

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 20/4/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on April 20, 2006

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
Inter-state meeting BiH-CRO	BiH-Cro Interstate Council in session	ITA SB to hold session today
CLAC adopted const. changes	Blic: search for Mladic progresses	CSS welcomes decision of CLAC
Hoobrooke: Name of RS a mistake	BiH emigrant to US admits to lying	RS PoW sue Hadzipasic and Masovic

TV news broadcast on April 19, 2006

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
BiH-the Holy See sign agreement	Compromise on con. amendments	Parties agree on Const. amendments
World News	BiH lawsuit against SCG	CLAC on Constitution amendments
Compromise on con. amendments	Ingram meets Radovanovic	Lawsuit BiH vs. SCG continues
FBiH CC on public revenues law	FBiH HoP session	ICTY to extend Delic's indictment

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Compromise on const. amendments	FBiH HoP rejected FERK's decision	Ingram meets Radovanovic
BiH-the Holy See sign agreement	Biber on social programs	Compromise on con. amendments

Radovanovic meets Ingram	Impact of price increases on citizens	Cavic on constitutional amendments
Terrorist activities in the Balkans	Disabled persons on FERK decision	SPONA on con. amendments

Oslobodjenje	[Richard Holbrook] Abolishing or creating new entities will bring conflict back in BiH
Dnevni Avaz	Tihic: We have reliable 27 votes of deputies
Dnevni List	Tens of thousands KM for The Hague evidence (DL claims that documents that might be used before ICTY are being sold to ICTY defence teams for tens of thousnads KM)
Vecernji List	Features Croatia related headline
Slobodna Dalmacija	Croat wartime leaders in The Hague (announces the beginning of the trial against former Croat Republic of Herceg Bosna leaders before ICTY on April 25)
Nezavisne Novine	‘Dusanic’ company was suspected of customs frauds as well
Glas Srpske	They know what they are hiding
EuroBlic	A pilot, Mladic’s harborer, was arrested
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related titles

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

<p>HR CSS welcomed decision of CLAC to adopt Amendments to BiH Const.</p>	<p>RTRS – At today’s press conference in Banja Luka, Ljiljana Radetic, OHR Spokesperson stated that the High Representative to BiH, Christian Schwarz Schilling, has welcomed decision of the CLAC (BH Constitutional and Legal Affairs Commission) to accept proposed amendments to BiH Constitution. Radetic also said that elected officials in BiH now have a chance to speak about amendments inside a forum. According to her, HR to BiH said <i>“it is now up to the Parliament to discuss these amendments”</i>.</p>
<p>RS Association of former detention camp inmates sues F BiH Premier and former Head of F BiH Comm. for missing persons</p>	<p>RTRS – The RS Association of former detention camp inmates has filed a lawsuit with BiH Prosecution against Ahmet Hadzipasic, F BiH Premier, and Amor Masovic, former president of F BiH Commission for search after missing persons, for their failure to comply with the decision of the BiH Constitutional Court (dated 27 Mar 2005) regarding information on destinies of missing Sarajevo Serbs.</p>

RS PresidentCavic: Possible recognition of Kosovo' independence could undermine principle of integrity of borders in Europe and encourage separatism	Fena – RS President Dragan Cavic stated for Bijeljina-based 'BN' TV that possible recognition of independence of Kosovo could undermine the principle of integrity of borders in Europe and make a precedent that could encourage separatism. Cavic also stressed there is no point in linking the status of Kosovo with position of the RS because it would damage the RS and Serb people within framework of the DPA, which is the basis of BiH.
--	--

Constitutional changes

<p>BiH Presidency approves corrections to amendments to BiH Constitution after agreement by political parties</p>	<p>Hayat – The BiH Presidency on Wednesday defined a proposal of the amendments to the BiH Constitution and said that this was related just to “<i>technical corrections</i>.” Prior to the session, the leaders of the political parties met in the BiH Presidency and agreed on “the corrections” to the amendments. The BiH Presidency Chairman Sulejman Tihic told at the press conference that these were only technical corrections, adopted following the discussion whether these are in line with the Agreement on the constitutional changes adopted by the parties in March.</p> <p>Following the adoption, the leaders forwarded the amendments to BiH Presidency for approval. Tihic confirmed this and explained that the corrections did not change essence in terms of what the BiH Presidency had adopted before. Tihic explained that competencies of BiH institutions are arranged by the state law in accordance with the Constitution. With regard to the BiH Parliament, the legislative authority of BiH is given to the Parliament in accordance with the Constitution. Every law that does not require concordance of the BiH Parliamentary House of Peoples is strictly under the jurisdiction of the House of Representatives, said Tihic. It was foreseen earlier that the Parliament will be dismissed if it does not elect the Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers after the third attempt, and now it is foreseen that the Parliament will be dismissed if the BiH Presidency, which would consist of a president and two vice-presidents, is not elected in a certain number of attempts. US Ambassador to BiH Douglas McElhaney, who, according to Hayat’s unofficial information, exerted pressure against the political parties’ leaders, also attended the meeting.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 2 ‘We have reliable 27 votes of deputies’ by <u>A.Malagic</u> , EuroBlic pg RS2 ‘Agreement was reached’ by <u>D. S. and Srna</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover ‘Majority for adoption of amendments was secured’ by <u>M. Cubro</u> – Dailies report that 6 political parties – SDS, SDA, HDZ, SDP, SNSD, PDP – attended the meeting. No media mentioned HNZ, the seventh party which originally signed the agreement on the constitutional changes. RTRS, RHB, PINK, BHT1, FTV, Dnevni List pg 4 ‘Agreement on constitutional amendments reached’ by <u>Dn. L.</u> – also carried.</p>
---	--

