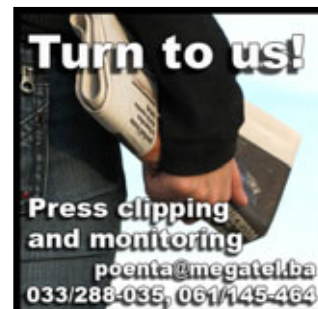


BOSNIA DAILY

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RADMANOVIC AND KOMSIC RECEIVE SECRETARY GENERAL OF OSCE BiH Presidency Pledges Active Role in OSCE

BiH Presidency members Nebojsa Radmanovic and Zeljko Komsic received in Sarajevo the Secretary General of OSCE Lamberto Zannier, who presented the work plan of OSCE in BiH and the region

The collocutors emphasized that this organization is the largest civil mission in BiH, and the second mission of OSCE in Europe, that it has an important role in BiH, and that it expands its action to the entire region of Western Balkans and continues to work in BiH in cooperation with domestic authorities,



depending on the Government's priorities. "They exchanged opinions on social and political situation in BiH and the role of OSCE in BiH's and region's accession to the European Union, and they mentioned the progress in formation of the government in BiH, as well as the fulfillment of obligations for EU, which is the basis for further engagement of OSCE", reads the statement.

Presidency members thanked the Secretary General for the continuous engagement of OSCE in BiH and said that BiH will remain their active member. They added that EU needs to expand soon to the region of Western Balkans, and that they should continue their talks on the role of OSCE, adds the statement. It was stressed that "cooperation of BiH with OSCE has been mutually useful and it is expected to stay that way in the future". This is the first visit of the Secretary General of OSCE, Lamberto Zannier, since he has been appointed to this position.

Ahmetovic Meets with ICMP Delegation

An urgent solution must be found to accelerate the process of discovering mass graves and identification of missing persons, said Minister of Security of BiH Sadik Ahmetovic after meeting with a delegation of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), led by program director for the Western Balkans Adam Boys. They discussed the work of ICMP and how to solve certain problems that slow down the process of identification of missing persons. It was highlighted that there are cases of stalling to call the families in for identification, although the identity of the missing per-

son is determined by DNA analysis. "This is something that we must not allow - that families wait several years to complete this part of the process. It is inhumane and irresponsible of some individuals to leave such evidence in drawers for years, not informing the families," Minister Ahmetovic said. One proposal is that within the Agency for Forensics a Department of Forensic Medicine should be formed, which would coordinate the work of forensic medicine experts, thus facilitating the work of prosecutors and speeding up the process of identification.



Mile Lasic, professor: Will SDP have the strength to realize the depth of crisis, produced by its methods of governance that have nothing to do with democracy? SDP equalized completely with the ethnocentric parties



Enver Kazaz, professor: I don't believe that SDP, with its current leadership and party elite, has the capacity to democratize within. SDP's complete leadership should resign, for the sake of party and for the sake of Bosnia



Ibrahim Prohic, psychologist: SDP does nothing for the public interest. For the whole time since the elections, they act as an extreme, clientelistic party, which cares only about its own interests and the leader's position

Bevanda Receives UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Issues

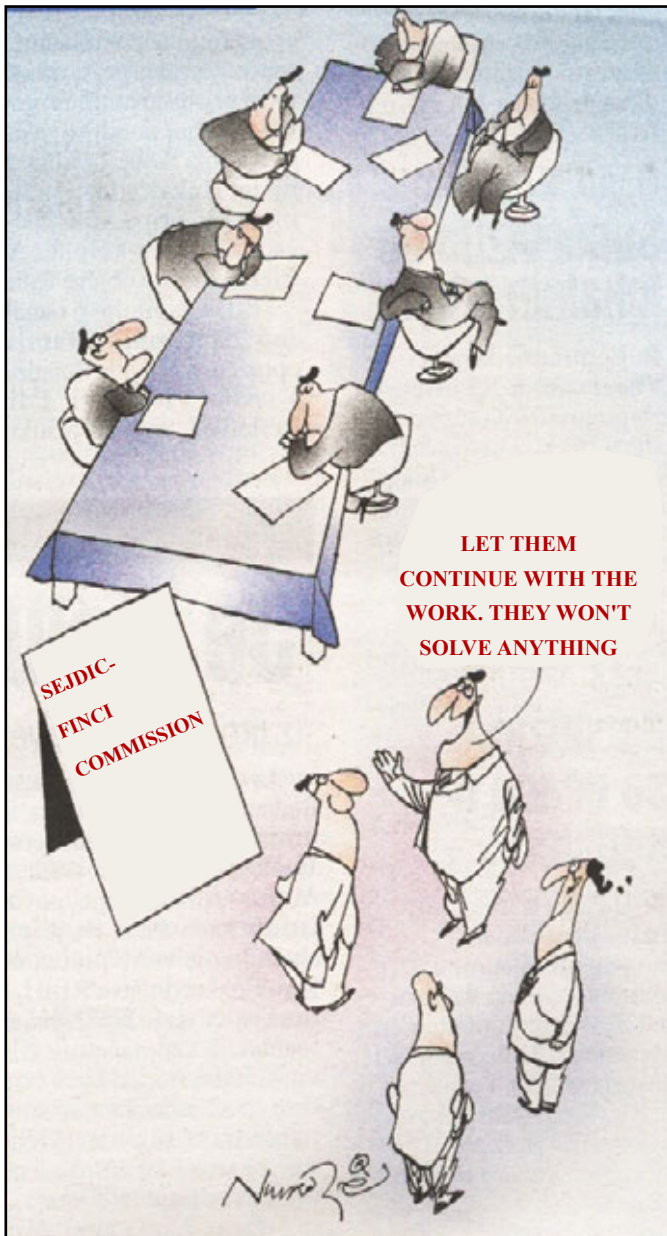
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH, Vjekoslav Bevanda, received in Sarajevo the Assistant Secretary General of UN for Political Issues, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, who said he fully supports BiH on its Euro-Atlantic path and construction of society based on inclusive dialogue, coordination and sustainable development

Fernandez-Taranco congratulated Bevanda on appointment and expressed leadership as the Head of the Council of Ministers of BiH. He congratulated BiH on its significant role as the member of the Council of Security of UN, and thanked for a committed work of our country in promotion of values of peace, security and preventive diplomacy on international political stage.

"For what it has learned from its experience in construction of peace and democratic institutions of the post-war society, BiH can offer a lot to the international community in construction of joint society based on sustainable development", said Fernandez-Taranco.

