

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 8/3/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 8 March

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>BH Radio 1</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (12,00 hrs)
International day of women	ICTY reduced Nikolic's sentence	RS police in B. Luka fighting drugs
HNC: Teachers, Govt in negotiations	SCG started presentation before ICJ	Requiem for 13 Serbs in Brcko
5 billion US\$ needed for Africa	Energopetrol employees on strike	ICTY reduces sentences to Nikolic

TV news broadcast on 7 March

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>TV PINK</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BHT 1</b> (19,00 hrs)
Kreso visits Mostar	BiH HoR in session	BIH vs. SiCG lawsuit update
HNC schools still on strike	FBiH HoP adopts 2006 Budget	Babic's suicide update
Response of Venice Commission	OHR on FBiH law on PBS	Trial to Nikolic update
HDZ opposes constitutional changes	RS Government adopts 2006 Budget	BIH HoR in session

<b>NTV Hayat</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FTV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (19,30 hrs)
BIH lawsuit against SCG	BIH vs. SiCG lawsuit update	RS Government adopts 2006 Budget
BIH HoR session	Trial to Nikolic update	Cavic criticizes new RS Government

Initiative for CoM dismissal	BiH HoR in session	Cavic on BiH CoM
Cavic to meet Terzic	Venice Commission on const. reform	BiH HoR in session

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	[BiH lawsuit against SCG] Verdict and confession more important than the war damage
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	[BiH lawsuit against SCG] We owe truth before the Court to victims
<b>Dnevni List</b>	Zoric is establishing new party ?! (Vinko Zoric is HDZ mmeber)
<b>Vecernji List</b>	Features Croatia related headline
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Livno Councillor would like to have 'Display' while ordinary people are hungry and without electricity (on difficult material situation of one family from Livno)
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	Karadzic was financed through "Jahorina"
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	On water and beatings [ <i>Testimony of Ljubo Obradovic, former detainee of Mostar prison and Split "Lora"</i> ]
<b>EuroBlic</b>	Tribunal failed to guard Babic
<b>Vecernje novosti</b>	Features Serbian related topics

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY	
ICTY reduces sentence to Nikolic	<b>RHB, BH Radio 1, RTRS</b> – The Appeals' Council of the ICTY has today reduced sentence to <b>Momir Nikolic</b> , who has pleaded guilty for expulsion of Muslims in Srebrenica in 1995, from 27 to 20 years imprisonment.

<p>B. Luka PSC engaged in action of arrests of persons engaged in production and trafficking in drugs</p>	<p><b>RTRS</b> – As of this morning, the Banja Luka Public Security Centre has been engaged in a wide action of arresting persons involved in production and trade in narcotics in the area of Banja Luka . RTRS source says that over 20 persons, members of organized narco group, have been apprehended so far, and a large amount of narcotics, mainly heroine, has been seized. The raids into facilities are still ongoing. Police has not released any official information as yet, but scheduled a press conference for 13:00 hrs today.</p>
<p>SCG legal team commences presentation of evidences before ICJ</p>	<p><b>BH Radio 1</b> by <u>Jesenko Krehic</u> – SCG Legal Team started presentation of its evidences before International Court of Justice [ICJ] in the case of BiH lawsuit against SCG for genocide and aggression. In its opening brief, SCG Legal Agent <b>Radislav Stojanovic</b> invited two sides to settle the agreement out of court, for whatever the sentence, it could only raise tensions in the region. Stojanovic said that only a dialogue could lead regional countries towards Euro-Atlantic integrations. SCG Law Agent <b>Sasa Obradovic</b> announced that he will deny many of the arguments of BiH Legal Team.</p>

<p>SDS' Stojicic; New RS Govt cannot ask civil servants to resign</p>	<p><b>SRNA</b>news agency – SDS Vice President, <b>Dusan Stojicic</b>, told press conference in Banja Luka today that the request by the RS Government to the assistant ministers to tender their resignations was “<i>pure political pressure and interference of the executive authorities in the work of the administrative staff members.</i>” He stressed that the Government was not entitled for such action, as these were civil servants. He added that OHR, RS Trade Union and Civil Service Agency must act on this. Stojicic also announced that SDS deputies in the RS National Assembly will demand passing declaration to declare BiH lawsuit against SCG illegal.</p>
---	---

