



MEDIA NEWS BULLETIN

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Media Innovations

The first video portal in Serbia pinkonline.com is launched

The media situation in Serbia

The head of the public relations department of the president of Serbia, Stanislava Pak, posted on Twitter: "Poor Serbia, where even the walking/immobile pile of complexes that is known under the name of Teofil Pancic...". Her post was published on the same day when Pancic's article appeared in the weekly magazine *Vreme* in which he criticized Tomislav Nikolic. The editorial team of *Vreme* has condemned such kind of communication and pointed out that it constitutes a form of threat and attack on the achieved standards of the freedom of expression. "It is unacceptable that such a language and communication comes from the cabinet of the president of Serbia, from an official who is tasked with maintaining official communication between the president and the media. We consider that this attempt at ad hominem attack is dangerous because it calls for lynching of our author, who had already been a victim of a physical attack by two extremists. We are proud of the fact that we have been advancing the freedom of expression for more than two decades and offering a wide range of different opinions on the pages of *Vreme*", says the editorial team of the weekly magazine.

(Blic, UNS, Press, 21.10.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) has protested against the rude attack of the head of the public relations department of the president of Serbia on journalist Teofil Pancic. "It is inappropriate and contrary to the democratic practice for media advisors to talk to journalists in this way. The fact that this is not an official position of the cabinet of the president of Serbia but a personal opinion that was posted on Twitter cannot serve as an excuse for an attack on a journalist. Our colleague Teofil Pancic was rudely insulted", says NUNS.

(NUNS, 22.10.2012)

Stanislava Pak, the head of the public relations department of the president of Serbia, was selected as "the loser" of the day by daily newspapers *Blic* and *Alo!* because she had insulted Teofil Pancic, a columnist with the weekly magazine *Vreme*.

(Alo!, Blic, 22.10.2012)

Opinions about the current media situation in Serbia

"It is necessary to ensure full transparency of the structure of ownership over the media, as well as quick implementation of the media strategy", says the report on Serbian progress in the process of integration with the EU issued by the European Commission. A small advancement has been noted in the implementation of the Media Strategy. The report also reminds that "the measures related to financing of certain media outlets from the state budget should be harmonized with the EU regulations because they constitute state assistance." The European Commission points out that the capacity of the Ministry of Culture, the Media and Information Society in the information and communication sectors and digital administration are still insufficient.

(B92, Beta, UNS, NUNS, 11.10.2012)

Radio-Television Kragujevac has decided to quit its membership in the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) because of disagreement on the issue of regional public service broadcasters, confirmed yesterday the president of ANEM, Sasa Mirkovic. He told Euroactiv Serbia that regional public service broadcasters were "a political project", which is evidenced, in his words, by the fact that the initiative appeared together with the concept of regionalization of Serbia.

(Beta, NDNV, 24.10.2012, Pregled, UNS, NDNV, 25.10.2012)

The state and the media

The minister of culture and information, Bratislav Petkovic, said that media laws that would ensure freedom and independence of the media in accordance with European standards, as well as the transparency of media ownership, would be adopted by March 2013. All journalistic associations will participate in the public debate after which the proposals will be delivered to the Government.

(Tanjug, E-kapija, Vecernje novosti, NUNS, 13.10.2012)

The General Secretariat of the President of the Republic informed the minister of culture and information on 18 September that a work group for preparation of several draft laws had been formed with support from the president. Among these laws are the Law on Telecommunication and the Law on *Tanjug*. This effort is aimed to formalize the

freedom of the media. The president of Serbia has not yet replied to the open letter written by the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and explained what kind of a 'phantom' work group it was all about. (Novi Magazin, 18.10.2012)

The state may partly remain the owner of certain media outlets, said the minister of culture and information. In this way, he has practically suspended the Media Strategy, which stipulates precise deadlines for withdrawal of the state from ownership over the media, and annulled the public promises of all coalition partners of the ruling coalition, who had promised that this rule and the deadlines would be honored, reports *Novi Magazin*. (Novi Magazin, 18.10.2012)

Politicians and public personalities should be aware of every spoken word, while the media have to be very careful and join our fight against hate speech and all forms of discrimination, says the president of the National Parliament of Serbia, Nebojsa Stefanovic. The citizens of Serbia have the right to accurate and timely information, which is sometimes the victim of political and other kinds of influence. (Fonet, UNS, NUNS, 19.10.2012)

