

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 4/1/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 4 January

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>BH Radio 1</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (12,00 hrs)
Talks on RS PM-designate continue	Foca Islamic Com. premises attacked	Talks on PM-designate to resume
BiH farmers address CoM	BiH farmers address CoM	Cavic on demilitarisation
HNZ congratulates Mesic on results	Ljubija Coal Mine workers protest	Djuric as PM-designate

TV news broadcast on 3 January

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BH TV 1</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FED TV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RT RS</b> (19,30)
OSA dismissals	Elections in Croatia	NY celebrations	Cavic continues party talks
Cavic continues party talks	Cro elections in BiH	Negotiations on RS Govt	Fines vs. 9 ex RS officials
SNSD on new Government	Issue of insulting graffiti	Elections in Croatia	OSA dismissals
CRO elections in BIH	Negotiations on RS Govt	Victims in Southeast Asia	Paravac on refinery

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	Payout of overdue pension by 1 May; SDA sees a chance in RS Council of Peoples; PIC to decide on police structure?
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	We have to take off the burden of illegal privatization
<b>Dnevni List</b>	Boris Miksic: Election fraud because of votes from BiH

<b>Vecernji List</b>	Rebellion of losers
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Kosor wins 70% of votes in Herzegovina
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	Tuzla Cantonal Prosecutor's Office launched investigation: Spending of donations for Srebrenica under review; Conclusions of the BiH Parliament regarding employment at OSA were not respected: Agents suspected of illegal tapping remain at work at OSA; Dragan Lukac: SIPA will be controlling all financial flows in BiH; Talks on RS-PM-designate resume: No Government without SDS
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	Why Fund for compensation of destroyed property was not founded in BiH: The foreigners said "No"
<b>EuroBlic</b>	Election of Prime Minister of RS: Cavic to announce the name of designate on Christmas Eve
<b>Vecernje novosti</b>	Features Serbian related topics
<b>Nacional</b>	Features Serbian related topics

<b>LATEST NEWS OF TODAY</b>	
<b>Talks on RS Govt continue</b>	<b>RTRS</b> at 12.00 – New round of talks between <b>Dragan Cavic</b> , RS President, and officials of SDA, SDP of BiH, Party for BiH, on RS Prime Minister-designate should have resumed in Banja Luka at 11:00 hrs today.

<p><b>DNS gives up on nominating PM-designate</b></p>	<p><b>SRNA</b> news agency – DNS leader, <b>Marko Pavic</b>, stated today that this party gives up on the nomination of its candidate for the position of RS PM-designate, as “<i>it doesn’t want to participates political games around this issue.</i>” Thanking RS President, <b>Dragan Cavic</b>, for an opportunity, Pavic said that the biggest responsibility for composition of the new RS Government lies with the three large parties, especially two which brought to the crisis. “It is obvious these parties still want to participate in the Government and to be the key factor in its establishment,” Pavic told journalists.</p>
<p><b>BiH Farmers demand protection of domestic agricultural production</b></p>	<p><b>BH Radio 1, RHB</b> at 12.00 – The BiH Farmers’ Association sent an open letter to Chairman of the BiH CoM <b>Adnan Terzic</b> in which they demand from Terzic to protect BiH agricultural production. Farmers Association has requested from Terzic to maintain current 10% rate of tax on turnover of imported agricultural goods, but the cut the same rate for domestic products.</p>
<p><b>Foca Islamic Com. premises attacked</b></p>	<p><b>BH Radio 1, RTRS</b> at 12.00 – The unknown persons stoned the Medzlis of Islamic Community in Foca and broke several windows, announced East Sarajevo PSC today.</p>

