OHR BiH Media Round-up, 26/12/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on **26 December**

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	**RTRS** (12,00 hrs)
Tsunami anniversary	2 Serbs wounded in Kos. Mitrovica
Negotiations on Mladic surrender	Rycroft on Kosovo
Jews celebrating Hanukkah	RS Govt. to convene

TV news broadcast on **25 December**

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	**TV PINK** (18,00 hrs)	**BHT 1** (19,00 hrs)
World news	Report on Christmas in BIH	Catholics in BiH celebrate Christmas
Christmas mass in Sarajevo	Report on Christmas in Banja Luka	Christmas celebrations in BiH
Christmas mass in Banjaluka	Meaning of Christmas	Christmas in Tomislavgrad
Christmas mass in Mostar	Pope Benedict XVI on Christmas	Christmas in Sanski Most
NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	**FTV** (19,30 hrs)	**RTRS** (19,30 hrs)
Report on Christmas	Airplane incident in Mostar	Serbian sources say Mladic located

Christmas lunch with BiH Farmers	Privredna Bank case	Bukejlovic won’t resign
Interview with Sero	WN: Retrial in Libya HIV case	Bukejlovic promise to police staff
Low vote at the last elections in BIH	Problems of health workers in BPK	Mandic indictment rejected

Oslobodjenje	Indictments against BiH state leadership
Dnevni Avaz	[Rycroft] RS cannot stand outside of BiH
Dnevni List	Not published due to Christmas
Vecernji List	*Not published due to Christmas*
Slobodna Dalmacija	*Not published due to Christmas*
Nezavisne Novine	Christmas – holiday of peace
Glas Srpske	Price increases as a gift
EuroBlic	Forests decimates because of New Year
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related topics

	LATEST NEWS OF TODAY
RS Govt. to convene	**RS Radio 1** – At today’s session in Banja Luka , RS Government is expected to discuss proposed Law on changes and addenda to the Law on Budget System of RS and proposed Law on realization of the RS budget for 2006.

Mihajlica: Radicals to support RS budget for 2006	**FENA** – Serb Radical Party's President, **Milanko Mihajlica**, confirmed today (Monday) that the SRS MPs in the RS NA would support the entity's budget and economic policy for 2006. He assessed that it would be very difficult for parties to form a new RS Government in case **Pero Bukejlovic**'s Government gets the vote of no confidence. Mihajlica got re-elected the SRS President on Saturday.

	Judicial proceedings/ war crimes
Judge again returns indictment against Sarovic, Mandic, others as sloppy/ incomplete	**BHT1, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'Indictment against Mandic, Sarovic, Govedarica and Bjelica again returned' by Srna, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'Indictment in case "Sarovic and others" reversed again' by A.D. – Pre-Trial judge **Susan Moeller** has, for the second time, returned the indictment against **Momcilo Mandic**, **Mirko Sarovic**, **Milorad Govedarica** and **Milovan Bjelica** to the BiH Prosecutor's Office. According to SRNA news agency, the indictment was returned as sloppy and incomplete, with a deadline for submitting it again by 31 January. Mandic, Sarovic, Govedarica and Bjelica are being indicted for numerous criminal acts related to dealings of Privredna Bank Srpsko Sarajevo in 1998.

SCG media/ experts: Negotiations on Mladic's surrender underway, his location revealed	**Hayat, RTRS** – SCG police expert **Marko Nicovic** believes that the final negotiations on surrender of **Ratko Mladic** are currently underway. He claims that SiCG Government is negotiating the surrender, not carrying out arrest due to safety reasons of some of the Mladic's guards. Nicovic further claims that Mladic now insists on the money to cover living costs of his family and his closest allies. Commenting the statement of Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor **Vladimir Vukcevic** that the net of supporters has been discovered, Nicovic stated that this reveals the parallel negations between the Government and Mladic, and tycoons. Sources close to the Serbian Ministry of Interior told Vecernje novosti that the Mladic location has been disclosed, however that the right political moment is being awaited to carry out arrest. Meanwhile, says the sources, it has been ensured that Mladic doesn't live the location. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'Negotiations on surrender of criminal Ratko Mladic currently on going', **Vecernje Novosti** pg 5 'Final talks' – also carry Nicovic.

