

# BiH Media Round-up, 20/3/2002

## BiH State-related Issues

- EC Consultative Group: BiH has to fulfill Road Map requirements within weeks
- BiH Presidency supports modification to Ploce Port agreement
- BiH Presidency announced the formation of first state military unit in BiH

## Constitutional Reform

- High Representative to impose constitutional solutions?
- SDA's Sulejman Tihic withdraws from talks on constitutional changes
- SNSD's Milorad Dodik: I do not want to participate in abolishment of RS
- BiH Foreign Minister called for consultations in Strasbourg; BiH accession to Council of Europe questionable if constitutional changes are not agreed upon
- Haris Silajdzic meets with the US Ambassador in BiH: Harmonization of entity constitutions is necessary
- ESI: The High Representative should not impose solutions if party leaders fail to agree on constitutional changes
- Oslobodjenje: Wolfgang Petritsch deserves to be remembered for his good deeds

## Federation

- Bosniak ministers in Hercegovina-Neretva Canton submit collective resignation
- HTV: Return to RS more problematic than to Federation
- Croatian Ambassador to BiH, Josip Vrbosic visited Drvar
- International Community will insist on full implementation of Property laws in Drvar
- Aluminij CEO Mijo Brajkovic: There will be no Behmen's superaudit

## Republika Srpska

- Bomb targets Islamic assembly building in an RS town

- Florence Hartmann: Mladic is protected by Yugoslav Army, Karadzic is in RS

### Brcko District

- An agreement on recovery and identification of mortal remains signed in Brcko

### International Community

- US embassy in Sarajevo boosts security measures after receiving threats

### Editorials

- Oslobodjenje: Waiting for Petritsch
- Jutarnje Novine: War's plunder of Ivanic
- Dnevni List: Bosniaks look for an easy life
- Vecernji List: Petritsch has the final say again?
- Slobodna Dalmacija : James Bond in the dark land

### Headlines

## BIH State-related Issues

### **EC Consultative Group: BiH has to fulfill Road Map requirements within weeks**

BiH did make a substantial progress in fulfilling conditions laid out in the EU Road Map, but the preparations for the feasibility study will start only after BiH fully meets all Road Map conditions, EU representatives said on Tuesday in Sarajevo. "A major progress has been made in fulfilling the Road Map conditions, however, meeting conditions does not only mean passing of laws, but their implementation as well," said the Director of EC for Western Balkans, Reinhard Priebe, following a regular meeting of the Consultative working group set up by BiH and the EU to help BiH move closer to European

structures. During the meeting, it was also agreed that BiH has to fulfill some 8 conditions from the Road Map within the next few weeks.

## **BiH Presidency supports modification to Ploce Port agreement**

The BiH Presidency supports the signing of the Protocol introducing modifications to the Agreement on the Ploce port, but considers that modifications should be tackled only after the Croatian Parliament ratifies the version of the Agreement that the BiH Parliament already ratified. Officials of the BiH Council of Ministers and the Croatian Government agreed in early March to harmonize the protocol that would serve as a guarantee that the contentious Article 9 would be removed from the Agreement on the Ploce port. This Article is the reason why the Croatian Parliament refuses to ratify the

Agreement in the first place.

"The BiH Presidency agreed to proceed to the negotiations on the amendments to the Agreement, in accordance with the State law and procedure provided for by the Protocol. The Presidency, however, expects the Agreement to be ratified without delay in order to proceed with the implementation of activities defined under the Protocol", BiH Presidency Chairman Beriz Belkic told reporters following Tuesday's session of the BiH Presidency, report FTV and ONASA news agency. Print media in the Federation also carry this item.

## **BiH Presidency announced the formation of first state military unit in BiH**

All news agencies report that the first state military unit is to soon be formed, after the BiH Presidency on Tuesday told the military advisors to prepare the decision on formation of that unit. "The Presidency told the military advisors to prepare the decision on formation of the honorary unit of BiH, which would be the guard of honor during reception of foreign

officials," Presidency Chairman Beriz Belkic said on Tuesday. He said that military advisors are also to make a draft decision on formation of a committee or commission of the commanders of headquarters.

