

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 30/12/2004

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 30 December 2004

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>BH Radio 1</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (12,00 hrs)
Mikerevic resignation accepted	FBiH HoP in session	RSNA adjourned session last night
Terzic says reforms not in danger	Tsunami death tolls raises to 82,000	Sales tax laws adopted
DNS Hadzimitrovic on PIFWCs	UN suspends assistance to Darfur	Bijeljina Assembly in session

TV news broadcast on 29 December 2004

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BH TV 1</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FED TV</b> ( 22:45 hrs)	<b>RT RS</b> (19,30)
Earthquake in SE Asia	Earthquake in SE Asia	RS NA on Mikerevic	RS NA in session
BiH HoR in session	War Crime Chamber start	BiH HoP in session	Live report from RS NA
FBiH HoR in session	Stankovic on Mladic	FBiH HoR on 2005 budget	Parties gathering 42 sig.
Mostar CC on 2005 budget	Terzic addressed BiH PA	War Crime Chamber start	Humphreys in Banja Luka

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	First indictments at the end of January
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	No payout of invalid pension (in FBiH)

<b>Dnevni List</b>	Mostar City Council: Budget beneficiaries without salaries
<b>Vecernji List</b>	Family of three from BiH went missing
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Ties between Mafia and political elites rules the state
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	Prices of vehicles' insurance to go up as of 1 <sup>st</sup> January: Prices higher for one third; Sarajevo : Colonel free at last
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	RS NA session: Resignation of Dragan Mikerevic accepted; BiH Prosecutor's Office: First trial for war crimes at the end of January; Adnan Terzic: Council of Ministers is entering the crisis
<b>Blic</b>	French journalist on captivity in Iraq : Kidnappers were Bin Laden's veterans from Bosnia ; Hide-out at Han Pijesak: Mladic's bunker opened for public
<b>Vecernje Novosti</b>	Head of Inspection Department tenders resignation: Kotorako is a large burden
<b>Belgrade's Nacional</b>	Features Serbian related topics

<b>LATEST NEWS OF TODAY</b>	
<b>EUFOR soon completes inspections of military premises in BiH</b>	<b>BH Radio 1</b> By <u>Brana Markovic</u> – EUFOR in Banja Luka announced soon to conclude with the inspections of the military premises in BiH. They also stated that only in North Bosnia , EUFOR troops have inspected 158 unused and 35 used military premises. The inspection report will be soon finalized, and EUFOR will together with the local authorities decide which premises will be closed down. EUFOR says this will prevent usage of the premises for illegal activities.

<b>FBiH HoP in session</b>	<b>BH Radio 1</b> By <u>Aida Terzimehic</u> – FBiH House of Peoples has commenced with the session this morning. The delegates are expected to take a stance on the draft FBiH budget for 2005, as adopted by the House of Representatives two days ago. The budget is estimated to 1,012 billion KM.
<b>Turkish company wins tender for purchase of Natron company</b>	<b>BH Radio 1</b> – Privatization Agency of the Zenica-Doboj Canton stated that majority shares of Natron company from Maglaj will be bought by the Turkish company “Kastamonu Entegre”. In the next 20 days, expert group will together with Turkish buyer conclude the contract according to which Natron and Kastamonu Entegre will establish joint venture company, most probably to be called ‘Natron Hayat’. If in same case the purchase fails, the Privatization Agency will make a deal with AHV consortium from Austria , which was the second best bidder.

<b>Political developments/reforms</b>	
<b>RSNA accepts Mikerevic's resignation</b>	<p><b>BHT, FTV, Oslobođenje</b> pg 2 ‘Dragan Mikerevic’s resignation accepted’, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> cover and pg 3 ‘Resignation of Dragan Mikerevic accepted’ by <u>I. Simundza-V.Popovic</u>– RS National Assembly accepted the resignation of RS Prime Minister <b>Dragan Mikerevic</b>.</p> <p>Mikerevic submitted his letter of resignation on December 17<sup>th</sup>, dissatisfied with the latest decisions of High Representative. In his speech at RS NA on Wednesday, Mikerevic emphasized that he is not ready to accept the threats and the ultimate demands of High Representative regarding the changes of constitutional order in RS and BIH. 67 representatives voted for Mikerevic’s resignation, one representative voted against, and one abstained from voting.</p>

