

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 1/3/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 1 March

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
Update to oil spill in Grabovica Lake	Main hearing in ICJ continue	Talks on const. changes resume
Const. changes talks continue	BiH Independence Day	Protests of Serbs continue Lukavica
US diplomat Di Carlo arrived to BiH	Talks on const. changes continued	G. Bush visiting Afghanistan

TV news broadcast on 28 February

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
FBIH HoR in session	BiH lawsuit against SCG	Lawsuit BiH vs. SCG
Cerkez on her appointment	Tihic new BiH Presidency President	Hearing in lawsuit BiH vs. SCG
Oil stain in Neretva update	Talks on constitutional changes	Rotation in BiH Presidency
HNC teachers organise protests	RS NA session	BiH Independence Day reception

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Family tragedy	Lawsuit BiH vs. SCG	RS NA session
BiH Lawsuit update	Hearing in lawsuit BiH vs. SCG	Live report from RS NA session
SiCG reactions on Lawsuit	Live report from ICJ, Hague	Radojicic new RS NA Speaker

RS NA in session	Kandic on BiH lawsuit vs. SCG	FBIH HoR session
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Oslobodjenje	[BiH lawsuit against SCG] Evidences in hundred thousand documents
Dnevni Avaz	[Constitutional changes] Will the agreement be signed [?]
Dnevni List	Surname could have cost the minister her office (on appointment of Minister Cerkez)
Vecernji List	The Lent for 2,6 million Croatsians (start of the Lent)
Slobodna Dalmacija	Medzlis bans pork in Livno (Islamic community in Livno wants ban on sale of pork)
Nezavisne Novine	New RS Government was elected
Glas Srpske	New Government was elected
EuroBlic	[Tibor Varadi] The Court in the Hague cannot abolish RS
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related titles

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

<p>Talks on const. changes resume in Sarajevo</p>	<p>BH Radio 1 by <u>Senka Jasarspahic</u> – Talks on constitutional changes have resumed at the residence of the US Ambassador to BiH Douglas McElhaney. Leaders are expected only to discuss the election of BiH Presidency members and sign the agreement. BH Radiol reports leaders of SDS Dragan Cavic, SNSD Milorad Dodik, SDA Sulejman Tihic, SDP Zlatko Lagumdzija, HNZ Milenko Brkic and Chair of PDP Executive Board Goran Milojevic are present, while arrival of PDP leader Mladen Ivanic is expected afternoon. HDZ Spokesperson Miso Relota confirmed that leader Dragan Covic would attend the meeting and that he already arrived to Sarajevo. Attendance of SBiH leader Safet Halilovic is uncertain. RHB, RTRS – According the RTRS, HDZ and SzBiH officials are not attending the meeting.</p>
<p>RS PM D0dik: Hand-over on Thursday</p>	<p>RHB, RTRS – The newly appointed RS PM Milorad Dodik has announced that the official hand-over of duties between the current and the newly-elected Government members would be performed tomorrow (Thursday) 2nd March. He also announced that the first session of the new Government will most likely be held on Saturday, 4 March. RTRS further repeats information related to election of new RS Government, including Dodik's expose.</p>

BiH legal team continues presenting of evidences before ICJ	BH Radio 1 – Main hearing in case of BiH vs. SCG before the ICJ continued today with presentation of evidences from the side of BiH legal team. They focused at the concentration camps stating “Serb side” organized them as a part of the campaign to destroy non-Serb population. Lawyers claim there were about 500 of such camps organized in BiH by political decision.
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BiH lawsuit vs. SCG

