

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 24/9/2004

<b>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)
Cavic on ICTY cooperation	1 million KM robbed	CC judges receive bribe?	Cavic on ICTY cooperation
Laws on war crime trials	Maktouf pleaded not guilty	2000 BiH visas missing	Laws on war crime trials
Prijedor war crimes trial	HoR adopt. judiciary laws	Maktouf pleaded not guilty	Maktouf pleaded not guilty
FBIH Gov. session	1,5 billion KM for BiH	HoR adopt. judiciary laws	Towns with Serb prefix

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	War crime trials in BiH as of next year
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	Robbers fled with a million KM!
<b>Dnevni List</b>	Federation Government: Members of Steering Board of Mostar Clinic released from duty
<b>Vecernji List</b>	Run after Gotovina
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Doctors: We do not want to work for little money any longer
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	BiH Constitutional Courts' decision: The Court christening; Brcko: Susan introducing order
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	Ashdown gave deadline to Cavic and Matijasevic: Three months for arrest; Constitution Court sets interim names of 12 municipalities and cities in RS: Serb Sarajevo named Sarajevo – Istok
<b>Blic</b>	Authority of BiH Constitutional Court debated; Deadline for change of ID cards extended until 31 December

<b>Vecernje Novosti</b>	Features Serbian related topics
<b>Belgrade's Nacional</b>	Features Serbian related topics
<b>Slobodna Bosna</b>	20 murders in post-war BiH
<b>Dani</b>	Ahmed Imamovic: Psychology of fascism rules here

**Political developments/reforms/cooperation with ICTY**

<p>RS President Cavic says RS wishes to remove anathema over non- cooperation with ICTY</p>	<p><b>Herceg Bosna Radio, BHT, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje</b> pg 5 'Matijasevic took over the hardest duty in the Balkans', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 3 'Cavic: I am not going to Belgrade to change the borders', <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2 'Three months deadline given to RS authorities for arrests' mentioned on cover 'Three months for arrest' by <u>A. Sisic</u>; <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'We will fulfil our duties' by <u>N. Zelenovic</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 3 'RS is intending to get rid of The Hague burden' by <u>eme</u> and <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 5 'RS ready for cooperation with ICTY' by <u>D. Polovina-Mandic</u>, <b>FENA</b> – RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b> on Thursday stated that this BiH Entity wishes to assure all representatives of the international community that it intends to fulfill all international commitments and remove the burden of anathema over non-cooperation with the Hague Tribunal. After the meeting of Cavic and the newly-appointed RS Minister of Interior <b>Darko Matijasevic</b>, with the High Representative, <b>Paddy Ashdown</b>, RS President told the press that he believes that Matijasevic would resolve the most difficult RS and BiH problem, which is the credibility related to the international commitments, particularly when it comes to the cooperation with the ICTY. Ashdown ascertained that the time was running out, and warned that Matijasevic now had a very difficult task of great importance for BiH. However, the success of Matijasevic's work will be measured not by words, but by concrete actions, said Ashdown, adding that the NATO ministerial meeting, at which BiH's admission into the Partnership for Peace might be re-considered, was only 12 weeks away. <i>"If this road is blocked, than the road to Europe is blocked as well"</i>, underlined the High Representative. He also expressed hope that the upcoming meeting between Cavic and Serbian President <b>Boris Tadic</b> next week in Belgrade would be an opportunity to stress clearly that borders do not represent safe areas for the indicted war crime suspects.</p>
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**RS President  
says he will  
not discuss  
borders with  
Serbian leader**

**ONASA, FENA** – Republika Srpska President **Dragan Cavic** said he was not going to Belgrade next week to devise with Serbian President Boris Tadic some new attempt to redraw borders in the region. *“Such a thing has never crossed my mind, nor has it occurred to Tadic. Our talks will be clear, addressing key issues that are in this moment equally hard for Serbia and Montenegro and the RS, and BiH,”* Cavic told reporters in Sarajevo on Thursday. Asked whether he would discuss with Tadic the recent statement by leader of the Serbian Radical Party **Tomislav Nikolic** who said that time had come for the Serbs in the RS to say whether they would like the RS to be annexed to Serbia, Cavic said that no such a statement had ever been made by Tadic, whom he was to meet with in Belgrade, nor by himself. *“It is clear that sovereignty, international integrity and constitution of BiH was set by the Dayton Peace Agreement. And anything which is out of framework of the Dayton Agreement would violate that international contract,”* said Cavic, after the meeting with High Representative **Paddy Ashdown**. The meeting was also attended by newly-appointed RS Interior Minister **Darko Matijasevic** and European Union Police Mission Commissioner **Kevin Carty**.