## War crimes

<p>BiH HoR passes Law to prevent access of ICTY fugitives to their accounts and investments; and the amendments to the Law on BiH Ombudsmen</p>	<p><b>BHT1</b> by Vanja Filipovic – The BiH House of Representatives adopted on Tuesday the law on applying certain provisional measures to ensure the efficient implementation of mandate of the ICTY under which the ICTY fugitives and their aides would be prevented to use their assets. The law stipulates measures in order to prevent them having an access to the bank accounts, goods, premises and other investments. Assets could be blocked only if the BiH Court reaches the decision in accordance with already existing Crime Code and the European standards.</p> <p><b>Momcilo Novakovic</b>, SDS representative in the BiH HoR, stated that the previous decision, imposed by High Representative, on blocking the war crime indictees' assets was breaching human rights of indictees' and their families. <i>"The court can reach the decision on blocking the assets only if evidence proving the person was supporting the war crime indictees is presented"</i> explained Novakovic.</p> <p><b>Mirsad Ceman</b>, SDA representative in BiH HoR, stated that this law ensures that families of ICTY fugitives are allowed to access their assets for providing monthly provisions.</p> <p><b>RTRS</b> – BiH HoR also adopted the amendments to the Law on Ombudsman in urgent procedure. The amendments regulate unification of entity and state ombudsman into a single institution on state level by the end of this year. BiH HoR rejected the proposal for changes and amendments to the Law on VAT, which will remain at the same level for all products.</p> <p><b>RHB, PINK, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9 'Blocked assets to all the Hague fugitives and their aids' by <u>H.Orahovac</u> <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3 'Blocked assets of the Hague fugitives' by <u>A.P.</u> <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'Ombudsmen seat in Banja Luka' by <u>A.T.</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3, announced on cover 'Seizure of property of the Hague fugitives and aiders enabled' by <u>N.Krsman</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 'Amendments also passed' by <u>Z.Domazet</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> RS pg 3 'Novakovic: Court to decide on property' by <u>D.S.</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 5 'Ministry of Justice violates human rights' by <u>D. P. Mandic</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 3 'Property of ICTY fugitives is being frozen' by <u>H</u> – carried similar reports.</p>
---	---

<p>BiH team ends first round of evidence presentation before ICJ; SCG team to start on Wednesday</p>	<p><b>FTV</b> By Adisa Dedic – The Serbia-Montenegro legal team will start presenting its defence in the proceeding of BiH vs. SCG for aggression and genocide before the International Court of Justice in The Hague on Wednesday. BiH team completed the first round of seven-day presentation of the arguments, after which they stated htat proving genocide did take place would not be the problem. Expert at BIH team, <b>Luigi Coporelli</b> stated that SiCG did nothing to prevent or halt crimes thus encouraging it. He noted that members of Yugoslavian Army were sent to take part in Srebrenica events. BiH legal expert <b>Alain Pellet</b> stressed that BiH is not seeking vengeance but justice, stressing it was much more important to prove the genocide than to get the compensation. BiH team has asked for ICJ to set the war compensation but after the presentation of the evidence. <b>Thomas Franck</b>, an expert in the BIH team, called on the Court to confirm that the genocide occurred, noting this would be a moral compensation for the victims. BIH team is expected to start the second round on March 17. <b>RHB, PINK, BHT1, Hayat, RTRS, Oslobođenje</b> cover splash, pgs 4-5 'Verdict and confession more important than the war damage' by <u>Nagorka Idrizovic</u> <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> cover splash 'We owe truth before the Court to victims', pg 2 'Pellet: BiH Objective is not greed, but truth on genocide we owe to victims' <u>not signed</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 8 'Compensation claim was not filed' announced on cover 'BiH had not filed compensation claim' by <u>Agencies</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 'Finish in the sign of Srebrenica' by <u>Beta</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> pg 3 'Our country to present evidence', <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 2 'Partial admitting of responsibility' <u>not signed</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b> pg 14 'ICJ: BiH stated arguments without demand for compensation' by <u>H</u> – also covered.</p>
--	--

<p>Lawyers Franck and Pellet re BiH lawsuit against SiCG: issue of compensation should be resolved through diplomatic negotiations of the two states</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 8 'Compensation claim was not filed' announced on cover 'BiH had not filed compensation claim' by <u>Agencies</u> – The article quotes American lawyer <b>Thomas Franck</b> as saying <i>'Sarajevo will not file compensation claim before the court, but this issue needs to be resolved through diplomatic negotiations of the two sides after judges of ICJ rule that Belgrade was responsible for genocide in BiH'</i>. <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 'Finish in the sign of Srebrenica' by <u>Beta</u> – BiH legal expert <b>Allain Pellet</b> also thinks compensation issue should be discussed through diplomatic and expert negotiations. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> also reported.</p>
<p>NN: Pale businessman Spaic was murdered in connection with raid of "Jahorina" osiguranje and potential appearance before BH Prosecution as witness</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> cover pg splash, pg 3 'Karadzic was financed through "Jahorina" by <u>A.Sisic</u> – Daily learns from several sources that The Hague Tribunal believes the network of aid and support to <b>Radovan Karadzic</b> was supported through dealings of the Insurance Company "Jahorina osiguranje" from Pale. Sources note that last week raid at premises of this company should result in identification of many persons, who have been aiding Karadzic and <b>Ratko Mladic</b> over the past years. Daily further reports referring to its source that there is a link between the raid of "Jahorina" company and the murder of controversial businessman <b>Ratomir Spaic</b> from Pale. Namely, the source reveals: <i>"There are indications Spaic could have been troublesome witness in some of the cases being run at BH Prosecutor's Office or are to be opened. Therefore, he was liquidated."</i></p>
<p>VL int with Ivo Miro Jovic: Croatia could have sued BiH for aggression long time ago</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 6, mentioned on cover 'Bosniaks and Serbs continue to divide BiH', inset 'Croatia could file lawsuit BiH in the Hague', by <u>Z. Kresic</u> – In an interview for VL, <b>Ivo Miro Jovic</b>, Croat member to BiH Presidency, said he is of the view Croatia could have filed suit against BiH for aggression a long time ago. Asked whether BiH could sue Croatia, Jovic answered: <i>"There is no reason for BiH to sue Croatia."</i></p>