After he thanked Fernandez-Taranco, Bevanda said that membership in the Council of Security of UN was a great honor and challenge for BiH. He emphasized that, besides the change in position on international political stage, membership in the Council of Security had a significant internal dimension, because it improved the process of decision-making in the institutions of BiH.

Bevanda said that BiH will celebrate its 20th anniversary since it became the 177th member of UN on May 22, and emphasized that UN and its agencies had an important role in the construction of sustainable peace and stability of institutions in BiH. He added that he expects the partner relations between BiH and UN to continue in the future.



Ljubic Meets with Croatian Parliament Deputy Speaker

Croatian Parliament deputy speaker Jadranka Kosor received in an official visit deputy speaker of the BiH Parliament House of Representatives Bozo Ljubic. Kosor said that Croatia fully supports the "European way" of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and this support will be even stronger when Croatia becomes a full member of the European Union.

Interlocutors also discussed the overall political situation in BiH, with focus on the position of Croats in BiH.

BiH Parliament HoR deputy speaker stressed that BiH's stability is of extreme importance for the Republic of Croatia, as well as for the entire Europe, since "there is no stable Europe without a stable Balkans, and Balkan stability is impossible without a stable BiH".

The legislative activities of the Croatian Parliament were also topic of meeting, and meeting was concluded with an agreement on future cooperation.

More Details on Komsic Resignation Today

Zeljko Komsic has resigned from all posts in the Social Democratic Party, SDP, but has as yet given no official explanation for the move to the public. Komsic told Bosnia's Dnevni list daily that he decided to resign out of principle.

"This cannot go like this anymore, so this was a logical step. I will stay a member of the SDP, but with no posts and I will continue to fight for principles of social-democracy."

Komsic declined to explain further saying he will do so when the time is right.

"I remain to be a member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and I will continue to work in that post in full capacity with all the obligations that entails," Komsic said.

After a meeting with the SDP leader, Zlatko Lagumdžija, in Sarajevo, the two said they will organize a press conference today.

❖The United States Embassy to BiH announced the participation of eighteen secondary school students and three teachers from Bijeljina, Orasje, and Bihac in the spring 2012 Youth Leadership Program, an intensive four-week exchange program that will take place in Seattle and Washington, D.C. beginning in April 2012. U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Jonathan Moore will meet the participants at a pre-departure orientation today. Mr. Moore will congratulate students and teachers on their selection for the program and learn from them about their hopes for their visit to the U.S.

❖On training "Why is national action plan for inclusion of Roma in BiH important to the media and public" it was emphasized that when reporting about Roma media need to point to the positive things in their lives. "We are trying to influence media language so stereotypes of Roma community in BiH would decrease. We would like media to present needs of Roma, their wish for integration in BiH society and obligations of the state to the Roma community", president of the Association of Roma in BiH Dervo Sejdic said.

❖BiH Defense Minister Muhamed Ibrahimovic met in Sarajevo with a delegation from the U.S. Air Force College, on cooperation of the defense institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Government of the United States. He also thanked the U.S. Government for the assistance through the U.S. Embassy in BiH, provided to members of the BiH Armed Forces during adverse weather conditions, by delivery of necessary parts for helicopters and fuel.

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Justice and Reconciliation Cannot Be Delayed

Justice and reconciliation must not be delayed further in the region of the former Yugoslavia, and it is up to national governments to increase their efforts

The dissolution of the former Yugoslavia was marked by gross human rights violations, including 'ethnic cleansing' and killing of civilians. More than twenty years after the first war, the legacy of this violent past still lingers across the region, endangering the full enjoyment of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The return to normalcy has been too slow and some societies in this region remain polarized along ethnic lines. Many victims of the wars have not yet received adequate reparation for the harms they suffered.

Reconciliation has been hampered by numerous obstacles to clarify the past. Impunity for wartime crimes has not been eliminated, and there are still some 13,500 missing persons whose fates are not clear.

The estimated 20,000 women who have been subjected to wartime sexual violence remain in a particularly vulnerable position and deserve stronger support from the states concerned.

There are also approximately 438,000 refugees and other displaced persons whose legitimate claims for reparation have not yet been met.

In addition, the situation of about 18,000 people in the region who are stateless or at risk of statelessness, especially Roma, poses serious human rights and humanitarian concerns that need to be addressed in compliance with agreed European and international standards.

During my visits to the region, I have stressed that justice is key to reconciliation, and that it must be justice without distinction. Efficient national judicial systems must be established not only to reinforce the rule of law, but also to increase the necessary public trust in the judiciary and effectively prevent future human rights violations.

The work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has been groundbreaking, making possible the prosecution and trial of senior leaders involved in war-related crimes.

Now, resolute action is required at national level to solve all pending war-related criminal cases.

Regrettably, the efforts made so far by governments to provide adequate reparation to war victims have generally not been successful. An approach centered on the human rights of the victims is necessary. In particular, fair and durable solutions should be found to end the protracted displacement of refugees and other persons.

I have observed with interest the efforts undertaken so far, not least by the Croatian and Serbian Presidents,

to recognize wartime crimes and to establish and recognize the truth. Public and official acknowledgements of the facts, as well as acceptance of

responsibility are important steps.

A regional truth and reconciliation commission could be an important tool to overcome present difficulties. States in the region should provide more support to the realization of this idea.

Such a truth process would counter the ignorance and denial of the gross human rights violations which are unfortunately still prevalent in the public and political discourse in the region.

The education systems in the region should promote genuine knowledge of history, restore tolerance and trust between the peoples - especially the younger generations - and counter ethnic polarization and discrimination.

Europeans have learned from history that peace and security not based on the principle of justice could be extremely fragile and short-lived. Post-war justice aimed at inter-ethnic reconciliation and social cohesion is a long-term and complex process whose success depends on a supportive, mature political climate and unfailing will and determination on the part of political leaders.

The reconciliation process should be a priority for all states concerned, as well as for European institutions. This is the only way to heal open wounds and ensure a stable, prosperous future for all peoples in the region.



**By Thomas Hammarberg
CoE Commissioner
for Human Rights**

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BiH

Corruption Most Visible in Employment

Complaints sent to the Center for legal assistance to citizens in the fight against corruption

Transparency International BiH in 2011 show that the irregularities in the employment are the biggest problem that people encounter, and most complaints are related to the Civil Administration

Last year, this Center received 1.097 calls by free open line for reporting cases of corruption and by mail or email. Based on those applications, TI BiH has initiated 197 cases towards various institutions in BiH trying to ensure the rights to the citizens, and point to individual cases of corruption.

