

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 22/10/2003

<b>CROAT RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BH TV 1</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FED TV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RT RS</b> (19,30)
Pensions for HVO soldiers	Commemorative session	Mourning Day on Wedn.	RS Customs director
Izetbegovic funeral	RS pensioners with gov't	Commemorations in BiH	Izetbegovic
	Indictment for 4 generals	Special traffic regime	
	Israeli attacks in Gaza strip	Del Ponte vs. Belgrade	

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	Funeral of Izetbegovic
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	Funeral of Izetbegovic
<b>Dnevni List</b>	"Covic: Izetbegovic was true leader of Bosniak people"; "Federation Government demands new removals"
<b>Vecernji List</b>	"Vucurevic: I do not know if Karadzic is alive"; "Colak and Sanader meet tomorrow"; "Covic: Imperfect BiH stayed after Izetbegovic"
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Features Croatia related headlines
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	Furnishing of a Cabinet for first grade pupils: Parents will pay; Troubles of Serb returnees to Smoluca, near Lukavac: the entire village in one hut

<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	BiH Federation Customs Administration Anti Fraud Department : Humanitarian organisations were selling coffee and cigarettes; Djuro Bulic, Director of RS Customs Administration: Dismissals over smuggling of meat; Haris Silajdzic, founder of Party for BiH: We are slowing down the admission to EU by protecting national interests; Sarajevo: Alija Izetbegovic will be buried today
<b>Blic</b>	Customs officers helped to smugglers

<b>Izetbegovic</b>	
<b>Commemoration for Izetbegovic held at Sarajevo National Theatre</b>	<p>Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Oslobdjenje pgs. 1-6 'Funeral of Izetbegovic', Dnevni Avaz pgs. 1-11, news agencies – A commemoration on the death of Alija Izetbegovic, former chairman and member of the BiH Presidency, was held at the Sarajevo National Theatre on Tuesday. Chairman of the state Presidency Dragan Covic and chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic addressed the gathering on behalf of the state institutions. Mirko Pejanovic, wartime Serb members of the Republic of BiH Presidency, spoke about the wartime body's activities as General Atif Dudakovic, the FBiH Army Commander, spoke on behalf of the army members and veterans. Dnevni List (front and page 6, "Covic: Izetbegovic was true leader of Bosniak people", <u>by R. Radic</u>) carries that during the commemoration organized yesterday in honor of late honorary SDA President Alija Izetbegovic, Chairman of the BiH Presidency Dragan Covic stated: "Alija Izetbegovic was a true leader of the Bosniak people and a man who defined the Bosniak national program...He was always trying to find a compromise that is so characteristic and necessary to this country." Vecernji List (front and page 4, "Covic: Imperfect BiH stayed after Izetbegovic", <u>by E. Medunjanin</u>) also covered Covic's speech delivered at the commemoration. Nezavisne Novine, pg. 5 – "Alija Izetbegovic will be buried today", Glas Srpske, pg. 2 – "Commemorative service for Izetbegovic", Blic pg. 12 'No mourning day'; Vecernje Novosti pg. 13 'Last respects to Izetbegovic' also report on the events related to Izetbegovic funeral.</p>

<p><b>Details of protocol for Izetbegovic funeral</b></p>	<p>The body of Alija Izetbegovic will be held on display from 0700 to 1300 hours at the BiH Presidency hall, the Presidency said in a press release issued on Tuesday. It added that the body would be brought into the hall by Sulejman Tihic, Adnan Terzic, Atif Dudakovic and Mustafa Ceric, who will hold the first and last guard of honour. It will also be held by representatives of cultural, political and public life in BiH. The Presidency building will open from 0700 hours for citizens who wish to pay homage to the first BiH president. The body will be taken to the BiH Square at 1400 hours where High Representative Paddy Ashdown and Sulejman Tihic are to give speeches. A religious ceremony is to start at 1430 hours after which Ceric is to address the gathering. After that, the mourners will go towards Kovaci, where Izetbegovic is to be buried.</p>
<p><b>Izetbegovic to be buried at Bosniak fighters' cemetery in Sarajevo</b></p>	<p>The funeral of the honorary chairman of the Party of Democratic Action (SDA) and former chairman of the Presidency of BiH, Alija Izetbegovic, will take place on 22 October (26 saban according to the Muslim calendar) after the noon prayer. At a news conference held outside the Gazi Husrev-beg religious school on Tuesday, the chairman of the BiH Islamic Community Assembly, Hilmo Neimarlija, said that the funeral procession will set off from the Presidency of BiH and that the funeral prayers would be offered at the Square of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The prayers will be led by the Head of the Islamic Community in BiH Mustafa Ceric. In line with the religious segment of the protocol, the burial will take place at the Kovaci shahid (Muslim fighters') cemetery.</p>

