OHR BiH Media Round-up, 1/9/2003

CROAT RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	**BH TV 1** (19,00 hrs)	**FED TV** (19,30 hrs)
Education workers' strike	Kostajnica	PBS Laws
Ceremony in Kostajnica	Zitoprerada	Zitoprerada
'Zitoprerada' on strike	Iraq	Strike in power sector

Oslobodjenje	Strikers (Zitoprereda workers) again called Hadzipasic
Dnevni Avaz	Preparations for Potocari Memorial Center opening: Clinton will be welcomed by BiH officials, Head of the Islamic Community
Dnevni List	Mostarians stop producing Sarin nerve gas; Don Anto Ledic: There are still armed foreigners in our area
Vecernji List	Puljic: I am threatened by foreign politicians; Workers continue with hunger strike
Slobodna Dalmacija	Features Croatia related headlines
Glas Srpske	BiH lawsuit against Serbia and Montenegro : Covic is neutral; Violation of the Law on employment: Salary as pocket money
Nezavisne Novine	Radimir Cacic, Croatian Minister for Public Works , Reconstruction and Construction works: Croatia would build the highway in BiH in five years time; Report of the International Institute from Ljubljana: Kalinic and Ivanic are destroying Republika Srpska

Political developments	
Ceremony in Kostajnica near Konjic	Croat radio Herceg Bosna, BHTV, Oslobodjenje pgs. 4-5, mentioned on the front page 'Bridge to the Andjelic family opened', Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 'The Croatian Government project completed', Dnevni List front and page 7, by I. Glibusic, "Don Anto Ledic: There are still armed foreigners in our area" – The project of reconstruction of the bridge and several other buildings in Kostajnica, financed by the Croatian Government, has finally come to end. Deputy Chairman of the Croatian Government Goran Granic opened the ceremony on Sunday. Bosnian Archbishop Vinko Puljic was present at the opening ceremony and blessed the bridge and the reading room; also, some of the high ranking Croat officials in BiH were present, among them Croat Ambassador in BiH Josip Vrbosic, Chairman of HDZ Barisa Colak, Federal Minister of Defence Miroslav Nikolic, President of the HNK Government Miroslav Coric. During his speech in the catholic church in Kostajnica, Bosnian Archbishop Vinko Puljic said: "When leaving BiH, one of the IC representatives who could not stand my speech told me: 'I will get revenge on you. I will stab you in the back with the help of your own people'. This is the first time I speak about it in public." Puljic also emphasized very difficult situation of the Croat population and catholic church in BiH, and very poor relation of the IC towards them. Puljic also mentioned recent education issues in HNK; he said that every people had a right to decide about the way their children should be educated. Vecernji List front "Puljic: I am threatened by foreign politicians" and page "I will stab knife in your back will help of yours", by Ivan Kaleb also carried Puljic's statement. Vecernji List (page 2, by Jozo Pavkovic, "Cardinal's people") – says that Cardinal Puljic's statement from Kostajnica could shock only the people who do not know the situation in BiH. Pavkovic argues that the foreign official in question was not careful in saying what the other foreigners are subtly doing. The author also reckons that some Croats have been bought for a "fistful of money" because the order-makers know it is a lot easier to manage the Croats if they are disunited. The end result, according to Pavkovic, is a disastrous position of the Croats-Catholics.

