

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 15/12/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 15 December

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
Each 3 rd Croatian is from BiH	Shooting in Gacko
On Croat population in BiH	RS NA convened
US Congress for Croatia in NATO	Constitutional reform talks to resume

TV news broadcast on 14 December

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Scientific meeting on DPA in Mostar	6 arrested in BL for war crimes	6 war time suspects arrested
PIC's session on DPA anniversary	Schilling new HR	Christian Schwarz Schilling – new HR
Schilling elected new HR	AI on trials in BiH	Reactions to appointment of new HR
Bukejlovic on new HR	Serbian MoJ on Mladic file	Liberalisation of visa regime in 2006
NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
6 arrested in BL for war crimes	Christian Schwarz Schilling – new HR	Amnesty Intl on war crimes in BiH

Schilling new HR	Ashdown on his last tasks	Six in RS arrested for war crimes
PIC meeting in Paris	Communiqué on reforms in BiH	Official London on Karadzic&Mladic
Tihic on Schilling appointment	Mostar scientific conference on DPA	PIC's session on DPA anniversary

Oslobodjenje	BiH future is in EU
Dnevni Avaz	Christian Schwarz-Schilling appointed new HR
Dnevni List	Dario Kordic celebrated birthday with Gotovina
Vecernji List	Dead baby left in paper bag
Slobodna Dalmacija	Police found dead newborn child in sofa
Glas Srpske	One suit – three patterns (Mostar round-table on DPA, Constitution)
Nezavisne Novine	Markica Dodig is the best <i>[award was presented to the sportsman of the year in BiH]</i>
Blic	Paddy Ashdown cedes his chair to Schwarz-Schilling
Vecernje Novosti	Serbia-related headlines

	LATEST NEWS OF TODAY
Schwarz Schilling on Bonn powers	RS Radio – Christian Schwarz Schilling , the newly appointed HR to BiH, has announced he would not restrain from using his vast Bonn powers if found necessary. In a statement to the Vienna daily “Die Presse”, Schilling said he does not support hasty use of Bonn powers.

<p>Rill-Martens meeting</p>	<p>RHB – International secretary of the HDZ BiH, Anton Rill, met on December 13 in Brussels with the president of the European People's Party (EPP), Wilfried Martens. According to a statement issued today by the Public Relations Office of HDZ BiH, Rill and Martens had talks on the current political situation in BiH, upcoming constitutional changes, and relations of HDZ BiH with other parties in the region. On the occasion, Rill presented to Martens the documentation requested on the basis of the conclusions of the meeting of HDZ BiH and EPP held in November in Sarajevo. Martens expressed his thanks for the documentation presented by which situation in HDZ BiH regarding the 9th Convention of the party and election of Dragan Čović as the chairman of the party was clarified.</p>
<p>RSNA withdrew budget and economic policy proposals from Parliament procedure</p>	<p>RS Radio – Owing to numerous objections, the RS NA late Wednesday night withdrew two documents budget and economic policy from Parliament session. Pero Bukejlovic, RS PM, announced these two documents will be returned to Parliament procedure after they are amended. Dusan Stojicic, RS NA Speaker, scheduled resumption of 32nd regular session for 21 December (Wednesday).</p>

<p>PIC discussed political situation in BiH, future priorities</p>	<p>RHB, Pink, BHT, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje cover page, pgs 4-5 'BiH future is in EU', Dnevni Avaz cover page, pg 2' Christian Schwarz-Schilling appointed new HR', Vecernje Novosti pg 15 'Dayton's colors as Brussels' [colors]' by <u>Goran Cvorovic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Improvement of the Constitution and arrest of Hague fugitives is a priority for BiH' by P. Klinčov – Representatives of BiH authorities, BiH Presidency Chairman Ivo Miro Jovic, Chairman of BiH Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic participated at the meeting with the PIC Political Directors in Brussels on Wednesday. BiH representatives stated on the occasion that BiH had accomplished an exceptional recovery ten years after the war. Terzic estimated EU policy towards Western Balkan countries as excellent. After the extraordinary session of PIC on the occasion of 10th anniversary of Dayton Peace Agreement, the Political Directors of the PIC Steering Board and representatives of BiH authorities have signed the Communiqué on priority reforms and developments in BiH. Priorities for BiH are modernization of the Constitution, arresting the war criminals and the return of refugees. Other priorities are defense and economic reforms, empowerment of civil society, Bologna declaration implementation and that start of taking full political responsibility by BiH authorities.</p> <p>Oslobođenje pg 5 'Without justice path towards Europe will not be opened' reported on a Wednesday night's reception at the French Foreign Ministry with regard to the tenth Dayton Agreement's anniversary. The reception was hosted by French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste Blazy.</p>
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Christian Schwarz-Schilling appointed new HR; PIC thanked Ashdown for his achievements