<p>Leaders of parties that signed agreement on const. changes convinced that proposed amendments would get support of BiH HoR</p>	<p>RTRS – Following the meeting in the BiH Presidency, during which political parties approved corrections to proposed amendments to the BiH Constitution and the BiH Presidency endorsed them, SNSD leader Milorad Dodik stated that a lot of negative energy appeared in the process especially from the FBiH parties. <i>“The RS has made significant compromises related to the election of the BiH Presidency members and BiH House of Peoples as well as some other things”</i>, stressed Dodik. HDZ leader Dragan Covic stated that in his opinion constitutional amendments would be adopted in both Houses of the BiH Parliament. SDS leader Dragan Cavic stated that all disputable issues related to the constitutional amendments have been agreed upon. Cavic added that the matters related to defence and security have been coordinated as well. <i>“We hope that the amendments will be voted on next week in the BiH Parliament”</i>, concluded Cavic. BHT1 – BiH Presidency Chair Sulejman Tihic stated after the meeting that there are guarantees that 27 deputies in the BiH HoR would vote in favour of proposed amendments. Oslobodjenje pg 5, mentioned on cover ‘Amendments to BiH Constitution adopted’ by <u>A.Omeragic</u> – SDS’s Momcilo Novakovic said: <i>“Any significant changes can cause problems and we will not adopt those that are damaging entity i.e. RS.”</i> Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 2 ‘We have reliable 27 votes of deputies’ by <u>A.Malagic</u> – also carried Tihic. Oslobodjenje pg 4 ‘Through constitutional changes BiH is going to Europe’ <u>not signed</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 ‘Tihic held a lecture on constitutional changes’ by <u>Fena</u>, Dnevni List, pg 5 ‘To Europe via constitutional reforms’, by NINA – carry Tihic holding a lecture on constitutional changes at the ‘Gazihusrevbegova medresa’ on Wednesday.</p>
---	--

<p>SNSD leader Dodik: Interpretations (of solutions) were not clear enough for defence and security/PDP President Ivanic and SDS President Covic: Majority of suggestions of RS parties to constitutional changes amendments were accepted</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 2 'Tihic: We have reliable 27 votes of deputies' by <u>A. Malagic</u> SNSD leader, Milorad Dodik, explained which parts of the proposed text that was prepared earlier were debatable.</p> <p>He noted that interpretations (of solutions) were not clear enough for defence and security. <i>"We only asked that that they be clearly defined and to say that the defence and security will be regulated by the state law. On the top of it, you have legislative powers of BiH where, intentionally or accidentally, I do not know, the word 'level' was omitted"</i>, said Dodik. Glas Srpske pg 2 'Uncertainties were removed' by <u>Z. M.</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover 'Majority for adoption of the amendments was ensured' by <u>M. Cubro</u> – Leaders of PDP and SDS, Mladen Ivanic and Dragan Covic respectively, stated on Wednesday in Sarajevo that the majority of suggestions of RS parties to amendments to the constitutional changes were accepted and they added that the agreement on amendments was in line with previously signed agreement on constitutional changes.</p>
<p>HDZ leader Covic certain const. reform to pass Parliament</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 2 'Tihic: We have reliable 27 votes of deputies' by <u>A. Malagic</u> Inset 'Covic: Only symbolic changes are possible' – Commenting on the meeting of the political parties in the BiH Presidency, HDZ leader Dragan Covic expressed that he believes that addenda of some other parties or deputies cannot be adopted except maybe some symbolic changes.</p>
<p>DA source: Amendments are passing for sure</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 2 'Tihic: We have reliable 27 votes of deputies' by <u>A. Malagic</u>, inset 'Amendments are passing for sure' – DA's anonymous source claims the meeting of political parties secured adoption of the constitutional amendments in both houses of the BiH Parliament: <i>"There are enough votes in the BiH HoR even if most of Croat deputies were against them. In the BiH House of Peoples all 4 Croat deputies are loyal to HDZ and Dragan Covic and they will vote in favour of the amendments, so it is expected for them to be adopted by the end of this month."</i></p>

<p>CLAC endorsed amendments to const. changes, forwards them to Parliament</p>	<p>BHT1 late news – The Constitutional-Legal Commission of the BiH House of Representatives at its session on Thursday adopted the addenda to the amendments to the BiH Constitution determined by the BiH Presidency following the meeting of the political parties. 5 members of the Commission supported the principles and four members were against them. After the principles were supported, discussion on 55 amendments that have been put forward continued. Only 4 amendments of technical nature were adopted. CLAC Chair Mirsad Ceman, confirmed the decision would now be submitted to the BiH HoR, which should start discussion on proposed amendments on April 25 [Tuesday]. Dnevni Avaz, pg 2 'Five in favour of amendments, four voted against', by <u>H. Orahovac</u> – Avaz notes that CLAC endorsed the proposed changes and in the same time 'honoured requests' of the SDS, PDP and SNSD, which the other day asked that technical changes to the amendments be carried out concerning authorities of BiH in the field of defence and security (that defence and security should be under authority of BiH pursuant to the state laws). Petar Kunic, Tihomir Gligoric, Momcilo Novakovic, Mirsad Ceman and Mirsad Sipovic voted in favour the amendments to the BiH Constitution. Martin Raguz, Filip Andric, Beriz Belkic and Nijaz Durakovic were against it. Article also carries that Raguz and Andric left the meeting before its end. FTV late news, RTRS late news, Oslobodjenje pg 5 'Draft amendments supported' by <u>Fena</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 'Amendments passed' by <u>Z. Domazet</u> – also carried.</p>
--	--

