## OHR BiH Media Round-up, 3/12/2005

## TV news broadcast onDecember 2, 2005

| RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA<br>(18,00 hrs)      | <b>TV PINK</b> (18,00 hrs)        | <b>BHT 1</b> (19,00 hrs)               |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| McElhaney on<br>Constitutional changes | BIH CC on internal debt           | Price increases due to<br>VAT          |
| CoE on BiH obligations                 | Andrun in custody                 | OHR on obstructions by<br>RS authority |
| Covic on inner division<br>of HDZ      | PDHR and SDHR on RS<br>Government | Crisis of RS Government<br>ahead?      |
| Cavic visits Busovaca                  | US Ambassador in BL               | Update on<br>"Energopetrol"            |

| NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)                  | <b>FTV</b> (19,30 hrs)                | <b>RTRS</b> (19,30 hrs)                 |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| CoM is session on<br>Thursday          | OHR on obstructions by<br>RS Gvmnt    | OHR warns RS Government                 |
| CoM on CRA funds                       | Reactions from RS on<br>OHR claims    | Bukejlovic responses to<br>OHR          |
| Terzic, Leakey, HR on<br>EU/BIH forces | McElhaney visited RS NA               | McElhaney, Stojicic on<br>Const. change |
| SIPA employed new staff                | Update on foreign<br>currency savings | Const. Court on old<br>foreign savings  |

| Oslobodjenje | Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic at Belgrade Institute |
|--------------|---|
|              | for Security  |
| Dnevni Avaz  | Large setup of Ahmet Hadzipasic                         |

| Dnevni List         | Euroherc to be returned to its real owners [Croatian |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | police action confirmed acts of abuse of office in   |
|                     | Euroherc]  |
| Vecernji List       | Search at security agencies                          |
| Nezavisne<br>Novine | Agreement on changes to the Constitution by March    |
| Glas Srpske         | First convict, then accuse?                          |

| (               | Constitutional changes/ SAA talks/reforms   |
|-----------------|---|
| PDHR Butler and | TV Pink, BHT1, TV Hayat, FTV, RTRS - At the press conference held   |
| SDHR Ney: RS    | on Friday in Sarajevo, PDHR Larry Butler and SDHR Martin  |
| Government is   | Neystated that the RS Government is obstructing the adoption of   |
| obstructing     | 11 reform laws. They also stated that OHR would no longer impose  |
| adoption of 11  | solutions. Instead, OHR will hold the Office of PM Pero   |
| reform laws     | Bukejlovic responsible for present negative situation. According  |
|                 | to OHR, by blocking these laws, the RS Government itself is   |
|                 | endangering the process of EU integration. PDHR Larry Butler  |
|                 | stated thatthe Government of RS is moving in exactly the wrong  |
|                 | direction and it is causing the problem, instead of fixing it.  |
|                 | The RS Government refuses to, or actively obstructs the adoption  |
|                 | of the Council of Europe endorsed guidelines for writing history  |
|                 | and geography text books, the harmonization of the State High   |
|                 | Education Law with the Bologna process, the adoption of the Law   |
|                 | on Obligations, the adoption of the State Framework Law on  |
|                 | Conflict of Interest, attempts that allow the state to coordinate   |
|                 | and develop agricultural policies, the adoption of the state Law  |
|                 | on Pharmaceuticals, the establishment of a Consumer Ombudsman,  |
|                 | the transfer of banking supervision to the State level, allow the   |
|                 | state to issue bonds to settle debts for frozen foreign currency  |
|                 | savings, sign a Transfer Agreement on defence with FBiH, and the  |
|                 | adoption of the remaining ITA Laws. SDHR Martin Ney emphasized  |
|                 | that the adoption of this legislative is the responsibility of  |
|                 | the RS Government, and not the international community. Ney and   |
|                 | Butler warned the RS citizens that they are going to be the ones  |
|                 | who will suffer the consequences for the acts of politicians who  |
|                 | are not working for the interest of people.   |
|                 | <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2, announced on cover RS Government is putting obstacles to reforms and is blocking European path of |
|                 | BiH' by N. N., Glas Srpske pg 5 'A ramp for reforms' by N.  |
|                 | Zelenovic, Dnevni Avaz pg 4, announced on cover 'Prime Minister   |
|                 | Bukejlovic and RS Government are sources of greatest  |
|                 | obstructions' by S. Numanovic, Dnevni List pg 4 'RS politicians   |
|                 | on the path of electoral suicide' by Mensud Zorlak, Vecernji List   |
|                 | pg 2 'OHR: vote and punish authorities' <u>by mensua zortak</u> , vote inji zist  |
|                 | 2, announced on cover 'RS again obstructs BiH on European path'   |
|                 | by A. Omeragic – also reported.   |
|                 |   |

