OHR BiH Media Round-up, 9/12/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 9 December

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)
No news on Gotovina extradition
Protests in Croatia over Gotovina
RS and Serbia called to arrest PIFWC

TV news broadcast on 8 December

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	**TV PINK** (18,00 hrs)	**BHT 1** (19,00 hrs)
Gotovina arrested	Gotovina arrested in Spain	Gotovina arrested
HR on Gotovina's arrest	Ashdown on Gotovina's arrest	Details on arrestment
Del Ponte on ICTY indictees	Rehn on Balkans road to EU	Croatian reactions to the arrest
Regional news	Ivanic on Brussels ' summit	BiH reactions to the arrest

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	**FTV** (19,30 hrs)	**RTRS** (19,30 hrs)
Ante Gotovina arrested	Gotovina arrested	Rehn on West Balkan countries
CoM in session	Croatian reactions to the arrest	Gotovina arrested

Nadja Dizdarevic collapsed	NATO and EU on the arrest	Reactions to Gotovina's arrest
Jankovic transferred to BiH Court	HRT info	Del Ponte in Belgrade

Oslobodjenje	10 KM to poor ones as of January 1?
Dnevni Avaz	Gotovina arrested in Spain
Dnevni List	General Ante Gotovina arrested
Vecernji List	Gotovina arrested
Slobodna Dalmacija	Gotovina arrested on Canary islands
Nezavisne Novine	Ante Gotovina was arrested
Glas Srpske	To the Hague with Bush and Blair *[reports on the speech of Nobel prize winner Harold Pinter before SwedishAcademy of Science]*
EuroBlic	Forged passport betrayed Gotovina
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related titles

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY	
US: RS and Serbia called to arrest PIFWC	**RHB**– US Secretary of State, **Condoleezza Rice**, welcomes the arrest of **Ante Gotovina**, calling on the authorities in SCG and RS to honour their obligations towards the ICTY. She underlines that the US would especially like to see arrests of **Ratko Mladic** and **Radovan Karadzic**.

BiH Court rejects appeals by PEBS suspects	**SRNA**– The BiH Court has refused the appeal of an incarceration order from **Mirko Sarovic**, **Milorad Govedarica** and **Milovan Bjelica**, who were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the Privredna Banka Srpsko Sarajevo case, SRNA was told by attorney **Dragisa Jokic**.

Ante Gotovina arrested	
Ante Gotovina arrested	**RHB, PINK, BHT1, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** cover page, pg 10 'Ante Gotovina arrested', **Dnevni Avaz** cover page, pgs 24-25 'Gotovina arrested in Spain'- The ICTY Chief Prosecutor, **Carla del Ponte**, announced in Belgrade on Thursday the arrest of the fugitive Croatian general **Ante Gotovina** on the Canary Islands, Spain, on Wednesday. Gotovina, one of three most notorious ICTY indictees still at large, was indicted in 2001 for crimes committed in Croatia the course and after the 1995 Operation Storm and he had been on the run since. **Dnevni List**, front pg splash and pgs 2-3 'General Ante Gotovina arrested', by Arijana Beus, **Vecernji List**, front pg splash and pgs 2-3 'Gotovina arrested', by Zorana Bajt, Silvan Perica, Radmila Kovacevic, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, front pg splash 'Gotovina arrested on Canary islands' and pgs 2-3 'Nine agents arrested Gotovina at dinner', by Zvonko Tomic – news on Gotovina arrest. (**NB:** in addition VL and SD carry many articles/reactions about Gotovina's career and reactions of people and officials from Croatia on pgs 2-8 and 2-7 respectively), **Nezavisne Novine** cover pg splash and pgs 2-3 'Ante Gotovina was arrested' by Agencies and S. Karic – also reported.

Ashdown: Gotovina's arrest increases pressure on Banja Luka nad Belgrade	**RHB, PINK, Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Stronger pressure on Banja Luka and Belgrade', **Dnevni List**, pg 6 'Good news about arrest of Gotovina', not signed– Commenting on the apprehension of **Ante Gotovina**, the High Representative, **Paddy Ashdown**, said that this increases the pressure on the authorities in Banja Luka and Belgrade to deliver the remaining indicted war criminals, especially **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ratko Mladic**, to The Hague. "*Banja Luka and Belgrade are now in focus. The international community will now closely watch if new apprehensions will follow Gotovina's apprehension*", Ashdown said.**BHT1**, **FTV**, **Hayat**, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 24 'Increased pressure on Banja Luka and Belgrade' – also carried.