RHB, Pink, BHT, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz cover page, pg 2' Christian Schwarz-Schilling appointed new HR' **Oslobodjenje** pg 4, **Dnevni List** pg 3, mentioned on cover 'Difficult political struggle is ahead of Schilling' by A. Vrebac, **EuroBlic** cover pg splash 'Paddy Ashdown cedes chair to Schwarz-Schilling' and pg RS3 'Schwarz-Schilling instead of Ashdown' by Nedeljka Breberina, **Vecernje Novosti** pg 5 'Schilling to replace Ashdown' by D. S., **Glas Srpske** pg 3, announced on cover 'Trust given to Schwarz-Schilling' by Z. Markovic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 5, announced on cover 'Christian Schwarz-Schilling new High Representative' by Agencies— The Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council [PIC] decided in Brussels on Wednesday that German diplomat **Christian Schwarz-Schilling** takes up his duties as High Representative and replaces HR **Paddy Ashdown** on 31 January 2006. Schilling is widely being considered as an expert for BiH. The Steering Board expressed its thanks to the current HR Ashdown, who, since assuming the post of High Representative May 2002, has overseen sweeping political, economic and administrative reforms that have helped prepare BiH for EU membership. Ashdown said: *"The constitutional changes will BiH make more efficient and its public services better. That is the key task in the coming period. This is important issue (...) That is the key task for mine successor."* New HR Schilling has been remembered by the resignation from the place of the German Minister in December 1992. Schilling has been protesting against his Government's posture towards the war in BiH.

Vecernji List pgs 2 and 3 'Last High Representative', mentioned on cover 'Schilling Ashdown's successor' by D. Jazvic also says that so far none High Representative dealt with the crucial problem of BiH and that is non-functional and unfair state organization. The author believes that the current constitutional changes talks give some hope that the process, which would finally resolve this issue, might begin.

Slobodna Dalmacija pg 13 'Man made for 'missions impossible' ' mentioned on cover 'Schilling new HR' by I. Sabalic SD says that Schwarz-Schilling is a European choice since American had another candidate until recently.

<p>Avaz: CV on new HR Schwarz-Schilling</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz, pg 2 'Son of famous composer and successful businessman', by <u>S. T.</u> – Avaz carries a brief CV of the new High Representative, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, noting that he was born in Innsbruck, Austria in 1930, and that his father and mother were famous composer and pianist respectively. Schwarz-Schilling graduated East-Asian culture, linguistics and history in Munich in 1950 and obtained a PhD six years later. He joined the German CDU in 1960, and made it to the Bundestag in 1976. He become Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Minister for Posts and Communications in 1982, the post he left in December 1992 after disagreeing with the German and European policy towards 'Milosevic's attack on BiH'. He took part in negotiations in Dayton , after which he worked as a mediator in BiH.</p>
<p>HR Ashdown on Schwarz-Schilling</p>	<p>Hayat – HR Paddy Ashdown said that Schilling is very talented man, man who knows much about this country and who gained a lot of trust here. <i>"He'll have to decide what his priorities are, but I guess that he will decide same as I did, that establishment of State's structures is my priority. I think that he can decide to make the State more functional in favour of all BiH citizens and that this will be one of his priorities"</i>- said HR. HR said that he guesses that International Community will have a successor who is totally different then he is, adding that this is necessary, being that every HR till now has had different job to do. <i>"I will talk to him personally, tell him how much I enjoyed this job and what privilege is this job, but he has to decide alone on what he needs to do"</i>, said Ashdown.</p>
<p>FTV: Ashdown on priorities until the end of his mandate</p>	<p>FTV – HR Paddy Ashdown stated for FTV that he plans to complete 11 tasks until January 31st 2006, when his mandate is expiring. Among others, Ashdown said that he plans to determine the location for future headquarter of SIPA and passing of Law on police ranks. Ashdown emphasized that he wishes to leave a clear manoeuvre space for the next HR Christian Schwarz Schilling. He refused to comment the qualities of the next HR, or the fact that Schwarz Schilling had often criticized him for extensive use of the Bonn authorities. <i>"We are now completing a period in which BiH had achieved a great progress, progress that nobody thought was possible"</i>, said Ashdown. He emphasized that now RS is cooperating with ICTY, and that 11 ICTY indictees are transferred to Hague, which is result of cooperation of Serbian authorities.</p>