<p><b>BiH HoR adopts set of laws making war crimes processing in BiH possible</b></p>	<p><b>Herceg Bosna Radio, BHT, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje</b> cover page, pg 7 'War crime trials in BiH as of next year', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'War crime trial in BiH to start in January', <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 5 'Laws on judiciary adopted' by <u>M. Cubro</u>; <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'According to The Hague recipe', <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 9 'BiH ready to try war crimes', mentioned on front, by <u>Danka Polovina-Mandic</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 3 'Crimes at BiH Court in January', by <u>Eldina Medunjanin</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 9 'BiH Parliament adopts laws on trials to war criminals', by <u>H</u>, <b>FENA</b> – BiH House of Representatives on Thursday adopted in urgent procedure a set of laws in the judiciary sector, which are aimed at creating the necessary conditions for processing war crime cases in BiH. The adopted legislation includes the amendments to the Law on the Court of BiH, the Law on the BiH Prosecutor's Office, the Law on Protection of Witnesses, and the Bill on transferring the cases from the ICTY to the BiH Prosecutor's Office and using the evidence obtained by the Tribunal in proceedings before the courts in BiH. The amendments to the Law on the Court of BiH and the Law on the BiH Prosecutor's Office are in accordance with the Agreement reached between the High Representative and the State of BiH on establishing the Registry Office of Division I for War Crimes, Organized Crime, Economic Crime and Corruption to the Criminal Department and the Appellate Department of the Court of BiH and the Special Department of the BiH Prosecutor's Office. In the course of the session, the House of Representatives also adopted the Report of the joint commission, which comprises the representatives of both parliamentary Houses, on the harmonization of the text of the Law on Public Procurement in BiH.</p>
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<p>ICTY's Meron requests additional explanations re possible war crimes processing in BiH</p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'Nothing before January?' – <b>Theodor Meron</b>, ICTY President, demanded from Prosecutor's Office to explain demand for handing the case against Serbs charged with crimes in Prijedor be handed to BiH authorities, since international administration seated in Sarajevo advised there is no condition for this by the beginning of 2005. namely, <b>Judge Meron</b>, asked OHR's view on request.</p>
<p>OHR: BiH still not ready to try war crimes cases</p>	<p><b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 9 'BiH is not ready to take over ICTY's cases', by H, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'Nothing before January?' – reports that the Senior Deputy High Representative, <b>Bernard Fassier</b>, sent the ICTY President, <b>Theodor Meron</b>, a letter in which he noted that BiH was still not ready to try war crimes cases according to international standards. The letter, which was quoted by an ICTY spokesperson at a weekly press briefing, reads that <i>"there is not a possibility to organize war crimes trials with full respect of international standards that the Tribunal requests before January 1, 2005"</i>. The letter also noted that <i>"every premature handing over of trials to BiH authorities before January could undermine the efforts made so far to enable the judiciary for it"</i>. SD notes that Meron had asked for the OHR's opinion on readiness of the BiH judiciary to try war crimes cases after the (ICTY) Prosecution recently proposed that the case against <b>Zeljko Mejakic</b> and other three suspects, charged with crimes committed in Omarska and Keraterm prison camps, be handed over to the BiH Court. On basis on reservations of the OHR, Meron ordered the ICTY Prosecution to additionally explain its proposal.</p>

