

the kathmandupost

CAPITAL EDITION • PRINTED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN KATHMANDU, BIRATNAGAR, BHARATPUR AND NEPALGUNJ

Vol XXIII No 88 | 12 Pages

STAND PRICE RS 5.00

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015 (03-02-2072)

**PAGE 4
NEWS**

Metal homes in Thuli Gaun


**PAGE 5
WORLD**

US, China remain at odds over the South China Sea

**PAGE 11
SPORTS**

CSK thrash Kings XI

money

Telecom operators may face problems in setting up towers


helping where it matters


Nepal Army personnel rescue a newborn who developed respiratory distress right after birth in the wee hours of Saturday. The girl child was born to Sumi and Pemba Tamang in a field hospital of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Dhunche, Rasuwa. She was later admitted to the neonatal ICU in Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Maharajgunj, Kathmandu.

PHOTO COURTESY: NEPAL ARMY

Cabinet endorses short-term relief for quake victims

KAMAL DEV BHATTARAI
KATHMANDU, MAY 16

Considering the fast-approaching monsoon, the Cabinet on Saturday endorsed a short-term relief package for earthquake victims primarily focusing on temporary shelter, storage of food items for at least three months, and arrangement of basic health facilities.

The Cabinet meeting held at the prime minister's residence in Baluwatar decided that people who have lost their houses due to the April 25 Great Earthquake and subsequent powerful aftershocks will get Rs15,000 to build temporary shelters before the rainy season.

The amount will be provided on the basis of identity cards issued by the Village Development Committee secretary after actual assessment of the damage. The process is almost complete in the worst-hit districts. The grant is for people to buy galvanised zinc sheets and other materials required to build shelters.

However, as most of the buildings housing the offices of the VDCs, municipalities and health posts are damaged in the quake-hit districts, relief distribution has already been hit. Also, many VDCs have no secretary and other staff.

Health Minister Khagendra Adhikari said tasks related to temporary shelter construction will be completed without the next two days and the Cabinet has instructed all the line ministries to make preparations accordingly.

Earlier, the National Planning Commission (NPC) had recommended that the government distribute the roofing material to set up shelters. The government reached the decision with a view that many shelters could be built with local resources. The government will also provide people with the designs of temporary homes.

The supply of food in the affected districts as well as in others that are vulnerable to floods is another priority of the government. The Cabinet has decided to ensure the storage of food items in the dis-



Suman Bahadur Nepali of Ranipani-3 in Parbat receives aid provided by Prabasi Jhapali Manch, Doha.

POST PHOTO: AGHADAR TIWARI

EMERGENCY MEASURES

- Rs15,000 to quake victims to build temporary houses
- Government to ensure the galvanised zinc sheets in local markets
- Storage of food items for three months
- Stock of medicines for the rainy season
- Resumption of health posts and presence of health workers
- Ministers to visit affected districts
- Lawmakers to go to their constituencies
- People in vulnerable villages to be shifted to common shelters

sheets. The government agencies will ensure the availability of construction materials in the districts.

In the case of villages (settlements) that have been destroyed or face landslide risk, the government will relocate people to safety and construct community shelter houses, according to Minister for Information and Communications Minendra Rijal. The NPC, in coordination with the Home and Urban Development ministries, will take final decisions about mass temporary housing in the districts.

Medicine stock and health post services would be maintained to tackle diseases related to monsoon. "We have started sending medicines and health workers to the affected districts," said Health Minister Adhikari.

In order to speed up relief distribution, the Cabinet has also decided to send ministers to the quake-affected districts for coordination and monitoring of efforts.

Lawmakers will also reach their constituencies for monitoring relief activities. Earlier, they had pressed the government to define their role in the relief and reconstruction process. In several districts, the tussle between government officials and local politicians has hampered relief distribution.

8 tremors above M4 logged on Saturday

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, MAY 16

The National Seismological Centre (NSC) recorded at least eight tremors between 2:15am and 5:19pm on Saturday which, according to seismologists, were the aftershocks of the April 25 Great Quake.

The strongest tremor on Saturday measured 5.5 on local magnitude which occurred at 5:19pm with Dolakha district as its epicentre, and its waves were felt as far as India and Bangladesh.

The previous tremors of the day measured between 4 and 4.2 on local magnitude with epicentres in Gorkha, Dolakha (twice), Nuwakot,

Dhading, Gorkha/Dhading, Sindupalchok, and Lalitpur/Makwanpur.

While the NSC said it registered more than 200 moderate to strong aftershocks since the April 25 main shock of 7.6 local magnitude that originated in Gorkha district, the US Geological Survey (USGS) had measured the Gorkha quake at a moment magnitude of 7.9.

Seismologists say the frequency of aftershocks will decrease with time. The strongest aftershock triggered by the Gorkha quake so far occurred on May 12, measuring 6.8 on local magnitude; USGS had measured the same tremor at a moment magnitude of 7.3.

SOME AFTERSHOCKS RECORDED ON THE DAY

Local time	Magnitude(ML)	Epicentre
20:44	4.3	Dolakha
17:19	5.5	Dolakha
09:35	4.2	Lalitpur/Makwanpur
09:24	4.2	Sindupalchok
06:31	4.0	Gorkha/Dhading

Source: Seismonepal.gov.np

Hospitals told to verify building safety before resuming services

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, MAY 16



Patients being treated on the ground floor of B&B Hospital in Gwarko, Lalitpur, on Saturday.

POST PHOTO: SHALIGRAM TIWARI

Women's Hospital, Thapathali; new ICU and oncology ward of Bir Hospital; Shukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital, Teku; Block A of Patan Hospital; and Emergency block of Bhaktapur Hospital.

DUDBC officials say that a majority of the old hospital structures were affected. The ministry has decided to conduct post-disaster assessment of the health infrastructure in the 14 worst-hit districts.

A rapid assessment done by the World Health Organization and the ministry after the April 25 jolt had shown that district hospitals in Ramechhap, Nuwakot, Sindupalchok and Rasuwa had become dysfunctional.

The United Nations said in its situation report that around 90 percent health facilities located outside the headquarters of the 14 districts were badly hit.

Tonnes of relief materials 'rot' in Mechi warehouses

PARBAT PORTEL
KAKADBHITTA, MAY 16

Relief materials, pouring into the earthquake-affected areas from overseas, especially food items have started 'rotting' in warehouses due to lack of proper distribution mechanism.

Rice sent in as relief from Bangladesh has started decaying at the Mechi dry port after the rain water seeped into the containers and that stored in the warehouse. "The wet rice has started emanating foul smell," said Ganesh Pokhrel,

a staff at the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC), blaming the authorities for their failure to promptly allocate and distribute relief materials in the quake-hit areas.

Of the 10,000 metric tonnes of rice that the Bangladesh government has dispatched in relief for the quake victims, approximately 8,500 metric tonnes has reached Nepal until Saturday. But the NFC has had difficult time storing them. According to the NFC, four warehouses in Biratnagar, two in Chandragadhi and two in Kakadbhitta have

been stocked to the brim. Amid technical difficulties over unloading the relief materials, Nepali Ambassador to Bangladesh Hari Kumar Shrestha had requested the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) to distribute the relief and return the trucks immediately after unloading the relief materials.

