

UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

► **Local Media**

► **Media Analysis**

18 November

Robertson: Kosovars will meet standards in time (all dailies)

All dailies carry reports from the visit by NATO Secretary General George Robertson to Kosovo. *Koha Ditore* quoted Robertson as saying, 'Kosovo will meet the standards according to the timeframe that was designated by the international community, while NATO will not rest until the creation of a multiethnic Kosovo. There is no reason why Kosovars cannot fulfill these standards. They are very intelligent. They are also very willing to talk and benefit from these talks. I have come here to give my support to Holkeri and he has my full trust'.

'Currently fulfillment of the standards is more important than discussions about the status. I believe that Kosovars will match benchmarks by 2005 because Kosovars can and must do that. Currently benchmarks are the priority. Immediate talks about the status do not warm houses, do not educate children,' he said.

Questioned what will happen if standards are met before the predicted time, Robertson highlighted that NATO doesn't decide on this issue.

Robertson also commented on the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. 'Technical talks must continue and Prime Minister Rexhepi gave me his word that his administration would support the working groups in dialogue with Belgrade,' he said.

Robertson met all Kosovar leaders in a joint meeting at the UNMIK building, after visiting a village with Prime Minister Rexhepi where Serbs IDPs had returned recently.

'I have known them since the beginning when I came here for the first time in June 1999, after we reversed Milosevic's ethnic cleansing. I hope they will carry on what we began. We wanted to end the idea of a clean ethnic state, an idea that came from Milosevic,' said Robertson while describing his meeting with Rugova, Rexhepi and Daci.

He clarified that the idea of an ethnically clean Kosovo is the same as that of Milosevic. 'We would be defeated, if Kosovo became ethnically clean,' said Robertson. He also demanded concrete steps from Kosovar politicians to end the

violence in Kosovo. 'Local leaders and politicians shouldn't just condemn the violence. They should work, they should visit communities and make sure that violence fully ceases,' he said.

'We will not stop until a multi-ethnic Kosovo is created...NATO troops will remain here,' Robertson firmly said.

'We aren't going from here. We are absolutely committed to Kosovo by providing a safe environment where a multi-ethnic democracy can bloom,' he said.

Robertson also said that in Belgrade he would send a message for the necessity of the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. At the same time he advised politicians to give up their ideas of new constitutional arrangements because the 'constitution cannot be eaten'.

'I will give the same message in Belgrade that there are a few technical issues, which should be resolved because they are important for the people here and also in Serbia rather than attempt to make constitutional changes. People are interested in heating, food and safe transport; they are interested in educating their children. You cannot eat the constitution,' Robertson concluded.

On the same issue, **Zëri** quoted Robertson as saying that 'if Serbia wants to have a future in Europe, the Serbian leaders must condemn extremism and the language of the extremists...I hope that nobody in Kosovo would use such radical language because it doesn't help anybody,' he added.

NATO's aim is to become unneeded in Kosovo, the paper further said. 'Our aim is to eliminate the need for our presence here. There are lots of places that are in need for our assistance. The optimal solution for Kosovo is not a KFOR brigade but people of Kosovo take responsibility for their security,' said Robertson.

Surroi: Toma Grobar's Serbia waits for New Year (Koha Ditore)

*'Serbia will go to new elections after six weeks: this time for parliament. On 28th December, the Election Day, Serbia isn't going to have a president because less than 50 percent of voters took part in the presidential elections. There is going to be no Parliament either because it was dissolved in order to pave the way for extraordinary elections,' writes publisher Veton Surroi in **Koha Ditore**.*

1. Tomislav Nikolic once used to be a director of the 'town cemetery', a public enterprise in Kragujevc, a town in Serbia, and I do not think his activities need further explanation. From that post, when Yugoslavia started to fall apart, he decided to enter politics. He joined the Radical Party of Serbia, led by Vojislav Seselj, who is one of the accused on war crimes charges in the Hague. His move shows a new trend in politics. Usually, fascism leads to cemeteries, even to mass graves, while with Nikolic, the opposite seems to have happened: from the graveyard he went to the strongest symbolic fascist party in Serbia. However, he could not get rid of his nickname Toma Grobari (Toma the gravedigger).

On Sunday, Nikolic again toyed with this symbolic. In the repeated presidential elections, he showed he could win the support of over 1.2 million voters or over 40 % of the votes cast that day. And if more than half of the constituents had taken part in the elections, something that did not happen, he would have become the new president of Serbia.

Thus Serbia would have taken a direction that was not seen in the West since the fall of Milosevic three years ago. The media presented the transitional period from October 2000, when Milosevic fell, to November of the same year as the end of the fascist period in Serbia and the beginning of democracy.

