OHR BiH Media Round-up, 14/3/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on DATE

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	**BH Radio 1** (12,00 hrs)	**RTRS** (12,00 hrs)
On difficult road conditions in BiH	Milosevic burred inMoscow?	Russian Duma on ICTY
FBiH HoR on FBiH Public RTV service	ICTY end trial on Milosevic	RS Govt. on ITA' debt to RS
UHSP agst agreed const. changes	SCG questions victim number in BiH	EU on 3rd place of world donors

TV news broadcast on DATE

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	**TV PINK** (18,00 hrs)	**BHT 1** (19,00 hrs)
Difficult road conditions in BiH	Snow in BiH	Milosevic's autopsy
Puljic on constitutional changes	Delegation of Finish Parl. visits BiH	Milosevic's funeral
HVIDRA to start protests	Ivanic on visa regime	Reactions to Milosevic's death
HSP on the rights of HVO veterans	Topcagic on visa regime	BIH lawsuit against SCG

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	**FTV** (19,30 hrs)	**RTRS** (19,30 hrs)
Milosevic died of heart attack?	Milosevic's autopsy	Milosevic died from heart attack
Milosevic to be buried in Belgrade?	Investigation on Milosevic's death	BiH lawsuit against SCG

BiH lawsuit against SCG	Milosevic's funeral	Statements in ICTY postponed
Veterans' associations on BiH lawsuit	Reactions to Milosevic's death	Galijas, member of Scorpions on trial

Oslobodjenje	Milosevic died of heart attack, and he added to it by himself?!
Dnevni Avaz	Criminal cannot be allowed to Alley of Heroes
Dnevni List	Citizens are being wiretapped for years (interview with Ivo Miro Jovic)
Vecernji List	I wept with Milosevic in prison cell (former Montenegrin President Djukanovic describes his last meeting with Milosevic)
Slobodna Dalmacija	One is lucky to fall asleep and wake up alive (a Herzegovina trucker's testimony from Iraq)
Nezavisne Novine	I refused to pay racktereeing to Station Commander Delic (racketeering case in B. Luka)
Glas Srpske	Murderer made a confession in vain
EuroBlic	Marko is bringing coffin, Mira is choosing the place of burial'
Vecernje novosti	Funeral to erase wanted warrant (SiCG to annul warrant after Mira Markovic)

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

Milosevic to be buried in Russia ; Belgrade court revokes arrest warrant for his widow	**RHB, BH Radio 1** – **Slobodan Milosevic's** son**, Marko Milosevic,** stated for Reuters that his family has not been allowed to bury Milosevic in Belgrade and for this reason Milosevic would be temporarily buried in Moscow. **AFP**– A Belgrade court Tuesday revoked an arrest warrant for the widow of former Yugoslav leader **Slobodan Milosevic**, clearing the way for her to return to Serbia for his funeral.
ICTY announces end of case against Milosevic	**BH Radio 1** – Today, ICTY Chamber has officially ended the trial against Slobodan Milosevic, which was found dead on March 11 in his detention cell. Chair of the Chamber **Patrick Robinson** expressed appreciation toward all participants of the four year long trial, by which this case if now officially closed.
Dutch authorities allow Russians to re-examine Milosevic's body	**BH Radio 1** – Dutch authorities have allowed team of Russian doctors to conduct additional autopsy and examination of **Slobodan Milosevic**'s body, while results of toxicological analysis would be known during the week. ICTY Spokesperson **Alexandra Milenov** refused to comment allegations that Milosevic was taking medicine willingly, which annulled effects of regular medicines he was using.
Russian lower house to raise issue of further ICTY work	**BH Radio 1** – At the session scheduled for Wednesday, the Russian lower house will raise the issue of further work of the ICTY, the Speaker **Boris Grizlov** announced today.

BiH vs. SCG : SCG disputes number of victims	**BH Radio 1** by Amir Suzanj – Main hearing in BiH lawsuit against SCG for aggression and genocide before the International Court of Justice continued with presentation of evidences from the side of SCG legal team. SCG team tried to dispute the claims that genocide was committed in BiH, questioning number of victims, including Srebrenica, as well as the nature of murdering of such large number of people. SCG legal representative stressed that they are not challenging victims or the fact that crimes were committed over civilians, but stressed that: "*in this civil war it wasn't always possible to see who are the civilians and who are soldiers in civilian uniforms and Prosecutor admits that over 80% of missing people are men and such proportion clearly shows that majority of victims participate on one or another way in fights*".

