

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 3/2/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on February 3

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
On Pope's health condition	PIC session takes place in Brussels	PIC in session
PIC SB meeting today	BiH HoR in session	Sanader on Croatia's entry to EU
HR, del Ponte meet Solana today	World news	Leakey on Karadzic and Mladic

TV news broadcast on February 2

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Start of NATO advisory mission	NATO advisory mission started	40 kgs of heroin seized in Sarajevo
40 kg of heroin confiscated	Humphreys on crisis in BiH	Six Hungarians killed in Serbia
Pope John Paul II health problems	Cavic and Matijasevic in Brussels	Suspected assassin back in Serbia
PIC to meet in Brussels tomorrow	40 kg of heroin confiscated	Carla del Ponte in Podgorica

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
40 kg of heroin confiscated	Cars for BiH sitting volleyball team	SIPA searched RS EP premises
Fight against trade with illegal CDs	69 workers of "Kula" Gradacac fired	Alijagic property exchanged in 1993

Production of legal CDs in Serbia	BiH syndicate accepted proposal	OHR on case Alijagic
New registration licences	Misuse of power in USK	Audit of Gradiska's financials

Oslobodjenje	About 600.000 hectares and about 200 companies should be returned; Prosecutors submitted reports on 100 million KM worth frauds; SDA: Orchestrated campaign being led against Hasan Cengic; Together to equal membership to NATO; Terzic sent letter to US authorities
Dnevni Avaz	Revision of privatization would be of great assistance; Leahey: Karadzic and Mladic most often are no in BiH; Record 'bust' of heroin in Sarajevo
Dnevni List	Sarajevo : Building of joint military team for faster defence reform
Vecernji List	Capljina: Snow causes damages amounting to 10 million KMs
Slobodna Dalmacija	Managers hid 9000 shells in three companies
Nezavisne Novine	Investigation of BiH PO: Documentation from RS Elektroprivreda and firms EFT and GML seized; Department of State: BiH on the black list together with Iraq and Afghanistan ; Alijagic case: OHR: Audit would determine whether Daniel Rius influenced the Court; Trebinje has never got the oil from the sold "Alijagic" goods; The seized drugs of BAM 7.5 million worth
Glas Srpske	F BiH has not still paid in money to the Return Fund: Assistance hanging in the air; Carla del Ponte: Serbs are victims
EuroBlic	Dragan Cavic demanded copies of all RS Government's decisions'
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related topics
Nacional	Features Serbian related topics

Ljiljan	Sacirbegovic: Both Cengic and I worked at Izetbegovic's orders
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LATEST NEWS OF TODAY	
PIC Steering Board in session	BH Radio 1 at 12.00 – PIC Steering Board is holding its session in Brussels. The session is also attended by Chief ICTY Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte . Reports on the situation in BiH are to be presented by High Representative Paddy Ashdown , BiH Council of Ministers Chairman Adnan Terzic , and RS Interior Minister Darko Matijasevic . According to a BH Radio correspondent, the session is taking place at the time when there is still no positive assessment of the BiH's cooperation with ICTY. Ashdown, Del Ponte and Matijasevic are expected to present their opinions on this issue. The correspondent concluded that fresh pressures on BiH and the region to meet their obligations towards ICTY could be expected following the session.
Ashdown, Del Ponte to meet Solana	RHB at 12.00 – HR Paddy Ashdown and Chief ICTY Prosecutor Carla del Ponte will meet with EU HR for Joint Security and Foreign Policy Javier Solana . They will discuss the current situation in BiH and cooperation with the ICTY.
Terzic demands release of Algerian group	RHB at 12.00 – Chairman of the BiH CoM Adnan Terzic sent to the US authorities an official demand for the release of the Algerian group.