<p>Terzic on PIC session, new HR</p>	<p>Pink, Dnevni Avaz, pg 2 'Reduce presence of international community to lowest possible measure', by <u>S. N.</u> – In a brief interview for Avaz, the Chairman of BiH CoM, Adnan Terzic, stated that during the yesterday's session of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC), the BiH authorities were able for the first time since the existence of the PIC to influence the final text of the communiqué, which is according to him 'a progress'. Terzic goes on to say that during his address to the PIC he stated the time had come to talk about the exit strategy of the IC now the country has stabilized and when the responsibilities are slowly being shifted onto the (BiH) institutions. On appointment of Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling for the new HR for BiH, Terzic says he thanked the current HR Paddy Ashdown and wished the new HR a successful work. Vecernji List pg 3 'Germany is big friend of BiH' by <u>Z. Kresic, B. Stevandic</u> also carried Terzic's statement.</p>
<p>Tihic on Schilling</p>	<p>Hayat – After the ceremonial session in Paris, during which Christian Swartz Schilling has been appointed for new High Representative in BiH, member of BiH Presidency Sulejman Tihic gave his comment. <i>"We consider that this is a man who fulfils all necessary references for successful performance of such high and important duty and a man with high moral qualities, who comes from a country which helped BiH a lot"- said Tihic.</i></p>
<p>Party for BiH's Halilovic, BOSS' Ajanovic, SDS' Stojicic, Party for BiH's Silajdzic, HDZ on new HR Schwarz-Schilling</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz, pg 2 'Ajanovic: He subordinated his engagement to interests of our state', by <u>Onasa</u> – carries reactions to appointment of Christian Schwarz-Schilling for the new HR for BiH. Leader of SBiH, Safet Halilovic, believes the appointment is a good solution since Dr. Schwarz-Schilling always reacted in the right way, as a friend of BiH, 'especially during the aggression'. President of BOSS, Mirnes Ajanovic, says the time has finally come to have a HR who has subordinated his political engagement to interests of other state, in this case of BiH. Speaker of RSNA, Dusan Stojicic (SDS), says the new HR is an experienced diplomat with credibility and an excellent connoisseur of situation in BiH. Dnevni Avaz, pg 2 'He is a man who knows a lot about BiH', by <u>Onasa</u>, Oslobodjenje, pg 4 'Man who knows a lot about BiH', by <u>Onasa</u> – Founder of SBiH, Haris Silajdzic, welcomes the appointment saying it is a good thing for BiH because Schwarz-Schilling is a man who knows a lot about BiH, who knows details because he's worked in the field for years. Oslobodjenje, pg 5 'Looking forward to good cooperation', by <u>Onasa</u> – Spokesman of HDZ, Miso Relota, hopes the new HR will have an easier task than his predecessors, pursuant to announcements of the PIC regarding the gradual abolishment of the Bonn powers. Relota explains the HDZ has no 'personal opinion' about the new HR, hoping to have a good cooperation with Schwarz-Schilling.</p>

RS PM Bukejlovic,
SDS' Bojic, SNSD's
Radojicic, RSNA
Speaker Stojicic on
Swarz-Schilling's
appointment

RHB, RTRS, Glas Srpske pg 3, announced on cover 'Trust given to Schwarz-Schilling' by Z. Markovic inset 'Reactions', EuroBlic cover pg splash 'Paddy Ashdown cedes chair to Schwarz-Schilling' and pg RS3 'Schwarz-Schilling instead of Ashdown' by Nedeljka Breberina – RS Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic congratulated Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling for becoming the new High Representative. Bukejlovic is of opinion that HR's authority will decrease in time (gradually), adding the need for strong HR's authority at this moment. Bukejlovic said that High Representative Paddy Ashdown has done a lot for BiH, which is obvious if we observe a longer period of time.

