

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 23/2/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 23 February 2005

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
Indictment against Delic	Indictment against Delic upheld
Neum meeting	Rehn with Terzic
BiH Presidency session	Bush in Germany

TV news broadcast on 22 February 2005

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Vuksic got 8 months in prison	400 killed in earthquake in Iran	Delic will voluntarily go to the Hague
Neum meeting starts tonight	NATO Summit starts in Brussels	Iran quake toll reaches 400
BiH HoP in session today	Steven Mayer on the DPA	NATO meeting in Brussels
FBIH HoR in session today	Neum meeting starts	Croatian firms helping Ante Gotovina

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
400 killed in earthquake in Iran	380 people died in earthquake	Ramiz Delic goes to Hague
Severe weather conditions in BiH	Vuksic will spend eight months in jail	Earthquake in Iran
Vuksic sentenced to 8 months	Indictments in sugar-affair case	EUFOR helicopter crashes

Law on FBiH Internal Affairs adopted	Rehn's letter to Adnan Terzic	Neum meeting starts tonight
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Oslobodjenje	General Rasim Delic will leave for The Hague on Monday
Dnevni Avaz	General Rasim Delic goes to The Hague voluntarily
Dnevni List	8 months imprisonment to FOSS Director
Vecernji List	Fatal flights in February
Slobodna Dalmacija	Parts of aircraft falling nearby a house
Glas Srpske	Reinstate, sale and pay
Nezavisne Novine	Rasim Delic travels to the Hague Monday
Blic	Precarious payment of pensions for 10 thousand returnees
Vecernje Novosti	Features Serbia related titles
Belgrade's Nacional	Features Serbia related titles

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

**Neum meeting
ends**

RS Radio – The press conference of officials of SDS, PDP, SDA and HDZ is underway in Neum. SRNA reports that the meeting discussed four principles of PDP and insistence of Serb parties on other participants of the meeting to take a stance on these principles. **Mladen Ivanic**, PDP President, presented principles, on basis of which the joint institutions of BiH should function. Those include: full respect of Dayton Peace Agreement and BiH Constitution, issue of reforms should be settled at BiH institutions, full equality of three constitutive peoples and that the BiH institutions take over responsibility for the BiH future by the end of this year.

SRNA news agency – Following the end of the meeting in Neum, HDZ Vice President, **Dragan Covic**, told the journalist at the press conference that parties agreed to continue working jointly in the executive and legislative authorities of BiH on ground of the Dayton Peace Agreement. An anonymous source told SRNA that PDP is very satisfied with the meeting, as the conclusions completely correspond with the demands of this party presented in past several days. In addition, source says that the issue of **Mladen Ivanic**'s resignation in CoM will be solved in next several days.

FBiH HoR resumes 17th session	RHB – The 17 th session of FBiH Parliament's House of Representatives has resumed in Sarajevo today. The MPs are to declare themselves about the Proposal of law on return, allocation and sale of apartments, which was discussed yesterday.
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Political developments/reforms

Leaders of four ruling political parties (HDZ, SDA, SDS, PDP) started a two-day meeting in Neum

RHB, BHT, TV Pink, TV Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 8 'To avoid talks on hot constitutional issues' – A two-day meeting of leaders of four ruling political parties (HDZ, SDS, SDS and PDP) started in Neum on Tuesday. The representatives of the Party for BiH publicly cancelled their participation at the meeting. Leaders of SDS and PDP, **Dragan Cavic** and **Mladen Ivanic** still firmly believe that reforms in BiH are possible without constitutional changes. On the other side, SDA President **Sulejman Tihic** emphasizes that BiH can establish an efficient and cheap government structures only through adequate constitutional changes. According to Chairman of the BiH Presidency **Borislav Paravac**, the ruling parties have agreed not to talk about hot constitutional issues at the meeting in Neum.

Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Covic expects agreement on BiH CoM' also reports on the start of the meeting in Neum. According to the daily, Croat member of the BiH Presidency **Dragan Covic** expects a lot from the meeting particularly when it comes to the functioning of BiH CoM and Parliament.

Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Ready to resolve all problems' by V. C – carries statements of **Dragan Covic** and **Dragan Cavic** on Neum meeting.

Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'We do not want to participate in political trades' by A. Sisic – carries an interview with Party for BiH President **Safet Halilovic** in which he had confirmed the party would not attend Neum meeting because there is a danger this would not be a discussion on the announced topic but just a political trade far from eyes of political public.

