

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 20/3/2005

TV news broadcast on March 19, 2005

| RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs) | TV PINK (18,00 hrs) | BHT 1 (19,00 hrs) |
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| BiH CC on Tadic's dismissal | HR protects BiH property | SDA, HDZ, SDS & PDP meeting |
| SDS, SDA, HDZ and PDP meeting | SDS, SDA, HDZ and PDP meeting | Floods in Tuzla Canton |
| HR protects state property | Softic on indictment against SCG | Border crossing closed due to floods |
| Public rostrum on poverty in BL | BiH CC on Tadic's dismissal | HR decision on State property |

| NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs) | FTV (19,30 hrs) | RTRS (19,30 hrs) |
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| HR protects BiH property | BiH CC on Tadic's dismissal | Solana on ICTY surrenders |
| BiH CC on Tadic's dismissal | Political parties on Covic's case | SDS, SDA, HDZ and PDP meeting |
| SDS, SDA, HDZ and PDP meeting | SDP on Sarajevo City Council | BiH CC on Tadic's dismissal |
| World news | Mostar City Administration issues | HR protects state property |

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| Oslobodjenje | Ashdown banned further sale of state property |
| Dnevni Avaz | The biggest state-building Ashdown's decision |
| Dnevni List | SDS and SDA support Dragan Covic |
| Vecernji List | Features Croatia related headline |

Nezavisne
novine

Spring has come

Judicial issues

**SDS, SDA,
PDP, HDZ:
Indictment
against
Covic can
cause crisis**

BHT 1 by Mirela Cosic – The office of the BiH Presidency member, **Dragan Covic**, stated that that last decisions of the BiH judicial institutions can cause a crisis in functioning of the authorities and political parties, which represent parliamentary majority, will do everything to avoid that crisis. This was stated after the meeting held by representatives of HDZ, SDS, SDA and PDP, which was closed for public. In the same statement, it is written that those parties understand the circumstances in which indictments are raised and they respect HDZ's and Covic's stand on this issue. Also, they will give their final opinion on these issues after HDZ gives its official stand. BHT 1 reporter said that, nevertheless, none of participants of the meeting agreed to give a statement for BHT 1. **RHB, TV PINK, NTV Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz** 'They will do everything to prevent new crisis of executive authority', mentioned on cover 'Terzic: We shall do everything to prevent new crisis' by H.H., **Oslobodjenje** pg 6, mentioned on cover 'SDA gives in to HDZ and Covic because of announcement of authority crisis' by Az. Kalamujic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Without clear stands on Covic's resignation' by S.L., E.D., **Dnevni List** cover pg splash 'SDS and SDA support Dragan Covic' and pg 4 'SDS and SDA will support decisions of Dragan Covic and HDZ' by I. Glibusic, **Vecernji List** pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Stands of Covic and HDZ are beign respected' by Z. Kresic carry similar reports. Oslob. says that HDZ President **Barisa Colak** and member of the HDZ Presidency **Niko Loozancic** organized this meeting.

