



# Kanadský Slovák



ZA BOHA, NÁROD A SLOVENSKO

*The Canadian Slovak*

FOR GOD, NATION AND SLOVAKIA

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## The first two decades of the second Slovak Republic (1993-2013)

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum



Page 6

## When coffee cost 5 and Canadian Slovak 10 cents

The world keeps moving and evolving, but one human habit has managed to survive for decades. Longing for the mythical past when everything was cheaper and nicer and the quality was better. Back in the mid 1940s a corner store would sell you a cup of coffee for 5 cents, postal stamp cost 3 cents, a gallon of gas was 19 cents and the Canadian Slovak sported a 10 cent price tag in the right top corner.

The good old days. Or were they....?

Still back in the sweet 1940s, a labourer would work for 30 cents an hour, healthcare was, say incomparable, not to mention the luxury such as air-conditioning and other technical "innovations" of 2013 that haven't been invented yet.

Inflation, or increase of prices, is inevitable. Manufacturing and services are linked in every possible way, so if the price of oil rises, price of bread will follow because farm tractors don't run on wishful thinking.

Try to look up the price of your favourite newspaper. You don't have to go back to 1923, when the first issue of the Time magazine cost "fifteen cents". For the past ten years, the price of the Canadian Slovak hasn't changed. Perhaps it was a mistake since everything including printing, mailing costs and everyday running costs have increased considerably. At the latest 32nd Canadian Slovak League Convention it was decided that, after the decade, it's inevitable to adjust the price of the Canadian Slovak Newspaper to offset the inflation. Increasing the cost of the subscription is crucial for the further existence of our 71-year-old weekly newspaper.

Effective July 1, 2013, the annual subscription for Canada and the US will increase by \$10 to \$75 and \$100 respectively. Subscribers in other countries will pay \$20 more per year - \$140. These adjustments are both minimal and inevitable.

It is a paradox that in a few years from now we will talk about today's high prices of a cup of coffee that cost \$1.00, a litre of gasoline that cost \$1.50 or a bottle of whisky that cost \$22 as being the "good old days"...

Julo Behul



## Keď káva stála 5 a Kanadský Slovák 10 centov

**B**olo to veľmi dávno, svet sa odvtedy zmenil a pokročil, ale k ľudským zvykom patrí aj porovnávanie cien a spomínanie na „staré dobré časy“, keď všetko bolo lacnejšie a za málo peňazí bolo veľa muziky. Dnes sa hrozíme drahoty, toho ako z roka na rok ceny stúpajú a máločo je také kvalitné ako kedysi.

Pre mnohých to bolo v polovici štyridsiatych rokov, keď káva v rožnej reštaurácii stála 5 centov, poštová známka 3 centy, galón benzínu 19 centov a keď na začiatku vydávania Kanadského Slováka bola v pravom rohu uvedená cena 10 centov.

Boli to staré zlaté časy... Alebo žeby aj nie?

Tí, ktorí spomínajú na sladké roky štyridsiate, zabudli porovnávať priemerný plat robotníka, ktorý bol 30 centov na hodinu, nespomínajú vtedajšie zdravotné

a neporovnávajú ho s dnešným, či súčasné výhody pri nákupe liekov v staršom veku. A takisto pozabudli na mnohé už bežné technické vymoženosti.

Zvyšovanie cien je kolotočom nevyhnutností, lebo každý produkt je závislý na druhom a je nemožné cenovo udržať jeden bez naviazania na výdavky toho druhého.

Kvôli lepšej ilustrácii sa môžeme pozrieť napríklad na ceny vášho obľúbeného denníka či časopisu. Koľko sa zaň platilo pred desaťročím a koľko dnes?

Kanadský Slovák pritom už desať rokov nezvýšil svoju predajnú cenu. Možno to bola i chyba. Veď tlačiareň, poštové výdavky a celkové náklady s vydávaním novín pravidelne stúpali.

Na nedávnej 32. konvencii Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy sa preto delegáti uzniesli na tom, že

cenu našich novín je potrebné upraviť. Treba si uvedomiť, že zvýšenie predplatného je nevyhnutnosťou k zabezpečeniu pokračovania vydávania nášho 71-ročného týždenníka.

Od 1. júla 2013 sa pre Kanadu a USA zvyšuje ročné predplatné o 10 dolárov. Pre Európu a mimo kontinentálne krajiny o 20 dolárov. Táto úprava cien je minimálna, ale pritom nevyhnutná.

Zvyšovanie cien je staré asi ako ľudstvo samo a spomínanie na tie oveľa nižšie ceny sa bude naďalej opakovať. Paradoxné je, že na dnešné "zlé časy", keď sa ceny neustále upravujú smerom hore, sa bude o niekoľko rokov spomínať ako na staré zlaté časy, keď sa za benzín platil dolár a päťdesiat centov, káva stála jeden dolár a fľaša whisky iba 22 dolárov...

Julo Behul



**75th ANNUAL SLOVAK DAY JULY 14, 2013**



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*The Canadian Slovak*

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**Editorial Office - Adresa redakcie**  
259 Traders Blvd. East, Unit 6  
Mississauga, ON, L4Z 2E5  
Telephone – Telefón  
905-507-8004

**Julius Behul**  
Editor-in-Chief  
Šéfredaktor  
[editor@kanadskyslovak.ca](mailto:editor@kanadskyslovak.ca)

**Daniel Sulan**  
Chairperson, Business Committee  
predseda Hospodárskeho výboru  
[dsulan@ksliga.ca](mailto:dsulan@ksliga.ca)

**Stanislav J. Kirschbaum**  
Chairperson, Editorial Committee  
predseda Redakčného výboru  
[stankosk@glendon.yorku.ca](mailto:stankosk@glendon.yorku.ca)

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**Canadian Slovak League**  
**Kanadská slovenská liga**  
Head Office - Hlavný úrad  
259 Traders Blvd. East, Unit 6  
Mississauga, ON, L4Z 2E5

**Mary Ann Doucette**  
President/predseda  
[madoucette@ksliga.ca](mailto:madoucette@ksliga.ca)

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## Matičný svetový festival slovenskej mládeže

Matica slovenská Vás srdečne pozýva na Svetové stretnutie Slovákov – Matičný svetový festival slovenskej mládeže, dňa

### 4. - 8. júla 2013 v Košiciach

na stránke [www.matica.sk](http://www.matica.sk), pod lištou Vedecké pracoviská – Krajské múzeum – Oznamy KM MS.  
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## Another Three Slovaks to Receive Goodwill Ambassador Award

Three Slovaks living abroad will be awarded with the Goodwill Ambassador honour from European and Foreign Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajčák on Friday (25 May). This year's laureates are molecular biology researcher at Oxford University Monika Gullerova, long-term head of the Slovak History and Culture department at Ottawa University in Canada professor Marian Mark Stolarik, and graphic artist living in Prague Matej Kren. Doctor Gullerova co-invented the ground-breaking "gene shutdown" method that promises significant potential for the development of the biotechnological industry and treatment of severe genetic diseases. Last year, she won the Medical Research Council Career Development Award worth €2.34 million that allowed her to open her own research laboratory in Oxford.

in the past preceded the arrival of three large automakers setting up production facilities in Slovakia. Which areas of development Mitsubishi are interested in is not yet clear. "We have not spoken entirely of concreteness, in any case, Japanese companies can offer excellent conditions for investment," said the Director-General of the Slovak Agency for Investment and Trade Development Robert Šimončík after the meeting. He added that five international companies are considering investing in Slovakia and at least one of them is from Japan.

