OHR BiH Media Round-up, 16/3/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 16 March

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	**BH Radio 1**(12,00 hrs)	**RTRS** (12,00 hrs)
BiH Bishops' Conference underway	Security threats against OHR	RS officials inBelgrade
HR:Do ICTY fugitives hide in Russia?	BL Mayor receives threats	Search in Bijeljina
Cavic: Jankovic was hiding in Russia	RS leaders visit to Belgrade	Gotovina posters in Zadar

TV news broadcast on 15 March

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	**TV PINK** (18,00 hrs)	**BHT 1** (19,00 hrs)
FBIH HoR in session	Drago Nikolic to surrender to ICTY	Lozancic on Covic's resignation
Ivanic meets Chinese FA Minister	Meron on the work of the ICTY	BiH Court takes Cengic's passport
Lozancic sends letter to Covic	SCG proposes settlement to BiH	Update to Maktouf trial
Regional HDZ on Covic's resignation	HR discusses police reform w/Cavic	Drago Nikolic to surrender to ICTY

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	**FTV** (19,30 hrs)	**RTRS** (19,30 hrs)
BiH Court takes Cengic's passport	BiH Court takes Cengic's passport	Mtg of RS parties cancelled
Drago Nikolic to surrender to ICTY	Regional news	Drago Nikolic's surrender to ICTY

Guardian: Russians protect PIFWCs	Drago Nikolic to surrender to ICTY	Russia protects Serb ICTY indictees
Srebrenica working group mandate	Hartman: No more ICTY indictments	HR in Banja Luka

Oslobodjenje	Dragan Covic will not resign; OHR evacuated; Hasan Cengic must turn in his travel documents to BiH Court ; Ashdown: Police HQ doesn't have to be in Sarajevo ; Drago Nikolic goes to the Hague ; Higher percentage of invalidity for 4500 war veterans?
Dnevni Avaz	Secret Russian police hides criminals from RS!; New indictments to follow; OHR building evacuated
Dnevni List	Edhem Biber: Same number of employed and unemployed in FBiH
Vecernji List	Russians protect Karadzic and Mladic
Slobodna Dalmacija	7 power plants will 'drink up' Neretva
Nezavisne Novine	Paddy Ashdown: If they do not hurry, Hague indictees will be serving sentence at Correctional Centre Zenica
Glas Srpske	Both pensions and differences
EuroBlic	Drama in Trebinje: I feel like buying fuel and burn myself
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related topics
Nacional	Features Serbian related topics

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

Cavic, Bukejlovic visit Belgrade	**RHB, BH Radio 1, RTRS** by Slavisa Numic – President and Prime Minister of RS **Dragan Cavic** and **Pero Bukejlovic** accompanied with RS Interior Minister **Darko Matijasevic** are holding a meeting behind closed doors in Belgrade with Serbian President **Boris Tadic** and PM **Vojislav Kostunica**. On the agenda is cooperation with ICTY including the procedure of extradition of war crime indictees.
Cavic confirms Jankovic was in Russia	**RHB** – RS President **Dragan Cavic** confirmed that before his surrender, ICTY indictee **Gojko Jankovic** was hiding in Russia . According to Cavic, this showed that the accusations that the RS does not want to arrest Jankovic were not grounded.
Police raids house of PIFWCs brother in Bijeljina	**RTRS** – Today in Bijeljina, police has searched the apartment of the person with initials **P.P.** brought into connection with war crime suspects. According to press statement issued by PSC Bijeljina, the aim of the search was to collect information related to persons from ICTY public lists. RTRS unofficially learnt that the apartment of brother of ICTY indictee **Vinko Pandurevic** was searched.

