

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 16/7/2004

RADIO HERCEG BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
Solana and Scheffer in BiH	Solana and Scheffer in BiH	Solana and Scheffer in BiH	Solana and Scheffer in BiH
ICTZ criticizes SFOR	Law on VAT	SDHR Fassier onBiH Court	New RS officials
Separation of RS from BiH	Ivanic on audit	Ivanic on audit	Introduction of VAT
Zagrebacka Bank awarded	Action of SFOR	Conflict of interests	Ivanic on audit

Oslobodjenje	Hadzipasic: Pension to be paid out around July 25
Dnevni Avaz	Solana and Scheffer in Sarajevo : NATO will not leave BiH
Dnevni List	EU continues to help BiH to pass the road to Brussels
Vecernji List	NATO and EU/ Javier Solana and Jaap de Hoop Scheffer came to Sarajevo to prepare taking over of mission
Slobodna Dalmacija	Instead of Gibonni with song 'I am sorry', Monteno sings 'Stone, rise'
Glas Srpske	36 millions were blocked; Policemen behind lock; Ivanic was threatened
Nezavisne Novine	EUFOR will be arresting Hague indictees; More than 400 persons got false identity; CoM: As of July 1 next year VAT rate will be 17%

Blic	Solana and de Hoop Scheffer stated: NATO will remain present in BiH; Two members of RS Ministry of Interior were suspected of falsification
Vecernje Novosti	Gurkas are searching for Karadzic
Belgrade's Nacional	Karadzic celebrated St. Peter's Day at old woman Stana's

BiH-International community

Senior EU, NATO
officials,
Bosnian
Presidency
discuss SFOR-
EUFOR handover

Herceg Bosna Radio, BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje pgs 4-5, mentioned on cover 'NATO remains in BiH', **Dnevni Avaz** cover page, pg 3 'NATO will not leave BiH', **ONASA** – Members of the BiH Presidency met on Thursday with NATO Secretary-General **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer** and EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy **Javier Solana** to discuss the handover between SFOR (NATO-led Stabilization Forces) and EUFOR (European/EU Forces). *"We expressed support to the replacement of members of SFOR with forces of the EU. That is a proof of stability and positive situation in BiH. We believe this replacement represents an important step on the way of BiH towards Euro-Atlantic integration,"* chairman of the BiH Presidency **Sulejman Tihic** said. According to Tihic, members of the BiH Presidency confirmed readiness of BiH for the fulfilment of conditions for the admission of BiH into the Partnership for Peace, which is particularly related to the arrest of persons accused of war crimes and to the cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Scheffer said that NATO trusts the EU and the mission that it will take over by the beginning of the next year. *"NATO is not leaving BiH but it wants to support the EU and its mission. The main message is that we want BiH to get closer to the EU and NATO,"* he said. *"We are here to show our orientation to assist the people of BiH. The EU and NATO are two organizations whose member BiH wants to become and we will continue assisting you to realize that dream,"* Solana said.

<p>Top BiH CoM representatives meet with Solana. Scheffer to discuss Euro-Atlantic integration</p>	<p>Herceg Bosna Radio, BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje pgs 4-5, mentioned on cover 'NATO remains in BiH', Dnevni Avaz cover page, pg 3 'NATO will not leave BiH', ONASA – A visit to Sarajevo of NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana has showed that the communique from the NATO summit in Istanbul is a very serious project, which will contribute that BiH speeds up on the way towards Euro-Atlantic integration, chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic said on Thursday. After a meeting with Scheffer and Solana, Terzic said that the post-Dayton BiH has entered the Brussels era, which is encouragement for BiH authorities and citizens. Scheffer said they came to show their readiness to help BiH and that they agree with a decision on the completion of the SFOR mission to BiH. He added NATO will continue supporting the EU mission and helping the ambition of BiH to join Euro-Atlantic integration. According to Scheffer, it is very important for BiH to continue the defence reform and to arrest persons accused of war crimes. <i>"NATO and SFOR are here to help the arrest of persons indicted for war crimes. However, that is the primary responsibility of BiH authorities. Our message today is a message of support and hope,"</i> he said.</p>
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NATO chief
rejects SFOR in
Bosnia "did
little,
nothing" to
arrest Karadzic

