

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 13/4/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 13 April

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
RS: Fuel prices to go up	HR visit to Banja Luka	HR Ashdown in B.Luka
Crypt with Pope's body opened	Beara rejects amended indictment	Update to ICTY trials
Iraq : Three Croatians arrested	FBiH HoR in session	KosMet

TV news broadcast on 12 April

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
27 kg of heroin confiscated	BiH HoR in session	Report by Int. Comm. for Balkans
BiH HoR in session	FBiH HoR in session	Update to smuggling explosive case
FBiH HoR in session	Volas meets IMF representatives	SBS seized 27 kilos of heroin
Colak statement for Vecernji List	RS search for missing persons	SA City council elections annulled

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
BiH Election Commission in session	Elections for SA City Council annulled	SBS and EUFOR sized 27 kg heroin
BiH HoR in session	SIPA arrested three persons	SBS stopped trafficking in people

Issue of BiH Ambassador to Croatia	SBS seized 27 kilos of heroin	Dokic, Pavic plead not guilty
Pavic, Dokic plead not guilty	Issue of BiH Ambassador to Croatia	Puskaric sentenced to 3,5 years

Oslobodjenje	Reis pardoned UDBA (former Yugoslav communist police) collaborators
Dnevni Avaz	Commander Schook: Criminal networks steal 250 million annually
Dnevni List	There is no authority crisis
Vecernji List	Prison for blowing up cover of secret witnesses
Slobodna Dalmacija	Citizens ate 500 tons of dangerous chicken
Nezavisne Novine	Two men in Golf hid 27 kg of heroin
Glas Srpske	Heroin on Drina
EuroBlic	Ceda and Legija face to face
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related topics
Nacional	Features Serbian related topics

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

<p>Ashdown meets Cavic in Banja Luka</p>	<p>BH Radio 1 by <u>Dragan Stegic</u> – HR Paddy Ashdown is visiting Banja Luka, where he discussed cooperation with ICTY and police reform with RS President Dragan Cavic. In the course of the day, Ashdown is expected to discuss the issue with representatives of political parties as well. Given that cooperation with The Hague Tribunal will probably not represent a problem any more, the police reform is the last obstacle to BiH's moving closer to EU, according to Ashdown. HR said that the talks on the issue would therefore be held from 24-28 April and the final solution had to be found by May 19. He emphasized that the political compromise on police reform was possible. Cavic for his part said that the final solution needed to satisfy both European standards and interests of BiH entities and the state. Cavic emphasized that the RS would not represent obstacle on BiH's road to Europe but he expressed reservations regarding the proposed police regions/maps. RTRS and RHB also reported.</p>
<p>Ivanic: Positive assessment on SiCG Feasibility Study is good for entire region</p>	<p>RTRS – Mladen Ivanic, BiH Foreign Minister, is of the view that a positive report on SiCG Feasibility Study represents a good development for the entire region. He said that this is encouraging, noting that regional activities are accelerating their path towards EU.</p>

FBiH HoR in session	<p>RHB, BH Radio 1 – The FBiH House of Representatives has continued its session that started yesterday. Among other issues, the chamber should give its consent to the European Bank's loan for regional programme of roads; discuss changes to the law on criminal proceedings and PRC report.</p>
Beara pleads not guilty	<p>RTRS, RHB, BH Radio 1 – Former senior RS Army officer Ljubisa Beara rejected today before ICTY amended indictment accusing him of Srebrenica genocide as well. Bosnian Serb Milorad Trbic postponed entering a plea before ICTY today. Tribic was indicted for war crimes committed in Srebrenica.</p>

Political developments and reforms

BiH HoR doesn't discuss Covic: Dzaferovic urges a proposal, HDZ wants discussion on HR decision

BHT 1 – At the session of the BiH House of Representatives, the delegates did not discuss the potential candidates for replacement for **agan Covic** at the position of the Croat member of BiH Presidency. HDZ has not yet nominated their candidates for the BiH Presidency wanting BiH Parliament to discuss decision by the HR **Paddy Ashdown** to remove Covic.