<p><b>Dodik says activities on election of new RS Govt turned into 'fight for seat'</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'Those are games driving people crazy' by <u>J.S.</u> – SNSD leader, <b>Milorad Dodik</b>, assessed that the activities around the election of the RS Government have turned into 'fight for the seat': <i>"It is all the game driving ordinary people crazy. SNSD and me personally are both out of these stupid games around the establishment of the new government. Everything turned into the farce... without concept. It is ridiculous... I believe <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> is partly responsible for the current crisis of authorities in RS. The situation we are in is the result of his politics. Ashdown's problem is that he arrived in the past on the wings of great expectations. But, even those decisions which were good were irritated by the way he announced them."</i></p>
<p><b>DA: DNS have support of 42 RSNA resp on new Govt</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'If I am to be a Prime Minister, RS Government will arrest ICTY suspects' by <u>J. Stojanovic</u> – DNS President and Vice Presidents – <b>Marko Pavic</b>, <b>Jovan Hadzi-Mitrovic</b> and <b>Mirko Banjac</b> respectively – informed the RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b> that they have support of 42 representatives at the RSNA for establishment of the new RS Government. At the meeting held on Wednesday in Banja Luka, Cavic was also given their names as three candidates for the RS Prime Minister designate and the concept under which that person is supposed to work. Hadzi-Mitrovic stated for DA that decrease of the RS authorities has started at the time SNSD ruled: <i>"One must work to preserve the institutions guarantees by the Constitution."</i> He also says the issue of cooperating with the ICTY is of technical nature and believes that regardless to who rules it, RS will soon have to arrest the PIFWCs. Hadzi-Mitrovic believes that this was a political issue until the adoption of the law regulating it: <i>"Now, the issue is only who will start to arrest ICTY suspects."</i> Asked whether he would arrest ICTY indictees if he takes PM position, he answered: <i>"That is the responsibility of RS Government... it has to be respected in order to prevent further decline of RS institutions. If I am to be PM, Govt will arrest ICTY suspects."</i> Inset 'Djuric ready to accept the candidacy' – SPRS delegate, <b>Nedjo Djuric</b>, stated he is ready to accept candidacy for RS PM designate, however added that his party still has not start to gather support. <b>BHT, RTRS, Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 19 'DNS gives Prime Minister designate', by <u>A. M.</u> also covered the issue.</p> <p><b>EuroBlic</b> RSpG 1 'New Year's entry without PM-designate' by <u>Rajna Radosavljevic</u>; <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'Designate is still a secret' by <u>N. Dilkljic</u> – Apart from carrying statements of <b>Marko Pavic</b>, <b>Jovan Mitrovic</b> and <b>Nedjo Djuric</b>, papers also carry the statement of <b>Borislav Bojic</b>, SDS Vice President, who said that SDS would give its 26 votes to the designate who collects 20 other votes. He stressed SDS would like to see an exclusive participation of SNSD officials in the new Government.</p>

