

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 25/2/2006

TV news broadcast on February 24, 2006

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>TV PINK</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BHT 1</b> (19,00 hrs)
Prce gets 1.5 years in prison	Verdicts in the 'Croat self-rule' case	Rallies of support to lawsuit vs. SCG
HNZ on constitutional changes	Conference on the safety of borders	RS NGOs to protest against lawsuit
Dodik on constitutional changes	Milan Lukic pleads not guilty	Feature on lawsuit BiH vs. SCG
HDZ Presidency session	Support for the lawsuit against SCG	Del Ponte on Mladic's arrest

<b>NTV Hayat</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FTV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (19,30 hrs)
Verdicts in the 'Croat self-rule' case	Statistics on prices in February	Agreement on constitutional changes
Support to the lawsuit against SCG	Problems of farmers in Posavina	New candidate for RS Education Min.
50 BiH women left for The Hague	Program of loans for small business	Murder in Cukovci
War crimes trials in The Hague , BG	Interest free loans in RS	Trial to Prce and Curcic ends

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	Dragomir Andan, RS Police Director: No arrest of Mladic for time being!
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	Dr. Ivo Komsic, SDU Vice President: Tihic and Lagumdzija are part of plot against BiH

<b>Dnevni List</b>	Prce gets year and half, Curcic acquitted (verdict in 'Cro self-rule' case)
<b>Vecernji List</b>	All Mesic's gems (about popularity of Croatian President Mesic)
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	Prce gets 18 months, Curcic acquitted (verdict in 'Cro self-rule' case)

<b>Mladic Arrest/War Crimes/BiH Lawsuit v SCG</b>	
EU Foreign Ministers to warn SCG on Monday over cooperation with ICTY	<b>RHB</b> – EU Foreign Affairs Ministers will warn SCG on Monday on possible cancellation of (SAA) negotiations unless SCG arrests <b>Ratko Mladic</b> immediately. (similar report by <b>Pink TV</b> )

<p>Serbian PM Kostunica: Serbia doing all it can to arrest Mladic; Deputy Pm Labus: Nothing will happen in next 3 days SCG Chief for Cooperation with ICTY Ljajic expects Mladic will be arrested soon</p>	<p><b>RTRS</b> – Serbian PM <b>Vojislav Kostunica</b> stated that Serbian Government is doing all in its power to complete the remaining ICTY obligations. Deputy PM <b>Mirosljub Labus</b> stated that according to his information, nothing would happen in the following 3 days. According to <b>Oslobodjenje</b>, pgs 4-5 ‘Kostunica begging from EU to extend deadline for Serbia’, by <u>B. Boskov</u> – Kostunica’s statement can be seen as a sort of an appeal to the EU to extend the deadline to Belgrade (regarding full cooperation with the ICTY). Daily also carries Labus, who believes the EU will not suspend negotiations with Serbia on Monday, instead the EU will issue the strongest warning to Belgrade. <b>Nezavisne Novine</b>, pg 4, mentioned on front ‘Ljajic announced imminent arrest of Mladic’, by <u>agencies</u> – carries statements by Kostunica and Labus (as above) as well as statement by the Chief of SCG National Council for Cooperation with ICTY, <b>Rasim Ljajic</b>, who expressed hope that Mladic would be before the ICTY soon. <i>“The competent services have never been as dedicated to arrest of Mladic as it is the case now. The efforts will bring results, otherwise the April round of talks with EU could be cancelled”</i>, said Ljajic. NN also reports that the Dutch Foreign Ministry denied the Dutch press agency ‘ANP’s’ report that the Dutch Foreign Minister <b>Bernard Bot</b> was told by his collocutors during his recent visit to Belgrade that negotiations with Mladic were ongoing.</p>
<p>Chief ICTY Prosecutor del Ponte for BBC: Signs are Mladic could be arrested soon</p>	<p><b>Pink TV, BHT, Dnevni Avaz</b>, pg 2 ‘Next few days will be crucial’, by <u>E. Sarac</u> – Numerous rumours about the apprehension of an ICTY indictee <b>Ratko Mladic</b> could be the sign that he would be really arrested soon, Chief ICTY Prosecutor <b>Carla Del Ponte</b> stated for BBC. She added that next several days would be decisive.</p>