<p>Serb member of BiH Presidency distances himself from chairman's UN address</p>	<p><b>Herceg Bosna Radio, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'State structure complex due to Washington Agreement', <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'Tihic presented his personal view' by <u>SRNA</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 'Tihic beyond Presidency' by <u>N. Zelenovic</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 5 'Disagreements in Presidency', <u>not signed</u>, <b>SRNA</b> – BiH's complex constitutional structure is not a consequence of the Dayton agreement as BiH Presidency Chairman <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> said in his address to the UN General Assembly but it is a consequence of the complex Washington agreement which had resulted in the creation of the Federation of BiH, says Serb member of the BiH Presidency <b>Borislav Paravac</b>. A statement by Paravac's office says that Tihic's attitude is not shared with the BiH Presidency and that Paravac would like to distance himself from this statement by Sulejman Tihic. Paravac says that the RS is an entity with a simple power structure and that the RS has fully implemented constitutional amendments, including those which relate to the equal status of the constituent peoples in BiH. <i>"The implementation of the constitutional amendments on the equal constituent status of the peoples has been slow in the Federation of BiH. The House of Peoples of the Federation has not been brought in line with the constitution even two years after the elections, but, despite this, decisions are being made and laws adopted, among them the law according to which 1,500 apartments owned by ex-Yugoslav army staff who are BiH citizens are to be confiscated without any legal backing,"</i> the statement says. <i>"The fact that there is no political will in the Federation to implement amendments on the constitutive nature of the peoples leads to a conclusion that this is a conscious and deliberate obstruction. However, nothing has been done yet to remedy this injustice although all governing structures in the joint and Federation government institutions are aware of this problem,"</i> Paravac says.</p>
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<p><b>BiH Foreign Minister Ivanic also disagrees with parts of Tihic's UN speech</b></p>	<p><b>RTRS – Mladen Ivanic</b>, BiH Minister of Foreign Affairs also disagrees with such statement. Ivanic said that such statement presented Tihic's personal opinion, and he said that the fact that Tihic's personal opinion was stated as opinion of BiH Presidency was unacceptable. <i>"This has opened a whole range of issues whether every member of BiH Presidency is going to state his own attitudes and opinions, or opinions are going to be coordinated.. This statement has not been agreed on, and when it comes to statement that BiH Constitution has to be changed, it also presents another Tihic's personal opinion."</i>, says Ivanic. He believes that change of Dayton Agreement would cause BiH's instability and adds that any changes of BiH Constitution will be discussed in negotiations with EU. He also feels that even then EU will not give up on Dayton principles mostly when it comes to existence of 2 entities.</p>
<p><b>EC's Priebe: BiH Constitutional structure is very complex</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'BiH Constitutional structure is very complex' – Interview with <b>Reinhard Priebe</b>, EC Director for Western Balkans. BiH Constitution is based on the Dayton Agreement's foundations. We all know that it is about a difficult and complicated arrangement but one must live with it," said Priebe. He once again praised BiH for achieved progress and emphasized importance of the full cooperation with ICTY.</p>



<p><b>Brcko Supervisor Johnson suspended Head of the Brcko District Education Department</b></p>	<p><b>Herceg Bosna Radio, Oslobođenje</b> pg 9 'Esad Atic suspended', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 11, <b>Glas Srpske</b>, cover page 'Susan brings order' by M. Dj., <b>EuroBlic</b>, pg. RS5 'Esad Atic was removed' by Srna, <b>FENA</b> – Brcko Supervisor <b>Susan R. Johnson</b> on Thursday suspended <b>Esad Atic</b> pending an independent review of the circumstances surrounding the procurement and distribution of Primary School textbooks in Brcko. Atic is suspended from his position as head of the Education Department in the Interim Government of the Brcko District and <b>Izet Banda</b> has been appointed as Acting Head of the Department. The Brcko Supervisor took this decision following broad consultations, including political parties and the Mayor of Brcko, who had already taken the decision to suspend the Head of the Subdivision for Primary Education, says a statement issued by OHR. The investigation will assess Mr. Atic's level of responsibility for the distribution of textbooks for Primary Schools in Brcko District in languages other than those guaranteed under the law, a development that has undermined confidence in the District's truly multi-ethnic and non-discriminatory education system. Supervisor Johnson has asked the Brcko Mayor to establish an independent, impartial and professional Commission to investigate the facts, circumstances and political and professional responsibilities under which textbooks were procured and distributed, and to submit the Commission's report to the Supervisor and the Interim Assembly within 15 days.</p>
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<p><b>Update to Brcko political affairs</b></p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b>, pg. 13 'SDP requests from OHR to sanction pre-election appearance of SDS' by N. Tr. – Brcko District Municipal Board of SDP party yesterday appealed to OHR to react and sanction a pre-election appearance of SDS party in Brcko. <b>Izet Banda</b>, the President of Brcko District Municipal Board of SDP party, asked from OSCE to intervene at the Election Commission and request from it to remove from SDS's list the persons who had invited voters to gather at "the Square of Pesa " in Brcko. SDP says this is the Square of Youth and SDS has self-initiatively renamed it to "the Square of Pesa " in pre-election purposes.</p>
<p><b>Bosniak representatives veto RS Law on Local Self-government</b></p>	<p><b>RTRS, Oslobodjenje</b> pg 5 'Protection of the vital national interest', <b>FENA</b> – The Bosniak Caucus in the RS Council of Peoples will launch the procedure of protection of vital national interest of Bosniak people against the adopted Law on Local Self-government and the Law on Privatization of Business Facilities and Garages in RS. President of the Bosniak Caucus in the RS Council of Peoples <b>Ramiz Salkic</b> told a press conference on Thursday that the Law on Privatization of Business Facilities and Garages in RS endangers the vital national interests of Bosniaks because the amendment submitted by the majority of Bosniak parties according to which the pre-war owners will have the right of primary purchase, instead of the current occupants, was not adopted. Regarding the Law on Local Self-Government, Salkic said that it leaves far too great competencies in selecting of associates. <i>"Having in view the current situation in the field, it can easily happen that Bosniaks and other peoples are left out of local power"</i>, said Salkic. The Bosniak Caucus has the same objection to the manner of electing the speakers and deputy speakers of the municipal assemblies and other officials, because it is not stated precisely whether or not they are appointed through public concourse. The mentioned laws were adopted at the latest session of the RS National Assembly.</p>