<p><b>A large number of foreign delegations expected at Izetbegovic's funeral</b></p>	<p>Delegations of US, France, Turkey, Iran, Greece, Pakistan, Austria, Croatia and Slovenia announced by 1500 hrs on Tuesday that they will attend the funeral of Alija Izetbegovic. According to a press release from the BiH Foreign Ministry, the Turkish delegation will consist of Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Gul and 17 highly-ranked diplomats, whose arrival is announced for Wednesday at 1100 hrs at Sarajevo airport. The Iranian delegation will consist of secretary of Council of Guards of Revolution, special envoy of Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, minister of economy and Treasury and special envoy of president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, head of the Second Office for Central and Northern Europe of the Foreign Ministry and adviser of Ayatollah. The Greek delegation consist of Deputy Foreign Minister Ioannis Magriotis and four more members. They will arrive on Wednesday at 1200 hrs. President of the Pakistani Senate Mohammad Mian Soomro will arrive on Wednesday at 1230 hrs. Speaker of the Austrian parliament Hans Ager will led the Austrian delegation. Croatian Deputy Prime Minister Ante Simonovic and adviser of Croatian president Esad Prohic heaqd the Croatian state delegation. Former Slovenian president Milan Kucan and State Secretary in the Slovenian Foreign Ministry Andrej Logar are expected to arrive in Sarajevo on Wednesday at 1020 hrs. The ambassadors of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Canada, Cuba, Hungary, Netherlands (charge d'affaires), Norway, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the Great Britain accredited in BiH have also confirmed their presence at the funeral. All delegations will be awaited by senior officials of BiH at Sarajevo airport.</p> <p>Dnevni List (page 6, "Over 80 world statesmen at funeral", <u>not signed</u>) and VL (page 4, "150 000 people will attend Izetbegovic's funeral", <u>by D. Jazvic</u>) carry that over 80 world statesmen confirmed that they will attend Izetbegovic's funeral, that is to take place today. VL also says that there is no confirmation that any Serb official will attend Izetbegovic's funeral. Slobodna Dalmacija (page 17, "Izetbegovic among sehids (Bosniak fallen soldiers)", <u>by Zlatko Tulic</u>) carries that Serb member of the BiH Presidency Borislav Paravac and those who work in his cabinet did not show up at their places of work and allegedly they took a few days off. SD says that the situation is similar in the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs, because BiH Minister of Foreign Affairs Mladen Ivanic refused the proposal of the Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency Sulejman Tihic to lower the flags to half mast in the BiH embassies all over the world. Talking about the FTV program these days, SD says that Izetbegovic's death revealed that FTV is owned by one people only and that the situation is similar in print media since positive comments on Izetbegovic's death are being published, while a rather big number of discrediting comments are being left out.</p>
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<b>RS officials not to attend Izetbegovic's funeral</b>	Neither Dragan Mikerevic, RS Prime Minister, nor a government delegation from this entity will attend the funeral of honorary chairman of the Party of Democratic Action Alija Izetbegovic, the head of the government's public liaison bureau, Cvijeta Kovacevic, announced on Tuesday. In a statement for FENA, Kovacevic said the government had not discussed the matter and had not appointed an official delegation to attend the funeral on its behalf.
<b>October 22 declared the Day of Mourning in FBiH</b>	Due to the death of the first Chairman of BiH Presidency, Alija Izetbegovic, the FBiH Government decided that October 22 would be marked as the Day of Mourning in Federation of BiH.

<b>Political developments</b>	
<b>Svilanovic, Holbrooke and Kouchner deny any links between Kosovo and BiH status</b>	BHTV <u>By Laura Bosnjak</u> – Some say that future status of Kosovo is linked to BiH. Foreign Minister of SCG Goran Svilanovic denied such allegations: "SCG respect international borders of BiH and BiH can not be linked with future status of Kosovo...it is too early to talk about any changes of Dayton borders and we fully support integration within Bih...Serbs in BiH are citizens of other country, but RS can have special relations with SCG like might be the investments of SCG in BiH economy." Also Richard Holbrooke and Robert Kouchner rejected any speculations about linking BiH and Kosovo and underlined that future talks on Kosovo will not have any reference to BiH.