RHB, BHT, RTRS – SDS's Borislav Bojic expects the new High Representative Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling to be mediator as he used to be before and not the interventionist as was High Representative Paddy Ashdown. Bojic also expects the HR to leave BiH as soon as possible, so that local authorities can take over authority in RS and FBiH. Bojic also said he will try to forget Ashdown as soon as possible.

RHB, BHT, RTRS – SNSD's Igor Radojicic expects the new High Representative Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling to be the last of High Representatives in BiH, hoping that his mandate will be a mandate of a man of good will, in the name of EU. Radojicic said that new HR should not be as his predecessors – 'kings without crowns', especially not like High Representative Paddy Ashdown. Radojicic hoped that Schilling will not use all of his authorities to force and impose the reforms, and that he will let BiH authorities to do that by themselves.

RTRS, Vecernji List pg 3 'Germany is big friend of BiH' by Z. Kresic, B. Stevandic, Glas Srpske pg 3, announced on cover 'Trust given to Schwarz-Schilling' by Z. Markovic inset 'Reactions', EuroBlic cover pg splash 'Paddy Ashdown cedes chair to Schwarz-Schilling' and pg RS3 'Schwarz-Schilling instead of Ashdown' by Nedeljka Breberina – RSNA representatives and RSNA Chair Dusan Stojicic expect less interventionist and more of the advisory role of the new High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling.

EuroBlic cover pg splash 'Paddy Ashdown cedes chair to Schwarz-Schilling' and pg RS3 'Schwarz-Schilling instead of Ashdown' by Nedeljka Breberina also carried reactions of SNSD, SDS, SDP, NHI, SDA and PDP, all welcoming Schilling's appointment.

Nezavisne Novine pg 5, announced on cover 'Christian Schwarz-Schilling new High Representative' by Agencies – reactions of RS PM Bukejlovic, RS NA Chairman Stojicic, SNSD, HDZ, Safet Halilovic.

<p>SDA's Dzaferovic, SDP's Lagumdzija, HDZ's Jukic on new HR</p>	<p>BHT Mirela Cosic – BiH politicians welcomed the appointment of Christian Schwarz Schilling in the position of new High Representative. Sefik Dzaferovic from SDA stated that Schwarz Schilling is going to be successful as HR, since he knows the situation in BiH very well. Leader of SDP Zlatko Lagumdzija said that after former HR Carl Bildt, Schwarz Schilling is the first HR with strong references in hi biography, much stronger than Paddy Ashdown or any of the other former HR's. Lagumdzija also emphasized that the new HR comes from a country that has always been a friend of BiH, which is very important for BiH's process of association with the EU. HDZ's Velimir Jukic expects Schwarz Schilling to be a partner of BiH authorities in finding of solutions for BiH's problems, Jukic also expressed his hope that the new HR is going to have more understanding for the needs and demands of Croat people, which was not always the case with current HR.</p>
<p>BiH Deputy Security Minister Mektic: Visa regime to be liberalized as of the next year</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Visa regime liberalization next year' – Dragan Mektic, BiH Deputy Minister of Security stated that starting from 2006, visa regime for the West Balkans countries should be liberalized. The procedure of getting the visa will be simplified, and costs decreased. Visa regime will be specially liberalised for doctors, students, scientists and business people. This will be the first phase, after which the visa regime is going to be abolished.</p>
<p>ESI warns: Balkans must not be left outside EU</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Balkans must not be left outside EU' by S.N. – The European Stability Institute (ESI) Wednesday published report entitled "Moment of truth" warning European Union not to close its doors before the states from the western Balkans. ESI has stressed that the threat France made (to veto the approval of Macedonia's candidacy to EU) and the British proposal of the EU budget for the period 2007-2013 practically close the door for EU admission in the near future.</p>
<p>OHR urges BiH Entities' authorities to complete defence reform</p>	<p>Hayat, Oslobođenje pg 2 'Completion of defense reform by the end of the year' – OHR has called on Entities' Governments and Parliaments to finish the defense reform till end of year, so that new defense regime would be fully operative as of January 1 2006. On this day, beside VAT, new BiH Law on Defence will come into force.</p>
<p>RSNA has agreed on amendments' drafts on RS Constitution</p>	<p>Vecernje Novosti pg 5 'RS Army – dismissed!' by M.L., Glas Srpske pg 2 'Amendments', Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Defence at BiH level' – During its session RSNA has agreed on amendments' drafts on RS Constitution, which are allowing transfer of defence authorities onto the State and are précising the number of Judges in RS Constitutive Court.</p>

