

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 6/3/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 6 March

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>BH Radio 1</b> (12,00 hrs)
Oil spill in Neretva river – update	Croat Serb Babic committed suicide
Snow in BiH causing problems	BiH lawsuit against SCG continues
FBiH HoR to discuss budget	Suspect Jankovic to plea on charges

TV news broadcast on 5 March

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>TV PINK</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BHT 1</b> (19,00 hrs)
HNC teachers continue with strike	BiH lawsuit against SCG before ICJ	Dodik announces lawsuits
Karadzic's ally killed	Three more dead swans in Vojvodina	Support of BiH lawsuit in Tuzla
Bad Reception	WN: Avian flu is spreading	Proceedings in BiH lawsuit continue
World Bank on cooperation with BiH	Dodik on revenues from ITA account	Sentence to Nikolic to be confirmed

<b>NTV Hayat</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FTV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (19,30 hrs)
Coppola on terrorism in BiH	Dodik announces lawsuits	Dodik on revenues from ITA account
Dodik to file charges	2 robbers arrested	Families of missing persons' protest

World Bank on cooperation with BIH	Reinermann on WB help to BIH	Feature on apartments in Bijeljina
EU Parliament on visa regime to BIH	Payment of RS February pensions	Court trial against municipal officials

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	Silajdzic under a strike because of legalization of RS
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	[Ivanic] In Salzburg , I expect easing of visa regime
<b>Dnevni List</b>	Herzegovinaians eat unhealthy meat?! (on possibility that meat which is being improted from Croatia to Herzegovina is unheatlhy)
<b>Vecernji List</b>	Demining troops from Iraq are suing BiH's military top
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Features Croatia related headlines
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	Police still do not know who murderers are <i>[investigation on murder of Ratomir Spajic in East Sarajevo]</i>
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	Tears of mother Nada <i>[feature story on mother of a pilot who was killed during war]</i>
<b>EuroBlic</b>	Spajic was buried, police are interrogating <i>[investigation on murder of Ratomir Spajic in East Sarajevo]</i>
<b>Vecernje novosti</b>	Features Serbian related titles

## LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

<p>Former leaders of Serb Krajina committed suicide in his ICTY cell</p>	<p><b>RHB</b>– According to the Belgrade-based B92, <b>Milan Babic</b>, who was sentenced to 13 years by ICTY for war crimes committed in Croatia, hung himself in his prison cell in Scheveningen. <b>BH Radio 1</b> – Babic was found dead on Sunday evening in his cell. ICTY sentenced Babic for crimes against humanity, after he pleaded guilty on one indictment count. After voluntary surrender to the ICTY in November 2003, he witnessed against top Serbian and Bosnian Serb leadership.</p>
<p>BiH team attorney: Volunteers from Serbia were under direct command of Serbian authorities</p>	<p><b>BH Radio 1</b> – In a continuation of the proceedings in BiH lawsuit against SCG before the International Court of Justice [ICJ],BiH team attorney <b>Magda Karagiannakis</b> described patterns by which SCG volunteers took part in military actions on the BiH territory. Basing her claims on the documents by the Serbian Government, Karagiannakis said that these troops were under direct command of Serbian authorities, especially pointing out to the “Tigers” military unit under command of late <b>Zeljko Raznjatovic-Arkan</b>, which was part of Serbian Ministry of Interior.</p>

<p>PDPs Ivanic: Serb people to do not support BiH's lawsuit vs. SCG</p>	<p><b>RHB</b>– The leader of PDP, <b>Mladen Ivanic</b>, reiterated for Banja Luka-based 'Alternativna TV' on Sunday night that politicians coming from the line of the Serb people did not stand behind the lawsuit BiH filed against SCG. He stressed that the lawsuit was not supported by a big part of BiH, therefore from that point of view, it cannot be deemed as legitimate.</p>
<p>FBiH HoR holds session on budget proposal, PM Hadzipasic asks from deputies not to propose more amendments</p>	<p><b>BH Radio 1</b> by <u>Maida Alic</u> – FBiH House of Representatives extraordinary session started today with only two items on agenda: proposal of FBiH budget for 2006 and the Law on its implementation. Deputies will consider the budget proposal in amount of 1,13 billion KM. FBiH Prime Minister <b>Ahmet Hadzipasic</b> asked from deputies not to propose more amendments, as they did with the first budget proposal, for the sake of urgency of its adoption. Hadzipasic added that budget could not be distributed if the Law on Allocation of Public Revenues is not adopted as well. This Law is being reviewed by the FBiH Constitutional Court after issue vital national interest has been raised.</p>