"It is not the job of the Parliament to discuss HR's decisions – our job is to elect new Croat member of BiH Presidency, and we should do it as quickly as we can", said

Sefik Dzaferovic, the Speaker of the BiH HoR. *"I believe that we should elect new member of BiH Presidency as soon as possible, but it's not my decision – I have to obey the decisions of the Party",* said HDZ's representative **Vinko Zoric**.

PINK– On the possibility of holding the BiH Parliament plenary session to discuss the HR's decision, the HDZ leader **Barisa Colak** comments: *"I hope that such a session is going to be held as soon as possible, and I think that it is of extreme importance for a session to be held, due to the fact that we are faced with crisis in authority."*

Dnevni List, front pg splash and pg 3 'There is not crisis in authority', by Danka Polovina-Mandic – Colak says: *"I really think the Parliament has something to say... Because of dignity of institutions of this country, there is no reason for the Parliament not to declare itself and take an appropriate position that should bind everyone".*

Hayat – Hayat comments that the entire situation resulted in blocking the work of BiH Presidency and for this reason Presidency is unable to nominate BiH Ambassador to Croatia. Dzaferovic said that the issue had to be solved as soon as possible since the work of BiH Presidency was brought into question. HDZ asks for regular sessions of both BiH Houses to discuss on the HR's decision. *"We do not want to change decisions or position of the HR, but this issue can be discussed",* said Zoric.

FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 8 'No discussion on appointment of new Presidency member' by V. Zivak, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4, announced on cover 'Croat member to BiH Presidency not elected' by M.Cubro, **EuroBlic** RSpG 3 'Negotiations with EU as of autumn' by D.S., **Vecernji List** pg 3 'Discussion on removal first and then Covic's successor' by E. Medunjanin, **Slobodna Dalmacija** last pg 'HDZ demands discussion on legality of Covic's removal' by H also covered the BiH HoP's session. – also report.

<p>DL edit. on HDZ' behaviour regarding Covic's removal</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 2 'Putting things in order' by <u>I. Glibusic</u> carries an editorial, which says that although HDZ demanded the discussion on the removal of former Croat member of the BiH Presidency Dragan Covic at the joint session of both Houses of the BiH Parliament, the discussion did not take place. The author goes on to say that even if the discussion did take place it would not be binding for the HR and the author concludes that this means that HDZ should decide on Covic's successor as soon as possible in order to avoid speculations about creating of certain factions and the division of HDZ on moles and loyalists.</p>
<p>BiH HoR endorses CoM's report on Feasibility Study progress</p>	<p>RHB, Hayat, Oslobođenje pg 5, mentioned on cover, 'Agreement with EU until the end of mandate of these authorities', Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'BiH is getting closer to Stabilisation and Association with EU' by <u>H. Orahovac</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 4, announced on cover 'Croat member to BiH Presidency not elected' by <u>M. Cubro</u>, EuroBlic RSpG 3 'Negotiations with EU as of autumn' by <u>D.S. Dnevni List</u> pg 5 'Law on RTV system and police restructuring disputable' by <u>D. Polovina-Mandic</u> – At the session held on Tuesday in Sarajevo, the BiH House of Representatives adopted a report prepared by the Council of Ministers on the implementation of conditions contained in the Feasibility Study, presented to the delegates by the CoM Chair Adnan Terzic. The HoR delegates gave its full support to process of meeting the remaining conditions and endorsed the conclusion calling on all levels of government in BiH to actively cooperate in this course.</p> <p>PINK – Terzic briefed the deputies about a letter received from EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn in which he very precisely identified remaining obligations, including adoption of a law on a single ombudsman in BiH, law on public broadcasting system and harmonization of a police reform action plan. Terzic said that BiH has a chance to be given consent by the end of May for the start of negotiations on Stabilisation and Association Agreement and in the late autumn for opening those negotiations.</p> <p>According to him, the CoM is in the last phase of fulfilling conditions defined in the Feasibility Study, after which BiH would be in a position to receive a recommendation to open talks.</p>