Mostar: University professors on cont. changes/ D. Covic: It would be hard to reach consensus on const. Changes

Dnevni List pg 10 'Serb professors support third entity' by S. Bjelica carries that under patronage of the BiH Presidency a scientific gathering was held in Mostar on Wednesday during which university professors from Banja Luka, Mostar and Sarajevo were supposed to state their stands on the situation in BiH 10 years after the Dayton Peace Accord was signed, however they mostly focused on constitutional changes. DL says that stands of the university professors did not differ much from the stands of politicians depending from which entity they come. HDZ President **Dragan Covic** also spoke at the gathering. Asked whether he believes that a consensus on constitutional changes would be reached by March 2006, Covic said that the consensus could be expected in one week if we talk about cosmetic changes. He added: *'It is obvious that some people are in hurry just to place Annex 4 with 2 or 3 corrections before the Parliament and that we say that we have the BiH Constitution. I believe it would be hard to reach the consensus.'* **Vecernji List** pg 3 'BiH organizations divided scientists' by zk, **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 19 'Covic: We shall not reach solution on Constitution soon' by J. Terzic carry similar reports.

Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'One suit – three patterns' by agencies, **Nezavisne novine** pg 5 'BiH Constitution must be changed' by Agencies – "Dayton – Paris Peace Agreement – ten years later" conference was held in Mostar on Wednesday. The general conclusion of the conference was that BiH Constitution must be changed in order for all three peoples to have equal rights and in order to provide with pre-requisites for economic progress of the country. **Cazim Sadikovic**, one of Chairmen of the conference, says the only goal of the constitutional changes is to remove obstacles that exist in BiH Constitution, so that a fast economic prosperity can be accomplished. Academic **Rajko Kuzmanovic** says entities should be kept, reconsider the establishing of the third entity and reduce administration.

Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'One suit – three patterns' by agencies – also carries statement of HDZ President **Dragan Covic** who said cosmetic changes to BiH Constitution may be introduced in seven days but this would not resolve the standing issues and he added that *'someone is in a hurry'* to introduce two-three changes and *'say BiH has a new Constitution'*.

<p>NHI, HSS, HSP Djapic-Jurismic dissatisfied with way that HDZ and HNC represent Croats in constitutional changes talks/HDZ: These accusations are not grounded</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 6 'New deceit of Croats at sight' by <u>I. Rozic</u> carries that most parties with a Croat prefix accuses HDZ and HNZ negotiators that they do not respect conclusions from the 5th Croat parties' meeting on constitutional changes held in Mostar. NHI President Kresimir Zubak said that at this meeting, among the other things, it was agreed that the Venetian Commission's conclusions must not be accepted as a ground for the constitutional changes talks in any case and he added that they did not see that this agreement was respected. HSS President Marko Tadic wonders as to who are Croat negotiators in the whole story. He added that they do not know what is going on since the things that appear in public are just cosmetic changes that are contrary to interests of Croats and in Tadic's opinion this is going to be another deceit of Croats. President of HSP Djapic-Jurismic, Zvonko Jurisic, believes that HDZ and HNZ took upon themselves an exclusive right to represent Croat interests in these talks however they do not do it in practice. DL inset 'Accusations of parties are not grounded' carries HDZ spokesperson Miso Relota who denies these accusations by saying that they are not grounded.</p>
<p>Interview with N. Lozancic on const. changes: 'Stand of parties from RS is being imposed'</p>	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija pgs 16 and 17 'Stand of parties from RS is being imposed' by <u>F</u> carries an interview with HDZ Deputy President Niko Lozancic on constitutional changes. Among the other things, he says: <i>'We have been informed that all parties from the RS have a single position and that parties from the FBiH have been left to agree with the position of parties from the RS. I view this as a bad message... My feeling is that parties from the FBiH could easily reach a consensus if RS parties were to accept a concept under which BiH would get its institutions, rather than a summation of institutions from the two entities.'</i> Oslobodjenje pg 5 'Entities should not elect BiH institutions', FENA also carried Lozancic's statement on the issue.</p>
<p>Danas: Vatican requests from EU countries to support BiH Bishops' proposal on BiH re-organization</p>	<p>Danas pgs 14-17, mentioned on cover 'Vatican for BiH without entities' by <u>M. Malic</u> – Danas sources reveal that the Holy See has launched during the last weeks a real diplomatic offensive within which EU countries request a support of the European countries to the proposal for the BiH re-organization drafted by BiH Bishops. Danas reminds that the essence of this proposal is establishing of 4 functional Cantons instead of current entities.</p>