Comparing different sectors, the largest number of complaints related to irregularities in the field of public administration (17 percent), followed by the judiciary (13 percent), education (9 percent), property rights (8 percent), and the field of construction and urban planning (7

percent), and a large number of complaints (11 percent) related to the denial of access to information in public institutions. Analyzing the nature of cases in these areas, it is evident that most complaints, both in the public administration and other segments, referred to the process of employment, where citizens mostly reported irregular vacancies for civil servants at all levels of government, and irregular procedures for appointments to various functions. When it comes to justice, the citizens most commonly complain about long

processes before the court, but there have been reports that related to corruption in the judiciary itself, and the violation of procedures. On the other hand, TI BiH received six reports related to the prosecutions, where the most evident problem is prosecution's failure to act on complaints of citizens. TI BiH pointed out that the prosecution of corruption cases is on a very unsatisfactory level in BiH, and it is particularly worrying that the judiciary clearly ignores corruption, so as the fact that this sector is increasingly exposed to pressure.

Japan Donates Funds for Demining

Minister Spiric stressed that he supports projects which create a possibility for improving the real economy, and that he was advocating such an approach when the 2012 budget was created, which is restrictive and involves reduction of the administration costs. He stressed that better conditions for the development of the economy will be created if savings are realized in public administration and if long-term solutions for costs are found, which among other things, arise because of inconsistent laws with international best practices. Spiric recalled that the World Bank assessed that this is the case with the amendments to the Law on service in the armed forces. He added that under this legal solution, discharged soldiers in BiH can retire when 35 years of age, although in the European Union age moves to 70 years.

The interlocutors agreed that BiH should go faster towards European integration, and Spiric stressed that this commitment can be seen in the draft budget for 2012, which includes the funds for the census in BiH, local elections, and the construction of border crossings toward the EU and neighboring Croatia.

The Government of Japan provides new donation in the amount of 420.000,00 EUR for the activities of demining and technical survey in municipalities of Bihac and Velika Kladusa.

The Embassy of Japan and ITF Enhancing Human Security will sign the new grant contract for the project Humanitarian Dem-

ining and Technical Survey Activities in Municipalities of Bihac and Velika Kladusa in the amount of 420.000,00 EUR.

Hideo Yamazaki, Ambassador of Japan to Bosnia and Herzegovina will host today a signing ceremony at the Embassy of Japan. Representatives of Demining Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Municipality of Bihać, Municipality of Velika Kladuša, Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center (BHMAC) and ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF) will participate the signing ceremony. To this grant support of the Government of Japan, through which 333.372 sq. m. of land would be released by methods of demining and technical survey, ITF would apply its matching fund mechanism, and thus ensuring the duplication of funds and clearance of mine contaminated areas.

Since 2009 the Government of Japan donated 550.000,00 EUR through ITF for demining and technical survey activities on 23 locations in Municipalities of Gracanica, Lukavac and Petrovo where in total an area of 591,556 sq.m was cleared.

Overall (since 1999), Japan donated 1.489.849 EUR through ITF for various mine action programmes in the region of Southeastern Europe. In period of 1998-2012, ITF raised over 302 million EUR of donations and cleared 116.171.958 sq. m. of land in SEE and the South Caucasus.

For projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina solely, ITF raised and implemented more than 130 million EUR, clearing 61.682.769 sq. m. of land, statement writes.

Spiric Meets with Italian Ambassador

"Also, public institutions refuse to conduct proceedings to determine liability in their own ranks, and an additional obstacle is the slowness of administration, and ignoring trend, ie contempt judgment, even by state institutions. However, what is encouraging is that citizens are increasingly deciding to report corruption, and that among those who report corruption there's growing number of whistleblowers, ie persons who report irregularities in the institutions in which they are employed," the statement reads.

BiH Council of Ministers deputy chairman and BiH Minister of Finance and Treasury Nikola Spiric met in Sarajevo with the Italian Ambassador to BiH Raimondo de Cardona. Ministry of Finance and Treasury informed that at the meeting was assessed that BiH and Italy have good bilateral cooperation, and that there are many possibilities for improving the economic ties between the two countries. Ambassador de Cardona stressed that there is interest of investors from Italy to invest in BiH, who has so far invested around 120 million Euros, but the possibilities are much bigger because Italy only in Serbia has investments worth three billion Euros. According to estimates of the Ambassador de Cardona, investors from Italy are particularly interested in investing in the energy sector in the region where BH can take an important place in these projects.

Discharged Soldiers Protest in Sarajevo

In front of the building of BiH institutions in Sarajevo, a peaceful protest of discharged members of the BiH Armed Forces was held

They demanded from the relevant BiH institutions to provide the funds from 2012 state budget for payment of their salaries. It is about 1,500 former members of the BiH Armed Forces who are entitled to the early retirement based on the adopted amendments to the Law



on BiH Armed Forces from 2010, provided that by 23 December 1995 they were participated at least two years in the war as members of the BiH Army, the Croatian Defense Council and Republika Srpska Army, and were discharged due to their age.

"We will demand in coming days that this law is included in the proposed budget for 2012. We do not care about anything else. We will not accept any kind of promise. We just demand Council of Ministers to include this law in to the draft budget, which will be at tomorrows session agenda", Senad Hubjer said.

If we are not included in the proposed budget, added Hubjer, we will collectively start a hunger strike.

"We are compelled to do so. If we are hungry in our homes, we can be hungry here too", Hubjer said.

Protesters expect to meet with the Chairman of the

Council of Ministers Vjekoslav Bevanda, FBiH Prime Minister Nermin Niksic and President of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) BiH Zlatko Lagumdzija.

"We expect them only to confirm what they were talking all the time, because

they gave us support, and we expect them to act in line with the law and the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina," Hubjer told reporters. Protesters are convinced that the positive outcome of today's protest is unquestionable and they are determined to stay in front of the BiH institutions until the fulfillment of their requirements.

Conference on Standards in Nine-Year Education Starts Today

BiH Agency for preschool, elementary and high school education will organize today the second conference, as part of the series of conferences and seminars titled "Standards - the path to quality education in BiH".

Second conference "Standards of Student Achievements in Nine-Year Education" will be held on March 21 and 22 in the BiH Parliament.

