

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 29/3/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 29 March

| <b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b><br>(12,00 hrs) | <b>BH Radio 1</b> (12,00 hrs) | <b>RTRS</b> (12,00 hrs)     |
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| FBiH Parliament in session               | HR to decide on Covic today   | New earthquake in southAsia |
| HR's press conference at 1400            | FBiH HoR in session           | Ashdown to remove Covic     |
| Holy mass for late Jozo Leutar           | Sarajevo Mayor elected        | SPC visiting USA            |

TV news broadcast on 28 March

| <b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b><br>(18,00 hrs) | <b>TV PINK</b> (18,00 hrs)        | <b>BHT 1</b> (19,00 hrs)            |
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| World news                               | New PDHR takes over               | Reactions on Bukejlovic's statement |
| Puljic's message to all officials in BiH | Radovanovic on defence reform     | Zupljanin's case                    |
| Jozo Leotar case update                  | SCG-BiH-CRO agreement             | Lukic and Pavkovic's case           |
| FBiH Parliament in session               | SNSD round table on police reform | Covic's case                        |

| <b>NTV Hayat</b> (19,00 hrs)     | <b>FTV</b> (19,30 hrs)           | <b>RTRS</b> (19,30 hrs)  |
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| Divjak on RS PM statement        | Problems with Corridor 5c        | No ICTY indictees in BiH |
| BiH officials on RS PM statement | Protests of "Agrokomerc" workers | Police Reform            |

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| RS MoI activities on war indictees | Asylum in Sweden not possible | Defence Reform   |
| Jozo Leutar death anniversary      | Military service in BiH       | Tihic's proposal |

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| <b>Oslobodjenje</b>       | Charges against Covic and others are not based on facts; Covic's deadline for resign expired after holidays                           |
| <b>Dnevni Avaz</b>        | Amor Masovic: Bukejlovic must apologize to citizens of Sarajevo ; Radovanovic: It is not possible to immediately abolish conscription |
| <b>Dnevni List</b>        | Covic to be removed or arrested   |
| <b>Vecernji List</b>      | Croats are financing Bosniak lawsuits   |
| <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b> | Features Croatia related headlines  |
| <b>Nezavisne Novine</b>   | Matijasevic: BiH needs competent and cheaper police   |
| <b>Glas Srpske</b>        | Ashdown turns silent ear  |
| <b>EuroBlic</b>           | Features Serbian related titles   |
| <b>Vecernje novosti</b>   | Features Serbian related titles   |
| <b>Nacional</b>           | Features Serbian related titles   |

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| <b>LATEST NEWS OF TODAY</b> |
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| <p><b>HINA:<br/>Ashdown<br/>removes<br/>Covic</b></p>                | <p><b>RTRS</b> – OHR has scheduled a press conference in Sarajevo today. HINA news agency has learnt from a source at OHR <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> would today remove <b>Dragan Covic</b> after he refused to tender resignation to this position, as HR had previously asked from him to do. According to the same source, by doing this, OHR wants to preserve the credibility of BiH Presidency.</p> |
| <p><b>Indictments<br/>against<br/>Dokic, Pavic<br/>confirmed</b></p> | <p><b>FENA</b> – The Banja Luka Basic Court has today confirmed indictments against former RS Ministers of Traffic and Communications <b>Branko Dokic</b> and <b>Marko Pavic</b>. Dokic and Pavic were accused of misuse of office and authorities while performing the mentioned duties and of damaging RS budget for 200.000 KM and BiH Ministry for Civil Affairs for approx. 700.000 KM.</p>    |

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| <p><b>SDA's Semiha Borovac elected Sarajevo Mayor</b></p>          | <p><b>BH Radio 1</b> by <u>Mustafa Karahmet</u> – An inaugural session of the Sarajevo City Council was held in Sarajevo today. SDA's nominee <b>Semiha Borovac</b> was elected Mayor. Party for BiH-nominated candidate of the Serb nationality <b>Predrag Mitrovic</b> and SDA-nominated <b>Josip Braco Jurisic</b> from the ranks of the Croat people were elected Deputy Mayors. Election of the Mayor, who is of the same nationality as the Chairman of the Council, represents a violation of BiH, FBiH and Sarajevo Canton Constitutions stipulating that two leading public offices in multi-ethnic cities/municipalities cannot be held by persons of the same nationality. This situation may be overcome by amending the Sarajevo City Statute at one of the coming City Council's sessions.</p> |
| <p><b>McNair: Extensive presence of organised crime in BiH</b></p> | <p><b>RTRS – John McNair</b>, Prosecutor's with Special Department for Organised and Economic Crime at BiH Prosecutor's Office, has stated that the organised crime is present at all pores of BiH society. He announced some new indictments, without going into details of those.</p>  |
| <p><b>Cavic on arrest of war crime suspects</b></p>                | <p><b>RTRS – Dragan Cavic</b>, RS President, has stated if hard evidence on whereabouts of <b>Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic</b> were delivered to his Cabinet, he would immediately launch action of their arrest and forward the information to the RS Ministry of Internal Affairs. In an interview to Belgrade daily "Politika", Cavic said: <i>"I am a legalist and my institutional duty is to obey the Law."</i></p>   |

