

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 21/11/2003

CROAT RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
Law on taxation passed	Terrorism in Istanbul	Bomb attacks in Istanbul	RS gives up on min. wage
Presidency on BiH/EU	Taxation law	Law on taxation	Law on taxation
	Constitution changes in RS	Ashdown on BiH/EU	

Oslobodjenje	Vc corridor: Bankers, construction businessmen in race for the highway
Dnevni Avaz	Interview with Carla Del Ponte: New indictments by the end of the year
Dnevni List	Prime Minister Hadzipasic keeps silent about idle ministers; Croatian General Consul in Mostar: Everything is ready for start of elections
Vecernji List	Internal war of special forces; Ashdown does not believe in BiH entering Euro-Union; SDA fears removals in Financial Police
Slobodna Dalmacija	Mostar faces final division?; Ten bids for purchase of Hercegovacka bank: Depositors to get only part of money?
Glas Srpske	Six people killed in car accident near Ribnik: Death in chasm; Islamists from BiH: Fighting for Iraq

Nezavisne Novine	Serious car accident in Ribnik: Mini-bus fell into chasm, six passengers killed; Istanbul: 26 people killed in two attacks of Al Q'aeda; Republika Srpska Government decision: October pay with addendum, new minimum labour wage as of 1 January; Sarajevo: Ashdown doubts BiH authorities would meet requisites for EU
B-H Dani	[Sports]: Beats of the present and the star of the future
Slobodna Bosna	Elections in Croatia and Croats in BiH: Our dear Diaspora
Ljiljan	Interview with Enes Karic: Apology is mockery

Feasibility Study

<p>Ashdown on Feasibility Study</p>	<p>RTRS, Oslobođenje pg. 7 'Fulfil EU conditions by June 30', Dnevni List page 3, "BiH citizens deserve the most of the credit for adoption of Feasibility Study", by R. Radic, Vecernji List front page, "Ashdown does not believe that BiH will enter EU", and page 2, "You have 223 days to take BiH into Europe", by D. Jazvic, Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 2, 'Ashdown doubts BiH authorities would meet requisites for EU'; Glas Srpske, pg. 4, 'The European era is coming'. Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'European yes can be transformed into no', FENA – High Representative Paddy Ashdown urged BiH representatives to maximally focus on fulfilling commitment required for joining the Agreement on Stabilisation and Association. Ashdown told a press conference in Sarajevo on Thursday that the approval of the Feasibility Study for BiH represents a large step and a historic opportunity for BiH. He underlined the responsibility of BiH politicians towards the European future of the country, its citizens and peoples. He said that the European future of BiH needs to be given priority over ethnic and individual interests and that everything possible needs to be done to make decisive political, economic and social progress by the deadline set for June 30 next year. Ashdown warned that the achievement of such ambitious objectives requires the engagement of all political forces in BiH, regardless of whether they are in power or opposition, "because the interest of the country as a whole and the future of its citizens and peoples in general is at stake". Italian Ambassador to BiH Saba D'Elia, representing the European Union Presidency, and European Commission Delegation to BiH Head Michael Humphreys made similar statements. They underlined the willingness of the international community to continue supporting reforms in BiH, but at the same time warned that the greatest responsibility lies in the hands of BiH authorities, which need to show full determination to deal with all mentioned challenges.</p> <p>BHTV, FTV – High Representative Ashdown doesn't think BiH politicians can meet conditions set by EC till end June 2004. Ashdown expressed pessimism at a press conference on Thursday: "Based on my perception and results in the past domestic politicians are not able to fulfil all 16 conditions for negotiations of S&A agreement...they need to change current attitude focusing only on political and national interest...they have to put all energy to European issues and work much harder for interest of BiH...opposition also need to be more constructive in pursuing these goals". Foreign Minister Ivanic commented: "All these new tasks should be treated at operational level and there need to be concrete action plan for achieving these goals."</p>
<p>BiH Presidency initiates a whole-level political meeting</p>	<p>Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, Dnevni Avaz pg. 2, Slobodna Dalmacija page 9, "Additional 16 items for Europe", by D. Pasic, Dnevni List page 8, "Meeting of all authority representatives initiated", not signed, Vecernji List page 4, "EU demands from BiH to root out crime", by Z. Jurilj, FENA – In regard to the latest positive assessments of the European Commission related to the BiH Feasibility study, and the additional 16 conditions BiH must fulfill, the BiH Presidency has initiated a meeting of representatives of authorities from all levels in the country. The meeting, which should be held next week, should be attended by BiH Presidency members, both colleges of BiH Parliament, all members of BiH Council of Ministers, entity governments and representatives of executive authorities at lower levels. Objectively, a great deal of work is ahead of BiH, but regarding the significance of this process it is necessary to make additional efforts to complete these 16 additional tasks. "BiH must show that it can be a partner country and that it is ready and capable of fulfilling obligations", the Presidency announced on Thursday.</p>

