OHR BiH Media Round-up, 20/3/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 20 March

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
(12,00 hrs)		
HNC: Teachers still on	EU Foreign Ministers	RS NA to hold session
strike	meeting	Thursday
Bishops' Conference in	HNC teachers still on	Discussion on BH suit
session	strike	vs. SiCG
Presidential elections	Evaluation of school	EU Min to convene:
inBelarus	names to end	SICG on agenda

TV news broadcast on 19 March

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Constitutional changes agreed	McElhaney on const. changes	Agreement on constitutional changes
Secret negotiations in Zagreb	Lange on SAA negotiations with BiH	Indictment against HVO member
Strike of HNC schools	"Circle 99" on higher education	Four persons killed in a car accident
Feature on killed friars from 1945	Rules for school trips in RS	Shooting incident near Buzim

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Incident at Nordfish	McElhaney on	15 murders in RS still
Blagaj	constitutional changes	unsolved

Constitutional changes	SDU, SPS on	McElhaney on const.	
agreed	constitutional changes	changes	
Interview with Josip	Shooting incident in	BiH Court on Sarovic	
Milic	Uskoplje	case	
Feature on high	Indictment against	New indictment for war	
education in BIH	Obradovic	crimes	

Oslobodjenje	[McElhaney] Stronger state, easier way to EU
Dnevni Avaz	[McElhaney] Everything should be done by deadline
Dnevni List	Ethnic and entity divisions confirmed (reactions on
	const. changes agreement)
Vecernji List	RS blackmails Croatia with flats (on property-legal
	relations btwn BiH and Croatia)
Slobodna	Features Croatia related headline
Dalmacija	
Nezavisne	Parliament to change the Constitution by the end of the
Novine	month
Glas Srpske	Pursuit for Mladic will follow
EuroBlic	Marija Milosevic: Scandalous funeral
Vecernje	Two views on grave [reactions following funeral of
novosti	Slobodan Milosevic]

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

EU Foreign
Ministers
meet in
Brussels ,
discuss
enlargement
and Western
Balkans

BH Radio 1 by Elvir Bucalo — At the meeting in Brussels, EU Foreign Ministers will discuss, among other issues, EU enlargement strategy and the issue of Western Balkans. Reporter comments that the meeting should only approve stances from recent unofficial meeting held in Salzburg when it was concluded that the cooperation with the ICTY is the main burden for both BiH and SCG in their progress towards the EU. BH Radio1 concludes that the gathering is expected to result with EU putting the same pressure on the RS Government as it did in the case of SCG. RTRS — EU Foreign Ministers will today also present their readiness to support SiCG in efforts to release from remnants of Slobodan Milosevic's regime. The Ministers have voiced the message that Serbian Government may evade stoppage in talks on SAA of SiCG to EU if "fully tangible evidence were provided" to Brussels and the ICTY Prosecutor by the end of March that the most decisive measures to apprehend Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic.

BiH lawsuite
vs. SCG:
hearing
continues,
closed for
public

RTRS, RHB — The BiH lawsuit against SCG continues before the International Court of Justice on Monday with presentation of witnesses' testimonies. According to the ICJ's procedures, the testimonies will be closed for public until 28 March.

RS NA holds
special
session on
Thursday to
discussing
lawsuit,
Tihic's
demands

RTRS — The RS NA Speaker, Igor Radojicic,
RSNA Speaker, has announced in Banja Luka
today that the Agenda of the forthcoming
special RS National Assembly's session
will include the issue of the BH suit
against SICG before the International
Court of Justice and demand of Sulejman
Tihic, Chairperson of the BH Presidency,
requesting review of constitutionality of
Law on RS symbols before BH Constitutional
Court. Special session will be held
Thursday.

