

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 30/9/2004

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
Negotiations with Prce	Mladic not arrested	Negotiations with Prce	Mektic on terrorism
Covic's immunity	RS cooperation with ICTY	Accusations in USC	Bomb hoax in BL
Bomb hoax in BL	Blagojevic and Jokic trial	ICTY request RS archive	Search for war criminals
Mikerevic on ICTY doc.	Negotiations with Prce	BiH Court on Immunity	Serbian MoI on Mladic

Oslobodjenje	FIFA banned the match in Zenica; RS is [not] guilty; Journalists [were] arresting Mladic
Dnevni Avaz	Not a single volunteer has given up on Iraq !; Prce and prosecutor McNair reached a deal
Dnevni List	Prce proposed settlement with Prosecutor McNair
Vecernji List	Big turnabout: Prce pleaded guilty
Slobodna Dalmacija	Prce made settlement with Prosecution
Nezavisne Novine	What does Report on fight against terrorism in BiH handed to UN read: BAM 586 million of suspicious transactions detected; Police searched few facilities in Banja Luka : False bomb alarm at Banski Dvor building
Glas Srpske	Croat officials aspire for RS abolishment for years: Blowing into the coldness
EuroBlic	Search after Mladic: Mladic is again faster than police

Judicial issues

Update to HB case: McNair and Prce to reach court settlement

BHT 1, RHB, Oslobođenje pg 2 'Prce negotiates on settlement with McNair' by A.N., **Dnevni List** front and pg 3 'Prce proposed settlement with Prosecutor McNair' by E. Mackic, **Slobodna Dalmacija** front and pg 2 'Prce made settlement with Prosecution' by Z. Tulic, **Vecernji List** front pg 'Big turnabout: Prce pleaded guilty' and pg 3 'Miroslav Prce made settlement with Prosecution' by D. Jazvic – The trial against former HDZ President **Ante Jelavic** and other suspects in the Hercegovacka Banka case continued on Wednesday. According to **Zarko Bulic**, who is a lawyer to suspect **Miroslav Prce**, the agreement on conditions for pleading guilty of his client was reached and it was submitted to the Council of the BiH Court. According to Bulic, this pleading guilty means a settlement with the Court if the BiH Court approves it (The BiH Court will discuss this proposal today). Bulic also added that he will not be engaged in this case any longer since his engagement does not have any purpose and thus **Marko Martinovic** (the lawyer of defendants **Ivica Karlovic** and **Miroslav Rupcic**) is the only lawyer who will remain engaged in this case. Jelavic's lawyer **Josip Muselimovic** described his participation in this process as giving assistance to the defendant in order to reveal very important facts.

Jutarnji List, pg 6, 'Prce pleaded guilty and settled for 5-year imprisonment', by Snjezana Pavic, mentioned on cover 'Prce settled for 5-year imprisonment' – JL carries Miroslav Prce as saying that he agreed to settlement since he realised that, in the proceeding and process run in the way it is run, he stood no chances to defend himself. *"I realised nothing made any sense. The Prosecutor openly said to me they had nothing specific against me, my name was not mentioned in any papers but they are determined and I am sure they will not give up. They observe nothing."* JL adds that it was not made clear yesterday if Prce's settlement would also be valid in the Croat Self-rule case.

RHB – Representatives of both defence and prosecution confirmed that Prce decided to plea guilty before the BiH Court on embezzlement charges concerning the activities of the Hercegovacka Banka and in return he should receive a reduced prison sentence if his responsibility is proved during the trial.

FTV – President of Court Council **Michael Simmons** announced that he will appoint defence attorneys for Jelavic and Sevo, if they fail to do so themselves. Opening argument of John McNair has been scheduled for 14 October. First witness will appear to testify on 18 October.

Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Prce and Prosecutor McNair settled', mentioned on cover, by M. Kukan, inset 'Nozica considers to stay in Croat Self-Rule case' – Lawyer **Senka Nozica** says that while Jelavic's lawyers withdrew from Hercegovacka Bank case, she is considering to stay in defence team to represent him in Croat Self-Rule case.

