OHR BiH Media Round-up, 27/4/2004

RADIO HERCEG-	BH TV 1 (19,00	FED TV (19,30	RT RS (19,30)
BOSNA (18,00	hrs)	hrs)	
hrs)			
HR sanctions	Floods in Tuzla	Floods in Tuzla	Mrakovica meeting
HDZ in SBK	Canton	Canton	
HR visited	Meeting in	EUFOR mandate	BiH HoP in session
Mostar	Mrakovica		
Mrakovica	BiH HoP in	SFOR generals	Law on Veterans'
meeting	session	check up	rights
BiH HoP in	Humphries's	BiH HoP in	RS cooperation
session	statement	session	with ICTY

Oslobodjenje	Cikotic and Croat Candidates did not pass in SFOR?; Incomes		
	from excises going to state stocks; Mostar must be unified		
	before elections		
Dnevni Avaz	SFOR's decision is humiliating; Integration goes better		
	than expected		
Dnevni List	Ashdown: University in Mostar will not be closed down;		
	Terzic: Secure unified market in urgent procedure		
Vecernji	Mostar: Ashdown promised university would stay; Canton 10:		
List	Policemen protested		
Slobodna	Catholic schools completely full!		
Dalmacija			
Glas Srpske	Why are traders from F BiH boycotting Serb Brod Oil		
	Refinery?: Smuggling to sink the boat; Vlasenica: Damage		
	without compensation		

Nezavisne Novine

Mrakovica meeting: Abolishment of double taxes; Petar Kunic: We will not follow the path of PDP; Research: BiH needs a new generation of politicians; Appointment of officers for joint command: Three Bosniaks and five Serbs passed vetting procedure

Mrakovica meeting

Mrakovica
meeting
discusses
establishment
of BiH single
economic
space

Oslobodjenje cover, pgs 4&5 'Incomes from excises in the state stocks' — BiH Prime Minister Adnan Terzic said Monday in Mrakovic that a package of urgent measures, aimed at creating a single market in BiH, would be implemented in the next couple of months, regardless of limiting constitutional competencies. RS and FBiH Prime Ministers Dragan Mikerevic and Ahmet Hadzipasic signed an agreement ensuring excise taxes on domestic products to be paid at the place of original producer. Terzic said that this system would primarily help businesses in BiH avoid the existing practice of double taxation.

The agreement also calls on the ITA to come up within 60 days with a proposal of necessary legal changes that will ensure that excise taxes on imported and domestic good are paid to a singe account of the Indirect Taxation Administration. RS PM Dragan Mikerevic said that the meeting was focused on resolving the problem of domestic oil production: "The agreement is significant for the Oil Refinery in Bosanski Brod because it opens the possibility for its products to be used in the entire country. This removes administrative barriers from the Refinery to sell its products and at the same time allows all other producers of excise goods to have a single economic space." The ITA Steering Board has been tasked to prepare within the next 90 days legislation that would finally regulate the sector of high excise goods in the entire country, which should lead towards the establishment of a single economic market in BiH.

Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 2 'Abolishment of double taxes'; All participants of yesterday's meeting at Mrakovica share the view that BiH will meet all pre-requisites necessary for launchment of talks on SAA.

RHB, BHTV 1, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Economic space must be single', Dnevni List, front and page 5 'Terzic: Secure unified market in urgent procedure', Glas Srpske pg 2 'Excise to change the address' — also cover Mrakovica meeting.

Terzic on the meeting

RTRS by <u>Biljana Knezevic</u> — At the meeting in Mrakovica, Chairman of CoM Adnan Terzic said that this is a true step towards establishment of the single economic space in BiH. On specific changes regarding the income of excises and other, Terzic says that they will not be against entities' constitutions and will not mean taking obligations from them: "The thing three of us have been trying since we taken over our functions is to be able to [agree on] measures through one coordination [effort] and an agreement, ensuring progress for every level of the government, based on its constitutional authorities, in the way that these competencies wouldn't have to be transferred to the state level.".