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| <p><b>FBiH<br/>Parliament<br/>in session</b></p> | <p><b>BH Radio 1</b> by <u>Ljiljana Radl</u> – These laws represent one of WB pre-conditions for getting a loan to co-finance FBiH Budget. According to FBiH PM <b>Ahmet Hadzipasic</b> it is about 49 million KM and the deadline to fulfil this pre-condition expires on March 31. The draft laws are on the agenda of an extraordinary FBiH HoR session taking place in Sarajevo today. FBiH HoP is also expected to hold the session in next two days.</p> |
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| <p><b>Police and defence reforms/ Security issues</b></p> |
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| <p>Round-table in<br/>BL: RS supports<br/>police reforms,<br/>but not<br/>abolishment of<br/>RS MoI,<br/>centralization</p> | <p><b>Nezavisne novine</b> cover pg splash and pg 3<br/>‘Matijasevic: BiH needs competent and cheaper<br/>police’ by <u>D. Risojevic</u> – A round table discussion<br/>on police reform, organized by SNSD, took place in<br/>Banjaluka on Monday, and was attended by<br/>representatives of the RS Interior Ministry, BiH<br/>Security Ministry, OHR and EUPM. SNSD Chair <b>Milorad<br/>Dodik</b> said that solutions offered in the final<br/>report by the Police Reform Commission were an<br/>introduction into change of BiH, entities’ and<br/>cantonal constitutions. According the RS MoI, <b>Darko<br/>Matijasevic</b>, only principle RS members in the PRC<br/>accepted was depolitisation of the police. <i>‘BiH<br/>needs to have a reformed security system in a way<br/>that it does not exclude the existence of RS MoI’</i>,<br/>Matijasevic stated adding that while he agrees with<br/>EU police standards he believes this could be<br/>achieved trough reform of existing police forces.<br/>The Head of Banjaluka OHR, <b>Graham Day</b>, said that<br/>they are willing to discuss all details but have no<br/>intention to bring three EU principles (budget,<br/>efficiency of police forces and depoliticised<br/>police) in jeopardy. Day pointed out that the HR<br/>was not going to impose solutions and that the<br/>solution had to be reached through a consensus.<br/>SNSD Deputy President <b>Krstan Simic</b> resented the<br/>drafters over the fact the new model of territorial<br/>organisation demands for a new judiciary reform due<br/>to duplication of jurisdiction of competent<br/>Prosecutor’s Offices.</p> <p><b>PINK, BHT1, RTRS, Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 ‘The<br/>Constitution as a measure for everything’ by <u>O.<br/>Matavulj</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS2, announced on cover<br/>‘Compromise, but how’ by <u>Rajna Radosavljevic</u>,<br/><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 8 ‘Changing constitutional<br/>structure’ by <u>O. Vukovic</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 4<br/>‘Dialogue of restructuring of Police has started’,<br/>by <u>M. Batarello</u> – also carry a report on the round<br/>table discussion on police reform.</p> <p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 ‘Chaos in judiciary’ <u>not signed</u> –<br/>carries a statement of Krstan Simic regarding the<br/>police reform.</p> |
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| <p><b>Mektic: RS leadership to decide on police reform</b></p> | <p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 10 'Top RS institutions should decided on police reform' by <u>Srna</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS2, announced on cover 'Compromise, but how' by <u>Rajna Radosavljevic</u> – BiH Deputy Security Minister, <b>Dragan Mektic</b>, said in Banjaluka that for Serb representatives in the Police Reform Commission the proposed police reform is unacceptable in political sense because it involves the change of the RS and BiH constitutions. <i>"The fact is that BiH police system is complicated and expensive, because of what is necessary to conduct certain reforms, but that must be decided by the RS leadership, especially because the police reform encroaches the RS and BiH constitutions "</i>, Mektic stressed.</p> |
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**Matijasevic,  
Cavic under  
threat because  
of cooperation  
with ICTY,  
police reform?**

**BHT1, Oslobođenje** pg 5 'Anonymous threats against Matijasevic' by Fena, **Nezavisne novine** pg 3 'Anonymous threats to Matijasevic' by D. R.– RS Interior Minister **Darko Matijasevic** confirmed on Monday that he has received anonymous threats, but noted that this is not something that is out of the ordinary and that it comes with his job. Matijasevic told the press that he has received an anonymous letter, not wishing to specify whether serious threats were made in this letter. *"From my point of view and the function I am performing, the threats are something ordinary and practice is such that people performing similar functions throughout the world often receive anonymous letters and threats"*, said Matijasevic.

