

UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

► Local Media

► Media Analysis

2 December

Holkeri and Çeku discuss suspension of 12 KPC officers (*Dailies*)

All dailies report about recent developments in the relations between KPC and UNMIK.

All dailies report that KPC Commander General Agim Çeku and the SRSG Holkeri discussed suspension of the KPC officers. *Koha Ditore* quotes Çeku as saying that 'UNMIK has no reason to suspend 12 KPC members'. 'In the meeting with Holkeri we did not take a binding decision, another meeting will be held on Tuesday (today),' he said.

Following the same issue, *Zëri's* reliable sources claim that UNMIK has decided to soon suspend 12 KPC officers, amongst whom there are senior officers and to finish investigations against the KPC, which had begun in April after the incident in Zvecan where a KPC member was killed.

Zëri quotes General Agim Çeku as saying that 'if these measures are taken it would be unlawful, unjustified and unfounded. I personally, and the KPC as a whole, will not respect them.'

'We stated that such procedure is completely unlawful and it is also unacceptable for the KPC. The binding decision hasn't been taken, we expect it to be taken tomorrow and only then we will have our official position,' he said.

Holkeri is due to decide today about the investigation procedure against the KPC members, the paper reports. 'I believe that our arguments are powerful and if justice exists it would be on our side,' Çeku firmly said.

Questioned about the reasons of officers' suspension, Çeku said that there are no justifiable reasons.

Zëri contacted KFOR HQ and its spokesperson Chris Thompson concerning suspension of the KPC officers, but he said that 'this issue has nothing to do with KFOR'.

Holkeri appeals for apology in Belgrade (Dailies)

Koha Ditore reports that SRSG Holkeri discussed the operationalization of standards with Serbian officials. During his visit to Belgrade, Holkeri urged Serbs and Albanians to apologize to each other and to admit responsibility for the events that happened in the past.

‘Belgrade leaders have apologized last month to Bosnian citizens for all tragedies. The same thing, by taking responsibility for what has happened in Kosovo would largely reduce tensions in both Serbia and Kosovo,’ Holkeri was quoted as saying.

The SRSG made these comments in an international conference on tolerance and integration that was held in Belgrade. Holkeri also urged Serbs to recognize the fact that Kosovo is under international protection, whereas its leaders should stop ‘using Kosovo as a nationalist ace in politic’.

The paper reports that UNMIK officials kept secret Holkeri’s visit to Belgrade. Unofficially it was acknowledged that except from participating in that conference, Holkeri met senior Belgrade officials and also informed them about the new operationalization plan.

A senior international source said that SRSG is due to meet with the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Covic. This official confirmed indirectly that Holkeri would inform Belgrade and Covic about the new operationalization plan on standards, but will not take Belgrade’s suggestions into consideration.

According to “reliable sources” **Zëri** reports that SRSG Holkeri will ask the Quint representatives in Pristina to obtain support for his measures regarding the suspension of KPC officer.

UNMIK asks for use of old names of Kosovo towns and villages (Koha)

Koha Ditore reports that through a statement issued by the head of the Civil Administration, Francesco Bastagli has asked the municipal assemblies and the Ministry of Public Services not to change the names of villages, but to follow UNMIK regulation 2000/45.

According to this Regulation the name Drenas cannot be used for Glllogovc/Glllogovac. In a statement issued by the DRSRG for Civil Administration, Francesco Bastagli, he asked for supporting the law in Kosovo regarding names of places. ‘We as UNMIK, have passed on our concerns to the Ministry of Public Services about the existence of reserve names for places that have names in Kosovo, and which are being ignored or violated in the local and the central level’. According to him renaming villages and towns is not a competence of municipal assemblies as the UNMIK Regulation 2000/45 limits their competencies about it.

‘Official documents that do not follow these requests will be invalid’ it is further written in the statement.

While the minister of Public Services, Jakup Krasniqi said that his ministry has not given any instruction to municipalities as to how to rename places. ‘This is not my

competence' he says although he is not against the renaming of some towns and villages in Kosovo. 'I support the idea to changes some of the current names. This means that I support the initiative by the Statistical Office of Kosovo for renaming in when the time for a census in Kosovo comes.

