

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 14/10/2004

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
ICTY charges Brale	Orthodox Church protest	ICTY charges Brale	SFOR search in Bijeljina
OHR on PBS laws	ICTY charges Brale	Bank conferenceSarajevo	Protests of BL students
BiH Presidency in session	Trial of Milosevic	Terzic on signle VAT rate	New traffic law
HNK Government session	BiH Presidency in session	LNM takes over BH Steel	SNSD on census

Oslobodjenje	Karadzic's minister cannot be an ambassador; Tihic responds to Bishops: "Media misinterpreted my statements"; LNM officially the owner of BiH Steel Zenica
Dnevni Avaz	'Mobilkom' and 'HT Mostar' in true war; Silajdzic: It is time for changes; National Museum closes down
Dnevni List	Lions Club International is establishing clinical hospital for children in Mostar
Vecernji List	Rupcic in Mostar, Prce in Kula
Slobodna Dalmacija	Government is stopping 100 million KMs for Neum
Nezavisne Novine	Miroslav Bralo was accused of committing war crimes in Ahmici; USA will maintain strong presence in BiH; The production to commence on November 1; Either lower tuition fees or resignation of the Minister
Glas Srpske	Other face of justice; Production has commenced
EuroBlic	Walk against high tuition fees

Political issues

BiH Presidency disagrees on appointments of BiH Ambassadors

RHB, Oslobođenje cover splash, pg 3 'Karadzic's minister cannot be ambassador' by V. Zivak, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 3 'Tihic disputed appointment of Karadzic's minister Dragan Bozanic to the Ambassador position' by A.B., **Dnevni List** pg 4 'Inter-state Council of BiH and Croatia on November 19' by E. Mackic, **Vecernji List** pg 2 'Tihic against 'Karadzic's Minister' by dja, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Dragan Bozanic did not get a support' by N. K., **EuroBlic** pg RS2 'Dismissal of ambassadors' by Srna— BiH Presidency has launched the process of appointing ambassadors. Several ambassadors have been removed from duty, and several have been appointed. BiH Presidency President **Sulejman Tihic** told journalists at the press conference that the candidacy of **Dragan Bozanic** for BiH representative in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg is questionable. Tihic says that for him personally the problem is the fact that Bozanic occupied the duty of the Information Minister in the Government of **Radovan Karadzic**. **FTV** – Tihic said that another proof for this is the fact that United States didn't issue approval of Bozanic's appointment to the position of BiH Ambassador to USA .

RTRS – Tihic also said agreement on proportional distribution of ambassador positions has not been reached.

<p>McElhaney visits BL, meets with Mikerevic and Dodik</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Mikerevic told McElhaney that RS will arrest war criminals' by <u>M. Vidovic</u>, Glas srpske, pg. 2 'Election step forward' by <u>G. D.</u> – RS Prime Minister Dragan Mikerevic and US Ambassador to BiH Douglas McElhaney met in Banja Luka on Wednesday. They agreed during the meeting that a great progress in development of democracy was achieved in BiH, which was confirmed at the recently held elections.</p> <p>Ambassador McElhaney said that, according to assessments of international observers, the elections were held in a fair and democratic atmosphere. He promised that he would, in frame of his democratic service, plead for development of democracy and implementation of rule of law in entire BiH. Prime Minister Mikerevic expressed a determination of RS Government to persist in implementing reform processes and accession to European and Euro-Atlantic integrations.</p> <p>RTRS, Oslobođenje pg 2 'Election results to be implemented as soon as possible' by <u>Onasa</u>, Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4 'Influence of USA is important for future of BiH' by <u>V. Popovic</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 7 "Dodik wants better relations between Trebinje and Dubrovnik' by <u>H</u> – Douglas McElhany also met with SNSD leader Milorad Dodik in Banja Luka on Wednesday. Dodik stated that the American influence is important for future development of BiH and RS. He also said he did not expect US policy would drastically change after elections are held in USA . They also discussed stabilisation of political and economic situation in BiH. They have concluded SNSD has made a good progress and they emphasised they expected election results to be implemented as soon as possible.</p>
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**Tihic sends
monsignor
Tomasevic an
open letter**

Oslobodjenje pg 5 "Media misinterpreted my statements', mentioned on cover, **Devni List**, pg 7 'Cases of destruction of Catholic churches unknown to Tihic', mentioned on front, by **NINA**, **Vecernji List**, 'Statement about wartime leadership', by **vr**, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, 'I respect Pope and Catholic Church', by **D. Pasic**, **Z. Rerig**,