Crime / judicial/ security issues

Police make
"largest ever"
heroin bust

BHT1, FT, RTRS, RHB, Dnevni Avaz pg 27, mentioned on cover, 'Record 'bust' of heroin in Sarajevo', **Nezavisne Novine** cover and pg 4 'The seized drugs of BAM 7.5 million worth' by D. Muminovic, **Dnevni List** pg 52 'Almost 40 kilos of heroin seized in Sarajevo', mentioned on front 'Drug worth 7 million KMs seized' by E. Mackic, **Vecernji List** pg 40 '40 kilos of heroin seized', mentioned on front 'Big success of police' by A. Drmac, R. Soldo— Around 40 kilos of heroin was discovered and seized in the period between 22 and 27 January the past couple of days in a joint action by the Sarajevo Canton Interior Ministry, the FBiH Interior Ministry and the BiH Prosecutor's Office, a joint news conference by the three institutions said today. The heroin, which was seized in the Sarajevo area, could have made 387 wraps with a street value of 20 KM each, which would have brought a total of 6.5 million KM. This is the largest quantity of heroin discovered in BiH so far.

PINK – The heroin was found in 5 apartments and two offices in municipalities Novo Sarajevo and Novi Grad. FBiH Prosecutor **Bozo Mihajlovic** said that detained suspects were from several states, but he did not want to disclose their exact number. He said that the heroin came from Turkey.

NTV Hayat – According to Miletic, it was a matter of luck to seize this amount of heroine as it is extremely difficult to coordinate operation based on confidential information with 16 police institutions.

<p>Tadic denies receiving 200.000 euros bribe in Lijanovici case</p>	<p>RHB, BHT 1, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'The President of BiH Constitutional Court denied taking 200.000 euros of bribe' by F.V, Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Tadic denied involvement in the customs frauds' by A.N., Slobodna Dalmacija last pg 'President of BiH Constitutional Court suspected of receiving bribe' by H, Dnevni List pg 2 'Tadic denied that he received bribe amounting to 200 000 Euros' not signed, Glas Srpske pg 13 'I did not take bribe'; Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Tadic: I did not take bribe' by A.D.— On Wednesday, the BiH Prosecutor in the Special Department for organized, economic crime and corruption, Mats Matson, interrogated the President of the BiH Constitutional Court, Mato Tadic, on customs fraud and receiving bribe in the case of the Lijanovici Meat Industry. Tadic's legal representative Nikica Grzic told journalists that Tadic rejected all of these "absurd allegations" of receiving 200.000 Euro from Lijanovici in 2003. Grzic also said that a sum of 200.000 KM was initially mentioned and that on Wednesday this was "changed" into Euros. BiH Presidency member Dragan Covic, owners of Lijanovic company and two FBiH Supreme Court judges are involved in this case as well.</p>
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SIPA searches facilities of RS Elektroprivreda, EFT and GML companies

PINK, FTV, NTV Hayat, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'SIPA confiscated documentation of RS Elektroprivreda, EFT and GML companies' by Srna, **Oslobodjenje** pg 5 'RS Elektroprivreda's facilities searched' not signed, **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Documentation taken away', **Dnevni List** pg 4, mentioned on front, 'SIPA took away financial documentation of RS Elektroprivreda' by N. Kolak, **Vecernji List** pg 3 'Financial documentation taken away' by B.S. – On orders from the BiH Court, SIPA in collaboration with Trebinje police searched the premises of the RS Elektroprivreda in Bileca and Trebinje, as well as the offices of EFT and the London-based GML whose documentation was taken away, Prosecutor **Jonathan Ratel** has told SRNA. He said that the search had been carried out within the framework of an investigation into abuse of office and massive fraud.

RTRS – The Manager of of Commercial Services, **Milorad Zivkovic**, SIPA seized complete financial documentation for the period 2000-2003.

Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 5 'Documentation from RS Elektroprivreda and firms EFT and GML excluded' by A. Sisic – **Dragan Lukac**, SIPA Deputy Head, on Wednesday stated that: *"Upon an order of the state prosecutor, SIPA inspectors have conducted a search and confiscated some documentation regarding business dealings of RS Elektroprivreda, which will be handed to them."*

**NN, Blic, RTRS
examine Alijagic
case: 'Trebinje
has never got
the oil from
sold "Alijagic"
goods'**

Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 3 'Trebinje has never got the oil from the sold "Alijagic" goods' by P.K. – Referring to information obtained at the RS Customs, NN says that 202 tones of oil, which the Municipality of Trebinje should have received during the war from the company of "Gorstak" (Niksic seated) in an exchange for the handed property from "Alijagic" shop, had never been delivered to the City. The contract between "Gorstak" firm and Trebinje municipality was signed by **Bosko Vujacic**, Company Director, and **Bozidar Vucurevic**, President of Trebinje Assembly in 1993 (when the contract was signed).

RTRS by Biljana Bokic – RTRS also brings details on the exchange between Treibnje municipality and Gorstak company in return to Alijagic's property. It also carries that it was never confirmed that the oil was delivered. **Vojislav Ducic**, former Deputy Head of Trebinje Customs, says that the oil was never imported through this border crossing. Vucurevic, who signed the contract on behalf of the Municipality, wasn't sure weather the oil was delivered.

EuroBLic RSpG 2 'Alijagic exported only 414 tones of goods' by Tijana Veselinovic - **Vojo Ducic**, who was to Head of Trebinje Customs Office Chief, claims in a statement to *EuroBlic* that only 414 tones of goods from "Alijagic" shop was exported across border crossing point, instead of 31,000 tones was court verdict reads. According to him, it is amazing that nobody had asked the opinion of Customs Office at the time to get information on this issue.

<p>TI condemns behaviour of OHR officials in Alijagic case</p>	<p>NTV Hayat – The BiH Transparency International strongly condemned the behaviour of OHR officials in the case of Safet Alijagic, as, according to TI Spokesperson Srdjan Blagovcanin, their involvement in the case cannot be explained. Transparency International said it asked from OHR to investigate the matter further through internal investigation. Blagovcanin said he would not comment on the decision of RS Supreme Court regarding Alijagic case.</p>
<p>OHR: Revision will clarify whether there was interference in Alijagic case</p>	<p>NTV Hayat, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 ‘Revision will clarify whether there were any influences in Alijagic case’ – The OHR said that the audit of the Alijagic case by the RS Supreme Court will clarify whether there was any inappropriate influence exerted by any individual during the judicial procedure. This was stated after the former President of Trebinje District Court Slavko Sunjevic accused former OHR employee Daniel Ruiz of influencing the Court to bring decision which obliged Trebinje municipality to pay about 37 million KM of war damages compensation.</p> <p>RTRS – OHR also noted that the case has made its way through the appeal process and the municipality had the opportunity to raise whatever issues concerned it during the process.</p>

<p>HJPC Chair Peric: 'It is possible that IC officials pressured the Courts'</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 3 'OHR: Audit would determine whether Daniel Rius influenced the Court' by <u>P. Klincov</u> – Branko Peric, President of the HJPC, has told <i>NN</i> that there is a possibility that “<i>some international community officials, who were monitoring the work of judicial bodies, violated authority and exerted pressure against the Courts.</i>” He has added: “<i>HJPC wants to have all the information related to activities of Daniel Ruiz in this case.</i>”</p>
<p>NN op-ed on Daniel Ruiz in Alijagic case</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'Ruiz of Trebinje' by <u>Predrag Klincov</u> – In regard to Alihagic case, the author comments that the public does not recall at least one case when the international official pledged so hard to see the case resembling this one be settled. There is a rumour going around Trebinje that all those who agitated in the interest of Alijagic's were properly “compensated” a long time ago.</p>