## U.S. Steel in Slovakia is Back in the Black

The Slovak division of the U. S. steel corporation U.S. Steel Kosice closed last year with a net profit of €27.66 million, bouncing back from 2011 in which the company reached a loss of €24.77 million. "The improvement of economic performance for 2012 versus 2011 reflects the influence of lower prices of raw materials and an increase in the volume of orders that were partly offset by a drop in sales prices and an increase of energy prices," announced the firm. The steel manufacturer had intended to leave Košice due to the end of its tax holiday, growing energy costs, and stricter EU regulations regarding the environment. The Slovak government and the U.S. Steel giant ultimately signed a memorandum on the company's continued presence in the eastern Slovak city, with the government promising relief in the energy field and in commitments towards the environment.

## Mitsubishi Interested in Investing in Slovakia

The Japanese car maker Mitsubishi is considering investing in Slovakia. The Board Chairman at Mitsubishi Corporation Yorihiro Kojima and a delegation of managers held talks with Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico and the ministers of his Cabinet in Bratislava on Friday. Similar negotiations have

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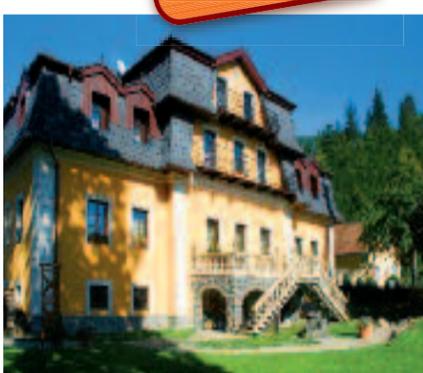
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  - Mesto Levoča, zapísané v zozname UNESCO a ďalšie kultúrne atrakcie regiónu Spiš – 55 km
  - Vysoké Tatry (Tatranský národný park), Belianska jaskyňa – 25 km

**Možnosť dokúpenia ďalších výletov:**

- Košice – Európske hlavné mesto kultúry 2013 – 130 km
- Krakov – najstaršie a najkrajšie Poľské mesto – 120 km
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# 75th ANNUAL SLOVAK DAY

## JULY 14, 2013

Croatian Club Karlovac 1860 Thompson Road South  
Milton, Ontario

# Najstarší slovenský futbalový klub si pripomenul 115. výročie vzniku

(TASR) - Najstarší futbalový klub na Slovensku 1. FC Tatran Prešov si v sobotu 26. mája pripomenul 115. výročie svojho založenia.

Vznikol v roku 1898

V Prešove sa konalo vôbec prvé oficiálne futbalové stretnutie na terajšom území Slovenska. Zohrali ho dva budapeštianske kluby - Óbudai Tornaegylet a Budapesti Tornaclub. Exhíbičný zápas sa uskutočnil na vojenskom cvičisku Kamenec. Zorganizoval ho František Pethe, zakladateľ prešovskej telovýchovy a profesor telocviku na gymnáziu. Hneď v deň zápasu, 25. mája 1898, vznikol v Prešove prvý futbalový klub na Slovensku pod vtedajším názvom ETVE. Neskôr pribudli aj ďalšie kluby, bohaté stránky predvojnovnej histórie napísali v rokoch 1931-1945 futbalisti Slávie Prešov. Neskôr niesol prešovský klub aj názvy Sparta (1948), Sparta Dukla (1949), Dukla (1950), ČSSZ Dukla (1951) a v roku 1953, teda presne pred 60 rokmi, sa v názve klubu po prvýkrát objavil Tatran. Tento názov v rôznych obmenách figuruje v mene futbalistov reprezentujúcich prešovský futbal doter



Prvý zápas odohral v roku 1950

Prešov ale ešte predtým, pod názvom Dukla, zohral prvé stretnutie v najvyššej československej súťaži. Presne 4. marca 1950 v Žiline (2:2). Tím z metropoly Šariša následne odohral v rokoch 1950-1993 v československej najvyššej súťaži dovedna 34 ročníkov (ide o štvrtý najvyšší počet zo slovenských mužstiev). Hráči prešovského klubu počas 43 rokov odohrali 938 zápasov s bilanciou 340 výhier, 208 remíz a 390 prehier so skóre 1208:1364 a 888 získanými bodmi. Najlepším umiestnením boli dve 2. miesta v ročníkoch 1964/1965 a 1972/1973. Spomenúť treba aj 3. miesto zo sezóny 1963/1964 i 4. miesto z ročníkov 1954/1955 a 1958/1959. Víťazstvo v Československom pohári získal náš klub v roku 1953, finálovú účasť vybojoval v rokoch 1966 a 1992. Víťazstvo v Slovenskom pohári zaknihoval v roku 1992, finálovú účasť zaznamenal aj v rokoch 1973, 1985, 1994 a 1997. Tatran vo svojej histórii účinkoval v troch medzinárodných pohárových súťažiach. V Pohári víťazov pohárov v ročníku 1966/1967 skončil v 1. kole, v ročníku 1974/1975 sa v Pohári UEFA dostal do 2. kola. V ročníku 1980/1981 sa stal víťazom Stredoeurópskeho pohára.

Deväť sezón v samostatnej slovenskej lige

V novodobej histórii pôsobil Tatran od roku 1993 v samostatnej slovenskej lige deväť sezón, pričom najlepším umiestnením bolo 4. miesto hneď z úvodnej samostatnej sezóny 1993/1994. V nasledujúcom roku sa Tatran predstavil v Pohári víťazov pohárov, v ktorom prešiel cez írsky Bangor City, škótsky Dundee United a stroskotal až na neskoršom víťazovi celej súťaže Reale Zaragoza. V sezóne 2001/2002 "zelenobieli" vypadli do 2. ligy a klub sa postupne ocitol v kritickej situácii na hranici úplného krachu. Z najhoršieho klub vytiahol príchod nových akcionárov v roku 2005, ktorým sa podarilo situáciu v ňom stabilizovať a pod vedením Romana Pivarníka si už ako 1. FC Tatran Prešov v sezóne 2007/2008 vybojoval po šiestich rokoch suverénnym spôsobom návrat medzi elitu. V doterajších štyroch sezónach v najvyššej súťaži obsadil 1. FC Tatran postupne 7., 8., 11. a 10. miesto.

Vypadne Prešov či Trnava?

Deň po pripomenutí si 115-teho výročia založenia najstaršieho klubu na Slovensku bude bojovať jeho súčasný káder v priamom súboji s Trnavou o udržanie sa v najvyššej súťaži.

