OHR BiH Media Round-up, 20/10/2004

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	**BH TV 1** (19,00 hrs)	**FED TV** (19,30 hrs)	**RT RS** (19,30)
Nedjo Samardzic arrested	Nedjo Samardzic arrested	Nedjo Samardzic arrested	Nedjo Samardzic arrested
Bomb killed 2 boys	Advisor to BIH Prosecutor	Bomb killed 2 boys	RTRS team attacked
Croatian del. in Mostar	Bomb killed 2 boys	RSNA held session	RS NA session
Helsinki C. on Reis Ceric	Trial of Krsmanovic	Constit. changes in Croatia	Loan for RS road network

Oslobodjenje	First anniversary of death of Alija Izetbegovic marked – He wanted Bosnia for everyone
Dnevni Avaz	Izetbegovic and patriots saved BiH
Dnevni List	Delegation of Croatian Parliament visits Mostar: Permanent airline between Zagreb and Mostar announced
Vecernji List	Analysis: Herzegovina , what's it like, is it Ustasha-like, Communists-like or Rodijak-like
Slobodna Dalmacija	There was no money laundry in Hercegovacka bank
Glas Srpske	Samardzic was wounded and arrested
Nezavisne Novine	Nedjo Samardjic, accused of war crimes, was wounded; Only arresting of indictees would save RS; He admitted he had murdered three persons in Novi Sad; Adnan Terzic: I do not want to negotiate on Ploce port with Croatia; Imports of material for heroin was legal

Blic	Samardzic was wounded before his wife and child; 1,000 customs employees to lose their jobs
Vecernje Novosti	Features Serbian related titles
Belgrade's Nacional	Features Serbian related titles

Crime/security/legal proceedings

SFOR confirmed injuring of a suspected criminal in Bileca	**Herceg Bosna Radio, BHT, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 6, mentioned on cover 'A man suspected of war crimes in Foca arrested', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4, mentioned on cover 'Nedjo Samardzic wounded in SFOR and SIPA action' **FENA** – Early on Tuesday soldiers from the SFOR Multinational Specialized Unit, carried out an operation in Bileca supporting SIPA officers in the arrest of a wanted criminal, the SFOR Spokesman, **Mark Hope**, told a press conference in Sarajevo on Tuesday. He explained that the individual (**Nedjo Samardzic** from Bileca) has two outstanding warrants from the Sarajevo Cantonal Court , including a local warrant for war crimes. As Hope explained, during the arrest, the individual attempted to evade capture by drawing a weapon and firing on the SFOR soldiers. The SFOR soldiers returned fire in self-defense, injuring the individual. The individual was given immediate medical attention at the site by SFOR medical staff and was transferred by SFOR medical helicopter to a SFOR hospital, where he is receiving further medical attention from SFOR doctors. Once treatment permits, the individual will be transferred to the FBiH authorities. Hope noted that SFOR takes all measures to minimize the amount of force necessary to conduct an operation. Unfortunately, he added, in this case the individual started to fire on the SFOR soldiers, endangering their lives and the lives of those around them, and the soldiers returned fire in self-defense in accordance with their SFOR Rules of Engagement. Throughout the operation, SFOR was within its mandate under the General Framework Agreement for peace in order to preserve the safe and secure environment in BiH, underlined the spokesperson of SFOR. **Dnevni List** pg 5 'Samardzic out of life danger', mentioned on cover, by D. Polovina-Mandic, N. Dedic, **Vecernji List** pg 3 'Suspect wounded because he started to shoot at SFOR', mentioned on cover 'SFOR members wounded Samardzic', by B. Stevandic, **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 16 'SFOR members wounded and arrested citizen of Bileca in shootout', mentioned on cover, by A. Macanovic, **Nezavisne Novine,** cover and pg. 3 'Nedjo Samardjic, accused of war crimes, was wounded' by N. Kolak, **Glas Srpske,** cover page story 'He was wounded and arrested', **EuroBlic,** cover 'He was wounded before his wife and child' and pg. RS1 'He was wounded in a shootout with special unit members' by V. Mihojevic and agencies, **Nacional** Belgrade daily, pg. 11 'SFOR wounded and arrested Nedjo Samardjic' not signed, **Vecernje Novosti,** pg. 14 'He was wounded in a shootout' by a team of VN also reported on the operation.