<p>Oslobodjenje: CRO President Mesic to raise issue of const. changes at Inter-state Council meeting with BiH?</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje, pg 2, mentioned on front 'Mesic and Tihic are not Tudjman or Izetbegovic', by <u>D. Zadavec</u> – According to official confirmation from the office of the Croatian President, today's (Thursday) session of the BiH-Croatia Inter-state Cooperation Council will address issues related to relations between the 2 countries and processes related to getting closer to the EU. However, unofficially, one could hear that the Croatian President, Stjepan Mesic, could be raising the issue of constitutional changes in BiH with regards to the position of the Croats and the proposed solution related to the entity voting in the BiH HoR. The headline of the article suggests that two heads of states (Mesic and Sulejman Tihic) are not in position i.e. they do not have the power, to sit down, discuss and agree on important matters like their predecessors used to do (late presidents Izetbegovic and Tudjman).</p>
<p>SDP's Lagumdzija criticizes Croat MPs, SBiH and SRS for rejecting const. changes</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 9 'HDZ and SBiH joined ranks with radicals', by <u>E. Milavic</u> – during a round table dedicated to constitutional changes held in Mostar on Tuesday night, the SDP leader, Zlatko Lagumdzija, criticized Croat MPs (in the BiH Parliament) and their SBiH colleagues for not supporting the changes, saying they are doing it for personal benefit, accusing them of joining ranks with 'Seselj's radicals' (Serb Radical Party) and other 'destructive forces' from the RS. SDP called on all citizens and institutions to join in the discussion on constitutional changes. (similar in Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 20, mentioned on front 'HDZ joined Seselj's radicals', by <u>M. Landeka</u>)</p>

<p>Austrian President visits BiH, supports constitutional reform</p>	<p>Hayat– Austrian President Heinz Fischer told press on Wednesday after meeting the BiH Presidency: <i>“I am interested in constitutional reforms in BiH, as well as in results of the ongoing constitutional reform since it would enable BiH to develop successfully.”</i> BiH Presidency Chair Sulejman Tihic said that he informed the Austrian President about the results of the constitutional reforms agreement reached by political parties leaders due to the fact that they had met with leaders of political parties in BiH prior to the meeting with Mr. Fischer. The delegations talked about improving bilateral relations between the two countries, the current situation in BiH, the results of party talks on the constitutional reforms, improving the economic relations and possibilities for extending cooperation in the field of defence and culture. PINK, BHT1, Oslobođenje pg 2 ‘Constitutional reforms would enable development’ by <u>S.R.</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 ‘Dayton was a base for further development of BiH’ by <u>S.Skuletic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 4, announced on cover ‘To faster development through constitutional reforms’ by <u>N.Krsman</u>, Vecernji List pg 2 ‘Dayton should be superstructured’ by <u>E. Medunjanin</u> – covered.</p>
<p>Former HR Petritsch regrets EU does not lead const. reform</p>	<p>Oslobođenje pgs 4-5 ‘EU gave BiH over to US’ by <u>Mile Lasic</u> – Daily carries interview published in Die Presse in which former HR Wolfgang Petritsch comments on the constitutional changes in BiH saying it is “sad” that the EU leadership is missing in the process: <i>“When I was the HR, I tried to improve BiH’s approach to the EU, and to avoid all Euro-American hybrid systems in judicial and administrative bodies. We made a great progress in 2002 when the constitutional reform is in question. My ancestor did not continue with that.”</i></p>

<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed: EU has no strength nor wish to take over steer from US, not even on its own ground</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'EU without steer in BiH' op-ed by <u>Edin Krehic</u> – Following the interview with former HR Wolfgang Petritsch for Die Presse, in which he criticized the EU foreign policy for letting the US taking steer over Balkans, the editorial reads it has not happened recently, but in 1995 when administration of the former US President Bill Clinton stopped the war in BiH. Further criticizing EU policy towards BiH during and after the wartime, author concludes: <i>"Europe simply does not have strength, unity or, finally, the wish to take over the steer from America. Not even on its own ground, even in Balkan."</i></p>
<p>Creator of DPA Holbrook: Abolishing or creating new entities would bring conflict back in BiH</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje cover splash, pgs 4-5 'Abolishing or creating new entities would bring conflict back in BiH' – Commenting on constitutional changes in BiH, creator of Dayton Peace Agreement Richard Holbrook said for daily: <i>"Proposed constitutional changes are not perfect...Nobody will get everything what one wants from these reforms... Abolishing entities is also not practical... Abolishing entities or creating the third one is a way back to a conflict."</i> Underlining that at this time it should not be insisted on such dangerous change, he said that the entities could be discussed later on. Commenting on the DPA, he stressed that it was a mistake to allow the RS to preserve its name, adding that SDS should not be allowed to remain in political life.</p>
<p>VL op-ed: IC is pushing Croats to adopt const. changes and it does not deal with their concern when this issue is in question</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 4 'Croat cries for help without reply' by <u>P. Grubisic</u> carries that 'Croat political and Catholic Church' representatives as well as Croats in general have expressed their dissatisfaction over the constitutional changes agreement, however people from the International Community do not care about it. The author goes on to say that instead of dealing with the reasons of the Croat concern when this issue is in question the IC is pushing them to adopt the changes as soon as possible and all Croat arguments are being rejected without valid explanation.</p>

