

DISASTERS UPDATE

www.nidm.net

Issue No.1688

Date: 06.02.2010

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

National

Three killed, 25 hurt in accident – Orissa

The Hindu

BERHAMPUR: Three persons died and 25 others were seriously injured when a bus fell from the ghat road near Gajalbadi in Sorada block of Ganjam district on Friday afternoon.

The bus was travelling from Baliguda in Kandhamal district to Berhampur. It lost balance and fell into a ditch of over 40 feet depth from the Gajalbadi ghat road. Administrative officials, police and fire brigade reached the spot for rescue work. The injured persons were taken to the Daringbadi hospital in Kandhamal district. The condition of eight of them was reported to be serious.

International

Iraq blast kills 27

Atul Aneja, The Hindu

DUBAI: At least 27 people have been killed and 56 wounded in yet another bombing that targeted Shia pilgrims congregating at Karbala in Iraq.

The car bombing on Friday took place in the Al-Shibanat area four km east of Karbala, Iran's state-run broadcaster Press TV reported. However, Karbala's Governor Amalheddin Al-Hir blamed the Al-Qaeda, backed by the Ba'ath party loyal to the former President, Saddam Hussein, for the attack.

Three Army vehicles were destroyed in the blast, which took place on Arbaeen, the day marking the end of 40 days of mourning after the anniversary of the killing of Imam Hussein, a revered Shia figure from the seventh century. This is the third occasion since this year's Arbaeen observances began when pilgrims have been attacked within the vicinity of Karbala, which hosts the shrine of Imam Hussein.

The serial killings began on Monday, when a woman suicide bomber killed at least 41 people northeast of Baghdad as a crowd of Shia pilgrims headed towards Karbala. Two days later, a bomb planted on a parked motorcycle went off on the outskirts of Karbala, killing at least 23 pilgrims and wounding 147.

Twin blasts kill 25 in Pak

Faizal Aziz, Reuters

Karachi, February 05, 2010

A suspected suicide bomber on a motorcycle killed 12 Shias in Pakistan's commercial capital on Friday, followed hours later by a blast at a hospital where the wounded were being treated which killed 13.

In scenes that have become familiar in the state's battle with the Pakistani Taliban, the second blast sent a plume of white smoke above Jinnah Hospital as distraught Pakistanis transported dead relatives. The bomb, which wounded 100, blew clothes and sandals off bodies near ambulances. A teenage girl wept over what appeared to be a female relative whose stomach was shredded by shrapnel. Provincial Health Minister Saghir Ahmed said 15 people were in critical condition.

"It (the explosion) happened right in the middle of ambulances," Reuters reporter Augustine Anthony said of the second blast. There were conflicting reports on the causes of the blasts, which some police officials saying it was suicide bombers on motorcycles and others saying the bombs were planted.

Police said they defused a bomb in the premises of the Karachi hospital treating the victims of the blast. "The bomb was planted in a television set and we successfully defused it," said senior police officer Ghulam Nabi Memon.

Iran avalanches kill 8 near mountain resort

Associated Press

Tehran, February 05, 2010

Two avalanches have killed at last eight mountain climbers near a ski resort in northern Iran. State radio says the avalanches hit yesterday near the mountain resort of Disin, some 72 kilometres north of the capital, Tehran, burying scores of people under the snow.

There has been heavy snowfall in the area since Wednesday. State TV says four other mountain climbers were still missing. It says rescue workers found the bodies of the eight victims after an hours-long rescue operation that saved dozens.

The report, which was broadcast Friday, said four people were reported hurt and were treated at a nearby hospital. The rest were provided shelter in a nearby hotel. Four foreign nationals were among the rescued.

Compiled by

Sushma Guleria