

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 26/1/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 26 January

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (12,00hrs)	<b>BH Radio 1</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (12,00 hrs)
Rugova funeral today at 1500	Negotiations on SAA continued	RS NA to hold session
CRO parties on constitutional talks	RSNA session to commence	Ashdown's interview to NN
BiH CoM on VAT law	RS Budget executed in whole	Gaza update

TV news broadcast on 25 January

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00hrs)	<b>TV PINK</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BHT 1</b> (19,00 hrs)
BiH to reduce use of electricity, gas	First round of negotiations with EU	SAA talks with EU started
BiH starts SAA talks with the EU	Tihic called for consultative meeting	Priebe and Davidovic on SAA talks
Mtg of Croat pol. Parties on Const.	Session of RS Government	Update on "Scorpions" trial
Public discussion in Mostar	Paddy Ashdown on his work	Commission on Palic case formed

<b>NTV Hayat</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FTV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (19,30 hrs)
BiH starts SAA talks with the EU	SAA talks with EU started	Paravac's request
Davidovic on SAA talks	Three men indicted of tax evasion	First round of negotiations with EU

Situation with gas supplies in BiH	BiH citizen arrested in Bangkok	Ivanic regarding visa regime
Sarajevo Canton Govt in session	Ashdown visits Srebrenica	Regional News

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	Europe monitors reforms
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	Priebe: Well started
<b>Dnevni List</b>	BiH citizen arrested because of falsifying
<b>Vecernji List</b>	Those who were singled out : Mesic is inventing stories
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	After increase of salaries bankruptcy in October (on strike of WHC teachers)
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	[ SAA] Talks started
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	Vanja in the world of icons (gift of primary school pupil from Visegrad)
<b>EuroBlic</b>	19 funerals in one day (funerals of victims of train accident in Montenegro)
<b>Vecernje novosti</b>	Even the hills are mourning (funerals of victims of train accident in Montenegro)

<b>LATEST NEWS OF TODAY</b>
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<p>RS NA holds session on RS Government</p>	<p><b>SRNA</b> – Special session of RS National Assembly, during which the vote of no confidence to the RS Government should be cast, has started at 12.30 in Banja Luka. <b>BH Radio 1</b> by <u>Gordan Milosevic</u>– Reporter says that prior to the session, both sides – SNSD who initiated the discussion and SDS – claimed to have majority. According to reporter, key votes would be those of two deputies of Socialist Party and of one deputy from Democratic People's Union (DNS). <b>RTRS</b> notes it remains uncertain whether 3 DNS and 2 SP MP's would vote for overthrowing of RS Government.</p>
<p>RS Fin. Minister Cenik: RS budget fully executed w/out foreign loans/aids, proving Govt's competence</p>	<p>RTRS – Svetlana Cenik, RS Finance Minister, stated that the RS budget for 2005 (of BAM 945 million) has been fully executed without foreign loans and aids. At today's press conference in Banja Luka, Cenik stressed such case of full execution of budget has not been recorded over the past years. BH Radio 1 – Cenik added that this shows that RS Government lead by RS Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic has worked responsibly and by the law. <i>"If someone says that this Government is incompetent, then should prove how... is it possible for a government with such results to be incompetent,"</i> commented Cenik.</p>
<p>BH CC: Paravac' motion gives no reason for priority status</p>	<p>RTRS – The motion filed by Borislav Paravac regarding assessment on constitutionality of BH suit against SiCG gives no specific reason owing to which BH Constitutional Court should discuss this issue as a priority, stated the BH CC' Registrar, Haris Vehabovic.</p>

## Beginning of SAA talks

Negotiations on SAA between BiH and EU officially started in Sarajevo

**BHT1**— First round of negotiations with the EU on Stabilisation and Association Agreement started in Sarajevo on Wednesday. The talks focused on BiH's cooperation with the EU and the countries in the region, and the financial support to be provided for BiH. EU representatives announced that they would continue to monitor process of reforms implementation stressing the financial aid would depend on their success. Officials agreed that the initial draft of the SAA with BiH would be the same as the Agreement signed by Croatia, SCG and Macedonia, with general conditions adjusted to the specific situation in BiH. In order to complete the negotiations, BiH is expected to continue with process of reforms in public administration sector, police and public broadcasting, but also to improve the cooperation with ICTY. Talks would continue on Thursday. The next round of talks is scheduled for March 17 with the main topic of free trade. **RHB, PINK, FTV, Hayat, Oslobodjenje** cover splash, pg 3 'Europe monitors reforms' by M.K.S., **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'First round without disputes' by T.Lazovic, **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Step by step' by Z.Domazet, **Dnevni List** pg 3 'EU monitors reform processes' by D. Polovina Mandic, **Vecernji List** pg 7 'Encouraging beginning of negotiating process' by eme – covered the opening of negotiations.