Robert Hitchner's initiative	Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'Tihic: Reforms in BiH cannot be completed without change of Constitution' – Robert Hitchner, one of the Dayton Agreement's authors, suggested to the BiH leaders to together with the representatives of the international community next year start drafting a new state Constitution since the Peace Agreement has become an obstacle to making further progress in the country. Sulejman Tihic, Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency and SDA leader hails the initiative saying that the reforms in BiH cannot be completed without the change of the Constitution. Safet Halilovic, the BiH Minister of Civil Affairs, believes that the assessment on the need for change of the Dayton Agreement is 'in place (justified)'. Nikola Spiric, the Chairman of the BiH House of Representatives, mainly agrees with Hitchner's opinion but he emphasizes that the search for any new constitutional solutions should be a job to be done by the BiH political forces without interference of the international community. Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'OHR: Political consensus among key political factors in BiH needed for new solutions' – "The time has gone when the destiny of BiH was being solved in air bases distanced thousands of kilometres from this country. For any new solutions, a political consensus of all key political factors and, of course, consent of all three peoples in BiH is needed", said OHR Spokesman Mario Brkic. Oslobodjenje pg. 6, mentioned on the front page 'Path towards a normal state' – The draft declaration on the necessity to change BiH Constitution and the establishment of the Federal Republic of BiH as well as a round-table on the issue scheduled for September 10 in Sarajevo draw an extraordinary attention by the domestic and international scientific circles.
DL on Thessaloniki summit	Dnevni List (page 6, by Dr. Jadranko Prlic, "Unfulfilled Thessaloniki expectations") – Prlic notes that the expectations that the Thessaloniki summit of the leaders of EU and countries of southeast Europe would represent the turning point for the European path of the countries from the region were not fulfilled. "Greece was very ambitious, but the Iraqi crisis, fatigue over the biggest expansion to date – 'the big bang' or accession of ten new countries, and a very clumsy policy of the countries from the region, incapable of setting forth acceptable requests, unabled that the June Thessaloniki summit gets a historical meaning", says Prlic.

IFIMES report on Republika Srpska, SDS	Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 4, 'Kalinic and Ivanic are destroying Republika Srpska' – The latest analysis of the International Institute for Middle East and Balkans studies (IFIMES) stressed that SDS is currently faced with a serious political crisis, with Dragan Cavic on one side and Dragan Kalinic and Mirko Sarovic on the other. According to report, the only goal of Kalinic at the moment is how to survive at the political scene. And this issue is discussed at his frequent meetings with the High Representative to BiH, Paddy Ashdown, report adds. The report also compares Dragan Cavic with Biljana Plavsic, saying that: "If Cavic does not undertake certain reformist actions, he would vanish from the political scene and be remembered as "anemic politician". IFIMES further stresses that SDS is expected to arrest Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, in which order it would demonstrate its readiness to participate in anti-organised fight led by USA, as well as to remove all militant members from its party. According to NN inset 1, IFIMES reminds that the role of HiRep in BiH is inevitable in all processes in BiH. According to IFIMES, Paddy Ashdown is a true protector of nationalists, who are also playing main roles in majority of negative processes in BiH. Ashdown is also criticised for its favouring of certain media in BiH (mainly printed media).

VL on organizational set-up of FBiH	Vecernji List (page 16, by Robert Bubalo, "Croats would like switzerlandization, Bosniak would like centralization") – in light of abolishment of institution of governors in cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), the paper wonders whether the cantons too will be abolished. According to Bubalo, there are some informal discussions in halls of numerous State and FBiH institutions, however the President of HDZ BiH, Barisa Colak, says there are some concrete initiatives as well. Colak believes that the fact that the FBiH Minister of Interior, Mevludin Halilovic's, proposal on abolishment of cantonal MoI hints there are initiatives to abolish the cantons. "That is not a concrete, official initiative for abolishment of cantons yet, but it goes in that direction", says Colak stressing that his party advocates that competence of the entities be transferred to the State and cantons. On the other hand, according to VL, the Bosniaks insist on centralization, in other words weakening and abolishment of cantons. VL notes that the OHR claims that for the time being there are no official initiatives, therefore the OHR does not want to comment such ideas.
DL on early elections in BiH	Dnevni List (p 4, "Re-alignment on political scene already started", by Zvonimir Jukic) comments that the fact that the initiative for early elections in BiH has caused re-alignments and announcements of pre-election coalitions and post-election cooperation shows that the idea has become topical in international circles too. As for party combinations, DL believes the most likely one is forming of an opposition block consisting of SDP, SNSD and NHI, the 3 strongest opposition parties. DL says it is only the international circles, however, that can realize the idea of early elections and the security and social circumstances in BiH indicate the need for them. According to the daily, a part of international officials are afraid to take a risk of the early elections as they do not know what to do in case national parties score the same success they scored last October. "This indicates to the fact that the opposition must play a more active role in BiH society and must fully clear the party lines off compromised individuals if they want to have early elections", says Jukic.