**Political issues**

**Cavic  
continues with  
negotiations  
on new PM-  
designate and  
RS Govt**

**RHB, RTRS, FTV, Oslobođenje** pg 4 'We will have PM designate by 8 January' by Onasa, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Dragan Cavic announced demilitarisation of BiH' by J.S., **Dnevni List**, pg 3, mentioned on front 'Parties from Federation solving crisis in Republika Srpska', by N. Bise, A. Beus, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, back pg 'New prime minister designate by January 8', by A. Macanovic, **Nezavisne Novine** cover and pg 4 'No Government without SDS' by V. Popovic; **EuroBlic** cover 'Cavic to announce the name of designate on Christmas Eve' and RSpG 1 'Designate before Christmas' by Rajna Radosavljevic; **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'A strong authority searched for' by N. Diklic – Following the consultation meetings with RS political parties, the RS president **Dragan Cavic** stated that he has no parliamentary majority for any potential solutions over the new prime minister-designate. He told reporters that talks with the parties in the RS parliament will resume and that he will name the PM-designate by January 8. He will also send a letter to political parties in RS for which could in this moment nominate PM-designate and win parliamentary majority. Cavic deems that the best solution is for the new government to consist of six strongest political parties in RS – SDS, SNSD, PDP, SP RS, DNS and SRS – which would provide proposals for ministers from Bosniak and Croat people. Cavic announced negotiations for Tuesday with Party for BiH, SDA and SDP, as well as a special meeting with opposition leader **Milorad Dodik**.

**BHT 1** – Cavic still believes that the PM-designate should be appointed from a smaller political party, such as DNS. He says that all 6 major political parties should participate in the new government. *"We are going to discuss all possibilities, and I do not want to go into details; I think that the best thing would be to establish the government with representatives of all 6 political parties, especially representatives of two strongest ones. I think that political issues we are facing are such in which we do not need strong opposition, but strong consolidated political activities."*

<p><b>SNSD: early elections or Govt without SDS</b></p>	<p><b>RHB, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'SNSD's suggestions not supported' <u>not signed</u>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 4 'Early elections or Government without SDS' by <u>Fena</u> – SNSD Secretary General, <b>Igor Radojicic</b>, stated on Monday, following the consultations on electing the new Entity government with RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b>, that consensus was not reached on the stands that this political party supports. Radojicic told the press that SNSD has once again presented its stands on announcing the extraordinary elections for the purpose of electing the new RS Govt, which would be managed by the SNSD without SDS participation.</p> <p><i>"There is no agreement on this matter and as far as we understand, the consultations will be continued"</i>, said Radojicic and added that this does not mean necessarily that SNSD will not participate in the Entity government because the concept for constituting the government is still unclear.</p> <p><b>BHT 1</b> – SNSD disagrees with an initiative to appoint PM-designate from DNS.</p>
<p><b>DNS not giving up Cavic's offer to nominate PM-designate</b></p>	<p><b>BHT1, RTRS, Oslobodjenje</b> pg 5 'Not giving up on Cavic's offer' by <u>Fena</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 2 'Dragan Cavic will decide about the prime minister designate', by <u>f</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 14 'Still without prime minister designate', by <u>A. Macanovic</u> – DNS leader, <b>Marko Pavic</b>, stated on Monday that this party has not given up on the proposal for nominating the candidate for the Prime Minister designate, but noted that the final nomination would depend on the RS President, <b>Dragan Cavic</b>. After the consultations with Cavic, stressing that this political party had previously accepted the recommendation of the RS President for nominating the candidate for the mandatory, Pavic said that the <i>"response of DNS to that offer remains positive, and the President will present his opinion after consulting with the parties"</i>.</p>

SDS says it will support any candidate with parliamentary majority

**Oslobodjenje** pg 5 'Support to majority' by Fena, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'SDS sticks to its stance', **Vecernji List**, pg 2 'SDS for new RS Government', by f, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 14 'Still without prime minister designate', by A. Macanovic – The Head of SDS Caucus in the RS National Assembly, **Borislav Bojic**, on Monday stated that his party maintains its previous stands on electing the new RS Govt and that its 26 representatives would support every candidate that ensures the necessary parliamentary majority. Asked whether SDS would nominate its candidate for the Prime Minister designate, Bojic said that the Party *"has not yet considered this possibility, but this matter can be opened if it is acceptable to the other parties"*. He also underlined that all political parties have the possibility to nominate their candidates.

**SDA on future  
RS Govt and  
its  
participation**

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'SDA in RS Government?' by E. Sarac  
– DA announces the meeting between RS President, **Dragan Cavic**, and Head of SDA Caucus at the RSNA, **Tarik Sadovic**. *"I am not sure what is the reason, but I can say that all options are opened... I don't know what will happen, but in my mind the only realistic option is to have SDA included in the establishment of the RS Government,"* said Sadovic adding that it would be a setback for SDA not to have its five Bosniaks in the Government. *"Second option, is for SNSD to established the Government with the party for BiH and SDP without SDS... However, that option is more theoretical than practical, because Cavic will not let Dodik have power just like that,"* added Sadovic.

