OHR BiH Media Round-up, 17/7/2003

BH TV 1 (19:00 hrs)	FED TV (19:30 hrs)	RT RS (19:30 hrs)
State institutions budget	Budget exceeding	Donald Hays in BL
BH Presidency on 5C	Dragan Mikerevic	Semberka factory strike
US and Korea	Brcko District	OVK commander in prison
'Kreka' company		Middle East

Due to technical problems, BORAM was not able to provide CRHB summary.

Oslobodjenje	Paravac spent almost half a million KM; Mandic brought money to BiH in suitcases; Fictitious firms – 650 million KM transferred via accounts in the RS; Cegar case – Sucur and Skenderagic announced resignations; District Brcko – no entity laws valid; Bosmal signing a protocol with the CoM
Dnevni Avaz	Halilovic – Cegar threatening to beat me up!; Bosmal Executive Director – very soon we will ensure 300 million Euro; Hadzicpasic – we will prevent the abuse of certificates in PIF; Dokic requesting an explanation from the CRA
Dnevni List	SDA barters Mostar for constitutional changes?; Session of the BiH Presidency – budget overstepped by 23 percent in the first six months; Andrija David Skobic – form Mostar according to logic, not ideology
Vecernji List	Quarter of citizenry does not have health insurance; Police searching for 80 'missing' people from India
Slobodna Dalmacija	OHR – the SDA undermines the unification of Mostar; Edin Sabanovic, co-owner of Bosmal – Croatia should not even send their bid
Glas Srpske	Dismissed staff of the 'Elektron' firm from Bijeljina preparing a lawsuit – postman brought notices of resignation; Banjaluka – 'Gacko' faced with bankruptcy
Nezavisne Novine	New turn of events in the construction plans for 5C corridor through BiH – Covic's international tender for highway construction in BiH is a necessity; Banjaluka – Mikerevic announces new shock therapy at the Republika Srpska Elektroprivreda
Blic	Mikerevic – Hays – the Republika Srpska needs a shock-therapy; More and more social cases in Bijeljina; Average salary in Federation 525 KM, pension 188,15 KM

HR's author	ities
BiH Presidency members	BHTV at 19:00 hrs by – opinions of BiH Presidency members on the current authorities of the High Representative differ. "I mostly agree with the statement made by Mr Mikerevic. I advocate the thesis that the role of HR has to die out gradually. It is not possible to eliminate HR's authorities 100% right now," said Paravac. Chairman of the BiH Presidency, Dragan Covic, stated the following. "I have not read Mr Mikerevic's statement, but it is not up to us to discuss HR's authorities. The High Representative has the authorities, which resulted from, primarily, the Dayton Peace Agreement." Sulejman Tihic had the following thing to say. "HR's authorities are necessary until all deficiencies from the Dayton Peace Agreement and BiH constitutions were removed, until BiH becomes a normal state in accordance with the international law. However, I think that the High Representative and his staff members interfere too much with the current affairs, personnel affairs for which his assistance is not necessary."
Mikes	BHTV at 19:00 hrs – RS House of Peoples Deputy Speaker, Miroslav Mikes, believes that the international community's politics is directed towards the 'sucking out' jurisdiction of entities and transferring it to the state level. Therefore, Mikes sees foundations of the RS being 'shaken'. In an interview to Banja Luka based Novi Reporter, Mikes stated that HR Paddy Ashdown erased the term 'sovereignty' from the RS Constitution even though the international community was aware that he did not have powers to perform such things without any procedures. Despite this, at least 40% of the BiH Constitution was already changed, said Mikes.

