

**Ittefaq staff slaughtered in office**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A machine operator of the Daily Ittefaq was slaughtered by unidentified assailants at the newspaper's office on RK Mission Road in the capital yesterday.

The body of Kamal Uddin, 45, who was a junior machine operator of the daily, was recovered from the ground floor of the office at 9:00am.

Kamal hailed from Khanpur village under Shibpur upazila in Narsingdi.

Kamal entered the office at around 7:00am, an hour before scheduled time, police said. The killers tied him up with rope and slaughtered him with a knife.

One of his colleagues told reporters that he along with three other colleagues were sleeping inside the office after their night duty when suddenly they woke up hearing the victim's groans. "As I opened my eyes, I saw Kamal lying in a pool of blood, slaughtered," the witness added.

Police recovered the blood-stained knife and the rope from the spot.

Police also picked up five from the spot for interrogation. Motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

A feud over the ownership of the daily has been going on for more

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**Evacuation showdown looms in New Orleans**

AFF, New Orleans

The prospect of Hurricane Katrina survivors being dragged from their homes loomed larger yesterday while lawmakers in Washington locked horns over probing the federal response to the disaster.

With officials saying anywhere between 10,000 to 15,000 people remained in New Orleans, police and soldiers faced some difficult choices in enforcing a mandatory order to empty the city.

Mayor Ray Nagin authorised the use of force on Tuesday but, with a number of residents still awaiting voluntary evacuation, rescue teams have so far postponed physical confrontations with those determined to stay.

Eventually, however, only the diehards will be left.

"Once all the volunteer evacuations have taken place, then we'll concentrate our efforts and our forces to mandatorily evacuate individuals," New Orleans police chief Eddie Compass said, promising that his officers would use "the minimal amount of force necessary."

Federal troops have joined in the house-to-house search for survivors, but senior military officers

made it clear they would stand back if it came to manhandling people out of their homes.

"When this turns into a law enforcement issue, which we perceive forced evacuation is, regular troops would not be used," said Major General Joseph Inge, deputy commander of the US Northern Command.

As of Wednesday, there were 18,000 active-duty soldiers and 45,000 National Guard troops in the area of the US Gulf coast devastated by Hurricane Katrina on August 29.

The decision to authorise forced evictions was clearly taken reluctantly, with officials anxious to avoid traumatic scenes involving people who have already suffered extreme deprivations since Katrina hit.

In giving the order, Nagin cited the growing threat of disease posed by the putrid waters surrounding the wooden homes of many of the holdouts.

Health authorities said five people evacuated from the Katrina disaster zone had died as a result of contact with contaminated water.

The five had been killed by vibrio vulnificus, "a bacteria that can enter somebody through a cut, a scratch or a wound," said Tom Skinner, a

spokesman for the government Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Other medical officials said the deaths should not be seen as pre-empting an epidemic, as the bacteria preys mostly on the very old or those already suffering from a chronic illness.

The floodwaters in low-lying New Orleans have receded as US Army engineers have brought more of the city's damaged pumps back in operation.

The drainage process is expected to take close to three months and Nagin warned the country to brace for some "awful" revelations as the dropping water levels reveal more of Katrina's human cost.

The mayor said as many as 10,000 people may have died in the city and a Louisiana health official revealed Wednesday that some 25,000 body bags had been brought into the area.

More than 30 bodies were recovered Wednesday from a nursing home in St Bernard Parish, one of New Orleans' suburbs hardest hit by Katrina, CNN said quoting local authorities, who added that 40 or 50

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**Jute workers block road for arrears**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Several hundred agitating workers laid a siege to Amin Jute Mills at Panchlaish in the city, forcing suspension of work for around seven hours yesterday.

They also staged a big demonstration demanding payment of outstanding wages of fourteen weeks that amounts to Tk 2.6 crore.

Road and rail communication between Chittagong and Nazirhat were disrupted for a few hours during the agitation.

According to police, several hundred workers laid a siege to the factory in Hamzerbar area at around 9:00am. Later, they put up barricades in front of the mill on the Chittagong-Nazirhat road to stop the movement of vehicles.

They also blocked the rail tracks beside the mill, stopping train movement on the Chittagong-Nazirhat section. Chittagong University-bound shuttle trains could not run during the blockade for three hours.

The blockades were removed at around 2:00pm after the mill authorities assured the agitating workers in the presence of police to pay the salary of one week by yesterday and the rest as early as possible.