<p>Unions leader Milic briefs HR Schwarz-Schilling on strike of teachers in HNC</p>	<p><b>RHB</b>– President of the Association of Independent Trade Unions of FBiH, <b>Josip Milic</b>, on the occasion of the reception in the German embassy in BiH, met with the High Representative for BiH, <b>Christian Schwarz – Schilling</b>. Milic briefed Schilling on the welfare situation in Hezregovina-Neretva Canton, especially on the current strike of teachers. <i>“High Representative expressed his concern over the welfare situation in HNC and was especially surprised with refusal of the HNC Government for a dialog with the Trade Unions. Message was sent from OHR that they will continue following the situation regarding the strike of teachers”</i>, says a statement issued by the Unions</p>
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## Finances and economy

RS PM Dodik to  
file charges  
against ITA Gov.  
Board Chair Dixon;  
Dodik: RS lost 40  
millions KM due to  
some 'ITA  
omissions'

**RTRS** by Radoslav Banovic – The RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** told the press conference on Sunday that the RS Government would demand the responsibility of the Chairman of the Indirect Taxation Administration [ITA] Governing Board, **Joly Dixon**, because of the decision to halt payments gathered through indirect taxes to the RS. In addition, the Government demands from the ITA to pay out the sum of between 30 and 40 million KM claiming the entity is owed this in funds from ITA single account. *"Dixon has a very serious problem called the RS Government and Milorad Dodik... He is President of the ITA Steering Board and he had to react on time so that the RS would not have to face damages estimated at 30 million KM,"* explained Dodik. He added that the decision to halt payments was entirely ungrounded underlying this was also obvious from the talks held with Dixon. Unless the problem solved, says Dodik, the Government would file charges against Dixon. In a telephone statement for **RTRS**, BiH Council of Ministers Chair **Adnan Terzic** promised that he would investigate whether the decision on the allocation of revenues from the joint ITA account has been obeyed, i.e. whether the money has been allocated according to the decision or not. *Note:* In late February, the former RS Finance Minister, **Svetlana Cenic**, accused ITA of damaging RS budget for 37 million KM, when she also asked the RSNA to file a lawsuit against the Administration. **PINK**, **BHT1**, **Hayat**, **FTV**, **Dnevni List**, pg 6 'Initiate issue of responsibility of Dixon', not signed, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Dodik: We are going to sue Joly Dixon' by N. Diklic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 5, announced on cover 'Milorad Dodik asks for criminal responsibility of Joly Dixon' by A. Sekulic, **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Dixon has problem' by G. D. – also covered.

RS PM Dodik: First section of highway Banjaluka-Gradiska could be completed by end of year

**RTRS** by Radoslav Banovic – The first section of a Banjaluka-Gradiska highway could be completed by the end of the year, RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** told the press conference on Sunday. The RS Minister of Transport and Communications **Nedeljko Cubrilovic** deems that the construction of the highway goes too slow, mainly due to unsolved property-legal relations. However, as RTRS says, the biggest obstacle is inadequate cooperation between state and entity institutions.

Dodik stated that RS has lost approximately 40 millions KM due to the fact that ITA did not obey the decision on allocating the revenues from the single account. According to Dodik, BiH Council of Ministers was supposed to set aside 22 millions KM per year for the construction of highway between Banjaluka and Gradiska; instead of that RS received only 11 millions per year, while the rest of the money was allocated to some other projects at the state level. *"We believe that those funds belong to the RS, and that CoM has no right to act like they do... We will do anything we can to clear up those relations"*, stated Dodik.