EC Chief  
Negotiator  
Priebe hopes  
that SAA  
talks would  
not be stopped  
due to lack of  
reforms

**Nezavisne Novine** cover pg splash 'Talks started', pg 3 'Talks between BiH and EU start' by M.Cubro – Chief SAA negotiator for the EU, **Reinhardt Priebe** said that EU can withdraw financial aid to BiH unless the cooperation with the Hague Tribunal is full, adding: *"I believe that if we had to, we would suspend further talks rather than withdrawing aid."* Reiterating that talks should end within a year-time, Priebe announced that the Reforms Monitoring Team would today make an assessment into the progress achieved in the reform process in police, PBS and cooperation with the ICTY. The Monitoring Team will be making assessments on reform progress parallel to flow of negotiations, i.e. failure to implement reforms would equate with suspension of negotiations.

**Dnevni Avaz** cover splash, pg 5, 'Priebe: Well started' by Sead Numanovic – In an interview for DA, Priebe said that talks could end by the end of the year, adding that it is offer of EC that should stimulate BiH for maximum engagement. **RHB, BHT 1, FTV, Oslobodjenje** cover splash, pg 3 'Europe monitors reforms' by M.K.S., **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'First round without disputes' by T.Lazovic – carried similar statements by Priebe.

<p>Chief BiH negotiator Davidovic: negotiations constructive;</p> <p>Chief EU negotiator Priebe: EU financial aid to depend on reforms</p>	<p><b>RTRS – Igor Davidovic</b>, Chief SAA Negotiator for BiH, expressed optimism following the beginning of the talks on Wednesday adding that more serious subjects and issues lay in front of BiH.</p> <p><i>“Negotiations were conducted in very constructive atmosphere. Personally, I am very satisfied with start of negotiations, I am very satisfied with ways and methods of work during negotiations, with mutual understanding of two negotiation teams,”</i> said Davidovic. <b>RTRS</b> late news – Davidovic adds that BiH also has to present to EU the mechanism it will employ to implement SAA, repeating EU does not condition BiH with cooperation with ICTY, but certainly wants BiH to cooperate. He stressed that negotiations would take around one year while ratification of the agreement would take around two years. <b>RHB, PINK, FTV, BHT1, Hayat</b>– also carries Davidovic.</p>
<p>OHR on SAA talks: leaders have to show responsibility</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 ‘BiH leaders have to show responsibility’- OHR Spokesperson <b>Sanela Tunovic</b> stated that High Representative <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> has invited BiH leaders to show responsibility and take initiative, in order to maintain the SAA process on the right path. Tuovic stressed that losing of SAA by the end of the year would be a huge step ahead for BiH on its way toward full integrations.</p>

<p>Tihic welcomes beginning of SAA talks, regrets const. changes were not agreed beforehand</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b> pg 3 'EU monitors reform processes' by <u>D. Polovina Mandic</u> – Commenting the beginning of SAA talks, the BiH Presidency member <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> says: <i>'This is extremely important day, however I am sorry that before the beginning of the negotiations with the EU we cannot inform the EC that we reached an agreement on constitutional changes. If we have managed to achieve this goal we would have proved that BiH politicians can take over responsibility and that the OHR should reduce powers and influence of the International Community.'</i> Another DL inset 'By end of year in lobby of EU' carries <b>Safet Halilovic</b> from SBiH as saying that through contacts with the IC they have learnt that these talks in the first phase could finish and the agreement could be signed as early as during this year.</p>
<p>DL op-ed questions whether BiH is ready to join Euro-Atlantic integration</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b> pg 3 'Numerous BiH negotiations' by <u>I. Rozic</u> comments on the beginning of the negotiations on SAA and the author says that one of the main pre-requisites to join the Euro-Atlantic integration is introduction of the European legislative and its consistent implementation in BiH. According to the author, this might be a problem since only the laws, that the state benefits from such as the recently adopted Law on VAT, are being consistently implemented, while the situation is quite different when human rights issues are in question.</p>



## Const. changes; turmoil in RS/FBIH Govts; other political stories

SDA leader Tihic invites 'smaller' parties for consultations on const. changes

**PINK** by Aida Hasanbegovic – SDA leader **Sulejman Tihic** invited leaders of “smaller parties” – BOSS, LSD, BiH Free Democrats, E5, Pensioners Party, GDS and BPS – on consultation on constitutional changes. *“I would like to inform them on situation regarding negotiations; I would like to hear their opinions, positions and to share dilemmas that I have, so the finishing part of the negotiations would bring the best decisions. Negotiations are formally in break, but leaders of political parties talk. I expect that talks will be continued and that we will, as we agreed, have one more meeting”* said Tihic. **BHT1– Mirnes Ajanovic** from BOSS urged talks to take place in BiH Parliament. **Lamija Tanovic** from LDS stated that any decisions made quickly and under pressure in the year of elections are unacceptable. **Miro Grabovac** from “Croat Coalition for Changes” stated that the talks on Constitution should return to the state institutions. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 ‘Ajanovic left the meeting, because it was held behind closed doors’ by A.M. – SDU representatives announced earlier that they would not participate in the meeting. **Ajanovic** left the meeting because it was held behind closed doors. **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 ‘Support to continuance of talks on constitutional changes’ by A. O. – also reports on consultations.

