

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 31/3/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 31 March

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
BiH Const. Court 's session on Vlastic	Lukic pleads not guilty before ICTY	RS NA in regular session
Const.-Legal Comm. on const. chgs	BiH Const. Court assess symbols	BH Cons. Court in session
Ministerial consultations on refugees	World news	Milan Lukic pleaded not guilty

TV news broadcast on 30 March

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Tihic meets The Pope	Davidovic regarding SAA	Terzic meets Rehn in Brussels
HR at HNP congress	RSNA session- live	Negotiations with the EU on SAA
War crime sentence in Mostar	Regional News	Changes to the BiH Constitution
HDZ secretary meets CRO consul	RSNA session	HR Schwarz-Schilling in Rome

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Feature on BiH map on internet	The sale of 'Privredna Bank' building	RSNA session

ICTY conference on trial to Prlic	Increase of electricity prices in FBiH	RSNA session- live
War crimes trials in Mostar Court	Law on allocation of public revenues	Rehn regarding SAA
Dodik on ICTY indictees	RS National Assembly in session	Davidovic regarding SAA

Oslobodjenje	Postponing constitutional changes would be loss for all
Dnevni Avaz	Tihic: Pope accepted my invitation to visit BiH
Dnevni List	Panic in Mostar: Twenty dead birds in school yard (fear of bird flu in Rodoc near Mostar after dead birds were found in school yard)
Vecernji List	Peljesac bridge will be movable (Croatia plans to build Peljesac bridge with movable parts in order to provide BiH with undisturbed access to open sea)
Slobodna Dalmacija	Mortgage on gym because of debts to 'Kompas' (session of municipal council of Citluk)
Nezavisne Novine	BiH in a dangerous zone
Glas Srpske	Tito, "seagull" and me (feature story of a retired military ensign Radomir Ivic)
EuroBlic	SFOR have beaten them up, NATO ignores them
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related topics

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

<p>BiH Constitutional Courts discusses entities' symbols at Vlasic mountain</p>	<p>RHB – A two-day BiH Constitutional Court's session takes place at Pahuljica Hotel at Vlasic mountain. Among the other things, they would discuss constitutionality of certain Articles of the Law on the FBiH coat of arms and flag and the Law on the flag, coat of arms and anthem of the RS. Also, they would discuss a demand for passing a temporary measure when the PBS issue is in question, launched by Croat member of the BiH Presidency Ivo Miro Jovic, the agreement between BiH and Croatia on rights of HVO victims and members of their families etc. BH Radio 1 also reports.</p>
<p>RSNA in session, adopts minor offences law</p>	<p>BH Radio 1, RTRS – During resumption of 33rd regular session, the RS National Assembly (RS NA) has adopted changes and addenda to the Law on sailing, Law on farming and Law on minor offences. The Law on minor offences introduced new prison, according to which all minor offences should be dealt by Minor Offence Departments at Courts, which are to be formed. Law no longer stipulates prison sentence as offence penalty. RS NA is currently in break.</p>
<p>ICTY suspect pleads not guilty</p>	<p>BH Radio 1, RTRS – Milan Lukic the war crime suspect has today pleaded not guilty before the ICTY for the crimes against Muslims in Visegrad during the war.</p>

<p>‘HDZ 1990’ holds inaugural session on 8 April</p>	<p>FENA – The Presidency of the Initiative Board of HDZ 1990 has held its second session during which it was decided that an inaugural assembly of this party would take place in Mostar on April 8. The Presidency also concluded that the constitutional changes agreement in this form and contents is not acceptable and they called on Croat and all other MPs in the Parliament to reach a solution that would be acceptable for all</p>
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European integrations, political issues

CoM Chair meets EU
Enlargement Comm:
EU urges progress
in police, PBS
reforms; const.
changes not SAA
condition, but all
expected to
contribute; Rehn:
BiH enters
dangerous zone
when it comes to
coop. w/ICTY

BHT1 by Elvir Bucalo, Brussels – Following the meeting with Chair of the BiH Council of Ministers **Adnan Terzic** in Brussels, EU Enlargement Commissioner **Olli Rehn** stated that improvement BiH has achieved in the course of the negotiations with the European Union is a good thing, but it is necessary to continue the reform processes, and to establish full cooperation with the ICTY. *“In order to reach a real progress in the negotiations, we must see progress in the reformatory processes, especially in the police reform and the implementation of the law of Public Broadcasting Service. Those were the last conditions for a beginning of the negotiations, and we hope that they will be fully implemented”*, stated Rehn. He called on all BiH structures and security agencies to end ‘The Hague story’:
*“Everything we know points to the fact that **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ratko Mladic** are not in BiH. But their aides are: there is a network of their political and financial supporters in BiH, and we must crush that network”*, stated Terzic. **FTV** – *“Therefore, RS authorities and especially new Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik**, State Investigation and Protection Agency [SIPA] and BiH Intelligence Agency [OSA] now have to invest a great effort to interrupt network of those who support most-wanted war criminals”*, Terzic said in a telephone statement for FTV. During the meeting in Brussels, Terzic and Rehn also discussed constitutional changes in BiH. Although it is not a condition for the SAA talks, EU expects all political subjects in BiH to contribute to the constitutional changes. **Dnevni List** pg 5 ‘Rehn threatened BiH’ not signed, **Vecernji List** pg 4 ‘We shall reveal aids of Karadzic and Mladic’ by S. de Prato, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2, mentioned on cover ‘Rehn: BiH entered the danger zone’ by T. Lazovic – Rehn stated after the meeting with Terzic that BiH ‘has entered a dangerous zone’ when BiH’s cooperation with the ICTY is in question. Rehn reminded, placing a special accent on the RS, that if full cooperation with the ICTY was not achieved, the negotiations on SAA between BiH and EU might be disturbed. **RHB, PINK, Hayat, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 3 ‘Rhythm of negotiations depends on police and PBS reforms’, **Nezavisne Novine** cover pg splash, pg 3 ‘BiH in a dangerous zone’ by Agencies, **EuroBlic** pg RS2 ‘Through reforms to the Hague’ by R. R., **Glas Srpske** pg 3 ‘A dangerous zone’ – also covered.