**PINK, BHT1, FTV, Oslobođenje** pg 2, mentioned on cover 'RS Government seeks criminal liability for Joli Dixon', Inset 'Building of Banjaluka-Gradiska highway to be intensified' by O.V., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 8 'Dodik: first part [of highway] by the end of the year' by A. Sekulic, **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Enough of insulted peasant girls' by G. Dakic, **EuroBlic** pg RS2 'First kilometres by the end of 2006' by Nedeljka Breberina– also covered.

<p>BiH Minister of Transport and Communications Dokic: Dodik will soon deal with more significant problems</p>	<p><b>BHT1</b> by <u>Zorica Lolic</u> – Commenting the RS Government's allegations on the being owed funds from the single ITA account, the BH Minister of Transport and Communications <b>Branko Dokic</b> stated that Council of Ministers has regularly transferred resources towards entities. <i>"There are more significant problems that [Milorad] Dodik will be aware of on the following period"</i>, stressed Dokic. He added that there are still some legal-property issues that need to be resolved in the area of Laktasi where one part of the high way is being constructed.</p>
<p>World Bank to continues cooperation with BIH</p>	<p><b>RHB</b> – The World Bank will in 2006 continue cooperating closely with the BiH authorities and other domestic and international partners to support acceleration of reforms in the key sectors, which include: business environment reform, public sector reform and social sector reform; the Head of the WB Office in BiH, <b>Dirk Reinermann</b>, told Fena. The funding in line with the structural credits approved for supporting these reforms is estimated at approx. US\$ 100 million. These funds will become operational immediately after the conditions arranged with the BiH authorities have been fulfilled. Additionally, it is expected that the credits approved for reforms in health and education sectors would soon become effective, which will ensure between 30 and 40 million dollars per year during the period 2005-2004 for supporting the implementation of the BiH Midterm Development Strategy. <b>Hayat, FTV, Oslobođenje</b> pg 2 'We will invest \$100 million in BiH' by <u>Fena</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'World Bank will invest 100 million in this year', <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3 'We will invest 100 million dollars in BiH this year' by <u>Agencies</u> – also reported.</p>



<p>FBIH HoR and HoP to discuss 2006 budget on Monday and Tuesday</p>	<p><b>FTV, Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'Extraordinary session today', <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 16 'This year's budget amounts to 1,1 billion KMs', by <u>D. Pasic</u>– Extraordinary session of FBIH House of Representatives will be held on Monday. FBIH HoR deputies will consider the 2006 proposal budget in the amount 1,139.600.000 KM. FBIH House of Peoples is scheduled to discuss the budget on Tuesday.</p>
<p>BiH Finance Minister confirms 3,5 mil KM granted for BiH SAA negotiating team</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 '3, 5 million KM for negotiating team' mentioned on cover by <u>T.L.</u>– As it was confirmed for DA by BiH Finance Minister <b>Ljerka Maric</b>, BiH team for the negotiations on the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU would have 3,5 million KM on its disposal from the BiH budget. Maric said that in addition, BiH Directorate for European Integrations would provide KM200.000. Maric said majority of funds would be spent on compensation fees for team members and technical support, whereas decisions on distribution of granted finances would be passed by Council of Ministers and BiH Parliament on proposal of BiH Chief Negotiator <b>Igor Davidovic</b>.</p>
<p>Schwarz-Schilling leads BiH delegation on IT fair; intends to use influence to introduce businessmen to world market</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'Schwarz-Schilling introduces BiH businessmen to world market' by <u>T. Lazovic</u>– High Representative <b>Christian Schwarz-Schilling</b> and BiH Communication Minister <b>Branko Dokic</b> would lead BiH delegation on one of two largest world fairs of information and communication technologies. During the three-day visit to 'CeBIT 2006' fair Schwarz-Schilling has intention to use his influence and connect BiH businessmen with world market. OHR Spokesperson <b>Kevin Sullivan</b> confirmed for DA that this presents confirmation of fulfilling of the first priority that HR chosen and that is economy.</p>