The minister of Public Services will respond to the letter of Bastagli in the days to come.

Mitrovica local officials declare an UNMIK staff persona non grata (Koha)

Koha Ditore carries an article about the clashes between local authorities and UNMIK after the removal of the Albanian flag from the Municipal offices on the Flag Day. The Municipal Assembly in Mitrovica declared an UNMIK official, Gheorghe Stanescu 'persona non grata', also warning to file a lawsuit against him and the municipal administrator Minna Jarvenpaa.

'These conclusions are against the benchmarks and do a bad service to Kosovo in general' said Minna Jarvenpaa about the decision of the MA.

Municipal assembly members called the removal of the flag scandalous and even alluded that the international official was acting from 'anti-Albanian positions'. The administrator Jarvenpaa called this a 'stalinist method'.

'If there are dissatisfactions, they should go through a legal procedure' explaining that it was her who gave the order to remove the flag.

'The reason is that there is no other flag recognized in Kosovo but the UN flag, and this is why no other flags are allowed to wave in public and on governmental premises' she said, causing discontent with the way she spoke to them, her clarifications and interferences.

However, the discussion about the removal of the flag has been put on top of the agenda. Most of the assembly members that took the floor reminded her that they took the oath in the presence of the national flag and international officials. As an argument they also mentioned that the Serbian flag waves freely in the northern part of the town.

The article also quotes Jarvenpaa to have called them 'a sick society' and for what they expect her to apologize publicly for this offence. Jarvenpaa clarified that she did not call the society 'sick' unless they continued with 'denouncing names', adding that this way Mitrovica is becoming an obstacle for progress in Kosovo.

Editorial: The Pro-Serb UNMIK (Kosova Sot)

*In a front-page editorial **Kosova Sot** writes that Kosovans are that weak they cannot even change the old names set by an anti-democratic regime. An UNMIK higher official, Francesco [sic], does not allow changes to the names of places, and this is a typical pro-Serb act and does not serve peace and stability in the country. How could a village inhabited with Albanians bear a Serbian name? Recognizing the legitimacy of a discriminatory law implies that UNMIK is not unbiased in Kosovo.*

In these difficult days for the Kosovo society, this UNMIK official emphasized that for the names of places, Milosevic's law is valid. His message is a proof that he does not know the history of nominations in the areas inhabited by Albanians for centuries. There are ample and strong arguments that prove the hegemonic policy and efforts to eradicate the Albanian identity by the Serbian regimes. And part of these tendencies to show Kosovo as a 'Serbian' land is the naming of places. Many names of places today are a consequence of this long campaign of assimilation. We cannot say that Francesco gave the message not to change them accidentally. Let the Albanians decide about naming the place they live and let the Serbs keep the old ones. The message of this UNMIK official is an expression of a violation of human rights to decide about issues of their concern.

Kosovo today has its institutions, its legitimate institutions and can decide about it, and there is no need for messages from UN officials. UNMIK should deal with other things that relate to the daily life of people in Kosovo and not to lose itself in topics with political background. Pursuing such a line of actions and judgments UNMIK is violating the spirit of cooperation with Kosovo institutions.

Recognizing the legitimacy of a discriminatory law implies that UNMIK is not unbiased in Kosovo. Unfortunately this law is not the only one.

It is time to open the issue of the Kosovo armed forces (Zëri)

Zëri carries an editorial about possibilities of transforming the KPC into military force.

As far as the TMK is concerned, according to the viewpoint of the Kosovo institutions and its citizens, everything is clear: KPC must be an embryo of Kosovo military force. This is well known to all internationals, including UNMIK, KFOR and the diplomatic representatives.

Kosovans highly value transparency in the KPC, whereas what is lacking is a long-term development concept with regard to the KPC and there is also persistence on the current status quo, which dominates UNMIK, KFOR and the western capitols. According to the plan for operationalization of the standards, KPC is considered by UNMIK as an emergency civil organization with a limited mandate, which has little chances for implementation due to lack of funds.

