

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 9/1/2005

NTV HAYAT (18,55 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
New RS PM designate	Respect to tsunami victims	Mine explosion in Potocari	Day of RS
BiH News	New RS PM designate	Bomb alert in Banja Luka	BL airport closed
World News	Message of Met. Nikolaj	New RS PM designate	Pero Bukeylovic is new PM
Face to Face	Paravac on crisis in BIH	Dodik on PM designate	Reactions to the new PM

Oslobodjenje	Pero Bukeylovic appointed new RS PM designate
Dnevni Avaz	Cavic extending crisis in RS
Dnevni List	Blockade of state border crossings
Vecernji List	Features Croatia related headlines
Slobodna Dalmacija	Features Croatia related headlines
EuroBlic	Pero Bukeylovic appointed new RS PM designate
Vecernje novosti	Pero Bukeylovic appointed new RS PM designate

Political developments

<p>SDS' Pero Bukejlovic appointed new PM-designate</p>	<p>RTRS, TV Hayat, BHT, FTV, Oslobodjenje cover page, pg 2 'SDS' Pero Bukejlovic appointed new PM designate' by <u>Orijana Vukovic</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Pero Bukejlovic appointed new RS PM designate', Blic cover page, pg 3 'Pero Bukejlovic appointed new RS PM designate', Vecernje Novosti cover, pg 3, Dnevni List, pg 3, mentioned on front 'Pero Bukejlovic is new RS Government prime minister-designate', by <u>Nermin Bise</u> – RS President Dragan Cavic on Saturday named Pero Bukejlovic as prime minister designate and asked him to form a new RS government. Bukejlovic previously held the post of industry and technology minister in the former RS government of Mladen Ivanic. Bukejlovic is member of the Serb Democratic Party. He was born in Doboj and he graduated from the Sarajevo Faculty of Engineering in 1969 and completed his postgraduate studies in Zagreb in 1982. Cavic said on the occasion that his decision on appointing Bukelovic is not outside of agreement on principles of coordinated political acting. <i>"I expect from the candidate for RS PM to carry out conversations and consultations with all parliament parties, especially with those who signed the agreement, and to try to round up all these parties in the support to the proposal of Government cabinet and its programme. Although there is enough time, it is necessary to do that in the shortest possible deadline and I believe that that is possible. I want to inform you that I have carried out conversations based on which I can say that qualified and sufficient parliament support to the election of new Government already exists from most of the parties in RS that have caucuses and representatives in the National Assembly"</i>, says Cavic. Bukejlovic stated that he is aware of all the problems RS is facing at the moment. He called upon all parties to think about their participation in the new Government. <i>"My invitation is clear and doubtless. I am deeply convinced that every parliament party can constructively contribute to the solving of problems ahead of us and that open discussion and exchange of positions can produce better answers to all challenges. Political disputes should be left aside because stabile RS is a goal above all goals and all political disputes"</i>, says Bukejlovic. He stresses that the hard tasks that await the new Government are: improvement of cooperation with ICTY, solving of social problems, improvement of general standard, acceleration of privatisation, audit of privatisation process as well as improvement of trust in legal institutions of RS.</p>
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<p>RTRS: First reactions to the appointment of new PM-designate</p>	<p>RTRS brings first reactions to the appointment of new PM-designate Pero Bukejlovic. SNSD Chairman Milorad Dodik stated that with Bukejlovic's appointment RS President Dragan Cavic is making fun of RS. He stressed that Bukejlovic was a Minister during the time when highest decrease of industrial production in RS was marked and added that Bukejlovic has produced criminal privatisation. SP RS Chairman Petar Djokic supposes that all parties who signed the agreement on coordinated political acting will support the new Government. PDP Chairman Mladen Ivanic says that there is a month ahead and it will be seen what will happen so PDP will their evaluation then. Krstan Simic from SNSD wished Bukejlovic success in an attempt to do something in the short period ahead. Simic says that opposition will act in accordance with the agreement on coordinated political acting. Zivko Marjanac from SP RS says that SP will support the establishing of the Government and remain in the opposition. Opposition is determined not to ask positions on the new Government. Savo Cvjetinovic Chairman of RS Veterans organisation expects that the new PM will respect all previous agreements that this organisation has made with the new Government. RTRS reporter comments that if the PM-designate gets Assembly majority than the new Government will have to face domestic and even harder international obligations.</p> <p>BHT also carried reactions by SNSD's Simic and PDP's Ivanic.</p>
<p>Dodik on appointment of Bukejlovic</p>	<p>FTV – The FTV reporter interviewed SNSD Chairman Milorad Dodik on appointment of Pero Bukejlovic as RS Prime Minister designate. Asked about his opinion on Bukejlovic, Dodik said that he doesn't think anything good about Bukejlovic. According to Dodik, Dragan Cavic's decision to appoint Bukejlovic shows Cavic's bad attitude towards RS. Cavic is joking with the fact that RS is in crisis. RS needs persons with strong references who can help the reform process. By appointing Bukejlovic from SDS, RS is once again challenging USA, which already have punished SDS by banning all their officials. Dodik accused Bukejlovic of being involved in illegal privatisation as former Minister for Industry/Economy. Dodik stated that Bukejlovic doesn't deserve the attention of SNSD and citizens of RS. His appointment is an act of irresponsibility towards the people of RS. According to Dodik, RS people should react with civil disobedience. Asked to comment Bukejlovic's ability to fulfil the expectations of people and the international community regarding cooperation with ICTY and police and defence reforms, Dodik said that Bukejlovic will not be able to fulfil them. The fact that Bukejlovic used to be manager of weapons and munitions factory during the war indicates that his role in the past should be investigated. Dodik believes that Bukejlovic belongs to radical part of SDS, and therefore cooperation with ICTY would be in danger.</p> <p>Bukejlovic's appointment should show that ICTY indictees can't be arrested, and that their freedom should be assured by people like Bukejlovic. After Bukejlovic's appointment, SNSD is even more determined to refuse forming government together with SDS. According to Dodik, SDS is trying to preserve the political atmosphere that makes the arrestment of ICTY indictees impossible. For SNSD, the only solution is organising early elections. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Dodik: This is a new challenge for US Government' also carried Dodik's reaction.</p>