The workers resumed their works around 5:00pm, following a

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PHOTO: STAR

Family of a Bangladeshi expatriate, gunned down reportedly by Iraqi guerrillas in the war-torn country last month, mourn as his body was brought home in Mirpur in the capital yesterday.

INT'L LITERACY DAY

**Rallies cancelled in fear of militant attack**

RAFIQUE SARKER, from Rangpur

Processions to mark the International Literacy Day yesterday were cancelled in Rangpur and neighbouring districts in fear of attacks from the Islamist militants.

The programmes were called off after the law enforcement agencies had advised the district administrations and district primary education departments to scrap the plan for the processions to be participated by the students and teachers of primary schools.

The processions were cancelled on security grounds. Intelligence agencies have reports that the militants lately have been regrouping to carry out attacks on rallies, processions, and cultural programmes in the northern districts, an intelligence source told The Daily Star yesterday.

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**Oikya Mancha, BDB for all-party talks**

*Hand memorandum to speaker*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) yesterday demanded that the speaker should hold an all-party dialogue to rid the country of the current situation marked by "crimes, corruption and misrule".

Jatiya Oikya Mancha Convenor Dr Kamal Hossain and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury submitted a memorandum to the speaker at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Earlier, Oikya Mancha and BDB leaders and supporters took out a procession from Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh and

marched towards parliament. But police intercepted them in front of Shishu Park.

Dr Kamal while addressing a gathering at engineers' institution demanded resignation of the state minister for home affairs for his 'failure' to maintain law and order.

He said if the government does not explain its position and next course of action to maintain the country's peace by three days, he would go for legal steps against it for breach of oath.

The constitution has given the citizens a provision to seek explanation from the government about its activities, he added.

"Criminal activities have spread

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CAMEL JOCKEY

**7 children back to parents**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven children used as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were handed over to their parents at Raipura in Narsingdi yesterday.

The children are Nuruddin, 8, Sumon, 10, Dalim Hossain, 11, Rubel Mia, 12, Md Mihir Mia, 13, Md Sohel, 14, and Obaidullah Hossain, 16, -- all from Narsingdi.

Their reunion with their families took place at a simple function at Daulatkandi High School. They were staying at a shelter home of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) in the capital on their return home recently.

Earlier, the BNWLA had collected

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PHOTO: STAR

Homebound people crowd Sadarghat launch terminal yesterday afternoon ahead of the two-day weekly holiday beginning today.

**Eight killed in road crashes**

STAR REPORT

Three road mishaps in Sylhet and Chittagong yesterday killed eight people and injured six.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports: At least five people were killed and five others seriously injured in two road accidents in Sylhet yesterday.

Tofur Miah, 30, Khalilur Rahman, 32, and Lutfur Rahman, 35, died on the spot as the autorickshaw they were travelling by was hit by a speeding truck at Mirerchak area on Gazi Borhanuddin Road at around 3:00pm.

Shamsul Haque and Shorafat Ali, who were also passengers of the autorickshaw, were critically injured and admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Locals captured the truck and handed it over to the police but the driver managed to escape.

In another accident, a Dhaka bound bus hit an autorickshaw at Goainghat area near Goalabazar on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday. The autorickshaw driver Asab Ali, 25, and the passenger Ajit Das, 30, died on the spot. The bus was later captured at Sherpur. ÉÉ Our Chittagong correspondent reports: Three people were killed and one was critically injured when a truck rammed into a tea stall in the city yesterday morning.

Police and sources said the truck

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**C'nawabganj Govt College closed after BCL-Shibir clash**

UNB, C'nawabganj

Chapainawabganj Government College was yesterday declared closed sine die following a clash between Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) that left two students injured.

The college authorities in an emergency meeting took the decision to avert further clash on the campus. All resident students were also asked to vacate the dormitories by 4:00pm yesterday.

The injured students--Nahid and Rana--are now undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

Prayer Timing		
September 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

**2 PBCP outlaws killed in 'crossfire'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two leaders of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were killed in 'crossfire' between their accomplices and police at Keshail in Badalgachhi upazila in Naogaon in the early hours yesterday.

The victims are Ruhul Kuddus

alias Chhoto Bhai, 32, regional commander of PBCP's ML-Red Flag faction, in Adamdighi, Bogra, and Sajal Sazzad, 35, commander in Atrai upazila, Naogaon.

Locals caught and turned them in to police after the two were fleeing from the scene of Bangla Bhai cadre

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