Now the issue of standards is addressed and the mid 2005 deadline set for meeting the standards in a satisfactory way in order for talks on the final status to begin. It is good if we talk sincerely about a key element of the Kosovo status: its defense forces.

Above all, we may say that it is not early to initiate this issue and also it is not true that the final status might be prejudged, which would be in opposition with the UNSC Resolution 1244.

The creation of the Kosovo's protection force in the sense of the new developments in the Balkans with full respect of NATO's criteria as forces, as professionalism and their weaponry and taking into consideration the real capacity of Kosovo's budget, requires some time. We cannot begin this process in 2006, when the Kosovo status

will be known and to accomplish it in a short time. We can assume that KFOR, or another NATO-led kind of mission, would be present here even after the final status is resolved. The western long-term military presence is our common demand. Nevertheless, if NATO decides to stay for an unlimited time in Kosovo, the western forces would need a reliable partner, equipped professionally to meet the obligations of the overall security circumstances, whereas the local security obligations would be fulfilled by the KPS.

On the other hand, UNMIK's concern is related to Belgrade's unforeseen reactions, or reaction coming from any western government who might think that the creation of the Kosovo military forces would prejudice the Kosovo final status. This concern is not reasonable. Justification of creating the Kosovo military forces could be based on the fact that until March 1989 Kosovo had that element in the former Yugoslav constitutional system. It is well known that in that time, Kosovo had its Territorial and Civil Defense. Today's KPC is similar to that of Civil Defense. Kosovo territorial forces had reached 40 thousand members and were armed with light weapons and artillery. The structure of the Kosovo Territorial Defense was in fact a Kosovo military force, similar to other federal units of the former Yugoslavia.

So, the establishment of a Kosovo protection force doesn't prejudice its status.

Together with NATO mission, Kosovo force should guarantee the respect of the constitution, Kosovo's borders and also to contribute to the regional security in this part of the Balkans.

The Kosovo institutions must support the establishment of the Kosovo protection force by compiling a detailed plan together with the KPC and the military experts.

The time of making public statements has passed.

A reasonable justification of this demand put forth by the president, the government and by the assembly is necessary, if we want to overcome obvious obstacles in UNMIK and other evident problems regarding the creation of the Kosovo military forces.

Shala: The truth of problematic news (Zëri)

Zëri carries a front-page editorial by Blerim Shala who writes:

Usually, the problematic news in Kosovo are true. It seems that the SRSG's decision on suspension of 12 KPC officers is true.

Even though SRSG's decision hasn't been published, it would be a big surprise if such decision does not become public today (Tuesday).

The whole history of investigating the KPC officers, which started in the spring by an UNMIK and KFOR Board was unknown to a great extent to the Kosovan public. Full transparency is indispensable for preventing the speculations that will burst in Kosovo. As it was said in *Zëri* yesterday, investigations weren't transparent even for

the KPC members who were subject of the investigations. Procedural unclarity seems to be one of the disagreements within the international administration concerning whether this process is legitimate.

But at the end, according to all information, UNMIK will choose the solution of suspension and not of firing to make these superiors guilty and to justify itself for breaching the procedures foreseen by the international conventions. UNMIK should have explained the reasons for suspension for each officer and the legal mechanisms, which should be applied in the future.

Full transparency is necessary in order to prevent lots of speculation that might erupt in Kosovo.

However, lots of things will depend on the way, how would be explained the difference between suspension and dismissal. As it seems now, this suspension is a one-way ticket for leaving KPC.

How UNMIK plans to continue privatization in Kosovo? (Zëri)

Zëri carries proposals of UNMIK Pillar IV head, Nikolaus Lambsdorff, concerning the continuation of the process of privatization.

According to the paper's reliable diplomatic sources, there has been an additional discussion between UNMIK legal office and Lambsdorff and his associates, concerning the guidelines (or instructions), which came from the UN legal office in New York. It seems that UNMIK's legal office considers such instructions as a green light to carry on with the privatization process without major procedural changes, whereas Lambsdorff's team has bigger concerns. They want to be more cautious in order to avoid unforeseen problems that might appear from the Serbian regime, which still claims that all SOEs belong to them. In this respect, it seems that privatization on a case-by-case basis is the preferred option for Pillar IV. However, it is unclear how this procedure can be applied while maintaining the foreseen privatization for 158 SOEs.