<p>Reactions by Jelavic, Muselimovic</p>	<p>Dnevni List front and pg 3 'Prce proposed settlement with Prosecutor McNair' by <u>E. Mackic</u> – DL says that Josip Muselimovic stated that the aforementioned Prce's move might have serious consequences for the status of the other suspects in this case. In an inset under headline 'Jelavic: Constitutional provisions of my country are being violated in this process' <u>not signed</u> quotes Ante Jelavic as saying that this is a staged process and that he does not need the lawyer. He also said: <i>"I am very well aware of contents of the BiH Constitution. Annex 4 says that foreign citizens can perform duties in the Central Bank but not in the BiH Court."</i> Another inset in DL under headline 'Council of the BiH Court will appoint new lawyers' carries Chairman of the BiH Court as saying that he will have to appoint the person who will defend the suspects in the further court proceedings. He added that in case that the suspects refuse this person it would mean that they will have to defend themselves.</p>
<p>VL op-ed on Prce's settlement with Prosecution</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 2 'Witch hunt' by <u>Z. Kresic</u> carries a commentary on the settlement between Hercegovacka Banka suspect Miroslav Prce and the BiH Prosecution which says that witch hunt has been opened in this way. The editorial also says that although it was not published, the settlement was also offered to former Director of Hercegovina Osiguranje Miroslav Rupcic, however, Rupcic refused the offer, which implied 9 years in prison. VL also says that Prosecutor John McNair promised that in case that the settlement is not reached he will demand from 12 to 15 years in prison for all suspects. The author concludes that in this way the BiH Prosecution would start to function according to the same pattern as the ICTY: <i>'Who does not reach an agreement with the Prosecutor he will be sentenced to many years in prison'</i>.</p>

<p>Humphreys visits BiH Court : Politicians undermine significance of the Court</p>	<p>RHB, BHT 1, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 10 'Politicians must not play with the Court' by <u>S. Sehercehajic</u>, Dnevni list, pg 2, 'Politicians undermine significance of Court', by <u>Danka Polovina-Mandic</u>, mentioned on cover, and Vecernji list, pg 2, 'Appointment of judges for war crimes will not be problem', by <u>Eldina Medunjanin</u> – With the aim to have insight into progress of construction works on BiH Court building and to support the work of this institutions, Ambassador Michael Humphreys, Head of EC Delegation, visited the site on Wednesday and talked to the acting Court President Venceslav Ilic. <i>"I was concerned about recent media reports as one could get impression that there are attempts to use BiH Court for various political games. The Court has been established and is one of stories of success in BiH. It is of vital importance that the Court has the possibility to continue working and developing its role so no one should interfere into its business "</i>, Humphreys said. Reminding that efficient and functional judiciary is one of conditions for BiH's accession to the EU, the Ambassador commented that foreign judges made integral part of BiH Court and as such had the same legal and judicial authorities as domestic ones had. Ilic said that appointment of domestic judges for War Crimes Chamber would not be a problem.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Politicians must not use BiH Court for their needs' by <u>A.M.</u> – Commenting to the recent statement by Ante Jelavic on the BiH Court, Humphreys stated that it is irrelevant whether such people recognize the Court or not, as court's decisions as valid.</p> <p>FTV – Humphreys commented: <i>"BIH will not join EU and will not make progress in integration to EU, until it has a state court and a functional, independent judiciary system."</i> The construction of BIH Court building should finish by the end of this year. European Commission donated 2,3 million Euros for the construction, which should speed up the establishment of War Crime Chamber, but several legal requirements are necessary for this. BIH Presidency should appoint Court Registry at the next session. Registry will then appoint candidates for judges of Court Council. Final decision on judges will be made by High Representative. BIH Court still doesn't have a prison.</p>
<p>Covic's immunity not revoked</p>	<p>RHB, RTRS, Dnevni List pg 4 'President Tadic was not removed' mentioned on cover, by <u>De.L.</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 'No removals' by <u>N.Z.</u> – With regard to media speculations about abolishment of immunity to Croat member of the BiH Presidency Dragan Covic, the BiH Constitutional Court issued a press release, which says that this information is not correct. According to the press release, at its last session the BiH Constitutional Court did not discuss individual appeals of the officials who addressed the BiH Constitutional Court because of alleged violation of human rights referring to their immunity.</p>