Nezavisne Novine, pg. 2 'Misunderstanding with Catholic Church in relation to returnees' by **Beta** – The Chairman of BiH Presidency, **Sulejman Tihic**, has sent the Secretary General of BiH Bishops Conference, monsignor **Ivo Tomasevic**, an open letter regarding the media interpretation of Tihic's statements from the recently held 'Igman initiative' conference in Zagreb, according to which he blamed the Catholic Church as one of accomplices for lack of return of Croats to their pre-war homes. Tihic regrets the way some media interpreted his statements, believing that all 'disputable' statements should be resolved in a direct contact, rather than through open letters. Saying that he especially respects the role of the **Pope John Paul II** during the war when he called for stopping of the war, genocide and all injustice, Tihic says that his statement in fact was related to the responsibility of the people who were running the policy on behalf of the Croats at the time, both in BiH and Croatia, who in fact advocated the '*creation of ethnically pure territories through so-called human resettling of peoples*'. As for cases of destruction of Catholic churches that monsignor Tomasevic cited in his letter, Tihic notes that those cases in general are not known to him, and Tihic is convinced it is about cases '*who were not controlled and were outside the system*'. In that context, Tihic says it would appear from Tomasevic's allegations that those churches were located in rural areas and in villages, where it was impossible to establish a full control of BiH authorities.

RHB – At the press conference following the session of BiH Presidency, Tihic expressed his sorrow for being misinterpreted in media.

**BHT 1 feature
on inter-
religious
relations**

BHT 1 by Marina Boskovic – Serb Orthodox Church announced that the Office of the Metropolitan See would move away outside of Sarajevo following the recent attack against a priest. [To remind, on 8 October, press wrote that **Sinan Canic** was reported to have attacked Serbian Orthodox priest **Zoran Perkovic** and his family in their apartment in Sarajevo, and that Church has already reported him several times before to the authorities for attacking Orthodox priests.] BHT 1 says that there have been 13 attacks against Orthodox Church property and priests in this year. The Church claims that they receive threats almost on daily basis, thus they don't feel safe in Sarajevo. This is the reason why priest **Milorad Ljubicinac** insisted on making his statement in Sokolac instead of Sarajevo. According to him, everyone who speaks in front of camera is in danger. **Magbul Skoro**, Spokesman of Sarajevo Cantonal Interior Ministry says that police will do everything to prevent such attacks from happening in the future. Sarajevo office of the Islamic religious community condemned the attack. Friary **Petar Andjelovic** believes that all religious institutions should invite people to mutual respect. Report also said that in addition to these, another tension in interfaith cooperation has been posed by a dispute between Catholic Church and **Sulejman Tihic**. In addition, the Inter-religious Council ceased its work a year ago after first the Catholic and than Orthodox Churches left it.