Mostar issues

Ashdown visits
Mostar:
unification
still far from
completed

Oslobodjenje cover, pg 3 'Mostar must be united by the municipal elections' — The High Representative Paddy Ashdown has stated that it will take some time before his decision on the administrative structure of Mostar is entirely functional. Three month after imposing the decision on the Mostar unification, High Rep commended Mostar mayor and his deputy, Hamdija Jahic and Ljubo Beslic respectively, "who brought courageous and difficult decisions. At this stage of the Mostar unification process, [things] are going better than I expected." Attending the ceremony of official unification of fire brigades from Mostar, Ashdown repeatedly stressed that the process of unification is a difficult one, and that it is only about to face some problems which will be hard to solve such as the single city budget. "I don't want to underestimate the difficulty of the issues which will be before us," said Ashdown. Jahic and Beslic also agreed that the unification of Fire Brigade in Mostar was a big step forward, noting that there was a lot to be done.

RHB, BHTV 1, Dnevni Avaz cover 'Integration goes better than we hoped', pg 2 'Fire brigades from Mostar unitied', Vecernji List front page splash 'Mostar: Ashdown promised university would stay', pg 3 'Ashdown: University of Mostar stays', Dnevni List, front page splash, pg 11 'Ashdown: University in Mostar will not be closed down', Slobodna Dalmacija pg 13 'Firemen united', Vecernji List pg 18 'Ashdown: Mostar still disunited', Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Mostar united only on paper' — also covered the visit.

Ashdown meets
students of
Mostar
University and
urges adoption
of BiH Higher
Education Law

RHB, Oslobodjenje cover, pg 3 'Mostar must be united by the municipal elections', Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'University must accept international standards', Slobodna Dalmacija, page 13 'Survival of University', Dnevni List front page splash and page 11 'Ashdown: University in Mostar will not be closed down' — While in Mostar, the HR Paddy Ashdown also met with the representatives of the Student Association of the Mostar Sveuciliste, and rejected the possibility of the international community closing it down. Listening to their concerns, Ashdown stressed: "The draft Law on Higher Education gives guarantees for protection of the Sveuciliste institutions." The Student Council at the University of Mostar has protested against the Law on Higher Education. Speaking to reporters ahead of his meeting with students, Ashdown said that the students' fears were unfounded. The HR reiterated that BiH would lose 42m dollars in aid from the World Bank unless the higher education bill was adopted by May 7.

FTV, BHTV 1 — "If we don't go through it by the 7th of May, than the whole country will lose 42 million dollars. It would mean high decrease of jobs in public sector. Damage has already been made", said Ashdown.

Vecernji List front page splash 'Mostar:
Ashdown promised university would stay' and page 3 'Ashdown: University of Mostar stays' —
VL also notes that the students' representatives stressed illogical solutions in the proposed legislation that are to be adopted in the state Parliament, but in the same time, they are to be applied at the entity level. VL also notes that the BiH CoM adopted the Draft law by outvoting the Croat ministers.

Jahic: City seals legal

Oslobodjenje pg 9 'City seals legal' — Mostar Mayor Hamdija Jahic denied on Monday allegations of certain printing media that seals used by the Mostar City Administration are illegal. Jahic said these allegations are completely false, adding that the City of Mostar has been using legal seals taken over from the cantonal Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Administration.

DL on former employees in municipal administrations

Dnevni List pg 5 'Severance pays to former employees in municipal administrations?' by N. Bise — claims it is still uncertain what the future of former employees of municipal administrations in Mostar will be like, noting that according to unofficial information, some 350 people could be losing jobs. Wondering if the IC took into consideration this issue when it imposed the decision to Mostar, i.e. what happens to people who worked in municipal administrations, DL contacted the OHR South spokesperson, Sanela Tunovic, to comment on the issue. According to Tunovic, OHR is not competent for the issue, adding that the City administration of Mostar should be completing the systematisation of jobs in the unified City administration. DL learns from an anonymous source that a working group should complete an organizational scheme and systematisation of the City administration by June 30, which should be adopted by the City Council in July. According to the source, only then we will know how many people the future City administration will hire. DL concludes that the people who remain jobless should be receiving severance pays.