2. The Albanians understood the messages of the gravedigger when he and his boss delivered them. During the Croatian war, his boss said that he was going to pull the eyes of Croats with oxidized spoons and after some time dead killed Croats with their eyes gouged out were seen. (Later it was proved that they lost their eyes from automatic guns from the WW2). In the war in Bosnia, Nikolic's boss said the Muslims would be decapitated. Pictures of massacred Bosniaks were not rare. And before the war in Kosovo, Nikolic himself repeated the words of his boss that Albanians disloyal to the state of Serbia, would be expelled beyond 'Bjeshkët e Nemura' (Cursed Mountains) and we saw it happened for two years in a row.

Those who gave their votes to Nikolic could have read his words over the last 13 years and still they gave him the vote, assessing collectively that they agreed with his words or that his words did not bother them as much as the policy of the other parties that ousted Milosevic.

The truth is that the Albanians were not surprised by this result, I believe. And Western analysts should not be surprised either. Since their establishment as a party with the support of the Secret Serb Police, hardliners in Serbia have always had over 1 million votes.

3. Toma Grobari helped the Serb democracy on Sunday. He showed how difficult it's building it under the conditions that no other fascist society ever went through. The condition is for fascism to lose the war (or the wars as it is the case of Serbia) but for its actors to continue living in peace.

So, Nikolic's presence can serve as a lesson for the history. In a similar situation, Goebels too would win many votes in Germany or Count Chiano in Italy after the WWII, while Hitler was being tried in Nuremberg for example, or Mussolini in Padua.

Nikolic also contributed to the applying physics to politics. Like any moving body that cannot stop all at once and change direction, so does the Serb fascism; it cannot stop at once and move on to democracy.

In between these two movements, there are 1.2 million votes of Nikolic and hundreds of thousands of others given to Serb chauvinism.

And, in practice, the lack of a new way between these two movements was best seen in Kosovo. The Serb parallel institutions built by Milosevic while he was losing the war, continue to be present and efficient, now see as part of the new Serb democracy.

4. Serbia is expecting new elections in six months, this time to its parliament. On 28 December, the election day, it will have no president, since less than half of the electorate turned out on Sunday. There will be no parliament as it was dissolved to create conditions for early elections. And we cannot say there is a functioning government either since it consists of DOS, which has already fallen apart, with only its form in place, three years it ousted Milosevic.

The only consistent thing in Serbia is the presence of Toma Grobari and the half of the electorate that did not turn out for the elections. The message coming from Nikolic is that Serbia should formally approach the extreme right again and be as far away as possible from the West and from reconciliation with its neighbors. The message of those silent is that they are silent because they do not see an attractive alternative and it is a warning to the parties that do not identify with Serb fascism.

Serbia will wait in the New Year for Serbo-centrism, something we haven't seen since the last wars.

Shala: Triple benefiting (Zëri)

In a front-page editorial for Zëri, Blerim Shala wrote that in the past, different reasons have led to the point where the whole story behind standards before status was seen as something that was being imposed by UNMIK.

The forming of this impression among Albanian politicians and the local public opinion also came from the serious mistakes of the international community, from the clumsiness with which this concept was presented and the lack of willingness by UNMIK senior authorities to create genuine partnership with their Kosovar counterparts. But this now seems to be part of the past, and Albanian politicians should no longer deal with this issue. Albanian officials are now in different circumstances, and with a clear plan to fulfill the standards and with a clear timeframe for this concept (mid-2005), they have sufficient arguments that are clearly in favor of the standards and which eliminate the previous impression that they are being imposed by UNMIK.

Kosovo could benefit a lot, if in the next year and a half, Kosovar authorities managed to fulfill most of the eight standards of the international community. It is already known that in such a case Kosovo would have a much better position in the process of resolving Kosovo's status. Furthermore, the Kosovar society would be willing to enter the period of implementing the status.

If we put in a lot of work in the plan for the fulfillment of standards, we are going to be a step closer to achieving the quality of a society and a state that is a precondition for joining the European Union.

Agron Bajrami: Disneyland in Prishtina municipality (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carried an editorial by Agron Bajrami, who wrote:

The big shots in Pristina Municipality have decided that the territory under their administration has only one problem left before they can declare our city a heaven: two-three generators on Mother Teresa Street and a critical newspaper.

They have made a decision that results in the immediate removal of the abovementioned generators, including a generator belonging to *Koha Ditore*.

Certainly, the decision to clean the city from the noisy and pestering contaminants has nothing to do with the generators of the municipality, the Assembly, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth or with the generators of UNMIK and the EU... they don't mind them. According to the Municipality, the generator that belongs to *Koha Ditore* and another two generators are the only ones making noise, even when they are not working. They must be removed, eliminated. The municipality has decided: these are the last-standing criminals in Pristina.