<p>Main hearing in lawsuit BiH vs. SCG continues before ICJ; BiH team presented videos of massacres in Sarajevo as well as testimonies of Srebrenica victims</p>	<p>BHT1 by Boris Grubescic, The Hague – At the second day of the hearing in the case of BiH lawsuit against SCG for aggression and genocide, BiH legal team has continued to present the arguments and evidence. These include video tapes of massacres in the streets of Sarajevo, testimonials of Srebrenica survivors and a video showing Vojislav Kostunica, current Serbian Prime Minister, and Vojislav Seselj, leader of Serbian Radical Party and ICTY indictee, visiting Serbian troops in BiH during the war. BiH team said they would use evidence from the ongoing/completed procedures before the ICTY. Hayat by Asim Beslija, The Hague – Commenting the repeated allegations by the SCG that the International Court of Justice is not authorized for the case, expert in the BIH team and member of UN Commission for the International Law, Alian Pellet, has disputed the arguments that SCG was not the UN member state at the time of war in BiH. Presentation of evidences by BiH team will continue on Wednesday. FTV – BiH agent Sakib Softic stated for FTV that no out-of-court settlement could be found with the SCG team. RTRS –BIH representative, US attorney, Thomas Franck stated that a lot of important evidence would not be submitted as they are in the hands of Belgrade regime. SCG team is scheduled to start their submitting arguments on March 8. BHT1 – People who protested before the ICJ building supporting the lawsuit ended the rallies and returned to BiH. RHB, PINK, Oslobođenje cover splash, pgs 4-5 ‘Evidences in hundred thousand documents’ by <u>Nagorka Idrizovic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 ‘Showing of murders in Srebrenica soon’ by <u>Agencies</u>, Glas Srpske pg 3 ‘“Scorpions” as evidence as well’, Dnevni List pg 4 ‘Verdicts passed so far are evidence against Serbia’ by <u>D. Kozina</u>, Vecernji List pg 22 ‘Evidence on genocide will be appalling and shocking’ by <u>G. Jungwirth</u> reported on continuance of the trial. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘Kostunica: This is the example how the future Serbian border should look like’ by <u>Sead Numanovic</u> –DA’s headline refers to Kostunica’s statement made on 1994.</p>
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<p>SCG agent Stojanovic: Serbia never intended to commit genocide</p>	<p>PINK – Daily Telegraph published that Chief of SCG legal team Radoslav Stojanovic stated that responsibility for murders of Bosniak could not be considered as the collective guilt and crime of entire people, but only of individuals who committed them. He added that Serbia and Serbian people never had the intention to commit genocide.</p>
<p>RS President Cavic accuses Foreign Minister Ivanic of contributing to the BiH lawsuit vs. SCG</p>	<p>RTRS – RS President Dragan Cavic accused BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic of contributing to the start of the BiH lawsuit against SCG as he had failed to notify the International Court of Justice that member of BiH Presidency Borislav Paravac submitted a request to the BiH Constitutional Court regarding constitutionality of the proceeding. Cavic feels that Ivanic was trying to protect his position and therefore only forwarded this notification to the BiH Embassy in The Hague. Ivanic says that followed the entire legal procedure and adds that Cavic is aware of all the things he has done in this issue. "<i>Cavic will not bring back his lost authority with these lies</i>", says Ivanic. Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Cavic: Ivanic had contributed to the start of the process' by S. G., Glas Srpske pg 2 'Ivanic is exclusive culprit' by Z.M., EuroBlic pg RS2 'Conflict of Cavic and Ivanic over BiH lawsuit against SiCG' by R. R. and N. B., Dnevni List pg 6 'Ivanic preserves his position' <u>not signed</u> – also reported.</p>
<p>Ivanic: "Cavic is political manipulator and liar"</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Ivanic did not inform ICJ in order to keep his seat', Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Cavic is political manipulator and liar', Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Ivanic: Cavic is pitiful' by D. R., EuroBlic pg RS2 'Conflict of Cavic and Ivanic over BiH lawsuit against SiCG' by R. R. and N. B. – Reacting on accusations of SDS leader Dragan Cavic that he contributed to the start of this process of BiH lawsuit against SCG, PDP leader Mladen Ivanic said he reacted properly, fulfilling his duties as BiH Foreign Minister, adding that he never heard Cavic reacted on lawsuit until recently. Oslobodjenje pg 5 'I would not tolerate Ivanic's hypocrisy' by Fena – carries on Cavic's statement on Ivanic and lawsuit against SCG, covered by EMM.</p>

<p>BiH Presidency members have different stances on the lawsuit: Tihic supports it, Paravac entirely against it</p>	<p>PINK – During the takeover ceremony in the BiH Presidency at which Sulejman Tihic replaced Ivo Miro Jovic at the position of the Chairman, members of BiH Presidency expressed opposing stances on BIH lawsuit against SCG. Member of the BiH Presidency Borislav Paravac pointed out failures of the Presidency regarding relations with neighbouring countries especially Croatia and SCG. Paravac also stressed that one-sided lawsuit against SCG will worsen relations between the countries. He stated that BIH Presidency members are leaving the collective way of working more often. Tihic stressed that the lawsuit is not directed at Serbs in BIH. <i>“Lawsuit should be feared by those who were responsible for crimes and suffering of BIH citizens”</i>, stated Tihic. He stressed that the goal of the lawsuit is to determine the character of war and to satisfy the justice.</p> <p>Oslobodjenje pg 5 ‘BiH lawsuit against SCG is not directed toward Serbs’ by <u>A. Terzic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 ‘Tihic: Lawsuit against SiCG was not aimed against Serbs in BiH’ by <u>A. Sisic</u>, EuroBlic pg RS3 ‘Tihic: the last rotation’, announced on cover ‘Tihic: This is the last rotation’ by <u>D. S.</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 ‘In the interest of people’ – also covered.</p>
<p>SiCG legal team member Varadi: Hague Court shows no interest to abolish RS, nor it can interfere with constitutional organisation of any country</p>	<p>EuroBlic cover pg splash and pg 3 ‘The Court in the Hague cannot abolish RS’ by <u>Dejan Vukelic</u> – Tibor Varadi, a member of SiCH legal team in the BiH lawsuit against SiCG for genocide, says the Court in the Hague shows no interest to abolish RS, nor it has the authority to interfere with the constitutional organisation of any state. He thinks there are realistic chances for the Court to proclaim it has no jurisdiction over this case, but he refused to make any prognosis with regard to chances for SiCG to win the case if it is tried. Oslobodjenje cover splash, pgs 4-5 ‘Evidences in hundred thousand documents’ by <u>Nagorka Idrizovic</u> – also carries.</p>

