATIONAL COUNCILS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

Bosniak National Council Presides over the Coordination

At the session of the Coordination of National Minority Councils held in Novi Sad on June 20, the Bosniak National Council took over the presidency of this body. President of the Hungarian National Council, Jene Hajnal was proposed and elected Vice President. Until now, the function of the president of the Coordination was performed by Ana Tomanova Mikanova, President of the National Council of the Slovak national minority, while the vice president was the current President of the Coordination.

The meeting also discussed the process of drafting new legislations on the protection of the rights and freedoms of minorities, work under the competency of national councils of national minorities, and the interviewing of students and parents about the choice of learning the mother tongue.

MINORITY LANGUAGES AS AN ELECTIVE SUBJECT

Questionnaires Confused both Parents and Headmasters alike

The questionnaires with a list of elective subjects that were distributed to parents at the beginning of June in order for them to state their opinion, caused a confusion in schools. Many parents have expressed dissatisfaction because at the school attended by their children some of the minority languages did not find themselves among the elective subjects, while the others were not clear as to whether the children must opt for optional learning of one of these languages. According to the headmaster of one school in Belgrade, students of that school have massively expressed their desire to learn Hungarian or Slovak languages optionally, but he could not confirm to the parents as to whether it would actually be possible from September.

Zoran Lužanin, State Secretary at the Ministry of Education, explains that all students from first to eighth grade have the right to learn one of the 14 national minority languages with elements of national culture through optional

classes, which are not mandatory.

- The idea is for the students to learn about the language and culture of national minorities through summer and winter schools or workshops, and only when we know the number of those interested and whether we have enough skilled staff, we will determine how the optional classes will be organized. If, say, they are to be held at a summer school somewhere in Serbia, the idea is that children stay there at subsidized prices, and if a one or two-day seminar is to be organized in Belgrade, it is likely to be free - explains Lužanin.

From the next school year there will be a possibility for minority languages to be taught through teaching of elective subjects. The selection of elective subjects that each school defines in accordance with the available staff has been extended by some of the minority languages, and the decision as to what will find itself on the list was made in consultation with school administrations. The questionnaires,

which were distributed to students, also stated the possibility for the teaching of the elective subject of a minority language to be organized in more schools, because everything depends on the number of applicants, and the available staff. The parents will be given a detailed plan for the implementation of teaching at the beginning of the next school year and will then have a chance to change their minds, if they assess that their child does not find it suitable to go to a neighboring school to, say, listen to a specific language.

- In some schools in Belgrade, for example, the Roma language with elements of national culture found itself on the list of elective subjects, and where there is no language means that it was estimated that there will not be enough interested students. From the list of elective subjects the parents choose one subject as a compulsory, and if a child, for example, wants to learn the Roma, and the school had not offered it, the language can be selected as an optional - explains Lužanin.

Completion of a Five-year Project to Support Roma Inclusion

Source: Tanjug

The five-year project of infrastructure works and projects to support employment of Roma, which was funded by the Kingdom of Sweden was completed on June 27, and 2,500 Roma from 13 different municipalities were direct beneficiaries of the program.



Danijela Janković from the Office for Human and Minority Rights stated that the project has been implemented for almost five years, and that the program to support local communities in the inclusion of vulnerable groups is one of the most visible, and financially most important activities.

In addition, she said, it is equally important that the results of this project are also significant - provided support for hiring advisers to ministries for the inclusion of Roma, local coordinators, as well as an internship program for young people to learn about the system of state administration, spending some time

in it, and pointed out that dozens of displaced families have received support in the implementation of the program of rural households.

"It is very important to note that the international community and the Serbian government are doing all they can, even though it can of-



ten be heard that not enough effort has been made, so this project sends a specific signal that the inclusion of Roma is cared for and taken into account,” said the Development Assistance Advisor of the Sweden International Development Agency (SIDA), Torgny Svenungsson, at the ceremony awarding certificates to municipalities participating in the project.

Svenungsson pointed out that Sweden allocates about 10 million euros in aid to Serbia annually for projects of inclusion of minority groups, strengthening civil society, in order to improve the lives of citizens and support the path to the EU.

“The program that is completed and has produced concrete results, was an integral part of these efforts. The end of the program does not mean the end of support and assistance that Sweden provides to Serbia, we will continue with our work in assisting, by cooperating with various partners, we want to follow the new policy of the new government and expect that the project will inspire new measures in other municipalities, I wish you good luck and keep up the good work,” said Svenungsson.