<p>BHT 1 on immunity status to politicians charged with office misuse</p>	<p>BHT 1 by <u>Sanita Lisica</u> – BiH Constitutional Court will discuss the cases of the officials charged with the misuse of the office who demanded immunity status. These include Dragan Covic, Edhem Bicakcic, Nikola Grabovac and Sulejman Garib. BiH Constitutional Court confirmed that BiH Immunity Law doesn't represent the breaches of BiH Constitution. Dragan Covic has been accused of authority misuse two years ago, and than requested immunity status during the trial. Covic claims that he will respect court decision, whether court decides to deprive him of the immunity status or not. Mato Tadic, President of BiH Constitutional Court: <i>"There are many such cases, like Mr. Covic, Mr. Bicakcic, Mr. Garib. I can't recall all names, but I know that there are several cases from different levels, from state level to canton level."</i> However, Constitutional Court can't deprive them of immunity status. Mato Tadic: <i>"That is not the authority of Constitutional Court, and we didn't raise the issue of canceling immunity status. We don't have such request. We have request to evaluate if the canceling procedure is in accordance to BiH Constitution."</i> These cases have been transferred from canton courts to BiH Court on request of BiH Prosecution. BiH Court has refused these cases and returned them to BiH Prosecution. The chief of BiH Court 's special department didn't explain why this happened.</p>
<p>Tadic denies McNair to remove him due to bribe</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 4 'President Tadic was not removed' mentioned on cover, by <u>De.L.</u> – With regard to media speculations, which say that Head of the Special Department for Organized Crime with the BiH Prosecution John McNair removed BiH Constitutional Court President Mato Tadic, the BiH Constitutional Court issued a press release denying these speculations. The press release also says that the election and mandate of the BiH Constitutional Court judges is defined by the BiH Constitution exclusively. Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Tadic: It is true not that McNair will remove me' by <u>M.K.</u> – Mato Tadic stated for DA that the media speculations on McNair's removing him from the position due to the bribe accusations were not correct.</p>

<p>VL claims BiH judiciary totally run by foreigners</p>	<p>Vecernji list, pg 3, 'Judiciary totally handed over to foreigners', by <u>Ilko Barbaric</u> – VL's well informed source close to the BiH Presidency and to BiH judicial bodies claims that Sulejman Tihic, BiH Presidency Chairman, has signed with the High Representative Paddy Ashdown an Agreement on Establishment of Registry within the Department for War Crimes, Organised Crime of the Criminal and Appellate Court of BiH. VL says that connoisseurs claim that, had BiH authorities read the Agreement, they would never have signed it as it implies capitulation of BiH judiciary since many provisions of the Agreement are placed above the independence of state institutions in BiH. According to the daily, the Registry, whose members are appointed for 5-year period, runs the process of engaging foreign judges and prosecutors who are appointed to Section I of Criminal and Appellate Departments; it is in charge of activities related to detention units, defense, protection and support to witnesses. It is also competent to run domestic and international auxiliary staff, runs finances, delivers annual reports to the High Representative. VL claims that Article 4 of the Agreement says that Registry staff and members of their families enjoy diplomatic immunity, adding that the same Article foresees that Registry staff <i>"cannot bear criminal responsibility for any deed done in line of duty"</i>.</p>
<p>Trial Badic vs RS [on Ferhadija mosque opening in BL] begins</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje cover, pg 7 'RS is (not) guilty' by <u>Orijana Vukovic</u> – The first procedure in the case of family Badic vs Republika Srpska, i.e. Interior Ministry was held on Wednesday before the Banja Luka Basic Court. The lawsuit accuses MoI to be responsible for the death of Murat Badic who died following the injuries sustained at the occasion of laying foundation stone of Ferhadija mosque in Banja Luka on 7 may 2001. Badic was hit by the stone. According to the family's representative, lawyer Esad Hrvacic, since it was impossible to determine how was actually perpetrators of this, the family decided to file charges against MoI for failing to provide security.</p>
<p>NN on Adamovic</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Adamovic charged with taking a bribe' by <u>M.C.</u> – Andjelko Marjanovic, President of Zenica Municipal Court, confirmed on Wednesday that Vlado Adamovic, BiH Court Judge, has been suspected of having taken a bribe and this case is run before Zenica Municipal Court. Stanko Blagic, Judge with this Zenica Court in charge of "Adamovic" case, said that Panel of Judges is currently in the process of reviewing objections filed and bill of indictment itself.</p>
<p>Mikerervic on Alijagic case</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Forged documents used' by <u>SRNA</u> – Dragan Mikerevic, RS Prime Minister, yesterday commented on Alijagic case (and ruling that RS has to pay out compensation of BAM 8.2 million). He assessed that ruling itself is illogical, stressing that forged documents were used during the proceeding.</p>