**TI survey on  
local elections**

**Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Citizens do not trust parties' by N. Krsman; **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'They do not trust parties' by \_– According to Transparency International survey, yesterday published by **Boris Divjak**, TI Director, almost half of voters in BiH will not vote on following elections. 53% of voters from RS and 42% of voters from FBiH will not vote. The thing which concerns the most is the fact that great number of citizens has no trust in either one political party. **Oslobodjenje** pg 9 'Half of eligible citizens not to vote', **Vecernji List** pg 2 'Political parties used to be hotbed of corruption in citizens' opinion and now they are spring of men of honour' by R. Radic and **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 9 BiH citizens do not trust anyone' by D. Pasic also covered the issue.

<p><b>Magazines critical of Cardinal Puljic</b></p>	<p><b>Slobodna Bosna</b> pgs 32-34 'Justifying fatal politics of the HDZ in BiH, Cardinal Vinko Puljic brings most damage to Croats!' by <u>Danka Savic</u> – The article refers to the letter sent by the Cardinal <b>Vinko Puljic</b> to Pope in which he claims that Croats are endangered in BiH and their rights constantly violated accusing also the international community to participate in this and related statements. SB writes: <i>"Despite that fact that domestic and international communities are clear for years that HDZ bears main guilty for tragic status of the Croat population in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the supreme Catholic clerical official, Cardinal Vinko Puljic, in internal and public appearances constantly tries to prove in a manner of outdated HDZ politicians the existence of the 'secret international anti-Catholic activity' ."</i> Article concludes, not trying to ignore the problems of Croats, that ever discussion on the subject must commence with the question as to why Croat politicians done for the people they represent.</p> <p><b>Dani</b> pgs 18-19 'How secularism got known down' by <u>Ivan Lovrenovic</u> – In same regard, author claims that Cardinal Puljic's statements say a lot about catastrophic situation regarding the inter-religious relations in BiH and existence of intolerance. Author also criticizes Puljic for 'amnestying Croat politicians for the situation of Croat population, and for making claims as if in the capacity of a politician.</p>
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<p><b>Economic/social issues</b></p>
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<p>Contract for making documentation on 5C Corridor construction to be signed in three weeks</p>	<p><b>Herceg Bosna Radio, BHT, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje</b> pg 6, mentioned on cover 'Two consortiums and Energoinvest to design highway', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'Consortium of BiH and Croatian companies to make documentation for 5c corridor', mentioned on cover Consortium of 19 firms to work on project documentation', <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3 'IPSA and IGH got largest part of work' by <u>M. C.</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 2 'IPSA and IGH lead project worth 32 million KM' by D. Jazvic, <b>FENA</b> – The expert commission, which was appointed by BiH Council of Ministers on July 29, has analyzed the offers/bids for preparing the necessary documentation for building the 5C Corridor through BiH and has proposed BiH Ministry of Communications and Transport to sign a contract with the best bidder which is a consortium comprising eight companies from Croatia and eleven from BiH The consortium is led by institute IPSA from Sarajevo and Croatian Institute for Construction from Zagreb. Minister of Communications and Transport <b>Branko Dokic</b> told a press conference in Sarajevo on Thursday. The contract with a total of 19 bidders will be signed in three weeks the latest, said Dokic. The contracts will cost the State of BiH a total of 32.706.800 KM. The deadline for designing the draft study/documentation is eight months, from the moment of signing the contract. <i>"With these activities, we are entering a significant phase towards launching construction of the corridor 5C"</i>, said Dokic.</p>
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**EC, WB end  
Consultative  
Group on BiH  
meeting**