**Hayat** – *"I think that this is a normal thing to happen, but our security services are investigating the whole issue"*, said Matijasevic.

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Matijasevic and Covic received threats' by E.S. – DA learns from circles close to SDS that this is not the first threat addressed against some RS official. The same source claims that due to increased cooperation between RS and ICTY, the RS President, **Dragan Cavic**, has also received threats from anti-ICTY lobby. Apparently, RS President was warned *"to be careful"* of his actions and intentions to arrest and extradite ICTY suspects, to make sure he doesn't do anything which would lead to abolishment of RS MoI, especially of RS. Source concludes that Cavic doesn't want to go public with this story.



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| <p><b>Radovanovic: no consensus on abolishment of conscription was reached, but could be soon</b></p> | <p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'It is not possible to immediately abolish the conscription', mentioned on cover, by <u>E. Sarac</u> – The BiH Defence Minister, <b>Nikola Radovanovic</b>, stated for DA that state authorities are on the good road to reach an agreement on abolishing the conscription, adding that the most important thing is that Defence Reform Commission continues to work. He added he believes that it is not possible to immediately abolish conscription as they are certain political options believing this was not smart, however adds that since there is no deadline for this to occur there is time to discuss this and future composition of the army's reserves. The FBiH Defence Minister, <b>Miroslav Nikolic</b>, says that the abolishment of conscription is also optimal solution for BiH on its road to the Partnership for Peace and creation of the professional military structures. The RS Defence Ministry says that in addition to this, they would also support the abolishment of army reserves. <b>PINK, FTV, RTRS</b> – also carried Radovanovic's statement.</p> |
| <p><b>SNSD: Bosniak Caucus at RS CoP abused vital national interest</b></p>                           | <p><b>RTRS, Nezavisne novine</b> pg 5 'Bosniak Caucus has abused vital national interest' by <u>V. P.</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS3 'SNSD: abuse of national interest' by <u>Srna</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 'Ill of veto' by <u>M. Dz.</u> – The Secretary General of SNSD <b>Igor Radojicic</b> has stated that the Bosniak Caucus in the Council of Peoples of RS, by using veto on conclusions and the Declaration of RS NA regarding defense reform, once again has abused the institution of the vital national interest. He has said at a press conference that, although no item that would endanger the vital national interest of any ethnic group in RS or BiH exists in the Declaration, the Caucus is of the stance that <i>"demilitarization could be detrimental for BiH and that BiH still needs the recruitment and huge military forces"</i>. He assessed that such a stance is not only old-fashioned, but is also very dangerous.</p>   |

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| <p><b>McElhaney expresses concern over delays in defence and police reforms</b></p> | <p><b>NTV Hayat</b> 'Korak' current affairs program, <u>by Adnan Rondic</u> – In an interview to Korak current affairs program, the US Ambassador to BiH, <b>Douglas McElhaney</b>, comments to the defence and police reforms saying that in his opinion BiH can complete those with existing political structure, adding it seems that there is a lack of political will. On the RSNA's stance of necessity to keep the entities' Defence Ministries, Ambassador McElhaney reminded that on 23 December last year the BiH Presidency and its Chair <b>Borislav Paravac</b> made it very clear that BiH is determined to undertake the reforms. He added that it is up to state level authorities to ensure their implementation, thus he was negatively surprised with the statements that the RS authorities will only negotiate on the conscription and profesionalization of the army. Ambassador expressed his concern with the stance of the BiH authorities of discussing this issue after BiH joins the Partnership for Peace, stressing that this is not possible as NATO will not give positive assessment due to June deadline for abolishment of the entities MoDs. On police reform, McElhaney said that there is certain resistance in this matter aimed at protecting entities MoIs, concluding that the situation is the same as with the defence reform.</p> |
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| <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jozo Leutar's assassination – case reopened</b></p> | <p><b>RHB</b> – The sixth anniversary of the assassination of former Deputy FBiH Interior Minister, <b>Jozo Leutar</b>, was marked on Monday. He was killed by the bomb planted under his vehicle in a parking lot in Sarajevo downtown. In an interview to RHB, the BiH Security Minister, <b>Barisa Colak</b>, stated that the names of perpetrators are still unknown and announced charges against those who intentionally obstructed the investigation. <i>"I asked from member of BIH Presidency <b>Dragan Covic</b> not to cease this process"</i> said Colak.</p> <p><b>Hayat</b> by <u>Alem Karamesic</u> – After six Croats [<b>Ivan Andabak, Dominik Ilijasevic Como, Zoran Basic, Zeljko Cosic, Jedinko Bajkusa</b> and <b>Mario Milicevic</b>], who spent a year in a prison, were found not guilty of the assassination, the Cantonal Prosecutor, <b>Branko Sljivar</b>, has created new investigation team re-opening the case.</p> <p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6 'Sixth anniversary of Jozo Leutar's murder was commemorated' by <u>V. Coric</u>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'Wreath lied at Jozo Leutar's tomb' – also brings the information on the anniversary.</p> |
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| <p><b>War crimes issues</b></p>                            |  |
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| <p><b>Matijasevic: Zupljanin may surrender to ICTY</b></p> | <p><b>BHT1, FTV, RTRS, Hayat, Oslobodjenje</b> pg 6 'Negotiations on Zupljanin's surrender', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'RS authorities are trying to make Zupljanin to surrender to the ICTY' by <u>Srna</u> – RS Interior Minister, <b>Darko Matijasevic</b>, stated that the RS police is carrying out intensive negotiations with <b>Stojan Zupljanin's</b> family and friends on his voluntary surrender to ICTY. According to Matijasevic, RS police is in constant contact with the families of other persons indicted for war crimes.</p> |