War crimes

Guardian: Russians hide war crimes suspects at large	**RTRS, Hayat, BHT1, PINK, Dnevni Avaz** cover splash, pg 3 'Secret Russian police hides war RS criminals' by S. Numanovic, **Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Russian a haven for ICTY fugitives' by Fena, **Vecernji List** cover pg splash 'Russians protect Karadzic and Mladic' and pg 3 'Russian secret services in Moscow protect fugitives' by Z. Kresic, **Slobodna Dalmacija** 18 'Russian secret services protect war crime indictees from RS' by A. Macanovic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'Russian authorities are hiding Hague fugitives in Moscow', announced on cover 'Russian authorities are hiding Hague fugitives' by S. Karic – The London based The Guardian reported that the Russian secret services are shielding Bosnian Serbs wanted by the IOCTY for atrocities committed during the war, including the massacre at Srebrenica, where more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys were slaughtered. **Gojko Jankovic**, a Bosnian Serb who gave himself up to the tribunal on Monday to face accusations of torture and multiple rape, was one of a group of fugitive alleged war criminals living in Russia under official protection. Guardian claimed that **Vinko Pandurevic** and **Vujadin Popovic**, both charged with war crimes in Srebrenica, are also under official protection in Russia.

Ashdown: Russians should investigate claims	**BHT 1, RTRS, Hayat**, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 3 'Ashdown: Seriously investigate claims', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'Ashdown: Russians must investigate claims' – The High Representative, **Paddy Ashdown**, said on Tuesday he is concerned about the allegations that ICTY indictee **Gojko Jankovic** before his voluntary surrender was hiding in Russia thanks to the support of this country, and stressed the Russian authorities should take appropriate measures to check the allegations published in the articles by the Guardian and New York Times that two other persons indicted for war crimes can also be found in Russia. **PINK** – The HR said that he expected from Russia to answer to the accusations.
Grischenko denied allegations	**RTRS, Dnevni Avaz** pg 3 'Grischenko diens responsibility of his Government' by Fena, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'Grischenko: Russia is complying with duties' – **Alexander Grischenko,** the Russian Ambassador to BiH, said in a statement to *NN* that "*Russia is complying with its duties towards the Hague Tribunal, with which we maintain constant contact, and we also check on information ICTY demands.*" He added he could not confirm nor deny information that the Hague indictee **Gojko Jankovic** was in Russia. He added it was up to Russian law enforcement agencies to investigate into these claims. The official representative of the Russian Federal Security **Sergey Ignatchenko,** on Tuesday denied "Guardian" claims.

Nikolic voluntarily surrenders to ICTY on Thursday	**RHB, FTV, PINK, Hayat, Oslobodjneje** pg 3 'Drago Nikolic goes to the Hague tomorrow', mentioned on cover, by B.B., **Dnevni Avaz** pg 10 'Drago Nikolic was commanding the executions in Srebrenica', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2, announced on cover 'Drago Nikolic to depart to the Hague' by S. Karic, **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Serbia writing guarantees', **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 18 'Drago Nikolic in The Hague tomorrow' by A. Macanovic, **EuroBlic** pg 2 'Nikolic volunters as well' – The former security official of the RS Army, **Drago Nikolic**, indicted by the ICTY for war crimes committed in Srebrenica, will turn himself over to the Court in the Hague voluntarily on Thursday, 17 March, was announced by the Serbian Government on Tuesday. **Oslobodjenje** pg 4 'Pressure against RS gives results' by Fena, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Tribunal will be satisfied when all indictees are in the Hague', **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Pressure did pay out'- NATO HQ in Sarajevo welcomed Nikolic's surrender. **BHT 1** – Nikolic decided to surrender to the ICTY after Serbian Government confirmed that it would provide all the necessary guarantees for the pre-trial release. Nikolic is the ninth indictee from Serbia to voluntary departs for the Hague in the past six months. **RTRS, Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Improvement of cooperation with the Hague evident' by N.M., **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Cooperation bore fruit' – RS MoI stated that it was involved in maintaining contact with Nikolic. RS President **Dragan Cavic** and RS Minister of Interior **Darko Matijasevic**, who met on Tuesday to discuss the cooperation with the ICTY, stated that RS cannot be classified any more as entity that obstructs fulfilling of international obligations.