FBiH HoR discusses PBS law	**BH Radio 1** by Ljiljana Radl – FBiH House of Representatives has continued its session discussing the law proposal on FBiH Public Broadcasting Service. OHR has previously asked from MPs to pass the law harmonized with the BiH's Law on PBS, which is one of conditions for negotiations on Stabilization and Association. OHR has emphasized that majority of amendments are in contradiction with BiH Law on PBS and which mostly refer to definition of founder of FBiH PBS. Reporter reminded that EC announced suspension of SAA negotiations if entities' Laws on PBS, meaning FBiH's, aren't harmonized with state law. **RHB** – also reported.

Death of Slobodan Milosevic: update, reactions

Preliminary autopsy show Milsevic died of heart attack; Dutch experts says he deliberately took wrong medicines to be released for a treatment in Moscow	**Hayat** – According to preliminary results of the autopsy, former Yugoslav President **Slobodan Milosevic** died of heart attack, the ICTY announced late on Sunday evening. "*Pathologists have discovered that Slobodan Milosevic was suffering from two heart diseases, which could have caused a heart attack… The final report will be published as soon as possible*", stated ICTY Spokesperson **Alexandra Milenov**. Dutch toxicologist **Donald Uges** who conducted the analysis told AFPthat Milosevic might have provoked the infraction deliberately to be released for a medical treatment in Moscow. Uges claims that Milosevic took the drug "rifampicin" used to treat leprosy and tuberculosis, which annulled effects of pills doctors prescribed for his high blood pressure. However, it is still unclear whether the rifampicin caused the myocardial infarction, or how he obtained this medicine. Milosevic's legal representative **Zdenko Tomanovic** still claims that former Yugoslav President has been murdered. Two pathologists from the MilitaryMedicalAcademy in Belgrade and the President of the SCG National Council for Cooperation with the ICTY **Rasim Ljajic** closely monitored the autopsy process which was recorded. SCG experts concluded it was carried out professionally. **RHB, PINK, BHT1, FTV, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'Slobodan Milosevic died of heart attack', **Vecernji List** carries a number of articles on Milosevic's death on 4 page, **Slobodna Dalmacija** also reports on 3 pages carrying statements of, while **Dnevni List** dedicated one page to the issue. **Oslobodjenje** cover splash pgs 4-5 'Milosevic died of heart attack, and he contributed that himself?!' **Dnevni Avaz** cover splash, pgs 18-20 'Criminal not allowed to Alley of Heroes' –Oslobodjenje focuses on the medicines Milosevic was taking and claims by Dutch toxicologist that he was deliberately taking non prescribed medicine concluding that if this true "*Milosevic committed suicide.*" DA's 3 pages report on the disputes regarding his funeral, autopsy results and assessments of his legacy.

ICTY's Del Ponte: It is a human right to decide to take or not to take a medicine	**Oslobodjenje** pgs 4-5 Inset 'Natural sleeping position'- According to ICTY officials it is unknown whether **Slobodan Milosevic** refused to take prescribed medicines. The ICTY Chief prosecutor **Carla Del Ponte** said it is a human right of every person to take or not to take some medicine.
Milosevic to be buried in Belgrade without any state or military privileges	**BHT1**by Vesna Simic, Belgrade – Belgrade authorities decided that **Slobodan Milosevic** would be buried in Belgrade but not in the 'Alley of Heroes', state graveyard at which all high ranking officials are buried with the highest honours. Milosevic's family would be present at the funeral after being allowed by judiciary. Democratic parties in Serbia deems Milosevic doesn't deserve to be buried as hero and Serbian President **Boris Tadic** stated that Milosevic's role in recent Serbian history requires an ordinary funeral. The ceremony is to place on Thursday or Friday. Belgrade Prosecution first stated that they would not withdraw indictment against **Mirjana Markovic** [Milosevic's wife], but only few hours later they changes their mind. It was announced that the Court would suspend the detention order, thus guaranteeing her to attend the funeral. **RTRS,RHB, PINK, FTV, Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'Funeral in Belgrade', **EuroBlic** cover pg splash and pgs 4-8 'Marko is bringing coffin, Mira is choosing the place of burial'- reported on funeral.
Russian Foreign Ministry received Milosevic's letter reading he was subject to inappropriate treatment; Minister Lavrov says Russian doubts Dutch findings	**Hayat, PINK, BHT1, FTV, RTRS** – Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it had received a letter from **Slobodan Milosevic** on Sunday afternoon. According to Foreign Minister **Sergei Lavrov**, in the letter Milosevic said that he was being subjected to inappropriate medical treatment and he once again asked for Russia's help in obtaining permission for medical treatment in Moscow. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 19 'Russian doesn't trust Dutch pathologists' – Lavrov stated Russia has a reason not to trust in results of autopsy carried out by experts. Thus, Russians demanded to either have their experts to attend the autopsy or be briefed about it in details.