In the meantime, the municipality's big shots don't even have the time to review the several months old request to place the generator in the backyard of the building. Or try and find another alternative. They don't care if you have electricity or not, or if you can publish the newspaper. In their opinion, it is even better if you don't publish; they would work in peace without a newspaper that messes around with everything.

With this, the Municipality has joined the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, which also perceives these three generators as the only remaining problem for Kosovo's fantastic environment.

In fact, the making of such a discriminatory decision, without any legal alternatives, logically leads us to the conclusion that the target is the newspaper and not the generator. The goal is to shut a mouth and not the rule of law.

I had a different plan in mind. I wanted to dedicate this column to Mickey Mouse, the most famous mouse in the world, who becomes 75 years old today, on 18th November 2003.

I wanted, at least this week, together with our readers to flee this place and enter the imaginary world of Walt Disney.

But the big shots of our municipality decided differently. They brought Disneyland to Pristina. They keep telling us to close our eyes and live an imaginary life. They tell us that Pristina's only remaining problem are two or three generators in the center, which are in the process of elimination...

The big shots of the Municipality are going to tell the world that everything is incredible in Pristina. Perfect. Everything is better, even better than in the movies.

When they get rid of the remaining generators, everything will be over. We are going to be better than Walt Disney, Mickey Mouse and Disneyland.

We will win an Oscar for the best-animated movie... Fantastic.

Confusion (Kosova Sot)

Kosova Sot carried an editorial on recent statements about the privatization process and whether this process is going to restart or not.

It is very difficult to know who is telling the truth and who is lying in Kosovo. SRSG Harri Holkeri said that he had brought good news and he had the support to restart the privatization process. However, the Minister of Economy and Finance Ali Sadriu and the Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Jakupi said that they did not understand if the privatization process is unblocked or not. What really happened? Will the privatization process restart or not? What is known is that there is no information when the purchase of the SOEs would restart. However, nobody is explaining why the latest purchases should be reviewed and why that was not taken into consideration before. The review process will only waste time and cover something that is unknown. Those leading the privatization process together with Harri Holkeri are playing a game of words rather than telling facts about the privatization process.

There is no explanation why Kosovar ministers are so confused and there is no information concerning the restart of the privatization process, which is blocked for 'legal reasons'. The blockage of the privatization process has deep roots: no one from UNMIK gives explanation and also nobody is transparent. Holkeri's return, apart from bringing the 'good news', has also created big confusion in Kosovo from which we do not know how to get out. The privatization process will carry on but there is no guarantee that it will not be blocked again and the same will not be repeated again. The international administration that oversees the entire process has lost the trust of the public because it always avoids the truth and also ignores local officials. If one minister says that he has no clue whether the privatization process is unblocked or not, then who should tell us what has really happened? If this process is failing, then history should be written as it was and shouldn't be kept hostage to statements.

The way UNMIK is managing the privatization process shows that this process was not properly overseen and assessed. It is the last time to consider the right option: the privatization process must completely be handed over to the Kosovars. At the end of the day this process is our responsibility. The internationals in this case should be just advisors, whose good advice should be listened to.

Serbian laws remain in force, privatization faces total blocking (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore claims that the week-long discussions among high ranking officials of UNMIK, EU and the KTA in New York brought nothing new to the process of privatization. 'In fact, the explanations that were made there could lead to the total blocking of the process,' *Koha Ditore* added.

The paper reported that Holkeri stated that the decision in New York was made to restart the process of privatization without making any changes in the KTA Regulation and the applicable law.

The paper's sources confirmed that the 'trio' from Kosovo did not manage to get UN 'clarifications' on prime issues: cancellation of three discriminatory Serbian laws, which seems to be the main obstacle for carrying on the privatization process.

Its sources further claimed that the UN had advised them not to touch the three Serbian laws, but instead continue with the privatization process to once again review the status of the enterprises that are due to be tendered, including the 25 enterprises that have been already been privatized.

Holkeri said that the KTA should change its operational policies as well as procedures and must review every single case. He added that the KTA should review all enterprises that were identified for privatization in the first, second and third round.

‘The changes in the KTA regulation, including applicable laws aren’t necessary,’ Holkeri was quoted as saying.

On the same issue, *Zëri* reported that two Kosovo ministers, both members of the KTA Board, Ali Sadriu and Ali Jakupi, have stated that they do not expect a positive turn in the privatization process. They also met with the KTA director Marie Fucci and the UNMIK head of the legal office Alexander Borg-Olivier.

‘Mrs. Fucci informed us about the meetings they had in New York; the information is positive, the process will carry on, but I have a few doubts about the way the process would continue,’ the Minister of Economy and Finance Ali Sadriu said.

‘I do not expect a positive turn to the privatization process,’ the Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Jakupi said. ‘It was a meeting that I hoped would bring good information. However, the information that Fucci and Borg-Olivier provided cannot trigger a positive turn to the privatization process. I believe that this process has entered a delicate phase,’ he said.