## **Constitutional Reform**

### **High Representative to impose constitutional solutions?**

All Federation and RS media reported that the second day of the final round of talks between representatives of weight ruling parties in BiH and the High Representative, Wolfgang Petritsch, about constitutional changes in the entities also failed to produce any concrete results. Federation Television and RTRS quote the High Representative as saying during a recess of last night's talks that some 80% of issues have been agreed upon, but that the remaining 20% is the difficult part. "However, I am an optimist and I believe that everything will be done well. There has never been more readiness and trust among party leaders then now. BiH has a good chance that its local bodies reach satisfactory solutions, although, in this phase, anything is possible, even failure," said Petritsch last night.

Oslobodjenje speculates that the disputed 20% refers to the representation of peoples in the executive authority, the definition of the vital national interests and the mechanisms for their protection.

Despite Petritsch's optimism about the final outcome of the talks, Dnevni Avaz notes that the High Representative will have to impose solutions even if party leaders agree on all aspects of implementation of Constitutional Court's decision on constituency of peoples. An anonymous source tells the daily that the legislative procedure which would follow would

be too long and complicated, and the imposition would save the valuable time. The same source stressed that the talk have been going in the right direction and there are indications that the full agreement could be made. "However, this process is full of surprises and nothing is agreed until it is agreed," said the source, adding that the talks may continue in the next couple of days. In the meantime, the High Representative will call the 11 members of the PIC Steering Board to discuss with them the further steps which need to be taken.

## **SDA's Sulejman Tihic withdraws from talks on constitutional changes**

BIH Radio 1 reported this morning that the president of the SDA, Sulejman Tihic, decided to leave the talks on constitutional changes in the entities. Explaining his decision, Tihic said that he realized that the general position among parties is that solutions in the Federation and the RS do not necessarily have to be symmetrical. "In other words, this means that the Federation should have a full functioning House of Peoples, while in the RS, there would be Council for protection of peoples, which would have jurisdiction over a range of issues – about 10% of the total capacity of the RS National Assembly.

Tihic is the second official to leave the talks. The president of the SNSD, Milorad Dodik, withdrew from discussion already on Monday night.

NOTE: Although the presidents of SNSD and SDA withdrew from the talks, their parties remained represented in discussions. Both Dodik and Tihic sent their replacements to the talks.

## **SNSD's Milorad Dodik: I do not want to participate in abolishment of RS**

The leader of the SNSD (Party of Independent Social Democrats), Milorad Dodik who left the negotiations on

constitutional changes, accused SDP BiH, HDZ, NHI and Party for BiH of being united in an attempt to abolish the RS and create such mechanism of constitutional changes that would not function. Dodik added that he was dissatisfied over the lack of any will to reach a compromise. Nezavisne novine (NN) quote SNSD leader as saying: "Mental harassment that we were subject to in these negotiations is unacceptable. I did not allow SDS to break me with their mental harassment in the period between 1991 and 1993, and for sure, Zlatko Lagumdžija is not going to break me now." Dodik added that he would never accept intentions of the BiH Federation parties to make Serbs a minority in the RS Government. He accused Federal parties for expressing maximum requests, with no wish to reach compromise. "HDZ and Kresimir Zubak have maximum demands, with only one goal and that is to abolish RS. HDZ requests have not changed even for a bit, from the first day of negotiations. They want to abolish RS and to abolish Serbs. First they want to create conditions for abolishment of the RS and then to negotiate. I do not want to participate in that." – said Dodik. He recalled that in 1991, more than 50 % of Serbs lived in the RS and now, there are requests that they should have less than 50% representation in executive power, while Croats, who only had 9% before the war, would get 20% representation. SNSD leader suggested that talks over constitutional changes should be left to the entities Parliaments. After that, according to Dodik, Venice Commission should assess up to which extent the constitutional changes were carried out. Dodik stated that only the High Representative can answer the question whether the constitutional changes would be imposed and assessed that Petritsch invested a lots of effort to reach a compromise.

**BiH Foreign Minister called for consultations in Strasbourg; BiH accession to Council of Europe questionable if constitutional changes are not**

## **agreed upon**

Federation Television reports that the BH Foreign Minister, Zlatko Lagumdžija, was called to Strasbourg for urgent consultations about the accession of BiH to the Council of Europe. According to the same source, the failure to reach an agreement on constitutional changes in the entities could bring into question the admission of BiH to this oldest European human rights organization. For this reason, Lagumdžija was invited to attend the final consultations before the CoE Committee of Ministers before this body makes its decision on BiH accession to the Council of Europe.