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| <p><b>Mektic:<br/>Ministry has<br/>no<br/>information<br/>on PIFWCs in<br/>BiH<br/>territory</b></p>            | <p><b>PINK, RTRS, Hayat, Oslobodjenje</b> pg 6<br/> ‘Negotiations with BiH, Croati and SCG on extraditing indictees’- BiH Deputy Minister of Security <b>Dragan Mektic</b> on Monday stated that this ministry does not possess any information on the whereabouts of persons indicted for war crimes on BiH territory. He added: <i>“If we have had such information, we would do all in our power to arrest them.”</i> Mektic told the press that activities are in progress to make up a trilateral agreement between BiH, Croatia and SCG on extradition of the war crimes indictees to the ICTY. BiH Ministry has designed a proposal of this agreement and a trilateral meeting at the highest level should be held at the end of March or the beginning of April to present it.</p> |
| <p><b>Terzic:<br/>Courts,<br/>banks still<br/>has not<br/>frozen<br/>property of<br/>ICTY<br/>fugitives</b></p> | <p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3 ‘Banks and courts have not frozen property of the war crimes suspects at large’ by <u>V.Z.</u> – The Chair of the CoM, <b>Adnan Terzic</b>, stated for daily that the banks and courts in BiH have not yet implemented the decision of the CoM brought in December last year to free the property of the persons indicted by ICTY at large. Due to violation of the decision, the CoM recently held the meeting demanding the decision to be immediately carried out.</p>  |

**BHT 1 on  
Bukejlovic's  
statement:  
WCC will  
process any  
case with  
enough  
evidences**

**BHT 1** by Mirela Cosic – BiH War Crimes Chamber (WCC) will process the cases of war crimes committed against Serbs in Sarajevo, if such claims are supported with the evidences. Three days ago RS Prime Minister **Pero Bukejlovic** stated that the genocide was committed against Serbs in Sarajevo during the war, perhaps even bigger than genocide committed against Bosniaks in Srebrenica. Members of Serb Civic Council [SCC] strongly oppose Bukejlovic's statement. RS Interior Ministry said it will continue to gather facts about possible war crimes committed against Serbs in Sarajevo, said minister **Darko Matijasevic**. *"It's not up to us to speculate. We must clearly prove, on the basis of documents and information that we have, that war crimes were (committed in Sarajevo)"*, said Matijasevic. On the other hand, the WCC spokesperson **Refik Hodzic** said that they would process every case with enough evidences to support it. *"We will process those cases no matter who was involved, and no matter where those crimes were committed"*, added Hodzic. No ICTY indictment is related with the alleged BiH Army crimes against Serbs in Sarajevo, concluded BHT reporter.

**FTV, Oslobodjenje** pg 5, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 – BiH Association of PoWs also harshly criticised Bukejlovic's statement.

**Masovic:  
Bukejlovic  
should  
apologize to  
Sarajevo  
citizens**

**Dnevni Avaz**, front pg splash and pg 8  
'Bukejlovic must apologize to people of  
Sarajevo', by E. Sarac – The President of  
the FBIH Commission for search for missing  
persons and an MP in the BiH Parliament,  
**Amor Masovic**, calls on the RS Prime  
Minister, **Pero Bukejlovic**, to publicly  
apologize to people of Sarajevo regardless  
of their nationality because of "*insults  
and accusations*" that were stated at Pale  
the other day at the 'By truth to justice'  
conference. Masovic told DA that  
Bukejlovic has to apologize firstly  
because of the four-year long siege of  
Sarajevo and secondly for the insults that  
were stated at the conference. **Hayat** –  
also brings similar statement by Masovic.