<p>DA: FBiH Finance Minister's law foresees abolishment of Finance Police</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9 'Minister Vrankic believes that Financial Police is unnecessary' by <u>F.Vele</u> – DA reports that the FBiH Finance Minister <b>Dragan Vrankic</b> submitted to the FBiH Government the draft Law on cessation of the application of the Law on FBiH Financial Police on 24 February. According to daily, the draft foresees for the FBiH Taxation Administration to take over all employees of the FBiH Financial Police, along with its premises, cases and archive. Explaining the proposal, Vrankic said the Law on Financial Police hasn't been changed since 1995, while in meantime several other laws stipulating transfer of authorities to other institutions made this institution unnecessary. Daily brings that these drafts also foresee decrease of authorities of FBiH Financial Inspectors, which wouldn't have authority to confiscate documents, money, vouchers or anything that could help in investigation, just as they wouldn't have authority to close shops, search vehicles, confiscate merchandise, regardless of established irregularities. Inset 'Dervisevic: That is Vrankic's deceit'- Chief Inspector of FBiH Financial Police <b>Zufer Dervisevic</b> stated that proposed law is Vrankic's deceit.</p>
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**Crime, judicial issues, security and war crimes**

Investigation on murder of East Sarajevo alleged mafia boss Spaic ongoing, no person was apprehended

**Nezavisne Novine** cover pg splash and pg 2 'The police still do not know who murderers are' by Ra. Rakic and M. Kusmuk – East Sarajevo PSC still had not apprehended any person suspected of murdering Sarajevo businessman **Ratomir Spaic**. Spokesperson of East Sarajevo PSC **Danka Tesic** says the police interrogated and released six persons so far. The police are conducting the investigation, while SIPA denies it is engaged in the investigation. *'Nevertheless, should it be found out this was an act of crime that is under the jurisdiction of BiH Court, SIPA will certainly get engaged in this case'*, **Dragan Lukac** from SIPA confirmed. **RHB– Jasmin Sose**, Duty District Prosecutor East Sarajevo confirmed some people have already been questioned on the case. RHB reiterated that in a shooting incident on Friday night in a restaurant "Ribnjak", **Svjetlana Topalic**, journalist of BHT, **Stjepan Lazarevic** and **Zorica Jovancic** were injured. **BHT1, Dnevni List** pg 39 'Killed Karadzic's aid bureid' by R. Dautevendic, **Vecernji List** pg 19 'He was killed by 4 bullets in his chest' by rs, **EuroBlic** cover pg splash and pg RS 3 'Spaic was buried, the police are interrogating', **Vecernje Novosti** pg 12 'Troublesome witness was removed' by V. N., **Glas Srpske** pg 10 'Night hid the murderer' by Z. Domazet – also reported the investigation was ongoing.

DA: Why was BHT  
1 journalist  
with Spaic at  
time of  
incident?  
Murders with  
political-mafia  
background to  
be solved

**Dnevni Avaz** pg 50 'Is Ratomir Spaic new victim of political-mafia clashes in RS', mentioned on cover by Dz.Mahmutovic, Aj.Delic— Following the murder of **Ratomir Spaic**, DA unofficially learned members of the Public Security Centre East Sarajevo carried out a search of facilities occupied by people allegedly brought in connection to the case. As for the reasons as to why BHT1 journalist **Svetlana Topalic** who suffered severe injuries was with Spaic at the time of incident, BHT1 Director **Milan Trivic** did not want to comment. DA speculates that this murder is another in series of such "ordered murders" which are frequent in East Sarajevo. [DA mentions unsolved murders of **Srdjan Knezevic, Zeljko Markovic and Ljubisa Savic Mauzer**]. DA also mentions speculations that Spaic was part of support network of **Radovan Karadzic**, thus blacklisted by the EU. Article concludes that police officials believe that murders in RS, with political-mafia background, could be solved soon, and they emphasized that public would be shocked with names of people who ordered these murders, since they are all on public functions. —