EU/NATO welcome arrest, urge apprehension of Karadzic and Mladic	**BHT 1, Dnevni Avaz** pg 24 'EU and NATO: Karadzic and Mladic must be apprehended', **Oslobodjenje** pg 2, mentioned on cover 'SCG and BiH in PfP as soon as they have fulfilled conditions'– Both EU and NATO welcomed the arrest of **Ante Gotovina**. EU Commissioner for Enlargement **Olli Rehn** stated that the arrest is important for reconciliation process in the Western Balkan. NATO General Secretary **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer** stated that this is good news, stressing that detaining of remaining ICTY fugitives at large has to follow. *"I have just heard that ICTY indictee Ante Gotovina is arrested. Good news would be apprehension of remaining indictees. **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ratko Mladic** also have to be in Den Hague and at large,"* commented Scheffer. Hayat – also carried that EU and NATO welcomed arrest. **FTV** also carries. Scheffer. **FTV** – *"I trust that this will encourage the authorities in other countries of the region, especially in SCG to give their maximum in order to achieve full cooperation with the ICTY, in order for remaining indictees, Mladic and Karadzic to be located, arrested and transferred,"* said Rehn. **Dnevni List**, pgs 4-5 'Sad day for all Croat(ian)s', by Arijana Beus, **Vecernji List**, pg 5 – carries Rehn. **Dnevni List**, pgs 4-5 'Sad day for all Croat(ian)s', by Arijana Beus, **Vecernji List**, pg 5, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 3 'EU and NATO: It is turn for Karadzic and Mladic now', by H – carry comments by Scheffer.

Bukejlovic: Gotovina arrest to accelerate arrest of other ICTY suspects; Jovic: Del Ponte should be ashamed for saying he hid in monasteries	**BHT 1** by Boris Grubesic– Arrest of **Ante Gotovina** provoked many reactions in BiH. RS authorities stated that arrestment of Gotovina should accelerate arrestment of other ICTY fugitives. RS Prime Minister **Pero Bukejlovic** stated: *"But in any case this is giving certain signals that, on these territories of BiH and SCG, it is essential to be more efficient, when it comes to detaining of war crimes indictees"*. Chairman of BiH Presidency **Ivo Miro Jovic** sees this arrestment as clear counterargument to all those who have disputed the Croatian association with the EU, claiming that Gotovina hides in Croatia. *"Will Mrs. Del Ponte be even a little ashamed, after her semi-annual reports and causing of huge damages to Catholic Church that Gotovina is hiding in monasteries,"* said Jovic. **Paddy Ashdown** stated that arrestment of Gotovina will increase pressure on Banja Luka and Belgrade to arrest **Ratko Mladic** and **Radovan Karadzic**. Associations of Serb refugees from Croatia believe that the arrest would contribute to revealing of the truth about military action "Storm", while representatives of Croat people in BiH stressed that this proves that Gotovina wasn't hiding in Catholic Monasteries in Croatia and Herzegovina. **RTRS** by Valentina Lekanic – Serbian President **Boris Tadic** congratulated Croatia and stated that Serbia must resolve the issue of Mladic and others as soon as possible. RTRS also carries Ashdown, Jovic, Del Ponte and Bukejlovic. **FTV** also carries Bukejlovic. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'Ivanic: To PfP only with arrested Karadzic and Mladic' – **Mladen Ivanic** welcomes the arrest, but adds it is true that this development will put RS under more pressure. *"Gotovina's arrest now means bigger responsibility of BiH institutions, especially RS to continue intensively towards arrests of war crimes suspects because without those doors, EU and NATO will not be open [to us],"* concluded Ivanivc.

Del Ponte angry with Belgrade because Karadzic, Mladic still at large	**BHT 1** By Vesna Simic– ICTY Chief Prosecutor **Carla Del Ponte** visited Belgrade and expressed her anger with the fact that **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ratko Mladic** were still at large. Noting she expects Belgrade's cooperation in this issue, she stressed hope Belgrade authorities will make a progress till Wednesday when she is to submit the report on SCG's cooperation to the UN Security Council. During her last visit to Belgrade, Del Ponte said that she hopes that Mladic will be arrested till December 15th and during this visit she expressed her disappointment, stressing: *"There is no doubt that authorities are doing something, but they aren't doing enough. We expect more activities, because we are certain that we can locate Mladic,"* stated Del Ponte. **RHB**also reported. **FTV, RTRS, BHT1, Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'SCG got bad mark over Mladic', **Dnevni List**, pg 23 'It is time for Serbia to move from words into action', by NINA, also reported.
BN Int with Andan: Gotovina's arrest to put more pressure on RS/SCH	**BN TV** 'Puls' magazine by Suzana Radjen-Todorovic – In an interview to BN, the RS Police Director **Dragomir Andan** commented the arrest of **Ante Gotovina** stating that this even will now raise a level of pressure to locate and arrest **Karadzic** and **Mladic**. Pointing out that the RS MoI has improved the cooperation with the ICTY to great extant in comparison with even 2004, Andan says that RS police has been collecting information on Mladic/Karadzic for a long time and exchanging it with Serbia. Commenting 5 December meeting with the Chief ICTY Prosecutor **Carla del Ponte**, Andan Del Ponte expressed satisfaction with the way things were going on. He concluded that RS MoI confirmed that no ICTY war crime indictees were in the RS.