**Pejanovic:  
Bukejlovic's  
statement is  
a political  
provocation**

**Hayat, EuroBlic** pg RS3 'Pejanovic:  
Bukejlovic is provoking' by Beta – Wartime  
member of the BiH Presidency, **Mirko  
Pejanovic** said that Sarajevo Serbs were  
not killed in an organized manner adding  
there were only individual cases.  
Pejanovic added that **Pero Bukejlovic's**  
statements on genocide committed against  
Serbs in Sarajevo were not made to  
contribute to the reconciliation, but to  
draw attention away from the obligations  
RS has to meet, namely cooperation with  
the ICTY. Pejanovic said that the  
statement was calculated in order to draw  
attention to Sarajevo and this issue,  
and to reduce the pressure RS Government  
was facing. Pejanovic said that Serbs in  
Sarajevo had always had negative  
consequences due to SDS politicians and  
their statements on Serbs. Pejanovic's  
statement was supported by Jovan Divjak,  
retired wartime BiH Army general of Serb  
nationality.

**OHR received  
initial  
version of  
Srebrenica  
Report**

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'OHR received initial version of Srebrenica Report' M. Drinjakovic – The working group tasked with implementation of the Srebrenica Commission conclusions last week submitted an initial version of its report to OHR. *"We received working version of the report last week and we are currently considering it,"* said OHR Spokesman **Oleg Milisic**. Sources close to the Srebrenica Commission told the daily that the report making process was in the final phase and it was likely to be completed tomorrow, a day before expiration of the deadline set by the High Representative. President of the Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa Enclaves Association Munira Subasic said that after the work on making the report has been finished the OHR was expected to make concrete moves. *"We expect OHR to remove from public offices criminals, who organized or participated in killing of our relatives and who are still sitting in RS authorities, and then to arrest and punish them,"* said Subasic.



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| <p><b>VL: Croats financing Bosniak lawsuit against Serbia and Montenegro</b></p> | <p><b>Vecernji List</b>, front pg splash and pgs 2-3 'Croats are financing Bosniak lawsuits', by <u>Miroslav Vasilj, Branka Stevandic</u> – The daily argues that the FBiH Government, whose budget is filled up by the Croats by more than 50%, is the biggest financier of the lawsuit that BiH has pressed against Serbia and Montenegro, which is charged with genocide. Namely, the FBiH Government has financed the lawsuit with 500.000 KMs from the FBiH budget. VL also notes that despite Croats financing a hefty portion of the lawsuit, a BiH legal representative in the lawsuit, <b>Sakib Softic</b>, stated that his team would only be proving the genocide against the Bosniaks, which saw no reactions from Croat political leaders in BiH.</p> |
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**Covic, others indictment**

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| <p><b>Cardinal<br/>Puljic:<br/>Indictment<br/>against<br/>Covic, others<br/>not based on<br/>facts</b></p> | <p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> cover page, pg 3 'Indictments against Covic and others not based on facts' <u>V. Zivak</u> – In a statement for the daily, Head of BiH Catholic Community Cardinal <b>Vinko Puljic</b> said that the indictments against Croat member of the Presidency <b>Dragan Covic</b> as well as other Croat officials were not based on facts.</p> <p>Puljic did not want to comment on allegations by politicians primarily those from HDZ BiH that the indictments against Covic and others represent a strike on the Croat people in BiH. <i>"I would not comment on that. I would just say that the indictments against Covic and others should be based on the facts. I am reacting against a situation in which facts are being searched for only after the indictments have been raised,"</i> said Puljic.</p> |
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**VL: Tense situation btw IC and Croat politicians at the Easter reception**

**Vecernji List**, pg 7 'Ashdown and Covic at reception at Cardinal's', mentioned on front 'Easter reception at Cardinal's', by Ivana Brkic Cubela – Reports from the Easter reception, which was organized on Monday by the Archbishop of Vrhbosnia, Cardinal **Vinko Puljic**, and which gathered senior political and religious officials, as well as officials of the IC. The journalist notes that one could feel the tension in the air, which was caused by "*recent political events and pressures*". To back her claims up, the journalist notes that the HR, **Paddy Ashdown**, was socializing only with other representatives of the IC, and the journalist spotted that Ashdown did not congratulate the Easter to the Croat politicians attending the reception.

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Hope in better life should be built in BiH' by Fena – reports on reception.