<p>RS Police Director Andan for Oslobodjenje: Mladic will not be arrested for time being</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b>, front pg splash and pgs 4-5 'No arrest of Mladic for time being!', by <u>Avdo Avdic</u> – carries the Director of RS Police, <b>Dragomir Andan</b>, who confirmed for the daily that he was talking to <b>Ratko Mladic's</b> family and friends for a few days in Belgrade (<b>NB:</b> Andan returned to Banja Luka on Friday). <i>"I was in Belgrade for past few days. I was visiting Mladic's family. I talked to some of general's friends too. There will be no arrest (of Mladic) for time being"</i>, said Andan in what Oslobodjenje described as <i>"angry tone"</i>. However, Oslobodjenje claims to have learned from a senior official of the RS MoI that <i>"Andan did not manage to agree with Mladic and his friends whether the general would be deported to The Hague from Serbia or the RS. On top of this, they could not reach an agreement about the amount of money Mladic's family would receive as compensation"</i>. The source also notes that Andan informed the RS Interior Minister, <b>Darko Matijasevic</b>, about the Belgrade talks during their meeting in Banja Luka on Friday.</p>
<p>Serb Radical Party organizes protests in Serbia, calls on Mladic and Karadzic not to surrender</p>	<p><b>BHT</b> – Serb Radical Party (SRS) of Serbia organised gatherings in Belgrade, where about 8 thousand citizens called upon <b>Radovan Karadzic</b> and <b>Ratko Mladic</b> not to surrender to ICTY. The party announced mass protests in case that Serbian authorities arrest Mladic. <b>Hayat</b> – reports on protests from Belgrade and adds that some media speculate that the information on the apprehension of Mladic has deliberately not yet been announced because Serbian officials fear that it would provoke violent protests. (report on protests also by <b>RTRS</b>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b>, pg 2 Radicals called on Karadzic and Mladic not to surrender', by <u>Onasa</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b>, pg 4 'Protests by radicals in Belgrade', by <u>D. V.</u>)</p>

<p>Hayat feature on Mladic arrest: Information and misinformation piling up</p>	<p><b>Hayat</b> – Report by <u>Senka Hadzovic</u>, from Eagle’ base near Tuzla – Information and misinformation about the apprehension of <b>Ratko Mladic</b> does not ever seem to stop and, according to Hayat presenter, the only outcome is the fact that even more foreign journalists came to BiH. Hayat journalist, reporting live from somewhere near the (NATO’s) ‘Eagle’ base near Tuzla , tried to sum up the speculations of international media. For example, British ‘Daily Telegraph’ reported that Mladic was located and apprehended on Mount Cer . According to Hayat reporter, three airplanes landed in ‘Eagle’ base at 1145 hrs on Friday; those were two small airplanes and one big US military airplane, but reporter was not able to find out what, or who, those airplanes were carrying.</p>
<p>ICTY: War crimes suspects Lukic says he is not guilty for war crimes from Visegrad</p>	<p><b>Pink, RHB, BHT, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje</b>, g 3 ‘Milan Lukic: I am not guilty’, by <u>fena</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b>, pg 12 ‘Milan Lukic denies responsibility for cruel murders in Visegrad’, by <u>agencies</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b>, pg 3, mentioned on front ‘Lukic claims he is not guilty’, by <u>Beta</u> – During his first appearance before the ICTY, <b>Milan Lukic</b> pleaded not guilty to the indictment for war crimes committed in Visegrad during the war in BiH. Lukic is indicted for persecution, murders and inhuman acts committed in Visegrad between May 1992 and October 1994. Lukic was arrested in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2005, and was transferred to The Hague the other day.</p>