<p>Update to AP allegations on Serbian police searching for Mladic</p>	<p>RHB, RTRS, FTV – US Ambassador to Serbia and Montenegro, Michael Polt told journalists that US have no information about undergoing police efforts to arrest Ratko Mladic in Valjevo area, as reported by AP on Tuesday and widely covered by domestic media. He said: <i>"I have no information about this arrest. However, we are not involved in any joint action of arrest of Mladic and other war crime suspects."</i> Daily also repeats that their colleagues journalists have not noticed any increased police presence. The President of the SCG Council for cooperation with the ICTY, Rasim Ljajic stated for Oslobodjenje that Serbian authorities have not tried to arrest Ratko Mladic in Valjevo vicinity on Wednesday. Oslobodjenje cover, pgs 4-5 inset 'Search started, no information on arrest' by <u>Az.K.</u>– Daily carries that according to the source close to ICTY the search for Mladic has begun and it has been carried out by Serbian authorities and foreign intelligence services.</p> <p>Nacional cover and pg 3 'Guard of Czar Lazarus is guarding Mladic'; Glas Srpske pg 3 'General searched after by imagination'; Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Mladic's arrest is "agitation of public" by <u>BETA</u> – A senior police official in Valjevo stated on Wednesday that there has been no sign of search after Ratko Mladic in the area of Valjevo over the past few days, noting police presence has not increased. Official added: <i>"This is one of many times that "public is agitated".</i>" Valjevo police claims it has not received a single information from the Serbian Interior Ministry regarding possible action. Accordingly, Valjevo police denies reports of Associated Press.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Americans are not included in action of arresting Ratko Mladic' by <u>Fena</u>, Vecernje Novosti pgs 24-25 'No trace of him' mentioned on cover 'Neither Mladic or special units – Srdjan Djuric, Media Assistant to Serbian Premier, stated on Wednesday that it is in the interest of SiCG to find out whether Ratko Mladic is in Serbia, noting that long-lasting and thorough preparations are still ongoing. He also commented on AP report by saying that: <i>"On the basis of the so far credible checks, it was established Ratko Mladic is not in the territory of Serbia."</i></p> <p>BHT 1 – Serbian Interior Ministry denied the information on the police action.</p>
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<p>Matijasevic on RS MoI efforts to arrest war crimes suspects</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Intensive dialogue with ICTY' by Fena, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Mikerevic expects documentation to be found in reasonable time' by M.Radetic, EuroBlic RSpG 1 'Special units in the field' by M. Soja-M. Jandric; Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Special units on the field' by D.R.; Vecernje Novosti pg 24 'Special units have no right to make a mistake' by S. P. – RS Minister of Internal affairs, Darko Matijasevic, confirmed on Wednesday that special police forces in RS are carrying out activities regarding locating and arresting war crimes suspects. He firmly said that police forces are all over RS. He also said that RS MoI would fully carry out tasks stipulated by the Law on the RS cooperation with the Hague Tribunal, noting that an important issue when it comes to cooperation with ICTY is submitting of RS war documentation requested by the ICTY. Matijasevic stated that there is an intensive dialogue going on with ICTY but the key cooperation is in activities to be carried out by RS MoI, but also RS Government and other institutions.</p> <p>BHT 1 – RS President Dragan Cavic declared that the requested archives are not in his office. Zivorad Mijatovic, Chief of RS Office for Cooperation with ICTY announced his statement on this issue on Wednesday, after the expiration of deadline for submitting the archives of RS Army supreme command.</p> <p>RTRS – According to RTRS, the RS Government claims that the deadline is 6 October. Branko Trkulja spokesman of RS Defence Ministry says that there is certain documentation which will be sent to ICTY</p> <p>FTV – Deadline for submitting archives of Herceg-Bosna expires today as well. Unofficial sources claim that some of the documents have already been submitted to ICTY, and the rest will follow soon. Florence Hartmann, Spokeswoman of ICTY Prosecution said that the Prosecution will prepare a report for UN Security Council.</p>
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<p>Mikerevic, Stankovic on deadline to submit RS war time archive</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 2 'We'll respect the ICTY deadline' by <u>Fena</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Mikerevic expects documentation to be found in reasonable time' by <u>M.Radetic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'We have found war-time directives of RS Supreme Command', EuroBlic RSpg 1 'Special units in the field' by <u>M. Soja-M. Jandric</u>; – RS Prime Minister Dragan Mikerevic said on Wednesday that the Entity Government in cooperation with the relevant ministries would respect the ICTY deadline to deliver the wartime documentation of the RS Army Supreme Command. The deadline expires tomorrow. Stressing that this commitment is not fulfilled directly by the Government, but the relevant ministry, Mikerevic said that he has discussed this matter with the RS Minister of Interior, Darko Matijasevic, as well. <i>"I expect to receive detailed information about the course of the investigation during the day"</i>, noted RS Prime Minister.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'We have found war-time directives of RS Supreme Command' – RS Defence Ministry confirmed a part of documentation, in some way related to RS Supreme Command, has been detected so far. Milovan Stankovic, RS Defence Minister, also said that search after documentation is extensive, expressing hope that documents found at the archives of the RS Army and Defence Ministry would be handed to the Tribunal by 6th October.</p>
<p>Ashdown urges adoption of legislation on war crimes chamber</p>	<p>RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Adopt regulations for establishing BiH War Crimes Chamber', Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 11, 'Process war crimes', by <u>Z. Zekic</u>, Dnevni list, pg 17, 'BiH Court's War Crimes Chamber in September', not signed – The High Representative Paddy Ashdown urges The BiH House of Peoples will tomorrow discuss the set of legislative amendments, which will enable the processing of war crimes cases before the BiH Court BiH. The House of Representatives BiH adopted this package of laws last week. These laws are essential for the establishment of BiH's War Crimes Chamber. The OHR urges BiH's Parliamentarians to ensure that they meet the end of September deadline for the passage of this legislation, which will enable the BiH Court 's War Crimes Chamber to be established operational in January 2005.</p>