Nacional: Mladic willing to surrender for 100 million €	**Nacional** (Belgrade daily) pg 3 'Give money, I'll give myself' announced on cover 'I will peacefully go to the Hague for 100 million €' by E. N. – A source close to Belgrade diplomatic circles claims **Ratko Mladic** is willing to surrender if he is paid the sum of 100 million €. Reportedly, a scenario on surrender was already prepared for Mladic and this scenario is quite similar to the one in accordance with which **Ante Gotovina** was arrested on Thursday.
DL op-ed on Gotovina arrest: People from Croatia and Herzegovina in grief: ICTY does not serve justice	**Dnevni List**, pg 2 'Gotovina – a scapegoat', by Arijana Beus – Mostar-based Dnevni List comments on the arrest of general **Gotovina** saying that unlike politicians from Croatia, who dare not say much, many associations, defenders and citizens from Croatia and Herzegovina are in grief because of the arrest. Beus notes that Gotovina's destiny is good as sealed, and that possible convicting sentence to him would also convict whole of Croatia. The author concludes that very few people saw justice coming from the ICTY, as recently demonstrated by the acquitting verdict to **Sefer Halilovic**, which disregarded the number of Croat victims from Uzdol and Grabovica. **Vecernji List**, pg 5 'Gotovina's sacrifice for Croatia', op-ed by Milan Ivkosic – mildly negative comment on Gotovina arrest.
ICTY transfers Jankovic case to BiH Court	**BHT 1, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Gojko Jankovic transferred to Sarajevo', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 3, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Jankovic was transferred to Sarajevo' by AFP, **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Jankovic in Sarajevo' by Beta – **Gojko Jankovic**, ICTY indictee for war crimes committed in Foca, has been transferred to Bosnia and Herzegovina to be tried before the BiH Court. This is the second case in which the ICTY refers processing of its indictees to the jurisdiction of one of the countries of the Former Yugoslavia.

Political developments

Talks on const. changes: FBiH parties harmonized stances	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Positions on BiH House of Peoples, Presidency harmonized' by A. Malagic– At the meeting with the representative of the US Institute for Peace **Donald Hays** held on Thursday in Sarajevo, the representatives of the FBiH parties harmonized their stances on constitutional changes, i.e. on possible changes to the BiH Presidency and BiH Hosue of Peoples. Hays stated that today he is to continue talks with SDS, PDP and SNSD in Banja Luka. He added that the meeting with FBiH parties was a continue of Wednesday's talks just to ensure *"we have understood their stances and views".* Hays added: *"I think that now we have clear picture… Number of options is must larger. I hope that the talks in Banja Luka will be productive as these."* Meeting was attended by SDP and HZ leaders, **Zlatko Lagumdzija** and **Milenko Brkic** respectively, and **Beriz Belkic** on behalf of SBiH. HDZ said that nobody has arrived to Sarajevo for justifiable reason, while SDA earlier announced it would not send its representative. Belkic stated that the position of these parties were very similar: *"Everyone agrees that we should strive to get one president, but I am not sure RS will accept that. Also, the HoP should only deal with the issue of vital national interest."* Lagumdzija explains the proposals on the const. changes: *"We have got options for several ways to elect the HoP members. One is the direct election, whereas entire BiH is regarded as electoral unit, which is acceptable. Second way is for the members to be elected to the HoR and third manner stipulates two phases in which delegates are nominated from cantons and entities, and HoR further votes on the list."* Hays also met with representatives of a number of embassies, especially of countries that are members of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board. **PINK, Hayat, FTV, Oslobodjenje** pg 5 'Hays to meet with RS representatives today' – also reported. **EuroBlic** pg RS2 'Hays offers several solutions' not signed – carries Lagumdzija's statement. **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Feeling the pulse' by Srna – carries statements of Hays and Lagumdzija.
Brkic (HNZ) on constitutional reforms: It is irrelevant whether he have Presidency or President leading state	**Dnevni List**, pg 6 'Politicians with Hays about Presidency', by I. R. – On the meeting **Donald Hays** held with representatives of HDZ, HNZ, SBiH and SDP, HNZ President, **Milenko Brkic**, confirmed for DL that talks focus on the issue of BiH Presidency, explaining that the four parties had reached a high degree of agreement about the issue. Namely, Brkic explains that *"it was concluded that it is irrelevant whether a president or presidency is leading the state"* adding that a more important issue is the way of electing of the presidency.

