

# OBN News Review, 3 May 2000

## Headlines

- The international border crossing between Stara and Bosanska Gradiska was opened today
- The Zimbabwe President, Robert Mugabe rejected the international proposal for land distribution
- The RS Assembly discussed work and legality of the RS Government
- The Day of Freedom of Press was marked today

## Bosanska Gradiska

The international border crossing between Stara and Bosanska Gradiska was opened today, thanks to the [EU](#) donation. "This is the closest link between B&H and Europe", said Ostoja Kremenovic, the RS Government Vice-President. Reported by Nedeljka Breberina.

## Sarajevo

The only hope for the refugee return in B&H is co-operation between international organisations and local refugee associations. This was the conclusion after the first meeting of [SFOR](#) representatives and unions of refugees from both entities. At the moment, there are 70 000 refugees who live in tents, waiting to return to their homes. The report was produced by Anes Alic.

## Capljina

An elementary school in Capljina has been reconstructed. The reconstruction was financed by "Echo". "This school will enable the refugee return", said Nijaz Slipicevic, the Deputy Education Minister in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, thanking the donors. Enes Ratkusic reported for OBN from Capljina.

## Mostar

Last week, the City Council of Mostar unanimously adopted the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's proposal for the composition of the Management Board of the future unified Mostar water supply company "Vodovod". The OHR invited all members of the board to attend a session of the Management Board on Friday, 5th May. This is the last chance for the City of Mostar to obtain the [World Bank](#) credit. Reported by Mirsad Behram from Mostar.

## **World**

The trial of the two Lebanon citizens started in Netherlands. They were accused of placing a bomb in the American plane that exploded and crashed in 1998 in Lockerbie, Scotland. 270 people died in the accident.

The Zimbabwe President rejected the request of foreign diplomats for gradual land distribution. He called the whites to leave Zimbabwe permanently.

The hostage crisis in Philippines continued. There are doubts that the hostages were transported to another location.

Several children were injured when a two persons dropped two bombs on a children's playground in Kosovo. Protestors demanded better protection from KFOR.

85 000 workers started a strike in Norway. They rejected the offered payment increase by 3-4% per year, because they feel it's insufficient.

The piece on current world events was produced by Duska Jurisic.

## **Banja Luka**

The RS Assembly discussed the work and legality of the RS Government today. The Assembly demanded the Commission for Constitutional Issues to evaluate the legitimacy of the RS Government. The Prime Minister Dodik claimed that he was ready to submit the report to the Assembly. Delegates were extremely

unsatisfied with the work of courts. The report was produced by Tatjana Lajsic.

## **Sarajevo**

Starting on 15th May, citizens of the Federation of B&H will be able to invest their certificates individually or through privatisation funds. "Political parties must stop controlling public enterprises in a completely non-transparent way", said Graham Hand, the British Ambassador in B&H. OBN journalist, Amarildo Gutic produced the report.

## **Sarajevo**

The international Day of Freedom of the Press was marked today. 65 cases of jeopardising the journalist rights were reported in the last six months. "We have concluded that the number of reported incidents is larger in the Federation of B&H than in the RS", said Regan McCarthy, the Senior Media Adviser to the [OSCE](#) Mission in Sarajevo. Reported by Mirna Sadikovic.

## **Banja Luka**

The Law on Information doesn't exist in the RS, and therefore it is more difficult for professional journalists to work there. "Everything is in the hands of politicians", said Goran Mihajlovic, the RS Independent Journalist Association President. Reported by Darko Savic.

## **Zagreb**

Croatian journalists protested with 5 minutes of silence against endangering their human and professional dignity. Media stopped working in these 5 minutes. All unions in Croatia supported this action, confirmed Gordana Simonovic from Zagreb.

## **Belgrade**

The Day of Freedom of the Press was not marked in Yugoslavia. Journalists feel that this would be meaningless, because their rights are more endangered in Yugoslavia than anywhere else in Europe, Danica Illic reported from Belgrade.

## **Sarajevo**

Gordana Frimel produced the piece on poetry marathon that took place in Sarajevo today.

## **Sport**

Reports on local and international football, and NBA league were presented.

## **Dubrovnik**

The American craft carrier "Dwight Eisenhower" will stay two more days in Dubrovnik. Americans want in this way to prevent any new crisis in former Yugoslavia. Reported by Vedran Persic.