OHR Morning Media Brief: November 6, 2002

Headlines in Print Media

Oslobodjenje: Government at the level of BiH to be established without national political parties; Donald Hays delivered a message to the governments in BiH – Revoke decisions on the oil prices reduction, or you will not get the assistance!

Dnevni Avaz: Ramadan's message of Head of the BiH Islamic Community – Let us be decisive in good behavior; Following Alibabic's accusations: Ashdown – I do not respond to such the impudent lies; IMF requests urgent revocation of decisions on oil prices reduction

Dnevni List: From Belgrade Yugoimport, through BiH company Intertrade, to USA: SFOR knew about export of 80 000 guns to the USA

Vecernji List: None out of 13 Governments has been formed in BiH yet: New elections possible

Slobodna Dalmacija: The Hague turnaround: Croats from Central Bosnia convinced that justice will win in case of HVO General: If General Blaskic was here he would help reconstruction of mosque in Ahmici

Glas Srpski: Stratfor Institute Report on arms sale to Iraq – Orao in a shadow of Sarajevo

Nezavisne Novine: RS authorities and SFOR search barracks and military equipment factories – Investigation starts in Kosmos and Cajavec; Interview with Paddy Ashdown: I have been fighting against nationalists my whole life

OHR activities; related news

The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, on Tuesday visited the Sarajevo-based Development Studio Company in order to promote the "Business on my Street" campaign. It is about a project promoting small-scale business, entrepreneurs and young and prosperous businessmen having their companies throughout BiH. "The biggest resource this country does have, and which will ensure it a bright future, is placed in the minds of their

people," Ashdown emphasized on the occasion. (Dnevni Avaz, p 3, "If we fail to carry out reforms, we will fall through", Oslobodjenje, p 14, "We will remove bureaucratic obstacles by bulldozer", Dnevni List, p 8,"Small and medium companies are important initiator of BiH economy", Glas Srpski, p 2, Nezavisne Novine, p 9)

Asked to comment on the accusations against him by the removed FOSS Director Munir Munja Alibabic, the High Representatives Paddy Ashdown said he believed that *"people know what the truth is,"* and that he did not intend to respond to such the impudent lies. *"I came here not to be popular but to ensure that the reforms are carried out, which will take BiH on the irreversible road toward the European Union,"* Ashdown said. (Dnevni Avaz, p 3, "I do not intend to respond to impudent and bizarre lies", mentioned on the front page)

"The Office of the High Representative wishes to make clear that the recent allegations made by Mr. ***Munir Alibabic****, the former director of FOSS, including the allegations that the High Representative,* ***Paddy Ashdown****, is protecting ICTY indictee Radovan Karadzic and conspiring with criminals to undermine Foreign Minister* ***Zlatko Lagumdzija****, are utterly without foundation. These allegations are so absurd they deserve no further comment",* OHR Chief Spokesman **Julian Braithwaite** said at a press conference in Sarajevo on Tuesday. (**BHTV 1**, **Oslobodjenje**, p 3, **Vecernji List,** p 2, "OHR rejects Alibabic's claims", **Dnevni List,** p 9, "Alibabic's claims are complete nonsense")

The Principal Deputy High Representative, Donald Hays, on Tuesday called on the authorized bodies and institutions in BiH to revise decisions related to the sector of oil and oil derivatives in order to avoid that the stand-by arrangement with the IMF is brought into question. "From IMF, we have received clear assurances that, if the disputed decisions reducing and abolishing fuel-related taxes are not revoked, the obligations towards BiH from the stand-by arrangement will seriously be reconsidered," Hays told journalists in Sarajevo.

(Dnevni Avaz, p 9, Oslobodjenje, p 6, mentioned on the front page)

"*Although Ashdown is categorically rejecting discussions about change of Dayton Accord, he is, in fact, proposing it: taking power off from entities and giving it to the state. Looks attractive and simple, but with one mistake in construction. To conduct reforms, but with whom? (…) Ashdown says 'with anyone who is ready to implement the reforms', while his opponents think that it is not irrelevant with whom, because, simply talking, it would be like expecting from 'national' parties to abolish themselves. (…) The question is, how to convince Ashdown that it is not irrelevant who will be his partner across the table*", writes Ranko Mavrak, in his editorial in **Jutarnji List** (p. 14).