**Oslobodjenje** pgs 4-5 'SDA sees chance in RS Council of Peoples', mentioned on cover, by Azhar Kalamujic – In addition to Sadovic's statement, daily also brings comment from SDA Vice President **Adil Osmanovic**, says he is certain that SDA will be opposition in RS in a future, as *"the government on which Cavic and leaderships of six Serb parties will have a task to resist the international community in defence and police reforms in BiH."* Osmanovic adds that this means that there is no place for SDA, SBiH, SDP and NHI in such Government, adding that five Bosniak and three Ministers will most probably be delegated from SNSD, PDP or circles close to these parties. However, he also expects Bosniak reps in the Council of Peoples to have bigger influence on adoption of the laws previously endorsed by the Govt and RSNA without consulting the non-Serb parties.

<p><b>Other comments on establishment of RS Govt</b></p>	<p><b>RTRS</b> by <u>Sinisa Mihailovic</u> – RTSR comments that SDS doesn't want to be left without Ministry positions. The SRS, only party that hasn't participated in the consultations, feels that the only solution for RS is for the 3 leading parties to reach an agreement. RTRS reporter comments that the participation in the Government may be attractive for someone from SDA, SDP or SzBIH whose representatives will speak with Cavic today.</p> <p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 inset 'Club of the Center suggested Nedo Djuric for PM-designate' – The Chair of the newly formed Club of the Centre at the RSNA, <b>Rajko Todorcevic</b>, says that this club sent a proposal to Cavic suggesting <b>Nedjo Djuric</b> from SP RS as PM-designate. The Club is made of 4 representatives, DNS <b>Dusko Vukotic</b>, Pensioners party <b>Ruza Nikic</b>, NDS <b>Rajko Todorcevic</b> and NSS <b>Radivoje Trbic</b>.</p> <p><b>FTV</b> – PDP reported that they were going to support any agreement reached by SDS and SNSD.</p>
<p><b>Djapo on appointment of Brcko Govt</b></p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 5 'It is important there are no critics with regard to national composition' by <u>V. Jahic</u> – Brcko District Mayor <b>Mirsad Djapo</b> has rejected critics of a part of political activists from Brcko District with regard to the composition of the new Government claiming that positions of only three out of 11 heads of the Departments are disputable, but only from the point of view of party belongings. <i>"I am satisfied that objections were made in relation to only three departments and not more. This means I have reached an optimum. It is important no person has made any remarks with regard to national composition of the Government or with regard to its quality...In any case, delegates will have a chanc to discuss the composition of the Government at the Assembly,"</i> Djapo has stated.</p> <p><b>RTRS, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 12 'HSS, SNSD accuses Djapo of violating agreement reached amongst the political parties' – brings criticism by HSS, SNSD.</p>



<p><b>DL: SBiH to join opposition come springtime</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 8, mentioned on front 'Party for BiH goes into opposition come springtime', by <u>Zvonimir Jukic</u> – DL speculates, judging by recent statement of the SDP President, <b>Zlatko Lagumdzija</b>, that BiH is rushing into destruction owing to authorities embodies in the SDS, HDZ, PDP and SDA (when Lagumdzija did not mention the SBiH), that the SBiH could again be getting closer to the opposition parties. On top of the aforementioned statement, DL also notes that Lagumdzija also stated that SBiH MPs in the State Parliament were supportive of almost every opposition's initiative. DL also learns from a senior, anonymous official of SBiH that the party could organize its convention come springtime. The same source notes that the founder of SBiH, <b>Haris Silajdzic</b>, will ask the party leadership to change the party policy at the next session of SBiH Main Board. This leads DL to say that Silajdzic will again take over the party.</p>
<p><b>VL: Crosses in Old town in Stolac to be removed on January 19</b></p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 3, mentioned on front, 'FBiH Government pulls down crosses, bridge and mosque' by <u>M. Relota</u> – According to a VL exclusive information, Federation of BIH Minister of Urban Planning <b>Ramiz Mehmedagic</b> approved the decision on removing Catholic crosses in the Old Town overlooking Stolac, a mosque in Ustikolina and a bridge in Blagaj near Mostar and according to VL, they might be removed on January 19, 2005. The article also says that 2 times the FBiH Government was inviting a tender for the company which would remove the crosses in Stolac, however, none company applied for the tender and then a direct agreement was made with one company which would remove the crosses on January 19, 2005.</p>

