

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 26/5/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 26 May

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)
Mtg of SIPA, Croatian, Serbian Police	20 years in prison for Paunovic
HR welcomes Sarajevo Com. forming	Milojica indicted for war crimes
Weather forecast	Conference on Slovenian war

TV news broadcast on 25 May

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
HR on Processes in Mostar	CoM will establish Commission	CoM will establish Commission
CoM session	Paravac calls on removal of Terzic	Anniversary of Tuzla massacre
Raguz on next BiH HoR session	Spiric and Novakovic at press conf.	Memorial for Bradina victims
FBIH Government session	Avdic, Zilic & Potocnik reg. Serb Rep.	Trial against Dusi commencing

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
CoM session	Anniversary of Tuzla massacre	CoM will establish Commission
Dodik on Sarajevo Serbs	RS Government in session	Paravac calls on removal of Terzic

BiH deputies re Sarajevo Comm.	CoM will establish Commission	Association "Istina" to sue Terzic
Commemoration in Tuzla	SDA on boycott of BiH HoR work	RS Government had session

Oslobodjenje	Formed Commission for investigation of truth on sufferings in Sarajevo
Dnevni Avaz	Terzic: I decided to breach my word
Dnevni List	Mostar blocking whole of state (HR with Mostar leaders)
Vecernji List	Pope over Croatia (VL's reporter onboard Pope's airplane flew over Croatia)
Slobodna Dalmacija	Municipality does not know it builds on some else's land (construction works in Livno)
Nezavisne Novine	Sarajevo Commission was formed; They are neither being born nor they are getting married [position of Sarajevo Serbs]
Glas Srpske	
EuroBlic	Divac ready to invest in Srpska [former basketball player V. Divac visited Banja Luka]
Vecernje novosti	Everything on the list suspicious [Referendum Commission considering complaints]

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY	
BiH courts sentences war crimes accused to 20 yrs	BH Radio 1, RHB — BiH Court today sentenced Dragoje Paunovic to 20 years in prison over war crimes against Bosniaks in the area of Rogatica Municipality and eastern Bosnia in the period between May and September 1992.

SNSD welcomes establishment of Commission on suffering of Sarajevo citizens	<p>Srna – SNSD welcomed forming of the Commission on sufferings of Sarajevo citizens and noted it is never too late for truth and justice in BiH. SNSD thanked all parties and delegates at BiH Parliament who supported forming of the Commission, as well as to the international community, especially to HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling and invited them to support and supervise the work of the Commission.</p>
Authorized Board nominates Uros Pena for RS Police Director	<p>Srna – Chairman of the Independent Board for Selection of RS Police Director Ilija Lukic today stated the Board nominated Uros Pena for the position. Lukic told journalists all 7 members of the Board unanimously supported Pena, who was the only candidate for this position that had met the vacancy terms. Lukic added the Board will, either in the course of the day or tomorrow, ask from RS Minister of Interior Stanislav Cadjo to present his stance on this candidate.</p>

<p>Pale municipality asks EC Chief in BiH to help in abolishing US sanctions against the town</p>	<p>Srna – EC Delegation Head Michael Humphreys today attended “European integrations and BiH” public tribune on which occasion Pale Mayor Slobodan Savic asked from EC Delegation Head to make an influence on US Congress to abolish sanctions imposed to Pale. Upon presentation of the achievements in this municipality, Humphreys said he was impressed and added the EC would support economic development of this town. He noted EU had imposed no sanctions to Pale but he will deliver Mayor Savic’s message to his colleagues from US Embassy.</p>
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<p>CoM approves Comm. on suffering of Sarajevo citizens</p>
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CoM approves establishment of ten members Commission for suffering of Sarajevo citizens; CoM Chair Terzic: I decided to broke my word

BHT1- At the session on Thursday, the BiH Council of Ministers adopted a decision on establishing of Commission for investigating truth about sufferings of all citizens of Sarajevo in period 1992-1995. The BiH House of Representatives decided on establishing of this commission in January 24, 2004 but the Chair of BiH CoM **Adnan Terzic** had refused to implement the decision which resulted in boycott of the HoR work by the RS MPs who walked out of the session on Wednesday. BiH Justice Minister **Slobodan Kovac** stated the Commission would consist of 10 members, 3 from each constituent peoples and one representing others, and who will be proposed by the BiH Ministry of Refugees and Human Rights. This ministry will also provide administrative and technical support. Terzic announced that at the next session of the BiH CoM he would demand from the Parliament to establish a Commission on sufferings of all citizens in entire BiH. **PINK-** *"[Commission's work will] include all ten [Sarajevo] municipalities that existed in period 1992-1995. The task of this Commission is to determine mass and individual murders and mass graves, mass and individual arrests, camps, jails, rapes and sexual abuses, deportations, exiles, refugees, missing persons..."*, said Terzic. **RTRS** – The Commission members are supposed to be proposed by the next CoM session. *"I have to say again I do not agree with the Parliament on the method of determining the truth ...Considering boiling political atmosphere and those who want to obstruct reform processes in BiH...I do not want to give them the opportunity not to work in following 100 days and talk whether Terzic's CoM should be dismissed or not"*, said Terzic, adding: *"So, I decided to break my word... and establish this Commission."*

Oslobodjenje cover splash and pgs 4-5 'Commission for investigating truth on sufferings in Sarajevo established' by Almir Terzic – Commission should have 12 months to submit its final report, with an obligation to prepare quarterly reports. **RHB, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz** cover splash 'Terzic: I decided to broke my word', pg 2 'Commission would establish the truth on sufferings in Sarajevo' by T.Lazovic, **Nezavisne Novine** cover pg splash and pg 3 'Commission for sufferings in Sarajevo formed' by M. Cubro, **Glas Srpske** cover pg report and pg 2 'Terzic formed commission' by Z. D., **EuroBlic** pg RS2, announced on cover 'Terzic established the Commission afterall' by Dusanka Stanisic, **Dnevni List** pg 3, mentioned on cover 'State crisis resolved' by D. P. Mandic– also covered.

