

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 6/4/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 6 April

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
BiH House of Peoples in session	BiH HoP on debate on const change	RSNA in session
Investigation on tobacco smuggling	RSNA in session	EC suspends finances to ARDA
Bucharest : Meeting on CEFTA	April 6 declared as Day of City	New SCG Ambassador to BiH

TV news broadcast on 5 April

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Croat Caucus on FBiH PBS Law	BiH signs EU convent. on citizenship	Text of constitutional amendments
HDU on FBiH PBS Law	Public discussion on Corridor 5c	Police Reform Directorate session
Report on 'Balkan syndrome'	BiH Presidency in session	Katusic escapes hospital custody
BiH Presidency in session	CoM adopts report on trafficking	ITA stops payments

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
BiH ITA blocks payments	Katusic escapes hospital custody	RS NA adopts laws on org. crime
BiH courts Chairs on their finances	Feature on Travnik factory	Live report from RS NA

ESC on FERK's decision	ITA stops payments	Constitution amendments adopted
Protest in Tuzla ended	Anniversary of Sarajevo siege	PRD in session

Oslobodjenje	3080 members of BiH Army committed suicide [due to their poor social conditions]
Dnevni Avaz	[BiH Prosecution] Decisive strike on tobacco bosses
Dnevni List	Trial to Police: Liska Street presented as Srebrenica (trial for Liska Street incident btwn Croats and Bosniaks in 1997 during which 1 person was killed started in Mostar)
Vecernji List	Wink of UNPROFOR member crucial evidence before court (trial for Liska Street incident btwn Croats and Bosniaks in 1997 during which 1 person was killed started in Mostar)
Slobodna Dalmacija	Highway to Ploce – Potemkin's village? (Public discussion on construction of Corridor 5C held in Sarajevo on Wednesday)
Nezavisne Novine	15 trolleys and 7 trams damaged (<i>derby btw Zeljeznicar and Sarajevo marked with raging of fans</i>)
Glas Srpske	Experts, who does not know!
EuroBlic	Srpska is losing three million KM per day
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related topics

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

<p>RS Law on Holidays fails to obtain necessary RSNA majority; SDA, SDP dispute 9 Jan as RS Day</p>	<p>RTRS, BH Radio 1 – At the continuation of the session of the RS National Assembly, the MPs rejected the proposed RS Law on Holidays since it failed to obtain necessary majority after 41 delegates voted in favour, 10 against and 12 abstained from voting. The delegates from Bosnaik parties asked through proposed amendments that RS Day should be celebrated on 21 November (signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement) instead of 9 January. However, these amendments were not adopted. SDA abstained from voting, while SDP of BiH voted against proposed Law.</p>
<p>BiH HoP to discuss decision to put const. amendments for public debate</p>	<p>RHB– At its Thursday's session in Sarajevo, BiH House of Peoples adopted a decision to launch public debate on proposed amendments to the BiH Constitution. Public debate is to be held on April 12 in the building of BiH Parliament. BH Radio 1 – also reported.</p>

<p>Constitutional changes</p>

<p>BiH politicians harmonized amendments drafted by BiH Presidency with the text of the agreement; HDZ and PDP amendments also accepted</p>	<p>RTRS – Leaders of seven BiH political parties [SDA, SDS, PDP, SDP, HNZ, HDZ, SNSD] and US Ambassador Douglas McElhaney met on Wednesday and agreed on the final text of the amendments to BiH Constitution, concluding that the text submitted in the parliamentary procedure by the official proponent, the BiH Presidency, corresponds to the agreement they have signed earlier. Leaders obliged to sign the text of amendments within two days. SDS President Dragan Cavic and SDP leader Zlatko Lagumdzija stated their counterparts agreed that all aspects which have been determined by the agreement on constitutional changes, and which are not part of the draft amendments to BiH Constitution, should be built in other laws and regulations, such as BiH Electoral law, Law on Council of Ministers and Rule book for the BiH House of Peoples and House of Representatives. FTV– Officials also discussed some additions proposed by the HDZ and PDP amendments. PDP Chair Mladen Ivanic stressed that these amendments are related to minor technicalities, including a phrase that would formulate legislative power in BIH, which could have been interpreted as that there are no entity legislative powers and adds that this formulation has been corrected with PDP amendment. He added that HDZ amendments were related to equal representation of every people in the government. It was also emphasised that one third of deputies in BIH Parliament must be from RS and that maximum 2 thirds of Ministers in Council of Ministers can come from FBIH. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘HDZ came with completely new amendments’ by <u>A.Malagic</u> – DA reports that HDZ has some proposals but following the discussion <i>“the essence of the agreement reached earlier has not been changed at all.”</i> The article doesn’t elaborate what those new ‘amendments’ by the HDZ refer to. BHT1, Hayat, Oslobodjenje pg 4 ‘Final text of amendments agreed’ by <u>BHT</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 ‘Signatures to follow’ by <u>Srna</u>, Dnevni List pg 4 ‘Politicians agreed amendments to Constitution’ by <u>D. Pusic</u> – also reported on the negotiations.</p>
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<p>HDZ's Relota: party's presidency drafted amendments to const. changes agreement</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Relota: everything is harmonized with the parties' agreement' <u>by F.V.</u>– HDZ Spokesperson Miso Relota stated that HDZ Presidency has drafted amendments to the agreement on constitutional changes and submitted them to parties that signed the agreement. <i>"These amendments are absolutely in accordance with the parties' agreement and five following documents"</i> said Relota. He explained that parties would or already have drafted amendments to the Constitution that would be merged in one joint amendment. Dnevni List pg 4 'Politicians agreed amendments to Constitution' <u>by D. Pusic</u> – Relota also said harmonizing of the amendments should be in line of the signed agreement and the documents that followed it. He added: <i>'HDZ will participate at other meetings of political parties on this issue and it has been planned that one or two meetings on this issue will take place.'</i> DL inset 'There are no new amendments' carries HNZ President Milenko Brkic who says: <i>'There are no new (HDZ) amendments. It is just that some thought was expressed more precisely...'</i></p>
<p>SDP President Lagumdzija: HDZ amendments considerably different from those BiH Presidency sent to procedure</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 4 'Politicians agreed amendments to Constitution' <u>by D. Pusic</u> carries that SDP President Zlatko Lagumdzija stated to new agencies on Wednesday that on the eve of the yesterday's meeting on constitutional changes he received from HDZ (by e-mail) amendments that are considerably different from the amendments that the BiH Presidency sent to the parliamentary procedure and that they change a character of the BiH Presidency Chairman and the House of Peoples. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 inset – also reported.</p>