Matijasevic responds to Gregorian in regard to retirement procedure of Ratko Mladic/No details from the letter available	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Response contains information of "confidential type" by S.Karic – In a statement to daily, **Raffi Gregorian,** DRF Chairperson, stated he has received a response from **Darko Matiajsevic,** RS Interior Minister (in regard to the role of **Mirko Sarovic,** who approved retirement request of **Ratko Mladic** in February 2002 at the time he was RS President). Gregorian did not reveal any detail from the letter, adding it is "*a document of confidential type*", and stressing: "*The response of Minister Matijasevic is proportionate to my demand. I am still analysing it.*"

Tihic: Paravac cannot stop procedure BiH launched against SCG before IJC	**BHT 1, RTRS –** Bosniak member of BiH Presidency **Sulejman Tihic** believes that his Serb colleague **Borislav Paravac** cannot stop the proceeding BiH has launched against Serbia-Montenegro before the International Justice Court in The Hague accusing it of the genocide and aggression. In his interview for Belgrade-based daily 'Vecernje Novosti', Paravac had stated BiH charges against SCG were unconstitutional and invalid as the case was not audited by the BiH Presidency. Tihic adds Paravac is holding a performance for the public by questioning the constitutionality of the lawsuit and underlines the authorized Court considered legitimacy of the lawsuit on three occasions to date, while the issues was on the BiH Presidency agenda twice.

Jovicic: RS POWs against decision to pay out 2 average salaries to inmates in ICTY	**Dnevni Avaz**, pg 4 'Bukejlovic completely lost his compass', by N. D. – The deputy president of Association of RS POWs, **Slavko Jovicic**, says the decision of the RS Government to pay out two average monthly salaries to inmates in The Hague Tribunal, as well as the decision to increase salaries to the MPs in the RS NA, is scandalous, noting that the Association will ask from the RS Government to withdraw the decisions. Jovicic argues it is crazy to take away *"this little misery from citizens of this country and give the money to war crimes suspects"*.

Oslobodjenje: De-certified police officers to sue Terzic and members of BiH Presidency	**Oslobodjenje**, front pg splash and pg 2 'Criminal reports against state leadership', by Vehid Jahic – The president of Association of de-certified police officers of FBiH, **Ramo Sulic**, says the Chairman of BiH CoM, **Adnan Terzic**, tricked the Association by not acting upon the recommendations of the Venice Commission by December 15 like he had promised to do, since the Venice Commission established that human rights of 598 de-certified police officers from both BiH entities were violated. Sulic says that criminal reports will be filed against Terzic and all three members of the BiH Presidency (**Jovic, Tihic** and **Paravac**) because they failed to abide by the decision of the (BiH) House of Peoples from July 2005, announcing that the Association members will start a hunger strike in front of the OHR after the New Year *"because **Paddy Ashdown** too took part in violation of our human and constitutional rights"*. Inset 'Claim set at between 10 to 15 million KMs' notes that de-certified police officers from both entities hired a lawyer from Tuzla, **Amila Kunosic-Ferizovic**, who will be representing them in a lawsuit against state of BiH. Decertified police officers will claim compensation in the region of 10-15 million KMs.

	Economic and social issues
Maric: Delays in VAT introduction dangerous, entities budgets must be adopted by 15 Jan 2006	**BHT 1, Hayat** – In a statement to Sarajevo daily on Sunday, BiH Minister of Finance **Ljerka Maric** said she believes that the postponement of an introduction of the Value Added Tax would be very dangerous, and therefore the final deadline for the adoption of entity budgets in January 15, 2006 . Maric added that the social programs are main condition for implementation of the VAT Law, and those programs would not be operational if the entity budgets are not adopted.
GS warns of VAT introduction effects and price increases	**Glas Srpske** cover pg splash 'Price increases as a gift' by E.G.S. – Daily warns the population of announcements on price increases as of 1st January, referring to basic groceries. Daily stresses major price increase will be reflected on price of utility services. Daily raises the issue as of how the state is prepared to protect its citizens from degrading living standard.

NN interview with economist Tomas: Some services may cost for 50% more	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 6 'Prices of some services will go up even for 50%' by A. Sekulic – Daily carries an interview with the prominent economist from Banja Luka Faculty of Economics, **Rajko Tomas,** speaking of VAT introduction and its impact. He says that only a capable authority may formulate efficient social programme and provide money for the implementation of VAT. He is of the view the beginning of VAT introduction would see a lot of confusion and problems, stressing people is not afraid of VAT but of it as a means of incapable authority. He says it is possible prices of some goods may increase over 17%, noting prices of utility services in some other states recorded increase for 50%.

