

Prishtina Insight

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Prishtina Insight's World Cup Special

With just days before the greatest show on earth kicks off in South Africa, Prishtina Insight brings you a four-page special section, including a World Cup chart of all the games, analysis on the teams to watch and the latest news on the football tournament.



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Leaked EULEX Memo Slams PM's 'Blunt Political Interference' in Judiciary

Prishtina Insight can reveal how a leaked EULEX memo criticised Prime Minister Hashim Thaci for his interference in an ongoing war crimes trial

By Lawrence Marzouk

A leaked EULEX memo to its head of mission, Yves de Kermabon, criticises Kosovo Prime Minister, Hashim Thaci, for 'blunt political interference' in the judicial process.

The confidential document, which was for 'EU eyes only' and circulated to high-ranking EULEX officials last August, sets out EULEX's responses to Kosovo politicians meddling in the independence of rule-of-law institutions.

The 'Decision Memorandum' fingers Kosovo's Prime Minister Thaci's comments during a government session that three defendants in an EULEX war crimes retrial - Rrustem Mustafa, member of the Kosovo parliament, Latif Gashi and Nazif Mehmeti -

were innocent. They were found guilty of the charges in October 2009.

Thaci's comments were described as the 'most prominent' example in a number of cases of political interference in the judiciary.

The memo, written by Thomas Busch, of the Office of the Deputy Head of Mission, suggests that Kosovo rule-of-law institutions are "culturally and/or mentally not acquainted to the concept of independence of their services".

"EULEX certainly has a role here of leading by good example, thus gradually changing the culture/mentality."

The memo goes on to explain that Kosovo institutions may currently be unable to react to political interference appropriately because this could "expose them

too radically to their local politicians and thus [open] the door for intimidation/vulnerability".

In response to the problem, EULEX agreed to take a 'leading role' in pushing for a change in the mentality and criticising political interference.

Options for action include public announcements by the Head of Mission or the Deputy Head of Mission EULEX's "opposition to political interference and its intention to draw attention to any such breaches". EULEX also agreed to issue press statements in support of independent institutions in response to any senior-level attempt to interfere in the judicial process and report all incidents to Brussels.

Since the decision, which was signed by high-ranking officials including chief prosecutor, president of the assembly of judges

and deputy chief of staff, EULEX has frequently issued statements underlining the independence of judiciary.

Its strongest-worded statement was in October 2009 in response to the public announcement by the local judge on the three-man panel that he had voted against the guilty verdict of Rrustem Mustafa, Latif Gashi and Nazif Mehmeti.

The press statement, dated October 3, read: "EULEX would like to underline that the verdict issued yesterday in the District Court of Pristina, by a mixed panel composed of a Kosovo judge and two EULEX judges, is based on the principles of the independence of the judiciary and every individual's equal treatment before the law."

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Jessen-Petersen: 'I was stopped from Investigating Corruption'

Soren Jessen-Petersen headed UNMIK from August 2004 to July 2006. In an interview with BIRN he reveals his regrets at his failure to tackle rule of law issues in Kosovo and tells how corruption investigation into political leaders...

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Arkan's Bloodstained 'Tigers' Escape Punishment

More than 18 years since the so-called Tigers, a Serbian paramilitary group, entered the town of Bijeljina in northeast Bosnia, killing most who came in their way, no member of the unit has faced trial for war crimes...

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Arkan's Bloodstained 'Tigers' Escape Punishment

No indictments appear in sight for any former members of the feared Serbian paramilitary unit that left carnage and death in its wake as it rampaged and looted through Croatia and Bosnia.



By Nidzara Ahmetasevic

More than 18 years since the so-called Tigers, a Serbian paramilitary group, entered the town of Bijeljina in northeast Bosnia, killing most who came in their way, no member of the unit has faced trial for war crimes.

To this day, people from Bijeljina do not want to talk about the men once commanded by the late Zeljko Raznatovic "Arkan", who died in Belgrade in 2000. They do say that some former Tigers are still living in the area, however, and have bought impunity for themselves with their ill-gotten wealth.

In 1999, the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, indicted Arkan for war crimes, but only for crimes committed in 1995 in the Sanski Most area of northwest Bosnia.

That indictment listed 78 names of victims, but only one indictee. The prosecutor who led the investigation, Clint Williamson, claimed they could not identify other members of Arkan's unit because they wore masks in action.

However, testimonies by some ICTY prosecution witnesses in different cases have suggested that the unit acted on behalf and was paid by the state and could possibly provide some evidence.

From Croatia to Bosnia to Kosovo

According to The Hague prosecution, the unit was formed in 1990 as the Serbian Volunteer Guard on the eve of the war in Croatia. In 1991 they fought in Eastern Slavonia, establishing their headquarters and training centre in the border village of Erdut. In spring 1992, at the beginning of the war in Bosnia, they moved into that republic, fighting alongside Bosnian Serb forces in Zvornik, in eastern Bosnia, and in Bijeljina, where the indictment claims that the Tigers "actively participated in operations in order to secure Serb control over these towns".

An American photojournalist, Ron Haviv, took some notorious photographs of the Tigers in action in Bijeljina in March 1992. Published in Time magazine, they showed masked and uniformed paramilitaries parading over the bodies of the dead civilians they

had killed in the streets.

Media in Serbia and NGOs reported that the Serbian authorities under Slobodan Milosevic used to send men who had run away from military service to Erdut.

There, the Tigers would beat and humiliate them before sending them off to the front lines.

"While we were hiding from the army, the biggest fear was to be caught and delivered to Arkan's people," a former deserter from the Bosnian Serb army recalled to Prishtina Insight. "They kept deserters in kennels in Erdut and made them bark," he added.

According to the 1999 indictment, the Tigers returned to Bosnia in 1995, establishing their headquarters in Sanski Most, where they set up checkpoints and patrols, mainly "in order to identify and detain Muslim and other non-Serb men, extort valuables...and obtain non-Serb homes for use by Serb refugees."

The Bosnian war was not the end of the Tigers' active service. Arkan's men went to Kosovo in 1999.

Borislav Prelevic, a former Tiger commander, now a politician, told Serbian state television that they went to "defend Kosovo".

"We investigated Arkan's Tigers activities for a long time and gathered solid evidence for Sanski Most," Clint Williamson, a former prosecutor at the ICTY told Prishtina Insight. "We planned to go on with the investigations for Zvornik, Bijeljina, Vukovar, but then he [Arkan] got killed."

Arkan died in a shootout in Belgrade in 2000. Williamson left office in 2001.

The secret service connection

Williamson said they did not find it easy to identify the other members of the unit. "They often wore masks and we just could not find witnesses to identify any of them," he said.

Dejan Anastasijevic, a Belgrade journalist, agreed. He told Prishtina Insight it was hard to establish the precise membership of the Tigers also because the unit was fluid in its composition.

"It was a conglomerate of elements: Arkan's friends who were criminals like him and who he joined to the unit; the secret services... and politics; Arkan had a political party represented in parliament," Anastasijevic

explained.

As an example, Anastasijevic recalled the career of Milorad Lukovic "Legija". A well-known criminal, he became part of the Tigers before later commanding the Special Operations Unit of the Serbian secret service. He is currently serving a 40-year prison sentence for the 2003 assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic.

Arkan officially left Yugoslavia at the beginning of the 1970s. Years later, it was revealed that he was sent abroad by the Yugoslav secret service to execute the regime's political enemies.

During that time, he started developing his criminal underground network all over Europe. He was arrested several times, spent time in foreign prisons and returned to Serbia just before the war broke out. There, he took over the fan club Delije of Crvena Zvezda (Red Star) football club.

"We know that some of the unit members were football fans," Williamson said.

Williamson said it had also been hard to uncover evidence about who financed the Tigers, but it was clear there were close links to Serbia's state security and to the "key man", Radovan Stojcic "Badza". A high ranking state security officer during the wars in Bosnia and Croatia, he was killed in 1997 in Belgrade.

The investigations into Serbia's state security did not stop with Arkan's death and resulted in an indictment being issued in 2003 against two former secret service chiefs, Jovica Stanisic and Franko Simatovic.

In April 1991, according to the indictment, Stanisic and Simatovic established a training centre near Knin, Croatia, that was later on "supplied, financed, supported and directed" by Serbia's secret service.

Several groups were established by Serbian secret services "for the purpose of undertaking special military actions" in Croatia and Bosnia," the indictment said. "These units included groups, or members of groups, known by the following names: Special Purpose Unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Serbia, JAID, Unit for Antiterrorist Activities, and JSO, Unit for Special Operations, both also known as Red Berets, Scorpions, Serbian Volunteer Guard also known as Arkan's Men and the elite SDG unit known as Arkan's Tigers."

Another insider talked about



Radovan Karadzic, a former Bosnian Serb politician and war crimes suspect, with Arkan.

Tigers during the trial of Slobodan Milosevic, Serbian president during the wars in the 1990s, who died while on trial in 2006. This witness, described only as witness B129, said that around 200 of Arkan's men were deployed around Banja Luka in 1995. He said the unit was paid from Belgrade for their services with "between 3 and 4 million German marks" for that operation.

No indictments in sight

Williamson said he was not surprised that no indictment for war crimes had been issued against Arkan's men and that one reason could be problems of identification.

But some are well known publicly, like Prelevic, who was a member of Serbia's parliament in the front of the Party of Serbian Unit, established in 1993 by Arkan, and who recently transferred to the Serbian Progressive Party.

At the beginning of the year, Serbia's war crimes prosecution office initiated an investigation into him, but it was soon abandoned.

In public statement, the prosecution said there were not enough elements to establish Prelevic's role in war crimes committed in Bosnia or Croatia.

Talking to Prishtina Insight, Prelevic denied that anybody from Arkan's unit was either

present where crimes were committed, or took part in crimes.

"I knew Arkan very well... and I am sure that never happened," he said. Prelevic said he had joined the Tigers because of "what happened to the Serbs in Jasenovac", alluding to the Croatian Fascist concentration camp in which tens of thousands of Serbs and Jews were killed in the 1940s.

"I was born and raised in Kosovo and the history of the Serbs is in some way a hobby for me," Prelevic added. "I'm very proud I was a member of such a unit," he concluded.

Anastasijevic believes many former Tigers finished like Arkan himself did, killed in the late 1990s and early 2000s, while others have become politicians.

Meanwhile the Cantonal prosecution in Tuzla, under whose responsibility the Bijeljina area comes, is still investigating crimes committed by units that came to Bosnia from Serbia. Dragan Radovanovic, deputy prosecutor in Tuzla, warned against the likelihood of indictments being issued.