The advisor to the minister of culture and information and the president of the Media Committee of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Vilibald Eric, says that the party and the Government aim to ensure freedom of information. "One of the ways to achieve this goal is to legally stipulate that journalists and their media are obliged to publish any information they receive that is important to the public and is related to corruption and crime. Hiding of such information should be a criminal offense. Aside from this, it is necessary to consider the possibility of closing down one of the national broadcasting frequencies", says Eric. "For this reason, I favor revoking of the TV fee and believe that Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) should be merged with Radio-Television Vojvodina (RTV) and financed from the national budget. The money that is necessary for this purpose would be collected in a form of taxes on all digital personal and commercial signals as well as royalties and intellectual property rights. The management of RTS and the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) has to go, since it had proved itself to be the mouthpiece of the former regime. Further, I think that RTS should not be allowed to broadcast advertisements. It should have only sponsors, whose names would appear in credits aired after certain programmes. In this way, financial operations would be separated from the editorial policy. Commercial television stations would be obliged to pay 30 percent of their earnings to a fund within the Ministry of culture which would be used to finance nationally important projects, as well as support young authors and TV stations that need assistance... We propose merging of the RRA and the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL). Only RTS and perhaps *Politika* should remain owned by the state", says Eric. (Kurir, NUNS, 22.10.2012)

Public service broadcasters

The Tax Administration of Serbia has published (www.poreskauprava.gov.rs) a new list of 1,000 largest owed tax amounts. The public service broadcaster owes 441 million dinars in taxes. In addition to this, it has not repaid the full amount of its previous refinanced debt. (Kurir, 12.10.2012)

"It is true that I have quit. But I will work until the spring of 2014, until the end of my mandate", says the director of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), Aleksandar Tijanovic. He was appointed as the director of RTS in 2004 with support from Vojislav Kostunica, whose media advisor he had been between 2001 and 2003. (Kurir, 14.10.2012, Alo!, Informer, UNS, 15.10.2012)

The Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) and the management of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) have agreed at a joint meeting that it is necessary to ensure stable financing of the public service broadcaster because the current model of financing via TV fee has proven inefficient. (RTV, B92, Beta, NUNS, Blic, UNS, 18.10.2012)

In the future, the TV fee for RTS might be collected similarly to the system that is used in Croatia, where it is practically being paid as a form of a tax, reports the daily newspaper *Blic* from unofficial sources. However, this is only one of the proposals that the commission – to be formed by the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) and Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) – will present to the representatives of the Government of Serbia after the working group for preparation of media laws completes its draft law proposal. The work group was formed within the Ministry of Culture. (Blic, Press, UNS, NUNS, 19.10.2012, Kurir, UNS, 22.10.2012)

The management of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) said yesterday that the broadcaster was not stealing money from citizens and that it was not opposed to revoking of the TV fee. However, RTS demands that its functioning and independence be ensured. "We don't object to revocation of the TV fee. The public service broadcaster could be fully financed from the national budget and its independence could be protected by law", said the RTS management. (Beta, E-kapija, 22.10.2012, Press, Blic, UNS, NUNS, 23.10.2012)

The daily newspaper *Danas* conducted a poll. Goran Pekovic, a member of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), says: "Regardless of which model of financing of the public service broadcaster is selected, its editorial independence must be preserved." Dragan Janjic, the deputy president of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), says: "It would be best to finance RTS via the TV fee, but provided that payment rate of more than 90 percent can be achieved." Milos Vasic, a journalist, says: "I think that RTS should finance itself the best way it could. The idea that the public service broadcaster should be financed by taking money from working people's salaries is scandalous." (Danas, UNS, 24.10.2012)

Threats, attacks and legal proceedings against journalists; media-related trials

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) strongly condemns the pressure and threats made by the head of the Police Administration of Kragujevac, Ivan Djorovic, against the management and journalists of Radio-Television Kragujevac (RTK). The director of RTK, Jovanka Marovic, sent a letter to NUNS describing the pressure exerted on them and the attempts to influence the editorial policy of the station. (NUNS, 12.10.2012, Beta, Politika, 13.10.2012)

The Democratic Party (DS) has formed a legal and media team with the aim to protect its members and officials from a political and media negative campaign. In the words of Jelena Trivan, only in the last month the media has published 30 reports accusing some of the DS officials. In the last month and a half, there have been 109 articles criminalizing DS; 30 articles violating the assumption of innocence; 11 articles announcing arrests; and 26 cover pages with headlines about criminal activities of the DS. "Dulic was accused of 11 different criminal offenses on 39 cover pages, but he has been charged with only one case of abuse of official position", says the DS. (B 92, Tanjug, NUNS, 12.10.2012, Danas, 13.10.2012)