**Nikola Spiric  
visits Mostar  
City  
Administration**

RTRS, FENA – Speaker of the BiH House of Representatives Nikola Spiric visited on Tuesday the City Administration of Mostar. On the occasion Spiric met with the mayor of Mostar, Hamdija Jahic, and deputy mayor, Ljubo Beslic. “Situation in Mostar with special accent on the position of Serb citizens was discussed”, mayor Jahic said. He pointed out that it had been an open discussion on a number of issues such as the strengthening of role and position of all three constituent peoples in Mostar, as well as provision of necessary support to sustainable return. “We also discussed the establishment of local self-rule in cities and municipalities in BiH, as well as the necessity for passage of the law on the issue at the state level,” Jahic said. Spiric pointed out that the difficult economic situation is one of the reasons for slow solving of problems both of domicile population and returnees to the city of Mostar.

Dnevni List (page 12, “Due attention should be paid to return of Serbs to Mostar”, by Z. Skoko) also reports on the event. It quotes Spiric as saying: “The thing that has encouraged me today is the statement given by Mayor Jahic saying that there is political atmosphere and aspiration that Mostar becomes a pre-war Mostar in terms of its demography, that is, the city open for everybody.”

<p><b>Forthcoming elections in Croatia/meeting between HDZ BiH and HDZ Croatia</b></p>	<p>Vecernji List (front “Colak and Sanader are meeting tomorrow” and page 3 “Sanader-Colak meeting”, by <u>Zoran Kresic</u>) – reports that Presidents of HDZ of BiH and HDZ of Croatia, Barisa Colak and Ivo Sanader respectively, will most likely meet by end of this week to discuss relations between the two parties prior to the forthcoming elections in Croatia. In a statement for VL, Colak expects the meeting should take place “in a day or two”. “I expect we will harmonise views on the list for diaspora and about the campaign before the elections”, says Colak, denying possibility that the HDZ BiH would support other parties and not the HDZ of Croatia.</p>
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<p><b>Interview with former Croatia Foreign Minister Mate Granic</b></p>	<p>Dnevni List (front and page 7, “Protect rights of Croat people through cantonization of whole of BiH”, by <u>Ivica Glibusic</u>) – carries an interview with former Foreign Minister of Croatia and leader of Democratic Centre (DC), Mate Granic. Questioned what he would do to improve the position of the BiH Croats in BiH, if in power after the elections in Croatia, Granic says the Croats in BiH, the Church, all political parties and almost every independent association are unhappy with the position of the BiH Croats. “Consistent cantonization of whole of BiH and weakening or abolishment of the entities, and strengthening of the central authority, is the only way to preserve the constituent status of the Croat people in BiH (...) Croatia has to transparently help cultural, scientific and economic programmes of the Croats in BiH, especially the ones related to protection of cultural and national identity of the Croats in BiH”, says Granic.</p>
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<p><b>Interview with Haris Silajdzic</b></p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4 – “We are slowing down the admission to EU by protecting national interests” – NN carries an interview with Haris Silajdzic, founder of the Party for BiH, one of R BiH Prime Ministers and close associate of Alija Izetbegovic. According to Silajdzic, only young people with new ideas can open the door to the future. He added: “We miss the opportunity to do things that are condition for admission to the European Union, hiding behind protection of some national interests. It would be much better for all of us, had we established the State Border Service five years ago. We are delaying the introduction of a single and efficient customs administration. We are missing our chance to work together and attract foreign investments.”</p>
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## War crimes

<p><b>RS President supports Government's investigation into Srebrenica case</b></p>	<p>BHTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje back page 'Cavic supported investigation', Nezavisne Novine, pg. 4 – "To reach full truth on Srebrenica with impartiality", Glas Srpske, pg. 2 – "One way to the truth", SRNA – Dragan Cavic, the President of the Republika Srpska, on Tuesday had talks with Bernard Fassier, the Senior Deputy High Representative, on the implementation of the decision of the BiH Human Rights Chamber with regard to the RS Government report on the 1995 developments and crimes committed in Srebrenica. "The RS President reiterated his commitment for the competent bodies objectively to conduct a full investigation with the aim of determining the truth in the Srebrenica case, on the basis of the decision of the BiH Human Rights Chamber," a statement issued by President Cavic's office said. The statement said that in this respect, the RS President shall – within his jurisdiction – support the RS Government and its choice of the commission, which can be trusted to conduct an unbiased, independent and competent investigation and produce a report for the purpose of establishing full truth about the Srebrenica case.</p>
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**Interview with  
wartime Mayor of  
Trebinje  
Vucurevic**