Economic Affairs

BiH institutions'	BHTV at 19:00 hrs by <u>Gvozden Sarac</u> – During a six-month period, BiH state
budget	institutions exceeded their expenditures spending approximately 23% more
	than their estimated budget. For that reason, at a session held on Wednesday,
	BiH Presidency members requested the rebalance of the budget estimate.
	Sources close to the BHTV say that the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
	opposes that initiative. This overspending the BiH Presidency justified saying
	that the money was spent to establish new state bodies. "First of all, the reason
	for this was that certain state institutions, newly formed ministries and agencies
	were not planned at all in the estimate of the budget for 2003. There are two or
	three new ministries, SIPA, not to mention other institutions we established this
	year, therefore it is necessary to conduct budget rebalance," said Chairman of
	the BiH Presidency Dragan Covic. The BHTV obtained information saying that
	cabinet of a Serb member of the BiH Presidency spent 453,000 KM for six
	months; cabinet of a Croat member spent 320,000 KM and as Bosniak BiH
	Presidency member spent 258,000 KM. BiH Presidency members agree that it is
	necessary to issue a tender for projecting and building the 5C corridor, with
	both international and domestic companies applying. "I am personally sure that
	the only way for BiH to responsibly approach this kind of serious project with a
	value of several billion Euros is to issue a tender," said Covic. Next BH
	Presidency regular session will take place in a month. FTV at 19:30 hrs by
	Aleksandar Markovic - according to the report, this institution has exceeded the
	anticipated expenses for about 25%. Therefore, BiH Presidency members have
	decided to plan the estimate for each month in the future. "The Presidency has
	exceeded the estimate for 23% comparing to the what has been planned. The
	IMF, together with other financial institutions that operate for the IC in BiH, are
	negotiating with the BiH Ministry of Finance regarding the estimate
	rebalancing," stated Covic. RTRS at 19:30 hrs by <u>Stjepan Zlikovac</u> – reported
	the news. Dnevni List pg. 1 and 3 and Vecernji List pg. 2 'Chairman Covic
	announced rigorous saving' – "The International Monetary Fund (IMF) demands
	rationalization of the budget when expenditures are in question. Two thirds of
	the budget go for financing of the institutions and objection of IMF with regard
	to this issue are in order." Covic said. Blic pg. 7 'Presidency spends more than
	planed'. Avaz pg. 9 'Spent 188,220 KM over the planned'.

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Hays in Banja Luka	BHTV at 19:00 hrs by <u>Boris Gagic</u> – PDHR Donald Hays said during his visit to Banja Luka on Wednesday that a progress in the implementation of reforms in the RS was visible, however that he was not yet satisfied with it. RS Prime Minister, Dragan Mikerevic, repeated that he opposed High Representative imposing decisions and stressed that the responsibility had to rest with local politicians. In coordination with foreign experts, the Expert Commission has to be formed soon and its task would be to deliver a strategy on solving the issue of public debt. PDHR Hays believes that actions have to be taken to ensure more sufficient work of the RS Tax Administration and public corporations. He also said he was aware that it would not be easy to oppose different interests, as it was obvious in the case of Elektroprivreda. "One of the problems the government admitted was not being able to control the Elektroprivreda, which was managed by a certain political group," said PDHR Hays. After talks with government reps, the OHR said that new organisational changes would be introduced in regard to the Elektroprivreda and oil industry. Prime Minister Mikerevic said that the government was ready to accept responsibility and to make difficult decisions. "I advocate for High Representative to have less impact on the processes and that we take that responsibility in accordance with the Constitution." Donald Hays dismissed accusations on over-exceeding powers of High Representative. "During my stay here, I have heard question from parliamentarians, presidents, ministers and citizens why the High Representative did not do more?" Both Mikerevic and Hays agreed that the privatisation process in the RS had to be accelerated. FTV at 19:30 hrs by <u>Indira</u> Sehic – Hays said that 'politicians in this country have given up on their citizens,' and also encouraged local politicians to start dealing with organized crime and the corruption. "It necessary for you to insure the electric energy export. You're losing half of the electric energy inst
Bosmal	admitted they could not control Elektroprivreda'. Avaz pg. 1 and 3 – commenting on the recent offer by the Croatian government and a request fro the issuing of a public tender, Edin Sabanovic, company Executive Director, stated that they started an initiative over a year ago and made an offer to BiH. "We want to complete the project. As for PM Racan and the Croatian government I have nothing to comment. I am really not sure how economically strong Croatia is to compare itself to the Malaysian economy." He categorically denied the Bosmal was quitting the deal.Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 1 and 3 – With regard to the Croatian bid, Sabanovic said the following. "There is no need for them to send it. It would be the same as if the 'Bosmal' appeared and demanded a concession for a part of the 5C corridor in Croatia." Asked about the alleged connections between 'Bosmal' and honorary SDA President Alija Iztebegovic, founder of the Party of BiH Haris Silajdzic and Malaysian Prime Minister, Sabanovic said 'they were the company that has nothing to do with any politics, added they were not any political fraction or party'.