<p>HR welcomes decision on Commission</p>	<p>RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 inset 'Schwarz-Schilling greeted the decision', Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'OHR welcomed establishing of the Commission' by <u>N. N.</u> – The HR, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, welcomed the decision of the Council of Ministers to establish a State Commission for truth on suffering of Serbs, Croats, Bosniaks, Jews and Others in Sarajevo 1992-1995. He also called on BiH parliamentarians not to further prevent the work of the Parliament, the OHR said.</p>
<p>BiH HoR Speaker Raguz: next session in June</p>	<p>FTV – Commenting interruption of Wednesday's session of the BiH House of Representatives, the HoR Speaker Martin Raguz stated that he is going to insist on full implementation of the BiH Constitution, a rulebook of the BiH HoR and responsibility of all deputies not to disrupt the work of the House. He announced the BiH HoR is going to continue its work, stressing all problematic issues should be discussed during the sessions. The session which was interrupted should be resumed by the end of May or on June 9. RHB, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 7 'I will insist on full responsibility of deputies', Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'No one has a right to act in contradiction with the Constitution' by <u>H.Orahovac</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'No one has a right to act in contradiction with the Constitution' by <u>H.Orahovac</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Continuation of interrupted session at the beginning of June' by <u>Agencies</u> – also covered.</p>

<p>Serb delegates still reluctant to return to the Parliament: we first need to see how realisation of Decision on forming of Commission will go</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'It is too early for final decision on return to Parliament' by <u>V. Popovic</u> – RS delegates at HoR welcomed the decision of CoM to establish a commission for determining the truth on sufferings of Serbs, Croats, Bosniaks, Jews and other citizens in Sarajevo from 1992 – 1995, but their return to the Parliament would depend on the realisation of the Decision on establishing of the Commission. SDS's Momcilo Novakovic said it is too early to talk about return of Serb delegates to the Parliament until they see how the realisation of decision would go. SNSD's Dusanka Majkic says the CoM decision deviates from demands of Serb delegates since they demanded a commission for truth on missing Sarajevo Serbs to be established, not a commission for truth on all peoples. PDP's Jelina Djurkovic believes Terzic caused a great damage to BiH with his behaviour and he sent out a bad signal that the executive authorities do not respect decisions of legislative authorities. SPRS's Tihomir Gligoric said they first need to make sure they are not being manipulated, adding: <i>'I believe Terzic made this decision only to stay at the head of CoM'</i>. Petar Kunic from New Force of Srpska and Mirko Blagojevic from SRS "Dr. V. Seselj" think pre-requisites for return of delegates to the Parliament were created. Inset 'Nikola Spiric: Serb Ministers are doing poor work' – Deputy HoR Chair Nikola Spiric said Serb Ministers at CoM could have done more in order to establish the commission on truth on Sarajevo Serbs and he resented them for dealing more with the "Algerian group" issues than with Commission issues.</p>
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BiH HoR Deputy
Chair Spiric
and SDS '
Novakovic: CoM
Chair Terzic
violated the
laws and
constitution
by not
complying to
Parliament's
orders

RTRS by Momcilo Ostoja – BiH House of Representatives' Deputy Chair **Nikola Spiric** and BiH HoR deputy **Momcilo Novakovic** [SDS] held a press conference in Banja Luka to talk about walkout of the RS MPs from the BiH HoR session on Wednesday in a sign of protest over CoM Chair **Adnan Terzic**'s rejection of the Commission on sufferings of Sarajevo citizens. Spiric and Novakovic said the RS MPs have not violated the BiH Constitution and or laws by walking out, but instead they accused Terzic of doing so by ignoring decisions of BiH Parliament. They also pointed out that Terzic enjoys no support in the Parliament. "*Terzic lost ability of communication with the Parliament and political leaders in Parliament... this makes it impossible to speed up the reforms, BiH way to Euro-Atlantic integrations... We have no need to tolerate this*", said Spiric. "*I believe that with present composition of CoM, it will be very hard in following 100 days to accomplish tasks the HR [**Christian Schwarz-Schilling**] put before the BiH Parliament*", said Novakovic. **PINK** – Spiric and Novakovic called on BiH Presidency and the international community to as mediators help BiH Council of Ministers to establish Commission for Truth on Suffering of Sarajevo citizens in period 1992-1995. "*It is being suggested by media and Bosniak political parties that crimes over Serbs were committed by groups of criminals... and when it comes to crimes against others, that [it is said] the Serb authorities organized those crimes. This is serious thesis. This is not the thesis that we can build BiH on*", said Spiric. **FTV, Glas Srpske** pg 5 'We have not violated laws' by Z. Markovic, **Dnevni List**, pg 6 'Terzic should resign', by T. Calic – also covered.