Ivanic hails Feasibility Study results	<p>Croat Radio Herceg Bosna – BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic assessed the positive results of the Feasibility Study as a significant event and a great success which removes the stigma of being a problematic area from BiH. “The European Commission feels that BiH is ready to enter into negotiations on definite accession to the European Union after it fulfils some other conditions concerning economic and political reforms,” Ivanic said at Thursday’s extraordinary press conference in Sarajevo. He said that the current positive atmosphere should be used and transformed into a political consensus of all parties on the further implementation of reforms and on fulfilling the obligations which were taken on. Ivanic feels that it is realistic to expect a general consensus on the European orientation of BiH and the fulfillment of set conditions outlined in around 16 points of the study, so that negotiations on the Agreement on Stabilization and Accession, which is a key document for joining the EU, can begin next year.</p>
Oslobodjenje’s editorial on BiH’s EU orientation	<p>Oslobodjenje pg. 2 ‘Towards EU’ In Focus editorial by <u>Zija Dizdarevic</u> – “This is a real time for differentiation on those who are for and against BiH’s accession to EU,” said Dizdarevic adding that the commitment to reforms had to be proved through concrete engagement.</p>

<p>Sarajevo weeklies on Feasibility Study</p>	<p>Sarajevo weeklies on Feasibility Study Dani pg 16 'The Bosnian Barometer' column – Magazine writes that euphoria that appeared in BiH following the EC's acceptance of BiH Feasibility Study 'show essential lack on knowledge of the application procedure of the new members of EU.' Marking that it was not surprising that citizens did not have enough of the knowledge as to what this move meant, magazine marked Chairman of the Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic's 'lack of understanding' with one black dot [bad move]. 'If BiH Prime Minister had any elementary information on the European Union, he would known that the acceptance of the Feasibility Study was the most minimal step towards Europe, which BiH will not see even in 50 years if it continues to move in current tempo.' – concludes the magazine writing that the fact BiH is so much behind Croatia and Macedonia give reason only for shame for BH authorities.</p> <p>Slobodna Bosna pgs 9, 16&17 'The biggest and almost the only positive thing in BiH is that there are no ethnic conflicts!' <u>by Nidzara Ahmetasevic</u> – Writing about the EC adoption of BiH Feasibility Study, author estimates that the EC's report was gave negative picture of BiH, as it outlined numerous problems it faces. Talking about 16 conditions laid down as the precondition for signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement, SB individually examines all of them separately giving problems related to it. 'How much it was possible to achieve all requested in a year, it is let to see. In comparison, we remind of the Road Map guidelines from 2000 which took almost 2,5 years to implement.' Magazine further gives criticism outlined in EC's report: lack of cooperation from RS side with ICTY; presidential elections being established on ethnic and territorial principles; weak electoral body's outcome at the latest elections; slow administration which spends too much of the public money; lack of the practical mechanisms for protection of human rights; weak health system and existing of parallel health structures in FBiH; problems in economy [undeveloped trade and agriculture]; existence of death penalty in RS; signing bilateral agreement with USA on non-extradition to the International Criminal Court; still corrupted and incompetent judiciary; lack of mechanisms for protection of copyright; more efficient means are need to control borders, tackle crime, money laundering and organized crime; Statistics Law must be implemented; big number of unemployed persons, especially youth; quality of higher education must be improved; and finally public broadcasting system must become self-sustainable. At the end magazine says that reforms in many field have already started, but stressed that this process must be constant.</p> <p>Ljiljan pgs 16&17 'Encouragement and hope for BiH' <u>by Mugdim Hasanovic</u> – Ljiljan writes that EC's report on BiH Feasibility Study was rather surprising for everybody including Chairman of BiH Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic. Ljiljan writes that this was achieved also thanks to lobbying by influential American friends of BiH and Terzic. Author further writes that now European 'doesn't need good intentions only, but also strict implementation of the reforms.... It is certain that some countries will join EU in next several months, which shows that long and difficult reforms paid off. This would be an encouragement for our country: so, let reforms be even several years long, they will pay off, as it is expected for BiH to join EU in 2009, which is realistic deadline. Of course that is if all conditions given by EC are fulfilled. And that means better standards for BiH citizens.'</p>
--	---