Boris Grubestic, spokesperson for the state prosecution in Sarajevo, confirmed that since 2005 an investigation has been ongoing into Vojkan Djurkovic from Bijeljina, who was allegedly a member of Arkan's Unit. But for now, he remains free, as do all the others.



Leaked EULEX Memo Slams PM's 'Blunt Political Interference' in Judiciary

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The memo was first published on the internet site Wikileaks in late December 2009. The site has been shut since January due to a lack of funds but reappeared this week.

Government spokesman Memli Krasniqi said the document represented the views of one official at EULEX and was not an 'official document'.

He added: "The Prime Minister had expressed his opinion in a government meeting, following a jour-

nalists' questions, on a case that has been extensively discussed, and his comments are public, and can be found on the official archive of our webpage."

He added that the comments had had no influence on the judiciary. Kristina Herodes, EULEX

spokeswoman on Justice, said: "As a general principle EULEX does not comment on leaked documents nor private meetings involving EULEX and senior political leaders. Interference at different levels [of the judiciary] in a variety of forms has been

observed. This interference with the work of the justice system, both in criminal and civil proceedings, has often resulted in practical problems, such as the pre-emptive abstention of local judges and prosecutors to deal with sensitive cases."

West Balkans Reassured About EU Prospects in Sarajevo

Serbia and Kosovo Meet at Conference



By Sabina Arslanagic
in Sarajevo

The European Union moved on Monday to dispel fears of Western Balkan countries that their future in the EU is being jeopardised by the ongoing economic crisis and by "enlargement fatigue".

However, regional leaders meeting senior European and American officials in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, were told that their countries will only be allowed to take their place in the EU once they have carried out necessary reforms and resolved outstanding issues between them.

"The future of the Western Balkans lies in the European Union," the Spanish EU presidency, which organised the high-level gathering, said in a statement issued after the meeting. "Important progress in economic and political reform has been made by the countries of the region... [but] the Western Balkans must intensify their efforts to fulfill the necessary established criteria and agreed conditions on their path towards EU membership," the statement added.

The participation in the Sarajevo summit by representatives of both Serbia and Kosovo was widely perceived as another important step towards easing tensions in the region. Serbia has previously refused to attend gather-



Regional leaders met senior European and American officials in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, this week

ings at which Kosovo was represented independently.

However, an agreement was reached ahead of the Sarajevo meeting to apply the so-called Gymnich formula, whereby no state names or symbols would be used but only the names of the delegates attending the meeting.

Of the former Yugoslav republics, only Slovenia has joined the EU. Its southern neighbours are at various stages in the accession process and need to implement different sets of reforms and improve their mutual cooperation before they can fulfill their goal of joining the club.

Specific requirements identified at the Sarajevo summit include strengthening the rule of law, improving the fight against corruption and crime, completing the

process of sustainable refugee returns and ensuring freedom of the media.

The countries of the region were praised for their recent efforts to complete the process of reconciliation following the brutal Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.

The most recent conciliatory move was made in Sarajevo last weekend, when leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro adopted a joint declaration pledging to support each others' EU accession bids.

The declaration was signed by the chairman of Bosnia's tripartite presidency and the presidents of Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro: Haris Silajdzic, Ivo Josipovic, Boris Tadic and Filip Vujanovic.

Sweden's Foreign Minister, Carl Bildt, told journalists ahead of the

Sarajevo conference that he was "encouraged by the new speed of regional harmony; the cooperation that we have seen in the last few months".

Senior European officials who participated in the Sarajevo summit included the EU foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, the EU enlargement commissioner, Stefan Fuele, the British Foreign Secretary, William Hague, and the foreign ministers of Italy and Spain, Franco Frattini and Miguel Angel Moratinos.

Representatives of the US, Russia, Turkey and NATO also took part in the meeting that marked the tenth anniversary of a similar gathering in Zagreb, Croatia, when the EU launched the process to stabilize and integrate the Western Balkans.

Editor's Word

Bisedë



By Lawrence Marzouk

The Sarajevo Conference could herald a new future for the Balkan region.

Sure it required months of negotiations, compromise and fudge to get Serbia and Kosovo around the same table. But it has happened, thus demonstrating that both parties can set aside fundamental differences to discuss practicalities.

With the ruling on Kosovo's independence from the International Court of Justice now looking set for July 22, that spirit of compromise and pragmatism will be further put to the test in the coming months.

It is critical that whatever the conclusions of the ICJ, Belgrade and Prishtina use this opportunity to sit down together to solve some of the pressing quality of life issues for the people of Kosovo.

These talks cannot be about status; Kosovo is now independent and there is no going back.

The issue of partition should be dropped once and for all - to give any credence to such a move risks a new round of Balkanisation.

The recent armed clashes on the Kosovo-Macedonian border have highlighted the potential for renewed violence in the region and should provide a clear warning to those in the international community who believe that territorial exchange can be limited to the Kosovo-Serbia dispute.

Searching for long-term solutions for the north of Kosovo may be too much to ask for in these negotiations.

The conference which took place last week in Mitrovica, the Forum for Cities in Transition, brought together divided cities from across the world. These municipal-level discussions, where political differences were set aside in pursuit of service-oriented improvements to people's lives, should provide some inspiration for the discussions that lie ahead for Prishtina and Belgrade.

Freedom of movement, customs control, rule of law and a host of other essential but not overtly political spheres must be the focus of the talks.

Neither side is ready to come to a final settlement, but both appear willing to at least improve cooperation on these crucial, technical areas.

Success in sitting down together to talk is a key first step in what is likely to be a protracted and complicated series of discussions.

Failure and the dissolution of talks into acrimony would give succour to and embolden the more extreme voices in the debate, deliver a serious blow to Serbia and Kosovo's European Union future and potentially set back any meaningful negotiations for years.

It's time to talk, or bisedë in Albanian.

Justice System Struggles under Growing Workload

Balkan Investigative Reporting Network's yearly report on courts has revealed that the backlog of cases in Kosovo's justice system is growing, a multimillion euro court database system remains unused and that most trials are held in judge's offices, not the courtrooms.



By Shengjyl Osmani

BIRN's yearly monitoring of 13 courts has revealed a litany of problems and failures, as well as a growing caseload for Kosovo's already overstretched justice system.

Low wages, a lack of security, non-compliance with protocol, a failure to meet transparency rules, poor witness protection and delays to cases are among the most serious problems that BIRN discovered in its 12 months of monitoring.

Just 30 per cent of court cases were held in the courtroom, according to BIRN researchers, with the remaining 70 per cent taking place in judge's office.

More than half of the monitored trials started late, of which 44 per cent of the delays were blamed on the lack of court staff.

In one fifth of the trials attended by researchers, mobile phones were used by judicial personnel, which is against the law.

Judges wore their official uniform in just 20 per cent of trials monitored.

But perhaps the most worrying finding was the growing caseload in the judicial system.

In 2008, 13,439 cases were completed out of a caseload of 95,634; in 2009 only 15,117 were completed from a total 117,176; and in the first three months of 2010, 4,394 cases were resolved from 110,557.

This leaves a staggering 106,000 trials to be held in Kosovo.

Courts, by law, should display trial times and dates on a board outside the courtroom, but few do. On the lack of transparency, Enver Peci, the head of the Kosovo Judicial Council, said: "[The lack of] transparency is costing us a lot. Being a prosecutor myself, I understand that a few, small procedures might seem not so important to court administration, but

they do play an important role in the general functioning of the transparency of the courts in Kosovo."

He promised that in a year's time, the announcement tables will no longer be empty.

BIRN found that despite investment in audio and video recorders to monitor cases and a computer database of cases, neither system was being used widely.

The report notes that out of 1,248 monitored sessions, audio or video recordings were made in just 2 per cent.

Valdete Daka, a member of Kosovo Judicial Council and a judge in the Supreme Court of Kosovo, claimed that the audio-video systems are not installed in all courts, and even the ones that have already installed are not being used.

She added that the electronic management of cases has not been functional at all because most of the computers in the courts are old and have no internet access.

On the issue of holding trials in judges' offices, Peci noted that this happens because courtrooms are fully booked.

The chief prosecutor, Ismet Kabashi, said that in 2010 the situation in the courts had improved greatly compared to the previous year, and promised that progress was moving fast.

Behar Selimi, the acting chief police officer of Kosovo, said Police were working with the Ministry of Justice to deal with witness protection.

He added that a new law on witness protection will lead to the creation of a dedicated unit.

Haki Demolli, the minister of justice, said the law is being drafted by a working group at the Ministry of Justice.

Low salaries have been highlighted as one of the major issues affecting standards. The head of the Supreme Court in Kosovo receives 644 euro a month, while his colleagues in Serbia receive 2,000 euro.

Prishtina's Union Hotel to be Bulldozed

Owner of the Prishtina landmark to be taken to court for neglecting site



By Belinda Vrapı

A Prishtina landmark, the former Union Hotel on Mother Teresa Boulevard, is to be knocked down.

Mayor of Prishtina Isa Mustafa decided last week to withdraw planning permission for the renovation of the former Union Hotel, which was badly damaged in a fire last August.

The building was put up for sale in 2007 by the Kosovo Privatisation Agency and bought by QMI, a company owned by Aziz Tafaj, for 3.2 million euro.

Despite the blaze, Tafaj told Prishtina Insight last September that work would start on the plan to build a new square around the building, while retaining the original façade.

Tafaj said the restoration of the Union building will be completed by September 15, 2010.

But work on the 1927 structure has been slow and the decision to withdraw the planning permission to maintain the façade came after a review of the report by the committee of experts of Cultural Heritage within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

In a statement, Prishtina Municipality explained that Mayor Mustafa's decision was based on the report of the committee of experts who have concluded that the object sustained 80 per cent damage in the conflagration. The findings concluded that the build-



The former Union Hotel on Mother Teresa Street

Photo by Petrit Rrahmani for Prishtina Insight

ing, by an Austrian architect and did not suggest that he was responsible for a fire.

The municipality also announced that it would begin legal proceedings against Tafaj because of the damage to the building.

A spokesperson for Prishtina Municipality, Muhamet Gashi, told Prishtina Insight that the case against Tafaj was due to his alleged

negligence of the building and did not suggest that he was responsible for a fire.

A homeless man was arrested in connection with the blaze shortly after the fire.

Plans to demolish parts of the building to make way for a new Ibrahim Rugova square, named after Kosovo's former late president, last year sparked fierce opposition from locals, led by a group of artists.