<p>RFE: Ashdown ordered Cavic to arrest war crimes suspects</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Ashdown ordered Cavic to arrest war crime suspects' by <u>Radio Free Europe</u> – Radio Free Europe on Wednesday reported that the statement of the RS MoI, Darko Matijasevic [please see <i>Media Round-up Sept 29</i>], is an outcome of his agreement with Paddy Ashdown, High Representative to BiH. Report further notes that HR has ordered Dragan Cavic, RS President, to arrange the formation of a special police unit for arrest of war criminals at the most recent meetings in Belgrade, which would be able to cross borders across Drina river without administrative restrictions.</p>
<p>DA: reactions to Matijasevic's statement</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Bosniak head of RS police would move arrest of war criminals from dead letter' b <u>A. Basic</u> – DA brings reactions to the statement by RS Interior Ministry, Darko Matijasevic, who said that there will be no calculations in efforts to arrest war crimes suspects. Deputy Speaker of the BiH House of Representatives, Nikola Spiric, says that Matijasevic should be aware of the fact that actions must follow such statements, and added he hopes that Matijasevic's address was not another 'prank'. SDU leader Miro Lazovic also expresses hope that Matijasevic was serious about his words. SBiH president, Safet Halilovic, said he was sceptical about such statements adding that if a Bosniak was appointed to Interior Minister that would finally move the arrest from being a dead letter.</p>
<p>NN op-ed on RS MoI</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'Minister's target' by <u>Dragan Risojevic</u> – Editorial reads that the new RS Minister of Internal Affairs has ordered in public the RS Special Police to prepare for the arrests of Hague Tribunal fugitives signalling that there was no more time for promises that nobody believed. The column further reads that it seems that a man who can make changes has come and that proofs of this are already felt at the building of the Ministry where everybody, including the RS Police Director, are now "scared of new Minister". The columnist, however, stresses that in spite of all his promises, he will be facing a problem that nobody, not even the international community, has managed to resolve – lack of intelligence information. Author further speculates as to whether Minister might have made some steps in this regard, noting that Ministers has decided to try to improve cooperation with the ICTYU and to remove the collective responsibility from the Serb people for war crimes.</p>