<p>SPRS Gligoric: RS MPs not to return to the Parliament before Comm. is established; SBiH's Belkic: this situation proves us right about const. changes proposed</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pgs 4-5 'Commission for Sarajevo and then return to the Parliament' by A.T.– Commenting the walkout of the Serb MPs from the session of the BiH House of Representatives, HoR deputy Tihomir Gligoric [SPRS] emphasized the RS MPs would not participate in the work of the House until the Commission is established. "RS representatives did not act in Anti-Dayton manner, as some want to show. We don't understand how SDA can tolerate [Adnan] Terzic's behavior...He should resign from moral reasons" said Gligoric. Chair of SBiH Caucus in BiH HoR Beriz Belkic said, "walking out and leaving of the session is unknown <i>modus operandi</i>", stressing that current situation is the best proof that those who were against constitutional changes were correct to say that "<i>paralyzing of the HoR</i>" is possible. Chair of SDP Caucus in BiH HoR Jozo Krizanovic stated that SDP deputies "<i>would not support the blockade of the Parliament, but understand reasons of such events</i>".</p>
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<p>Deputies who voted vs. const. reform – Avdic, Potocnik, Zilic – deem recent events in BiH HoR prove them right about a danger of entity vote in Parliament</p>	<p>Hayat –Independent deputies in BiH House of Representatives Sead Avdic, Mladen Potocnik and Mehmed Zilic, who voted against proposed amendments to BiH Constitution, told press conference on Thursday that a request to establish the Commission on suffering of Sarajevo citizens is politicised. They also believe that a action of the Serb MPs in Hor was in their own interests, which confirms that those opposing constitutional reform were right to do so. Avdic said action carried out on Wednesday proves entity voting in BIH HoR can block all processes. He also stated that Croat deputies could never block the work of BIH HoR since there aren't enough of them. Potocnik stressed that amendments allow for blockade of BIH institutions. <i>"I think that the public knows now that we are not working against BiH but that on contrary we are fighting for it"</i>, stated Potocnik. RTRS – <i>"Ask yourselves whether Croat representatives could have done the same thing as Serb MPs! They could have done it but the session would continue. Not all peoples here have same rights"</i>, said Avdic.<i>"This event yesterday was irresponsible, unserious and dishonest in regard to BiH citizen"</i>, said Potocnik. Dnevni List, pg 2 'Crisis was caused intentionally and was timed', by <u>D. P. Mandic</u> – BiH HoR MPs Avdic, Potocnik and Zilica called on Serb MPs in the BiH HoR to return to the Parliament and stop with politicization of issue of founding of Commission that would investigate sufferings of peoples of Sarajevo. Potocnik noted that in situation when BiH Parliament's work is blocked, the High Representative has the ability to make BiH politicians work, on the other hand the BiH Presidency's proposed const. amendments foresee abolishment of the office of the HR. PINK- Avdic believes Adnan Terzic is not the only one responsible for the situation at CoM but all Ministers and political parties making up majority in the Parliament. <i>"You have Representatives who left the Parliament and their Ministers who stayed to work at CoM"</i>, criticised Avdic. Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'It is too early for final decision on return to Parliament' by <u>V. Popovic</u> Inset 'Delegates from RS are manipulating' by <u>M. C.</u>, Glas Srpske pg 5 'Unacceptable reasons' by <u>Srna</u> – also carries.</p>
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<p>SDA condemns behaviour of RS reps in BiH HoR and demands establishment of the Commission</p>	<p>FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 5 'Condemned boycott of Serb deputies in BiH Parliament' by Fena, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Action of RS representatives is Anti-Dayton act' by Onasa, Nezavisne novine pg 2 'They appealed on OHR to act' by N. K. – SDA Main Board condemned the boycott of work of BiH House of Representatives by RS deputies, stating that this was an "anti-Dayton" act. SDA called on the Peace Implementation Council and OHR to stop such behaviour. SDA also demands urgent establishing of commission tasked to investigate truth about sufferings of all citizens in the entire BiH. RTRS – also carried.</p>
<p>CoM Chair Terzic claims he never said Sarajevo citizens were war profiteers</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 inset 'Terzic: I would consider legal actions against Lagumdžija'- After the CoM session, Chair Adnan Terzic underlined he hasn't said during the session of the BiH House of Representatives that Sarajevo citizens are wartime profiteers as SDP leader Zlatko Lagumdžija claims he did [Note: Terzic at the session allegedly noted that Sarajevo citizens were had benefits during the siege; which provoked harsh reactions]. <i>"There are memos in which it can be seen what I said exactly, but because of this I would consider legal actions against Lagumdžija"</i> said Terzic. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 inset 'They would ask Commission for BiH as well'.</p>
<p>RS MPs: CoM Chair has no confidence of RS parties</p>	<p>RTRS – Commenting the events in the BiH House of Representatives of RS MPs walking out from the Wednesday's session, PDP representative in BiH HoR Jelina Djurkovic said: "[CoM Chair Adnan] Terzic rules in accordance with his own parameters outside of modern and democratic concept of a modern country. It is really necessary for him to leave [his position]." Borislav Paravac, BiH Presidency member, asked the Presidency to discuss Terzic's dismissal. <i>"We should not forget that HoR just few days ago discussed confidence to CoM. We know the result. I do not believe that Presidency should dispute competence that Parliament stated. Issue is justified but the moment for dismissal and talks in this regard would go hard"</i>, said Ivo Miro Jovic, BiH Presidency member. Igor Radojicic, RS National Assembly Speaker, said that CoM has been dying out for 1,5 years and has no confidence of the RS political parties. PINK – carried Paravac's demand. Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'CoM does not enjoy trust of RS' by Agencies – Radojicic.</p>

<p>Association 'Istina' asks for rising of charges against CoM Chair Terzic for office abuse</p>	<p>RTRS– Association "Istina" [The Truth] from East Sarajevo asked from Marinko Jurcevic, BiH Chief Prosecutor to bring charges against Adnan Terzic, BiH Council of Ministers Chair due to office abuse. This Association believes that Terzic by ignoring decision of BiH Parliament on establishment of the Commission for Truth on Suffering of Serbs in Sarajevo broke BiH Constitution.</p>
<p>GS warns of difficult position of Sarajevo Serbs</p>	<p>Glas Srpske op-ed pg 2 'Adnan vs. Terzic' by <u>Goran Barac</u> – the author reminds of the most recent developments, starting with CoM Chair Adnan Terzic's statement re establishment of Commission for Sarajevo Serbs, walkout of HoR delegates from the session and, finally, proposal on establishment of the Commission that was reached during CoM session held on Thursday. The author notes the yesterday's move still cannot improve a general image on Terzic as a person who needs nobody and who lives only for himself and concludes by saying: <i>'Adnan, unfortunately, stood up against Terzic and, as it seems, defeated him. Nevertheless, both Adnan and Terzic need to know one thing – they might run away from the truth and even from themselves but the truth will see the daylight. With or without them, sooner or later...'</i></p>
<p>Oslob op-ed: Condemning crimes, Sarajevo will end one of its dark episodes</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'Sarajevo victims' op-ed by <u>Daniel Omeragic</u> – Criticizing BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic for refusing to form a Commission for investigation of truth on sufferings in Sarajevo, editorial reads that he made favour neither to BiH, Sarajevo or to his party [SDA]. Author notes that there is no citizen of Sarajevo who would be against such investigation, except those who committed or supported crimes. Editorial underlines that there is no evidence that official Sarajevo organized or planed terror, adding that the authorities were informed about crimes against non-Bosniaks. Author concludes that all citizens of Sarajevo were victims, stressing that someone is now trying to use their sacrifice as an excuse for covering crimes that happened in the city of Sarajevo: <i>"Condemning crimes, Sarajevo will end one of its dark episodes."</i></p>