<p>DA: CoM Terzic to meet ICTY Chief Prosecutor Del Ponte while in Brussels</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 inset 'Possible meeting of Terzic and Del Ponte' – Daily learns that during his visit to Brussels, BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic could meet with ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte. Terzic is scheduled to meet EU Commissar for Economy Joaquin Almunia, whom he will talk about economy issues between EU and BiH. BiH Finance Minister Ljerka Maric and BiH Justice Minister Slobodan Kovac are also in BiH delegation.</p>
<p>BiH Chief SAA Negotiator Davidovic: ICTY issue to be solved before signing of SAA</p>	<p>BHT1 – The Chief BiH negotiator with the EU Igor Davidovic is convinced that the issue of the full cooperation with the ICTY would be positively resolved before signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement. The third round of negotiations with EU scheduled for May 12 will mark the beginning of the <i>'most delicate phase'</i>, says Davidovic, with a focus on the free trade: <i>"We are now entering the most intensive phase of preparations, and at the same time the most intensive phase of negotiations on the SAA."</i> He added that free turnover of goods should be defined at the next round of talks which would open EU doors for BiH products. At the same time, BiH should allow duty-free import of products from the EU member states.</p> <p>Preparations for creating the list of concessions for industrial and agricultural products are in progress. <i>"The basic thing that we should do is to assess which kind of raw materials or semi-products we have to immediately offer for a zero-duty rate, in order to stimulate our ...industry"</i>, explained Dragisa Mekic, head of the BiH negotiating team for foreign trade. He added that BiH must finalize the list of <i>'most sensitive'</i> products to be protected before BiH joins the EU. The SAA negotiations with the EU should be completed by the end of this year, but members of BiH negotiating team did not rule out the possibility for one round of talks to enter 2007. PINK, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Problem of cooperation with the Hague will be solved', Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Full cooperation with the Hague before agreement with EU', Dnevni List pg 4 'Negotiations enter sensitive phase' by T.C., Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Preparations for talks on free trade' by G.Golub, EuroBlic pg RS3 'BiH is getting prepared to open its market for European goods' by Z. Knezevic, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Trade without taxes' by Z.Markovic, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Cooperation with the ICTY enforced as a duty' – also reported.</p>

<p>BiH Presidency Chair in Italy : meets Pope, address at EPP Congress; dinner with Italian PM; mtg with Italian President</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 3 'Tihic: Pope accepted my invitation to visit BiH' by <u>A.Malagic</u>, inset 'Speech at EPP congress' – On Friday, BiH Presidency Chair Sulejman Tihic addresses the Congress of the European Peoples Party. On Thursday, Tihic met Pope Benedict XVI, with whom he discussed the current situation in BiH, and dined with the Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi. Daily also announces Tihic should attend a joint meeting with the Croatian PM Ivo Sanader and High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling. Inset 'Reception at Ciampi today' – While in Italy, Tihic will also held talks with the Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. Oslobodjenje pg 3 'BiH and Holy See soon to sign agreement' – Tihic met with representatives of BiH Diaspora in Italy who fully supported agreement on constitutional changes.</p>
<p>HR Schwarz-Schilling attends EPP Congress; HR would lobby for easing of visa regime</p>	<p>BHT1– The High Representative and the EU Special Representative in BiH Christian Schwarz-Schilling is in Rome, where he attends the annual congress of the European Peoples Party. Schwarz-Schilling is expected to meet prominent politicians from all over Europe; he will try to call their attention to the ongoing reform processes in BiH, in the context of negotiations on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU. He will also lobby in favour of the beginning of a gradual easing of the current visa regime for BiH citizens. Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Visa regime relaxation would send mighty signal to BiH citizens' <u>not signed</u> Inset 'Meeting with Benedict XVI' – He met with Pope Benedict XVI and Vatican Foreign Secretary Giovanni Lajol. OHR stated that Schwarz-Schilling underlined significant role of religious leaders in promotion of reconciliation, BHT1, Hayat, Vecernji List pg 4 'Schilling supports easing of visa regime' by <u>ra</u>, Dnevni List pg 9 'Lobbying for easing of visa regime' <u>not signed</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover 'Schwarz Schilling lobbied for easing of via regime' by <u>M.Rener</u>, EuroBlic pg RS2 'Schwarz-Schilling is lobbying in Rome' by <u>R. R.</u>, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Relaxations as a reward' by <u>N.Zelenovic</u> – also covered.</p>