‘Discriminatory laws should be eliminated, if we want to carry on the privatization process,’ he added. ‘My personal view is that these laws shouldn’t be taken into consideration and we should bear in mind that the KTA is due to finish its mission in three years time,’ Sadriu said, while commenting on the of UNMIK legal office head Borg-Olivier on the applicability of the Serbian laws.

‘I consider that the privatization process is still blocked. According to my information, I do not understand how it has been unblocked but this is further complication of the entire process,’ Jakupi concluded.

PTK might ask for divorce from ‘Monaco Telecom’ (*Koha Ditore*)

Koha Ditore carries an article about the possibility of the Post & Telecom of Kosovo to ask for better solutions after the contract for the code ‘Vala 900’ has expired. Since 17 of November the enigma could have been solved with ‘Monaco Telecom’, which according to the article costs Kosovo around € 70 million

For the Post & Telecom of Kosovo the period of being hostage of a contract signed in 2000 has ended. Based on this contract, Monaco Telecom was to offer PTK a code for the mobile operator, while the PTK was to pay them a high percentage of the revenues. One of the unusual things about this contract was that it did not enter into

effect when 'Vala 900' started, but nine months later when the roaming was introduced. So, in reality the three-year contract lasted almost four years.

According to the contract, since 17 November PTK has got the possibility to start the process of divorcing with 'Monaco Telecom'. PTK officials are already consulting with Monaco.

The minister of Transport and Telecommunication, Zef Morina says that there are interested providers of services. 'There are sides that are interested in providing a code, even for free, starting from US to Europe', he says.

Sources from the newspaper have revealed that Telecom of Austria is a potential candidate. 'We have talked to them, but there is nothing concrete as yet', says minister Morina.

The director of Telecom in PTK, Bedri Rama, who has so far been harshly marginalized by the KTA for any decision, says that getting a code from other countries is not a solution, implying that Kosovo should have its own code.

Tomorrow there will be a meeting of PTK Monitoring Board, and this issue will be discussed. While KTA has not issued any information, though they've had questions on their table since the morning.

The paper quotes some informal sources as saying that a joint delegation of PTK and KTA is to travel to Monaco on Friday to continue the talks about the possible extension of the contract.

Ministry of Education accuses former heads of the National Library of stealing € 61.355 (Zëri)

The Minister of Education Rexhep Osmani said at a press conference that he was talking about the scandalous misuse of money, which was revealed after the investigation carried out by three commissions, which afterwards drafted a common report. While the former director of the Library, Mehmet Gërguri, in a short statement for Zëri called the accusations "unfounded".

According to these reports there have been false signatures, for doubling KEK and Central Heating bills, payrolls, etc.

The former director Gërguri admits that he has withdrawn money from the Micro Enterprise Bank (MeB) but there were documentation for that.

After the investigation, Minister Osmani says he will present the case to competent bodies of investigation, and promised that the financial matters of the Ministry will be transparent for the public.

UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

► Headlines

Main Stories

18 November

- **Robertson: Kosovars will meet standards in time** (*Koha Ditore*)
- **Robertson: Future lies in return of residents and multiethnic Kosovo** (*Koha*)
- **Holkeri receives support from Solana and EU on standards** (*Zëri*)
- **EU supports idea to evaluate fulfillment of standards in 2005** (*Koha Ditore*)
- **McShaine: We cannot wait another five years in Kosovo** (*Koha Ditore*)
- **Bush: Primary obligation for KFOR troops is to protect security** (*Zëri*)
- **Civiletti hands over decentralisation recommendation to Holkeri today** (*Zëri*)
- **Serbian laws remain in power, privatisation faces total blocking** (*Koha Ditore*)
- **Holkeri says privatisation unblocked, K-ministers claim the opposite!** (*Zëri*)
- **Editorial: Confusion** (*Kosova Sot*)
- **Shala: Triple benefiting** (*Zëri*)
- **Surroi: Toma Grobar's Serbia waits for New Year** (*Koha Ditore*)
- **Vlora Bërhati's killer has fled Dubrava Prison?** (*Epoka e Re*)

Kosovo Media Highlights

Robertson: Kosovars will meet standards in time (*all dailies*)

All dailies carry reports from the visit by NATO Secretary General George Robertson to Kosovo. *Koha Ditore* quotes Robertson as saying, 'Kosovo will meet the standards according to the timeframe that was designated by the international community, while NATO will not rest until the creation of a multiethnic Kosovo. There is no reason why Kosovars cannot fulfill these standards. They are very intelligent. They are also very willing to talk and benefit from these talks. I have come here to give my support to Holkeri and he has my full trust'.