## General political issues

<p>SP's Gligoric initiated casting of vote of no confidence to the CoM; Terzic without comments until official demand is submitted</p>	<p><b>BHT1</b>– At the session of the BiH House of Representatives, the delegates <b>Tihomir Gligoric, Mirko Blagojevic</b> and <b>Petar Kunic</b>, launched the initiative to cast a vote of no confidence to the BiH Council of Ministers, alleging CoM has no control over the finances thus damages the budget and its beneficiaries. SPRS' Gligoric noted many delegates would support this initiative. <b>Hayat</b> – Gligoric stated that the relation between executive and legislative authority does not function at all. <i>"This is enough for CoM dismissal"</i>, says Gligoric. He adds that other reasons are related to CoM decision not to support commission which would be tasked for auditing donations spending in BIH as well as certain irregularities in the Indirect Taxation Administration, calling it the institutions which allowed an increase of the grey economy in BIH, failure to adopt the law on sports, law on higher education and so on. <i>"Every one of these reasons is enough for vote no confidence to CoM"</i>, concludes Gligoric. <b>RTRS</b> – BiH HoR Collegium is obligated to include this initiative into agenda of the HoR within deadline of 20 to 30 days. Chair of CoM <b>Adnan Terzic</b> refused to comment this initiative until it's officially submitted. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9 'Blocked assets to all the Hague fugitives and their aids' by <u>H. Orahovac</u>, inset 'Gligoric's initiative for vote of no confidence to Council of Ministers', <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 7 'Removal of Council of Ministers demanded', <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3 inset 'Initiative on a confidence vote in BiH CoM launched' and also <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'Delegates to overthrow Adnan Terzic' by <u>V. Popovic</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> RS pg 3 'Terzic is disobedient' by <u>Nedeljka Breberina</u> – also reported.</p>
--	---



SDS' Cavic doesn't support work of the CoM; announces meeting with Terzic to ask dismissal of SDS's Minister

**RTRS** – RS President and SDS leader, **Dragan Cavic**, announced on Tuesday that he would meet with Chair of the BiH Council of Ministers, **Adnan Terzic**, in the next week and present him with a written request of SDS for removing ministers and their deputies from SDS, because this party no longer supports the CoM. Cavic claims that, since SDS is now an opposition party, its members can no longer uphold the executive positions in state institutions. If this is not done, stressed Cavic, the SDS ministers and deputy ministers will have to resign, and if they fail to comply, they will be removed from SDS, while the ministers who are not members of SDS will face ethic and moral norms. Therefore, Cavic will ask for dismissal of BiH Defence Minister **Nikola Radovanovic**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations **Slobodan Ecimovic** and Deputy Minister of Security **Dragan Mektic**. Cavic also stated that the Minister of Justice **Slobodan Kovac** should resign for ethical reasons. According to Cavic, Radovanovic, Ecimovic and Mektic fully agree with his initiative. Kovac stated that his resignation at this moment would have a very negative impact on BiH. **BHT1, RHB, Hayat, Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Delegates to overthrow Adnan Terzic' by V.Popovic, **EuroBlic** RSpG 3 'Cavic demands resignations' by R.R.– also carried.

<p>EC's Humphreys met with Dodik, Cavic and Radojicic; no full liberalization of visa regime</p>	<p><b>RTRS</b> – Chief of the EC Delegation in BiH <b>Michael Humphreys</b> visited Banja Luka on Tuesday, where he met with the Speaker of RS National Assembly <b>Igor Radojicic</b>, RS Prime Minister <b>Milorad Dodik</b> and RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b>. Humphreys emphasized that in order to successfully complete the Stabilisation and Association Process, BiH is going to need full cooperation of state and entity institutions. Commenting the possible liberalisation of the visa regime for BiH citizens, Humphreys stated that this couldn't be expected in this year. However, he announced easing of Visa process, which will make the procedure of obtaining the visas much easier for students and business people. Humphreys also stated that he expects BiH to complete the negotiations on SAA by the end of this year. Next round of negotiations will take place on March 16 and 17. <b>PINK</b>– Humphreys welcomed the readiness of the new RS Government headed by PM Dodik to actively participates in the process of negotiations. Dodik announced regular consultations on this issue with BiH Chief Negotiator <b>Igor Davidovic</b>. <b>BHT1, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'Many conditions set before BiH still to be fulfilled' by <u>N.D.</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6 'RS will not hinder European path of BiH' by <u>P.K.</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'Another year of challenges' by <u>D.Momic</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> RSpg 3 'Dodik: RS will not be an obstruction on EU course' by <u>M.S.</u> – carried as well.</p>
--	---

