

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 1/2/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 1 February

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
HR Schwarz-Schilling's address at TV	CS public transport normalised	SDS on RS PM-designate
HDZ expectations from new HR	Cavic consolations on PM-designate	Serb enclaves in KosMet
BiH HoP/HoR Collegium met new HR	World news	New explosions in Iraq

TV news broadcast on 31 January

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Schwarz-Schilling takes over	Hew HR takes over his duty	Schwarz-Schilling takes over
BiH HoP in session	Talks on new RS Government	BiH citizens on changes in OHR
BiH MoFA on decertified policemen	SNSD on RS Government designate	GRAS workers on strike
Talks on new RS Govt composition	"GRAS" workers on strike	Negotiations on RS PM Designate

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Sarajevo citizens on strike in GRAS	GRAS workers on strike	Dead baby found in Modrica
Strike in GRAS	GRAS strike: the update	Talks on new RS Government

Live broadcast from GRAS	Issue of decertified police officers	Hew HR takes over his duty
GRAS strike illegal?	BiH HoP on amendments to VAT law	Citizens on new HR

Oslobodjenje	Schilling took over duty from Ashdown
Dnevni Avaz	Schilling: I will continue to lead BiH towards Europe
Dnevni List	He took the girl and run away (case of family dispute in Mostar)
Vecernji List	WHC PM Lasic: I will resign if strike continues (Canton 8 PM on strike of teachers)
Slobodna Dalmacija	Josipovic returns to Vitez (ICTY-sentenced Josipovic returns home after serving 8 yrs)
Nezavisne Novine	[Schwarz-Schilling:] I will help BiH to enter EU
Glas Srpske	Forget about letters, practice spite
EuroBlic	Fisherman found dead baby [on a bank of a river in Dobor settlement near Modrica]
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related titles

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

<p>RS President continues consultations on PM-designate; SDS announces possibility to support Djuric</p>	<p>RTRS – Mladen Bosic, SDS Vice President, has today stated that the SDS does not exclude the possibility of supporting the candidature of Nedjo Djuric, former member of SP RS, as RS PM-designate. Bosic said after the meeting SDS members had with Dragan Cavic, RS President, that SDS Main Board would hold a session in Banja Luka tomorrow and decide whether this would be the case. The Serb Radical Alliance “Dr Vojislav Seselj” has addressed a letter to RS President Cavic informing him that this party will not take part in negotiations on PM-designate, neither will it support PM-designates coming from SDS or SNSD. The meeting between Cavic, RS President, and SDA representatives, in regard to talks on PM-designate is about to start in Banja Luka. RTRS by <u>Dragan Stegic</u> – Bosic also added no support would be given to the PM-designate from party that was overthrowing former RS Government. RHB reports consultations continue.</p>
<p>HDZ spokesperson Relota: HDZ expects new HR will not remove officials</p>	<p>RHB – HDZ spokesperson Miso Relota stated that HDZ expects from a new HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling to be an active partner to representatives of the executive and legislative authority at all levels in order to remove obstacles for development of economy and welfare area so that BiH meets all positive, European and democratic standards. Also, it has been expected from the new HR that, unlike his predecessors, he would not remove legally elected officials.</p>

New HR CSS meets BiH HoP, HoR Collegium	RHB – Members of the Collegium of the BiH House of Representative and BiH House of Peoples have met with the new HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling today.
ITA rejects excluding publishing sector from VAT	RTRS – At Tuesday’s session, the Steering Board of the ITA has upheld the principle on a single VAT rate, rejecting demand of the BiH CoM (requesting that publishing sector is excluded from this principle). Svetlana Cenic , RS Finance Minister, has commented on this decision: <i>“What has happened is as follows: when Mr. [Adnan] Terzic came to the meeting of the ITA without any prior consultation with any member of the ITA, this decision was not voted on, but the issue on whether this should be raised or not was left open...After on, some documents, which have never appeared at any session of the ITA neither has ITA ever discussed them, has surfaced.”</i>