<p>Serbian PM Deputy claims lawsuit is to divide BiH</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje cover splash, pgs 4-5 ‘Evidences in hundred thousand documents’ by <u>Nagorka Idrizovic</u>– Daily comments the statement by the Serbian Deputy PM Miroljub Labus in which argues that the lawsuit would divide, saying it is unsuitable for the Labus’ function to state this. Labus said that if ICJ would accept the lawsuit that could have unseen repercussions to BiH. <i>“I do not see how BiH could survive after that as single state and if the lawsuit is rejected then the Muslim side would be much frustrated”</i> stated Labus.</p>
<p>Daily: Serbian citizens do not dispute war crime, but do genocide</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pgs 4-5 ‘Serbian citizens claim that it wasn’t a genocide but crime’ by <u>B. Boskov, Belgrade</u> – Author carries on public stances in Serbia regarding the lawsuit BiH vs. SCG for genocide and aggression, where it is significant that majority of Serbian citizens is not challenging the fact that crimes were committed, but stressed that these were not collective crime, but of one individual and that genocide couldn’t have happen.</p>
<p>JL: BiH should drop charges against SCG for sake of its future</p>	<p>Jutarnji List, pg 18 ‘Why BiH should withdraw genocide charges against SCG’, by <u>Snjezana Pavic</u> – The author argues that BiH should be dropping the genocide charges it filed against the SCG simply because the Serbs from BiH are against the lawsuit. <u>Pavic</u> notes that everyone in the world knows the truth about the war in BiH, that it was Serbia that started the aggression against BiH, however BiH should drop the charges for the sake of building a joint state in which all peoples should feel equal to each other. <u>Pavic</u> reckons that one of key issues in BiH is that there are three ‘truths’ about what happened in BiH, although everyone knows that Serbia attacked BiH, however that is not a complete truth about the war, namely the Patriotic League of BiH, formed in spring of 1991, was formed as a pure Muslim army to defend Muslims, not a multi-ethnic BiH.</p>

RS Government appointed

SNSD's leader
Milorad Dodik
takes over as
new RS PM,
supported by
46 RSNA votes

RTRS late news – At the extraordinary session of the RS National Assembly held on Tuesday, the SNSD leader **Milorad Dodik** was appointed as the new RS Prime Minister replacing **Pero Bukejlovic**. Dodik was supported by 46 RSNA deputies, 5 were against him and 4 abstained from voting.

As for the appointment of the new Government, 45 representatives voted in favour and 8 deputies were against. SDS deputies left the RS NA session before the voting started as the newly appointed RSNA Speaker **Igor Radojicic** [who replaced **Dusan Stojicic**] refused to let them to continue with long discussions. New RS Ministers, as well as the new Prime minister, already took the solemn oath. Duty hand over is scheduled for Thursday whilst first session of new RS Government will take place on Saturday. **Oslobodjenje**

pg 7 'Dodik new Prime Minister' by O.Vukovic, **Nezavisne Novine** cover pg splash, pg 3 'New RS Government elected' by V.Popovic, **Glas Srpske** cover pg splash 'New Government elected' by G.Dakic/Z.Markovic, **Vecernje Novosti** pg 4 'Difficult 214 days and nights' by Sl. Pesevic, **EuroBlic** pg RS2 'Through difficulties to the Government' not signed – also reported.

<p>New RS PM promises to focus on fight against organized crime and audit of privatization process</p>	<p>RTRS – During the RSNA session, RS PM-designate [now elected PM] Milorad Dodik presented the exposé with an overview of his goals for the upcoming period. He repeated the priorities of the new Government would be fight against organised crime, audit of privatisation process and establishment of investment-development bank for development of the RS economy. He promised to strengthen RS institutions and adopt several new laws in order to improve the overall situation in RS. Hayat by <u>ATV</u>– Dodik stated that after taking over the Government, as a part of his priorities regarding the ICTY cooperation, he will establish the special department in the police that will be specialised in arresting war crime indictees. Glas Srpske cover pg ‘Straight to the work’ – During his expose, RS PM Dodik warned that police reform will have to be implemented in line with the Agreement RS National Assembly has adopted. His government will not accept anything else according to him. RHB, PINK, BHT1, FTV, Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash, pg 3 ‘New RS Government elected’ by <u>V.Popovic</u>, Glas Srpske cover pg ‘Straight to the work’ – all reported on session and Dodik’s expose.</p>
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<p>RS PM Dodik on priorities: rise of salaries for health workers, police, privatisation audit, budgetary issues</p>	<p>RTRS current affair program 'Crvena Linija' by <u>Zoran Popovic</u> – Newly appointed RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik stated he would propose the Law on audit of the privatization and establishment of the agency in charge of the task. Noting that the authorized institutions so far have not reacted properly on the issue, Dodik says he considers the establishment of the special department within the RS Special Prosecutor's Office with powers to confiscate from companies illegally gained property. Asked whether he expects OHR or EC actions on establishment of this officials as it may not be in accordance with the judicial reform, Dodik answered he checked this was in line with the RS judiciary system. New RS PM also says that new RS budget for 2006 would include salaries increase for health care employees and police. On the budget, Dodik also said that he "can not wait" for the meeting with Joly Dixon, Chairman of the ITA Steering Board, who allegedly along with some OHR officials denies that ITA owes 44 million KM to RS. Dodik sent message to Kemal Causevic, ITA director that that money would have to be given to RS since it belongs to RS.</p>
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After Dusan Stojicic tendered resignation, RSNA got new Speaker