RS Interior Minister Matijasevic says RS police was not directly involved in SFOR operation	**BHT, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Matijasevic was not informed about the operation', **ONASA** – RS Interior Minister **Darko Matijasevic**, addressing the parliament, said on Tuesday that **Nedo Samardzic** resisted during SFOR's action in Bileca early on Tuesday using firearms. Matijasevic told delegates that Samardzic is in Mostar hospital and that he life is not in danger. He added the Interior Ministry was not directly engaged in the SFOR operation, nor that it was informed on the action. Matijasevic earlier said that ministry's units took part in Tuesday morning's action of SFOR in Bileca, which injured one person.
OHR supports SIPA and SFOR action against indicted criminal	**BHT, Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'OHR's support', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'OHR supported the action in Bileca', **Glas Srpske** cover page 'Who helped whom', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'Support to SIPA and SFOR's action', **ONASA, FENA** – The OHR fully supports the joint SIPA and SFOR action at the request of the BiH Prosecutors Office that took place in Bileca this morning. The International Community and the BiH authorities are determined to find and arrest all indicted criminals, OHR Spokesman **Vedran Persic** said at a press conference in Sarajevo on Tuesday. *"It is not for OHR to comment on the details of such an operation but it is important to highlight that upholding the rule of law is an essential element in any democracy and key to building a European future for BiH. Criminals must not be permitted to undermine BiH's future. OHR regrets that someone was injured during this operation and calls on all those indicted by the courts, either in BiH or in the Hague to surrender so avoiding such incidents in the future,"* said Persic.
RTRS crew attacked after SFOR operation in Bileca	**FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 6 'RTRS journalists attacked', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'RTRS crew was attacked', **Glas Srpske** cover page 'Cameraman was attacked', **SRNA** – An RTRS crew was attacked by a group of people in Bileca early on Tuesday. The crew was attacked in the area where **Nedjo Samardzic** had been earlier wounded by SFOR. Crew members were slightly injured and a TV camera was destroyed. Trebinje police chief **Mrksa Skocajic** said that the police would take steps against the perpetrators of the attack. Some 200 inhabitants of Bileca had gathered at the place where Samardzic was arrested.
Reaction of the BiH Coordination of Journalists Associations to the attack on RTRS crew	**RTRS, Nezavisne Novine,** pg. 3 'They are embittered because MoI has not protected RTRS crew' by V. P. – The BiH Coordination of Journalists Associations condemned the attack on RTRS crew and protested over the fact that RS Police, which were present at the place of the attack, has done nothing to protect the crew.

Reaction of RTRS to the attack on cameraman	**RTRS, Nezavisne novine,** pg. 3 'Protest to RS MoI over ignoring of the attack' by K. Sn. – RSTS Director and Board of Editors stated on Tuesday that they protest over the fact RS Police have failed to protect their team in Bileca. They expressed hope RS Police would succeed in identifying the attackers but also hope the police would impose sanctions against policemen who jeopardised reputation of RS Police.
HR to meet with Chief ICTY Prosecutor Del Ponte on Wednesday	**Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Talks with Del Ponte on BiH's cooperation with the Tribunal', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'BiH must not miss chances offered by Brussels', **Dnevni List** pg 3 'HR to meet Chief ICTY Prosecutor today' by D.P.M., **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 16 'BiH takes over The Hague processes' by D. Pasic, **Vecernji List** pg 3 'Meeting Ashdown-del Ponte' by f, **Nezavisne Novine,** pg. 4 'Ashdown to meet Del Ponte today' not signed, **Glas Srpske,** pg. 4 'Ashdown with Del Ponte' not signed, **FENA** – The High Representative, **Paddy Ashdown**, will on Wednesday morning meet with the ICTY Chief Prosecutor, **Carla Del Ponte**, in The Hague. The two will discuss ICTY co-operation in light of the upcoming NATO Summit in December and ensuring effective trials of war crimes cases transferred from the ICTY to BiH at the start of 2005, OHR Spokesman **Vedran Persic** said at a press conference in Sarajevo on Tuesday. *"The failure of the RS to co-operate with the War Crimes Tribunal is the major barrier for BiH's aspiration to join NATO's PfP Programme. It is also the major barrier to progress towards signing a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU. Failure by BiH to meet its international obligations will set back this country's progress and ruin its chances for the security and prosperity that Brussels offers. The RS has not arrested one indicted fugitive to date,"* Persic emphasized.
Del Ponte unhappy with financial cuts to her office	**Nacional**, pg 8 'Tribunal in The Hague faces difficult financial pressure', not signed – According to Nacional weekly from Zagreb, the Chief ICTY Prosecutor, **Carla del Ponte**, is very angry with her superiors because of recent financial cuts to her office. Nacional is in possession of a part of her speech to the EU Foreign Ministers in which del Ponte stated: *"The Hague Tribunal is under strong pressure to finish its job as soon as possible. Unbearable financial pressure is added to the political pressure during spring of this year. As a result of it, I lost almost 50% of my senior staff and more than 40% of senior investigators (…) Simple solution for me would be to stop investigations, stop the struggle to bring all the fugitives to The Hague and focus on trials to people who are in our custody. That's what many want, inside and outside former Yugoslavia. That would cast a shadow over the region in decades to come, and would also be a bad sign for the future of international justice".*