VL: Lozancic not happy with Hays separately meeting parties from RS and FBiH	**Vecernji List**, pg 10 'Constitutional changes strengthening entities', by Zoran Kresic – Notes that the FBiH President, **Niko Lozancic**, who met with **Donald Hays** on behalf of the HDZ, complained to Hays about the way he organized his visit to BiH because Hays decided to separately meet parties from the RS and FBiH. Lozancic stresses it brings into question the future participation of Croat parties in the talks because mentioning of entities at meetings at Brussels and Washington was being avoided because the HDZ demanded it. Inset 'Fulfilling of Serbs' expectations' notes that Hays presented a concept (of constitutional changes) that would suit the Serb side, which would in reality strengthen the entities and weaken the state.
HDZ's Relota: this is just a continuation of Brussels and Washinton talks	**EuroBlic** pg RS3 'It is difficult to reach a compromise with stubborn Tihic' by Nedeljka Breberina – HDZ Spokesperson **Miso Relota** confirmed **Donald Hays** met representatives of this party and added this was just a continuation of Brussels and Washington talks and it was unrealistic to expect there would be any specific solutions in this round of talks.
Hays to meet SDS , PDP and SNSD representatives in Banja Luka ; Dodik, Ivanic to attend meeting,	**EuroBlic** pg RS3 'It is difficult to reach a compromise with stubborn Tihic' by Nedeljka Breberina – **Donald Hays**, would hold a meeting with representatives of SDS, PDP and SNSD in Banja Luka today. SNSD's **Milorad Dodik** said he would inform Hays on the stances with regard to the structure of BiH Presidency, Parliament and CoM, noting constitutional changes can be agreed upon only with consensus. PDP's **Mladen Ivanic** confirmed he would attend the meeting, said he does not expect spectacular results and noted it is important that it is especially important that the constitutional changes are conducted without interference of the IC. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'International community should not interfere in constitutional changes' by Agencies, **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Changes without interference' by Srna – carry **Ivanic's** statement. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Parties from F BiH plead for abolishment of the Presidency' by M. Cubro – report on mtg held in Sarajevo and announces Banja Luka meeting.

OBN/ VL interview with McElhaney: current constitutional talks are just beginning of process	**Vecernji List**, pg 12 'Current talks are just beginning of constitutional changes', by Dejan Jazvic – Carries an interview with the US Ambassador to BiH, **Douglas McElhaney**, in which he talks about the constitutional changes in BiH. His ultimate message is that the current talks are just a beginning of a long process in which the US Government has a stronger role (than before). According to McElhaney's understanding of the Washington talks, the result when it comes to the BiH Presidency, is that BiH should be getting a Presidency with one President. OBN 'Telering' current affairs program by Mato Djakovic – In an interview to OBN, McElhaney reiterated BiH must have "*more effective and coherent Presidency, Council of Ministers or Government or whatever you want to call it, with Prime Minister who would have a little more powers so that he or she could bring the people and their stands together, Parliament which would not repeat its activities, so that House of Peoples would no do exactly the same as the House of Representatives, clear list of human rights for individuals, and finally… how you develop some other institutions on the state level that would be needed for the negotiations on all those important things with the European Union, World Trade Organization and other bodies*".
SD comment: One should not expect much from constitutional talks	**Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 19 'Hays' diplomacy 'on rocks'', by Blazica Kristo – Comments on the constitutional talks process, claiming that, if one is to judge by statements and behaviour of BiH politicians, the process will end up in a blind alley. SD underlines statement by SDP's **Zlatko Lagumdzija** who doubted that the parties would reach an agreement by end of March next year.
Feral Tribune: Requests for abolishment of RS are unrealistic, especially when view from regional context	**Feral Tribune**, pgs 22-23 'Pristina on Vrbas', by Ivan Lovrenovic – commenting on the process of constitutional changes, Lovrenovic argues that the American 'guarantees' of the survival of the RS have a pragmatic goal – to facilitate reaching of an agreement in Serbia regarding the future status of Kosovo. The author notices that the SNSD leader, **Milorad Dodik**, used the situation to release a test balloon by warning in an interview to *Reuters* that "*Serbs could be asking for independence unless this position of the RS is endangered, using the same argument like Albanians from Kosovo, who advocate independence from Serbia based on the right to self-determination*". Lovrenovic's conclusion says that when viewed in the general, regional context, the Bosniak and Croat requests for abolishment of the RS are for sure unrealistic.