SDP: Implementation of Mostar statute too slow

Dnevni List, page 14 'Djulic: Mostar is in chaos', not signed — carries a member of City Board of Mostar SDP, Sead Djulic, as saying that the City Board of SDP Mostar deems that the implementation of the Mostar Statute is too slow, with obstructions, and that players involved want to maintain the status quo. 'There is an incredible chaos in the city, it was never this big and bad, the High Representative and his administration are the most responsible for it. We have been warning about the situation in the city for months, but nobody listened to us because the IC decided to make deals with the SDA and HDZ'.

Defence and security issues

Out of 19
candidates, 11
failed in SFOR
vetting
procedure for
generals

Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Vetting procedure failed by six Bosniaks, four Croats, all Serbs passed' - Out of 18 proposed candidates for the generals positions in BiH Armed Forces, six Bosniak and four Croat candidates were failed, while all Serb [five] nd three Bosniak candidates satisfied SFOR's criteria. According to Avaz's source in BiH Defence Ministry, SFOR approved brigadiers Sakib Foric, Rizo Pleho and Dzevad Radjo. Other three candidates Sifet Podzic, Senad Masovic and Serif Spago have been rejected for suspicion of committing financial embezzlement, but allowed to stay in the army. However, brigadiers Selmo Cikotic, Haris Saric and Jasmin Saric were asked to immediately leave active service without a right for benefits, due to the suspicion of being involved in the war crimes. Serb candidates — Milan Milojcic, Dragos Milankovic, Mirko Tepsic, Dragan Stupar and Stamenko Novakovic — were all approved. The decision signed by SFOR Commander Virgil Packett is to be implemented by 15 May.

Oslobodjenje cover splash 'Cikotic and Croat candidates did not pass in SFOR?', pg 7 'Selmo Cikotic and Croat candidates did not pass?' by A. Prlenda — None of four main Croat candidates from FBiH Army did not pass SFOR vetting procedure for being awarded the general rank in the BiH Armed Forces. According to the daily, candidates were Slavko Puljic, Vlado Dzoic, Ivan Pavic and Goran Medic. Bosniak representative Sifet Podzic has been a candidate for the chief inspector in the BiH Defence Ministry [but, according to DA rejected]. Article reads that SFOR had to pull out backup Croat candidates also offered [without being able to say who were these candidates].

Tihic strongly criticises
SFOR decisions on generals

RHB, Oslobodjenje cover splash 'Cikotic and Croat candidates did not pass in SFOR?, 'pg 7 inset 'Ungrounded decisions of SFOR commander', FENA — The chairman of the BiH Presidency, Sulejman Tihic, has urged the SFOR commander Virgil Packett to reveal to the BiH public and judicial institutions the socalled evidence for his decision to reject a number of candidates for the post of generals in the BiH armed forces from the ranks of the Bosniak people. Tihic believes that the SFOR commander's decision is based on incomplete assessments, which are not grounded on relevant evidence such as ICTY indictments. Stressing that the SFOR commander is duty-bound to reveal "the evidence", Tihic believes that "the request to dismiss a number of brigadiers without giving them the right to retire on the account of their alleged involvement in war crimes is contrary to the system in BiH and the international human rights conventions". The statement stresses that the decision by the SFOR commander is a consequence of a lengthy campaign aimed at treating criminals and victims, i.e. those who defended BiH and the unarmed Bosniak people and those who tried to destroy it, as if there is no difference between them.

Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 2 'SFOR's decision is humiliating', Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 3 'Three Bosniaks and five Serbs passed vetting process', Glas Srpske pg 2 'Evidence on table' — Tihic said that the decision of Commander SFOR to fail 6 Bosniak candidates for candidates was scandalous and that it represents the gravest breach of the human rights. After meeting with Packet, Tihci stated for DA: "I said that this was surprising decision for me and I asked for clarification as some are accused of criminal activities, others to had been included in the war crimes." Tihic stated that SFOR did not present him with a single evidence based on which they failed candidates.

FTV — "I believe this decision is a consequence of campaign which tries to equalize victims of the war and criminals", said Sulejman Tihic.

