

Armenia is pushing a new wave of displaced people towards Iran. JONATHAN RUGMAN in Kanliq, south-west Azerbaijan, reports

Nowhere to hide for Azeri refugees

ON THE main road south through Kubatli province, thousands of men, women and children are packed into trucks at an Azeri checkpoint waiting for permission to leave. Helicopters shuttle in and out with the wounded, while a group of women sit waiting at the roadside...



Casualties of war... A man carries his elderly mother in the capital Baku. The UN says about 250,000 Azeris have been displaced this year. PHOTOGRAPH: SPA

A new exodus of refugees is under way towards Azerbaijan's border with Iran as Armenian forces continue ignoring United Nations demands that they stop their offensive.

All recent Armenian seizures are south-west of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, adding to the gains in the regions of Jabrail and Fizuli last month.

Most of the current wave of refugees were sheltering in the village of Kanliq, outside Kubatli when Armenian tanks attacked on Monday morning.

Dr Zeynaleyev reached an Azeri checkpoint on foot, carrying nothing but his identity papers and a dusty anorak.

The rest of his family, including his two children, have already been evacuated and he does not know where they are.

Several eyewitnesses confirmed that Kanliq had been set alight, a common practice as Armenian forces create a cordon sanitaire in the villages around Nagorno-Karabakh.

"From time immemorial they have wanted to create a greater Armenia," Dr Zeynaleyev said. "Armenia is a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, it has a big diaspora lobby, but we have nothing."

were given the extraordinary order to prevent their own civilians from leaving the Kanliq area for fear that it would encourage the Azeri soldiers to retreat.



They are now close to Azerbaijan's border with Iran that Armenian rockets are travelling in an arc over the frontier highway, the escape route for refugees travelling east.

Their commander is Captain Bagir who was born in Armenia but forced to leave in the tit-for-tat population expulsion between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 1988.

The surrounding countryside is littered with the carcasses of livestock killed in the stampede of humans and animals escaping the fighting.

This week the UNHCR began distributing 4,000 tents and 50,000 blankets to those displaced in the recent hostilities.

Front hopes for coalition as the alternative to Saddam

Claire Pointon in Irbil reports how deserters train to form the core of an opposition army

FROM his secret base in the mountains of northern Iraq, a former Iraqi captain tunes in his short-wave radio for the latest news from Iraq.

His men, almost all deserters from the Iraqi army, are training to form the core of an opposition army under the flag of the Iraqi National Congress (INC).

My motivation has become more general. "These men had no goal or sense of purpose before. In the Iraqi army they were just obeying orders. They had no real enemy and they weren't motivated. Many had families in the south who were killed by the same Iraqi army."

"I have my own revenge to take on Saddam Hussein," he says. "But when I arrived here I saw there were hundreds of cases like mine. Now

US defence cuts avoid job losses

Simon Tiedall in Washington

THE Clinton administration yesterday unveiled its five-year plan for a leaner, more mobile United States military equipped to deal swiftly with the regional challenges of the post-cold-war era.

George Bush. In most areas, spending is redirected rather than cut. This is partly the result of the control exercised by Pentagon chiefs over the review and partly that of Mr Clinton's experiences in Bosnia, Somalia, and North Korea, where US power has proved ineffective.

But they will disappoint those who took at face value Mr Clinton's campaign call for a radical overhaul of military spending.

carriers, two more than Mr Bush wanted, to deploy US force around the world. A carrier to be built in Virginia is likely to be the most expensive ship in history.

The plan includes 12 aircraft carriers, two more than Mr Bush wanted, to deploy US force around the world.

Chinese aviation safety slammed

The International Airline Passengers Association has advised its members to avoid flying in India, China, Colombia and South Korea.

"Fly in India if you must, fly at night in Colombia if you are brave, but flying within China is a risk you should not consider - nowhere is commercial aviation more dangerous," it said in its newsletter.

Emily spares US its worst

Hurricane Emily peeled away from the US Atlantic coast yesterday after swamping roads, smashing a handful of buildings and uprooting trees on North Carolina's Outer Banks.

Luanda denies US aid Angola yesterday denied that US spy satellites were providing it with intelligence.

Bokassa freed

Central African Republic yesterday freed the former dictator Jean-Bedel Bokassa.

Guatemalan congress faces dissolution

Michael Reid in Mexico City

PRESIDENT Ramiro De Leon Carpio has taken steps to call a referendum to dissolve the Guatemalan congress.

would lead street demonstrations against congress and the supreme court unless all the members of both resigned. If they refused he would seek to call a referendum to overcome the crisis of governability."

Three decades of military rule ending in 1985 have left Guatemala with self-serving political parties whose congressional representatives have become the focus of popular discontent.

Congress has failed to expel one deputy accused of drug-trafficking and another allegedly involved in a stolen car racket.

The National Instance of Consensus, an ad hoc forum of business, trade union and civic groups, said it would settle for

the removal of 16 of the most corrupt members of congress. Mr De Leon was reported to have privately accepted such a compromise, but said publicly he had asked the electoral authority to call a referendum on the issue.

Entertainments Guide

Table with multiple columns listing theatre and cinema listings. Includes sections for 'THEATRES' (London) and 'CINEMAS' (London). Shows details for various venues like Apollo, Drury Lane, and others, listing plays, movies, and performance times.