Political issues	
Election Commission ready for elections	<p>FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Voter counting system presented' by <u>A. Terzic</u>– BiH Election Commission confirmed that all preparations for local elections on 2 October have been completed. The Commission discovered mistakes in some municipal electoral commissions, where voter registration lists haven't been completed. Lidija Korac, member of the Commission, announced that the mistakes were corrected and announced the investigation after the elections. There have also been violations of Electoral Law during appointment of Electoral Boards. BiH Electoral Commission had to annul appointment decisions for Electoral Boards in Konjic, Siroki Brijeg and Ugljevik. Polling places on election day will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. First preliminary results will be published at midnight.</p>
Mladen Ivanic advocates that position of HR be terminated	<p>Dnevni list, pg 6, 'Abolish position of the High Representative', <u>not signed</u>, and Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 11, 'Abolish position of the High Representative by 2006', by <u>A. Macanovic</u> – BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic told journalists in Banja Luka yesterday that he would do his best that the position of the High Representative be abolished by December 2005. He said that it was time BiH institutions started functioning independently. In light of more and more frequent announcements of the need to change the BiH Constitution coming also from the OHR Sarajevo, Ivanic said: <i>"The High Representative should be the interpreter of the Dayton Accord, not creator of the new Constitution."</i></p>

<p>Helsinki Committee on election campaign</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Campaign in a sign of religious leaders', Dnevni list, pg 7, 'Pre-election campaign characterised by religious leaders', by Nina, Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 17, 'Reis lobbied for SDA, Chetniks "got ready"', by Dinko Pasic –The Helsinki Committee Human Rights Committee stated that the campaign for the 2 October local elections in BiH has been conducted in a predominately democratic atmosphere, characterized by fair play and absence of significant incidents which could threaten validity of the elections. The statement says "the biggest blow to the fairness of the campaign was posed by the election rally of the Serbian Radicals in Bijeljina on 3 October, when the deputy chairman of the Serbian Radical Party, Tomislav Nikolic, held a speech imbued with hatred and intolerance and also voiced territorial aspirations towards BiH". According to the statement, the main feature of the elections campaign is <i>"a high degree of involvement of religious leader, who implicitly pointed the voters towards three nationalist parties – SDA, SDS and HDZ . The leaders of the Islamic community, Mustafa Cerić and Ismet Spahic, were the most prominent in doing this."</i> According to the Helsinki committee, the celebrations marking 200 anniversary of the First Serbian Uprising, which were held in Visegrad, were attended by a large number of SDS representatives, who used the occasion for their election purposes". Cardinal Vinko Puljic spoke about <i>"a ploy against the Catholics in BiH"</i> at the beginning of September. He also sought help from the Vatican and Croatia. Talking about the content of the election campaign, representatives of political parties used similar rhetoric and spoke mainly about issues far removed from local communities. There were very few local issues mentioned, instead there was talk about European integration, employment, one's own nation being threatened and "high politics". <i>"Estimates indicate on 2 October that we could see the lowest turnout since the war. The most worrying aspect is apathy among young people and city dwellers, who do not intend to vote,"</i> the statement says.</p>
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<p>GS reactions to Tihic, Mesic</p>	<p>Glas Srpske, cover page story 'Blowing into the coldness' by Snj. M. – GS article carries a compilation of statements upon Sulejman Tihic – Stjepan Mesic meeting, i.e. the support of Mesic to a change of BiH Constitution, as well as various statements given in the past regarding the change of BiH Constitution. The article carries statements of: Croatian Minister for Health Care Andrija Hebrang, President of HSLS (Croatian Social-Liberal Party) Drazen Budisa, President of Croatian SDP Zdravko Tomac, then BiH Minister of Foreign Affairs Zlatko Lagumdzija and then Croatian Prime Minister Ivica Racan. The article at the end concludes by saying that regardless of aspirations of Croatian politicians, BiH Constitution cannot be changed, nor RS can be abolished, without consent of Serb people.</p> <p>GS inset 'Minimum' quotes PDP President and BiH Minister of Foreign Affairs Mladen Ivanic as commenting on those who plead for change of the Dayton Agreement by saying: <i>'Their final aim is to abolish RS, and RS is a minimum beyond which we do not want and cannot go'</i>. He also said one should ask the High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, to say why those who had pleaded for a change of the Dayton Agreement, BiH Constitution and abolishing of RS did not bear any responsibilities for their "anti-Dayton acting".</p>
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VL int with
Lozancic