The daily newspaper *Kurir* has been sued by three members of the Democratic Party (DS): a member of the DS and a former minister in the government, Oliver Dulic; a member of the DS and a former prime minister, Mirko Cvetkovic; and a member of the DS and a former minister, Dusan Petrovic, reports *Kurir*. (Kurir, UNS, NUNS, 13.10.2012)

Prime Minister Ivica Dacic said that the media should not interpret him. "Do not interpret my opinion. Just report my words", said Dacic. (Fonet, UNS, NUNS, 15.10.2012)

The prime minister of Serbia, Ivica Dacic, demanded yesterday that the national news agency *Tanjug* apologize to Serbian and German public for inadequately reporting his yesterday's speech held in Draginac, which had resulted in inaccurate interpretations in other media outlets and damage to Serbian national interest. (Pregled, 16.10.2012)

The news agency *Tanjug* apologized yesterday to the prime minister and the public. After comparing the information published by *Tanjug* and the recording of the Prime Minister Dacic's words, it was established that some of the information published by *Tanjug* was an inaccurate representation of the prime minister's words. (Tanjug, Kurir, UNS, NUNS, Blic, 16.10.2012)

A trial of the RTS news presenter, Petra Cvijic, has begun. She is charged with killing a man with her car on 9 January. She is allowed to remain free during the trial, but has not appeared on the national television since the accident. At the beginning of the trial she denied hitting Slobodan Bajic at a pedestrian crossing and claimed that the accident occurred in a car lane, around ten meters away from the crossing. (B92, Tanjug, UNS, NUNS, 15.10. 2012, RTV, Tanjug, NUNS, 16.10.2012, Kurir, 17.10.2012)

A Molotov Cocktail was thrown yesterday in the backyard of the home belonging to the director of the daily newspaper *Informer*, Damir Dragic. A car – an Opel Astra – belonging to Dragic's father was set on fire and

destroyed. "This is an attack on the editorial policy of *Informer*. This is a typical mafia warning", said Dragic. (UNS, Alo!, NUNS, 17.10.2012, Danas, 18.10.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) demands immediate police investigation of the yesterday's attack on the home of the director of the daily newspaper *Informer*, identification of the perpetrators and organizers of the attack and their prosecution to the full extent of the law. (UNS, 17.10.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) demands that the police immediately investigate the attack on the home of the director of the daily newspaper *Informer*, Damir Dragic. This terrorist act must have a priority in order to establish any possible connection with the reports published by *Informer*, says NUNS. (NUNS, 17.10.2012)

Dragan J. Vucicevic says: "This attack has only strengthened our resolve. We will never give up on free journalism and our fight for a better, free and honest Serbia, for a country in which mobsters would be in jail." (Informer, 18.10.2012)

Dunja Mijatovic, an OSCE representative for the freedom of the media, called on the authorities yesterday to solve the attack on Dragic and his family members as soon as possible. Every attempt to threaten the media deserves a strong condemnation, said Mijatovic. (Informer, NUNS, 19.10.2012)

The city and district sections of the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) have accused the director of RTV Sabac, Ljubomir Podunavac, of a conflict of interest because during the time he spent on this position he was also the owner of the Belgrade agency *Stoa*. The outcome of the dispute between the local section of DSS and the TV director is impossible to predict. The media company has accused the political party of creating an atmosphere of lynching regarding its employees. According to a press statement, the TV crew was verbally attacked by DSS supporters during the football match between FC Macva and FC Partizan that was held in Bumbarevo Brdo on Sunday, 14 October. The station has also announced that it would file lawsuits against DSS officials if such attacks continue. (Vecernje novosti – Serbia, UNS, 18.10.2012)

Representatives of four municipalities from Northern Kosovo did not allow the journalistic team of "The Insider", aired on TV B92, to attend their joint session in Leposavic. One of the items on the agenda of the meeting was the condemnation of the programme "The Insider". (Tanjug, Politika, RTV, B92, NUNS, 19.10.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) strongly condemns the fact that the journalists who create "The Insider" were banned from attending the joint session of the four municipalities of Northern Kosovo. The session was otherwise open to the public. (NUNS, 19.10.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) has protested because the TV B92 journalists who work on the show "The Insider" were not allowed to attend the joint session of four municipalities from Northern Kosovo that was held in Leposavic. Before the beginning of the session, a group of ten individuals identified themselves as the security of the Cultural Center and prevented the journalists from entering the Center, telling them that they had been ordered not to let them in. (UNS, 18.10.2012)

The Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) said yesterday that the programme "The Insider" was aimed at presenting Kosovo and Metohija, as well as the Serbs who live there, as a burden to Serbia. (Pregled, 23.10.2012)