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| <p>Terzic, Kebo on HDZ, SDA, SDS, PDP mtg</p> | <p>Oslobodjenje pg 6, mentioned on cover 'SDA gives in to HDZ and Covic because of announcement of authority crisis' by <u>Az. Kalamujic</u> carries Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic as saying: <i>'The fact that SDA respects stands and opinion of HDZ regarding the indictment against Dragan Covic does not mean that we support them with regard to these issues.'</i> SDA Vice President Mirsad Kebo stated that leaderships of political parties, which attended the aforementioned meeting, did not take part in writing of the aforementioned press release and that the press release was supposed to look different.</p> |
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| <p>Lagumdzija, Dodik, Djokic, Tokic on HDZ, SDS, SDA PDP mtg</p> | <p>BHT 1, RTRS – say that representatives of the opposition see this meeting as solidarity among ruling parties. <i>“They will continue to encourage each other to fight organized crime and corruption by protecting their criminals and their corruption creators”</i>, said SDP President, Zlatko Lagumdzija. <i>“Those parties obviously have regular communication, even when it comes to the indictment against high-ranked officials coming from these parties”</i>, said SNSD President, Milorad Dodik, adding that this meeting confirms that SDS and PDP are in strong coalition connection with SDA and HDZ.</p> <p>RTRS by <u>Stela Jungic</u> also says that the meeting took place without previous notification to the media. Apart from Lahumdzija and Dodik RTRS also carries comments of SPRS Chairman Petar Djokic who feels that SDS and SDA are still in a very strong “embrace” SDU Chairman Sejfudin Tokic feels that instead of fighting crime and corruption these parties give support to it which in his opinion is absurd.</p> |
| <p>Oslob. speculates on Covic’s resignation</p> | <p>Oslobodjenje pg 6 ‘HDZ Presidency will not demand Covic’s resignation’ <u>not signed</u> carries that according to a participant of the aforementioned meeting the HDZ Presidency will support Dragan Covic at the meeting on Monday and it will let Covic to pass the decision on his resignation by Wednesday. According to the source, the removal suits Covic because of internal relations within HDZ.</p> |

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| <p>Osl. edit. on SDA, HDZ, PDP, SDS mtg</p> | <p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'After Covic- crisis' by <u>S. Kurtovic</u> carries an editorial on the SDA, HDZ, DPD, SDS meeting and commenting on the press release issued after the meeting, the author says that representatives of three parties have been brought in a blind ally. The author added: <i>'They will either support HDZ and Covic or risk crisis in functioning of the authority.'</i></p> |
| <p>BiH Const. Court decided not to dismiss M. Tadic</p> | <p>RHB, TV PINK, BHT 1, NTV Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'There are no justified reasons for relieving Mato Tadic of duty' <u>not signed</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 2, mentioned on cover 'There are no reasons for relieving Mato Tadic of duty'<u>not signed</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'There are no reasons for relieving Mato Tadic of duty' by <u>M. Kremenovic</u>, Dnevni List pg 2, mentioned on cover 'There are no justified reasons for reliving Tadic of duty' by <u>NINA</u>, Vecernji List pg 2 'There is no reason that Tadic submits resignation' by <u>D. Jazvic</u> – The BiH Constitutional Court has concluded that there are no justified reasons for dismissal of its President, Mato Tadic, despite the indictment raised against him for corruption. The BiH Constitutional Court stated that it is obligated to consider the protection of integrity of the Court as well as integrity of all of its judges. It also stressed in Court's statement that allegations, which haven't been investigated and proved, will not influence the work of this Court.</p> |

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| <p>Alijagic to demand 600 million KM compensation</p> | <p>NTV Hayat – The RS Supreme Court brought back the Alijagic case to the Court. Salih Alijagic decided to solve the case in Strasbourg, before the International Court. Instead of 40 million KM of compensation, he is asking the full one amounting to 600 million KM (the amount which includes interests on arrears). Alijagic said that he feels sorry for the HR and the USA Ambassador to BiH who believed what Head of the Trebinje Municipality Dobroslav Cuk and SNSD President Milorad Dodik were saying, but that he was going to fight for his rights.</p> |
| <p>Banja Luka Court ordered one-month detention to owner of company “Fagus”</p> | <p>BHT 1, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 ‘One-month detention to ‘Fagus’ Director’ <u>by Srna</u>– The Banja Luka Court ordered one-month detention to the owner of the company “Fagus”, Miroslav Malijevic from Kotor Varos, sharged with tax evasion. According to the indictment, Malijevic damaged the RS budget for about 150.000 KM.</p> |