Či už zhodou okolností alebo zákonom o presúvaní vojakov základnej služby vykonávali túto povinnosť mnohí slovenskí mladíci v bývalom Československu v jedných z najväčších kasární vo vtedajšej republike - v Miloviciach - Mladej - pri Prahe. Je rovnako veľa tých, ktorých okupácia Česka a Slovenska vojskami Varšavskej zmluvy v auguste 1968 zastihla v týchto objektoch. Kasárne v Miloviciach a letisko v Mladej (ktoré nebolo na mapách označované) začali urýchlene obsadzovať vojská so znakom červenej hviezdy.

Vojakov slúžiacich o niečo predčasne ako bola určená časová lehota posielali do civilu a vystriedal ich buchot tvrdých číziem základných vojakov z okupačnej krajiny. Išlo o dôstojníkov s vysoko zdvihnutými šiltovkami s ich prenikavo navoňavkovanými sekretárkami s výrazne namaľovanými perami.

Po rokoch sa našli dôkazy, že niektoré z nich boli donútené „svoju prácu“ vykonávať ako najmiernejší trest, napríklad za protest v Moskve proti invázii...

## Milovické mesto duchov



Polorozpadnuté paneláky zarastené stromami, opustené masívne hangáre obrastené trávou, veľké letisko, pár malých privátnych lietadiel a mladých bláznov, ktorí si skúšajú svoje umenie za volantom pretekárskych strojov. A do toho hĺstka obdivovateľov výkladnej skrine sovietskej armády počas okupácie Československa. Vitajte v Miloviciach.

Dlhoročná história

Dnes už maličké mestečko Milovice, ktoré leží necelých štyridsať kilometrov severovýchodne od Prahy, bolo sídlom vojenských jednotiek už od začiatku dvadsiateho storočia. Postupne sa tu vystriedali vojská cisárskeho Rakúska, prvej československej republiky, hitlerovského Nemecka, socialistického Československa a napokon aj Sovietskeho zväzu.

Dnes už maličké mestečko Milovice, ktoré leží necelých štyridsať kilometrov severovýchodne od Prahy, bolo sídlom vojenských jednotiek už od začiatku dvadsiateho storočia. Foto: Webmagazin.sk/Matej Šulc Pôvodný rakúsky vojenský tábor sa vďaka svojej dobrej polohe neustále rozrastal, obľubu mu prejavil aj nemecký „firer“ Adolf Hitler či jeho

ruský kolega Leonid Iljič Brežnev, ktorý z Milovic urobil počas okupácie Československa hlavné sídlo strednej skupiny vojsk.

Práve počas rokov 1968 až 1991 zažili Milovice svoj najväčší rozmach a je dosť pravdepodobné, že sa tu nachádzali aj jadrové hlavice. Či tu ale naozaj boli, sa už asi nikdy nedozvieme, nakoľko sa tu našli iba rakety schopné nukleárnu hlavicu niesť. Faktom ale je, že sa tu za dvadsať rokov vystriedalo podľa dostupných údajov vyše sto tisíc ruských dôstojníkov aj s rodinami. Dokonca bol odtiaľ každý deň vypravovaný špeciálny vlak do Moskvy.

Dostať sa do Milovic bolo kedysi snom desaťtisícov Sovietov. Možnosť ísť za hranice Sovietskeho zväzu, hoci len do satelitného Československa a

užívať si tu výdobytky vojenských hodnostárov, ktorí nás zachraňujú pred imperializmom, bolo pre mnohých naozaj iba zbožným priánim. Československý tovar v obchode, pocta najvyšších štátnych predstaviteľov a v neposlednom rade aj pekná krajina a pokojný život na vojenskej základni boli hlavnými znakmi vtedajšieho života Rusov v Československu. Ruské paneláky, obrovské bunkre, množstvo železobetónu a chátrajúce nápisy v ruštine sú zasa pamiatkou, ktorá ostala po Rusoch v Miloviciach dodnes.

Dnes pripomínajú Milovice skôr ako vojenskú výkladnú skriňu pamätník nechcenej slávy. Napriek vyjadreniam českých politikov po odsune ruských vojsk o účelnom využití vojenského priestoru ostalo len pri prázdnych slovách. Areál ostal po odstránení munície ležať ľadom a stal sa cieľom dobrovoľných vykrádačov, či skôr recyklátorov rôznych kovov, nástrojov, aj ďalších komodít.

Obrovské železobetónové bunkre pre rakety, široké pristávacie dráhy aj dokonalé krytie objektov obrastených trávou pridávajú tomuto miestu skrytú krásu. Tak ako hľadajú detailisti krásu v najdokonalejšom zobrazení, tak možno hľadať v Miloviciach ruské veľikášstvo, silu, moc a zároveň aj zbytočnosť a nezmyselnosť ruskej, či vlastne sovietskej politiky v druhej polovici minulého storočia.

Matej Šulc  
TASR

## Zverejnili zoznam eštebákov zo stredného Slovenska, šikanovali veriacich

Ústav pamäti národa zverejnil zoznam spolupracovníkov s komunistickou ŠtB, ktorí pôsobili na strednom Slovensku. Zverejnení eštebáci sa dobrovoľne podieľali na "boji s vonkajším i vnútorným nepriateľom".

Na internetovej stránke Ústavu pamäti národa (ÚPN) pribudol zoznam stoviek príslušníkov ŠtB, ktorí v rokoch 1966 až 1974 pôsobili v Stredoslovenskom kraji. Ústav zverejnil mená 504 príslušníkov útvarov Správy ŠtB Krajskej správy ZNB v Banskej Bystrici. Zverejnení eštebáci sa dobrovoľne podieľali na "boji s vonkajším i vnútorným nepriateľom". "Evidovali,



sledovali, odpočúvali a perzekvovali skupiny obyvateľov, ktoré komunistický režim považoval za svojich nepriateľov," uviedol dnes na tlačovej besede šéf ÚPN Ondrej Krajňák.

Prenasledovali duchovných a veriacich  
Išlo najmä o duchovných a

veriacich predovšetkým katolíckej cirkvi, ale tiež o príslušníkov náboženských siekt, napríklad Svedkov Jehovových. Medzi prenasledovaných patrila aj neskorší biskup Rudolf Baláž či katolícky kňaz Jozef Gazda.

Toho podľa riaditeľa sekcie dokumentácie Ľubomíra Morbachera súdili len preto, lebo nábožensky vychovával deti svojho brata a slúžil omše mimo kostola. "Rímskokatolícka cirkev bola z hľadiska nebezpečnosti pre režim najdôležitejšia," upozornil Morbacher.

Po nástupe normalizácie sa pozornosť sústredila aj na spisovateľov, vedcov, novinárov, umelcov, vysokoškolákov a rozširovateľov ilegálnej tlače.