<p><b>Civil Affairs Minister on BiH law regulating state holidays</b></p>	<p><b>BHT 1</b> – Bosnia and Herzegovina still has no law to regulate which holidays are to be marked in the entire country. For this reason, citizens of FBiH were not working on 3 January, while in RS it was just another ordinary working day. Holidays marked in FBiH as the state ones are not accepted in RS, and the law still waits for the parliamentary procedure.</p> <p>BiH Minister of Civil Affairs, <b>Safet Halilovic</b>, comments: <i>“There have been several disputes regarding this issue. The law passed the procedure in the Administration and Legislature Office, but it has not passed the procedure of the Internal Policy Board, and it was said that it requires additional political agreement.”</i></p>
<p><b>Temporary funding of City of Mostar : Mayor Beslic to ask for MIU’s interpretation</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 12 ‘OHR to arbitrate in Mostar Council once more’, by <u>Sanja Bjelica</u> – Carries the Mayor of Mostar, <b>Ljubo Beslic</b>, as commenting on the issue of temporary financing of the City of Mostar, i.e. the decision which was supported by 19 out of 35 councillors in the City Council of Mostar. <i>“It is necessary that the OHR, in other words the (Mostar) Implementation Unit, gives an explanation whether the decision on temporary financing falls under important decisions that require two-third majority vote, in other words the support of 25 councillors. If they (MIU) decide the decision is of no special importance, it will be considered as adopted”</i>, says Beslic. DL also reports that the President of the Mostar City Council, <b>Murat Coric</b>, has scheduled a meeting with representatives of caucuses in the MCC for Wednesday. Coric notes the aim of the meeting will be to discuss possibilities and ways how to discuss the issue of the temporary funding in the MCC as soon as possible. <i>“We will consult the OHR too”</i>, concludes Coric</p>

## Defence reform/ intelligence and police issues

**Cavic: if new  
JNA established,  
Serbs will  
propose  
demilitarisation  
of BiH**

**BHT 1, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Dragan Cavic announced demilitarisation of BiH' by J.S., **Dnevni List**, pg 7 'Cavic believes in Ashdown's promise', not signed, **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 18 'Demilitarisation of BiH, why not!' by F. Glas Srpske pg 2 'Imposition would not be accepted' by N. Dikllic; **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'There will be no new JNA' – RS President **Dragan Cavic** stated in Banja Luka on Monday that Serbs will not accept the establishment of some new "Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] in BiH" and adding that imposing of solutions cannot be expected because the parties from RS could propose demilitarisation of BiH.

*"Accepting the solution of some new JNA in which all principles of majorization of one people over another is not acceptable for any political party in RS,"* said Cavic. Commenting on the most recent decision adopted by High Representative **Paddy Ashdown** to extend the mandate of the BiH Defence Reform Commission, Cavic said he was not surprised by the decision, adding he hoped the HR would honor his promise that there would be no imposed solutions in the military and defence sectors.

**Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Option – demilitarization of BiH' – also reported.

**FTV feature on  
defence reforms**

**FTV** by Dzenita Zirdum – FTV comments that a lot has been achieved in the field of defence reforms in 2004, the most important thing being the establishment of the BiH Ministry of Defence. Entities' Ministries of Defence should be abolished by mid of 2005, which would result in abolishment of entities' armies. In September 2004, High Representative **Paddy Ashdown** confirmed that 2005 was going to be the crucial year when it comes to meeting the NATO standards, while the activities leading to abolishment of the entities' defence ministries will start immediately. Ashdown said: *"In any case, this should have happened in the next 3 years. But now, it is going to happen in 2005. The process is going to be supervised by Defence Reform Commission, which will have to prepare necessary laws to be discussed by the BiH Parliament and entities' Parliaments. We expect the laws to be adopted by 1 July and implemented by 1 September 2005."* FTV comments that the implementation of the decision is not going to be an easy process. HR has admitted that BiH Defence Minister, **Nikola Radovanovic**, has an extremely difficult task ahead of him asking him to use the authority he has in the RS Ministry of Defence. Radovanovic said: *"The request will impact my position and work of Defence Reform Commission and it will impact the entire 2005. To abolish entities' Ministries of Defence means to create new law on BiH defence."* BiH MoD said it is going to start with the plan making after the holidays. If all the terms get fulfilled, there is possibility for BiH to become NATO and Partnership for Peace member, however this will not happen until all war criminals are arrested.

