

OHR Morning Media Brief, April 26, 2004

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
Vandalism in Stolac	Jasenovac anniversary	Jasenovac anniversary	Probe into Pale explosion
Old Bridge ceremony	Meeting in Mrakovica	ICTY news	PDP on Police's action
Strike of MoI employees	Sanctions vs. HDZ, SDS	Return to Srebrenica	SNS on Police's action
HR visits Mostar	Terzic on reforms	Law on Higher Education	Property issue in Vlasenica

Oslobodjenje	Ministers fought for poverty; Financial flop of F BiH Privatisation Agency: Neither for sale nor it earns; BiH HoP: Minorities in municipal councils?
Dnevni Avaz	Veterans are don't know their rights; Ramiz Salkic: We will leave RS Govt if they dismiss Hafizovic

Dnevni List	Colak: Party will not be putting up with mavericks any more; BiH has no perspective if RS were to be abolished
Vecernji List	City seals in Mostar are illegal
Slobodna Dalmacija	Features Croatia related headlines
Glas Srpske	Law on farms in Republika Srpska: Refugees get no discount
Nezavisne Novine	In front of kindergarten in Zenica: Ill baby left on the street and in the rain; Research: 55% of BiH citizens pro early elections; Donja Gradina: Memory on victims in Jasenovac
Blic	Test of professor of nice behavior: Kostunica does not know how to walk; Dispute: which war was more important; Consequences of floods: water took away heating wood and chicken, fishermen fish for carp in gardens