**Herceg Bosna Radio, BHT, FTV, Oslobođenje** pg 4 'International community supported development of BiH', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 Terzic: Partners want to support our development', **FENA** – A Consultative Group (CG) Meeting on Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), co-chaired by the European Commission and the World Bank, was held in Sarajevo on September 22 and 23 at the request of BiH authorities. It gathered senior representatives of BiH government, international organizations and partner countries. The meeting was attended by 42 delegations and 210 participants. The meeting provided the opportunity to BiH authorities to present the international community with an update on reform progress, challenges and their vision for medium term economic development and European integration. There was broad consensus on the fact that the country has achieved considerable progress in post-conflict reconstruction and early structural reform. The meeting agreed on the need to project a more realistic image of BiH abroad in order to encourage foreign investment. Participants also concurred with the authorities on the significant challenges ahead, particularly in the fields of maintaining macroeconomic stability, reducing the current account deficit, improving the business enabling environment, designing and implementing a corporate reform package, comprehensively reforming public administration, reducing the weight of public expenditure on the economy, timely completion of indirect tax reform and improving statistics for the country as a whole. The authorities also recognized the need to enhance regional cooperation within South Eastern Europe, for instance on energy, transport, water, communicable diseases and the environment.

**Dnevni List** pg 4 'Maximal engagement of BiH resources for realization of developing strategy' by E. Mackic– The first meeting of the Consultative Group, which was chaired by the EC and World Bank at the request of BiH authorities, finished yesterday. Stating the conclusions of this meeting Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers **Adnan Terzic** stated that the appearance of BiH authorities at this conference showed that the International Community has partners in BiH and vice versa. He added: *"Although we knew in advance that realization of the PRSP strategy has support of some donors, projects and programs which are necessary for realization of only 25 % of the PRSP strategy were presented during the conference."* Terzic explained that this shows that the BiH authorities are counting on internal resources in order to realize the PRSP strategy. According to media reports, the meeting resulted in provision of (pledge for) 1.5 billion US dollars in grants and loans to support the implementation of the BiH development strategy priorities.

<p><b>FBiH Government discusses amendments to the laws on public companies and internal debt</b></p>	<p><b>Herceg Bosna Radio, FENA</b> – The FBiH Government also discussed amendments to the FBiH law on public companies and the FBiH law on internal debt at a special session in Sarajevo on Thursday. The Government did not support amendments to the law on internal debt, but decided to propose its own amendments and forward them to the FBiH Parliament.</p>
<p><b>OHR urges FBiH to urgently adopt the law on public companies</b></p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 ‘Federation lagging behind’ by <u>M. Dz.</u> – <b>Ljiljana Radetic</b>, OHR Regional Spokesperson Banja Luka, at yesterday’s presser of international agencies in Banja Luka, stated that OHR urged FBiH authority to urgently adopt the Law on public companies and Law on investment into public funds. <b>Radetic</b> reminded that RS NA has already enacted the Law on Public Companies, noting it is soon expected to enact the Law on Investment into public funds.</p>
<p><b>FBiH Govt, BiH CoM on Eronet, 3<sup>rd</sup> GSM licence issues</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 3 ‘Decision on transfer of share in Eronet on Tuesday’, mentioned on front, by <u>Jurislav Petrovic</u> – an anonymous, senior official of the FBiH Government told DL that the FBiH Government yesterday discussed the memorandum between the FBiH Government and HT Zagreb (on transfer of HT Zagreb’s shares in Eronet onto HT Mostar), deciding to finish the job next week. The same source confirms that it is expected that the FBiH Prime Minister, <b>Ahmet Hadzipasic</b>, will sign the memorandum at the next session of the FBiH Government, scheduled for Tuesday. According to the FBiH Minister for Traffic and Communications, <b>Nedžad Brankovic</b>, it is only some technical details that need to be agreed upon. The source also confirms that the BiH Minister of Traffic and Communications, <b>Branko Dokic</b>, and BiH Treasury Minister, <b>Ljerka Maric</b>, yesterday signed a contract that awards the 3<sup>rd</sup> GSM licence to HT Mostar. The contract specifies that HT Mostar is to pay the first instalment for the licence in amount of 21 million KMs, namely the first part of instalment by September 30 and the second part by October 30.</p>
<p><b>FBiH Govt releases from duty members of Steering Boards of Mostar and Sarajevo clinics</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, front and pg 2 ‘Federation Government: Members of Steering Board of Mostar Clinic released from duty’, by <u>Nermin Bise</u> – The FBiH Government yesterday took a Decision by which members of the Steering Board of the Mostar Clinic, namely the Chairman of the Board, <b>Ivan Bagaric</b>, and members <b>Enes Colic</b>, <b>Ante Kvesic</b>, <b>Zdravko Zelic</b>, <b>Helena Skobic</b>, <b>Zdravko Trolic</b>, <b>Slavica Vidmar</b>, <b>Mirsad Granov</b> and <b>Dragana Solomon</b> have been released from duty because their mandate has expired. Because of the same reason, the FBiH Government released from duty members of the Steering Board of the University of Sarajevo’s Clinic. <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 8 ‘Steering Boards in health sector appointed’, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9 also covered the issue.</p>