RTRS – Now former RSNA Speaker, **Dusan Stojicic**, tendered resignation at the very beginning of the extraordinary session. **Igor Radojicic**, who replaced him at the position, called upon the RS citizens to submit initiatives for changes to the existing laws or adoption of new ones to improve the life of RS citizens. SDS member **Branislav Stojanovic** and SRS Vojislav Seselj member **Milan Lazic** opposed Radojicic's appointment.

They stressed that Radojicic as a Montenegrin belongs to the 'others' in RS thus he could not perform a function intended for a Serb. **Krstan Simic** from SNSD stressed that Radojicic's appointment can be discussed in RS Council of Peoples if someone feels that RS Constitution is violated by his appointment. Radojicic stated that if someone has a problem with him being a Montenegrin then it is his or her problem. He stressed that RS NA should return the trust of RS citizens by working intensively after 4 months of blockade. **PINK, BHT1, FTV, Dnevni Avaz** pg 11 'Dodik promised furious fight against the crime' by N. Diklic, Inset 'Radojicic instead of Stojicic', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3, announced on cover 'Igor Radojicic elected new RS NA Speaker', **Glas Srpske** cover pg splash 'New Government elected' by G.Dakic/Z.Markovic, **Dnevni List** pg 6 'Dodik proposed composition of new RS Government' not signed– reported on election of new Speaker.

<p>New RSNA Speaker Radojicic: I will invited Trade Unions, NGOs and citizens' associations to participate work of RSNA Boards</p>	<p>RTRS late news – Following his appointment, the RS National Assembly Speaker Igor Radojicic stated that he would send an invitation to members of various Unions, Associations and NGO's to participate in the work of RS NA Boards.</p> <p>Radojicic stressed that he will take great interest in pursuing audit reports, which in his opinion were too easily forwarded along. <i>"Together with RS Government and Prosecution we will have a concrete exit and not only statement of what is wrong"</i>, stated Radojicic. When it comes to departure of SDS deputies from RS NA Radojicic stated that according to RS NA statute he couldn't allow any more discussions. He added that in a way he expected them to leave and reminded that there were not procedural reasons for that. As far as objections from SDS and SRS Vojislav Seselj are concerned related to Radojicic being a Montenegrin, he says that this story is a typical SDS story that appears when all other arguments fail. Nezavisne Novine pg 3, announced on cover 'Igor Radojicic elected new RS NA Speaker' – also carries.</p>
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<p>RSNA elects new RS Government, Ministers</p>	<p>RTRS – RS National Assembly representatives voted in favour of the new RS Government, consisting of: Interior Minister Stanislav Cadj, Finance Minister Aleksandar Dzombic, Minister of Economy, Energy and Development Milan Jelic, Minister of Administration and Local Self-Governance Nebojsa Radmanovic, Minister of Health and Social Welfare Ranko Skrbic, Minister for Refugees and Displaced Persons Omer Brankovic, Minister of Education and Culture Antun Kasipovic, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Slaven Pekic, Minister of Labour and Veterans Bosko Tomic, Minister without portfolio Branislav Borenovic that will take over the new Ministry for Family, Youth and Sports, Minister of Transport and Communications Nedeljko Cubrilovic, Minister of Justice Omer Visic, Minister for Urban Planning and Civil Engineering Fatima Fatibegovic, Minister for Economic Relations Jasna Brkic, Minister of Trade and Tourism Predrag Gluhakovic and Minister of Science and Technology Bakir Ajanovic. Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Ministers in RS Government', Glas Srpske cover pg inset 'Ministers', Dnevni List pg 6 'Dodik proposed composition of new RS Government' <u>not signed</u> – also covered.</p>
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<p>SDP confirms it would be opposition to Dodik's Government</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 11 'Dodik promised furious fight against the crime' by <u>N. Diklic</u> – As it was announced SDP did not get any ministerial position in new RS Government and Head of SDP Caucus in RS National Assembly Zekerijah Osmic announced that SDP would act as opposition during the mandate of new RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik.</p>
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Constitutional changes