Political issues

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| <p>HR brings laws which temporarily bans disposal of state property/Paravac: We did not receive decision/</p> | <p>RHB, TV PINK, BHT 1, NTV Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Paddy Ashdown temporarily banned disposing with state property', mentioned on cover 'OHR: Disposing with state property banned' <u>not signed</u>, Oslobodjenje cover pg splash and pg 3 'Ashdown banned further sale of state property' by V. Zivak, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Ashdown banned sale of state property in BiH' by Srna, Dnevni List pg 3 'Ashdown banned sale of state property', mentioned on cover 'Ban on sale of state property' by N. Bise, Vecernji List pg 2 'Temporary ban on disposing with state property' by eme carry the OHR's press release which says that High Representative Paddy Ashdown passed entity and state legislation temporarily prohibiting the disposal of state property anywhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The OHR press release also says that in the letter sent to the BiH Presidency in which the HR informed them about this decision the HR stated that it was necessary for him to act in order to protect BiH property</p> <p>TV PINK also carries Chairman of the BiH Presidency, Borislav Paravac, as saying that the Presidency has not received such letter.</p> |
| <p>Sullivan: HR's decision cannot be applied retroactively</p> | <p>Oslobodjenje cover pg splash and pg 3 'Ashdown banned further sale of state property' by V. Zivak, carries that OHR spokesperson Kevin Sullivan stated that this decision cannot be applied retroactively. The article says that this should mean that the decision on sale of a part of the barracks 'Marsal Tito' will not be annulled. Osl. also says that Sullivan was not 'willing' to comment on what would happen with earlier decisions on the ground of which the BiH state property was taken away.</p> |

**Halilovic,
Dzaferovic, Tihic
on HR's decision**

Dnevni Avaz cover pg splash and pg 3 'The biggest state-building Ashdown's decision' by H. Orahovac carries comments on the aforementioned HR's decision. President of the SBiH Presidency **Safet Halilovic** stated that this is the biggest state-building decision that the HR passed since the OHR's establishment. SDA Secretary General **Sefik Dzaferovic** stated that, although he has not been familiar with details of this decision yet, he believes that this is about a good move that should be completely respected. Both, Halilovic and Dzaferovic expressed regret over the fact that the state authorities have failed to resolve this issue. DA inset under headline 'Tihic: It should be seen as to what was done in Herceg Bosna and RS' carries SDA President **Sulejman Tihic** as saying that it would be very important to find out as to what happened with the BiH property on the territory of so-called Herceg Bosna and the RS.

**SDP: Establishing
of Sarajevo City
Council illegal
and
unconstitutional**

BHT 1 – SDP considers as illegal and unconstitutional establishment of the Sarajevo City Council, which happened on Friday. BHT1 quoted SDP representative, **Ferid Buljubasic**, as saying that the BiH election law was violated by election of the Council, as well as the election results, the City Statute and the City Council Book of Rules. SDP also expressed dissatisfaction with the work of the BiH Election Commission, which, according to SDP, did not fulfil its legal obligations in accordance to the election law. *“The Election Commission has no mandate to interpret the Constitution. We only implements the BiH election law”*, said BiH Election Commission President, **Vehid Sehic**. SDA commented that there was no violation of the law during election of city councillors. SDA representative, **Amir Zukic**, said that SDP is trying to keep the power as long as possible and that SDP is the only party which prevents Serb representatives to join the Council. **Alma Habul**, councillor from the Party for BiH is appointed to Council’s Chair, and BHT found out unofficially that SDA councillor, **Seniha Borovac**, could be appointed to Mayor’s position at the next Council session.

TV PINK, NTV Hayat, FTV, Oslobođenje pg 7, mentioned on cover ‘City Council elected through deceit’ by S. Rozajac, **Nezavisne Novine** ‘Through illegal election constituency of people was violated’ by E.D.