Sources close to Pillar IV told Zëri that the Pillar and KTA are convinced that the case-by-case procedure will not slow down the process. According to the paper, in the future the status review will precede the tender announcement so that problems are minimized.

The paper reports that UNMIK, UNMIK Pillar IV and the international administration as a whole have no doubt that privatization is in full accordance with the UNSC Resolution 1244, while Belgrade has no right to oppose the privatization.

In the meantime, Kosovan experts continue to support suggestions to abolish Serb discriminatory laws, which are seen as the greatest obstacle to a quick resumption of the privatization process.

According to *Zëri*, declaring Serb laws as null and void is a necessary measure to be taken by UNMIK. This, as we know, can be done only by SRSG Harri Holkeri, concludes *Zëri*.

What were Lambsdorff's suggestions to restart privatisation

Zëri reports that following his return from New York, Pillar IV Head Nikolaus Lambsdorff presented to the KTA Board members his version of how he sees the restart of the process. Zëri carries this document in its entirety.

A document entitled "Note for the Record – The Privatisation Programme in Kosovo" dated 13 November 2003 (the "UN Guidance") from the UN HQ in New York will have been circulated to Board members prior to this Board meeting. The Chairman will report to the Board in relation to the subject matter of the UN Guidance.

Members of KTA management will report to the Board on management's review of the first and second waves of privatisation transactions, with particular emphasis on the preliminary analysis of these SOEs' transformation and/or merger after 1989 in light of the UN Guidance. Management will also report to the Board on the required implementation of the UN Guidance.

In relation to this, the Chairman of the Board Nikolaus Lambsdorff proposed that:

- (i) After discussing the risks associated with the ratification of the first wave of privatisation transactions in light of the UN Guidance, the Board vote on the ratification of the signed privatisation contracts for Energoinvest (Assembly), Energoinvest (Fuses), Termosistem and Montazhi I Kosovës and further authorizes the Chairman to execute 6 of the privatisation contracts in the second wave of privatisation transactions;
- (ii) The Board instructs KTA and its management to take all necessary actions to implement the UN Guidance, including but not limited to, reviewing the KTA's former status determinations in accordance with the UN Guidance;
- (iii) The KTA indemnify and hold harmless its directors, officers and other personnel working at the KTA from all damages, costs, expenses and attorneys fees (and provide for legal defence) that such persons may suffer arising out the performance of their duties at the KTA, and obtain liability insurance against such risks for the benefit of such persons; and
- (iv) The KTA shall vigorously defend all claims, whether pending or threatened, against the KTA and make requests to the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court of Kosovo, when necessary, for an early ruling on important legal questions and fact patterns which would clarify certain key issues with regard to privatisation.

It is therefore proposed that the Board adopts the following resolutions:

- (a) The transfer documents and sale contracts related to the privatisation of (i) Energoinvest (Assembly), (ii) Energoinvest (Fuses), (iii) Termosistem and (iv) Montazhi I Kosovës, the execution of which

were previously approved by the Board, are hereby ratified by the Board.

- (b) The following first and second tranche privatisation transactions previously approved by the Board shall be executed by the Chairman:

	Name of Newco	Name of Winning Bidder	Sale Price (€)
1	Newco Lepenci L.L.C	Mr Idrizi	€650 000
2	Newco Hotel Metohija L.L.C.	Pino-Trade (second highest bidder)	€1,505,000
3	Newco Mladost L.L.C.	Calabria (second highest bidder)	€411,100
4	Newco Trepca Confection L.L.C.	Agron Commerce	€355,000
5	Newco IMN 19 Qershori L.L.C.	Beselica Company	€805,000
6	Newco Kosovoplast L.L.C.	Zylbehar Hasallari	€1,555,555