<p><b>Nikolic on defence reforms</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 5 'Professional army of BiH with 12 thousand soldiers', by <u>M. Karacic</u> – Commenting as to how many soldiers BiH needs i.e. how many soldiers BiH can afford, the FBiH Defence Minister, <b>Miroslav Nikolic</b>, notes that BiH needs 12000 professional soldiers. Also, when questioned whether the announcement of abolishment of entity armies represented a step towards the abolishment of entities, Minister Nikolic said: <i>"In any case, the abolishment of entity armies means decreasing of competences of entities' institutions. One can interpret that the decision goes in direction of abolishment of the very entities"</i>.</p>
<p><b>Oslobodjenje: PIC to decide on police structure?</b></p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3, mentioned on cover 'PIC to decide on police structure?' by <u>A. Prlenda</u> – The final solution to the future structure of police in BiH might be found only at a session of Peace Implementation Council that is to be held this month, learns Oslobodjenje. According to the daily's unofficial sources, the Police Restructuring Commission's report on the issue submitted to the High Representative on December 31 contains three proposals for the establishment of a new BiH police structure each of which foresees abolishment of the current entity's interior ministries.</p>

**FBiH Association  
of de-certified  
Police officers  
want MPs to  
initiate  
revision of  
certification  
process**

**Dnevni List**, pg 2 'Minister Halilovic proposes anti-constitutional law', by Erna Mackic – According to the President of Association of de-certified Police officers of FBiH, **Ramo Sulic**, the Proposal of law on Police officials, the proponent of which was the FBiH Interior Minister, **Mevludin Halilovic**, contains anti-constitutional and discriminatory provisions. Sulic says that Halilovic calls upon BiH's international obligations, whilst in the same time neglecting provisions of the European convention on human rights and freedoms, which resulted in de-certified officers not getting the right to prove their innocence, unlike war crimes suspects who have that opportunity. DL also reports that the Association addressed the MPs in the FBiH and BiH Parliaments, who have been asked to amend the Law on Police officials in FBiH and BiH. On top of this, the MPs will be asked to initiate the process of revision of certification process.

**Update to  
dismissed OSA  
personnel**

**Nezavisne Novine** cover and pg 5 'Agents suspected of illegal tapping remain at work at OSA' by M. Cubro – NW claims that **Almir Dzuvo**, OSA Director, has violated conclusions of the BiH Parliament, which demanded that intelligence officers suspected of illegal tapping in "coup d'etat" affair should not be working at OSA. According to **Tihomor Gligoric**, Chairperson of the BH Parliament Investigation Commission on coup affair said the Commission had demanded this following the hearing of those involved in the affair. **Tomislav Limov**, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Board for surveillance over OSA work, said that: *"I do not know who was dismissed and why. We will wait for 15 day deadline (stipulated to filing the motions) expires and then we would check as to why each of candidates was dismissed. Investigation is taking place against those involved in tapping affair. The results of this proceeding would be above decision of the OSA Director, and I believe he would have to respect these decisions."*

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'All those not meeting criteria dismissed from OSA' by E. Sarac – DA brings the source from OSA who says that this same situation occurred when [former intelligence services] SNS and AID were merged, and 200 people were dismissed then.

**Comments by OSA  
dismissed  
officers**

**Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'Criminals and candidates for the Hague stayed working at OSA' by D. Risojevic – The article contains some comments of those intelligence officers dismissed from OSA as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004. One of them, **Predrag Ceranic**, claims that the leadership of the Agency preserved at work only compromised personnel, involved in creation of terrorist camps, while the others with clear files lost the job. **Mile Medjed**, formerly Head of Prijedor OBS Centre, also claims that the process of dismissal is of political nature, stressing that "*many criminals and candidates for the Hague stayed working at OSA*". **Mladen Cucun** is also critical of the OSA Commission work for selection of staff, questioning as to how it is possible that the Commission could have checked on each of over 1000 employees at OBS and FOSS for only 100 days. He concludes that superficial selection process speaks for itself.

