

UNMIK PAGES: pages 1, 2, 3 and 4

- Mr. Marti Ahtisaari Special Representative for the process of future status of Kosovo.....(1)
 - Avian Flu: “Carefulness Yes, Panic No”.....(2)
 - First meeting of the Review of the Internal Security process.....(3)
 - SEE Energy Community was established.....(3)
 - EU Commission adopted comprehensive strategy on new candidate countries.....(4)
-

Prizren/Prizren region: page 5

- Pleased with grain crops.....(5)
- Gift from Australia.....(5)

Pleased with grain crops

Vineyards owners from the Rahovec/Orahovac area are very happy with this years grain crops. They have produced vine, and now they work on domestic brandy ‘rakija’. It has been hectic in monastery’s Decani owned vine cellar, where young monk, father Marko is overseeing work. He said that enough vine was produced from this years grapes, and that they are now producing well-known Decani *rakija loza*. Monastery bought off grapes from local producers, which will continue in upcoming years until the newly planted vineyard is ready for harvest.

Gift from Australia

The Serbian Orthodox Church (SOC) *Bishop of Australia and New Zealand*, Milutin has visited Velika Hoča/Hoca i Madhe, monastery in Zočište/Zoçishtë and upper part of Rahovec/Orahovac. He was surprised to see so many children in the area, and he bestowed them with 50 Australian dollars each, saying that he was happy to see that there were children here. The money was collected by Serbian emigration living in his diocese.

REGIONAL BRIEFS:

- 100 m² of iron roof was stolen from the church of *Bogorodica Ljeviska* in Prizren. Bishop Teodosije said that this was an ‘unheard theft’. The church is supposed to be announced as of world’s cultural heritage by UNESCO next year.
 - Equipment with estimated value of 6,000 euros was robbed from NGO's ‘*Jefimija*’ offices in Velika Hoča/Hoca i Madhe robbed. Four computers, printers and other office material have been stolen.
 - The Coordination Center for Kosovo (CCK) donated 12 tones of wheat seeds for the autumn planting. The seeds were distributed to local households, depending on the quantity of agricultural land in their possession.
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Prishtinë/Priština region: pages 6 and 7

- “We want to stay”(6)
- Photographies of Island.....(7)
- New department in “Simonida” Hospital(7)

“We want to stay”

Until 1999, village Milloshevë/Miloševo was inhabited by 100 Kosovo Serbian households with 700 individuals. Now, there are 35 of them, with 10 families. Among those, there are only two children in the village, of three and five years of age. Mr. Dragan Adzancic says that most of them used to work in *Elektroprivreda* in neighboring Obiliq/Obilić, but now they cannot work there. They survive thanks to the salaries received from Serbia, and gardens that they cultivate, he said. For shopping and medical services they go to either Gračanica/Gračanicë or Mitrovicë/Mitrovica north.

Photographies of Island

‘Days of culture of Island’ have been launched in Serbia in June this year, in order to present the culture of this far Nordic country and to establish some links. Balkan Foundation which organized the exhibition, has decided to show it in Gračanica/Gračanicë too. Photographies of Ragnar Akselson Raks have been exhibited, and documentary movie was shown. The exhibition was opened for 15 days, and it was free of charge for visitors.

New department in “Simonida” Hospital

Department for blood transfusion and X-ray was recently opened in “Simonida” Hospital in Gračanica/Gračanicë. These new departments will ease the work of the hospital, and

there will be no need that the patients are sent to Mitrovicë/Mitrovica north hospital. Dr. Tomislav Jovanovic said that since opening of the department, 2,770 patients have used their services. The blood transfusion unit is receiving previously analyzed blood from hospital in Nis, Serbia.

REGIONAL BRIEFS:

- Coordination Center for Kosovo has provided farmers of Lipjan/Lipljan villages with autumn wheat seeds and fertilizers. Farmers said that the quantity was sufficient and that the works will be finished in due time.
- NGO European Perspective has organized a meeting with IDPs from villages around Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and their welcoming Kosovo Albanian community in Ohrid, FYRoM to discuss return project.
- Local roads around Gračanica/Graçanicë are being repaired, especially the busiest one, towards neighboring Laplje Selo/Llapje Sellë. This road was marked and protection fence was installed.
- Young people from Priluzhje/Priluzhë have initiated campaign to help nunnery of Devic monastery in Skenderaj/Srbica. Plenty of locally produced food and hygienic items were collected and transported to monastery.
- About three hundred IDPs living in Serbia have visited graveyards on the *Day of all Saints*. The visit was assisted by association ‘Happy Family’ from Nis, CCK, with security provided by police.
- In November, a football tournament was organized by the educational employees with nine teams. The winner of the tournament was team of elementary school “Kralj Milutin” from Gračanica/Graçanicë.

Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region: page 8

- “Presence to be strengthened”(8)
- St. Demetrius Church opened to believers.....(9)
- Donation of 2 million dinars.....(9)

“Presence to be strengthened”

“The state will strengthen its presence in Kosovo, primarily on its north, because through process of decentralization this part of province will be a model for local self governance” said CCK president, Mrs. Sanda Raskovic-Ivic, in a meeting with local municipal officials and political parties. During her visit to Mitrovicë/Mitrovica she met with representatives of the University, School for children with problems in hearing and newly opened church.