<p>PDP' Ivanic: BH Parliament would be disbanded if it failed to elect BH President and Vice Presidents</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3, announced on cover 'Amendments to Constitution accepted' by <u>M.Cubro</u> – Mladen Ivanic, PDP President, stated: <i>"We have detailed that BiH Parliament would be disbanded if it failed to elect BH President and Vice Presidents. We have altered some amendments that might have suggested that for example only BH Parliament is in charge of all the Laws, while entities practically would not exist in this regard."</i> Daily also adds that presidents of SNSD and HDZ would later on sign the statement political leaders of SDS , PDP, SDA and SDP of BiH signed Wednesday obligating they would support amendments BH Presidency forwarded to parliament procedure.</p>
<p>Int w/ Jonjic (NHI): NHI is against agreement of const. changes due to reduction of BiH HoP's powers</p>	<p>Danas pgs 22-25, mentioned on cover 'None guarantees us second phase of constitutional negotiations' by <u>T. Sarac</u> carries an interview with President of the NHI Executive Board Dobrica Jonjic who says that NHI is against the constitutional changes agreement exclusively due to reduction of the BiH HoP's powers. He added that <i>'HDZ President Dragan Covic avoids talking about this segment of the changes but he keeps talking about the 2nd phase of the negotiations while none guarantees that it would take place'</i>.</p>
<p>RS President Cavic: Through const. changes RS wants to preserve entity organization of BiH</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 6 'To preserve entity structure' – RS President Dragan Cavic met with Irish Ambassador Patrick McCaib on Wednesday and Cavic stated that through constitutional changes the RS wants to achieve bigger functionality of BiH institutions but also to preserve the entity organization with functional entities.</p>

Economic, social and judicial issues

ITA suspends allocating revenues from single account

BHT1 – As of Wednesday, the Indirect Taxation Administration would not allocate revenues from the single account. ITA Steering Board Chair **Joly Dixon** on Tuesday made a decision annulling the earlier decision from March 31 on the allocation of revenues reaching a new decision on “freezing” the allocation of revenues until further notice, i.e. until a compromise is reached. ITA stated that it would re-launch the process as soon as the Steering Board adopts a final decision for further allocation of revenues. Commenting Dixon’s decision, the RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** stressed that it was irresponsible: *“He only confirmed that he is what everyone thinks he is, senile.”* The RS National Assembly is expected to discuss the issue at next session. RS Finance Minister and member of the ITA Steering Board **Aleksandar Dzombic** stated that Dixon’s mandate expired on March 31 and that he is no longer in a position to make decisions. The RS Finance Minister stressed that the possible “freeze” could affect the overall budget and that the daily transfer of almost 3 million KM has now been halted until further notice. He reiterated that RS reps in the ITA demanded for the decision on allocation of revenues for the first two months of 2006 remains in force until April 30, including the coefficients for the allocation of revenues from 2005, according to which the coefficient for the RS is 30,48 percent. Dixon’s decision of 31 March stipulated the RS coefficient was to be reduced for 0.5%. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 ‘All payments from the single account are blocked’ by M.K.-T.L. – ITA Director **Kemal Causevic** announced the session of the Steering Board scheduled for April 11. **RHB, FTV, RTRS, Hayat, Nezavisne Novine** pg 6, announced on cover ‘Payments from state account halted’ by D.Risojevic, **EuroBlic** cover pg splash and pgRS5 ‘Srpska is losing three million KM per day’ by Nedeljka Breberina, **Glas Srpske** pg 3 ‘Joly, pack your bags!’ by D. Vrhovac – Miljevac– carried similar reports.

