



**On September 15, on the occasion of the Day of the Polish Army H.E. Mr. Slawomir Dabrova, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland, and the Defence Attaché Col. Vaclav Ferinei gave a reception.**

To celebrate the occasion and honour the hosts in the Embassy building gathered many diplomats, representatives of the government, business and cultural circles and friends of the two countries.



*Mr. Tobias Gerhardus Visser, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa, Dr. Irena Tatarzynska, Minister Councillor at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Sofia*



*The BTA Director General Maxim Minchev, H.E. Mr. Petr Dokladal, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic, H.E. Mr. Michal Kottman, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Mr. Abdeslam Rharbaoui, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco*

## The Cooperation between the Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Bulgaria – Ideas and Perspectives

A Jordanian delegation led by the governor of Balka, Samih Madjali, and with members Walid Utum – Mayor of the town of Jerash, Miflih Arhemi – deputy in the Jordanian Parliament, eng. Shada Abu Hadib – district governor of Petra, visited Bulgaria in the days from September 13th to September 21st.

Accompanied by Dr. Hassan al Barmawi, Honorary Consul of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Sofia, and Mrs. Irena Kircheva al Barmawi, President of Joe Travel, the delegation participated in the Days of Jordan in Sliven (September 14–15) and in the round table on the subject: “The Cooperation between the Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Bulgaria – Ideas and Perspectives”.

## Days of Jordan in Sliven



*At the exhibition opening in the municipality hall: Mr. Ualid Utum, the MP Kosta Tzonev, Mr. Yordan Lechkov, Mr. Shada Abu Hadib, Dr. Hassan al Barmawi, Mrs. Hristina Cholakova, the Head of the delegation Mr. Samih Madjali, Governor of Balka, and the vice mayor of Sliven Penko Penkov*



Dr. Hassan al Barmawi, Honorary Consul of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Mr. Yordan Lechkov, Mayor of the city of Sliven

Cordially met by the Sliven mayor Yordan Lechkov, the guests saw the exhibition representing the Jordanian lifestyle and culture, arranged in the municipality hall. Politicians, members of parliament and many citizens of Sliven were present at the opening. The city mayor Yordan Lechkov, the district governor Hristina Cholakova, the deputies Kosta Tsonev, Krastanka Shaklian, Krastan Dodov, the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Bulgaria-Jordan Friendship in the 39th National Assembly, Peter Mutafchiev, etc. met over a cup of Jordanian coffee and friendly talk with the prominent guests in Bedouin tents put up in front of the municipality building.

Dr. Hassan al Barmawi remarked that the bilateral diplomatic and economic relations between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Hashemite Kingdom of

Jordan have been developing for 40 years in different areas – trade, tourism, education, culture. Now the efforts are directed towards their widening and deepening. The days of

Jordanian culture in Sliven resulted from the Agreement for Cooperation between the Municipalities of Sliven and Jerash, signed in Jordan in June, and marked the beginning of a long and fruitful process of mutual acquaintance and cooperation.

“I see the real parameters of this cooperation, endorsed today on Bulgarian soil, in the already declared interest by the Bulgarian business towards the

markets of Jordan. For me it is important that we made a good step of friendship with the Arab world. In Jordan, the delegation led by me was cordially met. Bulgaria and Jordan think together about the future and the prosperity of the two nations. The interest shown by Bulgarian and Jordanian investors towards joint projects on the territory of the two municipalities –



In the tent: Mr. Miflih Arhemi, MP in the Jordanian Parliament, Dr. Hassan al Barmawi, Mr. Walid Utum, Mayor of Jerash, Mr. Shada Abu Hadib, District Governor of Petra, Mrs. Krastanka Shaklian, MP, Mrs. Hristina Cholakova, District Governor of Sliven, and the Mayor Yordan Lechkov

The rich exposition presenting the Jordanian life and culture



Sliven and Jerash is a good basis for cooperation,” said the mayor of Sliven Yordan Lechkov.

Mr. Peter Mutafchiev expressed his satisfaction with the twinning of the towns of Varna and Akaba, Sliven and Jerash, and the forthcoming twinning of Petra and Plovdiv. “It provides opportunities for closer contacts and relations in the sphere of culture, as well as in business, for which we must thank the honorary consul of the Kingdom of Jordan in our country Dr. Hassan al Barmawi”.

The mayor of the Jordanian town of Jerash Walid Utum said:

“Our desire is the agreement for cooperation signed between Sliven and Jerash to have real results for the population of the two municipalities.”

“I am very grateful and happy with the first steps of cooperation made by the mayor Mr. Lechkov and the agreement signed between the municipalities of Sliven and Jerash,” said the regional governor Hristina Cholakova. At the meeting with the representatives of the local and district authorities and the legislature of Jordan, she made a proposal for cooperation on a regional scale.

“The municipalities of Sliven region offer attractive elements for partnership: the area of Karandila – in particular the natural park “The Blue Stones”, the balneological resort “Sliven Spa”, etc. The Kotel municipality has a great potential for developing rural, cultural and rock-climbing tourism.

The round table on “The Cooperation between the Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Bulgaria – Ideas and Perspectives” was held on September 15th in Sliven

with the participation of representatives of the business, the municipal self-government, education and culture. The Honorary Consul of Jordan Dr. Hassan al Barmawi and the Municipal Adviser Marin Kavrakov read the main reports. The Jordanian delegation met with the management of the Engineering-Pedagogical Faculty – Sliven with the Technical University in Sofia, visited the DECOTEX company, the sports base of the town, etc.

The municipalities of Jerash and Sliven agreed to exchange experience between the local authorities of the two cities related to the main urban problems – ecology, healthcare, social activities, education.

The two cities agreed to work for strengthening and developing their connections through the exchange of visits of governmental and business delegations, seeking the assistance of the respective structures like the Bulgarian-Jordanian Chamber



At the meeting in the regional council

of Economic Cooperation. The organizing of social, scientific and technical meetings will be promoted.

Exchange of experience between the two administrations and popularization of tourist sights and the rich historical heritage are envisaged. Also exchange of groups for participation in festivals and various cultural initiatives.

“The Municipality of Sliven and the Municipality of Jerash really believe that this agreement will lay the foundations of a fruitful and lasting cooperation between them,” the document, signed by the mayors Yordan Lechkov and Walid Utum, reads. “The two countries attach due importance to the contribution of the Honorary Consulate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Republic of Bulgaria for the development of the Bulgarian-Jordanian relations.”

Reneta Denkova



The Jordanian delegation sightseeing in the city