Robertson also commented on the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. 'Technical talks must continue and Prime Minister Rexhepi gave me his word that his administration would support the working groups in dialogue with Belgrade,' he said.

Robertson: Future lies in return of residents and multiethnic Kosovo (*Koha*)

Koha Ditore carries a report from the visit that NATO SG Robertson paid to the village of Maxhunaj, near Vushtri, where 35 houses are being built for Serb returns. During his visit, Robertson was accompanied by COMKFOR Holger Kammerhoff, Prime Minister Rexhepi and other senior officials.

The paper quoted Robertson as saying, ‘The future lies in the return of residents and a multiethnic Kosovo’.

Holkeri receives support from Solana and EU on standards (Zëri)

Citing its sources, *Zëri* claims that the conclusion from the meeting that EU High Representative Javier Solana had with international envoys in the Balkans was that now was the right time to accelerate the pace in the fulfillment of standards, before moving on to the process of resolving Kosovo’s status in 2005.

EU supports idea to evaluate fulfillment of standards in 2005 (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that foreign ministers of the European Union have reiterated in their meeting in Brussels yesterday that dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade was the key standard in the policy of the international community in Kosovo, known as ‘standards before status’.

The EU Council welcomed SRSG Harri Holkeri’s initiative to determine more concrete guidelines for progress in the operationalization of standards.

McShaine: We cannot wait another five years in Kosovo (Koha Ditore)

Commenting on the initiatives to resolve the status of Kosovo, the British Minister for European Affairs Dennis McShaine was quoted as saying, ‘The international community has the right to expect Kosovars to take over more responsibilities for Kosovo, because the time for this has come’.

Bush: Primary obligation for KFOR troops is to protect security (Zëri)

Zëri runs a letter that US President George Bush has sent to the US Congress and the chairman of the US Senate about the situation in Kosovo.

‘Right now, 17 NATO countries are contributing with their staff in KFOR. The American contribution for KFOR in Kosovo is a military staff comprised by 2100 troops, or 11 percent of KFOR’s overall capacity,’ Bush wrote. ‘The primary obligation of KFOR forces in Kosovo is to protect security’.

Civiletti hands over decentralization recommendation to Holkeri today (Zëri)

Zëri reports that Carlo Civiletti, chief of the Council of Europe Decentralization Mission, will hand over the recommendations for decentralization to UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri today. The handover will reportedly take place in the building of the municipal assembly in Pristina. According to the final recommendations, Kosovo would be divided into 180 sub-municipal units.

Serbian laws remain in power, privatization faces total blocking (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore claims that one-week discussions of high-ranking officials of UNMIK, EU and KTA in New York didn’t bring anything new for the process of privatization. ‘In fact, the explanations that were made there could lead to the total blocking of the process,’ *Koha Ditore* added.

The paper reports that Holkeri stated that the decision was made in New York to restart the process of privatization without making any changes in the KTA Regulation and the applicable law. [*extensive coverage in afternoon Media Analysis*]

Holkeri says privatization unblocked, K-ministers claim the opposite! (Zëri)

On the issue of privatization, *Zëri* quotes Holkeri as saying, ‘An agreement has been reached to restart the process of privatization in Kosovo, on the legal basis of existing regulations’. The paper however claims that the ministers of the Kosovo Government, Ali Sadriu and Ali Jakupi didn’t share Holkeri’s opinion. Based on information they received from KTA officials and UNMIK’s Legal Office, the two ministers claim that the process of privatization has been further complicated and that ‘it is now open to all discriminatory laws from Milosevic’s tenure’.

Editorial: Confusion (Kosova Sot)

Kosova Sot carried an opinion piece by the editorial office on the ambiguities surrounding the process of privatization. ‘It has become difficult to tell who is lying and who is telling the truth in Kosovo. Kosovo chief administrator Harri Holkeri claims that he has brought good news and that he has received full support to unblock the process of privatization. But the two ministers, Sadriu and Jakupi claim that they couldn’t understand whether or not the process has been unblocked’. [*full translation in Media Analysis*]

Shala: Triple benefiting (Zëri)

In a front-page editorial for *Zëri*, Blerim Shala writes that in the past, different reasons have led to the point where the whole story behind standards before status was seen as something that was being imposed by UNMIK.

‘The forming of this impression among Albanian politicians and the local public opinion also came from the serious mistakes of the international community, from the clumsiness with which this concept was presented and the lack of willingness by UNMIK senior authorities to create genuine partnership with their Kosovar counterparts. But this now seems to be part of the past, and Albanian politicians should no longer deal with this issue... If we put in a lot of work in the plan for the fulfillment of standards, we are going to be a step closer to achieving the quality of a society and a state that is a precondition to join the European Union,’ added Shala.