Herceg Bosna Radio, BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje
pgs 4-5, mentioned on cover 'NATO remains in BiH',
Dnevni Avaz cover page, pg 3 'NATO will not leave
BiH', SRNA – NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop
Scheffer and EU High Representative for Common
Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana on
Thursday rejected accusations in Sarajevo that SFOR
had done little or nothing to capture war crimes
indictée Radovan Karadzic. After a meeting with the
High Representative Paddy Ashdown, Scheffer said
that it was *"incorrect to assert that there is a
lack of will within NATO to arrest Karadzic,"*
stressing that the BiH government, and particularly
that of the RS were most responsible to carry out
the arrest. *"I would rather see Karadzic in the
Hague tribunal tonight than tomorrow. His arrest is
a problem because a number of people in the RS are
failing to do what they should be,"* Scheffer said.
Asked whether NATO knew Karadzic's whereabouts on
20 February, as was stated by the Hague tribunal
chief prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, Scheffer replied
that this was not the case and further denied that
there was any correspondence with Del Ponte in
connection with this. Solana said that he did not
anticipate any problems with a dialogue and the
efficiency of NATO and the forthcoming EU
peacekeeping mission (EUFOR) in BiH because, as he
said, the two organizations had worked together in
many other crisis-ridden regions, including the
Balkans. Asked how the citizens of BiH could trust
the EU mission given the behaviour of the European
soldiers during the war, Solana stressed that both
in BiH and Kosovo, as well as in other crisis-
ridden regions, EU had always provided assistance.
He went on to say that 80 per cent of the SFOR
members came from EU countries. *"The mandate of the
EU mission is the continuation of the SFOR one, but
it will be adopted to the present situation which
is substantially better than it was eight years
ago,"* Solana said.

<p>ICTY Prosecution says NATO does not want to arrest Karadzic and Mladic</p>	<p>Herceg Bosna Radio, Dnevni List, pg 8 'The Hague Tribunal no longer believes in NATO's operations in BiH', by NINA – according to a report from the Deutsche Welle, in beginning of 2004, the ICTY formed a team, whose task was to locate ICTY indictees at large Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. Allegedly, the team had forwarded the info from the ground to the High Representative for BiH, Paddy Ashdown, and SFOR, but nothing concrete happened. According to the ICTY Prosecution, the indictees are still at large because NATO did not launch an operation even after the ICTY had forwarded the information about the whereabouts of the indictees. ICTY Chief Prosecutor's spokeswoman, Florence Hartmann, stated that back in February this year, there were reliable information that Karadzic was in a village on the border between BiH and Serbia , however NATO did nothing. She also says that the ICTY Prosecution has had information about Mladic's whereabouts for two years, and which were regularly forwarded to NATO, however NATO did nothing.</p>
<p>NATO denies Carla Del Ponte's statement</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, pg. 3 'Evidence on desk' by Srna, Vecernje Novosti, pg. 4 'Carla is wrong' by FoNet – Sources close to NATO have stated that NATO had on several occasions forwarded intelligence information on PIWFCs from the area of former Yugoslavia to the Prosecution of the Hague Tribunal. By this, NATO has replied to accusations of Chief Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte, who recently said that the Hague Tribunal forwarded information to SFOR on February 20 saying that Radovan Karadzic was located in Zaovine village, yet 'no action of NATO had followed'.</p>

<p>VN on activities re arrest of Radovan Karadzic</p>	<p>Vecernje Novosti, cover and pg. 14 'Gurkas are searching for Karadzic' by <u>P. Vasovic</u> – the author of the article claims that members of Gurkas Regiment have been assigned to SFOR in BiH. Unofficially, they are searching for Radovan Karadzic in forests of eastern Bosnia . They are allegedly seated at northeastern part of BiH and were recently noticed in Pale and some other places on Romanija.</p>
<p>Solana and Scheffer visit EUPM, SFOR headquarters in Sarajevo</p>	<p>Herceg Bosna Radio, BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje pgs 4-5, mentioned on cover 'NATO remains in BiH', Dnevni Avaz cover page, pg 3 'NATO will not leave BiH', FENA – NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, on Thursday visited the headquarters of the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Sarajevo. The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, and the Commander of SFOR, Major General Virgil Packett, accompanied the senior officials of EU and NATO. In addressing the members of EUPM and the BiH police officials, Solana indicated the importance of transferring SFOR's mandate to the EU peacekeeping mission. He indicated the necessity for enhancing the security capacities in BiH for the purpose of creating the conditions for country's accession to Euro-Atlantic and European integration. The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, indicated that great expectations are linked with the EU military mission, simultaneously underlining the significance of the up to now engagement of SFOR, i.e. NATO in BiH. According to Ashdown, NATO has done a great job in BiH, especially in the field of improving the freedom of movement of refugees and displaced persons, and in the view of strengthening peace and the overall stability. After visiting the EUPM headquarters, the senior European and NATO officials visited SFOR camp in Butmir, where the NATO Secretary General addressed the members of the Stabilization Force and the diplomatic corps in BiH.</p>