<p>BiH obliged to introduce biometrical passports; EC hasn't yet set a deadline</p>	<p>RHB– EU stressed that BiH must introduce biometric passports. Assistant to BiH Minister of Civil Affairs Miodrag Pandurevic stated that the Ministry already received this request from the EU. He added that EU advised the introduction as soon as possible but without set deadlines. Hayat– BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs still does not have the information on the cost of these passports to the citizens, while citizens are worried about the price of passports. Spokesman of European Commission in BiH Frane Maroevic stated that not every country in EU has these passports yet and added that EC hasn't set a deadline for BiH to introduce them.</p>
<p>RS CoP Speaker Kadric: RSNA team wants to reduce Bosniaks to a religious group</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'RS want to reduce Bosniaks onto religious group' by <u>H.O.</u> – Commenting proceedings before BiH Constitutional Court on the initiative for protection of vital national interest [VNI] on assessment of constitutionality of RS symbols launched by BiH Presidency Chair Sulejman Tihic, RS Council of Peoples Speaker Remzija Kadric said that RS National Assembly team want to reduce Bosniaks <i>"simply onto religious group"</i>. Kadric said for daily that RSNA team stated that <i>"practice denies applicant Tihic in the meaning that other people cannot have their flag or coat of arms, because there is no religious object, i.e. mosque in the RS that has no green flag with crescent hoisted."</i> DA carries that BiH Constitutional Court will discuss Tihic's demand today.</p>

Constitutional changes

<p>BiH Presidency Chair Tihic meets Pope , Vatican PM Sodano, discuss constitutional changes</p>	<p>RHB– Chair of the BiH Presidency Sulejman Tihic is attending the annual congress of the European Peoples’ Party in Rome. On Thursday, Tihic met Pope Benedict XVI, with whom he discussed the current situation in BiH. Tihic expressed gratitude for what Benedict XVI and his late predecessor John Paul II have done for BiH and invited Pope to visit BiH. Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 3 ‘Tihic: Pope accepted my invitation to visit BiH’ by <u>A.Malagic</u> – During his visit to Vatican, Tihic met with Vatican State Secretary Cardinal Angelo Sodano. Tihic said that he informed Sodano on the course of the constitutional changes. <i>“I said some in BiH are not satisfied with reached solutions, but [stressed] it is a process which would eventually give certain results,”</i> said Tihic refusing to share Sodano’s stance on the issue. Tihic expressed hope that Holy See will find the way to send their message to BiH. BHT1, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni List, pg 4 ‘Tihic invites Pope to visit’, <u>unsigned</u>, Vecernji List, pg 4 ‘Tihic invites Pope to BiH’, <u>unsigned</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover ‘Tihic called on Pope to visit BiH’ by <u>Agencies</u> – also covered.</p>
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<p>Public debate on proposed constitutional changes launches today: all citizens, orgs, etc can submit written comments to Parliamentary Comm.</p>	<p>BHT1 – Public debate on the proposal of constitutional changes will start on Friday before the Constitutional-Legal Commission of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly; it will be the opportunity for every BiH citizen to, in the next 30 days, express their views on the agreement reached by the leaders of seven political parties. <i>“As of [Thursday], all BiH citizens, various associations and so on, can deliver their written comments and stances (on proposed constitutional changes) to the Constitutional-Legal Commission”</i>, stated Chair of the Commission Mirsad Ceman. The public debate on the changes to the BiH Constitution will be organized in the BiH Parliament in mid-April; after that representatives will vote on the constitutional changes <i>“If certain parties from FBiH try to obstruct the constitutional changes, it will be a clear message proving who does not want the effective BiH, and who wants to ‘blackmail’ [adoption of the] const. changes with [abolishment of] the RS, which is impossible”</i>, stated SNSD’s Krstan Simic. <i>“The failure to adopt constitutional changes would send a clear message to the EU, that we are not mature enough for any kind of serious society, and that, in the case of BiH, EU should wait with the enlargement. And that is the reason why I believe that we will adopt those amendments in the BiH Parliament”</i>, added SDP president Zlatko Lagumdzija. The opponents of such constitutional changes say that those amendments only strengthen the current situation; they called on representatives in the BiH Parliament not to adopt them. <i>“Reformed House of Peoples... will not guarantee that Croats will be able to protect their national rights in the Parliament”</i>, stated NHI’s Dobrica Jonjic. FTV – <i>“If we are not satisfied (with proposed changes to the BiH Constitution), our representatives in House of Peoples will certainly not sign them... But I believe what we have done so far is a good thing”</i>, stated HDZ President Dragan Covic. On the other hand, SDU BiH President Sejfudin Tokic claims that the constitutional amendments only underline the entity and ethnic divisions in BiH.</p>
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<p>SDA Vice President Osmanovic announces party's public debates on const. changes</p>	<p>FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'These changes are not against any people' by Fena, Dnevni List, pg 5 'Explain constitutional reforms in public', by E. Mackic – Vice President of SDA, Adil Osmanovic, announced at an SDA press conference held in Sarajevo on Thursday that the most senior SDA officials would in the coming days organize public forums throughout BiH in order to explain to the citizenry the essence of the ongoing constitutional changes. He also called on the citizenry to get acquainted with the proposed changes. BHT 1 – <i>"We expect that, after the public debate, amendments to the BiH Constitution will be adopted in the House of Representatives"</i>, stated Osmanovic adding the changes are not against any people.</p>
<p>SDA Vice President Izetbegovic: agreement on const. changes not ideal, but still a step forward</p>	<p>OBN current affairs program 'Telering' By Mato Djakovic– Commenting the agreement on constitutional changes, SDA Vice-President Bakir Izetbegovic said that it is far from ideal, nevertheless it is a step forward. He adds the process of the constitutional reform must continue to the point when BiH becomes a citizen orientated state with mechanisms for protection of strictly determined vital national interests. Izetbegovic also argues that the changes should lead to cheaper, more effective and professional public administration. He concludes stating that opponents of the agreement exaggerate and use this situation as their election campaigns.</p>