Conflicts within HDZ of Canton 8	Dnevni List (front and page 3, by De. L., "Conflict between Zoric and Jukic shakes HDZ") – the paper learns from an anonymous officials of HDZ in West-Herzegovina Canton (WHC) that there was a harsh discussion during a session of Cantonal Board of HDZ of WHC which was held on Thursday, August 28. Apparently, there was a harsh polemic between the Vice President of Cantonal Board of HDZ, Vinko Zoric, and the current Speaker in BiH House of Peoples and President of Cantonal Board of HDZ, Velimir Jukic, which resulted in both of them offering resignations which were not discussed by the HDZ of Canton 8. According to DL's information, the conflict is a part of scenario according to which the HDZ wants to get rid of a "burden called Vinko Zoric" against whom a number of criminal reports about abuse of office have been filed.
SDA versus SDS	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4, 'SDA addressed a warning to SDS' – Seada Palavric, SDA Vice President, claims that the insistence of the SDS for the removal of SDA ministers would result in the crisis at all levels of authority in the Republika Srpska. She added that such requests by SDS are actually in support of requests by Milorad Dodik, regarding holding extraordinary elections.

Economic/social issues

Zitopererada affair	Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, BHTV, FTV, Oslobodjenje front page pg. 3 ‘Strikers again called Hadzipasic’, Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 ‘Workers want Hadzipasic to come to Bihac again’ – Workers of ‘Zitoprerada’ in Bihac continued the hunger strike on Sunday. After the FBiH Prime Minister Ahmed Hadzipasic decision on temporary shutting down/sealing the company was not executed, the workers placed their tents in front of the Una-Sana Cantonal Government building. Instead of affixing the seal, the police only started to watch the company’s property. Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 ‘Biber: Una-Sana Canton Government obstructs order since it is corrupted’ – The Una-Sana Canton Government is trying to obstruct FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic’s order on sealing Zitoprerada in spite of the agreement reached on the issue on Friday, says in a statement for the newspaper BiH Trade Unions leader Edhem Biber. “We are suspecting that many members of the Una-Sna Government are involved in corruption,” Biber said. In light of reports that the Prime Minister of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), Ahmet Hadzipasic, requested that the “Zitoprerada” be closed down until the case has been resolved in the court and subsequent decision of the Una-Sana Government not to abide by Hadzipasic’s decision, Dnevni List (page 2, by Miso Relota, “Cantonal against Federation Government”) says that the Una-Sana Canton Prime Minister, Fadil Islamovic, is behaving like “the leading sheriff” in the canton. Relota also notes that the FBiH Government issued clear instructions how to end the Bihac agony, “but the leading structures in the U-S Canton, which are connected to criminal lobbies, are looking for ways how not to implement the decision of the FBiH Government, because it is obvious it is not in their interest. They probably followed the logic, knowing the distance between Bihac and Sarajevo – out of sight, out of mind”.

Law on Construction Land	FTV – OHR launches campaign on law on construction land. Law is going to make all the future transfers of land plots to be non-discriminatory and would provide frame for solution to disputable distribution of land right after the war. OHR Spokesman Oleg Milisic: "It is clear that important issue of construction lands created many problems in the past years. High Representative wanted to put all of those issues in the same frame which will allow their solution within local institutions." New law also underlines need for the restitution issue to be resolved. Milisic: "Before BiH enters this issue, answers to three main questions must be provided: the way how it is going to be done, resources for that and prevention from damaging fragile BiH's economy."
DL says audits of three telecommunications companies in BiH completed	Dnevni List (page 2, by S. K., "Announcement of results his week") – the paper learns from "an Office of OHR" that an audit of business operations of the three telecommunications companies has been completed and that the results of the audit and position of the OHR will be made known to the wider public this week. The source could not either confirm or deny allegations that the auditors detected big malversations within the Telekom Srpske, which "sucked out" hundreds of million of KMs. DL got a confirmation that the OHR waited that the audit be completed in all three operators so the public gets informed in one go.