<p>Transparency International receives 3500 reports on corruption</p>	<p>PINK, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 17 ‘3500 reports because of corruption’ by <u>B. Kristo</u>– The Centre for legal aid in combating corruption to the BiH Transparency International in the period of one year has received over 3.500 calls and reports on corruption. Most of them refer to non-transparent, irrational and corrupted conduct of authorities at all levels.</p> <p>NTV Hayat – Out of 146 state, BiH takes 82nd place on the corruption scale. The greatest number of reports refers to the corruption in local authorities, market inspections and judiciary.</p> <p>RTRS – The center for legal aid assisted in filing charges in 4 cases, and making over 400 demands for internal controls in public services and replacements of corrupted officials. TI said it was concerned with the lack of authorities readiness to deal with the issues citizens complained about.</p> <p>According to Srdjan Blagovcanin, TI Spokesperson, citizens especially pointed to public companies – “RS Railways”, RS AMS [Touring Services] and “Srpske Sume”.</p>
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**NN: 'US puts BiH
on the black
list together
with Iraq and
Afghanistan'**

Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 2 'BiH on the black list together with Iraq and Afghanistan' by D. Risojevic – The US Administration ahs on Wednesday warned its citizens not to travel to Bosnia and Herzegovina, owing to security risk against them in this state. Also, the US Administration has included the BiH in the list of extremely risky states, like Iraq and Afghanistan. The recommendation was published Wednesday, but was actually made on 27 December 2004. **Lepa Bebic**, Spokesperson of the BiH Foreign Ministry, stated that this decision of the US Administration had been grounded on information USA had received from its source.

<p>Ljiljan, SDA say process against Cengic politically motivated</p>	<p>Ljiljan pgs 16-17 'Rigged process in BiH are reality', mentioned on cover, by <u>Mustafa Borovic</u> – Commenting on the charges pressed against a senior official of SDA, Hasan Cengic, the author argues that BiH is turning into a country of rigged political processes. The author says everything started several years ago with the 'Algiers group' and with the fabricated 'Pogorelica' case and that the "<i>cynicism</i>" has now peaked in form of charges against Cengic, the aim of which is to indict, compromise and remove Cengic from the political scene, and ultimately to sever his contacts with the Islamic world.</p> <p>Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Orchestrated campaign lead against Cengic', mentioned on cover, by <u>V. Zivak</u> – SDA Vice Chair, Elmir Jahic, stated for daily that the process lead against Cengic is politically motivated campaign.</p>
<p>SD on Mostar shells case</p>	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija cover pg splash and pg 22 'Managers hid 9000 shells in three companies' by <u>D. Ljubas</u> – Reports that the judge in the Municipal Court Mostar, Romela Coric Skobic, announced that the trial for the 'Mostar mortar rounds' case would start on February 14. SD reminds that the indictment charges 4 persons who used to be leading people in the military production and the Direction in charge of the military production with secretly storing huge amounts of ammunition and explosive materials in Mostar companies 'Djuro Salaj', Tobacco Factory' and 'Unis Telekom'.</p>

<p>Jelavic trial continues</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 3, mentioned on front 'Data from central database of Hercegovacka bank are not valid', by <u>Erna Mackic</u> – Media report on the continuation of trial to Ante Jelavic in the 'Hercegovacka bank' case.</p> <p>Frank Marzluf, an investigator in the Germany-based 'Ernest and Young' auditing house who was a prosecution witness, noted that he was involved in the investigation in the bank from April to October 2002.</p> <p>Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 18 'Expert did not know answers', by <u>Zlatko Tulic</u>, Sarajevo press – also reported.</p>
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War crimes / cooperation with ICTY