<p><b>Savers announcing lawsuit against FBiH authorities</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 6 ‘Savers announce criminal charges against Federation’, mentioned on front, by <u>Arijana Beus</u> – following media reports that the FBiH Privatization Agency has forwarded the FBiH Finance Ministry a database on citizens’ unused old foreign currency savings, the President of Association for protection of old foreign currency savers, <b>Amila Omersoftic</b>, says that all the operations regarding the data on savings are likely to result in charges against the responsible FBiH authorities. <i>“All further manipulations with our savings and the unauthorized transfer of records onto the FBiH Finance Ministry, which cannot deal with banking issues, we consider them to be criminal acts and our actions will go in that direction”</i>, says Omersoftic</p>
<p><b>Public debate on VAT</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 7 ‘Discussion on VAT: MPs stick to earlier position’, by <u>D.P.M.</u>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pgs 4-5, mentioned on cover ‘Full collection of taxes would reduce VAT rate’, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 ‘Farmers request for two VAT rates’ – Public debate on Proposal of law on VAT, which was organized by the BiH Parliament’s House of Representatives’ Commission for finances and budget, showed that the interested parties are sticking to their earlier positions. According to a member of the said Commission, <b>Beriz Belkic</b>, the Commission will most likely stick to its plan on having different VAT rates, despite claims by the BiH Treasury Minister, <b>Ljerka Maric</b>, that different VAT rates will slow down the introduction of the VAT and cause additional complications. Representatives of economic chamber, farmers, association of employers and invalids also forwarded some of their proposals during the debate.</p>
<p><b>RS PM Mikerevic on employment</b></p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 ‘Shorter list of those unemployed’ by <u>G.D.</u> – <b>Dragan Mikerevic</b>, RS Prime Minister, yesterday stated that difference between the amount of average salary and pension in RS and F BiH is getting smaller, noting that the number of those unemployed in RS is being reduced. In the introductory note before the 8<sup>th</sup> Congress of the accounting clerks and auditors (held in Teslic), <b>Mikerevic</b> pointed at a positive trend of average salary and pension in RS.</p>



<p><b>SB on appointment of chief auditor</b></p>	<p><b>Slobodna Bosna</b> pgs 45-46 'Tripartite band in BiH Presidency removed auditors – witness of their own crime!' by <u>Asim Metiljevic</u> – Dani bring that with the appointment of the new BiH Chief Auditor <b>Milenko Seg</b> without a proper competition procedure ensured that authors of the audit report of BiH Presidency, deputies <b>Samir Musovic</b> and <b>Dragan Kulina</b>, will stay without jobs. Apparently, by appointing Sego to five, instead one, year mandate <i>"Musovic and Kulina are permanently eliminated from the office of the state auditor. The Law on Audit stipulates that deputies of the state auditor have no possibility to extend their mandates, but a possibility to apply for the position of the chief auditor... But the Presidency members wanted to prevent that possibility and thus appointed Sego."</i></p>
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<p><b>Crimes/security/legal proceedings</b></p>	
<p><b>Maktouf pleads not guilty to war crimes charges</b></p>	<p><b>BHT, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje</b> pg 3, mentioned on cover 'Maktouf pleads not guilty to war crime charges', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 5 'Maktouf pleaded not guilty' by <u>A. Durmo</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 3 'Abdulahim Maktouf does not feel guilty for war crimes', by <u>V. P.</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 3 'Trials to Iraqi man charged with war crimes begins', mentioned on front, by <u>Dejan Jazvic</u>, <b>SRNA – Abdulahim Maktouf</b> (45), citizen of BiH of Iraqi origins, on Thursday pleaded before the BiH Court not guilty to charges of war crimes for kidnapping five civilians in Travnik in 1993 and transferring them to a mujahedeen camp where they were beaten repeatedly. One of the captives, a Serb, was killed. After Maktouf pleaded non guilty before preliminary hearing judge <b>Vladan Adamovic</b>, it was decided that he will be put on trial. According to the charges filed against Maktouf on 13 September by the special department of BiH Prosecutor's Office which deals with organized crime, fraud and corruption, he took part in illegal arrest, detention and kidnapping of civilians in central Bosnia during the war in BiH. According to the charges, Maktouf, together with El-Mujaheed Unit fighters, kidnapped in October 1993 the following civilians: <b>Ivo Fistic, Ivan Rajkovic, Kazimir Pobric, Dragoljub Popovic</b> and <b>Dalibor Adzaip</b>. <i>"Maktouf drove one of the two vehicles which were used for transfer of captives and he took part in planning the kidnappings and what ensued in their aftermath,"</i> the indictment says. The defendant's lawyers, <b>Ismet Music</b> and <b>Adil Lozo</b>, have announced that they will appeal against the charges and question its formal shortcomings. Maktouf said that, during the war, he was engaged as a translator for the 3 and 7 Corps of the BiH Army.</p>