<p>OHR confirms process of extending mandate to Dixon is ongoing / Chairman of RS Ass. of employers critical of ITA Steering Board Dixon</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 6, announced on cover 'Payments from state account halted' by <u>D.Risojevic</u> – OHR confirmed in the meantime that Dixon's mandate expired, but "<i>the process of extension of his mandate is ongoing</i>". Glas Srpske pg 3 'Joly, pack your bags!' by <u>D. Vrhovac – Miljevac</u> – With regard to the latest events with regard to distribution of ITA funds, Chairman of RS Association of Employers Damir Miljevic says: 'Moves of Joly Dixon are a classical example of a dictatorship without responsibility and an illustration of behavior of the international community in BiH'. Glas Srpske pg 3 'Joly, pack your bags!' by <u>D. Vrhovac – Miljevac</u> – also reported on Miljevic.</p>
<p>BiH Finance Minister says ITA's decision not blocking state budget, but urges solution</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'All payments from the single account are blocked' by <u>M.K.-T.L.</u> –BiH Finance Minister Ljerka Maric confirmed for daily the suspensions of the allocation does not block the state budget, but stressed that the issue has to be solved as soon as possible. Maric said that Steering Board is obliged to make decision based on information on collecting the VAT this year, adding that she cannot see any reason why RS representatives would reject to do so. Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'No one can take money from nobody!' by <u>M.Kukan</u> –FBiH Finance Minister Dragan Vrankic argues that the analysis of the VAT would indicate the proper allocation and coefficients.</p>