<p>NATO team in BiH MoD: Assistance in arrest of war crime suspects promised'</p>	<p>RHB, BHT 1, NTV Hayat, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Shook: We'll stay in BiH until it becomes NATO member' by A.M., Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Together to equal membership in NATO', mentioned on cover, by A. Terzic, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Assistance in arrest of war crime suspects promised' by A. Sisic, Dnevni List, front pg splash and pg 5 'Sarajevo: Building of joint military team for faster defence reform', by Mensud Zorlak, Vecernji List pg 3 'New premises of NATO team' by ra- The NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo on Wednesday marked the beginning of operations of its Advisory Team, comprised of 15 international officers, within the BiH Defence Ministry.</p> <p>PINK – NATO Commander to BiH Steven Schook stressed that NATO will going to stay in BiH in to provide support to its defence structures until all conditions regarding Partnership for Peace and NATO are fulfilled. He says that efforts directed towards establishment of single army should be strengthened. BiH Defence Minister, Nikola Radovanovic, said: <i>"By strengthening cooperation with NATO, BiH is going to find its place amongst free and democratic European states, amongst societies which have taken over democratic principles of civil military control and transparency in military planning and financing."</i> Schook added: <i>"The main obstacle on BiH's way to PfP is the fact that all ICTY indictees have not been extradited to Hague, they have not been arrested. We saw an encouraging step, during this year, and that is the fact that RS transferred Savo Todovic. I hope that this marked the beginning of many more transfers to come."</i> Radovanovic said that he wanted to establish professional military forces, which would be trained according to NATO standards.</p>
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<p>Del Ponte in Podgorica: urges Montenegrin, RS MoIs to meet</p>	<p>FTV – The Chief Prosecutor of the Hague Tribunal, Carla del Ponte, said on Wednesday in Podgorica that the international community together with the Balkans countries should bear responsibility for the failure to apprehend the persons indicted for war crimes.</p> <p>PINK – She also urged Montenegrin Interior Minister, Dragan Djurovic, and RS Interior Minister, Darko Matijasevic, to meet to discuss the ways to cooperate with the ICTY. She added that the border between Montenegro and RS should be monitored as war criminals freely pass it. Del Ponte said: <i>“We have presented to the ICTY President 6 news indictments for them to be confirmed. We are expecting the decision. The indictments are sealed so we cannot get public now with the names.”</i></p> <p>BHT 1, NTV Hayat – Del Ponte held meeting with the Montenegrin president Filip Vujanovic.</p> <p>RTRS, Glas Srpske cover page story ‘Serbs are victims’; EuroBlic RSpG 2 ‘Indictments for crimes in Sarajevo still awaited for’ by <u>M. Jandric</u>– Del Ponte stated that Serbs were victims of crimes in Sarajevo, but she didn’t want to say the names of those who have ordered those crimes.</p>
<p>Del Ponte says Milosevic and Lukic brothers should be tried in BiH</p>	<p>PINK, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 ‘Trials of general Dragomir Milosevic and Lukic brothers should be left to BiH judiciary’ by <u>Onasa</u>– The Chief ICTY Prosecutor Carla del Ponte asked judges to transfer the case of the RS Army General Dragomir Milosevic, accused of bombing Sarajevo and the siege of the city, to BiH judiciary. She also proposed trials to Milan and Sredoje Lukic to be held in BiH.</p>

<p>PINK on war crimes trials in BiH</p>	<p>PINK by <u>Aida Doric</u> – Judicial institutions from Serbia and Montenegro and Croatia asked the ICTY to transfer certain cases to their institutions despite the fact that they refers to the crimes committed in BiH. If the ICTY decides to transfer the cases, the BiH Court can do nothing to prevent it. The President of the BiH Court Medzida Kreso says that BiH judiciary has met all preconditions necessary to process such cases. Kreso said: <i>"I doubt that victims and witnesses, who live here, would appear at such courts [in regions]. Such courts have no mechanisms to bring into custody those victims or witnesses in order to interrogate them."</i> There is a question why no one has responded the ICTY's letter for discussing the proposal of having Zeljko Mejakic processed in BiH. BiH Justice Minister Slobodan Kovac said: <i>"We received no letter from the ICTY regarding Mejakic case."</i> On 14 January 2005, SCG Government informed the ICTY that SCG judiciary was ready to process Mejkic case, as well as others accused of war crimes in Keraterm, Omarska and Trnopolje former concentration camps in BiH.</p>
<p>EUFOR Commander Leakey: Karadzic and Mladic are mainly not in BiH</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5, mentioned on cover 'Karadzic and Mladic are mainly not in BiH' by <u>Sead Numanovic</u> – In an interview with the daily, EUFOR Commander David Leakey emphasized the EUFOR commitment to keeping a secured environment in BiH, which will help bringing BiH closer to EU. However, Leakey said that the biggest/main obstacle on that road are war crime indictees still at large. <i>"Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic are usually not in BiH. EUFOR will do its best in order for the indicted war criminals to be put in the ICTY prison,"</i> said Leakey.</p>