Rehn on Western Balkans: To EU through reforms	**PINK, BHT1, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 4 'To EU through reforms', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'We must not give illusions to the countries of Western Balkans' – EU Commissioner for Enlargement, **Olli Rehn**, said on Thursday that the road of the Western Balkans countries towards membership in the EU will be long and hard, but the Union will not close its doors to them because the EU cares that the Balkans "exports" stability, instead of "importing" instability. "Many years will pass until the official membership of those countries in the EU… This is why we must not provide them with any false illusions", Rehn told the conference dedicated to the future of the Balkans, organized by the Institute "Friends of Europe" in Brussels. He added that SCG, Albania and BiH must launch and implement a number of important economic and political reforms.
Police Reform Directorate was established by CoM	**BHT1, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 6 'Police areas maps to be determined by simple (51 percent) majority', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 10, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4, announced on cover 'Police Reform Directorate was established' by M. C., **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Directorate was established' by Srna – During its session, Council of Ministers has passed a decision on establishment of Directorate for police reform, which will work in composition of the CoM with one-year mandate. It was decided that members of the Directorate will not include persons performing any political or executive function but only experts. Deputy to BiH Minister of Security **Dragan Mektic** explained that Directorate will be composed of nine members, whereas each people will be equally represented. *"All decisions should be reached trough consensus, but wanting to avoid the situation of eternal consensus, where it is impossible to reach it then voting will be conducted, where simple majority wins"* said Mektic adding that if the full support cannot be ensured for a proposal, majority vote will decided with obligatory support of EUPM. **Hayat** – also reported.

DA, NN says SNSD to decided on participation in RS Govt on Monday; Blic: SNSD does not want to form a coalition with those who on power in RS; Politicians' comments	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'SNSD is thinking about vote of no confidence to Bukejlovic's Government' by N. Diklic – SNSD President **Milorad Dodik** stated that members of the SNSD Executive Board would decide on Monday whether PDP members would demand voting of no-confidence to the RS Government and RS Prime Minister **Pero Bukejlovic.** He stressed that the privatization audit in the RS is the only pre-requisite that he sets for taking over the RS Government. Dodik added that members of the Executive Board would also discuss initiative of DNS's **Drago Kalebic** about vote of no confidence to the RS executive authority. DA inset 'Law on privatization audit is being prepared' carries Bukejlovic as saying that for the next year he plans to draft Law on Privatization audit and he added: '*I am aware that I would be faced with opposition to this initiative of the RSNA an some groups however I am determined to cope with these problems.*'**Nezavisne Novine** pg 6 'Decision of SNSD on Monday' by V. Popovic – similar to DA report, but **EuroBlic** pg RS2, announced on cover 'Agreement between Cavic and Dodik is crucial' by Rajna Radosavljevic published contradictory information that Dodik stated the party does not want to form a coalition with those who were on power in RS until now because RS needs thorough changes. '*If SDS and other parties share this view, let them support our concept and we will overtake the executive authorities*', Dodik was quoted. PDP's **Mladen Ivanic** claims forming of a coalition between SDS and SNSD is not a realistic option, although this coalition would be reasonably stabile. SPRS's **Petar Djokic** thinks the issue of current RS Government would not be resolved by the end of this year, despite to the fact it would be suitable for SDS to transfer the burden of the authorities onto some other party. DNS's **Drago Kalabic** claims anything is possible on RS political scene, while SDA's **Tarik Sadovic** says if RS wishes to save the authorities, then the coalition between SDS and SNSD is the only realistic option. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 6 'Decision of SNSD on Monday' by V. Popovic – also carries statements of PDP, Djokic and Kalabic.**RTRS** by Radoslav Banovic – carries SNSD confirmed that it still hasn't received invitation from SDS to join the government. SDS Deputy Chair **Dusan Stojicic** stated that SDS is ready to negotiate with SNSD in order to prevent possible political crisis and blockade of RS institutions. **Ranko Savic** from PDP stated that cooperation without principles between SDS and SNSD always existed and added that things will come out in the open at the next session of RSNA.
BHT 1: Dodik to become RS PM in January?	**BHT 1** 'Javna tajna' current affairs programme by Zoran Sarenac – According to BHT1 sources, **Milorad Dodik** is to become new RS Prime Minister in January. Allegedly, SDS leader **Dragan Cavic** is going to start the talks on new Government with Dodik next week.

Ivanic in Brussels : SAA talks could be completed pretty soon	**PINK** – BiH Minister of Foreign Affaires **Mladen Ivanic** took part at the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council [EAPC] a daylong summit in Brussels. Ivanic explained in a statement for PINK what was his messages to other participants: "*I have stressed the fact that BiH has strongly got into the process of approaching EU. I have stressed my feeling that Stabilisation and Association Agreement talks could be finished relatively soon, since BiH has developed pretty liberal economy. So, the adaptation will not be hard to implement, except issue regarding agriculture. I think that it is of great importance and it's very positive that all the regional countries are in the process of negotiations with EU, and that BiH is among them, as a part of the process.*" **RTRS**, **Oslobodjenje** pg 4 'BiH's goal is open society and economy– also reported.
Rycroft warns deadline for draft higher education law expires today	**RTRS, Hayat, Dnevni List**, pg 8 'Deadline for higher education law expiring', not signed, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 12 'Rucroft: to invest in youth through education' by E. D. **–** UK Ambassador to BiH **Matthew Rycroft** warned on Thursday that the deadline given to the working group established in agreement between BiH premiers and education ministers from both entities to develop a draft law on higher education expires tomorrow. He said that this working group formed of experts on higher education was able to make significant progress in this field despite numerous difficulties, but that much remains to be done. "*I hope that all those involved in this process will be willing to make the necessary compromise*", Rycroft said. He refused to give details on consequences if the group fails to finish the work on developing the draft law by Friday.