<p>SDA's Tihic meets EC's Rehn</p>	<p><b>BHT1-</b> Presidency Chair <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> is currently paying an official visit to Brussels where he met with EU Enlargement Commissioner <b>Olli Rehn</b>. Tihic stressed that the constitutional changes are enhancing the negotiation on Stabilisation and Association Agreement. Rehn expressed satisfaction with the made progress. <b>RTRS, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 3, mentioned on cover 'Cooperation with ICTY is decisive for talks with EU' <u>by A.Malagic</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2 'Progress achieved' by <u>SRNA</u> – carried as well.</p>
<p>OHR calls upon FBiH Parliament to pass Law on FBiH PBS</p>	<p><b>PINK, Dnevni List</b> pg 8 'PBS reform questionable' <u>by E.M.</u>– At the press conference held on Tuesday in Sarajevo, OHR Spokesperson <b>Sanela Tunovic</b> stated that the OHR calls upon the FBiH Parliament to adopt the Law on RTV FBiH, fully harmonized with the BiH Law on PBS System. Tunovic explained that the Government's version of the draft law, with its wording on the founder concept, is in contradiction with the BiH Law on PBS System and unacceptable as such. Tunovic expressed OHR's hope that the Parliament is going to delete this clause. If they do not, Tunovic warned that FBiH authorities are putting at risk two things – the PBS reform as such and the fulfilment of an important precondition for BiH in the process of Stabilisation and Association with the EU.</p>

<p>DL: Vinko Zoric (HDZ) to establish new party or join expelled HDZ members Bozo Ljubic and Martin Raguz?!</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b> cover pg splash and pg 3 'Zoric is establishing new party?!' <u>by R. Dautefendic</u> learns that together with few like-minded persons President of the HDZ Caucus in the BiH Parliament <b>Vinko Zoric</b> is planning either to establish a new party or to join expelled HDZ members <b>Bozo Ljubic</b> and <b>Martin Raguz</b> in the worst case. DL says that allegedly the reason for such Zoric's decision is that HDZ President <b>Dragan Covic</b> does not listen to anyone when the constitutional changes issue is in question. DL also says that being aware that he could not avoid consequences for such move Zoric tried to persuade representatives <b>Ruza Sopta, Vlatka Komsic</b> and even <b>Niko Lozancic</b> to join him, however, so far it is certain that <b>Ivo Lozancic</b> only would join the new party together with Zoric. Asked to comment on this information HDZ spokesperson <b>Miso Relota</b> said it was impossible that <b>Niko Lozancic</b> would leave HDZ and he added that this is certainly about <b>Ivo Lozancic</b>, <i>'who has left NHI and who is free to do what he wants'</i>.</p>
<p>Commission for audit of decisions on naturalization of foreign citizens started with its work</p>	<p><b>RHB, Hayat, RTRS, Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'Mandate for taking over of citizenships' <u>not signed</u>, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9 'All that gained citizenship illegally would be deported' <u>by E. Sarac</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 2 'Illegal citizens would be deleted' <u>by E. Medunjanin</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b> pg 16 'Commission for Audit of Citizenships started with its work' <u>by B.K.</u> – The BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs issued a press release, which says that the Commission for audit of decisions on naturalization of foreign citizens has started with its work and it has been expected from this Commission to carry out audit of the citizenships issued to foreign citizens in the period from April 6, 1992 until January 1 this year within one year.</p>

## Constitutional changes

Venice Commission drafts response to BiH parties; preferences lie in one President and indirect election

**BHT1**– The Venice Commission has designed the draft response on the manner of electing the members of the future BiH Presidency, i.e. president and two vice-presidents. The Commission was asked for the opinion by the BiH political parties who took part in the negotiations on constitutional changes and failed to agree on the manner of election of BiH Presidency. Venice Commission's stance was sent to the Chairman of BiH Presidency **Sulejman Tihic**, and it reads that the Commission prefers solution under which there would be only one President elected by indirect elections adding that the proposal of electing president and two vice-presidents is a transitional solution for them. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 inset 'Market: Comment of the Venice Commission on March 18'- Venice Commission Secretary **Thomas Market** stated that this draft would be formally passed during the next session of the VC, on March 17 and 18, when the official explanation would be submitted as well. **RHB, PINK, Hayat, FTV, Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Commission hasn't given a concrete response' by Fena, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Members of BiH Presidency to be elected in BiH House of Representatives' by A. Malagic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'To change Constitution by the end of March' by R.Cengic– carried.