A lawsuit has been ongoing before the Commercial Court of Belgrade for five years. The case involves the SOS Channel, on the one hand, and the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) and the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), on the other hand. The TV station points out that it was allocated a non-functioning frequency by RATEL – a frequency at which the Second Channel of the Romanian national TV operates. In accordance with a court order, says the press statement, a financial expert estimated that for this reason the SOS Channel had suffered a loss exceeding 640 million dinars. "The case of SOS Channel constitutes a clear example of

negligence on part of RATEL”, says the press statement issued by SOS.
(Fonet, UNS, 19.10.2012)

Judge Vesna Todorovic offered the parties to the dispute a period of eight days to decide whether they want to solve the dispute via mediation. If the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) rejects the proposal to solve the dispute by mediation, a new court session will be held on 30 January 2013.
(Danas, UNS, 25.10.2012)

The cabinet of the president of the Republic of Srpska (RS), Milorad Dodik, rejected without any further explanation the journalistic accreditation of the correspondent from Banjaluka of the news agency Beta, Ljiljana Kovacevic. The accreditation of the Beta journalist was not approved after a brutal verbal attack of President Dodik on her during a press conference held in June of this year. Dodik's attack on the Beta journalist was condemned by all journalistic associations and organizations from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as some international journalistic organizations.
(Beta, UNS, 22.10.2012)

The Journalistic Association of Serbia (UNS) calls on the cabinet of the president of the Republic of Srpska (RS), Milorad Dodik, to reconsider the decision to reject the accreditation for reporting on the activities of the head of the state to the Beta correspondent from Banjaluka, Ljiljana Kovacevic.
(UNS, 22.10.2012)

Unidentified attackers threw a Molotov Cocktail on the balcony of the apartment belonging to Biljana Vujovic, a host of the TV show “*Bez Dlake na Jeziku*” (“Speaking Openly”) that is broadcast on TV Kopernikus. Luckily, no one was hurt. The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) demands that the police conduct immediate investigation and punish the perpetrators and organizers of the crime, as well as to take all necessary measures to protect the journalist and her family.
(Informer, UNS, NUNS, 23.10.2012)

Investigations of murders of journalists

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) is shocked with the news about the murder of the retired *Tanjug* journalist, Ljubomir Kucic, who was beaten near a newsstand in Bulevar Umetnosti in New Belgrade this morning at 5.00. Kucic was a translator in the economic section and a foreign affairs journalist in *Tanjug*. He was a member of the UNS since 1959. He spoke English, German, Russian and French languages.
(UNS, 15.10.2012, Beta Danas, Informer, Kurir, NUNS, Politika, 16.10.2012)

The Ministry of Internal Affairs said today that the Belgrade police had arrested Nikola B. for on suspicion of killing the retired journalist Ljubomir Kucic.
(Beta, Press onlajn, UNS, 15.10.2012, 24 sata, 16.10.2012)

Two teams within the same institution are being formed. The teams will investigate the unsolved murders of three journalists – Dada Vujasinovic, Slavko Curuvija and Milan Pantic, it was told to the daily newspaper *Danas* in the cabinet of the head of the Bureau for Coordination of Security Services, Aleksandar Vucic. One of the teams will comprise of journalists and representatives of journalistic associations, while the other will consist of investigators from security forces and the police – one member from each of the services.
(B92, Danas, NUNS, UNS, 25.10.2012)

Rights of journalists

Slobodanka Popovic from Zagubica, an employee of Radio-Television Homolje, was declared a technological surplus worker on 2 October. She had been on a sick leave after a miscarriage and now, when she suffers serious health issues, she has lost her health insurance. In Zagubica, many citizens question the diploma of the director of RTV Homolje, Miroslav Mirkovic. Mirkovic said: “We respect the law. She has not been fired, but declared a surplus worker.”
(Kurir, UNS, 13.10.2012)

Professional standards

Dusko Bogdanovic says in a newspaper article: "I am still puzzled by the editorial concept of TV B92. I can't recognize their intentions. On the one hand, 'The Insider' is a show that can serve as an ideal and a benchmark for all journalists. On the other hand, every afternoon on workdays, the same channel broadcasts some kind of an entertainment mishmash – one of the worst TV offerings since the beginning of television in this part of the world. I don't know whether the editors even bother to watch this combination of lowest common denominator, lack of ideas, illiteracy and ignorance, which can barely be tolerated. Unbelievable!"
(Danas, 15.10.2012)