And the municipality's decision to withdraw planning per-

mission has again drawn criticism. The Kosovo Architects Association said Prishtina had enough squares and not enough historic buildings, calling for former Union Hotel to be protected.

Newspaper columnist Shkelzen Maliqi wrote in the Express newspaper. "I don't know what is the real reason [for the decision], if it's business interests or ideology, but both are enjoying this barbarism that has occurred."

Prishtina through the Eyes of:

Rolf Ahlfors

Head of EULEX's Civil Registration Unit



What surprised you most about Prishtina?

The peaceful street life with coffee bars.

What's your favorite hangout?

Coffee bars in general

Do you do anything cultural?

Nothing special, Kosovo lifestyle and Germia Park. Fourteen family and friends from Finland have visited my home in Kosovo, some of them more than once. This is culture.

What is the most annoying thing about Prishtina?

Garbage

If you were mayor of Prishtina for the day what would you change?

To make a city park around the University.

How many macchiatos do you drink a day?

None. I am an espresso drinker.

What's the tastiest Kosovar food?

All kind of local foods - no special favorite food.

What landmark do you use to tell taxi drivers where you live?

Rugova grave.

Grand Hotel: Worst in the World?

According to an article in London's Sunday Times Prishtina's Grand Hotel is "so grim it is almost entertaining".



By Lawrence Marzouk

Prishtina's Grand Hotel has received a scathing review in London's Sunday Times, suggesting the socialist facility could be the worst hotel in the world.

The article, which appeared last Sunday, labels the staff idle and contrasts this with the 'busy bedbugs'.

Journalist Richard Green visited the hotel to find out whether British diplomat Chris Patten's assessment of the Grand as "the worst hotel in the world" and "unbelievably grim" was true.

Prishtina's erstwhile top hotel also has received rough reviews in the Lonely Planet which says "don't get lured into staying", and the guidebook Prishtina In Your Pocket which suggests demolition.

The privatisation of the 13-storey Grand Hotel, built in 1978 to accommodate Tito's socialist cadres, came in 2006 for more than 10 million euro, but much promised renovations appear to have been held up because of a legal dispute over ownership.

Green wrote: "I've read that



Promised improvements to the Grand Hotel have not materialised

Photo by Petrit Rrahmani for Prishtina Insight

Kosovo has lovely valleys, the old town of Prizren and the Gracanica monastery, but I couldn't see these from my fifth-floor window.

"I parted the fusty red drapes and torn net curtain to peer out, and saw what must once have been a shopping mall attached to the hotel. It was now derelict - too scary even for skateboarders. Where the scree of debris ended, dozens of snow-white UN vehicles were corralled into a car park by barbed wire.

"A brief inspection of the room revealed a threadbare green carpet and rotting bathtub - with no plug and barely tepid water."

He then described how he was bitten by bedbugs during his sleep. He said: "I couldn't actually see any bugs, but I was certainly kept awake by them, the welts on my back multiplying through the night. By dawn, I felt like I'd done a few rounds with the aliens from District 9."

Breakfast fared no better, according to Green. He wrote: "There were three chandeliers (one lit), 100 empty tables and two grumpy staff. One, a lady sitting at a central table as if adjudicating an exam, stabbed her pen into a ledger to get my attention. I gave my room number and a

flourish of her heavily braceleted wrist told me to move on.

"The buffet was boiled eggs, cheese slices, tomatoes and coffee that tasted of mouldy Mars Bar. The two staff both watched me fumble with the coffee machine, but didn't offer help. I soon decided to leave, inadvertently scraping my chair leg when I got up.

"The ledger lady shot me an Exocet stare, and her male colleague marched to the door. He got there just ahead of me and, with his arms tightly folded and feet planted bouncily apart, barred my way. I froze. He was genuinely scary. What could I have done wrong?"

"He looked down at me sternly, like an interrupted genie. 'Haff nice day,' he said, then he moved sideways, just enough to let me pass. He'd been on a customer service course, apparently. I don't think he'd quite got the point.

"So, yes, the Grand is grim - so much so it's almost entertaining. If you want to sample it in all its authentically crumbling post-communist glory, though, you'd best get in there fast: word has it that an international chain is to snap it up and make it blandly, efficiently acceptable. And where's the fun in that?"

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Highway Works Start Without Land

Construction of Kosovo's first highway started more than a month ago, but land on which the new road is to be built has yet to be expropriated



By Besiana Xharra

Work on Kosovo's 700-million euro highway has begun, but property along the route has yet to have been expropriated and the cost of the exercise is not yet known, critics complain.

Some 12 million euro has been set aside for the 27-km first segments of the route, which will connect Vermice on the Albanian border with Merdare on the Serbian side, but concerns are being raised that Kosovo Government has yet to purchase the necessary land and do not know how much it will cost.

The US-Turkish Consortium Bechtel-Enka began work on the highway in April.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance, MEF, has said that six million has been set aside for expropriations this year and the same sum for 2011.

"For the first segment of 27 kilometres, we have already issued preliminary assessment decisions, and in early June the Government will issue a final decision on the assessment and expropriation, and so the price will be determined," said Shkelzen Morina, director of the Department of Property Tax within MEF.

He explained that the prelimi-

nary decision defined which land is needed, while the final decision will determine the costs of properties based on market values.

The company charged with evaluating the expropriation, Conikos Co, said that 1300 properties over 239 hectares will be compulsorily purchased for the first sections.

Firm Muhamed Beqiri said the properties included industrial units and private homes.

Beyond the 12 million set aside for the first 27 kilometres, no assessment has been made for the remaining 76 kilometres.

"The compensation will be due in line with the construction process, so as we progress with the construction, compensation will follow," he said.

Hajredin Kuqi, deputy prime minister of Kosovo, believes no citizen will be 'dissatisfied' with the compensation offered.

He said: "Currently we are working in areas where there is state property. But when the construction nears private property, that will be expropriated and no citizen will be disappointed."

But opposition politicians and economists believe that the decision to start construction without expropriating the land beforehand is indictive of how the project is being managed.

They complain that the route beyond the first 27-km section



Hashim Thaci and Sali Berisha mark the start of work on the highway.

has not yet been determined and question how the government will raise the funds, which, they believe, could increase dramatically.

"The Ministry of Transport has had many problems since it has started this project as it didn't first start the expropriation process," said Myzejene Selmani, a parliamentarian for the opposition New Kosovo Alliance and chairwoman of the parliament's transport committee.

She added that the lack of foresight will have 'huge consequences', with the potential for large overspend.

Muhamed Sadiku from the Riinvest Institute, a college which specialises in economic issues, said that there were too many uncertainties at the start of this project and a dearth of expertise within the government to run it properly.

"The expropriations will increase the project cost," Sadiku predicted. "This project will bring major problems for this Government and the future one," he added.

Mimoza Kusari Lila, an economist but also a vice president of the New Kosovo Alliance, claimed the project had been carried out without proper coordination between ministries and without transparency.

"The investigation process that has involved this Ministry, will certainly affect the transparency of the project," said Kusari Lila, suggesting that the EULEX probe into corruption at the Ministry of Transport will lead to more secrecy.

Shkelzen Morina from MEF rejected the criticism, saying that once the price is set for the first segment, evaluation of the required property will start elsewhere.

Strict Tender Rules Introduced

Tenders worth more than 10,000 euros will now require three signatures to be signed off, rather than one.

A government administrative order, released last week, details the stricter new framework.

The move comes as part of a new procurement law which will go before the assembly this month or in July for approval.

"Contracts that exceed the sum of 10,000 Euros have to be signed by Permanent Secretaries and the Ministers of the [respective] ministry," said Prime Minister Hashim Thaci.

"This proposal is in complete harmony with the European Commission standards. It is a part of the public procurement reform that comes out of the progress report, but also a preventive measure in the fight against corruption"

Kosovo Secures IMF Deal

Kosovo has secured a loan deal with the International Monetary Fund worth 106million euro, which paves the way for the European Union and World Bank to release delayed donations.

Kosovo became the third country from ex-Yugoslavia to reach a loan deal with the IMF on Thursday.

The deal means that European Union can release 150million euro promised at the International Donors Conference for Kosovo in 2008, and 77million euro from the World Bank.

Despite numerous visits to Prishtina, the IMF and Kosovo government had failed to agree to the terms of the loan until last week.

European Commission officials in Kosovo had warned that their 150million euro was at risk if an agreement had not been reached.

The main disagreements centred on funding for the 700 million euro highway and the need for more budgetary discipline.

In a press conference, Prime Minister Hashim Thaci said: "It is my particular pleasure to announce - together with the International Monetary Fund - the successful conclusion of negotiations and the reaching of an agreement in principle on financial assistance from the IMF."

"The IMF programme enables Kosovo to benefit from financial assistance from the IMF and other donors. "The International Monetary Fund assistance puts Kosovo on a safe path to move towards implementing projects of state importance, such as the Vermice-Prizren-Prishtina-Merdare Highway, energy sector reform, education, privatization and telecommunications reform."

The prime minister predicted GDP growth for Kosovo of 6 per cent in the coming years.

Kosovo Improves Business Registration Procedures

One-stop-shops for business registration will be set up in Kosovo. The Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Business Registration Agency has signed a memorandum of understanding with mayors of eight municipalities to open the centres. The second phase of the project will include 14 additional municipalities. Business Registration Agency director, Mehdi Pllashniku, said that this project will enable the citizens to register their businesses in their own municipality.

Kosovo Firms Shun Tax Cash Registers

A deadline for all large businesses to sign up to new tax cash registers has passed with only a fourth of the 400 targeted firms signed up. Although the Tax Authority of Kosovo has extended the process for 15 days, experts warn that many firms will still shirk the new requirements.



By Lavdim Hamidi

Just one quarter of large business has signed up so far for new fiscal cash registers, which the Tax Administration of Kosovo (TAK) are introducing to increase revenue.

The scheme was launched on April 1 with a deadline of May 15 for all large firms, but this has been extended by 15 days after just 100 out of 400 major companies signed up.

Economic experts believe the low take-up rate is due to the number of businesses which operate in the informal economy, worth an estimated 1 billion euro a year in Kosovo.

Medium-size businesses, of which there are about 2,000 in Kosovo, have until June 15 to bring in the fiscal checkout.

After this, the 30,000 small businesses will be required to start using the new registers by June 30.

If firms fail to introduce the tax cash registers, TAK can take legal action.

TAK's Director General Behxhet Haliti admitted that the process has so far had modest results, but added that the programme, overall, had been successful.