<p>Election Commission annuls election results in two of Sarajevo municipal councils</p>	<p>BHT1 by <u>Lejla Redzovic</u> – The BiH Election Commission annulled the elections of the councillors in the council of Stari Grad Sarajevo and Novi Grad Sarajevo for the Sarajevo City Council. The elections for these two municipal councils, were in opinion of Commission the irregularities were conducted, will be re-run on April 19. <i>“The secrecy of the elections was not maintained in those two municipalities”</i>, explained Branko Petric, BiH Election Commission member. SDA, which has the majority in City Council, said it is satisfied with this decision believing that the results of the new elections will be the same, so there won’t be any changes in the structure of the City Council. <i>“I believe that the secret voting will bring the same result, and that we will elect the same people”</i>, said Safet Keso, SDA representative in Stari Grad Municipal Council. Reporter comments that the is unclear if the decisions of the newly formed City Council – such as the election on the new Mayor of Sarajevo – will be annulled as well. FTV, RTRS, Hayat, Oslobodjenje pg 8 ‘Elections for Stari Grad and Novi Grad municipal councils annulled’, mentioned on cover, by <u>A. Terzic</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 ‘Ten news councillors stay in the Sarajevo City Council’ by <u>L Sinanovic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 ‘Condition for reduction of salaries to officials’ by <u>M.C.</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 ‘Election of delegates at two Sarajevo municipalities annulled’ by <u>N.K.</u> – reported on the BiH EC’s decision.</p>
<p>BiH CoM endorses a constitutional change to allow salaries’ reduction</p>	<p>BHT 1, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘Terzic’s initiative on salaries of the public officials adopted’ by <u>Srna</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 5 ‘Ministers agree on salaries’ reduction’ by <u>M.K.S.</u> – The BiH Council of Ministers on Tuesday accepted and forwarded to parliamentary procedure the Proposal amendments of the BiH Constitution proposed by the Chair CoM, Adnan Terzic. This amendment suggests erasing item 2, Article 9 of the BiH Constitution, which states that compensations for officials in BiH institutions cannot be reduced during the mandates of those officials This decision was made after the International Monetary Fund requested reduction of the public expenses in BiH. After Tuesday’s CoM decision, the salaries of BiH officials could be reduced up to ten percent, said Dragan Doko, BiH Minster of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations. On issue of the Free Trade Agreement with SCG, CoM reinstated the zero rate of customs taxes for flower and bear imported from SCG.</p>

<p>Int. Comm. for Balkans urges constitutional changes</p>	<p>BHT 1 <u>Elvir Bucalo</u> – Constitutional changes in BiH must be carried out immediately in order to strengthen the State, concluded participants at the meeting of the International Commission for Balkans held in Brussels. The Commission is a non-governmental organization whose members are 9 European and world officials, mainly former presidents, prime ministers and ministers of foreign affairs. FTV– The report explains that the situation in the region is still unstable.</p>
<p>DL: USA takes over initiative in const. changes/Butler promised support to Lagumdzija at next elections?</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 9 ‘Support to Zlatko Lagumdzija and opposition’ by <u>Z. Jukic</u> carries that according to an official from a western embassy in BiH, in the coming months the USA is going to take over the initiative in the political life of BiH in order to change the authority and implement constitutional changes which are more than necessary. The DL source added that the USA has decided to make this move in order to finish the tasks that, objectively, the High Representative will not be able to do. DL also says that after the BiH ruling parties did not discuss the constitutional changes at all, the opinion prevails among western politicians that BiH needs changes and new authority that will be brave enough to implement constitutional changes. According to the article, the meeting between SDP President Zlatko Lagumdzija and new PDHR Larry Butler should be seen in that context. DL says that according to their sources during the aforementioned meeting Butler promised support to Lagumdzija and his partners from SNSD, NHI and HSS to take over authority at the elections in 2006 and as a condition for the support Butler demanded the constitutional changes.</p>