<p>SDA's Sadovic: Cavic extending crisis in RS</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover page 'Cavic extending crisis in RS', pg 2 'Cavic attempts to maintain the crisis' by E. Sarac – Head of SDA caucus in RS National Assembly Tarik Sadovic believes that by appointing Pero Bukejlovic as new RS PM designate RS President Dragan Cavic is just extending crisis in the government. <i>"In a way this is a sign that there will be no cooperation with The Hague Tribunal and that the reforms and primarily the reforms of police and defence will be stopped,"</i> said Sadovic. When it comes to the composition of the new Government, Sadovic says there are two options: government with participation of only Serb parties and Government with participation of SDA as well.</p>
<p>RS Vice-president Osmanovic: Government with tiny majority</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Government with tiny majority' – RS Vice-president Adil Osmanovic told the daily on Saturday that the SDS will together with PDP, radicals and some smaller Serb political parties have a tiny parliamentary majority to support the new government. Osmanovic said that SDA had not invited to participate in the new government but that it was however being announced that the newly-appointed PM designate Pero Bukejlovic would talk on the issue with SDA representatives as well. <i>"We are prepared to participate in the new government but under condition that a number of SDA nominated ministers are appointed and that the new government continues with the reforms including the fulfilment of obligations set by High Representative Paddy Ashdown,"</i> said Osmanovic.</p>