<p>RS reps in ITA Steering Board continue asking for same coefficients</p>	<p>Hayat – The RS representatives had been rejected to support a change of the coefficients at the meeting of the ITA Steering Board, which resulted with temporary decision by Chair Joly Dixon. <i>“The RS members of the Steering Board were dissatisfied with such decision and they asked [it] to be annulled”</i>, said the BiH ITA Spokesperson Ratko Kovacevic. FBiH Minister of Finance Dragan Vrankic objects to RS demands for an increase of coefficients, stressing that RS has no grounds for such demand. Vrankic said that in the first two months, the FBiH was left without 4.8 millions KM of revenues. <i>“I, being a Minister, will support allocation, grounded on laws”</i>, said Vrankic. BiH Parliament representatives find such decision unserious. <i>“This is not about lack of money but lack of will to have the issue solved”</i>, said BiH Parliament representative Jozo Krizanovic. <i>“I think that the Steering Board acts irresponsibly in terms of processes and situation within all BiH institutions”</i>, said BiH House of Representative’s Chair Martin Raguz. RHB, FTV, RTRS– carried similar reports.</p>
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<p>BiH Transport Ministry organized public discussion on Vc corridor</p>	<p>PINK – The public discussion on the Vc corridor's construction organized by the BiH Transport and Communications Ministry was held in Sarajevo on Wednesday. Discussion was attended by representatives of state and entity transportation ministries, as well as the cantonal and municipal authorities. The participants agreed that the project is of essential importance for BiH. BiH Transport Minister Branko Dokic stated the feasibility study on the corridor should be completed by the end of July and announced the tender for selection of concession holder for the highway to take place in 2006. BHT1– Commenting the initiative for the corridor to end in Neum rather than in Ploce, Chair of initiative board Bakir Tanovic stresses that port Neum could get a chance for development if the highway ends in it thus making the highway feasible. Minister Dokic reminded that Vc corridor was defined in 1997 as a corridor that connects Budapest to port Ploce. Slobodna Dalmacija, front pg splash and pg 17 'Highway to Ploce – Potemkin's villages?', by <u>Zlatko Tulic</u> – the author criticizes the behaviour of BiH authorities related to the Corridor Vc, arguing that the authorities have not a clear strategy how to make the highway. Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'Dilberovic criticized Dodik and his team' by <u>L.Sinanovic</u>– Executive Director in FBiH Directorate for Roads, Arif Dilberovic criticized Dokic and his team, stressing that they need to be stronger in structure and in knowledge. RHB, Hayat, FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 8 'Highway could have been shorter for 70 km' by <u>Az.Kalamujic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 8 'South point of highway should be in Neum' by <u>D.Muminovic</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 'Beginning of 2008?' by <u>Z. D.</u> Dnevni List, pg 2 'Passing through Neum does not shot down Ploce', by <u>D. P. Mandic</u> – also carried.</p>
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<p>RSNA adopts set of laws establishing special judicial departments to fight organized crime</p>	<p>RTRS – Following the heated discussion during the extraordinary session on Wednesday, the RS National Assembly adopted today the changes to the Law on RS Prosecutor's Offices aimed at creating conditions for the establishment of a Special Department for fighting organized crime as part of the RS Prosecutor's Office. RS Justice Minister Omer Visic stated that the new laws are aimed at efficient fight against organised and economic crime, adding that the new judicial structures would not demand appointment of new judges. During the discussion, deputies of SDS, Centre Club and SRS stated that they wouldn't support the proposed amendments because there was no expert discussion on the proposal, and the official opinion of High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council was not delivered to RS NA deputies. SDS deputy Dusan Stojicic stated that the proposed laws and amendments have political background. Nedjo Djuric from Caucus of Centre demanded removal of Minister Visic, claiming that he had deliberately hidden the documents, which should have been presented to RSNA deputies. RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik rejected all accusations, stating that obviously some people don't agree with the new laws, and are undertaking everything to prevent their adoption. Dodik emphasized that the President of HJPC Branko Peric did give his support to the proposal on new laws in public. PINK, BHT1, Oslobodjenje pg 6 'Laws against organized crime' by <u>O.V.</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 4, announced on cover 'Laws on fight against organised crime adopted by <u>V.Popovic</u>, EuroBlic pgRS2 'Special prosecutors against organized criminals' by <u>T. V.</u>, Dnevni List, pg 6 'Minor offence courts being shut down', <u>not signed</u> – also carried.</p>
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<p>HJPC: adopted set of addenda to laws interfering with HJPC work</p>	<p>Glas Srpske pg 2 'Fighting crime' by <u>G. Dakic and Z. Markovic</u> Inset 'Opinion' – The opinion of HJPC reads that the suggested changes and addenda to RS Law on Courts and Law on Prosecutor's Office are interfering with competences of HJPC in the segment of appointments. HJPC also notes the suggestions include creating of pre-requisites for the work of a special department of RS Prosecutor's Office, constructing of new courtrooms in Banja Luka, employment of new judges, new organization of administrative personnel and additional financing for which neither an assessment had been made nor funds had been planned in the budget. Dnevni Avaz pg 11 'Peric: Such laws can not be passed in a rush' by <u>N.Diklic</u> – Peric praised the intentions of RS Government but also stressed that such laws could not be passed ad hoc.</p>
<p>Economic-Social Council condemns FERK decision to increase electricity price, calling Agency irresponsible</p>	<p>Hayat – The FBiH Economic-Social Council (ESC) condemn the fact that representatives of the Federal Electricity Regulatory Agency (FERK) did not take part at ESC's extraordinary session dedicated to FERK's decision to increase electricity prices. ESC hopes that the issue will be solved on April 13 when the FBiH Parliament is to take stance on it. <i>"ESC believes that FERK representatives should take over responsibility for their irresponsible behaviour towards both, public and legal BiH institutions"</i>, said ESC member Edhem Biber. BHT1– Assistant to FBiH Minister for Energy Mile Srdjanovic reminds that FBiH Government has no competence over FERK. He also says that the decision on increase of electricity prices was expected and done according to procedure. RHB, Dnevni List pg 2 'FERK called on account' by <u>D. Kozina</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 8, mentioned on cover 'Stop to increase of electricity prices' by <u>B. Kristo</u> – also reported.</p>

<p>DA: BiH Prosecution investigates tobacco smuggling industry; high-ranking officials/ pol. leaders involved? Reforms could be jeopardized?</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash ‘Drastic strike on tobacco bosses’, pg 3 ‘Ongoing big investigation on cigarettes smuggling’ <u>Sead Numanovic</u> – Daily learns that by the order of BiH Prosecution, team of international prosecutors and authorized security agencies launched an extensive investigation in cigarette smuggling industry. Unnamed source claims that some very important political figures are under investigation, allegedly some of them are party leaders that signed agreement on the constitutional changes, adding that this strike could have automatically mean cease of constitutional changes and the police reform. DA source further notes that BiH Prosecution has information that group of people are racketeering businessmen from Eastern Sarajevo to cover the debt SDS should pay to Privredna Banka Eastern Sarajevo [PBES], underlining that there are even certain indications that one part of tax administration took part in this criminal activity. Article concludes that investigation could end in couple of months. Inset, ‘Great interest of EU’ – DA’s unnamed source said that there is a significant interest of EU and neighbouring countries for this case, adding that the whole process must be ended by end of this year when international prosecutors are to end their mandate.</p>
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<p>BiH CoM discusses decision how to financially help decertified police officers</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 3 'Seta of one of state agency will be in Mostar', by <u>eme</u> – The BiH CoM discussed on Wednesday the proposal of decision and proposal of agreement on solving social and labor related issues for the decertified police officers. The BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees has been tasked to get opinion of the entity governments, after which the BiH CoM would declare itself. VL also notes the BiH CoM would (in future) take care that new BiH institutions get decentralized, therefore one of future state institutions will be seated in Mostar. Dnevni List, pg 3 'Solve procurement of passports', <u>not signed</u> – The BiH CoM tasked the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Finance and Treasury to harmonize mechanisms that would solve the issue of procurement of (BiH) passports in order to prevent possible shortages of passports.</p>
<p>BiH Presidency discusses financial discipline</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Paravac: Redundant spending of Bosniak officer to the Hague' by <u>Onasa</u> – At its Wednesday's session in Sarajevo, BiH Presidency discussed realisation of the budget for 2005. BiH Presidency member Borislav Paravac said that Presidency agreed that financial discipline has been established, adding that he himself had complaint about spending of Bosniak officer to the Hague.</p>