<p>OHR discouraged with failure to adopt Law on public broadcasting system</p>	<p>RHB, Oslobođenje pg 10 'Rejected proposal for three channels' by <u>Onasa</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Demand for three ethnic TVs is not in compliance with Dayton' by <u>Fena</u>, Dnevni List pg 14 'OHR disappointed by HDZ and RS representatives' by <u>D. Kozina</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 9 'OHR against channel in Croatian language' by <u>H</u> – OHR spokesperson Sanela Tunovic stated at the press conference held in Mostar on Wednesday that the OHR is very discouraged with the voting at the BiH Parliamentary Assembly House of Representatives on Tuesday. According to her statement, the draft public broadcasting system law, as endorsed by the Parliament Committee, showed improvements, however, it still falls short of EC Feasibility Study requirements in some key areas.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Ethnic TV stations' op-ed by <u>Husein Orahovac</u> – Editorial reads that delays in adoption of the draft Law on Public Broadcasting System by HDZ can only damage BiH: <i>"What did HDZ achieve by opposing the offered law? Nothing. Instead of ensuring that Croats have more or less good quality TV program, they still keep them in position that doesn't suit them at all. In addition, by delaying fulfillment of one of the most important conditions under the Feasibility Study they only causes directly the damage to BiH."</i></p>
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<p>RTRS on SNSD's initiative for population census</p>	<p>RTRS by <u>Vesna Cibic</u> – BiH House of Representatives has not supported SNSD's initiative to carry out new population census in BiH. RS representatives feel that the census should be started with as soon as possible whilst parties from FBiH feel the opposite. Nikola Spiric, Deputy Speaker of BiH HoR, claims that the census will determine the exact number of BiH citizens as well as the number of victims of the recent war. He adds that certain individuals have lied about both the number of citizens and the number of people killed in BiH, adding that BiH citizenry should have credible information on both. Head of SDA Caucus Seada Palavric says doesn't know population size of BiH, but knows the motives of SNSD. <i>"SNSD motives are not to fulfil conditions needed to join Euro-Atlantic integrations but to freeze the return process at this moment"</i>, Palavric says. SNSD claims that the census is one of the conditions from the Feasibility Study and is surprised that international community hasn't yet reacted. Miodrag Zivkovic, head of SNSD Caucus, says that the International Community is following the policy of FBiH. RTRS reporter claims that knowing the correct information on refugees, number of killed people and number of BiH citizens doesn't suit some. Vinko Zoric, head of HDZ Caucus, says that the matter needs to be regulated under the Law. Collegiums of BiH Parliament will bring decision on the population census in the next 3 days.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 8 'Census is an obligation of BiH' by <u>V. P.</u>, Glas Srpske, pg. 2 'Running away from truth' by <u>G. Dakic</u> – carry the statement by Zivkovic.</p>
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<p>BiH Presidency invites Tadic, Vujanovic to visit BiH for Interstate Council</p>	<p>RHB, FTV, Dnevni List pg 4 'Inter-state Council of BiH and Croatia on November 19' by <u>E. Mackic</u>– At the session on Wednesday, BiH Presidency on Wednesday adopted the Report from the fourth session of the Interstate Council for Cooperation between BiH and Serbia-Montenegro, which was held May 26 in Belgrade. At proposal of the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BiH Presidency has issued invitation to the Serbian President, Boris Tadic, and Montenegrin President Filip Vujanovic to visit BiH for the purpose of making the preparations for holding the next session of the Interstate Council, which should be held in December. It was defined that the session of the Interstate Council for Cooperation between BiH and Croatia would be held November 19 in Sarajevo.</p>
<p>Nacional's petition for separation of RS</p>	<p>Nacional Belgrade daily, pg. 2 'We are joining with brothers across Drina!' <u>not signed</u> – Upon an initiative on separation of RS from BiH launched by <i>Nacional</i> daily as a reaction to initiative on separation of Kosovo from Serbia and Montenegro, the daily carries statements of Tomislav Nikolic, Nebojsa Bakarec, Zarko Obradovic, Vlajko Senic and Milos Jevtic. From the above-mentioned persons, only Vlajko Senic thinks no borders should be changed.</p>
<p>VL int with Velimir Jukic on education</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 5 'Higher education will be financed at BiH level' by <u>M. Relota</u> carries an interview with Deputy Chairman of the House of Peoples of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly Velimir Jukic regarding the Law on Higher Education. Asked as to when the Law on Higher Education will be sent to the parliamentary procedure, Jukic says that at the moment, they are working on a new Law on Higher Education and it has been expected that it will be finished by the end of this year. According to Jukic, it should be sent to the BiH Council of Ministers in one month and then it goes to the parliamentary procedure. Jukic also said that in spite of their demand they, as representatives, were not allowed to actively participate in drafting of the aforementioned law and added that their stands regarding this issue have stayed the sama. He also expressed believe that a satisfactory solution for all 3 BiH peoples will be found when this issue is in question.</p>

<p>DA int with Silajdzic</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'BiH's accession to EU is important because of political stability' by <u>E. Sarac</u> – The article refers to the meeting held between the founder of Party for BiH, Haris Silajdzic, and EU Ambassadors which focused at the moves to accelerate BiH's accession to EU. Silajdzic states that both parties agreed that this is a priority for BiH, and he added this will bring political stability to the country.</p>
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<p>War crimes</p>

**ICTY unseals
indictment
against
Miroslav
Brale**

FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje pg 4 'Indictment against Miroslav Brale unsealed' by Sense, **Dnevni List** pg 7 'Bill of indictment against Miroslav Brale unsealed' by De.L., **Vecernji List** pg 3 'Bill of indictment against Miroslav Brale', mentioned on cover 'ICTY issued bill of indictment against Miroslav Brale' by Hina, **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 20 'Bralo suspected of committing crimes in Lasva', mentioned on cover, by B. Kristo, **Nezavisne Novine** cover and pg. 3 'Miroslav Brale was accused of committing war crimes in Ahmici' by Borjana Radmanovic, insets: 'SFOR was avoiding to arrest Bralo', **Glas Srpske** pg. 11 'Order for arresting of "joker"' by Beta – The ICTY unsealed on Wednesday a bill of indictment against Croat **Miroslav Brale** who used to be a member of the HVO unit 'Jockers'. He was charged with violation of customs of war and violation of the Geneva Convention during the Croat-Bosniak conflict in Lasva Valley in 1993. The dailies remind that in 1997 'Washington Post' published an interesting article about Brale saying that Brale in July that year wanted to turn himself in to SFOR units in Vitez saying that during the Bosniak-Croat conflict he committed few murders, however, the Dutch soldiers just wrote down his name and address and said that his name is not on the ICTY list. Nevertheless, the ICTY wanted his arrest at that time, however, local SFOR's Commander (from the USA) prevented his arrest.