<p>CoM Chairman Terzic says BiH reforms not in danger</p>	<p><b>Herceg Bosna Radio, BHT, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje</b> pg 3, mentioned on cover 'There is no ambient for implementation of reforms', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'Terzic: I was waiting for Spiric to say one people will disappear', <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 3, mentioned on front 'Croats should be dissatisfied', by <u>D. Polovina-Mandic</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 5 'Croats have more reasons to be dissatisfied', by <u>Eldina Medunjanin</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, back pg 'Council of Ministers enters crisis', by <u>Zdenko Rerig</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> cover and pg 3 'Council of Ministers is entering the crisis' by <u>M. Cubro</u>; <b>EuroBlic</b> RSpG 2 'Terzic: There is place for Ivanic at Council', <b>FENA</b> – The reforms are not in danger, they will be on the agenda in 2005 and I believe that we will sign the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU, the Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, <b>Adnan Terzic</b>, has said. Terzic on Wednesday informed the BiH House of Representatives about activities to implement the reforms following the resignations from the Council of Ministers. He added that two ministers and one deputy minister had resigned, stressing that every country would encounter problems if its foreign minister resigned, which is now the case with BiH. <i>"The important thing is that the resignations are not a result of the work of the Council of Ministers or its chairman, but a reaction to decisions by the international community,"</i> Terzic said. The BiH Council of Ministers has not reached any decision in the past two years without the consent of the Serb people, or has a single reform law been passed or a decision been reached without the agreement of the RS Government, he underlined. <i>"If we look at the overall picture, then the representatives of the Croat people might have a valid argument against the Council because we passed the law on higher education by outvoting Croat ministers,"</i> Terzic said. He informed the MPs that the Council of Ministers and BiH Presidency had on Tuesday adopted the draft 2005 budget for BiH institutions, which <i>"shows that we are a serious parliamentary majority and that we can carry out what is important for BiH even in this kind of atmosphere"</i>. <i>"The key thing is to get an RS government as soon as possible. Without it the Council of Ministers cannot reach decisions based on complete consensus and cannot pursue the reforms any further,"</i> Terzic said. He called on all political factors in BiH to focus their efforts on priority issues, i.e. that both entity governments and the Council of Ministers continue carrying out the reforms together and leading BiH along the safe European road.</p>
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<p>EC Humphreys meets with top RS officials in BL</p>	<p><b>RTRS, Dnevni List</b>, pg 5 'European Commission will not interfere into appointment of new Government', by <b>NINA</b>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'RS has still not proved cooperation with ICTY', <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'EU would not interfere in election of RS Government' by <b>D.R.</b>; <b>EuroBlic</b> RSpG 2 'There will be much more work' by <b>SRNA</b>; <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'Asap from crisis' by <b>D. Majstorovic</b> – During Wednesday's visit to Banja Luka, <b>Michael Humphreys</b>, Head of European Commission delegation to BiH, stated that EC would not interfere in the process of election of new RS Government, expressing a wish that this process was completed as soon as possible in order to resume with ongoing reforms. He also commended local authorities for the progress achieved over 2004 in the fields of indirect taxation and intelligence agency. According to <b>EuroBlic</b>, <b>Humphreys</b> said that EU would never instruct BiH institutions what sort of Constitution they need to have, adding that <i>"there will be some changes to the Constitution, but you need to decide on this by yourselves."</i></p> <p>During his visit, EC Head had separate meetings with <b>Dragan Mikerevic</b>, RS Premier in resignation, <b>Dragan Cavic</b>, RS President, <b>Dusan Stojicic</b>, RS NA Speaker, and <b>Milorad Dodik</b>, SNSD President. After meeting with <b>Humphreys</b>, <b>Dodik</b> said that if RS wanted to have a Government of SNSD, then it had to be a Government without SDS members, irregardless of the fact that SDS had changed its policy running lately. He stressed: <i>"No solution of any quality is in sight for the time being, apart from one presented to the public after the first meeting political officials had with <b>Dragan Cavic.</b>"</i></p>
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<p>EC Humphreys: EU will not get involved in negotiations between political parties</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> 'EU will not interfere in political negotiations', <b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 5 'BiH accessing EU in 2005', by <b>ra</b>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 16 'BiH in talks with EU by summer', by <b>A. Macanovic</b>, <b>FENA</b> – In every country where there is a problem such as the current crisis in the RS the EU will not get involved in negotiations between political parties, Head of the European Commission Delegation to BiH <b>Michael Humphreys</b> said in an interview to FENA. Humphreys reminded that he arrived in BiH in November 2002 immediately after the general elections and that he clearly said then that it his neither his policy nor duty to in any way interfere in how a certain government is formed, but that his interest is to ensure the existence of a reform orientated government and the one following the road towards Europe. <i>"Today we again have a crisis in the RS, but my message is the same – I shall not get involved in bargaining between political parties, but I do think that a government needs to be formed, that it should continue with the reform policy and continue with the European road"</i>, he said. Humphreys reminded that one of the factors behind the current crisis is the correct insisting of High Representative <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> that the RS should be serious about cooperation with the ICTY. <i>"It is not up to the EU but on governments at the state and entity levels to continue with the reform policy. If this does not happen we shall step back. We shall not instruct people what to do, we shall wait for them to return to the right track and when they do and start cooperating we shall help them"</i>, Humphreys said. Humphreys said that police reform is linked to current political manoeuvring. The report currently being finalised by Police Reform Commission Chair <b>Wilfred Martens</b> will be an objective report on what needs to be done and Humphreys hopes that all levels of authority in BiH will view it objectively, and not in the sense of political criteria. Asked if interests such as support for indicted war criminals and organised crime could be behind the obstruction of police reform Humphreys said that there is a host of motives, including such motives, which need to be rejected immediately, but also other motives such as sentiments, political background, wish to keep certain authorities at the entity level...In the end Humphreys said that BiH made significant progress on the road towards European structures during the year coming to an end. <i>"If current political difficulties are overcome I hope that in early 2005 we shall be able to report of significant progress and recommend the start of talks of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement"</i>, Humphreys said and added that in such a way the talks could start by the end of the year. Humphreys said that next year will be extremely important for BiH because it will have to overcome the latest obstacles and continue the reform process. If this does not happen BiH will fall behind the countries in the region, especially Croatia which is to start membership talks in March and Macedonia.</p>
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<p><b>FTV interview with Humphreys</b></p>	<p><b>FTV</b> – Head of Delegation of European Commission in BiH <b>Michael Humphreys</b> visited Banja Luka on Wednesday, where he met several RS officials, including Prime Minister <b>Dragan Mikerevic</b>. Humphreys said that they discussed the progress made in this year and plans for next year. They also discussed the recent happenings at RS Government. Humphreys emphasized that European Commission is not going to influence the restructuring of the Government. He repeated that the obligations towards international community must be fulfilled. Most important obligation remains cooperation with ICTY. Humphreys said that there has been progress in RS, such as adoption of Srebrenica report and delivery of documents requested by ICTY. However, this is not sufficient, and European Commission expects more progress in the future. Asked to comment the latest measures of High Representative, Humphreys said that these measures were meant to put the focus on cooperation with ICTY. Unfortunately, the measures have caused many internal discussions. He emphasized that BiH needs governments on state and entity levels, which are capable of fulfilling the international obligations. Humphreys is optimistic regarding BiH's chances to start negotiations on Stabilisation and Association Agreement during 2005.</p>
<p><b>Belgrade 's Vecernje Novosti interview with RS Council of Peoples Co-chair Mikes</b></p>	<p><b>Vecernje Novosti</b> pg 2 'Special relations with Serbia' by <u>I.Lovric-D.Dimitrovska</u> – In a half-a-page interview to VN, <b>Miroslav Mikes</b>, Co-Chairperson of the RS Council of Peoples, stresses that in compliance with the Dayton Agreement, Republika Srpska has a right to have special relations with Serbia and Montenegro, stressing that practise has not seen this achieved. Owing to this reason, he expresses his view that relations should be intensified with respect for the fact that BiH is the state, where the influence of Serb officials at state institutions should become more dominant than it currently is, <i>"since it is easy to implement Serb policy in Banja Luka. It needs to be implemented in Sarajevo as well."</i> He reiterates claims that RS must exist, since its existence is stipulated by the Dayton Peace Agreement and BiH Constitution, which can only be changed with the assent of all three peoples in BiH. He stresses that RS should and can survive in BiH as a multi-ethnic entity.</p> <p>On referendum, he notes that it is regulated by certain legal norms, stressing that BiH Constitution stipulates none of BiH two entities can separate.</p> <p>He also expresses his dislike towards the latest and sudden outburst of concern for RS by <b>Boris Tadic and Svetozar Marovic</b>, since nobody from Serbia has ever mentioned RS in any context for nine years now.</p> <p>On arrest of PIWC's, he speculates that <i>"many war crime suspects are still not in The Hague most likely because the international community had to have a means of pressures against Republika Srpska."</i></p>