Head of the OSCE Mission in Serbia, Peter Burkhard, said that the project contributed to the inclusion of Roma in key areas of care, housing, health and social protection, and more than 2,500 Roma had direct benefit.

Burkhard is convinced that this project is a model of good practice which can be transferred to other self-governments.

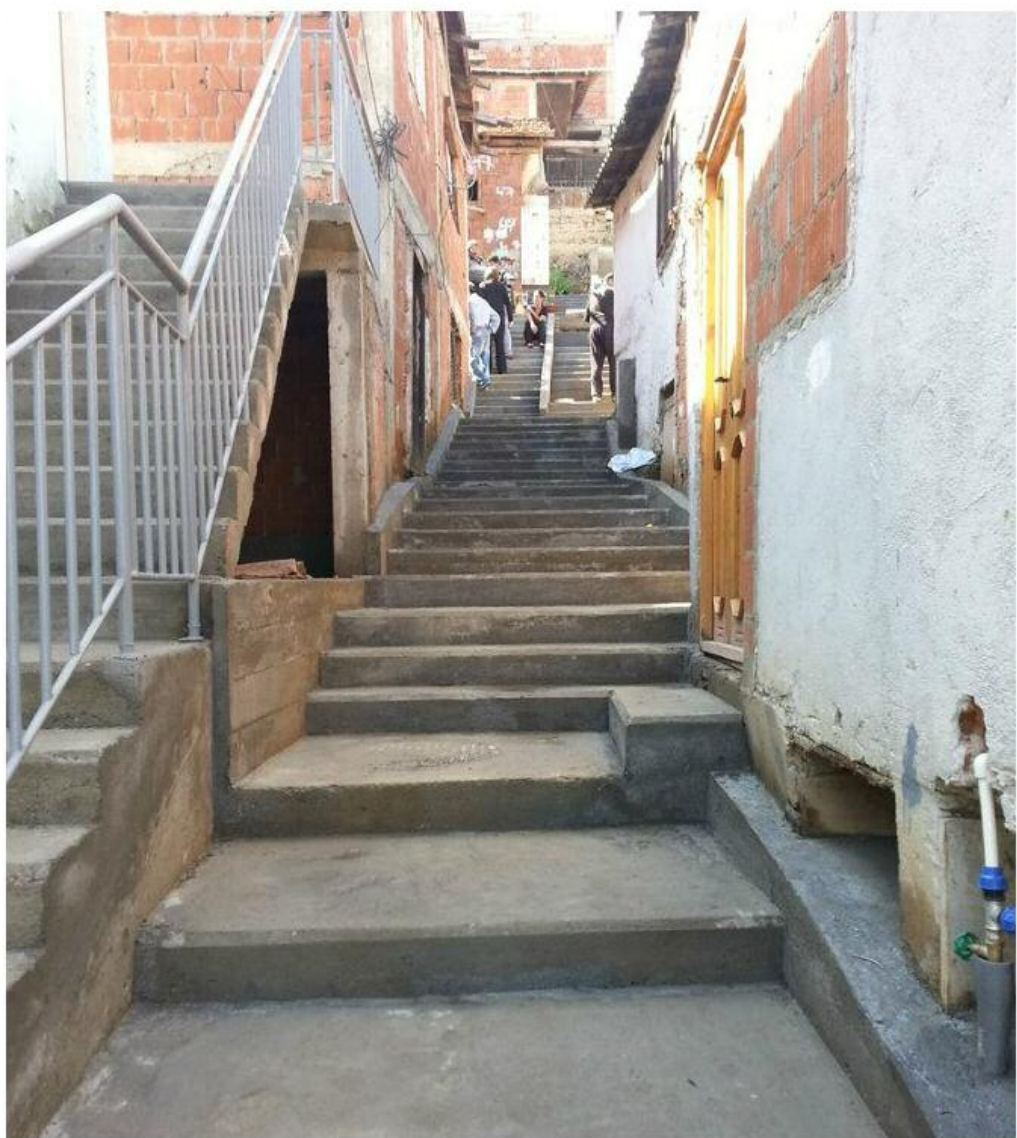
“I would like to encourage representatives of local self-governments to continue with the excellent work on the social inclusion of vulnerable groups. Roma Inclusion starts at the local level in their communities and municipalities, I hope that other local governments see these examples and try to follow them,” said Burkhard, speaking in Serbian.