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Mostar issues	
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<p>Ashdown visits Mostar today</p> <p>Jahic, Merdzo on unification process</p> <p>VL says seals in Mostar City administration are illegal</p> <p>DL against 10 million KM for opening of the Old Bridge</p>	<p>RHB – The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown visits Mostar today, where he will meet with Mayor Hamdija Jahic and Deputy Mayor Ljubo Beslic. During the talks, they will discuss the progress in implementing the Mostar Statute imposed by the High Rep on January 28. OHR press release reads that a particularly positive development in the implementation of the Mostar Statute has been the unification of fire fighting services in the city, which will be visited by Ashdown. During his visit HR will also meet with representatives of Students Association of Mostar University.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘Jahic satisfied with the progress, and Merdzo criticises administration’ – Following difficulties at the beginning, the process of Mostar unification according to the Mostar Mayor Hamdija Jahic goes without obstructions and with speeded dynamics. <i>“After my warnings that the integration process has to be speeded up, that really happened and today we already have the draft budget which should be adopted by 31 May and we are working on the Decision on organisation of the City Administration,”</i> says Jahic. However, the chair of the HDZ Cantonal Board Josip Merdzo says he was not entirely satisfied with the process: <i>“It would be the best to ask citizens what they think about administration after abolishment of municipalities in Mostar. We expect improvement, because the administration must function.”</i></p> <p>Vecernji List front splash, pg 3 ‘City seals in Mostar are illegal’, by <u>Tomislav Kvesic</u> – According to the President of Mostar City Council (MCC), Ivan Musa, the seals that are being used by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Mostar and several departments of the City administration of Mostar are illegal. Musa explains it all started on March 15, with the start of application of the new Mostar Statute, when new seals had to be in place. According to Musa, the first seals, which were of very poor quality, were withdrawn, after which a second batch of seals were made, but not according to the rules. In that context, Musa explains the seals are illegal because no tender was invited, there is no decision of the competent ministry and finally the seals were not made in authorized shops. According to VL, the Secretariat of the Mayor should be taking care of this absurd problem.</p> <p>Dnevni List, page 2 ‘Bridge to Mostarians, but who gets ten million?’, by <u>Ivica Glibusic</u> – argues that the sum of 10 million KMs, which is going to be spent on opening ceremony of the Old Bridge in Mostar, should be spent on something more important, like on the poor, schools, public utilities in Mostar, economy etc. The author also argues that the poor people in Mostar do not care whether the ceremony is going to be attended by large number of heads of states or not.</p> <p>Dnevni List, page 2 carries in its ‘Statement of Day’, the Chairman of BiH Presidency, Sulejman Tihic, as saying: <i>‘Everything we invest, it will stay in Mostar, for Mostarians’</i></p>
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War crimes	
SDS critical of Dragan Lukac re Visegrad Police Action	<p>SRNA – SDS issued a statement on Sunday condemning the most recent statements by Dragan Lukac, chief of the RS Interior Ministry Special Unit, saying that they both directly and indirectly aim to politicize the police operation in Visegrad in which Novica Lukic was tragically killed. <i>“With his statements which are completely inappropriate with the nature of his work, Lukac has confirmed the SDS’s doubts about the professionalism of the police, which has previously put itself in the service of subversive elements, and now the political opposition,”</i> a statement said, adding that <i>“such a police officer, who, instead of doing his job, uses the media to lecture the politicians, cannot be the commander of the elite police unit.”</i> The SDS warns the public and prosecution service, which is leading an investigation into the Visegrad raid, that in his statements, Lukac <i>“with untruths and half-truths is making numerous contradictions in his attempts to turn to a direction which could possibly suit him”</i>. The SDS said that cooperation with the ICTY could not be the alibi for <i>“professional negligence.”</i> Lukac said in a recent interview for the Nezavisne Novine newspaper that the death of Lukic is the result of <i>“accidental circumstances”</i>. RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 ‘SDS: Lukac cannot lead special police units’; Glas Srpske pg 2 “Lukac giving lectures”– also covered.</p>
RS Socialists support Lukac	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 ‘Authority, not the police, is responsible for Visegrad action’; Glas Srpske pg 2 “They were just obeying orders” – Miroslav Mikes, Vice President of the Republika Srpska Socialist Party, said that the police action in Visegrad resulted from “an inferior politics run by authority”. He also expressed support to Republika Srpska Special Police Units and its Head, Dragan Lukac, because they were just “obeying orders”.</p>
Ivanic on RS cooperation with ICTY	<p>RTRS – At the press conference on Sunday, PDP President Mladen Ivanic said that cooperation with ICTY is the last great challenge RS has to face with. According to him, the last attempts of some international organizations to reduce RS independency has been based on this argument. Ivanic said that cooperation with ICTY must be carried out with a professionalism adding that while the police action in Visegrad was politically right move, it must be said that the innocent man was killed. <i>“Those who bare the responsibility for that move must, just like in any other country, be held responsible for that, just alike those who have made unjustified moves in action in Pale when another innocent men got injured, must be held responsible. So the relation must be identical,”</i> said Ivanic, PDP President. He added that best move for RS would be to invite those indicted for war crimes to surrender voluntarily. He added that all countries in region have done more on that issue than RS. Mladen Ivanic pointed out that the Hague Tribunal also indicted the politicians from other peoples, meaning that it is not charging only Serbs.</p>
SNS demand somebody to be held responsible for Lukic’s murder	<p>RTRS – SNS [Serb People’s Union] demands somebody to be held responsible for murder of Novica Lukic, brother of ICTY indictee Mladen Lukic killed in police action in Visegrad, who was the member of their party. Condemning attempts by certain parties to politicise the case, SNS has invited RS politicians to show some dignity and stressed it expects RS officials to extend their apologies to family of Novica Lukic.</p>
Bacon announces Institute for Missing Persons	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘By the end of the summer, the state institution for missing persons’, FENA – Designing of the protocol on the BiH Institute for Missing Persons (INO) could be completed this summer, which would create conditions for full-capacity functioning of this state-level institution with a mechanism for long-term resolving the matters of missing persons in BiH, told Fena Director of INO Gordon Bacon. Bacon said that a task force comprising the representatives of BiH Council of Ministers, the International Commission on Missing Persons [ICMP] and the Entity commissions for missing persons are working on designing the said protocol. Concerning the basic tasks of INO, Bacon said that the aim is to put the process of seeking missing persons in composition of a one state-level institution that will deal in the overall missing persons problematic, regardless of their nationality or religion. In addition, Bacon said it is necessary to establish a valid database on all missing persons, and issue an activity plan for the purpose of gaining information on locations of mass graves from persons who possess such information. Oslobodjenje pg 6 ‘More efficient search for mass graves’ – <i>“As an institution, we shall be working on the process of exhumations, expertise, examining the bodies and identification. It is necessary to continue cooperating with the families of missing persons and on implementing the law on missing persons”</i>, underlined Bacon.</p>