| FTV comment:  | FTV Sinan Saric - OHR believes that the problem of RS Government  |
|---------------|---|
| what the IC   | can be solved by changing of the attitude of the electoral body.  |
| today calls a | "We must rely on the electoral body. The question is: how are we  |
| problem, has  | going to enable the electoral body to think in a critical way and |
| always been a | to take their interests in their own hands", explained Ney. The   |
| partner of IC | reporter very ironically commented that the situation wasn't very |
|               | much different even in times when RS Government was not lead by   |
|               | SDS . Reporter also commented that the international community    |
|               | didn't use the opportunity to strengthen the positive forces in   |
|               | RS, adding that what today is being called a problem, has always  |
|               | been a partner for the international community.                   |

RS Government denies OHR's claims; RS President Cavic: solution should be found; SNSD's Simic: reforms were result of IC pressure; DNS: IC's remarks represent fiasco of Bukejlovic's Govt

FTV Sinisa Mihailovic, RTRS, RTRS by Sinisa Mihajlovic -Commenting the OHR's remarks RS Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic said it is not true that his Government blocks the reforms and these claims were groundless. Bukejlovic said that the RS Government took active part in all the reforms, including the procedures for adopting Law on Obligations, High Education Law and Law on Defence. Bukejlovic responses by saying that the RS Government could not be the only responsible party since RSNA has the final word regarding these issues. Bukejlovic said it is not a coincidence that these remarks came at the same time as the initiative for replacement of RS Government. After talking with Bukejlovic, RS President Dragan Cavic said that a solution that serves the interests of both RS and BiH should be found. SNSD's Krstan Simic said that the previous reforms were result of IC pressures and were not expressing the will of the authorities. DNS, who set initiative for RS Government removal, thinks that the remarks of IC represent fiasco of Bukejlovic's Government, and it would not produce the crisis but the recovery of RS. SNSD said they would wait for reactions from PDP, to take the final stand regarding Government removal. PDP said they have not been happy with the work of Government, and that this was a reason for

they have gone to the opposition. Reporter comments that Bukejlovic has no intention to dismiss the Government. Commenting these allegations, **Cavic** said that such a move would destabilize RS institutions. Cavic sent a word to other parties to look for the majority in the Parliament. Cavic said: "There is no any kind of problem for me regarding cohabitation. It is clear that if this Government is removed by some other parliamentary majority, SDS will not participate in forming some other Government, SDS will for sure be in opposition, both here and in BiH Council of Ministers." Cavic said that there is no need for crisis at the moment when serious issues are coming the way.

TV Hayat, Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover RS Government is putting obstacles to reforms and is blocking European path of BiH' by N. N., inset 'Government: there are no obstructions', Glas Srpske pg 5 'Critics without reason' by Z. Markovic, Dnevni

Avaz pg 4 'RS Government rejects accusations' <u>by Srna</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 2, announced on cover 'RS again obstructs BiH on

European path' by A. Omeragic inset 'RS Government rejected accusations' - report RS Government denied OHR's claims Glas Srpske pg 5 'Laws for the laws' sake' not signed - carries

Simic's statement.

TV Pink – Also carries statement of member of SNSD Krstan Simic, whoalso commented on the recent crises in the RS Government and said RSNA delegates have agreed that it wouldn't be wise to block the work of legislative and executive governments since it might reflect badly on the RS status in the process of Constitutional changes.