In the opinion of many women of various ages, education levels and nationalities, the image of women in the media is not satisfactory since it is usually stereotypical, even humiliating, reports the daily newspaper *Politika*.
(Politika, NUNS, 15.10.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) has publicly criticized the web portal *Timocke Vesti* for publishing a news story under the title "Two Roma Beat and Rob a Young Man in Zajecar" which violated professional and ethical standards. Journalists and the media have to be aware that there are criminals of all nationalities and that the nature of such crimes is mostly completely independent from the ethnicity of perpetrators, says NUNS.
(NUNS, 16.10.2012)

At the international conference "The Media and Equality", held yesterday in Belgrade, the head of the EU delegation in Serbia, Vincent Deger, pointed out that the progress achieved by Serbia in her fight against discrimination had been praised by the European Commission in its latest report, but that it was noted that the hate speech was still evident, especially during football matches.
(Danas, Dnevnik, 20.10.2012)

During the international conference "The Media and Equality", participants discussed the individual cases of discrimination in the media. An editorial published in the daily newspaper *Politika* under the title "Only the Thieves Are Diligent" caused differing opinions in the Press Council of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS). "This case has been the most controversial case adjudicated by the Press Council", said Ljiljana Smajlovic, but the journalist was not found 'guilty' of violating the journalistic code of ethics. In the editorial, the journalist told his opinion, without any intention to incite hatred, and pointed out that the problems of the Roma should be solved in a systemic manner; however, at the same time, he noted that no one can be abolished of criminal responsibility for being a Roma or impoverished, said the participants of the conference.
(Politika, 20.10.2012)

Opinions, awards, training courses and competitions

The Association of Journalists of Serbia and Montenegro (SNSCG) has announced its traditional annual public contest for journalistic lifetime achievement award, says the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS). The deadline for applications is 25 October.
(Politika, 12.10.2012)

Bata Ilic, a correspondent of daily *Press* from Leskovac, is the recipient of the Leskovac October Award for investigative journalism and humanitarian work.
(Press, 12.10.2012)

The highest award of the international journalistic festival Interfer, the Grand Prix, was given to Goran Tomasevic, a Reuters reporter, for his photographs from Syria. The lifetime achievement award was delivered to Manojlo Manjo Vukotic, the editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper *Vecernje Novosti*, while the annual award for TV reports was given to Jasmina Nikitovic Stojcic for her programme "Znanje Imanje". Bojana Rankovic is the recipient of the golden "Nika" award for the best TV story, while Mihajlo Medenica won the same award for the best press report for his story about

Auschwitz. TV B92 received an award for the campaign "Save the Babies". *Blic* journalist Boris Vukovic was awarded for his story "The Road to Hell".

(*Blic*, *Dnevnik*, *UNS*, *Kurir*, *NUNS*, *Večernje novosti*, 15.10.2012, *Dnevnik – special supplement*, 20.10.2012)

The photograph "East of Heaven" by Marko Risovic was selected as the best photograph at this year's national competition for the best media photo "Press Photo Serbia 2012" organized by the Center for Development of Photograph. More than 1,500 photographs were submitted.

(*Politika*, 16.10.2012)

The jury of the "Dusan Bogavac" Award for ethics and courage in journalism selected the caricaturist Marko Somborac as the recipient of the award. For years, Marko Somborac has been using his talent and skills to depict today's Serbian society, plagued with corruption, controlled media, tycoons' interests, and underdeveloped democratic institutions, explained the jury.

(*NUNS*, *UNS*, *NDNV*, 17.10.2012, *Beta*, *Politika*, *Alo!*, *Blic*, *Press*, 18.10.2012)

Caricaturist Marko Somborac of the daily newspaper *Blic* received today the 22nd "Dusan Bogavac" Award for Ethics and Courage.

(*Blic*, *NUNS*, 24.10.2012)

The UNICEF office in Serbia has announced a public contest for the annual award for ethical and professional media reporting on violence against and among children, with an emphasis on the violence in schools. The deadline for applications is 5 November 2012, while the awards will be delivered on 20 November 2012.

(*MC*, 22.10.2012)

The fifth "Magic Breakfast" has begun. It is a humanitarian project aimed at collecting foodstuffs for meals in 32 schools for children with special needs. During a ceremony held in the Old Castle, thank-you notes were given to companies and media outlets that supported the project, among them *Politika* and *Press*.

(*Politika*, *Press*, 20.10.2012)

Rajko Karisic, an art photographer, journalist and a member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (*UNS*), is the recipient of this year's October Award of the City of Vrbas.