Other political issues/Reforms

<p>1st official agreement signed between BiH and Vatican/Agreement guarantees full autonomy to Catholic Church</p>	<p>PINK- BiH Presidency member Ivo Miro Jovic and Apostolic Nuncio Alessandro D'Ericco signed in Sarajevo agreement between BiH and the Holy See which regulates and defines position and rights of Catholic Church in BiH. <i>"We are assured that the agreement is going to be of extreme use for BiH in terms of international issues, namely that it would present BiH as a place where religions are being respected"</i>, said D'Ericco.</p> <p>The agreement would give Catholic Church absolute autonomy; namely the Church will be able to establish education institutions, while the state would have to provide means for it.</p> <p>The state will also have to return property, which belonged to the Catholic Church within 10 years. If the agreement was approved by the BiH Parliament it would come in force immediately after ratified documents were exchanged. RHB, PINK, BHT1, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Confirmation of rights to religious freedom' by Fena, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Confirmation of rights to religious freedom' by Fena, EuroBlic pg RS3 'Agreement with BiH' by D. S., Nezavisne Novine pg 6, announced on cover 'Property to be returned to Catholic Church' by M.Cubro, Dnevni List pg 3, mentioned on cover 'Right on religious freedom confirmed' by D. P. Mandić, Vecernji List pg 2 'Position and rights of Catholic Church in BiH guaranteed', mentioned on cover 'Return of property within 10 years' by D. Jazvic, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 19 'Agreement with Holy See' by Z. Tuli – all reported.</p>
--	---

British Deputy
Defence Minister
Ingram meets BiH
Minister
Radovanovic/Joint
conclusion that
number of EUFOR
soldiers could
reduce after
October election

Hayat By Zumra Arnautovic – British Deputy
Defence Minister **Adam Ingram** met in Sarajevo
with BiH Defence Minister **Nikola Radovanovic**.
Both of them agreed that the situation in BiH
has improved and that a number of EUFOR troops
in BiH could be reduced. *“At the very moment,
EUFOR mission, made of 6,000 members, suits the
situation and needs in BiH, and the crucial
event are the October elections and
establishment of new institutions, after what
the issue of needs should be assessed so to
have the number of troops reduced”*, said
Radovanovic. *“First of all I would like to
thank BiH Defence Minister for BiH’s engagement
in peace missions in Iraq. We are living in the
world faced with great difficulties and you
yourselves have gone through certain
difficulties recently. Soon after, you have
offered your help to others in trouble”*, said
Ingram. In terms of **Ratko Mladic**, Radovanovic
pointed out that Mladic’s extradition to The
Hague was a joint BiH-SCG term for joining
Partnership for Peace. Being asked whether BiH
and SCG should join PfP together, Ingram said
that he would like to see the entire region
move forward and added that the International
Community had to be cautious in order not to
avoid misbalance. **PINK, BHT1, RTRS,**
Oslobodjenje pg 7 ‘Regional approach to
association with PfP’ by A.Prlenda, **Dnevni Avaz**
pg 10 ‘Radovanovic: BiH is very close to
Partnership for Peace’ L.S., **Glas Srpske** pg 3
‘Withdrawal – step by step’ by Srna, **Nezavisne**
Novine pg 6 ‘No PfP without arrest of Karadzic
and Mladic’ by A.S., **Dnevni List** pg 2
‘Reduction of EUFOR forces after elections’ by
M. Zorlak. **Vecernji List** pg 2 ‘Withdrawal of
foreigners uncertain’ by ra– reported.

<p>SDS claims that RS representatives in PRD SB are pressured by FBiH reps.</p>	<p>BHT1-SDS will demand from the RS National Assembly to discuss the information on work or Police Restructuring Directorate as soon as possible. According to SDS' Dusan Stojicic, RS representatives in Directorate's Steering Board, are under pressure of representatives from the FBiH, adding that decisions are often passed without an agreement and consensus. RTRS – Stojicic claims that SDS has information that the police reform in BiH is not being carried out in accordance with the police reform agreement. He told at the press conference in Banja Luka that SDS has information that the police reform process in BiH is run out of framework of the Agreement that was passed by entities' Parliaments.</p>
<p>CoM Chair Terzic: Survival of RS Police deviates from EU standards on police reform</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Survival of RS MoI is not European standard' by <u>Az.K.</u>– After returning from New York, Council of Ministers Chairman Adnan Terzic said that RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik is trying to harm positive processes in BiH by exerting constant pressure to participants of the police reform, leadership of ITA, and other BiH institutions. <i>"A demand for survival of the RS Police, with which RS political leaders are biding these days, is drastically deviating from EU principles"</i> said Terzic. Terzic said he is not concerned about strengthening of <i>"the front in the RS which lobbies for survival of Police"</i>, but that he is more concerned <i>"about the parties from the FBiH which placed Dodik at the PM's position and are keeping quiet today about all his blackmails"</i>.</p>

SDS's Stojicic:
Unseen political
pressure,
supported by
media was exerted
on Andan to
resign

Nezavisne Novine pg 4, announced on cover 'SDS blames media for Andan's resignation' by V.Popovic – **Dusan Stojicic**, SDS Vice President, stated on Wednesday that unseen political pressure was exerted against **Dragomir Andan**, former RS Police Director, to file resignation, in which some media, supported by some public services running media campaigns aimed at creating environment for his removal, played the biggest role. He added: *"I should not remind you of a series of articles published in some media carrying serious accusations. And as for those accusations, if those were true, Andan should have been arrested and in prison instead of seeing him tender resignation over such reporting."* Stojicic also said that Andan's departure is bad for the RS position, reducing RS capacities in the process of reform and restructuring of police forces in BiH, urging election of the new police director ASAP.