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| <p><b>Media speculates on HR's decision on Covic [announced for today]</b></p> | <p><b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 3 'Ashdown about removal of Covic today', by <u>Zoran Kresic</u> – The daily learns from an anonymous source in the OHR that <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> will today most probably remove the Croat member of BiH Presidency, <b>Dragan Covic</b>, after he refused to stand down. VL also learns that Covic will not be banned from future political engagement.</p> <p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'Ashdown to decide on removing Covic' by <u>S.N.</u> – announces HR to bring decision today.</p> <p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'Covic's deadline for resignation expired with holidays' by <u>A. O.</u> – The OHR Spokesperson, <b>Oleg Milisic</b>, did not want to speculate on the HR decision, adding that Ashdown hopes Covic has used holidays period to reconsider resigning. He adds that <b>Mato Tadic</b>'s resignation is also expected, however daily speculates that there are no indictments as to what would OHR remove him since he refuses to resign.</p> <p><b>BHT 1</b> – Commenting the possibility of having Covic dismissed by the HR, his attorney <b>Josip Muselimovic</b> say such decision is too serious: <i>"[It] cannot be made without very strong reasons, and it must be very well explained."</i> HDZ Vice-President <b>Niko Lozancic</b> said that HDZ would continue to offer Covic all the support he needs.</p> |
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**DL: OHR tasks  
BiH judiciary  
to arrest  
Covic?**

**Dnevni List**, front pg splash and pgs 2-3  
'Covic to be removed or arrested', by  
Nermin Bise – Notes that the High  
Representative for BiH, **Paddy Ashdown**,  
upon returning from the US, yesterday held  
a long meeting with his staff which  
discussed measures towards the member of  
BiH Presidency, **Dragan Covic**. DL says  
although it seemed almost inevitable that  
Ashdown was going to take a decision to  
remove Covic, reliable information from  
sources close to the IC reveal that  
Ashdown is thinking about not using his  
powers. Instead of that, speculations have  
it that Ashdown would entrust the final  
say in the Covic case to the BiH  
judiciary. Namely, the judiciary would, at  
the order and with the approval of the  
OHR, arrest Covic, just like **Ante Jelavic**  
got arrested, under excuse that Covic  
could be pressuring and influencing  
witnesses. DL argues that such outcome  
would suit Ashdown, who would avoid the  
criticism he has been lately exposed to by  
the public (in BiH) and certain  
international circles regarding the  
exaggerated use of the Bonn powers.

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| <p><b>Daily speculates HR requested Tadic's resignation</b></p> | <p><b>Jutarnji list</b>, pg 6 'Ashdown sought control over Constitutional Court', by <u>Snjezana Pavic</u> – Notes that the High Representative, <b>Paddy Ashdown</b>, requested the President of BiH Constitutional Court (CC), <b>Mate Tadic</b>, to resign from the office, however he did not publicly insist on it after judges of the CC rejected the request. As for motives, the daily notes that speculations have it that the background of the request is the decision of the BiH CC, which in October 2004 denied a request of the OHR that the OHR employees attend all sessions of the BiH CC.</p> |
| <p><b>Covic, others to plead on indictments tomorrow</b></p>    | <p><b>BHT1, Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'Covic, Tadic and Lijanovici tomorrow before the court' – The BiH Presidency member, <b>Dragan Covic</b>, the Chair of the BiH Constitutional Court, <b>Mato Tadic</b>, professor <b>Zdravko Lucic</b> and four Lijanovici brothers will appear for the first time before the BiH Court on Thursday, 30 March. In case they plead not guilty to the accounts of indictments which accuse them of misuse of power, forging documents, receiving bribe and tax evasions, the trial will be scheduled latest within 90 days deadline.</p>   |

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| <p><b>DL on Colak's address before UNSC: Finally somebody has spoken about real Croat problems</b></p> | <p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 2 'Finally someone has spoken', by <u>Marko Karacic</u> – Commenting on the last week's address before the UN Security Council by the President of HDZ BiH and BiH Security Minister, <b>Barisa Colak</b>, the author notes that one can finally say, after ten years, that someone has talked about the real problems of the Croats in BiH. The author goes on to say that Colak's address was most likely motivated by the recent events pertaining to <b>Dragan Covic</b>, but nevertheless someone is, apart from Bishop <b>Franjo Komarica</b>, raising the issue of return of the Croats to the Banja Luka area. The author also wonders whether the wake-up call came too late, adding that Colak's address would be in vain unless the real problems are not tackled in the future too.</p> |
| <p><b>NN op-ed on Covic: HR will most likely remove Covic from his position</b></p>                    | <p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> op-ed pg 7 'Hiding behind people' by <u>Dragan Jerinic</u> – The author refers to analysts in BiH, who claim <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> will most likely reach for his powers and remove <b>Dragan Covic</b> from the position. According to him, Covic's "prayers" should bear in mind that Covic remained on the position regardless of the price all the citizens of BiH, including his compatriots, would have to pay.</p>   |