Schwarz-Schilling takes over OHR

<p>Paddy Ashdown hands over duty to newly appointed HR Christian Schwarz- Schilling</p>	<p>BHT1by Alenka Bruck – On Tuesday, the outgoing High Representative Paddy Ashdown handed over his duty to newly appointed Christian Schwarz-Schilling, who, as reported, should be the last HR in BiH. Ashdown expressed satisfaction that Schwarz-Schilling would be his successor: <i>“I believe that under his helm, activities with regard to coordinating the international community and the work of OHR will certainly be in good hands.”</i> Schwarz-Schilling stressed that BiH has entered the new phase by beginning the talks on Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU0. <i>“I think I have the opportunity to continue Ashdown’s job, and I will do my best to continue the same road – leading BiH towards Europe and into Europe”</i>, said Schilling. Newly appointed HR stressed that his main objectives would be the successful conclusion of the SAA talks between BiH and European Union, and BiH membership in the Partnership for Peace. RHB, PINK, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje cover splash, pg 3 ‘Schilling took over duty from Ashdown’ by <u>A.0meragic</u>, Dnevni Avaz cover splash ‘Schilling: I will continue to lead BiH towards Europe’, pg 2 ‘Schwarz-Shilling took over duty’ by <u>S.N. Slobodna Dalmacija</u>, pg 19, mentioned on front ‘Schilling for better BiH’, by <u>F</u>, Dnevni List, pg 3 ‘Schilling takes over duty of High Representative’, by <u>D. P. Mandic</u>, Vecernji List, pg 23 ‘Schwarz-Schilling acceptable to all’, mentioned on front ‘Schilling replaces Ashdown’, by <u>Dejan Jazvic</u>, Glas Srpske pg 3 ‘Helm to Schwarz Schilling’, Vecernje Novosti pg 4 ‘Schilling for Bosnia’ by <u>D.Stojakovic</u>, EuroBlic RSpG 3 ‘Ashdown: Schilling knows Bosnia well’, announced on cover ‘Schilling: I cannot impose reconciliation’ by <u>Dusanka Stanisic</u> – also reported. _</p>
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<p>HR Schwarz-Schilling addresses BiH public: BiH has good chances to sign SAA , join PfP during his mandate</p>	<p>FTV, RTRS, BHT1, Oslobođenje pg 3 'Voters will decide on how this country should be led' by <u>A.O. Dnevni Avaz</u> pg 2 'BiH aim is to enter EU and NATO' by <u>S.Numanovic</u>, EuroBlic RSp 3 'Ashdown: Schilling knows Bosnia well', announced on cover 'Schilling: I cannot impose reconciliation' by <u>Dusanka Stanisic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'I cannot impose reconciliation and prosperity' by <u>R.Segrt</u> – In his 7-minutes TV address to BiH citizens broadcast on RTRS, FTV and BHT1, newly appointed HR, Christian Schwarz Schilling stressed he would probably be the last HR and that institution of OHR would cease to exist in near future. Schwarz-Schilling said that he would stay in BiH in the position of the EU Special Representative [EUSR] to help BiH in process of Euro-Atlantic integration. RTRS – HR also stated that BiH has very good chances to sign the SAA with the EU and join NATO's Partnership for Peace programme during his mandate. However, Schwarz-Schilling emphasized that, in order to achieve this, BiH must be fully sovereign country. Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash 'I will help BiH get into EU', pg 3 'Schwarz Schilling took over duty from Ashdown' by <u>M.Cubro</u> – <i>"Through reforms, I will try to bring the BH population to the point where they would become owners of their own institutions and will not depend on governor,"</i> stated HR in an interview to European media. Glas Srpske pg 3 'Economy is a priority' – carries extracts from CSS' interview to "Financial Times". Hayat – Hayat reminds that Schilling said earlier his primary task would be to improve economy.</p>
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<p>EU's Solana welcomes CSS ' appointment</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Solana will give full support to Schwarz-Schilling' <u>by Fena</u> – EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy [CFSP], Javier Solana welcomes the decision of the EU Council on 30 January to appoint Christian Schwarz-Schilling as the European Union Special Representative [EUSR] for BiH.</p>
<p>BHT1, comments: Professors Rasigagic and Mirjanic hope new HR CSS would do lot more than Ashdown</p>	<p>BHT1 late news – Guests of late news magazine were Zeljko Mirjanic, Professor at Faculty of Law in Banja Luka and Esref Kenan Rasidagic, Professor at Faculty of Political Science in Sarajevo. Both of them welcomed the new High Representative Christian Schwarz Schilling and said that they expected him to do a lot more than the previous one. Mirjanic said that he was fascinated with Schilling's sentence in which he said that his aim was for ordinary BiH citizens to build up their lives again, since Ashdown failed to do that. Both of them agreed that all the HRs to BiH tried to transfer authorities from the OHR to BiH institutions, but that the BiH institutions achieved no greater success, knowing that there is 'some institution' (OHR) which would do their work, namely BiH institutions depend on it. Rasidagic said that Ashdown was the EU and the UK's product and that he acted in line with their orders, and that the question was whether German political establishment and the EU supported Schwarz-Schilling's ideas since he resigned from the position of Minister of Telecommunications in Helmut Kohl's Government, being unsatisfied with politics which was led towards BiH. Mirjanic said that he did not agree with Rasidagic's opinion and added that every HR represented the EU stances, not the stances of a state he came from.</p>