"The sole wish of the Bangladeshi government is to provide relief to the quake victims as soon as possible," said Shrestha, appealing the government to facilitate relief distribution process.

However, NFC Deputy General Manager Nabaraj Upadhyaya said it would take a year for the relief materials to reach the victims if they were to complete all the formalities in line with the Public Procurement Act (PPA). "The problem lies with the rigid PPA. The government should have opted a fast track mechanism instead at time of emergencies like this," Upadhyaya said.

As 10,000 metric tonnes of rice could not be stored in Jhapa alone, Upadhyaya said he had suggested that they be

sent to NFC warehouses in Lahan, Biratnagar and Birgunj considering to facilitate the distribution process.

Chief District Officer Tej Prasad Poudel said that he had drawn the government's attention towards the issue.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Shrestha said the Bangladeshi government had sent in nine more trucks laden with relief materials including essential medicines, blankets, clothes, juice, dry food. Although the materials arrived on Friday, they are yet to be sent to the affected areas.

Rain, hailstones leave Dhading victims in lurch

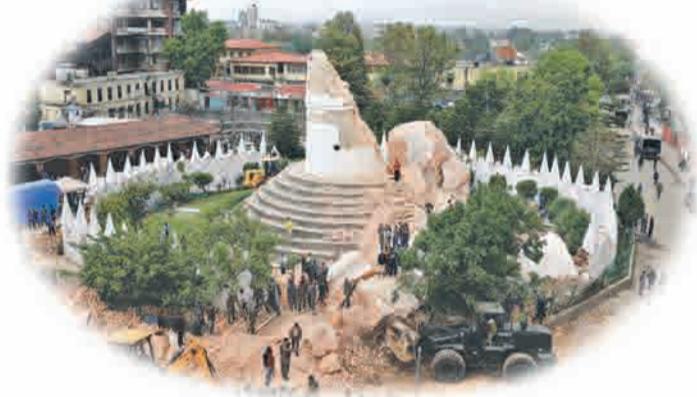


Heavy rainfall and strong winds combined with hailstones leave makeshift tents submerged in collected water at an open area of Neelkantha Campus in Dhading on Saturday. POST PHOTO

Heartfelt Appeal



Kantipur National Crisis Assistance Fund



The Kantipur Media Group's non-profit charitable organisation **Kantipur Foundation** has established the **Kantipur National Crisis Assistance Fund** to support the victims of the earthquake. We request everyone to help the victims in this hour of national crisis.

Interested people can deposit their assistance into

Account no. 0010002231 'CA', Swift Code: CCBINPKA at Century Bank Ltd. Likewise you can deposit assistance into **Account No.: 00101010315517**, Swift Code: NIBLNPKT at Nepal Investment Bank Ltd.

The names of individuals or organisations donating more than Rs 2,000 will be published in Kantipur daily and The Kathmandu Post and broadcast over Radio Kantipur and Kantipur Television.

The names of individuals or organisations donating Rs 200,000 and above will be published with photos in Kantipur daily and The Kathmandu Post and broadcast over Kantipur Television.

Those contributing Rs 1 million and above will be inducted as partners in the campaign.

The amount collected from contributors will be handed over to the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund.

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Bimala Shrestha	Sallaghari Marg	5,501.00
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Baikuntha Man Amaty	Imadol,8,Lalitpur	2,111.00

Total amount received till date (16 May 2015) 1,79,36,489

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Let's help the victims, show humanity.

UML to deploy 10,000 for rebuilding works

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, MAY 16

The CPN-UML is deploying over 10,000 volunteers to help the earthquake victims of 19 affected districts rebuild their damaged houses.

The party's newly-formed Earthquake Victims Rescue and Relief Coordination Committee on Saturday endorsed guidelines on mobilising volunteers. According to the guidelines, party affiliated engineers, observers, doctors and contractors, leaders from its sister organisations will be mobilised in a group for a month.

"We have set a target of mobilising them in 50 election constituencies of the 19 quake-affected districts," said Surya Thapa, deputy chief of the party's Publicity and Publication Department.

The UML volunteers will be mobilised in Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Lamjung, Ramechhap, Solukhumbu, among other districts, Thapa explained. He said the plan would be implemented immediately after the party's standing committee gives its final nod which is expected at a meeting on Sunday.

The party also plans to mobilise quake victims along with the volunteers in the rebuilding works. The guidelines prepared by party General Secretary Ishwor Pokharel has proposed to deploy all central leaders, zonal in-charge and district leaders, among party's organised members, on the rebuilding mission.

HARIHARSINGH RATHAUR
DHADING, MAY 16

Displaced quake-victims on Saturday found it hard to cope with heavy rains and strong winds in the district on Saturday.

Due to the hailstones and strong wind, the quake-affected people of Dhading district who were residing under plastic sheets and tarpaulins, have been left in lurch.

Sutu Tamang of Jharlang, who was residing under a tarpaulin at an open area of Neelkantha Campus, said

they are not able to stay there because of the heavy rainfall.

Children and old-aged people are most affected by the heavy rainfall that last for an hour. People of the district headquarters, however, started to live in their houses a week after the Great Quake on April 25. People who are displaced from the northern part of the district are more affected by the situation. They have moved to the district headquarters following the earthquake.

Following the heavy rainfall, people are engaged in protecting their tents to avoid wetting their clothes and belongings.

Foodstuff collected for the quake-affected areas have also been affected by the weather. Chief District Officer Basudev Ghimire confirmed the news. Hailstones destroyed 450 tarpaulins which were distributed in Baseri VDC. "Tarpaulins which were distributed among the people of Baseri-1 to 4 wards have been destroyed after the heavy rainfall with hailstones," said VDC Secretary Durga Prasad Rijal.

Lawmakers take stock of Gorkha district

SUDIP KAINI
GORKHA, MAY 16

Various political activists of the district complain about the government being passive in providing relief materials

northern parts have also demanded for foodstuff. "Victims have asked for rice, pulses and salt but we are not able to ferry them due to hindrances in road networks," said Timilsina. Timilsina asked for bulldozers to maintain the roads.

Political leaders were also apprehensive about the performance of various organisations while distributing relief materials. "There's no working policy for NGOs and INGOs and management remains a challenge," they said.

People of 38 VDCs were affected by the Great quake whereas 161, 292 have been displaced. DDMC have formed 18 sub-committees for relief, rescue and resettlement in the district. Lawmakers have committed to submit the report and assist in minimising the problems faced in the district.

buried under landslide



A vehicle is trapped in the landslide triggered by the recent earthquake at Bhor Bhir on the Singati-Upp Tamakoshi road in Laduk VDC, Dolakha. Nepal Army personnel recovered three bodies from the area on Saturday. POST PHOTO: NIMESH JANG RAI

Land ruptures leave Palpa folks at risk

MADHAV ARYAL
PALPA, MAY 16

Victims to the 'Great Earthquake', locals compelled to live under tarpaulins in Sukekot, Sahalkot-9 have again found themselves in a back-burner as the land surface measuring 500 metres in length has been ruptured following the second major quake on May 12. The already panic-stricken locals have been further traumatised by the phenomenon.