Nezavisne Novine quotes(p 6) **DNS Chairman Dragan Kostic** as saying that entities should reach an agreement on the way in which **VAT** will be introduced so that **the High Representative** does not impose it. "Entity constitutions enable adoption of general law on joint VAT in both entities, without changing the BiH Constitution. It is up to entities to decide how the introduction of joint VAT will be going on", said Kostic. He said that the introduction of the joint VAT is reality if both entities are determined to take the path of European integration.

In an exclusive interview with **Nezavisne Novine** (pages 4-5), **High Representative Paddy Ashdown** explains his views on reforms in BiH, Orao affair, IC presence in BiH, nationalist parties, etc. Ashdown said he did not believe that many people in BiH would accuse him of being indecisive for the past six months. "*Some people say that I advocate some sort of a protectorate in BiH. Therefore, you can criticise me as much as you wish, but I will react only when I want to react, that is, when I collect all the facts*", said Ashdown.

BiH lawsuit against FRY before ICJ in The Hague

BiH fought on Tuesday to have its charges of genocide **against Yugoslavia** heard before the Hague-based UN's International Court of Justice (ICJ) despite an appeal by Belgrade. *"The government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is doing its utmost to prevent the case from reaching the oral proceedings,"* **Sakib Softic**, a legal representative for BiH told the court. In 1993 BiH lodged a complaint against Yugoslavia in a legal campaign for financial reparations for genocide committed on its territory during the 1992-1995 war. Three years later the ICJ, the UN's highest legal organ, ruled itself competent to hear the case. Yugoslavia is appealing the decision because it claims it is not liable for acts committed under the regime of former president Slobodan Milosevic. On Monday a Belgrade delegation argued that it need not respond to charges of ethnic cleansing in northwest Bosnia that were filed during the war's early stages in 1992-93 since it was neither a UN member nor a signatory to the Geneva Conventions on war crimes at the time. (**AFP**, **Fena**, **Dnevni Avaz**, p 2, **Oslobodjenje**, page 7, announced on the front page)

In a statement with Fena (Dnevni Avaz, p 2), the former Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency, Beriz Belkic, denied that the former BiH state leadership had negotiated with the FRY legal representative, Tibor Varady, about any out-of-court deal. *"My personal view is and always was that BiH should never give up the legal proceeding against Yugoslavia before the International Court of Justice,"* Belkic said.

Orao affair; following investigations

After the inspection of the Bijeljina-based Orao Aviation Institute, SFOR members on Monday started the inspection of the RS Army barracks in **Zaluzani** and the **Mahovljani** Airport (both near Banja Luka). SFOR members have sealed the entrance to the buildings belonging to the RS Army in Zaluzani and Mahovljani at the same time starting to check all vehicles entering and leaving the premises. SFOR says this is a routine inspection. The public's attention has also been attracted by a strong presence of the military police of the RS Army at the entrance to the **Kosmos** Aviation Institute in Banja Luka.

Members of the military police, donning flak jackets, have blocked the entrance to the Kosmos Aviation Institute. The RS Army's **Gen Cvjetko Savic** said an inspection of the institute's work was under way. The inspection is being conducted by a committee consisting of members of the army HQ and the Ministry of Defence. *"We are conducting an inspection of all contracts which Kosmos Aviation Institute has signed recently with domestic and foreign partners in order to establish the validity and legality of the contracts,"* Savic said. Gen Savic said the inspection could be linked with the situation which ensued following the Orao affair. "We have not found any links (with the Orao affair) so far. The investigation is continuing, and we shall have the final results in a day or two," Savic added. (**BHTV 1**, **Dnevni Avaz**, p 4, **Oslobodjenje**, p 7, **Nezavisne Novine,** front page, p 2, **Glas Srpski,** p 2)
Oslobodjenje reports on the pages 4-5 that, following Orao affair, the inspections are also underway in all nine companies belonging to the **military industry in the BiH Federation**. The newspaper quotes the Entity Deputy Defense Minister, **Ferid Buljubasic**, as saying that, however, there are no any indications so far that any of these companies has exported arms and military equipment to the countries under international or unilateral sanctions. Buljubasic threby denied allegation by the RS Prime Minister **Mladen Ivanic** describing them as unfounded. (**BHTV 1**)