CRO, RS,
Serbian dailies
on Solana,
Scheffer's
visit to BiH

Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 2 'EUFOR will be arresting Hague indictees' by M. Cubro, **EuroBlic**, cover 'Solana and de Hoop Scheffer stated: NATO will remain present in BiH' and pg. RS1 'Solana and de Hoop Scheffer: we want BiH in EU' by J. D., **Glas Srpske**, pg. 2 'New page was turned' by N. Zelenovic, **Vecernje Novosti**, pg. 4 'SFOR goes, NATO stays' by D. Stojakovic, **Vecernji List** front pg 'NATO and EU' and pg 2 'BiH demands that 'Althea' arrests The Hague fugitives', by D. Jazvic, **Dnevni List** front and pg 3 'EU continues to help BiH to pass the road to Brussels' by D. Polovina-Mandic and **Slobodna Dalmacija** last pg 'NATO remains in BiH as support to EU mission' by Z. Rerig also report that NATO Secretary General **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer** and **Javier Solana**, the Secretary General of the Council of the EU and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, paid a joint visit to Sarajevo yesterday. The dailies say that the two of them paid this visit in order to persuade BiH citizens that taking over of the SFOR's mission by the EU forces will not endanger stability of BiH and that it will not distance BiH from membership in the Partnership for Peace and NATO.

<p>CoM Chairman Terzic: Significant progress towards EU made by Thursday's adoption of economic laws</p>	<p>Herceg Bosna Radio, BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'VAT to be introduced on July 1 2005', mentioned on cover 'VAT to be introduced six months before the set deadline', Dnevni List, pg 7 'VAT at 17% in BiH starting mid next year', mentioned on front, by <u>Vedran Vujovic</u>, Nezavisne Novine, cover 'CoM: As of July 1 next year VAT rate will be 17%' pg. 2 'VAT will be 17% in BiH' by M. C., SRNA – On Thursday, the BiH Council of Ministers adopted a set of draft economic laws, including the law on the value added tax. With this, the BiH has met the Feasibility Study demands and has achieved significant progress necessary for the beginning of the EU negotiations on stabilization and accession, the chairman the Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, said after the session. According to Terzic, the BiH parliamentary assembly should adopt these laws as soon as possible. Other laws adopted included the law on establishment of the BiH Export-Credit Agency, law on payments on a single account and distribution of revenues, as well as the law on financing BiH Institutions.</p>
<p>Statement of Chris Patten on the western Balkans</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 2 'Western Balkans countries are slowly moving towards EU' by <u>B92</u> – EU Commissioner for Foreign Policy Chriss Patten addressed OSCE Council in Vienna and stated that the western Balkans countries are making a slow but sure progress in the process of stabilization and association towards EU. He complimented cooperation of EU with OSCE in field of democratisation and reforms, in which the international community gave a contribution to stabilization of the western Balkans after a decade of conflicts.</p>

Economic affairs/audits

<p>Hadzipasic: Half of a backlog pension to be paid out around July 25</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje cover page, pg 5 ‘Hadzipasic: Pension will be paid put around July 25’ – FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic said he would keep a promise given to the pensioners in the entity on the payment of half of a backlog pension. According to Hadzipasic, the pension will be paid put around July 25.</p>
<p>Ivanic says audit report on Foreign Ministry’s performance correct</p>	<p>Herceg Bosna Radio, BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 7, mentioned on cover ‘Embassies banned from paying for dinners’, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 ‘Spending of representation money in Diplomatic-Consular Representation Offices on BiH officials will be forbidden’, Dnevni List, pg 5 ‘Ivanic: Audit report is correct’, by <u>E. Mackic</u>, Vecernji List, pg 2 ‘Foreign Ministry spends 650 Euros a month’, by <u>Eldina Medunjanin</u>, Nezavisne Novine, pg. 5 ‘Ivanic: BAM 1 million is a small expense for representation’ by <u>M. Renner</u>, EuroBlic, pg. RS4 ‘There was no squandering of money’ by <u>J. D.</u>, Glas Srpske, pg. 3 ‘Blocking the squandering’ by <u>N. Zelenovic</u>, FENA – The BiH Audit Office’s report on the work of the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs is correct, it gives a realistic picture of the situation in the Ministry and it will significantly help the organisation of future work, BiH Foreign Affairs Minister Mladen Ivanic told a press conference in Sarajevo on Thursday. Ivanic stressed that the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs had not I a single case exceeded planned budget.</p>