President of the National Council of the Roma National Minority, Vitomir Mihajlović, expressed deep gratitude for the success of the project,

stating that such projects, which affect the improvement of citizens’ lives should be extended to a larger number of towns.

“There are 94 municipalities inhabited by Roma, and only a small number of municipalities are trying to solve their problems. We in the Roma Council are trying to be partners, and at the national level there is a concern of the Government of Serbia to improve the lives of Roma, housing, health status, with special emphasis on permanent accommodation and employment,” said Mihajlović.

The project, which lasted from 2010 to 2016, was funded by the Swedish agency SIDA, it had the technical support of the OSCE and the Office for Human and Minority Rights and it included 13 towns or municipalities - Koceljeva, Ruma, Obrenovac, Prokuplje, Novi Beograd, Kuršumlija, Doljevac, Loznica, Senta, Požega, Knjaževac, Ivanjica and Zaječar.



Declaration Between Serbia and Croatia Signed

Source: Tanjug



On June 20, the Serbian Prime Minister designate, Aleksandar Vučić, and Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović signed in Subotica the Declaration on Improving Relations and Resolving Open Issues between Serbia and Croatia, which contains six points.



This should, as it is said, be done on the basis of the Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and Croatia on the protection of Serbian and Montenegrin minorities in Croatia and the Croatian minority in Serbia and Montenegro, signed on November 15, 2004 in Belgrade, as well as the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, ratified by the European Council on November 10, 1994.

The second point of the Declaration states that the State Commissions of the two countries should immediately enter into negotiations on determining the boundary line between Serbia and Croatia, on the basis of international law. The document also states that the two countries have no territorial claims, and that both countries are willing to, should the bilateral negotiations fail within a reasonable

It was agreed by the Declaration that, in order to improve the bilateral relations, regional cooperation and stability and resolve open issues between the two countries, they must actively initiate or speed up the processes of improving bilateral protection of minorities - Serbian in Croatia and Croatian in Serbia.

time, bring their territorial dispute before the international judicial institutions.

The third point indicates the agreement that Serbia and Croatia are ready to speed up the implementation of the Agreement on Succession Issues signed on June 29, 2001 in Vienna.

The Declaration confirms that both countries agree that the search for missing persons is a priority humanitarian issue and will make sincere and best efforts to search for the missing.

Both countries are aware of the new challenges facing Europe and the world, especially international terrorism and international migrant and refugee crisis, the Declaration states, adding that they are ready to actively and coordinately act in the fight against terrorism and the refugee crisis.

The last point refers to the joint cross-border projects, and states that both countries are ready to work actively in

the joint development and cross-border projects of the EU.

Vučić and Grabar-Kitarović in Donji Tavankut and Dalj

The signing of the Declaration was preceded by a visit to Donji Tavankut, near Subotica, where majority of the population are Croats and Bunjevacs, and visit to the birth house of the Serbian scientist Milutin Milanković in Dalj in Croatia.

In Tavankut they visited the Gallery of the First Colony of Straw Technique Naive Art and attended the cultural program of the Cultural and Artistic Society

Both countries are ready to work actively in the joint development and cross-border projects of the European Union.

of the Croatian Musicians Union (HGU) "Festival bunjevačkih pisama" (Festival of Bunjevac songs) and vocal group "Kraljice Bodroga" (Queens of Bodrog), while in Dalj they unveiled a bust of M.

Milanković and talked with representatives of the Serbian national minority in that country. President of the Serbian government and the Croatian president were welcomed by the locals near the Danube, accompanied by the applause and messages that they are happy to welcome them here today. Dalj is, in general, populated by Serbs, Croats and Hungarians, and Serbs are the majority population.

At the Milanković's house they were welcomed by the representative of the Serbs in Croatia, Member of the Parliament Milorad Pupovac, and the meeting was also attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dačić.



The Educational Issues are the Most Complex Ones

Signing of the Declaration on improving the relations in resolving open issues between Serbia and Croatia has been characterized by many as a historical act. On the importance of this Declaration, as well as on other issues, we talked to Slaven Bačić, president of the National Council of the Croatian National Minority.

By signing of the Declaration, the Croatian President and the Prime Minister of Serbia committed themselves to work on better relations between the two countries. What are the problems that you think should be solved first?