The tremor had rendered 44 out of 55 households in the vicinity uninhabitable. "Apart from two round-shaped houses, all of the houses have collapsed," said local Umesh Gaha.

Gaha said that the settlement comprising of nine households further downhill had been destroyed and need relocation.

Stating that the land rupture had further terrified the locals just as life had started

worsened by the land ruptures. Suman Kumar Timilsina said that he could comment over the situation only after receiving the survey report, adding that it may take a while to assess the damage since the settlement was in a remote area.

Another local, Iman Singh Rana said that it was essential for them to relocate as the whole settlement that had been damaged had been further worsened by the land ruptures.

shelter in tent

■ People displaced by the April 25 earthquake at a camp at Byasi in Bhaktapur on Saturday.

POST PHOTO: KAUSHAL ADHIKARI

Sindhu woman hides news of tragedy from hubby abroad

ANUP OJHA

KATHMANDU, MAY 16

Twenty-seven-year-old Bishnumaya BK (name changed) and her two children were in Kathmandu when she learnt that 11 members of her husband's family perished in the April 25 earthquake in Sindhupalchok, one of the worst-hit districts.

"First he was conned by his agent and now he has lost 11 of his family members. Moreover, there is a pressure to clear the debt," says Bishnumaya.

Sindhupalchok was one of the worst-hit districts where, according to the available data at the Home Ministry, 3,372 people were killed and 63,885 houses were destroyed.

Bishnumaya and her children, too, have been affected by the Great Earthquake as they were compelled to leave their rented room in Gongabu because the building was severely damaged.

The mother and her two young children are currently taking shelter at a futsal pitch in Pepsikola along with many other families, as aftershocks of the 7.9 magnitude quake continue to rattle the country.

Bishnumaya says the 7.3 magnitude aftershock of May 12 knocked down the building that she and her children had been living in.

"We can't return to village because the situation there is even worse," she says.

Chaos as tremors continue to shake Dolakha

RAJENDRA MANANDHAR

DOLAKHA, MAY 16

With the total death toll climbing to 92, Dolakha has been in a state of chaos following the devastation caused by the May 12 aftershock measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale.

Security personnel have recovered 23 bodies from the debris of destroyed houses in Singati area where more than

100 are feared buried in quake-triggered landslides. Likewise, many vehicles are also said to have been buried in landslides along the Singati-Jhorung road.

Rescue work, however, has been impeded in the absence of skilled manpower and essential equipment.

The aftershock has rendered most houses unsafe and locals were seen living under

Search teams dig out 23 bodies from building rubble and landslides on Saturday

makeshift structures or tar-paulins in open spaces.

People said they are scared as they could feel frequent minor tremors. Furthermore, heavy downpours since

Saturday afternoon have added to the woes of panic-stricken locals living in the tents.

Even the members of the National Disaster Management Monitoring and Directive Special Committee and CPN-UML leader Jhalanath Khanal were visibly shaken by the minor aftershock while they were attending a programme

inside Nepal Army barracks.

"The destruction is beyond words and there is nothing left other than the probability of human casualties in case of another major aftershock," Khanal said, requesting media persons to be careful and help locals keep calm.

Stating that locals, especially women and children, and even rescue personnel were scared, health officials requested the

Committee for medicines and other support.

Authorities said around 99 percent of houses are either destroyed or damaged.

According to the National Seismological Centre, of the eight aftershocks felt on Saturday, three had epicentre in the district. As of Saturday, around 150 injured have been referred to various medical facilities in Kathmandu.

Bodies of US chopper crash victims found

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, MAY 16

The bodies of all eight people on board a US chopper that crashed on Tuesday have been recovered, the Nepal Army said on Saturday.

The remains would soon be transferred to Kathmandu, NA spokesperson Jagadish Pokharel told reporters.

Six US marines and two Nepali soldiers were on board US Marine Corps' UH-1Y Huey helicopter when it went missing while distributing aid on Tuesday. NA officials on Saturday said teams from the Nepal Army and US military

are at the crash scene, assessing the details of the crash of the helicopter.

PM: Nepal indebted to US for selfless help

KATHMANDU: Prime Minister Sushil Koirala has expressed condolence over the death of six US marines in the helicopter crash during a relief and rescue mission.

In a message sent to President Obama on Saturday, Koirala also commended the selfless service extended by the US soldiers during the time of crisis in Nepal.

In Washington on Friday, President Obama mourned the loss of those aboard the US chopper. "Our prayers remain with the families of our Marines and two Nepalese soldiers," Obama told the gathering of police officers from around the US.

Brick business booms as quake-hit country sets for rebuilding

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BHAKTAPUR, MAY 16

The worn-out workers of Jaya Mayaswari Brick Factory are packing clay and hauling loads with a new sense of purpose—helping to rebuild Nepal after a series of massive earthquakes and aftershocks ravaged the Himalayan nation, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

There is urgency to the back-breaking work. Nepal was crippled by last month's magnitude-7.8 earthquake, which killed more than 8,000, while a string of strong aftershocks has further terrified the survivors. The capital of Kathmandu is in shambles. Entire villages are flattened into rubble and dust. And many businesses have shut down, leaving survivors scrambling for income.

The brick factories clustered in Bhaktapur, a town on the out-

skirts of Kathmandu, are some of the few businesses still running. For the owners and workers who have not fled back to their villages, that means there is still a chance of earning daily wages and profits.

"I am making my contribution in the rebuilding our country by making these bricks," said 17-year-old Barsa Pun Magar, who joined the factory six months ago.

"There has been so much destruction," she said. "Every brick is going to help bring the country and people back on their feet."

Though many of the factories have also been damaged, with kiln towers toppled and workers' housing destroyed, those who remain are laboring overtime before the anticipated rush for construction materials. In a few weeks, monsoon will arrive and create impassable mud swamps,

trigger landslides and pummel the tarpaulin tents providing shelter to many across the country.

"There is definitely going to be a big demand for bricks in the next few months as people start to rebuild," factory owner Shree Bhakta Sukhupayo said.

He expects the price of bricks to go up, from a pre-quake level of about 17 U.S. cents to as much as 25 cents. But he insists he will not profit from the tragedy by raising his prices.

"We have faced a big loss in the earthquake, we are also victims," he said. "We hope the government will bring programs that could help businesses like ours."

Nepal faces billions in reconstruction costs, and has appealed for foreign governments and agencies for help. Almost 745,600 buildings and homes have been damaged or destroyed, including at least 87,700 in the capital,

according to Nepal's emergency authority. Engineers say only 40 percent of Kathmandu's damaged buildings are habitable.