<p>Leaders of 8 pol parties meet today to sign agreement on const. changes under US auspices arties: SDA expects success, SBiH's presence not yet confirmed, HDZ proposes compromise, Cavic says he would sign only after Ivanic</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash 'Will the agreement be signed?', pg 4 'McElhaney invited only party leaders to his residence' by <u>A.Malagic</u> – Talks between the leaders of the SDA, HDZ, SNSD, SDP, PDP, SBiH, HNZ and SDS will be continued today [Wednesday] in the residence of the US Ambassador Douglas McElhaney. According to DA, the invitation letter, sent by McElhaney, specified that only leaders were invited, not their associates. SDA leader Sulejman Tihic commented he expects outstanding issue of BiH Presidency election to be solved, adding he expects all, including SBiH leader Safet Halilovic who recently criticized the manner of discussions, to attend the meeting. Tihic concluded the worst-case scenario is no agreement as <i>"in that way BiH politicians would show their incapability to reach agreement on any issue."</i> SBiH official Beriz Belkic confirmed they had received an invitation letter, stressing party never said it would not take part in talks. However, Belkic adds: <i>"If [negotiations] remain at this level and if they demanded us to sign such an agreement, we assure you that we wont take a part in it."</i> SBiH executive commission's stance on whether officials will join today's talks has not been yet known. PDP leader Mladen Ivanic, who attends the conference in Paris, told DA he was not informed about the meeting adding he would probably not take part in it. He added PDP would have a representative at the meeting. Confirming that HDZ leader Dragan Covic would participate in the meeting, HDZ spokesperson Miso Relota told DA: <i>"It seems that the direct election of the BiH President would remain. In that case, we think that the compromise would be that entire BiH is one electoral unit. But, these are political negotiations and some completely new solutions are possible."</i> Inset, "Cavic: I will sign after Ivanic" – SDS leader Dragan Cavic commented he would not sign the agreement on constitutional changes before Ivanic does, explaining: <i>"Ivanic tends to harshly criticize my role in the constitutional changes."</i> Inset, 'Di Carlo at the meeting' – US Deputy Assistant Secretary Rosemary Di Carlo will participate at the meeting. Nezavisne Novine pg 5, announced on cover 'Reaching an agreement with help of US Government representatives' by <u>M. Cubro</u> – US Embassy to BiH confirmed talks on constitutional changes would continue on Wednesday, article lists parties that would participate RHB,PINK, BHT1, Hayat, FTV, Oslobođenje pg 6 'Signing agreement on constitutional changes today' by <u>A.T.</u>, EuroBlic pg RS3 'Finale on the Constitution today', Glas Srpske pg 5 'Not before Ivanic' by <u>Z. M.</u>, Dnevni List, pg 8 'HDZ's reactions to constitutional changes', <u>not signed</u>, Dnevni List, pg 5 'Tihic announces signing of agreement for today ?!', <u>not signed</u> – also covered.</p>
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<p>HNZ supports HDZ's objection; SNSD doesn't yet confirm participation in talks; SDS Botic: pressure from US side possible</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 6 'Croats don't want to sign direct election of President' by <u>A.Omeragic</u> – HNZ leader Milenko Brkic said he supports HDZ stances on election of BiH President. SNSD Vice President Krstan Simic repeated that stances of his party are clear, and that there is no time for another talks. SNSD could not confirm their participation in the talks, standing that this party prepares forming RS Government. SDS Vice President Mladen Botic said: <i>"I don't know what we can expect from the continuation of the talks. Everything is relatively far away, but I believe there would be pressures by US administration to sing the agreement."</i> Daily also carries statements by HDZ Vice President Marinko Cavara, PDP Vice President Goran Milojevic and SDA leader Sulejman Tihic who presented the same stances alike in the DA article.</p>
<p>SNSD's Dodik: agreement on const. changes reached by domestic politicians, it could mean withdrawal of IC in current form; talks possible in future but only w/out questioning RS</p>	<p>RTRS current affair program 'Crvena Linija' By <u>Zoran Popovic</u>-Commenting the announcement by the SDA leader Sulejman Tihic on signing the agreement on the constitutional changes would be signed on Wednesday, the RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik said there would be certain consultations with the State Department officials on the day but the signing of the agreement. Dodik notes that Wednesday is non-working holiday in FBiH, and there are still unsolved issues. However, Dodik is very optimistic and pleased about the fact that the talks were conducted among domestic politicians signalling their readiness to make decisions independently from the international community: <i>"This means a lot to me since it would mean withdrawal of the international community in the capacity that we have now... I am satisfied that leaders that participated in [talks on] the constitutional changes reached the agreement that identify both the RS and BiH"</i>, said Dodik. According to Dodik, talks on the constitutional changes could continue in a future but it has to be clear that RS should not be questioned.</p>
<p>SD: Constitutional talks proposals are discriminatory for Croats; criticizes HDZ's lack of vision, action</p>	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 21 'Sour apple for Croats', by <u>Veso Vegar</u> – commenting on the proposal of constitutional changes talks, <u>Vegar</u> argues the proposal is discriminatory for the Croats, and on top of it, it will not make BiH authorities more efficient in terms of making strong state authorities. As for the position of the Croats in the talks, since according to <u>Vegar</u>, the proposed solutions are product of talks between the SDA and SNSD, the author reckons one should have expected that the HDZ would be against the proposal, criticizing the HDZ for lack of vision and political action during the process, and the party's practice to agree to 'rotten compromises'.</p>