Front page splash of Vecernji List (“I do not know if Karadzic is alive”, continued on page 5 “I do not know if Karadzic and Mladic are alive”, by Zdenko Jurilj) – an interview with the wartime Mayor of Trebinje, Bozo Vucurevic. Amid media reports that he could end up in The Hague over deportation of Bosniaks and Croats and shelling of Dubrovnik, VL carries Vucurevic as saying: “A year and four months ago I was summoned by the ICTY’s office in Belgrade. There I presented a bunch of documents which surprised them and they never called me again”, says Vucurevic adding that he signed many discharge orders which exempt Bosniaks and Croats from serving in the Republika Srpska Army during the war. He also notes that there was disorder in the beginning of the war, that the civilian authority had no real authority but armed groups did. Questioned to give his opinion of Alija Izetbegovic, he says: “He was a hard nationalist, who brought mujaheddin and butchers to BiH”. Finally, when questioned whether he had contacts with Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic after the war, Vucurevic says: “After they went under cover, I have no knowledge if they are alive at all. In fact, if even ten Serbs knew that, they would have been in The Hague long ago. I know they existed, I do not know if they exist now”.

<p><b>Prosper's offer/Hartmann's reaction</b></p>	<p>Vecernje Novosti pg. 6 'Let's trade'; Blic pg. 11 – Pierre Richard Prosper, US ambassador for war crimes issues, said that if Serbia-Montenegro manage to arrest and extradite Ratko Mladic, then Serbia-Montenegro should have an opportunity to prosecute the remaining cases, and these cases in particular (note: referring to four Serbian generals – Nebojsa Pavkovic, Vladimir Lazarevic, Vlastimir Djordjevic and Sreten Lukic, indicted by the Hague Tribunal), in domestic courts.</p> <p>Vecernje Novosti pg. 7 'Belgrade has knew everything' – quotes Florence Hartmann, spokesperson of the ICTY Chief Prosecutor, as saying that what Pierre Richard Prosper offers is impossible. "These four persons have been indicted within the programme the ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte presented to the UN Security Council on 9 October in line with the Resolution 1503. According to the Resolution, persons that performed highest duties, and that is the case with these four persons, cannot be tried before domestic courts," Hartmann says.</p>
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<p><b>Proposals for accelerating tax reform presented</b></p>	<p>Croat Radio Herceg Bosna, Oslobođenje pg. 16 'Fill and then take', Dnevni Avaz pg. 14 'First phase of VAT', Dnevni List page 4, "Prepare state structure and train companies before introducing VAT", by <u>Renata Radic</u>, FENA – BiH could introduce VAT even before 2006 because it has an advantageous constitutional structure that provides the possibility for applying it in several manners, it was stated on Tuesday at presentation of projects that are aimed at accelerating reform of the fiscal system in BiH. At a request of the FBiH Chamber of Commerce the projects were designed by research institutions of the Faculty of Economics of the University in Sarajevo. The entire analysis of VAT, the laws on profit tax of commercial associations and the tax on citizens' income, it was stated, is aimed at focusing the attention of governments in BiH on urgent accelerating of reform of the fiscal system and to provide expert-quality solutions for designing the laws in this domain. The proposals given by BiH tax policy economists/experts have given theoretical basis in which they installed all positive experiences from the neighbouring countries, said member of the task force Sead Kreso. Dean of the Faculty of Economics of the University in Sarajevo Milos Trifkovic emphasised that in the process of designing the projects and proposals for legal solutions the experts had in view the unity of the BiH market and the country's constitutional structure so that they observed VAT, the laws on profit tax of commercial associations and on citizens' income exclusively from the state level.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 9 – "VAT will erase entity borders" – the daily reports that a round table was held yesterday in Sarajevo about introduction of VAT. The Head of CAFAO mission to BiH, Alan Jensen stated that entity boundary lines will be erased after the introduction of VAT as it would no longer be important where the goods will be sold, as all the income will be collected by the Indirect Taxation Administration and not by the entities. Several businessmen from BiH Federation addressed a letter to the PDHR, Donald Hays, warning him that after the introduction of VAT, the manufacturers will be in a worse position, compared with the importers. Dnevni Avaz also carries Jensen's statement.</p>
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<p><b>DL says FBiH Govt pushes for new removals in financial/economic sector</b></p>	<p>Dnevni List (front and page 3, "Federation Government requests new removals", by <u>De. L.</u>) – the daily reports that despite a letter from October 4 this year that was sent to Heads of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Tax and Customs Administration, which was signed by Head of CAFAO, Allan Jensen, and PDHR, Donald Hays, and which gave support to the work of the two Administrations and which said that any kind interference into the work of the two would not be tolerated, the Head of FBiH Tax Administration, Midhat Arifovic, under intimidation and political interference, has signed a decision removing the Head of Cantonal Tax Administration in Mostar, Silva Memic, and the same is in store for other senior tax people, foremost for Slava Dragoje, the Head of Tax Administration in Canton 8.</p> <p>The daily also reports that the FBiH Government, under pressure from political parties, is planning to carry out removals in the FBiH Financial Police. In that context, DL says FBiH Government is trying to avoid a reaction by the FBiH Ombudsman's office by using the Prosecutors, which task the Financial Police with impossible tasks to have an excuse to "clean up" the service.</p>
<p><b>BiH Federation Customs Administration: Humanitarian organisations were selling coffee and cigarettes</b></p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 2 – "Prosecutor's office "checking" 15 humanitarian organisations"- the daily reports that Anti Fraud Department of the BiH Federation Customs Administration [CA] is conducting a thorough investigation of the work of 15 humanitarian organisations which work in Zenica – Doboje and Tuzla Canton. According to the CA Spokesperson, Andja Cosic, organisations in question were importing commercial goods, instead of humanitarian as they claim, and avoided to pay taxes and customs fees. According to Cosic, CA collected valid evidence and very soon, criminal charges will be filed against responsible individuals and humanitarian organisations.</p>