RHB – According to RHB, the indictment accuses Brale of illegal imprisonment of Bosniak civilians, torture and murder of 3 inmates, and multiple rape and torture of a female prisoner.

BHT 1 – The Interior Ministry of the Central Bosnia Canton claim they have not receive the instructions for his arrest.

Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'The police should arrest him' – The FBiH Prime Minister **Ahmet Hadzipasic** believes that FBiH Interior Ministry should arrest Bralo. *"If Bralo is in the country and available, the FBiH MoI must do its part of the job and arrest him,"* Hadzipasic adds.

<p>Update to list of missing persons from Srebrenica</p>	<p>BHT 1 – The Vice Chair of Srebrenica Commission, Djordje Stojakovic, stated that the Commission has prepared the list of persons missing from Srebrenica. According to Stojakovic, this list is larger than previous ones, but he refused to disclose the exact number of persons on the list. Final report of the Srebrenica Commission will be submitted by 15 October.</p> <p>RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 8 ‘Media claims on number of missing persons are speculations’ by <u>Onasa</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 ‘Media reports on 7500 victims are just speculations’—Stojakovic refused to comment to media speculations that the final number of Srebrenica summer 1995 events is 7500.</p> <p>Oslobodjenje pg 7 ‘At least 80% of missing’ by S.R. – The Association of the Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa announced they would not acknowledge the report if it fails to list at least 80% of the names of missing Srebrenica people. The Chair Munira Subasic stated for daily that the Association submitted the list of approx. 10,500 missing persons, and they demand 80% of persons from this list to be included and for list of Srebrenica Commission not to be regard as the closed document.</p>
<p>NN int with McElhaney on cooperation with ICTY</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 4 ‘USA will maintain its presence in BiH’ <u>M. Kusmuk</u> – US Ambassador to BiH Douglas McElhany visited Banja Luka on Wednesday. Asked to comment on steps RS authority is taking in relation with cooperation with ICTY, Ambassador McElhany stated: <i>‘I want to see results. Statements are good, but they mean nothing without concrete results. We think these people can be stopped, people know who they are and we want to see results’</i>. In an interview to <i>NN</i>, Ambassador McElhaney talked about the issue of crime and corruption in BiH, recent elections and he said: <i>‘We are helping in reform of the political system here, establishing of institutions and you know USA were and will continue to maintain its strong presence in BiH’</i>.</p>

<p>GS feature on ICTY standards applied in Kosovo and RS</p>	<p>Glas Srpske cover page story 'Other face of justice' by <u>Snj. M.</u> – The article is about investigations into war crimes committed in Kosovo. Namely, the author claims that Carla del Ponte is using double standards in regard to this issue, since she personally admitted being denied any assistance by the local and international officials of Kosovo and Metohija, but still did not reach for any pressures against them before UNSC. On the other hand, the article says that international community threatens to RS, Serbia and Croatia they would not be admitted into EU unless they fully cooperate with the ICTY. Zivorad Mijatovic, Head of RS Government Bureau for relations with the Hague, says that <i>"this shows an obviously difference ICTY and IC approach towards Kosovo."</i> Braco Kovacevic, a sociologist from Banja Luka, says that not double, but multiple standards are being applied in this regard.</p>
<p>DL: 'Is Ante Gotovina in Herzegovina?'</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 2 'Is Ante Gotovina in Herzegovina?', mentioned on cover, by <u>Z. Jukic</u> says that during the last months many high-ranked Croatian officials paid visit to BiH and some analysts believe that the reason of this visit is ICTY fugitive, Croatian General Ante Gotovina. DL also says that according to some information Gotovina was seen in Dalmatia, that is, in the area very close to the border with Herzegovina, last summer, and according to the author this suggests that Gotovina is in BiH at the moment.</p> <p>In an inset to this article, DL carries under headline 'Seks' visit' that one of the motives of the visit that President of the Croatian Parliament Vladimir Seks will pay on Monday are the talks with local officials about Gotovina and his possible moving on the territory of Western Herzegovina.</p>