<p>Oslob.: Spaic connected to local politicians, IC members; his murder a provocation against Dodik</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 49, mentioned on cover 'New arrests to come, killer still unknown' <u>by R.I.</u> – Commenting the murder of East Sarajevo car-mafia boss <b>Ratomir Spajic</b>, who was also suspected of trafficking women and drugs, daily learns from the unnamed source that mafia has now provoked <i>"the new RS Government, after newly appointed Prime Minister [<b>Milorad Dodik</b>] announced fight against organized criminal."</i> There were 15 unsolved murder cases in Pale so far. Besides good relationships with local politicians, Oslobodjenje claims Spaic was also connected to the international community members, including former Head of United Nations Mission to BiH, <b>Jacques Klein</b>.</p>
<p>NN op-ed: Spaic's murder was Mafia's clear message to RS Govt, Govt needs to show is it strong enough make RS peaceful part of Europe</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> op-ed pg 7 'The gauntlet was thrown down' <u>by Aleksandar Sekulic</u> – Referring to the murder of Sarajevo businessman <b>Ratomir Spaic</b>, who was, according to the author, at the very top of those who are handling shady deals in this country, the author notes the Mafia sent out a clear message to RS Government and the Government now needs to show whether it has or has not the strength to make RS a peaceful and stabile part of Europe and world.</p>

<p>VN: Spaic turned his back to Karadzic, started supporting Dodik?</p>	<p><b>Vecernje Novosti</b> pg 12 'Troublesome witness was removed' by <u>V. N.</u> – the article reads <b>Ratomir Spaic</b> was familiar with numerous shady deals of former high-ranking officials and businessmen in RS and rumour has it that he had turned his back to <b>[Radovan] Karadzic</b> and started supporting <b>Milorad Dodik's</b> option.</p>
<p>DL op-ed: Murder of alleged Karadzic's aid Spaic threat to those who are willing to speak up about Karadzic's whereabouts</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b> pg 2 'Murders and intimidation' by <u>I. Glibusic</u> comments on reasons of the murder of alleged <b>Radovan Karadzic's</b> aid, <b>Ratomir Spaic</b>, and the author says: <i>'If persons who are closest to Karadzic learn that some from his aids might speak up about Karadzic's whereabouts it is quite certain that that person would be killed or blackmailed in order to force that person to keep silent.'</i></p>
<p>NN: Dodik's strongest wild card at elections would be his success in fight against crime</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne novine</b> op-ed pg 7 'On the right path' by <u>Sead Fetahagic</u> – the author says he believes RS PM <b>Milorad Dodik</b> would not hesitate to deal with the issue of thieves and frauds in next seven months and notes Dodik's strongest wild card at the forthcoming elections would be his success in fight against crime.</p>

<p>Proceedings in BIH lawsuit against SCG continue on Monday</p>	<p><b>BHT1</b> by <u>Nermin Bise</u> – Proceedings in BIH lawsuit against SCG will continue on Monday. BIH team will submit more detailed arguments on financial connections between Belgrade and administration with RS Army. SCG legal team is scheduled to start submitting its counter-arguments on Wednesday. BIH legal representative <b>Sakib Softic</b> repeated that BIH team will not call witnesses to testify but rather submit material evidence. SCG legal representative <b>Radoslav Stojanovic</b> stressed that he will prove that Serbia and Serbian people never had the intention to destroy Muslim population in BIH. Final proceedings in International Court of Justice should be concluded by May 9. <b>FTV</b> by <u>Adisa Dedic</u> – FTV brings overview of 5 days of proceedings in BIH lawsuit against SCG. <b>PINK, Oslobođenje</b> pgs 4-5 ‘Continuation of process for aggression and genocide over BiH’ by <u>Nagorka Idrizovic.</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 ‘SiCG commences with defence on Wednesday’ by <u>Agencies</u>, <b>Vecernje Novosti</b> pg 4 ‘Defense as of Wednesday’ by <u>Beta</u> also covered</p>
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Gathering for support of BiH lawsuit against SCG organised by SDP in Tuzla

**BHT1** by Samir Kahrovic – SDP organised gathering held in Tuzla in support of BiH lawsuit against SCG. SDP Chair **Zlatko Lagumdzija** stated that the lawsuit is one of 3 key factors for the future of BiH.