Economic/social issues

<p>BiH HoR adopts law on indirect taxation with amendments</p>	<p>Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje pg. 9 'Law on Indirect Taxation adopted', Dnevni List page 4, "law on Indirect Taxation adopted", by De.L., Glas Srpske, pg. 2, 'Safe in Brcko as well'; Nezavisne Novine, pg. 5, 'Delegates adopted ITA Law', Dnevni Avaz pg. 8 'Indirect Taxation law adopted with an amendment on Brcko', FENA – The BiH House of Representatives adopted on Thursday the draft law on the Indirect Taxation System in BiH, and the principles and aspects of the Bill on Defence BiH. After a long discussion, the House adopted the Bill on the Indirect Taxation System in BiH with 15 amendments, which were accepted by the House's Commission for Finance and Budget, and two amendments adopted by representatives. The Law establishes an institutional and organisational platform for a single system of indirect taxation in BiH, which will support the overall macroeconomic stability and fiscal sustainability of BiH, FBiH, RS and Brcko District, and help create a single economic space in BiH. Further, the representatives considered the Bill on Defence BiH in first reading, and adopted the principles and aspects of the Law. The Bill should be considered in second reading at the next session.</p>
---	---

**EC disappointed
with amendments
to indirect
taxation law**

BHTV, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg. 8 'EC disappointed', ONASA – The European Commission Delegation to BiH is deeply disappointed over the fact that the BiH Parliamentary House of Representatives has passed amendments to the law on indirect taxation, which foresees opening of an additional regional office of the Indirect Taxation Authority in Brcko. The EC delegation said that it was disappointing that delegates passed such decision only two days after the EC positively assessed BiH's progress towards the European Union.

It added that such decision clearly violates recommendations of the Feasibility Study and shows that delegates are not ready to make decisions in the interest of economic policy of the country. It said that this decision will increase the operational costs of the Indirect Taxation Authority without economic and functional reasons. Having in mind the size and economy of BiH, there is no need for creation of more than one economic zone, while this amendment foresees five zones. A compromise reached in the Indirect Taxation Commission foresees four zones, which is acceptable since it allows for adequate geographical coverage of the regional offices. The EC called on the BiH parliament to pass the basic provisions of the law unless it wants to jeopardize EC's assistance in the amount of 15million euro, which BiH is to receive through CAFAO's programme of support to the Indirect Taxation Authority.