<p><b>RS Customs Administration: charges pressed against 19 employees</b></p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 3 – “Dismissals in RS Customs Administration over smuggling”, Glas Srpske, pg. 2 – “Smugglers in trouble”, Vecernje Novosti pg. 20 ‘Journalists as customs officers’, Blic pg. 13 ‘Customs officers smuggled meat’ – The Director of the RS Customs Administration, Djuro Bulic, stated at a press conference yesterday that criminal charges were filed against 19 employees of the Banja Luka Customs office, for their involvement in smuggling of meat. During its investigation related to the meat smuggling, the RS Customs Administration filed charges against 66 individuals in total, out of which 25 are the CA employees. Bulic also announced that he will press charges against Banja Luka based magazine “Patriot”, which wrote that he is also a member of the organised criminal group responsible for illegal import of oil to the RS.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine contacted Slobodan Vaskovic, Director of “Patriot” magazine who claims that the CA Director is trying to discredit his magazine and divert attention from the criminal activities which damaged the RS budget for 1,2 million KM. The daily quotes Vaskovic as saying: “With full responsibility I claim that Bulic is a member of the criminal group which caused millions of damage throughout the RS. He [Bulic] is supported by some politicians and I will publicise their names in the magazine. If somebody kills me, or my family- I received threats already, you should know that this criminal organisation is responsible.”</p>
<p><b>Update on RS Telekom: Prosecutor’s office investigating</b></p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 6 – “Prosecutors in RS Telekom” – the daily reports that representatives of the Banja Luka Prosecutor’s Office had a meeting yesterday with representatives of police and RS Prosecutor’s office, related to the audit report on the RS Telekom. Banja Luka Prosecutor, Marinko Kovacevic, told Nezavisne Novine that the investigation into the case is ongoing and apart from the audit report, Prosecutor’s office will also investigate reports published by Nezavisne Novine, (re irregularities in RS Telekom).</p>

