# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 17/7/2003

<b>BH TV 1</b> (19:00 hrs)	<b>FED TV</b> (19:30 hrs)	<b>RT RS</b> (19:30 hrs)
State institutions budget	Budget exceeding	Donald Hays in BL
BH Presidency on 5C	Dragan Mikerevic	Semberka factory strike
US and Korea	Brcko District	OVK commander in prison
'Kreka' company		Middle East

Due to technical problems, BORAM was not able to provide CRHB summary.

Oslobodjenje	Paravac spent almost half a million KM; Mandic brought
	money to BiH in suitcases; Fictitious firms – 650 million
	KM transferred via accounts in the RS; Cegar case - Sucur
	and Skenderagic announced resignations; District Brcko - no
	entity laws valid; Bosmal signing a protocol with the CoM
Dnevni Avaz	Halilovic — Cegar threatening to beat me up!; Bosmal
	Executive Director – very soon we will ensure 300 million
	Euro; Hadzicpasic – we will prevent the abuse of
	certificates in PIF; Dokic requesting an explanation from
	the CRA
Dnevni List	SDA barters Mostar for constitutional changes?; Session of
	the BiH Presidency - budget overstepped by 23 percent in
	the first six months; Andrija David Skobic — form Mostar
	according to logic, not ideology
Vecernji	Quarter of citizenry does not have health insurance; Police
List	searching for 80 'missing' people from India
Slobodna	OHR — the SDA undermines the unification of Mostar; Edin
Dalmacija	Sabanovic, co-owner of Bosmal — Croatia should not even
	send their bid
L	

Glas Srpske	Dismissed staff of the 'Elektron' firm from Bijeljina	
	preparing a lawsuit – postman brought notices of	
	resignation; Banjaluka – 'Gacko' faced with bankruptcy	
Nezavisne	New turn of events in the construction plans for 5C	
Novine	corridor through BiH - Covic's international tender for	
	highway construction in BiH is a necessity; Banjaluka –	
	Mikerevic announces new shock therapy at the Republika	
	Srpska Elektroprivreda	
Blic	Mikerevic – Hays – the Republika Srpska needs a shock-	
	therapy; More and more social cases in Bijeljina; Average	
	salary in Federation 525 KM, pension 188,15 KM	

## HR's authorities

	<u> </u>
BiH	BHTV at 19:00 hrs by — opinions of BiH
Presidency	Presidency members on the current
members	authorities of the High Representative
	differ. "I mostly agree with the statement
	made by Mr Mikerevic. I advocate the
	thesis that the role of HR has to die out
	gradually. It is not possible to eliminate
	HR's authorities 100% right now," said
	Paravac. Chairman of the BiH Presidency,
	Dragan Covic, stated the following. "I
	have not read Mr Mikerevic's statement,
	but it is not up to us to discuss HR's
	authorities. The High Representative has
	the authorities, which resulted from,
	primarily, the Dayton Peace Agreement."
	Sulejman Tihic had the following thing to
	say. "HR's authorities are necessary until
	all deficiencies from the Dayton Peace
	Agreement and BiH constitutions were
	removed, until BiH becomes a normal state
	in accordance with the international law.
	However, I think that the High
	Representative and his staff members
	interfere too much with the current
	affairs, personnel affairs for which his
	assistance is not necessary."

Mikes	BHTV at 19:00 hrs - RS House of Peoples
	Deputy Speaker, Miroslav Mikes, believes
	that the international community's
	politics is directed towards the 'sucking
	out' jurisdiction of entities and
	transferring it to the state level.
	Therefore, Mikes sees foundations of the
	RS being 'shaken'. In an interview to
	Banja Luka based Novi Reporter, Mikes
	stated that HR Paddy Ashdown erased the
	term 'sovereignty' from the RS
	Constitution even though the international
	community was aware that he did not have
	powers to perform such things without any
	procedures. Despite this, at least 40% of
	the BiH Constitution was already changed,
	said Mikes.