BiH lawsuit  
against SCG  
starts on Feb  
27: Meetings  
of support to  
lawsuit in  
several BiH  
towns and  
cities

**Pink** – The main court hearing on the BiH lawsuit against Serbia-Montenegro for aggression and genocide is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Peaceful rallies in support of the BiH lawsuit against SCG were organized in Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zenica, Cazin, Mostar, Travnik and Gorazde on Friday; those rallies were organized by veterans' associations that operate in FBiH. It is estimated that approximately 10.000 persons participated in the rallies. Members of various missing persons-related associations departed for The Hague on Friday. They will hold a meeting of support to the lawsuit in The Hague on Sunday. According to Pink presenter, it is expected that the verdict of the ICJ would establish the character of the war in BiH, the exact number of killed persons, as well as the material damage. **BHT** – Reporter notes that there were no politicians or officials at the rallies, stressing that the demands of gathered persons were expressed in a very civilised and dignified manner. **FTV** – Reporter noted that despite of public invitations, there were only few politicians and officials at the gathering. **RTRS** – Reporter comments that politicians were not present at the gathering in Sarajevo and adds that it was concluded without incidents. (Also reported by **Hayat, Oslobodjenje**, pg 3, mentioned on front 'Justice and not to be forgotten, not hatred and revenge', by S. Sehercehajic, **Dnevni Avaz**, pg 8, mentioned on front 'Justice is only guarantee crime will not happen again', by E. D. A., **Dnevni List**, pg 5, mentioned on front 'Thousands of citizens for justice in The Hague', by Mensud Zorlak, **Vecernji List**, pg 7 'Meeting of support to BiH lawsuit', by em, **Nezavisne Novine**, pg 2, mentioned on front 'Meeting of support to BiH lawsuit against SCG held', by R. Rakic)

NGOs from RS disapprove of BiH lawsuit v SCG	<b>BHT</b> – Several NGOs from RS have announced protests that will be held next week, as sign of their disapproval of the lawsuit BiH filed against Serbia and Montenegro.
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<b>Constitutional Changes Talks</b>	
SNSD's Dodik: Agreement on constitutional changes is good and functional	<b>RHB</b> – SNSD Chair <b>Milorad Dodik</b> stated that agreement on constitutional changes in BiH was functional and good. Dodik also stated that he wasn't officially informed about the signing of agreement on Sunday in Sarajevo and added that internal agreement was made about it thus meaning that political officials will meet in Sarajevo to initial the agreement in the following days. <b>FTV</b> – Dodik stated that the agreement on constitutional changes is not harmful for BiH state, the entities or any of the peoples. Dodik also said that it was very important for the RS parties to preserve the entity vote and the authority of BiH House of Peoples to decide on vital national interests of all peoples.