Agreement on constitutional changes reached

US Ambassador
McElhaney: Talks
on
constitutional
changes to
continue after
elections, US to
stay involved

PINK Zeljko Mandic — At a press conference held on Sunday, US Ambassador to BiH Douglas McElhaney stated that the agreement on constitutional changes reached by BiH political leaders sets the framework for one President, stronger Parliament and Council of Ministers, and a Prime Minister able to meet demands of the country on a road to the EU. The leaders of seven political parties on Saturday reached the agreement on the first phase of the constitutional changes by which the future Presidency members should be nominated by the BiH House of Peoples and verified by the House of Representatives. Furthermore, all directly elected deputies at the state level — whose number in the future shall be 87 - will be candidates for members of the BiH Presidency. McElhaney expressed hope that BiH Parliament Assembly is going to adopt the agreement by the end of March, so the changes could be implemented before the October elections. BHT1 - McElhaney added that the "next phase of the talks on constitutional changes could start immediately after the elections, when the structure of BiH should be discussed". Hayat — "Please keep in mind that US administration will continue its engagement in the process of constitutional changes in BIH", stated McElhaney. FTV - McElhaney noted "the ultimate goal of BIH is to have the government responsible to the citizens and not some political party". The BIH Parliament will discuss the agreement adopted on 23 March. The representatives of political parties agreed to discuss the issue of the state organization during the second phase of constitutional changes. RHB, RTRS, Oslobodjenje cover splash 'Stronger state, easier way to EU', pg 3 'BiH can survive with much less authority' by A.Omeragic, Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 3 'Everything should be finished before deadline' by S.Numanovic, Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash and pg 3 'Parliament to change Constitution by the end of the month' by M. Cubro, Glas Srpske pg 5 'Leaders fulfilled promise' by Z. D., EuroBlic pg RS2 'BiH to get President and two Deputy Presidents' by <u>Dusanka Stanisic</u>, **Dnevni List** pg 2 'McElhaney: Parliament should accept agreement' by R. Dautefendic, Vecernji List pg 2 'Tihic was in hurry at gathering of hunters' by Z. Kresic, E. Medunajnin (VL says after the agreement was signed Tihic was in hurry since he wanted to attend gathering of hunters, thus the headline). - also reported.

PDP's Ivanic,
SNSD's Simic
welcome
agreement on
changes; HDZ
official Madunic
says Dragan
Covic betrayed
Croats because
he was
blackmailed with
criminal charges

Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Agreement leads to strengthening of BiH institutions' by V. Popovic — Following the signing of the agreement on constitutional changes, PDP's Mladen

Ivanic stated the agreement represents stabilisation of RS institutions and strengthening of BiH institutions adding:

'RS lost nothing, but it showed great readiness for compromising'. SNSD's Krstan Simic assessed the negotiations on constitutional changes as positive. Head of HDZ Caucus at F BiH HoP Ivan Madunic says he thinks HDZ President Dragan Covic 'betrayed interests of Croat people because he was blackmailed with numerous criminal charges'.

HDZ leader
Covic: Agreement
is first step
towards
rationalisation
of BiH; SDS
leader Cavic:
state
functionality
improved

RHB — HDZ leader Dragan Covic stated that the agreement on the constitutional changes is the first step towards rationalisation of BiH's constitutional order. Covic expressed gratitude to the US Embassy, the Administration and the EU representatives. SDS leader Dragan Cavic stated that the agreement relates to several important issues that significantly improve the functionality of BIH institutions. SDP leader Zlatko Lagumdzija stated that the most important thing now is for the whole agreement package to become public and for it to be sent into parliamentary procedure.

SDP's
Lagumdzija:
election of BIH
President and
Deputy President
is not
complicated

Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Election of the chief of state is not complicated' by M. Cubro — SDP President Zlatko
Lagumdzija says in an interview to NN that the leaders of seven political parties, which signed the agreement on constitutional reforms on Saturday, did not agree on a complicated model of the election of President and Deputy Presidents of BiH and added that the election of the chief of state through a parliament is a model suitable for BiH as county that has parliamentary democracy. He added that a new phase of constitutional talks would be launched after October elections and will contain discussions on destiny of entities and cantons.

