

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 6/12/2002

CROAT RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)
Bairam celebration	OHR on Orao	Ceric speech/ Bairam celebration
Teacher's strike in Herzegovina	RS budgetary beneficiaries announce strike	Reconstruction of mosques in Bijeljina
OHR on Orao investigation	Israel/Palestine relations	International community dissatisfied with Orao investigation
Croatia became member of CEFTA	Ceric speech/ Bairam celebration	

Oslobodjenje	Muslims throughout BiH celebrate Ramadan's Bairam; Orao investigation – Deadline for a real report – January 3
Dnevni Avaz	Bairam address of Head of the BiH Islamic Community – Islam is a religion of bringing people together and coexistence"; Midhat Arifovic, Director of FBiH Tax Administration – 140 criminal charges filled over tax evasion
Dnevni List	USA will withdraw its troops from Balkan if situation in Iraq would be demanding it: American soldiers of SFOR are leaving BiH?
Vecernji List	Deficit in BiH Federation Pension and Disability Fund: January pensions are late?
Slobodna Dalmacija	IPTF is trying to clean up Police lines in which many "negative persons" are still hiding: Travnik policemen were trained by mujahedeens
Glas Srpski	Return of Serbs to Croatia: Mouth full of promises; Han Pijesak: Wall clock that belonged to King Alexander stolen

Nezavisne Novine	International community dissatisfied with RS authorities investigation on military equipment export to Iraq: SFOR takes over "Orao" investigation; Muslims celebrate Bairam; Donald Hays for "Nezavisne Novine": Next year, BiH will have single customs; Trade Unions warn RS Government: Either the salaries will be increased or mass protests will take place
FRY Nacional	Pavkovic and 40 Yugoslav Army officers on The Hague list
Blic	Investigation into Orao affair must be finished by the end of year; Ceric: Do not exaggerate with religious and ethnic feelings; Ranka Misic: Either to increase salaries or strike; Djokic: I call on Dodik and Ivanic to agree; Ivanic: Situation in Kotorsko should be calmed down

Bosnia and Herzegovina

<p>Ceric's address, Bairam celebration</p>	<p>Leader of the Islamic community in BiH Reis ul-Ulema Mustafa Efendi Ceric called BiH Muslims in a traditional address following the Muslim festival of Id al-Fitr on Thursday to help moral and spiritual revival of the BiH society and to show that Islam is a religion pledging for tolerance. "Without moral and spiritual revival of the BiH society it is not possible to fully recover from war sufferings," Ceric said at Begova mosque in Sarajevo. He stressed the believers should show that Islam is a religion calling for tolerance and competing in good. Ceric condemned those pledging for and executing terrorism in the name of Islam (Ceric's Bairam address, Bairam celebration in BiH: Oslobodjenje, front page, pages 4-5, Dnevni Avaz, front page, pages 2-3).</p> <p>In his interview to Slobodna Dalmacija, Cardinal Vinko Puljic refers to his visit to London where he had talks at the UK Foreign Ministry. Cardinal Puljic says one of the topics that the talks focused on was the problems Croat returnees face, particularly in Bosnian Posavina and Banja Luka region. He is of the opinion that there is too little political will on all sides to make returns sustainable in those areas, NGOs mostly exclude Croats from their projects. The Cardinal says he presents accurate and specific data to IC and domestic officials he has meetings with, but has the impression they are not interested. In London, he also presented the view that those who have power and authority – IC representatives in particular – often use double standards: they are very refined to the stronger and bigger in number ones, and very arrogant to the weaker ones. The solution in BiH as it is is neither stable nor just as it does not ensure equality of all the 3 peoples throughout the country. This should be the country where Croats are also equal to others and there should be no outvoting mechanism, the mechanism which causes the feeling of insecurity. He also adds there are attempts of manipulating Croat identity and that, in relation to that, no decisions on Croat should be made without Croats being involved. As for the notion the Church should not deal with politics, the Cardinal says too many things are in too light a way labeled as politics and the Church's clear position on human rights and human dignity bother those who are involved in dirty political games.</p>
<p>Interview with Cardinal Vinko Puljic</p>	