HR extends mandate of Srebrenica Working Group	**RHB, BHT1, Hayat, Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'Deadline extended for Srebrenica working group' by Srna, **Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Srebrenica Commission's mandate extended', **EuroBlic** RSpg 2 'Addenda 'til April for Srebrenica', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Deadline for Srebrenica Task Force extended', **Dnevni List**, pg 6 'Deadline for report of Srebrenica Commission extended', by NINA **–** The HR, **Paddy Ashdown**, at the request of RS Prime Minister **Pero Bukejlovic**, agreed on Monday to extend the deadline for the Srebrenica working group to present its report to the end of March, said the OHR spokesperson, **Kevin Sullivan** . At a meeting held on Monday, the RS PM explained to the HR that initial delays in setting up the working group and the sheer volume of work required meant that the working group was not in a position to report by the end of February. The RS Prime Minister gave his personal undertaking that the working group would report by the end of this month. If the March deadline is not met the HR said that he would have to consider what action he will take that is appropriate.

Meron stresses ICTY not to close down before trials of Karadzic, Mladic, Gotovia	**RHB, PINK, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Tribunal will be closed after trials of key indictees', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'We will not close the Court without Karadzic, Mladic and Gotovina' by Agencies, **EuroBlic** pg 2 'Meron brought stick and carrot' – ICTY President **Theodor Meron** said in Belgrade on Tuesday that the transfer of a large number of indicted war criminals to the ICTY is a good sign of cooperation of Serbia with that court, but the ICTY will end its work only after the trials of **Ratko Mladic**, **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ante Gotovina** are completed. Meron met Serbian President **Boris Tadic**, Prime Minister **Vojislav Kostunica** and Minister of Justice **Zoran Stojkovic** in Belgrade on Tuesday.
Hartmann: No more indictments from ICTY	**FTV** – The spokeswoman for the ICTY Chief Prosecutor, **Florence Hartmann**, stated that the indictment against former Macedonian Interior Minister **Ljube Boskovski** for crimes committed during the clashes between Macedonians and Albanians in August 2001 was the last ICTY indictment. In a statement to FTV, Hartmann added: *"This doesn't mean that war crimes will not be investigated any more. Now, it's the responsibility of the local, domestic courts, such as War Crimes Chamber in BiH."* **Dnevni Avaz** pg 10 'No more ICTY indictments' by E.S., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'No more indictments for war crimes in former SFRJ' by N.N., **Glas Srpske** cover pg splash 'The last indictment' by Beta – also reported.

NN int w/ Ashdown: If they do not hurry, PIFWCs will serve sentences in Zenica	**Nezavisne Novine** pgs 8-9, announced on cover 'If they do not hurry, Hague indictees will be serving their sentences in Zenica correctional facility' by Mirjana Kusmuk – In a two-page long interview to *NN,* HR **Paddy Ashdown** has warned **Borovcanin, Zupljanin, Lukic** and others, who are still in this area, that the Hague is filling up so they should not be the last because they might find themselves in a position to stand trial in Sarajevo instead and serve their sentences in Zenica correctional facility. HR added that every person at an executive position in BiH, who has been indicted of something, has the right to step down and prove his innocence before the court. He said **Dragan Covic** also has this right but he does not have the right to much time. HR Ashdown said he does not believe police reform poses a threat to RS and added that the seat of reformed police forces should not be in Sarajevo . He also said the current authorities cannot lead BiH to European integrations but, up until now, these still have done much more than Brussels has expected from them.
SCG proposes new out-of-court deal to BiH re: lawsuit for genocide, aggression	**PINK, Dnevni Avaz** pg 11 'Trnka: It is certainly a sign they realized they'll lose' by A.M. – SCG representatives before the International Crime Tribunal, **Radoslav Stojanovic**, stated that Belgrade again offered the out-of-court settlement to BiH regarding the lawsuit BiH filed against SCG for aggression and genocide. **Kasim Trnka**, BiH legal expert, says that the offer is pointless, while BiH Presidency member Sulejman Tihic also excludes possibility for such deal.