<p>BHT1 and RTRS polls show citizens have no high expectations of new HR</p>	<p>BHT1– BHT1 carried out a poll among citizens of Bijeljina, Sarajevo, Kalesija, Bihac and Zenica asking them on their expectations from newly appointed High Representative Christian Schwarz Schilling. All polled citizens believe, or hope, that CSS would be a better HR than Paddy Ashdown, although noting that ‘he may be a bit too old for this job’. Most of them claim that it is a good thing that German citizen is the new HR, because <i>“it is a well-known fact that Germany is a friend of BiH”</i>. RTRS – RTRS’s poll showed that most of the featured citizens negatively criticized Ashdown’s work, and stated that they don’t expect much from Schwarz-Schilling. Few said that they expect Schwarz-Schilling to end the job started by Ashdown, or to do more than Ashdown did.</p>
<p>PDP on CSS taking over OHR: enough of pressures</p>	<p>Glas Srpske pg 5 ‘Enough of pressures’ by <u>D.Mo</u> – PDP released press statement on Tuesday on the occasion of arrival of the new HR, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, saying that <i>“the time has come to see local authorities take over responsibility. We hope decisions will no longer be reached via imposition and under pressure, and that the end has come to bans and removals.”</i></p>
<p>VL on CSS : First HR supported by everybody</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 23 ‘Schwarz-Schilling acceptable to all’, mentioned on front ‘Schilling replaces Ashdown’, by <u>Dejan Jazvic</u> – VL comments that Christian Schwarz-Schilling is the first HR who has been supported by all political groups and peoples in BiH.</p>

<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed: New HR should do more, and do less TV appearances</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'Schwarz-Shilling' op-ed by <u>Senka Kurtovic</u> – Commenting arrival of the newly appointed High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling, author says that high hopes Schwarz-Shilling would be different from his predecessors was spoiled by his addressing BiH citizens. Editorial concludes that BiH citizens expect new HR to do more, and less to appear on TV, which was case when Paddy Ashdown was HR.</p>
<p>DA op-ed: BiH politicians have to support Schwarz-Shilling in fighting crime</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'How strong are criminals' op-ed by <u>Sead Turcalo</u> – Editorial says that, besides 'regular problems', one of the toughest tasks of the newly appointed High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling would be to fight criminal, on his way of helping BiH to enter EU. In order to solve this huge issue, Schwarz-Shilling would have to have support by BiH politicians, stressed author, adding that HR could not do much while the criminal is treated as a sensation. Editorial ends with hopes that Schwarz-Shilling could cope with this problem, and that his leaving note would be different from his opening one, when he said that <i>"criminals in BiH are still strong, and rule of law is still weak"</i>.</p>
<p>NN op-ed complimenting new HR's determination to focus on economic growth</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'Replacements within OHR' by <u>Dragan Risojevic</u> – Referring to the statement of new HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling that his first and most important task is economic growth, the author notes that the HR had "hit the target" with this statement, at least from the point of view of a common citizen who is tired of stories that emphasize the complicated state structure as the biggest problem.</p>

Political issues

RS President
Cavic commences
consultations
on new PM-
designate;
former SPRS
Nedjo Djuric
nominated;
talks continue
today