Dzaferovic
(SDA): changes
can be completed
by April 14;
Zoric (HDZ):
HDZ- HNZ Caucus
has not changed
its position

Dnevni Avaz, pg 2 'Additional 20 days will be gained for adoption of changes to Constitution', by <u>H. Orahovac</u> -Deputy Speaker of BiH House of Representatives, Sefik Dzaferovic (SDA), expects that the chamber will one of these days get amendments to Constitution, in the form agreed by the party leaders, which will be forwarded to the Constitutional-Legal Commission of the HoR, which has to organize a public debate that should not last for less than 15 days. Dzaferovic insists that the whole procedure (adoption of changes) can be wrapped up by April 14, when writs for elections should be issued, because the proposed changes to the BiH Election Law will shorten the period for organization of elections from 180 to 150 or 160 days, which gives the MPs additional 20 to 30 days for the job. Vinko Zoric, the Head of HDZ-HNZ Caucus in the BiH HoR says that when it comes to their Caucus, nothing has changed with regards to acceptability of constitutional changes (the Caucus earlier said it would not support changes that are detrimental to the Croats). According to Avaz, the same applies for SBiH, BOSS and Ivo Lozancic (independent MP), whilst it is yet unknown how Muhamed Altic (Pensioners Party) and Ibrahim Djedovic (DNZ) would vote. Dnevni List cover pg splash and pg 3 'Ethnic and entity divisions confirmed' by R. Dautefendic carries Zoric.

DL wonders
whether HDZ
representative
in BiH
Parliament Zoric
is actually HDZ
President
Covic's player

Dnevni List pg 5 'Vinko Zoric wants to discredit Ljubic and Raguz?' by Z. Jukic — Few foreign diplomats including US and German Ambassadors to BiH held meetings with HDZ representative in the BiH Parliament Vinko Zoric to discuss constitutional changes. A DL source from one Embassy in Sarajevo revealed that the diplomats believed that Zoric is politically mature person and that along with Bozo Ljubic he stands for pro-European stands, however, Zoric's collocutors were surprised by rigid and retrograde stands of Zoric who said that he would support only those changes that would divide BiH according to ethnic principles. DL says that in this way Zoric discredits Ljubic and Martin Raguz and gives advantage to HDZ President Dragan Covic and his supporters, that international diplomats start to view again as their partners regardless of their criminal acts. DL also wonders whether Zoric truly broke up his connections with Covic or he has been acting lately according to Covic's instructions.

NHI's Zubak:
 Numerous
 blockades to
 happen due to
 const. changes
 agreed; SBiH's
 Halilovic:
 changes to
 ensure special
 status for RS;
 SDU's Tokic:
 agreement
 ensures entity
 division

BHT1 by Sanita Lisica-Biberovic — Commenting the agreement on constitutional changes, NHI leader Kresimir Zubak stated that because of it "I think that we would have to fight numerous blockades and obstructions, not only in the House of Representatives, but also in other institutions". SBiH leader **Safet Halilovic** said that "those changes practically ensure special status for RS, as a state within a state... We believe that such changes cannot satisfy citizens of BiH". FTV - SDU Leader Sejfudin Tokic, stated that the agreement guarantees entity division of BIH and gives stronger possibility to obstruct the work of the Government, adding that after the reform of the Constitution, International Community would most definitely leave BIH with the least rational state organisation created in Dayton. Tokic noted that this agreement preserves the discriminatory elements in BIH especially the name of RS warning the delegates in the Parliament that they do not have the support of citizens in "cementing BIH and denying its right on democratic organisation based on European standards". SRS leader Milenko Mihajlica opposes the constitutional changes in BIH asking that RS National Assembly and citizens at referendum discuss the entire issue. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Deputies do not have mandate for cementing ethnic divisions', **Dnevni List** cover pg splash and pg 3 'Ethnic and entity divisions confirmed' by R. Dautefendic carried Tokic. Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Agreement leads to strengthening of BiH institutions' by V. Popovic, Glas Srpske pg 5 'They signed betrayal' by D. T. and M. B. reported Mihajlica.