<p><b>ABS Bank vehicle robbed, a million KM stolen</b></p>	<p>BHT, FTV, Oslobođenje pg 5, mentioned on cover 'One million KM stolen from an ABS Bank vehicle', Dnevni Avaz cover page, pg 31 'Robbers fled with a million KM!' – Almost 1 million KM was stolen from a vehicle of ABS Bank near Gracanica. Four unidentified persons that were armed attacked the vehicle that was not under police escort/protection. Local police found vehicle in the wood near the entity borderline. Search for perpetrators is underway.</p>
<p><b>Update on search after Gotovina</b></p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> front pg 'Run after Gotovina' and pgs 10 and 11 'Action run after Gotovina' by <u>F. Saric, I. Jelkic</u> – VL reports that the police action called 'Run after Gotovina' started yesterday morning when the Croatian Police searched a few houses, flats and business premises in Zagreb and Zadar owned by friends of retired Croatian General <b>Ante Gotovina</b> who was charged with the war crimes by the ICTY. According to VL, as a result of this action the Police conduct investigation over 3 persons suspected of helping Gotovina.</p>
<p><b>Interview with Muselimovic</b></p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 5 'Hebrang, Seks and Matesa are crucial witnesses' by <u>Z. Kresic</u> carries an interview with <b>Josip Muselimovic</b> who is a lawyer of former HDZ President and a suspect in the Hercegovacka Banka case <b>Ante Jelavic</b>. Among the other things, Muselimovic says that apart from the bill of indictment for the Hercegovacka Banka case, another bill of indictment was issued against Jelavic because of his alleged endangering of territorial integrity of the FBiH and Muselimovic believes that the purpose of this bill of indictment is political discrediting of Jelavic before BiH and foreign public. According to Muselimovic, this bill of indictment is disputable since Jelavic has never stated his defense with regard to this case and in spite of the fact the BiH Constitutional Court issued a temporary measure on the ground of which any further activity with regard to this case has been banned. Muselimovic also says that this shows that the BiH Constitutional Court 's decisions are not being respected.</p>
<p><b>Forged CIPS documents</b></p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b>, pg. 3 'Another four forged CIPS documents were found in Brcko' by <u>A. Sisic and N. Krsman</u> – Another four persons, who had been issued with forged CIPS documents, were identified in Brcko, as BiH State Prosecutor in charge of this case, <b>Ahmed Halebic</b> said yesterday, noting that: <i>"These four persons were already known to the police because they had already committed serious acts of crimes. As until yesterday, 102 cases of misuse were revealed at Banja Luka office of CIPS. It is certain, as far as Banja Luka is in question, somebody from the top has organized this'."</i></p>