NATO's Elgersma on arrest of war crimes suspects	**Dnevni List**, pg 4 'Insisting on arrest of war crimes suspects continues', by M. B. – Member of political department of NATO, **Stefan Elgersma**, stated that one should not expect that the Alliance (NATO) would stop insisting on arrest of war crimes suspects because it is one of conditions for BiH joining the Partnership for Peace programme. In his keynote speech at the round table entitled 'Security of BiH – BiH in NATO membership?', (**NB**:it is not stated where the round table took place) Elgersma stated that BiH fulfilled most of the PfP requirements, the most important of them being the defence reform. In context of defence reforms, he said that all requirements had been fulfilled, apart from some staffing issues. Elgersma also stressed that all the forces in BiH (NATO and EU forces) would have the same responsibility regarding arrest of war crimes suspects after December 2, when EU forces are to take over from SFOR. **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'Tokic is not giving up' by M.Dz. also covered the round-table.
New mass grave opened in Snegovo near Zvornik	**Dnevni List**, pg 4 'New mass grave opened', not signed, **Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Grave contains bodies of killed Srebrenica residents' – The Head of FBiH Commission for missing persons in Tuzla, **Murat Hurtic**, says a new secondary mass grave was opened yesterday (Tuesday) in settlement of Snegovo in municipality of Zvornik. According to Hurtic, mortal remains of some 10 people were spotted in the mass grave. It is assumed that the bodies are victims from Srebrenica that were initially kept as prisoners in a school in Grbavci, which is some 6 kilometres away from Snegovo. It is assumed that the bodies were initially buried in Grbavci, and then relocated to the secondary mass grave at Snegovo.
Albright says she did not influence decision on pre-trail release for 6 BiH Croats	**Vecernji List** pg 10 'Albright: I have nothing to do with release of Croats from The Hague' by V.W.M. – Former US Secretary of State, **Madeleine Albright**, stated that she had nothing to do with the fact that the ICTY passed the decision on pre-trail release for 6 BiH Croats (**Jadranko Prlic** and others). She also said that she was satisfied with the fact that the EU was expanding and added that former Yugoslav countries would join the EU when the time for it came.

Croat self-rule case: Petar Milic refuses to enter plea	**FTV, Dnevni List**, pg 2 'Milic refuses to enter plea', mentioned on front, by E. Mackic, Z. Jukic, **Vecernji List**, pg 3 'Separation from joint process requested', by D. J., **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 9 'Instead of Milic, judge enters the plea', by Z. Tulic, **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'Judge said not guilty in place of Milic', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'Petar Milic refused to enter a plea' – **Petar Milic**, one of indictees in the Croat self-rule case that is being conducted before the BiH Court, refused to enter plea yesterday (Tuesday) claiming that the indictment against him contains several wrong facts related to his identity. The indictment charges him that he was a senior official of the HDZ who took part in organization of the self-rule and that he took part in disbanding of the Croat component of the FBiH Army. However, Milic claims the opposite i.e. that he was never an HDZ member nor that he took part in the incriminated activities. Since Milic refused to enter plea, Judge **Guy van Craen** of the BiH Court decided to put in the minutes that Milic pleads as not guilty. However, Milic refused to sign the minutes saying the minutes is not written in the Croatian language, which treads on dignity of the Croatian language. VL notes that Milic's lawyer, **Nenad Gvozdic**, officially requested that the trials to his client be separated from the joint proceedings.
SD claims there was no money laundry in Hercegovacka bank	**Slobodna Dalmacija**, front pg splash and pg 9 'There was no money laundry in Hercegovacka bank', by Zlatko Tulic – According to SD, *"the key player in the project 'Athens'"*, a former OHR employee who used to work for anti corruption department and who testified before the BiH Court in the Hercegovacka bank case on Monday, **Jaakko Christensen**, admitted that no audit team that investigated into Hercegovacka bank operations has found transactions of money laundry worth 54 million KMs, nor was it established that the HDZ had 50 secret accounts in the Hercegovacka bank. This leads the author to say that by saying this, Christensen is in fact denying claims by the former High Representative for BiH, **Wolfgang Petritsch**, who told the British papers 'Spectator' on May 19, 2001 that he had reliable information that 54 million KMs were laundered in the Hercegovacka bank and that the HDZ had 50 accounts in it.
Update to trial of Rajo Krsmanovic	**BHT, FTV, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine,** cover and pg. 5 'Imports of material for heroin was legal' by A. Durmo – RS Minister of Health Care **Marin Kvaternik** testified in trial of **Rajo Krsmanovic**, accused of imports of acetic acid anhydride, before BiH Court. Kvaternik has stated that the imports of the substance were legal. '*RBS company has sent us a decision of the Court, it was regular, which made the import of anhydride legal, otherwise we would not have given the approval for the import to RS*', Kvaternik said.