Oslobodjenje op-ed: Montenegro separation is bigger problem for Serbia than Milosevic's death	**Oslobodjenje** pg 9 'Milosevic's legacy' op-ed by Daniel Omeragic – Commenting on how Serbia accepted death of **Slobodan Milosevic**, editorial quotes statement of **Zoran Zivkovic**, former associate of late Serbian Prime Minister **Zoran Djindjic** when he said that "*nothing special happened*", adding that bigger news was scandal on SCG contest for Eurosong the same day. Montenegro competitors left the contest following harsh dispute with Serbian counterpart, for which, author claims, symbolically reminds of the last Congress of Communist Party which announced division of Yugoslavia . Stressing that Montenegro separation is bigger problem for Serbia at the moment than Milosevic, editorial concludes that this split-up would be one of the last legacies of his regime.
FT op-ed by DPA chief architect Holbrooke on Milosevic death: "Verdict was denied but justice was not"	**Financial Times** 'Rough justice for Milosevic is as fitting as a tribunal verdict' by Richard Holbrooke – Unlike many other comments, chief architect of the Dayton Peace Agreement **Richard Holbrooke** said that **Slobodan Milosevic** did not evade justice by dying. Author said: "*After all, the man died in his cell, knowing he would never see freedom again… Consider the facts: Milosevic was the first head of state in history to face an international court for war crimes… The trial was broadcast live, and the testimony and the devastating videotape of the massacre in Srebrenica… destroyed his reputation and helped establish the truth among all but a few pathetic bitter-enders in Serbia… It had practical consequences as well; if Milosevic had not been sent to the tribunal, he would have resumed his political career in Yugoslavia, with seriously destabilising effects on the entire Balkans.*"

BiH lawsuit vs. SCG, other war crimes issues

Main Hearing before ICJ; SCG team claims that Belgrade did not control the RS Army	**Hayat**– During the continuation of the main hearing in lawsuit BiH against SCG for aggression and genocide, SCG legal representatives stressed that there is no clear evidence that the Government in Belgrade had complete control over RS; therefore, there is no reason to indict Serbian Government for something RS has committed. While presenting the arguments against BiH lawsuit, SCG legal representative **Ian Brownly** stated that RS and its army have not been under Belgrade's control.. **RHB, PINK, BHT1, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'Belgrade still disputes authority', mentioned on cover by Nagorka Idrizovic **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'In May 1992 Mladic said that he would not listen orders from Belgrade' by Fena, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'BiH bypassed many important things' by B.N.– carried reports.
SDS : RSNA should discuss BiH's lawsuit vs. SCG on special session	**RHB, Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'SDS demands discussion in RSNA on BiH's lawsuit against SCG' not signed – SDS Caucus suggested that the RS National Assembly should discuss the BiH lawsuit against Serbia-Montenegro for aggression and genocide on a special session on Thursday. SDS requests that the declaration on the necessity of diplomatic resolving of controversial issues between BiH and SCG is included in the agenda of that special session.

Serb NGOs to protest against the BiH's lawsuit on March 18	**RTRS, Hayat, Dnevni List** pg 8 'Protest against BiH's lawsuit against SCiG' not signed, **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Lawsuit as trap' by S. Sekara– Serb movement of non-governmental organizations 'SPONA' announced protests against BiH lawsuit against SCG for Saturday, March 18 in Bijeljina. Vice-President of the RS Association of Inmates **Slavko Jovicic** stated that the first part of the process before the International Court of Justice in The Hague clearly shows that the main goal of the lawsuit is to abolish the RS.
BiH Veterans to support the lawsuit on June 11	**Hayat, Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'Peaceful protests in RS would be counterproductive' by S.Rozajac **Dnevni Avaz** pg 10 'Public debate on BiH lawsuit against SCG on June 11 in Potocari' not signed– Thirteen veterans' associations in Sarajevo announced that they would take joint activities as the sign of support to BiH lawsuit against SCG for aggression and genocide. President of the Patriotic league **Avdo Hebib** announced that the central manifestation would take place on June 11 in Tuzla. **Dnevni List** pg 2 'Protests of support to BiH's lawsuit cancelled' by M. Zorlak – DL carries that the organization postponed protests in the RS (Banja Luka and Bijeljina) since they are afraid that the protests would be counter-productive due to negative climate towards this issue in the RS. **FTV**– also carried

