

# Bosnia cease-fire delayed; NATO jets strike Serb target

■ **WAR:** Bosnians still don't have electricity and natural gas service, which delayed a cease-fire

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Already dimmed by shelling that killed 16 people over two days, the newest hopes for a break in Bosnia's bloody cycle of war mired Monday in a jumble of tangled wires and cables.

The cease-fire scheduled to take effect Tuesday at one minute after midnight (7:01 p.m. EDT Monday) was delayed because the government and Bosnian Serbs could not finish restoring electricity and natural gas service to Sarajevo, said Hasan Muratovic, the Bosnian government's minister in charge of relations with the United Nations.

Muratovic appeared on Bosnian television at the end of a day punctuated by Serb shelling and retaliatory NATO airstrikes.

"It will not happen because the conditions have not been met yet," Muratovic said.

Electric service was only partially restored, and there was still no natural gas

service. Muratovic blamed much of the gas problem on Russia, where the supplies originate, for failing to order the valves opened on the pipeline running through Hungary to Bosnia.

Both sides pledged to honor the truce when it does take effect, but fighting continued in Bosnia's northwestern and southern regions.

NATO planes attacked Serb targets in northeastern Bosnia on Monday after Serb shelling of government territory killed a Norwegian peacekeeper and claimed dozens of civilian casualties.

Alliance spokesman Capt. Mark Van Dyke said six U.S. warplanes attacked a Bosnian Serb command and control bunker with 10 laser-guided bombs and four rockets southeast of the government-held city of Tuzla. He said the bunker apparently was destroyed.

The airstrikes were NATO's first since Oct. 4, when three missiles were fired at Bosnian Serb radar that locked onto alliance jets.

Despite the sharp increase in shelling and fighting that has ruined dozens of other truces during 3 1/2 years of war, the utilities problem — a key provision of the

truce accord brokered last week by the United States — was the main reason for delaying the latest cease-fire.

After a meeting of the warring sides Monday evening at Sarajevo's airport, the U.N. civilian chief in Bosnia, Antonio Pedaye Gonzales, said the parties "have cooperated fully" in trying to meet the cease-fire conditions.

No new deadline was set, but Pedaye said the parties would meet again "at the earliest opportunity."

In Washington, an administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the Russian Foreign Ministry has assured U.S. officials that natural gas will be in Sarajevo sometime Tuesday. In addition, two electrical feeder lines are now open, with lights going on in Sarajevo, he said.

"In the absence of the cease-fire, I urge the parties to exercise maximum restraint at this critical stage," Pedaye said.

Col. Ferid Buljbasic, spokesman for the Bosnian army, said government forces "will absolutely respect" the accord.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, speaking in the northern Serb stronghold of Banja Luka, said his side "won't under-

take any offensive actions that are excluded from the cease-fire agreement, and it's up to the international community to secure the same from the Muslim side."

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said Sunday that although the utility work might delay the start of the cease-fire, fighting would not.

Even so, he was angered by Serb shelling of civilians Sunday in northern Bosnia, and urged a "vigorous response" by the United Nations and NATO.

Shelling blamed on the Serbs killed at least 15 people Sunday and wounded almost 100. In one case, a cluster bomb hit a refugee camp near Tuzla, killing 10 people, including four children.

U.N. spokesman Phil Arnold condemned the attack as "indiscriminate and barbaric."

NATO jets did not strike Serb targets Sunday because of bad weather.

On Monday, the town of Zivinice south of Tuzla was shelled, government officials in Tuzla said. They said two people were killed and 10 wounded. U.N. spokesman Maj. Donald Roy said the Serbs also shelled government-held Kladanj, farther south.

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## NATO secretary-general faces corruption charges

■ **SCANDAL:** Willy Claes is charged with taking monetary bribes, but maintains his innocence

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes is caught up in a corruption scandal that observers fear could damage the alliance's ability to expand into Eastern Europe and enforce a peace agreement in Bosnia.

Belgium's high court issued a 10-page report Friday recommending Claes be prosecuted in connection with a 1988 bribery case. Claes has proclaimed his innocence, however his lawyer complained on Monday that Claes still had not seen the report.

Claes' troubles are escalating at a delicate juncture for the alliance. It is trying to expand its membership and prepare to enforce a peace agreement in Bosnia — both issues that risk alienating Russia.

The allegations against Claes cover a period when he was Belgium's economy minister. A special committee of Parliament, which will advise the legislature whether charges should be filed, was to meet Tuesday to consider the report.

The committee also was expected to turn over a copy of the report to Claes' lawyer, Pierre

Lambert. Lambert said he has had nothing to work with except rumors and would need at least 48 hours to study the document before Claes could appear before the committee.

The allegations connect Claes and other key members of Belgium's Socialist Party to \$1.5 million in bribes paid by Italian helicopter manufacturer Agusta in 1988 to persuade the government to buy 46 helicopters worth \$330 million. The government ultimately purchased the Italian helicopters.

"I am totally innocent," Claes told a news conference last week in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he attended a meeting of NATO defense ministers. "I have never done something wrong."

Claes, in Turin, Italy on Monday for the opening of the North Atlantic Assembly, did not comment to reporters about his alleged involvement in the corruption scandal.

Meanwhile, the Belgian press has exerted increasing pressure on Claes to resign.

"The highest official of an Atlantic alliance, which must deal with such delicate issues as the former Yugoslavia, cannot be under such suspicion and must be able to defend himself with a freedom of action that his present position does not permit," La Libre Belgique wrote recently.

## Protesters win their point, ancient royal oaks are spared

WINDSOR, England (AP) — Protesters who had clung to the ancient oaks near Windsor Castle won their campaign Monday when the queen's groundskeepers decided not to chop down the trees.

A half-dozen protesters had camped in the park since early August to protect the trees.

The Crown Estate announced that 78 oaks, including 20 that dated to 1720, would remain standing in Queen Anne's Ride, a three-mile avenue between the castle and Ascot race course. The Estate originally had planned to chop down all the trees along the avenue and plant new ones.

Some of the trees are diseased, and Windsor Great Park officials said they expected to see the rest fail.

Conservationists countered that

the diseased trees were nonetheless impressive oaks that provided a home for rare insects and fungi, and should be allowed to stand until they became unsalvageable.

The Estate did not explain its decision.

Prince Philip, the queen's husband who holds the title of Ranger of Windsor Great Park, had been informed of the decision, said Gill Coates, spokesman for the Crown Estate.

"This is very good news," said David Henshillwood of English Nature, the government-sponsored conservation agency.

"We are delighted that the older trees in the ride will be left to provide a habitat for the rare insects and fungi that rely on them," he said.


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