HDZ , SD and SBiH discuss possible continuation of const. changes talks; SDP leader Lagumdžija expresses pessimism; US Ambassador McElhaney: is there will to continue?

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'Ajanovic left the meeting, because it was held behind closed doors' by A.M. inset 'Covic for bilateral harmonization' – HDZ, SDA and SBiH leaders met [not specified when] to discuss a possibility for continuation of talks on constitutional changes. HDZ leader **Dragan Covic** deems that such option is sensible but under certain conditions. *"That is, if there is a good will that in regard to 2-3 remaining issues, which we did not solve, everyone comes with it own proposal, which we would try to harmonize bilaterally"* said Covic. He stressed that it would not be productive to sit again and talk for hours, same stories that were told. **PINK** by Aida Hasanbegovic – **Safet Halilovic** of Party for BiH believes that BiH is on the way to Brussels and that BiH will eventually get its Constitution in service of citizens not of nationalistic communities obstructing its development. SDP Leader **Zlatko Lagumdžija** expressed his pessimism on constitutional changes and added that everything goes very slowly. US Ambassador **Douglas McElhaney** said that BiH authorities have huge responsibility toward BiH citizens and should take care of negotiations on constitutional changes." *I see that nobody has really blamed anyone else for the failure of this. The question that I want to explore little bit more tomorrow is whether there is a will to end these agreements"* said McElhaney.

<p>Croat parties mtg on const. changes: Croat Block proposed Croat referendum on BiH organization</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b> pg 5, mentioned on cover 'Organizing of Croat referendum possible' by <u>I. Rozic</u> – At its meeting on the course of constitutional changes held on Wednesday Croat parties passed the joint conclusion according to which the current situation in BiH is not sustainable. According to Croat Block President <b>Mario Vasilj</b>, they concluded that the current division of BiH in two entities and any form of a unitary state is fatal for survival of Croats in BiH. Vasilj also said that his party proposed yesterday organizing of the referendum at which Croats should declare themselves in what kind of state they want to live. Vasilj stressed that the referendum is the most logical solution and he added: <i>'None could dispute the referendum, neither the International Community nor other two peoples.'</i> <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b> pg 23 'Against imposed solutions' by <u>Z. Zekic</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8 'No same stance on constitutional changes' by <u>F.V.</u>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'Still talks on third unit in BiH' by <u>A.B.</u> – also reported on the meeting.</p>
<p>VL: Hays set up commission for constitutional amendments that will be detrimental for Croats</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 7 'L. Topic for amendments', <u>not signed</u> – According to VL, <i>"the American envoy for negotiations on failed constitutional changes in BiH"</i>, <b>Donald Hays</b>, has set up a special expert commission whose task is to make constitutional amendments. VL comments, given that the commission has 4 Bosniak, 3 Serb and 1 Croat representative (<b>Lidija Topic</b>), one can expect the amendments to be detrimental to the Croats.</p>

RSNA holds session on possible no confidence vote to RS Govt; RTRS: SNSD, PDP, DNS, SDA, SBiH, NHI, SRS Vojislav Seslje against Govt

**RTRS** by Marina Marijanovic- As it was previously announced by the RSNA Speaker **Dusan Stojicic**, RS National Assembly on Thursday holds the session on initiative to vote no confidence to the RS Government. According to RTRS, SNSD, PDP, DNS, SDA, SBiH, SDP, NHI, and SRS "Dr. Vojislav Seselj" will cast no confidence vote to the Government. RS Prime Minister **Pero Bukejlovic** announced his plan to reconstruct RS Government following the RSNA session also underlying he expects to be supported by those who elected him.

That provoked reaction of PDP. *"I have already said, and I will repeat it today- Mr. Bukejlovic [cannot count on]... 9 votes of PDP reps. in RSNA,"* said PDP's **Veselin**

**Poljasevic**. DNS expects change of Government.

As RTRS comments, position of RS Socialist Party is not clear as its leader **Petar Djokic** supports SNSD's initiative while official **Nedjo Djuric** says his vote would depend on concepts represented at the session. SNSD is certain it would win majority in RSNA. RTRS

says that SDS, SRS and Club Centre will support present Government. Reporter stressed that SDS called on PDP and SNSD to be of principle and to raise the same initiative of voting no confidence to BiH CoM. **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'Who will get majority?' by Z. Markovic – Reports that SDS, SRS, Centre Club, DA, DPS and former SBiH delegate **Milosava Jakovljevic** (in total 36 delegates) support RS Govt.

**Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'Majority for overthrowing of the Government is ready' announced on cover 'On trust in Government today' by V. Popovic, **EuroBlic** pg RS2 'SNSD: The Government will be overthrown' by Rajna Radosavljevic – also carries.

<p>Both SNSD leader Dodik and PM Bukejlovic claim to have majority in RSNA</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 7 'Both Dodik and Bukejlovic claim they have 42 representatives' by <u>O.Vukovic</u> – SNDS leader <b>Milorad Dodik</b> claims there are more than 42 RSNA representatives [without revealing their parties/names] that would vote no confidence to the Government of RS Prime Minister <b>Pero Bukejlovic</b>, Responding to Bukejlovic's claims that he also has the support of the RSNA majority, Dodik stated that in last two sessions Bukejlovic didn't win majority for any of the Government's decisions and proposals. SDS officials claim that votes of SDA are crucial, since without them there is no majority that would overthrow the Government. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8 'Both Dodik and Bukejlovic announcing majority in RSNA' by <u>N.D.</u> – also carries that both side claim to have 42 votes.</p>
<p>GS: SDA not to support Govt; NN: 45 votes against the Govt</p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 'Who will get majority?' by <u>Z. Markovic</u> – SDA Caucus announced it would not support the Government. GS reads that the fact SDA Caucus Head <b>Tarik Sadovic</b> would not attend the RS NA session might be crucial in preserving the RS Government in its current composition. <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3 'Majority for overthrowing of the Government is ready' announced on cover 'On trust in Government today' by <u>V. Popovic</u> – NW reads 45 delegates (without Sadovic) would support overthrowing of the Government and it carries a statement of SDA's <b>Sefket Hafizovic</b> who confirmed Sadovic's absence would not affect voting of other 5 SDA delegates.</p>

<p>SDS: SDA, SNSD and PDP held secret meeting to overthrow RS Govt</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8 'Know that secret talks have been held' <u>by N.D.</u> – SDS Presidency stated that they know that leaders of SDA, SNSD and PDP held secret meeting to create new coalition for overthrowing current RS Government. SDS invited SDA, SNSD and PDP to raise the issue of no confidence to BiH Council of Ministers.</p>
<p>FBiH Vice PM Grahovac: PM Hadzipasic would suffer consequences; MOL-INA not changing offer</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'Ahmet Hadzipasic will suffer consequences', mentioned on cover <u>by M.Kukan</u> – Commenting statement of the FBiH Prime Minister <b>Ahmet Hadzipasic</b> that Government would continue talks on co-capitalization of 'Energopetrol' with MOL-INA, FBiH Vice PM <b>Gavrilo Grahovac</b> said that Hadzipasic would suffer consequences or take all the credit. Grahovac also stated that Hadzipasic is either way responsible as entire year has been lost since the tender has been announced. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'Don't offer another bid' <u>M.K.</u> – <b>Denis Mohorovic</b>, manager of Consortium MOL-INA said for DA that they would not change their offer for co-capitalization of 'Energopetrol'. FBiH Government offered MOL-INA to pay additional 19 million KM for covering additional debt and for hotel 'Marsal' to be exempted from the tender offer. <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'INA-MOL don't accept conditions of the Energopetrol Commission' <u>by A.Av</u> – also carried the information.</p>