Brick-making is grueling work, involving packing clay into rectangular lumps, firing them in kilns and hauling them to enormous stacks awaiting transport. The hours are also long—sometimes 12 hours a day.

But the workers, many with family in shattered villages, are also racing against time and weather. With Nepal's needs so vast, and its future prospects uncertain, many are doing overtime because it's the only job they can get.

"I have to work to feed my family," said Kalu Ram Bika, 37, who sends some of the money he earns to his parents in their village in southern Nepal. "We work. We get fed. It does not matter how bad the situation is. We have to work."



■ In this recent photo, Indian and Nepali labourers work at a brick factory in Bhaktapur, Nepal, facing billions in reconstruction costs, has appealed for foreign governments and agencies to help with aid and funds.

Offices in Singha Durbar relocated

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, MAY 16

With Singha Durbar severely affected by the April 25 earthquake and its aftershocks, the government has relocated key ministries, including the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers and the Defence Ministry, from the country's administrative headquarters to safe buildings.

Concluding that the buildings housing the PMO and several ministries are unsafe to work from, a meeting of top bureaucrats had decided to relocate some ministries to safer buildings and adjust other offices within ministries that sustained relatively less damage.

"The relocation process has already begun. Sunday onwards, the PMO will operate from its new venue," said PMO Secretary Prem Kumar Rai.

The main Singha Durbar building where PMO is housed has multiple cracks and a technical team has advised the government to immediately relocate PMO to a safer place. "That's why we are relocating to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) and this office needs renovation," Rai said.

The MoFALD was chosen



■ The quake-damaged building that housed the PM's office.

keeping its high quake resistance capacity and a numerous meeting halls for the head of the government and chief secretary.

As the roof of the PMO has been severely damaged and could collapse any time, the road to the west of Singha Durbar where the building is located has been declared off-limits for vehicles and pedestrians.

Likewise, the building of the Peace Ministry will also be relocated to the previous Office of the Army Integration Special Committee in Baneshwor. Similarly, the Public Procurement Monitoring Office is sharing some rooms of the Auditor General's Office in Baneshwor.

"Now onwards, there will be no single room for senior officials, including joint secretary, as they have to share rooms," said Gopi Khanal, joint-secretary at the Local Development Ministry.

Energy Secretariat while the National Planning Commission will carry out its activities from some rooms at the Printing Department inside Singha Durbar. Meanwhile, the Law Commission will also be relocated to the previous Office of the Army Integration Special Committee in Baneshwor.

"Now onwards, there will be no single room for senior officials, including joint secretary, as they have to share rooms," said Gopi Khanal, joint-secretary at the Local Development Ministry.

HIGH ON DEMAND**thinking out of the box**

■ A man prepares a temporary shelter on tractor trailers at Sanepa in Lalitpur on Saturday.

POST PHOTO: SHALIGRAM TIWARI

Brick business booms as quake-hit country sets for rebuilding

Earthquake Relief

The Kathmandu Post

PG 4 | SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015

ekantipur.com

Metal homes in Thuli Gaun



JESSICA TRADATI

Thuli Gaun is a small village in Bageshwori VDC, near Bhaktapur. Thirty of its 60 houses have been completely destroyed by the recent quakes. Its inhabitants are now sleeping in makeshift tents that they have set up in the surrounding fields. One of them, orange-coloured, is where Dhan Bahadur Thakuri and his five-member family lived after April 25. The two-room apartment they rented in Kathmandu is badly cracked and can't be accessed anymore. Dhan has a degree in English literature; nevertheless, he is now jobless.

Before the earthquake, he was working as a tuition teacher, but nobody is interested in English tuitions at the moment. His wife, Sabina, is 21 and three months pregnant; she should have been taking her college exams right now, but they have been suspended because of the Great Quake. Dhan's parents also live with them.

"It feels like we went back to the Stone Age; but actually, back then, people's caves and shelters were probably much better than what we have right now," says Dhan, looking at the leaky plastic tent his family occupied for close to three weeks.

Then things took a turn for the better for the Thakuri family last week. A group of volunteers, managed by migration lawyer Rajesh Raj Joshi and supported by Australian organisations AECA (Australian Education Councillors' Alliance), KOI

(King's Own Institute) and InterGlobal (Visa and Migration services), arrived at the village to set up one of the first portable homes, which have been developed as a shelter solution. The Thakuri family would be one of the first families in the village to live in one of the portable homes.

"It looks like those holiday cabins that people have in the West. It is very light, easy to dismantle and assemble, and most importantly, it doesn't let the rain come through," says Joshi.

He came over from Australia with the idea of bringing aid and funds to sup-

port reconstruction projects in the worst-hit areas in Nepal. It was by coincidence that he came to know about the Kathmandu-based construction and steel company Katuwal Grill and its new shelter prototypes.

"I was walking past the factory with a friend and had a random look inside, I saw some workers working on something that resembled a cabin. I went inside to ask, and that is how I met the owner, Mohan Katuwal, and got to know about the whole concept," says Joshi.

The home that the group of volunteers set up for Dhan's family is made of metal, Colorbond steel and plastic, and it has a concrete foundation. It can house a five-member family and it comes with a toilet, a cooker and a sink; each prototype costs Rs 50,000

wet anymore and about the snakes sneaking around our tent at night," says Dhan's wife Sabina.

Joshi's rationale for setting up of this first shelter sample is to test its functionality and use it as a display model for other villagers and families in the neighbouring hamlets.

"We want people to see what are the available options they can choose from when thinking about a fast and cheap shelter solution," he says.

Based on the amount of money that will keep coming in from donations and partner organisations, the volunteer team plans to order around 25/30 mobile homes to supply a whole village community.

"Whether they wait for the government's support, use their own funding or donated money, people need to figure out a way to get through the rainy season, which is fast approaching," says Joshi.

Solar-powered solutions for disaster-affected people

GAURAV THAPA

KATHMANDU, MAY 16

Nepali clean energy company Ecoprise has been importing portable solar-powered solutions from abroad and distributing them to the disaster-affected people in different parts of the country. The company has already distributed around 300 units of solar-powered lamps in Devtar VDC

Pantang VDC in Sindhupalchok, Syatling VDC in Kavrepalanchok Municipality in Kavrepalanchok district, and Jalbire VDC in Nuwakot—have been selected for the upcoming distribution.

Once fully charged, the solar lamps provide light for six to seven hours. Additionally, they can also be used for charging mobile phones.

According to the company, around Rs 350,000 was spent on the project. Ecoprise is col-

lecting funds by asking for donations from partner organisations and through crowdfunding websites like indiegogo.com and The Bridge.

In addition to solar-powered lamps, the company is also planning to start distributing solar-powered water purifiers to the affected populace. According to CEO Bhawan KC, three villages—

Pantang VDC in Sindhupalchok, Syatling VDC in Kavrepalanchok and Rahukhet VDC in Nuwakot

—have been selected for the

upcoming distribution.

"We plan to provide solar-powered water purifiers to 600 families," KC said. "Rather than distributing a few devices to random people, we thought it would be better if we provided these appliances to communities."