#### Economic Affairs

Hays in Banja

Luka

BHTV at 19:00 hrs by Boris Gagic - PDHR Donald Hays said during his visit to Banja Luka on Wednesday that a progress in the implementation of reforms in the RS was visible, however that he was not yet satisfied with it. RS Prime Minister, Dragan Mikerevic, repeated that he opposed High Representative imposing decisions and stressed that the responsibility had to rest with local politicians. In coordination with foreign experts, the Expert Commission has to be formed soon and its task would be to deliver a strategy on solving the issue of public debt. PDHR Hays believes that actions have to be taken to ensure more sufficient work of the RS Tax Administration and public corporations. He also said he was aware that it would not be easy to oppose different interests, as it was obvious in the case of Elektroprivreda. "One of the problems the government admitted was not being able to control the Elektroprivreda, which was managed by a certain political group," said PDHR Hays. After talks with government reps, the OHR said that new organisational changes would be introduced in regard to the Elektroprivreda and oil industry. Prime Minister Mikerevic said that the government was ready to accept responsibility and to make difficult decisions. "I advocate for High Representative to have less impact on the processes and that we take that responsibility in accordance with the Constitution." Donald Hays dismissed accusations on over-exceeding powers of High Representative. "During my stay here, I have heard question from parliamentarians, presidents, ministers and citizens why the High Representative did not do more?" Both Mikerevic and Hays agreed that the privatisation process in the RS had to be accelerated. FTV at 19:30 hrs by Indira <u>Sehic</u> – Hays said that 'politicians in this country have given up on their citizens,' and also encouraged local politicians to start dealing with organized crime and the corruption. "It necessary for you to insure the electric energy export. You're losing half of the electric energy instead by letting people steal it directly from the ducts. 26% of the electrical energy that is produced in the RS disappears," said Hays. On Mikerevic's remark that the HR's authority is very huge and uncontrolled, Hays responded that the OHR was carefully examining all decisions and possible consequences they might produce. RTRS at 19:30 by Daliborka Predragovic – The RS internal debt in value of 4.5 billion KM could be solved only through fiscal measure, stressed Mikerevic adding that by October strategic solutions had to be found. He explained that this debt presented an obstacle for foreign investors, who could fear that such debt by authorities could increase taxes. Vecernji List pg. 2 'Mikerevic with Hays on internal debt of BiH' and Dnevni List pg. 10 'Announcement of new 'shock-therapy' in Elektroprivreda'. Nezavisne Novine pg. 1 and 3, Glas Srpske pg. 2 'Debts scare investors'. Blic pg. 7 'Shock-therapy needed'. Avaz pg. 5 'The RS government admitted

they could not control Elektroprivreda'.

Bosmal	Avaz pg. 1 and 3 – commenting on the recent offer by the Croatian government and a request fro the issuing of a public tender, Edin Sabanovic, company Executive Director, stated that they started an initiative over a year ago and made an offer to BiH. "We want to complete the project. As for PM Racan and the Croatian government I have nothing to comment. I am really not sure how economically strong Croatia is to compare itself to the Malaysian economy." He categorically denied the Bosmal was quitting the deal.Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 1 and 3 – With regard to the Croatian bid, Sabanovic said the following. "There is no need for them to send it. It would be the same as if the 'Bosmal' appeared and demanded a concession for a part of the 5C corridor in Croatia." Asked about the alleged connections between 'Bosmal' and honorary SDA President Alija Iztebegovic, founder of the Party of BiH Haris Silajdzic and
	Malaysian Prime Minister, Sabanovic said 'they were the company that has nothing to do with any politics, added they were not any political fraction or party'.
Cavic on 5C corridor	Nezavisne Novine pg. 1 & 3 – Dragan Covic, Chairperson of the Presidency, yesterday made a new turn in the events related to the construction of the 5C corridor by saying that an international tender needed to be announced, bearing in mind the value of the entire of project. Chairperson of BiH Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, commented that this was the first time he heard of announcing an international tender. In his view, elements and pre- requisites need to be met in order to announce an international tender. Avaz pg. 2 'Approach the construction of the Vc corridor responsibly' – during yesterday's Presidency session, Covic stated that the only way for BiH to responsibly approach the construction of the 5C corridor was to issue a public tender and look for the best offer.
CRO media with 5C corridor	Jutarnji List pg. 6 'In BiH we have no money for anything including highway' - reads that statements by Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, and BiH Minister of Transport and Communications, Branko Dokic, tempered negative comments in media on results of talks held in Sarajevo on Monday with Prime Minister of Croatia Ivica Racan. Terzic said to journalists on Tuesday that BiH was not in a position to choose since it had no money for anything, including the construction of a highway. That is why the offer of the private company 'Bosmal' to provide 300 millions Euros, necessary for the feasibility study and other project documentation, was accepted without a lot of thinking. "The project by Bosmal can fail only if it they do not respect proposed offer," said Terzic and explained that it meant strict respecting of envisaged deadlines. On the same issue Vecernji List pg. 4 <u>by Zdenko Jurilj</u> 'Tihic goes to Malaysia also because of the 5C corridor' – the BiH delegation led by Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency, Sulejman Tihic, will attend the Summit of Organization of Islamic Conference that is to take place on October 23 and 24 in Malaysia. VL says that apart from the status of BiH in this organization, the issue is the construction of the 5C corridor that is being supported by the Malaysian government through the Malaysian-Bosnian Company 'Bosmal' will also be discussed.