<p>On HSS, NHI, HNZ, HDZ and HSP Djapic-Juriscic on constitutional changes</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 6 'Croats in BiH demand joint proposal' by <u>I. Rozic</u> carries that representatives of HSS, NHI, HNZ, HDZ and HSP Djapic-Juriscic met on Tuesday in order to harmonize basic principles of the platform on the eve of coming constitutional changes. HSS President Marko Tadic stated that the aforementioned document should secure the joint stand of the Croat parties when the constitutional changes are in question. He added that HSS wants a new Constitution in BiH, which would correct injustice made to Croats and Bosniaks especially. NHI President Kresimir Zubak shares Tadic's opinion, while HNZ President Milenko Brkic believes that the meetings of this sort should be taking place so that Croat representatives can reach consensus on the most important national issues. HDZ spokesperson Pero Pavlovic stressed that the meeting just represents a talk on possible different re-organization of BiH and he added: <i>'This is a too serious subject to sign some binding document just like that.'</i> Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'BiH is a homeland of Croat people' by <u>A.S.</u> also report.</p>
<p>EuroBlic: Can BiH effect on selection of Ashdown's successor/HR's powers</p>	<p>EuroBlic RSpG 1 'It is better to become a partner, instead of remaining obeyer' by <u>Nedeljka Breberina/Rajna Radosavljevic</u> – Daily writes about initiative of SDP of BiH which proposed Resolution on approach BiH institutions have towards the appointment of Paddy Ashdown's successor. The Resolution calls on local institutions to define partnership relationship with the OHR by the end of this year. Jozo Krizanovic, SDP Presidency member, says: <i>"The most responsible institutions must give their view on possible definition of HR's powers."</i> Momcilo Novakovic, SDS delegate at the BiH Parliament, says: <i>"The HR's mandate does not depend on us. However, it would be desirable to at least hear our view on that, since many powers should be abolished."</i> Ivo Miro Jovic, HDZ delegate, claims the IC is not eager to see local institutions take over duties. Jelina Djurkovic, PDP delegate, reminds that PDP warned of vast powers of HR two years ago. Slavo Kukic, Professor of Sociology at the Mostar University, claims that nobody will ask local officials for opinion regarding the appointment of the new HR. he is also of the view that HR powers should be reduced.</p>

<p>Tihic on Ashdown's successor: Politicians from former Yugoslavia areas could be partial</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Politicians from former Yugoslavia areas could be partial' <u>M.Dr.</u> – Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency Sulejman Tihic told the daily that the basic problem of BiH was its constitutional system, which cannot function without the High Representative regardless of whether the office was held by Paddy Ashdown or former Slovenian President Milan Kucan. Tihic was asked to comment on initiatives by certain political/intellectual circles in BiH proposing that the next High Representative be from Macedonia or Slovenia. <i>"The current High Representative knows very well situation in BiH, maybe better than some politicians from Bosnian surrounding and particularly from the areas of former Yugoslavia, who in a way might be partial (if appointed to the post of High Representative),"</i> said Tihic. Kucan said that he was pleased with the initiative by eight former Sarajevo Mayors for him to be the next High Representative but that he was surprised since no one had discussed the issue with him so far.</p>
<p>BiH Foreign Ministry to appoint Charge d'Affaires of BiH Embassy in Croatia soon</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Appointment of charge d'Affaires of BiH Embassy in Croatia soon' by <u>SRNA</u>, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Charge d'Affaires on a temporary basis'– Lepa Babic, Spokesperson of the BiH Foreign Ministry, on Wednesday stated that the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs will soon appoint Charge d'Affaires of the BiH Embassy in Zagreb, who will be assuming this position on a temporary basis until the new ambassador is appointed.</p>
<p>Hadzikapetanovic: Paravac was pressing on Mesic, Sanader to accept Branko Kesic as Ambassador</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Hadzikapetanovic: Paravac was pressing on Croatian President Mesic, PM Sanader' <u>E. Sarac</u> – Message of Croatian Government to BiH authorities that Branko Kesic was definitely not acceptable as new BiH Ambassador to Croatia will not worsen relations between the two countries, according to BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic, acting BiH Foreign Ministry's Secretary Adnan Hadzikapetanovic and Bosniak member of the Presidency's Foreign Policy Advisor Edin Dilberovic.</p>