Terzic: Ivanic has no courage to continue with the reforms

Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Ivanic has no courage to continue with the reforms' by S. Numanovic – Commenting the statements made by BiH Foreign Minister in resignation, **Mladen Ivanic**, on PDPs decision to stick to 4 principles [see *BiH Media Round-up for Feb 23*], the Chair of the Council of Ministers, **Adnan Terzic**, says in an interview to DA that he tries not to communicate with his ministers through media, however *"the conditions that Ivanic made public two days ago were, in my opinion, the conditions of the politicians who has no idea what to do."* He further reminds that the BiH authorities anyway reach decisions through consensus, that Dayton Peace Agreement has been respected and that he completely opposes the efforts to take over responsibility from the international community for the time being. Chair of CoM says Ivanic has no courage to continue with reforms, thus tries to maintain BiH's current position. *"Quickly I am going to make decision on resignations offered [in CoM]. After these political statements, I am the closest to accepting Mladen Ivanic resignation,"* concludes Terzic.

Nezavisne novine pg 5, announced on cover 'I will remove Ivanic because he is reform brakeman' by M. Cubro – carries a statement of CoM Chairman **Adnan Terzic** saying he would accept **Mladen Ivanic's** resignation.

<p>HDZ's Covic on Neum mtg</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 3 'BiH needs thorough changes' by <u>Z. Kresic</u> carries that HDZ, SDA, SDS and PDP delegations started negotiations on Tuesday evening in Neum and adoption of joint conclusions has been expected today. Croat member of the BiH Presidency Dragan Covic stated: <i>'The right message and conclusion of the Neum meeting would be that we managed to recognize real problems and to express joint readiness to resolve these problems.'</i> Covic also confirmed that people from SBiH did not inform him about their non-coming. Asked to comment on conditions set by SBiH and open SDA demands for abolishment of the RS, what would certainly cause that the Serb side gives up the negotiations, Covic said that the contents of the Neum meeting was agreed as early as in December and he added: <i>'All those who set conditions show the best their wish to 'resolve' the problem.'</i></p>
<p>SDS' Novakovic, PDP's Djurkovic on Halilovic not attending Neum meeting</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 5 'Meeting in Neum is unprincipled political trade', by <u>I. Rozic</u> – Commenting on the fact that the President of SBiH, Safet Halilovic, will not be attending the Neum meeting, Nebojsa Novakovic (SDS) stated that Halilovic's position was unserious considering the fact that Halilovic is a member of the BiH Council of Ministers, therefore Halilovic should be showing the political will to participate in meetings that should take BiH out of crisis. On a similar note, Jelena Djurkovic (PDP) says: <i>"Halilovic's failure to show up at the meeting, at which solutions could get closer, shows the inconsistency of policy the SBiH has been running".</i></p>

NN op-ed on Neum meeting: Meeting without agenda

Nezavisne novine op-ed pg 7 'Meeting without agenda' by Mirza Cubro – The author refers to the Neum meeting, stressing that the formulation of main topic (functioning of executive and legislative authority) is clumsy, and also that none of political officials wanted to be specific about possible discussion. The author wishes if only Neum meeting would discuss the issue of abolishing the institution of BiH Presidency, since its three members are doing nothing to assist the citizens of BiH. He also notes the political officials now have a chance to raise the issue on abolishment of cantons, which **Suljman Tihic and Barisa Colak** would not accept for sure, but would instead demand abolishment of entities, which RS side would not accept. He is critical of BiH Parliaments and Governments, noting their main task is to ensure an expensive and nice illustration of the state existence.