	Political Affairs
Brcko District	BHTV at 19:00 hrs - Brcko Supervisor, Henry Clarke, on
	Wednesday announced his decision not to apply the
	entity laws in District unless the District Assembly
	adopted them. If it considers necessary, the District
	government could replace the entity regulations with
	its own. The District government will also prepare a
	list of all the entity laws that still applied in the
	District in order to prepare a plan for their
	replacement. Nezavisne Novine pg. 2 'Entity laws are
	not in effect in Brcko' – Clarke yesterday issued a new
	Supervisory Order advancing the process of harmonising
	and replacing the entity legislations in the Brcko
	District. Oslobodjenje pg. 6 'No entity laws valid in
	Brcko'.

Terzic in	FTV at 19:30 hrs by <u>Halid Rifatbegovic</u> — BiH Prime
Brcko	Minister, Adnan Terzic, on Wednesday met with reps from
	the District authorities to discuss the implementation
	of reforms in this region. Terzic said that 'when we
	were united in our efforts, we could make a single
	economic space in the entire BiH, and also contributed
	the political stability in the process.' Terzic also
	noted that the BiH Council of Minister would form the
	Coordination Team at an early date. The team will be
	responsible for the collaboration with the district.
	RTRS at 19:30 hrs by <u>Gajo Mitrovic</u> - the focus of the
	talks was the issue of creating a single economic
	environment in BiH where the District should play an
	important role. "It was interesting to listen to
	experiences of authorities in Brcko District in several
	areas, on — for CoM important issue — attitude towards
	privatisation and improving business atmosphere. I was
	encouraged by the way the Brcko District government saw
	things in these segments," said Terzic. Brcko Mayor,
	Sinisa Kisic, stressed good results achieved in the
	field of education, public administration and
	judiciary, adding BiH had not much time to solve these
	and other reform related issues. Avaz pg. 4 'Terzic:
	remove all dilemmas on the work of the Brcko
	authorities' — talked about the establishment of a body
	that would coordinate correspondences between the CoM
	and Brcko authorities. Dnevni List pg. 4 'Terzic:
	unjustified objections to the work of the District
	government'.

OHR on SDA	BHTV at 19:00 hrs by <u>Seid Masnica</u> – while the OSCE
reps leaving	presented the plan for the unification of two Mostar
Mostar	high schools, the OHR strongly criticised city's
Commission	politicians who could not agree on Mostar's statute. On
	Monday, SDA representatives left the Commission tasked
	to draft this document. The OHR South Office condemns
	the SDA walkout from the Mostar City Board stressing
	this move was worrying. OHR South Spokesperson, Avis
	Benes, said that such SDA action could undermine the
	progress made by the Commission, risking the entire
	process of the Mostar recovery. "In a certain way,
	these parties sanctioned themselves as they betrayed
	their voters for simply not showing enough of
	responsibility, and in this case the SDA refuses to
	participate in the process it participated all along,"
	said Benes. The SDA did not want to comment on its
	action. Dnevni List pg. 17 by <u>D. Kozina</u> 'Benes: SDA
	sanctions itself by this act' and Slobodna Dalmacija
	pg. 1 and 19 - reported the statement.