NN op-ed on appointment of generals in BiH blames BiH Presidency

Nezavisne Novine pg 7 'Inappropriate generals' op-ed by Almedin Sisic — The author is writing about vetting procedure of for the positions at the BiH defence institutions, and critically refers to BiH Presidency, saying that its members have betrayed expectations and proved once more that all three of them are working in the interests of their political parties. He also says that British and US Generals re-examined the information related to candidatures and accordingly rejected candidatures of 11 out of 19 candidates. According to him, the BiH Presidency members are now worried with whom to nominate now and whether they would be responsible if BiH is not admitted into PfP.

First joint RS/FBiH armies exercise to be carried out

Oslobodjenje pg 4 'For the first time under the command of Minister Radovanovic', Vecernji List page 2 'First exercise under control of Minister Radovanovic' — Under patronage of OSCE, BiH and RS armies and civil protection units will stage a joint exercise in the area of Doboj in the RS and Gracanica in the Federation on Wednesday, 28 April. BiH Defence Minister Nikola Radovanovic will command the exercise, named "Help casualties 2004". The objective of the exercise is to test the readiness of the BiH institutions and the entities to act in unison in real situations and to test organizational procedures and the use of resources and technical capabilities.

NN on OSA Head candidate Dzuvo

Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Dzuvo does not meet requirements for OSA Head' — NN learnt from its source close to the Intelligence Reform Commission that Almir Dzuvo, the candidate of the BiH CoM Chair Adnan Terzic for the position of Chief of OSA (Intelligence and security agency) does not meet legal requirements to be appointed to this position, since he does not have a single day of work experience on security affairs.

Nikolic on redundancy of FBIH troops

Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Dismissal of soldiers in Federation of FBiH starting next week?' — FBiH Defence Minister Miroslav Nikolic announces for DA that the redundancies of the soldiers in FBiH Army, scheduled several times before, will commence next week. However, Nikolic stresses that this has been condition by previous adoption of the Government's plane for providing care to the surplus troops, which has been postponed for past three months. If the programme is adopted at the session of FBiH Government today, Nikolic believes that dismissals would start next week.

Kebo on BiH anti-terrorism activities

Oslobodjenje pg 3 'BiH is quite secure' — BiH Minister for Human Rights and Refugees Mirsad Kebo believes that in BiH should intensify and expand preventive activities by integrating them into the international system of protection from terrorism.

"Many countries in the world have organized themselves and are jointly creating a defence system to counter-act terrorism and, in this context, Bosnia-Hercegovina should not be an exception," Minister Kebo has told Fena. While he said that there had been no terrorist attacks in BiH so far and that this was encouraging, Kebo also said that, although our country was quite secure, following the 11 September 2001 attacks on US cities, it is clear that no place in the world can be absolutely secure.

US Council for
Foreign
Affairs member
says Balkans
to become good
path for
terrorists

Nezavisne Novine, pg 6 'Balkans region — paradise for terrorists' - Ilan Berman from the U.S. Council for Foreign Affairs, in an interview given to the Voice of America, said that the Balkans had become a route that was being used by terrorists, and that it was on good path to become a paradise for terrorism. "The Balkans is important because it represents a potentially fertile soil for terrorist activities, as the state institutions are weak, there are many failures with regard to the safety of borders, failures with regard to the intelligence services etc", Berman said. He added that the authorities in BiH as well as Governments of many Western countries had recognised the fact that there were a small percentage of militants in BiH who continued to go through radicalisation process and were becoming politically active. "Those are volunteers prepared for groups such as Al Q'Aida, which is now ready to expand its personnel, turn to those who are not Arabians, and recruit those who do not look like Arabians", Berman added. According to him, all indicators suggested that Al Q'Aida was present in BiH.

Political developments

BiH HoP adopts changes to BiH Election Law; state budget

RHB, BHTV 1, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 5 'State institutions' budget adopted', pg 7 'National minorities to participate in authorities', Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'State budget adopted', Dnevni List page 3 'Budget and Election Law adopted' - At the session held in Sarajevo on Monday, the BiH House of Peoples passed amendments and addenda to the BiH Election Law, which regulate the representation of minorities in elections at municipal level and the right of political parties to paid advertising in the media. The adopted changes will be applied in the forthcoming local elections in BiH scheduled for 2 October, as the HoR previously already endorsed the same text of the law as the House of Peoples. At the session, deputies also adopted the budget for the state institutions and the international obligations for 2004 and the Law on the Budget Execution. The budget for BiH institutions, previously adopted by the BiH House of Representatives, is set at about 480,5 million KM. A total of about 212 million KM is earmarked for the funding BiH institutions, and approximately 268 million KM for the payment of the foreign debt.