<p>Ex BiH CC judge Sadikovic: Venice Comm. is not obliged to accept preliminary assessment of its Task Force on election of BiH Presidency members</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 'BiH Constitution needs to be changed by the end of March' by <u>R. Cengic</u> Inset 'Preliminary assessment' – Former judge of BiH Constitutional Court <b>Cazim Sadikovic</b> has explained that the preliminary assessment of the Venice Commission on election of members of future BiH Presidency, which should have arrived to Sarajevo on Tuesday, was a material of the Commission's Task Force and the Commission is not obliged to accept it at its next session scheduled for March 17.</p>
<p>BiH Presidency Chair Tihic says Venice Comm. stance unclear, DA: stance closest to HoP</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3 'Commission hasn't given a concrete response' by <u>Fena</u>– Commenting the draft response of the Venice Commission on the constitutional changes, Chair of BiH Presidency <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> stated the response was not clear. Tihic stated that the Commission prefers one President and indirect election, with the special focus on the role of BiH House of Peoples in election. The Commission deems the BiH House of Peoples shouldn't have role in the process, as constitutional changes are directed at decreasing HoP's authorities. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'Members of BiH Presidency to be elected in BiH House of Representatives' by <u>A. Malagic</u>–  <i>"[Commission] prefers indirect election, deem that this proposal we sent has many limits. That is... there is a possibility to block elections. They believe role of the HoP shouldn't be essential in this [process]... this House should be abolished or its authorities should be decreased. They have proposed a model which gives leading role to the HoR, but as I understood, without entity vote"</i> stated Tihic for DA.</p>

<p>VL, DA: Venice Commission's opinion on election of BiH Presidency matches HDZ Covic's proposal</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 2 'Presidency will be elected in Parliament according to Covic's proposal', by <u>Zoran Kresic</u> – the author notes that the Venice Commission, by suggesting that the BiH Presidency members be elected indirectly in the BiH Parliament, remained consistent to its position from March 2005. VL notes that the same proposal has come from the HDZ leader, <b>Dragan Covic</b>. VL reckons now that the Venice Commission has voiced its opinion, the same opinion/solution will most likely have to be accepted by the Serb and Bosniak side in BiH. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'Members of BiH Presidency to be elected in BiH House of Representatives' by <u>A. Malagic</u>– DA also comments that the Venice Commission stance is closest to the proposal of HDZ.</p>
<p>RS PoWs: decision on consulting Venice Commission serves to justify agreements under IC pressure</p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 'Commission serves as an excuse' by <u>G. K.</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 7 'Prison camp inmates on constitutional changes' <u>not signed</u> – RS Association of Former Camp Inmates on Tuesday assessed that the decision to consult the Venice Commission on certain constitutional solutions was a maneuver aimed at hiding the true goal, i.e. to again justify the reached agreements with pressures of the international community. The Association says leaders of parties must no longer carry out the negotiations, but instead competent bodies of RS and F BiH, as in accordance with the Constitution, should carry out the negotiations.</p>

<p>US official Di Carlo invites BiH politicians to meet the deadline</p>	<p><b>PINK</b>– Deputy Assistant to the US State Secretary <b>Rosemary Di Carlo</b> called upon BiH political leaders to respect the deadline for reaching an agreement on constitutional changes. This deadline will expire at the end of March. It was also stated that eight political parties should reach the agreement on constitutional changes by the end of March in order for the amendments to be applied at the coming elections. <b>RHB, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 ‘To respect deadline for agreement on constitutional changes’ by <u>Fena</u>,– covered by EMM. <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 7, mentioned on cover ‘Croat representatives will not vote in favour of constitutional changes’ by <u>A.Omeragic</u> Inset ‘Respect deadline for constitutional changes’ by <u>Onasa</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 ‘‘To change Constitution by the end of March’ by <u>R.Cengic</u>,– also carried.</p>
<p>VL: HDZ President Covic and US Ambassador McElhaney met in Mostar allegedly discussing const. changes</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 2 ‘Covic and McElhaney talked secretly’ by <u>Z.K.</u> carries that HDZ President <b>Dragan Covic</b> and US Ambassador to BiH <b>Douglas McElhaney</b> talked in Mostar on Tuesday in Covic’s flat. VL says that they failed to get the information what was the topic of this meeting however it has been supposed that they talked about the constitutional changes issue and election of the BiH Presidency.</p>



HDZ- DC Caucus  
in BiH HoR  
oppose the  
agreed changes  
of the  
constitution

**Hayat** – At the press conference in Sarajevo, HDZ-DemoChristian caucus in BiH House of Representatives stressed they oppose the agreed constitutional changes calling them cosmetic changes. Chair of HDZ-DK caucus **Vinko Zoric** stated that the entity election at the BiH HoR presents just cementing of the Dayton division of BiH into two entities where Croats will be unable to protect their interests. Member of the Caucus, **Martin Raguz**, said there should be more efficient and rational institutions in BiH. *“In order to achieve what we need to take in the entire process including the lower levels which means that we are for decentralised BiH,”* stressed Raguz. HDZ Spokesperson **Miso Relota** stressed the HDZ distances itself from such stances. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 ‘It is not time for rotten compromises’ by H.Oraovac’ – Raguz and Zoric were also joined by **Ruza Sopta, Filip Andric** and **Vlatka Komsic**. DA Inset ‘Zoric: We did not get the opinion of HDZ’- Answering what official HDZ leadership deem of their stance toward constitutional changes, Zoric said that he *“doesn’t know, because he did not get the opinion of the HDZ”*. **RHB, PINK, BHT1, FTV, Oslobođenje** pg 7, mentioned on cover ‘Croat representatives will not vote in favour of constitutional changes’ by A.Omeragic, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 6 ‘Croat representatives would not vote for constitutional changes’ by A.Omeragic, **Glas Srpske** pg 5 ‘Two against the third’ by Z.D. EuroBlic RSpG 3 ‘Disputable changes of Constitution’ by D.S., **Dnevni List** pg 4 ‘Blockade of constitutional reforms in Parliament’ by D. P. Mandic, **Vecernji List** pg 4 ‘HDZ representatives against constitutional changes in BiH’ by Z. Kresic, **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 21 ‘Shameful constitutional changes’ by Z. Tulic– reported.