	1
CRO press on	Dnevni List pg. 1 and 4 — DL sees the decision by SDA
Mostar re-	to withdraw from the work of the Mostar Commission as a
-	to withdraw from the work of the Mostar Commission as a pressure against the IC in order to get the support for the constitutional changes and as a victory of radicals within the SDA. Furthermore, DL reads that Zijo Hadziomerovic, a member of SDA Presidency and Head of Mostar's Municipality Old Town, once stated that he was the one that took decisions and that he was not interested what Omer Cevra and Salko Sokolovic (NB: senior officials of SDA in Canton 7) thought. In that context, the author says the relations within the SDA in Mostar and Canton 7 are bad and that Hadziomerovic and Fatima Leho on one side, and Cevra and Sokolovic on the other, do not communicate. Vecernji List pg. 5 'EU ambassadors will support the Commission in Mostar' – top delegations of the HDZ and SDA met in Sarajevo last night to discuss issues pertaining to the work of the Mostar Commission. Reportedly, the HDZ delegation comprised of Barisa Colak, Dragan Covic, Dragan Vrankic and Niko Lozancic whilst on the other side, Sulejman Tihic headed a 'large team of SDA'. According to VL, unofficial information says that the SDA of Mostar could return to the Mostar Commission. Moreover, VL stresses the importance of the whole issue stating that the sole reason behind the visit of EU ambassadors to BiH and Mostar on Monday, July 21, is the process of
	Mostar restructuring when they are to meet with members of the Commission and local officials. Finally, VL reports that remaining members of the Commission agreed to have more frequent sessions in order to come up with a draft of future Statute of Mostar.
Palavric	Vecernji List pg. 3 'We will not stay in authority at any cost' – carries Vice President of the SDA, Suada Palavric. "One gets a feeling in Mostar that the HDZ would not be acting as arrogantly if they did not have the support from the IC. Delegation of SDA left the last talks on the reorganization of Mostar after it made a proposal which the HDZ did not take a look at".

Merdzo	Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 19 'Division of city being
	advocated' - an interview with President of the HDZ's
	cantonal Board in Canton 7 and a member of the Mostar
	Commission, Josip Merdzo, during which he says the SDA
	is an advocator of the current divisions in the city.
	Talking about the work of the Mostar Commission, Merdzo
	says the OHR did the preparatory works reiterating that
	the current Statute of Mostar does not meet the needs
	of the city. "It was shown at the start that
	representatives of the SDA and the so-called
	representative of the independent, Radmilo Andric, do
	not want to accept the OHR's principles. I will stress
	that Andric clearly sided with the Bosniaks and even
	became a leader of their activities," says Merdzo. He
	also stresses that the Mostar Commission has managed to
	complete a part of the work agreeing that the President
	of Mostar City Council will have two deputies and that
	the three will come from the line of three constituent
	peoples. Dnevni List pg. 4 'The SDA are not aware of
	seriousness of situation' – also carried an interview
	with Merdzo. Merdzo says that 'their' position is that
	the work within the Commission must resume revealing
	that two members of the Commission, namely Radmilo
	Braca Andric and Bakir Krpo froze their status within
	the Commission at the last session, adding that Krpo
	still attended the session. "Still, we reached a
	conclusion with Krpo to send two letters. One was sent
	to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Mostar to urgently
	fill the vacancies at the Commission because they have
	the authority () The other letter was sent to the OHR
	so they declare their view on the situation," says
	Merdzo announcing there would be a regular session (of
	the Mostar Commission) today.

Have on SDS	RTRS at 19:30 hrs - PDHR Donald Hays described SDS
Hays on SDS	
reps leaving	delegates' decision to walkout from the RS National
RS NA session	Assembly last session on Tuesday as a political move.
	"That was a trial of one group of politicians to show
	another group of politicians who was the boss.
	Taxpayers' money was spent for nothing, while citizens
	were offended since they expected these politicians to
	implement reforms," stressed Hays. PDHR further
	discussed the work of the RS NA with its Speaker,
	Dragan Kalinic, and heads of caucuses. During the
	talks, special attention was paid to legal regulations
	in regard to the VAT, reforms of customs and defence
	system and rebalance of the budget. Blic pg. 7 'Who the
	boss is'.
PDP on RS NA	Nezavisne Novine pg. 6 'It was not easy on PDP without
session	the SDS' — PDP Vice President, Goran Milojevic,
	yesterday stated that PDP delegates did not attend the
	session of the Republika Srpska National Assembly
	yesterday since it was obvious that due to the absence
	of over 30 % of deputies, the Assembly could not
	properly function. Milojevic also expressed
	dissatisfaction over the inefficiency of the BiH
	Election Commission. He also added that the action by
	SDS MP's was not the best way to protest against
	it.Blic pg. 7 'Lack of promptness of Election
	Commission'.
	it.Blic pg. 7 'Lack of promptness of Election