Surroi: Toma Grobar’s Serbia waits for New Year (Koha Ditore)

‘Serbia will go out to new elections after six weeks; this time along for parliamentary elections. On the 28th December, on Election Day, Serbia isn’t going to have a president, because less than 50 percent of voters took part in the presidential elections. There is going to be no Parliament either, because it was dissolved in order to pave way for extraordinary elections,’ writes publisher Veton Surroi in *Koha Ditore*.

Vlora Bërbati’s killer has fled Dubrava Prison? (Epoka e Re)

Epoka e Re quotes unconfirmed sources as saying that the Egyptian policeman Sherif Aziz, who was charged with murdering Vlora Bërbati has fled the hospital in Dubrava Prison and went back to Egypt. The paper also reports that neither UNMIK Police nor the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) were willing to comment on the case.

Kosovo Press Headlines

Koha Ditore

Front page

- **Robertson: Kosovars will meet standards in time**
- **Serbian laws remain valid, privatisation process before full blockade**
- **Surroi: Serbia of Toma Grobar expects New Year**
- **US: AKSH isn't terrorist organization, but group of criminals and extremists**
- **EU supports idea for evaluation of benchmarks by 2005**

Other headlines

- **McShaine: We cannot wait another five years (2)**
- **Trial against Milosevic brings Wesley Clark to the ICTY (2)**
- **Kosovo's future lies in return of IDPs and multi-ethnicity (3)**
- **Macedonian assembly appoints its leadership (4)**
- **KEK ignores collection of money on RTK behalf (4)**
- **PTK can ask for divorce from Monaco Telecom (5)**
- **Trader policies and export in Kosovo (5)**
- **New forests in Dushkaje, Has and Reke (5)**
- **Scandal in National Library costs €61,000 (6)**
- **Pristina will have its strategic development plan (6)**
- **Verbal conflict between two Serbian families, reason for killing (7)**
- **Lack of judges and parallel structures impedes works of the court (8)**
- **Kaçanik court still working with one judge (8)**
- **Taking decision by ignoring UNMIK administration (8)**
- **Debate on development of civil society (9)**
- **Bajrami: Disneyland in Pristina municipality (10)**
- **Hysa: Arithmetic policy of the Serbian votes in Kosovo (11)**
- **Kosovo prepares for its refugees (11)**

Zëri

Front page

- **Holkeri says privatisation unblocked, K-ministers claim the opposite!**
- **Robertson: Kosovo will meet standards**
- **Powell: US should carry on its mission in Iraq and Afghanistan**
- **Shala: Triple benefits**
- **Bush: KFOR prime obligation is to maintain safe environment**
- **EU: match standards if you want to discuss about status**
- **Is PTK forced to continue contract with Monaco Telecom?**
- **Ministry of Education accuses National Library leadership for mismanagement of €61,355**

Other headlines

- **Standards aren't only for Kosovars, entire world is matching standards (2)**
- **Kosovars ministers believe that privatization process is complicated (3)**
- **Civiletti hands decentralization plan to Holkeri (3)**

- **Holkeri gets support of Solana and EU concerning standards (3)**
- **Thaçi: I sincerely want to return refugees to their homes (4)**
- **Powell and EU discuss about Balkans (4)**
- **PM Rexhepi meets head of the General Auditor Office (4)**
- **Kostunica meets with US head office in Pristina (4)**
- **UNHCR condemns incident in Mushtisht (4)**
- **US State Department: AKSH is not terrorist organization but extremist and criminal group (5)**
- **KKSHA [Albanian lobby in US] committed to integration of Kosovo in the Euro Atlantic structures (6)**
- **Riinvest organizes roundtable on trade policy and export (6)**
- **New tax inspectors swear (6)**
- **Strikers do not give up, nobody offers solution (6)**
- **Osmani: Ministry of Education will not allow violation of law by private schools (7)**
- **Tomas Polseli is arrested (7)**
- **Pal: Administration of public property is UNMIK's responsibility (8)**
- **Melting the ice between UNMIK and municipal leadership (8)**

Bota Sot

Front page

- **Optimal solution for Kosovo – people should take responsibility for their country**
- **Gregory Johnson visits Kosovo**
- **Wesley Clark will testify against Milosevic**
- **Kosovo in the EU's focus**
- **Albanians and Macedonians have different assessment**
- **Holkeri: privatization process will carry on**
- **Italian citizen Tomas Polsel suspect for drugs**