<p>Interview with Chairman of BiH Presidency Jovic on constitutional changes, PBS system: 'Bosniaks and Serbs continue to divide BiH'</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 6, mentioned on cover 'Bosniaks and Serbs continue to divide BiH' by <u>Z. Kresic</u> carries an interview with Chairman of the BiH Presidency <b>Ivo Miro Jovic</b> who says that the current result of the constitutional changes talks cannot meet needs of Croats and BiH citizens. Jovic also said that the Croat side would start with the implementation of the agreement reached between political parties and US State Under-Secretary <b>Nicholas Burns</b> because it says that constitutional changes would continue. Jovic added: <i>'If we accept cosmetic changes only and they imply survival of 2 entities with 3 peoples Croats would not be again in the position to launch the discussion on constitutional changes and current situation would be legalized. We must not allow that something like this be verified in the Parliament.'</i> Asked to judge <i>'pressures to reject his appeal with regard to PBS system'</i>, Jovic said that he respects the judicial authority and he does not belong to the groups, which like the <b>OHR</b> instruct what the court would decide. He added that he just insists on changes of 3 Articles and that he would keep insisting on it.</p>
---	---

<p>SBiH leader Halilovic on const. changes: Basic principle of consensus is breached; requesting opinion from Venice Commission is hypocrisy</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5, mentioned on cover 'It is being made constitutional basis for division of BiH and separation of RS' by <u>Sead Numanovic</u> – Commenting recent talks on constitutional changes, in an interview for daily SBiH leader <b>Safet Halilovic</b> stated that participants in the negotiations have been constantly breaching principle of consensus established as a basic principle in decision making process. He added that main principle at the beginning of the talks was that <i>"nothing is agreed until everything is agreed"</i>. As a leader of a party that did not support talks, Halilovic said that they could only result with strengthening of the RS constitutional position, dissolution of BiH and separation of the RS. <i>"When SBiH, HDZ or HNZ do not want to support [orchestrated] constitutional solutions based on the stances of the RS parties, than they [organizers] did the 'procedural trick' and simply declared that 'the agreement' is reached, although they did not have the necessary consensus of all the participants."</i> Commenting the fact that Venice Commission is now to council BiH politicians on an issue of BiH Presidency election, Halilovic said it is hypocrisy firstly not to respect suggestion of the Commission than request their opinion on the same issue again.</p>
--	---

<p>VL on constitutional changes: BiH political scene divided; Professor Boyle: Bosniak authorities working on division of BiH too</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 5 'First phase of constitution', by <u>Zdenko Cosic</u> – Commenting on the constitutional changes in BiH, <u>Cosic</u> argues that the US Administration is in the hurry to wrap up the process ASAP, which divided the BiH political scene. As for announcements that the second phase of talks would continue after the October elections, VL carries SDU Vice President, <b>Miro Lazovic</b>, who says that the IC, back in 1994, promised a 'second phase' in terms of the territory under Serb occupation returning i.e. joining with the FBiH, however the then 'second phase' never came because the Contact Group acknowledged the RS in September 1995. VL also carries professor <b>Francis Boyle</b>, who wrote the BiH's lawsuit against SCG, who told 'Deutsche Welle' that the ongoing constitutional changes are just a phase in the 'sophisticated plan' of division of BiH that was conceived in Washington in 1994. Boyle believes that even the Bosniak authorities and representatives before the International Court of Justice are working on it since they allegedly rejected his proposal to try and have the RS abolished.</p>
---	--

## Budgets and other economic issues

FbiH HoP  
passes 2006  
budget in same  
text as FBiH  
HoR did

**PINK** – FBiH House of Peoples adopted the 2006 FBiH budget on Tuesday. The same proposal on 2006 budget has been adopted by FBiH House of Representatives days before. Chair of the FBiH HoP **Slavko Matic** stated that the budget in amount of approximately 1,140 billion KM could be official as soon as Wednesday, since both Houses of FBiH Parliament adopted it in the same text. **FTV** – FBiH Finance Minister **Dragan Vrankic** stated the budget would be effective within next two or three days announcing possible rebalance of the budget due to better collection of the taxes. **Oslobodjenje** pg 6 'FBiH Budget for 2006 implements as of today' by S.Se. Inset 'Enes Duvanjakovic Vice President of BiH House of Peoples' – BiH House of Peoples appointed **Enes Duvanjakovic** for Bosniak FBiH HoP Vice President. Duvanjakovic succeeded **Vahid Heco**, earlier appointed for FBiH Minister of Energy. **RHB, BHT1, Hayat, Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'Six chiefs govern over two million KM', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Budget of F BiH of BAM 1.14 billion' by R.Cengic, **Dnevni List** pg 2 '21 millions KM envisaged for overdue pensions' by M. Zorlak, **Vecernji List** pg 3 'FBiH budget adopted' by dja– reported on passing of budget.