Judicial issues

BiH Court to confiscate Hasan Cengic's travel documents	**PINK, Hayat, Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'BiH Court ordered Hasan Cengic to return documents', **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'Hasan Cengic must turn in his travel documents to BiH Court' by A.N., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Cengic can travel only Court permit' by A. Durmo, **Dnevni List**, pg 2, mentioned on front 'Cengic must not leave country', by Arijana Beus, **Slobodna Dalmacija** last pg 'Hasan Cengic must return passport' by F, **Vecernji List** 4 'Cengic must hand over passports to Court immediately' by E.M.– The BiH Court will decide in the next 24 hours to temporarily confiscate all travel documents from **Hasan Cengic**, a deputy in the BiH House of Peoples accused of the abuse of position and authority. Judge **Malcolm Simmons** stated on Tuesday that if Cengic does not adhere to the Court's order he would review to option of putting him in detention. Cengic did not appear before the BiH Court on Tuesday since he is at a conference in Brussels. Prosecutor **Jonathan Schmidt** requested the court to issue the order on temporary confiscation of the documents expressing fear that the accused could become unavailable to the judicial institutions. **FTV** – In a telephone statement for FTV, Cengic said that the reason for this decision is to frighten him. "*The purpose of this decision is to create negative impression of me so the court will be under the pressure of public opinion in this politically motivated case*", added Cengic. **BHT 1** – also featured similar Cengic's statement.

Oslobodjenje: Dragan Covic will not resign	**Oslobodjenje** cover page, pg 7 'Dragan Covic will not resign' V.Z. – **Dragan Covic**, the current Croat member of the BiH Presidency, who has been indicted for economic crime related to the Lijanovici Company business operations by the BiH State Prosecution, will not resign from the office, several sources told the daily on Tuesday. According to the sources, in making such the decision Covic will be supported by the HDZ BiH leadership.
Croat officials to leave authorities if Covic 'forced' to resign	**BHT 1** by Damir Simic – Croat officials will resign at all levels of authorities in BiH if **Dragan Covic** is forced to resign from the position in the BiH Presidency, stated unnamed high ranking HDZ official for BHT 1. **Davor Cordas**, member of HDZ Presidency said that the indictment against Covic is a way of persecution against Croatian officials. "*This shows that the IC and the HR, **Paddy Ashdown,** are governing BiH in a completely wrong way*", said Cordas. Current trials against Croatian officials in BiH will be one of the main subjects of a meeting of the Bishops Conference scheduled in Mostar later this week. **Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'Croat officials will resign from all levels of authorities in BiH' – also carry the announcement for resignation. **RHB** – reports on Cordas' statement.

Covic and others to plead on indictment next week	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'Covic and others before the court next week' by F. Vele – Defence of the suspects confirmed that their clients have received the indictment officials and that they will plead to charges next week. **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 9, mentioned on front 'Covic: My apartment in London is rigging', by Zlatko Tulic – Carries the Croat member of BiH Presidency, **Dragan Covic**, as commenting on recent events regarding the indictment against him. He notes that he is yet to receive the indictment, however judging from reports in the media, Covic concludes that a lot of *"effort"* has been exerted into proving that that an apartment in London has been bought for him. **Dnevni List**, pg 9, mentioned on front 'First hearing by beginning of April', not signed – Covic's lawyer, **Josip Muselimovic**, stated that Covic has not yet received the indictment although some media published such information. According to Muselimovic, scheduling of the first hearing is a matter for the court administration. **Vecernji List,** pg 2 'This is new Leutar case with accusations coming from a criminal', by Zoran Kresic – Carries Muselimovic as saying that he finally received a copy of the indictment and after reading it, Muselimovic says the whole case reminds of the 'Leutar' case, which was based on a statement of a criminal.

Lozancic to Covic: "You have no right to resign!"	**FTV, RHB, Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'You have not right to step aside', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'Lozancic: You have no right to resign!' by F.V., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'Lozancic called on Covic not to tender resignation' by A. Sisic, **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'You have no right to resign', **Dnevni List**, pg 9, mentioned on front 'Covic, you do not have the right to step down!', not signed, **Vecernji List** pg 2 'Covic, you do not have right to step down', mentioned on cover 'Lozancic invited Covic not to resign' by zk, **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 9 'Lozancic demands from Covic not to step down' by D. Pasic– FBiH President **Niko Lozancic** sent a letter to BiH Presidency member **Dragan Covic** on Tuesday urging him to remain firm and not to back down, as well as to influence a more intensive engagement of all BiH institutions on accelerating the implementation of ongoing reforms and thus contribute to the stability of the constitutional order and the strengthening of the international credibility of BiH. "*You don't have the right to step down*", Lozancic said categorically. "*It would perhaps be better if they stepped down. We love this country more and have more right and responsibility to organise it to the measure of its every single citizen*", Lozancic said in the letter to Covic.