<p>EU's Rehn letter to Terzic: Cooperation with the Hague and the police reform are preconditions for admittance to EU</p>	<p>FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Cooperation with the Hague and the police reform are preconditions for admittance to EU' by <u>S.N.</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Police reform is a pre-requisite for launching negotiations with EU' by <u>M. Cubro</u> – EU Commissioner for enlargement, Olli Rehn, says that the cooperation with the ICTY and police reform are the key preconditions for BiH's admittance to the EU. In a letter sent to the CoM Chair, Adnan Terzic, Rehn congratulations for the reforms implementation and progress towards establishing tight relations with EU. However, says Rehn, the Commission has always believed that the key element of the rule of law is the cooperation with the ICTY. Welcoming recent surrender of indictee Savo Todovic, Commissioner says that much is left to be done stressing the importance of the police reform. <i>"In the Feasibility Study, the EC requested the structural reforms of the police forces and their rationalization. That is especially important as BiH citizens deserves police that functions well. In order to reach that goal, all legal and budgetary competencies must be transferred to the state level. Also, politics must not interfere in police work,"</i> reads the letter.</p>
<p>BiH Deputy Foreign Minister Lidija Topic on abolishment of visa regime for BiH citizens</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 6 'We expect abolishment of visas for Europe by end of year', by <u>Milan Sutalo</u> – Carries an interview with the BiH Deputy Foreign Minister, Lidija Topic. Questioned whether her Ministry shared the "optimism" of the Prime Minister Adnan Terzic that pre-requisites for abolishment of visas for EU countries for BiH citizens could be created by end of this year, Deputy Minister Topic says: <i>"A lot has truly been done and the key step now is to get the positive mark for what has been achieved. I share the optimism of the Office of Chairman of BiH Council of Ministers and we hope and expect it will happen by end of the year".</i></p>

**Federation of
BiH HoR adopts
bill on internal
affairs**

RHB, BHT, TV Hayat, FTV, Oslobođenje pg 6 '265 military facilities to go on sale', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'The groundlessly de-certified policemen can return to work', **Dnevni List** pg 4 'Proposal of Law on interior affairs adopted' by J. Petrovic – House of Representatives of the Federation of BiH Parliament on Tuesday adopted a bill on internal affairs under an urgent procedure. BiH Federation Interior Minister **Mevludin Halilovic** has said the law has been harmonized with the current activities aimed at setting up a single police force at the level of BiH. The deputies adopted an amendment put forward by the Bosnian Party, which envisages that policemen, for whom it is proven in court that they were stripped of their certificates groundlessly, can keep their jobs or seek new jobs in police bodies. The OHR suggested to the house to adopt the bill without any amendments so that its essence is not violated and so that a consensus is reached at the level of BiH. The deputies rejected a bill on BiH Federation police officers, which was discussed under an urgent procedure. They adopted a bill on real estate owned by the BiH Federation Defence Ministry and Army. The law allows for the sale of expensive facilities not in use.

<p>Decertified policemen on Law on police officers</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 7 'De-certified policemen sue BiH and Paddy Ashdown' by <u>D. Kozina</u> – The Federation of BiH House of Representatives did not adopt at its session held on Tuesday an amendment to a proposal of the Law on police officers, which would according to the opinion of decertified policemen prevent discrimination during hiring in police services. President of Decertified Policemen Association Ramo Sulic stated this law is anti-constitutional and discriminating since it gives advantage to war criminals over decertified policemen when hiring in police service is in question. Sulic also said that after the Steering Board meeting on Friday this Association would officially announce filing a lawsuit against BiH at the Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. They also announce blockade of a border crossing. The policemen also say that they consulted experts in Strasbourg and it is possible that they will also file the lawsuit against High Representative Paddy Ashdown soon because of violation of provisions and abuse of the European Charter.</p>
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<p>Ashdown to participate in radio discussion programs on police reform</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Criticism of parliamentarians over non-adoption of the law', Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'There will be no abolishment of visas for BiH citizens without police reform', Glas Srpske pg 3 'Politics bypassing the police' , FENA – This week the High Representative will be taking part in a series of radio discussion programmes on the subject of police reform. The High Representative will be seeking to clarify the debate about police reform. It's important everyone understands what the issues are – and what they are not, the spokesperson of the OHR, Kevin Sullivan, told a press conference in Sarajevo on Tuesday. <i>"Police restructuring is about removing politics from policing. And it's about making the police more efficient"</i>, said Sullivan, adding that this can only be achieved by removing the things that prevent the police from doing their jobs – such as: inadequate funding, irrational organization, and political interference. Successful police reform will also have a positive impact on a variety of related areas. The European Commission has said that establishing an efficient, and democratic police system at the state level is a pre-requisite for further progress towards eventual EU accession. <i>"Without police restructuring there also cannot be any change in the EU's visa requirements for BiH citizens"</i>, underlined Sullivan.</p> <p>EuroBlic RSpG 7 'Politicians obstruct policemen' by <u>M.P.</u> – carries extracts from the interview Paddy Ashdown, HR to BiH, gave to Gradiska Radio Station. HR said that the restructuring of the police system represented a condition for the improvement of life, rooting out of crime, depriving the politicians of the possibility to exert influence on the work of the police as well as creating of conditions for visa-free regimes for BiH citizens.</p>
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<p>POLL: Majority of people in RS support establishment of state police</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'Majority of people in RS support establishment of state police' by <u>S.N.</u> – DA comments that contradictory to the claims and stances of politicians in RS, the RS public is not against establishment of the single, state police. According to the results of the poll conducted by Partner agency, more than 40% of interviewees believe that the state police would be more successful in fight against organized crime than the existing structures, while about 44% support establishing of state police if that would be a condition to get closer to EU.</p>
<p>BiH HoP approves sale of a part of former Marshal Tito barracks</p>	<p>RHB, BHT, TV Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 3 'A part of Marshall Tito barracks sold to Americans', Dnevni Avaz pg 10, Vecernji List pg 5 'Rescuing of 'Marsalka' ' not signed, Dnevni List pg 22 'Part of 'Marsalka sold to US for 7 million KM' by E. Mackic, D. Polovina- Mandic, Slobodna Dalmacija last pg ' 'Marsalka' was sold!' by <u>Z. Rerig</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'A part of "Marsal Tito" barracks were sold to US Embassy' by <u>E. D.</u> – BIH House of Peoples adopted the decision on selling a part of Tito barracks to USA. Part of the barracks will be sold for over 12 million KM. HoP adopted a conclusion whereby BIH Parliament will decide on the usage of this money.</p> <p>BHT, TV Hayat, Oslobodjenje pg 3 – About 500 students, as well as professors from the Sarajevo University, protested during the House of Peoples session against the sale of a part of the former Marshall Tito barracks, which was initially planned for the construction of the University Campus.</p>