BHT1 by Boris Gagic – During the first day of talks with between RS President Dragan Cavic and the RS parliamentary parties' officials on the appointment of RS PM-designate, former SPRS official **Nedjo Djuric** has been officially nominated for the position. Cavic held talks with the newly-established Coalition of 10 representatives, and they proposed Djuric as their candidate; according to BHT reporter, Cavic told them that he would accept his candidacy if he is able to collect 42 representatives' signatures. *"We think that the Government headed by Nedjo Djuric would be the best solution for the RS... Now, we will try to collect those 42 signatures"*, stated **Krsto Jandric** from People's Democratic Party [NDS]. SNSD will officially nominate **Milorad Dodik** on Wednesday, adding they are not in a hurry as SNSD leader has the support of necessary 42 representatives. *"SNSD will propose to RS President how to solve current crisis in RS... We believe that it can be solved by appointing Milorad Dodik as the PM Designate"*, stated SNSD's **Nebojsa Radmanovic**. BHT reporter speculates that some opposition parties could withdraw their support to Dodik and give it to Djuric instead. Representatives of DNS, who are currently in talks with Cavic, are "vague" when talking about their support to Dodik. *"We clearly stated that we would not give blank support to anyone. We will support the appointment of the PM Designate, but the composition of the new government is a different matter"*, DNS' **Drago Kalabic** tried to explain. Cavic earlier promised that, whoever brings him the signatures of 42 representatives, he would check each and every one of them. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'Cavic would give mandate to Djuric or Dodik' by N. Diklic– Cavic would continue talks on Wednesday, when he is to meet representatives of SNSD, SDS, SDA, SDP BiH, SBiH and of SRS 'Dr. Vojislav Seselj'. **RHB, RTRS, PINK, Vecernje Novosti** pg 4 'Looking for PM designate' by M. L. – also report on consultations. **Hayat, Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'Nedjo Djuric first proposal for PM-designate' by O.Vukovic**Dnevni List**, pg 4 'Djuric proposed for PM designate', not signed, **Vecernji List**, pg 2 'Djuric a candidate for PM designate', by B. S.**EuroBlic** RSpG 2 'Djuric is first candidate' by Rajna Radosavljevic – also reported on Nedjo Djuric as candidate for PM-designate.

<p>RS President: Djuric and Milorad Dodik candidates for PM-designate</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Cavic will give mandate to Djuric or Dodik' by <u>N.Diklic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Cavic: Dodik and Djuric are PM-designate candidates' by <u>V.Popovic</u>, Glas Srpske pg 5 'First proposal – Djuric' by <u>Z.Markovic</u>, EuroBlic RSpG 2 'Cavic still does not know who has majority'– The Cabinet of the RS President Dragan Cavic issued a press statement reading that former Socialist Party member Nedjo Djuric and SNSD leader Milorad Dodik are candidates for the position of the RS Prime Minister-designate.</p>
<p>RTRS 'Crvena linija': SNSD says it will win majority RSNA support for its program; SDS doesn't give up on PM-designate position</p>	<p>RTRS current affairs program 'Crvena Linija' by <u>Zoran Popovic</u>- Krstan Simic, Vice President of SNSD said that SNSD has more than necessary 42 votes to get RS President Dragan Cavic to appoint their candidate for Prime Minister designate. Simic said candidate PM-designate would present his program in the RS National Assembly for approval, adding SNSD would get more than 42 votes for its platform. On the other hand, Dusan Stojicic, SDS Vice-President, stressed that SDS as strongest political party in RS has the best chances to win majority in RSNA for establishment of new Government. Stojicic added that SDS 's PM designate is still an option, explaining the party is willing to talk to everyone that has realistic chance to provide necessary 42 votes. According to Stojicic, one of bad consequences of Government's crisis is that small parties acquired larger significance and that SDA now plays one of the key roles.</p>

<p>PDP, SDA support Dodik for PM-designate appointment; SNSD: we also have NHI, SDP, DNS support and 2 votes in reserve</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'To expel entity and ethnic principle in decision making' by <u>A.Hadzagic</u> – RSNA Deputy Speaker, SDA's Sefket Hafizovic confirmed that SDA support SNSD leader Milorad Dodik for RS Prime Minister designate. Hafizovic said that SDA, as the major BiH party, have to take care about functioning both BiH and RS, adding that they would support the ones who want to implement reforms and strengthen state institutions. Nezavisne Novine pg 4 inset 'Ivanic: Mandate to Dodik, Government till March', Glas Srpske pg 5 'Three conditions', EuroBlic RSpg 2 'Ivanic: Dodik is a logical solution' – Mladen Ivanic, PDP President, Tuesday expressed expectation that the new RS Government will have been established by the end of February and that the PM-designate will be Milorad Dodik. He added the issue of PDP role in new Government would be discussed after PM-designate starts creating personnel and programme concept. Glas Srpske pg 5 'Mandate to Milorad Dodik' by <u>D.Mo.</u> – SNSD' Radmanovic claims to have support of PDP, SDA, NHI, SDP, DNS and <i>"also 2 votes of support in reserve."</i> According to him, SNSD has prepared a concept of work of new Government and composition of Cabinet is still left to be determined.</p>
<p>NN op-ed: persistence of a part of SDS to have a mandate can hurt SDS the most</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'Square over hypotenuses' by <u>Anton Kasapovic</u> – The author notes any child knows how the square over hypotenuses is calculated, however if a triangle is formed out of parties, then the result can be even negotiated. He also noted that the persistence of a part of SDS to have a mandate, despite to the atmosphere of lack of trust, can hurt SDS the most.</p>
<p>SNSD admitted to Socialist International</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 7 'SNSD accepted into Socialist International', Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'SNSD admitted into Socialist International' – The SNSD has become a full member of the Socialistic International, SNSD Executive Board President Nebojsa Radmanovic said in Banja Luka Tuesday, adding this carries even greater importance in light of the fact that 63 political parties from across the world applied for membership in the Socialistic International and that only two parties were admitted, one of which is SNSD.</p>