<p>NN int. with SDHR Wendt: BiH deserves to get to EU</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 8 'BiH deserves to get in EU' by V.Popovic – In a page-long farewell interview to NN, Werner Wendt, SDHR, who is to assume position of Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo, says that after two years of mandate, he leaves BiH with a great optimism, assessing that many things <i>"have improved in this state"</i>. On this he adds that progress has been achieved in the fields of defence, intelligence, judicial reforms, and step forward has been made in facing with the past (referring to Srebrenica Commission Report). He stresses the issue of cooperation with the ICTY is very important, and also that police reform is a pre-requisite for commencement of SAA talks, on which it is necessary to reach a consensus before May. He notes that he leaves <i>"BiH with conviction that BiH is an integral part of Europe...I am of the view that BiH deserves to become a partner in European integrations, and I hope this will be achieved in the near future."</i> He says it is evident there is a commitment to overcome obstacles and bring Rako Mladic and Radovan Karadzic before the court. He stresses that officials assuming high positions should tender resignations once they are charged. On constitutional changes, he says that the goal of those is not to abolish the RS, but instead creation of efficient, economically sustainable system that could function.</p>
<p>FBiH PM Hadzipasic: Three Ministries already operate in Mostar</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Three Ministries already operate in Mostar' – In a statement for the daily, FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic said that the FBiH Government was carrying out necessary procedures to fully meet international community's requirements for removal of five Ministries from Sarajevo to Mostar. According to Hadzipasic, the three Ministries are already operating in Mostar</p>
<p>Ivanic meets Butler to discuss reforms and Feasibility Study</p>	<p>RHB, Oslobođenje pg 8 'Priority – reforms and Feasibility Study tasks' – BIH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic met with Principal Deputy HR Larry Butler on Tuesday. They agreed that a lot has to be done to improve the image of BIH especially in the area of economy, and that a significant progress has been made in implementation of reforms. Both Ivanic and Butler noted that still a lot has to be done to enable BIH to become a member state of EU and NATO.</p>

<p>Rycroft meets Dodik, Bukejlovic, urges police reform</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 7 'BiH has little time for reforms', Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Times for defence and police reforms is running out' – British Ambassador to BiH Matthew Rycroft repeated in Banja Luka on Tuesday during talks with representatives of the RS Government that full cooperation with the ICTY is a condition for integration of BiH in to Euro-Atlantic structures. Rycroft met with SNSD leader Milorad Dodik also urging for the consensus on these reforms.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Agreement necessary for police reform' by N.N., Dnevni List, pg 6 'Agreement is required for successful restructuring of Police', by M. Batarello – During a meeting held with the RS Prime Minister, Pero Bukejlovic, it was noted that there needed to be a consensus among political factors in order to carry out a successful restructuring of Police in BiH.</p>
<p>McElhaney meets Cenic, urges police reform and coop. w/ ICTY</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'RS made progress in cooperation with the ICTY', Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Significant progress in cooperation with ICTY' by N.N., Glas Srpske pg 2 'Hague step forward' by G.D. – The US Ambassador to BiH, Douglas McElhaney and on Tuesday met with RS Finance Minister, Svetlana Cenic, to discuss the defence and police reform, and cooperation with the ICTY. Cenic and McElhaney agreed that RS made a significant progress regarding the cooperation.</p>
<p>Ashdown goes to BL to discuss police reform</p>	<p>RHB, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'New talks between Ashdown and representatives of the political parties', Oslobodjenje pg 6 'Finalizing the conditions from Feasibility Study' – The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, will visit Banja Luka on Wednesday meeting representatives of RS political parties and RS President, Dragan Cavic. The meeting with President Cavic will focus on police reform which is one of the last remaining reforms that must be undertaken before opening of the negotiations with the EU.</p>
<p>SCG to start negotiations on SAA with EU</p>	<p>RHB, BHT 1, FTV, RTRS, Hayat – The European Commission recommended on Tuesday the beginning of the negotiations on the Stabilization and Association Agreement with Serbia and Montenegro. Although Belgrade extradited eleven Hague suspects during last two months, SCG must do everything possible to extradite rest of indictees at large, including Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, said Olli Rehn, EU Enlargement Commissioner at the press conference. Print media also reported.</p>