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| <p>On systematization of places of work in Mostar City Administration</p> | <p>FTV by Amir Kadribegovic – Even though more than a year has passed since the new Statute of Mostar was imposed, the Mostar City Administration has not done the systematisation of working places in administration. The problem of systematisation of Mostar City Administration arisen after announcement of internal notice for filling vacancies for positions of directors and administration employees. Even though in the case of the Mostar City Administration the intervention of the High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, is necessary the OHR considers its role as an advisory. Spokesperson of the Regional OHR office in Mostar, Sanela Tunovic, stated that the question how these problems will be resolved should be directed to local authorities and that OHR is there just to offer help, by giving advices.</p> |
| <p>DL: 'HDZ Mostar definitely divided in 2 fractions'</p> | <p>Dnevni List pg 5 'HDZ Mostar definitely divided in 2 fractions' by <u>Z. Jukic</u> carries that a leaflet addressing Commissioner of the HDZ Mostar Board Vlado Majstorovic in which introducing of democracy in HDZ and convening election assembly of HDZ Mostar was demanded was distributed over Mostar on Saturday. The leaflet was signed by 'democratic membership of HDZ'. According to one of the authors' of this leaflet over 80 % members of the HDZ Mostar Board Assembly stand behind this leaflet.</p> |

RS NA adopted the conclusions presented by the RS Government regarding defence reform in BiH

RTRS report by Biljana Knezevic – The RS National Assembly adopted the conclusions presented by the RS Government regarding defence reform in BiH. The RS NA feels that abolishment of the RS Defence Ministry is unacceptable and stresses that further process of defence reform should go towards professional RS Army and BiH armed forces. The RS NA also adopted the declaration of SNSD according to which RS and BiH will be demilitarised. It remains to be seen what will be the role of entity Defence Ministries. Chairman of RS NA Defence board **Velimir Sakan** stated that an institution that will lead the process of army transformation needs to exist.

Conclusions of RS Government and SNSD Declaration should be the new platform of RS representatives in the Commission for defence reform in BiH. **Borislav Bojic** from SDS says that according to these conclusions military service will be abolished as well as active and passive reserve of soldiers and officers. RS NA believes that conditions for Partnership for Peace have been fulfilled and according to the reporter they have skilfully avoided the issue of transferring the authorities of RS Defence Ministry to the state level. Bojic says that this issue will be considered after BiH enters PfP. **Igor Radojicic** from SNSD feels that all these changes to RS Army will ask for changes to the laws and RS Constitution. This reform is not acceptable for Bosniak parties since it “spites” the international community. **Ostoja Barasin**, military analyst feels that the adopted conclusions are vague and adds that they will further confuse RS and BiH citizens. **Dnevni List** pg 7 ‘Conditions for PfP met’ by NINA carries a similar report.

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| <p>DA edit. on RSNA opposition to defence reform</p> | <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Wasting of time and energy' by <u>E. Mesihovic</u> comments on the last RSNA session and the author says that the RSNA opposed abolishment of the entity Ministry of Defence although Deputy Chairman of the Defence Reform Commission Raffi Gregorian clearly stated that NATO has no intention to communicate with 3 MoDs...The RS opposed international integration again ignoring the fact that obstructions cannot last forever.</p> |
| <p>Durakovic to establish new political party</p> | <p>NTV Hayat – Professor Nijaz Durakovic announced a new political party he was to establish. He said that the party should be represented in the whole BiH, it should be multiethnic and it would fight the existing political leaders. Durakovic also stressed out his disappointment with the current situation in BiH, saying that BiH could not function in this way. He said that certain constitutional changes had to be made.</p> |
| <p>'The Economist' on EU concerns about BiH</p> | <p>FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'EU risks again to meet its promises' <u>not signed</u> – London weekly newspaper 'The Economist' published an article on BiH. According to this article, the EU is concerned about the fact that they did not stop the massacre in Srebrenica. In the conclusion of this article it is being warned that the biggest risk is that Brussels is promising to the poor and disturbed BiH membership in the EU, and in this way they are risking not to fulfil one more promise.</p> |