<p>SDP leader Lagumdžija: Delaying const. changes would be a loss for all</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje cover splash ‘Postponing constitutional changes would be loss for all’ by A. Omeragić Dnevni Avaz pg 10 ‘These changes are better than waiting for another ten years’ <u>not signed</u>, Dnevni List, pg 2 ‘Changes are not at detriment of any people’, by D. P. M. – the leader of SDP, Zlatko Lagumdžija, stated at a public debate dedicated to constitutional changes held in Sarajevo on Thursday that should the BiH Parliament fail to adopt the proposed changes, it would be a clear message to the EU that BiH should be put on hold when it comes to BiH’s membership in EU. Lagumdžija stresses that the SDP wants to hear what the people think of the constitutional changes, therefore the party will organize around 300 public debates throughout BiH. He added that no people should be afraid of the proposed changes, otherwise he personally would not sign them.</p>
<p>SBiH leader Halilović warns against signing const. changes: RS PM Dodik only proves who holds the real power</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5, mentioned on cover ‘Dodik demonstrates who is the real boss in house’ by Edina Sarac – In his interview for DA, SBiH leader Safet Halilović once again warned on danger of signing agreement on constitutional changes. “<i>Letters of RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik addressed on BiH Council of Ministers prove who has the real power and the will to rule... [This] shows that imposing his political will, both in RS and BiH, has more than solid legal basis, and that he has no need to use the force as [Radovan] Karadžić.</i>” Halilović said that Dodik sent letters to Serb ministers in BiH CoM, inviting them for consultations with him for “<i>coordination of common interest</i>” which is being set in the RS Government, and not in the cabinet of BiH CoM Chair Adnan Terzić, as it should be. Halilović noted that Dodik also want entities, instead of state to control work of Police Reform Directorate. Halilović concludes that Dodik, unlike Terzić, has political instruments to implement his political will: “<i>RS Government can block work of state institutions, while BiH CoM has no instrument to prevent this.</i>”</p>

<p>BHT 1 SDP 's Lagumdzija vs. SBiH's Silajdzic: do constitutional changes strengthen entities or state?</p>	<p>BHT1 current affairs program By Amir Zukic – For the first time in nine years, SDP leader Zlatko Lagumdzija and SBiH founder Haris Silajdzic appeared in a TV show together to debate over the agreement on the constitutional changes. SBiH refuses to sign it deeming it a confirmation of the genocide and strengthening of entity authorities. On Lagumdzija admits more could be done, however emphasizes this is the first time after Dayton that BiH political leaders agreed on something as important. Repeating stances of Patriotic Block [made of SDU, SBiH, BOSS] that the changes could lead to dissolution of the state, Silajdzic heavily criticised entity vote in the BiH House of Representatives and emphasized such practice enables '<i>enemies of the state</i>' to block every single law, appointment of the BiH President and Vice-Presidents, and of PM-designate. He adds this opens chances for frequent overthrowing of the government and early elections. Lagumdzija [who on several occasions pointed out that Silajdzic is not informed enough of the amendments' content] harshly objected that the agreement is nothing more than a copy of the Dayton Agreement, emphasizing improvements were made. He argues that the changes to the BiH Constitution do not strengthen entities.</p>
<p>SDU press conference: We cannot support const. changes</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Open dictate of International community' – At the press conference held in Sarajevo on Thursday, SDU once again underlined official announcement of the constitutional amendments, that they cannot support the constitutional reforms that will enhance the Entities and bring into question the future order of the BiH State. Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'I cannot support changes that put future of BiH in question'</p>
<p>HSP 's Jurisic travelling to US to lobby for BiH Croats</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 8, mentioned on front 'We will activate Croat lobby in America', by <u>Miroslav Vasilj</u> – the leader of HSP Djapic-Jurisic, Zvonko Jurisic, is travelling to the US where he will be meeting business people and politicians of Croat(ian) origin and the mayor of Chicago, whom he will inform about the status of the Croat people in BiH, especially with regards to the proposed constitutional changes, which he opposes to.</p>