<p>Dani op-ed critical of CoM Chair: Obstruction of Commission an effort to cover up for crimes of Sarajevo authorities</p>	<p>Dani pg 3 'Shame of Sarajevo Kazani' op-ed by <u>Vildana Selimbegovic</u> – Commenting the issue of forming Commission for determining the truth of sufferings of Sarajevo citizens in period 1992-1995, editorial reads: <i>"Obstruction and discriminating relation towards the [late BiH Army commander Musan Topalovic] Caco's and other's victims and their families are true witnesses to the efforts of Sarajevo authorities to silently and ignorantly cover up for the fact that domestic war criminals were killing civilians and even defenders of Sarajevo, only because they were of other ethnicity... As long as he is protecting Caco by protecting [late BiH Presidency Chair Alija Izetbegovic, [BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic in the most direct way helps enraged [RS PM Milorad Dodik, and those similar to him, who would to make Srebrenica out of Sarajevo for cheap political reasons."</i></p>
<p>SB op-ed: Truth about crimes in Sarajevo is necessary for all both SNSD's Spiric and citizens of Sarajevo</p>	<p>Slobodna Bosna pgs 4-5 'Who is afraid of truth about crimes in Sarajevo?' op-ed by <u>Senad Avdic</u> – Referring to the latest dispute over the Commission on sufferings of Serbs, Bosniaks, Croats, Jews and others in Sarajevo during the war, <u>Avdic</u> harshly criticizes CoM Chair Adnan Terzic for refusing to establish the Commission and calls such stance <i>"unacceptable and tendentious"</i>. Noting Terzic constantly tries to persuade citizens that BiH is closer to EU, <u>Avdic</u> notices: <i>"It is strange that no one... informed Terzic that in the parliamentary democracy the executive power [CoM] should act obediently and loyally toward its legislative divinity – Parliament... It is not Terzic's job or task to like or dislike what the Parliament adopts: only thing up to him is to carry decisions efficiently and truthfully"</i> concluded editorial. Strongly lobbying for establishment of the Commission, author stressed: <i>"Truth about wartime suffering in Sarajevo is not necessary to please the ultimatums of Nikola Spitic [Deputy Chair of BiH HoR]: the truth is necessary so that Spiric would have to be ashamed each time he steps the foot in Sarajevo! And also so that Sarajevo citizens would be ashamed for terror of bandits that were killing in their name..."</i></p>

GS op-ed: proposal to establish Sarajevo Commission cannot improve Terzic's general image	<p>Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'They are neither being born nor they are getting married' by <u>Z. Domazet</u> – the article reiterates the statement of RS PM Milorad Dodik [who warned of extremely difficult position of Serbs in Sarajevo and noted there is a list with names of 1.000 Serbs who live in Sarajevo and who wish to collectively move out from it due to difficult living conditions]. DISS [Democratic Initiative of Sarajevo Serbs] claims they have been warning of difficult position of Sarajevo Serbs for years and notes politicians should take care of them, but not only prior to elections as usual. Director of Human Rights Bureau Dusan Sehovac, on behalf of DISS, stated for GS Sarajevo is town where Serbs are neither being born nor they are getting married, Serbs from Sarajevo are only dying in it or leaving it. He also says the Law on Constitutionality is being annulled in Sarajevo through the Law on State Administration, which reads that a Serb from Sarajevo does not have to get a job at the state administration or any other post if "his municipality" exists in RS, naming Ilidza, Novo Sarajevo and Stari Grad [municipalities that exist both in F BiH and East Sarajevo] as examples.</p>
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Defence, police and other reforms	
BiH Armed Forces gets single uniforms and symbols	<p>Hayat – BIH Armed Forces have joint uniforms and markings as of Thursday. Members of BIH Armed Forces participated in creation of symbols whilst US Government donated the uniforms. BIH Defence Minister Nikola Radovanovic stated that the joint uniform represents another step forward from the painful past. US Ambassador Douglas McElhaney stated that the uniforms represent continuous firm relations between USA and BIH. BHT1, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Introduced new uniforms and symbols of BiH Armed Forces' by <u>L.Sinanovic</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Symbols of single armed forces' by <u>A.P.</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'New uniforms, ranks and symbols' by <u>A. Susnjar</u>, Vecernji List pg 4 'BiH military in new uniforms' by <u>D. Jazvic</u> – covered.</p>