Police reform, entity symbols, other political issues

BiH presidency member Paravac concerned about outvoting in BiH CC:
removal of RS symbols as “ripping of his own flesh”

RTRS – Commenting the BiH Constitutional Court’s decision on entity symbols, member of BiH Presidency **Borislav Paravac** expressed his concern over the fact that outvoting based on ethnicity at BiH Constitutional Court is a regular practice that is being covered up by secret voting practice. **FTV**– Paravac stated that for him any possible removal of RS insignia will be experienced as “*ripping of his own flesh*”. Paravac also wonders about the credibility of BIH CC since it has a lot of problems in his opinion. He also joined RS officials who will ask re-examination of the latest BIH CC decision. Paravac concluded that BIH Presidency would meet with judges of BIH CC on their invitation to discuss BIH CC problems. **Dnevni List**, pg 4 ‘Abolishment of symbols will create hatred’, by D. P. Mandić – Paravac added decision could create hatred towards the BiH symbols. **Hayat**, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 ‘Paravac: Like they are ripping my own flesh’, **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 ‘Abolishment of symbols is like ripping of live flesh’ by M.K.S., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 ‘He will demand examination of decision of BiH Constitutional Court’ by S.Gojković, **Glas Srpske** pg 5 ‘Destroying of trust’ by D. Mo. – also reported.

SDS leader
Cavic: SDS
considers
offering a
coalition to SNSD
to get rid of its
Bosniak
counterparts

RTRS – Reacting to decision of BiH Constitutional Court on RS symbols, RS President **Dragan Cavic** sharply criticized the acts of some Bosniak parties, which he described as “*targeted against the interests of RS*”. According to Cavic, the main goal of the initiative for assessing of RS insignia was not to change the RS symbols, but to completely eliminate them. Therefore, Cavic announced that SDS would consider offering SNSD a new coalition, which would eliminate all Bosniak parties for RS executive and legislative institutions. RS Prime Minister and SDS leader **Milorad Dodik** rejected this offer as “unserious” and stated that any member of Government who works against the interest of RS would be immediately dismissed, despite of his ethnic origin. Commenting Cavic’s statement, SDA member **Tarik Sadovic** said that Cavic has too late realised that SDS had easily give up the authority in RS. **Oslobodjenje** pg 3 ‘One who works against RS will be threw out regardless is it a Serb, Bosniak or Martian’ by O.V. – Daily reports that Cavic said SDS would be would consider proposing to the Government, SNSD to “get rid” of SDA and the SBiH. **Nezavisne Novine** pg4 ‘Dragan Cavic offers majority, Milorad Dodik does not trust him’ by D.Risojevic, **EuroBlic** pgRS 2 ‘Support to the Government if it expels SDA and Party for BiH’ by Rajna Radosavljevic, **Vecernje Novosti** pg 2 ‘Destroyers, go out’ by Sl. P., **Glas Srpske** pg 5 ‘Blind support’ by D. Momic – carry only Cavic’s statement, **Glas Srpske** pg 5 ‘Offer is not honest’ by Srna – Dodik on Cavic’s statement.

<p>RS PM Dodik: BiH Constitutional Court is not Court of this country</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Dodik: This is not the court of this country' <u>by Srna</u> – RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik stated on Wednesday in Banja Luka that the decision of the BiH Constitutional Court on RS insignia can not be implemented by the RS Government, as it was not directed to the Government but to the competent parliamentary committee. He said he has objections to the BiH CC, as this is not the Court of this country since, as he claims that three foreigners are in it, not being limited in bringing decisions and doing things similar to what the Indirect Tax Steering Board Chair Joly Dixon does.</p>
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SBiH Founder
Silajdzic: RS is
parallel state

Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Dodik makes state out of RS' by E.Sarac – Commenting current political situation in BiH, Founder of SBiH **Haris Silajdzic** stated for DA: *"Last moves of the RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik**, blocking police reform, blocking budget on all levels and establishing special court and prosecution, which litters totally reformed legal system are proofs that RS is the parallel state."* **Dnevni List** pg 4 'Politicians agreed amendments to Constitution' by D. Pusic – SBiH issued a press release which says that statements given by RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** and RS President **Dragan Cavic** with regard to the BiH CCs decision on RS symbols (due to which they brought in question signing of the constitutional changes and police reform agreements), show that it is not serious to reach agreements with politicians who build their careers on violation and self-willing interpretation of signed agreements. The press release also says that SBiH was right when it stated that Dodik and Cavic would not sign the const. changes agreement if it were not strengthening sovereignty of the RS.