<p>BNTV debate on const. changes: Only Radical Party believes changes aimed at abolishment of RS, other praise it</p>	<p>BNTV 'Puls' current affairs programme by <u>Suzana Radjen-Todoric</u> – SDP Presidency member Denis Becirevic, SNSD's Mladen Zivkovic, SDS Vice President Mladen Bosic and chair of the Serb Radical "Vojislav Seselj" Party Mirko Blagojevic gathered to discuss the amendments to the BiH Constitution. Becirevic deems constitutional changes important of the state, and Zivkovic stresses they ensure progress towards the EU. He praises the fact agreement was reached jointly by FBiH and RS parties and notes: <i>"From now on, no one will blame RS for obstruction. FBiH will be blamed because it is disorganised"</i>. Bosic stated the entire issue is <i>"strained. If you add anything else in it, the agreement might break into pieces. So everyone has to be engaged in it till the very end, but they need to be cautious"</i>. Blagojevic reiterated his party opposes to the Agreement. Commenting the IC presence at the talks, Bosic said no agreement would have been reached without the IC pressure because political parties in BIH wouldn't have started the conversation at the first place. Blagojevic was reiterating party line that Agreement was aimed at abolishing RS, while other participants disagreed and disputed this line.</p>
<p>GS: Dispute over const. changes not seen here since signing of DA</p>	<p>Glas Srpske pg 5 'Dispute over constitutional changes' by <u>Z.Markovic</u> – Daily notes that the Agreement on constitutional changes has resulted in a political dispute not seen here in the region since the signing of the Dayton Agreement. Daily further reminds of opposed stances political parties presented (SDA, PDP, SNSD, HDZ, HNZ and SDP on one and Patriotic Block and Serb Radical party and New Force of Srpska on the other.)</p>

<p>Feral Tribune comment: Politicians, foremost Silajdzic is using const. changes to assume power</p>	<p>Feral Tribune, pgs 24 and 25 'Hit list of populists', by <u>Ivan Lovrenovic</u> – commenting on the ongoing constitutional changes process in BiH, <u>Lovrenovic</u> argues that the changes are just an excuse to some politicians, foremost to the founder of SBiH, Haris Silajdzic, to take over the power. As for Silajdzic, <u>Lovrenovic</u> notes he is using the proven recipe i.e. he is winning the public support through his aggressive campaigning against the proposed changes by being arrogant and using nationalistic rhetoric when opportune for him, which goes down well with public in BiH, as seen during the last TV poll on 'Hayat TV', when Silajdzic defeated SDA leader Sulejman Tihic during their debate on constitutional changes (some 28.000 calls for Silajdzic to 13.000 for Tihic).</p>
<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed: Catholic Church got involved too late; Bishops should make pressure for second phase of const. changes to become binding</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'Power of clergy' op-ed by <u>Zija Dizdarevic</u> – Commenting that Resolution of Islamic Community [IC] impacted talks on constitutional changes, forcing Patriotic Block [SBiH, SDU and BOSS] to soften their stances and come out with only one demand which is the abolishment of entity vote in BiH Parliament, editorial reads that we are about to see what kind of authority Catholic Church has among Croat politicians. Noting that involvement of Church came too late, editorial concludes: <i>"Church would impose its view of BiH state in this phase of constitutional changes, which is impossible. Bishops' pressure can use in the second phase of constitutional changes, which should become binding."</i></p>