(*UNS*, 23.10.2012)

"Regional Coverage – Cross-Border Cooperation Between the Media" is the subject of this year's Press Media Summit that will take place on 31 October in the Hotel Metropol in Belgrade. Another one of the items on the agenda is "Tabloids – Similarities and Differences in the Press Publishing" and where is the limit of the journalistic code of conduct in tabloids.

(*Vecernje novosti*, 13.10.2012)

Media visits

The recently appointed Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Serbia, Heinz Wilhelm, and his associates visited the Media Association and discussed the economic position of the media, expectations from the Media Strategy, the need for adoption of adequate media laws that would ensure systemic solutions in the media scene, as well as the German experience with regard to relations between the government, politicians and the media.

(*Dnevnik*, *Politika*, *UNS*, *Press*, *Vecernje novosti*, 12.10.2012)

The minister of culture and information of Serbia, Bratislav Petkovic, visited the Media Association and talked to directors and editors-in-chief of leading media outlets in Serbia about the Media Strategy and its partial redefinition.

(*Blic*, *Dnevnik*, *Politika*, *UNS*, *Press*, *Vecernje novosti*, *NUNS*, 18.10.2012)

Media transfers

Deputies in the Municipal Assembly of Stara Pazova have removed from position Milos Lazic and appointed Jovica Gagric as the new acting director of Radio-Television Stara Pazova, reports the daily *Novosti*.

(*Vecernje novosti – Vojvodina*, 18.10.2012)

Anniversaries

Peca Popovic says: "Exactly 50 years ago, Miroslav Antic founded the first Yugoslavian magazine for the other kind of music, *Ritam*. By launching this magazine, Mr. Antic, one of the noblest poets and publicists, initiated a profession that had not existed before him. Thanks to this, magazines *Dzuboks*, *Gong*, *Pop Ekspres* and *Susret* also appeared. The magazine *Ritam* was dedicated to jazz and popular music. The first issue was published on 1 October 1962 and the last issue came out in August 1965. In total, 69 issues were published.

(Blic, 16.10.2012)

Manojlo Vukotic, the editor-in-chief of the daily *Novosti* says in an article published by the newspaper: "In the chaotic media scene of Serbia, *Vecernje Novosti* has remained the steadfast defender of journalism. Today, on our 59 birthday, we are proud to say: *Vecernje Novosti* is the daily newspaper with the largest circulation and number of sold copies in Serbia!"

(Vecernje novosti, UNS, NUNS, 16.10.2012)

The daily newspaper *Alo!* celebrates five years of its existence as the daily newspaper with the largest circulation in Serbia. The celebration was held on Wednesday in the cafe "Santo Domingo", attended by numerous friends and public personalities.

(Alo!, UNS, NUNS, 19.10.2012)

Last Friday, regional station Radio Pozarevac celebrated 35 years of uninterrupted programme broadcasting and 63 years since the launch of the first radio station in Pozarevac. The station now airs 24 hours of programme a day and has a regional broadcasting frequency which covers the districts of Branicevo and Podunavlje and a part of the district of Juzni Banat.

(Danas – Branicevo, UNS, NUNS, 19.10.2012)

In Memoriam

A longtime correspondent of *Politika* from Sabac, Jovan Joca Radosavljevic, passed away yesterday at the age of 80. He began his journalistic career in 1957 in the news section of RTV Zajaca. He joined the newspaper *Glas Podrinja* in 1960. Between 1978 and his retirement he was the correspondent of *Politika* from Sabac and Podrinje. He was a member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS).

(UNS, 15.10.2012, Politika, 16.10.2012)

After a several years-long illness, a journalist with RT Vojvodina and a longtime correspondent of *Kurir*, Velimir Kostadinov, passed away in Subotica yesterday.

(Vecernje novosti – Vojvodina, Kurir, UNS, 17.10.2012)

A journalist and a longtime member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Julija Bogdanovic, passed away suddenly on 16 October at the age of 54 after a short illness. She graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy. She worked as the technical editor of *Privredni Pregled* since 1988.

(UNS, 19.10.2012)

Media business operations

Radio Bum 93 from Pozarevac has stopped broadcasting news about the activities of the local self-government, protesting against the unjust allocation of money from the city budget intended for financing of local media outlets. The editorial team of the station is of the opinion the the money from the budget is being allocated only to favored media outlets, without any clear criteria or transparency. Because of this, TV 012, weekly magazine *Okrug*, monthly magazine *Nova Rec* and Radio Hit have been hit by a financial crisis and are facing closure.