An anonymous Ministry of Foreign Affairs source confirmed this to Dnevni Avaz, adding that the Council of Europe does not have much understanding for nuances of the ongoing talks on constitutional changes. "They are insisting on the agreement, and if the talks fail, it is probably that the accession of BiH to the Council will be postponed. Certain influential circles in the CoE believe that the accession should be postponed even if the talks succeed until the results of the October elections are known," the same source told Avaz.

## **Haris Silajdzic meets with the US Ambassador in BiH: Harmonization of entity constitutions in necessary**

Dnevni Avaz reports that Haris Silajdzic, the founder of the Party for BiH, met on Tuesday with the US Ambassador to BiH, Clifford Bond, and discussed the "consistent implementation of the Constitutional Court decision on constituency of peoples on the whole territory of BiH." The daily had no further details about the talks.

**ESI: The High Representative should not impose solutions if party leaders fail to agree on**

## **constitutional changes**

In a working paper issued on Tuesday, the European Stability Initiative (ESI) said that the High Representative, Wolfgang Petritsch, should not impose constitutional solutions in the entities if party leaders fail to agree on their essence. "Instead, one should make a conscious step backwards and leave the whole problem for better days. The imposition by the High Representative would not transform the BiH political life. Better than imposition solutions would be to enable BiH to transform itself with time," said ESI in its paper on the implementation of the CC ruling on constituent people in BiH. (Taken from Dnevni Avaz)

## **Oslobodjenje: Wolfgang Petritsch deserves to be remembered for his good deeds**

In the main editorial in Oslobodjenje, Amra Kebo notes that the High Representative, Wolfgang Petritsch, will deserve to be remembered for his good deeds in BiH. One of the greatest Petritsch's successes in this country, Kebo writes, is his insistence on the "domestic ownership of the peace process" and on the concept of responsibility of BiH politicians. According to her, even if political leaders reach satisfactory agreement in the end, this will be first and foremost Petritsch's merit. (See full text under editorials)

## **Federation**

### **Bosniak ministers in Hercegovina-Neretva Canton submit collective resignation**

In a statement given to Onasa, Vice-President of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Sefkija Džiho confirmed that the Bosniak ministers in the cantonal government have on Tuesday collectively resigned from office, owing to one outstanding salary paid to the educational workers in the Croat-dominated



part of the canton. "Such a payment means that two cantons are still functioning here", the Bosniak ministers said in their joint resignation they sent to me and (cantonal President Dragan) Vrankic", Dziho said. He added that in the afternoon hours these cantonal cabinet ministers would meet with representatives of the Office of the High Representative in Mostar.

The employees and teaching staff of the primary and secondary schools of the Croat-dominated part of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton on Tuesday morning went out on an all-out strike. The strikers are demanding the payment of salaries for January and February of this year, as well as retirement and social security payroll taxes. (All other Federation media carried this item, FTV as the leading item in prime time news)

## **HTV: Return to RS more problematic than to Federation**

(full transcript of Croatian TC prime time news item on Drvar)

The current situation in Drvar is, to a certain extent, the result of the Dayton Agreement and the division of BiH into two entities. One million and four hundred thousand refugees in that country is still not able to move back to their homes. As an example, only around 6,000 Croats have moved back to the RS in the past six years.

Frustrated by the fact that return is too slow, the international community has decided to take matters into its own hands towards the end of last year. High Representative Petritsch has imposed property laws according to which the state is not bound to offer alternative accommodation to any displaced persons who have a source of income. The UNCHR and other international organizations in BiH, therefore, claim that displacements of Croats in Drvar are legal, although they do admit that both Croats and Bosniaks are returning to the RS a great deal slower than Serbs to the Federation. In six

years, around 185,000 have refugees returned to the RS, while around 630,000 persons have returned to the BiH.

“This imbalance between the RS and the Federation with regards to the return of refugees and displaced persons, has certainly contributed to the deepening of the refugee crisis in BiH. Return to the RS is exclusively conditioned by the political approach to this problem. Some in the RS still think that the RS is territory designed exclusively for Serbs,” says Federation Deputy Refugee Minister Mijat Tuka.

The example of displaced Croats from Drvar has confirmed this once again. While around 15 Croat families are forced to leave Drvar daily in order to free houses earmarked for Serb returnees, the same number of evictions in Banja Luka, which has a much higher number of properties, is processed within a month.

“The statement that can frequently be heard in the media, that the Croats in Drvar do not want to return to the areas of central Bosnia does not stand up to scrutiny,” says Tuka.