Dodik holds lecture stressing RS should be preserved	Glas Srpske pg 2 'Fight for Srpska' by <u>M.F.</u> – Miloard Dodik , SNSD President, held a lecture to students of Banja Luka College on the topic "Vision of social and political events in BiH", noting that the admission to EU would ensure resolvemenet of political and religious turmoil in BiH, stressing: <i>"The RS is on the verge of final political fight for preservation of its identity, since increasing number of demands comes from Sarajevo to abolish it. Also, RS must resolve the issue of crime and corruption on the European path."</i>
On mtg Ril.Martens/Martnes thanked on docum. reg. HDZ Convention	Vecernji List pg 5 'Explanation of situation in HDZ BiH' by <u>vi</u> – In Brussels on December 13 a meeting between HDZ International Secretary Anton Rill and President of the European People's Party Wilfred Martens took place. VL says that Martens thanked on submitted documentation in which the situation in HDZ with regard to the 9 th HDZ Convention and election of Dragan Covic for the HDZ President was explained.
Dodik claims he has necessary 43 votes to form Govt.	Glas Srpske pg 2 'Majority' – Milorad Dodik , SNSD President, Wednesday stated that SNSD has a possibility to form new Government since it can provide 42 MP's votes necessary for that.
Bozic took oath as RS Edu. Min.	Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Bozic has taken an oath' by <u>G.M.</u> – Snjezana Bozic is officially a new RS Education Minister as of Wednesday after she has taken a solemn oath at RS NA session.
NN op-ed: Tihic is careless, but must be respected as member of the highest BiH body	Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'Tihic and Ashdown' by <u>Mirza Cubro</u> – Writing about latest issue involing HR Paddy Ashdown and Sulejman Tihic , the author admits although Tihic is terribly bad member of BiH Presidency (because he does his job in an careless manner, driven by short-term party and personal interests), he is still member of the highest BiH authority body in BiH and this fact should be respected by each and every person in BiH. He ntoes it is hard to believe that Tihic asked his name be removed from Summit list, adding it is easier to believe the letter Tihic referred to really does exist, but nobody wants to take over authorship rights over it.

	Economic/Social Affairs
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<p>FBiH HoP adopted amendments to Laws on Pension-Disability Insurance and Defence</p>	<p>RHB, Hayat, FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 2 – FBiH House of Peoples has adopted amendments on Law on Pension-Disability Insurance. FBiH House of Representatives has adopted amendments on this law on Tuesday. The amendments will prolong the deadline for early retirement by 2008. FBiH HoP also adopted the BiH Constitutional amendments that regulate transfer of authority over defence to the state level.</p>
<p>Humphreys: VAT will not bring chaos</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5 ‘VAT will not bring chaos’ by <u>Sead Numanovic</u> – Daily reports that in spite of some announcements, including HR Paddy Ashdown’ (that VAT would bring chaos in BiH), Michael Humphreys, Head of EC delegation to BiH, claims the opposite, noting: <i>“There will be no sort of chaos. The VAT introduction will not be easy, but there will be no chaos. Ask me the same question on 1st January and I am convinced I would be able to say and prove my words.”</i> According to him, the ITA is well founded and the state can tackle challenges of the new system of tax collection. He stresses in general, there should not be any price increase.</p>
<p>Hadzipasic announces meeting today discussing abolishment of F BiH Finance Police</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 8 ‘Talks on abolishment of F BiH Finance Police start’ by <u>M.Kukan</u> – Amhet Hadzipasic, F BiH Premier, told daily that the meeting will be held at the building of the F BiH Government today, which will be attended by himself, Gavrilo Grahovac and Dragan Vrankic, his deputies, Zufer Dervisevic, F BiH Finance Police Chief inspector and representatives of the international community. Hadzipasic told daily meeting will discuss the issue of abolishment of F BiH Finance Police. Although Hadzipasic did not say the following, daily learns an official will represent IC from the American Embassy’s Economic Department.</p>