**RTRS** by Pejka Medic– RTRS also carries comments by Medjed, Ceranic, and Cucun. They all stressed that they meet all criteria for OSA and therefore do not understand dismissals. Former OBS [former RS intelligence service] high ranking officials also didn't make it into OSA. Reporter comments that their dismissal is connected to SDS-PDP conflict regarding key positions in RS MoI, intelligence services and the Security Ministry. Reporter concludes that dismissed workers who were contacted by RTRS today announced lawsuits in the matter.



<p><b>SIPA Deputy Director Lukac: SIPA takes over control of financial transactions</b></p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> cover and pg 6 'SIPA will be controlling all financial transactions in BiH' by <u>M. Cubro</u> – Deputy SIPA Director, <b>Dragan Lukac</b>, has stated in an interview to <i>NN</i> that SIPA took over the control over financial transactions in BiH on December 28, which would enable state authority to know whether any funds are used for financing of terrorism and other criminal activities. He explains all banks are obliged to deliver information on financial transactions to SIPA on a daily basis. Every person that makes a cash payment in the amount of 30 thousand KM or more would become "the subject of interest" for SIPA, which must investigate the reason for the payment and origin of the money. He further notes: <i>"If we notice something suspicious, we have the authority to stop all transactions and block accounts'."</i></p>
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## Economic and social issues

<p><b>FBiH Prime Minister Hadzipasic announces detailed review of privatization</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> cover page 'We must relieve ourselves from burden of illegal privatization', pg 2 'A comprehensive review will relieve ourselves from burden of illegal privatisation' by <u>A. Dzonlic</u> –</p> <p>In the course of this year the FBiH Government is to advocate for a more active role to be played by the Federation Privatisation Agency and that will also include fresh personnel solutions.</p> <p>According to FBiH Prime Minister <b>Ahmet Hadzipasic</b>, more work will mean fresh people engaged with the Agency. Hadzipasic says that the Federation Government will in the course of 2005 prepare privatization of Energopetrol, Energoinvest, Agrokomerc, KTK Visoko, Hidrogradnja, Mostar Tobacco Factory etc.</p> <p><i>"In addition, we are planning to relieve ourselves from the burden of illegal privatization through a comprehensive review to be conducted in all cases where there is even a small suspicion of illegal privatization,"</i> said Hadzipasic.</p>
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<p><b>DL: Revision of privatization in FBiH to be pushed for one more time</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 4 'Position of Croats in Federation endangered', by <u>Jurislav Petrovic</u> – An anonymous source close to the FBiH Government confirmed to DL that the debatable law on revision of privatization, which was rejected by the FBiH Government at the time, would be pushed (for adoption) one more time in an almost unchanged form. DL reminds that the FBiH Finance Minister, <b>Dragan Vrankic</b>, stated back then that the aim of the law was to destroy the 'Aluminij' of Mostar. DL's sources reveal that a strategy is being put in place in order to adopt the law through outvoting. Asked to comment on possibility of outvoting, Minister Vrankic says the law cannot appear before the FBiH Government in the identical text, instead there have to be changes in provisions, which were reasons why the original law was not adopted.</p>
<p><b>Paravac: Oil refinery in Modrica can meet needs for entire BiH</b></p>	<p><b>RTRS</b>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'Oil refinery in Modrica can meet needs for entire BiH' by <u>Srna</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 5 'Council of Ministers 'braking' Modrica Refinery?!', by <u>De. L.</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'Who is bothered with Refinery' – Chairman of the BiH Presidency <b>Borislav Paravac</b> stated that he was dissatisfied with the attitude of the BiH Council of Ministers towards the Modrica Refinery and stressed that there was no a single objective reason as to why this refinery would not work in full capacity. Paravac also warned that the petrol Mafia existed in BiH.</p>