Economic issues

<p>RSNA passes Law on Audit of Privatization foreseeing establishment of special Commission</p>	<p>RTRS late news – Late on Thursday night, the RS National Assembly passed the Law on Audit of Privatization of state capital in companies and banks, submitted by the RS Government for a discussion in an urgent parliamentary procedure.</p> <p>RTRS – The law foresees establishment of the Commission appointed by the RS Government, which would carry out the audit. Commission would be have to consider audit request and make decisions within thirty days from its submission. SDS demanded the law to be returned in regular discussion, stressing that the law is necessary but that the concept is not good since this law does not solve a number of issues. SDS believes that establishment of Commission would also mean establishment of the institution parallel to already established structures. SBiH believes that this law is very necessary and it should have been proposed earlier. During the debate on Oil Refinery Bosanski Brod, RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik said that the offer of Israeli company “Alon” is not acceptable. <i>“Buyer should accept determined price, all debts, and commitments toward employees... If we can not sell in by the determined price, then we will not sell it”,</i> said Dodik. Earlier during the Thursday’s session RSNA Representatives passed proposal of changes of Law on budgetary system in order to harmonize it with system of Indirect Taxation Administration. RSNA passed changes of operating procedure that expect establishment of RSNA Committee for audit.</p> <p>PINK, BHT1, Hayat, FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 8 ‘It remain unclear who would be conducting the audit of privatization’ by <u>O.V.</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 ‘Law on privatisation adopted’, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 ‘Majority of MP’s support privatisation audit’ by <u>V.Popovic</u>, EuroBlic pg RS2 ‘Buyers to be checked up’ by <u>Tijana Veselinovic</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 ‘Suspicious needs to go on surface’ by <u>G.Dakic</u> – all, except Sarajevo press, report on RS NA session prior to adoption of the Law on Privatisation Audit.</p>
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<p>PDP supports privatisation audit law; SDS : Comm. should not be established, political interference must be avoided; RS PM: Govt ready to accept some changes, but concept must remain same</p>	<p>RTRS – At the RSNA session, the PDP said it believes the Law on audit of privatization is very necessary in RS but that the way of compensation of damage that was done during privatization is not clear.</p> <p>Borislav Bojic from SDS reminded of the party's concept on privatization, which was not accepted, adding that SDS does not trust the Commission that would be established by RS Government and that would perform audit, since SDS believes that political influence should be avoided in this regard. RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik said that concept does not present problem but implementation of privatization. Dodik added that this Law is only a part of the concept on fight against organized crime. Dusan Stojicic, SDS wondered whether it is appropriate that Prime Minister to lecture SDS and RSNA. Dodik said that RS Government would accept certain number of amendments but that concept must remain. SRS believes that this is important law but that the concept is wrong. Although proposal of Laws on special prosecution and court and proposal of Law on prevention of organized crime were on the agenda, RSNA Collegium decided to discuss them at the extraordinary session that would be held on April 5 and 6.</p>
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<p>FBiH Const. Court to bring decision on Law on allocation of public revenues next month</p>	<p>BHT1 – Public debate on the FBiH law on allocation of public revenues took place in the FBiH Constitutional Court on Thursday, and the final decision of the Court would be known next month. The discussion was held following the request by the Croat Caucus in the FBiH House of Peoples to assess whether the proposed law violates vital national interests of Croats. Both houses of FBiH Parliament passed this law regulating allocation of the financial sources from a single account directly to the municipalities. However, the Croat representatives deem that the allocation of public funds on the basis of the number of citizens is unacceptable solution, especially since the law does not clearly define how the population would be estimated, and they stress that the law entirely skips the Cantons. <i>“That’s the difference: who controls the money and who establishes the rules of the game during the allocation of public revenues”</i>, explained representative of the HoP Serb Caucus Svetozar Pudaric. However, not all Croat representatives deem that this law endangers the vital national interests of Croats; on the contrary, HSS’ Anto Colak claims that nobody is endangered as long as the same criteria apply for everybody. Representatives of the Association of Municipalities and Cities also support the new law on the allocation of public revenues. Vecernji List, pg 9 ‘Croat Caucus: You will make Croat majority areas poor’, by <u>Dejan Jazvic</u> – notes that the Croat Caucus in the FBiH HoP requests from the FBiH Constitutional Court to prevent the envisaged formula on allocation of public revenues because the Croat majority areas would be getting less money than they get nowadays. RHB, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 ‘New solutions supported even by municipalities with Croat majority’ by <u>A.Hadziarapovic</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 5 ‘Croats find criteria of allocation disputable’ by <u>S.Se</u>, Dnevni List, pg 3, mentioned on front ‘Croats do not give money to municipalities’, by <u>Erna Mackic</u> – also covered.</p>
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<p>FBiH Govt urges postponement of the FERK decision to increase electricity prices in FBiH</p>	<p>BHT1 – At the session held on Thursday, FBiH Government discussed the reasons for and consequences of announced 6% increase of electricity prices in FBiH. Government demanded from the FBiH Regulatory Commission for Electricity (FERK) to postpone implementation of the new tariffs until FBiH Ministry of Energy, the Economic-Social Council and representatives of large consumers analyse all the elements and consequences of this decision for BiH economy and citizens. Dnevni Avaz pg 4 ‘FBiH Government asks for postponing of increase of electricity price’ by <u>M.K.</u> – FBiH Government also called upon members of Steering Boards of both Elektroprivredas to respect this decision. FBiH Energy Minister Vahid Heco told daily that extraordinary session of the Economic-Social Council would be held on Tuesday, and attended by both FERK and DERK [FBiH and BiH Electricity Regulatory Commissions] in order to come up with the solution to be proposed to the Government at next session. FTV, Hayat, Oslobodjenje pg 3 ‘FBiH Government asks for increase of electricity price to be postponed’ <u>not signed</u>, Dnevni List pg 4 ‘20 millions KM for refugees and displaced persons’ by <u>R. Dautefendic</u>, Vecernji List pg 5 ‘Government demands postponement of electricity prices’ by <u>E. Medunjanin</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 ‘F BiH Government demanded electricity price increase is postponed’ by <u>R.Cengic</u> – also reported.</p>
<p>NN criticises FERK’s decision to increase electricity price</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 ‘Electric shock’ by <u>Natasa Krsman</u> – Being critical of the announced price increase I in F BiH, the author underlines it is unclear why the interests of major users and economic giants are being protected, while minor users like households will have to cover for expenses. She adds that regardless of bills, the minor users will always pay bills, since power will otherwise be cut to them.</p>