Economic and social issues	
FBiH Privatisation Agency notes 2,3 million KM deficit	<p>Oslobodjenje cover splash, pg 7 'Neither for sale, nor it earns', Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'FBiH Privatisation Agency in deficit of 2,3 million KM' – Daily brings that the FBiH Privatisation Agency last year failed to fulfil planned income from selling of companies under its jurisdiction. Previously it was planned to realize 2,5 milion KM by selling companies Velmos in Mostar, Sarajevo Insurance and Feroelektro and Hidrogradnja from Sarajevo. However, Privatisation Agency said either there were not applications, or the procedure was not completed in satisfactory way. The Agency's report also states that due to the unsolved issue of financing the agency in 2002, transfer of obligations into next year and losses made in 2003, the agency currently has budget deficit of about 2,3 million KM.</p>
Nadarevic on Veterans Law in FBiH	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash 'Veterans are don't know their rights', pg 5 'Financial benefits are not stipulated veterans eligible to work' by Jasna Sogolj – In an interview to DA, FBiH Minister for Veterans Issues, Jasmin Nadarevic says that criticism regarding the the FBiH Veterans Law sent into the parliamentary procedure was referring to the details: <i>"Those unfamiliar with this sector take a right to comment and judge the law. However, this is a law which was, first of all, in public consultations for 5-6 years and whose content has been simplified to the limit."</i> Asked whether veterans have a reason to worry over the new law, Nadarevic answered that the Law doesn't stipulate financial benefits for those veterans who are capable to work. Referring to the criticism regarding the use of term 'shehid' in the Law, Nadarevic says that the term was looked at as a more of a religious expression: <i>"Nowhere Law says that it is obligatory to use term shahid or fallen soldier, but it is entirely up to the choice of user."</i></p>
Banovici Mine management demand information about appointment to supervisory board, criticise SDA	<p>Oslobodjenje cover, pg 5 'Rang list to be seen' – The Management Board of the Banovici Mine sent letters to the High Representative, Ombudsmen, authorized authorities, and some media requesting the information related to the appointment of the new supervisory board in accordance with the BiH Information Act. In a letter signed by the chairman Enver Babajic, Mine's management demands information on entire procedure around appointment, stressing that engagement of Emin Haracic with the Supervisory Board was not in accordance with FBiH Law on Ministerial, Govt and other appointments as Haracic performs the duty of the SDA BiH Main Board member, and member of the SDA Executive Board Kakanj. Additionally, management claims he did not respect procedure. <i>"Prolonging submission of the information we asked shows that those involved in decision making what to gain on time to illegally replace current Banovici mine management at Assembly and bring incapable SDA disciples,"</i> concludes the letter.</p>
FBiH Govt looks into bids for purchase of BH Steel	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Estimate of offers for BH Steel completed' – FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic has confirmed for DA that today an expert team appointed by the FBiH Government will present its proposal on the best bidder to purchase BiH Steel [Steel Factory in Zenica], and the Government will decide next week, probably Thursday, with whom to start negotiations. According to the estimate of those who participated the negotiations with different bidders last week, the entire process could take two-three months.</p>
ITA Director demands respect of 1991 census in staffing main office	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'I will resign if the central office is not staffed in accordance with the 1991 population census' – Director of the BiH Indirect Taxation Administration, Kemal Causevic, doesn't believe that failure to adopt ITA working materials, which should be sent as bylaws to the CoM by the ITA Management Board, presents obstruction. <i>"I believe that the Board will finally do this on 6 May. If it doesn't, than this issue of the obstruction would make sense,"</i> says Causevic, also referring to still unsolved issue of ITA seat in Banja Luka. As for structure of the staff, Causevic says that main ITA office will be staffed in accordance to the 1991 Census: <i>"All those from the international community should give up on illusion that our main offices is to be staffed with simple merger of the existing [customs] offices, which would imply that it has 60 to 70% of Serbs, and just about 15% of Bosniaks and Croats... Either I am not going to be a director, or the main office will have Bosniaks and Croats from the region of Banja Luka and will be established in accordance to the 1991 population census."</i></p>
DL on FBiH Bankruptcy Law	<p>Dnevni List, page 5 'Programme of taking care of worker is utopia', by Renata Radic – The daily got a confirmation from the secretary of the FBiH Parliament's House of Representatives, Anto Baotic, that the said chamber could be next week taking a decision to postpone the application of recently adopted changes and amendments to Law on bankruptcy, despite the item not being placed on the agenda. DL also carries a professor of the Sarajevo Economic Faculty, Nikola Grabovac, as saying that the law in question is not the best solution for workers in the FBiH, because it is utopia to take care of redundant workers since there are no realistic grounds for social funds. The author also claims that the relevant bodies, such as employment bureaus at the FBiH and cantonal levels, will need at least 60 days to implement proper organizational and technical changes to be able to take care of redundant workers.</p>