The aim of the conference is introduction of education authorities and the public to key activities of the Agency, realized during 2011, and which resulted by defining the standards of student achievements for 3rd and 6th grade of elementary school in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language, Mathematics and natural sciences. External assessment of student achievements in contemporary education systems become one of the key tools for responsible and efficient education management.

This research has grown more significant because it offers reliable and proper empirical data on establishment of set education goals.

These data enables consideration of efficiently of education process by identifying the key knowledge and skills that students need to acquire and build in a certain phase of their education.

Ultimate purpose of school learning is acquisition of permanent knowledge and skills that a student can use meaningfully in the new learning and apply in difference life situations.

World Down Syndrome Day to Be Marked in Sarajevo

The Association "Life with Down Syndrome" will organize today in Sarajevo a fair of inclusion ideas, amid 21 March - World Down Syndrome Day, which this year will be celebrated throughout the world under the slogan "I want to learn."



Photo by Vanja Lisac

United Nations, in accordance with its resolution on persons with Down Syndrome, held a major conference devoted only to people with Down syndrome, and in particular their status around the world, entitled "Building our Future".

Fair of inclusion ideas will be held in

Dom mladih Skenderija.

Participants of the fair will be preschools, primary and secondary schools, the partners of the Association "Life with Down Syndrome", who were in recent years supporting the system of inclusive education for children with Down syndrome and other

children with special educational needs, and many persons from public life.

"The fair will show the idea of inclusion and highlight good practice of including children with Down syndrome in schools and kinder-

gartens, and we hope that it will contribute to spreading the spirit of inclusion in all spheres of life. This is one way of promoting children with Down syndrome and therefore reduce prejudice against them", said Sevdija Kujovic, president of the Association "Life with Down syndrome".

Bosnia Sells Its Share of Yugoslavia's Diplomatic-Consular Property

Part of the diplomatic-consular property (DCP) of the former Yugoslavia, which based on the agreement of succession BiH received, should be used to improve the DCP network of BiH, while the second part, in due time, will find new owners, i.e. it will be sold

This was confirmed by Adnan Hadzikapetanovic, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs BiH and member of the Joint Committee for Succession of the Diplomatic-Consular property of former Yugoslavia.

"We will send information to the Council of Ministers of BiH and request that all property which is functional for BiH stays in its diplomatic ownership, and that those objects, of which we have no diplomatic benefits, be sold. With the consent of the Council of Ministers, the use of this property will facilitate the work of diplomacy, we will not have to pay rent and thus we will achieve savings," Hadzikapetanovic said in an interview for Fokus.

He reminded that 15 percent of the total DC

property of Yugoslavia belongs to BiH. The value of the DCP of the former Yugoslavia is estimated at 266.4 million U.S. dollars.

"The last meeting on the division of DCP took place in Zagreb at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Then, division of 23 objects was agreed. The Embassy of former Yugoslavia in Algeria was distributed in equal parts between Croatia and Bosnia with the purpose of common sale or for other purpose which would be under a bilateral agreement. We wanted the Embassy of former Yugoslavia in Algeria, however, also Croatia has shown their interest. BiH was given the former SFRY Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya," said Hadzikapetanovic.

According to Hadzikapetanovic, besides BiH, Croatia and Macedonia are also interested in the building in Argentina.

"The next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Macedonia in the next month. Then we will continue to negotiate division of DC property in South America, North Africa, the Caribbean and Sahara," said Hadzikapetanovic.

In the first stage of the division of property BiH received the house in Washington and the residence in Hungary, it should also receive the embassy in Ottawa, the apartment in Milan and the residence in Vienna. The third phase should be completed by 31st August 2012 and in this stage BiH should receive the Embassies in Oslo, Madrid and Ankara. The work of the Expert Group on the succession of the artistic legacy of former Yugoslavia should be presented in detail at a meeting in Skopje.

Mostar's Economy Fair Next Week, Partner Country Croatia

Despite the global economic crisis, this year Mostar Economic Fair will have all the exhibition facilities full and will be one of the best so far, said the director of the Fair, Dalfina Bosnjak.

This year's Mostar Economic Fair will be held from 27 to 31 March in the Customs Free Zone of Herzegovina. Participation of more than 800 exhibitors from thirty countries is expected, with Croatia as the partner country. The main topic of the Fair will be economic cooperation between Croatia and BiH, as well as the consequences of Croatia's accession to EU on the economy of the two countries. Croatian Ambassador to BiH, Tonci Stanicic, said that the Croatian accession to the EU represents a major challenge

and opportunity for both countries.

"The fact is that all countries that were on the border of the European Union have made an extraordinary economic progress. Not because someone is so planned, but because the flows of goods and economic logic influenced that it came to investing across the borders of the European Union," said Ambassador Stanicic.

He added that it was likely that a large number of Croatian food companies would transfer a part of production to BiH so that Croatian products would remain competitive at the regional market.

This year, too, in addition to general Economic Fair, two specialized events - Fair of Tourism and Fair of Book and Printing Industry will be held.

Energy Sector to Face Long Term Instability

Existing and expected level of electricity prices in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the next three years is not sufficient for future investment needs in BiH electric power companies, which endangers the financial and business potential and sector growth, warned in World Bank. WB in recently published report says that three energy companies are planning 6.1 bill

convertible marks KM to invest up to 2015 for maintaining the import level, in production/power generation sectors of electricity and in coal supply. WB officials are explain that according the statements from energy companies this projects will be financed from internal funds of the companies and some external loans which will require state guaranties.

Federation Prime Minister Opens First Solar Plant in Region

Federal Prime Minister Nermin Niksic put into operation solar power plant in the company "Eco Energy" Ltd. in Kalesija. It is the first solar power plant in the region, which is located within the sports hall which is under construction. The company "Eco Energy" from Kalesija, owned by Selmir and Sadik Fatic, invested in the project of the power plant 800,000 KM.

"This is a great day, not only for Kalesija, Tuzla Canton and the Federation, this is a big day for the region. Therefore, I will remind of the fact that this is the first facility of this kind in the region," Prime Minister Niksic pointed out among other things, congratulating Fatic on the courage to engage in such a project.

The ceremony, besides the federal and municipal, was attended by representatives of the cantonal government. Within the visit to Kalesija, Prime Minister Niksic met in Kalesija with the chief executive of the municipality, Rasim Omerovic.

OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL LAMBERTO ZANNIER

Eliminating Discrimination Should Be a Priority

Secretary General of OSCE Lamberto Zannier talks about the need of implementation of the decision in "Sejdic and Finci" case, education in BiH and degree of development of system for protection of human rights

What is the purpose of your visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina?