Director of Doc. Center Tokaca writes to ICJ expressing outrage with use of his research	**FTV, Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'Stojanovic mislead the Court and the public' not signed **Dnevni Avaz** pg 10 'I never said that final number of victims would be lower then 100. 000' not signed– Chair of research-documentation centre in Sarajevo **Mirsad Tokaca** sent a letter to Chair of International Court of Justice in The Hague **Rosaline Higgins** expressing his outrage with the act of SCG legal representative **Radoslav Stojanovic.** According to Tokaca, Stojanovic mentioned information from research on number of killed persons in BIH out of context. Tokaca reminds that the mentioned number of victims is the result of current situation and not a final number.
SDS Dragan Cavic: death of Milosevic would affects BiH's lawsuit against SCG	**RHB**– The RS President **Dragan Cavic** deems that uncompleted proceeding against **Slobodan Milosevic** will affect BiH lawsuit against SCG for aggression and genocide. In a statement for ATV Banjaluka, Cavic reiterated that the lawsuit is completely illegitimate, and therefore – regardless of the International Court of Justice's verdict – it would neither change the position of RS, nor lead to its abolishment. One epoch ended with Milosevic's death, stated Cavic, adding that he was a '*grandiose political figure in a whole region*'. Cavic believes that Milosevic passed away innocent, because '*nobody is guilty until that guilt is proven before the court*'.

Legal teams in BiH vs. SCG case: will MILosevic death influence proceeding before ICJ?	**BHT1**– BiH agent **Sakib Softic** in BIH lawsuit against SCG stated that the death of Slobodan Milosevic would not influence the outcome of the BiH lawsuit against SCG. SCG agent **Radoslav Stojanovic** stated that he is not currently dealing with the possible influence of Milosevic's death on the proceeding. At the same time legal advisor in SCG team **Tibor Varadi** stated that the lawsuit has no sense after Milosevic's death. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Death of Milosevic weakening BH position', **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Hague is losing its foothold' by Beta – also carries Varadi.
FTV slams BiH Presidency member Jovic for stating Croatia could sue BiH for aggression	**FTV** current affairs program '60 minuta' by Amarildo Gutic – Referring to the statement by the BiH Presidency, **Ivo Miro Jovic**, given to Vecernji list in which he said that that Croatia could raise a lawsuit against BiH for aggression and that there are no grounds for the other way around, magazine asked Jovic to further elaborate: "*Dubrovnik was shelled from Herzegovina, and missiles were fired from BIH to Zagreb; I can mention Knin. All this mustn't be forgotten. That was the aggression on Croatia from BIH*". Magazine heavily criticised the statement, noting why Jovic advocates for the right of the another country while representing BiH. This is the reason, says report, due to which foreign officials wonder '*when would BiH stop fabricating politicians that work against its interests*'.

Families of missing persons from RS to hold protest in SA on 10 April	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Establishment of Commission would prevent protests in Sarajevo' by R.Ra., **EuroBlic** pg RS2 'Establish commission, there will be protests' by D. Stanisic, **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Truth on Sarajevo too' by Z. Domazet– The members of the families of the missing person from the entire of RS have announced they would hold a protest in front of BH joint institutions in Sarajevo on 10 April unless the Commission in charge of investigating sufferings of Serbs in Sarajevo is formed until 31 March. This was concluded at Monday's meeting of RS Board and RS Organisation of the families of the killed and imprisoned soldiers and civilians.
Father demands prosecution of person who killed his son in Visoko in 1992	**Glas Srpske** cover pg splash 'Murderer made a confession in vain' by K.Cirkovic – Daily carries a statement of **Nedjo Ristic** from Visoko currently living in Bratunac, whose son, along with other 3 people, were murdered by **Niset Ramic** in Visoko in 1992. Ristic is embittered over failure of judicial bodies in F BiH who fail to act in line with confession Ramic gave (currently serving 20-year sentence in Zenica) and prosecute him for the crimes he had confessed.

Constitutional changes and other political issues

Const. changes talks could continues this week, but parties still have not changed their stances	**RTRS**– Venice Commission gave opinion on election of BiH Presidency, proposing best solution trough establishment of one President institution and indirect election trough BiH House of Representatives and participants in negotiations on constitutional changes reported that negotiations might continue next week. RTRS commented that stances of BiH political parties are not changed. "*Opinion of Venice Commission leaves space to political parties to talk*", said **Mladen Ivanic**, PDP Leader. "*We will not change our stance. We received opinion of Venetian Commission that does not influence or change opinion of SNSD*", said SNSD' **Krstan Simic**. "*There are no differences in stances of SNSD, SDS and PDP*", said **Dragan Cavic**, SDS Leader. **Sulejman Tihic**, SDA Leader believes that agreement on election of BiH Presidency should be in accordance with opinion of Venetian Commission. Croatian negotiators will support continuation of negotiations on constitutional changes. "*We will not support it (constitutional changes) in the Parliament*", said **Beriz Belikic**, SBiH.