The eviction of families before their properties are returned to them, or before temporary accommodation has been found, according to critics, is no solution for the problem of returnees or for the implementation of property laws in BiH, on which the international community has been insisting in the past few months and with which it justifies the latest evictions of Croats from BiH.

## **Croatian Ambassador to BiH, Josip Vrbosic visited Drvar**

All media in BiH report about Tuesday's visit of the Croatian Ambassador to BiH, Josip Vrbosic and the Federation Deputy Minister for Social Politics, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Mijat Tuka to the municipality of Drvar. During his visit to Drvar, Vrbosic promised assistance to displaced Croats in regulating of their status. Several hundred displaced Croats

living in Drvar on Tuesday protested over frequent evictions from the houses and apartments of domicile Serbs, without the right for alternative accommodation. Vrbosic said that the Croatian government would, in cooperation with BiH authorities, Office of the High Representative (OHR) and other international organizations, help the to-be-evicted persons in finding an alternative accommodation for them.

## **Federation Ombudsmen says evictions in Drvar are legal and in line with property laws**

The evictions of displaced Croat families from the houses of domicile Serbs in Drvar were performed in accordance with the property laws, the BiH Federation Ombudsmen concluded after reviewing decision issued by the municipal Housing Commission in Drvar. ONASA reports that the Ombudsman reviewed 184 cases related to property repossession and evictions of temporary occupants from January and February this year. Assistant ombudsman Branko Perkovic said that the Housing Commission, which consists of three Serb and two Croat members, is solving claims for property repossession in cases when temporary occupants have reconstructed houses in their pre-war places of residence. "We can conclude that the state of law have finally come to life in Drvar, at least when we speak about implementation of property laws, which is a big positive move in this municipality," Perkovic said.

## **International Community will insist on full implementation of Property laws in Drvar**

The International Community in BiH insists on the full implementation of the property laws, Spokesman for the Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo Kevin Sullivan said on Tuesday. "OHR, OSCE, UNHCR and UNMIBH wish to stress that the property laws now in

force in BiH fully respect freedom of choice, whether it be for individuals who wish to return to their pre-war homes or

to remain in their place of displacement – provided they are not illegally occupying another person's property. Full implementation of the laws is unconditional, and cannot be made dependent on the provision of alternative accommodation by local authorities for the current occupant or any other requirement", Sullivan told a press briefing

in Sarajevo. All media in the Federation (except FTV and BH Radio 1) quote Sullivan or carry the [joint press release](#) by international organizations.

## **Aluminij CEO Mijo Brajkovic: There will be no Behmen's superaudit**

(provided by OHR Mostar)

Vecernji List carries an interview with the CEO of "Aluminij" of Mostar Mijo Brajkovic. When questioned how he saw the superaudit announced by the Federation PM Alija Behmen and whether he would acknowledge its results, Brajkovic said that it was not a case of a superaudit adding that they (probably referring to the Federation Government) were having problems how to present some things to people. Brajkovic reiterated the story about the "Aluminij" being registered at the court asking what kind of a state has the might to tread on court's decisions. Brajkovic said that there were some mistakes that the "Aluminij" is willing to amend adding that the mistakes have nothing to do with the structure of the capital. The CEO said that the company has agreed not to go into another audit but to set up a Commission which would prepare documentation for privatization which will mark the end of the "Aluminij" story. He also said that the status of the "Aluminij" workers who are shareholders in the company would not be altered.

The daily also carries the President of the Management of the DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Volker Schmidt, who commented on the "Aluminij" situation by saying that it was a political issue and that the Corporation wanted to stay neutral in it.

He appealed to everyone involved in the process to correctly carry out respective parts of the job.

## **Republika Srpska**

### **Bomb targets Islamic assembly building in an RS town**

A bomb was lobbed at the Islamic assembly building in Janja, near Zvornik, on Monday night, Bijeljina police told SRNA news agency. In connection with the incident, the OHR in Bijeljina called a press conference at the local police station, while the Helsinki Human Rights Committee in the RS condemned the attack, as well as the recent incident in Kozarska Dubica whose target was a building of the Islamic religious community. "We are deeply concerned about renewed brutal attacks on Islamic religious buildings, whose aim is to intimidate and cause lack of trust among members of different religious communities, and to obstruct the process of return to the RS," reads a statement signed by Sadik Pazarac, member of the Helsinki committee in Bjeljina. BiH Radio 1 and the Federation TV also reported on the incident adding that the bomb attack disturbed Bosniak returnees in Janja.