Avaz: RS PM Dodik lobbies that Dragan Lukac becomes new RS Police Director

Dnevni Avaz, pg 13 'Dodik lobbies for Dragan Lukac', by N. Diklic – the article is speculating with names of possible candidates for the office of RS Police Director, after the last Director, **Dragomir Andan**, resigned. Avaz's sources says possible candidates are: **Uros Pena**, Chief of education sector in RS MoI, **Fadil Jaganjac**, Chief of Field office of State Border Service and **Nijaz Smajlovic**, Chief of RS Police Administration who should be assuming the office of acting Police Director for time being. However, Avaz notes it is **Dragan Lukac**, former Chief of RS Special Police, who stands the biggest chance because it is the RS PM, **Milorad Dodik**, who is lobbying for him with the IC. Allegedly, Dodik is still grateful to Lukac because back in 1997 he helped Dodik come to power in the RS. Inset 'Dragomir Jovicic in the 'loop' too' – one of possible candidates is also **Dragomir Jovicic**, former RS Interior Minister in **Mladen Ivanic's** cabinet.

<p>CoM Chair Terzic on decertified police: atmosphere in UN SC has changed</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'The situation of the decertified police officers is excruciating' by <u>S.N.</u> – In a statement to DA, the Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, noted that atmosphere in the UN Security Council with regard to a need for revision of the police decertification process carried in BiH by the UN mission to BiH has significantly changed: <i>"Following strong and impressive address by the HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling the UN SC member states realized this issue must change."</i> Terzic believes that the UN SC showed much appreciation for the proposal by the French Ambassador for the revision as a joint effort by the OHR, EUPM and the UN. As for other meetings with the senior UN staff, Terzic said they were very much interested in transfer of powers from the OHR to BiH authorities. Oslobodjenje pg 3 'The problem of dismissed police will be solved by the UN, OHR and EUPM' – CoM Chair said he did not expect the UN to let BiH authorities to carry out the revision alone. He noted that from meetings with the UN staff he got impression that launch of the revision process would not require issuance of the presidential statement of the UNSC member states. <i>"We do not insist on this either, as this could bring us to the beginning of the certification process,"</i> concluded Terzic.</p>
--	--

<p>Decertified police officers from FBiH happy with events in UN SC reg. their future status</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 8 'Police officers waiting for justice to be served', by <u>Dario Pusic</u> – The President of Association of decertified police officers from FBiH, Ramo Sulic, welcomed the events that had taken place in the UN Security Council with regards to their future status. (media reports noted that Chairman of BiH CoM Terzic was supported by SC member states to carry out revision of decertification process)</p> <p>Sulic explained that the Association had a meeting with BiH Minister for Human Rights and Refugees, Mirsad Kebo, who told them he should be going to the UN HQ later this week to work on details of the process. Oslobodjenje pg 3 'The problem of dismissed police will be solved by the UN, OHR and EUPM' Inset 'Decertified police do not care who would carry out a revision' – also carries.</p>
--	--

<p>Former HR Petritsch: Both EU and Balkans leaders have to fulfil promises on European perspective of region</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'European and Balkans leaders have to fulfil promises' by <u>S.Numanovic</u> – In an interview for DA, former High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch said that Europe will not be whole and free until there are 'black holes' in it adding that Balkans is of the most importance for the whole continent, noting: <i>"When a danger is gone, we withdraw from that area, which is really wrong. Unlike the US', EU foreign policy is complicated and slow."</i></p> <p>Petritsch warns that due to inner economic problems, there is a possibility for the EU to "forget" the promises it gave, and stop the enlargement process. <i>"We have to fulfil the promise from Solun 2003 on European perspective of the region. If that does not happen, Europe could face much larger price it would pay for engaging army to preserve status quo in Balkans,"</i> stressed Petritsch, underlining also that Balkan-states have to do their part of the job. Inset 'Correct stance of High Representative' – Petritsch said that High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling has a correct stance – <i>"He expects more self-responsibility from people in BiH. He supports BiH institutions, but expects leaders to show more responsibility and take things into their own hands... The most important thing is that European mentality is being set up."</i></p>
---	--