Vecernji List pg 5 'International administration is corrupted and hinders BiH on way to Europe', mentioned on cover 'International administration is corrupted' by Z. Kresic – In an interview given to VL, Federation of BiH President **Niko Lozancic** says that the current constitutional solution is the biggest obstacle to any positive progress in BiH and that the **OHR** will be the only functional authority in BiH as long as the Dayton Peace Accord is in power. Lozancic is harshly criticising the International Community in BiH. Asked to comment on the journalist's conclusion that the OHR exactly is criticising domestic politicians quite often, Lozancic says that this is skilful shifting of responsibility and he added: *"They (the OHR) are aware that they are the only efficient authority in BiH and therefore they are the only ones who are responsible for the situation in this country. As long as the situation is such we shall be in front of the door of Europe."* Asked as to who hinders the change of the current situation in BiH, Lozancic says that many people from the IC would lose job if self-sustainable and functional authority system would be established in BiH and also there is a lot of opposition of various representatives of the domestic authority. Asked whether he believes that there is abuse in the international administration, Lozancic says that certain companies get all big jobs in BiH according to criteria defined by international power-wielders. Lozancic also says that the OHR officials only have complete immunity and they are not responsible to anyone. Lozancic added: *"The elections only serve international administrators in BiH who always have scapegoats for all their failures."*

<p>VL int with Raguz</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 15 'There is wish to make position of Croat people in BiH relative' by M. Relota carries an interview with Chairman of the BiH House of Representatives Martin Raguz. According to Raguz, serious and open discussion on reorganization of BiH and change of the BiH Constitution should start by the end of the year and demands for this move are coming from domestic politicians but also from important international institutions (first of all from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly). Raguz believes that such demands coming from the international circles are the most important political message that the domestic authority received lately. Asked to comment on the attacks against Cardinal Vinko Puljic who warns of endangered position of Croats, Raguz says that there is a wish to make relative the position of the Croat people in BiH through these attacks, however, according to Raguz, we have to continue persistent and grounded struggle for rights of all peoples in BiH but also for dignity , equality and perspective of the Croat people in BiH.</p>
<p>DL statement of day: Ashdown</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 2 carries in its 'Statement of Day' High Representative Paddy Ashdown as saying: <i>"We do not have favorites at coming elections."</i></p>

<p>VL: There is no money for newly established state institutions</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 6 'Bigger taxes for BiH citizens for new institutions existing on paper only', mentioned on cover 'State apparatus demand bigger taxes', by <u>E. Medunjanin</u> – VL says that it has been warned at the last session of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board that newly established Ministries, institutions and Agencies at the state level should start functioning by the end of the year, however, according to VL, the lack of money is a big problem for meeting of this obligation. The article also says that currently these institutions exist on the paper only and Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic estimates that at least 10 million KM should be allocated for this purpose. Also, although the International Monetary Fund does not allow the state Government to increase the budget for this purpose, people from the state Government expect that the EC and OHR might use their authority in order to get approval for increase of the budget. Terzic also believes that entities might also allocate certain funds for this purpose since the state institutions will take over many tasks from the entity institutions.</p>
<p>Update to renaming some cities in RS with prefix 'Serb'</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'RS Government to make a move' by <u>D. Risojevic</u> – Desanka Radjevic, Head of SDS Caucus at the RS NA House of Peoples, told NN that the RS Government would have to propose new names for 12 municipalities and cities across RS (containing prefix "Serb"), since it is evident even now the Joint Commission of the Council of Peoples and RS NA would not reach an agreement on this. She said that Government cannot sent for further consideration names of the cities initially proposed, but instead has to make new ones.</p>