Economic/social issues	
OHR presents monthly economic report	**Oslobodjenje** pg 17 'KM still enjoys investor confidence', **FENA** – On Tuesday OHR presented the latest monthly economic report that brings together monthly figures offering a snapshot of the BiH economy. *"The report shows that the KM continues to enjoy investor confidence. From January to August 2004, the Central Bank sold a net total of KM 434.4 million. This means that the holders of Euro and other foreign currencies, on balance, exchanged more money into KM than the holders of KM exchanged into other currencies,"* OHR Spokesman **Vedran Persic** said at a press conference in Sarajevo . The report also notes that while BiH's Trade Figures do show a significant rise in exports year-on-year, the value of imports is still larger than exports and, that unemployment figures in the Federation remain stubbornly high, according to Persic.

Terzic meets with Sclar	**Oslobodjenje** pg 6 'Energy represents a key BiH's potential', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Former Clinton's envoy to advise Terzic', **FENA** – BiH Council of Ministers Chair **Adnan Terzic** and **Richard Sclar** discussed in Sarajevo on Tuesday ways in which Sclar could help the achievement of objectives from the BiH Poverty Reduction Strategy Program (PRSP). Terzic underlined the need for Sclar's consulting and expert assistance in reactivating and urgent completion of the privatisation process in BiH. Terzic presented key potentials of BiH and highlighted the energy sector in which Sclar showed special interest and expressed confidence that he could help in this field. Terzic also informed the US diplomat about large infrastructure projects, especially activities concerning the Vc corridor where his engagement is also expected.
Dnevni Avaz interview with BiH Central Bank Governor Nicholl	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'IMF believes that the increase of loan offer in BiH is too excessive', mentioned on cover 'Interest rates in BiH will continue to decrease' – In an interview for the daily, BiH Central Bank Governor **Peter Nicholl** said that the recent fall/decrease of interest rates in BiH represented a big step forward in the country's banking sector. Nicholl added that the interest rates were not decreasing further because of reasons out of the banking sector primarily still too weak legal system in the country.

Statement of Day: Adnan Terzic	**Dnevni List** pg 2 carries in its 'Statement of Day', the Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, **Adnan Terzic**, as saying: *"My agreement with Racan remains in force."*
Terzic says he would not negotiate again on Ploce port	**Nezavisne Novine,** cover 'Adnan Terzic: I do not want to negotiate on Ploce port with Croatia' and pg. 5 'I will not negotiate on new agreement on Ploce port' by M. C. – BiH CoM Chairman **Adnan Terzic** confirmed on Tuesday there will be no negotiations between BiH and Croatia on an agreement on Ploce Port. '*I have asked from **Sanader** (Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader) to present his stance to the inter-state council and that is all. There are no negotiation nor I have any intention to initiate one'*, Terzic has stated. He explained that BiH Presidency has refused to ratify the agreement on Ploce port reached between Terzic and former Croatian Prime Minister **Ivica Racan,** although the agreement had foreseen the best possible terms for BiH. '*The Presidency has rejected this agreement so let them agree on better terms now. I will respect their conclusions',* Terzic said.