He said that despite the large number of businesses that have not already purchased fiscal checkouts, more than 1,000 businesses, according to him, so far have contacted the two companies licensed to sell the equipment.

He added that he was optimistic that by spring 2011 the process would be completed.

TAK has licensed two firms to distribute the registers, Gekos and Dukagjini, and is in the process of bringing in a third company.

Safet Gerxhaliu, acting head of the Kosova Chamber of Commerce (KCC), which is the largest representative of businesses in the country, says that businesses in general have supported the process, but, according to him, some businesses are opposed to it because of their use of contraband products.

Those businesses that oppose the process, according to Gerxhaliu, justified their posi-



Businesses have not taken up the call for new fiscal cash registers.

tion by claiming that the equipment is too expensive.

"Prices cannot be considered a valid argument as TAK and companies licensed to sell the fiscal cash registers have enabled businesses to be flexible with payments in cash or through loans or other forms of financing," he argued.

Equipment for small firms costs 400 euros, while large businesses are required to pay 1,000 euro.

Despite delays in the roll out of the equipment, Gerxhaliu hopes the process will not fail, adding that if the TAK seriously implements the project it will succeed.

Economic expert Muhamed Sadiku says equipping businesses with fiscal checkouts is an attempt to establish fiscal discipline in the country which has a large informal economy.

"We are aware that some businesses maintain market position and develop because of the informal economy, so it is necessary to increase fiscal discipline in the country," he said.

Sadiku said that if businesses do not respect the deadlines, TAK should apply penalties based on the laws already force.

He added that similar processes in neighbouring countries have led to an increase in tax revenue.

Not Just Another Lemon Tree



By Maneater

When Prishtina's downtown becomes choked in the chaotic misery of rush hour, those seeking a calming after-work pick-me-up can retreat to Sunny Hill, or Bregu i Diellit, which is home to a couple of fairly casual yet refined venues. Lemon Tree is one option, which brings together that city-feel without the congestion.

One feature definitely working in Lemon Tree's favour is their ornately fresh interior, which gives off an air of comfort and style.

The two-level venue is cleverly sectioned off into areas via vertical beams, bookshelves, and luscious plants. Their colour-palette can be described as organic, with hues of buttery cream, olive green, and walnut.

The tables are surrounded by large seats, heavily upholstered to

create comfortable settings hard to leave.

With showers of sunlight easily dripping in through the floor-to-ceiling front windows, the interior's appeal is difficult to contest.

The menu is surprisingly complex, featuring extensive modern takes on what may be considered internationally accepted favourites, from English breakfasts to Mexican starters, exotics salads to American sandwiches, pastas to classic steaks and seafood. Each option thankfully is offered up with a luring description of what to expect on the plate.

We decided on Lemon Tree's house-style chicken salad, house-style prosciutto sandwich, spring rolls, fried cheese, chicken fajitas, and shawarma sandwich. I quickly realised that if impressed by the food, I would be back to test the rest of the all-embracing menu.

Our entrees arrived all at once, and, for the most part, were smartly plated.

The fried cheese, although

mouth-wateringly crisp, was placed on a large plate devoid of any appropriate garnish or side dish.

The bite-size spring rolls were also well received by our party, delivering a less than conventional filling of chicken and veggies, served with tart marinara sauce and herb-infused sour cream dip.

Lemon Tree's parade of international favourites worked well for the most part, but not for the fajitas. Their use of greek-style pita bread, tomato-sauce dressed chicken and vegetables, without any hint of Mexican flavour or traditional use of ingredients, was disappointing.

The shawarma sandwich, moreover, was nowhere near the shawarma you would expect.

While the much-loved Middle Eastern specialty can closely be compared to a Turkish-style doner, our Lemon Tree shawarma was served on Italian ciabatta bread, with a filling of hardboiled eggs, mayonnaise, dried meat and local sausage.

Although flavoursome, the sand-



Lemon Tree in Sunny Hill

wich again missed some key points. Perhaps spicy humus, cucumbers, or slice of lettuce would have given it the edge? Its side dish of cold-pasta salad, while tasty, just didn't quite meet the match.

The house-style chicken salad and prosciutto sandwich were well received, with the former incorporating different salad mixes such as the cold pasta, shawarma filling and a chicken mix on a plate of lettuce, tomato and cucumber.

The latter can be best described as a classic calzone-style sandwich, with prosciutto, melted cheese and a sour-cream filling.

A crispy outer edge and well seasoned filling make this option an economical lunch dish.

Lemon Tree definitely has potential. The interior is fresh, their menu is distinguishable from other eateries, the food is reasonable, if a little erratic, and a line-up of evening acts, varying from live music to local bands, promotes a lively atmosphere.

All they need to do is pay a bit more attention to detail if they want to tempt even more customers up to the heights of Sunny Hill.



Lemon Tree, Enver Maloku Street, Sunny Hill, Prishtina

★★★★★	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★☆☆☆☆
Fruits from Heaven	Fruitful	Fruity	Fruit	Fruit cake	Rotten fruit

Where to pick up Prishtina Insight?

Prishtina Insight has teamed up with these five excellent venues to offer a limited number of complimentary copies of Kosovo's only English language newspaper. Grab a copy of the publication and settle down with a drink or a meal to read it.

Filikaqa Sports Bar

Prishtina's best sports bar offers the perfect setting to watch a game on over a dozen HDTV screens, guzzle down a metre of beer and tuck in to some delicious food. There is enough space to accommodate large crowds and still maintain enough legroom and breathing space between rival supporters, or those wanting to watch different games, whether it is a Liverpool match, NFL game, or cycling race. Filikaqa's menu includes spicy chicken wings, beef nachos, cheese-stuffed pizza, fried chicken, burgers and fries. Every Friday, join Filikaqa for Karaoke nights.



Filikaqa
Rr. Mujo Ulqinaku BL 4/1
Pejton, Prishtina
www.filikaqa.com
+381 38 244 288

Cavallero Mexican Restaurant

You can almost transport yourself to the Mexican coast, with soaring palm trees and an immaculate five star resort, while dining at Cavallero Mexican Cantina. Mouth-watering appetizers and savoury main dishes are nicely washed down with countless cocktail options and even imported Mexican beer. Gather you're friends and bring on the fiesta. Cavallero has a great terrace where you can enjoy the summer breeze. For more information, visit their facebook page, or contact them.



Cavallero,
Located next to the ex-UNMIK building
Prishtina
+377 44 508 980
Facebook page

Cantina am-pm Restaurant

Cantina AM-PM, formerly known as Mexican Cantina, recently went through a transfer to new management, and although hardly noticeable from a distance, the new owners have transformed the venue into a more grown-up affair with good, cheap food. Cantina offers Mexican dishes at reasonable prices, starting from less than 5 euro. Although the majority of the food is Mexican-influenced, Cesar salad and pizza have been included too.



Mexican favourites served up at Cantina include tortilla, thicker pan-friend tortilla, nacho chips and burrito. Cantina's also offers a very pleasant area for al fresco dining.

Cantina AM-PM
Rr Qamil Hoxha
Prishtina
+377 49 710 710

Hotel AFA

Located in a quiet neighbourhood just outside the city centre, Hotel Afa can guarantee guests a peaceful night while being within walking distance of all the action. The venue has won a host of awards for its excellent service to customers and offers a good range of facilities, from an exclusive restaurant and VIP bar to pretty, tranquil garden. Rooms start at 45 euro for a single, and luxury rooms and apartments are available. The hotel's rooms are well appointed and comfortable.



15, Rr Ali Kelmendi,
Sunny Hill,
Prishtina
+381 38/225 226
www.hotelafa.com

Te Komiteti

Te Komiteti's large trees and a beautifully cultivated garden, which surround the small outdoor terrace, give you an impression of an exclusive place for ordinary people.

And this is exactly what Te Komiteti is. From brunch to lunch-time snacks and special evening meals, this restaurant offers dishes comprising quality, varied ingredients, combined to perfection.



Alongside one of Prishtina's best 'modern European' style menus, you'll also find a good selection of wine.

Te Komiteti
Qamil Hoxha Street
Prishtina
+381 38 24 96 63

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Prishtina Insight

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From one of our partner organisations (see above). Grab a drink, meal or a bed for the night and enjoy a complimentary copy from Mondays after publication.



South Africa Prepares for Greatest Show on Earth



The 19th World Cup will be Africa's first, but will this historic tournament also bear the continent's first custodians of the golden trophy?



By Lawrence Marzouk

When Colombian singer Shakira and South African band Freshlyground take to a Soweto stage on June 10 to kick off the World Cup, they will be singing 'Waka Waka (This Time For Africa)'.

South Africa's hosting of the 2010 World Cup has, like never before, focused attention on whether Africa's talented crop of teams can live up to expectations and finally emerge victorious from the tournament.

Brazilian football legend Pele, who predicted a decade ago that an African team would lift the World Cup, believes that home advantage may not be enough for the six squads – South Africa, Algeria, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, and Ivory Coast – vying for football's most prestigious prize.

He said: "All the African teams have tough groups, but if any qualify for the knockout stage they could cause a surprise."

Cameroon's Samule Eto'o, three-time African Footballer of the Year and Inter Milan striker, believes it will be a tough task for African teams.

"Everything counts ... hotels, food, travel, bonuses, the guy who collects the bibs after training ... some of our nations remain too amateurish in their approach," the Cameroon captain told AFP.

And even Steven Pienaar, one of South Africa's star players, believes 2010 will not be Africa's year. He told CNN: "I don't think it will happen in 2010, but it will be something special if an African nation can win it because it's on the continent."

"I think if it was somewhere in West Africa, with the heat, then you could have

said an African nation could win. But in South Africa it will be winter, so it will be more in the favour of the Europeans."

But not everyone is so down beat. Nigerian President John Atta Mills has told his players they will win the cup.

"We will win the World Cup because God is on our side and I'm sure we've made the necessary preparations," he said. "I have no doubt that they will make all of us proud in South Africa."

Irrespective of the Africa teams' performance in the competition, organisers in South Africa believe the event will be historic.

"As South Africans we are proud to be hosting the first ever World Cup on African soil. I am very humbled and flattered to be part of this global event and am looking forward to the concert with great interest and excitement," said Hugh Masekela, a South African musician who will perform at the opening ceremony.

Dr Danny Jordaan, Chief Executive Officer of the South Africa's World Cup organising committee, added: "In South Africa there have been a series of significant moments that have shaped the country that we live in today.