<p>Croatian Government approved allocation of 26,2 millions Kunas for programmes of BiH Croatia</p>	<p>Dnevni List pgs 8 and 9 'Biggest assistance amounting to 800 000 Kunas to school in Odzak' mentioned on cover '400 000 Kunas to 'Matica Hrvatska' ', – On Wednesday the Croatian Government passed the decision about distribution of 26,2 millions Kunas of the Croatia assistance to educational, cultural, scientific and health programmes of BiH Croats. It was decided that 14,7 millions Kunas would be directed for the programmes from the area of culture, 10 millions Kunas for educational and scientific programmes and 1,5 millions Kunas for the projects from the area of health. Vecernji List pg 13 '26,2 millions Kunas to Croats in BiH' by <u>D. Knezevic</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 2 '26 millions Kunas to Croats in BiH' by <u>A.B. Krile</u>.</p>
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**RS NA in session:
Harsh discussions
on proposed budget
and economic
policy for 2006 –
voting still
uncertain**

EuroBlic RSpG 2 'Government on pins and needles', announced on cover 'Government's pass for survival' by Rajna Radosavljevic, **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Cash register brimming with wishes' by G.Dakic, Z.Markovic – RS Minister of Finance **Svetlana Cenic** stressed that rejection to pass the Budget would annul everything that was done so far; stressing that if Budget isn't passed the RS will be on temporary financing, which means that pensions and Budget users would be endangered. Cenic didn't want to comment on speculations at Parliament that SDS is lobbying colleagues from minor parties to support budget. According to her, each RS MP will show his relations toward the RS and BiH during this vote. Asked whether the Budget will be passed, RS PM **Pero Bukejlovic** said it is early to speak about that, adding that main goals of this document is acceleration of current reforms, stressing that rejection to pass these documents could win following elections, but would seriously endanger the stability of macroeconomic situation in RS. Bukejlovic noted Budget is in amount of BAM 1.059 billion, while priority of fiscal policy of RS Government will be protection of RS fiscal sovereignty.

Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Bjelogrljic claims SDS bought 43rd vote' by V.Popovic – **Radovan Bjelogrljic**, SNSD MP, during discussion on budget called on **Tarik Sadovic**, Head of SDA Caucus at RS NA, to come before MP's "*and say how SDS provided 43rd vote for budget proposal at 12:05 hrs*", implying Sadovic would split the money with **Senad Sahinbasic**.

Pink, BHT, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni List pg 2 'Bigger incomes from taxes' not signed, **Sarajevo dailies** also reported on the session.

<p>Central Bank disappointed over RSNA rejection of transfer of authorities over banking supervision</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 2 'Money of citizens and not Government is in banks' by <u>NINA</u> – The BiH Central Bank (CB) issued a press release, stating that the CB is disappointed over the fact that RS National Assembly has rejected the transfer of authorities over banking supervision from the entity Banking Agency to the BiH Central Bank. The Central Bank Governor Kemal Kozaric emphasized that the latest decision of the RSNA shows that the politics does not want to consider this issue in a professional manner. Dnevni Avaz pg 5 also covered the issue.</p>
<p>Spiric: Adoption of the state budget is late</p>	<p>Nezavisne novine pg 6 'Adoption of the state budget is running late' by <u>M. Cubro</u> – HoR Chairman Nikola Spiric has stated that the budget of BiH institutions would not be adopted by the end of the year, by which the state Constitution would be violated. The article reads the disputable item of the budget is defence expenses for the next year.</p>