St. Demetrius Church opened to believers

Serbian Orthodox Church head, Patriarch Pavle, led liturgy at the opening of the new church in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica north, devoted to St. Demetrius. About 2000 believers took part in celebrations. He thanked Bishop Artemije and others involved in construction for their efforts. After the holy mass, a cultural program and academic gathering was organized.

Donation of 2 million dinars

Mr. Dragan Djilas, Director of Serbia President's "Peoples Office", visited Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, together with Belgrade's mayor, Mr. Nenad Bogdanovic, and they have donated 2 million dinars for the construction of the spiritual academy centre. They have pointed out that this is just one of the donations to come. During their stay they paid visit to a newly opened church in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, and a village in Kosovska Kamenica/Kamenicë municipality, where the "Peoples Office" plans to build a school.

REGIONAL BRIEFS:

- The works on the Valac/Valaq power transformer have been finished on 15th November and it will result in better power supply for beneficiaries, was reported by provider.
- SRSG Soren Jessen- Petersen said that, after receiving money from Germany, USA and UNDP, 650,000 euros are still needed for the relocation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community,
- Team from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica north won 4th place on the Karate tournament held in Nis. 48 teams from Serbia, FYRoM and Republika Srpska were competing in the tournament.
- The "First Belgrade Quire", established in 1853, gave a guest performance at the opening of the newly constructed church in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. Quire's opus is based on the Slavic and Serbian national tradition.
- This year, about 2000 hectares of agricultural land will be planted with wheat in Leposavić/Leposaviq municipality. There are sufficient quantities of fertilizers to be purchased.

Gjilan/Gnjilane region: page 10

- "Novo Brdo/Novobërdë Golden Town".....(10)
- Forestation of hills(10)
- Football team "White eagles" won the tournament.....(11)

"Novo Brdo/Novobërdë Golden Town"

Five and half centuries ago, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë fallen under Turkish Empire. At the end of October, this event was commemorated under "Novo Brdo/Novobërdë Golden Town" motto. Amongst numerous guests and speakers, there were Director of the

Protection of Cultural Heritage Foundation, Mrs. Gordana Markovic, the National Museum Custodian of Republic of Serbia and others. During the two-day seminar, the value of this important Middle Ages mining centre was discussed.

Forestation of Hills

15,000 seedling of pine, purchased by Gjilan/Gnjilane Forestry authority and UNDP, has been sent for plantation to the Mendalak mountain which surrounds Novobërdë/Novo Brdo. This is the biggest campaign of forestation in this municipality, and it is very important for us, said municipal president Mr. Petar Vasic, pointing out that in last five to six years there were many illegal wood cuttings, which have devastated local forests.

Football team “White Eagles” won the tournament

Football tournament with real multiethnic character was organized nearby Gjilan.Gnjilane. French, Ukrainian and German policemen, KPS members, Firefighters, and local team called “White Eagles” from Šilovo/Shillovë that won the cup, took part in the competition.. One of the organizers, French gendarme, Sandro Durigel said that the whole tournament was very ‘a fair play’ and a unique event. KPS won the second place, special policemen won the third, and firefighters finished the tournament in last place.

REGIONAL BRIEFS:

- The poorest families from Gjilan/Gnjilane municipalities have received 2 m³ of fire wood each by CCK and Local Red Cross. Vegetables, baby food and hygienic items were also given to these families.
- Local Community Office in Gornje Kusce/Kusicë i Epërm have provided 12000 euros for construction of small sport field with necessary equipment in this village.
- Local Community Office in Donja Budriga/Budriga i Ultë, has organized reconstruction of the bridge in Pasjane/Pasjan, the biggest Serbian village in Gjilan/Gnjilane region. This investment is worth 7,000 euros.
- Multinational Brigade East has opened a monitoring and liaison office in Novo Brdo/Novobërdë. Office will be opened for visitors from 10.00 to 15.00 AM every working day.
- National Service for Employment of Republic of Serbia, with an office in Ranilug/Ranillug, has organized English language course for 30 unemployed persons.

Pejë/Peć region: page 12

- Reconstruction of the church has begun.....(12)
- Return in Drsnik village is ongoing.....(12)

Reconstruction of the church has begun

Only two km from *Pecka Patrijarsija* monastery lies Ljevosa village, with pre-war population of 200 Kosovo Serbs with 66 households. They returned to their homes in April this year. With many countrymen from neighboring villages of the Pejë/Peć region and clergy, they attended solemn blessing of the foundations of St. John church. Bishop Artemije, who led this religious ceremony, emphasized the importance of the return and remain of the population in Kosovo.

Return to Drsnik village is ongoing

Another ceremony of commemorating local protector, St. Petka, was marked in village of Drsnik, Klinë/Klina municipality where 40 families have returned from their temporary accommodations in Serbia proper. House reconstruction was funded by ICMC in cooperation with Kosovo Government. On the other hand, CCK constructed *Church's dome*, plan for firewood, stoves and seeds for wheat for the households. The locals pointed out that now, when they have returned to their homes, they still need a school and a health house in order to restart with real life,

REGIONAL BRIEFS:

- “Solidarity” Association from Vrbas in Serbia proper organized and delivered humanitarian aid in food and hygienic items to the *Visoki Decani Monastery*, *Pecka Patrijarsija* and Osojane/Osojan village. The value of this donation is about one million dinars.
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