

# OBN News Review, 24 January 2000

## Headlines

- At 7 p.m. voting stations for the Croatian presidential elections closed – voters in BiH voted at 14 voting stations
- Snow and ice caused a number of difficulties in BiH
- A German agency “Debis” in BiH again – a series of contracts were signed today without announcing details
- The RS Government held its session today before tomorrow’s session of the RS National Assembly
- Guerillas from Burma captured 500 hostages in Thailand

## Sarajevo

Today, five contracts which will start up and increase production in several fields of the BiH Federation industry were signed. All contracts were signed with the German agency “Debis”. The “Elektroprivreda” company obliged to export electricity for the agency worth one hundred million DEM. Details of the signed contracts were not available for the press. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

## Banja Luka / Sarajevo (Weather in BiH)

Snow storms have caused troubles to the BiH citizens for the second time in a month. Although the weather forecast says that the snow will stop falling, the temperatures will stay low. In the RS, the snow has been falling for the last three days causing a great number of problems, OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Suzana Vukcevic, reported. A similar situation was in the BiH Federation. The biggest problem vehicles had was moving between towns. The border crossings Svilaj and Bosanska Gradiska are closed. The report was produced by OBN reporter,

Anes Alic.

## **Zagreb**

Today at 7 p.m., voting stations for the Croatian presidential elections were closed. Voters in the Republic of Croatia and 48 countries of the world were voting for nine candidates. If none of the candidates win at least one vote more than 50% in the first run, the second round for the two best candidates is scheduled for February 7th. The first unofficial results of the elections will be announced after midnight. The report from Zagreb for OBN was produced by Gordana Simonovic.

## **Voting for the Croatian Presidential Elections in BiH**

Voters in Bosnia and Herzegovina voted at 14 voting stations. Reports on voting in Mostar, Sarajevo and Banja Luka were presented. In Mostar, although a number of voters came out to the elections, their number is smaller in comparison to those who voted in the recently held Croatian parliamentary elections, OBN reporter from Mostar, Damir Bliznac, confirmed. A similar situation was in Sarajevo. In Banja Luka, voting was organised in the Consular Department of the Republic of Croatia and only 50 people voted by 1.00 p.m. In the RS, two voting stations were opened, in Banja Luka and Brcko. The item on voting in the RS was produced by OBN reporter, Darko Savic.

## **World**

Guerillas from Burma captured 500 hostages from a hospital in Thailand. Heavy fights in the Chechen capital and in the South of Chechenya continued. One of the topics of the European Union Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels was the peace process in the Middle East. In Budapest, a meeting of working groups established at the first work table meeting of the Stability Pact for South East Europe which principles on democracy and human rights, started its work. The report on current events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Zeljka Lekic.

## **Sarajevo**

During a meeting of seven Prime Ministers of the neighbouring countries of Yugoslavia in Bulgaria, the Co-Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, Haris Silajdzic, asked for an urgent and complete revision of the Dayton peace Agreement. He emphasised that approximately one and a half million of people in BiH were out of their homes. He added that building of democracy on the results of genocide was a dangerous illusion. This was a reason for the Serb Co-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Svetozar Mihajlovic, to ask the High representative in BiH, [Wolfgang Petritsch](#), to dismiss Haris Silajdzic. The Spokesperson of OHR, James Fergusson, said that OHR would not dismiss politicians in BiH on demands of other politicians. The piece was produced by OBN reporter, Damir Kaletovic.

## **Banja Luka**

The RS Government held its session today. The Government discussed the measures necessary for the solving of financial problems in the oil refinery in Bosanski Brod. The Government also decided to close the night clubs which have been turned to bordellos, OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Tatjana Lajsic, confirmed.

## **Sarajevo**

An item on the "BH banka" which recently went bankrupt. The BiH Federation Agency for Banking has brought a decision on January 14th to take the banking license to the "BH bank" and to start the liquidation process. The creditors were not informed when they would be returned their money. One of the creditors was the Office of Ombudspersons. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic.

## **Banja Luka**

A piece on the process of privatisation in the RS was produced by OBN reporter, Milorad Milojevic. In the RS, legal measures

will be undertaken against those companies which did not offer their programmes for privatisation. Some 240,000 citizens have registered for the process of privatisation to date. The Office for Privatisation was established in the ex BiH Federation part of the Brcko District.

This was followed by a piece on the robbery of a shopping center in Banja Luka, which occurred in the night between 22nd and 23rd January, produced by OBN reporter from the area, Suzana Vukcevic. The perpetrators are still not known.

## **Sport**

A piece on international football was followed by a report on international tennis.