In any case, for minority communities in both countries it is significant that this issue is the first of the 6-point declaration. When it comes to the Croatian community in Serbia, despite significant advances in the last fifteen years, a number of open issues has remained, some of which we have managed to include in the Action Plan for the realization of the rights of national minorities, while other issues, because of the opposition of the government, failed to be included. Certainly, for us, the most important issue is the implementation of Article 9 of the Agreement on the Protection of Minorities, referring to the guaranteed mandates for representatives of the Croatian community at national, provincial and local levels, as well as participation in the executive bodies at the local level. For us, the implementation of this agreement is simply a matter of the rule of law and the implementation of commitments.

Namely, the political representation of national minorities is a key issue because the current model is appropriate only for 3-4 national minorities, and international documents in the last few years (Second and Third opinion on Serbia of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention - 2009 and 2013, Resolution of the Committee of Ministers on the implementation of the Framework Convention of 2011 and 2015, Expert reports on the state of minority rights of 2011 and 2015), speak of the need of the less numerous national minorities being represented in the parliament. We hope that the implementation of the agreement for the Croatian minority, or reciprocity in the case of Romania, could affect the more comprehensive resolution of this key issue.

How does the Croatian community in Serbia comment on the signing of the Declaration?

Reactions are undividedly positive, because every such meeting encourages the members of our community and discourages those who do not look at it well-meaningly.

The school year starts in a few months. What is the situation in education?



Here lies the most complex situation. I would single out the issue of the status of the Croatian (Native in general) language with elements of national culture, which the Ministry of Education has derogated (learning in some kind of summer schools on the basis of some international donations!?), while the minorities actually wanted to improve the status of the subject. Also, the issue of education of the staff for teaching in Croatian is unresolved. Encouragement measures are also necessary in order for the parents to enroll their children in classes in minority languages.

Are you satisfied with the number of schools where classes are held in Croatian language?

It is certain that there could be more such schools, however, for a variety of reasons (and I would especially emphasize the fear of parents), it is very difficult to increase the number of schools, although we have made many improvements in the last 5-6 years, primarily in Sremska Mitrovica and southern Danube region.

What is the situation with textbooks? We know that every year problems with textbooks in the languages of national communities arise.

The positive thing is that the issue of funding of textbooks for education in Croatian (and other languages) has finally been addressed this school year and the results are visible. We hope that the trend will continue. This year, we are preparing some authoring textbooks (music education), and next year we also plan to prepare some additional national textbooks (history, art, etc.), and then remains the printing of textbooks for the subject of Croatian language with elements of national culture.

Could you compare the position of the Croatian national community in relation to other communities in Serbia and Vojvodina?

It is immensely complex and different. First, our members were most exposed to ethnically motivated violence in the 1990s, which still has its consequences in the form of fear, even when declaring oneself. Further, we are a new minority without a minority tradition (for example, in contrast to the Slovaks or Ruthenians). In addition, we are extremely territorially dispersed (Subotica with its surrounding, Sombor with its surrounding, Šokac villages scattered along the Danube, places in Srem where Croats live are insufficiently connected, the Croats in Novi Sad, Belgrade and Niš and other towns of inner Serbia, and finally there is an exceptional sub-ethnic diversity (Bunjevac Croats, Šokci Croats, Croats from Srem, the Dalmatian Croats, Croats from the former federal institutions in Belgrade, Niš, etc., economic migrants from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina during socialism, etc.), all of which makes the mutual communication, better connectivity and getting to know each other very difficult.

Successful Presentation of the Old Crafts

Source: Ruske slovo

In the organization of the Association of craftsmen and private entrepreneurs and the Association of Women "Bajka" (Fairy Tale) from Ruski Krstur, with the financial support of the Provincial Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry and the Municipality of Kula, the 6th Krstur fair was held in Ruski Krstur on the last Saturday of June. This year's event was dedicated to old crafts with the motto "Nek se ne zaboravi" (Let us not forget).

On behalf of the organizers, the event was opened by the President of the Craftsmen's Association, Vladimir Emejdi. On this occasion the older Krstur craftsmen, in addition to tools, presented their trade on the spot, while in the courtyard of the Craftsmen's center, the cooks prepared sweet cabbage and chicken stew with dough in kettles.

In addition to presentation of the old crafts, in front of the Craftsmen's center, there were two dozen stalls with products of various associations and entrepreneurs from Krstur, Kucura, Kula, Subotica, Bačka Topola and Petrovaradin, and a competition in making the best strudel with poppy seeds was organized.