<p>BiH HoP approves bill on sending troops to peacekeeping missions</p>	<p>RHB, BHT, RTRS, Oslobođenje pg 2 'Parliament to decide on future peacekeeping missions', Dnevni List pg 4 'Proposal of Law on participating of BiH forces in peace missions adopted' <u>not signed</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 8 'Law on sending peace-keeping missions abroad was adopted' <u>by Agencies</u> –</p> <p>The House of People of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly today approved a bill on sending armed forces members, police officers, civil servants and other employees to peacekeeping missions abroad. The bill was previously approved by the House of Representatives of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. The law envisages that the BiH Presidency makes decisions on sending troops to peacekeeping missions abroad, although the decision must be approved within 60 days by parliament.</p>
<p>OHR: Time is not right for talks on boosting the salaries of BiH parliamentarians</p>	<p>Oslobođenje pg 10 'Time is not right for talks on boosting the salaries of BiH parliamentarians ', Dnevni Avaz pg 8, Nezavisne novine pg 8 'It is not time to discuss increase of delegates' salaries' <u>by Fena</u>, FENA – The OHR deems that the time has not yet come for talks on boosting the salaries and benefits for representatives and delegates in the BiH Parliament. <i>"The message of the OHR is clear – if you have a poverty rate that is as high as BiH's rate, all elected officials must think whether the time is right for increasing the salaries"</i>, the spokesperson of the OHR, Kevin Sullivan, told a press conference in Sarajevo on Tuesday. <i>"When economy stands on the road to recovery and the living standard starts growing, than the time will be right for talks on increasing the salaries of parliamentarians"</i>, said Sullivan.</p>

<p>DL on Law on rights and duties of MPs</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 2 'Privileges', by <u>Jurislav Petrovic</u> – Talking about the issue of law on right and duties of MPs, which has been a topical issue in past few days and which foresees many new privileges to the MPs in the BiH Parliament, the author notes that the issue of responsibility of MPs is often mentioned as the reason why the MPs should enjoy numerous privileges, however the author argues that it has been the High Representative for BiH, who has enacted majority of laws and not the MPs, therefore the responsibility/credibility does not rest with the MPs, which means that the MPs are not entitled to the privileges.</p>
<p>CoM adopted Defence Ministry report on Han Pijesak, appointed SIPA director</p>	<p>RHB, TV Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Sredoje Novic appointed acting SIPA Director', Dnevni List pg 4 'It will be known soon as to who from RS Army is helping Ratko Mladic' by <u>M. Zorlak</u> – BiH Council of Ministers adopted Ministry of Defence report about investigation of weaknesses in command and control over military forces, as well as alleged presence of war crimes indictee Ratko Mladic in Han-Pijesak. The Council of Ministers appointed Sredoje Novic as acting director of State Information and Protection Agency SIPA. Nezavisne novine pg 2 'Novic was appointed acting director of SIPA' by <u>M. C.</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 'Time for a reply' by <u>Srna</u> also reported on the session.</p>