Slobodna Dalmacija (page 7, Hina, titled: "*IC representatives rejected claims of RS officials: "SFOR did not know about negotiations on sale of weapon to Mianmar*") carries that OHR and SFOR stated that they did not know about the intention of the RS authorities to sell weapon to Mianmar (former Burma) as **Mladen Ivanic**, the President of the RS Government, claimed. **Julian Braithwaite,** the Chief OHR Spokesperson, stated at Tuuesday's press conference in Sarajevo that the fact that high-ranked officials of the RS went to Mianmar in order to negotiate on the sale of weapon is surprising. Braithwaite also said that **Paddy Ashdown**, the High Representative, and his associates have never been informed about it and added*: "If the RS officials were negotiating the sale of weapon and did*

not know about the embargo, then it is the best indicator that a system of control over the military industry in BiH is weak."

Representatives of the BiH Federation authorities have met in the Middle East with representatives of the regime of the Iraqi President, **Sadam Hussein**, in order to discuss arms exports that would be more massive than the exports from the Bijeljina based "Orao" Aviation Institute, the latest report of the "**Stratfor**" US analyst group claims. The report states that, according to Interpol, there is evidence on wide cooperation in regard to arms exports from both BiH entities to Baghdad. The "Stratfor" analyst group believes that the engagement of mostly the Moslem part of the BiH Federation in the transfer of arms and military equipment might change the present status of the Moslems as the victims of the Balkan wars. The group concludes that the more the connection between Sarajevo and Baghdad is disclosed, the easier the connections with Islamic terrorist organizations, such as "Al Qaeda", will be recognized (**Glas Srpski,** front page**, Nezavisne Novine,** p 2)**.**

Vecernji List (page 4, by D. Jazvic) carries that, according to unofficial information, **Jack Straw**, the British Minister of Foreign Affairs, will demand from his interlocutors in Sarajevo new information on the **Orao affair**. VL says that before the visit to Sarajevo, Straw paid visit to Belgrade, and threatened Belgrade with sanctions due to the Orao affair. The article says that BiH might be faced with the same, since the results of the investigation on this case have shown that BiH considerably participated in the military trade with Iraq. A source from the BiH Council of Ministers stated: *"We do not have answers to all crucial questions yet. We hope that Minister Straw, his Government and the whole International Community will have understanding for objective problems that slow down the investigation on the sale of weapon to Iraq."* (**Oslobodjenje**, p 4)

Dnevni List (front and page, by V. Maric) carries an article on the information, that media was dealing with previously, regarding the **sale of 80 000 guns to the USA**. The guns were produced in the Serbian factory "Crvena Zastava", and they were sold through BiH company "Intertrade" owned by **Nihad Spahalic**. According to DL, the consent for the sale contains signatures of leading people from the Ministry of Defense, but also a reminder that an attachment was handed over to the Main SFOR Headquarters. DL says that the reason for a halt in the investigation on this case is the fact that SFOR knew about a transport of suspicious weapon but it has never reacted to it.