Presidency member Jovic: Negotiations on constitutional changes are about reaching compromise	**Dnevni List**, front pg splash and pg 3 'Citizens are being wiretapped for years', by Ljiljana Vidacak – in an interview for DL, the Croat member of BiH Presidency, **Ivo Miro Jovic**, comments, among other issues, the issue of constitutional changes in BiH. He says the negotiations on constitutional changes are about listening to what other side(s) have to say and propose own solutions i.e. it is about reaching a compromise. Furthermore, Jovic says the negotiations should result in equality of all peoples in BiH, because the Dayton agreement was detrimental to the Croats, arguing that the Croats will no longer be in inferior position in comparison to the other two peoples.
HDZ of Canton 7 supports HDZ leader Covic in constitutional changes negotiations	**Dnevni List**, pg 4, mentioned on front 'HNC supported Dragan Covic', by A. Beus – The HDZ of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, during its discussion about the constitutional changes related issues, supported the position of the HDZ National Council, which last Friday gave its support regarding the constitutional negotiations talks to the HDZ leader, **Dragan Covic**. (**NB:** importance of the HDZ of HNC's support lies in the perception that the HDZ of HNC is the most important cantonal branch of the party especially in light of recent reports that suggest rifts within HDZ).

SDA leader Tihic on const. changes: HDZ BiH fears should be smashed	**Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Tihic: HDZ BiH fears should be smashed' by A.Omeragic – SDA leader **Sulejman Tihic** told daily that on Monday he consulted HDZ leader **Dragan Covic**, SDS leader **Dragan Cavic** and SNSD leader **Milorad Dodik**, adding that final meeting on constitutional changes could be scheduled for the end of this week. Tihic commented that the "*indirect election of the President is not such problem if we define it in accordance with the European standards, which means that in addition ethnical, interests of citizens should also be represented*." He added that the President should be elected in BiH House of representatives. Tihic also stressed that HDZ fears that Serbs and Bosniaks will elect their representatives should be dispersed, and added that "*everyone should participate in election of each representative.*" HDZ Vice President **Dragan Cavara** stated on Monday that this party still insists on indirect election of President. In regard to that, SDS Vice President **Mladen Bosic** said: "*Way of election depends on what are the President's authorities, is it only folklore, i.e. protocol authorities, or does he have wider authorities.*"

SDA' Ceman: politicians should hold a meeting; HDZ satisfied with recommendations	**EuroBlic** pg RS2 'Agreement still not in sight' by Nedeljka Breberina – SDA's **Mirsad Ceman** believes the politicians should hold a meeting even before the session of the Commission adding: '*The sooner politicians meet, the sooner necessary procedures at the Parliament would commence'*, adding he doesn't believe the Commission would offer anything new in comparison to previous solutions. Inset 'HDZ satisfied with the recommendations' – HDZ expressed its satisfaction with recommendations of the Venice Commission because these were '*identical to HDZ's proposals'*.

SBiH Halilovic: Church is aware of consequences of ethnic-based principles; SDU's Komsic: Cardinal's urge is cry of helpless; HNZ, SNSD: no problems with Venice Comm. conclusions; SBiH called on rejection of const. changes	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Komsic: Cardinal's urge is a cry' A.Malagic – Commenting statement of Archbishop of Vrhbosna, Cardinal **Vinko Puljic** who urged Croat politicians in BiH to be responsible and not to sign any changes that would be unfair to Croats in BiH, SBiH leader **Safet Halilovic**stated: *"It is obvious that Catholic Church is aware of consequences of bad solutions based on ethno-national principles*." SDU's **Ivo Komsic** said that he understands Cardinals urge as a cry of helpless. Inset 'Brkic: Against withholding role of entity' – HNZ leader **Milenko Brkic** said that his party is very satisfied with recommendations of Venice Commission, adding that he also supports statement of Cardinal Puljic. Inset 'SNSD: Opinion of Venice Commission is not problematic' – SNSD Vice President **Krstan Simic** said his party still has no information when would talks on constitutional changes be continued, adding that his party has no problems with recommendations of Venice Commission. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Betrayal of own principles cannot be rewarded' by Fena – SBiH called on all political parties, NGOs and BiH citizens to turn to vital state interests and reject constitutional changes that "*strengthen division of BiH in two entities*". **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 7 'Cardinal Puljic: Time for rebellion' by V. Vegar – carries Puljic statement.

SDS' Novakovic and analyst Popovic say involvement of religious community in const. changes talks can only damage process	**Glas Srpske** pg 5 'I will stand up against injustice' by Z. Markovic – Following the Sunday's invitation of Archbishop **Vinko Puljic** to Croat parties not to sign any [constitutional] changes that would be detrimental for Croats, the article carries reactions of SDS's **Momcilo Novakovic** and political analyst **Gostimir Popovic** who believe involvement of any religious community can only damage the process of negotiating the constitutional changes.
SDU public tribune: const. changes would only ratify results of aggression and genocide	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Ratification of results of aggression and genocide' by Aj.D. – SDU held public tribune dedicated to constitutional changes. SDU President **Sejfudin Tokic** said that suggested constitutional changes are essential, but for worse. SDU Presidency member **Nijaz Durakovic** said the changes were 'cosmetic ones', and SDU Vice President **Miro Lazovic** stated that this would only ratify results of aggression and genocide.