<p>US Professor Stephen Meyer: Dayton should be abolished, referendum should be carried out</p>	<p>TV Pink, Glas Srpske cover pg 'To cross out Dayton' <u>not signed</u> – National Defence Professor at the USA University, Political Science Department, Steven Mayer, believes that the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA) should be crossed out and that referendum should be held, not only in BiH, but in the whole region, in order for nations to declare in which state they want to live. He also believes that some new kind of international conference should be held, at which all nations of the region would participate. He says that more than one referendum should be held in BiH, adding that it was his personal opinion, since he talked a lot with BiH citizens. He said that the USA and other states from the West had responsibility, since they were those, who created the Dayton Peace Agreement and made BiH, and now they placing biggest efforts to make it stabile, even though many parts of it do not function.</p>
<p>Update to alleged buying votes in RSNA</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 8 'Stojicic does not care to clear up buying of votes' by <u>V. Popovic</u> – Dzevad Osmancevic, Head of Caucus of Party for BiH, ahs accused the leadership of the RS NA, led by Dusan Stojicic, that it is not in their interest to investigate claims on alleged bribery prior to election of new RS Government. He said: <i>"The case has been hushed up, because the entire story is about SDS."</i> He also reiterated that Party for BiH would launch procedure for exclusion of Milosava Jakovljevic from the Party, because she had voted for the Government of Bukejlovic. Marinko Ucur, Head of RS NA Speaker Cabinet, claims the issue involves observations of some delegates on alleged bribery.</p>

War crimes/cooperation with ICTY

<p> Wartime BiH Army Commander Delic to surrender to The Hague Tribunal </p>	<p> BHT, TV Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje cover page, pg 3 'General Rasim Delic will leave for The Hague on Monday', Dnevni Avaz cover page 'General Rasim Delic goes to The Hague voluntarily', Dnevni List pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Rasim Delic goes The Hague on Monday' not signed, Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash and pg 3 'Rasim Delic travels to the Hague Monday' by M. Cubro, Glas Srpske cover pg 'Rasim Delic was indicted' by R. G. – The Hague Tribunal has filed charges against the wartime chief of the main headquarters of the BiH Army, Rasim Delic, who is held directly responsible for crimes committed by the El Mudzahid unit against Serbs in the Ozren and Vozudja areas. Delic decided to go to The Hague voluntarily on Monday (28 February). Delic was a general in the BiH Army during the war, the BiH Federation Army after the war and has been working as an adviser to the Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency, Sulejman Tihic. </p> <p> Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Tihic: Equalization of aggressor and defender' – Commenting on the indictment against Rasim Delic, Tihic said he had an impression that the Hague Tribunal was accepting pressure to equalize those who had committed mass crimes with those who had just defended BiH. </p>
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**Oslobodjenje:
Stankovic
must seek
Mladic's
bodyguards**

Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Stankovic must seek Mladic's escort', mentioned on cover, by Az. Kalamujic – RS Defence Minister, Milovan Stankovic, will have to complete the check of the RS Army units by 28 February in order to establish whether Army employs former members of escort of the war crimes suspects. The request for this inspection was submitted by the BiH Defence Minister, **Nikola Radovanovic**, who believes that the biggest number of PIFWCs escort are out of the armed forces, however he stressed it is necessary to check RS Army to clarify this. CoM has adopted the information prepared by the MoD on systematic weaknesses of commanding the armed forces. The report was submitted to the HR **Paddy Ashdown** eight days ago, however Radovanovic said that OHR still has not reacted.

**Milan Gvero
indicted for
crimes in
Srebrenica?**

Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Milan Gvero indicted for crimes in Srebrenica?' by E.S. – The retired RS Army general, **Milan Gvero**, escorted by Serbian minister, **Zoran Loncar**, will leave Belgrade on Thursday going to the Hague to voluntarily surrender to the ICTY. The Serbian authorities said they would offer their guarantees to the Tribunal, in order to enable Gvero to be released until the beginning of the trial. According to the information obtained by DA, Gvero – whose indictment is still sealed – charges him with the crimes committed in Srebrenica, while the his role in bombing Sarajevo could also be a part of accusations against him.