<p>SBiH presents its draft Constitution of BiH, says agreed changes lead to dissolution of BiH</p>	<p><b>Hayat</b> – Report by <u>Snjezana Mulic</u> – The talks on constitutional changes were supposed to be completed by the end of this week. However, NTV Hayat unofficially learns that the signing of the agreement on constitutional changes in BiH will be postponed for next week. In addition to that, it is possible that some significant political parties will refuse to sign the agreement, which means that it will be impossible to adopt the constitutional changes in BiH Parliament. Discontent with the outcome of talks on constitutional changes, SBiH decided to offer its own draft BiH Constitution. President of SBiH Presidency <b>Safet Halilovic</b>, who participated in the talks on constitutional changes, stated that proposed changes to the BiH Constitution lead toward final and definitive dissolution of BiH. Therefore, explained Halilovic, SBiH decided to present its own constitutional platform. According to the platform, BiH would be a state divided into regions instead of entities, and with only one president. Although representatives of SBiH claim that they have presented their draft BiH Constitution to other parties that participated in talks on constitutional changes, HDZ – at least according to their Spokesperson <b>Miso Relota</b> – does not know anything about it. In a short telephone statement for NTV Hayat, Relota confirmed that the agreement on constitutional changes would be signed probably sometime next week, instead of Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>FTV</b> – Halilovic announced that SBiH is going to send its draft Constitution to regular parliament procedure. In this way, said Halilovic, SBiH is opening a public discussion on constitutional changes and makes the current negotiations more transparent and open for all citizens. (also reported by <b>Oslobodjenje</b>, pg 6, mentioned on front ‘Agreed changes lead to divisions’, by <u>A. Omeragic</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b>, pg 4, mentioned on front ‘Adopted solutions will lead to dissolution of BiH’, by <u>E. Sarac</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 2 ‘Draft Constitution presented’, <u>not signed</u>,</p>
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<p>Avaz interview: SDU's Komsic says agreed changes are disastrous for BiH, blames Tihic and Lagumdzija for possible outcome of talks</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b>, front pg splash and pg 5 'Tihic and Lagumdzija are part of plot against BiH', by <u>Husein Orahovac</u> – daily carries an interview with Vice President of SDU, <b>Ivo Komsic</b>, who slams the recently adopted agreement of political parties on constitutional changes (that was reached last Sunday between representatives of SDS, SNSD, PDP, SDA and SDP), saying it is <i>"a disaster for future of state of BiH"</i> because it, according to Komsic, strengthens the entities at expense of the state, which is especially evident in preservation of the entity vote (in the BiH House of Representatives). Komsic notes that everyone at the beginning of the process of constitutional changes, including the US Under Secretary of State, <b>Nicholas Burns</b>, stated the changes should lead towards a more functional state, which did not happen. <i>"(...) Eventually, <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> and <b>Zlatko Lagumdzija</b> agree to strengthening of entities at the expense of BiH state. In my opinion, what we have here is an international plot against BiH, in which both Lagumdzija and Tihic agreed to be a part of"</i>, said Komsic, who also criticized the fact the agreement was reached without representatives of the Croat people.</p>
<p>HDZ wants guarantees that Croats will be able to elect their Presidency member</p>	<p><b>RHB</b> – HDZ Presidency held a session on Friday. HDZ Spokesman <b>Miso Relota</b> stated that pre-election activity of HDZ was discussed at the session as well as talks on constitutional changes. As far as talks on constitutional changes are concerned, Relota says that HDZ will continue the talks and will insist on certain agreement when it comes to state level. He continues by saying that agreement made by Serb and Bosniak parties when it comes to election of BIH Presidency and his 2 deputies is unacceptable. HDZ feels that with this agreement, the Croat people have no guarantees that their representative will be elected in BIH Presidency. Relota concluded by saying that HDZ will propose for BIH to be one election unit when it comes to election of BIH President and his deputies. (also in <b>Oslobodjenje</b>, pg 6 'Talks on constitutional changes will continue', <u>not signed</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 8 'Offered solutions unacceptable', <u>not signed</u>)</p>

