

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

MEDIA REPORTS

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10.7.2005

Potocari: Police discovered 35 kilograms of explosives ready for activation

FENA

July 5, 2005

The RS police have discovered 35 kilograms of explosives of great destructive power on two separate locations near the Memorial centre Potocari, the spokesperson of the RS Police Director, Radovan Pejic, on Tuesday told Fena.

“The explosives are of both domestic and foreign production, and were prepared for activation. All it needed was a safety fuse”, explained Pejic, adding that the explosives had a great destructive power.

The RS police have completed the inquiry and activities are in progress in removing the explosives that were set in an electric-power station, and near the street, said Pejic, adding that the explosives were located one kilometer from entrance to the complex.

“There were no explosives in the Memorial centre”, he said, adding that the RS Police Director, Dragomir Andan, ordered that the entire area be searched with trained K-9s.

He explained that indices exist on the perpetrators of this criminal act and that information are being shared with the cantonal and FBiH MoIs, as well as with the other security agencies.

On behalf of RS MoI Pejic expressed gratitude to EUFOR.

Pejic: RS police successfully deactivated explosives in Potocari

FENA

July 5, 2005

The spokesperson of the RS Police Director, Radovan Pejic, on Tuesday said that the police have successfully deactivated the discovered explosives at the concrete factory in Potocari.

“The police have discovered 35 kg of explosives of great destructive power on two locations, one in the electric-power station and the other on the side of the road, but the danger has been removed, and explosives have been transferred to a safe location”, said Pejic.

New police forces have been deployed to Potocari and together with the official K-9s, they are searching the terrain to ensure that the preparations for marking the 10th anniversary of suffering of Srebrenica Bosniaks

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develop in the best possible order.

“On basis of operational activities, we have indices about certain persons that could be linked with these activities, and we expect the perpetrators to be arrested in cooperation with the FBiH police”, said Pejic.

Al-Qa’ida widow

Hiding the truth about the most-wanted Al-Qa’ida militant in Saudi Arabia

Vecernji list

By Vesna Leto and Velimir Begic

There has been much tension in the village Homolje the past two days. The locals eye all visitors with a dose of skepticism. From the youngest to the oldest, no one wants to give a statement. In case you stop your car, a large group forms around you immediately. The village Homolje is situated up in the mountains four kilometers from Konjic towards Sarajevo and is the home of Yunis Muhammed Ibrahim al-Hayari’s father-in-law Jusuf Alic, who works in the Konjic power plant. Al-Hayari, chief Al-Qa’ida operative in Saudi Arabia, was killed in a battle between Al-Qa’ida militants and Saudi police three days ago.

Moroccan Yunis Muhammed Ibrahim al-Hayari came to Konjic during the war and joined the 4th Muslim Brigade, under the command of Muderis, who is director of “Vakuf” Bank today. (Excerpt)

BiH Federation recognizes Croatian war decorations as own

HINA

July 5, 2005

The upper house of the Croat-Muslim entity of Bosnia-Herzegovina [Federation of BiH] on Tuesday [5 July] adopted a law on allowances for holders of war decorations, including holders of decorations awarded by the Republic of Croatia, who were members of the BiH Croat Defense Council (HVO) which existed in 1990s.

The adoption of the law in the House of Peoples of the Federation of BiH was the result of a consensus reached today after the bill was brought into question last week when Bosniak [Bosnian Muslim] deputies supported an amendment, moved by Deputy Vahid Heco, on the exclusion of holders of decorations awarded by the Republic of Croatia.

According to today's decision, former HVO members, holders of the decorations awarded by Croatia, are equated with holders of decorations which were given to members of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the

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Interior Ministry of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As of 1 January 2006, they are entitled to the financial compensation accounting to 50% of the average monthly salary.

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Croatian president rejects British proposal on all-to-all apology in Srebrenica

HINA

July 5, 2005

Zagreb - Croatian President Stipe Mesic said today that only those who committed crimes in Srebrenica should apologize for them. These remarks come in the wake of an informal British proposal that all warring sides in former Yugoslavia should apologize to each other on the 10th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre.

The British Guardian newspaper carried an article on the informal British proposal, which was also quoted by some Croatian newspapers. The Guardian said that Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatian leaders immediately rejected such an idea, calling it "grotesque", "lacking seriousness" and "surprising".

"Those who committed crimes in Srebrenica should apologize for them, I do not understand what the Croats would have to do with it," Mesic told journalists in Zagreb after the presentation of scholarships to top students.

Mesic said he thought that on 11 July, on the day of the Srebrenica massacre, everybody should remember the biggest crime since World War II. "I think that what happened in Srebrenica should not be downplayed by mentioning other crimes. Nobody could suppose that after World War II 8,000 people would be rounded up and killed in the most brutal way."

With reference to his official visit to Serbia-Montenegro which is to start on Wednesday [6 July], President Mesic said that the two countries must help open better cooperation in the region. "We must cooperate; we cannot change our geographic region. If we know how to cooperate with our neighbours then we can cooperate with those who are further from us," Mesic said.

The Croatian president said that there were barriers and difficulties in this, which is understandable because of the brutality of the recent war. He called for the individualisation of guilt so that individuals, not entire nations, would be brought to account for what they did.

"This is also what happened to other nations in Europe and elsewhere in the world and it is now happening in our region. Therefore my visit is a call for cooperation, a call for guilt to be individualized," Mesic concluded.