I wanted to come soon after the establishment of the new state government to discuss their priorities and in which areas the OSCE can support the country. With my visit I also want to emphasize that the other 55 countries that are part of the OSCE continue to be firmly committed to supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina. The OSCE still has the largest civilian mission in the country and we are working with all levels of the government and the society supporting you in strengthening your democratic institutions.

I welcome the new government's declared priorities, which will support your ambition of EU integration. This is very positive, especially at a time when the other countries in the region are making important steps on their own EU integration paths.

How far actually is BiH from the EU having in mind that the authorities cannot agree on Sejdic-Finci judgment implementation for a long time?

I know that this issue has been on the agenda now for a couple of years and there was hope that it could be resolved before the last general election. We are all also aware that the debate on constitutional changes, which would also include this, has been going on for even longer. Eliminating discrimination against citizens which prevents them from holding the highest public office simply because of their ethnicity should be a priority. When this country joined the OSCE and the Council of Europe it made a number of commitments including to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. BiH has honored its commitments in different areas so it should do it in the 'Sejdic-Finci' case as well. The EU insists that you fulfill this and a number of other commitments to progress. This is an additional incentive to go ahead with its implementation. Besides non-discrimination, functionality is also a key topic to be addressed through overall constitutional reform in BiH. It is difficult to reach consensus on such sensitive issues. As the Secretary General of an organization made up of 56 countries that take decisions by

consensus, I know well that resolution of difficult issues requires skilled diplomacy, good will and constructive compromises. Your political representatives will need to find such constructive compromises for difficult issues like the constitutional reform. The extent of constitutional reform in BiH is a question for domestic political parties to determine, not international organizations. Once the process is launched I am sure it will take time until it is concluded.

Constructive Solutions

From your viewpoint has BiH and to what extent made progress in the field of human rights and HR protection? Are we working enough on improving this segment, as well as the freedom of expression?



Lamberto Zannier

There are numerous positive examples, and you have gone a long way since the horrific conflict which began 20 years ago here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Today you have strong and independent institutions to protect human rights and strengthen the rule of law and I am pleased that the OSCE played a significant role in helping to establish them. Today the OSCE is still working with the authorities on strengthening the democratic accountability of armed forces, fighting human trafficking, as well as supporting media freedom. I believe that that the focus now should be on judicial reform to safeguard judicial independence and entrench the rule of law. Another priority is the reform of the public broadcasting system. Independent public broadcaster working for the citizens has a vital role in informing the citizens across the country on social, politi-

cal and other developments. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms Mijatovic can provide the authorities with expert advice and support.

BiH is still seen as a country in which two schools under one roof operate. When and how will this issue - an obvious proof of discrimination and war burden - will be solved?

'Two schools under one roof' create segregation and divisions from an early age. These divisions - especially at such young ages - are detrimental for Bosnia and Herzegovina and are of little benefit to anyone in any municipality, canton or entity wishing to build a tolerant, innovative and successful generation of citizens and future leaders. You already have the necessary legislation to eliminate this problem. All schools have a legal obligation to provide appropriate education for all children in their catchment area. The BiH law on the prohibition of discrimination bans segregation in education. The Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the Human Rights Council, and many others, have all called for these laws to be implemented, especially with regard to 'two schools under one roof'. Regrettably, there has been no progress on this since 2005. Young people of this country deserve such progress.

How realistic is to expect constructive solutions with regard to judiciary and structural dialogue, while taking into account RS requests for abolishment of BiH Court and Prosecutor's Office?

To build a strong economy, democracy and conclude dealing with the war crimes you need strong judicial institutions and the rule of law. To question the existence of those institutions is not a solution, but efforts should rather focus on improving their effectiveness through the EU-led structured dialogue. The OSCE will continue to support the needed judicial reforms. What we care about is the rule of law. It provides stability and security and is a key element of any democracy. The judiciary must be able to work independently and being subject only to the scrutiny of an independent authority.

A Bullet for Suljagic, an Award for Ceric

After a death threat last month, the Minister of Education in the Sarajevo Canton resigned. Emir Suljagic's offence was to have proposed that the mark for religion should not count (towards the average) in the schools of the canton, so as not to discriminate against those students choosing not to study it at school

His proposal set off furious reactions which, according to several human rights activists, opened the way for the successive threats. One of his chief antagonists was the powerful head of the Islamic community in Bosnia Herzegovina, the Reis-Ulema Mustafa Cerić who in Rome will receive an important award for his contribution to Peace. Emir Suljagic is one of the few Bosnian Muslims to survive the siege and fall of Srebrenica. He was the youth seen in the film at the Hague tribunal as he translated for the meeting between Mladic and the leader of the Dutch forces after the town had fallen. On Srebrenica and its siege, Suljagic has written some very moving pages. His book *Postcard from the Grave* is a sort of diary of life in the enclave seen through the eyes of an adolescent. But Suljagic does not avert his gaze from the crimes committed by his "own people"- he describes the exploitation, misappropriations and corruption which prevailed in a town subject to the discretion of its military leaders and, above all, he relates the cruelty of the forces for peace, the blue helmets. After the war, as a journalist, Suljagic covered the trials in the Hague Tribunal. Finally he entered politics, with the Social Democrats, becoming a Minister in January 2011.

Mafia-Style Warnings

"Leave Allah and his religion alone, or the hand of the faithful will strike you." This was the message Suljagic found in an envelope in his letter box last February 8. Inside there was a 7.32 caliber bullet. Already the previous year his proposal to reduce the weight given to religion in schools had roused strong reactions leading him to offer his resignation. His Party (SDP) colleagues, however, at the head of the Sarajevo Canton, had given him their support and convinced him to remain. This time, though, he was alone and, after such a serious threat, decided to give up.

By Andrea Rossini
Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso

Criticism of his position came mainly from the leader of the Bosnian Islamic community, Reis-ulema Mustafa Cerić. In May last year, in a particularly biting speech to 30,000 faithful at Blagaj, Cerić attacked the Minister's proposals warning that the Muslims would take to the streets and create a "Sarajevo summer", (the reference being to the Arab spring),



Emir Suljagic

affirming that "the schools are ours" and condemning "those who want to do in Sarajevo what had been done in Srebrenica", that is genocide.

Following this, the Minister and his family had started to receive threats and hate mail. The episode of the bullet was the last of a long series. In his letter of resignation published on the Canton government website, Suljagic wrote, "those who hide behind religion to threaten me and my family use (religion) to keep the power and privileges they illegitimately acquired."