<p>RS Government will order payment of October wages to budget beneficiaries in an increased amount</p>	<p>BHTV, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 4, 'October pay with addendum, new minimum labour wage as of 1 January'; Glas Srpske, pg. 3, 'October with increase', FENA – RS Prime Minister's Spokesperson Goran Radivojac said on Thursday that the Government will issue the order for paying October salary to budgetary beneficiaries in the RS together with 20 percent of a backlog monthly salary from previous years. He specified that this will have the same effect on labour wages, considering that 20 percent of a monthly salary would be added on 68 KM, which will in this way amount up to 82 KM. The payment in thi way, according to Radivojac, will be continued till the end of the year. Radivojac said that the labour wage in the RS will be raised to 82 KM as of January 1 2004. He emphasised that the Government expects the IMF to accept this proposal, and that it should not jeopardise implementation of the current arrangements, or the obligations of BiH and RS. Negotiations of the RS Government and international financial institutions continue, he said. President of the RS Trade Union Association Cedo Volas said that representatives of his Association and the RS Pensioners' Association would also participate in negotiations between RS Government and IMF on Monday.</p>
--	---

**FBiH Government
hold session,
discusses
pensions**

Dnevni List (front and page 3, "Prime Minister Hadzipasic keeps silent on idle Ministers", by R. Radic) carries that during yesterday's session of the Federation of BiH Government, the FBiH Prime Minister, Ahmet Hadzipasic, stated: "Everything that is going on in the Republika Srpska regarding the issue of increase of pensions might have happened in the FBiH as well, however, we shall not give in to the promises that we shall realize the things that we cannot." Hadzipasic also said that he has not demanded the removal of some Ministers yet adding: "Since some people are thinking about my removal, it is natural that within my competence I can also demand the removal of the Ministers with whose work I am not satisfied." Hadzipasic did not want to give names of these Ministers saying it is necessary to keep them in suspense because they work better when their names are not singled out since they always believe that they are in the group of those whose work is not satisfactory. Slobodna Dalmacija (page 9, "Support to primary agricultural production", by D. Pasic), Oslobođenje pg. 6, mentioned on the front page 'A half of a backlog pension to be paid early next year?', Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'Payment of all backlog pensions in two years?' also covered this session.

"There will be no real reform in the domain of pension insurance in the upcoming period, at least for a few years, because it is necessary to create several preconditions in order to prepare the turf for real reform," the FBiH Minister of Labor and Social Policy, Radovan Vignjevic, told a press conference in Sarajevo with regard to the Programme of measures in the domain of pension and invalid's insurance, adopted at Thursday's session of the FBiH Government. "In the initial, serious reforms of pension insurance we will probably build on this system by introducing the second and third pillar of insurance. This means that every insured person will be able to build their social security for old age", added Minister Vignjevic.

<p>Pensioners in FBiH considering petition to remove FBiH Govt</p>	<p>Dnevni List (page 2, "Pensioners considering petition to remove Government", <u>unsigned</u>) – today's session of the Executive Board of Union of associations of pensioners of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is also to be attended by the FBiH Minister of Labour, Radovan Vignjevic, will be considering the issue of signing of petition aimed at removal of the FBiH Government due to three overdue pensions from the year 2000. The President of Union, Jozo Ljiljanic, says: "If we are not satisfied with activities and measures of the FBiH Government, and if they are not in line with implementation of request on harmonization of pensions with salaries and payment of three pensions from 2000, there will be signing of petition on removal of FBiH Government and filing of individual lawsuits against the FBiH over payment of the three pensions".</p>
<p>Vc corridor</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje front page, pgs, 4-5 'Bankers, construction businessmen in race for the highway' By <u>Hajdar Arifagic</u> – According to the author, it has been more and more businessmen interested in construction of the Vc corridor through BiH. The construction of a 8-kilometers part of a highway (from Podlugovi to Visoko), which is to be financed by the FBiH Government, is to continue next year. On Thursday, the Sarajevo-based Hypo Alpe Adria Bank joined BOSMAL and Croatian Government in expressing interest to participate in the project</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg. 17 'Construct at least a part of corridor by our own funds' and pg. 11 'If BOSMAL is the best it will get the job' also covered the issue.</p>