HDZ's Covic: Two-entity BiH is unacceptable	<b>BHT</b> – HDZ President <b>Dragan Covic</b> stated that the two-entity BiH was absolutely unacceptable and unsustainable. He added that HDZ would accept BiH consisting of three or four federal units. (also reported by <b>RTRS</b> )
HDZ spokesman Relota: Party wants assurances lower levels of authority would be discussed too	<b>RTRS</b> – Report by <u>Nada Arlov</u> – It seems that agreement on constitutional changes in BiH will be signed next week but the signature of Croat representatives is questionable. HDZ Spokesman <b>Miso Relota</b> stated that HDZ and HNZ would sign the agreement if they are promised that discussion on other, lower levels of authorities is opened after elections in October. (similar statement also in <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> , pg 4 'About middle level of authority after elections', by <u>F. V.</u> )
HNZ's Brkic: We will not accept two-entity order, entity voting	<b>RHB</b> – HNZ Chair <b>Miljenko Brkic</b> stated that HNZ would not sign the agreement on constitutional changes proposed by Serb and Bosniak parties. Brkic stressed that HNZ would not leave the negotiations, however it would insist on agreement suitable for all 3 sides. He added that it seemed that SDA now accepts the so-called entity voting in BiH Parliament. <i>"We will not accept 2-entity order of BiH as well as entity voting"</i> , stressed Brkic. (similar report by <b>RTRS</b> , <b>FTV</b> , <b>Oslobodjenje</b> , pg 6 'Equal rights to all three peoples', by <u>fena</u> , <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> , pg 4 'SDA leader was explicit that he would not accept entity voting', by <u>fena</u> , <b>Vecernji List</b> , pg 6 'Burns comes to BiH to apply pressure', by <u>Zoran Kresic</u> ) <b>Dnevni List</b> , pg 7 'HNZ will not sign constitutional changes', by <u>Dario Pusic</u> – carries similar statement by HNZ Vice President <b>Mate Bandur</b> .
VL: US Under Secretary Burns will attend final meeting of political leaders, talks to continue next week	<b>Vecernji List</b> , pg 6 'Burns comes to BiH to apply pressure', by <u>Zoran Kresic</u> – VL learns that the US Under Secretary of State, <b>Nicholas Burns</b> , will attend the final meeting of leaders of 8 BiH political parties, which should be reaching an agreement on constitutional changes. VL says it is expected that Burns will reminds the parties about the obligations they had taken upon in Washington. VL also learns from 'political circles' that the continuation of constitutional changes talks will most likely happen next week, and not this Sunday as earlier announced by SDA President, <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> .

<p>NN: Constitutional amendments to be signed on Sunday</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b>, pg 5 '150 amendments agreed upon', by <u>S. Gojkovic, V. Popovic</u> – Unlike VL, NN notes that leaders of major BiH parties will sign the agreement on constitutional changes tomorrow (Sunday), the agreement that includes 150 amendments to the BiH Constitution.</p>
<p>Smaller Croat parties call on HDZ not to sign proposed constitutional changes</p>	<p><b>FTV</b> – Croat Coalition for Changes (<b>NB:</b> it gathers several small Croat parties, the HSS, HDU, Croat Christian Democrats and HKDU) rejects the procedure of negotiations on constitutional changes that evades the parliament, BiH Constitutional Court and citizens. The Coalition doesn't approve the suggested changes because for Croats, they are worse than the present constitutional solutions. The Coalition invited HDZ and NHI not to sign the agreement, Croat members of BiH HoR to vote against it, and members of HoP to launch the procedure of protection of vital national interest over the agreement on constitutional changes. (also in <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 6 'Forced changes are fatal for Croats', by <u>D. P. Mandić</u>)</p>

Political Developments	
<p>OHR: Position regarding PBS law remains the same</p>	<p><b>RHB, BHT, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz</b>, pg 9 'Position on Public RTV system will not be changed because of Jovic's initiative', <u>not signed</u> – OHR stressed that it hasn't changed its position regarding request of BiH Presidency Chairman <b>Ivo Miro Jovic</b> to BiH Constitutional Court (BiH CC) on constitutionality of PBS law. OHR reminded that BiH must fulfil the requests set by EU if it wants to become its member therefore it has to adopt a set of laws related to PBS. OHR Spokesman <b>Oleg Milisic</b> stated that BiH officials could send requests to BiH CC after which BiH CC as an independent institution decides upon requests accordingly.</p>