<p><b>SD on political situation in BiH: BiH cannot function as state of two entities</b></p>	<p><b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 17 'Conflict of RS and friends', by <b>Marin Erceg</b> – Carries an op-ed about the current political affairs amid resignation of the RS Government and situation in the BiH Council of Ministers. The author argues that the whole situation has turned into a crisis of whole of BiH and that the essence of the whole story is the survival of the RS as a Serb entity. Noting that the Police reform triggered the Serb homogenisation, the author reminds of a statement by leader of the SNSD who stated <i>"if someone says no to the Republika Srpska, I say no to BiH"</i>. In that context, the author says Dodik showed his true colours with the statement. The author goes on to say that it is a paradox that many political parties, media and intellectuals based in Sarajevo say the RS cannot survive because it is not abiding by the Dayton agreement, and in that context the author argues everyone should have figured by now that BiH cannot function as a state with two entities, of which one is single-ethnic and the other bi-ethnic.</p>
<p><b>FBiH Prime Minister Hadzipasic assesses Government's 2004 performance as successful</b></p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Better privatisation, better care about those jeopardized', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 3 'Government was in crisis twice but it did not fall', <b>FENA</b> – FBiH Prime Minister <b>Ahmet Hadzipasic</b> and Federation Ministers organised a New Year reception for members of the media in Sarajevo on Wednesday. Hadzipasic described the work of the Government in 2004 as successful and expressed confidence that planned activities and programs would be implemented during the rest of the body's four-year mandate. He also said that <i>"two crisis"</i> with a number of ministers who in one period <i>"froze their"</i> work were also successfully resolved. According to Hadzipasic this was resolved thanks to the support of those who selected the current Government. <i>"We have not finished creating conditions for intensifying the privatisation process and much also remains to be done on transferring authority to the state level in the police sector, as well as taking necessary measures in the field of financial discipline"</i>, Hadzipasic said. Hadzipasic said that production growth of 14 percent, increase of export by 13 percent, and import by 8 percent are the basic economic indicators for 2004. He also said that import is covered by export with 32 percent, that the further increase of unemployment rate was stopped and that 7.500 new jobs were created. Hadzipasic expressed confidence that industrial production would continue growing in 2005 and that FBiH and BiH would more strongly focus on export. He also said that FBiH has made great efforts in ensuring that BiH gets its own source of funding and that for the first time BiH does not depend of payments by entities. Hadzipasic said that this would be the orientation of the FBiH Government in 2005. He wished a quick resolution of the crisis in the RS and BiH Council of Ministers.</p>