| RS NA Chairman<br>Stojicic: RS NA<br>never rejected<br>any reform<br>solution<br>presented by RS<br>Govt  | FTV - Commenting the OHR's statement on RS Government and its<br>obstructions of reform processes, President of RS National<br>Assembly Dusan Stojicic stated that RS NA has never rejected any<br>reform solution proposed by RS Government. He added that RS NA<br>has had enough political capacity to adopt suitable solutions<br>even for greatest problems.  |
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| Ambassador<br>McElhaney met<br>RSNA Speaker and<br>Heads of RSNA<br>Caucuses:<br>warnings<br>regarding RS<br>Govt's failure<br>to improve<br>implementation<br>of reforms<br>should be taken<br>seriously | RHB, TV Pink, BHT1, FTV, RTRS, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Washington wants<br>reforms' by Z. Markovic, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'On constitutional<br>changes next week again' not signed, Oslobodjenje pg 4 'To<br>resolve issue of cooperation with the Tribunal' by Fena – US<br>Ambassador Douglas McElhaney while visiting Banja Luka, stated<br>that the warnings issued by PDHR Larry Butler and SDHR Martin Ney<br>regarding RS Government's failure to improve implementation of<br>key reforms and de-block process of BiH's European integration,<br>should be taken seriously. US Ambassador promised his help in<br>finding the solution for this issue. McElhaney said he already<br>spoke to PDHR Larry Butler on that issue. McElhaney said he<br>expects greater improvement regarding BiH constitutional changes,<br>stressing that this could already happen the next week, when the<br>talks eventually continue. At the meeting with RSNA Speaker Dusan<br>Stojicic and the heads of caucuses, McElhaney discussed recent<br>Washington talks. Commenting problem of terrorism and recent<br>Sarajevo arrests, McElhaney said it is hard to isolate issue of<br>terrorism and attach it to one country. McElhaney said that BiH<br>couldn't become EU, NATO or even Partnership for Peace member<br>before Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic are imprisoned.<br>McElhaney said that arresting Karadzic and Mladic is the top<br>priority for USA. McElhaney also visited Catholic Schooling<br>Centre in Banja Luka.<br>Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash, pgs 4-5 'Agreement on<br>amendments to the Constitution by March' by D. Risojevic –<br>carries an interview with US Ambassador Douglas McElhaney on<br>issues in line with the above reported statement. |
| RS NA Chairman<br>Stojicic: we<br>have possibility<br>to define<br>amendments to<br>Constitution by<br>March 2006   | RTRS – After the meeting with Ambassador McElhaney, RSNA Chairman<br>Dusan Stojicic said: "I think that we, in consideration of<br>positions of United States and most of domestic politicians, we<br>have a possibility to define the BiH Constitution amendments in<br>such of short period, until March. These amendments would be the<br>essence of the agreement regarding these three issues – BiH<br>Presidency, BiH Council of Ministers and BiH Parliament."<br>Stojicic said that he and McElhaney have not discussed the<br>concrete solutions to the constitutional amendments, expect the<br>deadline which would be March 2006.  |

| HDZ's Covic:<br>there are<br>attempts to<br>divide HDZ to<br>weaken it in<br>negotiations on<br>constitutional<br>changes   | RHB, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Scenario aiming at breaking the party<br>is ongoing' by N. N., Dnevni List pg 4 'Scenario aiming at<br>breaking HDZ is ongoing' not signed, Vecernji List pg 2 'Hundreds<br>of Croats will be accused soon' by f - HDZ President Dragan Covic<br>stated that there is an attempt to divide HDZ through a special<br>scenario, whose authors are from BiH but also from abroad, in<br>order to weaken HDZ in the negotiations on constitutional changes<br>and on the eve of the next year's elections. RHB explains that   |
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|   | in this way Covic commented on the situation within HDZ and he<br>called on unity of HDZ. He also said that during the last weeks<br>he was present at HDZ public forums on constitutional changes all<br>over BiH and according to him establishment of the third, Croat<br>entity was proposed at all public forums apart from the one in<br>Zepce.  |
| Ivanic attended<br>meeting on<br>negotiations on<br>SAA held in<br>Macedonia ,<br>discussed<br>liberalisation<br>of visa regime,<br>aid to BiH in<br>reform processes | <pre>TV Pink - The informal meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in<br/>Macedonia on the negotiations on Stabilisation and Association<br/>Agreement with EU has been continued on Friday. BIH was<br/>represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mladen Ivanic. Ivanic<br/>stated in the telephone interview that they have mainly discussed<br/>the issue of liberalisation of visa-regime as well as the issue<br/>of financial help to the reform process in BIH. Ivanic stressed<br/>that the current help in 60 million euros is insufficient in<br/>comparison to the enormity of the process.<br/>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Countries of the Balkans are asking for<br/>liberalisation of visa regime' <u>by N. N.</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Ivanic<br/>proposed liberalisation of visa regime to Ursula Plasnik' <u>by<br/>Srna</u>, Dnevni List pg 5 'Larger financial help is needed' <u>not<br/>signed</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Liberalisation of visa regime is<br/>needed' <u>not signed</u> – also reported on the meeting.</pre> |
| Alternative High<br>Representative<br>Pejakovic: OHR<br>too is<br>responsible for<br>failure of<br>reforms  | <pre>Dnevni list pg 8 'OHR too is responsible for failure of reform'<br/>by Nina - Alternative Presidency BiH issued a public statement<br/>pointing out that the statements coming from OHR on that the<br/>Government of RS has not managed to realize key reforms are one<br/>more "mere phrase". "Just a mere statement on the situation will<br/>bring nothing to BiH citizens. It is perfectly clear to us the RS<br/>authorities have not made key reforms, as the federal and state<br/>failed to as well", says the statement. Alternative High<br/>Representative to BiH Josip Pejakovic stated all failed reforms<br/>in this state are a failure of OHR as well, as should be treated<br/>in this way.</pre>   |

