

DISASTERS UPDATE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

National

More than 50 killed, 150 injured as two trains collide in WB



TV grab: Mangled remains of the Bhagalpur-Ranchi Bananchal Express and Uttarbanga

As many as 50 bodies were recovered and almost an equal number are feared dead as a passenger train rammed into another at Saithia, about 210 km to the north of Kolkata at 2:05 am Monday morning. An unreserved compartment of Bhagalpur-Ranchi Vananchal Express was crushed and another telescoped towards the footbridge when Sealdah bound Cooch Behar Uttarbanga Express ploughed through it from behind at this station near Shantiniketan. Though 49 bodies – 39 men, eight women and two children – could be recovered by 8 in the morning, according to locals helping in relief, the toll could be much higher as many bodies are still trapped inside the coaches. The Bhagalpur-Ranchi Vananchal Express bound for Ranchi was standing at platform number 4 when it was hit from behind by a speeding train, Uttarbanga Express. (Source: **The Hindustan Times**)

International

Strong earthquakes in Alaska, Papua New Guinea

Anchorage/Sydney: Powerful earthquakes shook an Aleutian Island region of Alaska in north-western Pacific and Papua New Guinea in the south-western Pacific on Sunday. A 6.7-magnitude temblor struck at 0456 GMT in Alaska and was centred in the Bering Sea about 249 km southwest of Dutch Harbor, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake hit about 34 km beneath the seabed. The quake was felt in both Dutch Harbor and nearby Unalaska. According to the Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre, there was no danger of a tsunami.

The second quake hit at 1335 GMT around 105 km east of Kandrian on New Britain island at a depth of 51 km. At 1304 GMT, USGS recorded a 6.9-magnitude quake 110 km east of Kandrian,

at a depth of 58 km. The epicentres of both quakes were around 525 km northeast of Papua New Guinea's capital Port Moresby. (AP, AFP - Source: **The Hindu**)

At least 27 missing after China bus accident

According to State media, at least 27 people were missing feared dead and 11 people were injured on Sunday when a passenger bus fell off a mountainous road and into a river in southwest China. The accident occurred in Sichuan province's Abaprefecture, a region largely populated by ethnic Tibetans and other minorities. (BJ-19/07) (Source: **DD News**)

Suicide attacks kill 48 in Iraq



The dead bodies being transported to a hospital from the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad on Sunday.

BAGHDAD: Two suicide bombers struck within hours of each other early on Sunday, killing at least 48 people and wounding more than 40. The first attack occurred at a checkpoint near a military base in the district of Radwaniya southwest of Baghdad while the other at a local Sahwa headquarters in the Anbar province town of Qaim, near the Syrian border. (AP - Source: **The Hindu**)