After his resignation was announced, slogans appeared on the walls of the capital in favor of the Minister. The most frequent phrases, reported in the local newspapers, were, "We are all Emir", "Dignity instead of ministerial posts" and "Beware of bullets". A large banner stated that Suljagic was not "Minister for Obscurity" as he had been defined by a well-known Bosnian daily paper, but "the Minister for the teachers and their pupils". In mid February in Sarajevo, some hundreds of people, including many teachers, took part in a demonstration in support of Suljagic. But the

Minister did not go back on his steps. Some say he had already left the country.

An Award for Ceric

On March 20, in Rome, the Reis Cerić will receive the award of the Ducci Foundation for his contribution to peace, and, in particular, for his "promotion of dialogue between religions and cultures". Together with Cerić awards will go to Marco Impagliazzo, President of the Comunita di Sant'Egidio and Professor Andre Azoulay, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation. In Bosnia Herzegovina various human rights activists, including the well-known documentary maker Refik Hodzic, have signed a petition organized by the popular actor Fedja Stukan asking the Foundation not to give the award to the present leader of the Bosnian Islamic Community. The signatories of the petition, not only in the light of the Suljagic affair, describe Cerić as "a person who spreads hatred and intolerance on the basis of religion and one of those responsible for the radicalization of believers in Bosnia Herzegovina".

The President of the Foundation, Paolo Ducci, has however declared to OBC that "arguments and diatribes concerning the internal situation in Bosnia do not come into, and must not come into, the evaluation by the scientific committee (of the Foundation) which is restricted to the contribution made by Cerić at the international level as the promoter of inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue". President Ducci also recalled the considerable recognition already awarded to Cerić in an international context and his participation in important initiatives like the International Commission for Peace Research and the World Council of Religions for Peace.

The resignation of Suljagic is a sign of Bosnia's lasting incapacity to create public structures characterized by inclusiveness, not division, for all its different citizens. The award to Cerić is perhaps a sign of our lasting incapacity to comprehend how much the internal dynamics of that country are important for the destiny of Europe.

BPNP: MUSLIM BOSNIAN NEO-NAZI GROUP

Most of the World's Problems Result from "Letting the 'Chosen People' Control the World"

The Bosanski Pokret Nacionalnog Ponosa (Bosnian National Pride Movement), founded about two years ago, describes itself as a National Socialist (Nazi) movement championing white supremacy and Bosnian national revival

What differentiates the BPNP from other European neo-Nazi groups is that it was founded by, and is intended for, Muslim Bosnians - as evident from its spheres of operation, which are listed on its website. Indeed, the site states that 95% of the group's members are Muslim (though this is not a mandatory requirement for membership). The website also reveals that the group celebrates the Muslim-Nazi alliance during the Second World War: It reveres the Muslims who joined the Nazi war effort, and sees a role model in their leader, then-mufti of Jerusalem Hajj Amin Al-Husseini, who from 1941 through 1945 collaborated with the Nazi leadership and the SS. It should be mentioned that unlike some EU countries, Bosnia does not ban Neo-Nazi groups or the use of Nazi symbols - enabling the organization to operate and circulate its materials with impunity.

The Ideology of BPNP

The BPNP website, which has sections in Bosnian and English, states that the organization's ideology is based on the doctrine of Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels, as set out in his manifesto *The NAZI-SOZI: Questions and Answers for Nationalist Socialists* (1932). A section on the site features the "Ten Commandments for National Socialists," which is part of this manifesto, adapted for the current circumstances in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Another section on the site, headed "BNPM Attitudes," stresses Bosnian nationalism and lists the ideologies the group rejects, which include communism, capitalism, Islamism and also Zionism, which, according to the site, is striving for world domination. The section, written in English, states: "We are against alliances and unions whose purpose is establishment and protection of the new world order (EU as continental

By A. Ceresnjes and Y. Carmon
MEMRI

union and NATO as a global army). Bosnia must be a free nation with its own army which is always ready to defend the country's sovereignty, [and which] opposes [the] globalization policy which is being forced by Zionist structures with just one purpose - [the] creation of one world government which will allow the



'gray eminence' to rule the world." "Ideologies that are not welcome in Bosnia are: Zionism, Islamism, communism, capitalism. The only ideology good for us is Bosnian nationalism because it secures national prosperity and social justice..." The inclusion of "Islamism" among the rejected ideologies is noteworthy. As mentioned, the site states that 95% of the group's members are Muslim (the other 5% being Bogomils - members of a Gnostic Christian sect that advocates a return to early Christianity). However, the site also stresses that religious affiliation is irrelevant to membership in the organization, which champions white supremacy, and that the organization does not consider religious clerics and institutions as sources of authority. In fact, it states that Bosnia's religious establishment, and its leader, the Chief Mufti, lack any legitimacy, for they are tools through which the EU and the

international community are destroying the national fabric of Bosnia. In terms of religious sentiments, the organization seems to sympathize with the Creativity Movement, a nontheistic modern religion that many white supremacist groups embrace as "the white man's religion." In addition to rejecting Zionists, communists, capitalists and Islamists, the organization also expresses hostility towards other groups despised by the Nazis, namely homosexuals, gypsies and blacks.

The section titled "literature" features links to texts by Adolf Hitler, Joseph Goebbels, Benito Mussolini, Reinhard Heydrich (a senior commander in the SS and one of the main architects of the Holocaust), and Alfred Rosenberg (a Nazi leader and Reich Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories), as well

as articles about the SS and *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, literature about the evil influence of the Freemasons, and various texts on race theory and white supremacy. The site's photo gallery includes images relating to various topics that concern the group, including "BPNP propaganda," "campaigns," "enemies," and Bosnian history.

As for the group's activities, they seem to be confined, so far, to operating the website, circulating propaganda fliers, spray-painting slogans, and holding clandestine meetings of the group members, who, according to the site, are "very carefully screened."