**Pokračovanie na str.5**



# The first two decades of the second Slovak Republic (1993-2013)

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

*In a series of articles written in 1913, the great man of letters and political leader of the beginning of the twentieth century, Jozef Škultéty, deplored the state of Slovak society at that time and was, furthermore, uncertain whether it could meet the challenges that it faced.*

*Budapest's policy of Magyarization in Upper Hungary, as Slovakia was then called, was in full force, making it very difficult for the leaders of the Slovak nation to articulate any economic, social, or political goals. Were he alive today, Škultéty would, no doubt, marvel at the development that has taken place in the span of a century.*

He might, in fact, be especially amazed at the changes that have occurred in the last two decades. He would rejoice at the fact that the year 2013 marks the 20th anniversary of the creation of the second Slovak Republic and he would see it as an important anniversary that merits examination and comment.

Like most important events in Slovak history, the creation of the second Slovak Republic on 1 January 1993 was a decision taken by political leaders who had not consulted the people. Furthermore, it was a gamble, as it required the creation and consolidation of state institutions that had hitherto not existed in Slovakia. For 74 years, with the hiatus of six years from 1939 to 1945 when the first Slovak Republic existed,



Slovakia had, since 1918, been a constituent part of a state it shared with the Czech nation. The centralized state institutions that were created had not allowed for any form of self-administration in Slovakia. Not until 1968, when the federalization of Czechoslovakia occurred, the only reform from the liberalization period of the Communist regime in the spring and summer to survive the Warsaw Pact invasion of August, did Slovakia acquire institutions allowing for some self-government and not just the execution of state policies



decided in Prague. When the breakup occurred on 31 December 1992, the Czech Republic retained all of the state institutions while the political elite in Bratislava faced the challenge of creating new ones in Slovakia. It was a challenge they met. Credit goes to the creator and first prime minister of the second Slovak Republic, Vladimír Mečiar, a man who, in the years that followed, seriously challenged democratic development in Slovakia by his idiosyncratic and centralizing style of rule. The fear in the West that Slovakia would, under his lead-

ership, become an authoritarian state was shown by the fact that its application for membership into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was postponed until there was a change of government.

Despite his party getting the most seats in the National Council of the Slovak Republic (NC SR) in the elections of 1998, the Mečiar era ended when a group of opposition parties formed a coalition government under the leadership of Mikuláš Dzurinda, the next man to leave a mark on the history of this anniversary. Dzurinda not only ended the centralizing policies of his predecessor, but brought in reforms that allowed Slovakia to develop economically and thereby forever end the oft-heard claim that the country could not develop without the paternalistic assistance of others. But more importantly, Dzurinda successfully prepared Slovakia for admission into NATO during its second enlargement eastward and into the European Union (EU) in 2004. His party and its coalition partners had won the 2002 elections that confirmed the population's desire to see Slovakia achieve these two important goals. Slovakia was now firmly back in Europe where it had always belonged, the post-war years of communism having been the exception in its history. In 2009, the country was, after Slovenia, the second one in Central Europe to join the eurozone by adopting the euro.

*Continued on page 10*

## Správny uhol pohľadu

*„Nakreslím si domček, pri domčeku stromček. Pod stromčekom veľké huby, taký obraz sa mi ľúbi“.*

Na svet blízky či ďaleký môžeme pozerat' z rôzneho uhla, hlavne podľa toho, aké hodnoty sú pre nás v živote dôležité, či najdôležitejšie. Niektorí a nie je ich málo sa vidia vo svojich deťoch a cez ne vidia svoje okolie. Iní vidia svet cez svoju kariéru, tí

„skromnejší“ cez pohárik v krčme,... Sme proste rôzni. Jediné o čom dokážeme diskutovať a deliť sa o názory, sú naše dve spoločné témy. Tá najvd'áčnejšia je ako ináč ak nie počasie. Hoci aj tu sa rozchádzame, téma je vždy aktuálna. Či je teplo, či je zima, nikdy to nie je naša vina, ale vždy sa tu nájde opozícia, ktorej konkrétny čas či počasie nevyhovuje. Bez konkurencie je však téma o tých najvzácnejších



paperikoch zvaných peniaze, za ktoré sa dá kúpiť všetko a všetci na svete. Ak ich máme v hrsti, svet je náš. Sme pánmi osudu a môžeme demonštrovať svoju moc a nadvládu. Bohužiaľ, každý z nás sa môže nimi vystatovať len do hĺbky vlastnej peňaženky.

Ja konkrétne s mojimi známymi premeliem každý cent. V mojom osobnom kalendári mám zapísanú jednu, jedinú, no najdôležitejšiu informáciu „PD“ Pay day“.

S kolegami je viac než často reč o tom, či nám šéfka zvýši plat a či tento mesiac vyplatí nadčasy. S manželom sa v poslednom čase téme o peni-

azoch radšej vyhýbam. Chce vedieť rôzne, nepodstatné detaily, kde som minula skoro celú výplatu a iné informácie o pohyboch na mojom konte. S kamarátkami pravidelne preberieme celosvetovú finančnú krízu, ktorá sa nás osobne dotýka aj v tom, že rapídne sa zvýšili ceny múky, chleba, mlieka a čerešní. Mój syn sa rozčuľuje, že za nový dom platí nehorázne dane a jedna moja známa prišla z dovolenky ako kostolná myš. Káva ju v Bratislave vyšla na štyri eurá, večera na štyridsať a lístok do divadla dvadsať štyri. Nehorázne sa to v tom svete pokazilo. Pritom mala šťastie, že necestovala do Austrálie. Len vtedy by

videla svetové ceny!

Na druhej strane som dostala včera od Judity veľmi priaznivé informácie o tom, že vraj centrálny vysávač išiel asi o tri stovky dole a ak si chcete napríklad kúpiť novú „TOYOTU“, tiež môžete na nej trhnúť minimálne tisíciku. Všetci spoločne úzkostlivo sledujeme všetky bazáre, výpredaje rôznych sortimentov, ale hlavne vianočné trhy, lebo uspokojit' na Vianoce viacpočetnú rodinu nie je sranda.

Témy o peniazoch sú proste nevyčerpatelné a dá sa o nich diskutovať deň i noc.

Akurát dnes ráno pri rozhovore na spomínanú tému mi moja blízka priateľka oznámila doslova jóbóvu zvesť. „Počula si o tom, že vraj už nebudú existovať peniaze? Budú už len nejaké čipy“

Verte mi, úplne som stratila reč. Skoro som onemela. Pre pána kráľa!

O čom sa už len budem s tými ľuďmi rozprávať.

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# Poznávanie iných aj seba



Pred viacerými rokmi sa v Toronte periodicky konala prehliadka či festival národnostných skupín, ktoré počas niekoľkých dní predstavovali vo svojich halách vlastné tradície, kultúru či kulinárske umenie. Vytvorili akýsi včelí úľ, v ktorom sa všetko hmýrilo a návštevníci sa v ňom prenášali do iných krajín, do iného sveta.



Ottawa Martina Bartona a domáceho duchovného Jozefa Vaňu.