Cavic on 5C corridor	Nezavisne Novine pg. 1 & 3 – Dragan Covic, Chairperson of the Presidency, yesterday made a new turn in the events related to the construction of the 5C corridor by saying that an international tender needed to be announced, bearing in mind the value of the entire of project. Chairperson of BiH Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, commented that this was the first time he heard of announcing an international tender. In his view, elements and pre-requisites need to be met in order to announce an international tender. Avaz pg. 2 'Approach the construction of the Vc corridor responsibly' – during yesterday's Presidency session, Covic stated that the only way for BiH to responsibly approach the construction of the 5C corridor was to issue a public tender and look for the best offer.
CRO media with 5C corridor	Jutarnji List pg. 6 'In BiH we have no money for anything including highway' – reads that statements by Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, and BiH Minister of Transport and Communications, Branko Dokic, tempered negative comments in media on results of talks held in Sarajevo on Monday with Prime Minister of Croatia Ivica Racan. Terzic said to journalists on Tuesday that BiH was not in a position to choose since it had no money for anything, including the construction of a highway. That is why the offer of the private company 'Bosmal' to provide 300 millions Euros, necessary for the feasibility study and other project documentation, was accepted without a lot of thinking. "The project by Bosmal can fail only if it they do not respect proposed offer," said Terzic and explained that it meant strict respecting of envisaged deadlines. On the same issue Vecernji List pg. 4 <u>by Zdenko Jurilj</u> 'Tihic goes to Malaysia also because of the 5C corridor' – the BiH delegation led by Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency, Sulejman Tihic, will attend the Summit of Organization of Islamic Conference that is to take place on October 23 and 24 in Malaysia. VL says that apart from the status of BiH in this organization, the issue is the construction of the 5C corridor that is being supported by the Malaysian government through the Malaysian-Bosnian Company 'Bosmal' will also be discussed.

Political Aff	airs
Brcko District	BHTV at 19:00 hrs – Brcko Supervisor, Henry Clarke, on Wednesday announced his decision not to apply the entity laws in District unless the District Assembly adopted them. If it considers necessary, the District government could replace the entity regulations with its own. The District government will also prepare a list of all the entity laws that still applied in the District in order to prepare a plan for their replacement. Nezavisne Novine pg. 2 'Entity laws are not in effect in Brcko' – Clarke yesterday issued a new Supervisory Order advancing the process of harmonising and replacing the entity legislations in the Brcko District. Oslobodjenje pg. 6 'No entity laws valid in Brcko'.