PRD Steering Board held a session; failed to reach agreement due to different stances of FBiH and RS representatives

RTRS – At the Wednesday's session of the Steering Board members of the Police Restructuring Directorate agree on future organization of police in BiH. RS representatives insisted on preservation of entity Interior Ministries with full respect to the state policing agencies SIPA, State Border Service and BiH Ministry of Security. On the other hand, FBiH representatives proposed a police model under which there would be unified police forces organised on local, regional and state level. Head of RS Police **Dragomir Andan** stated that he must respect the RS Constitution and insist on preservation of RS MoI. According to Andan, the proposals provided by RS representatives are fully compatible with the three principles set by the EC [financing from the state level, transfer of all policing authorities to the state and establishment of functional regions]. Andan stressed that the statements of RS President, Prime Minister and RS National Assembly Speaker additionally support the stances of RS MoI on preservation of this Ministry. Chair of Police Restructuring Directorate Steering Board **Sead Lisak** stated that the Directorate must take the existing political influences into consideration, stressing that any agreement reached by Directorate would make no sense if it would not to be adopted.

BHT1, Nezavisne Novine pg6 'RS representatives demand entities' police remain' by M.Cubro, **EuroBlic** pgRS3 'RS is persistent in defending its MoI' by Srna, **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Stances still differ' by Srna – also carried.

<p>PRD Steering Board member Lisak: political influence could not be ignored</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'RS not willing to give up on police and entity line' by E.Sarac – Chair of PRD Steering Board Sead Lisak said that <i>"there already is some kind of political influence that even we cannot ignore. What we would accomplish if we already have indications that what we agree on and propose would not be adopted."</i> DA learns there would be no progress on Friday's session, since RS Police Director Dragomir Andan has arrived from Banja Luka with the order of RS politic officials, by which the preservation of RS Interior Ministry is strict demand. As daily noticed, the current situation is in stalemate, just as it was the case a year and a half ago when the police reform commission commenced with its work.</p>
<p>RS Pres. Cavic meets Irish Ambassador McCaib/ Cavic: Entities must have role in functioning of BiH police structures</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 6 'To preserve entity structure' – RS President Dragan Cavic met with Irish Ambassador Patrick McCaib on Wednesday. Talking about the police reform Cavic stated examples of many European, decentralized states in which the Police has been organized in a way that Federal units play a role in organizing and functioning of the police. Cavic believes that for this reason the European standards should take into consideration the fact that the entities must have a role in organization and functioning of BiH police structures.</p>

<p>OHR did not comment allegations that ICTY Chief Prosecutor Del Ponte demanded removal of RS Police Director Andan</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Carla del Ponte demands Andan's removal?' by <u>E.S.</u> – OHR spokesperson Oleg Milisic did not want to comment media allegations that on Tuesday, High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling received a letter from ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte, in which she demands removal of RS Police Director Dragomir Andan. Daily learns that public will be informed on the issue in next couple of days.</p>
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DL speculates that Ljubic, Raguz and Zoric might be leading people of HDZ 1990, while Merdzo might be a leader of HDZ 1990 in Mostar

Dnevni List pg 5, mentioned on cover 'New party on Day of HV0!' by Z. Jukic – HDZ 1990 should be officially established on April 8 (DL says that this is also the Day of HV0) and, most probably, **Bozo Ljubic** would be the President of this party. DL says that a negative feature of Ljubic is his hesitation and indecisiveness, however on the other side he enjoys significant international reputation. According to DL, **Martin Raguz** would be either the President or Vice President of the new party, while **Vinko Zoric** would be the Vice President or Secretary of the new party. DL inset 'Mostar and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton are Merdzo's area' carries that, most probably, **Josip Merdzo** would be in charge of HDZ 1990 in Mostar. Another DL inset 'HDZ members to join Ljubic' carries that as far as the Canton 10 is concerned main Ljubic's people would be **Ivica Madunic** and **Filip Andric**, while his people in the Central Bosnia Canton would be **Rudo Vidovic**, **Velimir Valjan** and **Nikola Lovrinovic**. DL inset 'Neven Tomic also with Ljubic' says that former Mostar Mayor **Neven Tomic** might also joint the new party.