<p>SD: 'Who does Carla del Ponte protect?'</p>	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija pg 17 'Who does Carla del Ponte protect?', by <u>Marin Erceg</u> – Commenting on recent statement by the Chief ICTY Prosecutor, Carla del Ponte's, who said she would reveal all negative elements of BiH's lack of cooperation with the ICTY in case Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic are not arrested this year, the author questions who del Ponte in fact protects. He also notes that one cannot escape the feeling that this time del Ponte had the IC's representatives on her mind, because del Ponte never had problems to publicly criticize BiH political players.</p>
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Economic and social issues

**Humphreys
supports payment
of fees of two
Elektroprivredas
to Mostar**

Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Elektroprivredas should continue to pay fees to Mostar' by N.H. –

During the meeting held in Mostar on Wednesday Mostar Mayor **Ljubo Beslic** demanded from the Head of the EC delegation in BiH **Michael Humphreys** support with regard to payment of fees of two Elektroprivredas to the City of Mostar. Beslic stated: *'I have also demanded support for the reorganization of the city administration, which has been underway. We also talked about reconstruction of the Orthodox Church in Mostar. With regard to this issue we are planning to organize a meeting with all Ambassadors in BiH who would lobby in their countries for collection of funds for realization of this project.'*

RHB, PINK, Oslobođenje pg 6 'Mostar is getting closer to complete unification' not signed, **Dnevni List** pg 14 'Beslic launched initiative for reconstruction of Orthodox Church' by S. Bjelica, **Vecernji List** pg 2 'Beslic received Humphreys' by mm. –also reported.

<p>FBiH Tax Administration: Increase to collection of public revenues in 2004</p>	<p>NTV Hayat, FTV, Dnevni List pg 4 'Payment of public incomes increased by 396 million KMs' by <u>D. Polovina-Mandic</u> – The Federation of BiH Tax Administration held its annual press conference during which it was stated that during the last year (2004) the collection of public incomes has increased by 396 million KMs. According to Director of the FBiH Taxation Administration, Midhat Arifovic, it is extremely difficult to achieve the increase in collection of the income tax, however the increase has been achieved in the FBiH during the last two years. Arifovic added: <i>"Of course, the increase can be achieved only by increase of financial and tax discipline in the FBiH."</i></p>
<p>WB Director Reinerman supports review of privatization</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover page, pg 4 'Review of privatization would be very helpful' by <u>E. Dizdarevic</u> – In an interview with the daily, World Bank Director in BiH Dirk Reinerman said he was supporting initiatives for review of privatization process in the country. <i>"The review of privatization would be very helpful. There were privatization problems in the companies that were being bought for certificates/vouchers and where the old management structure remained in office,"</i> emphasized Reinerman.</p>

<p>Oslobodjenje: BiH prepares new state law on restitution</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje cover page, pgs 4-5 '600 thousands hectares of land and some 200 companies should be returned' by <u>Alda Omeragic</u> – Chairman of the State Commission for Restitution Mustafa Begic told the daily on Wednesday that since the starting restitution day, which is January 1945, some 600 thousands hectares of land and around 200 enterprises were confiscated/nationalized. There are no exact data on nationalized buildings/apartments but the Commission is planning to make a list of all the properties that should be subject to the restitution, according to Begic.</p>
<p>RS Return Fund still waiting for money from FBiH</p>	<p>Glas Srpske cover page story 'Assistance hanging in the air' by <u>J.N.</u> – The F BiH has not still paid the money on the account of Return Fund for last year. The money is intended for reconstruction of houses in 30 municipalities across BiH (municipalities have already been selected).</p>
<p>VL: 'Capljina: Snow causes damage amounting to 10 million KMs'</p>	<p>Vecernji List front pg splash 'Capljina: Snow causes damage amounting to 10 million KMs', pg 4 'First estimations of damage amount up to 10 million KMs' by <u>F. Matic</u> – Head of the Capljina Municipality, Stjepan Sutalo, stated that according to the initial information, the damage caused by snow in Capljina area amounts from 5 to 10 million KMs.</p>