<p>RS Government passes 2006 budget in amount of KM1, 98 billion</p>	<p><b>RTRS</b> – RS Government adopted the proposal on 2006 RS budget in amount of 1,098 billion KM. The Government plans to finance 1,42 billion KM by its own revenues, and the rest by different grants and other financing forms. Main items in the proposed budget are measures for development and social care. RS Prime Minister <b>Milorad Dodik</b> stated that the 2006 budget is higher than the last year's Budget because of the expected income from the VAT. <b>PINK, BHT1, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 13 'Dodik goes into new replacements', <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2 'Proposal of BAM 1.098 billion' by <u>D.Risojevic</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'BAM 3 million to airport' by <u>G.Dakic</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> RS pg 3 'They added BAM 50 million, BAM 140 million to pensioners' by <u>Mirna Soja</u> – also reported.</p>
<p>RS Govt. did not discuss draft Law on Audit of Privatisation and Law on Special Department of Prosecution</p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 '3 million to airport' by <u>G.Dakic</u> – According to daily, the RS Government did not determine the announced draft Law on Audit of Privatisation and Law on Special Department of Prosecutor's Office and Special Court Unit, since another round of consultations should be held on these two issues, according to RS PM <b>Milorad Dodik</b>.</p>

<p>FBiH Constitutional Court rejects Croat Caucus' invocation of vital national clause re allocation of public revenues due to procedural reasons</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 12 'Joint Commission of both Houses first has to declare on the law' by <u>Fena</u>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 6 'Demand of Caucus of Croat representatives rejected' by <u>O.S.</u>— The FBiH Constitutional Court (CC) discarded as groundless the request of the Croat Caucus in the FBiH House of Peoples, which contested the proposal of law on allocation of public revenues by invoking the vital national clause.</p> <p>According to the FBiH CC, there were procedural omissions during the process of launching of the vital national clause related to harmonization in the joint commission of the FBiH HoR and FBiH HoP (DL does not go into details of the CC's decision). A Croat MP in the FBiH HoP, <b>Ante Boras</b>, although he did not see the CC's decision in its entirety, says the decision in reality means that the FBiH now has the law on allocation of revenues that is applicable, however he still believes the law is detrimental to the Croats. <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 6, mentioned on front 'Fiasco of HDZ's attempt to control municipalities', by <u>Mensud Zorlak</u> – also reported. As for the headline, DL has been saying throughout the process that HDZ, by invoking the vital national clause, wanted to have the cantons in charge of distribution of the funds, unlike the proposal of the law that stipulates direct funding of municipalities, in order to be in control of municipalities.</p>
---	--

<p>Telecoms' Unions against individual privatization</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 12 'Trade Unions against selling off of telecoms' by <u>Darko Omeragic</u></p> <p>– Trade Unions of three BiH telecom operators [BH Telecom, RS Telecom and HT Mostar] issued a joint statement stressing that there should be no rush in privatization of the companies. They stressed that the <i>"approach that already started in the RS with sale of RS Telecom would be disastrous for all employees of telecom sector in BiH because value of the capital is being decreased"</i>. Chair of the RS Telecom Trade Union <b>Milenko Topic</b> stated that CoM's decision on the telecommunication sector's policy reads all three would be sold at the same time, in order to protect welfare of entities and of the state. Inset 'Tender at end of April'- RS Prime Minister <b>Milorad Dodik</b> stated that he expects that his government would sign off the bid by end of April, stressing that government would ensure full transparency if this happens. <b>Hayat, RHB, FTV</b>– reported as well.</p>
--	--



<p>ITA official claims ITA failed to pay several million of BAM to RS budget</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 5 ‘Several million of BAM was not paid to RS budget’ by <u>R.Segrt</u></p> <p>– Daily reports referring to a senior official of the Indirect Taxation Administration, who wanted to remain anonymous, that several million, i.e. approximately BAM six million were not directed into RS budget through distribution of resources last year collected through indirect taxes. Daily further reminds of the ITA stance (saying entities Premiers and BiH CoM agreed in December 2004 coefficients should be frozen until VAT introduction), also carrying statement of <b>Dragan Mikerevic</b>, former RS PM, denying that. According to inset ‘Irregular distribution of VAT’, daily also learnt at ITA that no change in distribution coefficient has been made following introduction of VAT.</p>
--	---