"The memory of Nelson Mandela's release from prison will live on in the minds of millions of South Africans, as will the memories of the first democratic election in 1994, the Springbok victory in 1995, the Africa Cup of Nations win in 1996 and the announcement of our successful bid to host the World Cup on 15 May 2004," said Jordaan.

But he added that the hosting of the World Cup will be a 'defining moment' in the country's history.

"The world has heard many more stories about us [...], sometimes more negative than positive, but this World Cup gives all South Africans the opportunity to show the world who we really are sixteen years into our



democracy," he added.

Infrastructure, the stumbling block of many an international tournament, is in place to run a successful tournament, but fears over South Africa's crime have been widely aired.

Dr Johan Burger, senior researcher for the crime and justice programme at the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria, believes that threat has been exaggerated.

He said: "I believe that tourists visiting South Africa during the World Cup will enjoy a much higher level of security than is suggested by our high levels of violent crime and by the alarmist reports in some media."





GROUP MATCHES

ROUND OF 16

	Friday June 11	Saturday June 12	Sunday June 13	Monday June 14	Tuesday June 15	Wednesday June 16	Thursday June 17	Friday June 18	Saturday June 19	Sunday June 20	Monday June 21	Tuesday June 22	Wednesday June 23	Thursday June 24	Friday June 25	Saturday June 26	Sunday June 27	Monday June 28
JOHANNESBURG Soccer City	1 16.00 RSA v. MEX			9 13.30 NED v. DEN			20 13.30 ARG v. KOR			29 20.30 BRA v. CIV			39 20.30 GHA v. GER				52 20.30 1B v. 2A(2)	
JOHANNESBURG Ellis Park		3 16.00 ARG v. NGA			14 20.30 BRA v. PRK			22 16.00 SVN v. USA			32 20.30 ESP v. HON			41 16.00 SVK v. ITA				54 20.30 1G v. 2H (7)
NELSPRUIT Mbombela						15 13.30 HON v. CHI				28 16.00 ITA v. NZL			40 20.30 AUS v. SRB		46 16.00 PRK v. CIV			
RUSTENBURG Royal Bafokeng			5 20.30 ENG v. USA		12 13.30 NZL v. SVK				24 16.00 GHA v. AUS			33 16.00 MEX v. URU		43 20.30 DEN v. JPN		50 20.30 1C v. 2D (3)		
MANGAUNG/ BLOEMFONTEIN Free State				10 16.00 JPN v. CMR			19 16.00 GRE v. NGA			27 13.30 SVK v. PAR		34 16.00 FRA v. RSA			48 20.30 SUI v. HON		51 16.00 1D v. 2C (4)	
CAPE TOWN Green Point	2 20.30 URU v. FRA			11 20.30 ITA v. PAR			23 20.30 ENG v. ALG			30 13.30 POR v. PRK				44 20.30 CMR v. NED				
DURBAN Durban			7 20.30 GER v. AUS			16 16.00 ESP v. SUI			25 13.30 NED v. JPN			35 20.30 NGA v. KOR			45 16.00 POR v. BRA			53 16.00 1E v. 2F(5)
POLOKWANE Peter Mokaba			6 13.30 ALG v. SVN				18 20.30 FRA v. MEX					36 20.30 GRE v. ARG		42 16.00 PAR v. NZL				
NELSON MANDELA/ BAY - PORT ELIZABETH Nelson Mandela Bay		4 13.30 KOR v. GRE			13 16.00 CIV v. POR			21 13.30 GER v. SRB			31 16.00 CHI v. SUI		37 16.00 SVN v. ENG			49 16.00 1A v. 2B (1)		
TSHWANE/PRETORIA Loftus Versfeld			8 16.00 SRB v. GHA		17 20.30 RSA v. URU				26 20.30 CMR v. DEN			38 16.00 USA v. ALG		47 20.30 CHI v. ESP				

Group A:

Prediction: Despite France's less than impressive World Cup qualification campaign, Les Bleus should emerge imperious from this tricky group without the need to cheat. Mexico and South Africa will be fighting it out for second place. Home advantage should see Bafana Bafana through.

Fact: Back in 1966, when England staged and won the finals, Alf Ramsey's team were joined in Group 1 by Mexico, Uruguay and France.

Players to Watch: Steven Pienaar (RSA), Cuauhtemoc Blanco (MEX), Nicolas Anelka (FRA), Diego Forlan (URU).

Group B:

Prediction: Argentina, led by arguable the world's best player, Lionel Messi, have enough to take Diego Maradona's team through in first place - if El Diez manages to keep his head. Second place should go to Nigeria, but the Koreans are certainly no dogs and the Greeks could yet skewer the Eagles' chances with their stern defence.

Fact: Diego Maradona's last World Cup campaign as a player saw Argentina face Nigeria. Maradona left the tournament not long after the encounter after he failed a drug test.

Players to Watch: Lionel Messi (ARG), Park Ji-Sung (KOR), Obafemi Martins (NIG) and Theofanis Gekas (GRE).

Group C:

Prediction: Despite the exclusion of the legendary right-back Gary Neville from the squad, England should stroll through this relatively easy group. The US is fielding its best ever team this year, but that's still not saying very much. Little Slovenia is our bet to take the second spot.

Fact: When England suffered one of its most embarrassing World Cup defeats - a 1-0 loss to USA in 1950 - a British newspaper was so surprised by the score that was wired to it that it assumed there had been a mistake and printed that England had won '10-1'.

Players to watch: Wayne Rooney (ENG), Landon Donovan (USA), Karim Ziani (ALG) and Robert Koren (SVN).

Group D:

Prediction: Every World Cup requires a 'group of death', and this is it for 2010. Germany will be strong favourites to come out top, as they always seem to. Ghana and Serbia are best placed for second place, with Ghana edging it slightly due to its formidable midfield. The Socceroos shouldn't be ruled out, but are likely to find it tough going.

Fact: Germany has contested four penalty shoot-outs at the FIFA World Cup, winning them all.

Players to watch: Miroslav Klose (GER), Tim Cahill (AUS), 'Matthew Amoah (GHA), Milan Jovanovic (SRB).

Group E:

Prediction: The Dutchmen are in flying form and are a relatively safe bet to win one of the World Cup's toughest groups. On paper there's not much to choose from between Denmark, Cameroon and Japan. But if the Danes can repeat their qualification form, they should claim second place.

Fact: Denmark manager Olsen should be celebrating ten years in charge of the national side next summer.

Players to watch: Arjen Robben (NED), Jon Dahl Tomasson (DEN), Shunsuke Nakamura (JPN) and Samuel Eto'o (CMR).

Group F:

Prediction: Italy look favourites to win this pool, but second place is much more difficult to call. New Zealand are likely to be the whipping boys of the group, with Slovakia and Paraguay fighting it out for that second qualification berth. Both have had impressive run-ins to the tournament. Paraguay's World Cup experience perhaps gives them the edge.

Fact: The first Slovak Republic (1939-45) achieved victory in their debut match, beating Germany 2-0 on August 27 1939.

Players to watch: Gennaro Gattuso (ITA), Robert Vitteck (SVK), Salvador Cabanas (PAR) and Ryan Nelsen (NZL).

Group G:

Prediction: Brazil faces stiff opposition from Portugal and the Ivory Coast, but have the all-round ability to win the group. Portugal is likely to nudge past a very good Ivory Coast for second place. North Korea will lose all games and no doubt face a frosty reception back at home from bonkers dictator Kim Jong Ill.

Fact: Brazil last failed to progress beyond the first phase of the World Cup 44 years ago.

Players to watch: Kaka (BRA), Cristiano Ronaldo (POR) Didier Drogba (CIV) and Jong Tae-Se (PRK).

Group H:

Prediction: Spain, our favourite to win the tournament, will breeze through this group ahead of Chile. The Swiss may have a reputation for being boring, but this year's team is packed full of young guns and could cause a few upsets. Honduras are likely to struggle.

Fact: Spain have never lost to their Group H rivals.

Players to watch: The players to watch Xavi (ESP), Humberto Suazo (CHI), Matias Carlos Pavon (HON) and Alexandre Frei (SUI).

QUARTER FINALS			SEMI FINALS				3/4 PLACE AND FINAL							
Tuesday June 29	Wednesday June 30	Thursday July 1	Friday July 2	Saturday July 3	Sunday July 4	Monday July 5	Tuesday July 6	Wednesday July 7	Thursday July 8	Friday July 9	Saturday July 10	Sunday July 11		
	REST DAYS		58 20.30 1 v. 3 (A)		REST DAYS							64 20.30 Winner I v. Winner II		
				60 20.30 6 v. 8 (D)										
56 20.30 1H v. 2G (8)									61 20.30 A v. C (I)					
										62 20.30 B v. D (II)				
				57 16.00 5 v. 7 (C)										
													63 20.30 Loser I v. Loser II	
55 16.00 1F v. 2E (6)														

The Stadiums

Green Point Stadium - Cape Town



The newly-built Green Point Stadium is one of the most attractive football venues in South Africa. It will be one of the two semi-final venues for the World Cup. The stadium takes advantage of Cape Town's impressive setting, being just a stone's throw from the sea and close to the mountains. Green Point Stadium has a capacity of 66,000 seats.

Ellis Park Stadium - Johannesburg



Ellis Park Stadium is located in the centre of Johannesburg. It was built in 1928, and after several reconstructions it now seats 62,000 fans. It was named after the city council of Johannesburg and been used exclusively for rugby until now.

Free State Stadium - Mangaung/Bloemfontein



The stadium has a capacity of 45,000 seats and has hosted major football and rugby union matches.

Mbombela Stadium - Nelspruit



The Mbombela Stadium is one of the newly-built stadiums for the World Cup and has a capacity of 46,000. It is located near game parks, which will give spectators the opportunity to see African wildlife during rest days.

Royal Bafokeng Stadium - Rustenberg



Located in Rustenburg in the North West Province, Royal Bafokeng was opened in 1999 and completely funded by the Royal Bafokeng community. The capacity of the Royal Bafokeng was increased to 42,000 with the construction of two additional rows of seating on the second level.

Durban Stadium - Durban



The newly-built Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban will host one of the semi-finals. Inspiration for the design of the Durban stadium came from the South African Flag with its grand arch, which represents the unity of this sport-loving nation. There will also be a cable car and steps to the top which will allow visitors to experience spectacular panoramic views of the city and its shoreline. The stadium has a capacity of around 70,000 seats.

Soccer city - Johannesburg



Soccer city is one of the most awe-inspiring football venues on the African continent. It's newly reconstructed and it will host the first and final matches of the World Cup. The stadium has a capacity of 94,700 seats.

Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium



The stadium has been newly built for the World Cup. It will host the match for third place and a quarter final from a total of eight matches. The stadium has an eye-catching, unique roof-structure and a spectacular view, overlooking North End Lake. It has a capacity of 46,000 seats.

Peter Mokaba Stadium - Polokwane



The stadium was built next to the old Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane. The newly-built stadium has a capacity of 45,000. "We will never get another opportunity like this, after this tournament we will never be the same as we were before," said Polokwane Mayor Thabo Makunyane.

Loftus Versfeld Stadium - Tshwane/Pretoria



Loftus Versfeld Stadium, situated in Tshwane/Pretoria, is one of the oldest stadiums in South Africa. It has been used for major sporting events since 1903 and has a capacity of 50,000 seats.

Group A	Group B	Group E	Group F
Team	Team	Team	Team
South Africa	Argentina	Netherlands	Italy
Mexico	Nigeria	Denmark	Paraguay
Uruguay	Korea Republic	Japan	New Zealand
France	Greece	Cameroon	Slovakia
Group C	Group D	Group G	Group H
Team	Team	Team	Team
England	Germany	Brazil	Spain
USA	Australia	Korea DPR	Switzerland
Algeria	Serbia	Côte d'Ivoire	Honduras
Slovenia	Ghana	Portugal	Chile



By Prishtina Insight team

Who will Kosovo Support at the World Cup?

Kosovo isn't allowed to play international football yet. And Albania, usually the team of choice for most Kosovo Albanians, has not qualified for the tournament in South Africa. So Prishtina Insight decided to find out who the people of Europe's youngest country will be cheering for.



Hajredin Kuci

- Deputy Prime Minister and member of the Democratic Party of Kosovo.

"My heart is for Albania, however, speaking concretely, for this World Cup, I am a fan of Italy. I have been a fan of Milan and always been a supporter since the beginning."



Dhurata Lipovica

- the face of one of Kosovo's Young European posters and winner of the 'Miss Kosovo Universe' competition.

"My fiancé Fisnik Ademi, an actor, and I are both fans of England. I wasn't a big fan of football before, but since Fisnik is a fan of Arsenal and we are both hoping that England will win and do much better than in previous years."



Lorik Cana

- Kosovo Albanian footballer who is one of Albania's top international players and currently runs out for Sunderland.

"It's my dream to play in the World Cup with Albania one day. Anyway, I am a fan of France. I have lived there some of my life and I have many friends there. About quality though, Brazil and Spain seem to be teams who are at the highest level up until now."



Edvard Bajrami

- a former student of American University in Kosovo.

"I think Spain has the biggest chance because of their attack, especially Torres and Villa, who are superb and unstoppable, and they have quite good supporting mid-field players. Brazil and England should be somewhere close to finals. Argentina could have better chances if they had a better manager to lead them through the cup. I will support Spain."



Fadil Vokrri

- President of the Football Federation of Kosovo and former Yugoslav footballing legend.

"If I speak professionally, Spain will be the champions of the World Cup. Now, my wish is England. Having in mind that football is born there and England has not been a champion of the World Cup for a long time."



Where to Watch the World Cup in Prishtina

Those not lucky enough to be travelling to South Africa for the football extravaganza will have to make do shouting at a television screen. But there are places in Kosovo's capital which manage to bring matches to life, even if the game is actually being played tens of thousands of miles away. Here is Prishtina Insight's guide.

1) Paddy O'Briens, Rr Tringa Smajli, near Hotel Iliria. Although preparations for the tournament in Kosovo's only real Irish pub are still underway, Prishtina Insight has been told that games will be screened in the venue's large garden. For those looking for some al fresco viewing, Paddy O'Briens is the place to be.

2) Filikaqa, Rr Mujo Ulqinaku, Pejton. Filikaqa is unquestionably Prishtina's best sports bar. This place is usually packed for big games, and they don't come much bigger than the World Cup. The atmosphere will be electric but welcoming.

3) 91, Rr Luan Haradinaj. This venue, somewhere between pub and Kosovo bar, will be drawing in its usual clientele of internationals, making it a lively place to watch the games.

4) Taverna Tirona, Rruga 2 korriku, off Mother Teresa Road. This place certainly isn't a sports bar, in fact it's not even really a bar, but it does have an outdoor screen showing football matches in its small, but pleasant garden. It's a superb spot for grabbing a beer, pleskavica and watching the game.



Five things you won't hear/see during the World Cup

1. Kosovo's team is lining up on the pitch.
2. "That was a terrible miss by Michael Ballack. Germany are out on penalties."
3. "The new, super light football for this World Cup has attracted plaudits from goalkeepers."
4. "And what's happening here? Diego Maradona appears to be snorting the touch line."
5. "This really could be New Zealand's year."

Five things you will hear/see during the World Cup

1. Spain or Holland described as "perennial underachievers".
2. Endless references to the 'Rainbow Nation'.
3. "France, a team which reached the tournament in dubious circumstances."
4. A close-up of an attractive female Brazil supporter performing a sensual dance.
5. "This team is flying the flag for Africa."





By Shega A'Mula
in Prishtina

Inside Prishtina

Heritage Review:

Martyr's Hill

Martyr's Hill, although a place for recollection of sacrifice and conflict, has always been a popular spot for sauntering and sightseeing in Prishtina. While tourists drop by to understand Kosovo's difficult history, locals appreciate its significance but rather look to the future for better times, and further national development.

Located in the heart of the Velania neighbourhood, Martyr's hill is an extensive area of greenery, surrounded by iron fences, and always safeguarded by police officers. Visitors, however, are permitted to enter the grounds during the day and early evening.

The memorial site is made up of three components, each depicting a different era, and sacrifice. The first is a large-scale monument, set on a circular platform, and dating back to post Second World War Yugoslavia.

The globe like monument, made out of deteriorating metal, is a memorial to the fallen Yugoslav Partisans, who fought against Germany and other Axis powers during the Second World War.

Tens of thousands of Kosovars fought among the Partisans during this time, together in the brotherhood envisioned by Marshal Broz Tito during his time in power.

Arched walls surround the globe, and include a series of circular add-ons, each of which signifies a fallen soldier. Nevertheless, years of conflict have turned the monument into a haven for vandalism and loitering, with extensive

graffiti and damage.

Just below the Partisan monument is the representation of a more recent development in Kosovo's history, which is burial site for fallen members of Kosovo's Liberation Army, which fought against Serbian forces.

Rows of wooden graves, engraved with the names of mostly young Albanian Kosovar men, rest on the edge of the hill. As is customary at memorial sites across Kosovo, headstones have a coloured picture of the soldier placed directly on the heavily lacquered wood, with mounds of plastic flowers laid upon the grave.

Finally, closer to the entrance of the memorial site is the burial spot of Former Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova, who died in Prishtina on January 26, 2006.

His grave is made of marble, and placed on a red carpet, with a bundle of flowers, and the flags of his political party, LDK, and of Kosovo situated atop.

Nearly 500,000 people were present at funeral of Rugova, who is credited with paving the way for Kosovo's independence.

Martyr's Hill also provides great views of Prishtina's skyline across to the mountains in the west. A trail leading down the hill from the site takes visitors to the City Park, and eventually the downtown area, offering a surprisingly green walk in the city's centre.

Martyr's Hill entrance is on Rrustem Staovci, which runs up hill from Agim Ramadani.



Martyr's Hill offers incredible views of the city, as well as a historical insight.

Shop Review:

OVS Industry



OVS Industry offers a range of well priced, quality clothes.

Anything Italian is usually all the rage in Prishtina, starting from food and leading to fashion. At OVS Industry in the Gorenje Centre, you can find a great selection of chic casual wear for the whole family with a Mediterranean zest.

OVS Industry is a leading Italian brand, which relies on their large selection of quality clothing to generate sales around the world.

The store has been operating in Prishtina since last autumn, and is currently showing off its attractive spring/summer collection.

Women's wear varies from summer essentials, such as mini-skirts, breathable t-shirts, linen shirts, scarves, hats, and of course sunglasses.

Cotton dresses and blouses are great options for the city's exceptionally warm

summers, which can be complemented by a wide array of cardigans and light jackets for cooler evenings.

Men's items follow the same rhythm as the women's, incorporating light fabrics to create a simple yet noticeably elegant look. Patterns, graphics, denim, and an extensive palette of colours easily offer up a unique look for anyone, of any age.

Clothing options for children are adorable, mimicking grown-up styles with the comfort and durability children need. Think grown up prints, and cuts, even for the little ones.

More importantly, the store itself possesses a great look, with beautiful displays of accessories, denim, and special pieces from the collection.

Gorenje Centre off the road to Gracanica, Veternik

Bar Review:

Drrasa Thyme

The 'Broken Wood' is one of the city's most homely spaces, with a laissez-faire attitude towards almost everything. No one tries too hard at this place, which makes for a great afternoon chill, or evening bash.

Drrasa is located next to the equally cool Tingell Tangell, and has two entrances with two separate terraces. Broken Roman columns, vintage furniture and a crowd of care-free young adults create a relaxed atmosphere to enjoy in the centre of the city.

Inside, a few mismatched tables and chairs sit under low lighting, and surround a messy yet striking bar located in the middle of the venue. Broken snowboards, odd photography, newspaper clippings, stickers, and other unusual elements are used to bedeck the place, emphasizing its urban roots and attitude.

Drinks are pretty run-of-the-mill at Drrasa, from high-grade Prishtina machi-



Drrasa Thyme is a great place to chill out with Prishtina's creative types.

atto during the day to a series of beers and liquors for the evening. Local raki rrushi, and its pear cousin, is also a favourite, night or day.

Music is almost always alternative, with an emphasis on reggae, dancehall and dub tunes, as it fits the overall look and style of the café, and the tastes of its regulars.

Prishtina residents almost always see someone they

know, and laughter and teasing is the name of the game.

Leave your dress shirts and high heels at home when planning a trip to this café, and bring along a group of relaxed friends in the mood for conversation, and numerous rounds of drinks.

Drrasa is in housing estate between Rexhep Luci and the former UNMIK building in central Prishtina.



Macedonia's EU bid appears to be facing a serious setback.

EU Getting Cold Feet on Macedonia Accession Talks



By Gjeraqina Tuhina in Brussels

Stalled reforms and rising ethnic tension are stiffening Brussels' reluctance to offer Macedonia a start date for membership talks, whether or not it solves the 'name' dispute with Greece.

