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TOLL TOPS 6,000

■ Number of WTC reported missing grows by more than 900

■ Fed boss Greenspan says weakened economy will recover

■ Dow plunges 382 points, hitting lowest level in three years

■ Authorities nab key suspect in Chicago tied to hijackers

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The staggering number of people missing in the World Trade Center wreckage skyrocketed yesterday — jumping by nearly 1,000 to 6,333.

The sudden climb came after the city received new reports of foreign citizens lost in the rubble, Mayor Giuliani said.

The number of missing had stayed at 5,422 for several days.

The mayor said the new missing figure could shrink as officials go through the list looking for anyone who may have been counted twice.

In addition to those missing — and feared dead — there are now 241 confirmed dead.

The climbing death toll was announced after another financial shock wave from last week's terror attacks ripped through the American economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 382 points. The Dow has lost 1,229 points — 13 percent — since reopening Monday and is at its lowest mark in three years.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress the Sept. 11 attacks had not hurt business permanently. "I am confident that we will recover and prosper as we have in the past," he said.

City officials said they would invest $800 million of pension funds in the market to shore up confidence and show faith in the country. State pension funds are putting in $1 billion.

The fast-paced day saw several other major developments:

■ The feds arrested a potentially key figure in the terror case. Nabil al-Marabh, once a Boston cabby, has reputed ties to two of the hijackers and was busted in Chicago Wednesday night.

■ Secretary of State Colin Powell rejected an offer by Afghanistan's ruling Taliban to ask fugitive terror lord Osama bin Laden to voluntarily leave the country.

The Taliban's request was seen by Washington as a stalling tactic while the United States prepares to launch military attacks.

■ President Bush gave a nationally televised address to Congress last night vowing to wage a long, punishing war against the terror network that hijacked four planes and crashed two into the trade center and another into the Pentagon. The fourth crashed in an empty field in Pennsylvania.

Bush's speech called for a new Office of Homeland Security, a Cabinet-level post, to handle threats to the nation. He appointed Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge to direct that office.

The president also warned foreign countries not to stand on the sidelines in the new war on terrorism. "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists," Bush said. "Freedom and fear are at war."

■ But the name of the war will be changed, out of concern that "Operation Infinite Justice" might offend Muslims, who believe only Allah can grant infinite justice. Officials have yet to settle on a new name.

■ British Prime Minister Tony Blair visited New York and promised the United States the same kind of help given to his country during World War II.

"As you stood by us then, we stand by you now," Blair said.

■ Bill Clinton, receiving a foreign-policy award yesterday at the Pierre Hotel, also praised Bush.

"I believe that the president is doing the right thing to fight terrorism," Clinton said.

■ The country's most famous Muslim, Muhammad Ali, came to New York to see the damage for himself and support the new war against terrorism.

"I just couldn't sit home," he said quietly. "Whatever decision they decide [in Washington], I'm behind [it] 100 percent."

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