Bukejlovic announces police salaries to be increased by 2006 RS budget	**RTRS** Sanja Stankovic – Even though the RS budget for 2006 has not yet been adopted, the Prime Minister **Pero Bukejlovic** stated on Sunday that an increase of police salaries has been foreseen by the budget. Bukejlovic stated at the occasion of opening newly constructed premises of police station in Sokolac that RS citizens have the right to be protected, adding that the best protection is the correct disposition of police forces in BiH. He also Bukejlovic expressed his satisfaction with the work and organisation of RS Ministry of Interior. Development and modernisation of police service will remain a priority, said on the occasion RS Interior Minister, **Darko Matijasevic**. He pointed out that police forces in Sarajevo-Romanija region are still not working in adequate conditions. *"Solving of these issues, construction of new facilities and adaptation of existing ones is our priority for the next years, and we expect understanding and support of the RS Government in this,"* said Matijasevic. **BHT1, Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'Improve situation of MoI workers', **EuroBlic** RSpg 2 'New police building opened' by SRNA – also reported.

Different texts of F BiH budget for 2006 to be harmonized Wednesday	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Delegates are not giving up on demands for money' by R.Cengic – Daily reports that although the session of the Commission in charge of harmonization of different texts of the F BiH budget for 2006 announced for Wednesday, the BiH HoR will most likely not give up on its amendments, which F BiH Government assessed as unfeasible. BiH HoP Thursday rejected these amendments and adopted some other amendments its delegates proposed.
Ivanic supportive of RS Govt's announcement on Law on audit on privatisation process	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Ivanic supported demands for audit of privatization' by N.Krsman/D.Risojevic – **Mladen Ivanic,** PDP President, told daily that PDP would support demands for the audit of privatization process in RS, if there are doubts Law regarding sale of state property was violated during privatization. Following RS Government announcement Law on Audit of Privatization would be prepared, Ivanic supported this proposal, expressing his belief this move is more of "*a political story rather than realistic option*". **Stanko Pivasevic** from SDS says Ivanic's statements of this kind "*are hypocritical*". **Petar Djokic** SP President, is glad Ivanic will support demands for privatization audit.

NN op-ed criticizes Terzic's Cabinet' stories on price freezing, saying it's "empty story"	**Nezavisne Novine** op-ed pg 7 'Prices' by Natasa Krsman – Writing about VAT introduction and citizens' wait for price increases, the author is critical of the BiH COM, stressing that the story of freezing of prices launched by **Adnan Terzic'** Cabinet, is just an empty story, since prices are freely being formed at the BiH market.

	Political issues/ Reforms

Gregorian: Entities handing military facilities over to civilians disable BiH MoD from choosing best facilities/ equipment	**BHT1, Hayat, RTRS** by Zlatan Druzic – Co-Chair of the Defence Reform Commission **Raffi Gregorian** has expressed his concern over certain Entity Government's decisions handing some important military facilities over to civilians, adding that such moves would disable BiH Defense Ministry and Armed Forces to chose the best facilities and equipment necessary for accession to NATO. Gregorian added that this technically was not a violation of the BiH defence law, which is still not in force, nevertheless adding that such decisions have been completely opposite to the state defence system. Gregorian stressed that FBiH authorities have given the military facilities in Tuzla, Zenica, Travnik and Gorazde to civil sector, while RS has done the same with the training centre on MountJahorina. **Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'NATO will fly for BiH free of charge' by A. Prlenda – In an interview to daily, Gregorian speaks of the advantages of having NATO safeguard BiH sky instead of its own aviation, which is an arrangement Baltic countries and Slovenia have with the Alliance.