<p>EC President Baroso congratulated BiH CoM Chairman Terzic opening of talks with EU, announces visit to BiH</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Barroso's support to reforms in BiH', Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Barroso and Amaral supported BiH on European path', Dnevni List, pg 7 'European path is strategic priority of Council of Ministers', <u>not signed</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Barosso in BiH on February 18' by <u>M. C.</u> – Chairman of BiH CoM, Adnan Terzic, met with the EC President, Jose Manuel Baroso, in Portugal on Tuesday. According to a statement by the BiH CoM, Baroso congratulated Terzic on the start of SAA talks and called on BiH CoM to continue with reforms. He also confirmed he would be visiting BiH on February 18.</p>
<p>Croatian PM Sanader to visit Mostar, meet HDZ leader Covic for first time after 6 months</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Ivo Sanader visits Mostar' by <u>F.V.</u> – DA learns that Croatian Prime Minister and President of Croatian HDZ Ivo Sanader should appear in Mostar on 11 February to attend ceremony of election of men of the year. DA also learns that HDZ BiH leader Dragan Covic should appear on this ceremony as well. This would be first meeting of Covic and Sanader after six month, since there is a confrontation between HDZ BiH and HDZ Croatia. HDZ BiH Spokesperson Miso Relota stated that no official visit has been announced.</p>
<p>FBiH Government will not have sessions until issue of appointment of Ministers is solved</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'They would split Energetic Ministry so that ministers could be from HDZ and from SBiH' by <u>M. Kukan</u>– As daily learned FBiH Government's Collegiums decided that there would be no sessions of the government until the issue of appointment of Ministers is solved. Unofficially DA learns that HDZ has launched a new idea to split up the Energetic, Industry and Mining Ministry into Industry and Energetic and of Technology and Mining. Inset 'SBiH would never accept splitting of Ministry'- SBiH Vice President and Deputy FBiH Prime Minister Gavrilo Grahovac stressed that this pary would never support this idea. Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Both HDZ and SBiH want industry minister' by <u>A. Avdic</u>– FBiH President Niko Lozancic stressed that he received two nominations for FBiH Industry Minister and not even one for position of Minister without portfolio. Lozancic explained that candidates are Vahid Heco and Miroslav Nikolic.</p>

RS Constitutional Court : Law on Holidays and Law on Changes to the Law on Territorial Organisation were not in accordance with RS Constitution	Oslobodjenje pg 5 'Law on Holidays contradictory to RS Constitution', Dnevni List , pg 4 'Law on holidays anti-constitutional', <u>not signed</u> , Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Law on holidays is not in accordance with the constitution' by <u>Srna</u> , Glas Srpske pg 3 'Holidays were put on ice' by <u>G. D.</u> – The RS Constitutional Court reached a decision on Tuesday that the procedure of adopting and publishing the Law on RS Holidays and the Law on Changes to the RS Law on Territorial Organization, which were published in the RS Official Gazette on November 21 2005, was not in accordance with the RS Constitution. Bosniak members of the RS Council of People opposed the publishing and the empowerment of these laws claiming that they were violating their vital national interests.
VL on possible Croat referendum in BiH: Result unlikely to be legally binding	Vecernji List , pg 2 'Croats in BiH do not have right to referendum', by <u>Milan Sutalo</u> – Commenting on proposal of certain Croat politicians from BiH (read: Mario Vasilj from Croat Block) that a referendum be organized in BiH at which the Croats would say in what kind of state they would like to live, the author thinks it is highly unlikely that such a referendum would have legally binding results, as seen during the referendum organized by the Croat People's Assembly (HNS) back in 2001 during the 'Croat self-rule' project. VL also carries the Dean of Mostar Law School (in Mostar 'west'), professor Ljubo Zovko , who notes that as far as he knows, there is not even a law that regulates the matter.
Parents banned their children from attending classes in a school near Zvornik until a Bosniak teacher is employed in this school	Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'Forget about letters, practice spite' by <u>S. Savic</u> – Parents of Bosniak children who attend a primary school in Snagovo near Zvornik banned their children to attend classes until at least one teacher of Bosniak nationality is employed to work in this school. On the other hand, Director of this school Milica Bogicevic explained no Bosniak with needed professional skills, i.e. University degree diploma, had applied to a vacancy notice that was recently published. Nezavisne Novine pg 10 'They will not let children go to school until Bosniak teacher starts working' by <u>Srna</u> – also reported.