## Other political issues

BHT1: will RS Government have support of majority at next RS NA session; comments by RS parties

BHT1 – Zoran Sarenac – After the sharp criticism of RS Government by the opposition parties, it is not clear if RS Government is going to get the support of majority at the next session of RS NA. SDS still claims that RS Government is going to continue with its work and fulfil the obligations set by the international community. According to DNS, the latest statements of the OHR on RS Government and its obstructions to the adoption of necessary reform legislation is a clear sign that the vote-on-confidence is going to be launched at the next RSNA session. DNS' Drago Kalabic stated that the Government definitely doesn't have the support of majority. Krstan Simic from SNSD accused the RS Government of not wanting to face problems. Commenting the Friday's press conference of the OHR, RS NA President Dusan Stojicic emphasized that most of the laws listed by OHR have already been passed by RS NA. Borsilav **Bojic** from SDS is confident that a solution for all problems is going to be reached at the next RS NA session. RS PM **Pero Bukejlovic** already said that he is not going to resign, despite of all criticism against his Government. **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'Removal – yes, resignation - no' by Srna - also reports on statement of RS PM Pero Bukejlovic saying RS Government has no reason to resign.

| RS PresidentGlas Srpske pg 5 'Support to PrimeCavic: RS PMMinister' by K3 Prnjavor TV station - RShas myPresident Dragan Cavic stated RS PM Perosupport; PDPBukejlovic has his support, but anis creatingimpression was created in public thatcrisis in RSthere are some deep misunderstandingsbetween them. 'This Government workshonestly and it faces more problems thanall other past Governments due topolitical issues that derive from regionalneeds of the Agreement on SAA', Cavicstated. With regard to PDP, Cavic said hehas an impression PDP is creating a crisisin RS while, at the same time, PDPMinister couldn't be "chased away" fromCoM even if one used force.PDP's Ivanic:SDS onlythinks of itspartyinterests- in an interview to NN, PDP leader MladenIvanic stated PDP has decided to break thecoalition with SDS because SDS onlythinks about its party interests, neverabout interests of RS. He claims PDP will  |               |   |
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| <pre>in RS while, at the same time, PDP<br/>Minister couldn't be "chased away" from<br/>CoM even if one used force.</pre> PDP's Ivanic:<br>SDS only<br>thinks of its<br>party<br>interests PDF 's Ivanic: Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'SDS thinks only<br>about party interests', announced on cover<br>'SDS thinks only about party interests,<br>never about interests of RS' by V. Popovic<br>- in an interview to NN, PDP leader Mladen<br>Ivanic stated PDP has decided to break the<br>coalition with SDS because SDS only<br>thinks about its party interests, never<br>about interests of RS. He claims PDP will   |               | stated. With regard to PDP, Cavic said he         |
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| CoM even if one used force.PDP's Ivanic:<br>SDS only<br>thinks of its<br>party<br>interestsNezavisne Novine pg 6 'SDS thinks only<br>about party interests', announced on cover<br>'SDS thinks only about party interests,<br>never about interests of RS' by V. Popovic<br>– in an interview to NN, PDP leader Mladen<br>Ivanic stated PDP has decided to break the<br>coalition with SDS because SDS only<br>thinks about its party interests, never<br>about interests of RS. He claims PDP will  |               | in RS while, at the same time, PDP                |
| PDP's Ivanic:<br>SDS only<br>thinks of its<br>party<br>interestsNezavisne Novine pg 6 'SDS thinks only<br>about party interests', announced on cover<br>'SDS thinks only about party interests,<br>never about interests of RS' by V. Popovic<br>– in an interview to NN, PDP leader Mladen<br>Ivanic stated PDP has decided to break the<br>coalition with SDS because SDS only<br>thinks about its party interests, never<br>about interests of RS. He claims PDP will   |               | Minister couldn't be "chased away" from           |