Ashdown sanctions HDZ in Central Bosnia over education

Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Ashdown sanctioned HDZ SBK' —
The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, on
Monday issued a decision imposing a fivepercent fine on the funds allocated to the HDZ
in Central Bosnia Canton. This decision will
take effect on Friday if the authorities in
Canton Six fail to implement the necessary
administrative steps to merge the two-schoolsunder-one roof in the Canton. Otherwise, funds
allocated to HDZ in Canton 6 will be reduced by
an additional five percent every week
thereafter until the necessary administrative
steps are taken.

FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje cover, pg 3 'Mostar must be united by the municipal elections', Dnevni List page 7 'Sanction because of obstruction in area on education', Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Ashdown penalises HDZ again' — also mentioned sanctions.

VL on unification of schools in Stolac

Vecernji List, page 7 'Bosniaks wholeheartedly for one school', by Frano Matic – commenting on the recent decision of the Municipal Council of Stolac, which took a decision on administrative unification of 'two schools under one roof' in an urgent procedure, the author claims the decision was taken differently by the Croats and Bosniaks. In that context, Matic says the fact that the decision was taken at the last moment and under threat of the High Representative's sanctions shows that the Croats take the decision as an 'imposed' solution. VL goes on to say that the Bosniaks representatives see the decision as their 'victory', going even further by requesting a joint curriculum.

EU Foreign Ministers discuss mission to BiH Oslobodjenje pgs 4&5 'For the beginning, police under military control' — EU Foreign Affairs Ministers met in Luxembourg in Monday discussing possible EU mission to BiH with military component, and defined general concept of the strategic parameters of the mission that would also encompass EU troops, or so called EUFOR. High-ranking official of the IC submitted part of the document discussed to Oslobodjenje, from which it is obvious, savs daily, that EU very carefully and discusses its long-term engagement in BiH. The aims of the mission include maintaining secure BiH, assisting its path towards Euro-Atlantic integrations, helping measures leading to the successful singing of the Stabilisation and Accession Agreement, and more specific goals such as the police work.

Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'SFOR leaving, EUFOR coming' — Military operations of future EU forces will be undertaken under the political control and in accordance with the strategic instructions of the EU Political and Security Council. "Around 7,000 troops will be engaged to conduct those military operations. This operation of the EUFOR could be launched in December 2004", the source of NN claimed. The EUFOR mandate will be based on a resolution of the UN SC, in line with the Chapter VII of the UN Charter. According to the NN source, the

EUPM will continue conducting its key activities together with the BiH Police Force Steering Board. A sort of an integrated police unit (IPU) will be engaged at the beginning to operate as part of EUFOR.

RHB, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'BiH is irrevocably on the path to Europe' — also cover the meeting.

Humphreys on
BiH chance
to begin
with
negotiations
on SAA

BHTV 1 — If BIH authorities fulfil 16 conditions set by the Feasibility Study, negotiations on the beginning of the to Stabilization and Association Agreement could start next year, said Michael Humphreys, chief of EC mission to BiH attending the conference on BiH and European integrations. He also said that the recommendation for beginning the negotiations on SAA would not be given unless BIH achieves improvements. Out of 16 conditions, BiH until now has fulfilled only two. "Implementation of reforms in BIH has to accelerate, if we want to start negotiations on signing Stabilization and Association Agreement by the end of the year. First of all, this depends on efforts by authorities at all levels

Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Dayton Agreement cannot be disturbance for European integrations' — "If you want to Europe, change what you have to and keep what you can keep. Do not call upon Dayton in those cases when it is obvious that it is a disturbance to the European integrations," stated Dutch Ambassador to BiH Robert Boscher at the conference.

in BIH", stressed Humphreys.

RHB, FTV, Vecernji List page 5 'On BiH's accession as late as in 2005' — also reported on the conference.