Draft RS Budget for 2003, reactions	At a session held on Thursday in Banja Luka, the RS Government adopted draft budget for the next year amounting one billion KM (999 700 00). The RS Finance Minister, Simeun Vilendecic, stated that the budget was adopted with some minor corrections and expressed hope that the DW will accept those changes (Glas Srpski, p 3, Nezavisne Novine, p 2, Blic, p 7).
RS Vice-president Osmanovic on Budgetary Funding of religious facilities reconstruction	Five trade unions – education, police, health workers, judiciary and public administration, requested the RS Government yesterday to add funds to the next years budget that would help improve position of some 40 000 people. Otherwise, trade unions warned from an urgent session held yesterday, more than 40 000 teachers, doctors, policemen and others will protest in front of the RS Government building on 25 th December. The chairperson of the education trade union, Ranka Mistic, stated that the Government offered no acceptable answer as to why the salaries cannot be increased and added that if employees go out on streets to protest, somebody will answer for that (Glas Srpski, p 2, Nezavisne Novine, p 2, Blic, p 7). The RS Finance Minister, Simeun Vilendecic, stated that there will not be enough money available for the next year to meet the requests of the trade unions. The RS Vice President, Adil Osmanovic, stated on Thursday that he would advocate allocation of funds by RS Government for reconstruction of destroyed religious facilities in the RS territory. "In my capacity of RS Vice President, I will try to spread tolerance between all religious communities," Osmanovic told journalists at the Bajram gathering in Banja Luka. (Blic p 6)
Banja Luka Mufti condemns incidents in Prijedor	The Banja Luka Mufti, Edhem Candzic, condemned recent incidents in Prijedor area, where in the last ten days, two explosive devices were thrown – one at the mosque in the village of Mujkanovici and the other on the medzlis facilities in Donja Puharska (Nezavisne Novine, p 5). The Mufti said that such incidents "are aimed to intimidate Bosniaks and prevent them from return and reconstruct religious facilities." The RS Vice President, Adil Osmanovic, stated yesterday that he will advocate allocation of funds by RS Government for reconstruction of destroyed religious facilities in RS territory. The daily quotes Osmanovic: "In my capacity of RS Vice President, I will try to spread tolerance between all religious communities."
RS PM designate still not known	Apart from Vice President Osmanovic, the RS Minister for religions, Dusan Anteli and RS Minister for economic relations with abroad, Fuad Turalic, also attended the traditional Bairam gathering. The Leaders of PDP and SNSD, Miladen Ivanic and Milorad Dodik were supposed to meet late last night and discuss the issue of the RS PM designate. Nezavisne Novine (p 7) spoke with PDP's Dragan Mikerovic, who said that few options are to be discussed and these are as follows: PM designate should be from PDP and three names are in the game – Miladen Ivanic, Dragan Mikerovic and Zoran Djeric, the other option is that the PM designate is from SNSD and supported by PDP and SDS. Milorad Dodik stated yesterday that he will meet Ivanic again in order to find solution acceptable for both parties. He also firmly believes that the PM seat belongs to SNSD. The President of the RS Socialist Party, Petar Djokic, stated yesterday that he is trying to establish dialogue between PDP and SNSD, meaning between Miladen Ivanic and Milorad Dodik (Glas Srpski, p 2, Nezavisne Novine, p 7, Blic, p 3). The daily quotes Djokic as saying: "That dialogue will not be possible without the participation of the RS President, Dragan Covic, and I believe that three of them should agree on establishment of RS authorities, which would be supported by other Serb parties." The Executive Board of the Serb Radical Party decided yesterday unanimously to exclude Pantelija Dzanjadic, Jovo Selic and Cedo Markelic from the party because of their "immoral activities that are not in line with the party politics" (Nezavisne Novine, p 7, Glas Srpski, p 2).
SDS comment on Dodik statement	The SDS thinks that last statement of SNSD leader Milorad Dodik given to Banja Luka's BEL TV basically rejected the offer of RS President Dragan Covic that three strongest political parties form the parliamentary majority in the RS National Assembly. Dodik refused any kind of cooperation with the SDS accusing it for tying flags with the SDA and in that way betraying the Serb national interest as well as victims fallen for the RS. Dodik said that in that way the SDS "bring to an absurd all reasons because of which four-year war in BiH was waged". Answering on Dodik's accusations, calling them "a bunch of lies and primitivism", the SDS accused Dodik for dividing the RS no eastern and western part. The party says it could not share the authority with a guy who sold Jasenovac's archive for a bunch of dollars, who damaged the RS budget during his PM mandate and who during the war traded fuel with Milosevic's regime and Serb Krajina's officials. (Nacional p 11)
Ivanic on Kotorako	During the meeting with representatives of Doboj Municipality on Wednesday evening, the RS Prime Minister, Miladen Ivanic, said that the RS Government fully supports the efforts on calming the situation in the Doboj settlement of Kotorako, as well as the efforts aimed at solving the problems of Bosniacs and Serbs by legal means. He stressed that the Government will attempt to support the return of Bosniacs to Kotorako and Serbs to Vozuca with additional funds. (Blic p 6)
Slobodna Bosna on Ivanic	An article was published in this week's Slobodna Bosna about Ivanic by <u>Suzana Andjelic</u> entitled 'Karadzic sent a message to Ivanic through Cicko Bjelica not to play games and establish authority without SDS!'. The article starts with a question that everyone has been asking for the past two years – whether Ivanic is a hard-liner or he is advocating a moderate fraction. He kept changing his opinions about many issues. For example, the 'Orao' affair. He first claimed confidently that there has not been any sort an illegal trade with Iraq, and then kept swearing he would punish those responsible for the affair. He manifested same sort of inconsistency during the latest talks on the government establishment. He kept giving guarantees to Dodik, and at the same time kept making arrangements with former coalition partner – SDS. According to the article, Ivanic has found himself between the rock and a hard place. On one hand, Americans kept threatening him that they would ex-communicate him out of politics if he options for the SDS, and on the other hand he was being exposed to serious pressures from the SDS and Mafia circles. The last straw came around two weeks ago when he met in Sokolac with former Director of the SDS HD, Milovan Cicko Bjelic and PDP Vice-President Zoran Djeric (according to some info Karadzic was there too). Cicko, who has been Karadzic's Spokesman for years, said Karadzic wanted PDP to form government with the SDS and SDA. He promised Djeric the RS PM seat because him and Karadzic are certain of Djeric's loyalty. Therefore, concludes the article, the influence of the SDS on Ivanic in the past few years is not a matter to question and only naive people would doubt it. Therefore, his decision to share the authority with the SDS again does not come as a surprise, same as the SDS-SDA coalition is not a surprise.