Celebrating Bosnian Collaboration with the Nazis

The site operator calls himself "Sauberzweig," after Karl Gustav Sauberzweig, commander of the 13th Waffen Mountain Division of the SS Handschar. This was a

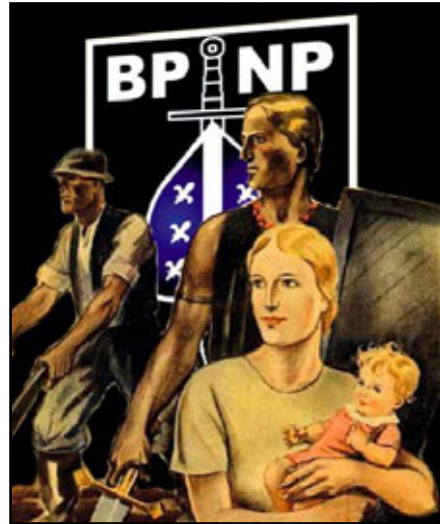
division of Muslim Bosnians, recruited by Hajj Amin Al-Husseini in the autumn of 1943, which fought on the side of the Nazis in the Second World War. The division - which participated in the occupation of Hungary in 1944, and was also charged with the task of guarding the railway from Hungary to Slovakia and Poland, where half of Hungary's Jews were exterminated - is highly revered by the BPNP. The site quotes reports by high-ranking Nazis about the division and its soldiers: "The Bosnian is a very good soldier. His strength lies in the use of terrain and in close combat. With the infantry attack he is in his element. In defense, however, he must be led strictly and with caution. During heavy barrages of enemy artillery and air attacks, he must be led very carefully. He is good natured, but hates the Serbian element. To the officer who wins his heart he will bond himself with an almost childlike loyalty. He has an extreme sense of fairness and feeling of honor. He loves his Bosnian homeland. This strength must be reinforced repeatedly, i.e. it must be stressed that the time when the division returns to the Balkans to save the homeland depends on the individual. The sooner he masters his tasks, the sooner the division will be ready for action" SS Brigadeführer Karl G. Sauberzweig

"I knew there was a chance that a few traitors might be smuggled into the division, but I haven't the slightest doubt concerning the loyalty of the Bosnians" [Reichsführer-SS] Heinrich Himmler.

Also quoted on the website are statements by the division's Muslim commanders describing the vision they shared with the Nazis: "They [i.e., the enemies of the Germans] are your enemy and God's enemy. And that is the English, Americans, and Bolsheviks, who fight against faith, against God, against morality, and just order. On the other side stands National Socialist Germany with its allies, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler, who fight for God, faith, morality, and a fairer and more righteous order in the world, as well as for a fairer distribution of goods that God has produced for all people."

"As we observe this Bajram feast with good food, and even halva, an entire army of our brothers, our refugees, wander about from city to village, wrapped in rags, barefooted, hungry and cold. Their Bajram feast will be spent in mis-

ery and distress. It is even sadder that the Cetniks [Serbian nationalist and monarchist paramilitary organizations] and Partisans carry on their activities, murdering and plundering wherever they go. But we call out to them, 'You can murder and plunder, but the day will come when



the tables are turned!" Imam Waffen-SS Hanzdar divizije, Muhasilovic.

"These deeds signify the great benevolence for us Muslims and for Bosnia in general. I therefore consider it my duty to extend our thanks to the Reichsführer-SS in the names of the division's Imams as well as in the names of the hundreds of thousands of Bosnia's poor in that I pledge that we are prepared to lay down our lives in battle for the great leader Adolf Hitler and the New Europe" Imam of Handzar division SS-Hauptsturmführer Husein Dzozo.

The site's picture gallery includes many photos illustrating the Bosnian collaboration with the Nazis in World War II, such as photos of parades held in honor of Amin Al-Husseini during his visits to Bosnia, and photos of the soldiers and officers of the Handschar Division.

The Group's Anti-Semitism

The site's "Question and Answer" section elaborates on the group's hostility towards the Jews. The site operator writes: "The Jews have immense influence throughout the world - in [the domains of] politics, economy, culture, and religion. Anyone who scoffs at [the notion of] a Jewish conspiracy need only open the Bible. He will find that, for over 1,000 years, the European peoples have embraced a religion that, for some unknown reason, designates the Jews as

the chosen people, and states that the son of God was a Jew and that God promised the Jews control of a certain geographic area. A thinking man should ask himself: how is it that a nation so small has played such a large role in the lives of the European peoples? To ignore this question is to ignore reality."

"It is a fact that Jewish forces were involved in the French Revolution, in the First World War, in the October [1917] Revolution and in the Second World War. Anyone with eyes in his head can see that. It's [also] a fact that Jewish forces are waging a culture-war against Europe. They want to erase every trace of the authentic European culture and replace it with the American anti-culture called 'multi-culturalism'! The same forces are also promoting [a policy of] open borders and mass-migration, which [have] been destroying Europe's natural development since ancient times. They want to create a world that stifles all the good fruits of our forefathers' [culture]. The fact is that the Aryan race did not survive more than 50 years under the rule of these forces. All we want is to defend our right to existence and life."

A section headed "New World Order" states that the Jews are, in effect, controlling the world: "Freedom of speech is granted to a handful of 'privileged' politicians, journalists and functionaries that are puppets of the Zionist mechanism... The authorities quickly silence and censor the voices that come to defend the values that are trampled daily by the effective media propaganda, controlled by the ruling Jews. Truth is dear, but any prisoner knows that freedom is priceless... 90% of the problems in the world are the result of a dark plan formulated by the promoters of the New World Order with the aim of letting the 'chosen people' control their empire, namely the [entire] world. This diabolical plan is masterminded by the Zionists, the Freemasons and the Illuminati, and we become party to it whenever we believe their lies... A certain group of people is trying to suppress the emotions of humanity at large, emotions that are so important! They want to preserve the 'chosen people' status that they have established for themselves. [They believe] we 'gentiles' must know our place, because, [according to them], they are the elite and we are [mere] animals dancing to their tune."

Serbian Schools Get to Grips with Chinese

Chinese classes in 31 primary and secondary schools began on Monday - all part of Serbia's long campaign to cozy up to the Far Eastern giant, reports Balkan Insight

"Good afternoon", were the first words in Chinese that pupils in Belgrade's France Presern primary school heard in their first Chinese class.



"Chinese is something that nobody had an opportunity to learn before so it will certainly be interesting," a girl student from the school commented. Serbia's Education Ministry has been working on introducing the Chinese language to Serbian schools for months and on

March 14 when Education Minister Zarko Obradovic and Chinese ambassador Jang Vanha signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the subject.

"The goal of this project is for Serbian students to encounter Chinese tradition and culture. Learning Chinese is important for economic reasons too," Obradovic said.

This pilot project will last until the end of the year. Volunteers from China have been selected to teach Chinese twice a week to anyone who chooses the subject from third grade onwards in primary schools. Students in Serbia are already obliged to learn English and at least one other foreign language, such as Russian, French, German and now Chinese.