<p>RS officials meet EC monitoring team; RS PM Dodik said that they agree with education and PBS reform, but cannot accept police reform and imposing of EU standards</p>	<p>RTRS – EC Monitoring Team and RS Officials met in Banja Luka and discussed the reforms in the fields of education, public broadcasting system and police. <i>“There are some attempts to use police reform to discipline RS Institutions and RS politicians. I will not accept police concept that is being persistently imposed as part of EU principles’ realization”</i>, said Milorad Dodik, RS Prime Minister. Dragan Cavic, RS President said that RS Police should have its place within BiH Police. Dodik said that RS supports reform of education and public broadcasting service but not police reform through imposing of EU principles. <i>“It is not a problem if budget is passed at BiH level, but we demand that this budget is implemented by RS budgetary system...”</i> said Dodik. Jean Louis Laurent, Director of the EC Directorate for Strategic Planning said that fulfilment of EC requirements is very important in regard to future integrations. Igor Radojicic, RS National Assembly Speaker also met with EC Monitoring Team. Glas Srpske pg 3 ‘Less pre-requisites for better tomorrow’ by <u>D. Momic</u> – also reported.</p>
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<p>Osl: ‘Unacceptable demand of RS MoI for division of police’</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 3, mentioned on cover ‘Unacceptable demand of RS MoI for division of police’ by <u>Az. Kalamujic</u> says that the decision of 5 RS MoI representatives to freeze their status and become observers in the Police Reform Directorate Steering Board (PRD SB) as of Wednesday would make difficult the work of this body. Vice President of the PRD SB Sead Lisak stated that many things regarding this decision would be clearer at the next session of this body on May 31 when, according to announcements, a demand for division of the police at the state and entity one would be rejected. Lisak also said: <i>‘The possibility to freeze a status has not been envisaged by the BiH CoM’s decision on forming of this expert body.</i> Osl. inset ‘Novic represents RS interests’ notes that <i>‘an informal representative of the RS interests in the PRD SB’</i>, SIPA Director Sredoje Novic is not among those who announced freezing of their functions, <i>‘however, his claims that experts cannot resolve the things that were not done by politicians contribute to disbandment of the PRD and returning of the reform at the beginning’</i>. Ols. also says that the RS MoI members of the PRD have the same goal, but they use different methods. Ols. concludes that it is interesting that high-ranked EUPM officials who attend PRD SB meetings on a regular basis tolerate involvement of politics in this issue.</p>
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<p>OHR: RS withdrew from police reform process / EC Delegation: progress in police reform not achieved yet</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover 'OHR: RS withdrew from the process' by <u>M. Cubro</u> – OHR Spokesperson Ljiljana Radetic on Thursday stated OHR is of the view RS had withdrew from the police reform, following the decision of RS representatives to attend sessions of PRD Steering Board as monitors only. EC Delegation Spokesperson Frane Maroevic believes a progress in police reform has not been achieved as yet and added it was difficult to estimate how the decision of RS representatives to freeze their status would affect the entire process of police reform, adding: <i>'however, we expect police restructuring to be realised in accordance with three EU principles, otherwise there would be no signing of SAA'</i>. Chairman of PRD Steering Board Vinko Dumancic stated he had scheduled the Steering Board session for next Wednesday and only then he would know whether RS representatives really want to freeze their status or not. CoM Chair Adnan Terzic on Thursday said he does not know how to unlock the police reform process as yet and added he first needs to analyse the situation in order to reach a decision that would be in the interest of BiH.</p>
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<p>EUPM spokesperson Ilaria: PRD cannot suspend work because of political pressure</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Directorate cannot suspend work because of political pressure' by <u>E. Sarac</u> EUPM spokesperson Zinaida Ilaria stated that the Police Reform Directorate (PRD) cannot suspend its work because of political pressure. She added that without a successful result of the PRD's work, which must be harmonized with 3 EC principles, BiH will not be able to take the road of European integration. Ilaria also stressed that the EUPM believes it is crucial that police professionals, who act within the PRD Steering Board, continue with their work without political involvement and to reach the highest level of the agreement on police reform implementation in BiH.</p>
<p>RSNA Speaker meets French Ambassador: First reforms, then Europe</p>	<p>Glas Srpske pg 4 'First reforms, then Europe' by <u>G. D.</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Continue reforms of Constitution, police and education' by <u>Onasa</u> – Following his meeting with RS National Assembly Speaker Igor Radojicic in Banja Luka on Thursday, French Ambassador Henry Zipper de Fabiani told press that BiH authorities should take over more responsibility in order to consolidate state and its institution, as a preparation for EU integrations. He stressed importance of reform of Constitution, police and education.</p>

<p>Head of EC in BiH</p> <p>Humphreys: Additional VAT rate would be damaging; without implementing necessary reforms talks on SAA could not be concluded</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Additional VAT rate would be damaging' by <u>S.Numanovic</u> – In an interview for daily, Head of European Commission Delegation to BiH Michael Humphreys warned that additional VAT rate would be “<i>very negative for whole the process</i>”. Humphreys stressed: “<i>Introducing VAT in BiH was one of the most successful examples of implementing reforms in this country. Indirect Taxation Administration [ITA] did an excellent job, but if the Law on VAT would be changed in this phase, system of [tax] collection would get more complicated... all the budgets would be suffering the consequences and it is possible that it would endanger financing of already taken responsibilities.</i>” He also warned that police reform does not have necessary dynamics, pointing out problems in reforms of education and public administration. EC expects that FBiH Constitutional Court will soon find solution for dispute over Public Broadcasting System [PBS], told Humphreys. Answering the question who should be blamed for stoppage of police reform, he noted that it is RS authorities who are responsible: “<i>They do not respect agreement that was reached in October last year and which was adopted by the state and both entities parliaments.</i>” He stressed once more that without implementing necessary reforms, not only police reform of cooperation with ICTY, talks on Stabilisation and Association Agreement [SAA] could not be concluded, adding that it could also influence EU visa regime for BiH citizens.</p>
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<p>DA op-ed: 'Reforms in shadow of elections'</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Reforms in shadow of elections' op-ed by <u>Edina Sarac</u> – Heavily criticizing BiH politicians for putting pre-elections campaigns before the necessary reforms in their priority-list, editorial reads that <i>"they either did not have good translation or they did not listen to the HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling who invited them to do as much as possible in police reform, Public Broadcasting Service [PBS], economy in next hundred days."</i></p>
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Other political issues

