



Division of Public Information

MEDIA MONITORING Headlines

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4 February 2010

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Kosovo Media Highlights

Thaçi: Parliamentary elections in autumn 2011 (*Epoka e Re*)

Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi has said that the decision on government restructuring will be taken in the coming days, but he did not set a specific date. Thaçi also announced that there will not be early parliamentary elections in 2010, despite the request of an opposition party. "Government restructuring will be carried out at the right time, but it would not be moral to politicize the period of mourning in Istog and beyond, but I wish to confirm that the next parliamentary elections will be held in the autumn of 2011", Thaçi said on Wednesday.

Zannier: UNMIK to facilitate cooperation between communities (*dailies*)

Dailies report that UNMIK chief Lamberto Zannier said in Mitrovica that UNMIK will continue to provide its assistance in facilitating cooperation between communities. Zannier made these comments on Wednesday during a meeting with Mitrovica Mayor Avni Kastrati, where the situation in Mitrovica was discussed, with particular emphasis on northern Mitrovica. "We are ready for cooperation. The reconstruction process is soon expected to begin in the north. We support the return of

all citizens to their properties, whether in the north or in the south of the town,” Zannier is quoted as saying by *Koha Ditore*.

During the meeting, Zannier also focused on the issue of the budget for Mitrovica, a part of is allocated for the north. He said that he would like this to continue until the situation is clarified, and that for many years now, roughly 30 percent of the budget of Mitrovica municipality is allocated to the northern part, where it is distributed by the UNMIK administration in the north.

Mitrovica Mayor Avni Kastrati said that UNMIK officials can help Serb citizens who are living in the north to acknowledge that the state of Kosovo is working towards the benefit of all citizens, regardless of ethnic background. “The Serb leadership in the north does not tell the truth to the Serb citizens, and continues to manipulate them. In this situation UNMIK officials can help by explaining to them the laws of the Republic of Kosovo which guarantee them all rights,” said Kastrati.

Time to strengthen inter-ethnic cooperation (dailies)

In a debate organized by the Project for Ethnic Relations, Kosovo and international officials stressed the need to strengthen relations between Kosovo’s communities. U.S. Ambassador to Kosovo Christopher Dell praised the progress achieved in Kosovo with regard to implementing standards for the rights of communities and added that it is time to further develop inter-ethnic dialogue.

Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said it is encouraging that local elections in Kosovo had multi-ethnic turnout. “We are at the start of concrete efforts to implement these projects which are directly linked to commitments for a safer and better life for all communities,” Thaçi said.

Police threatens boycott (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the number of police officers who have signed a petition expressing dissatisfaction with their current salaries increased from 100 to 511 on Tuesday. With the exception of police officers at the training centre in Kishnica, many officers from various parts of Kosovo joined the protest, or as they call it, a boycott of work.

On Wednesday afternoon, the representative of the police officers at the training centre in Kishnica, Arbresh Dalipi, made the first announcement to the media, giving an ultimatum to Kosovo institutions to fulfill their demands by Thursday at 09:00 hours. “We request a 100% salary increase. We request an immediate change to our working contracts, from a temporary to a permanent basis, specifying in detail the job description and salary level. We inform you that if the above-mentioned demands are not fulfilled by 09:00 hours on Thursday, all activities of the specialized police units will cease until the fulfillment of our legitimate requests,” announced Dalipi.

KSF to guard Gazimestan monument (Koha Ditore)

The daily reports that KFOR will soon transfer responsibility for providing security to certain cultural and religious sites in Kosovo to the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). These sites include Serb Orthodox monasteries and other monuments requiring special protection. NATO diplomatic sources told *Koha Ditore* that the first monument to be transferred to the KSF will be the monument in Gazimestan erected in remembrance of the Battle of Kosovo in 1389.

European Commission destroys visa liberalization hopes (*Koha Ditore*)

Koha Ditore reports that the Stabilization Association dialogue began last week with EU experts, and includes the issue of visa liberalization. However, the daily notes that the process is still currently only at the dialogue level, and that negotiations and hopes for visa liberalization are far away.

However, Kosovo Government officials have stated that a guide on visa liberalization is expected to arrive in this spring, and that talks on visa liberalization have begun. This statement was refuted by European Commission officials in Kosovo.

Supreme Court annuls ECAC decision on Gjilan (*dailies*)

The Kosovo Supreme Court yesterday annulled the decision of the Elections Complaints and Appeals Commission (ECAC) to repeat voting in Gjilan municipality. The Court deliberated based on a lawsuit presented by PDK candidate for Gjilan mayor, Qemajl Mustafa.

UNMIK avoids responsibility for 2007 killings (*dailies*)

Several dailies report that the legal representative of the families of the two persons killed during the Vetëvendosja protest in 2007 made public a letter received by UNMIK, in which the organization states that the case is no longer under the competencies of the Human Rights Advisory Panel due to an Administrative Direction promulgated by the SRSG on 17 October 2009. According to the Administrative Direction, all cases being reviewed for compensation by the UN are invalid. According to the legal counsel for the Balaj and Xheladini families, Halim Sylejmani, this is UNMIK's latest attempt to block the road to justice.

Stubb: Kosovo and Serbia must move together towards European integrations (*dailies*)

Dailies report that Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Stubb said on Wednesday after a meeting with Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi that Kosovo should continue on its road toward European integrations, and that Finland wishes to see Kosovo in the European Union as soon as possible. "Kosovo's and Serbia's course towards the European Union should be hand in hand, there should be dialogue and friendship," said Stubb, explaining that the EU does not want the two countries to have problems with each other such as border and other issues.

"The starting point of European integration is the rule of law, because if the rule law does not function, Kosovo's future will be in danger. If the judicial system does not

function, or if there is a general feeling that it is difficult to invest in Kosovo, Kosovo's future is in danger," said Stubb.

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

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- **Police threatens boycott**
- **Citizens bid farewell to Fadil Ferati**
- **ECAC decision on Gjilan re-vote annulled**
- **EC destroys visa liberalization hopes**

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- **ECAC's Gjilan decision annulled**
- **Ultimatum for Government, 09.00**
- **"Kosova e Re" bidding deadline postponed**
- **Editorial: The departure of a wise leader**

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- **Decentralization – Salvation for the minority (2)**
- **President Sejdiu calls for implementation of strategy for the north (4)**
- **Krasniqi: Partitioning Kosovo would have a domino effect (4)**
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- **Moratinos: Spain supports EULEX (2)**
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- **Police officers in Peja also request higher salaries (6)**
- **Supreme Court decision declares Mustafa winner (7)**

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- **Protest epidemic**
- **Ambassador without announcement**
- **Be careful with the north**

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