<p>FBiH Vice President Dzihanovic warns Hadzipasic; VL: anti-Croat campaign in Sarajevo resulted with HoR's vote against Govt proposal</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 6 'Hadzipasic is acting as if he owns Energopetrol', by <u>Mensud Zorlak</u> – The FBiH Vice President, <b>Sahbaz Dzihanovic</b>, recommends to Hadzipasic to stop acting as if he owns the company and start solving the problematic issues. Hadzipasic on the other hand is carried as saying that he will not include the 'Energopetrol' issue in the FBiH budget (means for recovery of the company), ruling out a possibility that he will resign from the office. <b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 12 'Energopetrol in bankruptcy because of new debts', by <u>Dejan Jazvic</u> – carries an overview of the case, saying that 'an anti-Croat' campaign in part of the Sarajevo media gave concrete results, namely the FBiH HoR voted against the Governments proposal regarding the co-capitalization. (similar article also in <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 18, mentioned on front '1059 workers will end up on street because of MPs' spite', by <u>Dinko Pasic</u>)</p>
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<p>FBiH Deputy PM Grahovac: No session of Govt before two new ministers appointed; HDZ leader Covic: Heco not to be appointed before Govt restructuring</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 5 'Work of FBiH Government blocked' by <u>A.Terzic</u> – FBiH Prime Minister <b>Ahmet Hadzipasic</b> informed his ministers that there would be no session of FBiH Government on Thursday, due to the fact that <b>Vahid Heco</b> has not been appointed for FBiH Minister of Energy instead of <b>Izet Zigic</b> who resigned over Energopetrol issue. FBiH still lacks minister without portfolio that should replace FBiH Defence Minister. FBiH Deputy PM <b>Gavrilo Grahovac</b> stated that there would be no sessions of Government until FBiH House of Representatives appoints new ministers. Grahovac said: <i>"At this moment, Government has no two ministers which distort national composition."</i> <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 3 'Party leaders have not reached agreement on new ministers' by <u>A.M. -M.K.</u> – HDZ leader <b>Dragan Covic</b> said that they wouldn't allow <b>Vahid Heco</b> to be appointed, before the restructuring within the FBiH Government.</p>
<p>SDP MPs in FBiH Parliament to ask for removal of FBiH President Lozancic</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 4 'SDP and SBIH request removal of Lozancic', by <u>Mensud Zorlak</u> – SDP MPs in the FBiH HoR and FBiH HoP, <b>Nermin Niksic</b> and <b>Svetozar Pudaric</b> respectively, say they will request removal of the FBiH President, <b>Niko Lozancic</b>. Niksic blames Lozancic for the situation in the FBiH Government in which two ministers are to be appointed (one without portfolio, other for energy and industry). On the other hand, Pudaric notes the SDP will today (Thursday) ask in the FBiH HoP for removal of Lozancic because of the failure to adopt the FBiH 2006 budget. <i>"Lozancic did not carry out his constitutional duty to dissolve the Parliament if it does not adopt the budget"</i>, said Pudaric.</p>



<p>VL: Lozancic to accept Zigic's resignation today; similar thing to happen to Nikolic?</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 7 'Lozancic accepts Zigic's resignation', by <u>zk</u> – according to VL, the FBiH President <b>Niko Lozancic</b> will today (Thursday) accept the resignation filed by the FBiH Minister for Energy and Industry, <b>Izet Zigic</b>. VL also notes a similar thing could happen with former FBiH Defence Minister, <b>Miroslav Nikolic</b>, whose ministry was abolished on Dec 31, 2005 . Namely, HDZ was in talks with Nikolic for two days, which suggested to him to resign because the legislation does not stipulate what happens in case a ministry gets abolished whether he becomes a minister without portfolio or not. Until Wednesday afternoon it was not known what Nikolic' decided to do.</p>
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<p>Danas; B. Ljubic had mtg with W. Martens last week, Ljubic's further moves agreed</p>	<p><b>Danas</b> cover pg splash 'New HDZ Convention in March?' and pgs 18-21 'Schwarz-Schilling will ban Covic's HDZ' by <u>Z. Jukic</u> – <b>Bozo Ljubic</b> was in the seat of the European People's Party (EPP) in Brussels last week where he talked about his further political steps with EPP President <b>Wilfred Martens</b> and it was agreed to try once again to pull down HDZ President <b>Dragan Covic</b> and his supporters from inside. Within this action Ljubic's supporters hope that they would get considerable help from new High Representative <b>Christian Schwarz-Schilling</b> who has legal power to ban participation of HDZ led by Covic at the next elections. It was also agreed that if the aforementioned attempt fails they would start with establishment of a new party that would be called HDZ BiH 1990 or something similar. Danas also says that it has been believed that the Covic issue could be resolved more efficiently after the departure of 'Covic's protector' HR <b>Paddy Ashdown</b>.</p>
<p>SD: I. Sanader appointed Croatian representative for const. changes issue in BiH because of too big cooperation of D. Covic with IC</p>	<p><b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b> pg 20, mentioned on cover 'Granic is 'rising' rightists in BiH' by <u>M. Karacic</u> carries that last week at the session of the HDZ Croatia Presidency HDZ Croatia President <b>Ivo Sanader</b> proposed <b>Mato Granic</b> for the Croatian Government's representative in the constitutional changes talks in BiH. SD says that Sanader decided to appoint such representative after he had received a warning from the Croatian Embassy in Sarajevo in which they expressed concern about too big cooperation of HDZ BiH President Dragan Covic with the International Community that might be fatal for Croats in BiH.</p>