<p>VL: Silajdzic using constitutional talks to return of BiH political scene</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 4 'Silajdzic's alliance against red-black coalition', by <u>Dejan Jazvic</u> – commenting on the announcement of possible formation of 'Bosnian Patriotic Block' that would gather SBiH, SDU, BOSS and possibly some other smaller parties, <u>Jazvic</u> says this is a sign of establishment of various political alliances prior to elections, and an excuse to Haris Silajdzic to use the issue of constitutional changes to return to the BiH political scene. In that context, <u>Jazvic</u> notes it is a good opportunity for Silajdzic to finally become a leader of a big political group, despite his SBIH being in every authority since the party got formed. The author also notes that the constitutional changes talks brought together two parties (SDP and SDA) together, which was unthinkable of until this moment.</p>
<p>SDS' Novakovic, SP RS Gligoric and B. Luka Professor Kunic critical of initiative for creation of Patriotic Bosnian Front</p>	<p>Glas Srpske pg 5 'Guardians of false fire' by <u>S.Milakovic</u> – Following call for creation of the Patriotic Bosnian Block by Safet Halilovic, Sejfudin Tokic and Mirnes Ajanovic, daily stresses that the equation mark can be placed between the creation of the Front and the destruction of BiH, following "<i>attempts to legalise RS</i>" as these three officials noted. Regarding constitutional changes issue, Momcilo Novakovic, SDS delegate at the BiH HoR, says that some political parties have been neglecting the fact that changes can be achieved solely through agreement of all three peoples in BiH, adding no sort of constitutional changes will bring RS existence in question. Petar Kunic, Professor at Banja Luka Faculty Law, and Tihomir Gligoric, delegate of SP RS at BiH HoR, also note RS has obtained its legality through Dayton Accords.</p>

Other political issues

<p>Rotation in BiH Presidency; Tihic takes over Chairing position, announces SAA negotiations to be a priority</p>	<p>BHT1 – Bosniak member Sulejman Tihic took over the position of Chair of BiH Presidency from Ivo Miro Jovic. At the handover ceremony, Jovic stated that the period of his presiding was marked by several important events, such as the anniversary of the signing of Dayton Peace Agreement, marking of the anniversary of Srebrenica tragedy, marking of the 60 anniversary of UN, receiving of the UNESCO certificate for Mostar and start of the negotiations on Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU. BiH Presidency member Borislav Paravac expressed his worries over the Transparency International's report, which has shown that BiH belongs to the most corrupted countries in the world. Paravac stressed that the non-functioning of BiH Council of Ministers and BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs in their full capacities has a negative impact on the work of Presidency. Tihic announced that his priorities in next eight months are going to be the continuation of negotiations on SAA with the EU, strengthening of relations with the USA and the countries of Islamic world, as well as Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro. BiH Presidency members agreed that a significant progress has been made regarding the defense reform. PINK, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Tihic: Lawsuit against SiCG was not aimed against Serbs in BiH' by <u>A. Sisic</u>, EuroBlic pg RS3 'Tihic: the last rotation', announced on cover 'Tihic: This is the last rotation' by <u>D. S.</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 'Change behind steering wheel' <u>not signed</u>, Dnevni List pg 22 'Tihic Chairman of BiH Presidency' <u>not signed</u>, Vecernji List pg 22 'Last Chairman of BiH Presidency' by <u>H.</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 5 'BiH lawsuit against SCG is not directed toward Serbs' by <u>A. Terzic</u> – carries on rotation in BiH Presidency and Tihic's statement. Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Closure to EU and NATO will be BiH's priorities in next eight months' by <u>Fena</u>– carried similar reports.</p>
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<p>FBiH HoR appoints new FBiH Ministers; next session of the FBiH Government dedicated to budget</p>	<p>Hayat– FBiH House of Representatives confirmed the appointment of three ministers at the session on Tuesday. Katica Cerkez from HDZ was appointed as the Minister of the newly established Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Vahid Heco (SBIH) as the Minister of Industry, and Ferid Otajagic (SBIH) as the Minister of Urban Planning. After the Government has been completed, FBiH President expects the adoption of the budget for 2006 in the urgent procedure. FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic stressed that after a-month-and-a-half the Government has been completed adding that the first session will be on Thursday discussing the budget. <i>“On Friday we will forward the budget to the Parliament. It would be good if Parliament discussed it at the extraordinary session”</i> stated Hadzipasic. On the other hand, Hadzipasic stressed that the budget for 2006 will not differ much from the interim decision on financing since the law on allocation of public revenues still hasn’t been adopted. FBiH HoR has also adopted the report on Energopetrol issued by delegate Mirnes Ajanovic. <i>“This is a report on the cause of the situation in Energopetrol. FBiH Government and FBiH Parliament should not be blamed for the crisis in this company but the management who is responsible for it”</i> explained Ajanovic. BHT1, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 10 ‘Cerkez, Heco and Otajagic appointed as new Ministers’ by <u>A. Hadziarapovic</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 7 ‘FBiH Government completed’ by <u>S.Sehercehajic</u> – also reported.</p>
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<p>Former FBiH Defence Minister Nikolic refused appointment because of placement of ministry</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'Cerkez, Heco and Otajagic appointed as new Ministers' by <u>A. Hadziarapovic</u>, inset 'Why Nikolic fell off' – Commenting previous allegations that former FBiH Defence Minister Miroslav Nikolic was about to be appointed for the new ministerial position in the FBiH Government, DA alleges that Nikolic refused appointment since he did not want to take over the ministry which is not placed in Mostar. FBiH President Niko Lozancic stressed that he <i>"appointed candidates that parties submitted"</i>.</p>
<p>DL on new FBiH Ministers: Katica Cekrez related to ICTY indictee</p>	<p>Dnevni List, front pg splash and pg 4 'Surname could have cost the minister her office', by <u>Mensud Zorlak</u> – Apart from reporting on the appointment of new ministers, DL notes that MP Alaga Topic ruffled plenty of feathers when he asked Minister of Tourism Katica Cerkez who her husband was. It turned out that Minister Cerkez was related to Mario Cerkez, a former ICTY indictee. MP Mirnes Ajanovic ended the polemics by saying individuals must not be hostages to sins of their family members. Vecernji List, pg 2 'Work of FBiH Government de-blocked', by <u>Eldina Medunjanin</u> – reports on the appointments.</p>
<p>FBiH HoR fails to discuss FBiH PBS law, OHR and EC Delegation warn of the importance of adoption of the law</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover 'Crisis at the Government was resolved' by <u>M. Renner</u> – Apart from reporting on the F BiH HoR session and appointment of three Ministers, the article reads the F BiH HoR did not discuss F BiH PBS law. EC Delegation Spokesperson Frane Maroevic stated that the adoption of this law is one of the priorities that need to be fulfilled in order to finalise SAA negotiations and noted it is the most important to adopt a law that would be harmonised with the state law. RHB – The discussion on the law on Public RTV Service is scheduled for next week.</p>