<p>Update to Kevljani exhumations</p>	<p>FTV- Experts of FBIH Commission for Missing Persons have exhumed 310 bodies from Stari Kevljani, Prijedor region, mass grave to date. The exhumations have started two months ago. Documents found confirmed that the victims were Croat and Bosniak prisoners of Manjaca concentration camp. According to Jasmin Odobasic, the head of Commissions Tuzla Office, most of the exhumed bodies have been transferred the hall for DNA identification. The exhumations continue. Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Until yesterday, 310 bodies of camp inmates exhumed' by <u>M.Z.</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Remains of 309 persons exhumed' by <u>Fena</u> – also reported.</p>
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Economic, social and judicial issues

<p>LNM officials becomes owner of 51% shares of BH Steel</p>	<p>RHB, Oslobodjenje pgs 4-5 'LNM officially owner of BH steel Zenica', mentioned on cover, by <u>M. Dajic</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'LNM officials owner of 51% of shares in BH Steel' by <u>A. Dzonlic</u>, Dnevni List pg 4 'Contracts on transfer of ownership in BH Steel signed' by <u>ZEDA</u>, Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 2 'The production to commence on November 1' by <u>A. Mujkic</u>– Representatives of the FBiH Government, UK-Indian company LNM Holding and Kuwaiti investment agency on Wednesday signed three agreements concerning the agreement signed with the strategic investors LNM and KCIC Kuwait.</p> <p>Agreements on transferring a part of the shares have made operational the basic agreement, which means that these transfers of the ownership share will balance the percentage of ownership shares in BH Steel Zenica. After "LNM" Holdings N.V. pays 80 million USD to the deposit account of BH Steel in Raiffeisen Bank and when formal transactions of the share from the FBiH Government are carried out, as well as necessary acts are registered, LNM will become a majority owner of management packages and ownership rights in BH Steel.</p> <p>LNM will then hold 51 percent, K.C.I.C Kuwait 41 percent and the FBiH Government 8 percent of ownership capital in BH Steel. On behalf of FBiH Government, the agreement was signed by its Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic. RHB brings that the first Assembly of the new corporation was also held on Wednesday.</p> <p>BHT 1, FTV – According to LNM, privatization process is going on well, and success is guaranteed. According to FBiH Prime Minister, this project will remain in focus of FBiH Government. He said that the Government will start parliamentary procedure of law changes on taxation of the profit in order to meet obligations under the contract with LNM. Registration procedure concerning changes in BH Steel should be finished by November. After that, LNM is supposed to implement other obligations under the contract, as such realize the planned integral production up to 2.5 millions tons of steel in next three years and providing with employment for 4.000 workers.</p>
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<p>National Museum in Sarajevo to close down due to lack of finances</p>	<p>RHB, BHT 1, FTV, Oslobođenje cover, pg 2 ‘National Museum to close doors on 15 October’ – Management of National Museum in Sarajevo decided to close the Museum because of lack of money. According to Aisa Softic, acting Manager of National Museum, the Museum is the state institution for which the state doesn’t provide necessary funds. Key problem for the Museum present costs of heating, preservation of exhibits and salaries. BiH Civil Affairs Minister Safet Halilovic confirmed that money for Museum had been included in budget, however was transferred to other investments.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 13 ‘Grahovac: A million KM disappeared only by will of Ljerka Maric’ by <u>S. Skuletic</u> – FBiH Sports and Culture Minister, Gavrilo Grahovac, accuses BiH Treasury Minister Ljerka Maric for being responsible that a million KM was not given for cultural institutions, as decided before that.</p>
<p>Terzic in support of single VAT rate</p>	<p>RHB, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘One VAT rate is the only way out for BiH’, Oslobođenje pg 2 ‘Single VAT rate is the only way out for BiH’ by <u>Fena</u>, Dnevni List pg 3 ‘Terzic stands for single VAT’ by <u>D.P.M.</u>, Nezavisne Novine, pg. 8 ‘Terzic: Single VAT rate is the only way out for BiH’ by <u>Fena</u> – Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic stated that a single value added tax is the only way out for BiH. Terzic added that this is more obvious with every day, adding that BiH has a Prime Minister who will not say what the people would like to hear, but what should be heard. CoM forwarded to BiH Parliament a draft Law on VAT stipulating the single VAT rate of 17%. However, current proposal VAT Law foresees three rates of VAT.</p>