Mikerevic met with WB representatives in Washington	**Nezavisne Novine,** pg. 8 'The Dayton as grounds for stability in BiH and region' by N. N., **Glas Srpske,** pg. 3 'First stability then development' by Lj. Cicic – During their visit to Washington, RS Prime Minister **Dragan Mikerevic** and RS Minister of Finances **Branko Krsmanovic** met with World Bank representatives. According to *GS,* a special attention was paid to reforms in the field of pension and disability insurance. **Oslobodjenje** pg 10 'Assistance requested for resolution of social problems' also reported on the issue.
Blic on ITA re-organisation	**EuroBlic** RSpg 2 'Customs officers to be sacked' by Nedeljka Breberina – During the process of ITA re-organisation, about 1000 customs clearance clerks from RS and F BiH might lose their jobs, announced **Kemal Causevic**, ITA Director, explaining that: *"All those who would be sacked will be provided with a severance pay stipulated by the Law."* He noted that the goal of the re-organisation is to establish more efficient administration, which would have space for "*the most professional personnel*".

Increase in fuel prices	**Nezavisne Novine,** pg. 2 'Petroleum in RS will be for 0,05 KM more expensive by the end of the week' by Fena – The President of the RS Association of Petroleum Distributors, **Vukasin Vojnovic**, has confirmed that petroleum in RS will be for 0,05 KM more expensive by the end of the week. He explained the increase in priced by saying that there was an increase in petroleum prices at the world market.

RSNA discusses budget, financial issues	**FTV, RTRS, Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Payments suspended' by G. Dakic – At Tuesday's session, RS MP's adopted Law on (temporary) suspension of implementation of claims towards budget of municipalities and towns in RS. This Law stipulates payments are suspended until 30th September 2005. The law was adopted so budget solvency of towns and municipalities can be kept since certain claims exceed the yearly budget of local communities. **Tarik Sadovic** from SDA states that the SDA opposed enactment of this law. The proposed law on amendments to the law on contributions didn't receive the necessary majority. According to inset 'Srebrenica', upon proposal of DNS representative **Drago Kalebic** information on final Srebrenica report was included in the agenda as well as information on ongoing police restructuring in BIH and initiative on change of BIH Constitution. RS Prime minister **Dragan Mikerevic** asked the representatives not to discuss the Srebrenica report until Human Rights Commission of BIH Constitutional Court reveals its position on it. **Sarajevo dailies** also covered the session.

Political developments

Croatian Speaker Seks visits Mostar, pledges more support for BiH Croats	**Herceg Bosna Radio, BHT, Oslobodjenje** pg 5 'Organization of Mostar is matter for the Mostar citizens', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'Seks said Most is the natural centre of BiH Croats', **FENA, HINA** – Croatian Parliament President **Vladimir Seks** pledged greater support of Croatia for Croats in BiH during his visit to the southern city of Mostar on Tuesday. On the second day of his official visit to BiH, Seks visited the city administration, the reconstructed OldBridge, the local university, a clinical hospital, and the aluminum processing plant. *"Croatia will continue offering increased support to the city's institutions such as the University, the medical faculty, the hospital, and the Croatian National Theatre (HNK) as the functioning of these institutions is a key condition for the survival of the Croat people in Mostar and Bosnia,"* Seks said. The Croatian official also hailed the process of uniting the city of Mostar . **Nezavisne Novine**, pg. 5 'Administrative unification of Mostar was supported' by V. C., **Dnevni List** cover pg splash and pg 3 'Permanent airline between Zagreb and Mostar announced' by I. Glibusic, **Vecernji List** pg 2 'Support of Republic of Croatia to Croat institutions' by I. Brkic-Cubela and **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 7 'Airline Zagreb-Mostar is being established ', mentioned on cover 'Airline Mostar-Zagreb', by M. Landeka and last pg 'Full support of Parliament and Government to University' by Z. Zekic also reported on the visit. DL says that after their meeting in the Mostar City Administration with Deputy Mayor of Mostar, **Ljubo Beslic**, Seks stated: *"We are welcoming the decision on unification of Mostar as a step ahead towards better functioning of the city as a whole."* SD carries that commenting on the fact that HDZ representatives objected to the Mostar Statute a lot, Seks said that, first of all, this was something between High Representative **Paddy Ashdown** and HDZ BiH, however, that it would be good that the Mostar Statute is harmonized with European standards and that all political factors in BiH should resolve this issue. The dailies also say that during this visit, establishing of a permanent airline between Mostar and Zagreb was also discussed. During the visit to Aluminij company Seks stated: *"Aluminij is the biggest BiH exporter and it is closely related to the Croatian economy. It has to have full support for expanding of its capacities in the second phase of electrolysis*." VL says that talking about the PlocePort issue, Seks stated that Croatia would not ratify the agreement on this issue from 1998 since circumstances, which conditioned this agreement, have changed considerably. An inset to DL carries under headline 'Dramatic position of Croats' that the Croatian delegation also met with Cardinal **Vinko Puljic** in Sarajevo on Tuesday and Seks stated that during this meeting they concluded that Croats and Catholics in BiH are in a truly dramatic position, especially in that part of BiH.

