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Chechens cautioned to evacuate

DOLINSKY, Russia (AP) — Russian planes dropped leaflets on Chechnya's besieged capital yesterday, warning residents and rebels to flee before federal forces launch a massive attack to smash Grozny into submission.

The Russian military has been raining bombs and artillery on the city for weeks but has been hesitant to risk storming it, for fear that street battles would cause the kind of heavy casualties that Russia suffered in Grozny in the 1994-96 war.

Now the Russians are threatening to unleash their biggest artillery and air bombardment on the city so far. Russian forces dumped leaflets on Grozny yesterday telling rebel fighters and civilians that they had until Saturday to flee. The fliers said a safe corridor would be open until Dec. 11 to let civilians escape.

"Persons who stay in the city will be considered terrorists and bandits and will be destroyed by artillery and aviation," the leaflets read. 'There will be no further negotiations. Everyone who does not leave the city will be destroyed."

It was unclear who could or would leave. Most of the civilians in Grozny — the Russians estimate between 15,000 and 40,000 remain are old or infirm.

"We had to flee when they made such an ultimatum during the previous war," Zina Ferzauli, a refugee from Grozny staying in the village of Dolinsky, nine miles to the northwest, said. "Last time they also said that those who stayed in the city were militants. It turned out that many of them were elderly people who had nowhere to go, and exactly the same thing will happen now."

Last chance for Grozny residents

Russian planes dropped fliers over the Chechen capital telling residents to leave by Saturday or be destroyed by massive air attacks. A corridor for citizens to escape will remain open until Dec. 11.



Yeltsin leaves hospital, plans China trip

MOSCOW (AP) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin returned to the Kremlin yesterday after a week of hospital treatment, and his aides said he would visit China this week.

Yeltsin, 68, fell ill this month with what the Kremlin said was bronchitis. Doctors sent him to the Central Clinical Hospital on Nov. 29 after diagnosing possible pneumonia.

Yeltsin left the hospital yesterday and met with Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma in the Kremlin. The Russian leader then left for his country residence outside Moscow to continue his recovery, the presidential press service said.

The Kremlin later announced that the president would visit China tomorrow.

Orissa governmeno offers cyclone relitiorar 7ith fi-nals on

The new chief minister of India's Orissa state promised to get relief operations back on track yesterday as thousands of homeless people waited for food and shelter in the cyclone-

ravaged region.

After a brief swearing-in ceremony, Hemanand Biswal directed senior officials to quickly distribute plastic sheets and blankets to the 2.5 million homeless people still camping out in 10 coastal districts bat-

tered in the Oct. 29 cyclone. Biswal replaced Giridhar Gamang as chief minister of the southeastern Indian state. Sonia Gandhi, president of the Congress party that rules Orissa, fired Gamang Sunday for his slow response to the devastating cyclone that killed nearly 10,000 people and destroyed thousands government's relief efforts have drawn widespread criticism.

"My government's first priority is to streamline relief operations..."

> Hermanand Biswal Orissa chief minister

At a press conference in the state capital, Bhubaneswar, Biswal told reporters that his government had ordered that all victims be compensated and all damaged schools and hospital buildings be repaired by the end of the month.

ity is to streamline re tions and ensure tha reaches the affected to

he said. S.B. Mishra, the state est civil servant, saidt ministration had di only 100,000 blankets grossly inadequate forth ber of people affected.

He said the Orissa ment was orderingtw blankets and hoped ute them among theh by Dec. 31

More than 200 truck ing plastic sheets for use ters against the element to Bhubaneswar 10 day the government refus them enter the city un sheets met governmen dards. Experts were tes sheets for quality.

Pakistani police search for serial kill

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — While on the trail of the killer of 100 children, Pakistani police have detained two men who admitted they had sex

with many of the alleged serial killer's victims. Police are hunting for a man who identified himself as Javed Iqbal in a letter he sent to police last week in which he said he killed the children, then disposed of their bodies in acid.

Police spokesperson Ashiq Marath said yes-

terday that police in the eastern city of have two men in custody who say that th friends of Iqbal. The two men confessedth sexually assaulted 25 of the children, but nied killing their captives, according to

Many of the children, who ranged in ag 7 to 16 years old, were among the country est and worked on the streets if Punjab's cial capital, Lahore.

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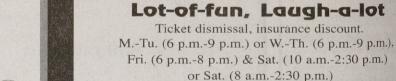
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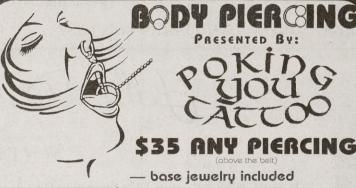


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