

Officials urge civilians to flee Chechen capital

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian officials yesterday urged civilians hiding in basements beneath ruined homes in Grozny to flee the Chechen capital — a risky endeavor with Russian rockets screaming relentlessly into the city.

Federal forces showed no signs of easing up raids on the breakaway republic of Chechnya, even as a top international mediator held talks in Moscow to arrange a visit to the republic. The Kremlin has dismissed international criticism of its campaign in Chechnya as meddling in Russia's internal affairs.

The Russians have intensified their bombardment of Grozny in the past

week, leaving hundreds dead or wounded and destroying scores of buildings and homes. Russian officials estimate 50,000 civilians remain in the city, many of whom are old, infirm or lack transportation to leave.

In brief intervals between the strikes yesterday, civilians crawled out of basement shelters to fetch water and try to find food.

"It's like an endless lottery, with death being the only stake. Every day brings new death," Marzhan Khakimova, a 72-year-old woman living in a Grozny basement, said.

Yesterday's raids hit one of Grozny's main thoroughfares, Avtarkhanov Avenue, as well as residential neighbor-



AP

hoods and a car market. Witnesses said there were casualties, but no figures were immediately available.

In Moscow, Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Koshman, Russia's representative to Chechnya, said Moscow would rebuild Grozny when the war was over, but now was the time for civilians to flee.

Survivor returned to family in Cuba

CARDENAS, Cuba (AP) — The 5-year-old Cuban boy who survived a boat capsizing en route to the United States was handed over to his relatives in Miami yesterday, and his father in Cuba accused them of trying to make money off his son.

The boy, Elian Gonzalez, was quickly becoming the focus of an international tug-of-war. While his father and the Cuban government have demanded his return, U.S. authorities temporarily turned him over to relatives who were fighting to keep him in the United States.

Juan Miguel Gonzalez, the father, said he initially was thankful that his aunt and cousin in South Florida were taking care of Elian, but had come to believe

that they were "enriching themselves" with the highly politicized case.

"[Elian] has been kidnapped," he told "Associated Press Television News" in an interview yesterday at his coastal home east of Havana. "If I have to go and look for him, I will."

"Here, he has his health care and education free," Gonzalez, 31, a park employee, said. "He does not lack anything."

About 50 of Gonzalez's neighbors and co-workers had rallied at his home earlier in the day to support his efforts to bring Elian back to Cuba.

Later, inside the living room dominated by a poster of revolutionary icon Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Mariela Quintana, 51, Gonzalez's mother and grandmother, pleaded for the boy's return. His second wife, Nelsi, 28, nursed her baby, 2-month-old half-brother.

Elian was found on the coast of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Thursday after a powerboat carrying refugees capsized. Three survivors were rescued in Biscayne, Fla.

Seven bodies were found before the U.S. Coast Guard off the search. Three people are presumed dead.

Cuba blames the United States for the tragedy, saying the child had been taken by his mother, who fled the voyage.

We Can Do It All!
From Local to Nationwide Moving

MILES MOVING & STORAGE
Aggie owned & operated
Class of 2000

Student Discount Half Price boxes

Miles Moving & Storage
778-MOVE
or 229-0284

Buck's Pizza
PIZZA · STROMBOLI · HOAGIES

Medium One Topping Pizza
\$3.50

*Order 3 for free delivery

409 **693-BUCK**

Off Campus Aggies Hillbilly Hoedown

What: General Meeting
Where: Koldus 110
When: Tonight at 8:30PM
Theme: Country/Hillbilly Wear

Office: Koldus 137 Phone: 845-0688 <http://oca.tamu.edu>

Make money while exercising your brain.

Over 50% of students in previous experiments earned more than \$22.

Key Code for this week: 1031

register to participate in experiments:
online: <http://econdollars.tamu.edu>
or call: 862-8796

KIRIUM
Chronograph
By TAG Heuer

John D. Huntley
Class of '79
313B South College Ave., College Station, TX 77840
(409) 846-8916
An authorized TAG Heuer dealer.



Save 50% on card calls.
And spend Spring Break in Cancun, not Kansas.

How do you make a calling card call using 1-800-COLLECT? It's easy. Just dial 1-800-COLLECT, and bill your call to a card you already have in your wallet. You can use a participating credit card or local phone company calling card—at half price.* So try it today, and start counting those pesos.

1-800-COLLECT
Now For Calling Card Calls.

www.1800collect.com

*Savings vs. AT&T basic rates for interstate card calls. Participating cards only. Offer ends 1/31/00.

Wednesday • Dec

Sho
Grou
mem
at B

Texas Aggies
the face of adve
together after th
pened in Aggie
For most Aggie
many, the know
A&M is comfort
Bill Anderson
neering major,
artifact at the B
erations of Aggie
"When I walk
onto Bonfire sit
A team at A&M
Council, Tradition
and the office o
each piece of m
"This is a Un
derson said.
Indeed, all o
ing flowers, card
will be taken fro
Anderson sa
site for months
eventually be k
process.
"We don't w
Schuyler Ho
junior industri
about seeing th
"We know th
forgetting, by a
remember."
Dr. Sylvia Gri
the team's conc

Cont
for in
ongor
BY RIC
The

Cyril Con
her book *Jour
"youth is a pe
opportunities."
thor never me
After hearin
collapse, the y
go door to doo
tion neighbor
ey to donate to
students killed
accident. Tues
er and her fath
she collected fr
the Bonfire M
Texas A&M Fo
Hundreds o
mizations thro
Valley have re
fire collapse b
honor the st
killed or injun*

IN
Aggielif
•Andy Warh
Famed artist
gets his '15
minutes' at
Stark
Galleries.

•Ags look
A&M Men's
to face Step

•Do you
Columnists
usefulness
Bat
Listen to KAL
1:57 p.m. fo
drive.