<p><b>Mostar City Council: No decision on temporary financing of City of Mostar , Mayor Beslic announces budget beneficiaries will not be getting paid</b></p>	<p><b>Herceg Bosna Radio, Dnevni List</b>, front pg splash and pg 13 'Budget beneficiaries without salaries', by <u>Sanja Bjelica</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 9 'Beslic: There will be complete blockade of city', mentioned on front 'City that will blocked', by <u>Fena</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 16, mentioned on front 'Mostar's treasury locked up?', by <u>M. Landeka</u> – The Mostar City Council (MCC) failed to pass a decision on temporary financing of the City of Mostar for first quarter of 2005, which was proposed by the Mayor of Mostar, <b>Ljubo Beslic</b>, because the SBiH councillors voted against the proposal, whilst the SDA councillors abstained from voting, meaning a 2/3 majority could not be secured. According to Mayor Beslic, consequences of the decision will be far-reaching because <i>"in the next four to five months it is likely that the budget beneficiaries will not be paid, there will be no electricity, heating and everything else that is being paid from the city budget"</i>. Beslic further explains that in the situation in which the heads of departments with the City administration were appointed not long ago and when there is no strategy of future work in place, the temporary financing was the only solution. According to <b>Ahmed Dzubur</b> from the SBiH, the SBiH councillors could not support the temporary funding since the proponent did not present a plan regarding what the money would be spent on. As a result, the President of MCC, <b>Murat Coric</b>, proposed two conclusions, namely to consult the OHR and get its interpretation whether the decision on temporary funding requires simple majority (in the MCC) and to vote on the proposal again by January 15. HDZ's Caucus rejected Coric's proposals.</p>
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<p><b>DL: HR Ashdown will not have the courage to pronounce five Police regions in BiH</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 9 'Will OHR have the courage to pronounce five Police regions?', by <u>Zvonimir Jukic</u> – Talking about the course of Police reform in BiH, DL says that sources close to international diplomatic circles in BiH say that the High Representative for BiH will not have the courage to pronounce a new organizational scheme of the Police in BiH, as announced earlier. In that context, the author says that following the crisis in the authorities in the RS and the joint position of the parties in the RS, from the SDS to the SNSD, that the organization of future Police in five multi-ethnic regions is unacceptable, HR <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> has been put to a difficult test. DL notes if the HR supports the aforementioned plan, he will be facing an even more difficult political crisis in the RS and at the level of BiH Council of Ministers, wondering whether <i>"the British lord"</i> has an answer to the situation. In that context, the author also wonders whether the HR will overcome the crisis by using a <i>"rotten compromise, so characteristic for his way of ruling in BiH, which will postpone the real solution for some other time, thus prolonging the agony of BiH and its citizens"</i>. Speaking about the organization of Police force in BiH, which envisages 5 multi-ethnic regions, DL notes that the plan was made by the Director of FBiH Police, <b>Zlatko Miletic</b>, and that HR Ashdown, knowing that the plan would be unacceptable to the RS, tried to remove Miletic in summer 2004 in order to prevent the plan from getting to the Police Reform Commission (PRC). However, when Miletic presented the plan, he was strongly supported by HDZ and SDA members in the PRC. DL also reminds that the Sarajevo-based <b>Slobodna Bosna</b> earlier reported that HR Ashdown's intention was prevented by the PDHR <b>Donald Hays</b> and the then US Ambassador to BiH, <b>Clifford Bond</b>.</p>
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## Economic/social affairs