<p>FBiH Government approves funds for sustainable return</p>	<p>FTV – At the session held on Thursday, FBiH Government adopted a plan of return, repatriation, reconstruction and construction for 2006 in amount of 20.4 millions KM. Following the consultation with numerous experts and institutions, FBiH Government has decided to use 8.2 million KM for reconstruction of housing units; four millions are intended for the BiH Return Fund, while 300,000 KM are to be used to facilitate return to Srebrenica. FBiH Minister of Refugees and Displaced Persons Edin Music said that 25% of funds would be invested in sustainable return. RHB, PINK, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni List pg 4 '20 millions KM for refugees and displaced persons' by <u>R. Dautevendic</u>, Vecernji List pg 5 'Government demands postponement of electricity prices' by <u>E. Medunjanin</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Return Plan adopted' by <u>ONASA</u>– also reported.</p>
<p>VL: Croatia to build movable Peljesac bridge to suit BiH requirements</p>	<p>Vecernji List, front pg splash and pg 2 'Peljesac bridge will be movable', by <u>Tanja Ivancic Belosevic</u> – After BiH authorities voiced their concern that the Peljesac-Croatian mainland bridge will block undisturbed access to open sea to BiH (plan foresees the bridge to be 30 metres high), it would appear that Croatia plans to build the bridge with movable parts that would satisfy BiH's requirements i.e. that would provide undisturbed access to open sea. Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Croatia will build bridge with movable part in the middle', Oslobodjenje pg 6 'Possibility of movable bridge is being considered!' – also reported.</p>

War crimes

<p>In trial in case 'Heliodrom' to former guards pleads not guilty</p>	<p>FTV– The trial for crimes in former 'Heliodrom' concentration camp started before the Cantonal Court in Mostar. Miroslav Marjanovic and Ante Buhovac, two former HVO soldiers and guards in the camp, pleaded not guilty on all counts of the indictment which charges them with crimes committed against Bosniak civilians and prisoners of war in 1993. PINK, BHT1, Hayat, RTRS, Dnevni List pg 3 'Marijanovic and Buhovac pleaded not guilty' by <u>Lj. Vidacak</u>, Vecernji List pg 7 'Marijanovic and Buhovac pleaded not guilty' by <u>rs</u>, EuroBlic pg RS2 'Five [persons] got 13,5 years' <u>not signed</u>– also carried.</p>
<p>Five members of BiH Army sentence to prison for war crimes over Croats</p>	<p>RHB– The Panel of Judges of the Cantonal Court in Mostar has sentenced 5 members of the BiH Army (Zikrija Ljevo, Vernes Zahirovic, Becir Omanovic, Habib Copelj and Husnija Orucevic) to 13,5 years imprisonment in total for war crimes committed over HVO members in Bijelo Polje in 1993 during the Croat-Bosniak conflict. Hayat, FTV, RTRS– also reported.</p>

<p>RS PM Dodik announces establishment of special police units to search PIFWCs at large</p>	<p>RTRS – RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik announced establishment of special department within the RS Crime Police Administration effective as of Friday, which would be responsible for searching and locating war crime indictees and their support network. Hayat, Oslobodjenje pg 2 ‘RS Government establishes Unit for arresting of ICTY indictees’ by <u>O.V.</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘Special department would be seaching for war criminals’ by <u>Onasa, Glas Srpske</u> pg 2 ‘A special department – for search’ by <u>Z.Ma.</u>– also reported.</p>
<p>ICTY: Trials to ‘Prlic and others’ starts on April 25, judge warns of slow proceedings</p>	<p>Hayat, Dnevni Avaz pg 12 ‘Trial to Prlic and others could last six years’ by <u>Sense Oslobodjenje</u> pg 2, mentioned on cover ‘Trial to Prlic and others could last six years’ by <u>Asim Beslija, Hague</u> , Dnevni List, pg 5, mentioned on front ‘First witnesses during May’, by <u>Ivica Glbusic</u> – Status conference in the ‘Prlic and others’ case was held at the ICTY on Thursday. It was concluded that the trials would start on April 25 with opening arguments. Jadranko Prlic and other former senior Herceg-Bosna officials are charged with ethnic cleansing of Bosniaks and other non-Croats from Croat majority areas during the war. Vecernji List, pg 3, mentioned on front ‘Trials to Prlic and others will last 18 years’, by <u>Goran Jungvirth</u> – Judge Jean-Claude Antonetti warned that the proceedings could last for a long period of time, as much as 18 years in fact, given the slowness of trial conducted until now.</p>

