

Kosovo enphase energy

A canal in Kosovo feeding two power plants that generate most of the nation's electricity has been damaged in an explosion, with the prime minister calling it a "terrorist attack" by neighbouring Serbia.

The incident occurred on Friday near the town of Zubin Potok in the troubled north of the country, about 16km (10 miles) from the border with Serbia, cutting the flow of water needed for the plants' cooling systems and prompting fears that much of the country could be left without electricity by the weekend.

Prime Minister Albin Kurti immediately blamed Serbia, without providing evidence, describing the alleged assault as "a terrorist act" carried out by "professionals" working in "gangs" directed by its northern neighbour who were targeting "critical infrastructure".

Serbia on Saturday condemned the blast, Foreign Minister Marko Djuric denying what he called "premature accusations" that are "a deliberate diversion", as he suggested the involvement of Kurti's government, also without providing evidence.

Pictures from the scene published by local media showed water leaking heavily from one side of the reinforced canal, which runs from the Serb-majority north of Kosovo to the capital, Pristina, and also supplies drinking water.

Faruk Mujka, the head of water company Iber Lepenci, told local news portal Kallxo that an explosive device was thrown into the canal and damaged the wall of a bridge. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

He said the water supply must be halted to fix the problem as soon as possible, given the disruption in supplies to the Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK), the country's main power provider.

Serbia was ready to provide financial and technical support to repair the damage to the canal, he said, "demonstrating our commitment to the welfare of all people in the region, regardless of ethnicity or political affiliation".

Earlier on Friday, Kosovo police had increased security measures after two recent attacks in which hand grenades were hurled at a police station and municipality building in northern Kosovo where ethnic Serbs live. It was not clear if the incidents were linked.

"We are monitoring the situation closely ... and have offered our full support to the government of Kosovo to ensure that those responsible ... are identified and held accountable," it said in a statement on Facebook.

Tensions have spiked in recent months, with Kurti's government seeking to dismantle a parallel system of



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social services and political offices backed by Belgrade to serve Kosovo's Serbs.

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