(Danas – Branicevo, NUNS, Danas, UNS, 19.10.2012, Vecernje novosti, UNS, NUNS, 24.10.2012)

The oldest and most-watched local TV station in Nis, RTV 5, is faced with closure due to the possibility that its broadcasting might be banned. In the end of August, the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) revoked the broadcasting frequency of RTV 5 because of the station's huge debt for the broadcasting license. In accordance with the order from RRA, the station's programme was excluded from the SBB cable system on 10 October. Since three days ago, the station is not available on Kopernikus channels as well. At the moment, RTV 5 is available to the citizens of Nis only via the cable system Jotel and the station's website www.rtv5.rs.

(Blic – Serbia, 20.10.2012)

The deputies of the Assembly of the City of Nis have announced their intention to demand an explanation from the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA). The deputies want to know why the RRA had ordered cable distributors to turn off the programme of TV5. In the words of the president of the Assembly, Mile Ilic, TV5 should survive and continue "to objectively inform the public about the events in Nis". It was also announced that the heads of deputy groups would sign a document in support of the survival of TV5 in the media scene of Serbia.

(Juzne vesti, RTV5, 23.10.2012)

As of yesterday, TV5 has been preparing its programme live in the center of the city of Nis protesting the removal of the station's programme from cable systems on the order from the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA).

(Danas, UNS, NUNS, NDNV, 25.10.2012)

Employees of TV Mozaik, who were striking since the beginning of September, have ended their protest. At the same time, the Managing Board of the Hungarian- language station based in Novi Sad made a decision to streamline the operations and retain only eight of its employees, two of them editors-journalists. The Trade Union "Independence" ("*Nezavisnost*"), which had organized the strike, is not satisfied with the result. Members of the Trade Union say that the strike was ended because they realized that the very survival of the media outlet was becoming uncertain.

(RTV, Beta, Magyar Szo, UNS, NUNS, NDNV, 25.10.2012)

Privatization and the state-owned media

Representatives of the media, local self-governments, cultural institutions and associations who participated in the round table on regional public service broadcasters held in the Assembly of the City of Nis agreed that regional public service broadcasters were necessary, especially in the period of transition. The participants were of the opinion that the existence of public service broadcasters was necessary because the national public service broadcaster was not capable of satisfying the need for information of all citizens of Serbia. In the words of the editor-in-chief of TV Niska, Miroslav Cosic, the practice has shown that politicians have much more influence on the policy of private media outlets.

(Pregled, UNS, 12.10.2012)

The owner of TV Pink, Zeljko Mitrovic, has confirmed that negotiations about the future of TV Avala are completed. "We have achieved final agreement with Grand Production about the takeover of TV Avala stocks. As a majority owner, Sasa Popovic will begin working on a completely new programme concept of the station", says Mitrovic.

(Fonet, NUNS, Blic, UNS, E-kapija, Kurir, 12.10.2012, Press, 13.10.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency has not yet received the request for approval of the change in ownership over TV Avala, nor a request for change of the name of the broadcaster.

(Danas, 13.10.2012)

The fact that the owner of Grand Production, Sasa Popovic, has bought TV Avala and that B92 and TV Fox (now TV Prva) have changed owners cannot be considered a sale of broadcasting frequencies because the holders of broadcasting licenses are legal persons, not their owners, said Goran Karadzic, the deputy president of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA). He pointed out that all broadcasters had the right to change the names of television stations, subject to approval of the Agency, because this issue was a part of their business policy. He said that so far TV Fox has changed name to TV Prva, and that dozens of regional and local stations have changed their names.

(Danas, NUNS, UNS, 15.10.2012)

The daily newspaper *Informer* reports: "TV Avala will be declared bankrupt! Negotiations between the owner of Grand, Sasa Popovic, and the representatives of the owners of TV Avala have failed and the previously announced takeover and the launch of TV Narodna will not happen. Unless the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) receives money until Wednesday, TV Avala is going to lose its broadcasting license on Thursday!"

(Informer, UNS, NUNS, 24.10.2012)

The deputy president of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), Goran Karadzic, says that if TV Avala fails to pay the required amount of money, and if the Ministry of Telecommunication declares that its broadcasting frequencies will not be needed during the process of digitalization, a public contest will be announced for allocation of these broadcasting frequencies for the period of eight years. In professional circles, TV Svet Plus Info is rumored to be the only possible candidate.

(Danas, UNS, RTV, Fonet, Press, NUNS, 25.10.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) has found out that the director of "Politika Novine i Magazini" (PNM), Mira Glisic Simic, became the only person authorized to represent PNM in the Business Registers Agency (APR) as of 15 October. The previous representative of the foreign co-owner of *Politika*, Goran Ilin, has been removed from the register because he had resigned from the position of the deputy general director of "Politika NM" on 14 September. Due to this fact, the general director Mira Glisic Simic became the only remaining authorized person. She is the representative of the capital that is mostly state-owned.