DA int with BiH Presidency member Paravac: RS must be preserved	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'I stay regardless of the fact that SDS is going into opposition' by Husein Orahovac – Commenting talks on constitutional changes in an interview for DA, BiH Presidency member **Borislav Paravac** said that minimum consensus for the RS politicians would be preservation of RS. Paravac stressed that all the BiH institutions contributed to opening talks on Stabilisation and Association Agreement [SAA]. He also repeated that he would resign as a Presidency member only in situation in which Constitution requires such action or in case that his party demands such thing. In regard with withdrawing SDS-supported ministers from Council of Ministers, Paravac said: "Our ministers have still not withdrew, and as far as I know [SDS leader] **Dragan Cavic** will talk with [BiH CoM Chair] **Adnan Terzic** one of these days

US Ambassador McElhaney: US would not impose solutions on constitutional changes	**FTV** current affairs program '60 minuta' by Bakir Hadziomerovic – Commenting the course of the talks on the constitutional changes, the U.S. Ambassador to BIH **Douglas McElhaney** stated he believes that BiH politicians and the Venice Commission would soon come up with the solution for the only unsolved issue, the election of the BiH President. He adds that this would mean more of representative role for the function. Asked to comment statements that U.S. Government was advocating for entity vote, thus for division of BiH, McElhaney strongly underlined:" *U.S. Government wanted to help BIH to become the member of EU. My Government will not impose any of the proposals!*" McElhaney stated that he could not predict when the negotiations will be continued or when the process will be finished. "I *hope that in next 7 to 10 weeks they will overcome that issue*," said McElhaney.
VL unofficially learns: Elections threshold of 3% will not change	**Vecernji List**, pg 8 'Border for making into Parliament will be 3 percent?', by Eldina Medunjanin – VL unofficially learns from members of BiH House of Representatives' Constitutional-Legal Commission that the proposal of the working group tasked to draft changes to BiH Election Law, according to which the threshold would be raised from the current 3 to 4%, would most likely be dropped. VL notes the BiH HoR should be dealing with the issue at its session scheduled for March 23.

SD: RS PM Dodik and RS President Cavic are working on dethroning BiH CoM, Chairman Terzic	**Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 13, mentioned on front ‘’Assassination’ of Terzic’, by Zlatko Tulic – SD notes that according to unofficial information coming from sources close to political circles in the RS, the RS PM and President, **Milorad Dodik** and **Dragan Cavic** respectively, have agreed upon a scenario the aim of which is to dethrone the BiH Council of Ministers and the first person on the ‘list’ will be the CoM Chairman, **Adnan Terzic**. SD goes on to say that one of Dodik’s motives of assuming the power in the RS just 8 months before elections is his aim to expand his influence onto the state institutions, and SD notes that it is no secret that Dodik ‘has Terzic’s chair in his sights’. On the other hand, Cavic wants to secure the SNSD’s support for himself and in the meantime he wants to clean up his party (SDS) before the elections and get rid of extremists within the SDS. Finally, SD notes that information have it that the PDP leader and BiH Foreign Minister, **Mladen Ivanic**, has joined the two in their plan in order to secure better position for his party.

SDS' Bojic: SDS would support casting of no-confidence to the CoM	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'To support casting of no confidence vote to Terzic' by N.D.- As SDS Vice President, **Borislav Bojic**, confirmed for daily that the SDS Caucus in BiH Parliament would support the initiative for casting of no-confidence vote to Council of Ministers and Chair **Adnan Terzic**. Bojic stressed that according to the decision of SDS Main Board that SDS would cross to the opposition on entity and state level, SDS would support the initiative that was submitted by SP RS representative **Tihomir Gligoric**. Bojic also stressed that new coalition of RS parties should also establish government on the state level. *"Cooperation between SDA and SNSD functions great so they should establish the coalition in BiH Parliament without us"* stated Bojic.

RS Civil Service Agency: Dodik's dismissals were in accordance to the law	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'Dodik's dismissals were by the law' by N.D.– Head of RS Civil Service Agency **Dragomir Kutlija** stated for daily that all dismissals that RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** conducted were in accordance with the law. "*According to article 48 of the Law, PM can dismiss deputies of ministers, but under the condition to appoint them to another position in three months deadline. Then, he doesn't require the opinion of RS Civil Service Agency,*" said Kutlija. Daily reminded that Dodik has dismissed all deputies of ministers from the previous government, which refused to resign upon his request, by which they [as Dodik stated] refused to show loyalty to the new Government.
Delegation of Finnish Parliament visited BiH Parliament	**PINK, Hayat, FTV, Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'EU to be more functional, BiH has to change Constitution' by Fena, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Vilen: You have to change Constitution, we have to make EU more functional' not signed, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'Finland supports BiH on the European path' by N. Krsman – A delegation of Finish Parliament visited BIH on Monday and met with representatives of BiH Parliament Joint Commission for European integrations. Finland will be presiding EU as of 1 July. The Finish delegation stressed its support to BIH EU membership. Chair of High Finish Committee **Jari Vilen** stated that both EU and BiH are facing challenges, adding that BiH should change its constitution and EU should become more functional.

