

# OBN News Review, 3 February 2000

## Headlines

- Deadline for the submission of applications for pre-war work positions expires – will the employees get shares instead of severance pay because of the change of 143 article of the Labour Law
- Austrian President did not allow planned establishment of the Government by People and Freedom parties
- Palestinian and Israeli leaders began a summit which should speed up negotiations on the final status of Palestinian territories
- BiH Parliament rejected the decision on the status of refugees and displaced persons
- The BiH Federation Parliament accepted a decision on the appointment of a new Chairman, the third in one year time
- Donors with highest pledges demand speeding up of privatisation process in the BiH Federation

## Sarajevo

Deadline for the submission of applications for pre-war work positions, according to the Federal Law, expires in one day time. All those who were fully employed on December 31st 1999 had a three month period to address to their employers in order to re-establish their legal status and thus acquire a right on severance pay if they are not invited to start working. By the end of last year, only 1,576 people out of 40,000 workers 81 big companies in the BiH Federation submitted their applications. Currently, 143 article of the Labour Law which regulates the issue has been changed and it is possible that employees will get shares instead of severance pay. The report was produced by OBN reporter,

Amarildo Gutic.

## **Austria**

The Conservative People Party and the extreme right-wing Freedom Party signed an agreement on the establishment of a coalition. Despite expectations, the Austrian President approved the coalition and explained he wanted to analyze the Government's program agreed by the coalition partners, OBN journalist, Gordana Frimel, confirmed.

## **World**

This was followed by a report on the current situation in Chechenia. More than 60 Chechen soldiers were killed in the capital. Chechen authorities confirmed that approximately 2,000 Chechen soldiers left Grozny during the night between Monday and Tuesday. An item on finishing of the negotiations between Palestinian and Israeli leader was presented. Negotiations were completed without any agreement what the Palestinians should do after yesterday's statement of the Israeli Government they wanted to withdraw their troops from another 6% of their territories on the West Bank.

In Kosovo, an attack on a bus of [UNHCR](#) occurred near Pec. Two people were killed and five wounded. All passengers were Serbs. The report on current events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Gordana Frimel.

## **Zagreb**

After parliamentary elections in the Republic of Croatia and the victory of democratic forces, international support to Croatia intensified. The US State Secretary, Madeline Albright, visited Zagreb and said that they would increase their support to Croatia to 20 million dollars. In the meantime, news on the arresting of ex ministers and managers of companies who became rich during the HDZ Party time, are becoming more frequent. The piece from Zagreb for TV INFO was

produced by Gordana Simonovic.

## **Guest of TV INFO**

The President of the Association of Independent Electronic Media from Belgrade, Veran Matic, was a guest of TV INFO presenters, Mujo Delibegovic and Danijela Bozic. A conference "Truth and Reconciliation" will be held in Sarajevo tomorrow and Vedran Matic will attend the conference. He said that the importance of the conference lays in a fact that this subject of "Truth and Reconciliation" is addressed in the town with biggest number of victims in the ex-Yugoslavia territory war. Vedran Matic discussed the current political situation in Serbia and its relations with Montenegro. He also explained the current media situation in Serbia saying that the repression was enormous and that independent media were facing with big problems.

## **Sarajevo**

A piece on the session held by the BiH Parliament House of Peoples and the BiH Federation Parliament. The BiH Parliament House of peoples adopted the draft budget of BiH institutions and international obligations of BiH for 2000 as well as the draft law on its implementation. The BiH Federation Parliament accepted appointment of a new Chairman, Niko Lozancic, representative from the Kakanj Municipality. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

Last year in December, the US Government, upon a recommendation made by the US Ambassador in BiH, Thomas Miller, announced canceling of their support to the process of privatisation in the BiH Federation because of the lack of results. Today, the US Ambassador and the heads of missions of the [World Bank](#), the International Monetary Fund, the European Commission and the representative of the German Agency for Technical Support, warned on negative consequences of late process of privatisation in the BiH Federation. The report was

produced by OBN reporter, Vedran Persic.

An item on the meeting between the Croatian lobbyist in Washington, Zdenka Gast, and the Chairman of the BiH Presidency, Ante Jelavic. Among other issues, they discussed foreign investing in BiH, Vanja Elezovic, confirmed for OBN. Zdenka Gast said that she came to BiH in order to check what US investors can expect from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This was followed by a report on why did the investment of 40 Turkish businessmen, who wanted to invest some 65 million DEM, fail, produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic. In December last year, the Turkish President said to the BiH Presidency members that it was very important that the law on avoiding double tax payment was very important for investors.

## **Prijedor**

Although the RS Government had paid 380,000 DEM for a study to start of the production in the mine "Ljubija" a year ago, the company did not re-start the production yet. Only 300 out of 5,000 workers work and get only 60DEM per month, OBN reporter from Prijedor, Milena Letic-Joves, confirmed.

## **Sport**

A piece on the UK football matches was followed by an item on NBA.