Iftar in Sjenica

Source: BNV

Bosniak National Council, the highest representative body of Bosniaks in the Republic of Serbia, on the occasion of the month of Ramadan, has organized Iftar - dinner on Thursday, June 23, 2016 in Sjenica at the Hotel "Borovi", for holders of high public office in Sandžak and the wider region.

Iftar was attended by heads of Raška and Zlatibor administrative districts, mayors and municipal presidents of the northern and southern Sandžak, managers of judicial bodies and heads of police departments in Novi Pazar and Prijepolje.

The President of the Council, Dr. Sulejman Ugljanin, in the capacity of the host addressed those present and stressed that

the main demand of the Bosniak National Council is for the state bodies to resolve the issue of minority rights institutionally, and that it is necessary that state bodies ensure Bosniaks the exercise of their statutory rights.

In his address, the President Ugljanin added that Sandžak is a region which is split into southwestern Serbia and north-

eastern Montenegro, but is actually a territorial unit with a shared history, culture, tradition and language, as well as an area where people of different nationalities and different religions - Muslims, Orthodox and Catholics have lived together in harmony for centuries.

Bosniak National Council traditionally organizes iftars on the occasion of Ramadan - the month of fasting, which is of great importance in the life of Bosniaks due to family and values, peace and charity which the Bosniak community nurtures with great care.

Ardita Sinani – First Woman as the Head of the Municipal Assembly of Preševo

Source: Blic

Ardita Sinani, from the Party for Democratic Action, was elected president of the Municipal Assembly of Preševo at the Preševo parliament session held on May 27, 2016. This is the first time in the history of Preševo that a woman has received such a high leadership position in a state body.

- This is a great challenge, but I will advocate to perform all my obligations with great responsibility. This is a historic event for the municipality of Preševo, and I hope that more women in our region will find themselves in management and decision-making positions. I will advocate to equally solve the problems of both male and female citizens of our

I want to respect the laws and do a good job. To be equal to all citizens and to everyone in the assembly, all for the benefit of the citizens – said Ardita Sinani.

community in the best way possible - she said.

She says that the economy is the biggest problem, and that she is expecting cooperation and assistance from the Government of Serbia.

- I am very pleased that I am President, but I feel a great responsibility to everyone. I want to respect the laws and do a good job. To be equal to all citizens and to everyone in the assembly, all for the benefit of the citizens - said Ardita Sinani.

Sinani was the head of the PDD list in the April elections, party of the former MP Riza Halimi, which won ten out of 38 councillors at the Municipal Assembly of Preševo.



PDD will rule at the local level in coalition with the Alternative for Change (AP), which won 11 councillor seats and, according to the agreement, the municipality president will be Šćiprim Arifi from the AP.

The new president of the local parliament explains that she will advocate for the respect of the law and for the economic development of Preševo.

- We all know that Preševo is least developed in Serbia and that it has a

high rate of unemployment. We need to begin addressing these issues - she said.

She also highlighted the problem of textbooks in Albanian, as well as the problem of scholarships for students from Preševo, who study in Priština, Tirana, Tetovo and other towns.

- However, the economy is the biggest problem and it is what needs to be addressed in this term - estimated Ardita Sinani.

She expects a lot better cooperation with the Serbian government, without whose help, as she pointed out, it is not possible to improve the living conditions in Preševo.

- We expect the assistance of the Government of Serbia. As the Government of Serbia progresses in the negotiations with the EU, we expect our relationship with the government to become better - explains the new President of the Municipal Assembly of Preševo.

Citizens of Preševo are satisfied that for the first time in history there is a woman acting as president of the local parliament.

- That is a good, thing because she is smart. This woman is "another Clinton" for the policy in our region. She is capable and we expect that Preševo will be going forward. We think it is good that a woman is president, but it all depends on the parties - commented the citizens of Preševo.

Ardita Sinani is a professor of computer science and works at the Grammar School in Preševo. She became active in the politics a decade ago.

- It is my wish that Preševo becomes a good place to live. That our children who study abroad come back to Preševo after finishing their education, and invest their knowledge in the development of this town - emphasizes Ardita.

Ardita Sinani was born in Preševo in 1980. She is an economics graduate of management and computer science. She graduated in Priština in 2003 and currently works as a professor of computer science in Grammar School. She has been a member of the Party for Democratic Action (PDD) for ten years, and last December she was elected president of the PDD branch for Preševo. She is married and a mother two children.