Oslobodjenje pgs 4-5 'Massacre of Srebrenica citizens in radio waves', mentioned on cover, by Asaf Becirovic – Daily brings an excerpt from the alleged talk between Gvero and unknown person recorded by the BiH Army on 16 July 1995, in which Gvero speaks of massacre over Srebrenica citizens.

Oslobodjenje pgs 4-5 'Military and "sociological" preparation of the massacre' by B. Boskov – Article reads that Gvero, former Assistant to **Ratko Mladic**, may be indicted for the war crimes but not genocide, as he would be charged with preparation of the massacre, and not its execution.

Oslobodjenje pg 5 'Lie as supreme principle' by Semso Tucakovic – Author writes the critical review of Gvero's doings in the war, comparing him and his role with the one played by **Josef Gebels** in WWII.

Economic/social issues

**BiH farmers
urge changes
to free
trade
agreement
with Croatia**

RHB, BHT, TV Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 10 'BiH representatives betrayed us' – Farmers from BiH on Tuesday rallied at border crossings at Metkovic and Izacic on the Bosnian-Croatian border urging changes to the free trade agreement between the two countries, said the leader of the Bosnian Farmers Association, **Ranko Bakic**. Bakic told the local media that the previously announced protests were successful and that they should prompt members of the Bosnian government to seek changes to the trade regime with Croatia. *"We want customs duties to be imposed on products from Croatia and we want Croatia to take into account our inferiority and not introduce customs duties on our products so that we could level the payment deficit,"* Bakic said. The border crossing in Metkovic in southern Bosnia was closed to all traffic at 10 am, while the border crossing at Izacic in western Bosnia was closed only for cargo vehicles. **Dnevni List** pg 5 'Croatia does not accept change of current agreement with BiH!?' by I. Glibusic, **Vecernji List**, pg 5 'Blockade is only way to express dissatisfaction', mentioned on front 'Farmers block borders', by Frano Matic, Zoran Grizelj, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, back pg 'Farmers block Doljani border crossing', by S. Soldo also reported on the protests.

**Serb
returnees to
Croatia are
facing
housing
problems**

Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'Reinstate, sale and pay' by J.N. – GS brings stories about Serbs from Croatia, who are reinstated to their property on a short time (for example two hours), during which they should sell the house and then pay out compensation to people, who were temporary occupants of their property and redecorated the property. The report brings example of Serb **Jovan Rapaic** from Korenica, who was reinstated for two hours and was also ordered by Court to pay the compensation to temporary occupants of EURO 30 thousand. GS raises issues such as who has allowed temporary occupants to re-decorate the houses (without the assent of owner) and to open business premises at some of those locations. **Petar Dzodan**, President of Association of Serbs from Croatia , is of the view that the property legislation in Croatia damages the rights of Serbs, adding that Croatia has kept the majority of former Yugoslavia laws, which were in its interest, while others were changed.

Payment of pensions to returnees to F BiH is still uncertain

EuroBlic cover pg splash 'Precarious payment of pensions for 10 thousand returnees' and RSpG 1 'Nobody's pensioners' by Rajna Radosavljevic – **Rajko Klickovic**, Assistant to RS Minister in charge of pensioners' issues, has stated that the Draft law on changes and addenda to the Law on pension and disability insurance (which was completed in January) may be included into agenda of March Parliament session. According to him, the altered Law should regulate the issue of payment of pensioners to pensioners, who have returned to the F BiH, which makes the total of 10 thousand pensioners. According to Klickovic, 10 thousand pensioners should be excluded from the list of RS PIO Fund and transferred onto the MIO of F BiH. He has also added: "*I believe F BiH MIO fund would file complaint with all institutions possible in order to prevent the payment of pensions. However, we rely on pressure of international community, because both, OHR and OSCE have many times warned human rights have been violated.*" However, **Zarif Safic**, Spokesperson of the F BiH MIO, has stated that pensioners returnees "*might lose everything if RS continues with this policy*".