Doubts are growing in Brussels that Macedonia can begin EU accession negotiations even if it solves the bitter dispute over its name with Greece.

This is because many officials believe Macedonia has invested so much energy in the quarrel that it has diverted attention from key reforms that are also necessary for talks to start.

As country lags behind in the reform process, it is becoming clear to some in Brussels that clearing up the years-long name dispute won't be sufficient.

"Even if Macedonia solves the name dispute with Greece, we don't think the country is ready to start the accession talks as there have been setbacks in the reform process," one unnamed EU diplomat warned. "We can bluntly say that the country is in a much worse situation today than it was last year."

European officials are starting to complain that Macedonia's political leaders have not done enough to move forward on key reforms, reducing political influence on the judiciary and the civil service and unblocking the logjam in dialogue between the main political parties.

Brussels is also concerned about rising ethnic tension in Macedonia among the large Albanian community and by what some see as unsatisfactory implementation of Ohrid agreement, signed in 2001 to end a

brief armed Albanian uprising.

"Macedonia is the only country in the region that we qualify as a state going backwards," another European diplomat said.

Zoran Thaler MEP, who is also rapporteur for Macedonia, agrees that while there was optimism about Macedonia in EU circles last year, he is unhappy with more recent developments.

"We've seen setbacks in 2010 and the whole situation is taking us to a stalemate and we don't see progress over key issues that would approximate Macedonia to the EU and allow for a start to accession talks," Thaler said.

The European Commission progress report from autumn 2009 stated that Macedonia was technically ready to start accession talks, and Skopje still hopes to see a launch date announced at the EU summit in June in Brussels.

However, many in the European Commission warn that the next progress report is unlikely to be as positive as the last one. In a recent interview with the BBC, Stefan Fuele, the Enlargement Commissioner, stated that "Macedonia might face some surprises in the next progress report", if the slow pace of reforms continued.

When the EU granted Macedonia candidate status back in December 2005 it noted that Macedonia needed to meet certain requirements before it could start accession negotiations.

After Greece then blocked the issue of an invitation for Macedonia to join NATO in April 2008, it became clear that meeting the EU political criteria alone would not be sufficient to allow accession talks to begin. By then Greece had made it clear it would apply the same veto to Macedonia's EU membership prospects as well.

Sources from the EU say that although many member states

resent Greece using its bilateral disagreements to block another country's European aspirations, setbacks in Macedonia's reform process are not helping "friends of Macedonia" in the EU to disarm the Greeks.

Ahead of the June EU summit, meanwhile, Brussels was urging Skopje and Athens to reach an agreement on the name dispute. "The key fundamental issue is the name," the spokesperson of the Spanish EU presidency, Cristina Gallach, confirmed.

The precise agenda of the meeting, at which EU heads of state and government will discuss the Western Balkans, is still being prepared.

Sources from the EU Council say only that the Macedonia issue is "neither 100 per cent in nor out of the agenda". This lack of clarity reflects the fact that some EU member states would like to drop the question of Macedonia completely for the meantime and return to it at the following EU meeting in December, hoping the name dispute will be solved by then.

Another option circulating in EU corridors is the so-called Bucharest "formula". This refers to the pledge made by NATO members attending the Bucharest summit in 2007 that Macedonia would become a member as soon as it solved the name dispute.

But many European diplomats fear that even if a settlement on the name is found, it will not be the end of the problems with Macedonia. "Solving the name problem will only bring to the surface new problems that Macedonia hasn't dealt with", one diplomat warned.

"If a solution to the name issue is in place but the reforms are still unsatisfactory, we might officially allow the start of accession talks - but not give a date for them immediately," a source from the EU Council suggested.

News in Brief

Montenegro: Shinawatra Will Not Be Extradited Without Evidence

Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic has said that Montenegro will not extradite former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who is accused of terrorism in his home country, without evidence and an international arrest warrant.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Djukanovic said that Montenegro gave citizenship to Shinawatra partly because of the Thai businessman's plans to invest in the tourism industry in Montenegro.

"We have mechanisms to correct our decision if necessary," the agency quoted him as saying.

Shinawatra was ousted in a military coup in 2006 and was later sentenced in absentia to two years' imprisonment for corruption and abuse of an official position. He fled shortly before his sentence was pronounced and has since lived primarily in London and Dubai.

In March, Montenegrin police confirmed that Shinawatra was granted Montenegrin citizenship and that he was located in the country. The head of Montenegro's Interpol Office, Dejan Djurovic, announced that Montenegro would not extradite the ex-prime minister, claiming that the country can only extradite its own citizens to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Montenegrin Finance Minister Igor Luksic recently said that his country will draw a direct economic benefit from its decision to give citizenship to the ousted Thai prime minister.

The Montenegrin prime minister said that Shinawatra was given citizenship upon his request.

"We have taken into consideration that he was democratically elected prime minister of Thailand and was sacked in a military coup, which means an undemocratic way," Djukanovic told AP.

Albania, Bosnia Move Closer to Visa-Free Travel

The European Commission announced last week its adoption of a proposal to lift the visa regime for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the two countries must still fulfill remaining benchmarks before their citizens can travel without a visa in the Schengen zone.

The decision was announced by European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs Cecilia Malmstrom.

The adopted recommendation must still be given the green light by the European Parliament and then the Council of the European Union. Before that happens, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina will have to resolve several outstanding issues.

Ashdown "Considered" for Top Balkans Job

Paddy Ashdown, a British politician and former High Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina, is reportedly being considered for a role as a European special envoy for the Balkans, while EU leaders have said that such a post is not currently under discussion.

British daily The Guardian cited senior sources in Brussels as saying that it was possible that Ashdown, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats, would be appointed to a new post in the region, the establishment of which is reportedly to be discussed at today's EU-Western Balkans summit in Sarajevo.

According to the report, Catherine Ashton, the EU's foreign and security policy chief, will discuss Ashdown's possible appointment at dinner in London on Thursday night with William Hague, the British foreign secretary.



Jessen-Petersen: 'I was stopped from Investigating Corruption'

Soren Jessen-Petersen headed UNMIK from August 2004 to July 2006. In an interview with BIRN he reveals his regrets at his failure to tackle rule of law issues in Kosovo and tells how corruption investigations into political leaders were derailed by last-minute phone calls from powerful countries.



By BIRN

Artan Haraqija: Hello Sir, let's say 'long time no see' right? Here we have Mr Soren Jessen-Petersen, at the table, at the studio of Life in Kosovo after quite some time I would say. I'm kind of sure that you are quite happy to be back in Kosovo, but not in the position you had for two years, from 2004 to 2006, as practically someone that has the final word in everything. Is that correct?

Soren Jessen-Petersen: Yes, I am delighted that I am back not having a word on anything and no responsibilities. And I am evidently delighted to be back.

Q: And you are here at a time of raids, on what the EU at least is officially saying, in taking the first steps against corruption, possible corruption. Do you have an opinion regarding all these activities; let's say it like this, happening right now in Prishtina?

A: The reaction I have is that on one hand I am not surprised, but maybe at the same time disappointed that corruption still seems to be on top of the agenda. It should be, but it is on top of the agenda because there have been a lot of words, a lot of statements of good intentions, but in my impression, very little, if any action. And I think what is encouraging is the impression you get, that maybe we are moving now. Maybe - I don't know; I hope so. I understand from my talks here with many people is that, people are a little bit tired of words. They need action. And therefore I think it is very interest-

ing time, very exciting.

Q: Why are people seeing action now and not years ago, during the UN rule?

A: Well, again, I cannot give you details but I know from when we were trying to act and were ready to act. I can talk only about the two years I was here and I know we were ready to act on some very serious cases of corruption. And it is a fact, regrettable, that when you are ready to act there is a lot of interference.

Q: From whom?

A: Internationally, and I wouldn't call it interference nationally, but obstacles and not being helpful. And you shouldn't stop acting because of that. But it just delays. It seems that we have now come to the point when they are ready for action and I think that's good.

Q: Can we know what is the address of these obstacles that were made to you at that time and you were actually the most important, the most authoritarian person in Kosovo?

A: Yes, I can say to you several countries...

Q: Which ones?

A: That, I am not [prepared to say]. I think you will have to respect that, and you just have to believe me. But I would get calls from countries that were aware that we were in the process of moving forward on something, expressing serious concern. What I would always hear is that if we did so and so, act, and I underline act, it would be a threat to stability.

I don't think it is. I think it's a threat to stability if you do not act. If you fail to act and allow lack of respect for the rule of law and what follows from that, if you allow that to settle down, you don't act, then there is in the long term a threat to stability. But there was so much

concern, wrongly, because I have a lot of confidence and trust in the people of Kosovo. So much concern about "oh don't do that, it's a threat to stability". No, a threat to stability is only if you do not act, act in accordance with rule of law, principle procedures and laws.

Q: That stopped you for two years?

A: No, what I am saying, and let me also be clear, that I also agree that not enough was being done. We moved forward on the rule of law but when it came to moving from working on it and acting and assuring that something is happening there we did not take the final step. Not because, as I say, I was concerned about these countries telling me not to do it, but there were so many obstacles put in our way. I wish I could give you details, but we simply had no option. But just to wait a little bit and then...

Q: I totally respect your right of keeping it to yourself, the countries that kept calling you, and made those obstacles.

A: Not always the same countries, depending on what issues it was.

Q: Ok, but if that happens then, can it happen now? Should we know what countries?

A: I am sure that those responsible now in the various areas are receiving the sorts of calls and contacts expressing some concern, maybe concerns about stability, and again, I think I know the people of Kosovo. I don't think there is a threat to stability. As I said, a threat to stability is if they don't move forward on action.

Q: Mr. Petersen, I, again, should remind you the difference between the actual international missions and the UN mission in Kosovo. The actual ones still have people who question

the legal right of EULEX, for instance, to raid the ministry, to raid private property. UN did not have that problem because everybody knew that you had the right to do so, with or without obstacles, and again you didn't do it. How close were you on taking actions that were stopped?

A: Very close.

Q: How close? Explain it to us.

A: Everything was ready. There again, I do not go into details but if, let's say one element of the plan, at the last minute, says "no we cannot participate".

Q: Since the actions did not happen, we cannot ask you about the names, but we can ask you whether the actions were about the government, at the governmental level, at the municipality, legal system? Where exactly were you about to take action?

A: I would say political leaders at the time.

Q: Political leaders...important ones in Prishtina?

A: Let's just move on to the next one, because you are absolutely right that in the time of UNMIK there was a lot of work on the way, in some areas improvements, but there were also failures to move decisively on some of these issues.