### **Florence Hartmann: Mladic is protected by Yugoslav Army, Karadzic is in RS**

ICTY Spokesperson Florence Hartmann stated for Nezavisne novine (NN), that according to the information available, General Ratko Mladic was still in Serbia, under the protection of Yugoslav Army (VJ) while Radovan Karadzic is still hiding in the RS. NN quote Hartmann as saying: "The ICTY requests Yugoslav authorities to keep extraditing war crimes suspects and we see that, by extradition of Slobodan Milosevic, Belgrade had not done enough."

## **Brcko District**

### **An agreement on recovery and identification of mortal remains signed in Brcko**

Glas srpski and Oslobodjenje carry a report on an agreement on exhumation and identification of remains signed yesterday in Brcko. ([OHR/ICMP Press Release](#))

## **International Community**

### **US embassy in Sarajevo boosts security measures after receiving threats**

The US Embassy in BiH announced on Tuesday that it had introduced additional security measures owing to threats whose seriousness could not be determined. The new measures are an additional warning, so to speak, knowing that the US Administration has announced, following the March 17 attack on the Protestant church in Islamabad, that it held reliable information about planned new terrorist actions against US citizens. They have been warned to avoid public places such as restaurants and religious buildings, that is, any place where they could be the target of an attack.

In addition to the warning applying to all US citizens world-wide, the embassy in Sarajevo has stepped up its security due to, as it is stated, "threats that this embassy has received, whose seriousness cannot be determined". In January the authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina extradited six Algerians suspected of terrorist activities to US military officials.

## **Editorials**

### **Oslobodjenje: Waiting for Petritsch**

By Amra Kebo

When he arrived in BiH, the present High Representative of the International Community, Wolfgang Petritsch, promoted the principle of ownership which was completely foreign to local politicians. It appears now that they have become accustomed to this principle, as they are sitting and debating for days about the rights of people in one and the other entity.

Naturally, this refers to the constitutional changes which are being for weeks debated behind the closed doors in the Office of the High Representative. And they will continue to be debated until an adequate solution is reached. Still, deadlines, no matter how unreal this word sounds in BiH, really exist and are approaching. Because of this, a great deal of responsibility will be precisely on Petritsch.

The patience with which the High Representative is enduring these talks, which are developing at a very slow pace, is interesting. Petritsch, who has thus far imposed such a great number of laws and regulations, who dismissed more politicians than his two predecessors together, this time, who knows for what reasons and interests, is not ready to take responsibility.

In order to achieve what they want, that is, to prevent symmetric solutions in the two entities, political representatives from the RS asked for help all former and present "pets" of the International Community, Mladen Ivanic and Milorad Dodik, who are on the same line about the non-existence of the House of Peoples in the RS. Ivanic has gone as far in his statements as to say that the imposition of solutions by the High Representative will not be acceptable for the RS. Well, the High Representative has always said that he will not impose the solution. Ivanic has also accused the

parties from the Federation, in particular Croat ones, of "trying to bring discussion to an absurd and try to change the internal structure of BiH at any price," and which he will never allow. Even if this takes place, Ivanic warns, Dayton and Washington Agreements will not change. For, "on part of the International Community, no one has intention to open this Pandora's box," notes Ivanic, adding that this would bring about a new instability to this region.

Ivanic's theses is not a new one, and neither is his threat. Just as is not the statement by Ante Jelavic on the Federation Television...that the Alliance will not rule in Herzegovina....RS representatives do not recognize decisions by the High Representative, and HDZ representatives do not recognize decisions by the High Representatives or by local authorities. So, what are we talking about here? About things that some will not do and should be done to ensure that BiH start finally functioning as a state.

At this time, Wolfgang Petritsch, has a great deal of patience, trying to implement the principle he has been advocating from the very start. Still, given the circumstances, he will have to impose solutions, if the two sides keep insisting on hard-line principles. At the same time, this will be an extraordinary chance for him to improve his rating in the country in which he invested two years of hard work. Indeed, his position on the so-called creative and then subtle asymmetry – which was no more then a mere different name for the continuation of violations of human rights – have to a certain extent contributed to the attitude of RS representatives. For, any indications about the possible asymmetry were sufficient to go into other extreme – the total asymmetry.