SDU Vice
President Komsic
criticizes
preservation of
entity vote in
BiH Parliament

Ajanovic (BOSS), Halilovic (SBiH) criticise agreement Dnevni List cover pg splash and pg 3 'Ethnic and entity divisions confirmed' by R. Dautefendic — BOSS President Mirnes Ajanovic stated: 'SDS, PDP and SNSD, that is, their representatives show that Zlatko Lagumdzija and Sulejman Tihic were in favour of Great Serbia interests and not in favour of BiH's interests.' Safet Halilovic from SBiH said that the constitutional changes agreement is short-sighted and irrational.

NN op-ed: it
would have been
logical if
someone raised
issue of
transfer of
competences from
Cantons onto F
BiH

Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'The Constitution' by
Aleksandar Sekulic — the author complimented the fact the
agreement on constitutional changes was signed on Saturday
but also criticised the fact no person had so far raised
the issue of the Federation of BiH and its organisation
 since it has ten Cantons — each with its own
 constitutions, judicial, legislative and executive
authorities. He concluded by saying it would have been
logical if someone had raised the issue of transfer of
competences from Cantons onto F BiH, primarily in order to
 reduce bureaucracy.

Other political issues

Circle 99
discusses
problems of
higher
education
system in BH,
urge adoption
of the law

PINK by Zeljko Mandic — In the session held in Sarajevo on Sunday, Association of the Independent Intellectuals "Circle 99" discussed the problems of higher education in BiH. Dean of Sarajevo University Hasan Muratovic said that the major obstacle for BiH on its way to the EU is that fact that state law on higher education still does not exist, while there is a lack of interest on a part of the state institutions for this reform. He reminded that in most EU countries, state institutions are in charge of education. Professor Miodrag Zivanovic from Banja LukaUniversity stated that the Bologna Declaration needs to be implemented in BiH as soon as possible. However, he adds it needs to be harmonised with specific conditions in BiH. Dnevni List pg 3 'So far state has lost 1,5 million Dollars' by M. Zorlak - : Due to failure to adopt high education law in accordance with Bologna Declaration BiH has lost 1,5 million Dollars of World Bank loan so far. BHT1, Hayat, FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 6, mentioned on cover 'Two classrooms in primary school and there is a university' by E.Kamenica Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'State is not interested in higher education reform' not signed, Nezavisne Novine pg 11 'Urgently adopt law on high education' by S. Lemoalso covered.

EU official Lange: SAA negotiations conducted so far were not difficult

PINK — Commenting first technical round of negotiations on Stabilization and Association Agreement [SAA] held on Friday in Sarajevo, Head of EU technical negotiation team SAA talks Dirk Lange stated that the negotiations conducted so far were not difficult, adding that there is consensus on all general issues. Lange reminded that EU encourages the establishing of a customs-free zone in the West Balkans, being that most countries in this region are rather small, and such zone would help their industry and economic development. Lange believes that BiH economy is ready to fulfil the conditions of free trade with the EU and region countries, despite of certain critical stances in BiH. RTRS also covered.

Gligoric (MP,
Socialist
Party) hopes
he will be
able to remove
BiH CoM

Dnevni Avaz, pg 4 'I will win Lagumdzija
over for removal of Terzic', by N. Diklic
 - An MP in BiH House of Representative,
 Tihomir Gligoric (Socialist Party), who
launched an initiative the aim of which is
 to remove the BiH Council of Ministers,
believes he will get the necessary support
 from the MPs from the RS. However, he
 needs a support from 10 MPs from the
 FBiH. Gligoric expects he will win over
 votes of independent MPs from the FBIH,
 announcing that he will talk to the SDP
leader, Zlatko Lagumdzija, about the issue
 in order to get the SDP's support.

BiH CoM

delegation and

Croatian

Ministers

discussed

property-legal

relations/VL:

Serb side

obstructs

reaching of

agreement on

this issue

Vecernji List cover pg splash and pg 8 'RS blackmails Croatia with flats' by Z. Kresic - BiH Security Minister Barisa Colak stated that the last week's meeting between the BiH CoM delegation and Croatian Ministers (held in Zagreb) was not secret and it was a result of a previous meeting between Chairman of BiH CoM Adnan Terzic and Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader. Colak added that they talked about property-legal relations between two countries and VL learns that the problem is a stand of the Serb side which brings into connection 'return of Serb flats in Croatia with wartime robbery of Croatian property in BiH'. According to the article, they also talked about construction of the bridge near Peljesac, Free Trade Agreement etc.