DL: New EP HZ HB investment	Dnevni list (p 3, “Investment worth 20 million KMs”, by V. Soldo) reports that, after the Elektroprivreda of Herzeg-Bosnia suspended its “Gray zone” electrification project in March over the international audit of its business operations, a tender for the project has now been invited. Elektroprivreda HZHB will invest 5 millions, whereas the remaining 5 millions are a credit. The entire project, which also comprises a huge part of West Herzegovina Canton too, is worth 20 million KMs and will be completed in 2 years’ time.
DL: Interview with FBiH Deputy PM Vrankic	In his interview for Dnevni list (front & p 9, “FBiH Government’s decision to establish a state company for import of oil is bad”, by Miso Relota), Dragan Vrankic, the Federation of BiH (FBiH) Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, says that the Law on Indirect Tax was almost fully harmonized but that the issues of the seat of Indirect Tax Administration (ITA) and of the number of regional seats were issues of political nature. As a Minister of Finance, Vrankic is not satisfied with the compromise that was made, i.e. the seat being in Banja Luka. Speaking of the FBiH Government’s decision on Steering Boards of state-owned companies in FBiH, he says FBiH Government had in mind the protection of state capital and improving of companies’ efficiency. Vrankic is not overly satisfied with the Tax Administration and Financial Police in the sense of coordination, adding that the reform in state bodies, including the 2 mentioned institutions, has just begun. As for the decision on import of oil by railways, Vrankic says it shows inability to solve problems from this sphere by using normal and available ways adding that high level of smuggling and tax evasion is not justification for establishment of TERMINALI d.o.o. that will have the monopoly.

VL on salaries of MPs in BiH Parliament	Vecernji List (page 16, by Dejan Jazvic, "MPs salary – 20 pensions") – the author reports that a group of MPs in the BiH Parliament will try to block the previously announced increase of MPs' salaries in the Parliament that will place an extra burden on the already poor country. Noting that the additional cost would burden BiH with additional 157.000 KMs a month, Jazvic says it is highly unlikely the small group of MPs would be successful in their effort. Jazvic also warns that if the pay-rise goes through, in that case an MPs salary would match 20 average pensions in BiH and concludes that the High Representative for BiH, Paddy Ashdown, is the only one who can prevent the "disgraceful plunder". However, Jazvic notes that the HR is sending a message that he will not react and that that MPs must show moral responsibility towards those who elected them.
Croatia on 5C corridor	Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 5, 'Croatia would build the highway in BiH in five years time' – In a short interview to NN, Radimir Cacic, Croatian Minister for Public Works, Reconstruction and Construction works, said that if it gained concession, Croatia would be ready to build 350 km of highway through BiH in three to five years. According to him, 'Croatia has passed on its experiences in highway construction to BiH authorities and offered its irretrievable financial assistance in the preparation of the documentation necessary for announcing a qualitative international public tender."

Violations of the Law on Employment	Glas Srpske, cover page story, 'Salaries as pocket money' – While the whole army of those unemployed in the Republika Srpska (around 143 thousand people) are in search for any kind of work, certain number of those employed take part-time extra work, whose payment for them is like pocket money. Gordana Jugovic, Republika Srpska Labour Inspector, stressed that there are difficulties in the practical implementation of the Law on Employment, which may be addressed to few addresses. According to her, the problem is mainly related to providing part-time work to pensioners, work at black market of those employed and unemployed, work under contract, etc.
Comments on contract between Telekom Srpske and EBRD	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 3, 'Illegal Contract was signed, because powerful political and economic lobbies are behind it' – Borislav Bijelic, economic analyst from Banjaluka, is of the view that the Contract between Telekom Srpske and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was aimed towards creating pre-requisites within political tycoons and lobbies necessary for considering this Bank as an important factor during the privatisation of Telekom Srpske. Bijelic explained that the term used in the contract, namely the term "pre-privatisation loan" is nonsense, "because such loan does not exist at all." Nikola Spiric, Professor at the Banjaluka Faculty of Economics, stressed that the remarks placed by Institute of Economics from Banjaluka upon this Contract describe the nature of this Contract. The Institute report warned that the Contract was aimed at merging commercial development loan with the issues related to the privatisation process, which is not in accordance with legal provisions. However, Damir Miljevic, President of the Republika Srpska Association of Employers, is of the view that the Contract is in principle good and that it cannot cause any damage.