<p><b>Bijeljina court finds 9 former RS officials guilty in 'housing affair'</b></p>	<p><b>RTRS, Glas Srpske</b> pg 13 'Fines as punishment'; <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6 ''Housing scandal' ends with fines' by <u>Z. Kusmuk</u> – The Basic Court in BijeljinaMonday found 9 municipal officials, including the former President of the Executive Board of the Municipal Assembly, <b>Vlado Simic</b>, guilty of office abuse and illegal construction in Bijeljina in the period between 1998 and 2000.In the so-called housing affair, the group illegally issued housing credits and awarded apartments to their family and fellow party member, thereby damaging the municipal budget for 1.5 million KM.</p>
<p><b>A backlog pension in FBiH to be paid out May 1</b></p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> cover page, pg 2 'A backlog pension to be paid out May 1' by <u>Almir Terzic</u> – A backlog pension will be paid out by May 1 at the latest, FBiH Prime Minister <b>Ahmet Hadzipasic</b> told the daily on Monday.</p>

<p><b>Investigation into malversation with Srebrenica donations</b></p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> cover and pg 3 ‘Spending of donations for Srebrenica under review’ by <u>M. Cubro</u> – <i>NW</i> collocutor from Tuzla Prosecutor’s Office has confirmed that the Tuzla Cantonal Prosecutor’s Office has launched investigation into malversation of resources allocated for reconstruction of Srebrenica and villages around this city, as well as into embezzlements of disability allowances. <i>NW</i> collocutor notes that, there is no official information as to how much resources have been so far donated to Srebrenica. According to some assessments, over several millions of BAM have been donated. The investigation has so far shown that the resources donated for Srebrenica so far should have been sufficient to provide much better living conditions for returnees than they are.</p>
<p><b>GS on fund for compensation of destroyed property was not founded in BiH</b></p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> cover page story ‘The foreigners said “No”’ by <u>J.N.</u> – The article speculates into the exact number of houses and apartments destroyed during the war in BiH, stressing that the international community officials did not approve of proposals of RS and F BiH officials to establish the Fund for compensation of the destroyed property. The IC officials claimed, according to <b>Drago Vuleta</b>, Assistant to RS Minister of Refugees and DP’s, that such Fund would only deepen the ethnic differences amongst three peoples in BiH.</p>

<b>FBiH Ombudsmen on tax administration and criminal procedure laws</b>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'Access to 'secret information' denied' by <u>R.C.</u> – The Law on Tax Administration and the Law on Criminal Procedure automatically exclude the possibility of public access to certain information, which is contrary to the present Law on Free Access to Information, the Federation Ombudsmen's report reads. According to this law, the institutions in charge are bound to share even the information marked as military, state, official or business secret. The chief of the HDZ caucus, <b>Ivan Madunic</b>, said that he would launch the initiative for the change of these laws at a session of the Federation Parliament.</p>
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<b>War crimes</b>	
<b>Kovac on processing war crimes in BiH</b>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'State Prosecutors will be able to gather additional evidence' by <u>Srna</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3 'Soon new indictments from The Hague' by <u>SRNA</u> – BiH Justice Minister, Slobodan Kovac, stated for Srna news agency that a smaller number of the cases involving war crimes will be taken over from the ICTY Prosecution at the end of the month. Kovac added that the ICTY will also submit the Prosecution a number of cases marked 'A' to be further processed by local district and cantonal prosecutions.</p>

<p><b>GS on ‘ Tuzla ‘ case</b></p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> cover page story ‘Tuzla is getting closer to the Court’ by <u>S.R.T.</u> – <b>Nebojsa Jovanovic</b>, Prosecutor at the Bijeljina District Prosecutor’s Office, on Monday confirmed that the four suspects for war crimes against JNA soldiers during their withdrawal from Tuzla would be heard before the Court in the second half of January. The four suspects are: <b>Enver Delibasic, Mehmed Bajric, Faruk Prcic and Muhamed Brkic.</b></p>
<p><b>SCG Human Rights Minister on arrest of PIFWCs</b></p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 ‘We looked for Ratko Mladic several times’ by <u>S. Numanovic</u> – <b>Rasim Ljajic</b>, SiCG Minister for Human and Minority Rights, stated in an interview to Dnevni Avaz that Belgrade was submitted the information on possible whereabouts of the war crime suspects, which also included the address of the Serbian Government. He said that all the addresses were checked, but not a single war crime suspect had been found. <i>“Several times, for instance in August, we checked some addresses claimed to be used by <b>Ratko Mladic</b>, but no results. These checks of addresses claimed to be used by Mladic were also participated by the representatives of the international community,”</i> said Ljajic without specifying the kind of participation.</p>