<p>BiH CoM suspend parts of Free Trade Agreement with SCG</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 3 'Customs make the beer bitter, bread more expensive', mentioned on front 'Stop to import of wheat and beer from SCG', by <u>Eldina Medunjanin</u> – BiH Government has decided to unilaterally suspend a part of the Free Trade Agreement with Serbia and Montenegro (SCG) that is related to import of wheat and beer. According to the BiH Council of Ministers, earlier decisions of the SCG Government, which protected its producers by introducing higher customs rate by 30% and by giving its producers various subsidies, are direct violations of the Free Trade Agreement.</p>
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<p>VL int: FBiH PM Hadzipasic on FBiH budget, priorities, privatization, VAT</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 5 'Federation budget is not endangered', by <u>Miso Relota</u> – In an interview to VL on economic issues, the FBiH Prime Minister, Ahmet Hadzipasic, comments on the Paddy Ashdown's claim about BiH facing financial problems this year saying the FBiH budget for 2005 is realistically planned. He notes that should the FBiH Government maintain the financial discipline, the budget will not be endangered. Hadzipasic also says that the FBiH Government's priorities for 2005 include lifting of economy, creating better environment for business and solving of problems pertaining to privatization issues. Hadzipasic also denied the statement of FBiH Finance Minister, Dragan Vrankic, that the Croat Ministers in the FBiH Govt were outvoted during the vote on the Law on privatization. On single rated VAT, Hadzipasic says while it is not a popular solution at this moment it is acceptable because it is easier to control everything that way. Still, Hadzipasic says that in two or three years, there will have to be different VAT rates.</p>
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Political issues

<p>PIC Steering Board in session today</p>	<p>RHB, Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 18 'State to be left without money for salaries', by <u>Z. Zekic</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Reports submitted by Terzic and Del Ponte', Dnevni List, pg 6 'Del Ponte will submit report on BiH's lack of cooperation with The Hague', by <u>Danijela Kozina</u> – The spokesperson of OHR South, Sanela Tunovic, noted that the meeting of the Steering Board of Peace Implementation Council scheduled for today (Thursday), chaired by Paddy Ashdown, will discuss the issue of BiH's cooperation with the ICTY. Tunovic noted that a report would be presented by the Chief ICTY Prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, and BiH Prime Minister, Adnan Terzic, who is leading a BiH delegation. Tunovic also noted that the meeting will be discussing measures that need to be taken in order to overcome the crisis that will happen to the BiH budgets since more than 50% of GDP is spent on public expenditures.</p>
<p>Matijasevic, Cavic to address the PIC</p>	<p>PINK, BHT1, RTRS, Dnevni List, pg 2 'Cavic and Matijasevic depart for Brussels', <u>not signed</u> – The RS President, Dragan Cavic, and the RS Minister of Interior in resignation, Darko Matijasevic, on Wednesday departed for Brussels to attend the joint meeting of the Political Directors of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) and BiH officials. On Thursday, Cavic and Matijasevic will present the report on cooperation of RS authorities with the Hague Tribunal, was announced by the RS President's Cabinet.</p>