<p>Main hearing in Hercegovacka Bank case starts; DA says Rupcic settled</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Today, trial of Jelavic and others begins' by <u>A.N.</u> – Daily carries that today beings the main hearing in the case of misuses of office and embezzlements in Hercegovacka Bank case. Miroslav Prce, one of the accused, will not attend the trial as he settled with the prosecution and has been sentenced to 5 years.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 11 'Miroslav Rupcic settled with prosecutor McNair' by F.V. – DA brings that Miroslav Rupcic reached the settlement agreement with the prosecutor. According to the Prosecutor Office, Rupcic will be sentenced to 5,5 years.</p> <p>Vecernji List, front pg splash 'Rupcic to Mostar, Prce to Kula', and pg 3 'Rupcic to serve sentence in Mostar, Prce stays in Kula', by <u>Zoran Kresic</u> – The daily carries the same claim as DA, adding the the deal will be presented to Judge Malcolm Simmons today. Apparently, Rupcic would serve the sentence at the Mostar prison.</p>
<p>SD says it was not only Hercegovacka bank that gave privileged laws</p>	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 17 'Privileged loans to Masovic, Lazovic, Sidran, Vesovic...', mentioned on front, by <u>Zlatko Tulic</u> – Carries a highly critical article about the former High Representative for BiH, Wolfgang Petritsch, in which the author stresses that Petritsch was pre-occupied with a thought how to destroy the Hercegovacka bank and that one of excuses that Petritsch used to raid the bank was the issue of favourable loans that the Hercegovacka bank gave to people close to Ante Jelavic. In that context, the author claims it was not only the Hercegovacka bank that was giving these types of loans, it was a practice throughout the country. As an example, SD cites that the Sarajevo Canton, when Beriz Belkic was the cantonal Prime Minister (Belkic went on to become a member of BiH Presidency), gave privileged loans to the "worthy" people. Unlike in the Hercegovacka bank case, which used the money donated by the Republic Croatia, Belkic used the taxpayers' money, and the interest rate was the same in both cases, namely 1%.</p> <p>SD also lists people who received the favourable loans, namely Amor Masovic, Miro Lazovic, Abdulah Sidran, Marko Vesovic, Arijana Saracevic and others.</p>

<p>Neum: Hypo Alpe Adria Bank wants to invest 100 million KMs into area, FBiH Govt not responding to offer</p>	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija, front pg splash and pg 18 'Government is stopping 100 million KMs for Neum', by <u>Miroslav Landeka</u> – According to the article, the Hypo Alpe Adria Bank in planning to invest some 100 million KMs into hotels 'Neum' and 'Suncana obala' in Neum and other tourist infrastructure in Neum, which would create some 1000 new jobs, however the FBiH Government is staying silent to the offers. The bank already has 51% of shares in the two hotels, and the only pre-requisite to invest the money is that the bank gets the other 49%.</p>
<p>EP HZ HB Unions organize protests in Mostar and other towns</p>	<p>RHB, Dnevni List, pg 13 'Unions want same status for all Elektroprivredas in BiH', mentioned on front, by <u>NINA</u>, Vecernji List, pg 7 'Illegal Action plan shuts down the company', by <u>Meri Musa</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 16 'Elektra to private owners – prices of electricity skyrocketing', mentioned on front, by <u>A. Karamatic</u> – Independent Unions of employees of Elektroprivreda of Herceg Bosna (EP HZ HB) organized protests in front of the EP HZ HB main building in Mostar, and company's branch offices in Novi Travnik, Orasje, Livno and Grude, protesting against <i>"anti-constitutional solutions in the process of restructuring of the company"</i>. According to the president of the strike board, Stjepo Ivo Lezanic, the Action plan on restructuring and privatization of the current Elektroprivredas in BiH is not based in legal provisions, which was also confirmed by the FBiH Constitutional Court's decision. Also, the President of the EP HZ HB Unions, Tomo Vukoja, says the whole process of adoption of the Action plan is being adopted outside the legal provisions, through outvoting in the legislative and executive authorities in the FBiH, and through mediation of representatives of the IC. SD carries an inset entitled 'Protest in Mostar: Disappointed in authorities and Ashdown', by <u>Z. Zekic</u> in which the daily carries Vukoja as saying: <i>"Who cares in the state because the Action plan was only adopted in the House of Representatives, not in House of Peoples too, who cares that the decision of the FBiH Constitutional Court is not being respected when, it would appear, they are all outside the law. How can we not be disappointed in the FBiH authorities and High Representative?!"</i>.</p>

**Update to 3rd
GSM licence**

Dnevni List pg 3 'Mobilikom's offer deludes public', mentioned on cover, not signed – Reacting to the Memorandum on Understanding regarding the third GSM license that Mobilikom Austria handed over to the Federation of BiH Government, DL carries a reaction of HT Zagreb which says that the Memorandum on Understanding on which HT Zagreb and the FBiH Government have been working for months is a product of their joint work in which interests of both sides were respected. Commenting on the Mobilikom's offer, HT Zagreb also says that Mobilikom is promising ownership in Eronet that HT Zagreb does not intend to sell to this company (Mobilikom). HT Zagreb also believes that Mobilikom's offers are unrealistic, they cannot be realized and their purpose is to delude the public and prevent the agreement between the FBiH Government and HT Zagreb.