<p>HR Schwarz-Schilling warns Mostar officials that he would name those responsible for obstruction of integration process</p>	<p>FTV- In the press – release issued on Thursday the High Representative, Christian Schwarz-Schilling urged top officials from Mostar to speed up the pace of integration in the city, outlining three key issues that require urgent attention prior to the next meeting of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board towards the end of June. Mostar authorities must adopt the City Budget for 2006 and complete the establishment of the City Administration. This includes the adoption of the systemization plan in order to allow opening of 45 Civil Service vacancies. Also, a single utility company in Mostar must be established. Schwarz-Schilling warned that he is going to publicly name those who are responsible, should there be no significant results by the next session of PIC. He stressed that he is not going to impose solution for these problems or discuss any modifications of City Statute.</p> <p>RHB, BHT1, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 ‘Schwarz-Schilling: I will not make decisions for you’ by F.V., Oslobodjenje pg 7 ‘Progress must be made by June 20’, Nezavisne novine pg 4 ‘I will name those who are responsible for Mostar’ by N. N., EuroBlic pg RS2 ‘Critics in Mostar’ <u>not signed</u>– carried.</p>
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HDZ's Soldo concerned HR did not act yet, SDA's Hasandedic says budget proposal unacceptable

Dnevni List, front pg splash and pg 10 'Mostar blocking whole of state', by Arijana Beus, Sanja Bjelica – apart from carrying OHR's statement on Mostar, DL noted that in case the PIC got negative report on Mostar, it could block BiH's road to the EU i.e. Mostar could be the main reason why BiH is not entering the EU.

Following the meeting at the **High Representative's** (held on Thursday, meeting btw representatives of Mostar authorities and the HR), President of HDZ BiH Caucus in the Mostar City Council (MCC), **Oliver Soldo**, said the meeting was constructive, however he noted what concerns the HDZ BiH is that HR does not want to use his powers to solve problematic issues in Mostar, which cannot be solved due to the (nature of) Mostar Statute and lack of political will on part of political parties in Mostar. President of the Serb Caucus in the MCC, **Radmila Komadina**, said she told the HR that the position of the Serb Caucus was that the Mostar budget should be adopted without any conditioning. On the other hand, President of the SDA Caucus in the MCC, **Suad Hasandedic**, noted the SDA could not support budget proposal and proposal of systematization of jobs as proposed by the Mayor of Mostar. Hasandedic insists the SDA is for a multi-ethnic city, with joint institutions, arguing the HDZ wants to make a Croat city out of it. **Vecernji List**, pg 4 'Mostar given deadline until June 20', by V. R. – carries OHR's press release, which calls on Mostar authorities to resolve key issues by June 20.

<p>DL: SDP in Mostar siding with SDA, betraying status of multi-ethnic party</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 2 'Big love between SDA and SDP', by <u>Arijana Beus</u> – commenting on relations in the Mostar City Council (MCC), <u>Beus</u> notes that a 'big love' between the SDA and SDP is becoming more and more obvious especially after the last session of the MCC during which the SDP councillors supported SDA's proposal on formation of Urban Planning Bureau, for which <u>Beus</u> claims to be illegal. The author also argues that the SDP is taking side of one people only (Bosniaks), instead of working to the benefit of all citizens, which triggers the author to say that the two parties are going into an open coalition.</p>
<p>RS PM Dodik: Kosovo should held referendum on independence; others would also get legal right to decide on their destiny</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Others would get right to decide on their destiny' – RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik stated on Thursday that it would be good if Kosovo would held referendum which would be basis for making decision on status of this region, expressing hope that after that others would also get legal right to decide on their destiny. Commenting statement of Kosovo Prime Minister Agim Ceku that Kosovo will gain independence by end of this year, Dodik stated that universal right of every people is right to self-determination.</p>

<p>DA op-ed on RS PM's statement on Kosovo: People like him cannot lead BiH to Europe</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Reforms in shadow of elections' op-ed by <u>Edina Sarac</u> – Accusing the RS politicians of blocking the work of legislative authorities and police reform, author is especially critical of the RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik for advocating a referendum on self-determination of the RS. Editorial carries that Dodik invited IC to let referendum decide issue of Kosovo and expressed hope that <i>"others would also be legally allowed to use referendum and decide on their destiny"</i>. Author concludes that such people cannot lead BiH to Europe.</p>
<p>VL: It is hard to expect Serbs from BiH will be allowed to separate from BiH</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 7 'Serbs could leave BiH but without territories', by <u>Dejan Jazvic</u> – commenting on some initiatives coming from the RS, according to which the RS should be in position to organize referendum the way Montenegro did, VL argues one cannot compare statuses of Montenegro and RS since the former had its sovereignty during former Yugoslavia, which is not the case with the RS that is a part of BiH. VL reckons that advocates of separation of the RS are counting on outcome of the status of Kosovo (which seeks independence), which was never a sovereign state. In that context, VL reckons it is highly unlikely the Serb people in BiH could separate from BiH, because at least formally, the RS is an entity of Serbs as well as Bosniaks and Croats, and finally approving Serb separation from BiH would open 'Pandora's box', such as status of the Basques, Catalans etc, which is something Europe does not need.</p>

<p>SCG Ambassador Spasovic on comments that Montenegro and Kosovo will be connected with RS: These are not Serbian official stances</p>	<p>Slobodna Bosna pgs 26-28 'Separation of Montenegro and Serbia was civilized and democratic' – In light of separation of Montenegro from Serbia, the SCG Ambassador Grujica Spasovic commented in an interview for SB recent visits of the Serbian politicians to the RS who are trying to put Montenegro and Kosovo cases in relation with the RS: <i>"These are mostly people from opposition. Both Radicals and [leader of SPD Serbia] Nebojsa Covic, who act in that manner, belong to opposition. There is lot of radicalism in Serbia, but luckily, these forces are not leading Serbia, and I honestly hope that they never will. These are not official stances."</i> Spasojevic concluded that special relations between RS and Serbia should not be an issue for now, adding that Serbia should strengthen relations with FBiH and BiH.</p>
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FBiH Govt passes decision that police salaries would not be decreased