<p>Srpske Poste affair</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, pg. 2, 'Pejic gets contracts mixed up!'</p> <p>– The Republika Srpska Ministry of Labour and Soldiers and Disability Protection yesterday released a press statement, in which it denied claims by Milutin Pejic, Srpske Poste Director, who said that this Ministry is one of the biggest debtors of this firm.</p> <p>The Ministry explains that it has met its duties, stipulated from the agreement signed on 6 February last year. The Ministry also explains that by referring to debts, Pejic most probably referred to the time period before Ministry signed the agreement with the firm. Namely, before this agreement was signed, Srpske Poste were signing single contracts with each municipality. And debts stem from these times – municipalities are to cover it.</p>
<p>EFT to buy electricity from BiH Elektroprivreda</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4, 'EFT will buy electricity from BiH Elektroprivreda' – Enver Kreso, General Manager of BiH elektroprivreda, yesterday announced that the best bidder, who responded to the tender for purchase closed on Friday, offered EURO 36 for one megawatt per hour. He also stressed that 11 bidders applied.</p> <p>Although Kreso did not want to speculate as to what bidder would be selected, NN learnt that the best bidder actually was EFT, firm from London mentioned in Audit report on Republika Srpska Elektroprivreda.</p>

<p>Political developments</p>

VL on meeting between SDA and HDZ	<p>Vecernji List (front “SDA fears removals in Financial Police” and page 3 “SDA dares not initiate removals because of OHR”, by <u>Zoran Kresic</u>) – regarding the meeting between leaderships of the SDA and HDZ held in Sarajevo on Wednesday evening, VL reports that the meeting did not result in a concrete agreement on how to take over the complete authority, adding that the meeting did in fact result in general modalities how to overcome the crisis caused by outvoting of Croat Ministers in the Government of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Two delegations led by party Presidents, Sulejman Tihic and Barisa Colak, talked about the functioning of authority in the FBiH, within the BiH CoM and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton and apparently Colak was not happy with the outcome of the meeting saying that the parties have full responsibility, whilst in the same time they do not have the full power. VL learns from an anonymous participant of the meeting that the SDA again rejected the request to remove principals of the FBiH Financial Police because representatives of the SDA explained that the OHR did not allow removals of the FBiH Financial Police Chief and Deputy Chief Inspector, Zufer Dervisevic and Miroslav Vidovic, respectively. Apparently, the SDA fears that the OHR could annul a possible decision (on removal of the two), which would further shake the current FBiH Government.</p>
SDU's Tokic on Mostar restructuring	<p>Dnevni List (page 10, “Tokic: Mostar should be model for all local areas in BiH”, by <u>Zvonimir Jukic</u>) – carries one of leaders of SDU, Sejfudin Tokic, as saying that “Mostar should be the model of unit of local self-government which contains all protective mechanisms for constituent peoples”. Commenting on the process of Mostar restructuring, Tokic says Mostar needs a reform which will provide it a single administration with single budget. “The current municipalities should be abolished, in other words transformed into branches of the City administration in which the citizens can satisfy their administrative needs. The composition of the City Council must reflect the 1991 census, and the city statute must stipulate all the protective mechanisms that will guarantee the equality of peoples and prevent any possibility of sidelining by majority”, says Tokic. Regarding election rules, Tokic advocates changes to the Election law which would ensure several constituencies and direct election of Mayor of Mostar. Furthermore, Tokic agrees with the Chairman of the Mostar Commission, Norbert Winterstein, who told members of the Commission that no constitutional or legal solutions should be standing in the way when proposing their solutions.</p>