Other headlines

- **EU to lead recognition of independence (2)**
- **AAK brides and boys in RTK (4)**
- **Pristina will have its development plan by spring (4)**
- **Strikers still wait for concrete offer of international and local institutions (4)**
- **Riinvest is focused in trade policies and promotion of export (5)**
- **Over 3600 Albanians were executed during the period 1944-1945 (6)**
- **Protection of witnesses (6)**
- **Fake signatures damaged National Library (7)**
- **Transparency in the procurement procedures (7)**
- **Minister of Economy Sadriu has warns about privatization process (7)**
- **UN must remain in Kosovo even after its independence declaration, in order to assist Kosovo's consolidation (8)**
- **Baleta: Agriculture reform in Albania (9)**
- **Albanian language will be used in assembly sessions [Macedonia] (10)**

Kosova Sot

Front page

- **EU: Kosovo status in 2005**
- **Editorial: Confusion**
- **Clark testifies against Milosevic**
- **Premature decentralization endangers Kosovo**
- **Robertson: Kosovars are intelligent enough to fulfill standards**
- **Holkeri: Privatization is unblocked**
- **Desperation, the enemy of the suicide killers**
- **Thaçi: We welcome return of refugees**
- **Former director of National Library accused of stealing € 61.355**

Other headlines

- **Ministers Jakupi and Sadriu do not know what is happening with privatization (2)**
- **90 inspectors in the Tax Administration take the oath (4)**
- **Viti officials accuse Serb circles of politicizing the killings (4)**
- **Kosovar ministers do not fear standards (5)**
- **Their health situation has badly worsened (6)**
- **Mufti Tërnavë received the deputy administrator Brayshaw (6)**
- **Gjilani infrastructure at the top list, with 52 implemented projects (6)**
- **The 6th Assembly the Albanian Teachers League held in Sweden (6)**
- **The ministry enforces measures for controlling drugs (7)**
- **Minister Sadriu pessimistic about the unblocking of privatization (8)**
- **Jakupi: Pressure from Serbia pushed us out of the game again (8)**
- **OXFAM: Government should undertake better strategies for agriculture (8)**

Epoka e Re

Front page

- **Robertson: NATO was not at war with Yugoslavia!**
- **Killer of Vlora Berbatli fled from Dubrava prison?**
- **European Parliament report: independence or inclusive autonomy**
- **Thaçi's idea and Americans**
- **Qosja: Albania is fed up with its leaders**
- **Xhemajli: This is what elections in Serbia showed**
- **How can somebody who does not exist be killed?**
- **Kingdom of chaos, students are not to blame**

Other headlines

- **Holkeri: Status in 2005 (3)**
- **Thaçi: Other governments to follow the example of US Government and Kosovo (4)**
- **Former directorate of National Library accused of stealing over € 61.000 (5)**
- **Former 'liberation' day of Peja declared a mourning day (5)**
- **Two Serb KPS accused of receiving bribes (5)**
- **Vulaj: Kosovo not only to be independent, but to integrate in Europe, too (5)**

- **Reuters: Chauvinist counter-response shakes Serb reformers (6)**
- **AKSH is not a terrorist organization, says Washington (7)**
- **Families of the missing ask for justice (8)**
- **Germans help drafting of the Pristina urban plan (8)**

Belgrade Media Highlights

- **Harri Holkeri on privatization in Kosovo and Metohija (*Vecernje Novosti*)**
- **Robertson in Kosovo and Metohija (*Politika*)**
- **EU ministers support Belgrade-Pristina dialogue (*Danas/Beta*)**
- **Oliver Ivanovic: Murderers urgently to be found (*Vecernje Novosti/Tanjug*)**
- **Serbian power in Serbian municipalities (*Vecernje Novosti*)**
- **Personal stand by Father Sava Janjic (*Danas*)**
- **Book about Kosovo (*Glas/Beta*)**
- **Igor Ivanov on events of 1999 (*Politika/Tanjug*)**

Harri Holkeri on privatization in Kosovo and Metohija (*Vecernje Novosti*)

UNMIK Head Harri Holkeri has stated upon his return from New York that an agreement had been reached on repeating the privatization process in Kosovo and Metohija, “within the regulations that exist in the present legislature,” UNMIK announced. Holkeri told journalists at the Pristina airport that he spoke in New York with the Undersecretary for peace missions Marie Gwen, and the advisor for legal issues Hans Corel, adding that agreement was reached regarding the control of privatization in Kosovo and Metohija. It is stated in UNMIK’s announcement that Holkeri said the meeting confirmed that the Agency for privatization in Kosovo should revise all privatization cases.

Robertson in Kosovo and Metohija (*Politika*)

Within the farewell tour on the eve of the expiration of the four-year mandate, NATO Secretary-General George Robertson paid a one-day visit to Kosovo and Metohija. In the presence of KFOR Commander Holger Kammerhof, as well as representatives of Kosovo provisional institutions, Rexhepi and Todorovic, he visited the once mixed Serb-Albanian village of Novo Selo-Madjunsko. Addressing journalists, Robertson said “there must be more such projects, while leaders cannot only wave with papers.” “Once there are more such projects, I will be satisfied,” said Robertson in a short address to journalists, but also to the present Serbs who came to visit their homes.