- (c) KTA management shall continue to review its previous SOE status determination cases to determine under Sections 5.3 and 5.4 of the KTA Regulation whether the SOE's status has changed pursuant to a post-1989 transformation and/or merger, and such review shall be done in accordance with the prescribed steps set forth in paragraph 7 of the UN Guidance;
- (d) The KTA shall fully indemnify and keep indemnified all directors, officers and staff members of the KTA (collectively each, a "Staff Member"), whether such Staff Member is performing services for the KTA as an employee or is seconded to the KTA from UNMIK, PISG or any other organisation, against all actions, claims, proceedings, costs and damages (including any damages or compensation paid by the Staff Member on the advice of his/her legal advisers to compromise or settle any claim) and all legal costs or other expenses arising out of any actions of the Staff Member in furtherance of the goals and activities of the KTA; (ii) the KTA shall further provide the Staff Member with separate legal defence by internationally recognized counsel at the KTA's expense in any such actions and proceedings, actual or threatened, against the Staff Member; and (iii) the KTA management is hereby instructed to purchase and maintain insurance for the benefit of persons who are a director, officer or key Staff Member, or a former director, officer or key Staff Member, of the KTA, indemnifying him/her against liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust or another liability which may lawfully be insured.
- (e) The KTA management shall take all necessary steps to comply with the other provisions of the UN Guidance, and report to the Board at the next board meeting on the status and progress of such

implementation, including but not limited to a review of the Operational Policies;

- (f) The KTA shall vigorously defend all claims, whether pending or threatened, against the KTA and request the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court to expedite pending cases or make requests, when necessary, for early rulings on important legal questions and fact patterns which would clarify certain key issues with regard to privatisation in order to reduce the delays in the privatisation process; and
- (g) The Chairman may waive the requirement in section 30.2 of the Regulation 2002/12 that requires the KTA to have at least 60 days notice prior to any claim being filed with the Special Chamber in cases when KTA Management believes it would assist and speed up the privatisation process for those claims to be heard and resolved sooner.

Fucci leaves only "agriculture" to Kosovans (*Koha Ditore*) unedited

Koha Ditore reports that based on the new restructuring recommendations by the international KTA management there will be no privatization department in the future. According to a document, which *Koha Ditore* claims to have gotten the KTA will have a department of sales instead. The new proposals to restructure the KTA are aimed at minimizing the role of the Kosovans and American experts engaged in the privatization, the paper claims.

The new structure of KTA proposed by Marie Fucci, leaves the current deputy-managing director for SOEs, Ahmet Shala, responsible only for agriculture enterprises and "Trepça", the paper reports. The department of SOEs is divided in few subunits, whereas none of the subunits directly involved in privatization report to the local head in the KTA, Ahmet Shala. The sales department and the other three departments will report to the executive director whereas he will report to the general director.

The position of the "executive director" is to be created by the new KTA organizational structure.

The aim of these actions is to decrease the power (influence) of the Kosovans and USAID officials that oppose execution of privatization in the form proposed by Marie Fucci and Legal Office head Paul Csiszar. Head of Pillar IV, Mr. Lambsdorff agreed to the changes, *Koha Ditore* reports.

USAID expert John Johnson (head of sales department) and Ahmet Shala will not have direct contact with KTA general director as they used to previously. Both of them have to go through the filter of the "executive director" to contact the general director. The paper further reports that the position of executive director is given to Henrik Villadsen (chief of staff in KTA).

On the other hand, the new organizational structure does not interfere in the competences of the POEs deputy-managing director Szabolcs Szekeres (the

Hungarian that recently took this position without the votes of any local Board members).

Different from him, SOEs deputy managing director will be responsible for agriculture policy and land issues, privatization of agriculture SOEs, will be consulted in relation to economic policies and Trepça.

In the meantime, the executive director will have all the competences related to the privatization of the SOEs. He will be responsible for three departments: regional KTA offices, assets department and sales department (the later was till now called 'privatisation department' and was lead by John Johnson), *Koha Ditore* reports.

Immediately after her arrival to Kosovo, Fucci came up with the idea for putting the enterprises for auction. So far KTA was not authorized to do and it seems that this will have to be included in the KTA operational policies.