FTV By Zlata Behram – At the session held on Thursday, FBiH Government annulled its previous decision and decided that the salaries of police officers are not going to be decreased. The new decision will be valid until the adoption of draft amendments to the FBiH law on police officers. The draft amendments need to be prepared by FBiH Ministry of Interior within 30 days. FBiH Government voted on three amendments to FBiH law on privatisation of public companies proposed by SDA Caucus of FBiH House of Representatives and adopted two amendments entirely and one partially. According to these amendments, FBiH Government can solve the problem of capital share with approval of FBiH Parliament in process of privatisation in order to speed up the process. Also, part of state-owned capital above 51% can be sold at the stock exchange. FBiH Government determined the coefficient of support to the veterans in May. The May pensions will be paid out based on coefficient 1. **RHB, PINK, Hayat, Dnevni List** pg 6 'Police officers' salaries remain same' by D. Kozina – also carried.

BiH MPs answer HR
SDA's Dzaferovic:
HR did great job
detecting
situation in BiH;
SBIH's
Hadziahmetovic:
It is mystery for
economists

Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Krizanovic: It is impossible to live from 200 km' by S.Skuletic – Responding to address of High Representative **Christian Schwarz-Schilling** when he asked BiH parliamentarians *"Do you know what it means to live from 200 km a month?"* SDP deputy **Jozo Krizanovic** said that it would be impossible to answer that question: *"But this question should not be raised if there is no a concrete answer to it. It has been question for years now, but there is no answer. Then we should ask where such questions are heading... Schwarz-Schilling's messages should have come to the Parliament long time ago and should be more specific. I personal did not understand everything he said in his speech."* On the contrary, SDA's **Sefik Dzaferovic** noted that HR did a great job in detecting situation in BiH *"telling us we should use time before elections maximally rational. Not on pre-elections campaign, but on serious work on reforms."* SDS' **Bosko Siljegovic** said: *"I know very well that it means to life from 200 km, because I am head of six-members family... I am in that category,"* adding that no one is suggesting alternative. Inset 'Hadziahmetovic: Mystery for economists' – SBIH's **Azra Hadziahmetovic** stated that HR's question is a mystery for all the economists, adding that she is convinced that HR wanted BiH politics to focus onto living standard in BiH.

<p>HDZ 1990 to form coalition with Croat Coalition for Changes?</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 4 'HDZ 1990 together with Croat Coalition for Changes' by <u>zk</u> – HDZ 1990 has reached a framework agreement on coalition with the Croat Coalition for Changes made of HSS, HKDU, HDU and HD.</p>
<p>NN int with SDS founder Ninkovic: Cavic was creating black lists and was forwarding these to former HR Ashdown</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 5, announced on cover 'Dragan Cavic was creating black lists' by <u>V. Popovic</u> – In an interview to <i>NN</i>, one of founders of SDS Milan Ninkovic accused the current leader of SDS Dragan Cavic of having excluded him from the party because he is bothered with anyone who might stand on his [Cavic's] way. Asked to comment the fact that he [Ninkovic] was still on the list of officials removed by former HR Paddy Ashdown and was not amnestied from the responsibility, unlike some other officials, Ninkovic said it was Cavic who had forwarded to HR Asjhdwn a list of names of people who should be included to black lists. <i>'After HR penalised me for something Cavic was responsible of and after I was included to the black list, I withdrew from politics and respected their demands...Cavic's associates, however, were pardoned although they were removed as direct helpers of Hague indictees...'</i>.</p>

<p>Feral Tribune: Reis Ceric and Cardinal Puljic will renew their spat sooner or later</p>	<p>Feral Tribune, pgs 28-29 'Who is afraid of fear?', by <u>Ivan Lovrenovic</u> – comments on recent polemics in the media between leaders of Islamic and Catholic communities in BiH, reis-ul-ulema Mustafa eff. Ceric and cardinal Vinko Puljic, saying the High Representative for BiH, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, had to intervene in order to prevent escalation of the polemics into something worse by convening a session of Inter-religious council and ironing out the issue. Lovrenovic goes on to say that the differences between the two will surface sooner or later i.e. they will "<i>continue the temporarily disrupted polemics</i>", adding that both Ceric and Puljic have no sensitivity for problems of other religious groups.</p>
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War crimes: Cooperation with ICTY, Palic case

<p>RS Govt adopts quarterly report on cooperation with ICTY</p>	<p>RTRS, RHB, PINK, BHT1, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 ‘Intensive search for the remaining ICTY fugitives continued’, Oslobodjenje pg 2 ‘Data on three most wanted submitted to RSNA’ by Fena, Glas Srpske pg 2 ‘Debts under control’ by G. Dakic– At its Thursday’s session, RS Government passed quartile report on cooperation with the ICTY. This report reads that RS Interior Ministry is continuing the search for war crimes indictees and that RS MoI cooperates with the both local and foreign security agencies. The police however was not able to specify how many related actions were carried out in order to locate and apprehend remaining ICTY fugitives – Karadzic, Mladic and Zupljanin.</p>
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<p>RS PM Dodik: Some individuals ask for large sums of money to say where is Palic's body</p>	<p>RTRS – Commenting the case of late BiH Army Colonel Avdo Palic [who went missing during the war when he negotiated evacuation of Zepa in 1995 with the RS Army and BiH Human Rights Chamber at BiH Constitutional Court obligated RS Government to find his remains] the RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik said that RS Government is doing its best in this regard. <i>"We have a problem. We have individuals that allegedly know the location where colonel is buried. They ask for enormous amount of money for the information. And it should be paid in cash, illegally of course"</i>, said Dodik. Palic disappeared in 1995 in Zepa.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'They are asking for money for information on Avdo Palic' by <u>Srna</u> – <i>"RS Government is making huge efforts to reach the truth, and I am personally advocating for this truth to be determined, but no one will take me in the position of being a gravedigger, for I will not dig in order to find anyone."</i>Hayat– reminded that deadline set by the OHR is expiring on Friday i.e. on May 26, 2006 .</p>
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Oslobodjenje:
RS police to
arrest
Pecanac,
Mijatovic who
were last to
see Palic?