Education	
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<p>Colak on Education issue in Central Bosnia</p> <p>FTV feature on education reforms</p> <p>OSCE, OHR on failures to adopt education laws</p>	<p>Dnevni List, front page splash and page 3 ‘Colak: Party will not be putting up with mavericks any more’, by Miso Relota – carries the President of HDZ BiH, Barisa Colak, as regretting the fact that the Bosniak representatives in the Central Bosnia Canton (CBC) Assembly did not support the Law on elementary and secondary education. Colak notes the law, which was prepared by the CBC Government, is almost identical to the law that was adopted in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton and which was backed up by the Bosniak representatives in the HNC Assembly. Colak says: <i>‘We do not know against which articles and why the Bosniak representatives were against the law, but I expect a fast action in sense of adoption of the law. What the OHR’s reaction will be like, it remains to be seen, but it is evident the IC will react promptly’.</i></p> <p>FTV – Twelve days are left until the expiration of a deadline for BiH to adopt the Law on Higher Education at the state level. Deadline was set by the World Bank as a condition for receiving a loan in amount of 42 million US dollars. Although deadline for harmonisation of the cantonal Laws on Primary and Secondary Educations with the BiH framework Law, Herzegovina Neretva and Central Bosnian Cantons still have not fulfilled this obligation. The International Community is expected to react. However, BiH Civil Affairs Minister Safet Halilovic believes that there will be enough of the political will for the Parliament to adopt the Law on Higher Education at the state level.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 3 ‘New penalties over non-adoption of the law possible’ – The representatives of cantonal authorities, which failed to adopt the Law on primary and secondary education, have violated their obligation, stressed Zinaida Delic, OSCE Deputy Spokesperson yesterday. The final deadline for the adoption of this law was only respected by the Cantons of Una Sana, Tuzla, Gorazde and Sarajevo. The OHR Spokesperson, Kevin Sullivan, yesterday said that the OHR would announce its stance on this at the end of this week.</p>
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Investigations/incidents	
<p>Jelavic case: VL says OHR interfered into work of BiH Constitutional Court back in 2002</p> <p>Stolac: All crosses from the Stations of the Cross broken again</p>	<p>Vecernji List, front 'Domestic judiciary under pressure' and page 4 'OHR stopped Constitutional Court?', by <u>Zoran Kresic</u> – VL claims that the OHR, as early as in 2002, banned the BiH Constitutional Court from taking a decision to stop proceedings against Croat officials led by Ante Jelavic that were being conducted with the Sarajevo Cantonal Court. VL says it is evident from correspondence between the Head of OHR Legal Department, Ian Campbell, with the then President of BiH Constitutional Court, Snezana Savic, when Campbell banned the proclamation of the already taken decision.</p> <p>RHB, Vecernji List, front page 'Crosses of Stations of the Cross broken', pg 3 'Stolac experienced weekend of breaking crosses again' by <u>Frano Matic</u> – VL reports that on Saturday afternoon, Stolac Police Station was informed on another desecration of the wood crosses of the Stations of the Cross on Krizevac hill near Stolac. VL comments that the latest of 20 such incidents, in which a memorial plaque next to the huge cross was painted in green, will only worsen the political and security situation in Stolac. The case is being investigated by the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior and perpetrators are unidentified as yet.</p>