Dnevni Avaz cover splash 'Mobilikom and HT Zagreb in true war' by A. Hadzarapovic – DA says that the true war is being led between Mobilikom and HT Zagreb, and it learns that the offer of Mobilikom has been better assessed by the FBiH Government. DA sources says that the final FBiH Government's decision will be known by the end of the week. The Chair of the Eronet management, **Bozo Knezevic**, denied speculations of Eronet's involvement in the offer of Mobilikom. The article also carries the statement of the manager of the Mobilikom's cooperative communications, **Dubravka Jusic**, who says that their offer is better and added that the company had very contrustive dialogue with the representatives of FBiH Government. The FBiH Prime Minister, **Ahmet Hadzipasic** adds that currently Mobilikom's offer is better for Federation.

<p>Student protests in BL</p>	<p>RTRS – Students of Banja Luka University held protests on Wednesday, and submitted their demands to RS President Dragan Cavic and RS Prime minister Dragan Mikerevic asking for an urgent meeting with them since RS Education Minister Gojko Savanovic failed to show any understanding for them. Vladimir Curic, Chairman of Banja Luka student organisation, says he expects their demands to be met. Several hundred students expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that the studying costs in RS are estimated at 600 KM in this school-year, requesting that they be reduced, i.e. returned to the last year's level. In addition, the students are dissatisfied with the non-transparent process of adapting the facility of the former military base "Kozara" in Banja Luka, which belongs to the University. Duska Golic, spokeswoman of the Education Ministry, says that they need to receive a demand from Srpsko Sarajevo University in order to reduce the school fees otherwise the proposal cannot be sent to Government session. Students announced they would continue with protests.</p> <p>BHT 1, Oslobodjenje pg 7 'Annul decision on increase of tuition fee' by <u>O. Vukovic</u>, Nezavisne Novine, cover 'Either lower tuition fees or resignation of the Minister and pg. 5 'Either lower tuition fees or Savanovic's resignation' by <u>V. Iliktarevic</u>, Glas Srpske, pg. 3 'Tuition fees in accordance with old rates' by <u>Z. Marceta</u>, EuroBlic, cover 'Walk against high tuition fees' and pg. RS1 'Walk against 600 KM' by <u>Mirna Soja</u> – also covered.</p>
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<p>Stojcic meets refugee associations</p>	<p>RTRS, Oslobođenje pg 2 'FBIH doesn't apply constitutional amendments' by Onasa, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Only ruins for Serbs' by J. Novkovic– Dusan Stojcic, RS National Assembly Speaker, met with delegation of refugee associations from Lopare, Ugljevik, Bijeljina and Janja. Refugee representatives stated that they seek protection from injustice being done against them by certain FBIH Institutions. They also claim that in 90% of the cases the property owned by Serbs has been destroyed after the war. Veljko Stevanovic Chairman of Association states that there are 455 cases before the Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. Stojcic states that he sent a letter to all municipality heads to find the best solution for legalization of refugee houses and settlements.</p>
<p>GS on refinery Brod</p>	<p>Glas Srpske cover page report 'Refining commenced' by D.VV.M. – Dragan Sakotic, Assistant to Brod Refinery Director for technical affairs, confirmed Wednesday that after three-months delay, the Serb Brod Oil Refinery has re-launched refining of oil, delivered by British firm "Vitol". Although supposed to be working as of yesterday, the new technological process called "hydro-cracking" was not launched, since this process can start only if the minimum of 75 tones of oil per month is to be refined. Miljenko Bilic, "Vitol" representative at Refinery, said that this company would keep handing deliveries.</p> <p>BHT 1 also reported on the re-launch of oil refining in refinery.</p>