<p>Humphreys: 'Getting closer to Europe during this year will depend a lot on Police reform.'</p>	<p>Ljiljan pgs 10-13 'It would be tragic that Croatia becomes EU member, and that BiH still needs visas for EU', mentioned on front 'BiH joining EU depends on Police reform', by <u>Mirsad Sinanovic</u> – The Head of EC delegation to BiH, Michael Humphreys states in an interview to Ljiljan:</p> <p><i>"Progress had been achieved in 2004. The cooperation with The Hague Tribunal is still a problem. Frankly speaking, getting closer to Europe during this year will depend a lot on Police reform. That is the first task now".</i> Commenting to the report prepared by the Police Reform Commission Chairman and future police organization, Humphreys says: <i>"The report clearly solves the structure of Police forces in BiH. In my opinion, the recommendations from the report will be implemented. Progress in Police reform is one of important items in the EC's Study. We expect it to be implemented".</i></p>
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<p>DA: SDS thinking about to nominate their candidates for the new state Ministers</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'SDS thinking about to nominate their candidates for the new state Ministers' by <u>F. Cardzic</u> – BiH Council of Ministers Chairman Adnan Terzic said there was no any legal 30-day deadline for appointment of new Ministers to replace BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic, BiH Transport and Communications Minister Branko Dokic and BiH Civil Affairs Deputy Minister Zoran Tesanovic who had resigned from their respective offices. <i>"Only if I have come into a situation to appoint new ministers the BiH Parliamentary Assembly is obliged to confirm the appointment within 30 days,"</i> explained Terzic. However, according to Momcilo Novakovic, the Head of SDS Caucus in BiH HoR, the party is considering possibility to nominate their candidates for the BiH Foreign Minister and Transport and Communications Minister.</p>
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<p>Blic speculates on possible split between SDS, PDP</p>	<p>EuroBlic cover 'Dragan Cavic demanded copies of all RS Government's decisions' and RSpG 1 'Mutual accusations continue' by <u>N.B.-R.R.</u> – RS Government has confirmed to <i>EuroBlic</i> that the letter Dragan Cavic addressed to Dragan Mikerevic has arrived. However, nobody from Mikerevic's cabinet wanted to comment as to when the RS President may expect a response from RS premier in resignation. The article also speculates on possible split-up between SDS and PDP, carrying statements of Stanko Piovasevic (SDS) and Zoran Tesanovic (PDP), who deny there is any rift between these two parties. The article also carries the statement of Adil Osmanovic, SDA Vice President, who has stated that <i>"it is obvious the RS-PM designate cannot ensure the parliament majority without SDA and PDP votes."</i></p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Cavic cannot ensure parliamentary majority without SDA' by E.Sarac – Osmanovic gave the same statement to DA.</p>
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<p>DL int w/ Humphreys: 'BiH will not join EU as long as it has High Representative'</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 7, mentioned on front 'BiH will not join EU as long as it has High Representative', by <u>Ivica Glibusic</u> – The Head of EC delegation to BiH, Michael Humphreys, who visited DL on Wednesday, outlined most important problems BiH is facing en route to the EU. Humphreys stressed that the biggest problems are related to the rule of law, respect for human rights and building of appropriate institutions of authorities. <i>"If we know that BiH institutions needed three years to appoint the Director of Statistics Agency, I must say that's not a serious approach. We must not allow that something gets dragged for six months in order to have either a Bosniak, Serb or Croat in a certain office"</i>, said Humphreys. Humphreys continues: <i>"We must change the tactics so the things are not done here when someone from outside imposes them. I think that change will occur when the High Representative's authorities are transferred onto the EU representative. Otherwise, BiH with the High Representative will never join the EU"</i>.</p>
<p>Jukic (HDZ) on new Proposal of law on Public RTV system</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 2 'Jukic: Majority of our requests have been considered', <u>not signed</u> – VL notes that both chambers of the BiH Parliament should adopt the final Proposal of law on Public RTV system in BiH. The Speaker of the BiH Parliament's House of Peoples, Velimir Jukic (HDZ), believes the BiH Government has taken into consideration majority of the Croat MPs' requests.</p>