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| <p><b>TI</b><br/><b>Spokesperson:</b><br/><b>indicted</b><br/><b>politicians</b><br/><b>should resign</b></p> | <p><b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS1 'Resignation after indictment' by <u>Mirna Soja</u> – Transparency International Spokesperson <b>Srdjan Blagovcanin</b> has stated <i>'indictments and court proceedings against high RS and BiH officials over abuse of office are more and more frequent, yet they obviously don't think it is enough reason to resign. Representatives of the international community share our view that all indicted politicians, regardless of whether an indictment was brought over political or moral responsibility, should resign...'</i></p> |
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| <p><b>Political issues</b></p>  |  |
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| <p><b>Larry Butler</b><br/><b>takes over</b><br/><b>PDHR position</b></p> | <p><b>PINK, RHB, Hayat, Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3 'As of yesterday, Larry Butler is PDHR' by <u>Fena</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 5 'L. Butler takes over duty of Principal Deputy High Representative', by <u>NINA</u> – American diplomat <b>Larry Butler</b> on Monday officially assumed the duty of the Principal Deputy High Representative. PDHR Butler will be in charge of the economic reform and will manage the Department of the Rule of Law, which will make the legislative framework in the field of combating crime more advantageous for further economic development and European integration. Ambassador Butler will also be the OHR liaison officer with the NATO Headquarters in BiH.</p> |



**Media on appointments of BiH Ambassadors: Ramadanovic, Kesic still have not received credentials**

**BHT 1** by Marina Boskovic – Only six out of 19 new BiH ambassadors received credentials in so-called “diplomatic period” of two months. For example, new BiH ambassador in Croatia **Branko Kesic** was nominated almost three months ago, but the Government in Zagreb has not yet issued with his appointment. If this continues in the next few days, BiH Foreign Ministry will probably have to appoint someone else to this position. Although he was already appointed as an Ambassador-at-large, **Dragan Bozanic**, will be a subject of the discussion at the next session of the BiH Presidency. **Sulejman Tihic**, member of BiH Presidency, claims that this appointment is simply not legitimate: *“As an ambassador at large, Bozanic should contact the European [officials], which already showed that they don’t want him.”* Previously, EU has disputed Bozanic’s appointment to Strasbourg .

**FTV** – also brings that Croatia most probably will not approve Kesic’s appointment.

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 ‘Murat Ramadanovic and Branko Kesic still wait for credentials’ by E. Sarac – In addition to Kesic, Foreign Ministry has confirmed that Indonesia has also not issued approval the appointment of the candidate for the Ambassador position, **Murat Ramadanovic**. DA however says that out of 21 Ambassadors, Kesic and Ramadaanovic are the only two yet left without agreements.

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| <p><b>Luxembourg EU Presidency Spokesman Subasic: We are advocating for a more liberal visa regime with BiH</b></p> | <p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'We are advocating for a more liberal visa regime with BiH' <u>Sead Numanovic</u> – <b>Eldar Subasic</b>, a young Luxembourg man of Bosnian origin, is performing duty of spokesperson of Foreign Ministry of Luxembourg, which currently holds EU Presidency. In an interview with the daily, Sarajlic said that BiH had to accelerate reforms in order for the rest of conditions for start of talks with EU to be fulfilled. The most important is fulfilling of the BiH's international obligations including the establishment of full cooperation with ICTY, according to Sarajlic. Sarjalic also reiterated that his country together with Netherlands was advocating for liberalization of EU visa regime towards BiH.</p>                              |
| <p><b>VL int w/ Zubak: 'IC manages the crisis in BiH'</b></p>   | <p><b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 6 'International Community manages the crisis in BiH', by <u>Miroslav Vasilj</u> – Carries an interview with the President of NHI, <b>Kresimir Zubak</b>. Asked to comment on the issue of constitutional changes, Zubak says there are no clear dates as to when the process would start, arguing that the IC will have to take some measures in order to break the resistance of the Republika Srpska. Commenting on the work of the IC, Zubak says it is evident that the international community has no clear vision and strategy what to do next in BiH. As for HR <b>Paddy Ashdown</b>, Zubak says he has worked badly. <i>"If he were politically consistent, he should be imposing solutions regardless of reactions from the RS"</i>, says Zubak.</p> |