War crimes

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| <p>BiH MoS to propose structure of the body that will supervise blocking of property of ICTY indictees</p> | <p>BHT 1, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 ‘To implement decision on blockade of war criminals’ assets’ <u>not signed</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 3 ‘Ministers doubt in implementation of decision’ <u>not signed</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 ‘To form institution for control of blockade’ <u>by Agencies</u> – BiH Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, Lidija Topic, stated that the BiH Ministry of Security will propose structure of the body that will supervise implementation of the BiH Council of Ministers’ decision on blocking the property of ICTY indictees, who are not available to the Hague Tribunal.</p> |
| <p>Softic doubts in judges’ impartiality with regard to BiH lawsuit against SCiG</p> | <p>TV PINK, RTRS – BiH legal representative in the BiH lawsuit against SCG, Sakib Softic, confirmed that he doubts judges’ impartiality in this case and that he fears that SCG would manage to lobby. He said that BiH should not allow SCG to do that.</p> |
| <p>Osl. criticizes BiH officials with regard to arrest of war crime suspects</p> | <p>Oslobodjenje pgs 4 and 5, mentioned on cover ‘When Ostojic and Maksimovic are going to come on turn?’ <u>by E. Kamenica</u> reminds that as early as in August 2004 they published that war crime indictee Dragan Zelenovic was hiding in Russia, however, according to the daily, Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic and other BiH officials do not react all to writing of the BiH media. The article also suggests Terzic should ask Chief ICTY Prosecutor Carla del Ponte as why she is not interested yet in one of SDS founders Velibor Ostojic or Vojislav Maksimovic from Foca.</p> |

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| <p>Gotovina's posters appeared in Siroki Brijeg</p> | <p>Dnevni List pg 5, mentioned on cover 'Gotovina's posters appeared in Siroki Brijeg' by <u>I. Mandić</u> carries that posters with image of ICTY fugitive Croatian General Anto Gotovina appeared in Siroki Brijeg on Saturday.</p> |
| <p>Montenegrin President Vujanovic on coop. with ICTY</p> | <p>Nezavisne Novine pgs 8 and 9 'The Hague indictees do not hide in monasteries and churches in Montenegro', mentioned on cover 'The Hague indictees do not hide in Montenegro' by <u>A. Bulatovic</u> carries an interview with President of Montenegro Filip Vujanovic who stressed that Montenegro is a hostage of the Serbian non-cooperation with the ICTY and that all sides should have the same relation towards the ICTY including Banja Luka authorities.</p> |
| <p>Solana welcomes voluntary surrenders/Rehn hopes Balkan countries on way to EU</p> | <p>RTRS – EU High Representative for Foreign Policy and Security Javier Solana stated that the series of voluntary surrenders of ICTY indictees confirms that EU messages give results. EU Enlargement Commissioner Oli Rehn hopes that the West Balkan countries will be on the path towards the EU by 2009 providing they continue necessary political and economical reforms.</p> |

Economy

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| BiH Farmers' Association: Bakic is part of import lobby | <p>RHB – The BiH Farmers' Association issued a press release saying that the import lobby through its exponent Zlatko Lagumdzija is attacking the Chairman of BiH Farmers' Association Ranko Bakic. According to the BiH farmers, Lagumdzija is the biggest protector of the import lobbies. Dnevni Avaz pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Zlatko Lagumdzija is biggest protector of import lobbies' by <u>J. Sogolj</u>, Dnevni List pg 4 'Lagumdzija in favour of foreign lobbies' by <u>NINA</u> carries a similar statement given by Bakic.</p> |
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| Miscellaneous | |
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| Croat flag at Capljina square disappeared | <p>Vecernji List pg 3, mentioned on cover 'Croat flag stolen' by <u>F. Matic</u> carries that during the weekend unknown perpetrators removed a Croat flag erected at the square of 'Croat freedom' in Capljina. The investigation on this case has been underway.</p> |