

**Kosovo Press Headlines 24 October 2011**

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**Northern Serbs don’t agree with Tadic, barricades remain (*dailies*)**

***Koha Ditore*** reports on the front page that no agreement to remove roadblocks was reached at the meeting between Serbian President Boris Tadic and the representatives of parallel municipalities in northern Kosovo on Sunday.

Slavisa Ristic, so-called mayor of the municipality of Zubin Potok, told reporters that nothing had changed after the meeting with Tadic and that barricades would remain. “I cannot say that we are close to a solution after today’s meeting,” Ristic said.

Ristic said Tadic insisted that EULEX and KFOR must be allowed passage to the north under the condition that they don’t transport Kosovo customs officers. But the condition of representatives of four northern municipalities was that EULEX should not deploy customs officers, no additional institutions in northern Kosovo and not to act in accordance with the Ahtisaari Plan.

Under the front-page headline ***They don’t obey Tadic***, ***Express*** reports that structures which Tadic himself established are now not listening to him. In a similar tone, ***Zëri*** reports on the front page that northern Serbs are not hearing Tadic’s calls.

***Koha Ditore*** reports that Serbs have built another barricade near Bërnjak and that KFOR has failed to extend the security net.

***Epoka e Re*** reports that KFOR soldiers were on break on Sunday too, as they failed to launch any action for removing roadblocks in northern Kosovo.

**Fule: The north is part of Kosovo (*dailies*)**

In an interview for Belgrade-based ***Politika*** newspaper, EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fule said the northern part of Kosovo does not belong to Serbia. “The region north of the River Iber is part of Kosovo even according to international law,” Fule was quoted as saying.

“The European Commission has recommended the start of integration talks with Serbia, as soon as there is sufficient progress in relation to Kosovo. We made it clear what this means: the principle of reciprocity, pragmatic solutions for sectors such as energy, telecommunications and the mutual recognition of diplomas.”

Fule also said that the establishment of law and order in the north should be the same as in other parts of Kosovo.

**Gorani: My idea was misunderstood (*Epoka e Re*)**

In a front-page interview for ***Epoka e Re***, Dukagjin Gorani, advisor to Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi, said his idea for a government ministry for northern Kosovo was misunderstood by the opposition, civil society and some media. “In my opinion, one of the institutional possibilities for the north could be the creation of a specific ministry. I hope that by believing so I did not violate any principle of the great national cause, which on that day seemed to have become a private property of people from the opposition, civil society and some media,” Gorani is quoted as saying on the front page.

During the interview, Gorani also said that a ministry for the north would facilitate the work of Kosovo institutions in the north and would end Serb dilemmas vis-à-vis the legitimate state institutions.

“It [the ministry] could facilitate the coordination of development-economic projects and advance communication with the legitimate representatives of Serbs and Albanians living in the north,” Gorani said. He also added that he has discussed the idea with Prime Minister Thaçi and international representatives.

**No date yet (*Express*)**

***Express*** reports on the front page that the EU facilitator of talks between Pristina and Belgrade, Robert Cooper, does not know when dialogue between the two parties will resume. The paper notes that Cooper’s staff is continuing to pressure the Serbian delegation to return to the table of talks in Brussels, but to no avail.

In an interview for the paper, Serbia’s chief negotiator Borislav Stefanovic said dialogue will resume when a solution is found for the northern part of Kosovo. “As soon we determine the framework of the solution for the problem of the north, we will be able to resume dialogue with Pristina,” Stefanovic was quoted as saying.

**Fajon: Kosovo without visas in two years (*dailies*)**

In an interview for Novi Sad-based ***Dnevnik*** daily newspaper, Tanja Fajon, the European Parliament Rapporteur on visa liberalization, said Kosovo has to wait at least two years for visa liberalization. “It will take two years for Kosovo to benefit from the visa-free travel regime in EU member states. Pristina is required to meet the technical conditions,” Fajon added.

**Daci: Clans and gangs in institutions (*Epoka e Re*)**

***Epoka e Re*** reports that Nexhat Daci, leader of the Democratic League of Dardania (LDD), criticized on Sunday the Government, the Assembly and opposition parties for failing to join forces for the good of Kosovo. Daci argued that there was never a worse situation between Albanians in state institutions. “The Kosovo Assembly today includes representatives of different intelligence services, who manipulated the latest elections and painted a bad image of Kosovo. The institutions now include a structure who is not interested in the people but only in the interests of certain clans and gangs,” Daci said during a party meeting in Ferizaj. Daci also criticized the government and the opposition for not having a joint approach on the north, unemployment, education and healthcare.

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