DL op-ed: BiH
is not willing
to resolve
disputable
issues with
Croatia due
to October
elections

Dnevni List pg 2 'Secret negotiations' by
I. Glibusic comments on disputable issues
 between BiH and Croatia such as an
agreement on rights of HVO victims, border
near Neum etc. and the author concludes:
 'It is clear now that a pre-election
 campaign has started in BiH and for this
 reason BiH is not ready for any
 concessions and therefore there would be
no any attempt to resolve these disputable
issues by the October elections and its is
 only possible that secret negotiations
 take place by then.'

Preparations
for upcoming
elections:
 SDS has
collected BAM
1.2 million
from members
 so far

Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'They collected over BAM 1.2 million' by <u>V.Popovic</u> — Momcilo Novakovic, member of SDS Presidency, Sunday confirmed that SDS is collecting resources from the membership in order to ensure SDS participation at the upcoming elections, noting the amount of BAM 1.2 million has been collected so far. He also announced SDS Presidency will hold a session today, at which Dragan Cavic, SDS President, will submit Report on constitutional changes in BiH.

Crime, judiciary and security

BiH Court rejects release of Mirko Sarovic

BHT1 - Attorney of Mirko Sarovic, indicted in the case of 'Privredna' Bank Srpsko Sarajevo, stated for news agency SRNA that the BiH Court did not accept guarantees Serbian and Montenegrin authorities gave for a temporary release of his client. Sarovic was a member of the BiH Presidency, but resigned in 2003 after he was faced with accusations of organizing illegal military trade withIrag. In November last year he was arrested and the indictment for crimes in the PBSS against him, Momcilo Mandic, Milovan Bjelica and Milorad Govedarica was confirmed on February 7. On that occasion, they were ordered to stay in detention until firstdegree procedure is completed. The detention may last up to one year and, as it was announced on February 7, the main hearing should start within 60 days. RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'BiH Court refused SCG guaranties for setting Sarovic on probation', Glas Srpske pg 3 'Main hearing', **Dnevni List** pg 5 'Court does not accept guarantees of Serbia and Montenegro' not signed, Vecernji List, pg 3 'Request for release of Sarovic denied', by ra, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'BH Court exceeded powers' by N.N., Glas Srpske pg 3

'They do not trust Podgorica neither' by

Z.Domazetalso covered.

President of
BiH
Constitutional
Court Tadic:
To be legal
expert with
high moral
qualities is
only criterion
for BiH
Constitutional
Court judges

Dnevni List pg 9 'Constitutional Court partly political and partly legal institution' (hdl refers on election of Constitutional Court judges in Europe not in BiH) by D. P. Mandic carries an interview with President of the Constitutional Court (CC) Mate Tadic. Asked how common it is in the world that a high-ranked politician becomes a CC judge such as the case of **Seada Plavric**, Tadic said it is typical for Europe that politics appoint these judges since CC judges are not regular judges and the CC is not a typical category of judiciary. He added that 'in these countries the judge must not perform some executive, legislative or political duty at least 3 years before he takes over the position of the CC judge'. Tadic added: 'We do not have this regulation and if we had it we would not be faced with the aforementioned situation. ' He added that as far as the BiH Constitution is concerned as the only criteria it was stated that the judge should be a legal expert with high moral qualities.

BiH Commission for Audit citizenships holds 3 mtgs: Expelling of persons with illegal BiH citizenship will not start soon

Dnevni List pg 8 'Expelling of suspicious citizens on hold' by A. Vrebac carries a member of the BiH Commission for Audit of BiH Citizenships (DL does not state his name) who says that they have held 3 meetings so far, however they have not started to work on concrete cases yet. DL says that this means that first expelling of persons who got a BiH citizenship in an illegal way will not start soon although it was announced that they might start at the end of March.

