OBN News Review, 8 January 2000

Headlines

- Muslims all around BiH celebrate the first day of the Ramadan Bajram
- After an eight year break, Bajram morning pray was held in the Kljuna village near Nevesinje
- Presidential pre-election campaign began in Croatia
- Truce in Chechenia Russian military operation does not develop as planned
- Negotiations between Syria and Israel still without concrete results
- Business operations of the Sarajevo "Volkswagen" factory highlighted by the financial police investigation
- New details about the rejection of Switzerland's support for the Sarajevo Clinic Center

A holiday greeting to Muslims in Bosnia and Hercegovina for Bajram was presented at the beginning of the show.

Sarajevo

Bajram morning prayer was organised in places all over BiH. The Head of the Muslim religious community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Reisu-l-ulema Mustafa ef. Ceric, sent his Bajram message from a Sarajevo mosque. The BiH Council of Ministers, headed by Haris Silajdzic, visited graves of Hakija Turajlic, the ex Vice President of the BiH Government, who was killed in 1993. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Mirna Sadikovic.

Banja Luka

The first day of the Ramadan Bajram was marked in Banja Luka as well. The morning prayer was attended by Muslims from Banja

Luka and neighbouring villages. More than 200 individuals attended the prayer. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Nedeljka Breberina.

Kljuna

For the first time after a break of eight years, a Bajram morning prayer was organised in the Kljuna village near Nevesinje. The prayer was organised in the mosques in Mostar, Nevesinje and Stolac municipalities as well. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Sinisa Jokic.

World

The presidential pre-election campaign officially began in Croatia today. Nine candidates were nominated for the presidential elections. This has been the biggest number of candidates to date. The campaign will last until midnight January 22nd. The election is scheduled for January 24th. This was followed by a report on the current events in Chechenia. The Russian military operation does not develop as planned. Two Russian generals who commanded military operations on the ground were dismissed in the meantime. A report on the negotiations between Israel and Syria followed. The New York Times reported that chances for reaching a real progress in the negotiations were poor. The report on current events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Mladen Maric.

Sarajevo

A report on the Sarajevo "Volkswagen" factory. The Syndicate accuses the management of malpractice in the previous period. From November last year, business operations of the Sarajevo "Volkswagen" factory have been highlighted by a financial police investigation. There have not been any results to date. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Damir Kaletovic.

Sarajevo

Because of the current financial situation in the country, approximately 110 to 120 heart operations have been performed per year. This was insufficient for the local surgeons to gain practical experience. Having this in mind, it is strange that the Clinic Center in Sarajevo has not accepted a 2,5 year contract. Through this contract, some 750 free operations performed by experts from Switzerland would be implemented. This would be a good chance for the local doctors as well because some 200 operations per year would be performed after the contract expires. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

A report on the manipulation of data by the local authorities regarding refugee return. The International Community receives all data from <u>UNHCR</u> regarding the number of refugees and displaced persons and the results about the number of returnees to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main sources of information for <u>UNHCR</u> are the local authorities which have been criticised the most by the International Community representatives for the lack of will in providing the conditions for return. This is the reason why <u>UNHCR</u> has to check all data. <u>UNHCR</u> confirms that currently in Bosnia and Herzegovina there are some 480,000 displaced individuals. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Vedran Persic.

Sport

A report on the First International TV Tournament in Handball in Tuzla, whose sponsor was OBN, was followed by reports on international skiing, tennis, the Paris-Dakar rally and the international football matches.