<p>RS Minister Lajic denies he stopped appointment of Telekom directors upon SDS order</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'SDS prevented election of executive directors of Telekom Srpske' <u>by P. K.</u> – A source close to "RS Telekom" leadership claims the Supervising Board of "RS Telekom" on Tuesday failed to appoint executive directors due to blockade of SDS who wishes to appoint its personnel to these positions. Dragoje Lajic, RS Minister of Traffic and Communications, has confirmed he had instructed Associate RS Minister for Traffic and Communications Vlado Prpos to stop the appointments, not in accordance with SDS order but because he had wanted to meet candidates as the Minister prior to their appointment.</p>
<p>Srpske Sume Supervising Board denies claims of Audit Report</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 9, announced on cover 'Few private businessmen squandering wealth of forests' <u>by D. Risojevic</u> – the article carries bits and pieces of the Audit Report on "Srpske Sume". Inset 'Reply of "Srpske Sume"' reads the Supervising Board of "Srpske Sume" denied the audit report reading the firm could have earned 85 to 125 million KM per year. The Board claims there are some omissions in conducting of the business but says these aren't nearly as great as claimed in the report.</p>

Legal proceedings/incident

**PIC calls on
RS
government
to urgently
resolve
financial
crisis in
Trebinje**

BHT, TV Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 2
'Compensation for war damage cannot
jeopardize wellbeing of citizens', **Dnevni
List** pg 5 'Ambassadors urge RS to resolve
crisis in Trebinje' by NINA, **Slobodna
Dalmacija**, pg 8 'Urgently solve financial
crisis in Trebinje', by M. Landeka,
Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'To urgently resolve
crisis in Trebinje Municipality' by V. D.,
Glas Srpske pg 2 'It is the Government's
move now' by N. Z. – The Steering Board
Ambassadors of the Peace Implementation
Council have called on the RS Authorities
to resolve, as a matter of urgency, the
financial crisis in Trebinje Municipality
precipitated by the war damage claim
brought against the municipality. At the
same time the Steering Board Ambassadors
strongly endorse efforts to enact
appropriate legislation in the RSNA that
will help to ensure that any future claims
for compensation arising from wartime
events can be resolved fairly but without
jeopardizing the safety, security or
wellbeing of citizens.

<p>Vuksic sentenced to 8 months in prison</p>	<p>RHB, BHT, TV Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 11, mentioned on cover, Dnevni List cover pg splash '8 months imprisonment to FOSS Director' and pgs 2 and 3 '8 months imprisonment to Vuksic for taking hostages' by A. Beus, Vecernji List pg 5 '8 months imprisonment to Vuksic because of hostages' by D. Jazvic, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 17 '8 months imprisonment to Vuksic' by Z. Tulic, Nezavisne Novine pg 3, announced on cover 'Eight months of imprisonment for Ivan Vuksic' <u>not signed</u> – FBiH Supreme Court sentenced Ivan Vuksic to 8 months in prison. He was sentenced due to his involvement in the hostage-taking incident in Grude's Hercegovacka Banka premises that happened on 6 April 2001. Court had in mind special circumstances when deciding on the sentence so it is lower than the lowest penalty (one year in prison) foreseen by the law in such cases.</p>
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<p>FBiH Supreme Court confirmed a part of indictment in Pogorelica case</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3, announced on cover 'They were indicted for organizing of murder of Fikret Abdic, but not for terrorism' <u>not signed</u> – F BiH Supreme Court confirmed Tuesday it had confirmed the second item of the indictment against Bakir Alispahic, Irfan Ljevakovic, Enver Mujezinovic, Edhem Veladzic and Ejub Ikić. The above-mentioned persons are, in frame of "Pogorelica" case, indicted of organizing a murder. The Court did not confirm the first item of the indictment, which relates to terrorism activities. The first item of the indictment was sent back to F BiH Prosecutor's Office, which has a possibility either to submit a changed indictment with corresponding evidence or withdraw it entirely.</p>
<p>EUFOR helicopter crashes near Kakanj</p>	<p>Vecernji List, front pg splash and pgs 2-3 'Fatal flights in February', by <u>Robert Soldo</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija, front pg splash and pg 6 'Parts of aircraft falling nearby a house', by <u>Mato Komso</u>, Dnevni List pg 6, mentioned on cover '4 British soldiers were not injured' by <u>Zeda/NINA</u> – A British EUFOR's 'Lynx' helicopter crashed near nearby the village of Modrinje near Kakanj two days ago around 1840 hrs. According to an EUFOR spokesman, Chris Percival, three members of the crew suffered only light injuries. The investigation is ongoing. Sarajevo media also covered the accident prominently.</p>