Judicial and security issues

**Dokic, Pavic
plead not
guilty**

PINK, FTV, RTRS, Hayat, Oslobođenje pg 10, mentioned on cover, 'Pavic and Dokic pleaded not guilty', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 12 'Branko Dokic and Marko Pavic pleaded not guilty', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 "Defendants claim they are not guilty", announced on cover 'Dokic and Pavic claim they are not guilty' by N.Moraca, **EuroBlic** RSpg 2 'They deny all charges' by Mirna Soja, **Dnevni List** pg 5 'Dokic and Pavic pleaded not guilty' by De.L., **Vecernji List** pg 3 'Dokic and Pavic pleaded not guilty' by ra— The former RS ministers of traffic and communications, **Branko Dokic** and **Marko Pavic** respectively, accused of the office misuse, pleaded not guilty before the Basic Court in Banja Luka on Tuesday. Dokic, currently performing the duty of the BiH Minister of Transport and Communications, said that he wants this process to conclude as soon as possible.

BHT 1 – Regarding the eventual resignation on this function that is expected from Dokic after raising of the indictment, in a statement to the BHT 1 Dokic said that he will not resign, at least not until court in Banjaluka decides about his objections on indictment. The Prosecutor's Office reached an agreement with the third indicted person, an employee of the Communications Ministry **Veselka Jeremic**, so she will testify against Dokic and Pavic.

**Spiric slams
BiH HoP for
demanding
from BiH
Court to
return
Cengic's
passport**

PINK, Oslobođenje pg 3, mentioned on cover, 'Returning passport to Hasan Cengic is a finger in a eye of US' by V. Zivak, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 10 'Criminalizing the state must be prevented', **Dnevni List** pg 2 'Partnership of politicians, authority, Mafia and criminals' by E. Mackic, **Vecernji List**, pg 2 'BiH's institutions 'poking into eye' of USA', by eme, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 12 'Parliament wants passport for Cengic', by B. Kristo, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'It should be investigated whether firms are paying for decisions of BiH Constitutional Court' by M.C., **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'This state is lost!' by N.Z. – The Deputy Speaker of the BiH House of Representatives, **Nikola Spiric**, told a press conference that there was a connection between crime and authorities in BiH. Spiric fiercely condemned a request of BiH House of Peoples submitted to BiH Court which demands a return of the travel documents taken from the Chair of the Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Policy, **Hasan Cengic**, due to the Court's procedure conducted against him.

Spiric also criticizes decision of BiH Constitutional Court not to suspend the Chair **Mato Tadic**, regardless to the indictment brought against him in Lijanovici case.

Hayat – Spiric added that the state, in which Constitutional Court 's reputation is defended by the foreign judges, while domestic justices are being charged with criminal activities is an extremely unfortunate and miserable one.

RTRS – Spiric added that it will take more time to fight the corruption than to reconstruct BIH.

<p>OHR on Cengic: Parliament should not interfere with judicial processes</p>	<p>RHB, Oslobođenje pg 3 'Parliament should not interfere with judicial processes' by <u>Fena</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'OHR also against interference with the judiciary' – The BiH House of Peoples' Commission for Foreign and Trade Policy can best help the future of BiH in its accession to the EU if it does not get involved in judicial processes, OHR spokesperson Vedran Persic told FENA on Tuesday commenting on information that this Commission forwarded a report to the BiH Court requesting the return of the passport to Hasan Cengic.</p>
<p>SBS seizes 27 kilos of heroin</p>	<p>FTV, RTRS, BHT1, RHB, Hayat, Dnevni Avaz pg 29, mentioned on cover, '27 kilos of heroin found in engine and seats of Golf vehicle', Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash, pg 3 'Two men in Golf hid 27 kg of heroin' by <u>Z.Kusmuk/S.Karic</u>, Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'Heroin on Drina' by <u>S.Radjen-Todoric</u> – Members of the State Border Service north-west region have found 27 kg and 123 g of heroin at the Pavlovica most border crossing in a car with BiH license plates. According to Dragan Kulic, head of the office, drugs was packed in 52 parcels. He denied information issued by some media that 52 kg of this drug were found.</p>