Marking the Statehood Day Slovenia

Source: RTS

Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Belgrade on June 27, marked the Statehood Day, 25 years of independence, as well as the Army Day. On this occasion, Ambassador of Slovenia Vladimir Gasparič awarded the letters of thanks which, in his own

words, affect the good work in Serbia and welfare of Slovenia.

The letter of thanks was presented to the Honorary Consul of Slovenia in Serbia, Rajko Marić, for representing the versatile interests of Slovenia in Serbia, President of the Na-

tional Council of the Slovenian minority in Serbia, Saša Verbić, for his work on the association of Slovenians in Serbia as an incentive for further affiliation, as well as the President of the "MK Group", Miodrag Kostić, for the development of economic cooperation between Serbia and Slovenia.

Bunjevac Community

Fire Skipping in Tavankut and Đurđin

Source: HNV

Fire skipping, organized by the Association of Bosnian Croats (UBH) "Dužijanica" was held in the courtyard of the parish of St. Joseph the Worker in Đurđin on June 23, while on June 25, it was held in Donji Tavankut, more precisely in front of the Ethno farm "Balažević".

The participants of the program in Đurđin were the children and the youth folklore department of the Croatian Cultural Center (HKC) "Bunjevačko kolo" led by the department manager, Andrija Bašić Palković, as well as the children and the youth of the Croatian Cultural and Educational Society (HKPD) "Đurđin". Present participants and guests were welcomed by Marinko Piuković, director of the UBH "Dužijanica". Monsignor Stjepan Beretić, President of the Catholic Association for Cultural History and Spirituality "Ivan Antunović", Monsignor Dr. Andrija Anišić, President of the UBH "Dužijanica" and the local parish priest Rev. Miroslav Orčić, were also present among the guests. The host of the program was Ana Dulić, and the sounds of tamburitza of the members of the HKC "Bunjevačko kolo" tambura orchestra enriched the event.

Old Bunjevac tradition that has preserved itself on the farms of North Bačka, fire skipping on St. Ivan Cvitnjak, is slowly attracting increasing attention. Back in the day, a fire would be lit in every street in the village in the evening hours from St. Ivan to Petrov. The custom was almost forgotten until recently and was rarely practiced.



June Marked by Cultural Events

Source: Hlas Ijudu

The second half of June was undoubtedly rife with various cultural events, some of which also had its jubilee edition.



In Kisač, from 16 - 19 June, children's folklore festival "Zlatna kapija" (in Slovak "Zlata Brana" - Golden Gate) was held. The festival has been held for 23 years and each time it brings together more than 1,000 children from Vojvodina Slovakian villages, visiting villages around Kisač, and the Slovak Republic.

This year's main ceremony was once again held on Sunday, while on the previous days, the visitors could enjoy numerous exhibitions, children performances and workshops. Weather conditions have spoiled this year's plans of the organizers, so instead of at the magnificent makeshift castle, the main concert was held at the "Kisač" Cultural Centre.

The festival is of competitive character and the jury announced the Children's folklore group of the Cultural and Artistic Society (KUD) "Petrovska družina" from Bački Petrovac for the best children's ensemble.

While Kisač was dedicated to the children's folklore, in Bački Petrovac a jubilee 20th Festival of classical music "Prolećne note" (Spring notes) was held. This year, 12 young

talented musicians from Bački Petrovac, Kulpin, Stara Pazova, Vojlovica and Novi Sad have gathered in the hall of the "Jan Kollar" High School. The organizer of the festival was the Local Committee of Matica slovačka (Slovak Homeland Foundation) in Bački Petrovac.

However, another traditional event celebrated its anniversary. "Susret ispod lipa" (Meeting under the linden tree) is an event that has been organized by the youth magazine "Polet" (in Slovak "Vzlet" - Take-off) and the Newspaper Publishing "Hlas Ijudu" for 45 years. This year's meeting was held in Boljevci.

In addition to the "Susret" bringing together many young writers and painters that publish their works in the magazine "Polet", the young artists have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Slovak Vojvodina writers and writers from Slovakia. Each year the awards for the best poetry and artwork are presented. This time the jury awarded Jan Vlček from Padina (artworks) and Jan Domonji from Kisač (poetry).