	<p>Crime/Security/Legal Proceedings</p>
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**Six former
Manjaca
concentration
camp guards
arrested**

RHB, Pink, BHT, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Former Manjaca guards apprehended', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 3, **Vecernji List** pg 2 '6 Serbs suspected of war crimes arrested' by B.S., **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 21 '6 former guards from prison camp 'Manjaca' brought in' by F., **EuroBlic** pg RS3 'Six persons arrested over war crimes' by R. R. and M. S., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3, announced on cover 'Six former guards from Manjaca were arrested' by S. Karic and V. Popovic – RS Ministry of Interior Spokesperson **Radovan Pejic** confirmed that six Serbs have been arrested in Banja Luka over suspicion for committing war crimes. They have been arrested on orders by the Banja Luka District Prosecutor's Office. It is about **Zeljko Bulatovic-Bula, Sinisa Todorovic, Dragan Barjaktarevic, Radenko Vusenović-Cober, Zoran Gajic** and **Miliorad Topic**, who are linked with crimes committed at the 'Manjaca' detention camp near Banja Luka during the war. They were guards in that camp.

<p>Two files on crimes concerning Vucurevic referred to BiH PO for assessment</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 ‘Vucurevic charged with expulsion of 5500 Bosniaks’ by <u>F.Vele</u> – Daily learns at BiH Prosecutor’s Office (PO) that two files referring to war-time role of former Head of crisis center and war-time Municipal President Bozidar Vucurevic have been referred from Mostar Cantonal PO to BiH PO for assessment. As daily learns investigation on two cases is still ongoing, adding this file has a large chance of ending in hands of state prosecutors. The first file accuses Vucurevic and his associates of expulsion of 5500 Bosniaks from Trebinje, while second file deals with potential war crimes in the area of Ravno. One of these cases also investigates Vucurevic’ role in attacks against Dubrovnik .</p>
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<p>SiCG Defense Minister Stankovic: I do not expect Mladic would surrender</p>	<p>Vecernje Novosti pg 5, announced on cover 'I do not expect Mladic's surrender' by <u>M. Vuksanovic</u> – SiCG Minister of Defense Zoran Stankovic said he does not expect Ratko Mladic would surrender in the forthcoming period of time, considering the fact he had not done so until now. He referred to a statement of an official who had stated, prior to Stankovic's departure to USA , that Mladic is hiding in one of state premises near Bor and Majdanpek and Stankovic stated that additional check-ups should be performed due to such speculations.</p> <p>Nezavisne novine pg 2 'Ljajic: we will present original of the file' by <u>Agencies</u> – Chairman of SiCg Council for Cooperation with Hague Tribunal Rasim Ljajic stated that he would forward an original of Ratko Mladic's file to Hague Tribunal, in order to remove suspicions that someone is hiding parts of this report.</p>
<p>11 persons indicted over Srebrenica war crimes</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3, announced on cover 'They were accused for conspiracy in genocide' by <u>A. Sisic</u> – A source close to BiH Court claims the Special Department for War Crimes of BiH Prosecutor's Office brought an indictment over war crimes committed in Srebrenica against 11 persons on November 12. The article carries names of the indicted persons.</p>

<p>Update on 'Covic and others' case</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 5, mentioned on cover 'Prosecution admitted: Our witness is criminal' by <u>D. Jazvic</u> – In a written explanation of the bill of indictment in the case 'Covic and others', that was discussed on Wednesday, the BiH Prosecution called its crucial witness Zoran Nikolic a criminal. VL says that such qualifying of the prosecution witness by the prosecution itself shocked the defence lawyers. The article also says that the explanation is full of another illogical things and imprecise claims. Also reported by Dnevni List pg 4 'Evidence against Jelavic in case 'Covic and others' ?!' by <u>E. Mackic</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 19 '3 counts of bill of indictment are being withdrawn' by <u>Z. Tulic</u>. DL and SD also say that 3 counts of the bill of indictment were withdrawn while the Panel of Judges should pass the final decision on this withdrawal.</p> <p>Sarajevo dailies, electronic media, EuroBlic pg RS2 'Indictment was shortened' <u>not signed</u>, Nezavisne novine pg 2 'Prosecutor gave up from three accounts of the indictment' by <u>A. D.</u> also covered the issue.</p>
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