	FTV at 19:30 hrs by <u>Halid Rifatbegovic</u> – BiH Prime Minister, Adnan Terzic, on Wednesday met with reps from the District authorities to discuss the implementation of reforms in this region. Terzic said that 'when we were united in our efforts, we could make a single economic space in the entire BiH, and also contributed the political stability in the process.' Terzic also noted that the BiH Council of Minister would form the Coordination Team at an early date. The team will be responsible for the collaboration with the district. RTRS at 19:30 hrs by <u>Gajo Mitrovic</u> – the focus of the talks was the issue of creating a single economic environment in BiH where the District should play an important role. "It was interesting to listen to experiences of authorities in Brcko District in several areas, on – for CoM important issue – attitude towards privatisation and improving business atmosphere. I was encouraged by the way the Brcko District government saw things in these segments," said Terzic. Brcko Mayor, Sinisa Kisic, stressed good results achieved in the field of education, public administration and judiciary, adding BiH had not much time to solve these and other reform related issues. Avaz pg. 4 'Terzic: remove all dilemmas on the work of the Brcko authorities' – talked about the establishment of a body that would coordinate correspondences between the CoM and Brcko authorities. Dnevni List pg. 4 'Terzic: unjustified objections to the work of the District government'.
OHR on SDA reps leaving Mostar Commission	BHTV at 19:00 hrs by <u>Seid Masnica</u> – while the OSCE presented the plan for the unification of two Mostar high schools, the OHR strongly criticised city's politicians who could not agree on Mostar's statute. On Monday, SDA representatives left the Commission tasked to draft this document. The OHR South Office condemns the SDA walkout from the Mostar City Board stressing this move was worrying. OHR South Spokesperson, Avis Benes, said that such SDA action could undermine the progress made by the Commission, risking the entire process of the Mostar recovery. "In a certain way, these parties
	sanctioned themselves as they betrayed their voters for simply not showing enough of responsibility, and in this case the SDA refuses to participate in the process it participated all along," said Benes. The SDA did not want to comment on its action. Dnevni List pg. 17 by <u>D. Kozina</u> 'Benes: SDA sanctions itself by this act' and Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 1 and 19 – reported the statement.
re-structuring	Dnevni List pg. 1 and 4 – DL sees the decision by SDA to withdraw from the work of the Mostar Commission as a pressure against the IC in order to get the support for the constitutional changes and as a victory of radicals within the SDA. Furthermore, DL reads that Zijo Hadziomerovic, a member of SDA Presidency and Head of Mostar's Municipality Old Town, once stated that he was the one that took decisions and that he was not interested what Omer Cevra and Salko Sokolovic (NB: senior officials of SDA in Canton 7) thought. In that context, the author says the relations within the SDA in Mostar and Canton 7 are bad and that Hadziomerovic and Fatima Leho on one side, and Cevra and Sokolovic on the other, do not communicate. Vecernji List pg. 5 'EU ambassadors will support the Commission in Mostar' – top delegations of the HDZ and SDA met in Sarajevo last night to discuss issues pertaining to the work of the Mostar Commission. Reportedly, the HDZ delegation comprised of Barisa Colak, Dragan Covic, Dragan Vrankic and Niko Lozancic whilst on the other side, Sulejman Tihic headed a 'large team of SDA'. According to VL, unofficial information says that the SDA of Mostar could return to the Mostar Commission. Moreover, VL stresses the importance of the whole issue stating that the sole reason behind the visit of EU ambassadors to BiH and Mostar on Monday, July 21, is the process of Mostar restructuring when they are to meet with members of the Commission agreed to have more frequent sessions in order to come up with a draft of future Statute of Mostar.
Palavric	Vecernji List pg. 3 'We will not stay in authority at any cost' – carries Vice President of the SDA, Suada Palavric. "One gets a feeling in Mostar that the HDZ would not be acting as arrogantly if they did not have the support from the IC. Delegation of SDA left the last talks on the reorganization of Mostar after it made a proposal which the HDZ did not take a look at".