Fed parties	Avaz pg. 9 'Some from the IC gave in to pressures from
claim IC gave	the RS' — the SDA assessed as unacceptable the giving
in to RS	in of the IC to anti-reformist forces that advocate the
requests	legislation of the existing situation in the areas of
	defence, security, taxes, customs. Therefore, the party
	will open the issue of their relationship with partner
	parties in relation to the issues, and, if necessary,
	advocate the re-composition of the authority structure.
	Safet Halilovic, SBiH President, said they thought some
	IC reps gave in to pressures and lobbying from the RS.
	"To be more specific, the Working Group for the
	devising of the Law on Indirect Taxation in the RS left
	a session, and by doing so exerted pressures.
	Allowances are practically being made for RS reps in
	the areas of customs administrations. The SBiH thinks t
	number of things in the reform of defence and
	intelligence services are disputable," said Halilovic.
	HDZ Vice-Persident, Niko Lozancic, said the SDA
	reacting was justified and founded. He added that
	according to his info, the direction of reforms so far
	in the sphere of defence, intelligence and fiscal
	policy were not going in the right direction. "If this
	continues to the end I personally think, and that is
	the view of the HDZ, that this was not what we wanted
	to achieve through reforms. We want reforms that aim
	for the establishment of everything I mentioned on the
	state level, and not some sort of coordination of
	entity constitutions," said Lozancic. An insert
	'Stojicic: there's majority without the SDA' - the SDS
	stated they did not know what the SDA meant when they
	talked about the re-composing of the authority
	structure. SDS Spokesperson, Dusan Stojicic, said it
	was SDA's right to establish authority with other
	parties on the basis of an agreement, as well as to
	break the agreement. "In case of the majority in the RS
	NA, such position by the SDA will not influence greatly
	the work of the Parliament, as it is well known there's
	majority even without the SDA." Avaz pg. 4 'IC reps
	gave in to pressure from the RS' - carried the SBiH PR.
	Dnevni List pg. 6 'SBiH against the continuation of
	parallelisms in customs offices' – also carried the
	SBiH PR.
L	1

Vjesnik on Ploce port	<pre>Vjesnik pg. 5 'Croatia wants to jointly administrate Ploce Port with BiH without foreign arbiter' - according to Vjesnik's unofficial findings, the issue of Ploce Port between BiH and Croatia will be resolved in a way that the Agreement on the Ploce Port and protocol on the new composition of the Port's Steering Board will be signed simultaneously - on the same day, at the same time. According to Vjesnik, it is an unusual but necessary compromise, the details of which should be arranged in the next two months.</pre>
VL on SDA	Vecernji List pg. 3 'We are not staying in power at any cost' - the SDA is dissatisfied with relation of partner's parties in the ruling Coalition and announced a possibility of going into opposition. VL also says that the SDA is accusing partner's parties but also the IC for the possible breakdown of the ruling Coalition. SDA Vice President, Seada Palavric, stated that her impression was that it was being worked intensively on legalization of the situation in BiH, which was the result of the aggression and ethnic cleansing. VL says that apart from the SDS and HDZ, the SDA is also not satisfied with the Party for BiH.