<p>Interview with Austrian Ambassador Almhofer on const. changes, negotiations on SAA</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 8 'We shall consider liberalization of visas in March', mentioned on cover 'Austria will help BiH on way to EU' by <u>E. Medunjanin</u> carries an interview with Austrian Ambassador in BiH <b>Werner Almhofer</b>. Asked whether the failure in constitutional changes negotiations could slow down the BiH's way towards Europe, and perhaps close the EU's door, Almhofer said: <i>'The EU has never said that successful implementation of constitutional reforms is a pre-requisite for the negotiations on SAA. Efficiency, functionality, respecting of human rights are three items that EU Enlargement Commissioner <b>Oli Rehn</b> has stressed recently and it has been insisted on them.'</i> He also said that he views the talks of BiH politicians on the constitutional changes as something very positive especially since the talks take place in the pre-election period.</p>
<p>Gregorian: BH will be mature for NATO in 5 yrs</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2 'BiH will be "mature" for NATO in five years' by <u>S. Ca. – Co-Chairman of Defense Reform Commission <b>Raffi Gregorian</b></u> attended "Safety in BiH – BiH in NATO membership" round table discussion, on which occasion he stated BiH might, in five or six years, be in a situation of a serious candidate for NATO membership. He also noted BiH might submit its Action Plan on membership in NATO in summer of 2008, but BiH Armed Forces should be fully transformed by then. <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'Through the Hague to Brussels' by <u>S. Puhalo</u> – carries Gregorian's statement and reads he especially warned on the unresolved issue of cooperation with the Hague Tribunal, i.e. arrest of <b>Karadzic, Mladic</b> and <b>Zupljanin</b>.</p>

**End of HR mandate**

HR Ashdown visits  
Srebrenica: I am  
still ashamed  
because Mladic and  
Karadzic are still  
at large

**BHT1** by Hatka Hamidovic – Outgoing High Representative **Paddy Ashdown** visited Srebrenica and Potocari Memorial Centre, where he met with the Srebrenica Mayor and “Mothers of Srebrenica”. Talking about his work in BiH, Ashdown said that cooperation with the association on building the Memorial Centre was a great satisfaction for him. *“But I am still ashamed because of one thing, the fact that the authors of this crime are still at large. If this place was able to provide comfort for some, it cannot provide satisfaction for anyone until **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ratko Mladic** are brought to justice”*, said Ashdown. Mothers of Srebrenica asked Ashdown to hand over their request for special status for Srebrenica to his successor. Head of association **Hatidza Mehmedovic** said Srebrenica doesn’t “deserve” to be part of something called “Republika Srpska”, as the entity was “founded on blood and genocide”. Srebrenica Mayor **Abdurahman Malkic** praised Ashdown’s efforts to improve situation in Srebrenica. **Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 6 ‘I would never forget the courage of Srebrenica mothers’ by S. Smajlovic, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 11 ‘I am proud because of the centre in Potocari’ by E. Huremovic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 ‘Ashdown paid respect to Srebrenica victims’ by V.Ra., **Glas Srpske** pg 3 ‘New foundations placed’ by K.C., **Vecernje Novosti** pg 17 ‘Proud of Potocari’ by P.V., **Dnevni List**, pg 4 ‘Ashdown assessed his work as successful’, not signed – all covered the visit.

NN int with HR  
Ashdown: 'We are  
close to reaching  
goals, but there  
is still a lot to  
do'

**Nezavisne Novine** pgs 4-5, announced on  
cover 'I am sorry I did not go to  
Jasenovac on time' by Dragan Risojevic –  
In a lengthy interview to daily, the  
outgoing HR **Paddy Ashdown** speaks about his  
mandate, and daily notes that *"regardless  
of whether we love him or not, you cannot  
simply be indifferent towards him. The  
British Lord has left the strongest trace  
in the seat of the HR. The others should  
decide whether he would be remembered for  
good or evil, as he says."* On his goals  
which included removing a danger of seeing  
BiH become a black hole in the Balkans,  
placing BiH on the course to statehood and  
brining it in situation in which it no  
longer needed HR, Ashdown comments: *"We  
are close to reaching all three goals, but  
there are still many things to do."* He  
also expresses regret over the fact he had  
failed to attend the commemoration in  
Jasenovac. He underlined strong regret for  
the fact **Karadzic** and **Mladic** are still at  
large. Adding he doesn't regret decisions  
he had to reach, making special reference  
of removals of officials from RS, since it  
was the only way to brake the Serb  
obstructionism. On BiH as a state, he  
stresses it must change a mental  
composition and view that human rights are  
protected collectively, not individually.  
On nationalistic parties, he says:  
*"Although we have made some nationalistic  
parties to reform in order to meet  
reforms, these parties can never lead this  
state towards the final destination...They  
should either change or they would  
disappear."*

<p>Schwarz Schilling: BiH must become a normal state without foreign protectionist-like presence</p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 'Destiny is in your hands' by <u>BETA</u> – The newly-elected HR to BiH, <b>Christian Schwarz Schilling</b>, has announced he would do all he can to make BiH a "<i>normal state</i>". After meeting with the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, <b>Frank Walter Steinmayer</b>, Schilling said: "<i>This means that economic development should be accelerated, laws should be applied and existing bodies should be inspired to live.</i>" He also noted that "<i>BiH must become a normal state without foreign protectionist-like presence</i>", where local politicians will take over responsibility. According to him, "<i>the time when all the problems were to be resolved by HR will pass</i>" during his mandate. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'International Community is not some kind of occupation force'- Talking for Deutsche Welle, Schwarz-Schilling said that his focus would be economy, judiciary reform, reform of parliaments and structure of authorities. "<i>IC is not some kind of occupation force, it wants to help people in BiH</i>" said Schilling.</p>
<p>CEIS announced publication: 'Plan for last HR in BiH'</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b> pg 5 'Plan for High Representative' by <u>Fena</u> – The Centre for European Integration Strategies (CEIS) is announcing publication of its "Agenda for the Next High Representative", a brief prepared by its staff in Sarajevo for <b>Christian Schwarz-Schilling</b>. As Fena has learned, the brief calls on new HR to fully commit to his new position as BiH is facing a decisive year, with the talks on SAA expected to conclude in the fall and a general elections in October.</p>