BiH Federation

<p>Mostar unification</p>	<p>Dnevni List (front and page 9) carries an interview with Neven Tomic, the Mostar Deputy Mayor. Asked about the process of unification of Mostar, Tomic said: "Prerequisites for building the city do exist, but what is missing is the building of the city institutions and the city administration that would be more efficient and stronger, but we cannot do that without the cooperation with the Canton and FBiH as legislative activities are in their hands. " With regard to a huge administration system in the city, Tomic says: "In 3 to 4 months, there will be a collapse of municipalities, which will inevitably affect the City too. What can make the situation even more absurd is the fact that we are now in the phase of the implementation of the Constitutional Changes on the constituency of peoples. Serb people representatives can now say they are not constituent in Mostar as there are no Serb-majority municipalities. The fact that many other towns function better and that Mostar cannot speaks that the problem is in our organization."</p> <p>Asked about the prospects for Mostar to become the FBiH capital, Tomic says: "The project is a huge economic project. I see it exclusively as such. Chances for that do exist and the idea is clearly defined in the Madrid Declaration. But, to realize that, we must have a functional city that must offer all services. A good basis for that is envisaged in the Constitution as we already have 4 or 5 Ministries seated in Mostar. Next year, Mostar will become a genuine center of the FBiH, i.e. of various institutions if the reform of the city functions. Unfortunately, Mostar has so far been a means of political parties in BiH in various political negotiations, agreements, causing crises and everyone would in the end withdraw and look for justified or non-justified reasons. Mostar definitively must stop to be a means for political parties in BiH and become an end."</p>
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