Ambassador Rycroft: Status of Kosovo and RS are completely separate issues	**Dnevni Avaz**, cover pg splash and pg 2 'RS cannot be outside BiH', by Sead Numanovic – in an interview for Avaz, the UK Ambassador to BiH, **Matthew Rycroft**, whilst commenting statements of some Serbian politicians who warned that giving independency to Kosovo could lead to breaking up of BiH, says a UN (Security Council) resolution clearly says the status of Kosovo will be defined through negotiations, arguing that when it comes to the RS, the Dayton Peace Accord clearly says the RS' status is defined within the framework of BiH and that the RS exists owing to the DPA. *"Therefore, those are completely two opposite models, status of Kosovo is yet to be defined, whilst the status of RS is already determined – it is a part of state of BiH and it can only exist as such. That will not change"*, says Rycroft, adding that all Bosnian Serb politicians, including the RS President, **Dragan Cavic**, are aware that the status of RS is different to the Kosovo's status. Inset 'Full cooperation with The Hague is necessary' carries the Ambassador as saying that the BiH authorities have to focus on reforms that lead closer to the EU. *"The focus is on the full cooperation with The Hague, implementation of police reform, implementation of law on public RTV system and building of functional state authorities (…) If problems were to occur in any of these four areas, the SAA talks could be slowed down, frozen or stopped"*, says Rycroft.

Davidovic: Names of chief of negotiating teams to be submitted to BiH CoM on Wednesday	**Dnevni Avaz**, pg 2 'Names of chiefs of teams before Council of Ministers on Wednesday', by N. D. – The BiH Chief Negotiator with EU, **Slobodna Davidovic**, upon returning from Brussels on Sunday where he held preliminary talks with the EU, told Avaz that he would submit the BiH Council of Ministers proposals of names of chiefs of negotiating team on Wednesday. Davidovic is also happy with the initial dynamics of the talks, believing that the BiH negotiating team will be completely ready for the first round of talks with the EU scheduled for mid-January 2006.

EC to form a team able of suspending talks, says EC' source	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 3, announced on cover 'EU is forming a team that can suspend negotiations' by M.Cubro – NN collocutor from European Commission has confirmed that the European Commission is forming a special team in charge of surveillance of reforms in BiH, that would be able to suspend talks between BiH and EU on SAA if reforms fail to proceed at planned flow. NN collocutor notes that: "*The monitoring team will be assessing implementation of reforms in BiH prior to each round of talks on SAA.'I* The European Commission has handed a document called "European Partnership" to BiH authorities, which precisely defines short-term and mid-term conditions local authorities must fulfill. The first short-term condition is the cooperation with the ICTY, followed with demands for full implementation of police reform, public administration reform. Etc. **Osman Topcagic,** Director of the BiH Directorate for European Integration, Sunday confirmed EC has clearly defined conditions BiH needs to fulfil through "European Partnership", without wanting to reveal more details.

Bukejlovic: I will not resign, problem is not Govt but lack of RSNA majority	**RTRS** – Commenting the announcements that the RS will have the new Government in January, the entity's Prime Minister **Pero Bukejlovic** stated he had no intentions to resign. If the budget is not adopted, there is a decision on temporary financing, says Bukejlovic, adding that the problem is not in the current Government but in lack of the RS National Assembly (RSNA) majority. *"How that (new) Government would function? That Government must be consisted of at least seven political parties, including the SDA,"* he said, expressing belief that this Government would have bigger problems that the current one. *"At the moment, the problem is Assembly's majority, qualitative majority,"* claims Bukejlovic.
DPS won't participate in abolishment of the RS Government	**RTRS**, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Against removal of RS Government, although it does not working well' by N.N., **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'They do not want to join demolishers' by D.Mo. – Democratic Patriots Party (DPS) announces that it won't participate in abolishment of the current RS Government, even though this party is aware that the Government does not function the best way and that there is not progress. They want participate because of the SDA and SDP, who are openly against existence of the RS, stated this party.

Tokic: Parties cannot reach consensus on constitutional reform	**Dnevni Avaz**, pg 5, mentioned on front 'BiH politicians played a bad game during negotiations', by Lana Sinanovic – The President of SDU BiH, **Sejfudin Tokic**, is of an opinion that the BiH parties taking part in constitutional reform talks cannot reach a minimum of compromise that would lead to creating a more efficient and economically sound authorities, and in the same time he argues that leading BiH politicians missed the chance i.e. the readiness of the US administration and carry out significant constitutional changes.
BiH HoR's Collegium to decide on the final text of Law on audit at BiH institutions	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'The way of election of new state auditors uncertain' by N.Krsman – Daily reports that the end of the technical mandate of the current leadership of the Office for audit of BiH institutions will depend on the harmonization of the text of the Law on audit at BiH institutions. After BiH HoP last week adopted Law on Audit of BiH institutions, it is now up to the Collegium of the BiH HoR to harmonise the proposed amendments, referring to possession of a certificate of the authorized auditor for future candidates.