Conference in Dayton ; H. Silajdzic: 'There is strong lobbing in order to preserve status quo in BiH'; Butler : Bonn powers should be reduced	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2, mentioned on cover 'There is strong lobbing in order to preserve status quo in BiH' by E. Sarac – At the invitation of the Washington Centre 'Woodrow Wilson' founder of SBiH **Haris Silajdzic** participates in the work of the conference called '10th Anniversary of Dayton: Thinking about post-conflict building of state'. Silajdzic stated for DA that in his address to participants of the conference he said that BiH needs a new Constitution and that entities represent obstacles for BiH's progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration. He added that **Dragan Mikerevic** talked after him and that he expressed a different opinion. According to Silajdzic, there is strong lobbing of those centers of powers that are trying to preserve a status quo in BiH and that support cosmetic constitutional changes. DA says that Principle Deputy High Representative **Lawrence Butler**also attends this conference.**Hayat** by Omer Vatric (VoA) – Addressing the participants of the conference Butler said he believes that Bonn powers should be reduced in BiH. He also underlined on this occasion that happenings in the region, especially in regard to solution for Kosovo, should not have impact on BiH. **Dragan Mikerevic** also participated in the conference. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Key word for BiH is Europe' by N. N., **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'It brought peace – continued the war' by agencies [the title refers to the DPA] – also reported.
DA vs. Cavic: Why Cavic is not arresting war criminals, instead of criticizing participating at OIC summit	**Oslobodjenje** pg 3 'Why Cavic is not arresting war criminals', **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 – SDA issued a press release reading that RS President **Dragan Cavic**, with his statements to the media describing SDA President **Sulejman Tihic** as a clero-nationalist, has said more about himself and his views of Islam and the worshipers of Islam. The part added that representatives of more than 60 countries are taking part in the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit, including the Russian President who is there as an observer. SDA asked Covic if all participants in the Summit are clero-nationalists, and why is he getting involved in BiH foreign policy when he has no authority over it. "*His responsibility is to arrest war criminals, primarily **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ratko Mladic**, for which he has been acting as a spokesperson through his statements*", SDA stated.

Jovic: Croats in BiH are fighting to survive	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Jovic: Memories on time of violence must not be a cause for new conflicts', **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'In accordance with Swiss key' not signed – BiH Presidency Chair **Ivo Miro Jovic** said in Sarajevo on Thursday that BiH, its peoples and citizens, deserve a better future, and will have it once all enjoy equal freedoms and rights guaranteed under the BiH Constitution and charters on human rights. He made this statement during talks with Swiss Ambassador to BiH **Urs Breitter**. Jovic said that "*today one people in the heart of democratic Europe – Croats in BiH, where they have been living for 13 centuries, are fighting for survival, a position in which they have been brought by the imposed unjust administrative organization of the country*".

Economic and social issues

BiH CoM: entities, district ensured required money to tackle negative impact of VAT introduction	**PINK** by Aida Doric – BiH Council of Ministers representatives met with entity and cantonal Ministers for Labour and Social Policy to discuss the consequences of the VAT introduction and methods to decrease them. If the prices of goods raise due to VAT, beneficiaries of public welfare, including pensioners with income under KM 200, will have right to receive additional incomes from the social care programme. BiH CoM Chair's Advisor on economic issues **Zlatko Hurtic**, said that through their budgets, both entities have provided the financial resources for this purpose. He said that FBiH has ensured KM 25 million, RS KM 21 million and Brcko District KM 3 million, which has satisfied the requirement of the BiH CoM to ensure 50 million KM for this purpose. In case of raising prices, it is possible that also some other categories enter the social care programme, said reporter, adding that FBiH Government provided KM 32 million for disabled persons. FBiH Government will establish VAT monitoring teams, which is another activity in order to control the prices. Currently the authorities are searching for the best solution on how to make these social programs more available to the endangered category of citizens. **FTV** – It has been estimated that 50 million will be used for about 800.000 people in BiH , whereas additional means will be distributed trough Centres of Social Work, which was confirmed by Representative of FBiH Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, **Asim Zecevic**. **Oslobodjenje** cover page '10 KM to poor ones as of January 1?', **Dnevni List**, pg 6 'Social welfare centres in charge of help', by D. P. Mandic, **Nezavisne novine** pg 9 'Those in jeopardy from F BiH can ask for an additional help' by R. Cengic – also reported.