The proposals for the new KTA organizational structure are not yet approved by the KTA Board and their implementation will require the changes in the operational policies, *Koha Ditore* reports.



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2 December

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Kosovo Media Highlights

Holkeri appeals for apology in Belgrade (*Dailies*)

Koha Ditore reports that SRSG Holkeri discussed operationalization of standards with Serbian officials. During his visit to Belgrade, Holkeri urged Serbs and Albanians to apologize to each other and to admit responsibility for the events that happened in the past.

‘Belgrade leaders have apologized last month to Bosnian citizens for all tragedies. The same thing, by taking responsibility for what has happened in Kosovo would largely reduce tensions in both Serbia and Kosovo,’ Holkeri was quoted as saying.

Postponement of plan on operationalization of standards (Koha Ditore)

According to its reliable sources, **Koha Ditore** reports that the plan for operationalization of standards has been postponed. The plan itself was planned to be published this week by SRSG Holkeri, but is postponed for December 10. The paper further reports that this decision coincides with SRSGs visit to Belgrade and his discussions with Serbian official Covic. According to the diplomatic reliable sources ‘the meeting was very tense.’ While some other sources claim that even December 10 is not definitive for announcement of the plan, paper concludes.

Zëri reports that Pristina ends working on the plan on operationalization of standards today. Government’s spokeswoman, Mimoza Kusari, said that plan would be published on December 10 when the Contact Group is expected to give its comments and suggestions.

Holkeri and Çeku discuss suspension of 12 KPC officers (Dailies)

Dailies report that KPC Commander General Agim Çeku and SRSG Holkeri discussed suspension of the KPC officers. **Koha Ditore** quotes Çeku as saying that ‘UNMIK has no reason to suspend 12 KPC members’. ‘In the meeting with Holkeri we did not achieve to take an abiding decision, another meeting will be held on Tuesday (today),’ he said.

Following the same issue **Zëri** quotes Çeku as saying that ‘if these measures are taken it would be unlawful, unjustified and unfounded. I personally and the KPC as a whole will not respect them.’

According to its reliable sources **Zëri** reports that SRSG Holkeri will ask Quint representatives in Pristina to support his measures regarding KPC officer suspension.

Daci: Delay of transfer of competencies compromises whole UN mission (Zëri)

Zëri reports that Kosovo assembly speaker Nexhat Daci returned from his visit to US. He harshly opposed UNMIK’s officials statements that international relevant factors would decide the time when the standards are matched. ‘My opinion is completely different. Internationals would decide after we offer our results and clarification,’ he said.

Questioned whether the assembly would respond positively to the government demand for declaring null and void the Serbian laws that were adopted after 22 March 1989, both papers *Zëri* and *Koha Ditore* quote Daci as saying, ‘There is no other alternative. I am analyzing this file since long time, but I haven’t made it public. The mission [UNMIK] that has the responsibility did not manage to do it, so the assembly will do it very soon.’

Brayshaw: I am seeing here the fulfillment of standards on Kosovo (dailies)

Dailies reports that Kosovo Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi, DSRSG Charles Brayshaw and head of the German office in Pristina Peter Rondorf paid visit to Istog municipality.

Zëri reports that in Suvi Lukovac/Llukavc të Thatë houses of Serbian minorities and Albanians were inaugurated. This is was a joint project between German and Kosovo government.

DSRSG Brayshaw called this project a ‘good gesture of cooperation between UNMIK and local leaders’, paper reports.

‘This is a cooperation that everybody in Kosovo wants and which is also in accordance with the standards that need to be matched by Kosovars,’ he said. Brayshaw confirmed that ‘we had an excellent working meeting between SRSG and Kosovar leaders in order to make these standards for Kosovo citizens and we are realizing that standards are being met.’

How UNMIK plans to continue privatization in Kosovo (Zëri)

Zëri carries proposals of UNMIK Pillar IV head, Nikolaus Lambsdorff, concerning continues of the privatization process.