### **Police Affairs**

Cegar case	Avaz pg. 1 and 2 – Federation Minister of
	Interior, Mevludin Halilovic, yesterday informed
	senior state and Federation officials about
	threats he had been receiving from Commander of
	the FBiH Special Unit Zoran Cegar. In the letter
	Halilovic wrote that Cegar is calling him
	insulting names, threatening to beat him up and
	also saying that 'Halilovic should be careful what
	he did because he had children'. Halilovic
	therefore requested protection, and moved his
	family out of Sarajevo. Halilovic further
	expressed surprise that so far there were no
	appropriate reactions by IC police officials, and
	Halilovic wondered what could an ordinary citizen
	expect when such things were happening to the
	minister and a member of the FBiH government. In a
	different article on pg. 2 'Cegar's protectors
	pronounced similar statements by witnesses as
	contradictory' – on a report by the Internal
	Control unit at the FBiH MoI, which the FBiH
	Commission for Defence and Security declared
	invalid. The report apparently suggests a
	disciplinary procedure due to Cegar's
	inappropriate behaviour, but claims there were not
	enough evidence to support claims of national and
	religious verbal abuse, hence no disciplinary
	responsibility needs to be established.
	Oslobodjenje pg. 3 'Sucur and Skenderagic
	announced resignations' – Slavisa Sucur and Nijaz
	Skenderagic, SDP reps, at a session of the
	Federation Commission for defence and Security,
	held on Monday, announced they'd submit their
	resignations in the Commission. Sucur told
	Oslobodjenje that certain members, mainly those
	from the SDA, want to solve in advance the Cegar
	investigation. Sucur recalled that in the case of
	Pogorelica and SNS, when the FOSS was established,
	false statement were coming from the Commission
	about people being dismissed without an
	explanation. Asked who made such statements, Sucur
	replied it was Sead Delic, Commission President.

BiH joint	Nezavisne Novine pg. 5'Vila: Republika Srpska
intelligence	officials do not want a BiH intelligence agency' -
agency	Nermin Vila, a member of the Federation Task Force
	for Control of Intelligence Agencies, stated that
	Republika Srpska officials sitting at the BiH
	Intelligence Service Reform Commission from
	Republika Srpska do not want to see a joint BiH
	intelligence agency established. Vila stressed
	that Republika Srpska officials wanted to see two
	entity intelligence services exist with one co-
	ordination body at the state level. Unlike
	Republika Srpska officials, representatives from
	the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina want to
	establish a joint intelligence agency of BiH. OHR
	Spokesperson, Oleg Milisic, reiterated that the
	deadline for the establishment of a joint
	intelligence service was January 1, 2004,
	stressing that all problems related to this issue
	should be resolved by this date. Barisa Colak, BiH
	Minister of Security, is of the opinion that BiH
	can only have one intelligence agency.

## **Education Affairs**

Beecroft	Nezavisne Novine pg. 6 'Officials
	obstructing the implementation of
	education reform need to be removed' —
	Ambassador Robert Beecroft, Head of OSCE
	Mission to BiH, is of the opinion that
	ministers of education should remove
	school principles where reform is not
	being implemented. He stressed that the
	theory part of the educational reform has
	been completed, stressing that the time
	has come to implement it in practise. In
	spite of his satisfaction over the
	adoption of the Law on Primary and
	Secondary Education in BiH, Beecroft
	expressed expectation that the Law on High
	Education would be enacted by the end of
	this year.

CDO massa an	Vacarnii List ng O and Dnavni List ng
CRO press on	Vecernji List pg. 9, and Dnevni List pg.
education	16 'Stop illegalities of ruling political
reform	nomenclature' — the Trade Union of
	Secondary Schools of the Herzegovina-
	Neretva Canton (Croats) has issued a press
	release in which they harshly oppose the
	plan on the unification of two Mostar
	gymnasiums. "The creation of a joint
	gymnasium in Mostar creates grounds for
	another confusion and the pre-war
	situation that necessarily leads towards a
	conflict." On the same issue Slobodna
	Dalmacija last page 'OSCE's plan on
	unification of Mostar gymnasiums
	presented' and Dnevni List pg. 17 'Benes:
	SDA sanctions itself by this act' - during
	yesterday's press conference of the
	international organizations seated in
	Mostar, OSCE Mostar Spokesperson, Richard
	Medic, presented a plan on the integration
	of two Mostar gymnasiums. On the same
	issue DL pg. 4 'Issue of Mostar gymnasiums
	is being resolved in Sarajevo' – Bosniak
	member of the BiH Presidency, Sulejman
	Tihic, yesterday talked with Head of the
	OSCE Mission in BiH, Robert Beecroft, on
	the implementation of the education
	reform. DL says that they also talked
	about the possible administrative
	unification of two Mostar gymnasiums,
	which could be a model for the resolving
	of education issue in the entire BiH.