

Chechens volunteers mobilized for war

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian ground troops yesterday appeared to have halted their advance into Chechnya along the river separating the northern plains from the more treacherous mountain terrain in the south of the rebel republic.

Commanders of the loosely organized Chechen armed forces were mobilizing volunteers in their most deserted capital, Grozny.

The commanders, who supervised the distribution of uniforms and weapons, said they were expecting the fight to be as fierce as those of the 1994-96 war with Russia.

"We consider this the second stage of the same war," a Chechen commander who gave his name only as Col. Saidiev, said.

The Russians have not said how deep inside Chechnya they plan to penetrate, although Defense Minister Igor Sergeev said Wednesday Russia may mount offensives toward new targets, including Grozny.

For now, the Russians appeared to be fortifying positions along the northern bank of the Terek River, which winds across the northern third of Chechnya.

Sporadic Russian air raids and artillery fire were reported Wednesday, but yesterday both sides said there had been no heavy fighting in the previous 24 hours.

Chechen television claimed a bus carrying refugees was hit by Russian shelling Tuesday, killing about 40 civilians and leaving many more injured.

The report showed footage of rescue workers removing bodies. The interior of the bus was covered with blood.

Russia bears down on Chechnya

Russian troops have seized the northern third of Chechnya in an effort to seal off the republic from the rest of Russia. Troops occupy the region down to the northern bank of the Terek River.



AP/Wm. J. Castello

An Associated Press reporter visited a Grozny morgue filled with bodies, and officials said they were from the attack on the bus.

Sergeev said he was not aware of any such attack and called the report "disinformation."

A senior Chechen military commander acknowledged his forces had chosen not to fight pitched battles on the northern plains of Chechnya, where the Russians have overwhelming firepower with tanks and artillery forces supported by warplanes.

Saddam Hussein promises change

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has sent a message to President Clinton, the teaming of the two nations' major reformers.



HUSSEIN

The London-based Al-Hayat newspaper said the message includes an offer for unconditional talks with the United States and assurances Iraq will play a constructive role in the Middle East peace process.

The message is being carried by the Jordanian King Abdullah II, who is scheduled to meet with Clinton Wednesday in Washington.

Before leaving for London on Wednesday en route to Washington, Abdullah confirmed to Jordanian reporters he was carrying a message from Saddam to Clinton. He refused to give details.

"I can't comment on that, but I have a message to pass on," Abdullah was quoted as saying by Jordanian newspapers yesterday.

Administration officials, however, doubted Iraq would make a serious overture to the United States through Abdullah.

"The Iraqis regularly seek to have discussions with American officials, and we're not interested in those discussions," State Department spokesperson James P. Rubin said Wednesday.

If the Al-Hayat report is correct, it would mark a major turnaround in Iraq's hard-line policies and show a willingness to mend fences with its main enemies, the United States and Israel.

In return, Iraq wants Washington to drop its threats to put Saddam and his senior aides on trial as war criminals, Al-Hayat said.

Court postpones Ocalan's appeal

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A Turkish court yesterday postponed the appeal of Abdullah Ocalan's death sentence, granting the Kurdish rebel leader's lawyers two more weeks to prepare their case.

Ocalan's lawyers, who had asked for an extra month, did not appear at the Ankara appeals court for the five-minute hearing.

The next session, scheduled for Oct. 21, will proceed whether or not the lawyers attend, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Dozens of relatives of Turks slain in the 15-year fight against guerrillas of Ocalan's Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) were outraged by the delay.

On June 29, Ocalan was sentenced to death for treason and separatism.

Climb every mountain



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Julian Harris, a freshman management information systems major, climbs an inflatable mountain outside the MSC. The mountain was sponsored by Toys 'R' Us as part of its "Extreme Careers" exhibit.

Why drive to Houston, Austin, or Dallas? It's here!

epicenter

Monday Nite Football
Win \$8,000 Cash
or a trip
for two to
SUPER BOWL '00!

Wednesday Nite
LADIES NITE
20 Ladies Have the
Chance to win:
\$10,000
\$1000 Cash Guaranteed
NO GIMMICKS!

701 University Drive, East, Across from the Hilton in the Chimney Hill Shopping Center
Where the Party People Go For A Good Time!!!!

SPORTS BAR

Open 4 pm till 1 am on weekdays
Sat. & Sun. 11 am to 1 am

Tuesdays Live Karaoke Beginning Oct. 12

Sign up begins at 9 p.m.
Show begins at 10 p.m.

DANCE CLUB

Open Wednesday thru Saturday
9 pm - 3 am

Sportsbar Highlights -

Dance Club Highlights -

Happy Hour Specials 4-8 p.m.

\$1.75 Wells, \$1.50 Longnecks-Domestics and \$4.75 Pitchers-Domestics
\$1.50 Margaritas/Daquiries, \$2.50 Jumboritas

- Monday:** Monday Nite Football "Predict The Score" Contest, Trip for 2 to the Superbowl or \$8000 CASH. Starts at 6 pm
- Tuesday:** Live Karaoke beginning October 12th
99¢ Wells, \$1.50 Domestic Longnecks
- Wednesday:** Ladies Night, \$10,000 with a guaranteed \$1000 CASH, Tons of Giveaways, 5:30-7:30
- Thursday:** Trivia & Pool Tournaments. Epicenter will match the POT!
- Friday:** Weekend Kick Off Party
- Saturday:** Best in College Football, Great Drink Specials
- Sunday:** NFL Sunday, Drink & Specials

*** NEVER A COVER CHARGE FOR THE SPORTS BAR ***

Drink Specials: until 11pm
\$1.00 Wells, \$1.00 Longnecks, \$2.75 Pitchers
\$1.25 Hurricanes all nite long and \$1.50 shots

- Wednesday:** Live DJ with latest Latino music
No Cover for Ladies all nite with college ID
- Thursday:** **No Cover for Ladies all nite with college ID**
Tons of Freebies!
Great Drink Specials!
- Friday:** Weekend Kick Off Party, Date Nite
- Saturday:** Cutting Edge!
Music, the best light show in the Brazos Valley

For Contest Rules and Regulations: Contact Epicenter Management.
Smart Aggies Do Not Drink and Drive. Ask Staff at Epicenter if you need a cab.

Albertsons

EPICENTER

University Drive

Golden Corral

Bookbuster