The water purifiers, which are being imported from Sweden-based company Solvatten, have the capacity to purify 20 litres of water a day. One each will be provided to a group of three to four families, KC said.

Also, the company is soon planning to involve itself in building low-cost houses in earthquake-affected areas.

"We will start our low-cost housing project in two to three weeks," KC said.

The solar-powered lamps and water purifiers are meant for long-term use, according to KC. The lamps are standard lights which come with a two-year warranty, while the water purifiers have a warranty of five years or 50,000 litres of water.

Ecoprise has collected more than \$10,000 for the project.



IFRC triples its aid to Nepal

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, MAY 16

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has pledged to triple the aid amount to Nepal, in order to intensify relief and rehabilitation efforts. The IFRC has already provided \$33 million for earthquake victims.

IFRC General Secretary Elhadj As Sy made the pledge on Saturday in a meeting with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala at the prime minister's residence in Baluwatar. They held discussions on the damages done by the Great Earthquake and the need of humanitarian aid for rescue, relief, rehabilitation and rebuilding operations.

Along with rehabilitation works, Sy also highlighted the need for establishing an institutional structure, formulating a legal framework and consolidating human resources for dealing with natural disasters.

The Nepal Red Cross Society, in coordination with the IFRC, has deployed more



than 7,000 volunteers and aid workers in Nepal and has distributed more than 40,000 tarpaulins, about 2,000 family tents, about 12,000 blankets, more than 120,000 ORS packets, more than 4,000 hygiene kits, more than 400,000 aqua tabs and about 45,000 bars of soaps to the affected people so far.

Appreciating the relief

works carried out by the Red Cross, Prime Minister Koirala stressed that the lack of knowledge, institutions and resources for disaster preparedness were the major reasons behind the government's inability to manage the disaster. Koirala also expressed a commitment to create a government body to deal with such events in the future.

US-based organisations help quake victims

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, MAY 16

A five-member medical team arrived in Nepal on May 8 from the United States to provide medical support to earthquake victims.

The team, comprising four personnel from the Community and Disaster Response Team of Sebastopol, California, have set up camp at Batali village, in constituency no 1 of Sindhupalchok district. Along with addressing the medical needs of more than 540 people, the team has also distributed relief packages, consisting of blankets, sleeping bags and tents to 80 people.

Chairman of San Francisco

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT
KHMALTAR, LALITPUR, NEPAL

Date of First Publication: 20 April 2015 (Re-advertisement with extended deadline)

- The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) invites sealed bids from Building Construction Contractors registered in Nepal for the **construction of an annexbuilding at the ICIMOD Headquarters complex**.
- Bid documents may be purchased from the Procurement Office of ICIMOD, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal (Tel. No. 5003222) for a non refundable fee of NPR 10,000 (ten thousand only), Monday through Friday between 0930 and 1230 hours on working days. Interested bidders may inspect the bid document and obtain further information (as required) from the Procurement Office.
- Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after opening of the bid and must be accompanied by a bid security of 2.5% of the total bid amount valid for 90 days after the opening date of the bid. The bid documents will be sold from the date of first publication of the notice until 5 June 2015. The completed bid document should be submitted within 10 June 2015 before 1100 hours to the Procurement Office at ICIMOD Headquarters. Any bids received after 1100 hours of the last submission date shall not be entertained. All sealed bids shall be opened by ICIMOD on the last day of submission at 1500 hrs in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. Absence of any bidder will not affect the opening of the bids. The details of bidding information are available in the bid document.
- The 'Qualification Documents' in the bid documentation shall form an integral part of the bidders' submission for evaluation by ICIMOD. Any bid not meeting the ICIMOD requirements shall not be considered.
- The office of ICIMOD reserves the right of acceptance or rejection of any or all the bids without giving any reason whatsoever.

Note : The bidding deadline has been extended due to recent earthquake event in Nepal

ICIMOD
INVITATION FOR BIDS

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT
KHMALTAR, LALITPUR, NEPAL



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Irrigation
Department of Irrigation
Sunsari Morang Irrigation Project
Biratnagar, Morang

Amendment Notice

The provisions of Bidding Documents and Sealed Quotation Forms regarding Contract/Sealed Quotation Identification Numbers : **SMIP-09/2071-072, SMIP-11/2071-72 to SMIP-18/2071-72, SMIP-SQ01/2071-72 & SMIP-SQ02/2071-72** has been amended as per first amendment of Public Procurement Act 2063. It will be the part of Bidding Documents and Sealed Quotation Forms and will be binding to all Bidders/Applicants. The details of amendment can be obtained from the Project office and website www.bolpatra.gov.np.

Project Manager
Sunsari Morang Irrigation Project

Call for Proposal for Developing Web-based NGO Database

NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) calls for Proposal from registered Nepali firms to provide consultancy service for the purpose of developing Web-based NGO Database under "Promoting NGOs' Governance and Management in Nepal" project supported by Embassy of Finland to Nepal. Firms with strong track record in web development and better experience with development sector are encouraged to submit (i) Technical Proposal and (ii) Financial Proposal with Budget Breakdown along with (i) Copy of Company Registration Certificate (ii) A copy of Tax Clearance Certificate of fiscal year 2070/071 (iii) A copy of VAT Registration Certificate (iv) Organizational Profile (v) Recent CVs of Technical Team members.

Interested firms should submit their documents at NFN secretariat by 1 June 2015, 5:00 pm. Terms of Reference (TOR) of consultancy service can be downloaded from www.ngofederation.org.



First published: 17 May 2015
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Pope welcomes Mahmoud Abbas

Pope Francis met Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday, calling him "an angel of peace", days after the Vatican said it was preparing to sign its first accord with Palestine, to the anger of Israel. Abbas met the pontiff for about 20 minutes for a private audience who will become the first Palestinian Arabs to gain sainthood.



Prince Harry tackles crocodile

Prince Harry helped capture a saltwater crocodile during his tour of Australia last month, pictures have shown. The 30-year-old looked relaxed while sitting on the 3.1m crocodile, removed from a trap in Darwin Harbour. The pictures were released by the Parks and Wildlife Commission Northern Territory.



Tsarnaev sentenced to death

A jury sentenced Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to death for the Boston Marathon bombing, sweeping aside pleas that he was just a "kid" who fell under the influence of his fanatical older brother. The decision came just over two years after the April 15, 2013, bombing that killed three people and wounded more than 260 others.

bright lights to inspire



A piece of the Manhattan skyline including the Empire State Building (right) glows on an overcast night in New York, United States on Saturday. The neon lights of Broadway might not all shine so bright if a push to cut energy usage in the city's buildings comes to pass. Proponents want to see commercial buildings turn off their lights after midnight if the buildings are empty. Critics say it would take away some of what makes New York City sparkle. AP

NEWS DIGEST

17 in Burundi coup attempt taken to court

BUJUMBURA: Burundi took 17 people suspected of involvement in a failed coup against President Pierre Nkurunziza to the high court on Saturday, relatives of some of the accused said. Speaking on condition of anonymity due to fears of reprisals, family members of two of the accused men told Reuters the suspects had raw wounds on their bodies and one of them had lost hearing in one of his ears due to a beating in the cells.