Oil import	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 2, 'Import of oil by railroads as soon as possible' – the Republika Srpska Government will persist in its initiative that all oil should be imported in Republika Srpska by railroads. Republika Srpska Ministry of Trade and Tourism confirmed that BiH CoM is expected to enact this decree within this month.
Investigations into Telekom Srpske affairs	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 3, 'Prosecutor's Office: We gave instructions to police; Glusac: The case has not arrived to Republika Srpska MOI yet' – Marinko Kovacevic, Banjaluka Basic Public Prosecutor, told NN that the entire file on the business dealings at Telekom Srpske has been forwarded to Republika Srpska police, "which is now acting in accordance with the new Law on Criminal Proceeding". However, Zoran Glusac, Spoieksperson of the Republika Srpska Interior Ministry, denied that any file has arrived to Banjaluka PSC seeking further investigation into Telekom Srpske affair. He added that the problem regarding delivery of the file must lay with Post Office, emphasising that the file should arrive, if Prosecutor's Office sent it to police.

Media, info campaigns

PBS	FTV – OHR submits draft laws on Public Broadcasting System and three public broadcasters to the BiH governments. According to local experts' opinion, some parts of this model could not be implemented. Draft laws contain regulation that gives CRA maximum unlimited power without any kind of responsibilities. CRA would have a total control over all the aspects of programming, managerial and financial performance of the system. Model also contains several misguidance related to the additional financing of the system and construction of premises. OHR could not provide information on who are creators of this model and more should be known tomorrow (on Monday).
Ashdown to meet with Mikerevic, Solaja today, discuss Law on RTRS	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 5, 'Model of the Law on public broadcasters does not respect constitutional and legal order of Bosnia and Herzegovina' – Dragan Mikerevic, Republika Srpska Prime Minister, and Dragan Solaja, Republika Srpska Minister of Traffic and Communication, today in Sarajevo, will meet the High Representative to BiH, Paddy Ashdown. They are to discuss the new model of the Law on RTRS, proposed by OHR. Mikerevic expressed certain reserves towards the new proposed model of the law, claiming that this is not the final version of the Law. The OHR Spokesperson, Mario Brkic, said that the press conference will be held in Sarajevo after this meeting.

EUPM and BiH Police Working Towards European Standards	Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 ‘Start of a public info campaign’, FENA – The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, and the EUPM Commissioner, Sven Frederiksen will on Monday unveil a new poster marking the start of public information campaign run by the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, OHR announced on Sunday. The campaign aims to explaining the steps the EUPM is taking in order to help BiH police forces attain European operational and ethical standards. The primary goal of the EUPM is to develop policing in BiH that is free of political influence, financially sound and oriented in a fundamental way towards serving the needs of the community and enhancing the security of all BiH citizens. A core element of modern European policing is transparency in the way officer’s carry out their duties, public accountability, and efficient supervision.

Education

Strike of teachers in HNC	Croat Radio Herceg Bosna – Education workers of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (HNK) who teach according to the Bosniack syllabus will go on strike as of Monday, September 1st, while the ones teaching according to the Croat syllabus will go on strike as of Tuesday, September 2nd. The Chairman of the HNK Croat education workers union Josip Milic confirmed the information. "We are mostly irritated by the poor treatment of the education workers in general. Adoption of the collective agreement and regular salaries' payment could bring us to suspending the strike," said Milic. Chairman of the HNK Croat union for education workers in elementary schools Slavko Laus stressed he would receive the pupils in school on Monday and present them the strike schedule. (Note that this is the repeated report from Saturday) Dnevni List (front and page 16, by S. B., V. L., "Prime Minister silent before 28.000 students") – in light of the announcement that the education workers in Canton 7 that work according to the Croat curriculum will go on general strike tomorrow, DL tried to get a comment from the Canton 7 Education Minister and Prime Minister, Jago Musa and Miroslav Coric, but both of them were reluctant to give statements justifying it with the ongoing reconciliation process. On the other hand, one of representatives of the education Union, Josip Milic, says the reconciliation process has failed since the Union rejected the proposals of the Reconciliation council. "There will be no more meetings, according to our lawyer we did what the law obliges us to do, they can press charges now", says Milic adding that the education workers are going on strike tomorrow. The President of the Reconciliation council, Ivica Rozic, announces there is going to be a session of the council today and according to him there is a possibility that the Union's representatives show up.