HR to present his priorities to PIC Political Directors	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'High Representative presents priorities in next 12 months' by Onasa– The Political Directors of the Peace Implementation Council will meet in Vienna on Wednesday 15 March, for the first time under the chair of the new High Representative, **Christian Schwarz-Schilling**. The High Representative will brief the Political Directors on his priorities for the next 12 months. The BiH authorities, led by Chairman of the Council of Ministers **Adnan Terzic**, will participate in the meeting, OHR said.
DA op-ed: Meeting of EU officials in Salzburg brought nothing new for BiH	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 3 'Warning from Salzburg' by Tarik Lazovic – Commenting the meeting of the EU Foreign Minister held in Salzburg over the weekend, the editorial said that this first important meeting of EU officials on the issue of Western Balkan countries was a disappointment for all states aspiring to membership. Author further notes that meeting brought nothing new or better for BiH, for it was only a reiteration of well-known EU stances. Commenting a tendency to strictly condition talks on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement [SAA] with captures of **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ratko Mladic**, editorial concludes that if BiH is to expect support from Brussels, RS authorities have to finally realize they have to arrest these most wanted war crimes indictees.

Dispute over appointment of CIPS Director	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 2, announced on cover 'Zoran Tesanovic: Ethnic balance blocked appointment' by N.Krsman – Daily notes that in spite of the fact that the BH Civil Administration Agency elected the most successful candidate for the position of the CIPS Director, it is uncertain when this person will take over duty. **Mustafa PAsalic** scored 126 points, while second-rated is **Sinisa Macan** with 125 points. **Zoran Tesanovic,** BiH Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs stated that appointment of Bosniak as CIPS Director would violate Decision on establishment of CIPS Implementation Directorate, referring to the issue of key ethnic representation.
RS budget for 2006 to be adopted, MP's say	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 3, announced on cover 'Adoption of budget is certain' by V.Popovic – Daily notes judging by assessments of majority of RS MP's (namely SNSD' **Krstan Simic**, PDP' **Mladjen Zaric**, SzBiH' **Muharem Murselovic**, SDA' **Sefket Hafizovic,** DNS' **Drago Kalabic,** SRS RS' **Milanko Mihajlica)** that the proposed budget for 2006 may be adopted at the upcoming RS NA session Thursday. Along with MP's, the budget beneficiaries are also supportive of the proposed budget, since improvements in comparison with solutions offered by previous Government are evident.

VL comment: VAT brought more positive than negative changes	**Vecernji List**, pg 9 'VAT destroyed grey economy', by Milan Sutalo – commenting on the introduction of VAT in BiH, the author argues that two and half months of the VAT's implementation is not enough to carry out a 'serious analysis', however the author does argue that some bleak announcements that VAT would cause 'social disasters' in terms of drastic increase of prices never came to be. Instead, says the author, initial analysis says there are more positive rather than negative sides of the VAT, one of them being a better financial discipline of the VAT-taxpayers (legal entities). Namely, according to ITA's data, 97,15% of the said taxpayers reported their taxes in a timely manner. On top of this, VL notes there had been predictions that some 20.000 legal entities would have to register themselves as VAT taxpayers, instead 32.824 legal entities registered themselves, which leads the daily to say that the VAT destroyed the grey economy.

Accusations and investigations

NN continues to ‘disclose’ alleged SDS illegal activities; Mihajlica stresses that other parties involved in crime should be mentioned as well	**RTRS** – Banja Luka based daily Nezavisne Novine on Monday published the story following up on claims on alleged wrongdoings of the SDS officials and individuals from RS Interior Ministry claiming it obtained the documents from the Office of the BiH Prosecutor. NN wrote that **Dusan Kos,** Chief Public Security Centre Banja Luka is second most important person from RS MoI in the network of the organized crime. Kos did not want to comment these allegations. PSC Banja Luka announced his press conference on the issue to take place on Tuesday. **Milanko Mihajlica**, Serb Radical Party said that would be good if criminal activities of other political parties’ members that are also included. “*In the documents that are being reported by NN and some other media, people from PDP are also included*”, said Mihajlica. “*PDP always insisted that judiciary should do its work. That is our stance today as well*”, said **Mladen Ivanic**, PDP Leader. RS Interior Minister **Stanislav Cadjo** also announced the press conference on Tuesday to introduce public with activities of RS Ministry of Interior.