BiH Parliament Book of Rules: HR to answer to MPs questions?	**Dnevni List**, pg 7 'Council of Ministers and High Representative will have to answer to questions', by Danka Polovina-Mandic – The Interim Commission for changes and amendments of book of rules of both chambers of BiH Parliament has sent into parliamentary procedure a proposal of new book of rules after completing works that lasted two years. This was stated yesterday (Tuesday) by the chairman and his deputy of the Commission, **Sead Avdic** and **Jelina Djurkovic** respectively. Among several changes to the book of rules, the proposal envisages that the BiH Council of Ministers is obliged to answer questions of the MPs at least once in six months, which should, according to Avdic, increase the responsibility of the MPs. Apart from the BiH CoM, the High Representative for BiH should be answering the MPs' questions too. **Glas Srpske** pg 4 'Commission as Court' by SRNA also covered the issue.
DL feature on election results in Mostar	**Dnevni List**, pg 12 'Tight in Mostar City Council', by Sanja Bjelica – The daily reports that according to the latest results of local elections for Mostar that were presented by the BiH Election Commission, there will be 15 councillors in the future composition of the Mostar City Council (MCC) coming from the HDZ-led coalition, 10 from SDA, SBiH and SDP will have 4 councillors each, whilst NSRZB and HSP BiH-HCSP will have 1 councillor each. Still, the daily notes that there could be changes to those results considering that there are not enough Serb councillors since the Mostar Statute envisions that the MCC must have at least 4 representative of each constituent people. According to the President of the BiH Election Commission, **Vehid Sehic**, the BiH Election Commission is working on solving the problem, adding that the whole process is complicated. Sehic notes that it very difficult to explain how the Serb councillors would be elected. In that context, DL says it would have to be at the expense of people who have been elected to the MCC. DL also notes it will be *"tight"* in the future composition of the MCC, since no party enjoys the majority.
NN carries statement of HR Ashdown on Rule of Law, BiH's European	**Nezavisne Novine,** pg. 4 'Corruption and crime are protecting war crimes indictees' by Beta, **Glas Srpske,** pg. 5 'The Dayton yields before Brussels' not signed – The article carries a statement of HR **Paddy Ashdown** given in Belgrade (*not mentioned when*). He has stated that corruption and organised crime were enabling war crimes indictees to remain at large. Regarding the audit findings on squandering of money at BiH Presidency and institutions of the Federation of BiH, HR **Ashdown** has stated he expected from the Parliament to reach some conclusions and from the state Prosecutor to act. Upon accusations that he often imposes laws and removes officials, HR Ashdown said surveys show BiH citizens wish he would use his authorities even more frequently. *NN* reads: '*I use my authorities less and less and this is an indicator of a progress BiH has made towards Europe. Push force of the Dayton yields before the attracting force of Brussels'*, Ashdown said.

