

Share da Knowledge... **Celebrate Black History**

Thursday February 3, 2000 12: 30 pm

> MSC Flagroom

Come reflect and celebrate!

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Chechens maintain Austri accord resistance in Grozny

ALKHAN-YURT, Russia (AP) -About 2,000 Chechen fighters broke through the Russian blockade of Grozny and tried to head south to join up with fellow rebels Tuesday, battling federal forces attempting to prevent their escape with tanks and artillery.

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Other rebels stayed in the battered Chechen capital to keep up the fierce resistance they have mounted to months of air and artillery attacks and a five-week Russian push to take the city center.

At least two prominent rebel commanders remained in Grozny with their forces, rebels said.

It was unclear how many rebels remained under their command; Russian reports estimated there were about 3,000 fighters in the capital last week.

A large group of rebels got caught in a minefield on the outskirts of Grozny on Monday, and several prominent Chechen commanders were killed or badly wounded, witnesses said. Russian artillery then opened fire on the field, killing and wounding scores more fighters; they said.

Notorious Chechen field commander Shamil Basayev reportedly had his leg Russians while avoiding heavy casual-

Yeltsin celebrates

YELTSIN

69th birthday

MOSCOW (AP)

- A month after

shocking Russia by

abruptly resigning,

former President

Boris Yeltsin cele-

brated his 69th

birthday Tuesday

amid reports that

he is happier and

healthier than dur-

ing his final years in office.

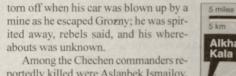
Spending the day quietly with

family, Yeltsin received a morning

visit from acting President

Vladimir Putin, offering birthday

congratulations. Yeltsin still lives



portedly killed were Aslanbek Ismailov, who had headed Grozny's defenses, Khunkar-Pasha Israpilov, and Grozny Mayor Lecha Dudayev.

Russian commanders denied that the rebels escaped; a main goal of the Russian offensive had been to wipe out the fighters in Grozny

25 km

GEORGIA

continue the war.

have to go further.

China.

her said.

ties that would harm their ability to

In the last Chechen war, the rebels

lost Grozny in 1995, but kept fighting

until they retook the city in 1996.

The rebels who left Grozny are expected to join thousands of comrades in the south to go on fighting.

Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev insisted Tuesday that federal forces were successfully blocking rebels trying to flee Grozny.

"Nobody will ever allow the rebels to leave the city other than under a white flag and after laying down their weapons," he said.

The rebels did not announce that they had given up the fight for the capital. Their strategy in Grozny was to inflict as many losses as possible on the

News in Brief

Yeltsin's wife, Naina, treated guests and her family to Siberian

While Yeltsin issued no com-

Ambassador calls for talks with Chi-

BEIJING (AP) - The new U.S. ambassador to China said Tuesday that the United States wants to open wide-ranging talks with the Chinese government on human rights issues.



sanctions. The United States and tions have said they we relations with Austria party joins in power-shrin The vehement opp

> based on Haider's page praising Nazi policies, an party's anti-foreigner he critical view of the Europe Earlier Tuesday in Bra gium, the European Ca the EU's executive bras

would continue to have relationship with the no ment as long as it she EU's treaty. Defense Minister Wa

labend, a People's Pr Joseph Prueher, speaking to said foreigners had not U.S. business executives in Bei-Austrians how to run be jing, said Washington welcomed ment and the country sha the release last week of Song way bend to pressure fm Yongyi, a librarian at Dickinson Col The EU action was asi lege in Pennsylvania who had been

small alpine country of detained in China since August. But Prueher said a meaningful people, which is only as dialogue on human rights would ing from the diplomati brought about when h "I think it's important that hu-Secretary-General Kut man rights discussions with Chi-

was elected presidents na not be a series of spikes, of intrying to conceal his redividuals, but rather a broader dialogue where we get more philo-sophically in tune," he said to the ligence officer in the Nor Austria has been will

American Chamber of Commercegovernment since inca liamentary elections Go "A secure, stable and prosperous China is what's in the inter-ests of the United States," Prue-Haider's party into s ahead of the People's Pa

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in the government home near Moscow.

dumplings and pancakes.

ment Tuesday, his wife said he is making plans, including foreign trips and working on a book, and that he has not been traumatized by retirement.

L_JOJ SENIORS HAVE BEEN SHOT

We want ALL seniors to be part of the 2000 Aggieland yearbook. Unfortunately, only 1,585 of you have had your picture taken and we're running out of time. We're giving you three extra days to claim your place in your senior yearbook - so have your picture taken next Monday-Wednesday (Feb. 7-9, 2000.) THERE WILL BE NO OTHER EXTENSIONS. Visit AR Photography at 1410 Texas Ave. Open M-F 9-12; 1:30-4. No appointment needed.

FEB. 9, 2000 IS THE ABSOLUTELY LAST DAY TO Fave Tuck In early 199 HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN FOR THE 2000 AGGIELAND YEARBOOK, the for the f

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