

# New Orleans death toll likely 10,000

AFP, New Orleans

New Orleans showed the first rays of recovery from Hurricane Katrina yesterday as engineers pumped water out of the corpse-littered city to clear the way for months of cleanup operations.

With US troops keeping order and all but the most stubborn survivors evacuated a week after floodwaters inundated the southern jazz capital, thousands of suburban residents were back to check on their homes.

President George W. Bush, on his second tour of the stricken Gulf Coast, said Monday that officials were "doing the best they can" to cope as Washington erupted in a round of finger-pointing over the official response.

New scenes of horror were reported here, foreshadowing the grim discoveries ahead as mobile morgues collected bodies from the disaster that New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said may have left 10,000 people dead.

A sheriff said rescuers found the

bodies of 22 people who had lashed themselves together around a pole in an eastern suburb in an apparently desperate attempt to survive Katrina's fury.

Resident Eric Breaux said he saw 15 corpses, most of them caught in barbed wire at the country club in suburban Metairie. He said he personally tethered three cadavers to street signs to keep them from floating away.

Bodies were to be taken to a special morgue installed in a giant warehouse near the Louisiana state capital, Baton Rouge. Medical officials said the facility could handle up to 5,000 corpses.

Battered New Orleans got its first good news Monday after engineers succeeded in closing a massive hole in a levee that broke and unleashed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## PQS, Family Needs fined for selling rotten fish

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The owners of luxurious department shops continue selling rotten fish and products past their expiry dates, as members of the mobile court recently discovered in Uttara.

A mobile court led by Md Rokan-ud Doulah, yesterday raided PQS department shop and Family Needs Ltd. In PQS, they found rotten shrimp and different brands of biscuits and mustard oil, chips and flours with expired dates.

The court filed a case against the floor manager, Md Firoz Alam, and realised Tk 50,000.

Later the court raided another department store, Family Needs Ltd. and found expiry dated red chili powder, turmeric powder, quality ice cream and mustard oil. The court filed a case against the floor manager of the shop, Md Abdul Kader, and fined the store Tk 50,000.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) mobile court raided the popular restaurants, 'Ghoroa' and Orchard Plaza.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

A mobile court seizes rotten shrimp from PQS department store, left, and fungus-infected ice cream at Family Needs department store during a drive at Uttara in the capital yesterday.

## Floods of racial divide

GUY DINMORE of The Financial Times, New Orleans

By the time most of the last stragglers were evacuated from New Orleans over the weekend, only the dead bore witness to a hugely controversial rescue effort that has exposed the racial divisions and poverty of America's Deep South.

Six days after Hurricane Katrina tore into the Gulf coast, the dead

were still lying or floating about the streets of this sunken city, awaiting their turn for attention.

"We have no orders to collect bodies, but to weigh them down if they are floating and mark the spot," one New Orleans police officer said, noting: "We have nowhere to put them."

Corpses swelled in the sun,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Influential encroachers continue filling up the Turag river near the Aminbazar bridge on the outskirts of the capital.

## 'Outlaw' killed in 'shootout' with police

UNB, Pabna

A leader of an underground outfit was killed in a 'shootout' between police and his accomplices at Ramchandrapur in Santhia upazila of the district early yesterday.

He was identified as Zia, 25, a local leader of Purba Banglar Communist Party (ML-Lal Patak).

Police arrested Zia from Alokdia village in Santhia upazila on Monday evening.

On his statement, police took him to a graveyard to nab his accomplices and recover firearms at about 3:00am.

When they reached near the graveyard, armed cohorts of Zia opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate.

Police said Zia was caught in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

# Iraq is now centre for terrorism: Annan

## MPs debate sweeping anti-terror bill in Iraq

AP, AFP, London/ Baghdad

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Monday that Iraq has become an even greater "centre for terrorist activities" than Afghanistan under the Taliban.

Annan, speaking to British Broadcasting Corp., said many young Muslims are angry, and their anger has been exacerbated by what is happening in Iraq.

"They feel victimised in their own society; they feel victimised in the West. And they feel there's profiling against them," he said. "And the Iraqi situation has not helped matters."

The United Nations headquarters in Baghdad was bombed by militants on Aug. 19, 2003, and 22 people died, including the top UN envoy, Sergio Vieira de Mello. The UN's international staff withdrew from Iraq in October 2003 following a second attack on its offices in Baghdad and a spate of attacks on humanitarian workers. A small staff has gradually been allowed to return since August 2004.

Annan did not refer directly to the bombing, but expressed concern about terrorism in Iraq.

"One used to be worried about Afghanistan being the centre of terrorist activities. My sense is that

Iraq has become a major problem and in fact is worse than Afghanistan," he said.