Ashdown: 'Covic should resign'	**FTV**, **Oslobodjenje** pg 8 'Covic should resign', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'Covic should resign', **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'A clear position' – HR **Paddy Ashdown** said in Banja Luka on Tuesday that BiH Presidency member, **Dragan Covic**, should resign until the trial against him is completed in order to protect state institutions and the international reputation of our country. Ashdown said that the position of Dragan Covic is entirely clear, alike in the case of **Milorad Dodik**, and that he as a representative of executive authority facing criminal charges should stand aside, renounce his executive functions and defend himself before court as private citizens.
State Prosecutor John McNair: New indictments to follow	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 5, mentioned on cover 'New indictments to follow' Sead Numanovic – In an interview with the daily, BiH State Prosecutor **John McNair** announced new indictments in addition to those filed recently. *"There will be new indictments. One is likely to be announced next month, but I do not believe that it could be put in the category of those referring to higher political levels,"* said McNair.

VL says McNair has no evidence against Jelavic in 'Hercegovacka bank' case	**Vecernji List**, pg 3 'Rupcic will not testify in court', by Zoran Kresic – VL learns from sources in the BiH Prosecution that Prosecutor **John McNair** spoke on Tuesday with **Miroslav Rupcic**, who was earlier sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in the 'Hercegovacka bank' case after cutting a deal with the Prosecution. VL says McNair wanted Rupcic to testify against **Ante Jelavic** in the same case, but apparently Rupcic rejected the proposal to become a repentant, so it is expected that his testimony will be in Jelavic's interest. VL argues that McNair continues to stall the process in order to buy time and find incriminating evidence against Jelavic, since he is yet to prove financial malversations.
NN op-ed on Covic/HR	**Nezavisne Novine** op-ed pg 7 'Defending homeland' by Almedin Sisic – Commenting on the recent indictment brought against **Dragan Covic,** the author says it is clear to everybody Covic would tender resignation only if HR **Paddy Ashdown** ordered him to do so, adding that the policy of British Lord confuses people, since he has not so far found information presented in indictment sufficient to remove Covic from the position. The author concludes that the only moral satisfaction to this plundered people is called Special Department of BiH Prosecutor's Office for organised Crime. Anybody would be tried for his war-time and post-wartime role, regardless of such persons are **Hasan Cengic, Dragan Covic, Ante Jelavic** or somebody else.

Security/police issues and reform	
OHR building evacuated due to security threat	**BHT1, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'OHR building evacuated because of suspicions', mentioned on cover, by M.K., **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'OHR evacuated', mentioned on cover, by A.O., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'OHR staff evacuated' by M.C. , **Slobodna Dalmacija** last pg 'Threat to security of OHR in BiH' by H – OHR spokesman **Vedran Perisic** confirmed that OHR building in Sarajevo was evacuated on Tuesday afternoon. Perisic stated that reason was "unspecified security threat", adding that OHR has reacted in accordance with standard security procedures with police consultation.