BiH was brought once again into a dead end street. The crisis which enveloped could be resolved only by the man who does not want to resolve it, because, at this time, he is not ready to assume the well-praised responsibility about which he preached



to local politicians. This meaningless and unscrupulous shifting of responsibility cannot last indefinitely. However, it could cost us a great deal. Sarajevo author, Ivan Lovrenovic, is right when he talks about the sorry net of laws which does not allow BiH to fall apart, but which also precludes it from integrating. Such a crisis is the result of this decisive moment. Constitutional changes are one of the basic acts which would put BiH back on its feet and allow it to slowly rise from ashes. That is what hurts the most Karadzic's successors in the RS who so feisty refuse to succumb to the legal symmetry.

In all this, it is important to note that human rights, and their legal regulation, do not recognize the principle of asymmetry. There can be no concessions there. This is about the most sensitive political category in which a compromise is not a matter of agreement, but of pure defeat. Does the High Representative, at this time, realize this? Is he aware of his responsibility? Is he familiar with the significance of these changes for the future of BiH? Is he scared? Is he being pressured by local and international political factors?

So many questions, and so little time. Nothing new for BiH. Perhaps this creative dire straits will have an effect on the subtle solution which would finally make a state out of this poor country. It is about time. If this does not happen, a bitter and difficult question will linger over this region. Why do we need at all a High Representative? With his thus far work, Wolfgang Petritsch indeed deserved to be remembered after his good deeds. This is what makes his responsibility even greater.

## **Jutarnje Novine: War's plunder of Ivanic**

By Vanja Ilcic

The politicians reiterated on Tuesday that, at another meeting in the High Representative's office, they had agreed that

“nothing is agreed as long as everything is agreed.” Unfortunately, this seems to be the only thing the politicians in this country can agree on. How else can be explained that the leaders of the eight strongest political parties from the both BiH entities have been trying for several months now to find a common solution for the persistent implementation of the BiH Constitutional Court’s decision on the constituency of the peoples in the entire BiH’s territory.

Although Wolfgang Petritsch optimistically announced last week the talks on the issue would end on Tuesday, and, on Monday, he described the participants as a “group of politicians seeking progress,” it seems that such compliments did not help in reaching the expected goal. Because, the SNSD has been no longer taking part in the talks on the constitutional changes, as the other representatives of the political parties from the RS have remained persistent in their position not to allow the introduction of the House of Peoples in the RS. The RS Prime Minister, Mladen Ivanic, says that the deadlock in the negotiations has been caused by the “frustration of the political parties with the Croat prefix, which are not satisfied with a situation in which they do not possess any part of the BiH’s territory (in terms of an administrative arrangement) in which they would dominate.” In this way, the Prime Minister of a war creation entitled “Srpska” sends a clear message to the members of the Croat and Bosniak peoples, as well as all others who do not believe that the belonging to the Serb people is the most important thing in the life that the RS actually represents a “state of the Serb people.” However, the BiH Constitutional Court’s ruling orders that the three peoples must be equal and constituent in the both entities, and the decision itself is not something, which can be further discussed.

## **Dnevni List: Bosniaks look for an easy life**

*(provided by OHR Mostar)*

By **Ivica Glibusic**

Dnevni List carries an editorial on the resignation of Bosniak Ministers of the Herzegovina-Neretva Cantonal Government and the author says that by this move the crises in the HN Cantonal Government has reached its culmination. The editorial says that since the mixed Canton was established in the Neretva Valley, the things have taken a wrong direction since international representatives impose various decisions, which cannot be implemented on this territory. Glibusic says that a former Yugoslavia fell apart because of money and BiH might fall apart too if the centralization of the funds continues. He wonders as to how it is possible that the Bosniak part of the Canton has collected 350 000 Marks while the Croat part of the Canton has collected 4, 65 million Marks. Glibusic says: 'The resignation of the Bosniak Minister is a petty political game of the Bosniak Ministers, invented in order to provoke a political crises and bring a Supervisor to Mostar, who will have the funds at his disposal, regardless of the fact as to who gave the money.' Glibusic concluded that Bosniaks are looking for an easy life and says: "The time has come that someone says no pasaran. In that respect, a full support to Miroslav Coric and other Croat Ministers in the HN Canton".