Other factors are process of constitutional reforms and October elections. He also feels that support gatherings will not additionally complicate political scene in BiH. **Mirsad Bakalovic** from SDP Youth Forum says that the lawsuit will show the “real truth” about events that took place in BiH from 1992 to 1995. Reporter says that not a lot was said about the lawsuit at the gathering itself. He concludes that by a lot of elements gathering in Tuzla can be treated as SDP pre-election campaign. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 3 ‘Gathering for support BiH lawsuit against SCG used for pre-election’s campaign’ by A.H. – Daily comments that SDP used this gathering for its own promotion. **Oslobodjenje** pg 6 ‘Days of lawsuit in the Hague are crucial for BiH’ by A.Avdic, **Dnevni List** pg 3 ‘Defenders from Tuzla believe in justice’ by R.D., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 ‘Support to BiH lawsuit against SiCG’ by J. Sarac – also supported.



<p>Head of EUPM Coppola: terrorism in BiH same as in other EU states, biggest problem organised crime and corruption</p>	<p><b>Hayat</b> – Head of EUPM Mission to BiH <b>Vincenzo Coppola</b> stated that terrorism is present in BiH but the situation is same to the situations in some European states. Coppola noted that minor crimes, organised crime, trafficking in people, drug smuggling etc represent the greatest threats to safety in BiH. According to Coppola, corruption is more visible in BiH than in other states. <b>RTRS, Dnevni List</b> pg 2 'Terrorism' <u>not signed</u> – also covered.</p>
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<p>BiH Parliament to ban OSA Director Dzuvo, Deputy Director Zaric to apply for another mandate for violation of Parliamentary decision to ban work of agents who took part in "coup d'etat" affair</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3, announced on cover 'Possible ban on re-election of OSA officials' by <u>M. Cubro</u> – Several state officials have confirmed BiH Parliament might forbid Director and Deputy Director of OSA, <b>Almir Dzuvo</b> and <b>Risto Zaric</b> respectively, to again apply for a new mandate at the vacancy that should be published by the end of this month. Such a decision might be reached because Dzuvo and Zaric have failed to respect parliamentary conclusions on ban of the work of OSA agents that have participated in preparing of "coup d'etat" affair. Reportedly, members of former Federation Intelligence Agency (FOS) had been wire-tapping Hague investigators, politicians and journalists and later accused them they had been preparing coup d'etat. The Prosecutor rejected these claims and determined the wire-tapping was illegal. Subsequently, the Parliament banned the work of agents that had been involved in this case but these agents, according to a source from OSA, not only continued working but were also awarded with better jobs and other benefits.</p>
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OHR and HJPC warn FBiH HoP on danger for judicial reform to be blocked: asking for FBiH HoP to reject amendments proposed by FBiH HoR

**Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Europe would not finance parallelisms in judiciary' by A. Omeragic– Daily says that the OHR and BiH High Judicial and Prosecution Council have asked Chair of FBiH House of Peoples **Slavko Matic** "to save judicial reform". Namely, FBiH House of representatives has passed amendments to the Law on Courts, which foreseen closing of 71 minor offence courts in FBiH, but several MPs passed amendments and blocked the reform. Principal Deputy of High Representative Lawrence Butler sent a letter to Matic and asked for FBiH HoP to reject proposed amendments, since their goal is to preserve current, separate structure of minor offence courts and because they are installing jail sanction for minor offences which is in contradiction with EU Convention on human rights. Chair of HJPC **Branko Peric** deems that these amendments have destroyed the basis of the reform. Butler and Peric stressed that EC has separated finances for this reform and even postponed deadline by August 2006, but EC stressed that they are not going to finance parallel system.

