

DISASTERS UPDATE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

National

24 workers fall ill after inhaling toxic gases

KOLKATA: Twenty-four workers fell ill after inhaling a heavy concentration of toxic gases inside the Durgapur Steel Plant at Durgapur in Bardhaman district on Thursday. According to sources at the steel plant, the workers suddenly developed breathing trouble and became nauseous while working near blast furnace number 2 around 11 a.m. While 10 of the 14 workers were discharged within a few hours following primary treatment, four had to be admitted to the intensive care unit as their condition turned critical. (Source: **The Hindu**)

International

135 killed, 41 missing in heavy floods in China



Several killed in China landslide

BEIJING: At least 135 people were killed and 41 missing since in the past two weeks in one of the worst floodings in years in China, which continued to inundate several areas in a number of provinces. Close to 35.5 million people in 10 southern provinces and Chongqing Municipality had been affected by continuous rainstorms and floods. About 113,000 homes were destroyed and more than 1.2 million people had been relocated. Direct economic losses were estimated at about 26 billion yuan (USD3.8 billion). (PTI - Source: **The Hindustan Times**)

Typhoon leaves 37 dead, 26 missing in Philippines



Residents push a stalled passenger jeepney hours after typhoon Conson lashed through Manila and other provinces in the Philippines. (AP Photo)

MANILA: Typhoon Conson blew out of the Philippines on Thursday after killing at least 37 people, plunging the main northern island into darkness. Emergency crews restored electricity to Manila and nearby provinces on Luzon island as normalcy crept back. Flights resumed and schools reopened Thursday. Authorities continued the search for 26 missing fishermen and started to repair the damage caused by the year's first major typhoon. Conson hit the northeastern coast Tuesday night, packing winds of 75 miles per hour (120 kilometers per hour) and gusts of 95 mph (150 kph). It blew out of the Philippines into the South China Sea on Thursday with sustained winds of about 55 mph (85 kph) per hour. (AP: Source: **The Times of India**)

Philippines: NDCC UPDATE on Typhoon "BASYANG" (CONSON) as on July 16, 2010

A total of 30,644 families composed of 153,426 persons were affected by TS Basyang in 411 barangays of 9 cities and 63 municipalities in 12 provinces of Regions III, IV-A, V and NCR. Sixtytwo (62) evacuation centers were utilized and provided temporary shelter to 2,145 families or 10,390 persons. 1,757 families or 8,918 persons are still inside 51 evacuation centers. (Source: **Government of the Philippines**)

21 killed, 100 injured in Iran suicide attacks



At least 21 people, including elite Revolutionary Guards, were killed and 100 wounded in two suicide bomb attacks at a prominent Shi'ite Muslim mosque in the southeast Iranian city of Zahedan on Thursday. The suicide bombings took place near Zahedan's Grand Mosque and were aimed at a Revolutionary Guards gathering. (BJ-16/07) (Source: **DD News**)

Five killed, 44 injured in Pakistan blast



A suicide bomber struck a crowded bus stand in the restive Swat district in northwest Pakistan on Thursday, killing at least five persons, including a woman, and injuring 44 others. According to police, the suicide attacker targeted the bus stand in Mingora, the headquarters of Swat district in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. (ST-15/07) (Source: **DD News**)