War crimes	
US charge d' affairs in BiH says arrest of war criminals just matter of time	BHTV – Despite the frequent, but unsuccessful, attempts by SFOR to arrest the responsible for war crimes, newly-appointed US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Tina Kaidanow says that the arrest of war criminals, for the US government, is just a matter of time. "I can reiterate what you already know very well – that our policy, the policy of the US government, is absolute commitment to arrest and punish war criminals, " said Kaidanow, who is serving as Charge d'Affaires in the US Embassy in Sarajevo in the temporary absence of US Ambassador Clifford Bond, who is currently in Iraq. "I think that it is not really even a question of whether Karadzic and Mladic will go to The Hague, but rather when. We will continue to work on that with every atom of energy we have. We will also work on discovering the networks which are currently supporting the war criminals, because this is the second most important aspect in order to ensure that this whole thing comes to an end," she added.

Preparations for Potocari Memorial Centre opening	Dnevni Avaz front page, pg. 3 'Clinton to be welcomed by BiH officials, Head of the BiH Islamic Community' – Comprehensive preparations are underway for the opening of the Potocari Memorial Centre scheduled for September 20. The Centre will be officially opened by former US President Bill Clinton, who is expected to arrive in BiH the same day. According to a schedule, Clinton will spend some hour and a half in Potocari, where he will be welcomed by BiH state officials and Head of the BiH Islamic Community.
Marking of International Day of Missing persons: at Crni Vrh, and	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 10, 'Over 200 family members prayed to God for their relatives' – Over 200 family members of the persons missing from Kotor Varos, Srebrenica, Sanski Most, Zvornik, Vitez, Bratunac, Orasje, Prozor and other BiH cities on Saturday visited the mass grave at Crni Vrh near Zvoenik and prayed for their family members. In this manner, they marked the International Day of Missing Persons.
at Banjaluka Graveyard	Glas Srpske, pg. 3, 'Why were they killed?' – The International Day of the Missing Persons, 30 August, was on Saturday marked at the Banjaluka Novo Groblje, when the Republika Srpska Association of the Missing Soldiers and Civilians laid wreaths and lit candles at the commemorative plaque for 480 unidentified soldiers of Republika Srpska Army.

Placement of plaque at Viktor Bubanj barracks	Glas Srpske, pg. 3, 'Commemorative plaque at "Viktor Bubanj"' – Slavko Jovicic, Vice President of the Republika Srpska Association of former inmates, confirmed to SRNA news agency that the representatives of this Association will place a commemorative plaque at Viktor Bubanj military barracks on 19 September. He said that: "Even if Sarajevo Canonal Government and Interior Ministry, BiH Court and OHR, that ignored our request dated 5th August, tried to prevent us from placing the plaque, we would never give up on this."

Other issues	
Vladika Grigorije in DL	Carrying parts of his interview given to Belgrade-based Vecernje novosti, Dnevni list (back page, "We did not sell the land in Mostar for peanuts", not signed) carries the Orthodox Bishop of Zahumlje-Herzegovina, Vladika Grigorije, as saying that the Serb Orthodox Church did not sell a plot of land of 5000 square metres for peanuts to the then Mostar Mayor Ivan Prskalo. The Vladika adds that, at the time the land was sold, there was a state of uncertainty, there was a threat to lose the land and nobody knew that Prskalo would build a huge modern business and residential facility there. The Vladika reiterates the money is now being used for reconstruction of Orthodox holy places.

Livno dismissal of policemen	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 2, ’45 policemen dismissed’ – Husein Bukvic, Head of Crime Police at Interior Ministry of Livno Canton, confirmed that 45 policemen were dismissed owing to their possession of forged diplomas on completed secondary education. The dismissals were handed at the end of last or beginning of this year.