Annan also said Monday he was prepared for further criticism when findings of a probe into the Iraq oil-for-food program are published this week.

The programme, launched to help ordinary Iraqis cope with UN sanctions imposed after Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, is under investigation over accusations of corruption and waste.

"When it comes to Iraq, on this issue, no one is entirely covered in glory," Annan said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## Militants trained in Tangail for Aug 17 blasts

Confesses JMB cadre  
STAR REPORT

A cadre of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), detained for suspected links to the August 17 blasts, yesterday said he along with other militants had been trained in Delduar of Tangail to carry out the near-simultaneous explosions.

Delwar Hossain alias Rahmatullah also disclosed names of some other JMB men who too had taken part in the terrorist attacks. He gave the information while admitting

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## JAMAL UDDIN ABDUCTION Court allows CID to conduct DNA test of skeleton

UNB, Ctg

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court here yesterday gave permission for conducting a DNA test of the recovered skeleton, believed to be of abducted businessman Jamal Uddin.

The court's decision came when Anwar Hossain, CID inspector and investigation officer (IO) of the sensational Jamaluddin abduction

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Elderly man shot dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed criminals shot dead an elderly man and injured another at Satkania upazila in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Nurun Nabi, 60, and the injured Ahmad Saha is a former union parishad member of Dhemsha.

Sources said a group of armed criminals led by notorious robber Nasir went to the house of Gafur Hazi in South Demsha at around 2:30am. Nasir along with other accomplices attacked reportedly to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## India raises petrol, diesel prices by 7pc

REUTERS, New Delhi

India raised domestic prices of petrol and diesel by about 7 percent on Tuesday, its second fuel price increase this year, to bring them more in line with record global oil prices.

It last raised domestic prices in June by about 7 percent but since then crude oil has gained 10 percent on world markets, putting pressure on other Asian countries to raise state-controlled prices and squeezing India's oil retailers who were

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# Stop unproductive use of electricity

## Urges PM, inaugurates 50,000th solar home system of IDCOL

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged all, including the consumers, to stop use of electricity in unproductive works to ensure its maximum use in productive purposes.

She suggested stopping illumination in big shopping malls and during marriage ceremonies and other social functions to help make electricity available for the students and service-oriented institutions, including hospitals.

The prime minister made the call while addressing a function marking the inauguration of the 50,000th solar home system of Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

She acknowledged the importance of solar energy to meet the growing demand of power in the country, particularly in remote areas, and pledged increased financial assistance for development of solar home system.

Opening a new chapter in the country's communications technol-

ogy, the prime minister formally launched the 50,000th solar home system of IDCOL at the residence of Piari Ahmed Chowdhury in the remote village of Godanagar under Parshuram upazila of Feni district through satellite VDO linkage.

With the prime minister's permission, local MP Sayed Iskander switched on the solar home system at Piari Ahmed's residence, which was screened directly in the function at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

The audience at Godanagar village also enjoyed the function attended by the prime minister in Dhaka.

She talked to the owner of the house, his elderly mother and daughter over VDO conferencing.

IDCOL installed its 50,000th solar home system yesterday, three years ahead of its five-year long project funded by the World Bank.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, ERD Secretary and IDCOL Chairman Ismael Jabiullah, World Bank Country Director Christine I Wallich, Brac Foundation Executive Director Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, IDCOL Executive

Director M Fazlul Kabir Khan and Purnima Rani Das, an IDCOL beneficiary from Dakop, Khulna, also addressed the function.

Ministers, MPs, representatives of development partners and NGOs and solar energy activists from different parts of the country attended the function.

The prime minister stressed the need for reducing system loss in power sector and said proper use of electricity is very important for the country's economic development.

She said her government is implementing various programmes to reach electricity to every house by the year 2020.

The prime minister hoped that solar energy would bring a positive change in rural life and create new employment opportunities.

Solar home system has already been introduced in remote areas of some districts outside the national grid, she said, adding that the system would be installed in other districts in phases.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman underscored the need for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Uneasy calm at Petrobangla over directors' appointment

BDNEWS, Dhaka

An uneasy calm prevails in state-run oil, gas and mineral corporation, Petrobangla, over superseding officials in appointing directors on current charges.

Sources concerned said two senior general managers, who were in the third and fourth places on the seniority list, got the appointment instead of those who were in the first and second positions.

Petrobangla's senior General Manager Kazi Shahidur Rahman, who was in the third position on the list, has been given the current charge of director (planning).

On the other hand, Rahman Murshed, managing director of Sylhet Gas Field Company Limited, got the current charge of director (operation). He was in the fourth position on the list.

Former acting director

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

A Bangladesh Chhatra Union activist raises slogan demanding reduction of prices of education materials at Muktagong in the city yesterday.

Prayer Timing		
September 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		