Implementation of the election results

Oslobodjenje reports on the front page (continued on p 3) that, late on Monday in Banja Luka, the representatives of the more moderate political parties agreed, according to the majority of participants, on the establishment of the parliamentary majority at the level of BiH without SDA, SDS and HDZ. The meeting was held at an initiative of the US Ambassador to BiH, Clifford Bond, and it was attended by the representatives of PDP, SDP, Party for BiH, SNSD, NHI and SPRS. In a brief comment following the meeting, Bond said that he would respect the elections results but that he would not organize such meetings with the representatives of the national political parties. According to the Oslobodjenje source, the agreement on this issue has not been finalized yet. (Dnevni Avaz, p 4, reported on the meeting)

Nezavisne Novine(p 6) also reports on the meeting of moderate parties, which took place on Monday night in Banja Luka. The paper reports that in the next 7 to 10 days the Party of Democratic Progress (PDP) should make up its mind and decide with which parties it will side. After the PDP comes up with its decision another meeting will follow. Nezavisne states that the main "culprit" for failure of the Monday's meeting is RS Prime Minister Mladen Ivanic. **SNSD Chairman Milorad Dodik** said that PDP made it very clear at the meeting that it wants to form a coalition at the state level without SDS. *"At the RS level, PDP has to be very careful about the position of the*

party. PDP has some talks with SDS, but they (PDP) are also thinking about becoming an opposition party", explained Dodik. Dodik said that the US Ambassador to BiH, Clifford Bond, was encouraging the leaders of moderate parties to form a coalition that will be recognized by the IC, which basically means the coalition without SDA, SDS and HDZ. **NHI Chairman Kresimir Zubak** said that nothing has been decided so far, adding that the negotiation will continue. **SDP Vice-President Slobodan Popovic** said that PDP would negotiate with all parties except with HDZ, SDA and SDS. The paper also says that, apart from PDP, the SBiH was very reluctant to reach an agreement. **SBiH official Safet Halilovic** said that two or three smaller parties, which were not members of the Alliance for Change, are having dilemma as to whether they should support the moderate parties or not.

The paper speculates that if the moderate parties fail to reach an agreement on coalition then there is a big possibility for **PDP to form a coalition with SDS and SDA** and some smaller parties, which can also be concluded from the Adil Osmanovic's statement that SDA will support Ivanic as a prime minister if SDA get post of RS deputy prime minister and control over two ministries (Ministry of Refugees and DPs and Ministry of Urbanism). SDA also does not dismiss the possibility of having the SPRS in that coalition. However, SPRS Secretary General Zeljko Marjanac said the SPRS will not form coalition with SDA.

Vecernji List (front and page 15, by Robert Bubalo) carries an article titled *"New elections possible in BiH".* VL says that some international officials in BiH say that the **new elections in BiH are possible** if the authority is not constituted within a planned deadline. The article also says that these deadlines have already expired and a takeover was only done in the BiH Presidency. According to VL, the establishment of the coalition Government at the Federation level between HDZ and SDA and some minor parties is completely certain, however,

none has majority at the state level. For this reason everybody waits to see as to what Party for BiH will do. **Safet Halilovic**, the President of Party for BiH, proposed forming of the Government of the BiH unity, and VL says that this proposal was made probably because of a threat of **Clifford Bond**, the American Ambassador in BiH, who stated that in case that national parties form the Government the USA might suspend its assistance. VL says that **Paddy Ashdown**, the HR, and EU officials accepted the coming of the national parties in power as reality. Two days ago Bond closed their stands by saying that the USA will respect the results of the general elections in BiH. VL concludes: *"Perhaps, Americans have concluded that it is better to form any kind of Government then allow new crises, chaos and elections, that might bring even bigger support to the national parties."*

Headlines in Electronic Media

BHTV 1 (Tuesday, 1900)

- Members of SFOR blocked all military objects of RS Army in Zaluzani and Mahovljani airport
- Buljubasic: there are no indications that FBiH companies exported weapons to states under embargo
- Meeting behind the closed doors of the parties from both entities last night in Banja Luka
- In Den Haag, proceedings against FRY continues

FTV 1 (1930)

- IPTF sentenced members of the Special Unit of the Canton Sarajevo Ministry of Interior before the court did
- Cantonal Prosecutor's Office in Sarajevo raised indictment against Zarko Pandurevic
- During the proceeding in the case BiH versus FRY, BiH delegation denied yesterday's statements presented by FRY side
- Sabahudin Fijuljanin, arrested by SFOR on the suspicion of jeopardising their security, handed over to the Ministry of Interior of Federation