<p>Dismissed assistant to RS Min. of Traffic in wait of encounter with RS PM and person who accused him of bribe</p>	<p>EuroBlic RSpG 3 'Investigation on racketeering case', announced on cover 'Cicic asks to encounter Dodik' by <u>Tijana Veselinovic</u> – Nedeljko Cubrilovic, RS Minister of Traffic and Communication, has confirmed he had signed Decision on dismissal from office of his assistant, Miroslav Cicic, adding: "<i>Cicic has a right to complain to RS Civil Service Agency and if established procedure was violated, he could return to the same post.</i>" (Miloard Dodik, RS Premier, Monday removed Cicic from office on basis of complaint from local transport company owner Mile Atlagic claiming Cicic was bribing him.) Cicic expressed expectation he will "<i>today encounter RS PM Dodik and Atlagic. I would to settle this thing in this manner first, and then I will complain and even sue Premier.</i>" Radovan Pejic, Spokesperson of the RS MOI, confirmed that the RS MoI is to conduct investigation on the case of bribe.</p>
<p>DL: Members of HDZ Mostar are intending to join HDZ 1990, if this happens HDZ would lose power in Mostar</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 11, mentioned on cover 'HDZ is losing power in Mostar' by <u>S. Bjelica</u> carries that those who are well familiar with the situation within HDZ Mostar claim that a part of HDZ Mostar members who are originally from Mostar are intending to join HDZ 1990. DL says that some of these members are also Mostar City Councillors and therefore there is a big possibility that HDZ loses power in Mostar. DL carries President of the HDZ Caucus in the Mostar City Council (MCC) Oliver Soldo and President of the Croat Caucus in the MCC Mladen Margeta who believe that divisions among HDZ Councillors within the MCC might have negative consequences and they might prevent functioning of the City of Mostar.</p>

Economic issues

FBiH HoP
tasks FERK
to drop its
decision on
electricity
price

Hayat – At its Wednesday's special session, dedicated to the decision of Federal Electricity Regulatory Commission [FERK] to increase electricity prices and which was conveyed on demand of deputy **Nermin Pecanac**, FBiH House of Peoples representatives decided to put out of the effect FERK's decision. As media carried it remains to be seen whether the stance of FBiH HoP would have impact on FERK, which is an independent agency. **FTV**- FBiH House of Representative on Tuesday decided that FERK's decision should be postponed until FBiH Government passes program on social coverage for those that would be most affected by this decision. Since two Houses passed different decisions, Pecanac was asked to say which decision has priority. He said that FBiH HoP has passed a decision, while FBiH HoR's could be seen only as a recommendation. FBiH Vice President **Sahbaz Dzihanovic** explained that FBiH Government could file lawsuit against FERK. Deputy **Petar Majic** stated that the whole issue has been politicized, and the HoP decision doesn't mean much. **Oslobodjenje** pg 6 'Representatives can not abolish increase of electricity prices', mentioned on cover by A.Terzic– Dzihanovic also said that citizens are being misled that new prices of the electricity could be postponed. He stressed that FERK is an independent commission, which according to the Law passes its decision independently. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'To put out of force decision on increase of electricity' by A.Hadziarapovic– Inset 'Dzihanovic initiates replacement of FBiH Government'- Dzihanovic also heavily criticises the Government stating that it could be regarded as the initiative for replacement of the Government. **RHB, PINK, BHT1, Nezavisne Novine** pg 9 'Government will annul decision on price increase' by R.Cengic – also carried.

<p>FBiH CC determined that Law on Allocation of Public Revenues is not damaging for Croat VNI</p>	<p>FTV By <u>Dzenana Zolota</u> – FBiH Constitutional Court's Council for the Protection of Vital Interests concluded that Law on Allocation of Public Revenues is not violating vital national interests of the Croat people. The Council believes that FBiH Parliament has the constitutive right to determine the terms of distribution of public revenues. SDP's deputy in FBiH HoP and member of Serb Caucus in FBiH HoP Svetozar Pudaric, who is the proponent of the Law stated that this means that revenues from the FBiH account, the moment they are transferred from BiH single account, would be distributed to FBiH, Cantons and Municipalities directly. Head of Croat Caucus in FBiH HoP Mate Franjcevic said that they respect the FBiH CC's decision, but that they would lodge an appeal. He stressed that the main problem lays in the fact that quantity of distributed revenues would not be determined in accordance to population census from 1991, but on current evaluations on number of population in certain municipality.</p> <p>RHB, BHT1, Hayat, Oslobodjenje pg 8 'Vital national interest of BiH Croats is not injured' by <u>S.Rozajac</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Law on Allocation of Public Revenues is not endangering Croats' by <u>Onasa</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Law does not jeopardise anybody's national interests' by <u>R.C.</u>, Dnevni List pg 6 'Distribution of money per number of inhabitants' by <u>R. Dautefendic</u>, Vecernji List pg 5 'Distribution of incomes is not damaging for Croats' by <u>E. Medunjanin</u> – reported.</p>
---	---

<p>DA: Niko Lozancic has to pass decree on pronouncing of Law</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Niko Lozancic has to pass decree on pronouncing of the Law' <u>by M.K.</u>– According to regular procedure Law on Allocation of Public Revenues, for which the FBiH Constitutional Court said that it doesn't endanger Croats and which was earlier passed in both Houses of FBiH Parliament, is now necessary to submit from the FBiH Parliament to FBiH President Niko Lozancic, who should sign a decree and pronounce the Law. After this Lozancic should send the Law to the FBiH Government's Secretary, who is sending it to be published in the Official Gazette. FBiH Government's Secretary Ismet Trumic said that he would fulfil his obligation, as soon as he receives the Law. He stressed that the procedure shouldn't last more than ten days.</p>
<p>ITA Governing Board to discuss coefficients for distribution of ITA funds today</p>	<p>EuroBlic pg RS2 'ITA Governing Board in session today' <u>by N. B.</u> – ITA Governing Board will hold a session today (Thursday) in Sarajevo to again discuss the coefficients for distribution of funds from the single ITA account. Assistant RS Minister of Finances and member of the Governing Board Miodrag Kudic says RS representatives are not ready to support the final solution on distribution of revenues especially because VAT reports of large taxpayers are not reliable. He announced he would demand a temporary decision to be adopted. Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Would the agreement finally de-block the single account' <u>by T.L.</u>, – The Office of ITA SB Chair Joly Dixon confirmed the session is to be held today.</p>