<p>VL op-ed: HR Ashdown was not good for Croats</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 8 'Paddy and napkins' by <u>J. Renic</u> comments on the mandate of High Representative <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> and the author concludes that from the beginning to the end of his mandate Ashdown was not good for Croats and the author says that what Chief ICTY Prosecutor <b>Carla del Ponte</b> was for Croatia that was Ashdown for BiH Croats.</p>
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<h2>War crimes</h2>
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<p>RS Govt establishes Commission to investigate fate of disappeared Zepa commander Avdo Palic</p>	<p><b>FTV</b> – RS Government established a commission tasked to investigate the fate of RBiH Army Colonel <b>Avdo Palic</b> and to report to the relevant authorities.</p> <p>Commission members are: RS Legal Representative <b>Milan Dupor</b>, RS Inspector for Justice <b>Ranko Bakic</b>, representative of RS Ministry of Interior <b>Dragi Milosevic</b> and <b>Milorad Bukva</b> from BiH Ministry of Defence. RS Prosecution still needs to appoint its representative. Palic's wife <b>Esma Palic</b> appointed <b>Jasmin Odobasic</b> from FBiH Commission for Missing Persons as her representative in the investigation commission. Odobasic will monitor work of the commission, which has to end its work by April 21. BiH Army colonel Palic has gone missing in Zepa in 1995 and last week High Representative <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> has tasked the RS Government to establish this Commission. <b>RHB, PINK, BHT1, Hayat, RTRS, Oslobođenje</b> pg 7 'Commission for investigation established', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 11 'Commission for investigation on Palic established', <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6 'Commission in charge of investigating destiny of Palic formed' by <u>P.K.</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS3 'Search for culprits' by <u>T. Veselinovic</u> inset 'Commission for Palic'- all reported on.</p>
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BiH Presidency  
member Paravac  
urges BiH Const.  
Court to assess  
constitutionality  
of FBiH  
Parliament and  
BiH Lawsuit vs.  
SCG

**EuroBlic** pg RS2 'Paravac: priority to lawsuit against SiCG' by D. S. – Serb member of BiH Presidency **Borislav Paravac** on Wednesday sent open letters to BiH Constitutional Court and BiH Justice Minister **Slobodan Kovac**. He demanded from Chairman of BiH Constitutional Court **Mato Tadic** to inform him in writing on intentions with regard to his initiatives on assessment of constitutionality he had sent to the Court last year (referring to laws FBiH Parliament had adopted despite to the fact it had not established F BiH HoP and referring to the lawsuit of BiH against SiCG). Paravac claims he still had not been informed in writing whether or when these initiatives would be taken into consideration. He reminded Chairman Tadic that an assessment of constitutionality of the lawsuit would make sense only if it was made before the process commenced in the Hague on February 27. **RTRS, Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Running away from the responsibility' by N. Zelenovic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Assessment of BiH lawsuit against SiCG must be a priority' by Srna – also reported. **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'We will win the process of century' – **Smail Cekic**, Director of the Institute for Research of crimes against humanity, is an optimist with regard to BH suit against SiCG, adding: *"I firmly claim that we will win this case."*

<p>Cro President Mesic comments on removing label 'secret' from his testimony given before the ICTY</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> cover pg splash 'Those who were singled out: Mesic is inventing stories' and pgs 2 and 3 'I am standing behind all things I said' by <u>M. Kukas, Z. Bajt</u> – Commenting on removing the label 'secret' from his testimony given before the ICTY in 1997 Croatian President <b>Stjepan Mesic</b> stated that he sent this demand as early as in August last year because he believes that outwitting about the things he said before the ICTY should be removed from the agenda. <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b> pg 2 'Mesic helps The Hague in process against Herceg-Bosna leaders' by <u>T. Klauski</u> also carries that in this way Mesic helped the ICTY since they can use his testimony in the process against former Herceg Bosna leaders (Mesic talked in his testimony about the involvement of late Croatian President <b>Franjo Tudjman</b> and his associates in the attempts to divide BiH).</p>
<p>NN op-ed: Andan carried out performance in Zepa</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> op-ed pg 7 'Adnan's performance' by <u>Pero Simic</u> – The author is critical of the latest RS police action in Zepa, especially of <b>Dragomir Andan</b>, RS Police Director, saying that this performance has ended without an epilogue, which will most likely be the case with similar actions, likely to follow.</p>