**FBiH HoR  
fails to  
adopt  
rebalance  
budget  
thereby  
preventing  
payout of  
Dec invalid  
pensions**

**Herceg Bosna Radio, Oslobodjenje** pg 6 'No invalid pensions for December' by A. Terzic, **Dnevni Avaz** cover splash 'No payout of invalid pension', pg 8 'Nadarevic: Invalid pensions for December will not be paid out' by A. Basic, **Dnevni List**, pg 5 'Payments to defenders and invalids questionable', by J. Petrovic – The FBiH House of Representatives on Wednesday postponed the vote on the Law on rebalance of the FBiH Budget for 2004, although it has accepted the budget proposal for 2005. The vote has been postponed until the next HoR session in mid January due to doubt expressed by the majority of the representatives regarding the transparency of FBiH Government's spending of the budget in 2004. According to FBiH Minister for Veterans issues, **Ibrahim Nadarevic**, the Government has no other means to make payments of December invalid pensions: *"Invalid pensions will not be paid out until the budget rebalance is adopted. The government ensured 11 million KM to pay invalid pensions, however those means cannot be operational until rebalance is endorsed by the representatives."* FBiH Finance Minister, **Dragan Vrankic**, stated that the Govt will prepare new report on the spending for the next session, stressing that the rebalance adoption is necessary.

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 inset 'Redzic: Compensations for war invalids must not be questioned' – The Chair of the War Invalids Associations from FBiH, **Safet Redzic**, says that the invalids pensions must be paid: *"That is the priority that must not be challenged... If there is no enough means to carry out things from budget... than some obligations are not to be paid out, but those do not include something as important as invalids pensions."*

<p><b>BiH Parliament adopts law on sales taxes, excises</b></p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pgs 4-5, mentioned on cover 'Better conditions for domestic producers' <u>V. Zivak</u>, <b>FENA</b> – The BiH House of Representatives on Wednesday adopted the Law on the Sales Tax and the Law on Excises in BiH. The taxed goods are divided in two tax groups – with tax of 20 percent and 10 percent. This law will come into effect on the day of its publication in the BiH Official Gazette, and will be implemented as of January 1 2005 . The Law on Excises in BiH stipulates introduction of a special tax – excise on certain kind of products in the territory of BiH . These products include oil derivatives, tobacco products, non-alcoholic drinks, alcohol and alcoholic drinks, beer, vine and coffee.</p> <p><b>FENA</b> – The BiH House of Peoples also adopted the Law on Sales Tax and Law on Excises in Sarajevo on Wednesday but in a different text in comparison to the one passed by HoR.</p> <p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'Terzic: I was waiting for Spiric to say one people will disappear', <b>FENA</b> – The Joint Commission of both Houses of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly on Wednesday evening harmonized the texts of the Law on the Sales Taxes and the Law on Excises in BiH. The House of Representatives and the House of Peoples, which have adopted these laws in different texts earlier in the day, adopted the report of the Joint Harmonization Commission late on Wednesday.</p>
<p><b>Prices of vehicles' insurance to go up as of 1<sup>st</sup> January</b></p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> cover page story 'Prices higher for one third' by <u>D.M.</u> – <b>Grujo Komljenovic</b>, Assistant to General Manager of "Kosig Dunav Osiguranje" confirmed that as of 1<sup>st</sup> January, the prices for insurance of vehicles would go up for one third.</p>