Umeleckým výkonom prítomných strhla Východná Slovak Dancers. Hudobne a spevom večer príjemne dopĺňal Miro Letko a ducha slovenskosti do programu vstúpil svojím spevom a hrou na fujare rev. Ladislav Kozán zo slovenskej farnosti sv. Pavla v Toronte. Pri vystavovaných umelecko-informačných dielach postávali hlavne "Neslováci", inonárodní hostia, ktorí navštevovali rôzne výstavníky. Prítomným chutili



Po rokoch odmlčania sa opäť prebudil záujem o organizovanie podobného podujatia a v piatok 24. mája sa s obdobným programom otvárali dvere menších pavilónov, tentokrát pod názvom Carassauga, a to v Mississauga, "predmestí" Toronta. Torontské Slovensko otvorilo svoj pavilón v spoločenskej hale kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Mississauga. Prichádzajúcich návštevníkov ovialo privítanie zaodeté v pestrofarebnosti slovenských krojov. Bolo to prekvapenie, ktoré vzápätí prinieslo reakcie mnohých o tom, "že keby to boli vedeli a boli by aspoň časť ľudového odevu našli doma, iste by v ňom prišli."

Ako už Kanadský Slovák v oznamoch niekoľko týždňov avizoval, program pripravil Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum. Otvárací ceremoniál sa niesol v národnom duchu. Slová privítania, otvorenia a gratulácií zneli od predsedníčky poriadajúcej organizácie Margaret Dvorskej, konzula SR v

domáce slovenské jedlá, pripíjalo sa slovenským pivom a naokolo „šumeli“ priateľské rozhovory. Otvárací večer patril prevažne slovenskej pospolitosti. Pečaťou zadosťučinenia nad príjemným podujatím bolo aj to, že hosťom sa nechcelo odchádzať.

Trojďňové predstavenie národov a krajín malo v minulosti základy v torontskej "Karavane". Bolo by dobre, keby toto znovuzrodenie zapustilo trvalé korene - veď poznať iných, znamená poznať lepšie i seba. A v prenesení na zem svojho pôvodu je to o to dôležitejšie. Lebo často nevidíme či nepoznáme dary a poklady, ktorými sme obklopení. Carassauga umožňuje poznať krásu iných a tak lepšie ohodnotiť aj tú svoju. Ak by Carassauga iba týmto obohatila náš život, aj tak by splnila svoje poslanie.

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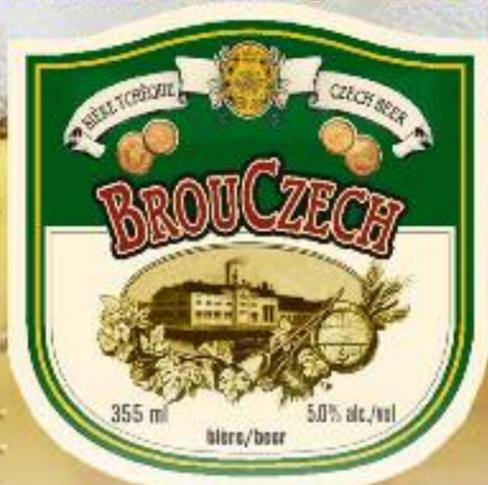
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- Ty darebák! Okamžite zaplať, ja ti kašlem na nejakú pochvalu pred nastúpenou jednotkou!

**Do obchodu s koženou galantériou** vojde zákazník:

- Prosil by som si rukavice na šoférovanie.  
- Aké číslo? - pýta sa predavačka.  
- BAV 20-83.

- **Mami, ocko vrael**, že pochádzame z opíc. Je to pravda?  
- Nevie. Predtým nikdy svoju rodinu nespomínal.

**Zobudí sa ožratý chlap** a volá svojho psa: - Dunčo, Dunčo, pod' sem!

A poslušný pes sa rozbehne k svojmu pánovi. Chlap kričí:  
- Nedupoc tak! Bolí ma hlava.  
Tak sa pes začne poslušne po tichu plaziť.  
- Daj mi nos k mojim ústam.  
Pes poslušne vykoná príkaz. Vtom chlap na psa dýchne a hovorí:  
- Hľadaj!

**Príde úradník celý natešený** do práce, vysype pred šéfom kôš plný odpadkov, tľapne sekretárku po zadku, keď mu jeho kolega potichu povie:  
- Kašli na to, Fero, ja som ten tiket na Lotto zabudol podať.

**Aký je rozdiel medzi** dobrým advokátom a vynikajúcim advokátom?  
Dobrý advokát pozná paragrafy a vynikajúci advokát pozná sudcu.

**Ako spoznáte pravú** sviečkovú omáčku?  
Trčí z nej kňot.

**Ide zajac po lese** a stretne medveďa.

Medveď sa pýta:  
- Zajac kam ideš?  
Zajac: - Idem sa obesiť.  
Medveď: - A prečo?  
Zajac: - Nemôžem mať deti.  
Medveď:  
- No a papáš pravidelne mrkvičku?  
Zajac: - A to sa musí?  
Na druhý deň opäť stretne zajac medveďa. Medveď sa pýta:  
- Čo, pomohlo to?

Zajac: - Nie, idem sa teda obesiť.

Medveď: - Ale nie, nechod'. No a spapal si tú mrkvičku aj nasekanú?

Zajac: - A to sa musí?  
Ďalší deň sa to isté opakuje a medveď dá opäť radu zajacovi:

- A skúsil si papať kapustičku?

Zajac: - A to sa musí?  
Ďalší deň sa to isté opakuje a medveď už znepokojene povie:

- Skús papať tú kapustičku nasekanú ako tú mrkvičku.

Zajac: - A to sa musí?  
Ďalší deň sa ide zajac zasa obesiť a medveď sa ho naštvané pýta: - Počúvaj, ty vlastne spíš so zajačicou?

Zajac: - A to sa musí?

**Chlapík hovorí:** - Svoj voľný čas si vyplňam koňačkom...

- Azda ste chceli povedať koničkom, nie?  
- No, aj tak sa to dá povedať...

**Očný lekár vojde** do preplnenej čakárne a pýta sa:

Pacienti, vidíte ma všetci?  
Samozrejme, pán doktor.  
Tak čo tu potom robíte, vy simultanti?

**Rozrušená žena** volá na pohotovosť:

- Rýchlo prídte, doktor! Mój manžel má 60 stupňové teploty!

- Už je neskoro, to už nepatrí do medicíny. Zavolajte hasičov!

**Pýta sa otec syna** : "Jurko, ty teraz chodíš s Blaženou ?"

- "No chodím, máš niečo proti tomu ?"

- "Nie, len som chcel povedať, že keď som bol v tvojom veku, tak som s ňou chodil tiež."

**Príde James Bond** v Moskve do baru a pri dverách ho zastaví vyhadzovač, no James Bond sa nedá len tak zastaviť a hovorí:

- I am Bond, James Bond!

Vyhadzovač nato:  
- I am gejj, Sergejj!

**Kura nájde praženicu** a povie:

- Brácho, to si ty?