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| <p><b>Update to<br/>Uskoplje<br/>situation: HDZ<br/>wants<br/>municipality's<br/>separation</b></p> | <p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 7 'HDZ wants separation of Municipality of Uskoplje', by <u>D. Pusic</u> –</p> <p>The HDZ of Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje has requested that the former Municipality of Uskoplje secedes from the Municipality of Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje. According to the Vice President of the local HDZ, <b>Zrinko Tokic</b>, the SDA and HDZ took part in talks held at the legal department of the OHR in December last year, when the HDZ was suggested to hand over the office of the Head of Municipality, which was observed, however, the SDA, which was suggested to recognize the office of Deputy Head of Municipality, has failed to do so. Because of that, the HDZ decided not to support the decision on temporary funding of the municipality, which resulted in a political crisis.</p> |
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**Economy / Judiciary / Education**

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| <p><b>FTV: Delays in building first section of Vc corridor</b></p> | <p><b>FTV</b> by <u>Melisa Sefer</u> – Only seven days after the beginning of the construction of 8.5 kilometres long section of a Vc corridor, it has already become known that this section between Podlugovi and Visoko will not be finished as expected till the end of 2005. Currently, only the “GP Put” company carries out the construction work while two other companies in charge of building and reconstructing 14 bridges, “ZGP” and “Hidrogradnja”, still have not received construction permissions.</p> <p>According to their representatives, the main problem is the lack of communication between two ministries: FBiH Ministry for Urban Planning and Environment and Ministry of Traffic and Communication.</p> |
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| <p><b>RS and F BiH<br/>reps postpone<br/>discussion on<br/>pensions to<br/>beneficiaries<br/>who earned it<br/>in FBiH</b></p> | <p><b>Glas Srpske</b> cover pg splash 'Ashdown turns the silent ear' by <u>R.S.</u> – The article is about decision of BiH Constitutional Court Commission for Human Rights, according to which F BiH has to pay out pensions to those beneficiaries who earned it in its territory. The article notes F BiH have not as yet given any response to this. The author notes that in spite of warning of UN High Commission for Human Rights (that basic human rights in BiH are jeopardised over failure of F BiH authorities to respect decision of Human Rights Chamber), the High Representative to BiH, <b>Paddy Ashdown</b>, unlike previous occasions, turns the silent ear. The meeting between officials of RS and F BiH, which was supposed to take place today and discuss this issue, was postponed upon request of F BiH officials.</p> |
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| <p><b>Former RS Tax Administration Head damaged RS budget for BAM 1 million</b></p>      | <p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 5, announced on cover ‘Milica Basic damaged RS budget for over BAM 1 million’ by <u>A. Sekulic</u> – The author refers to a source at RS Prosecutor’s Office, that confirmed that <b>Milica Bisic</b>, former RS Tax Administration Head, has damaged the RS budget for over BAM 1 million by having signed the contract on tax collection with the Company “Petrol” in March 2003. Namely, she had allowed the interest rate of 7% on annual basis instead of calculating the interest rate of 0.1% on daily basis (which makes the rate of 36.5% on annual basis). The-then Director of Petrol was <b>Momcilo Komljenovic</b>, who was removed from this position by HR’s decision on 30 June 2004.</p> |
| <p><b>BL Basic Court to present its stance on indictment against Dokic and Pavic</b></p> | <p><b>Nezavisne novine</b> pg 3 ‘On the indictment against Dokic and Pavic today’ by <u>V. P.</u> – Banja Luka Basic Court will today (Tuesday) present its stance on the indictment against <b>Branko Dokic</b> and <b>Marko Pavic</b>, former RS Ministers of Traffic and Communications. Both Dokic and Pavic have rejected claims brought in the indictment.</p>  |

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| <p><b>Update to preparation of draft law on high education</b></p>   | <p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'RS proposes financing at lower levels' by <u>M.R. – Momcilo Novakovic</u>, Rector of East Sarajevo University, on Monday stated that all rules related to high education in BiH should be at the state level, while its realization and financing should be implemented at the cantonal or entity levels. He added: <i>"Framework Law provides elements and stipulates reform processes. Representatives of the Mostar University share this view. Therefore I believe that we are close to finishing draft Law."</i></p> |
| <p><b>TI : 25% of corruption complaints related to education</b></p> | <p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2, announced on cover 'Diploma of a Ph.D. costs BAM 50 thousand' by <u>S.Gojkovic/N.Moraca – Srdjan Blagovcanin</u>, Spokesperson of Transparency International to BiH (TI) claims that out of 3500 reports on corruption in various segments of society in BiH, 25% refers to corruption at high education system, which is alarming and speaks of severe situation at BiH Universities. TI of BiH has compiled these information on basis of complaints filed by citizens at free-phone-lines.</p>                         |