<p>OHR urges FBiH HoR to harmonize Laws with the BiH Law on PBS</p>	<p>BHT1– OHR urged FBiH House of Representatives to fully align its legislation with the BiH law on PBS adopted by the BiH Parliament Assembly on October 5, 2005. OHR also insists on removal of all amendments that determine the role of FBiH Parliaments as founder of FBiH public broadcasting service. FBiH Minister of Transport and Telecommunication Nedžad Branković claims that there must be control over the finances of PBS, being that this system uses high amounts of public funds. However, he stressed that such financial control wouldn't have any impact on the editorial policy. RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Entity laws on PBS must be harmonised with the state law', Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Interests of citizens before the personal ones', Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover 'Crisis at the Government was resolved' by <u>M. Renner</u>– also carried.</p>
<p>Solana's Spokesperson Gallach: EU Ministers emphasized the necessity of absolute cooperation with ICTY</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 'EU only repeated earlier stance on obligation of ICTY cooperation' by <u>T.L.</u> – Commenting the EU Foreign Minister's warning to the SCG and BiH that the SAA talks could be suspended if the full cooperation with the ICTY was not ensures, DA carries the comment from the office of EU Common and Security High Representative Javier Solana according to which Ministers only repeated their previously stated stance. Solana's Spokesperson Christina Gallach stated for DA: <i>"We mention that this is not a new development of the situation regarding the fact that BiH was mentioned in sense of obligation of ICTY cooperation, nor some new appraisal and message, regarding our recent stances, was presented"</i>. Gallach explained that necessity of absolute cooperation with the ICT.</p>

<p>Head of BiH Directorate for European integrations</p> <p>Topcagic surprised with the warning of EU CoM</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 9 'Topcagic was surprised with EU warning' <u>not signed</u> – Head of BiH Directorate for European Integrations Osman Topcagic expressed his surprise with the warning of EU CoM, which announced SAA negotiations with BiH and SiCG would be stopped unless war crimes indictees were arrested. He noted that the full cooperation with ICTY is a key pre-requisite for European partnership and he was surprised with the warning because <i>'we had not been warned up until now about a problematic cooperation of BiH with the Hague'</i>.</p> <p>Glas Srpske pg 2 'Surprise from Brussels' <u>not signed</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Liberalisation of visa regime proposed for SCG' <u>by Az.K.</u> – also reported.</p>
<p>Oslobodjenje:</p> <p>While EU warns to stop talks on SAA, some EC countries proposed liberalisation of visa regime for SCG</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Liberalisation of visa regime proposed for SCG' <u>by Az.K.</u> – Commenting the fact that EU Foreign Ministers warned they would stop talks on Stabilisation and Association Agreement [SAA] with SCG and BiH for the reason of non-cooperation with the ICTY, author said that some European Council members demand liberalisation of visa regime for SCG . Daily learns from its sources in EC that these countries are Greece , Spain , Slovenia , Belgium and Portugal .</p>
<p>Chairman of SiCG National Council for Cooperation with the Hague</p> <p>Ljajic: SiCG was given another chance to fulfil its obligations towards the Hague Tribunal</p>	<p>Vecernje Novosti pg 2, announced on cover '[Searching] after Mladic day and night' <u>by T. Markovic</u> – in an interview to <i>VN</i>, the Chairman of SiCG National Council for Cooperation with the Hague Tribunal, Rasim Ljajic, says EU had given one more chance to SiCG to fulfil its obligations towards ICTY (referring to the warning of EU Council of Ministers on fulfilment of the obligations towards the Hague Tribunal. He added SiCG must use this chance since the price SiCG would pay for failure to arrest and extradite Ratko Mladic would be enormous, not only regarding the process of European integrations but also regarding the negotiations on status of Kosovo and outcome of BiH lawsuit against SiCG. Ljajic noted the speculations that the Government was negotiating with Mladic were untrue and harmful.</p>