**Jediná žena** čo pochopila mužov už dávno nežije lebo umrela od smiechu.

**Príde Janko na hodinu** huslí, otvorí puzdro a nájde v ňom samopal. Keď to uvidí pani učiteľka hovorí:

- Toto som si, Janko, o tebe nemyslela! Som veľmi prekvapená.

- Mój otec bude prekvapený, keď bude stáť pred bankou s husľami.

**Muž v lietadle si zavolá** letušku a sťažuje sa:

- Podám na vašu spoločnosť žalobu! Stále dostávam to isté miesto. Nemôžem si pospať, lebo na oknách nie sú rolety, a nikto mi ani raz neponúkol alkohol...!

Letuška si dá ruky vbok a povie:

- Ale pán kapitán, netárajte a radšej pilotujte..!

**Hovorí žena mužovi:**

- Miláčik, som tehotná. Čo chceš, aby to bolo?

- Vtip!

**Stoja dvaja vojaci pri kanóne**,

z jeho hlavne práve vylieta muž s bielou palicou v ruke a čiernymi okuliarmi na očiach.

Jeden z tých vojakov hovorí tomu druhému:

- Mne nepripadá veľmi humánne strieľať tými slepými...

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# The first two decades of the second Slovak Republic (1993-2013)

Continued on page 10

In the first decade of the second Slovak Republic, Slovakia had undergone incredible change: the political culture of the Communist system had been replaced by a democratic one, a state had been created and consolidated, and it had achieved international recognition as well as admission as an equal partner in two vital Western institutions. But there had also been challenges, particularly of a domestic nature, that needed to be addressed. These came particularly to the fore in the second decade. Róbert Fico, the third personality to mark this period, is the political leader who has had to meet these challenges; he still is prime minister as Slovakia enters its third decade.

What is likely to give Fico his significant place in Slovak political history is the fact that he obtained an absolute majority in the NC SR in the elections of 2012; a first in Slovak history. He did not need to form a coalition government, something that his predecessor had been obliged to do. Without going into detail, suffice it to say that the Slovak political landscape after the fall of communism had become very complex if not confusing. When the one-party rule of the Communists gave way to a multi-party system, political parties across the left-right spectrum began to appear like mushrooms after a good rain. The electorate, however, was attracted by political leaders rather than by party platforms; as a result, parties came and went, even when they won seats in the NC SR, especially those parties that sought to establish themselves in the center of the political spectrum or to espouse a liberal point of view – SOP (Party of civic Understanding), ANO (New Citizen's Alliance) and SaS (Freedom and Solidarity). The parties that managed to win seats regularly in elections to the NC SR were found either on the left – HZDS/Movement for a



Democratic Slovakia (Mečiar) and Smer-sociálna demokracia (Fico) or on the right – SDKU/Slovak Christian and Democratic Union (Dzurinda); the SNS/Slovak National Party; and the KDH/Christian Democratic Movement. The Hungarians in Slovakia have had what might be called “ethnic” representation in many parties with Béla Bugár, leading Most-Híd/Bridge, as their most eminent representative. In the 2012 elections the HZDS/Movement for a Democratic Slovakia and the SNS/Slovak National Party disappeared from the scene. Fico swept them away with his absolute majority. Space does not allow for a description of every election; however, it is important to note that political power alternated between right and left throughout this period: 1992-1994: the left with Mečiar; 1994: the right with Jozef Moravčík; 1994-1998: the left with Mečiar; 1998-2006: the right with Dzurinda; 2006-2010: the left with Fico; 2010-2012: the right with Iveta Radičová; and 2012- : the left with Fico. It should also be noted that some of these governments had coalition partners that were from both sides of the spectrum; for example, Fico, in his first government (2006-2010), formed a coalition with the HZDS/Movement for a Democratic Slovakia and the SNS/Slovak National Party. There were also political crises in the NC SR that provoked

early elections, namely in 1994, 2010, and 2012. Last but not least, the second Slovak Republic has had three presidents: Michal Kováč (1993-1999); Rudolf Schuster (1999-2004); and Ivan Gašparovič (2004-). Presidential elections are to take place in 2014. In short, democracy is alive and well in Slovakia.

If Jozef Škultéty lived in Slovakia today, it is not at its politics that he would marvel but rather at what he would see as he traveled throughout the country: modern commercial buildings; shopping centers like Aupark and Eurovea in Bratislava and others across the land; new hotels; luxurious spas like the Wellness Center in Patenice; renovated historic areas in most cities, towns, and villages; new affluent homes; the latest car models speeding on the modern highway system; consumer goods in stores that the previous Communist regime could not even possibly have dreamt of; an expanding university system (he might be critical here); an efficient and at times even modern public transport system; the increasing multilingual capacity of young people and their travels throughout Europe and the world; and Slovakia's economic performance that has it dubbed as the Tatra Tiger, because it has one of the strongest economies in Central Europe.

Jozef Škultéty would also notice serious regional economic

imbalances; villages with acute poverty, especially where there is a Roma population; a health system that badly needs modernization; pensions that allow pensioners barely to survive; prices rising much faster than wages; a growing gap between rich and poor; uniform row housing as we often see in North America; foreign ownership of Slovak industries; the lack of job opportunities for young people; and a degree of cynicism towards politicians among citizens that is often reflected in the low voter turnout at election time. The word linked to politicians that he would hear the most is corruption, like the 2012 Gorila affair, which brought thousands to demonstrate in the streets of Bratislava. The author of a book on this affair, the Canadian journalist Tom Nicholson, points to more than just financial corruption, rather to state capture, that is to say to the incredible political influence of domestic and foreign investors that allows them almost to dictate policy.

The city of Trnava encapsulates in many respects the history of Slovakia's social and economic development since the fall of communism. The Peugeot automobile plant in its vicinity points to economic growth, which has made possible the restoration of many historic buildings and the building of new ones. But, as we pointed out in these pages in July 2007 and in June 2008, some decisions, like the erection of a hotel on what hitherto

had been a “common” (grassy area) of the campus of the historic University of Trnava were nothing less than acts of “cultural vandalism.” During my recent visit in Trnava, one of the university's vice-presidents suggested that the recent new park adjacent to the main university building that had previously been a parking lot was meant to make up of the loss of the common. I would like to think that Jozef Škultéty would have been as unimpressed as I was; putting the hotel there would, in fact, have been a much wiser solution, for it would have respected the campus geography that marked the original university. The new park is now a symbol of the consequences of a very poor decision in the first place. Adding insult to injury, the university has yet to get back its original and historic campus edifices. Building a hotel, it would seem, was far more important than the restoration and strengthening of Slovakia's first and most historic university. Prime Minister Róbert Fico now has an absolute majority in the NC SR; the question is whether he can meet the domestic challenges that Slovakia faces?

Recent discussions with former politicians, academics, and interested citizens suggest that the ability of his government to deal with these challenges will depend on two intervening variables: the speed with which the financial crisis in the EU is resolved and the world economy moves forward; and whether Fico will run for the presidency in 2014, a decision that would probably result in the breakup of his party. In other words, there are interesting political times ahead in Slovakia. But whatever happens, the citizens of Slovakia can, at least, look back at the last two decades with some pride and see in that period an indication of their ability to deal with whatever challenges are thrown at them; Jozef Škultéty, most likely, would be simply beaming.