<p>The Starovlahs, injured in SFOR action two years ago, still have not managed to get compensation for injuries</p>	<p>EuroBlic cover pg splash ‘SFOR have beaten them up, NATO ignores them’ and pg RS1 ‘Beaten and deprived of rights’ by <u>Rajna Radosavljevic</u> – Two years since Priest Jeremija Starovlah and his son Aleksandar were injured in the action of SFOR in Pale, Starovlah family has not managed to get any compensation for injuries. <i>[Note: Due to suspicion on existence of support network to PIWFCs, SFOR searched Parish home in Pale on April 1, 2004. Both Priest Jeremija and his son were injured during the action – SFOR claims they were injured in explosion set by soldiers to open the door, but many claim they were beaten up].</i> Daily carries their lawyer explaining NATO rejected their complaint with explanation that the international forces are not obliged to compensate for any damage derived from military operation, therefore the case has never got to the Arbitral Court, and further claiming NATO was wrong, because military forces, as in accordance with Vienna and European Conventions on human rights, were obliged to compensate any damage they cause.</p>
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<p>EuroBlic source: ICTY Chief Prosecutor asked from Serbian President Tadic not to overthrow the Govt is it would jeopardize coop. w/ICTY</p>	<p>EuroBlic pg 3 'Carla is guarding Kostunica' by <u>N. Calukovic</u> – A source close to Hague Tribunal says Chief ICTY Prosecutor Carla del Ponte had asked from Serbian President Boris Tadic not to overthrow Serbian Government with his Democratic Party because <i>'if the Government is overthrown, then there would be nobody to complete the cooperation with the Hague Tribunal. In this case, [Ratko] Mladic's departure to the Hague would be postponed for at least half a year, because [PM Vojislav] Kostunica's Government would surely not arrest him in pre-election period of time'</i>. Reportedly, two days ago, Tadic promised del Ponte he would not try to overthrow the Government.</p>
<p>VN int: Ljajic and del Ponte exchanged letters of understanding granting access to Hague investigators to all archives of SiCG</p>	<p>Vecernje Novosti pg 4 'They gave everything on Mladic' by <u>J. Kosanovic</u> – in an interview to VN, Chairman of SiCG Council for Cooperation with the Hague Tribunal Rasim Ljajic says he delivered social insurance file of Ratko Mladic, as well as the remaining part of his pension documentation, to Chief ICTY Prosecutor del Ponte on Wednesday and Thursday. Ljajic stated for VN the two of them also exchanged letters on understanding, by which Hague investigators were practically granted access to all archives of Serbia and Montenegro , including BIA (Serbian Intelligence Agency) files, under procedures strictly prescribed in the letters.</p>

Crime and judiciary

PBES
Provisional
Administrator
files motion
for seizure
of SDS
property

Nezavisne Novine pg 4, announced on cover 'Payment of money and seizure of SDS property commences' by N.Krsman/A.Sisic – Privredna Bank East Sarajevo Provisional Administrator, **Toby Robinson**, Thursday filed a motion with the Sokolac District Court that the SDS money from the account at Razvojna Banka is transferred onto the account of PB ES. Daily has learnt this piece of information at the Provisional Administration of PB ES. (SDS needs to pay BAM 1.9 million to PB ES, owing to which reason the SDS account is blocked.) The motion filed stipulates that unless the entire debt of BAM 1.9 million is paid out, the PB ES will ask seizure of SDS (personal and real) property, in order to ensure the entire debt is paid. **Dusan Stojicic**, SDS Vice President, assessed that the move Robinson made was expected and was made in order to exert further pressure against SDS with an aim to weaken it and disable it from participating at upcoming elections.

<p>SB: BiH Prosecution to file new charges against twenty SDA, HDZ leaders?</p>	<p>Slobodna Bosna pg 12 'BiH Prosecution prepared charges against several leaders of HDZ and SDA' <u>by S.M.</u> – Article speculates BiH Prosecution's Special Department for fight against organized/economic crime and corruption is to announce two new lawsuits against about twenty persons. Allegedly the charges would be filed against high-ranking current and former SDA and HDZ officials, among others former FBiH Prime Minister Edhem Bicakcic and former FBiH Finance Minister Dragan Covic charging them for several criminal activities committed over the last ten years. SB learns [but doesn't specify from who] that the charges could also be filed against SBiH high-ranking officials.</p>
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SB: PIFWC's aide Bjelica ordered murder of controversial businessman Spaic, who was informer of FBiH MoI and Intl. Community?

Slobodna Bosna pg 6-9 'Spaic cooperated with FBiH MoI last couple of months' by Emir Hodzic – Noting it has been almost a month since a controversial RS businessman **Ratomir Spaic** was killed in Eastern Sarajevo, author claims the RS Interior Ministry made no progress in an investigation to date, but rather presents the case as a result of the mafia clash thus justifying his murder. Article further reads there are two scenarios being investigated by the RS Crime Police: one is that former owner of Privredna Banka Eastern Sarajevo [PBES] **Momcilo Mandic** hired Spajic to execute a protected witness in the case against him processed by the BiH Court; second is that Spaic was about to execute **Radomir Kojic**, person allegedly in charge of criminal activities previously lead by **Milovan Cicko Bjelica**, under detention for charges of supporting ICTY-fugitives. SB also learns from the "*international police*" that Bjelica ordered this murder because Spaic allegedly worked as an informer for both the FBiH MoI and the IC for the last several years. Concluding that the next victim of "*SDS mafia*" could be former SDS official **Milan Tupajic**, who testified on role of Bjelica in war crimes committed in Sokolac region before the ICTY last year, and who could be an important witness against him in the proceeding before the BiH Court.