According to the paper reliable diplomatic sources, there has been an additional discussion between the UNMIK legal office and Lambsdorff and his associates, concerning guidelines (instructions) that came from the UN legal office from New York. It seems that UNMIK legal office consider such instructions as a green light to carry on with the privatization process without major procedural changes, whereas Lambsdorff’s team has bigger concerns. They want to have more concisenesses in order to avoid unforeseen problem that might appear from the Serbian regime, which still claims that all SOE belong to them, paper reports.

The paper reports that UNMIK, UNMIK Pillar IV and the international administration as a whole have no dilemma that privatization is in full accordance with the UNSC Resolution 1244, while Belgrade has no right to oppose the privatization.

It is time to open the issue of the Kosovo armed forces (Zëri)

Zëri carries an editorial about possibilities of transforming the KPC into military force.

In the case of the Kosovo Protection Corps, Kosovo institutions and its citizens are very clear: KPC must be a nucleus of Kosovo military force. This is well known to all internationals, including UNMIK, KFOR and the diplomatic representatives.

Paper further writes that, according to the plan for operationalization of the standards KPC is considered by UNMIK as an emergency civil organization with limited mandate, which has little chances to become implemented because of lacking of funds.

Shala: The truth of problematic news (Zëri)

Zëri carries a front-page editorial by Blerim Shala who writes:

‘Investigations weren’t transparent even for the KPC members who were subject of the investigations. Procedural unclearness seems to be sort of the disagreements within the international administration concerning whether this process is legitimate.

Full transparency is necessary in order to prevent lots of speculation that might erupt in Kosovo.

Editorial: The Pro-Serb UNMIK (Kosova Sot)

In a front-page editorial Kosova Sot writes that Kosovans are that weak they cannot even change the old names set by an anti-democratic regime. An UNMIK higher official, Francesco [sic], does not allow changes to the names of places, and this is a typical pro-Serb act and does not serve peace and stability in the country. How could a village inhabited with Albanians bear a Serbian name? Recognizing the legitimacy of a discriminatory law implies that UNMIK is not unbiased in Kosovo.

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Koha Ditore

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- US troops killed 54 fighters of Saddam
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Holkeri addressed Belgrade conference on tolerance and integration (*Politika/Tanjug*)

Addressing the conference on tolerance and integration in Belgrade the SRSG Harri Holkeri assessed that the international community has been successful in establishing the process of tolerance and integration in Kosovo, but added that this process is far from being completed. Holkeri pointed out that an apology from the Belgrade authorities, similar to those already given to Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia, would contribute to better relations between ethnic communities in Kosovo. He also assessed that the situation for the ethnic minorities in Kosovo was still unacceptable, underlining that this has been the biggest problem for the international mission, which should make Kosovo a safe place for all its citizens. Holkeri assessed that in the process of tolerance building and integration it is unacceptable to refuse the reality that Kosovo is the protectorate of the international community, illustrating this with the refusal of the Serb ethnic community to accept UNMIK license plates and with the insistence of the K-Albanian local officials on putting the Albanian flag on the municipal buildings. "Serbs and Albanians have the chicken-and-egg problem. Serbs say - show us that you are treating us equally and let us participate, whereas

Albanians say - participate, give up on the parallel structures and then we shall think about giving you some public offices," assessed Holkeri. The Chief of UNMIK said that the Kosovo authorities on all levels have been actively working on returns and that seven million euros have been allotted for this purpose.

Holkeri: Belgrade's apology would help Kosovo (Balkan)

UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri has stated that when it comes to Kosovo there should be a public apology and acceptance of responsibility for what had happened. Last month, Belgrade leaders apologized for any "evil or misfortune" inflicted on the Bosnian people. The "mutual acceptance of responsibility" for the conflict in Kosovo would do much to alleviate tensions, Harri Holkeri told an international conference on toleration and integration held in Belgrade. Another obstacle to reconciliation, he said, was the exploitation of Kosovo as a nationalist card in Serbian politics. The UNMIK head has also called the Serb community to accept the reality that Kosovo is an international protectorate, and praised Kosovo Albanian leaders who had invited IDPs to return.