<p>NN update to Buk Bijela dam project</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 8 'International convention must be respected' by <u>Beta</u> – The UN representatives on Wednesday in Podgorica stressed that during decision-making process on construction of hydro-power plant "Buk Bijela", the Government of Montenegro must respect international conventions from the field of ecology. The representative of UNESCO, Djordje Nadrijan, said at the Round Table on power, ecological and economic aspects of construction of "Buk Bijela" that UNESCO cannot influence final decision on this issue, emphasising that international duties SiCG has accepted must be respected. According to NN inset "Buk Bijela is the best hydro-power project in the region", Milan Manigoda, Director of Hydro Power Plant "Visegrad", assessed Wednesday that the construction of the power plant "Buk Bijela" is the best hydro-power project in the region, which should not be halted.</p>
<p>Audit on business operations of BiH CoM</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 5 'Ministers are not spending public money in public manner', <u>not signed</u> – The Office for audit of financial operations of BiH institutions published the audit report on financial reports and financial operations of the BiH Council of Ministers in 2003, which reveals that some services (within the BiH CoM) did not spend the public money in a transparent manner and pursuant to regulations on purchase of goods and services. The audit determines that the BiH CoM, in some cases, did not abide by the regulations on calculation of salaries and payment of compensations to the state employees. On top of it, the BiH CoM did its financial operations without having internal rules on expenditures.</p>
<p>NN op-ed RS budget audit</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'Procurement' by <u>Predrag Klinčov</u> – The author is writing about the latest audit report on RS budget for 2003, expressing with sarcastic tone his comment on the latest statements of Dragan Mikerevic and Branko Krsmanovic, who praised the audit report saying that not a single audit report has ever been better. With a criticism, he further makes a reference to procurement procedures, which were mainly violated.</p>

Police and security issues

<p>SFOR searches Telekom Srpske in Bijeljina</p>	<p>BHT 1, RTRS, Oslobođenje pg 6 ‘ ‘Routine check’ again’ by <u>V.Du.</u>, Nezavisne Novine, pg. 3 ‘SFOR soldiers were tape-recording equipment’ by <u>Z. K.</u>, Glas Srpske, pg. 2 ‘They took nothing’ by <u>S. R. T.</u>, Dnevni List, pg 4 ‘SFOR took nothing from Telekom Srpske’, <u>not signed</u> – SFOR soldiers conducted an unannounced control at “Telekom Srpske” building in Bijeljina on Wednesday. They soldiers were tape-recording premises and equipment, but they took nothing. According to SFOR, this was a routine control. Djuro Stanojevic, the Director of Bijeljina “Telekom Srpske”, said that soldiers have behaved correctly and he confirmed nothing was taken.</p>
<p>Matijasevic, Njegus walk out from session of Police Restructuring Commission</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 ‘Matijasevic and Njegus walked out from the session’ by <u>M.Kukan</u> – DA learns from credible sources that RS Interior Minister Darko Matijasevic and RS Police Director Radomir Njegus walked out from the session of the Police Restructuring Commission held on Wednesday in Sarajevo. Apparently, Matijasevic and Njegus walked out after disagreeing with the agenda item which foreseen discussion on the possible joint police activities at the state level. DA also learns that all Commission members will soon receive the draft concept of the future structure of police forces in BiH, which will be discussed at the upcoming session from 25 to 29 October in Brussels in presence of Chris Patten.</p>

NN on Njegus' answers to journalists

Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'As an old newspaper' by S. Kn. – The RS journalists, which follow up on the work of the RS Interior Ministry, are not satisfied with responses RS Police Director, **Radomir Njegus**, provided to them to questions they raised at 27th August protest in Banja Luka. **Sinisa Mihajlovic**, RTRS journalist, says he is not surprised at all over the content of responses, since he expected nothing better than that. **Vlatko Vukotic**, ATV journalist, expresses his partial satisfaction over responses, noting it is good police director respected the journalists and sent them responses after all. **Radenko Kovacevic**, SRNA journo, says: *"There were no concrete answers to some concrete questions, while response to some questions was concrete.* **Rajna Radosavljevic**, EuroBlic journo, is of the view that members of the press are too optimistic, noting such responses could have been expected.

<p>Mostar Prosecutors investigates misuses in HNK MoI</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Cantonal prosecution in Mostar prepares big investigation into MoI' by <u>F. Vele</u> – DA learns that Mostar Cantonal Prosecution is ready to launch a braod investigation after receiving the information from different source including former high-ranking police officials on possible financial and other misuses in Herzegovina-Neretva Cantonal Interior Ministry. Chief Prosecutor, Nijaz Mehmedovic, told DA that Prosecution has information about 30 – 40 problematic cases. HNK MoI Spokesperson Srecko Bosnjak says they have no information about these investigations, adding that accusations against MoI are not grounded.</p>
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