<p>BH Interpol investigates reports on 3 BiH citizens arrested in France for smuggling explosive</p>	<p>BHT 1 <u>Suzana Stambol</u> – BiH Interpol is in the process of finding out the identity of three BiH citizens who were reportedly arrested in northern France under the suspicion for smuggling explosives. French police arrested them, together with a Serbia-Montenegrin and a French citizen, after disclosing 100 kilos of explosive “Semtex” hidden in 200 bread loafs transported in the truck registered in BiH. <i>“We are trying to identify those persons, as well as the person who owns that truck – and I can tell you that some companies from BiH are already under suspicion”</i>, said Brane Pecanac, Director of the BiH Interpol. According to BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative Nedžad Mirica, the cargo that contained 100 kilos of Semtex was originally intended for a customer in Paris.</p>
<p>VL feature on witness protection</p>	<p>Vecernji List, front pg splash ‘Prison for blowing up cover of secret witnesses’ and pgs 2-3 ‘Protection of protected’, by <u>Miroslav Vasilj</u> – Features an article about the issue of use of protected witnesses in trials in BiH. The article claims that BiH is one of rare countries that do not appropriately protect witnesses in trials, adding that the SIPA and Department for support of victims and witnesses with the BiH Court should soon improve the situation. Finally, the article warns of abuse of protected witnesses, citing cases ‘Leutar’ and more recently ‘Covic’.</p>

War crimes

<p>Schook: 250 million KM being spent annually to support hiding of Karadzic, other ICTY indictees</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover page 'Criminal networks are annually stealing 250 million KM', pg 5 '250 million KM being spent annually in hiding Karadzic' <u>Sead Numanovic</u> – Commander of the NATO Headquarters in BiH</p> <p>Steven Schook reiterated in an interview with the daily that the issue of BiH cooperation with the Hague Tribunal had to be solved focusing on apprehension of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. He emphasizes that NATO has arrested and transferred to The Hague 28 war crime indictees so far. However, at the same time, RS and BiH authorities have been hesitating to do the same too long, according to Schook. <i>"I assess that Radovan Karadzic and other Hagur fugitives' support networks are annually stealing from this country some 250 million KM. This is tremendous sum of money that should be used for the good of people in RS and BiH,"</i> said Schook.</p> <p>Speaking on the ongoing defence reform, Schook said that the reform laws would be adopted by the end of this year. He emphasized that all involved in talks on the reform agreed that the entities' defence ministries had to be abolished.</p>
---	---

**Bogdanovic: RS
still searches
fro 2941
missing
persons**

PINK, Hayat, Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'RS still looking for 2941 missing persons', **EuroBlic** RSpg 2, announced on cover 'RS is searching for 2195 civilians and 746 soldiers' by BETA, **Glas Srpske** pg 4 'Hiding of graves and truth' by S.Miletic – The RS Bureau for Missing Persons and Prisoners is still searching for 2.941 missing persons, stated the director **Milan Bogdanic** in Banja Luka on Tuesday. He adds that the Office also plans to carry out visits, analysis and exhumations at 122 sites, suspected to be individual or mass graves, during the first half of this year. At the press conference, Bogdanic said that the establishment of a BiH institute for missing persons would make easier the process of searching for missing persons and remove existing problems in this process. The protocol on the establishment of this institute is in its final phase.

Oslobodjenje pg 7 'ICTY support missing' by O. Vukovic – Bogdanovic also said that the RS Bureau for Missing Persons encounters with a lack of support from entities or state authorities, as well as the international organizations, including ICTY.