<p>One of founders of HDZ 1990</p> <p>Raguz: We are party that will whip off fears of Croat people</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'We are party that will whip off fears of Croat people' by <u>Husein Orahovac</u> – On occasion of inaugural session of the new Croat party in BiH – HDZ 1990, in an interview for DA one of its founders Martin Raguz says that this right-centre oriented party will whip off fear of Croat people from the possible inequality. In regard to cooperation with other Croat parties in BiH, Raguz said that he is offering open talks on that issue. Inset 'Support of Catholic Church' – Answering question whether HDZ 1990 would have support of Catholic Church, Raguz noted: <i>"I do not want to manipulate with spiritual leadership of Croat people in BiH... I will say only this: Bishop's Conference is in line with initiators of HDZ 1990 in the regard to the proposed constitutional amendments."</i></p>
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HDZ's Relota
believe that HDZ
is becoming only
stronger; Zoric
announces to join
HDZ 1990

Oslobodjenje pg 2 'We are only stronger
after this' by M.K.S.— In a statement for
daily, HDZ Spokesperson Miso Relota stated
that disciplinary procedures against MPs in
BiH Parliament **Vinko Zoric** and **Filip Andric**
and MP in FBiH Parliament **Ivan Madunic** was
launched because of violation of HDZ
founding documents. *"If someone without
knowledge of party's Presidency or anyone
else, abolishes a Caucus then that is a
frivolous behavior that passes nowhere,
especially in a serious part such is HDZ"*
said Relota. Even though this is a second
disciplinary procedure in last six months,
Relota believes that this only presents
strengthening of the party. Zoric said that
he did not receive official notice on this
decision. *"They are slowly becoming a non-
Croat party because they agreed such
constitutional changes, they aren't
democratic because they have stolen votes on
the Congress and they are destroying unity
through expulsing of important people from
the party"* said Zoric, announcing that he
would join HDZ 1990.

FBiH HoP Croat
Caucus President
Franjicevic: BiH
should have one
TV with three
channels

Dnevni List, pg 6 'Croats' stubbornness makes Europe angry', by Mensud Zorlak – According to the author, the Croat Caucus in the FBiH House of Peoples are not concerned with threats of the IC that they could be responsible for a possible suspension of talks between BiH and EU (SAA talks). In that context, DL carries the President of the Croat Caucus in the FBiH HoP, **Mate Franicevic**, as saying that it is indeed in the vital interest of the Croat people that BiH becomes an EU member, however he insists that such state has to observe and protect human, national and right of minorities. Namely, Franicevic insists that the Croats in BiH are entitled to a TV channel in their own language. **Oslobodjenje** pg 6, mentioned on cover 'Croats demand one television with three channels' by S.Se –Franjicevic added: *"This way of legal definition in the field of public broadcasting is damaging VNI of Croats in FBiH, and BiH that should have one TV with three channels in the languages of people that live in it."*

<p>RSNA discusses law on holidays</p>	<p>RTRS – At the session on Wednesday, the RS National Assembly discussed the RS law on official holidays. According to the discussed proposal, official holidays should be January 1st and 2nd (New Year), January 9th (Day of Republic), May 1st and 2nd (International Labour Day), May 9th (Day of victory over fascism) and November 21st (Day of signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement). The religious holidays should be Orthodox Christmas and Easter, Catholic Christmas and Easter and two Muslim holidays of Aid. RTRS late news– Extraordinary session of RSNA was interrupted late on Wednesday night, after MPs finished with discussion on the Law on RS Official Holidays. Session would continue on Thursday, when MPs would vote on the Law. RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik stated that the discussed proposal may not be the best solution, but it is a solution that is for sure going to be acceptable for BiH Constitutional Court . Dodik invited RS NA deputies to adopt the proposed draft law. RS NA agreed on Wednesday that the set of laws on establishing of the RS Development-Investment bank should be discussed in form of draft and in regular procedure.</p>
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<p>BiH Ambassador to CoE signs European convention on citizenship</p>	<p>PINK – BiH Foreign Ministry stated on Wednesday that BiH Ambassador to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg Borislav Maric signed the European Convention on Citizenship on March 31 defining principles and rules concerning all aspects of citizenship. By signing the Convention BiH met one of the CoE post-accession. RHB, Oslobođenje pg 2 'BiH signed European Convention on Citizenship' <u>not signed</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'BiH signed European Convention on Citizenship' <u>by Fena</u>, Vecernji List pg 3 'BiH joined European Convention on Citizenship' <u>by Fena</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 8 'European Convention on Citizenship' <u>by D. P.</u> –</p>
<p>BiH CoM lagging behind deadline for appointment of CIPS Director for two weeks now</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'CIPS Director was not appointed' by <u>N.K.</u> – Although announced, Wednesday's session of the BiH CoM failed to discuss the issue of appointment of CIPS Director. It is now two weeks behind deadline for appointment, while CIPS has no director for six months now. In Line with the Law on BiH State Service, if BiH CoM failed to elect one of candidates, BiH State Service Agency can do so instead.</p>