Merdzo	Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 19 'Division of city being advocated' – an interview with President of the HDZ's cantonal Board in Canton 7 and a member of the Mostar Commission, Josip Merdzo, during which he says the SDA is an advocator of the current divisions in the city. Talking about the work of the Mostar Commission, Merdzo says the OHR did the preparatory works reiterating that the current Statute of Mostar does not meet the needs of the city. "It was shown at the start that representatives of the SDA and the so-called representative of the independent, Radmilo Andric, do not want to accept the OHR's principles. I will stress that Andric clearly sided with the Bosniaks and even became a leader of their activities," says Merdzo. He also stresses that the Mostar Commission has managed to complete a part of the work agreeing that the President of Mostar City Council will have two deputies and that the three will come from the line of three constituent peoples. Dnevni List pg. 4 'The SDA are not aware of seriousness of situation' – also carried an interview with Merdzo. Merdzo says that 'their' position is that the work within the Commission must resume revealing that two members of the Commission, namely Radmilo Braca Andric and Bakir Krpo froze their status within the Commission at the last session, adding that Krpo still attended the session. "Still, we reached a conclusion with Krpo to send two letters. One was sent to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Mostar to urgently fill the vacancies at the Commission because they have the authority () The other letter was sent to the OHR so they declare their view on the situation," says Merdzo announcing there would be a regular session (of the Mostar Commission) today.
Hays on SDS reps leaving RS NA session	RTRS at 19:30 hrs – PDHR Donald Hays described SDS delegates' decision to walkout from the RS National Assembly last session on Tuesday as a political move. "That was a trial of one group of politicians to show another group of politicians who was the boss. Taxpayers' money was spent for nothing, while citizens were offended since they expected these politicians to implement reforms," stressed Hays. PDHR further discussed the work of the RS NA with its Speaker, Dragan Kalinic, and heads of caucuses. During the talks, special attention was paid to legal regulations in regard to the VAT, reforms of customs and defence system and rebalance of the budget. Blic pg. 7 'Who the boss is'.
PDP on RS NA session	Nezavisne Novine pg. 6 'It was not easy on PDP without the SDS' – PDP Vice President, Goran Milojevic, yesterday stated that PDP delegates did not attend the session of the Republika Srpska National Assembly yesterday since it was obvious that due to the absence of over 30 % of deputies, the Assembly could not properly function. Milojevic also expressed dissatisfaction over the inefficiency of the BiH Election Commission. He also added that the action by SDS MP's was not the best way to protest against it.Blic pg. 7 'Lack of promptness of Election Commission'.

Fed parties claim IC gave in to RS requests	Avaz pg. 9 'Some from the IC gave in to pressures from the RS' – the SDA assessed as unacceptable the giving in of the IC to anti-reformist forces that advocate the legislation of the existing situation in the areas of defence, security, taxes, customs. Therefore, the party will open the issue of their relationship with partner parties in relation to the issues, and, if necessary, advocate the re-composition of the authority structure. Safet Halilovic, SBiH President, said they thought some IC reps gave in to pressures and lobbying from the RS. "To be more specific, the Working Group for the devising of the Law on Indirect Taxation in the RS left a session, and by doing so exerted pressures. Allowances are practically being made for RS reps in the areas of customs administrations. The SBiH thinks t number of things in the reform of defence and intelligence services are disputable," said Halilovic. HDZ Vice-Persident, Niko Lozancic, said the SDA reacting was justified and founded. He added that according to his info, the direction of reforms so far in the sphere of defence, intelligence and fiscal policy were not going in the right direction. "If this continues to the end I personally think, and that is the view of the HDZ, that this was not what we wanted to achieve through reforms. We want reforms that aim for the establishment of everything I mentioned on the state level, and not some sort of coordination of entity constitutions," said Lozancic. An insert 'Stojicic: there's majority without the SDA' – the SDS stated they did not know what the SDA meant when they talked about the re-composing of the authority structure. SDS Spokesperson, Dusan Stojicic, said it was SDA's right to establish authority with other parties on the basis of an agreement, as well as to break the agreement. "In case of the majority in the RS NA, such position by the SDA will not influence greatly the work of the Parliament, as it is well known there's majority even without the SDA." Avaz pg. 4 'IC reps gave in to pressure from the RS'
Vjesnik on Ploce port	Vjesnik pg. 5 'Croatia wants to jointly administrate Ploce Port with BiH without foreign arbiter' – according to Vjesnik's unofficial findings, the issue of Ploce Port between BiH and Croatia will be resolved in a way that the Agreement on the Ploce Port and protocol on the new composition of the Port's Steering Board will be signed simultaneously – on the same day, at the same time. According to Vjesnik, it is an unusual but necessary compromise, the details of which should be arranged in the next two months.
VL on SDA	Vecernji List pg. 3 'We are not staying in power at any cost' – the SDA is dissatisfied with relation of partner's parties in the ruling Coalition and announced a possibility of going into opposition. VL also says that the SDA is accusing partner's parties but also the IC for the possible breakdown of the ruling Coalition. SDA Vice President, Seada Palavric, stated that her impression was that it was being worked intensively on legalization of the situation in BiH, which was the result of the aggression and ethnic cleansing. VL says that apart from the SDS and HDZ, the SDA is also not satisfied with the Party for BiH.