## **Vecernji List: Petritsch has the final say again?**

*(provided by OHR Mostar)*

With regards to the talks on constitutional changes, VL reads that the OHR has yesterday in the late afternoon presented a final "compromise proposal" to participants of the talks, a proposal of constitutional changes in BiH pursuant to the CoCo's Decision. According to the daily i.e. the reactions they managed to get, the OHR's compromise did not bring new developments to the previous stances. VL also reads that the HR is to inform the PIC Political Directors about the results of the talks on the constitutional changes adding that it learned from diplomatic sources that the biggest pressures on

the HR is being exerted by the British Embassy, the country which will provide the new HR. The article is finished with an assessment that due to different stances of the parties involved, it looks as though that Wolfgang Petritsch would have to take one last and final decision before he leaves BiH.

## **Vecernji List: What's left of Washington agreement?**

(provided by OHR Mostar)

By Stjepan Kovac

VL carries an editorial signed by Stjepan Kovac about the ongoing constitutional changes, the issue of Ploce Port and the Washington agreement. With regards to the latter, Kovac says that the only thing that's left of it is the Ploce Port bit whilst the rest of the agreement are things of the past. He says that the agreement was never accepted by its signatories despite playing an important role in stopping of the Croat-Bosniak war in BiH. Editorial also reads that the Federation BiH, a product of the agreement, was destined to fail because neither the Bosniaks and Croat wanted it, Bosniaks did not want it because it projected a confederation with the Republic of Croatia and the Croats because it represents a burden for them, feeling politically unequal and economically exploited. "Who need the Federation then?", asks the author and goes on to say it is the RS and the Serbs in it who badly needs it just to enjoy in their state of the RS for as long as the Federation exists. "That's why the Croat request for abolishment of entities or providing entities to every ethnicity seems both logical and just", says Kovac, reads Vecernji List.

## **Slobodna Dalmacija: James Bond in the dark land**

(Portraits and prejudices: Former English intelligence officer Paddy Ashdown soon a new administrator in BiH)

“The trouble is that Ashdown in his suitcase is bringing lots of prejudices about Croats. That is why the President of the Board for Foreign Affairs in the American Senate Joseph Biden in February reacted strongly against the idea that UN officially confirms Ashdown as the new “Chief” of BiH.”

Slobodna Dalmacija, in Mikulandra's editorial brings a portrait of the next High Representative Paddy Ashdown, saying that British diplomats continuously from Lord Owen's and Lord Carrington's days have been supporting the survival of the former Yugoslavia or spreading of Greater Serbia in Croatia and BiH territories. Saying that Lord Ashdown was a navy officer, commander of commando unit in Belfast, British diplomat in Geneva, member of the British Parliament and ex leader of Liberal-Democrats, Mikulandra adds that American senator Biden has accused him of anti-Catholic behavior. He also estimates that, taking in consideration his commando experience, it would not be exaggerating to believe that he will use armed forces of SFOR to repressively deal with those who are not pleasing him. Mikulandra writes that Ashdown's claim that Croats are pro-Ustasha people is shocking. At the very end of this editorial the author mentions that Ashdown has had a sexual affair, and announces his arrival as James Bond in service of Her Majesty.

## **Headlines**

### **Glas srpski**

- Under suspicion of committing war crimes: 312 individuals under investigation
- In Sarajevo and Zenica: Police in “Benevolencija”
- A battle for subscription

### **Nezavisne novine**

- Why has the leader of SNSD (Party of Independent Social Democrats)

stepped out of negotiations over constitutional changes in Sarajevo?

Dodik: I do not want to take part in abolishment of RS

- Goran Macar on Serbian Interior Ministry (MUP) incursion in RS Bureau: Police asked about Mandic

### **Dnevni Avaz**

- Petritsch to impose decision??

### **Oslobodjenje**

- Mass demonstrations of workers in front of the Federation government building today

### **Vecernji List**

- Protest rally of a few hundred Croats in Drvar: Petritsch demands continuation of evictions
- Students of HN Canton on forced holidays: Schools in Mostar and Citluk on strike

### **Dnevni List**

- Crises of HN Cantonal Government: Bosniak Ministers submitted resignation: Croats paid in budget 4,6 million Marks while Bosniak paid only 350 000 Marks
- Due to threats of terrorist attacks: Security measures in the USA Embassy in Sarajevo have been intensified
- Exclusive: Interview with Mijo Anic, Federation Minister of Defence: We do not have money for soldiers' terminal pays