Ashdown in BL: Police HQ doesn't have to be in Sarajevo	**PINK, RTRS, Hayat, Oslobodjenje** pg 8 'Police HQ doesn't have to be in Sarajevo', mentioned on cover, by O. Vukovic, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'If police reform si not implemented the doors to Europe are closed', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Reforms will not abolish RS nor RS MOI' by V.P., **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Srpska will not disappear' by G. Dakic, **EuroBlic** RSpg 2 'Change of Constitution through police reform in BiH' by Rajna Radosavljevic, **Vecernji List** pg 2 'None can abolish RS', mentioned on front 'Ashdown in Banja Luka: Nobody must not abolish Republika Srpska' by f, **Slobodna Dalmacija** last pg 'Ashdown: RS National Assembly to pass decision on police reform' by A. Macanovic, **Dnevni List**, pg 6 'Deadline for report of Srebrenica Commission extended', by NINA – During the separate meetings with RS President, **Dragan Cavic**, the members of the RSNA Board for Defence and Interior, and cadets of the RS Police Academy, the High Representative, **Paddy Ashdown**, said that police reform is the last big reform for BiH's way to Europe, and pointed out that decision on reform was not to be brought by the OHR but BiH politicians. The HR pointed out that if BiH wanted to meet terms Brussels had set, the Constitution had to be changed. He added there was room for compromise, as well as that the final decision had to be brought in 2-3 weeks. "*I think we can succeed, and the country goes forward, through the gates of the EU, because we have chosen that we can reach European standards*", said the HR. He also underlined that the police reform in BiH doesn't stipulate abolishment of RS or its Interior Ministry. He added it is not true that Bosniaks in Sarajevo are allowed to have the control over the police, adding that the police headquarters doesn't have to be in Sarajevo . **FTV, BHT1** – "*If I don't feel that I can impose police reform in RS, what makes you think that I could impose disappearance of RS*", concluded Ashdown. **Nezavisne Novine** pgs 8-9, announced on cover 'If they do not hurry, Hague indictees will be serving their sentences in Zenica correctional facility' by Mirjana Kusmuk – In a two-page interview to *NN,* Paddy Ashdown explains the process of police reform.

Dutch Ambassador to BiH op-ed on police reform: Your future is in your hands'	**EuroBlic** op-ed pg 2 'Your future is in your hands' by Robert Bosher – The op-ed on police reform was written by **Robert Bosher,** the Dutch Ambassador to BiH, saying that almost all politicians in BiH agree BiH belongs to EU. On this he notes the most important and urgent steps that need to be implemented concerning further integration is police reform, which EC has marked as one of the biggest tasks BiH must fulfil on the path towards EU. He lists a number of reasons for police reform, giving the example of robberies of two banks in Tuzla Canton. He stresses the complex, sluggish and completely doubtful procedure suits criminals, not citizens. He warns the EU door is open, but it will not remain open forever, adding BiH must not waste this historic chance.
RS and FBiH analysis disagree over police reform	**EuroBlic** RSpg 2 'Change of Constitution through police reform in BiH' by Rajna Radosavljevic – Apart from reporting on HR's visit to Banja Luka Tuesday, article also carries the comment of **Gostimir Popovic,** political and military analyst, saying that: "*Police Reform Commission Report is layman-like and incorrect, and it serves to agitate RS officials. I believe lobbying on reform is run from Sarajevo, via **Paddy Ashdown.**"* On the other hand, the analyst in F BiH, including **Sead Numanovic,** share the view police reform is one in a row of reforms, which must be conducted in order to bring BiH closer to EU.
FBiH HoP adopts Law on police officers	**RHB, FTV, Dnevni Avaz** pg 11 'Adopted law on police officers', **Oslobodjenje** pg 8 'Law on police officers adopted' by S.Se.– At the extraordinary session held Tuesday, FBiH House of Peoples adopted the draft law on police officers in FBiH, together with two amendments tot his law. "*The amendments will enable employment for the bachelors in crime sciences more than was the case to date*," said proponent of the law, **Nermin Vila**. HoP disregarded the protest by the FBiH MoI Trade Union to these amendments.

RS MoI employees say they are underpaid	**RTRS** by Biljana Mandic – RS Prime Minister **Pero Bukejlovic** together with his Ministers spoke with Chairman of RS Trade Union **Cedo Volas** on salaries of RS Interior Ministry employees. Volas demanded the salaries to be reinstated to previous level, saying that otherwise RS would have to deal with OHR, IMF and World Bank. RS Minister of Labour and Soldiers and Invalid Protection **Miodrag Deretic** expressed hope that the current situation will be over come soon.
NATO denies requesting deportation of 7000 naturalized BiH citizens	**BHT 1, Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'There is no list' by Onasa, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 6 'Changes and addenda to Law on privatisation adopted' by N.N. – NATO spokesperson, **Derek Chappell** on Tuesday rejected the media speculations that NATO has prepared the list of 700 naturalized BiH citizens originating from the Islamic countries and that it submitted it to BiH prosecution together with demand for them to be deported.