The teachers have only recently arrived from China and thus know only a little Serbian.

"I arrived four days ago... I hope that children will learn Chinese and I, Serbian," Gao Chen, a new teacher, said. About 7,000 Chinese live in Serbia, of whom about 3,000 reside in Belgrade. They began settling in Serbia in the 1990s, mostly as traders from the provinces of Zhejiang and Fujian, which are known as textile centers. China is one of the four so-called "pillars" of Serbian foreign policy and the two countries have had close relations in last two decades. China has strongly supported Serbia over Kosovo, among other issues.

Serbian Army Chief Sues Natasa Kandic

The Serbian army chief, Ljubisa Dikovic has filed a lawsuit against the director of the Humanitarian Law Centre in Serbia, Natasa Kandic, after she accused him of being responsible for war crimes committed in Kosovo in 1999.

The Humanitarian Law Centre, in a report published in January, blamed Dikovic for a number of war crimes committed in Kosovo in 1999 when he was the commander of the Motorized Brigade of the Yugoslav Army. The report was based on exhibits from the Hague Tribunal, public documents of the Yugoslav Army, JNA, the NGO's documentation, and depositions from witnesses.

The Humanitarian Law Centre maintained that an officer with such a stained record should not be at the helm of the Serbian Army, "as he clearly lacks the professional and ethical potential to help restore trust in the Serbian Army regionally and internationally".

The Serbian Ministry of Defense and General Dikovic have denounced the report as a vicious attempt to smear the Army's reputation, while Serbia's War Crimes Prosecution Office has dismissed the evidence against Dikovic as groundless.

Lieutenant General Ljubisa Dikovic was appointed Head of the Army of the Republic of Serbia on December 12 last year by a decree of Serbian President Boris Tadic.

Judge Excluded in High Profile Croatia Trial

The trial of a former top advisor in Croatia's wartime Interior Ministry, Tomislav Mercep, charged with war crimes, was postponed, as one of the judges will have to be excluded.

The trial was postponed on Monday as it was revealed that one of the trial judges, Jadranka Mandusic, had interrogated one of the witnesses during the investigation, contrary to Croatian law. Croatian criminal law does not allow a judge who has attended a preliminary interrogation to also participate in the trial of the accused. The presiding judge has decided to formally restart the trial on March 26, although two sessions have already been held so far.

Mercep has been charged, that as a commander of a police unit, he personally ordered the unlawful arrest, torture and killing of civilians from October 8, 1991 until mid-December 1991 in and around Zagreb and in the towns of Kutina and Pakrac in central Croatia. According to the indictment, his police unit illegally captured 52 people, killing 43 of them, while three disappeared and six survived torture.

Among the victims named in the indictment are Mihajlo Zec, his wife Marija

and their 12-year-old daughter Aleksandra, who were murdered on the night of December 7, 1991 in a forest near Zagreb.

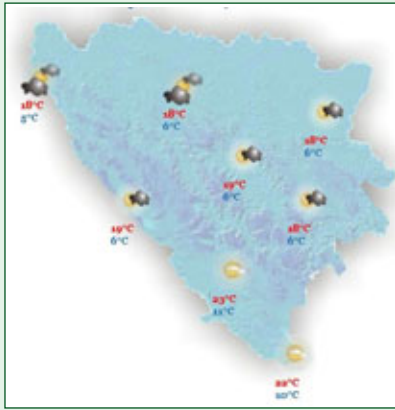
The murder of the Zec family, who were Serb civilians living in the Croatian capital, far from the frontline, is considered by many to be one of the cruelest war crimes committed by the Croatian forces. The killers, all members of the unit under Mercep's command, were captured and confessed to the crime but they were released due to a procedural mistake and never stood trial.

Some of the perpetrators continued with their military careers and were honoured with a presidential medal. One became a member of the military's presidential guard. After 1991, Mercep was appointed an advisor to the Croatian Interior Ministry.

Despite independent media reports about war crimes committed by his police unit, he remained at large and was a prominent political figure until recently. He led a political party and an influential war veterans' organization and even ran for Croatian president in 2000.

He has been in custody since his arrest on war crimes charges in December 2010.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Sarajevo

Today: Partly cloudy skies. High 20C. Winds light and variable.

Tonight: A mostly clear sky. Low 3C. Winds light and variable.

Thursday: Sunny. High close to 20C and low around 4C.

Banja Luka

Today: Partly cloudy. Warm. High 22C.

Tonight: A mostly clear sky. Low 8C. Winds light and variable.

Thursday: Sunny. High close to 23C and low around 8C.

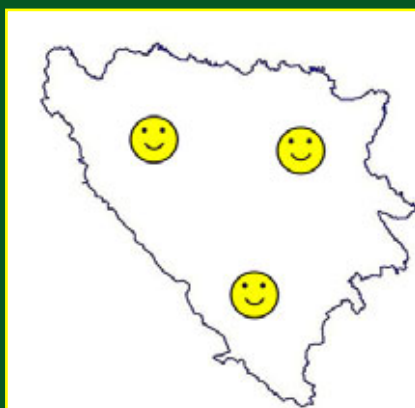
Mostar

Today: A few clouds early, otherwise mostly sunny. Warm. High 26C.

Tonight: Mostly clear skies. Low 9C. Winds light and variable.

Thursday: Mix of sun and clouds. High close to 27C and low around 10C.

BIO METEO



Air pollution in Sarajevo
LOW

GLOBE IN PICTURES



An Israeli walks past an advertising displayed on a main street in Tel Aviv, Israel. A new Israeli law, passed late Monday, is trying to fight the spread of eating disorders by banning underweight models from local advertising



A worker inspects a pole at London's Olympic Park. Those responsible for the British capital's network of fiber optic cables, phone masts and WiFi hotspots say they're bracing for a data deluge as the games get underway



An Afghan military helicopter flies over the crowd gathered for a celebration of the Persian New Year Nowruz at the Kart-e-Sakhi shrine in Kabul, Afghanistan. Nowruz, the Farsi-language word for "new year," is an ancient Persian festival, celebrated on the first day of spring in countries including Afghanistan and Iran

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DR.SEUSS' THE LORAX

JOHN CARTER

THE ARTIST

THIS MEANS WAR

THE DESCENDANTS

THE DEVIL INSIDE

JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND

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THE MUPPETS

THE DESCENDANTS

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ONE FOR THE MONEY

PARADE

PUSS IN BOOTS

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS:
CHIPWRECKED