Oslobodjenje pg 10 'Dragomir Pecanac actual again' by E.K. – Oslobodjenje comments it is clear that the RS Government was only buying time through its Commission in the case of **Avdo Palic**. As anonymous high-ranking RS officials said for daily: *"It seems that we would have to ask for signing of the warrant after [**Dragomir**] **Pecanac** and [**Zeljko**] **Mijatovic**".* Daily outlines excuses the RS Govt's Commission has used to justify to the HR **Christian Schwarz-Schilling** why Palic's body remains have not yet been exhumed, which include inability to precisely locate remains or that severe whether conditions prevent them of doing so. Daily also says that Mijatovic and Pecanac were members of RS Army who last saw Palic. Oslobodjenje stressed that recent statement of the RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** in which he said he was sorry about Palic being murdered underlying however *"we weren't those that controlled Zepa so that we would be able to say something more and yet again we have made the report..."* went unnoticed and concludes this was the first time the RS official actually confirmed destiny of Palic is known.

<p>Chief of investigation on Palic case: people are trying to earn money by offering information; investigation spread to Vlasenica</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Profit-makers are obstructing the investigation' by <u>Se.M.-N.D.</u>— Head of RS Police's Crime-Service Gojko Vasic said that his team is encountering many problems in the investigation of this case, adding the police has questioned about dozen people: <i>"Even some mediators called claiming they know people who would give information for money"</i>. However, Vasic specified that the area being investigated doesn't include only Han Pijesak but Vlasenica also. Nevertheless, he was not able to say when the investigation would be finally completed: <i>"I cannot set deadline to complete this. Soon yes. Whether that is already today, we'll see. I am expecting the report from my team in the field and I hope we will be more concrete soon."</i> OHR Spokesperson Ljiljana Radetic reminded that the HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling, as well as his predecessor Paddy Ashdown, have been very clear about this issue. <i>"RS authorities have a legal responsibility to honor the demands of Human Rights Chamber i.e. the Commission"</i> said Radetic.</p>
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Judicial issues and investigations

<p>RS President Cavic asked from EUFOR Commander to launch objective investigation on Abazovic case</p>	<p>RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Truth on Abazovic case is needed' by <u>A. S.</u>, EuroBlic pg RS2 'RS President demanded investigation on the Abazovics' by <u>M. S.</u> – RS President Dragan Cavic asked from EUFOR Commander Gianmarco Chiarini to launch an objective investigation on sufferings of the Abazovic family in the action EUFOR conducted in Rogatica on January 5 in order to determine a complete truth and responsibility of persons that led to tragic consequences of the action [<i>war crimes suspect Dragomir and his son were wounded during the action, while Dragomir's wife died of injuries she sustained during the action</i>].</p>
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<p>HDZ leader Covic says indictment against him is politically motivated</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 4, mentioned on front 'Indictment is politically motivated', by <u>Erna Mackic</u> – During continuation of trials to 'Covic and others' (among others HDZ leader Dragan Covic is charged with tax-related illegalities) held before BiH Court on Thursday, Covic insisted that the indictment against him had political background, arguing that the prosecution is yet to prove a single claim from the indictment. Vecernji List, pg 5 'Rigged process is carried out against me', by <u>Zoran Kresic</u> – Covic noted that former High Representative, namely Wolfgang Petritsch, offered him to leave the HDZ BiH and join the 'Alliance for changes', warning him of possible consequence if he decided to 'stay on the other side'. Covic also said he declined offer from another HR, Paddy Ashdown, to leave the BiH Presidency, when allegedly Ashdown offered him to keep benefits of a member of BiH Presidency. Dnevni Avaz pg 12 'Covic: Process is politically grounded' by <u>N.J.</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 11 'This is typically political process' by <u>A.S.</u> – also reported.</p>
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<p>Feral Tribune: Croatian Prosecution preparing indictment against ex BiH Pres. member Jelavic</p>	<p>Feral Tribune, pg 13 'Investigation against Ante Jelavic upped', by <u>I. Djikic</u> – According to Feral Tribune's sources in Croatian state authorities, a selected group of Croatian State Prosecution's prosecutors spent several weeks in BiH, namely at the BiH Prosecution collecting evidence against former member of BiH Presidency, Ante Jelavic, who is charged with embezzlement of money donated from Croatian to the then HV0. The weekly reckons the Croatian State Prosecution is planning to raise an indictment of its own against Jelavic.</p>
<p>SB: State commission auditing naturalized citizens – 15,000 citizenships issued in period 1992-2006</p>	<p>Slobodna Bosna pgs 46-47 '15,000 citizenships issued in period 1992-2006' by <u>Suzana Mijatovic</u> – Article carries information from the first quarterly report of the State Commission for audit of naturalized citizenships submitted to the BiH Council of Ministers, according to which Commission reported that situation is much worse than expected. SB claims that 15,000 citizenships were issued in the period 1992-2006, 1,500 of which to naturalized BiH citizens originating outside of former SFR Yugoslavia. Author concludes that Commission will finish their job not even in a year, for it only audited 300 controversial citizenships.</p>

<p>British Ambassador Rycroft: Great Britain will continue supporting BiH Court</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Great Britain continues with support' by N. K., Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Help to BiH Court will continue' – A press statement of British Embassy to BiH reads British Ambassador to BiH Mathew Rycroft visited BiH Court and met with BiH Court President Meddzida Kreso on Thursday. The press statement reads Ambassador Rycroft announced during his visit that the Great Britain will continue providing BiH Court with support.</p>
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