NHI Presidency session

RHB, Oslobodjenje pg 7 'NHI will not go into the coalition with SDA, HDZ and SDS', Dnevni List page 3 'Zubak: We are not intending to form coalitions with HDZ, SDA and SDS', Slobodna Dalmacija pg 13 'SDA, HDZ and SDS unwanted' — The New Croat Initiative [NHI] elected its deputy chairpersons - Ivo Zivkovic, Sonja Papo and Irena Batic — during the first constitutive session of the NHI presidency. NHI chairman Kresimir Zubak told a news conference in Sarajevo that the party leadership established the elements of an election strategy for the upcoming elections in BiH. Zubak said that the NHI would contest the upcoming elections wherever the party has municipal organizations or secretariats. The party will aim to achieve the same election results as those last year. According to Zubak, the NHI will not join in a coalition with SDA, HDZ or SDS. It was left up to local NHI organizations to decide, each one of them individually, with whom to join in a coalition in the upcoming elections.

NN op ed on overall situation in BIH

Nezavisne Novine pg 7 'Who does not let pass to Europe?' op-ed by Miroslav Mikes — The author starts the article by saying that there is a Deity of Son in BiH called OHR, from whose heat many people sweat. He further says BiH, from the geographic point of view, is a part of Europe. He stresses that in Europe, young, intelligent and educated people have a chance to succeed, but in BiH they do not, since the only thing that matters in BiH is whether you are Serb, Bosniak or Croat and whether you are a member of any political party. He completes the op-ed by saying that only young, intelligence and educated people can lead this

the op-ed by saying that only young, intelligence and educated people can lead this country out from the crisis. He stresses that time will show that those young people have found their places within progressive parties and groups of individuals, being opposition at the present time.

War crimes

Ivanic: RS
 must
cooperate
with ICTY

RTSR, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Cooperation with ICTY is inevitable for RS', Slobodna Dalmacija, back page 'Innocent must not be victims' — PDP President, Mladen Ivanic at the press conference held in Banja Luka on Monday said that RS must cooperate with ICTY, so that BiH could join to NATO and EU as soon as possible. He pointed that RS parties cannot only declaratively support the RS cooperation with ICTY, saying that all countries in the region have done much more then RS has. He pointed that innocent people must not get hurt, and added that

PDP has no intention to answer to political blackmail of other Parties. "We really have no intention to react on every situation and try to persuade the partners in majority that they should stay"- said Ivanic.

Monte Negro
Bishop says
SFOR
[Muslims,
Croats,
Slovenians]
'lynched'
Starovlahs

Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Amfilohije: Muslims, Croats and Slovenians lynched Starovlahs', Oslobodjenje pg 5 'There were Muslims, Croats and Slovenians among them', FENA — Monte Negro Bishop Amfilohije stated on Monday that there are some indications proving that priest Jeremija and his son Aleksandar Starovlah were 'lynched' by members of SFOR, "including Muslims, Croats and Slovenians." Addressing at the press conference in Podgorica, bishop said that it was not true that Jeremija and his son were injured by explosion and added that SFOR members were beating them for an hour. "There are indications that among those of SFOR who lynched Starvlahs were Muslims, Croats and Slovenians. That is why that crime against them was so brutal. I don't believe that a European would have so much hatred towards somebody innocent," said Amfilohije.

Srebrenica
Comm
officials
say
cooperation
with RS
authorities
improved

Oslobodjenje pg 8 'We are on track of mass graves locations' — Chairman of the Srebrenica Commission Milan Bogdanic stated for Oslobodjenje the Commission has received some useful documents and information from RS authorities in the past few days which lead towards locations of the mass graves. "Since I took over the position, cooperation with all bodies in RS is satisfactory and promises successfully work of the Commission," says Bogdanic. Vice Chair of the Commission, Smail Cekic, also says that the situation has significantly improved lately. Glas Srpske pg 5 'Everybody needs the truth' — In a statement to GS, Milan Bogdanic expresses expectation that the Commission report to be submitted to the RS Government at the end of next week would include information on possible gravesites. He also said that the Commission received useful information from the RS Army General Staff and its leading officials, including General Cvjetko Savic. He also says that RS Interior Ministry is conducting an investigation aimed at interviewing the people, who might be of assistance in identifying possible gravesites.