FBiH Govt: measures adopted to alleviate VAT consequences	**FTV, Hayat, RHB, PINK, Dnevni Avaz** pg 2, **Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'Prices of bread and milk not to change', **Dnevni List**, pg 2 'Easing of consequences of introduction of VAT', by NINA, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, back pg 'VAT ruffles feathers', by Z. Zekic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 9 'A team for monitoring of prices established' by Agencies – The FBiH Government has adopted on Thursday decision to establish a team to monitor the VAT prices after introduction, in order to alleviate consequences that might come. Entities' and District Brcko Governments decided on allocating funds for a program to alleviate consequences of the introduction of VAT on the poorest categories of population. FBiH Government will allocate 25 million KM, RS Government 21 million KM and 3 million KM are foreseen in Brcko District. *"Program presented in BiH Parliament and which was estimated to 50 million KM for the poorest categories is being implemented,"* stated Advisor for Economy issues jn BiH Council of Ministers, **Zlatko Hurtic**. Funds for additional are ensured for the whole next year.

HR on VAT introduction: 'Take care of those who fish in troubled waters'	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Ashdown: Take care of those who fish in troubled waters' by S. Numanovic – High Representative **Paddy Ashdown** stressed that introduction of a VAT would cause 'turbulences' at the beginning, but that BiH would have considerable benefit of the VAT. He added: *'I do not expect inflation, but increase of some prices will take place. The true danger are profiteers, who try to fish in troubled waters. They will try to make profit out of the VAT and you have to take care of them. I expect that media reveals them and says who they are in public.'* Asked as to when positive effects of the VTA would be felt, the HR said that he cannot say as to when this happen certainly, however, experiences of Slovenia and Croatia show that after first 2 or 3 months money collected from the VAT started to go back to citizens. The HR also said*: 'I hope that after some time conditions for reduction of the VAt rate would be created, however, BiH politicians would decided on it.'* **Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'To prevent profiteers' attempt to earn more after the introduction of VAT', **Dnevni List** pg 6 'After difficulties and turbulences good things will start to happen' by D. Polovina-Mandic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 9 'Profiteers can make citizens poor, not VAT' by N. Krsman – also carried HR.

Rycroft: 'International Community supports preparations for VAT introduction'	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'International Community supports preparations for VAT introduction' – Commenting on consequences of the VAT introduction British Ambassador **Matthew Rycroft** stated that going from one system to another has always been complicated, however it should bear on mind what benefits it would bring to the state at the end. Rycroft added: *'There are still 3 weeks left before the VAT introduction. Although it is responsibility of BiH institutions, the International Community fully supports their efforts exerted for the VAT introduction preparations.'*
Free ITA hotline opens	**Oslobodjenje** pg 5 'Free info-line on VAT as of today', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 9 'Free-of-charge phone line on VAT as of today' by N. N., **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Phone in service of citizens' by D. Z. – Indirect Taxation Administration today opens free info-line on VAT.
FBiH Tax Administration and Pension Fund fear VAT could jeopardize pensions	**Vecernji List**, pg 48 'VAT could slow down pensions!', by Zoran Kresic – According to a press release of the FBiH Tax Administration, directors of the FBiH Tax Administration and FBiH Pension/Disability Fund, **Midhat Arifovic** and **Nadir Kovacevic** respectively, are concerned that the start of implementation of VAT could affect the payment of pensions because there is fear that employers could be reducing payment of contributions to the Pension Fund. The two directors agreed to intensify inspections to make sure that contributions do get paid properly.

RS Government developed draft 2006 budget in the amount of 1.49 billion KM; Bukejlovic: should ITA fail to pay the money to RS, RS withdraw its support	**PINK, EuroBlic** pg RS3 'Budget amounting 1.49 billion KM was foreseen' by M. S., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 6, announced on cover 'Law on privatization audit will be developed as well' by D. Risojevic – RS Government has developed draft budget for 2006 in amount of KM 1.49 billion, which is 11% more than a last year. The Government also adopted Economical Policy for 2006. RS Prime Minister **Pero Bukejlovic** said that Economical Policy aims are: to intensify the reforms that should secure the raise of gross product, speeding up the privatisation process, reducing the inner debt and public expenses, export stimulation, reducing unemployment and active part of RS in talks on Stabilisation and Association Agreement. Bukejlovic said that he expects this budget to receive necessary support, although his Government has no parliamentary majority. Bukejlovic said that stability and function of system is an issue here. RS Government still has to discuss the OHR's remarks on RS authorities' obstructions on key reforms. **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Either money or we will withdraw' by G. Dakic – in addition to the above reported, the article also quotes RS PM **Pero Bukejlovic** as saying they will try to, once again, find a solution with ITA for the disputable amount of 28 million KM of collected taxes that should have been forwarded to RS, otherwise RS would withdraw its members from ITA Governing Board.