VAT implementation and other economic issues

<p>BiH HoP did not accept request to discuss amendments to VAT Law in urgent procedure</p>	<p>RHB, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'VAT returned to regular procedure' by <u>H.Orahovac</u> , Oslobodjenje pg 5 'Demands for amendments to VAT Law rejected' by <u>A. T.</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 18 'Papers will still have a 17% VAT', by <u>D. Pasic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'VAT in regular procedure' by <u>M. C.</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 'Taxes through regular procedure' <u>not signed</u> – BiH House of Peoples did not accept the request of the BiH Council of Ministers for considering changes and amendments to the Value Added Tax Law in urgent procedure. Just like House of Representatives before it, HoP decided that amendments to the VAT Law would be discussed in a standard parliamentary procedure. CoM proposed exemption of publishing sector from VAT system.</p>
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<p>SDP 's Lagumdzija claims that prices in January have increased up to 7%</p>	<p>RTRS, BHT 1, Oslobođenje pg 2 'Prices in January higher for 7, 6%, mentioned on cover by <u>A. Terzic</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'VAT strike of 7,8%', Dnevni List, pg 7 'Black market prevents collection of money for budget', by <u>Danka Polovina-Mandic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Consumer goods more expensive for 7,8%' by <u>R. Cengic</u>— SDP estimated that 7.8 percent increase in prices was recorded in January; but, according to SDP leader Zlatko Lagumdzija, the real problem is that the incomes have not been increased. <i>"The conclusion, unfortunately, is catastrophic: there has been an expansion of smuggling"</i>, Lagumdzija stressed. BiH Council of Ministers disagrees; they claim that the real evaluation of VAT-related consequences will be possible only in March.</p>
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<p>ITA Director: 160 million collected in January from VAT system; 350 charges for minor offences in VAT implementation reported</p>	<p>FTV – Indirect Taxation Administration Director Kemal Causevic stated on Tuesday in Brcko that more than 160 million KM of VAT have been collected in January 2006. Causevic added that the rapid decrease of import and increase of export have been recorded in January. BHT1– BHT1 comments that during the first month after the Value Added Tax introduction in BiH, FBiH Price Monitoring Team has carried out more than 1,500 controls. Some shops have been closed, and approximately 350 charges for minor offences have been submitted, explained Coordinator of the Price Monitoring Team Ibrahim Tirak. Dnevni Avaz pg 10 ‘January brought rapid decrease of import, with increase of export’ by <u>E.Razanica</u> – also reported.</p>
<p>ITA Governing Board to discuss opening office in Brcko</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 24 ‘Brcko officials demand for opening of ITA office’ by <u>T. Bijelic</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 10 ‘January brought rapid decrease in imports, along with increase in exports’ by <u>E. Razanica</u>, Vecernje Novosti pg 18 ‘Imports higher than exports’ by <u>M. Draganic</u> – ITA Governing Board has announced that in next six weeks, after a detailed analysis, it will bring a final decision on the initiative of the heads of seven municipalities and Brcko District Mayor, who have demanded that an office of Tuzla Regional ITA Center is opened in the District.</p>

<p>CoM Chair Terzic: 'We will remove Dixon if he had done a poor job'</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'We will remove Dixon if he had done a poor job' by <u>M. Cubro</u> – CoM Chairman Adnan Terzic on Tuesday stated that BiH CoM would remove Chairman of ITA Governing Board Jolly Dixon if the demand of the state parliament for his removal was grounded on poor results of his work. He also noted he still had not received the parliament's conclusion by which it requested the removal of Dixon , therefore he was not familiar with arguments supporting this demand.</p>
<p>ITA's Dixon : I will resign if CoM demands so, not Parliament</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'January brought rapid decrease of import, with increase of export' by <u>E.Razanica</u> inset/ mentioned on cover 'Dixon: If Council of Ministers demands, I will resign', Nezavisne novine pg 5 'Dixon: I will not submit resignation' <u>not signed</u>, EuroBlic pg RS4 'Dixon: I will not resign' by <u>L. S. and N. B</u> – Chairman of ITA Governing Board Jolly Dixon on Tuesday stated he would not resign as BiH Parliament had requested. He noted he could resign only upon a request of BiH CoM.</p>
<p>BiH Finance Minister Maric urges adoption of budgets</p>	<p>RTRS – BiH Minister of Finance Ljerka Maric expressed hope that 2006 budgets should be adopted as soon as possible, so that the planed social programs can be implemented and the negative effects of VAT introduction minimised.</p>