<p>Update to Eronet/third GSM licence case</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 2 'Conclusion of negotiations between Federation Government and HT Zagreb today', <u>not signed</u> – a spokesman of the HT Mostar, Radoslav Dodig, stated that talks between the HT Zagreb and FBiH Government on transfer of Eronet shares from HT Zagreb onto HT Mostar and about increase of HT Zagreb's share in HT Mostar should finish today. Since the HT Zagreb already owns 37% of shares in the HT Mostar, one can expect that the key issue in the negotiations will be revolving about the issue who gets to have the control package in the HT Mostar, either the FBiH Government of HT Zagreb. Furthermore, the Communications Regulatory Agency (RAK) received a copy of agreement between HT Mostar and Eronet, which the two made on July 13 and which should provide uninterrupted services to Eronet's customers in the future. In its statement, the RAK welcomed the agreement, saying it is rational for both the clients and companies.</p>
<p>Start of Banja Luka – Gradiska highway construction</p>	<p>EuroBlic, pg. RS4 'Start on July 25' by <u>Nedeljka Breberina</u> – RS Minister of Traffic and Communications Dragan Solaja has confirmed that the works on the construction of Banja Luka – Gradiska highway will commence on July 25. The ministry assessed that the cost for the construction of Banja – Luka highway will amount approximately BAM 200 million.</p>

**BiH prosecution
widens investigation
into IDs illegal
issuance case**

FTV – After Wednesday’s arrests of a number of people in Banja Luka, the BiH Prosecutor’s Office took over a case involving the forgery/illegal issuance of personal documents, the Banja Luka Public Security Centre spokesman, **Rade Mutic**, told FTV. The state prosecution has forbidden any public statements on the case, Mutic said, because the operation was still under way. FTV learned that the BiH Prosecutor’s Office has extended an investigation to the Federation of BiH.

The Banja Luka police on Wednesday arrested three people on suspicion of forging/illegally issuing ID cards and driving licenses and the recipient of the forged documents. Two people worked in the RS Ministry of Interior and the other two were unemployed, Mutic confirmed. The arrests took place in the Medical Electronics building in Banja Luka where the premises of the CIPS (Citizen Identification Protection System) project are based. The directorate for the implementation of the CIPS project said that not a single directorate’s employee had been arrested or involved in the incident.

RTRS, Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 3 ‘More than 400 persons got false identity’ by **S. Karic**, **EuroBlic**, cover ‘Two members of RS Ministry of Interior were suspected of falsification’ and pg. RS1 ‘Two employees of RS MUP were involved too’ by **Nedeljka Breberina**, **Glas Srpske**, cover page ‘Policemen behind lock’ by **E. G. S.** also covered the issue. **Oslobodjenje** pg 3 ‘None of CIPS employees was arrested’, **Nezavisne Novine**, pg. 3 ‘No CIPS employee was arrested in Banja Luka’ carried CIPS Directorate denial.

Vecernji List pg 3 ‘Forgers arrested’, mentioned on cover ‘Group of forgers broken’, by **R. Soldo** – Spokesperson of the Public Security Centre in Banja Luka **Rade Mutic** stated that members of this centre arrested 3 persons, while one person turned himself/herself in, because of grounded suspicion that they were falsifying personal documents. According to Mutic, all arrested persons are CIPS employees. VL also carries employee of the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs **Sinisa Macan** who denied these allegations claiming that CIPS employees are not among the arrested ones. Spokesperson of the CIPS Agency **Sanela Turkovic** stated that this Agency and its employees were not involved in this case and added that those who are involved in this case are the employees of the RS Ministry of Interior. The CIPS Agency also denied the information that members of the RS MoI were searching the CIPS premises in Banja Luka yesterday.