SD: "Mostar faces final division?"	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija (front and page 17, by <u>Zoran Zekic</u>) – notes that unlike the Mostar's Municipality North, which invoked the issue of local self-government, the Municipality Southeast will invoke the issue of independence which will result in the referendum question "are you in favour of Municipality Southeast maintaining the status of independent municipality". The daily goes on to say that although the IC representatives clearly rejected any proposal outside the Mostar Commission and despite the fact that the Commission is working, "everyone is doing what he/she wants". The author notes that given the tendency, one could expect a referendum to be organized in the Municipality Old Town, which will make the story on unified Mostar a pure demagogy. "One should expect, at the next stage, a final blow in (form of) unification of all three municipalities with the Bosniak majority and their secession from the city of Mostar. The question is, how to move on, can international representatives in Mostar make any moves at all since they are again in stalemate", concludes Zekic.</p>
"Statement of Day": Member of Mostar Commission Safet Omerovic	<p>Dnevni List (page 2) carries in its "Statement of Day", a member of the Mostar Commission and President of Party for BiH Cantonal Board in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Safet Omerovic, as saying: "Divided City of Mostar means Palestine in Europe."</p>
DA: US Embassy to join negotiations on Mostar Statute	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg. 8 'US Embassy to join negotiations on Mostar Statute' – The US Embassy to BiH will indirectly join the talks on the Mostar statute in order to help reaching the agreement on the issue among the political parties by December 15, learns the newspaper.</p>

**Slobodna
Bosna, Ljiljan
on Mostar**

Slobodna Bosna pgs 29-31 'SDA and HDZ agreed that the Mostar division this time is wanted by Bosniaks!' by Danka Savic – SB carries out the article on the work of Mostar Commission, giving the background and the review of failure of previous trials to agree on Mostar restructuring. Outlining the stands of parties involved in the current Commission, author stresses that 'so far they [members of the Commission] did not practically make a single important progress'. Magazine further criticizes OHR's statement regarding to the referendum in Mostar North Municipality for being too mild, and writes: 'It is clear that recently held referendum could be seen as the trial to impact final decision of the Commission... and as a way to support those forces which who want to see Mostar divided. After it was held, it was followed by [though unofficially] statements that the same referendum will be held in another municipality with Bosniak majority, Municipality South-East. Isn't it expectable than that the third municipality with Bosniak majority, Stari Grad [Old City], will also do something similar? HDZ invited Croats not to participate the referendum,... but in essence HDZ's condemnation was not really harsh. It is not to be forgotten that the old dream of this party is to unify municipalities with Croatian municipalities, and that in the case of new referendum being held, they would have good excuse to again propose union of [Croat] municipalities, which would lead to Mostar staying divided forever. Even though it may seem to early, it is really logical to ask: should Mostar fear of the new agreement between SDA and HDZ on complete division of the city?' – concludes the magazine.

Ljiljan pg 33 'Is Ashdown getting ready to take down Dayton?' by Enes Ratkusic – On Mostar Commission, Ljiljan analyzes whose proposals for Mostar structure have bigger chances to be adopted. As for SDA, magazine writes that 'having in mind that the IC politics [doesn't reflect]... in real changes, the chances of this party are more than minimal. Not even SDP's proposal, of course, has no bigger chances, as their proposal doesn't fit the concept of radical imperatives laid down by the High Representative.' Author claims that High Rep's concept excludes all other solutions except those of HDZ and Party for BiH, and that the abolishment of the municipalities will result in establishment of the authorities in which Bosniaks and Serbs will be on the political margins. 'It is more and more obvious that consensus will [not happen]... [In that case] how will Paddy Ashdown ... react? Those more informed say that OHR already prepared removal of Bosniak Municipal Head of Mostar North Salem Bubalo, who decided to check what citizens want.' Magazine concludes: 'If the solution is imposed, than High Rep will break only DPA. Ones familiar with this Constitution are well aware that nobody, not even High Rep, has a right to impose the implementation of the Dayton.'