Social and economic issues

War invalids will ask FBiH to resign if pensions are to be decreased	**Hayat, FTV, Dnevni List**, pg 3, mentioned on front 'Federation Government should resign if it decreases invalids' pensions', by D. Polovina-Mandic – The Presidency of Association of wartime military invalids held a session in Sarajevo on Tuesday, which was attended by presidents of cantonal organizations of military invalids and the FBIH Minister of Defenders' Issues, **Ibrahim Nadarevic**. One of conclusions of the meeting is that should the FBiH Government adopt the World Bank's proposal on the decreasing of pensions to the military invalids, the Association will request the FBiH Government to resign. Inset into the article entitled 'Croat side left out again' carries the President of Association of Croat war veterans (HVIDRA), **Andjelko Barun**, as saying that the Croat side was not invited to the meeting. **Oslobodjenje**, pgs 4-5, mentioned on front 'Bigger percentage of disability for 4500 military invalids?', by Asaf Becirovic – The FBIH Minister of Defenders' Issues, **Ibrahim Nadarevic**, fears that the number of veterans could increase from current 32.000 to 37.000, and some 4.500 invalids could be getting a higher percentage of disability, which means bigger pensions. (issue also covered by **Dnevni Avaz**, pg 12 'If World Bank's gets adopted, just will be sought on the streets', by J. Milanovic)

FBiH HoP adopts amendments to privatisation law	**RHB, PINK, FTV, BHT1, Hayat, Oslobodjenje** pg 5, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 11 Changes to privatisation law adopted', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 6 'Changes and addenda to Law on privatisation adopted' by N.N. – The FBiH House of Peoples on Tuesday accepted the Draft Law amending the Law on Privatization of Companies. The amendments prevent the foreign companies whose ownership structure is over 50% of state capital from participating in privatization of companies in the Federation.
Proposed law foresees review of suspicious privatization cases only	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Proposed law foresees review of suspicious privatization cases only' M. Kukan – A new version of the law on review of the privatization has been drafted and it is to be forwarded to the FBiH Government and then Entity Parliament for consideration and adoption by the end of this month, according to FBiH Minister of Energy, Mining and Industry **Izet Zigic**. Zigic says in a statement for the daily that reviewed will be privatization of the companies where the ownership structure is unclear as well as the companies where various irregularities have been spotted in the course of the privatization process.

Biber: Number of employed and unemployed in FBiH could become even	**Dnevni List**, front pg splash and pg 8 'Edhem Biber: Same number of employed and unemployed in FBiH', by D. Polovina-Mandic – According to estimates by the Association of Independent Unions of BiH, when the application of the Law on bankruptcy, which was adopted in March 2004, goes into full effect, the number of employed and unemployed people in the FBiH will be pretty much even. According to the Association President, **Edhem Biber**, *"at the moment, the difference in the number of employed and unemployed is very small – 330.000 unemployed and 390.000 employed. If we have a situation that some 30.000 people lose jobs because of bankruptcies, then the ratio between the employed and unemployed will be fifty-fifty"*. Biber argues that the situation in the RS is even worse.
Proposal on postponement of VAT collection	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Collection of VAT to be postponed for half a year' by M.C. – **Miodrag Kudic,** member of the ITA Steering Board, confirmed that the ITA Steering Board would propose introduction of VAT as of 1st January 2006, explaining: "*It is impossible to commence with collection of VAT before 1st January 2006. we do not have software for registering VAT, which is the heart of the system. It is impossible to start with VAT collection without this system.*"

SD: Construction of 7 power plants on Neretva to cause ecological disaster?	**Slobodna Dalmacija** cover pg splash and pg 19 '7 power plants will 'drink up' Neretva' by E. Karamatic carries that foreign investors are planning to construct as much as 7 hydro-electric power plants on the Neretva river and many ecological associations have been reacting against these projects these days. The author believes that these projects might cause a real ecological disaster.
Human Rights' Comm. has ordered FBiH to pay out pensions to pensioners	**Glas Srpske** cover pg splash 'Both pensions and differences' by R.S. – The article reminds of decision (passed 8th February 2005) of the Human Rights' Commissionwith the BiH Constitutional Court, according which F BiH has been ordered to undertake all administrative measures in order to fulfil its duties towards all the pensioners, who have earned their pensions within F BiH. This decision has upheld decision of the Human Rights' Chamber decision of 10 January 2003. The Commission acted upon motion filed by RS Association of pensioners.