| SDS only<br>thinks of its<br>partyabout party interests', announced on cover<br>'SDS thinks only about party interests,<br>never about interests of RS' by V. Popovic<br>– in an interview to NN, PDP leader Mladen<br>Ivanic stated PDP has decided to break the<br>coalition with SDS because SDS only<br>thinks about its party interests, never<br>about interests of RS. He claims PDP will   |               | CoM even if one used force.                       |
| <pre>thinks of its   party interests</pre>   | PDP's Ivanic: | Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'SDS thinks only            |
| party<br>interests never about interests of RS' by V. Popovic<br>– in an interview to NN, PDP leader Mladen<br>Ivanic stated PDP has decided to break the<br>coalition with SDS because SDS only<br>thinks about its party interests, never<br>about interests of RS. He claims PDP will   | SDS only      | about party interests', announced on cover        |
| interests – in an interview to NN, PDP leader Mladen<br>Ivanic stated PDP has decided to break the<br>coalition with SDS because SDS only<br>thinks about its party interests, never<br>about interests of RS. He claims PDP will  | thinks of its | 'SDS thinks only about party interests,           |
| <pre>Ivanic stated PDP has decided to break the<br/>coalition with SDS because SDS only<br/>thinks about its party interests, never<br/>about interests of RS. He claims PDP will</pre>  | party         | never about interests of RS' <u>by V. Popovic</u> |
| coalition with SDS because SDS only<br>thinks about its party interests, never<br>about interests of RS. He claims PDP will  | interests     | — in an interview to NN, PDP leader Mladen        |
| thinks about its party interests, never<br>about interests of RS. He claims PDP will   |               | Ivanic stated PDP has decided to break the        |
| about interests of RS. He claims PDP will  |               | coalition with SDS because SDS only               |
|  |               | thinks about its party interests, never           |
|  |               | about interests of RS. He claims PDP will         |
| not change its decision on becoming an   |               | not change its decision on becoming an            |
| opposition party and he invites on SDS   |               | opposition party and he invites on SDS            |
| to remove PDP from CoM because PDP will  |               | to remove PDP from CoM because PDP will           |
| not and do not want to withdraw from CoM.  |               | not and do not cont to withdraw from CoM          |

| RS deputy      | <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 10 'It would be the best    |
|----------------|---|
| President      | for BiH if Bukejlovic's Government broke          |
| Osmanovic: it  | apart' <u>by E. S.</u> – Deputy RS President Adil |
| would have     | Osmanovic has stated it would be the best         |
| been the best  | for BiH if <b>Bukejlovic's</b> Government broke   |
| for BiH if     | apart, because this Government is                 |
| Bukejlovic's   | extremely right-oriented and works on the         |
| _              |   |
| Government had | detriment of BiH. Inset 'RS MoI is                |
| broken apart   | controlled by politically powerful                |
|                | persons' – Osmanovic says RS MoI is under         |
|                | the control of politically powerful               |
|                | persons who oppose police reform and              |
|                | transfer of entity competences to state           |
|                | level.  |
| SNSD's leader  | RTRS, Nezavisne novine pg 6 'Kosovo status        |
| Dodik: RS      | without influence on RS' <u>by Reuters</u> ,      |
| autonomy       | <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'Serbs might ask for      |
| strongly       | independence if RS position is put in             |
| secured, Serbs | jeopardy' <u>by Reuters</u> — In his interview    |
| no longer      | with Reuters, SNSD leader Milorad Dodik           |
| dream about    | said that BiH Serbs do not dream anymore          |
| joining Serbia | of leaving BiH and joining with Serbia.           |
|                | This is because the RS autonomy in BiH is         |
|                | strongly secured, said Dodik, adding that         |
|                | if position of RS was endangered, some BiH        |
|                | Serbs could possibly use the same argument        |
|                | for autonomy as Kosovars.                         |