<p>SBiH's Belkic: Draft BiH budget in the amount of 950 million KM was adopted</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Draft budget amounting 950 million KM was supported' by <u>M. C.</u> The Commission for Finances and Budget of BiH HoR adopted on Tuesday the draft budget of BiH Institutions for 2006 in the amount of approximately 950 million KM, as Commission member Beriz Belkic confirmed.</p>
<p>Political leaders in region support the idea of Free Trade Zone in West Balkans</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'Balkans Free Trade Zone acceptable' by <u>V.P.</u> – PDP President, Mladen Ivanic visited Belgrade, where he met with Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Miroljub Labus. They agreed that for BiH and Serbia, the idea of establishing a Free Trade Zone in West Balkans, as recommended by the EU, is fully acceptable. Ivanic said that for BiH, this idea can only bring benefits, because it can expand the market for BiH products.</p>
<p>"Energopetrol" workers announced they would go on strike</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Workers to go on strike' by <u>M. R.</u> – "Energopetrol" workers reached a decision on Tuesday to go on strike but did not make the date of the strike public. The workers noted neither F BiH Government nor F BiH HoR had met the previous demands of the workers to explain the decision of F BiH HoR not to support F BiH Government's proposal on sale of 67% of the firm's capital to INA/MOL.</p>

Police, security and judicial issues

EC provides
financial aid
for police
reform
implementation

PINK – At a press conference held on Tuesday, Chief of the EC Delegation in BiH **Michael Humphreys** announced that the EU is going to provide 1,23 million EUROS to support the implementation of the agreement on police reform in BiH. BiH Minister for Security **Barisa Colak** stated that this would ensure assistance for the Executive Body of the Police Restructuring Directorate and its work on implementation plan through professional and advisory support in all segments. Colak emphasized that BiH citizens urgently need efficient and professional police forces. Colak once again reminded that the process of police restructuring is going to fully respect all requirements set by the EC. Humphreys reminded that police restructuring is vital for the establishment of functional police forces in BiH as one of the key issues in negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU. *“It is one of the strongest conditions for carrying on with the SAA negotiations”*, said Humphreys. Police Restructuring Directorate’s Executive Body will meet on Wednesday to discuss the dynamics of its work in the next period. **RHB, BHT1, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 2 ‘1, 23 million of EUROS for police reconstruction’, **Dnevni List**, pg 2 ‘1,2 million Euros secured for police’, not signed, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 18 ‘Police to get 1,2 million Euros’, by B. Kristo, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 6 ‘Two million KM for police reform’ by D. M., **Glas Srpske** pg 4 ‘Euros are gathering experts’ by Z. Domazet– carried similar reports.

<p>BiH Defence Minister Colak: there are no terrorism camps in BiH</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'No one can deny that there is crime in BiH' by <u>E.Huremovic</u>, inset, 'No camps for terrorists training in BiH', Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'There are no terrorist trainings in BiH' by <u>J. S.</u> – During his visit to Tuzla on Tuesday, BiH Security Minister Barisa Colak stated the Ministry has no information there are any terrorist training camps in BiH.</p>
<p>Covic and others case: Expert witness Hozdic claims 'Lijanovics' damaged budget by 38,7 million KMs, Prosecutor Rattel refuses to drop charges against Covic</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 6 ''Lijanovics' damaged budget for 38,7 million marks', by <u>Erna Mackic</u> – During yesterday's (Tuesday) continuation of trials in the 'Covic and others' case before the BiH Court, a prosecution (expert) witness, Abid Hodzic, noted that the 'Lijanovici' company damaged the FBIH budget between 1999 and 2002 in amount of 38,7 million KMs. According to Hodzic's testimony, upon checking 787 documents at order of the (BiH) Prosecution, he concluded that excise taxes were not paid for import of chicken and other meat products. Vecernji List, pg 2 'Muselimovic asked annulment of indictment', by <u>Z. K.</u> – Dragan Covic's lawyer Josip Muselimovic asked that the indictment against his client be annulled, to which the prosecutor Jonathan Rattel replied that Covic would be the last person who would freed of responsibility in the case. Oslobodjenje pg 8 'Budget damaged for more then 38 million KM' by <u>L. S.</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 ''Lijanovic" damaged F BiH budget for approximately 39 million KM' by <u>A. D.</u>– also reported.</p>

