



Division of Public Information

MEDIA MONITORING Headlines

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9 February 2010

- ISG supports strategy (*dailies*)
- Social discontent threatens a protest “epidemic” (*Koha Ditore*)
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Kosovo Media Highlights

ISG supports strategy (*dailies*)

Koha Ditore reports that the strategy for the integration of northern of Kosovo has received the unanimous support of the 25 member states of the International Steering Group (ISG) in a meeting held on Monday in Vienna. During the meeting which lasted more than four hours, the decision was made to reduce the International Civilian Office staff by 15 percent, while the mandate of ICO chief Pieter Feith to monitor the implementation of the Ahtisaari Plan was extended.

Sources have said that in addition to giving their strong support for the plan, the ISG member states assured ICR Pieter Feith and Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi that they will support activities related to implementing the strategy for the north. “The only message we want to send to Belgrade is that Serbs in the north of Kosovo should be integrated into the institutional life,” said the source.

Referring to the strategy in his presentation, Thaçi said that Kosovo institutions should be cautious and patient, but also determined to enforce the rule of law “as defined by the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, the Comprehensive Status Proposal and UN Security Council resolution 1244.” In reaction to this statement, Ilir Deda from the KIPRED research institute said that 1244 is used as an asset for dissolving parallel

structures which, according to Deda, are also in conflict with the resolution. “However, this is the first time after the declaration of independence that resolution 1244 is referred to as a valid document by the institutions of Kosovo,” Deda told *Koha Ditore*.

Zëri also quotes unnamed sources as saying that Feith confirmed support for the strategy but that this was a result of a debate critical views on the document were expressed, particularly from the Swedish representative attending the meeting.

Express reports that the ISG defined the future framework of activities of the International Civilian Representative (ICR) and Kosovo institutions. The daily quotes a statement issued after the meeting, which notes that the ISG has concluded that the ICR’s focus should shift to other priorities, and calls on Pristina authorities to urgently make progress in the fight against corruption and organized crime.

Serbia’s Deputy Prime Minister Bozidar Djelic is quoted in *Epoka e Re* as saying that the ISG’s conclusions are invalid in Serbia’s view. “Serbia does not recognize this group. It is illegal, and therefore, its conclusions are invalid,” said Djelic. The State Secretary to the Serbian Ministry for Kosovo Oliver Ivanovic said that Feith had no results to present at the meeting. He said Feith attempted to be more successful than he actually was. He reiterated that UNMIK will not leave Kosovo as a result of unilateral decisions of individuals or groups of countries, and that resolution 1244 remains in force.

Social discontent threatens a protest “epidemic” (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the second round of protests may be longer than the first one. The Kosovo Correctional Service protested on Monday for about two hours. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, employees from the Kosovo courts and prosecution will not work between 10.00 and 11.00 hrs. Doctors are waiting another three days. The protesters are demanding pay raises. *Koha Ditore* reports KEK employees may also go on strike. On Tuesday, The KEK workers’ Union will hold a meeting to discuss the matter.

Krasniqi’s warning (Express)

President of Kosovo Assembly Jakup Krasniqi has warned the Government not to take decisions that are not in accordance to the law. Krasniqi’s statement comes after the decision by PM Hashim Thaçi to retroactively reimburse salaries to ministers and members of the assembly which they did not receive from the Assembly. “As Parliament and institutions we are obliged to respect the law. Read the law carefully and you will see there are many decisions in conflict with the law,” said Krasniqi.

Mesic: Borders have been determined (dailies)

In an interview with *BBC*, outgoing Croatian President Stjepan Mesic said that the issue of borders in southeastern Europe has finally been resolved. “As far as borders in southeastern Europe are concerned, the matter has finally been resolved. Our space architecture has ended. Relations between Kosovo and other states are to be

determined through inter-state agreements. Belgrade does not necessarily have to recognize Kosovo, but cannot prevent others from communicating with Kosovo,” said Mesic.

Privatization begins in Brezovica (Zëri)

Zëri reports that a press communiqué from the Kosovo Agency for Privatization (KAP) announced that it has tendered 13 socially owned enterprises which will be sold in the 42nd wave of Privatization. A number of buildings located in Brezovica are among those enterprises selected for privatization. KAP has informed the socially owned enterprises and the respective municipalities of the decision. All enterprises will be privatized through regular spin-off.

Theft at police compound (Zëri)

The daily reports that the Kosovo Police has revealed car parts were stolen from the police station in Ferizaj three weeks ago, and that the police has not yet been able to apprehend suspects in the case. “Investigations are ongoing in several areas and at the moment, we cannot say more,” said Ferizaj Police spokesperson Agim Gashi.

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

Front page

- **ISG supports strategy**
- **Social discontent threatens protest “epidemic”**
- **Rexhep Hoxha: I will not accept a prize from a servile Government**
- **Krasniqi: Government must not make illegal decisions**
- **PAK seeks Brezovica’s privatization, municipality against privatization**

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Zëri

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- **PDK “forgets” itself**

- **Radical actions announced**

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- **ISG supports integration of the north (4)**
- **CEC awaits Supreme Court decision on Gjilan (5)**
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Kosova Sot

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- ***Kosova Sot* convincingly the first**
- **Lacaita: Route was changed to avoid higher costs**
- **Mesic: South East European borders have been resolved**
- **Editorial: Awaiting changes in the coalition government**

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Epoka e Re

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- **Gjakova faces the court**
- **UP honours Pack with "Doctor Honoris Causa" title**
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- **Krasniqi requests respect for law (4)**
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- Krasniqi's message
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- The north should be integrated

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- Government protected, Thaçi criticized (4)
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Bota Sot

Front page

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