<p>Chairman of RS Association of Employers: F BiH facing bankruptcy – collecting of ITA funds easiest way to keep it functioning</p>	<p>Glas Srpske pg 7 'They are patching the Federation of BiH's vault' by <u>D. Vrhovac – Mihajlovic</u> – The Chairman of RS Association of Employers, Damir Miljevic, commented on the disputable distribution of ITA funds and said Federation of BiH is facing the bankruptcy and "collecting" of funds from ITA single account was the easiest way to keep this large administrative system running and added: <i>'Federation of BiH, year after year, is breaching its budget, which is obviously attempted to be compensated through transfer of money collected from VAT to its vault'</i>.</p>
<p>71,23% of totally collected VAT payments comes from FBiH</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Out of totally collected VAT 71,24% paid in FBiH', mentioned on cover by <u>F.Cardzic</u>– After frequent disputes regarding the allocation of revenues from the single account, Indirect Taxation Administration has made an analyses. Namely, ITA has taken 300 companies, which make 90% of all revenues, and calculated that out of these 300 those from the FBiH in first three months have paid 71,24%, from the RS 25,82% and those from Brcko District 2,93%.</p>
<p>FBiH PM Hadzipasic expects Thursday's session of ITA SB will reach agreement on distribution coefficients</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 9 'Hadzipasic expects agreement' by <u>D.R.</u> – Ahmet Hadzipasic, FBiH Premier, has expressed expectation that today's session of the ITA Steering Board in Sarajevo would reach agreement on de-blockade of payments from ITA single account (frozen after entities' representatives failed to agree on distribution coefficients). FBiH PM explained to the daily that last week, he has agreed with RS Premier, Miload Dodik, that 30.5% of collected revenues (the same percentage as for 2005) should be directed towards RS until 01 June 2006, while after that date, the distribution would be conducted on the basis of VAT payers' claims.</p>

War crimes/Security/Judiciary

<p>ICTY extends indictment against former BiH Army general Rasim Delic</p>	<p>Hayat– Political Advisor to ICTY Chief Prosecutor, Anton Nikiforov stated that the ICTY Prosecution has submitted an extended indictment against former BiH Army General Rasim Delic. According to Nikoforov, the indictment would be presented to the public in few days and now includes responsibility for crimes in Grabovica and Uzdol. The original indictment against Delic mainly refers to Mujahedins' crimes in Central Bosnia, during the 1993 and it even lists couple of crimes that were committed.</p> <p>Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Indictment extended for Grabovica and Uzdol', mentioned on cover by A.Beslija, Dnevni Avaz pg 12 'Delic to be burdened also for crimes in Bugojno, Grabovica and Uzdol' by <u>Sense</u>– also reported.</p>
<p>Stanko Ristic, retired colonel of SiCG army, and his son were arrested under suspicion of having aided Ratko Mladic</p>	<p>EuroBlic cover pg splash and pgs 4-5 'A pilot, Mladic's harbinger, was arrested' by <u>Vuk Z. Cvijic</u> – According to reliable sources, Stanko Ristic – a pilot and retired colonel of SiCG Army – and his son Predrag were arrested on Wednesday in an action aimed at locating Hague indictee Ratko Mladic. The source claims the noose around Mladic was completely strengthened by this arrest and it can be expected Mladic as well would be arrested soon.</p>

<p>Ratko Mladic located near Macedonian border with Greece: Action of apprehension planned for Easter or 1st May holidays</p>	<p>Fokus cover pg splash, pg 3 'In encirclement' by <u>E.R.F.</u> reports referring to sources close to the intelligence agencies in Serbia that Ratko Mladic has been located in Macedonia, in a weekend settlement on the coast of Dojran Lake near Greek border. The source adds that action of his apprehension is planned to take place during Easter or 1st May holiday at the latest. The action of locating him has involved BIA agents (Serbian intelligence agency), foreign intelligence agents led by the British MI6. The source further notes that Mladic was several times spotted at the reconstructed Hotel at Dojran center.</p>
--	---

<p>Vecernje Novosti: arrest of Mladic not in sight, deadline of 30 April for his extradition likely to be violated</p>	<p>Vecernje Novosti pg 5 'No ambush for rising' by <u>P.V.-D.R.</u> – Daily reports referring to well informed intelligence sources that chances for seeing Ratko Mladic located, arrested and extradited to The Hague until 30 April are small. However, nobody excludes the possibility that Easter and 1st May holidays will see some spectacular turning. Jovan Simic, Advisor to Serbian President for the Hague issues, is of the view that <i>"if Mladic were available to THE Government it would have arrested him already"</i>, adding: <i>"it would not be good"</i> if THE deadline of 30 April were violated. Dragan Sutanovac, DS Vice President, suspects there is general assent inside Government regarding apprehension of Mladic. Anton Nikiforov, the Spokesperson of the ICTY Prosecution, stressed that they are <i>"not interested in stories about THE arrest after Easter and all holidays"</i>, adding: <i>"Promise was 30th April, and this must be fulfilled."</i></p> <p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'We are waiting for Belgrade to fulfill promise' by <u>Agencies</u> – carries Nikiforov</p>
--	---