<p>BiH troops that served in Iraq to sue entity MoDs because of unpaid compensations</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b>, front pg splash 'Demining troops from Iraq are suing BiH's military top' and pg 3 'Demining troops from Iraq are suing FBIH', by <u>Ana Drmac</u> – VL learns from an anonymous member of BiH Armed Forces, who took part in the first BiH de-mining mission to Iraq, that entity defence ministries owe half of the money the troops were supposed to get paid, which is the reason why both the soldiers from the RS and FBIH will file charges against the entity MoDs. According to the source, the entity MoDs owe 12.000 (FBIH) and 18.000 KMs (RS) to the troops. VL notes that the state MoD honored its part of financial obligations towards the troops, it is only the entity MoDs, which have been shut down in the meantime, that failed to do so.</p>
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## Political issues

SDA criticises  
SBiH, SDU,  
BOSS for  
deceiving  
public on  
const. changes  
by making  
impossible  
proposals

**Oslobodjenje** cover splash 'Silajdzic under a strike because of legalization of RS' pg 6 'Current status wants to be preserved through not changing of the Constitution' by M.G. and A.Ba – SDA issued a statement regarding the recent reactions of SBiH, SDU and BOSS to agreed changes of BiH Constitution, which reads that changing of the Constitution in election year was a favourable moment for SBiH founder **Haris Siladzic** and SDU leader **Sejfudin Tokic** to "wake up". SDA criticizes SBiH for deceiving citizens by claiming that their 'wish list' was possible, without identifying Serb and Croat parties with whom such agreement would be possible. SDA also reminded in 2002, SBiH has signed "shameful Sarajevo treaty" and voted for changes of the RS Constitution, under which *...constitutionally- legal status of the RS as one of BiH entities was indisputably accepted, confirmed and guaranteed*". **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'SBiH and SDU are making wish lists' not signed, **Dnevni List** pg 4 'There is attempt to preserve current situation by not changing Constitution' not signed, **Nezavisne novine** pg 2 'Silajdzic and Tokic woke up from winter dream' by V. P., **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'They slept it over and now they are selling fog' by Fena – also reported.