## Bratislava University Evacuated Due to Fire

A building of the Slovak University of Technology in the centre of Bratislava was evacuated after a fire broke out there in the evening hours yesterday but no one was injured, daily Sme writes. The fire might be caused by an explosion that was heard in the centre of the Slovak capital tonight, TV Markiza and TA3 television channels reported. The laboratories of the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology and the roof of the building caught fire. Thirteen fire trucks assisted in the extinguishing. Policemen also helped on the scene of accident. The firefighters managed to get the fire under control after an hour. The fire broke out on the fourth floor shortly before 19:00, the tvnoviny.sk server reported. Students are of the view that one of the microbiological laboratories was burning.

## Pandas awarded in Cannes

The jury at the Cannes film festival awarded the Slovak animated film Pandas directed by Matúš Vizár. The movie placed third in the Cinéfondation section, the competition of short and medium-length films made by students, with an award of €7,500, the SITA newswire reported on May 24. “It is the whole mixture of feelings, joy,

satisfaction, it can be named with difficulties,” Vizár, who also works for the Sme daily, told Czech internet portal iDnes.cz. Vizár said that the success of Pandas is that they are different from the other films. Except for the direction, Vizár also wrote the screenplay and did the illustration. According to him, it was not easy to make this film, and that also other people helped him with its preparation.

“The production lasted more than two years, some haters even say it was longer,” Vizár said, as quoted by SITA, adding that the basic idea of this film is that pandas want to end their life misery, but people try to save them against their will. “In short, it is a satiric view on anything possible, even on the big question of the sense of living.” Pandas will be screened also at various other film festivals, including French Annecy or Fest Anča in Žilina, SITA wrote.

## IOM: Foreigners Not Speaking Slovak Grapple With Problems

It's well-nigh impossible for foreigners in Slovakia who don't speak Slovak to learn about matters vis-a-vis daily life and fundamental rights and obligations arising from their being in Slovakia, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported on Thursday. Relying on findings from its survey among migrants – particularly from outside the European

Union – who have been faced with violence in Slovakia, IOM said that the low degree of preparedness of Slovak authorities to communicate in anything other than Slovak, forces foreigners to seek help from speakers of Slovak. At the same time, however, this makes them vulnerable towards people who do speak Slovak and may use this knowledge towards exerting control over or abusing the migrants. “The language deficit generally translates into an isolation of migrants and exposes them to abuse,” said IOM. Other issues such as an underprivileged work relations, scope and kind of social contacts and one's status vis-a-vis authorities are also ranked among risk factors relating to migrants' exposure to violence. The results were extrapolated from questionnaires filled out by around 700 adult foreigners who come from outside EU-member countries but currently live in Slovakia. Some 20,000 foreigners from non-EU countries currently legally registered to be living in Slovakia.

## Slovak Scientists Create Trap for Cancer Cells

Researchers at Žilina University partnered with Austrian health authorities have developed a unique device capable of “trapping” cancer cells. The system allows cancerous cells to be singled out

and separated from otherwise healthy blood. This device uses a microfluidic chip to capture cancer cells circulating in the blood of a cancer patient, leading to better diagnoses and subsequent treatment of cancer. “It can separate cancer cells from the healthy cells in various types of cancer. All similar existing devices can only filter cells in one type of cancer,” said Ivan Cimrák, Assistant Professor and researcher at the University of Žilina, who participated in the construction of the device. The University of Žilina is working with the University of Applied Sciences in St. Pölten, the Austrian Institute of Technology, and the Austrian hospital Landeskrankenhaus Krems. “The idea to construct this device was established about two years ago in Austria. The prototype should now go through the approval process and then it will be able to be used in hospitals,” added Cimrák. The microfluidic chip is four by four centimetres in size, with a number of small channels the width of a strand of hair to filter blood samples. The diameter of the channels may be controlled, in order to capture the cancer cells of any type of tumour. Then the captured cells can be counted under a microscope allowing proper diagnosis. The university's small diagnostic device was awarded first prize in the international cooperation category in the 2012 Innovative Act competition.

# EU restricts pesticides to help bees

While over the past 10 to 15 years beekeepers have been reporting an alarming reduction in the number of bees and bee colonies, no single cause for the declining bee numbers has been identified, according to the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) website. In its effort to reverse the trend, an appeal committee of the European Commission voted on April 29 to place a two-year moratorium on three types of pesticides that are believed to cause harm to bees.

A glossary of words as well as an exercise related to this article are also published online.

Slovak beekeepers welcomed the ban, while representatives of the Slovak Agriculture and Food Chamber (SPPK) and the non-governmental Slovak Crop Protection Association (SCPA), pointed to what they called a political decision overriding clear scientific reasoning.

Bees are critically important to the environment, sustaining biodiversity by providing essential pollination for a wide range of crops and wild plants. They contribute to human wealth and well-being directly through the production of honey and other food and feed supplies, according to the EFSA. The restrictions, which will come into effect on December 1, 2013, were supported by 15 EU member states; eight member states voted against and four member states abstained during the appeal committee vote. Since no qualified majority was reached, procedurally, the responsibility on deciding whether to adopt the proposal now lies with the EC, which will in the coming weeks adopt a proposal, according to the EC website.

Slovakia voted against the proposals, demanding some sort of compromise, Peter Hajnala, spokesperson for the Agriculture Ministry, said, according to the Sme daily. The proposal restricts the use of three neonicotinoids, namely clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam, for seed treatment, soil application and foliar treatment on bee-attracting plants and cereals, according to the European Commission press release. The commission's action is a response to the EFSA's scientific report, which identified "high acute risks" for bees in terms of exposure to dust found in several crops, such as maize, cereals and sunflowers; to residue in pollen and nectar in crops like rapeseed and sunflower; and to guttation in maize, according to the EC.

"I pledge to do my utmost to ensure that our bees, which are so vital to our ecosystem and contribute over €22 billion annually to European agriculture, are protected," Tonio Borg, the health and consumer commissioner, said in an EC press release.

However, in some cases the EFSA was unable to finalise the assessments due to shortcomings in the available data, Stanislav Nemec, spokesperson for the SPPK told The Slovak Spectator. Nemec referred to the US government's latest report on the disappearance of honeybees, which downplays the role of the pesticides in colony collapse, citing instead parasitic mites, multiple viruses, bacteria, poor nutrition, genetics and



habitat loss.

Considering the lack of data which could support the claim that products in clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam harm bees, the EC's decision was hurried, SCPA Executive Director Jozef Kotleba told The Slovak Spectator.

"We [the SCPA] believe that neonicotinoids are not the cause of the mortality rate of bee colonies," Kotleba said. "The plant protection industry has resolved to prove this statement in cooperation with all concerned sides, with the aim of reaching a common attitude and to look for a solution to the main threats to the bees' health."