<p>VL: Americans are most interested in process of revision of issuance of BiH citizenships to foreign nationals</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 4 'Americans are reviewing BiH citizenships', by <u>Z. J.</u> – VL notes that a list of persons, some 1500 of them, mostly from Arab countries, who have been given BiH citizenship in a suspicious way, will be subjected to an audit by a commission consisting of 6 BiH nationals and 3 people from OHR. However, according to VL's unofficial information, these foreign nationals are in fact intelligence officers of the US administration, which is very much interested in the process. VL also got a 'confirmation' from a former BiH Assistant Minister for Civil Affairs, Miodrag Pandurevic, that 'individuals' from political parties and bodies of authority used to obstruct the process of revision of issuance of BiH citizenships.</p>
<p>BiH Foreign Ministry to stop abuses related to issuance of BiH visas</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 3, mentioned on front 'Chinese did not return from Mostar fair', by <u>Ivana Rozic</u> – BiH Assistant Foreign Minister, Borisa Arnaut, notes that the BiH Foreign Ministry is trying to prevent abuses related to issuing of BiH visas to foreign nationals, especially to business persons who want to visit BiH. Arnaut underlines that several companies in BiH, which repeatedly asked that visas be issued to their alleged business partners from suspicious countries, will be put on the 'black list' that will make the issuance of visas much harder. As an example, Arnaut mentions the case of 'Mostar Fair', which in the past asked that visas be issued to their alleged Chinese partners, however those 'business partners' never returned to China.</p>

<p>UN did not authorize any institution to consider complaints of decertified policemen</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 9 'UN have not authorized anyone to consider complaints of policemen' <u>by Agencies</u> – The BiH Mission to UN delivered on Monday an official letter to the UN Security Council Chair, Ambassador of Tanzania Augustin Mahiga, in which the Council is reminded that the UN did not authorize any body or organ for reviewing the appeals of decertified police officers in BiH. The spokesperson of the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nebojsa Regoje stated on Tuesday that the UN Security Council was requested to consider the possibility for ensuring the right to appeal for the police officers who were not issued certificates for working in law enforcement agencies, so that their cases could be reviewed.</p>
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War crimes

<p>ICTY-sentenced Josipovic gets out of jail</p>	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija front pg splash and pg 17 'Josipovic returns to Vitez', by <u>Zvonimir Cilic</u> – According to SD's information, Drago Josipovic from Vitez, who was found guilty of committing war crimes in village of Ahmici (central Bosnia) and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment in October 2001 by the ICTY, got a release notice on Monday, and he has 48 hours to depart from Spain where he served sentence. He is expected to arrive to Vitez on Thursday. Josipovic voluntarily turned himself in on October 6, 1997. (also in Vecernji List pg 3 'Josipovic getting out', mentioned on front 'Josipovic to be free', by <u>Vesna Leto</u>)</p>
<p>VL: BiH Prosecution to launch investigation on crimes against Croats of northern Herzegovina</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 4 'Commanders and wartime mayor of Konjic to be targeted', mentioned on front 'Trials for Doljani and Stipica Livade', by <u>Zoran Kresic</u> – VL learns from 'investigative bodies' that requested to be anonymous, that the War Crimes department of the BiH Prosecution would soon launch an investigation into crimes that were committed by the BiH Army against the Croat military and civilians of northern Herzegovina. Allegedly, the investigation will include the wartime mayor of Konjic, Safet Cibo, and the then commander of BiH Army units from Konjic, Jablanica and units that took part in the Operation 'Neretva' (Grabovica etc)</p>

<p>Head of UN OHCHR to BiH Rees: institutions for determining the truth on the war in BiH must cooperate</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'Institutions for determining the truth must cooperate' by <u>R. Cengic</u> – in an interview to <i>NW</i>, Head of UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) from Sarajevo</p> <p>Madeleine Rees stated institutions for research of cause and consequences of the war in BiH must cooperate more to determine facts in an easier way and ensure the truth on events in BiH to be accepted on all sides, which will bring to an end manipulations with the truth for political purposes. She thinks that if a commission for determining the truth on the war in BiH is ever established, then it should be established on the state level.</p>
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