EU ministers support Belgrade-Pristina dialogue (*Danas/Beta*)

EU ministers have supported in Brussels the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue. Negotiations on the province’s final status are scheduled to begin in mid-2005. The Council of Ministers is expected to decide on whether they should be brought forward if the standards set by the EU are reached before that date. The ministers also assessed that the “standards before status” policy was based on UNSCR 1244.

Oliver Ivanovic: Murderers urgently to be found (*Vecernje Novosti/Tanjug*)

Kosovo Assembly Presidency member Oliver Ivanovic has said the UNMIK police must launch a timely and efficient action and find the murderers of Danijel Milosevic, 18, of Kosovska Vitina.

Talk about the possible identities of the killers is raising tensions in Kosovo UNMIK police action must not be rash, as it was in the recent case involving the arrest of Vladimir Jovanovic, detained for the alleged murder of UNMIK policeman Satish Menon in northern Kosovo and subsequently released.

Serbian power in Serbian municipalities (*Vecernje Novosti*)

The announcement of possible decentralization in Kosovo and Metohija provokes different comments, both among the majority Albanian community and inside the minority communities. One thing is for sure now: UNMIK proposed to the CoE such a possibility “as one of the most just solutions.” While the Albanians consider that “all rights” belong to them, Serb representatives are of the opinion that precisely those “all rights” are taking away from them the conditions for a normal and safe life. CoE representatives have talked with us in Pristina, and heard our proposals in separate meetings. We asked them for a type of decentralization and so much autonomy so that nobody could outvote us, and that the municipal administration could not be used anymore as an instrument of additional pressure on our community. Thus, competencies would fall down to lower levels. Municipalities would be reorganized, so there would be around 60, instead of the present 30 in Kosovo and Metohija, Kosovo Assembly Presidency member Oliver Ivanovic told *Novosti*. Serbs favor the forming of new municipalities, while Albanians oppose this. They are firm in their stand, as they had brought forward in talks with CoE representatives, that Serbs should be given “a bit more freedom.” But they are against the forming of a “self-administration on ethnic grounds.”

Personal stand by Father Sava Janjic (*Danas*)

The recent statement by the Chairman of the Helsinki Committee in Serbia Sonja Biserko at the public debate “Kosovo: Standards and Status” that “Belgrade is faced with the choice between Kosovo and the EU” represents the several times repeated untrue and politically biased assertion that was announced in a “well-intentioned” manner by George Soros this summer, and then repeated by Richard Holbrook and Bernard Kouchner during the recent visit to Belgrade. Since then, initiated by their financiers and political mentors, numerous NGO representatives have been repeating this thesis like parrots, whose goal is the creation of an atmosphere that would enable disintegration of SaM, and later on the breaking of the territory of the Republic of Serbia itself. Basically, at issue is a total replacement of thesis – it is precisely with the territorial disintegration that Serbia is losing the possibility to affirm itself as a sovereign European state and future EU member. Mrs. Biserko, as well as some other participants of this public debate who represented similar stands and who have been for years dealing with human rights issues and democratization of society, have been persistently ignoring for full four years the suffering of the Serb, Romany and other non-Albanian people in Kosovo and Metohija, at the same time advocating the creation of an independent and ethnically clean Albanian state, knowing very well that nobody except for the Kosovo Albanians themselves will be able to live in such a creation. The Serbian Orthodox Church, therefore, strongly supports not only the preservation of the state union of SaM in its present international borders, but also the broadest autonomy of Kosovo and Metohija within Serbia, which would also enable

the Albanian people to more easily reach, together with other national communities, the necessary economic, cultural and safety standards necessary for entering Europe.

Book about Kosovo (Glas/Beta)

The book entitled “Challenge” by the former Russian special representative to Yugoslavia Viktor Chernomyrdin, devoted to the Kosovo crisis in 1999 and Russia’s role, has been presented in Moscow. Chernomyrdin said that the events in Iraq had initiated him to write the memoirs, and added that NATO and the US did not get any messages from the war in Yugoslavia although, he assessed, they were perfectly similar to the events in Kosovo.

Igor Ivanov on events of 1999 (Politika/Tanjug)

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has stated that the “then NATO leadership” bears the responsibility for the war in Kosovo in 1999, and at the same time added “the Yugoslav leadership had not done everything in its power.” Speaking at the presentation of the book by Viktor Chernomyrdin “Challenge,” Ivanov categorically rejected the assertions by those who considered that Russia “deceived Belgrade,” Itar-TASS reports. “Such an estimate is unacceptable if one knows what kind of efforts Moscow invested before the war broke out, because the crisis in Kosovo commenced earlier,” said Ivanov.