<p>RS President Cavic slams Ashdown's decision on defence, police reform</p>	<p>TV Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje pg 2 'Cavic threatens with obstructions to bringing BiH closer to NATO' and pg 9 'RS is not like it was 13 years ago', Vecernji List, pg 2 'Representatives of RS requesting demilitarisation of RS', by <u>Branka Stevandic</u>, SRNA – As far as the reform of the defence system and police in BiH is concerned, RS President Dragan Cavic has rendered as unacceptable for the RS solutions which have been explicitly defined by High Representatives Paddy Ashdown's decision/measures. <i>"New, explicit demands which are going to literally demolish the defence system – which has been built on a compromise and a balancing act between the entities – have ushered in the demilitarization of BiH as an inevitability and a political issue,"</i> Cavic told journalists in Banja Luka on Saturday at a special reception for representatives of the Defence and Interior Ministries and the RS Army. The reception was held to mark 9 January – the Day of the RS. Saying that the demilitarization of BiH will not be either accepted by the other two peoples (Croats and Bosniaks) in the Federation of BiH, Cavic emphasized that he did not rule out a possibility of a unilateral decision with regard to demilitarization if RS representatives reach a consensus on the issue. <i>"Consequences of such decision would mean that BiH would have armed forces with no Serb participation,"</i> Cavic said and added that the issue's long-term outlook should be thought through. The RS president believes that the level of the defence reform agreed so far should be implemented as, judging by all NATO statements and stands, the achieved level of defence reform is in line with meeting all legal and reform demands for BiH's admission into NATO's Partnership for Peace programme. He recalled that the RS' political stand on the reform of the BiH's defence system is clearly evident in one of the stipulations of the recently signed agreement on a unified political activity of the six strongest political parties in the RS. Cavic said that the offered concept of the reform of the BiH police structure was also unacceptable for the RS. <i>"The RS and all political parties in the RS believe that we can accept a reform of the state police structure which would envisage that the reform of the RS Interior Ministry would organize police forces as a sub-system of a unified system and that, in line with the agreed deployment and solutions, the RS would be an authority which would take part through its representatives in the drafting of a unified police concept, which should also be satisfactory as far as the BiH Constitution and the standards defined by the Feasibility Study are concerned,"</i> Cavic said. Asked by journalists how stable the RS was following 13 years of its existence as an entity, Cavic said that <i>"the RS is as stable as it was during its first year, the only difference is that it is not the same as it was in its first year"</i>. He recalled that immediately after the Dayton agreement was signed, the RS became different from what it was before that, adding that at the very start of the implementation of the Dayton regulations in 1996 it was said that the Dayton agreement would be changing in some respects while it is being implemented. <i>"In reality, the Dayton agreement has been going through changes but the fundamental principles and positions of the BiH entities have not,"</i> Cavic concluded.</p>
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Paravac: Crisis caused by persons and bodies outside RS	BHT, Dnevni List , pg 4 'Misunderstandings outside RS caused crisis', <u>not signed</u> – The Chairman of BiH Presidency, Borislav Paravac , believes that the current social-political difficulties in BiH have been caused by big misunderstandings <i>"of some persons and bodies outside the RS"</i> . <i>"The current events in BiH, which have been caused against the will of the Serb people and Serb politicians, show that the battle for existence of the RS has been prolonged even 15 years after it was established and the wartime that is far behind us"</i> , stated Paravac.
Political conflicts inside SPRS	RTRS, Oslobođenje pg 7 'Petar Djokic blocked work of SPRS bodies' – Senior officials in SPRS have entered into conflict due to speculations that Nedjo Djuric might become the new RS PM-designate. Member of SP RS main board Milutin Pejic sent an open letter to SPRS Chairman Petar Djokic . Pejic stated that he stops all cooperation with Djokic and announced his withdrawal from all positions in the party. He accuses Djokic of self-willingness, blockade of party bodies and political games. Members of SP were not surprised with this letter. Zivko Marjanac member of SP says that Pejic announced his withdrawal from party functions at the last party meeting. Marjanac feels that the reason for that is that Pejic wanted for Djuric to accept the position of new PM-designate. Djokic says that this letter will not disturb the party too much.
DL op-ed on arrest of PIFWCs: RS not crazy about meeting deadlines	Dnevni List , pg 2 'New deadlines', by <u>Jurislav Petrovic</u> – Commenting on the statement of the High Representative for BiH, Paddy Ashdown , that Republika Srpska and Serbia and Montenegro have to arrest war crimes suspects, foremost Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic by April this year, the author argues that the High Representative has to remember that the RS <i>"is not crazy about meeting deadlines and fulfilling promises"</i> . In that context, the author also reminds that the Chief ICTY Prosecutor promised on numerous occasions that war crimes suspects would be arrested by such and such date, but they never did. Finally, the author argues that NATO officials often go public with statements that the suspects were seen here and there, and the author argues that in that case NATO should have arrested them if they know their movements.
DL: Mayor Beslic to appoint heads of services in City administration on Monday	Dnevni List , pg 12, mentioned on front 'Mayor appoints heads of services tomorrow', by <u>V. Soldo</u> – Reports that HDZ and SDA's negotiating teams in Mostar, represented by Mladen Margeta , Ljubo Beslic and Ivan Beus (HDZ) and Suad Hasandedic , Murat Coric and Sead Maslo (SDA), met of Friday night to discuss issues pertaining to functioning of Mostar authorities, including the future organization of Mostar administration and lack of decision regarding the temporary financing of City of Mostar. Apparently, the two sides reached a conclusion that the City administration had to be put in place as soon as possible in order to have the city fully functional, and according to information coming from the negotiating teams, it would appear that the Mayor of Mostar, Ljubo Beslic , would appoint 16 heads of services in the City administration tomorrow (Monday). Moreover, DL reports that the negotiators agreed that no institution would be included in the city budget (for 2005), unless it has re-organized its acts in accordance with the Mostar Statute.

Economic/social issues

**Former
employees of
Orasje Customs
Office protest
against alleged
irregularities**

FTV, Dnevni List, front pg splash and pg 9
'Blockade of state border crossings', by
Tihomir Bijelic – 42 former employees of
the Customs Office at Orasje protested
yesterday (Saturday), believing that the
vacancies for the jobs were not carried
out according to the rules and
regulations. The fired workers claim that
parts of their documentation such as
different diplomas and certificates, which
they had enclosed in replies to vacancy
notices, had somehow gone missing.
Moreover, the former employees claim that
several highly qualified workers lost
their jobs and instead people with
criminal charges against got the jobs. In
that context, DL goes on to say that, in
order to establish a national balance in
the Indirect Taxation Administration, 42
Croat officials from Orasje and Bosanski
Samac crossings have been fired. The fired
workers demand talks with relevant
authorities and if there were no positive
developments by January 11, they would
block the said border crossings.

**Newly-appointed
BiH Central
Bank Governor
Kozaric expects
interest rates
to fall this
year**

Dnevni Avaz pg 5, mentioned on cover 'We expect interest rates to decrease by one to 1.5 percent this year' – In an interview for the daily, **Kemal Kozaric**, newly-appointed BiH Central Bank Governor who assumed the duty as of January 1 this year said that he did not expect any major change in the policy of the institution in comparison to the mandate of his predecessor **Peter Nicholl**. Kozaric however said that he expected interest rates to decrease by one to 1.5 percent in this year.