<p>SDS on SNSD</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 5, 'SDS transfers responsibility onto SNSD'; Glas Srpske, pg. 2, 'Hypocrisy of opposition' – SDS yesterday released a press statement, in which this party expressed its view that in the interest of Republika Srpska and its development, it is necessary to establish an Alliance for Republika Srpska, which would consist of officials of all political parties (representation of officials according to election results). This Alliance should also take over some responsibility for the functioning of Republika Srpska institutions. SDS also accused the SNSD that this party should also take some responsibility for some political affairs and non-political issues, owing to the fact that SNSD refused the political concept offered to it shortly after elections were convened (regarding coalition composition).</p>
<p>Slobodna Bosna's Avdic comments on "foreign and domestic mafia"</p>	<p>Slobodna Bosna pg 4 'Foreign and domestic mafia' <u>editorial by Senad Avdic</u> – In his editorial, Avdic harshly critically refers to current BiH authorities examining who is guilty for the current situation in BiH. 'Avdic says that local authorities politicians alike Paravac, Vuksic, Palavric, but also privatization frauds and crime, 'and many other things more destructive, horrible and creepy which make up the picture of current BiH.' However, author also partly blames the IC, and concludes: 'It is clear and undeniable that equally guilty... are both current authorities and the IC. The first one for practically making state like this, ...; the second ones because they did not prevent it, or even because they assisted it.' At the end, author says that EC's report on the BiH Feasibility Study 'is catastrophic.'</p>
<p>Slobodna Bosna: Dodik, Zubak, Lagumdzija and Djokic will together try to ruin ruling coalition</p>	<p>Slobodna Bosna pgs 18&19 'Dodik, Zubak, Lagumdzija and Djokic will together try to ruin ruling coalition' by Asim Metiljevic – The four strongest opposition parties in BiH – SDP, SNSD, Socialist Party and NHI and possibility to be joined later by several smaller opposition parties – will sign Platform on Joint Cooperation on 23 November, which will also formally launch constitution of a single block of leftist opposition parties. SB examines this initiative writing that 'establishment of strong opposition block... is an indication of proliferation of entire political scene in BiH and the first indication of possible two-partisan, or more precisely said, two-block polarization... Opposition did not get closer willingly, but despite the will of a part of IC in the country, before all of authoritative OHR ... which supports ruling coalition of nationalists parties.' SB notes that this is the first time in post war BiH to formalize the cooperation of the political parties from both entities, while the signatories of the Platform obliged that regardless to the results of next years' elections they would not make union or coalitions with nationalists parties. As for IC, SB writes that a part of it already 'sends signals of the support', while Peace Implementation Council fears that collapse of ruling coalition would further radicalize political scene.</p>

Security issues

<p>RS President meets with Kocsis, says decentralization of intelligence agency necessary</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, pg. 3, 'Profession as recommendation'; Nezavisne Novine, pg. 2, 'OSA in accordance with constitutional structure of BiH', SRNA – President of the Republika Srpska Dragan Cavic said in Banja Luka on Thursday that it was necessary to ensure a decentralized Intelligence and Security Agency in BiH, which would suit the country's constitutional structure, by means of adopting the relevant laws. Cavic said during a meeting with the representative of the commission for the reform of the Intelligence and Security Service in BiH, Kalman Kocsis, that clear and strict rules which govern employment at the agency were necessary, and should relate exclusively to the professionalism principle and with inter-entity coordination. Cavic added that the acceptance of the administrative, territorial and entity organization of BiH was very significant for this service and that the regulation package which is to govern this area is integral and a result of a compromise between all interested parties. Ambassador Kocis said that the bill on the Intelligence and Security Agency in BiH was drafted according to European standards and that this was only the beginning of the debate and the process of harmonization.</p>
--	--

German intelligence head on Islamic radicals	Glas Srpske, cover page story, 'Fighting for Iraq'; Nezavisne Novine, pg. 3, 'Extremists from BiH are also fighting in Iraq' – The Head of BND (State Intelligence Agency of Germany), August Hanning, stated that this Agency was informed that islamists from BiH, Great Britain and Germany are amongst the fighters in Iraq.. he further stated that there is a serious jeopardy that Iraq may become the base of islamic extremists from all around the world.
---	---