**New RS Govt removes officials in Govt, police, companies**

<p>RS President Cavic criticises Dodik replacing police officials, says he would deal with it; Dodik says dismissals to continue</p>	<p><b>RTRS</b> by <u>Marina Marjanovic</u> – At the press conference held on Tuesday in Banja Luka, RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b> claimed that the newly appointed RS Minister of Interior <b>Stanislav Cadjo</b> had put several chiefs of police administration under great pressure in order to force their resignations. Cavic also added the same faith is waiting for the Heads of Centres of Public Security and the Commander of the special forces. Cavic emphasized that such behaviour is clear sign of political interference in the police work. RS Prime Minister <b>Milorad Dodik</b> denied the new Government's requests to remove some highly positioned officials are politically motivated, and added authorities insist on establishment of the efficient administration which would be able to fight crime. <b>BHT1</b> – Cavic expressed concern that this might be a plunge for RS and that it might obstruct the police reform. <i>"All violations of the law will be submitted to the authorised bodies by my cabinet, because no one can have mandate to breach the law,"</i> promised Cavic. <i>"I do not see the interest of Mr. Cavic for intervening and defending anyone in the RS MoI, but regardless to this remark, I have to say, that we will carry on"</i> responded Dodik. He also announced that a special department for working on commitments towards the ICTY would be established as part of the RS Ministry of Interior. <b>RHB, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 13 'Dragan Cavic announced that he would stop cleansing in the police' by <u>N.D.</u>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 4-5 'Pressures from RS Government leads to the abyss' by <u>O.V.</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6, announced on cover 'Dragan Cavic opposes to political interference in police work' by <u>V.Popovic</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 'Reinstatement of old practise' by <u>D.Momic</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> RSpG 1, announced on cover 'Political removals' by <u>Rajna Radosavljevic</u> – also report on Cavic statement.</p>
--	---

<p>RS Govt. dismissed a number of assistants to Ministers</p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 inset 'Dismissals', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 13 'Dodik heads for new removals' – On Tuesday, the RS Government accepted the resignations offered by Assistants to Ministers and dismissed those assistants who failed to file resignations and removed them from office. Government has also dismissed Supervisory Boards at "Elektroprivreda Republike Srpske" and "Sume Srpske". <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6 'Resignations of assistants to ministers accepted' – <b>Mladjen Mandic</b>, Assistant to RS Justice Minister, noted that assistant to Minister can only be relieved of duty only if s/he meets conditions for retirement or criminal procedure is run against the person. (NOTE: Not a single paper gives the total number of assistants dismissed.) <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> g 13 'Dodik goes into new replacements' <u>not signed</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6, announced on cover 'Milorad Dodik: Removals at Government and police will continue' by <u>V.P.</u> <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 'We will move on' by <u>G.D.</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> RSpG 1, announced on cover 'I choose my associates' by <u>Rajna Radosavljevic</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 4 'Dodik continues with removals', <u>not signed</u> – Dodik says dismissals to continue.</p>
<p>RS President Cavic appoints former MoI Matijasevic for his advisor</p>	<p><b>BHT1, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6 "Matijasevic as advisor to Cavic", <b>EuroBlic</b> RSpG 1 'Matiajsevic advises Cavoc about relations with international community'- RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b> appointed the former Minister of Interior <b>Darko Matijasevic</b> for his new advisor. Matijasevic will be in charge of political and security issues, and cooperation with the international community.</p>

<p>RS PM' op-ed: RS Government will be engaged in a compromiseless fight against crime</p>	<p><b>Novi Reporter</b> op-ed pg 11 'We will get back the faith in RS' by <u>Milorad Dodik</u>, RS PM – Writing an opinion editorial for Banja Luka weekly magazine, <b>Milorad Dodik</b>, RS PM, said that the priority task of the RS Government is to strengthen the power of the RS institutions and get the trust citizens had in it, noting institutions should show they are legally grounded and capable of resisting economic, social and spiritual violence. he also reiterated RS Government will be engaged in a compromiseless fight against crime, adding it would set a higher level of justice.</p>
<p>DA op-ed: Quarrel between SNSD leader Dodik and SDS leader Cavic proves that police should be under control of state</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 3 'Why do Dodik and Cavic fight' op-ed by <u>Edina Sarac</u> – Commenting recent political alternations that new RS Government led by <b>Milorad Dodik</b> did in the RS Ministry of Interior, editorial reads that SNSD followed its political interests, doing the same as SDS did previously when they were in power. Stressing that the only difference between Dodik and SDS leader <b>Dragan Cavic</b> is that "new ruler of RS" moves quicker, author concludes that this is just another argument why police in BiH should have controlled from the state level.</p>
<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed: Both RS PM Dodik and RS President Cavic choose only obedient</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 9 'Obedient' op-ed by <u>Senka Kurtovic</u> – Editorial comments recent removals in the RS Ministry of Interior, editorial reads that situation in RS did not change at all, since both newly appointed RS Prime Minister <b>Milorad Dodik</b> and RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b> proved that they choose only the obedient ones, regardless of the phrase that state administration must not be serving daily politics.</p>

<p>NN op-ed supportive of RS PM Dodik's activities involving purge at RS MoI</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> op-ed pg 7 'Motorola, police circle' by <u>Mirjana Kusmuk</u> – The author stresses that two institutions – police and judiciary – have been two main culprits for the disturbed system in RS. She lists some of pro arguments for the thesis that in order to support establishment of a legal and democratic environment, RS must first conduct purge at RS Interior Ministry, which <b>Milorad Dodik</b> will most likely undertake, since he is aware of the fact that police efficiency is a test on which his Government and programme would pass or fail. It has taken years for people to start believing that there is somebody ready to fight for justice and other democratic values.</p>
--	---