| RHB            | <b>RHB –</b> <u>Ivica Simunovic</u> – Commenting present |
|----------------|--|
| journalist:    | inter-state border trouble between BiH and               |
|                |  |
| firms from     | Croatia, editor ironically speak about                   |
| Croatia hardly | foreign war ships sailing into 'great                    |
| have chance to | harbour of Neum' as part of 'somebody's'                 |
| buy a firm in  | pressure. He further continues commenting                |
| BiH, "someone" | politics in economy, taking Energopetrol                 |
| still at war,  | case as a good example where 'somebody' is               |
| this time not  | ready to destroy it rather than to sell it               |
| with guns, but | to buyer from neighbouring state. Editor                 |
| with money     | comments in an ironical voice that                       |
|                | "personal interests are obviously                        |
|                | connected with that kind of irrational                   |
|                | patriotism". Comment goes further and says               |
|                | that strong firms from Croatia who                       |
|                | dominate the region hardly have any chance               |
|                | to buy a firm in BiH, and that 'somebody'                |
|                | is obviously still at war, not with guns                 |
|                | but this time with money. Comment ends                   |
|                | with statement that 'somebody' wants to                  |
|                | destroy Aluminij-Mostar.                                 |

| DL op-ed:      | Dnevni List op-ed pg 2 'Hope dies the           |
|----------------|---|
| preparation of | last' <u>by Ivana Rozic</u> — the author claims |
| field for next | it seems no person care Croats are the          |
| HR through     | eldest people in BiH and notes Croats in        |
| rehabilitation | BiH are in unfavourable position.               |
| of politicians | Regarding the most recent decision of HR        |
|                | on rehabilitation of politicians, the           |
|                | author comments OHR is slowly changing its      |
|                | course of acting, which can be interpreted      |
|                | as preparing of field for the next HR,          |
|                | which should have less authorities than HR      |
|                | Paddy Ashdown. Therefore, as the author         |
|                | concludes, the new HR most certainly will       |
|                | not have the authority to remove                |
|                | politicians who mention, in a positive          |
|                | context, the third entity.                      |

## Economy/VAT/old foreign currency savings

BiH Constitutional Court : legislation on old foreign currency savings of entities and Brcko District are unconstitutional

FTV, TV Pink, BHT1, TV Hayat, RTRS, Glas Srpske pg 2 'New law for old foreign currency savings' not signed, Dnevni Avaz pg 11 'To adopt state law on old foreign currency savins in three months' by Srna, Dnevni List pg 2 'To adopt laws on old foreign currency savings' not signed, **Vecernji List** pg 2 'Verdict on old foreign currency savings' <u>by dja</u>, <mark>Oslobodjenje</mark> pg 2, announced on cover 'Publishing sector freed of paying VAT' by Az. K., **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'The state was ordered to adopt law' not signed - BiH Constitutional Court finds that the laws on old foreign currency savings in entities and Brcko District are not in accordance with Article 3 of BiH Constitution. Therefore, the Court decided to ban the article of laws on internal debt, which refers to the old foreign currency savings. The Court ordered BiH Council of Ministers to pass a framework law on frozen old currency savings on state level within three months. The Court also decided to adopt several appeals of citizens regarding the frozen foreign currency savings.

BiH CoM adopted amendments to VAT law: zero tax rate for press and publishing sector

TV Hayat, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Books and press freed from paying VAT' by M. Cubro, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Taxes to avoid books and print media?' by N. Z., Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Publishers and print-makers should be freed of paying VAT' by S. N., Vecernji List pg 3 'Books and print media without VAT' by Dejan Jazvic- BiH CoM adopted amendments to Law on VAT that will foresee zero tax rate for press and publishing sector including books, newspapers, and magazines, scientific publications etc., as Advisor to BIH CoM chair **Bojan Zec Filipovic** confirmed. The proposal now must be forwarded to the ITA Steering Board for further procedure. ITA Steering Board will discuss this proposal on  $13^{\text{th}}$  December.