<p>Editorial on falsified personal documents</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 2 'The end of another illusion' by <u>D. Jazvic</u> carries an editorial on the case of falsified personal documents and the author says that this is another disappointment for BiH citizens and he concludes: <i>"Corruption and crime that are deeply rooted in the authority system will be a constant stumbling block on the BiH's way to Europe. The struggle against these phenomena should start at the top, within the institutions that are in charge for implementation and protection of law."</i></p>
<p>Second letter by former Al Qaeda officer</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 5 'Mujahiddin could make a living chain from Zenica to Sarajevo', mentioned on front, by <u>Miso Relota</u> – the daily apparently received a second letter from an alleged former officer of Al Qaeda, Ali Hamad, who is currently serving prison sentence in Zenica. He reiterates that he was a former officer of Al Qaeda and that he had left the organization after the September 11 attacks.</p> <p>Furthermore, he warns of presence of mujahiddin in BiH, who are using the political and ethnic intolerance among the BiH peoples as their tools. In that context, Ali Hamad notes that the ICTY Chief Prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, is failing to recognize that there are foreign and domestic mujahiddin in BiH, who were killing and slaughtering people that do not belong to Islam between 1992 and 1995. <i>"There are so many mujahiddin in BiH they could make a living chain from Zenica to Sarajevo. I recommend the Americans to make her (del Ponte) new spectacles, so she could clearly see the foreign and domestic mujahiddin and bring them to justice"</i>, concludes Ali Hamad.</p>
<p>Activities of Anti-Money-Laundering Department</p>	<p>Glas Srpske cover page story 'BAM 36 million blocked' – In the last six months, the RS Finance Ministry Anti-Money-Laundering Department blocked BAM 36 million of suspicious financial transactions. The money belongs to 19 juristic persons.</p> <p>Bearing in mind last years' number of resources blocked (BAM 433 million), Department officials say that the money-launderers have changed the method of their work, noting: <i>"Now, more juristic persons fictively settle debts through one firm, which meets all formal and legal conditions for work. It is observed as a mediator between legal tax payers and "phantom" firms."</i></p>

<p>"Harvest" in Central-Bosnian Canton</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 10 '750 kilos of explosive was found in a house' by <u>Srna</u> – Local Police and SFOR members found 750 kilos of explosive and a number of detonators in a house in Central-Bosnian Canton on Saturday, as SFOR Spokesperson Steve Forge stated yesterday at a press conference. He said that the explosive was found during "Harvest" action and a police investigation on this case was launched.</p>
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<p>Political developments</p>	
<p>More than 500 officials resign posts over conflict of interests</p>	<p>FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 7 'Control of governments' contracts soon', Dnevni List, pg 6 'More than 500 officials resigned', by <u>Erna Mackic</u>, SRNA – A member of the BiH Election Commission, Lidija Korac, said on Thursday that 515 officials in BiH tendered resignations over incompatibility of posts, which, as she put it, revealed a high degree of responsibility towards public posts. She told a news conference in Sarajevo that the Election Commission would set in motion investigations, which would involve checks of all contracts with the institutions of power and checks with court registers of the owners of private companies working with the bodies of power.</p>
<p>NHI calls on OHR to abolish names of entities in BiH</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 4 'NHI calls on OHR to abolish names of both entities in BiH', by <u>f</u> – amid recent proposals of names of towns in the Republika Srpska, which should replace names of towns with 'Serb' prefix in them, the NHI calls on the OHR to take a decision that should abolish the <i>"anti-constitutional names of both entities in BiH"</i>. NHI believes that although the Decision of the BiH Constitutional Court about the abolishment of prefix 'Serb' was clear, some municipal authorities are making a mockery out of it.</p>

<p>HDZ Presidency to discuss situation in BiH today</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 4 'Presidency of HDZ BiH', by <u>E</u> – The Presidency of HDZ BiH will hold its session today at 1300 hrs in order to discuss the current political situation in BiH and pre-election activities of the party. A press conference was scheduled for 1530 hrs at the HDZ HQ.</p>
<p>BiH Bishops warn of poor return of Croats to RS</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 17 'Republika Srpska authorities obstruct return of Catholics', by <u>Miso Relota</u>, Vecernji List, pg 4 'Bishops call on Republic of Croatia to help the return', by <u>E</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 16 'Republika Srpska: Only five percent of Croats returned', mentioned on front, by <u>Aleksandar Macanovic</u> – the BiH Bishops' Conference, which was in session between July 12 and July 14 in Banja Luka concluded that by only through creation of an efficient rule of law in whole of BiH, there could be essential pre-requisites for achieving and protecting human rights and freedoms. <i>"It is especially the case in the Republika Srpska, where only a few percentage of expelled Catholics returned because of various political, legal and economic obstructions"</i>, stated Bishop Franjo Komarica. The Bishops also call on the international and domestic officials to show a bigger political will, which should result in a bigger economic aid to the people in the need, and the Republic of Croatia to help the Croat returnees.</p>