NATO has no information on Petrovic's whereabouts; SCG MoD investigates claims on Mladic hiding at Topcider

FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'No information on NATO keeping Miroslav Petrovic', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 8 'No information Petrovic is under protection of Alliance' by SRNA, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Petrovic – unknown' – **Derek Chapel**, NATO Spokesperson in BiH, on Wednesday stated that he holds information that NATO or American forces are protecting non-commissioned officer of SiCG Army, **Miroslav Petrovic** (who stated that **Ratko Mladic** last year spent few months at Topcider). The NATO Spokesperson told the press in Sarajevo that he had learnt of Petrovic's statement from the media.

Jutarnji List, pg 17 'SCG Defence Minister requesting investigation about claims that army protects Mladic', by M. Kuskunovic – The Serbia and Montenegro Defence Minister, **Prvoslav Davinic**, announced that his Ministry and the SCG Army would carefully investigate claims that were published by 'Danas' papers that an ICTY indictee **Ratko Mladic** was hiding for a few months at the Topcider military facilities last year.

<p>Nacional brings extracts from int. first ICTY Prosecutor gave to BiH media</p>	<p>Nacional pg 13 'Soldiers were afraid of arresting Karadzic and Mladic' – Daily re-ports extracts from interview Richard Goldsteen, first ICTY Prosecutor, gave to Bosnian media, where he admitted that following tens of attempted and failed arrests of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the international community officials have finally found courage to admit their unfitness. He also admitted that the international forces knew where Karadzic and Mladic were, but they were afraid they would suffer great human losses, so they did not arrest them. He assesses that the ICTY will not close its door in 2010, giving his view that it should complete its work after the last appellation.</p>
--	---

Economic issues

**FBiH HoR
adopts FBiH
Govt report
for 2005 to
boost
economy**

FTV, RHB, Hayat, Oslobođenje pg 4 'FBiH Government's report for 2004 adopted' by S.Se., **Dnevni Avaz** pg 10 'This year, payout of overdue pensions and half of disability pension', **Dnevni List**, pg 4 'Foreign investments and increase of number of employed are Government's priorities', by NINA., **EuroBlic** RSpG 4 'Volas: BAM half a billion necessary' by T.Veselinovic— The FBiH House of Representatives on Tuesday accepted the FBiH Government's Working Program for this year and the Working report for 2004 although numerous remarks were made to the activities of the Government during the last year. FBiH Prime Minister **Ahmet Hadzipasic** among other things announced the passage of the law on the rights of receivers of the highest war medals and the preparation of the law on veterans. The Government plans to boost employment in Federation BiH by two percent in 2005, industrial production by 10 percent, exports by 20 percent and the degree of coverage of imports by exports by 36 percent. All this, according to the plan, should result in increasing the GDP by 6, 2 percent.

PINK – *"We have to strengthen financial discipline... We had collected more incomes during 2004 at all levels, in comparison to 2003",* said Hadzipasic.

<p>Volas meets IMF: 500 million KM needed for workers in BiH</p>	<p>FTV, PINK, Oslobođenje pg 8 'Reduction of salaries is out of question', Dnevni Avaz pg 13 'Over half of billion KM to take care of 100.000 workers'– The Chair of the RS Trade Union, Cedo Volas on Tuesday met with the representatives of the International Monetary Fund. At the meeting Volas said that at least 500 million KM is necessary to provide the social care, including severance pay and overdue salaries, for workers in BiH, which is nine times more than estimated by the World Bank. Volas also said that the salaries of workers financed from the RS Budget cannot be decreased.</p>
<p>Joly Dixon : Single account collecting more and more money</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 4 'Single account getting filled better and better', by <u>T. Bijelic</u> – Following a meeting of the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) Steering Board held in Brcko, the Board Chairman, Joly Dixon, stated that the single account was getting filled better and better. ITA principles also met with business persons from Brcko, and according to the ITA Director, Kemal Causevic, having in mind that the VAT will soon be applied in BiH, such meeting will become more frequent throughout the country.</p>