(UNS, 16.10.2012, FoNet, Beta, Danas, E-kapija, Blic, Politika, Pregled, RTV B92, Tanjug, NUNS, 17.10.2012, Danas, Informer, Beta, Pregled, NUNS, 18.10.2012)

The management of the company "Politika Novine i Magazini" (PNM) has announced that negotiations between the Government and the new co-owner of *Politika*, aimed at defining future relations within the company, are ongoing. The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) demands that the Government explain what kind of changes have occurred in the management structure of the company.

(Blic, 18.10.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA)

Goran Karadzic from the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) considers that the proposal by the RTS – that the TV fee should be taken directly from bank accounts of employed citizens – is not a good idea. (Kurir, UNS, NUNS, 22.10.2012)

Another public contest for broadcasting licenses at the regional and local level, organized by the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), has been announced. Additional information is available at the RRA website. (RRA, 22.10.2012)

The Agency for Mail and Electronic Communication of the Republic of Slovenia organized the Second Transnational Conference in Ljubljana as a part of the SEE-digi.tv project on 18-19 October. The Conference is attended by more than 80 experts in the field of the media and telecommunication from partner countries. Aside from the delegation from the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), the conference was also attended by representatives of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), Radio-Television Vojvodina (RTV) and the Public Company Broadcasting Technology and Communications (*JP Emisiona Tehnika i Veze*). (RRA, 18.10.2012)

At its yesterday's session, the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) has initiated proceedings aimed at taking steps due to airing of inappropriate content against broadcasters TV Pink because of its programme "Cheaters", TV Prva because of its programme "Family Secrets", and TV Happy because of its programme "Mad House". (Danas, UNS, RTV, Fonet, Press, NUNS, 25.10.2012)

The Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL)

According to information from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for 2011, when it comes to high-bandwidth internet, the Republic of Serbia holds the 30th position in the segment of mobile high-bandwidth access with 34.5 subscribers per 100 citizens, as well as the 57th position in the segment of fixed high-bandwidth access with 10.8 subscribers per 100 citizens. The good result in the field of mobile wideband access to the internet was achieved thanks to the fact that all three mobile providers (Telecom Serbia, Telenor and VIP Mobile) have a license for 3G mobile networks and that an increasing number of their users is using the 3G network for data transfer and access to the internet. (RATEL, 22.10.2012)

The 19th meeting of the RAINWAT committee was held in the premises of the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL). The committee manages harmonization and optimization of the Regional Agreement on Radio Communication on Internal Waterways and is comprised of representatives from member countries Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia and Serbia. (RATEL, 22.10.2012)

The directive of the Government of the Republic of Serbia issued on 4 October 2012 defines the Plan of Use of Radio Frequencies. The Plan was published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" No. 99/12 issued on 16 October 2012 comes into force on 24 October 2012. (RATEL, 22.10.2012)

The list of FM and TV radio stations which are using the radio frequency spectrum illegally was updated and 10 October 2012 and is available on the website of the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL). 34 stations have been identified, together with 11 Radio Balkan frequencies (formerly Radio Fokus) and three stations that have continued broadcasting after their licenses were revoked. (RATEL, 17.10.2012)

The South East European Media Organization (SEEMO)

SEEMO urges Serbian police to investigate the latest attack on a journalist in Serbia. On 16 October 2012 in the evening, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the house of Damir Dragic, director of the Belgrade-based tabloid daily **Informer**.
(SEEMO, 18.10.2012)

Media-related news

The first video portal in Serbia, PinkOnline.com, was launched yesterday at noon. Zeljko Mitrovic, the owner of Pinka Media Group, says: "This website is the result of cooperation with one of the best video platforms, Kaltura, and the largest content delivery network, Akamai. The revolutionary web portal offers three categories of content to its users: news, entertainment and music."

(Kurir, UNS, NUNS, 12.10.2012)

- Abbreviations - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations.2317.html#104230
- Sections - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations-and-sections.2317.html
- Archive - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-archive.2381.html
- Media News Bulletin home - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin.2298.html

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Media News Bulletin is a short account of media reports on the situation in the media. It has been created with the aim to register the information about the media published in the previous 14 days in Serbia, shortened to reflect the basic message of media reports and grouped in thematic subsections. The editors convey the news without changing the essential meaning of media reports on the media. For the readers interested in the complete published article, its source and date of publishing are given.

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