<p>DL editorial on behaviour of BiH politicians</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 2 'A dead hand is a friend to an empty one' by <u>N. Bise</u> – The author is harshly criticizing the BiH Presidency members because of their wastefulness and says that three of them should appear on TV ashamed and apologize to BiH citizens. The author also reminds that on July 11 the association Society for Endangered Peoples singled out countries belonging to the EU, USA and Canada that they did not do anything in order to bring back life to Srebrenica. The author also says that the aforementioned Association singled out these countries since addressing the current BiH authority regarding the situation in Srebrenica or any other town in BiH would be wasting of time. According to the author, 'in our theatre of absurd' the removals of corrupt members of political Mafia are the only efficient measure and the recent decision passed by High Representative Paddy Ashdown on the removal of RS officials proves it. The author also says that the HR should continue with such decisions not only in the RS but also in the Federation of BiH.</p>
<p>Update to collection of signatures for referendum on separation of RS</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, pg. 3 'For people to give its opinion' by <u>J. N.</u> – Members of "Zajedno do istine" Association stated that they will stop collecting of signatures for referendum for separation of RS in the vacation period and will continue with this activity on September 1. The Association President has stated that approximately 3,000 signatures were collected in Banja Luka in three days. Although the request for signing out of a referendum has no constitutional or legal ground, the initiative of the Association provides citizens of RS with an opportunity to express their feelings.</p>

**RSNA
Collegium
meeting**

Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4 'Stojicic is the only candidate for president of parliament' by V. P. – SDS yesterday officially nominated **Dusan Stojicic** for the position of the RS NA president to replace **Dragan Kalinic** who was removed by the decision of High Representative **Paddy Ashdown**. SDS Deputy President **Borislav Bojic** claims that the Assembly majority would support Dusan Stojicic as the candidate of SDS for this position. He said that Stojicic is currently the only candidate for this position, since other parties had nominated no person. RS NA has decided to hold a special session on Tuesday, at which it will elect RS NA President and verify mandates of seven SDS delegates that will replace delegates removed by HR Ashdown.

EuroBlic RSpg2 'Much ado about nothing' – **Sefket Hafizovic**, RS NA Deputy Speaker, confirmed that the special session of the RS NA should be held on 20 July, when new RS NA Speaker should be elected and mandates to new MP' should be verified. He also expressed expectation that resumption of regular 18th session would follow this special session.

Tanja Topic, political analyst, excludes the possibility of seeing early elections held, *"because the international community does not accept it"*. She also said that removals of SDA Ministers from RS Government are unlikely to happen. She is of the view that announcements and events over the past two weeks were used for buying time and pre-election campaigns and marketing of nationalistic parties.

Goran Milojevic, PDP Vice President, reiterated PDP request for removals of SDA Ministers. According to inset 'SDA conditions voting', **Tarik Sadovic**, Head of SDA Caucus to RS NA, said that: *"If SDS and PDP persisted in their demands for removals of SDA Ministers, we will not vote for the new RS NA Speaker, regardless of who the candidate might be."*

<p>Zlatko Lagumdžija participated at round table discussion in Belgrade</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4 'Strengthening of BiH's statehood in European frames is important' by <u>V. P.</u> – Zlatko Lagumdžija, the President of SDP, participated to the round table discussion "Serbia and Montenegro in the Partnership for Peace: when and how?". During his address, he stated that Serbia and Montenegro should finally turn to itself. He also stated that strengthening of BiH's statehood in European frames is important.</p>
<p>Mihajlica on political situation in RS</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, pg. 2 'Exit from crisis is in agreement' by <u>S. D.</u> – SRS thinks that it is necessary to convene RS NA session as soon as possible and elect a new President of RS NA, because it is the most important to unblock the work of the Republic institutions after the recent removals. Milanko Mihajlica, SRS President, stated in Mrkonjic Grad that the best solution for overcoming the crisis is to elect a new Government in which there would be no Ministers from SDA.</p>
<p>OSCE on the RS Ministry for Refugees and DPs</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, pg. 2 'Authority is avoiding obligations' by <u>M. Dz.</u> – '<i>OSCE Mission is concerned over the fact that the RS Ministry for Refugees and DPs has not paid for an alternative accommodation</i>', the Spokesperson of Banja Luka office of OSCE, Vedrana Dimitrijevic, stated. She said at a press conference that OSCE expected from RS authority to fulfil its obligation in relation to providing with an alternative accommodation. At the press conference, EUPM Spokesperson Alun Roberts welcomed the start of the work of SIPA and also said some EUPM employees will be present at SIPA as advisors.</p>