RS President Cavic comments the accusation against SDS : I will specially deal with PBS; claims creators of accusations is informal group of people in BL	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 6, announced on cover 'I will specially deal with Public Broadcasting System' by D.R. – In a statement to Banjaluka seated ATV as a comment on *Nezavisne Novine* reports (that BH Prosecution will launch investigation against top officials of SDS and RS MOI on suspicion they are involved in organised crime, abuse of public funds and hiding of Hague fugitives), **Dragan Cavic,** RS President, has stated that he will *"specially deal with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) because I have not had a chance to see RT RS re-report any other information bar information published by only one paper in BH".* Responding to question *"who is creator of those claims"* Cavic said it is one informal group of people from Banja Luka, one part of who is consisted of former members of the RS MOI, some are working at NGO's. He reiterated he would file charges against all those *"who presented these unchecked information".* **Nezavisne Novine** pg 9 'Demand for corrigendum of slander' – carries Cavic's denial of claims NN have been carrying over the last few days, also announcing suit against those responsible and daily as well. **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Land of spies' – carries Cavic's criticism against BH Prosecution, saying *"what kind of Prosecution it is when information leak from it!"* He confirmed he has recently won a suit against "Dnevni Avaz" against which he had filed suit five years ago.

Senior police officials deny accusations by NN of being involved in illegal activities with SDS	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 10 'Story stemming from heads of a small group of known faces' – NN publishes an open letter signed by **Dragi Milosevic,** Head of Crime Police Department at RS MoI, and **Darko Ilic,** former Head of the Department for prevention of general crime at Banja Luka PSC , denying the daily's report from few days ago which alleged that two were involved in criminal activities together with the SDS . They appeal to BH Prosecution to examine all the allegations, noting there is a reason of this campaign against Banja Luka PSC officials, insinuating they have launched a number of crime prevention actions over the past months resulting in denunciations.
RS Pres. Cavic: new political pursuit against SDS, orchestrated by a part of the IC and some political parties and NGOs from RS and BiH, again commenced	**Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Pursuit continues' by D. T. – During his visit to Foca Monday, RS President and SDS President **Dragan Cavic** warned a new political pursuit against SDS, orchestrated by a part of the IC and some political parties and NGOs from RS and BiH, again commenced. With regard to resignations of SDS members at BiH joint institutions, Cavic announced he would meet CoM Chairman **Adnan Terzic** during the week to discuss the issue, adding representatives of SNSD and PDP will have to replace SDS representatives. Inset 'Krsmanovic' – Cavic refused to meet Foca Mayor **Zdravko Krsmanovic** because of his relation towards the constitutional position of RS and because of his advocating of abolishment of the entities.

RS Helsinki Committee and NGO's Union from RS condemn RS President' criticism against media	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 6 'Cavic is violating human rights conventions' by D. R. – **Branko Todorovic** from RS Helsinki Committee and **Dragomir Babic** from the Union of NGOs for fight against crime and corruption Monday condemned statements of RS President **Dragan Cavic** against media that were reporting on the investigation of BiH Prosecutor's. Babic believes Cavic's reaction proves the suspicion in such illegal activities is justified.
Presidency member Jovic insists BiH citizens are being wiretapped by certain political forces	**Dnevni List**, front pg splash and pg 3 'Citizens are being wiretapped for years', by Ljiljana Vidacak – the interview with Croat member of BiH Presidency, **Ivo Miro Jovic**, is opened with the daily reminding of a recent statement by the EUPM commander in BiH, **Vincenzo Coppola**, who noted that the EC gifted BiH a modern system for surveillance of phone calls that would be useful to the police in its fight against crime. Jovic comments that statement by saying it is no news that the citizens in BiH are being wiretapped, claiming it is no news that he was wiretapped too. He continues by saying that the wiretapping is being done by *''certain political forces, but I cannot say by whom. I can only say the Presidency has nothing to do with it, nor will it decide who and when will be wiretapped''*.

DA: FBiH MoI investigators submitted to Prosecutor Rattel report which says that there have been pressures in 'Covic and others' case	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'There were pressures on witnesses in 'Covic and others' case' by F. V. – DA sources close to the BiH Prosecution confirmed that FBiH MoI investigators submitted to Prosecutor **Jonathan Rattel** the report on the first part of the investigation on pressures exerted on witnesses in the 'Covic and others' case. The DA source added that it was concluded in the report that there were pressures exerted against the witnesses in this case and that these pressures are still being exerted and now it is being expected from Rattel to give instructions in order to resolve this issue.