<p><b>RSNA adop-ts 2005 Budget</b></p>	<p><b>FTV, RTRS, Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 'Recipe to set up production' by <u>D. Zec</u>; <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'RS budget for 2005 amounts BAM 945.6 million' by <u>I.S.-V.P. – AT</u> Wednesday's session in Banja Luka, the RS NA has adopted the RS budget for 2005 of BAM 945.6 million. Following lengthy discussions, 52 MP's voted pro, 16 voted contra and 8 abstained from voting on proposed budget. The RS NA also adopted conclusions, according to which it had obligated RS Government to identify additional resources to meet the needs of the RS Interior Ministry in relation with the cooperation with the ICTY.</p>
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## Crime/judiciary

**BiH  
prosecutors  
discuss  
start of war  
crime trials  
in BiH**

**BHT, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje** cover page, pgs 4-5 'First indictments at the end of January' A. Omeragic, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Indictment to be sealed until they have been confirmed by Court' M. Drinjakovic – According to **Marinko Jurcevic**, Chief BiH Prosecutor, first trials at BIH Court's War Crime Chamber will not start on January 1, 2005, as previously announced. First indictments can be expected only at the end of January. The main focus of all Prosecutions in BiH will be processing of war crime cases, especially those approved by ICTY. Over 600 persons in BIH are suspected war criminals. BiH Prosecutor **Vaso Marinkovic** confirmed that several cases have been transferred from ICTY, but he didn't want to give any details. All war crime cases which will be processed at diverse courts in BIH must be approved by BIH Prosecution. Waiting for the start of war crimes processing in BiH, the BiH Prosecution on Wednesday organized a consultative meeting with the prosecutors at all levels in the country to discuss the issue and prepare better for the new challenges. **Dnevni List**, pg 2, mentioned on front 'Start of war crimes trials postponed', by Erna Mackic, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 17 'Superficial investigations for processes from The Hague', by Z. Tulic, **Nezavisne Novine** cover and pg 2 'First trials for war crimes at the end of January' by A. Sisic also covered the issue.

<p><b>Testimony of French journalists taken hostages in Iraq</b></p>	<p><b>EuroBlic</b> cover and pg 6 ‘Kidnappers were Bin Laden’s veterans from Bosnia’ by <u>TANJUG</u>; <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 ‘The hostages of mujahedeeins’; <b>Nacional</b> pg 14 ‘Kidnappers were Bin Laden’s veterans from Bosnia’ by <u>B.T.N</u> – The French journalist, <b>Christian Schenoe</b>, who was held hostage with his colleague and compatriot by Islamic Army in Iraq for four months, on Wednesday told <u>TANJUG</u> news agency that his kidnappers had been veterans of <b>Osama Bin Laden</b> from Bosnia, adding: “<i>The kidnappers told us they fought in Bosnia.</i>” He also said that one of kidnappers released a tape with Bosnian music on it. He also testified that two Macedonians and the Italian journalist <b>Enco Baldoni</b> had been amongst the people, who this Islamic Army had executed.</p>
<p><b>Colonel Krsmanovic finally free</b></p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> cover page story ‘Colonel free at last’ by <u>N.Z.</u> – Sarajevo Cantonal Court on Wednesday rejected motion filed by the Prosecutor’s Office in charge demanding renewal of criminal proceedings against <b>Aleksa Krsmanovic</b>, the retired RS Army Colonel.</p>

<p><b>RS Defence Minister Stankovic on Mladic</b></p>	<p><b>BHT, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'Mladic was not in Han Pijesak' by <u>ONASA</u>; <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 'We are not hiding Mladic'—<b>Milovan Stankovic</b>, RS Defence Minister in resignation, on Wednesday stated that the information was false that <b>Ratko Mladic</b> had been included on the payroll of the RS Army, adding that the claims <b>Mladic</b> was at the military facility in Han Pijesak <i>"represent a result of somebody's imagination"</i>. He told the press that the RS Defence Ministry was preparing a report, which would include all the facts related to payments to <b>General Maldic</b> and other PIWC's. <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3 and <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 also carried the statement.</p>
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