Mostar Mayor demanded loan for western part of city only/Reactions	**Oslobodjenje** pgs 4 and 5, mentioned on cover 'Loan for western side' by A. Becirovic carries that Mostar Mayor **Ljubo Beslic** sent a letter to Federation of BiH Prime Minister **Ahmet Hadzipasic** in which he warns that, among the other things, Mostar has been burdened with the Kuwaiti loan amounting to 17 000 000 KM, that was granted to former Mostar Municipalities with Bosniak majority. In his letter Beslic proposes that another loan also amounting to 17 000 000 KM be secured for Mostar and that it would be spent in the part of the city with the Croat majority. Beslic also says that the **OHR** and representatives of political parties support this proposal. Asked to comment on this claim Head of SDP Mostar **Zoran Peric** said that he is not familiar with this letter and that Beslic's letter shows how he sees a unified Mostar. President of the SDA Mostar under resignation **Zijad Hadziomerovic** said that none talked with SDA about this proposal and he also does not like as to how Beslic views Mostar. President of SBiH in Mostar **Safet Omerovic** also heard about the Beslic's proposal for the first time, while President of the Mostar City Council **Murat Coric** says that there were no any concrete talks about the loan. Osl. inset 'They should reach agreement' carries OHR spokesperson **Sanela Tunovic** as saying: *'I cannot confirm that Beslic's stands have the OHR's support. The way of resolving the Kuwaiti loan payment is a matter of an agreement between the City of Mostar and FBiH Government. The OHR would support their agreement.'*

HT Mostar Union against collection of RTV tax via phone bills	**Dnevni List**, pg 7 ‘There will not be disconnections of phones because of RTV tax’, by Danijela Kozina, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 20 ‘Collection violates law’, by F – The Union of employees of HT Mostar (Croat telecommunications Mostar) decided to contest with the BiH Constitutional Court the decision to collect the RTV tax via phone bills. The Union claims that the decision violates the Law on protection of consumers, enacted in 2002, which says that each service is to be charged separately. **Sarajevo dailies** also reported.

Judicial issues

DL, SD on 'Covic and others' case: Indictment is likely to be crushed	**Dnevni List**, pg 5 'Indictment against 'Covic and others' to fall apart?!', by Erna Mackic – Commenting on the trials in the 'Covic and others' case, the author reckons that the situation in which a former protected witness **Zoran Nikolic** is refusing to testify because he is allegedly mentally unfit and in which it is uncertain whether former director of FBiH Customs Administration, **Zelimir Rebac**, will testify because of health problems (he attempted suicide a few months ago) could be positive for the indictees i.e. that the indictment could be falling apart. **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 19 'Key witness is – mentally incompetent', by Zlatko Tulic – according to SD's information, the defence teams have enough evidence that will show that Nikolic, who refuses to testify, is well known for his deceives and blackmails, which could result in another disgrace of BiH judiciary.
SDS filed complaint upon order of Sokolac Basic Court to pay 1,7 million KM to PB ES	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'East Sarajevo Regional Court to decide on the verdict' by A. Sisic – Judge of Sokolac Basic Court **Jefraim Cosic** on Thursday stated that SDS's lawyer had filed a complaint upon the verdict of this Court that ordered to the party to pay 1,7 million KM to Privredna Banka East Sarajevo. The complaint will be forwarded to the prosecutor, after which East Sarajevo Regional Court will decide on this case.

DA op-ed: More money should be given to Special Department for Organized Crime and Corruption	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 3 'McNair's warning' by H. Orahovac carries that Prosecutor **John McNair** has warned many times that more money should be allocated from the BiH budget for the Special Department for Organized Crime and Corruption with the BiH Prosecution and the author believes that McNair's demand is completely grounded. The author praises the engagement of this Department and he believes that this Department would be even more efficient with more money.
Osl. op-eds harshly criticizes that S. Palavric has been appointed Constitutional Court judge	**Oslobodjenje** pg 9 'Judge Palavric' by Z. Dizdarevic harshly criticizes the fact that **Seada Palavric** has been appointed a Constitutional Court judge and the author believes that this appointment is contrary to basic understanding of democracy. **Oslobodjenje** pg 9 'In jaws of politics' by H. Baksic harshly comments on the same issue and the author says: '*By the election of instant-expert **Seada Palarvic** fragile illusions about the intention to build a rule of law disappeared.*'