<p>SDA, SBiH, SDP and NHI to ask Schwarz-Schilling to enable returnees to vote in places they were expelled from</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'SDA, SBiH, SDP and NHI ask for changes of Election Law' by <u>N.D.</u>– In a statement for DA, deputy in RS National Assembly and SDA Vice-President Sadik Ahmetovic said that SDA, SBiH, SDP and NHI Mps in RSNA woul sent a letter to High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling asking him to change regulations of BiH Election Law and enable returnees to vote in municipalities they were persecuted from. Sadikovic explained that current regulations are foreseeing passive registration, which disables large number of returnees to vote in their municipalities. Beside these MPs, the letter would be signed by RS Vice-President Omer Brankovic and Chair of RS Council of Peoples Remzija Kadric.</p>
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ICTY and war crimes

<p>Departure of spokesperson for ICTY Chief Prosecutor, Florence Hartmann, stirs speculations she was dismissed</p>	<p>BHT1, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Was Florence Hartman replaced' by <u>Hina, Oslobodjenje</u> pg 3 'Florence Hartman replaced' by <u>BIRN</u>, EuroBlic pg 2 'Florence Hartmann dismissed' by <u>N. M. J. and T. N. Dj.</u>, Vecernje Novosti pg 4 'Florence Hartmann dismissed' by <u>Tanjug</u> – Chief ICTY Prosecutor Carla del Ponte dismissed her Spokesperson Florence Hartmann. Del Ponte's Advisor Anton Nikiforov stated he will be carrying out duties of Acting Spokesperson until further notice, announcing the reasons for the removal will be presented to public at a press conference that will be held on Friday in the Hague Tribunal. EuroBlic pg 2 'Florence Hartmann dismissed' by <u>N. M. J. and T. N. Dj.</u> – Rumor has it one of possible reasons for the removal might have been Hartmann's statement given on the eve of Del Ponte's meeting with EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn, when she said del Ponte's assessment of cooperation of SiCG with ICTY would be negative. Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'Florence Hartmann removed' by <u>B92</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 'Hartmann was removed' by <u>Srna</u> – also report on removal</p>
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<p>Dutch experts conclude Milosevic died of heart attack</p>	<p>PINK– Dutch Prosecutor’s Office stated on Wednesday that Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic died of natural causes. Prosecution finished its investigation on causes of death and concluded that toxicology tests have not shown a <i>“single sign of poisoning or any toxicological factor that could have cause heart failure”</i>, the Prosecutor’s Office stated. The Dutch Institute for Court Medicine <i>“finally confirmed that the cause of death is heart attack. The autopsy revealed several serious heart conditions which caused the cardiac arrest”</i>, the same source said. BHT1, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 3 ‘Confirmed that Milosevic dies of natural causes’ <u>not signed</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 22 ‘Milosevic was not poisoned’ <u>not signed</u> – also covered.</p>
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<p>Trial for Liska Park case (conflict btw Bosniaks and Croats in 1997) started before Cantonal Court in Mostar</p>	<p>Dnevni List cover pg splash and pg 3 'Trial to Police: Liska Street presented like Srebrenica' by <u>A. Vrebac</u>, Vecernji List cover pg splash and pg 3 'Wink of UNPROFOR member crucial evidence before court' by <u>R. Soldo</u> – The trial against 6 Croats (former policemen) charged with the 'Liska Park' case started before the Cantonal Court in Mostar on Tuesday. They are charged with an assault on a large group of Bosniaks in February 1997, who were on their way to visit a cemetery in LiskaPark (in western part of Mostar) when they came into conflict with a group of Croats (one Bosniak was killed while many persons were injured). VL says that it seems that the crucial moment in the whole incident was when a member of UNPROFOR who was on the spot gave a sign to former Mostar Mayor Safet Orucevic (who led the group of Bosniaks) to take the group towards the Park after which the conflict took place.</p>
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<p>GS critical of testimony of Harvard professor before ICJ (on BH suit vrs SiCG)</p>	<p>Glas Srpske cover pg splash ‘Experts, who does not know!’ by <u>M.Dz.</u> – Daily is critical of testimony of Professor Andras Riedlemeyer, Harvard expert for Ottoman Empire, who testified as witness of BiH in the BiH suit against SiCG before ICJ. Daily notes that by testifying before the court, Riedlemeyer has showed ignorance by referring to destroyed religious objects of Bosniaks, failing to mention religious objects of Serbs and Croats were also largely destroyed during the war in BiH. Dusan Antelj, Director of RS Secretariat for Religions, viewed Riedlemeyer’s testimony as “<i>hypocritical and rude</i>” and far way from the truth. He wants on to mention religious objects other than mosques destroyed in BiH.</p>
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