Discussion over the reasons

However, Ľudovít Gál, the president of the Slovak Association of Beekeepers, says that pesticides are the main reason behind the disappearance of bee colonies, killing bees as well as weakening their colonies' long-term viability, according to Sme. However, it is difficult to prove that use of pesticides causes bees' deaths, he added, pointing to a lack of official statistics on the issue. Gál also added that there are alternatives for plant protection which do not harm bees.

The Deputy Head of the Institute of Apiculture of the Animal Production Research Centre, a state organisation, Tatiana Čermáková, agrees that pesticides harm bees, arguing that neonicotinoids belong to a class of insecticides that are created to control pests, and since bees are insects, it is therefore certain that they have a negative impact on bees, the RTVS public-service broadcaster reported. On the other hand, many

studies confirm that bees' health is affected by a variety of factors, and among other things, Varroa and Nosema diseases are considered to be the main causes of death among bees, according to Kotleba.

During the process of approving agro-pesticides and plant protection products, the possible risks for bees are evaluated. A proposal of conditions under which such products should be used, in order to min-

imise the threat to bees, like application during times when bees do not fly or a ban on use when plants are in bloom, are also part of this process, Agriculture Ministry spokesperson Radka Kulaviaková told The Slovak Spectator. "If a user of authorised products applies [these] assessed conditions of use, the risk for bees should be low, even with insecticides," Kulaviaková said, adding however, that even plant protection products may affect the death rate of bees.

Alternatives

Agriculturists will have to respond to the EU restriction by using alternatives for banned pesticides, and even though the SPPK does not have the necessary data, there is the possibility that farmers will have to use a considerably higher amount of other protective products, resulting in higher spending on chemical protection for their plants, Nemec said.

A total ban of neonicotinoids would cause losses ranging €20 to €30 per hectare, Dionýz Korcsog from Chemstar Company, which provides treated seeds for corn, sunflower and rapeseed, told the Sme daily. He added that after the ban becomes effective, the number of bee deaths may actually increase, since farmers might start using other pesticides. Moreover, banned plant protection products smuggled in from China or India may enter the Slovak market, according to him. There is no adequate alternative for some applications of restricted pesticides in agriculture and possible alternatives are not safer for bees' health, Kulaviaková said.

Global warming causes serious changes

One of the most significant impacts of climate change is a rise in sea levels due to thermal expansion and the melting of glaciers and ice sheets. There is alarming evidence that crucial tipping points, leading to irreversible changes in the major ecosystems and planetary climate system, may have already been reached, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) website. From 1901 to 2000, the earth's surface temperature increased by around 0.6 degrees Celsius. A rising sea level is consistent with global warming, and the sea level has risen since 1961 at an average rate of 1.8 millimetres per year, and between 1993 and 2003 it jumped to 3.1 millimetres per year, according to Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report, conducted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international body for the assessment of climate change.

Observed decreases in snow and ice are also consistent with global warming. Satellite data since 1978 has shown that Arctic ice has shrunk on average by around 2.7 percent per decade.

From 1900 to 2005, precipitation increased significantly in the eastern areas of North and South America, northern Europe and northern and central Asia, but decreased in the Sahel, an eco-climatic zone in the north of Africa; the Mediterranean; southern Africa; and parts of southern Asia, the report says.

In Slovakia climate change could result in warmer temperatures and increased precipitation, which could boost plant growth in some regions, but turn other regions into dry zones. Problems with pests could also intensify, and Slovakia can expect a gradual pest infestation, particularly from the Balkan Peninsula, according to the final report of the Climatic Change and Adaptations project, conducted by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (SHMU) in cooperation with the Ecological & Forest Research Agency (EFRA) and the Association for Economic Modelling, Forecasts and Analyses (EMPA) in 2011.

In addition, water flows in the southern part of Slovakia would decrease, and water supplies for both drinking and agriculture would decline, according to the report. Fauna that is more sensitive to climate change may also be in danger, and the country's biodiversity would likely decrease. Global warming could also impact tourism in Slovakia: conditions for summer tourism activities would improve, but at the expense of conditions necessary for winter sports.

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## Futbal

### Presov Relegated to Second Division

It came right down to the wire for FC Tatran Presov and FC Spartak Trnava. To the victor would go the spoils - the right to remain in the elite Corgon Liga for next season. To the loser would go the shame and embarrassment of being demoted to the Tier II League of Slovak Soccer.

The do-or-die match was played out on Presov soil, but the home advantage did not prevail, and Trnava stole the game 1-0 on a penalty shot. It is not Tatran Presov's first demotion. They were relegated from the First Division (Corgon Liga) in 2001/2002 and spent six years in the Tier II Division before finally returning to the elite division in 2008.

The Title was captured by Slovan Bratislava, who clinched with two games still remaining in the schedule. Slovan had earlier won the Slovak Cup (also called the Slovnaft cup) and automatically qualify for the second round of European League Champions (UEFA).

## NHL Hockey

Three Slovaks are still in the hunt for a Stanley Cup ring. Zdeno Chara, captain of the Boston Bruins has led his team to the Eastern Conference finals, which are the semi-finals of the Stanley Cup playoffs. Marian Hossa and Michal Handzus are skating furiously, helping the Chicago Blackhawks stave off elimination against the Detroit Redwings. The Hawks won the fifth game of the quarterfinal series 4-1, with both Slovaks registering an assist in the victory; but Detroit is leading the series 3 games to 2.

Hossa's assist put him in second spot on the all time list of Slovak born NHL playoff scorers. The list is headed by legend Stan Mikita who notched 150 points (59 goals, 91 assists) in 155 playoff games. Hossa now has 105 points (40 goals, 65 assists) in 140 games. Peter Stastny also registered 105 points (33 goals and 72 assists) but in only 93 playoff games.

If Boston or Chicago win the Stanley Cup, NHL followers in the Slovak Republic will get to see the Stanley Cup again as members of the championship team are entitled to bring the Cup for a visit to their home town for a few days. Over the last 15 years, the Stanley Cup has become a familiar sight in Slovakia as several players from various Cup winning teams have brought the coveted Cup hit home. The Cup's last visit to Slovakia was in 2011 when Zdeno Chara brought it to his hometown of Trencin.

## Tennis

### Slovaks at French Open

The first Grand Slam of Tennis Event of the year begins Sunday, May 26th at the Roland Garros tennis stadium in Paris. Slovakia will have a total of 8 athletes at the French Open.

24 year Dominika Cibulkova is the only Slovak to be seeded in the tournament at sixteenth. 30 year old veteran Daniela Hantuchova and 24 year old Magdalena Ruybrikova are both ranked in the ATP's top one hundred. Joining the above trio will be 19 year old Jana Čepelova, 22 year old Zuzana Kučová and 18 year old Karolína Schmiedlová who all had to earn their right to participate via a qualifying tournament.

Only two Slovak men will be on the courts at Roland Garros, 24 year old Lukáš Lacko of Piestany and 23 year old Martin Kližan from Bratislava.

Tichomir Miko



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