Suicide bomber kills 4 in Nigeria

POTISKUM: A suicide bomber blew himself up and killed four hawkers on Saturday at a bustling bus station in the northeast Nigerian town of Damaturu, witnesses said of the latest in a string of attacks this week by Nigeria's home-grown Boko Haram extremists. Five bodies were brought to the hospital mortuary and 15 wounded people are being treated, according to a nurse who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not allowed to speak to reporters.

2 dead in German train crash

FRANKFURT: At least two people were killed and 20 injured in western Germany when a passenger train hit a tractor-trailer on a level crossing, police say. The accident happened near the town of Ibbenbueren when the train, from Osnabrueck, struck the vehicle which was carrying manure, officials added. Three of those injured were said to be in a serious condition. Initial reports said the vehicle got stuck while trying to cross the railway line, police said.

Taliban 'kidnap civilians'

AFGHANISTAN: Taliban militants blocked roads in an eastern province of Afghanistan bordering Pakistan, forcing cars to stop and kidnapping the occupants at gunpoint, an Afghan official said on Saturday. Vehicles were stopped by Taliban in Sayad Karm. (AGENCIES)

Ex-Egypt leader Morsi sentenced to death

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO, MAY 16



Mohammed Morsi

An Egyptian court sentenced ousted President Mohammed Morsi and over 100 others to death on Saturday over a mass prison break during the 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak and later brought Morsi's Islamist movement to power.

In what appears to be the first violent response to the sentence, suspected Islamic militants in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula gunned down three judges and wounded three others traveling in a car in the northern Sinai city of al-Arish, according to security officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Also sentenced to death with Morsi in the prison break case were 105 defendants, most of them tried and convicted in absentia. They include some 70 Palestinians. Those tried in absentia in Egypt receive automatic retrials once detained.

Supporters of Morsi and his now-outlawed Muslim Brotherhood chanted "down, down with military rule" as el-Shami set June 2 for the next hearing. Regardless of the mufti's ruling, the sentences can be appealed. Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected leader, was ousted by the military in July 2013 following days of mass street protests by Egyptians demanding that he be removed because of his divisive policies. Morsi's successor, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, was

Sinai Peninsula. Taking advantage of the turmoil, the militants fought their way into several prisons, releasing Morsi, more than 30 other Brotherhood leaders and some 20,000 inmates, prosecutors say. Several prison guards were killed and parts of the stormed prisons were damaged. Those sentenced to death with Morsi on Saturday include the Brotherhood's spiritual leader, Mohammed Badie, as well as one of the Arab world's best known Islamic scholars, the Qatari-based Yousef al-Qaradawi.

Hezbollah and Hamas operatives who had been convicted and sentenced to jail terms over terror-related charges were also broken out of jail in 2011. Hundreds of protesters were killed during the uprising and dozens of police stations across the country were stormed by demonstrators. Media commentators maintain that the jailbreaks and the attacks on police stations were part of a Brotherhood plot to spread fear and chaos to ensure the fall of Mubarak.

The Brotherhood went on to win every election between 2011 and Morsi's ouster in July 2013. Its popularity began to slide after Morsi took office in June 2012 and decreed himself above any sort of oversight. Critics increasingly charged him with working for the Brotherhood and its supporters, not all Egyptians.

Prosecutors alleged that armed members of the Palestinian Hamas group entered Egypt during the 18-day uprising through illegal tunnels running under the Gaza border with Egypt's

MYANMAR 'NOT TO BLAME FOR MIGRANT CRISIS'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
YANGON, MAY 16

Myanmar refused to shoulder the blame for an escalating migrant crisis, and cast doubts on whether it will attend a meeting to be hosted by Thailand later this month aimed at easing an emergency that has left boatloads of refugees stranded at sea.

"We are not ignoring the migrant problem, but our leaders will decide whether to attend the meeting based on what is going to be discussed," said Maj. Zaw Htay, director of the office of Myanmar's president. "We will not accept the allegations by some that Myanmar is the source of the problem."

Boats filled with more than 2,000 desperate and hungry refugees have arrived in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia in recent weeks, and thousands more migrants are believed to be adrift at sea after a crackdown on human traffickers prompted captains and smugglers to abandon their boats.

Many of those on the overcrowded vessels are ethnic Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar.

Others are Bangladeshis fleeing poverty.

Both groups seem intent on reaching Malaysia, a Muslim-majority country that has hosted more than 45,000 Rohingya over the years but now says it can't accept any more. Indonesia and Thailand have voiced similar stances.

INCOME INEQUALITY

'Clinton earned at least \$30m since beginning of 2014'



REUTERS
WASHINGTON, MAY 16

Hillary and Bill Clinton have earned at least \$30 million since January 2014, including more than \$25 million for delivering about 100 speeches, according to a government filing.

Hillary Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, has earned more than \$5 million in royalties for her book, "Hard Choices," which was published in June, according to the form.

The Clintons' income puts them at the upper end of the top 0.1 percent of earners in the US population, according to government data.

Economic inequality has emerged as an early theme with candidates of both

The Clintons' income puts them at the upper end of the top 0.1 percent of earners in the US population

parties vying for the White House in November 2016.

The "one percent" has become a talking point in policy discussions about the divide between rich and poor, cited by politicians to support everything from increased Wall Street oversight to raising wages to overhauling the tax code.

Clinton announced her candidacy last month by saying "everyday Americans need a champion and I want to be that champion."

In early campaign stops, Clinton has said how she believes the "deck is stacked" against middle class Americans and that it is time to "reshuffle the cards."

The Clintons themselves have

faced criticism for their privileged status. Last year, Hillary Clinton said they were "dead broke" when they left the White House in 2001, even though Bill Clinton made millions of dollars giving speeches after his presidency.

Clinton, a former top diplomat, US senator and first lady, has earned as much as \$250,000 per speech since leaving the State Department in 2013.

Paid appearances at financial institutions such as Goldman Sachs and Bank of America in particular have drawn fire from the liberal wing of the Democratic party, which fears her campaign will be beholden to moneyed

interests.

Clinton, like all presidential candidates who entered the race before April 15, was required to file an account of her personal finances by May 15.

The Clinton campaign made the filing available to media outlets for review.

The Federal Election Commission forms ask candidates to report the values of assets and liabilities in broad ranges, making it impossible to arrive at a candidate's exact net worth.

The minimum value of the Clinton's financial assets is \$11.3 million, but their net wealth is likely far more, since the value of some assets, including personal residences, are not required to be reported and anything above \$5 million is reported in a single category.

US, China remain at odds over the South China Sea

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, MAY 16

The United States and China held firm Saturday to deep disagreements over increasingly assertive Chinese activity in disputed areas of the South China Sea, as Beijing politely but pointedly rejected US Secretary of State John Kerry's push for it to reduce tensions.