<p><b>Dani on CIPS</b></p>	<p><b>Dani</b> pgs 20-23 'Why CIPS is for criminals 'a mother of all projects' ?' by by <u>Snjezana Mulic-Busatlija</u> – In the light of a number of media reports related to frauds of CIPS documents, Dani carry a criticism of the project giving instances of the criminals with false CIPS documents. Wondering how such project <i>“announced as the safest in the world, paid by tax payers in amount of 40 million KM, turned into entirely opposite thing brining into realistic danger every single citizens whose name could be stolen, abused, terrorized?”</i> The Director of the Transparency International BiH, <b>Boris Divjak</b>, answers: <i>“It is possible as new equipped was purchased, but they did not replace people working on issuing the documents.”</i> Divjak further says that the project is a fiasco wrapped in the scandals, without clear structure of work.</p> <p>BiH Civil Affairs Minister <b>Safet Halilovic</b> also confirms that there are some mistakes around CIPS: <i>“There are some people [included in the project] unnecessarily, there are some we don't even know who are they, or why they are here. International community also bears the part of the responsibility for things happening.”</i></p>
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<p>Re-naming of RS cities with prefix "Serb"</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> cover and pg 3 'Serb Sarajevo named Sarajevo – Istok' by <u>D. Risojevic</u> – NN source close to BiH Constitutional Court claims that the BiH Constitutional Court has decided to re-name Serb Sarajevo into Sarajevo-Istok, while the remaining municipalities and cities in RS with debatable prefix "Serb" would be re-named after the neighbouring settlements. NN source further claims that this is a temporary change, which will not be put into effect at all, unless RS NA failed to harmonise the names of cities. BiH Constitutional Court will announce this decision today. <b>Remzija Kadric</b>, Chairperson of the RS NA Council of Peoples, welcomed this decision of BiH CC.</p> <p><b>Drago Bundalo</b>, Kostajnica Mayor, expressed dissatisfaction over this decision.</p> <p>NN further carries statements of <b>Slaven Pekic and Miroslav Mikes</b> as well (see below).</p> <p>According to GS, <b>Dusan Stojicic</b>, RS NA Speaker, says that RS NA has not breached deadline, noting it has decided to remove prefix "Serb" from the name of Serb Sarajevo and re-name it into Sarajevo of RS.</p> <p><b>EuroBlic</b> cover and RSpG 1 'Authority of BiH Constitutional Court debated' by <u>Tijana Veselinovic</u> – <b>Slaven Pekic</b>, RS Minister of local self-governance denied BIH Constitutional Court's position that RS Parliament failed to accomplish its obligations within the given deadline when it comes to change of names of towns with prefix Srpski. He said that the last decision of BIH Constitutional Court was not submitted to RS Government and RS National Assembly, and he said that all obligations were accomplished within the given period of three months. He debates the wording of the decision, which marked RS Council of People and RS NA as legislators, noting that Council of Peoples has not been mentioned in initial decision at all.</p> <p>Minister <b>Pekic</b> noted that this decision of BiH Constitutional Court raises the issue of authority of the Court – namely, whether the Court is allowed to impose names of the cities and municipalities. He demanded an urgent meeting with the RS President and RS NA Speaker in order to discuss the latest developments on this matter.</p> <p>Furthermore, legal experts from RS assess that <i>"BiH CC has no authority to impose names, but instead only to review whether such names are in accordance with the BiH Constitution"</i>.</p> <p><b>Miroslav Mikes</b>, RS Council of Peoples Co-Chair, says that BiH Constitutional Court has sent a clear message to RS authorities that all "debatable" names of cities should have pre-war names of the cities.</p> <p>According to <b>EuroBlic</b>, the temporary names of the cities are: Serb Sarajevo renamed into Sarajevo Istok, Serb Gorazde into Ustipraca, Serb Kljuc into Ribnik, Srbinje into Foca, Serb Kostajnica into Kostajnica and Serb Brod into Bosanski Brod.</p> <p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'BiH Constitutional Court to announce temporary names today' also covered the issue.</p>
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<p><b>RS Helsinki Committee Chair meets with RS Chief Prosecutor</b></p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> cover and pg 4 'Government is obstructing judiciary' by P. Klincov –<b>Branko Todorovic</b>, President of RS Helsinki Human Rights Board yesterday gave a copy of special NN edition "Crna Bosna" (compiling all the biggest affairs in the past three years in RS and BiH) to <b>Amor Bukic</b>, RS Chief Prosecutor. <b>Todorovic</b> warned that organised crime would destroy society foundations. He said that they wanted to know the ways by which judiciary would more efficiently protect citizens and their property, and he also said that main RS prosecutor introduced him with judiciary reform and the fact that it still has not been accomplished. <b>Bukic</b> noted that RS Government was obliged to, within judiciary reform, ensure accommodation to all six prosecution offices. <b>Bukic</b> said that prosecution officers are working independently and under very difficult conditions. <b>Todorovic</b> noted that in regard to the above, it can be concluded that the authority is intentionally obstructing the work of prosecutor's officer, <i>"in order to ensure that criminals at the top of pyramid – RS Government, Ministries and at local level – evade justice."</i></p>
<p><b>A journalist beaten up in B. Luka</b></p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 18 'Darko Gunjic beaten up'; <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 19 "Assault against freedom of words" – A journalist and presenter at "Big Radio", Banja Luka local radio station, was beaten up in front of his house in Banja Luka on Wednesday night. Three youngsters intercepted <b>Gunjic</b>, swore at <b>Ljubisa Kragulj</b> (the owner of the radio station and a candidate in Banja Luka mayoral run), and threaten to kill <b>Gunjic</b> if he continues with his popular show "Blablaonica". <b>Gunjic</b> and <b>Kragulj</b> yesterday held a press conference in Banja Luka to condemn this attack.</p> <p>The attack was also condemned by Banja Luka Mayor <b>Dragoljub Davidovic</b>, Banja Luka based weekly "Novi Reporter", SDS, SDSD, PDP and the Coordination of BiH Press Associations.</p>