Educational Television Series in Slovak

In the co-production of Radio-Television of Vojvodina, Association of Slovak Journalists, the National Council of the Slovak national minority and Antifriz film, an educational television series for children in the Slovak language "U potrazi za mekim F" (in Slovak "Mäkké F" - In search of the soft F) has been created. For now, the pilot episode titled "Tabla beskućnica" (Homeless Table) has been filmed, and the realization of ten 30-minute episodes is planned. This project originated at the Center for Competence and Strategic Development of the Radio-Television of Vojvodina, having noted the absence of programs for children in the Slovak language, and the fact that the script writers who would be engaged in this type of program are rare to find. On this occasion, two workshops with potential authors were organized, which resulted in a script for the pilot episode which showed great potential of the project, so it was decided to film 10 episodes of the series based on the pilot.

The episodes are independent stories, bound together by the same space (school), the construction of the story (a problem arises at school which is solved thanks to an old blackboard found in the school attic), permanent characters (students, school secretary, janitor and a cook in a school canteen). Preparations to resume the filming are in progress, and viewers will soon have the opportunity to follow the series "U potrazi za mekim F" within the program the Radio-Television of Vojvodina.



“Jevrejska čitaonica u Beogradu” (The Jewish Reading Room in Belgrade) in the press

In early October 2016, the publishing house “Čigoja štampa” from Belgrade, will publish a book “Jevrejska čitaonica u Beogradu 1929-1941” (The Jewish Reading Room in Belgrade 1929-1941) by Radivoje Davidović. The manuscript was awarded at last year’s competition of the Federation of the Jewish Communities of Serbia. The book will have 200 pages and will be illustrated with 60 high-quality photos and drawings.

The reviewer of the book is writer Filip David.

From the contents:

The Jewish Reading Room has played a major role in the cultural life of the Belgrade Jews between the two world wars. A large number of popular lectures that will be presented in a book about the most famous personalities of the Jewish science, culture, history and other areas have been organized in it.

Publication of the book was financially supported by the Cultural and Humanitarian Foundation Sabitaj Buki Finci.

Competition

Competition for literary works with Jewish themes

The Federation of the Jewish Communities of Serbia announces the 60th jubilee competition for literary works with Jewish themes in the field of:

- Literature (novel, short story, poem)
- Scientific work
- Memoirs and chronicles

The jury will be awarding three prizes.

The jury may decide to award the prizes otherwise.

Send your works written in Serbian or related languages, typed on a typewriter or a computer, in two non-returnable copies.

The authors cannot apply the works which have already been published or rewarded in another competition.

The works should be signed with a code and submitted with a second sealed envelope containing the code key.

The deadline for submission is August 31, 2016.

The competition results will be published in the newspaper “Politika” at the end of November 2016.

The works should be sent to the following address:

THE FEDERATION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF SERBIA /
for Prize Competition /

Kralja Petra 71 a / III, POB 30, 11000 BELGRADE

Greek Minority in the Political Arena of Serbia



At the end of March of the current year, the Greek Civil Party of Serbia has been registered in the Register of political parties. President of the National Council of the Greek national minority, Vasilios Provelegios, said for the Minority News that the establishment of the political party will help articulate the interests of Greek and Serbian even better. "Through the National Council of the Greek national minority, of which not even many Greeks knew about, we

failed to inform the general public about our existence and operation. Truth be told, it is partly because we did not get any segments in the media, but even more because we have not been persistent like other minority communities in constantly pointing out our problems. Objectively, we did not ask for much, because we were pleased that Serbia, which has given us citizenship, has been financially aiding us in learning our mother tongue, fostering the Greek culture and learning about

the Greek history with the help of its taxpayer. Now that we have an adequate space at No. 9 Gavrilica Principala Street, the conditions to proceed with the political activities have been created, because we believe that through the Greek intellectual caucus to which we aspire, and the Greeks who are in decision-making positions regarding Serbia, from the European Parliament to the US Senate, we can do much more for our two brotherly nations," said Vasilios Provelegios.

We ask for the minimum of what is possible

When we realized that what we can do for our Greek community through the work of the Council is very limited, unlike some of the more numerous minorities that have their own schools where they learn history in which Serbs are often portrayed as invaders, we decided to form a party, because we cannot realize almost any right under the applicable law related to the education in the mother tongue, not even get a class in a school in which Greek would be spoken.



Centar za istraživanja migracija
Center for Migration Studies

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