Robertson: NATO provides safety from Kosovo to Kabul (Balkan)

NATO Secretary General George Robertson has asked in Brussels that Atlantic partners "continue to help NATO countries that have the leading role in Iraq" and stressed that, for the new tasks, "the transformed NATO provides tangible security from Kosovo to Kabul." Opening the session of NATO's defense ministers, Robertson stressed that the troops of Atlantic allies "in the Balkans continue to keep peace while this region is directed towards the European home."

Concrete wall around Holkeri (Blic)

UNMIK and KFOR have erected a concrete wall along the premises of the former JNA building in Pristina, where the cabinet of the UNMIK head and the majority of the international administration are located, in order to frustrate the announcement and open threat by terrorist groups that it will blow up some of the more important premises of the peace mission. Along with the security measures, UNMIK headquarters are guarded by several dozen of UN police and KFOR special units with the use of armored vehicles, while the order on establishing permanent check points on the streets of Pristina where foreign representatives offices are located is in force. "The measures of stepped-up security and the erection of a concrete wall are a result of the attack on the mission headquarters in Baghdad and the situation in Iraq," UNMIK spokeswoman Izabela Karlowicz told journalists in Pristina, adding that all mission in the world had undertaken the same measures.

Keys handed over to returnees in Istok municipality (Politika)

The keys of 21 houses have been handed over to returnees in the village of Suvi Lukovac in the municipality of Istok. Upon their return from SaM, they have been temporarily sheltered in neighboring Osojane since September. The value of the project, which was financed by the German Foreign Ministry, amounts to 500.000 euros. In the presence of Deputy SRSB Charles Brayshaw, Kosovo Premier Bajram Rexhepi, Nenad Radosavljevic, in charge of returns in the cabinet of the UNMIK head, local authority representatives, as well as 40 family members, nine of who are

children, who had returned to Suvi Lukovac, the householders received the keys. The construction of another 40 houses will commence when the weather allows it next year.

Tracy Baker: Caution in Mitrovica as well (Danas/Fonet)

Following written threats to some international organizations in Pristina, we must be cautious in Kosovska Mitrovica as well, UNMIK police spokeswoman Tracy Baker stated. We count on threats, the policemen are acquainted, and that is why they are more cautious in patrols and pay more attention, she said. Baker said the police was reinforcefully securing UNMIK headquarters and the police station.

Covic: We will request annulment of Kosovo privatization (Danas/Beta)

The Head of the CCK Nebojsa Covic has announced the launching of the proposal for annulling past privatization of socially owned and state companies in the province. "As of today we are coming forward with a proposal to annul past contracts on privatization in Kosovo and Metohija. That text will be sent to all ministries and courts in charge," Covic said in talks with labor representatives from Leposavic and Lesak. After talks with Covic, the employees from these towns have ended the three-week blockade of the Mitrovica-Raska road, unsatisfied with the manner in which socially owned companies in Kosovo had been privatized.

Bomb in Mitrovica (Glas/Tanjug)

Unidentified individuals planted a bomb in the northern Mitrovica, in the vicinity of a power sub-station, some fifty meters away from a student dormitory in that town. UNMIK police has blocked that part of the town and the arrival of special units is awaited to defuse the bomb.

Zoran Zivkovic harshly criticized the West (Vecernje Novosti/Beta)

In an interview to the Berliner Zeitung, Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Zivkovic said that the EU's Javier Solana and NATO Secretary General George Robertson were right when they warned of the strengthening of nationalism in Serbia. "But part of the blame lies with the West and its rigid stance on accession to the EU or the Partnership for Peace," he added. With harsh words, Zivkovic also criticized the international community's policy towards Kosovo, stating that it was "not fulfilling a single bit of obligations stemming from UNSCR 1244." Pointing out that 2,500 Serbs and other non-Albanians have been killed in Kosovo over the past four years, Zivkovic assessed that the "biggest problem was that the Serbian government had no influence on the resolution of that problem" and that "Belgrade could only wait."

Rexhepi: Standards by 2005 (Glas/Beta)

Kosovo Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi said that he expected international standards for Kosovo to be met by mid-2005 and that discussion on the final status of the province would follow. Rexhepi said that he was optimistic because there was a plan for fulfilling the eight standards set by the international community.