After meeting in the Chinese capital, both Kerry and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed the importance of dialogue to resolve the competing claims, but neither showed any sign of bending in their positions over Chinese land reclamation projects that have alarmed the United States and China's smaller neighbors. The US and most members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations want a halt to the projects, which they suspect are aimed at building islands and other land features over which China can claim sovereignty.

"We are concerned about the pace and scope of China's land reclamation in the South China Sea," Kerry said, urging China to speed up talks with ASEAN on binding guidelines on how maritime activity in disputed areas should be handled. "And, I urged China, through Foreign Minister Wang, to take actions that will join with everybody in helping to reduce tensions and increase the prospect of diplomatic solutions."

"I think we agree that the region needs smart diplomacy in order to conclude the ASEAN-China code of conduct and not outposts and military strips," Kerry told reporters at a joint news conference with Wang.



United States Secretary of State John Kerry (left) shakes hands with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing, China on Saturday. REUTERS

But Wang signaled that while China was prepared to talk, it would not back down on the construction which he said "is something that falls fully within the scope of China's sovereignty."

"The determination of the Chinese side to safeguard our own sovereignty and territorial integrity is as firm as a rock, and it is unshakable," he said. "It has always been our view that we need to find appropriate solutions to the issues we have through communications and negotiations that we have among the parties directly concerned with peaceful and diplomatic means on the basis of respecting historical facts and international norms. This position will remain unchanged in the future."

Wang added that the differences between China and the US could be managed "as long as we can avoid misunderstanding and, even more importantly, avoid miscalculation."

The Chinese claims and land reclamation projects have rattled the region where South China Sea islands and reefs are contested by China and five other Asian governments and activities have led to clashes, accompanied by nationalistic protests and occasional serious diplomatic implications.

The US says it takes no position on the sovereignty claims but insists they must be negotiated. Washington also says ensuring maritime safety and access to some of the world's busiest commercial shipping routes is a US national security priority.

ISIL advances on Syria's Palmyra

REUTERS
PALMYRA, MAY 16

Fighters belonging to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) have advanced on Syria's ancient city of Palmyra, one of the Middle East's most famous UNESCO heritage sites, with fierce clashes taking place close to the city's historic citadel.

Photos circulating on social media sites on Saturday appeared to show intense clashes near the 13th century citadel of Fakhr-al-Din al-Ma'ani as ISIL fighters engaged.

Talal Barazi, the governor of central Homs province,

where the city is located, said on Friday that the "army has sent reinforcements and it is bombing the [ISIL] positions from the air".

Palmyra, a 2,000-year-old desert oasis, is believed to be home to some 100,000 people, including displaced Syrians

The city is also home to the notorious Tadmor prison, where extensive human rights abuses, torture and summary executions have taken place.

Irina Bokova, the head of the UN's cultural body UNESCO, called on Syrian troops and ISIL to spare the city, saying it "represents an irreplaceable treasure for the Syrian people and the world".

"Palmyra must be saved," Bokova said at a two-day conference in Cairo on protecting the region's archaeological sites.

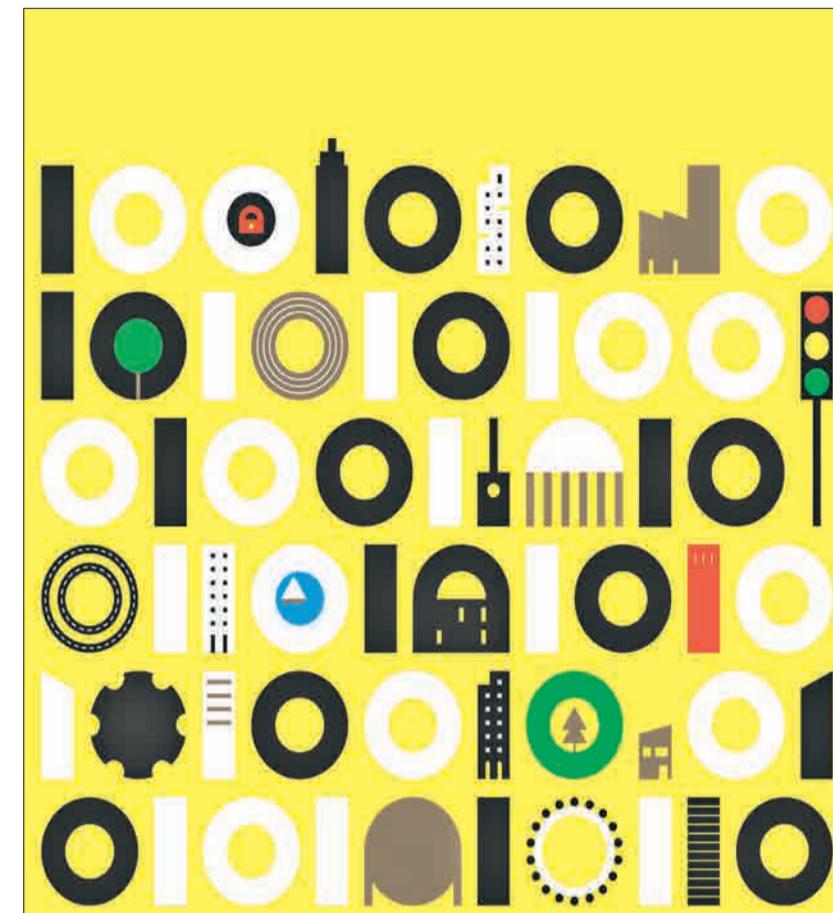
Bokova said it was important to work "against extremism, against this strategy of eradicating ... our collective memory."

Cities of the future

The earthquake is an opportunity for the govt to transform devastated cities into smart ones



CHANG-HAK CHOI & BIMAL PRATAP SHAH



reacting to natural disasters.

Songdo, a South Korean city built from scratch with smart technology in mind, is leading the way to become a blueprint for a city of the future. Every inch of the city is wired with fibre optic and wireless broadband. The broadband network connects people and also sends a constant stream of data to computers to allow the city to monitor itself and adjust its operation accordingly. Closer to home, India's Union Cabinet recently approved a 'Smart City' project with a mission of establishing 100 smart cities in the country.

Internet-enabled disaster alerts

Yes, it is impossible to predict earthquakes, but this should not stop us from investing in high tech smart city internet-enabled solutions capable of alerting citizens as soon as tremors are detected, before land and buildings shake. These types of early warning systems come with a high price tag and have only been deployed in cities in Mexico, Japan, and the United States.

One innovative solution from Europe that is in its nascent stage listens to internet traffic to spot an earthquake in

30 seconds to two minutes after it happens and automatically alerts people in the area. Similarly, an Israeli firm has developed a solution that uses a geo-targeted system that allows officials to push mass alerts simultaneously to computers, mobile phones, radios, and televisions. This technology can play a critical role in post-disaster situations where the government's ability to communicate is usually crippled, as everyone is trying to connect to their loved ones using landlines and mobile phones.

