Sappers of Federal Troops Avert Landmine Attack in Grozny (Chechnya)

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The device was to be gone off by a radio signal transmitted to the walkie-talkie, a source at the district's police station told Tass.

The sappers defused the landmine on the spot without an explosion.

Unidentified attackers have fired at a truck Ural with fighters of the Novgorod region's OMON crack police in the Zavodskoi district of the Chechen capital. One policeman was killed in the attack, according to a spokesman for the district's police station.

The policemen were heading for the village of Alkhan-Kala (five kilometers south-west of Grozny) from their base in Mozdok. An investigation into the attack has been launched. The attackers are currently being searched for.

One policeman was killed and two were wounded in an attack by gunmen in the settlement of Komsomolskoye, Chechnya's Urus-Martan region. The policemen were on night patrol in the settlement, when unidentified persons opened fire on them, an Urus-Martan district police source told Itar-Tass on Tuesday.

Police failed to detain the attackers hot on the trail.

A group of investigators was working in Komsomolskoye on Tuesday morning. The bandits are being sought.

Gunmen have committed another attack in the settlement of Alkhan-Kala near Grozny. Four persons wearing masks attacked the house of senior inspector of the Chechen passport and visa service Khamzat Shaipov.

Threatening with arms, the gunmen took away the policeman's pistol and submachine gun and escaped. Search for the attackers is continuing. Chechen Interior Ministry sources said.

Due to the large-scale sweeping operation launched by federal forces in Grozny on Monday against rebel groups, units of the Joint Military Grouping in the North Caucasus and the republic's law enforcement bodies killed eight and arrested 12 militants, a spokesman for the Joint Military Grouping's press office told Tass on Tuesday.

In addition, they discovered several caches with arms and ammunition and averted an act of terrorism in Grozny's Lenin district during a mines-searching operation. Here they found a landmine planted by bandits in a private house.

The landmine was made of 15 kilos of TNT and metallic elements designed to strengthen its hitting capability. The sappers liquidated the device.

The security sweep in Grozny is going on, the military said.

The spokesman also said sappers of federal troops averted two acts of terrorism in the Grozny and Vedeno districts of the republic on Monday. One of the landmines was found and defused on the outskirts of the village of Kirov-Yurt, another one was discovered on the motor-road near the village of Agishty.

In addition, federals found 14 assault rifles, more than 16,000 cartridges, some 10 kilos of explosives, 49 mines and shells hidden in 13 caches, according to the press office.

Chechen prosecutor's office will hold a meeting of its board in Grozny on Tuesday. The meeting will be held in a broad format and is to discuss results of the activity of prosecutor's office for the first six months of the year, a spokesman for the Chechen prosecutor's office told Tass.

Deputy prosecutor general of the Russian Federation Sergei Fridinsky, acting president of the Chechen Republic Akhmat Kadyrov, chairman of the Chechen government Anatoly Popov, leaders of the Chechen Interior Ministry and other security agencies will attend the meeting.

The participants in the meeting are expected to consider matters of strengthening public order in the course of holding presidential elections in the republic.

A group of forced migrants returned to Chechnya from Ingushetia on Tuesday. Some 30 families from the Shali, Kurchaloi regions decided to come back home on their own, without assistance from the authorities.
Many refugees who returned home today told Itar-Tass that their return was prompted by the promise made by the Chechen authorities to pay compensations for lost housing and property beginning from September.

The Chechen authorities declared that the problem of paying compensations to the people who return to Chechnya and will rent housing in a private sector had been settled. The resolution on the compensations to the refugees might accelerate the process of the return of Chechen refugees who still remain in Ingushetia.

Around 300 refugees have returned to Chechnya from tent compounds in Ingushetia, Minister for affairs of Chechnya Stanislav Ilyasov told Tass on Tuesday.

At least 14,000 refugees from Chechnya are currently staying in tent compounds in Ingushetia, Ilyasov said. The programme of the return of the refugees to their homeland is going ahead successfully. The people are returning home voluntarily, Ilyasov said.

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