Dragan Mikerevic visits USA , discusses political situation in BiH with his hosts	**Nezavisne Novine,** pg. 8 'The Dayton as grounds for stability in BiH and region' by N. N., **Dnevni List**, pg 4 'USA will not support any unilateral changes in BiH', by M. Karacic – USA administration supports the Dayton Agreement and finds it to be grounds for a stability in BIH and the region, as the Director for SE Europe at the National Security Council, **Bertrand Brown** (sp!) stated during talks with RS Prime Minister **Dragan Mikerevic** held in Washington on Monday. *NN* article reads that RS Public Relations Bureau on Tuesady published a press statement saying: '*The American administration will not support changes to BiH Constitution unless they represent the will of all peoples in BiH*'. Mikerevic and Brown discussed the political situation in BiH and RS, obligations in relation to investigating events in Srebrenica in 1995 and arresting of war crimes indictees. *NN* reads that **Mikerevic**has emphasised the necessity of preserving the Dayton structure of BiH as grounds for peace and stability, as well as for establishing a relaxing political atmosphere in BiH that would be suitable for discussions on all issues. *NN* inset 'Clifford Bond: Continuing with reforms would bring BiH to PfP and EU' – Former US Ambassador to BiH **Clifford Bond** has stated that BiH, if it continues with reforms, would join PfP soon and would start with negotiation on stabilisations and accession to EU.
NN Interview with Head of OHR Banja Luka Graham Day on political situation in RS, need for full cooperation with ICTY	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Arrests are salvation for RS' mentioned on cover 'Solely arrests of war crime suspects can save RS' by V. Popovic – This is an interview with **Graham Day,** Head of OHR Banja Luka Office, where he stresses that the cooperation with the Hague Tribunal is in the interest of RS, noting some concrete actions, that can save RS, must be done on this matter. He adds: "*Words and promises are fine, but the only thing that can save RS are concrete actions of the RS institutions in charge.*" On this matter he notes that RS would pass the test regarding cooperation with the ICTY when **Carla del Ponte** expresses her satisfaction with the cooperation. Furthermore, he adds it is inevitable to see some new measures undertaken in case that December session of NATO assessed cooperation as inadequate. Commenting on press question regarding the change of political climate in RS (referring to election results of SDS and SNSD), **Day** says that: "*Speaking of election results, Trebinje can be viewed as some sort of surprise.*" Commenting on press inquiry regarding early parliamentary elections, he notes: "*This issue falls under the rules set by BiH Election Commission. OHR has no influence over that issue; neither does it want to make influence. The ruling coalition in this region has been warned at the latest elections that many people are not satisfied with its efficiency.*"

Miscellaneous

SDHR Wnendt visits SarajevoCatholicSchool	**Oslobodjenje** pg 10 'Schools on the principle of individual and common (identity)', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'Schools should promote mutual understanding', **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 21 'National equality guaranteed' by D. Pasic and **Dnevni List** pg 2 'Wnendt visited Catholic School Centre in Sarajevo' by D.P.M.,**FENA** – The Senior Deputy High Representative, **Werner Wnendt**, on Monday visited the "St. Joseph" Catholic School Centre in Sarajevo where he met with the school's Principle, **Ante Mestrovic**, and withBishop **Pero Sudar**, OHR Spokesman Vedran Persic said at a press conference in Sarajevo on Tuesday. Wnendt expressed understanding for the importance of the role that the Catholic Church plays for Croats in BiH, particularly with regard the upbringing and education of children. He explained that schools in BiH can be organized to reconcile the two different priorities of education: preserving and developing one's own identity while promoting mutual understanding and trust between the different ethnic backgrounds. Wnendt underlined that cultural, religious, linguistic and other elements of national identity are guaranteed for all BiH's citizens, and that no differences in criteria would be accepted, according to Persic.

BiH Helsinki Committee condemns Islamic Community head's threats to media	**Herceg Bosna Radio, BHT, FTV, Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'Dangerous interference by Reis Ceric', **Nezavisne Novine,** pg. 5 'Reiss Ceric's threats to freedom of expression is unacceptable' by Srna,**Dnevni List** pg 4 'Attacks against some media condemned' by NINA, **SRNA** – The president of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in BiH, **Srdjan Dizdarevic**, has warned that the public in BiH has lately been faced with a very serious and dangerous involvement of the head of the BiH Islamic Community, **Mustafa Ceric**, in the state affairs and attempts to impose one particular interpretation of religion as a way of living in BiH. Dizdarevic believes that Ceric's latest attacks on certain media in BiH, claiming that they are an enemy media and agents of foreign services, are threatening the freedom of expression and media freedoms guaranteed by international conventions and domestic legal acts. *"The Helsinki committee is also concerned about the letter which the leadership of the Islamic Community sent to ten addresses, advising them to stop advertising in Dani, which is an undemocratic way of preventing the survival of media which do not suit the interests of Reis Ceric,"* the statement by the Helsinki committee said. The committee condemns such actions and calls for the respect of principles of secularity and respect of basic human rights and freedoms.