<p>Kurir: Action of apprehension of Mladic to take place on Orthodox Easter or 1st May holiday at latest</p>	<p>Kurir pg 5 'Ratko's Easter', announced on cover 'The final act is being prepared' by <u>A. M.</u> – Serbian daily reads the action of arrest of Ratko Mladic was foreseen to take place during Orthodox Easter holidays, or latest by May 1. Officials of the strongest Serbian parties (SRS's Milorad Mircic and DS's Dragan Sutanovac) think this arrest will almost certainly take place either during Orthodox Easter or by May 1. Inset 'Media on stand by' – <i>Kurir's</i> source says correspondents of leading foreign agencies, TV stations and newspapers were instructed not to leave Belgrade in next several days as well as to be at disposal non-stop. The source says they were clearly noticed leading news, emphasizing it will be with regard to Mladic, are expected to come from Belgrade in next couple of days.</p>
---	--

<p>BiH legal team before ICJ disputes SCG claims re competence of the Court and Convention</p>	<p>PINK, BHT1, FTV, RTRS – During the second day of the second round in the BiH lawsuit against SCG for aggression and genocide, BiH legal representatives mostly dealt with disputing claims that SCG team presented. Member of BiH legal team Thomas Franck stressed that the Convention on Genocide and Article 9 have authorized International Court of Justice to discuss cases and that it enables not only individuals but also states to be held responsible for genocide. Franck emphasized that pattern on which crimes were committed proves that they were planned and that the project of ethnical cleansing existed. Dnevni Avaz pg 12 ‘States also can be held responsible for genocide’ <u>by Sense</u>,</p>
<p>DL: Documents that might be used as evidence before ICTY are being sold to ICTY indictees’ defence teams</p>	<p>Dnevni List cover pg splash and pg 4 ‘Tens of thousands KM for The Hague evidence’ <u>by V. Soldo</u> carries that many documents that could be used as evidence in numerous processes before The ICTY are being sold for tens of thousands KM quite often. DL also says that those who possess these documents contact defence teams of ICTY indictees and offer the documents at certain price.</p>
<p>SD: Trial agst former Herceg Bosna leaders begins on April 25</p>	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija cover pg splash and pg 17 ‘Croat wartime leaders before The Hague’ <u>by Z. Culic</u> carries that the trial against former Croat republic of Herceg Bosna leaders (Jadranko Prlic, Berislav Pusic, Bruno Stojic, Slobodan Praljak, Milivoj Petkovic and Valentin Coric) begins on April 25.</p>

<p>GS criticises reports of American and Croatian intelligence services: many facts have been omitted</p>	<p>Glas Srpske cover pg splash ‘They know what they are hiding’ by <u>D. M.</u> – Referring to the recently published reports of American and Croatian intelligence agencies on presence of terrorists in the Balkans, in which a special attention was paid to BiH, <i>Glas Srpske</i> criticises the fact many facts have been omitted, i.e. “hidden” in the report, for example, the paper notes mujahedeens have been entering BiH through the only possible roads – the ones leading from Croatia, which would not be possible without consent of Croatian authorities. <i>Glas Srpske</i> also criticises the USA over the fact it had not asked for an arrest of one Abu Al-Ma’ali aka “young Osama”, but they only demanded that he is expelled from Sarajevo.</p>
<p>BiH Prosecution expands investigation against Prnjavor tycoon Dusanic: investigation now includes customs frauds too</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash “‘Dusanic” company suspected of customs frauds’, pg 3 ‘Dusanic company under investigation for customs frauds as well’ by <u>Predrag Klinčov</u> – Daily learns that the BiH Prosecution has expanded investigation against “Dusanic” Company from Prnjavor and its owner Petar Dusanic onto acts of customs frauds, after he has been last year suspected of money laundry and tax evasion.</p>

<p>HJPC Chair Peric, BiH Justice Minister Kovac: main problem of BiH jurisdiction is lack of financing from one source</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Peric: There was no investing in courts for last 50 years' by <u>N.J.</u> – At the press conference held on Wednesday, BiH Justice Minister Slobodan Kovac and High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council [HJPC] Chair Branko Peric stated that the main problem of the BiH judiciary is that it has been financed from 14 different sources, which brings to inequality of citizens before the law. Peric stated that for the last 50 years, there was no investing into judiciary and judicial institutions, adding that entity prisons are overloaded for more than 30%, stressing that BiH still has no a state prison. Kovac said that BiH Justice Ministry was given land for building the state prison in Kasindol. Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Kasindol – the best location' by <u>Fena</u>, Vecernji List, pg 3 'Solve issue of overcrowded prisons in BiH urgently', by <u>ra</u>, Dnevni List, pg 2 'Prison facilities overcrowded by 30 percent', by <u>Erna Mackic</u></p>
--	--

<p>NN op-ed disappointed with judicial system of BiH</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 ‘Qadis and judges’ by <u>Almedin Sisic</u> – Writing about the system of judiciary in BiH, the author notes that the term “what is worse and funnier – to know and not to dare or to dare but not to know” can be applied to domestic judges and international judges and prosecutors respectively. However, the author underlines BiH public has not got anything from the reformed judiciary in BiH, bar some sort of feeling of moral satisfaction that criminals will be tried. Furthermore, the author reminds of Judge John McNair, who had two big cases: Asim Fazlic case, who was freed of charges, and Ante Jelavic, who fled to Croatia when verdict against him for “Hercegovacka Banka” case was pronounced.</p>
--	--