<p>Director of Directorate for European Integration Topcagic: BiH team happy with 1st round of SAA talks, next round on March 17</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 7 'Technical negotiations start on March 17', by <u>D. P. Mandic</u> – Director of BiH Directorate for European Integration, Osman Topcagic, presented on Tuesday to the Joint commission for European integration of BiH Parliament a report on the first round of SAA talks between BiH and EU. Topcagic noted that the BiH team was satisfied with the first round of talks, the way the BiH team prepared itself and concluded the talks. He also announced the first technical round of talks for March 17, which will be dedicated to the movement of goods.</p>
<p>CRO press on BiH Independence Day: VL – RS will not mark it; SD – Would Croats vote the same way they did in 1992</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 2 'Independence Day: Holiday in only one part of BiH', by <u>E. M.</u> – The author argues that March 1, the Independence Day of BiH, will not be celebrated/marked in the RS, since the entity's authorities do not deem the holiday as legal since there is no state law to regulate the matter. On top of this, VL notes that even though the Croat officials do observe the holiday, some cantons with the Croat majority will not mark the holiday. Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 21, mentioned on front 'Phantom holiday', by <u>Zlatko Tulic</u> – SD comments the issue shows that BiH, in practice, is still a 'fictional state'. The article also carries statement of the new RS PM, Milorad Dodik, who says although the law on state holiday has not been enacted, marking of the Independence Day is unacceptable to the RS. <u>Tulic</u> reckons that the key issue in the whole story is the Croats, since they supported an independent and democratic BiH in the referendum from 14 years ago. Namely, <u>Tulic</u> wonders would Croats vote the same way now as they did 14 years ago.</p>

<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed harshly criticizes BiH Presidency member Paravac for not respecting BiH Independence Day</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'Day of civil protection' op-ed by <u>Senka Kurtovic</u> – Harshly criticizing BiH Presidency member Borislav Paravac for not respecting the March 1, BiH Independence Day, editorial reads that it is an expected manor of SDS member, for his party showed what they think about it 14 years ago, at the referendum. Commenting his statement that the only celebration he is invited for today is the Day of Civil Protection, author says that the best protection for RS citizens would be if someone more capable takes his place.</p>
<p>VL: HDZ and HSP Djapic- Jurisic to form two blocks to prevent squandering of Croat votes</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 5 'Agreement on rules of the game until threshold is passed', by <u>Miroslav Vasilj</u> – According to VL's sources in the HDZ and HSP (Djapic-Jurisic), the two parties could soon reach an agreement that should prevent dissemination/squandering of Croat votes in the October general elections, given that the threshold could be set at 4%, which in reality means that many Croat parties would not be able to make it into the parliament(s). According to the plan, the HSP would gather several other Croat parties, including the NHI and Coalition for Changes (HKDU, HSS, HDU and CCD), whilst the HDZ would gather HNZ, Croat Block and Hrstic's HSP. The two parties warn of scenario that Croats could be represented by Croats appointed by SDP, SBIH and even SDA.</p>
<p>DA: FBiH authorities to adopt law increasing their salaries?</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'FBiH Government decides on raising payments for officials tomorrow', mentioned on cover, by <u>M.Kukan</u> – Announcing Thursday's session of FBiH Government, daily alleges that one of issues on the agenda should be Law on Rights of Elected Officials in FBiH Authorities. DA learns from sources close to FBiH Ministry of Justice, which proposed this law, that if this Law were adopted, it would enable increase of payments for FBiH authorities by 20-25%.</p>

<p>DL: BiH politicians are wealthiest people around, BiH Election Commission cannot scrutinize them</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 2 'Third time lucky', by <u>Resad Dautefendic</u> – the author comments on the SDP's third attempt in the BiH Parliament to try and have enacted the law on establishment of agency that would deal with confiscation of illegally acquired possessions. <u>Dautefendic</u> notes it will be very hard to achieve that since everyone knows it is the leaders of political parties, members of BiH Presidency, BiH CoM, heads of municipalities etc. who are wealthiest people around. The author also notes that the BiH Election Commission is powerless against the politicians since politicians have to list all of their belongings before taking up an office, however the Commission is not authorized to see whether their property has changed after their term has expired.</p>
<p>FBiH CC President: F BiH Law on inspections is not in line with Constitution</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 11 'A part of Law on Inspections not in line with Constitution' by <u>M.Rener</u> – Kasim Trnka, President of the F BiH Constitutional Court Tuesday assessed that that the F BiH Law on Inspections is not in line with Constitution, mainly its provision referring to organisation and functioning of inspections at the cantonal level.</p>