| F BiH PM asked<br>HVB Bank to<br>prolong<br>activation of<br>mortgage of<br>Energopetrol for<br>another month                              | <pre>TV Hayat, BHT1, FTV, Nezavisne Novine pg<br/>3, announced on cover 'Decision on<br/>mortgage next week' by M. Rener, Dnevni<br/>Avaz pg 2 'Bank will present its stance on<br/>mortgage next week' by M. K., Oslobodjenje<br/>pg 2 'Activation of mortgage on<br/>"Energopetrol" gas stations to be<br/>prolonged' by A. Av FBIH PM Ahmet<br/>Hadzipasic asked from the HVB Bank to<br/>prolong the activation of "Energopetrol"<br/>mortgage for another month. As the reason<br/>for such the request, FBIH Govt stated<br/>that by that time it will have agreed on<br/>the strategy for co-capitalisation by<br/>potential partner INA/MOL corporation. The<br/>bank stated that they would decide on this<br/>issue within the course of next week.<br/>Reporter reiterated the case of<br/>"Energopetrol".</pre> |
|--|---|
| <pre>Petroleum expert    Tukulj: the    story on HVB     Bank and    activation of    mortgage on    "Energopetrol" is a large setup</pre> | <pre>Dnevni Avaz cover pg splash 'Large setup<br/>of Ahmet Hadzipasic' and pg 2 'The story<br/>on HVB bank is a large setup' by M. Kukan<br/>- Petroleum expert Aziz Tukulj claims the<br/>claims saying HVB Bank would activate<br/>mortgage claims on "Energopetrol" is a<br/>large setup, saying that the mortgage<br/>cannot be a problem because it is easy to<br/>find another bank to accept the obligation<br/>to pay back the loan to HVB Bank. He<br/>opposes to sale of "Energopetrol" to<br/>INA/MOL. He is concerned over persistence<br/>by which F BIH Government tries to realise<br/>its interntions and finds it strange that<br/>RS authorities are silent about this<br/>issue. [note: Tukulj does not mention<br/>Hadzipasic in his statement].</pre>  |

| War crimes/judicial proceedings |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Toby                            | TV Hayat, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 8                    |
| Robinson new                    |  |
| witnesses in                    | <u>A. D</u> ., <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 12 'Prosecutor Drew |
| "Croat self-                    | Engel asked from Toby Robinson to testify'               |
| rule" case                      | <u>by S. T., <b>Dnevni List</b> pg</u> 6 'Toby Robinson  |
|                                 | is possible witness' <u>by Erna Mackic</u> – The         |
|                                 | prosecution in the trial against former F                |
|                                 | BIH Defence Minister Miroslav Prce and                   |
|                                 | former F BIH Army Vice Commander Dragan                  |
|                                 | <b>Curcic</b> in the case of "Croat self-rule"           |
|                                 | for the abuse of power and subverting the                |
|                                 | military power has presented the list with               |
|                                 | more witnesses. Among the witnesses are                  |
|                                 | Toby Robinson and former member of BIH                   |
|                                 | Presidency <b>Beriz Belkic</b> . Belkic took the         |
|                                 | witness stand on Friday talking about the                |
|                                 | time when HVO left VF Army.                              |
| Sarovic,                        | BHT1, Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'First                 |
| Govedarica                      | convict, then accuse?' <u>by Z. Domazet</u> ,            |
| and Bjelica                     | inset 'They were transferred to Doboj' —                 |
| transferred                     | Mirko Sarovic, Milorad Govedarica and                    |
| to detention                    | Milovan Bjelica, who are suspected of                    |
| in Doboj                        | embezzlement in Privredna banka East                     |
|                                 | Sarajevo, have been transferred to                       |
|                                 | detention in Doboj Prison. According to                  |
|                                 | unofficial sources, they were transferred                |
|                                 | to Doboj because there are no more free                  |
|                                 | detention cells in BiH Court 's                          |
|                                 | detention prison.  |

| Lawyers      | <mark>Glas Srpske</mark> cover pg splash 'First  |
|--------------|--|
| criticise    | convict, then accuse?' <u>by Z. Domazet</u> —    |
| decision     | carries statements of several lawyers            |
| ordering     | criticising the decision of judge Malcolm        |
| detention    | Simmons, by which he had ordered detention       |
| for Sarovic, | for Sarovic, Govedarica and Bjelica,             |
| Govedarica   | saying the judge should have rejected            |
| and Bjelica  | Prosecutor Johnatan Rattel's appeal for          |
|              | detention because it was filed several           |
|              | hours after the legal deadline expired.          |
| OSL: RS      | <b>Oslobodjenje</b> cover pg splash and pg 3     |
| leadership   | 'Karadzic and Mladic at the Institute for        |
| negotiates   | security' <u>by E. K.</u> – The article quotes a |
| on surrender | source who claims he had seen the entire         |
| of Karadzic  | RS leadership and their hosts in                 |
| and Mladic   | "Jugoslavija" hotel in Belgrade on               |
| who are      | Thursday evening. They allegedly met to          |
| already      | negotiate surrender/arrest of Radovan            |
| accommodated | Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, who are,              |
| at the State | allegedly, already accommodated at the           |
| Security     | building of State Security in Belgrade.          |
| building in  |  |
| Belgrade     |  |