<p>EC's Humphreys welcomes adoption of 'EU Partnership Programme' by BiH CoM</p>	<p><b>BHT, Oslobodjenje</b>, pg 2 'Document for Europe', <u>not signed</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 6 'Fast reactions by BiH authorities', <u>not signed</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b>, pg 9 'BiH closer to EU', by <u>R. S.</u> – Delegation of the EC in BiH welcomed the adoption of Programme for Implementation of "EU Partnership Programme" by BiH Council of Ministers. This document represents a response of BiH authorities to the EU document "EU Partnership". Chief of EC Delegation in BiH <b>Michael Humphreys</b> stated that the EU Partnership programme for BiH defines the middle-term and short-term priorities that will lead BiH one step forward in the process of EU integration.</p>
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Dodik on new RS Govt: OHR objected to appointment of Stevo Pasalic, new candidate appointed; Dodik does not want SDP to appoint one Serb and one Bosniak minister

**RTRS** – RS PM-designate **Milorad Dodik** stated that he submitted the name of **Antun Kasipovic** as new candidate for RS Minister of Education to the OHR, since the OHR objected to appointment of **Stevo Pasalic** from PDP to this position. PDP stressed that their candidate would be appointed for position of RS Minister of Labour and Veterans. **Oslobodjenje**, pg 2 ‘Even without SDP, Government has support’, by O. V. – carries Dodik regarding Kasipovic appointment, and he also noted that an agreement with SDP on participation of SDP’s ministers in the new RS Government should be reached by Saturday (today). He also noted that even without SDP’s votes, the new Government has enough votes in the RSNA. Dodik listed the following names as certain members of his future cabinet: **Milan Jelic** (Economy), **Aleksandar Dzombic** (Finances), **Stanislav Cadjo** (Interior), **Nedjeljko Cubrilovic** (Traffic and Communications), **Omer Visic** (Justice), **Omer Brankovic** (Refugees and DPs) and **Ranko Skrbic** (Healthcare). **Hayat** – carries Dodik regarding Kasipovic appointment. **Dnevni Avaz**, pg 13 ‘Milorad Dodik does not want ministers from SDP’, by N. Diklic – carries Dodik as saying regarding issue of appointment of SDP-backed ministers: *“They (SDP) do not give up the demand to appoint a Serb and a Bosniak for two ministers. Considering that I have to abide the national balance as stipulated in the RS Constitution, I cannot agree to it”*. Article also carries names of future minister (as in above article) with addition of: **Nebojsa Radmanovic** (Local administration and self-governance) and **Fatima Fetihbegovic** (Physical Planning). (also covered by **Nezavisne Novine**, pg 5 ‘Milorad Dodik expects support of 48 MPs’ and inset ‘Kasipovic candidate for education minister’, by V. Popovic)