Security issues

<p>Bomb hoax in BL</p>	<p>RHB, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Tip on bomb planted in Danski dvori was a hoax' by <u>M.V.</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 2 'False tip on planted bomb' by <u>O.V.</u>, Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 4 'False alarm on a bomb at Banski Dvor building' by <u>P. Klincov</u>, Dnevni List pg 2 'False information about planted explosive' <u>not signed</u>, Vecernji List pg 3 'False information about bomb in office of Dragan Cavic' by <u>bs</u> and Slobodna Dalmacija pg 20 'There was no bomb in Banski Dvori' by <u>A. Macanovic</u> – There was another false bomb alarm in Banja Luka yesterday. Anonymous caller informed one of the secretaries working at RS Government of bomb planted at the building of Banski Dvor in Banja Luka. Police evacuated the building immediately but found nothing. RS President Dragan Cavic was not in the building at the time as well as RS Vice Presidents. According to NN inset 'SNSD: A filthy campaign', SNSD yesterday released a press statement saying that SNSD links this false bomb alarm with the filthy pre-election campaign, stressing that at the time of the tip-off, the SNSD Youth was supposed to hold tribune at Banski Dvor building.</p>
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DA int with
Radovanovic

Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 5 'Not a single volunteer to Iraq has given up!' by Mirela Kukan – DA says that the defence reforms in BiH were highly marked at the latest session of the Defence Reform Commission, however that its Chair **James Locher** warned about the slow pace of engaging personnel in the BiH Defence Minister. In an interview to DA, the BiH Defence Minister, **Nikola Radovanovic**, says that the most importantly this is not politically motivated. *"We have removed formal, legal and other obstacles, and I can confirm that employments will go much faster as of now,"* Radovanovic stressed. Asked whether he will insist for recruits of RS and FBiH Armies to listen to same hymn and have a same oath text, Radovanovic says that he will insist on that. As for the preparations of the deployment of BiH troops to Iraq , Radovanovic said that two officers are ready to depart for Florida where they will complete all necessary preparations for the rest of the team.

<p>Update to UN report on financial malversations</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg 3 'BAM 586 millions of suspicious transactions detected' by <u>M. Cubro</u> – The Office for Prevention of Money Laundering of the Federation of BiH Financial Police has reported to the competent Prosecutor's Offices on BAM 586 millions of suspicious financial transactions in the course of the past and this year, as the Report on Terrorism in BiH, which was sent to UN, reads. Dragan Mektic, the Deputy BiH Minister for Safety, says: <i>'The Federation of BiH Financial Police have collected information on base of which it has been determined that 10 humanitarian organizations with seats in BiH had been supporting terrorist activities.'</i> NN article carries a list of these organizations and says that some of these organizations are already on the UN list of associations helping Al-Q'Aida. RTRS – also reported on the organizations whose accounts were blocked.</p>
<p>Matijasevic meets EUPM Commissioner</p>	<p>RTRS, Glas Srpske pg 2 'The Hague is obligation' by <u>V.J.</u> – Darko Matijasevic, RS Interior Minister, held a first meeting with the EUPM Commissioner, Kevin Carty in Banja lUka on Wednesday. The meeting discussed the security situation in the RS in the light of the upcoming elections and also measures RS MoI is conducting in order to meet demands by The Hague . The meeting assessed the so far cooperation between the RS MoI and EUPM was a correct one.</p>

**DA on NATO HQ
in Sarajevo**

Dnevni Avaz cover 'NATO HQ in Sarajevo for stability in BiH', pg 4 'US strongly support the NATO HQ in Sarajevo' by S. Numanovic – US will provide with the strong support to activities of the NATO HQ in Sarajevo . The details of that support are still being worked on, but it is already known that about 100 US troops will be included in its activities. This was confirmed by an colonel Sean Brunetti, commander of US troops in EUCOM in charge of monitoring SFOR's withdrawal from BiH.