| Security     |   |
|--------------|---|
| Ashdown,     | TV Pink, TV Hayat, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2         |
| Leakey and   | 'To ensure mechanisms for fight against           |
| Terzic       | organised crime' <u>by Fena</u> — Chairman of BIH |
| agreed on    | Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic, High           |
| forming task | Representative to BIH Paddy Ashdown and           |
| force to     | EUFOR Commander David Leakey agreed on            |
| coordinate   | forming a task force that will come up            |
| efforts in   | with a proposal on finding better                 |
| fighting     | mechanisms for coordination of BiH and EU         |
| crime        | Security Forces in fighting the crime.            |

| EUFOR raided | <b>TV Pink, Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'Nine               |
|--------------|---|
| private      | security agencies were raided' <u>by Sn. K.</u> ,         |
| owned        | <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 10 'EUFOR members raided            |
| security     | "Redarstvenik"' <u>by F. V.</u> , <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 2 |
| firms to     | 'EUFOR raided security firms' <u>by Arijana</u>           |
| determine    | <u>Beus</u> , <b>Vecernji List</b> cover pg splash and pg |
| whether they | 3 'Raid at security agencies' by Robert                   |
| work in      | <u>Soldo</u> , <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3 'Control of the   |
| accordance   | work of security agencies' <u>by fena</u> —               |
| with DPA     | During the EUFOR search at several                        |
|              | private-owned security agencies in BiH to                 |
|              | verify whether these agencies work in                     |
|              | accordance with the Dayton Peace                          |
|              | Agreement, there were no incidents                        |
|              | confirmed EUFOR Spokesperson Jem Thomas.                  |
|              | He also stated that the actions will be                   |
|              | continued as long as it is not determined                 |
|              | that these agencies work in accordance to                 |
|              | the DPA and they will be carried out with                 |
|              | support of the police. He stated they have                |
|              | checked weapons these agencies are using                  |
|              | in their work, equipment and licences.                    |
| Mektic:      | Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Illegal                            |
| illegal      | citizenships will be annulled' <u>by Srna</u> –           |
| citizenships | BiH Deputy Security Minister Dragan Mektic                |
| will be      | stated on Friday that illegally acquired                  |
| annulled     |   |
| annucceu     | citizenships, indoctrination of the part                  |
|              | of population through the extreme                         |
|              | religious fanaticism and abuse of certain                 |
|              | number of humanitarian organizations are                  |
|              | the key problems that could lead BiH in                   |
|              | relation with international terrorism. He                 |
|              | stated BiH must be more efficient in                      |
|              | depriving of citizenship the persons who                  |
|              | had acquired it in an illegal manner.                     |

| Education    |   |
|--------------|---|
| Task Force   | Nezavisne Novine pg 12 'Principles of             |
| for          | future law were agreed upon' <u>by M. Rener</u> – |
| development  | The Task Force, in charge of developing a         |
| of Law on    | draft law on high education in BiH by             |
| High         | December 9, agreed on principles of the           |
| Education in | future law, as according to the Chief of          |
| BiH agreed   | Cabinet of BiH Minister of Civil Affairs          |
| on           | and member of the Task Force <mark>Srdjan</mark>  |
| principles   | Arnaut. The Task Force members agreed             |
| of future    | three agencies should be established at           |
| Law          | the state level — one for development of          |
|              | high education, second for information and        |
|              | the third for issuing of certificates and         |
|              | accreditations.                                   |
| Snjezana     | <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 'Bozic is Education       |
| Bozic        | Minister' <u>by M. F.</u> – RS Prime Minister     |
| appointed    | Pero Bukejlovic appointed Snjezana Bozic          |
| new RS       | as RS Minister of Education and Culture,          |
| Education    | and informed the RS National Assembly             |
| Minister     | about this appointment, the RS                    |
|              | Government's Public Relations Bureau              |
|              | stated on Friday.                                 |