<p>SBiH public debate on constitutional changes' agreement; entity vote aimed at dividing BiH</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 6 'Agreement reintegrates BiH' by M.G. and A.Ba – During the public debate on topic of recently agreed changes to BiH Constitution, founder of SBiH <b>Haris Silajdzic</b> continued to criticise both the agreement and parties that endorsed it. He stressed "<i>[the worst thing is] entity vote in our Parliament remains, which means it blockade remains as well</i>". Silajdzic said that this could be interpreted as a sign that someone is in a hurry to bring BiH into situation where it would be split in two. SBiH also organized signing of petition, which would be submitted to the Venice Commission and which asks for its stance on entity vote and whether this vote is in accordance with any of European standards.</p>
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<p>Austrian Ambassador Almhoffer hopes issue of election of BiH Presidency members will be solved after Venice Commission declares itself</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 6 'Need for new reforms is needed already', by <u>Eldina Medunjanin</u> – In an interview with the VL, the Austrian Ambassador to BiH, <b>Werner Almhoffer</b>, expresses hope that leaders of BiH's strongest parties will solve the issue of election of BiH Presidency members as soon as the Venice Commission declares itself about it, underlining achievements agreed upon so far. The Ambassador however notes that many areas need reforms to the extent that one can already feel the need for reforms. Questioned to comment on the issue that the Croat parties are calling upon the opinion of the Venice Commission, which suggests that members of BiH Presidency be elected indirectly (in Parliament), the Ambassador puts the issue of election of BiH Presidency in the context of overall package of reforms, saying it is a package of compromises, which is a situation that is different from the then situation (when the Venice Commission declare itself on election of BiH Presidency).</p>
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<p>VL op-ed on connection btwn constitutional changes talks and BiH's lawsuit agst SciG</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 2 'Lawsuit as solution to issue of BiH organization' by <u>M. Vaslij</u> carries that constitutional changes negotiations do not coincide with the BiH's lawsuit against SCiG accidentally and the author says that if the International Court of Justice concludes that SCiG committed aggression and genocide in BiH it would be confirmed legally that the RS is a result of genocide. The author goes on to say that many international legal experts stress that in case of such outcome the RS' abolishment is the only solution. The editorial says that that the US administration is very aware of this possibility and for this reason at first they tried to persuade BiH to give up the lawsuit and now they are trying to impose cosmetic constitutional changes. The author says that the US diplomacy wants to preserve the RS because of its own geopolitical reasons.</p>
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<p>DA int with Mladen Ivanic: I expect visa regime liberation</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> cover splash and pg 5 'I expect easing of visa regime' by <u>Tarik Lazovic</u>– On March 10 and 11, BiH Foreign Minister <b>Mladen Ivanic</b> will attend meeting of the EU Foreign Ministers with their Western Balkans counterparts in Salzburg. In a page long interview for DA, Ivanic expresses hope that the meeting would gather support for BiH and SCG in the process of negotiations on the Stabilization and Association Agreement. Asked whether he would react to recent conclusion of the EU Ministers Council which put BiH in same context as the SCG on the issue of ICTY cooperation, Ivanic said: <i>"Of course I would. We are aware of obligation of full cooperation with the ICTY, but we believe that level we accomplished in the last year was decent"</i>. Asked whether this meeting would mean easing of visa regime for BiH citizens, Ivanic said that he expects this to be one of top agenda issues. <i>"But I expect neither some spectacular improvements nor simplification of visa regime. We can expect easing to certain degree, especially for students, professors, artists and businessmen,"</i> said Ivanic. Headed that further liberalization of visa regime could be expected in a year, until when BiH has to confirm control over borders, passport quality, data security and agreements on readmission.</p>
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<p>Member of European Parliament says majority supports visa regime liberation</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'The fact is that no one suspicious has received BiH citizenship in last few years' <u>by Fena</u>– Member of European Parliament in charge of monitoring the Western Balkans, <b>Hannes Swoboda</b>, visited Sarajevo and stated for Fena news agency that majority in European Parliament support visa-free regime for BiH. Swoboda stressed that some people in EU fear from infiltration of suspicious people from BiH, because of which it is important to present results of work, such as the fact that no one suspicious has got BiH citizenship in last few years.</p>
<p>RS NA Chairman Radojicic: RS NA will follow the tempo dictated by RS Government</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6, announced on cover 'The Assembly will follow the tempo of RS Government' <u>by V. Popovic</u> – In an interview to <i>MN</i>, RS NA Chairman <b>Igor Radojicic</b> announced RS NA would work in a more efficient and more organised manner. <i>'The election of the new Government will give a new impulse and fresh blood to the administration as well as new enthusiasm. We expect from the Government, which had announced it would undertake a number of new measures, to dictate this tempo and we are ready to follow this tempo'</i>, Radojicic added. Immediately after taking over the duty of RS NA Chairman, Radojicic had expressed his support to Chief RS Auditor <b>Bosko Ceko</b> and announced there would be more intensive work on audit reports.</p>

<p>Announced changes of election law and election threshold caused different stances; SDA against it, SDS in favour</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8 'Stance that election threshold should remain on 3% prevails in SDA as well' mentioned on cover by <u>L. Sinanovic</u>– DA carries the reactions to the proposed changes of BiH Election Law, where election threshold should be increased from 3% to 4%, but this proposal did not get the support of leading parties. SDA Vice-president <b>Sefik Dzaferovic</b> stated that stance that 3% threshold should remain prevails in SDA. <i>"SDA participates in election in the RS and we deem that in some election units we would be damaged with threshold of 4%"</i> stated Dzaferovic. On the other side SDS's <b>Momcilo Novakovic</b> who participated in changing of the law, stated for DA that they are fully supported toward 4% threshold, where they believe that this would disable small parties to racketeer and blackmail larger parties after elections. HDZ Spokesperson <b>Miso Relota</b> stated that there is nothing to say, until HDZ Presidency brings its stance. PDP's <b>Vinko Radovanovic</b> didn't have comments, but believes that this is a good way for "enlargement of political scene".</p>
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