<p>VL on alleged conflicts among FBiH MoI's SWAT unit</p>	<p>Vecernji List (front "Internal war among special forces" and pages 2 and 3 "Internal war among special forces, shots, thefts and fights", by <u>Milo Jukic</u>) – carries contents of a letter that some members of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Interior's SWAT team sent to principles of the FBiH MoI and EUPM which, according to VL, leaves no doubt: special forces are waging a real mini-war. The article lists a series of alleged incidents that have taken place in past one month. The last incident apparently took place on November 11 when a member of the SWAT team, one Nermin Cizmic, beat up his colleague Nebojsa Savic inflicting grave bodily harm. Apparently, the acting commander of the SWAT team, Mirsad Vilic, who is commanding the unit after Zoran Cegar got removed, and his assistant for training and logistics, Suad Smajlovic, were present during the fight itself, but did not want to react. The following day, Vilic phoned Savic instructing him to say that he got hurt playing football, otherwise he will not live to see the next day. VL also notes that Vilic has been illegally taking ammunition from the armory through the firing instructor, one Nermin Fetahovic.</p>
--	--

<p>Republika Srpska Police Day celebrated</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, pg. 2, 'Police beyond politics' – Advanced School of the Republika Srpska MoI yesterday marked its Day. The ceremony at Obilicevo was attended by the Republika Srpska President, Dragan Cavic, representatives of the Republika Srpska Government, Banjaluka University, Republika Srpska MoI, international community and Serb Orthodox Church.</p> <p>Cavic paid respect to all police members, especially those who laid their lives for Republika Srpska. He stressed that police should be serving citizens, not political parties.</p> <p>Zoran Djeric, Republika Srpska Interior Minister, said that Ministry will provide an employment for each student who graduates at School.</p>
<p>Car accident near Mrkonjic Grad</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, cover page story, 'Death in chasm'; Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 3, 'Six passengers killed, ten passengers injured' –The toll of yesterday's serious car accident on the road Donji Vrbaljani-Ribnik (Mrkonjic Grad) is six people killed in a mini-bus, which fell into the 50 metres deep chasm. Other passengers, who were injured, were transferred to Banjaluka hospital. Police investigation into accident is ongoing.</p>

War crimes

<p>Dnevni Avaz interview with Del Ponte</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz front page, pg. 5 'New indictments by the end of the year' – Interview with the ICTY Chief Prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte. Although faced with long standing problems of a lack of cooperation mainly with Banja Luka and Belgrade, and a need to start with the realisation of the Tribunals work ending strategy, Del Ponte, according to the newspaper, seems to intensify her work. In the interview, she reiterated the majority of her well-known positions related to non-cooperation with the Prosecution office, SFOR's participation (or capabilities to participate) in apprehending war crime suspects etc. She announced the new indictments by the end of this year and she repeated that the Tribunal would not close its door until the most wanted indictees including Karadzic and Mladic are not convicted.</p>
--	--

<p>Education</p>

<p>Talks on high education law</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, pg. 2, 'Paper full of traps' – The Education Ministers of Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina respectively, Gojko Savanovic and Zijad Pasic, Cantonal Ministers of Education and Task Force for Co-ordination of education affairs yesterday failed to agree on stances related to the Framework law on high education.</p> <p>Republika Srpska Ministry of Education had many remarks on the attempted transfer of authority from Republika Srpska onto BiH state level. Accordingly, the proposed framework law was returned to Task Force for further consideration.</p> <p>Savanovic expressed hope that talks on this would have completed by the end of this month.</p> <p>SDHR, Werner Wnendt, also took part in discussion on education reform.</p>
---	--

<p>University reps on funding of universities</p>	<p>Vecernji List (page 4, "Priority to private universities", by <u>G. K.</u>) – representatives of BiH universities are requesting changes to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Law on Treasury, which was proclaimed by the High Representative for BiH last year, and which stipulates that all higher education institution are to abandon the financial transactions through bank accounts and adopt the transactions through the system of treasury. The Chancellor of the University of Sarajevo, Boris Tihi, believes that the "Ashdown's law is against the autonomy of university and points out to danger of losing motive working for higher education institutions". Tihi also believes this could result in teachers leaving the public universities, which will turn them into second rate schools, pointing out to a possibility that this is aimed at giving priority to private universities.</p>
--	--