Dailies say suspension of parts of FTA is 'an easy way out'	**Dnevni List**, pg 2 'Business of our own', by Tanja Dragic – Commenting on the recent decision of the BiH Council of Ministers to temporarily suspend the application of the zero customs rate when it comes to import of goods from Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro, as stipulated in the Free Trade Agreement, the author argues that the BiH CoM took the easy way out by simply ordering the suspension, without trying to find a way how to improve the competitiveness of domestic production. On a similar note, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 9 'Council of Ministers a pawn of powerful lobbies', by Marin Erceg – notes that the BiH CoM's decision will just create an illusion that the BiH CoM is protecting domestic producers, whilst in reality it only slows down the adoption of international standards that are necessary to get closer to Europe.

PDHR Hays' farewell op-ed in Oslobodjenje	**Oslobodjenje** pg 9 'Pragmatic progress' op-ed by Donald Hays – In his farewell op-ed, PDHR **Donald Hays** describes his experience in BiH for the past four years, noting that there are reason for both the satisfaction and frustration. He notes the progress in economy field, such as the establishment of the Indirect Taxation Authority, upcoming introduction of VAT, on-going process of solving internal debt, regulation of telecommunications and electricity sectors, audits of publicly owned companies, etc. Hays also stresses that a serious work still needs to be done, noting that the remaining tasks, notably ICTY cooperation and police reform, must be completed so that PfP participation and the launch of Stabilisation and Association negotiations can go ahead before the end of this year; and the Working Group established by the Finance Ministers must draft proposals for cutting the cost of government.

Political issues

Cavic postpones mtg on Agreement	**BHT1, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 4 'Cavic cancels the meeting on agreement' – RS President **Dragan Cavic** on Tuesday evening cancelled the meeting of six RS political parties that signed the agreement on principles of harmonized political activities. The meeting was postponed after leaders of SNSD, **Milorad Dodik**, and DNS, **Marko Pavic**, informed Cavic that they would not participate in the meting because certain parties, signatories of the agreement, constantly breach it. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Cavic postponed the meeting' by V. Popovic, **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Agreement for disagreement' by N. Diklic – **Marko Pavic,** DNS President, confirmed to *GS* that members of DNS will no longer take part at these meetings, "*since they do not want to be cover for somebody else's mistakes*". **Milanko Mihajlica,** President of RS Serb Radical Party, said his party remains faithful to the Agreement, which should be a foundation on which RS would be preserved and built. **Mladen Ivanic,** PDP President, told *GS* he had no intention of taking part at the meeting, since three signatory parties of the Agreement cancelled participation. __
RS parties support Venice Comm. report	**Glas Srpske** pg 5 'The sooner the better?' by N.D. – Delegates at the RS NA (**Stanko Pivasevic** from SDS, **Krstan Simic** from SNSD, **Mladjan Zaric** from PDP, **Milanko Mihajlica** from RS SRS) support recommendation of the Venice Commission that the authorities of the High Representative to BiH should be reduced.

Spiric contests constitutionality of Statute of City of Sarajevo	**Hayat, Dnevni List**, pg 4 'Spiric submits request to assess constitutionality of Statute of City of Sarajevo', by NINA – Deputy Speaker of BiH House of Representatives, **Nikola Spiric**, has sent the BiH Constitutional Court a request aimed at assessing of constitutionality of article 21 of the Statute of City of Sarajevo and decision on appointment of councilors into the Sarajevo City Council (CC). Spiric argues that the article in question does not mention the Serbs as a constitutive people, which represents a direct violation of the BiH Constitution. He also argues that a guaranteed minimum of Croat and representatives of 'others' has not been appointed to the CC.