Croatian State
Attorney and
Chief BiH
Prosecutor
meet to
discuss
Jelavic case

Vecernji List pg 3 'Investigation against
Jelavic launched!?' by Pincom.info —
Croatian State Attorney Mladen Bajic and
Chief BiH Prosecutor Marinko Jurcevic
talked about the case of fugitive Ante
Jelavic and they agreed in principle that
in case that Jelavic was sentenced to
prison validly he would serve his sentence
in Croatia if he was not accessible to BiH
authorities

Donors
conference for
BiH judiciary
to be held in
Brussels on
31 March

Oslobodjenje pg 5 'Donors conference for BiH judiciary' Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Collection of resources for judicial reform' — BiH Council of Ministers, supported by European Commission, will organize donors conference for BiH judiciary, which is to be held in Brussels on March 31. Fifty invited countries would among other things finance building BiH state prison and raise of salaries for international judges and prosecutors.

War crimes

ICTY demands
from Serbian
authorities
to explain
why
temporarily
released
suspects
attended
Milosevic's
funeral

BHT1 - The Hague Tribunal demanded from the authorities in Belgrade to explain why three ICTY suspects temporarily released from the detention attended the funeral of former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on Saturday. According to the ICTY, Serbian generals Dragoljub Ojdanic and Nebojsa Pavkovic, as well as former Vice-President of the Yugoslavian Government Nikola Sainovic, attended funeral in Pozarevac. Tribunal underlined that the indictees under temporary release waiting a start of the trial are not allowed to participate in the political life; and that they were forbidden to leave Belgrade. FTV, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'What were Hague indictees doing at Milosevic's funeral' by B92 also covered.

Indictment
against
former HVO
member
confirmed

BHT1 — Cantonal Court in Mostar confirmed the indictment against Niko Obradovic from Capljina, former member of Croat Defence Council (HVO). Obradovic is charged with war crimes committed against Bosniak civilians in the area of Stolac between July and October 1993. FTV, RTRS, Vecernji List pg 3 'Bill of indictment against Niko Obradovic' by Pincom.info — also covered.

GS: analysts
agree Hague
Tribunal
would
increase
pressure
against
Belgrade
and Banja
Luka
authorities
to extradite
Karadzic and
Mladic

Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'Pursuit for
Mladic will follow' by S. R. T. and M. L.

— The article reads most of political

- The article reads most of political analysts agree Hague Tribunal would now, following death of Slobodan Milosevic, increase pressures exerted on authorities in Belgrade and Banja Luka to extradite Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, since the Tribunal would lose its purpose if it has no "big cases". [the article quotes analyst Srdjo Trifkovic, Ljubisa Borovcanin's lawyer Miodrag Stojanovic and Belgian humanist and publicist Michel Colon].

EU Ministers
voiced
message to
SiCG
authorities:
Deadline for
apprehension
of Mladic is
end of March

Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover 'Deadline for location of Mladic is end of March' by BETA— The Foreign Ministers of the EU have voiced the message that Serbian Government may evade stoppage in talks on SAA of SiCG to EU of "fully tangible evidence were provided" to Brussels and the ICTY Prosecutor by the end of March that the most decisive measures to apprehend Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic. On the latter, EU explained decisive actions to apprehend Karadzic are tied with the assistance Serbian authorities may give to RS.

Discussion
before ICJ
on BH suit
vs. SiCG to
resume
without
reports to
public until
28 March

Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'Testimonies of witnesses from BiH and SiCG under embargo for the press' by BETA, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Testimonies — as secret' — The final discussion on the BH suit against SiCG for genocide against Muslims and Croats will today (Monday) commence before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) with testimonies of witnesses. According to Court procedures, those testimonies will be closed for public until 28 March, i.e. discussions would be open but members of the press will be threatened with removal of accreditation if reporting on testimonies.

ICTY to unseal some files from 'Milosevic case' Oslobodjenje pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Part of files from Milosevic case will be unsealed' by Asim Beslija — Upon request of Dutch authorities, ICTY Court Council decided to reveal part of secret documentation from 'Milosevic case' so the investigation on causes of his death could be continued. Court Council said that this documentation consists of personal information, with no much ties with the process itself.