

FREEDOM

SPECIAL REPORT

UNDER SIEGE

World Trade Center collapses, Pentagon hit
Bush vows retaliation for 'cowardly actions'
Thousands feared dead beneath the rubble

America under Attack

18 pages of disaster coverage

► **DAY OF TERROR:** U.S. must respond firmly, responsibly — and with all the resolve so frequently absent in the past. **Editorial on AA6**

► **READY TO HELP:** From the National Guard to area hospitals to police and firefighters, the Capital Region reaches out to help. **Coverage on B1**

► **TRYING TO COPE:** In the face of unimaginable tragedy, Americans called their loved ones, visited churches and looked for answers to give their children. **Coverage on D1**



CARMEN TAYLOR/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By **DAVID CRARY** and **JERRY SCHWARTZ**
 Associated Press

NEW YORK — In the most devastating terrorist onslaught ever waged against the United States, knife-wielding hijackers crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center on Tuesday, toppling its twin 110-story towers. The deadly calamity was witnessed on televisions across the world as another plane slammed into the Pentagon and a fourth crashed outside Pittsburgh.

"Today, our nation saw evil," President Bush said in an address to the nation Tuesday night. He said thousands of lives were "suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror."

Said Adm. Robert J. Natter, commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet: "We have been attacked like we haven't since Pearl Harbor."

Establishing the U.S. death toll could take weeks. The four airliners alone had 266 people aboard and there were no known survivors.

While The Associated Press reported that the death toll at the Pentagon was estimated at 100, ABC and NBC, quoting fire officials, said as many as 800 people were feared dead in that attack.

In addition, it was feared 300 firefighters who first reached the scene had died in rescue efforts at the Trade Center — where 50,000 people worked — and dozens of police officers were believed missing.

"The number of casualties will be more than most of us can bear," a visibly distraught Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

Police sources said some people trapped in the twin towers managed to call authorities or family

Please see **ATTACK A8** ►

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Today's weather
 Clouds crowd in, likely bringing rain on Thursday.
High Low 74° 52°
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