Police Affairs

Cegar case	Avaz pg. 1 and 2 – Federation Minister of Interior, Mevludin Halilovic, yesterday informed senior state and Federation officials about threats he had been receiving from Commander of the FBiH Special Unit Zoran Cegar. In the letter Halilovic wrote that Cegar is calling him insulting names, threatening to beat him up and also saying that 'Halilovic should be careful what he did because he had children'. Halilovic therefore requested protection, and moved his family out of Sarajevo. Halilovic further expressed surprise that so far there were no appropriate reactions by IC police officials, and Halilovic wondered what could an ordinary citizen expect when such things were happening to the minister and a member of the FBiH government. In a different article on pg. 2 'Cegar's protectors pronounced similar statements by witnesses as contradictory' – on a report by the Internal Control unit at the FBiH Mol, which the FBiH Commission for Defence and Security declared invalid. The report apparently suggests a disciplinary procedure due to Cegar's inappropriate behaviour, but claims there were not enough evidence to support claims of national and religious verbal abuse, hence no disciplinary responsibility needs to be established. Oslobodjenje pg. 3 'Sucur and Skenderagic announced resignations' – Slavisa Sucur and Nijaz Skenderagic, SDP reps, at a session of the Federation Commission for defence and Security, held on Monday, announced they'd submit their resignations in the Commission. Sucur told Oslobodjenje that certain members, mainly those from the SDA, want to solve in advance the Cegar investigation. Sucur recalled that in the case of Pogorelica and SNS, when the FOSS was established, false statement were coming from the Commission about people being dismissed without an explanation. Asked who made such statements, Sucur replied it was Sead Delic, Commission President.
Bill joint intolligence	Nezavisne Novine pg. 5 'Vila: Republika Srpska officials do not want a BiH
agency	intelligence agency' – Nermin Vila, a member of the Federation Task Force for Control of Intelligence Agencies, stated that Republika Srpska officials sitting at the BiH Intelligence Service Reform Commission from Republika Srpska do not want to see a joint BiH intelligence agency established. Vila stressed that Republika Srpska officials wanted to see two entity intelligence services exist with one co-ordination body at the state level. Unlike Republika Srpska officials, representatives from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina want to establish a joint intelligence agency of BiH. OHR Spokesperson, Oleg Milisic, reiterated that the deadline for the establishment of a joint intelligence service was January 1, 2004, stressing that all problems related to this issue should be resolved by this date. Barisa Colak, BiH Minister of Security, is of the opinion that BiH can only have one intelligence agency.

Education	Education Affairs	
Beecroft	Nezavisne Novine pg. 6 'Officials obstructing the implementation of education reform need to be removed' – Ambassador Robert Beecroft, Head of OSCE Mission to BiH, is of the opinion that ministers of education should remove school principles where reform is not being implemented. He stressed that the theory part of the educational reform has been completed, stressing that the time has come to implement it in practise. In spite of his satisfaction over the adoption of the Law on Primary and Secondary Education in BiH, Beecroft expressed expectation that the Law on High Education would be enacted by the end of this year.	

CRO press on education reform	Vecernji List pg. 9, and Dnevni List pg. 16 'Stop illegalities of ruling political nomenclature' – the Trade Union of Secondary Schools of the Herzegovina- Neretva Canton (Croats) has issued a press release in which they harshly oppose the plan on the unification of two Mostar gymnasiums. "The creation of a joint gymnasium in Mostar creates grounds for another confusion and the pre- war situation that necessarily leads towards a conflict." On the same issue Slobodna Dalmacija last page 'OSCE's plan on unification of Mostar gymnasiums presented' and Dnevni List pg. 17 'Benes: SDA sanctions itself by this act' – during yesterday's press conference of the international organizations seated in Mostar, OSCE Mostar Spokesperson, Richard Medic, presented a plan on the integration of two Mostar gymnasiums. On the same issue DL pg. 4 'Issue of Mostar gymnasiums is being resolved in Sarajevo' – Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency, Sulejman Tihic, yesterday talked with Head of the OSCE Mission in BiH, Robert Beecroft, on the implementation of the education reform. DL says