<b>Telekom Trade Union supports company management</b>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 6 – “Trade Union members support company management”, Glas Srpske, pg. 3 – “Audit full of traps”, Vecernje Novosti pg. 21 ‘Media are the biggest sinners’ – the main board of the RS Telekom Trade Union announced yesterday that the Trade Union supports company management and disagrees with most parts of the audit report. The Trade Union condemned media campaign against Telekom and described it as unfounded and damaging for the reputation of the company.</p>
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<p><b>Pensioners announce new protests</b></p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, pg. 8 – “Pensioners only get promises”, Glas Srpske, pg. 3 – “Federation to make a move” – the Chairman of the Banja Luka Association of Pensioners, Nenad Ratkovic stated that pensioners will stop paying their bills, block the work of the RS Government, request its resignation, and request early elections if the RS Government does not increase October pensions for 18 percent. According to Ratkovic, the talks with the RS Prime Minister, Dragan Mikerevic, held on Monday, were fruitless as he did not show any understanding for problems of pensioners. This time, Ratkovic said, pensioners want more than just promises. The daily also quotes OHR Spokesman, Mario Brkic, who said that the decision of the Human Rights Chamber is final and binding and it is now up to the BiH Federation Government to implement it.</p> <p>Blic pg. 13 ‘They do not trust to Mikerevic’ – “Behaviour of PM Dragan Mikerevic is unacceptable, because he has been promised for the umpteenth time that our requests will be fulfilled. However, no one wants to confirm whether our pensions will be increased by 10 November,” president of Banja Luka’s Pensioners Association, Nenad Ratkovic told Blic, commenting on Monday’s pensioners’ protest. The Prime Minister and competent ministries have promised that the Government will undertake urgent measures in order to improve the pensioners’ social status, but no one in the Government knows in which way the request will be fulfilled. Ratkovic says that if their demands are not fulfilled, the pensioners will block roads and request resignation of the Government. Spokesperson of the RS Prime Minister, Goran Radivojac, believes that the Government and pensioners will manage jointly to find a solution, since that the pensioners’ representatives will participate in a special session of the Government and all other talks in order to learn more about real condition.</p>
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<p><b>Returnees to Smoluca live in very bad conditions</b></p>	<p>Glas Srpske, cover page- "Entire village in a hut" – the daily reports that Serb returnees to Smoluca live in very bad conditions. The RS Government promised to deliver ten packages of construction material, some six months ago but failed to fulfil its promise. Before the war, there were 980 Serb houses in Smoluca – all of them were destroyed during the war and not even one reconstructed after.</p>
<p><b>VL on restructuring of energy sector in BiH</b></p>	<p>Vecernji List (page 5, "Electricity suspicious as third entity!?", by <u>Simun Novakovic</u>) – the daily notes that the Government of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina recently adopted the Action plan on restructuring of energy sector in the FBiH without consent of the Croat members of the Government, and the daily criticizes the Action plan. VL is raising a question what's the purpose of establishing a holding company at the FBiH level which gives monopoly to one company and which again allocates money from one region to other. VL goes on to say that the restructuring is against conclusions of the "Directive 96/927EC", which is adopted by the EU, the document which foresees abolishment of monopolies and opening of the market to other countries. "According to estimates of certain circles of the IC, the Elektroprivreda of Croat Community of Herzeg Bosnia could be the main pillar in forming of the third entity. That was the reason it had to be destroyed by using any means possible or to carry out a transformation of it into a new company in which the Croats do not have the final say", concludes the author.</p>

## Media

<p><b>Dnevni Avaz: Political parties in RS fighting for control of RTRS</b></p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg. 17 ‘Political parties struggling to gain control of RTRS’ By <u>M. Vidovic</u> – The RTRS leadership including General Manager Dragan Davidovic and Program Director Mira Mocevic-Lolic did not want to comment on the RS National Assembly request for their resignations. According to the reporter, behind the RSNA request, there is a clear SDS and PDP intention to gain full control over the RTRS.</p>
<p><b>RSF: BiH 37<sup>th</sup> on list of free media</b></p>	<p>Dnevni List (page 2, “Bosnia and Herzegovina is 37<sup>th</sup> when it comes to freedom of media”, by <u>Fena</u>) – reports that the “Reporters sans frontieres” published its second annual list of countries ranked in accordance with the level of freedom of the media. Out of 166 countries, BiH is ranked 37<sup>th</sup>, whilst Croatia is tied 69<sup>th</sup> with Tanzania and Serbia and Montenegro is placed 85<sup>th</sup>. The best situation is in the Scandinavian countries since Finland, Iceland, Norway and Denmark are all placed in top five.</p>