Q: Failures from your side, you are speaking?

A: Certainly, in the two years I was here, it must be on my side, since I was responsible.

Q: Is there anything that you regret most? Is this the one?

A: Yes. Yes. What I regret most is exactly what we are saying, what we are talking. That we did not move forward more on establishing, consolidating the rule of law during our time. We had eight, nine

years and I think it should have been possible. I have been writing since leaving, also a book, I have been speaking, and this is my most serious regret.

Q: The fight against corruption?

A: Rule of law.

Q: Trying to wrap up this part of the questions regarding corruption and actions taken or not taken, I'm going to ask you a direct question and you take your right to answer it or not. I am going to mention names now. Was the United States of America an obstacle in not taking actions for the sake of stability? Was it Great Britain, was it Denmark?

A: No, let's not go into that. I mean I think it is enough that you understand that whereas it looks very easy and you have enough, and that's when it takes a little bit of time, you will have all kinds of interference, a lot of it irresponsible, some of it I wouldn't call responsible but maybe to an extent understandable. The thing is that it shouldn't be, and it will rarely be of such a kind that it will stop you and in one case I mean and one day you and I will sit down and talk about it. It was so serious.

Q: Well, we can talk about it today if you want.

A: Yes, but I think there are other sort of concerns that we have to bear in mind, because we are here now, and want to see some action being taken. So you ask one question, because you asked directly United States, you said that you would ask one question, I answer that question. No, in that case it was not the United States.

The full interview will be posted to www.balkaninsight.com

Outside In

Hotel Union, Isa Mustafa, ignorance and beyond



By Kreshnik Hoxha

Serbian regime for eradicating Prishtina's patrimony, today, we demonstrate that our potential for destruction goes beyond Serb efforts.

If fifteen years ago we were troubled by the oppression imposed on us as the second-class citizens of this city, today, we are in a position to lecture others on how to patronise and devalue citizens for having different opinions.

For eleven years our politicians continuously played the Europhilia card to attract support, today, mayor Isa Mustafa and his intellectually-challenged 'experts'

should hang their heads in shame for failing to preserve a prime example of European influence in Prishtina.

The two-year debate about Hotel Union has now metamorphised into a critical question about values, about rewriting history, about what defines the society of the newest and most ignorant capital in Europe.

Sterling efforts are being made for the final battle to save the former Hotel Union. But, what if it gets knocked down? It will be a great shame and it will eradicate important traces of history.

But, it will also put a cynical smile on the faces of those who are diehard supporters of erecting an independence memorial for the Former President Ibrahim Rugova instead.

At the end of the day, this would be their hard-earned victory. However, we must rest assured that with this frame of mind, history will repeat itself. If we attempt to rewrite history today, someone will do the same in eighty-odd years time.

If today the legacy of 1920s is being questioned for the sake of building Rugova's memorial, in

eighty years' time someone else could question the legacy of 2010 and replace Rugova's memorial with something trendier.

By doing so, this city will reinvent its history nearly every century, thus demonstrating the insecurities of our society in accepting the past.

And finally, the 'experts', who concluded that the building is of no value, should first apply for readmission into the human race and then publicly apologise for neglecting calls to act immediately on the preservation of Hotel Union.

COHU: Shouting Down Corruption



By Belinda Vrapı

In a country where few dare to speak out against corruption, the Organisation for Democracy, Anticorruption and Dignity, COHU!, is one of the few voices regularly tackling this pernicious issue.

COHU! has been active as a civil society organisation since 2006 and was started by a group of friends. For almost a year, the members used their own resources to keep going.

Avni Zogiani, head of COHU, told Prishtina Insight: "Since it began its activity, COHU! dealt with the most sensitive and difficult issues of corruption and organised crime in politics.

"The very first report of COHU! covered corruption and manipulations that were done by the international and local staff in Prishtina International Airport.

"Seeing the corruption from the point of view of politics, COHU! warned that the involvement of a corrupt leadership on the status negotiations would harm the process.

"For most of the time during its existence, the organisation was the one to bring into the light of public attention the topics and evidence that showed the involvement of the highest ranks of politics in corruption and tried to explain what will be the consequences of such corruption on policy-making, especially so in economy."

Taking a tough stance against



corruption in Kosovo can lead to pressure from the fingered institutions, and COHU is no exception.

Mr Zogiani said: "Of course there is a dose of antagonism between of COHU! and politics, both local and international politics. However, we believe this is serving very much to the creation of a public sphere where people will channel their energy, ideas and activities.

"There were cases of pressure and threats. There were also cases of institutional pressure against our organisation.

"In 2007 when we were carrying out the project 'Civil society for a clean parliament,' a press release of a governing party, which I wouldn't like to single out now, called the state institutions to "conduct a raid and see who is supporting this organisation".

"Three civil servants came along to our office within that

week and asked to see our financial documentation."

The project involved screening the background of candidates for the 2007 elections for the Kosovo Parliament.

Analysing the legal framework of transparency laws and corruption is another long-running activity of the organisation.

Zogiani added: "The organisation is divided up into two separate offices, one for public companies and the privatisation process and the other for the legislative aspect and good governance. Of course the organisation also has a component that deals with advocacy and campaigning."

The main objective of the organisation is to achieve a government specifically and more generally politics which are accountable to the public through stirring and maintaining public pressure. The rule of law, functioning institu-

tions based on the principles of impartiality and equal treatment is COHU!'s vision.

COHU! believes it has been successful in thrusting the issue of corruption into the public domain, thus encouraging people to speak out more forcefully.

The NGO's work on anticorruption issues has also encouraged many people to visit its office to provide information.

Zogiani said: "COHU! today has practically turned into an address where the citizens often turn for complaints, ideas and contribution.

"When COHU! was established almost none of the civil society organisations were talking about some sensitive topics. Today we have several organisations following the work of COHU!, which is probably the biggest achievement of the organisation and its partners."

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Easy

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Duplex club

Friday, June 4, 2010,
Grand opening of Summer Season 2010 'With a whole new glamorous summery feel' with King of the Jungle - DJ Jungle



Saturday, June 5, 2010

DJ GOCE- going beyond the Sound Barrier & playing music

Monday, June 14, 2010

Fashion TV Party Michel Adam Collection

(<http://www.myspace.com/djgoce>)

& DJ FLOW Sprinkling Hip Hop Vibes creating great atmosphere.

Full House

Saturday, June 4, 2010

Jody Wisternoff / Way Out West * PIMW vol. V "Master Smash" Jody Wisternoff :



Jody's influence and contribution to dance music cannot be overstated. Between breaking through to the DMC Hip Hop finals as a fresh faced 13-year-old in 1986, and putting the finishing touches to his band's fourth studio album in 2008, a lot has happened. His early 90s act Sub Love was one of the largest draws on the UK rave festival circuit and his hook-up with Bristol DJ Nick Warren in 1994 gave us Way Out West. With big singles (The Gift/ Ajare/ Mindcircus/ Killa) and big albums, their enormously prolific remix period referenced everyone from the fantastically cool to the fanatically desperate. The production duo also transformed into a five-piece live act in support of the 2004 "Don't look Now" album and Jody's put out a few solo crackers in the interim with more to come.

<http://www.jodywisternoff.com/>

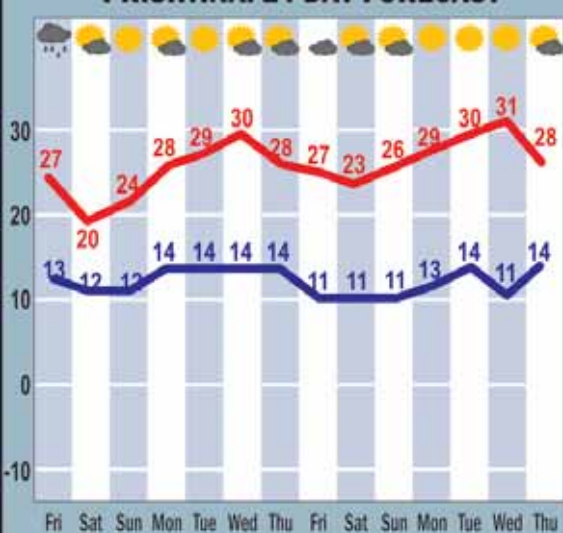
40 BunarFest Party:

Saturday, June 5, 2010 in Prizren, near the camp of Mlin.

40 BunarFest is a non-traditional festival held in Prizren. In this festival all anyone who wants can join the race with tractor tyres in the river Bistrica. Bunar Fest will take place on Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6 in the river of the city, where all lovers of rafting will show off their skills.



PRISHTINA: 14-DAY FORECAST



FREEDOM FESTIVAL 2010:

Freedom Festival 2010 to rock next weekend!

The organisers of Freedom Festival, Urban FM Radio confirmed last week that the festival is ready to rock on June 12 and 13.

Freedom Festival this year bears the slogan 'Freedom of Movement for Young Europeans' to express the dissatisfaction of young people from Kosovo, who are not able to get on the so-called Schengen visa white list to travel freely in the EU, whereas their neighbours are. The Festival will start from 5pm on Saturday, and again on Sunday, and it will take place in the Auto Arena (next to HIB Petrol) on the highway Prishtina-Skopje, 2km out of Prishtina. This year, entry costs 5 euro per night; tickets can be bought at local coffee bars.

Fans wanting to attend both nights of the festival will have a place to pitch their tent, or can call local taxi

companies and ask for lower prices to go up to the festival's arena. For more, contact 038 247 953, 044 981 549, 049 159 238, www.freedomfestival.eu; www.radiourbanfm.com

Saturday, June 12, 2010

CHAMILLIONER
DEADZONE
RED SNAPPER
THE BONZE
UTILITY
BIB DE ROSA
BIMBIMMA
LIKATEK
and more...

Sunday, June 13, 2010

STEREO MC'S
RONI SIZE & DYNAMITE
MC
TROJA
JERICHO
THE GLASSES
TRANSFORMERS
HENDIKEPS
LABINOT SPONCA



ABC Cinema

ABC Cinema continues to screen the movie "Robin Hood" at 10 pm (3 euro ticket) and the new movie "Besa" at 6 pm and 8 pm. "Besa" represents the period of the beginning of the First World War, where a Serb, Filip, needs to go to Belgrade, and leaves alone his Slovenian wife, Lea, in a small city in Serbia, where she is a teacher. The school employee, Azem, an 'uneducated person', promises to Filip that he will look after his wife and the film follows his efforts to keep his word.



Job Offer

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