## Judicial Proceedings/Fight Against Crime

<p>Verdict in 'Croat self-rule' case reached: Prce sentenced to 18 months, Curcic acquitted</p>	<p><b>FTV</b> – <u>Sinan Saric</u> – The trial against former FBiH Minister of Defence <b>Miroslav Prce</b> and former FBiH Army deputy commander general <b>Dragan Curcic</b> before BiH Court ended on Friday. Prce and Curcic were indicted of office and authority abuse and undermining of FBiH's military and defence capacities in the "Croat self-rule" case. Prce has been found guilty of office and authority abuse for making the illegal decision to disband the Croat component of the FBiH Army in March 2001. He has been sentenced to one year and six months in prison. Curcic has been acquitted of all charges. Judge <b>Pietro Spera</b> stated that there was no sufficient evidence for Prce and Curcic's attempt to undermine FBiH's military and defence capacities. Third indictee in "Croat self-rule" case is <b>Ante Jelavic</b>, who escaped to Croatia after he had been sentenced in the "Hercegovacka banka" case. <b>RHB</b> – Prce was also sentenced to 5 years in prison in the 'Hercegovacka banka' case so he will have to spend 6 years in prison. <b>Hayat</b> Report by <u>Snjezana Mulic</u> – Hayat summed up all the events that led to this verdict: BiH was on the verge of another war in spring 2001, when HDZ refused to recognize the results of the elections, and newly elected authorities. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2001, Croat Parliament in Mostar made a decision on establishing so-called 'Croat self-rule' in BiH; two days later, former BiH Presidency member <b>Jelavic</b> decided that the Croat component of the FBiH Army should be disbanded, and Prce and Curcic only confirmed that decision. (verdict was also covered by <b>RTRS, Pink, BHT, Oslobodjenje</b>, pg 7, mentioned on front 'Prce gets six years, Curcic acquitted', by <u>A. S.</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b>, pg 10 'Prce gets year and half, Curic acquitted of charges', by <u>Aj. D.</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, front pg splash and pg 3 'Prce gets year and half, Curcic acquitted', by <u>Erna Mackic</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 9 'Prce gets one more year of imprisonment', by <u>Dejan Jazvic</u>, <b>Nezavine Novine</b>, front pg splash and pg 3 'Prce gets 18 months, Curcic acquitted', by <u>A. Durmo</u>)</p>
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<p>Interior Ministers from SE Europe sign Declaration on Safety of Inter-State Borders</p>	<p><b>Pink</b> – Ministers of Interior and Security from the region signed on Friday in Sarajevo the ministerial Declaration on Safety of Inter-State Borders in South-eastern Europe. Ministers from BiH, Albania, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia-Montenegro took part in the third annual ministerial conference on the safety of inter-state borders. <i>“We have emphasized the importance of joint patrols and joint investigations. Simply, in this globalised world it is not possible to successfully fight crime, especially the inter-state crime, if we do not have joint investigations, joint points of contact and the joint network of liaison officers. That is something countries in this region simply have to do”</i>, BiH Minister of Security <b>Barisa Colak</b> stated after the ministerial conference. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b>, pg 10 ‘We need joint patrols at borders with SCG’, by <u>T. Lazovic</u> – carries Minister Colak who stresses the problem of porous borders between BiH and SCG since SCG authorities are not controlling the borders properly. (signing of Declaration also reported by <b>BHT, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje</b>, pg 2 ‘Safer borders in region’, by <u>A. T.</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b>, pg 3 ‘Joint patrols and police investigations agreed upon’, by <u>M. C.</u>)</p>
<p>Vitez: Police raids night clubs suspected of involvement in human trafficking</p>	<p><b>BHT</b> – <u>Boris Grubesic</u> – Last Saturday, police raided several night-clubs in the Vitez area and found 16 girls who are believed to be victims of people trafficking. 6 persons suspected of trafficking have been arrested. The girls have been brought to safety of shelters. BHT1 showed exclusive video of police raids in the night clubs.</p>

## Economy



BiH  
Statistics  
Agency on  
impact of  
introduction  
of VAT:  
Analysis  
show that  
prices have  
slightly  
gone down in  
February

**Pink** – Report by Aida Hasanbegovic – BiH Agency for Statistics conducted the second round of control of prices after the Value Added Tax introduction. The analysis was carried out between February 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in 11 BiH cities and towns (5 in FBiH and 6 in RS), and the prices of 25 basic products and public utilities services were controlled. Prices in FBiH have decreased by approximately one percent, while in RS the decrease is about 1,5 percent, explained **Edin Sabanovic**, expert from the BiH Agency for Statistics. According to BiH Council of Minister Chair **Adnan Terzic**'s adviser for economic issues, **Zlatko Hurtic**, more significant decrease of prices is expected in April, when all the prices should be on the same level as before the VAT introduction. Agency for statistics also made the analysis of the consumers' basket for the four-members family, which includes 19 basic products: such consumers' basket costs approximately 227 KM in FBiH, and 215 KM in RS. (similar reports by **RHB**, **BHT**, **Hayat**, **FTV**, **Oslobodjenje**, pg 2, mentioned on front 'Prices in February are on slight decrease', by A. Omeragic, **Dnevni Avaz**, pg 10 'Slight decrease in prices in comparison to January', not signed, **Dnevni List**, pg 8 'Price of basic groceries going down', by D. P. Mandic, **Nezavisne Novine**, pg 9 'Items slightly cheaper than in January', by R. Cengic)