## Judicial issues, security

RS Govt to  
file charges  
against RS  
Posts  
management;  
Director  
accuses Chief  
Auditor of  
corruption

**RTRS** – Audit’s report on “Srpske Poste” showed many irregularities and deficits. However, dismissed general manager of “Srpske Poste” **Milutin Pejic** denied audit’s report calling main auditor **Bosko Ceko** corrupted. RTRS did not get in touch with Ceko but his statement is known from before, where Ceko said that Pejic broke Law on public procurement many time. Pejic said that political membership in SDS or SRS is requirement to get job in “Srpske Poste” and announced lawsuit. Regarding situation in “Srpske Poste” **Dragoja Lajsic**, RS Minister of Transport and Communication said that RS Government asked the Prosecution to inspect audit’s report and to undertake activities. When it is about similar situation in RS Railroads, RS Government did not take any activities. Lajsic explained that time is necessary for certain procedure. **Glas Srpske** pg 3 ‘I will report on Ceko!’, **EuroBlic** pg RS3 ‘Pejic: Ceko is corrupted’ by M. Soja – Pejic signed a letter accusing Bosko Ceko of being a corrupt person and also rejecting all accusations/claims presented in audit report on “Poste Srpske”. **PINK, BHT1, Oslobodjenje** pg 3 ‘Interior Ministry and Court discussing on RS Post work’, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 11 ‘RS Chief Auditor is a corrupt person’ – also reported on filing charges.

<p>BiH citizen arrested in Bangkok for possession of falsified personal documents</p>	<p><b>BHT1, FTV, RTRS, Hayat, Dnevni List</b> cover pg splash and pg 2 'BiH citizen arrested because of falsifying' by A. Beus, <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 7 'BiH citizen arrested in Bangkok' by Fena, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6, announced on cover 'BiH citizen arrested with falsified passport' by <u>D.Muminovic</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9 'BiH citizen Mohamed Mehdaoui arrested' by <u>S.T.</u>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'BiH citizen arrested with 120 false passports' – The BiH citizen <b>Muhamed Mehdaoui</b> was arrested in Bangkok, Thailand on Tuesday for possession of falsified documents. The police found 120 falsified passports and other personal documents from the Western European countries with him. The Thailand Police believes that Mehdaoui is a member of an international criminal group that smuggles falsified passports, which are being sold in the UK at the price of 1.000 Euros.</p>
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<p>PB ES case: Robinson complains against Judge at E.Sarajevo District Court / investigation launched</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 5, announced on cover 'Investigation on the role of Judge Bozovic' by <u>A.Sisic</u> – The Disciplinary Prosecutor of the HJPC (High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council) has launched an investigation regarding the role of <b>Mirko Bozovic</b>, the Judge of East Sarajevo District Court, in registration of the firm "Spekta" in 1997, owned by SDS. HJPC confirmed to daily that the investigation has been launched following complaint by <b>Toby Robinson</b>, Temporary Administrator of Privredna Banka East Sarajevo in registration process of this firm, which owes the amount of BAM 1.7 million to PB ES.</p>
<p>VL: Jelavic's appeal to be considered, objection of Judge Engel rejected</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 9 'Jelavic's appeal would be considered' by <u>Z. Kresic</u> carries that according to a source close to the BiH Court, the Appellate Council with the BiH Court rejected an objection by Prosecutor <b>Drew Engel</b> according to which indictee in the Hercegovacka Banka case <b>Ante Jelavic</b> does not have a right on an appeal until he reports himself to the BiH authorities. The source stated for VL that the appeal of the Jelavic's lawyer would be considered soon. It has been expected that the Appellate Council that would decide on the Jelavic's appeal would be formed in February at the latest.</p>

<p>First mtg of Police Reform Directorate to be held today</p>	<p><b>RHB, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'Today the first meeting of Police Reform Directorate'- First session of Police Reform Directorate is going to be held on Thursday in Sarajevo. This meeting should initiate official start of implementation of police reform in BiH, according to European standards. Session is going to be attended by Chairman of Council of Ministers <b>Adnan Terzic</b>, High Representative <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> and Head of the European Commission to BiH <b>Michael Humphreys</b>.</p>
<p>SIPA moves to Eastern Sarajevo</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 11 'SIPA moves to Lukavica?' by <u>E. Sarac</u>— As the decision on SIPA permanent HQ should be passed at Thursday's session of the BiH Council of Ministers, DA unofficially learns that CoM would chose location in Lukavica, because Eastern Sarajevo municipality made better offer than one for usage of former FBiH Army barracks in Nedjarici. As DA learns, Eastern Sarajevo offered barracks without any compensation.</p>