There are three important components of a smart city early warning system. First, the smart city emergency solution has to be managed by the central government while the city's role is to centrally coordinate response units in case a disaster strikes. Second, a detailed step-by-step guide to address post-disaster settings needs to be put in place. The guide should outline areas where activities need to occur. The roles and responsibilities of the parties involved have to be assigned prior to disasters.

Finally, mobile telecom operators have to be brought in from the start as their role is crucial throughout the entire process of city crisis planning,

coordination, and recovery. Mobile networks play a key role in connecting local governments, the police, military, hospitals, and other stakeholders, as well as a wide range of sensors that monitor crucial parameters from different types of observation systems. At the same time, the government has to also understand that the city's digital systems can become vulnerable to cybercrimes with integration. Therefore, the right policies, technologies, and human resources have to be in place to mitigate risks.

Include the internet

In spite of the tragedy, the spirits of Nepalis have remained high and the support from the Nepali diaspora and the international community have been overwhelming. Many youths have travelled to affected areas to help the needy. Soon, relief operations will end and lives in the affected areas will return to normal. Even so, Nepalis will still be vulnerable to future disasters, if the government does not take necessary steps to build smart cities with smart technology as part of its DNA.

By now, those who walk the corridors of Singha Durbar should know that there are no alternatives to smart cities that are resilient to physical, social, and economic challenges. Any excuses from policymakers and urban planners are not going to be tolerated this time around, as old cities can be converted into smart cities as well. Recently, Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje said that smart cities can be created out of beautiful old cities in her state. "It is not necessary to sacrifice the city's cultural heritage sites when building smart cities," she said.

Simultaneously with relief efforts, the government has to invest in early warning systems and develop policies and plans to transform the cities of the Kathmandu Valley into smart cities with the goal of enhancing the quality of life of its citizens while preserving the old heritage of the metropolis. Most importantly, it should be understood that the internet can no longer be shunted to the sidelines in policymaking.

With the right visionary leadership and political will, post-earthquake Nepal can be prosperous beyond our wildest dream, as it is never too late to set things right.

Choi was Director General of e-Governance at the Presidential Committee on Government Innovation and Decentralization during South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun's administration. Shah was a fellow at the Center for Electronic Governance, United Nations University—International Institute for Software Technology

Of tragedy, experience and the arts

In addition to relief funds, the wide domain of art can help significantly in restoring normalcy



DEEPESH PAUDEL
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tion's work amidst futile resources can all be taken as positives in these testing times.

Recovering through arts

In trying times like these, works related to rescue, relief, and reconstruction will definitely play a crucial role. However, to help life get back on track, to bring things back to usual, art can contribute a lot. We know that given the condition, it's equally tough to expect much from art and artists, especially when their sources of inspiration have taken such a tragic hit. The demolition of historic artifacts, monumental heritage, museums, and temples has been a heart-wrenching experience. Although it's been said that there is a certain possibility to rebuild all the destroyed heritages in the future, I still wonder if it can be done with the same meticulousness as before. Along with these intangible social and cultural losses, the reconstruction/renovation costs and losses from tourism will certainly add up. The possibilities of tourism in the near future might bring some compensation, but like I said above, the loss seems irreparable.

As an artist, I realise that our muses have fallen and it will take years to make them stand again. But we've got our stories of suffering and survival, which shall remain as the hearts of our creations, as our new muses, at least until we recuperate again. Artists also need to show solidarity and compassion through their efforts. For instance, Bipul Chettri's musical concert for Nepal, Nepathy's efforts to channel funds raised through their tours are instances that can bring people together in such trying times.

I've also come across news that a few theatre groups are planning to visit affected areas in order to provide psycho-social counseling. With all due respect to their commitment and compassion, I doubt whether this initiative will be effective, especially given its timing. To act is one thing, but to treat/counsel someone, emotionally and clinically, is something that is highly sensitive and critical, which needs to be done under proper expertise and supervision. Rather, a pool of theatre artists can currently plan on awareness building and reconciling play-packages, which could be extremely helpful and suitable, once the current turbulence is over.

Art as healing

In addition to relief funds and awareness building, the wide domain of art can help significantly in restoring normalcy. As of now, I cannot imagine people coming out in order to experience art, especially for entertainment. Therefore, this is the time for artists and art centres to rise above other issues and portray the prevailing circumstances, within their artistic capabilities. Photo exhibitions, paintings, documentaries, and writings depicting ongoing stories, sentiments, and situations can strike a single chord among all people. These artistic expressions can in fact provide solace to those affected and subsequently, help them subliminally overcome the sour memories of the disaster.

Paudel is associated with Sarwanam Theatre as an actor and director

Friends in need

Teaching Hospital was able to function efficiently after the quake with the help of many others



DEEPAK PRAKASH MAHARA & UMESH RAJ REGMI

and major cases are referred to various hospitals with proper initial diagnoses. The psycho-social component of trauma is also duly prioritised in the camps. Many patients with psychiatric problems have also been observed since the terrifying quake. The trauma has persisted in many, resulting in mental disorders of different sorts. To remedy this, the committee has successfully organised camps in Sindhu-Palchowk, Gorkha, and Rasuwa.

TUTH has also coordinated with the Nepal Youth Foundation (NYF), an NGO, for transitional management of discharged and displaced patients to its Nutrition and Rehabilitation Home in Sunakot, Lalitpur. This has eased the flow of patients. Most remarkably, the hospital has just initiated two pharmacies—regular and charitable—which are in separate buildings. The charitable pharmacy helps patients who need a relatively long treatment plan and those that need expensive treatment. Mostly, victims buried under rubble for a long time and those severely crushed need such special treatment.

Those who are marked as disaster victims will not need to renew their tickets for follow-up. Almost all victims coming to the hospital are made to sit for psychological counseling and psychiatric treatment (if necessary) for free. Medical students are requested to make patients and visitors aware about sanitation and epidemic prevention through posters, notices, and audio recording inside the hospital premises. There is also a plan to enhance physiotherapy services.

Even though the hospital has already closed its 'Incidence Command Section' and made selective out-patient departments effective, there is a need to remain prepared. So, TUTH has maintained a stock of medicines for epidemic control, even though that is not the primary responsibility of the hospital. The medicine stock can treat more than 500 patients in case of an epidemic. A Nepal Army team is also ready to make space in the open grounds and gardens of TUTH by using temporary tents.

The many who helped

In addition to support from the Ministry of Health and Population, many organisations helped the TUTH. They not only supported the hospital



■ Patients at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal, are taken outside following the second large earthquake on May 12.

PHOTO COURTESY: WHO

during the very first days after the disaster but have continued to manage affairs even afterwards. The Nepal Youth Foundation, for instance, provided huge quantities of medicines needed urgently and other logistical support to the hospital. It is still coordinating with the hospital to transport discharged victims to its rehabilitation shelter.

AMDA International has collaborated to run disaster management outreach camps, Satya Sai Center, Patanjali Yog Peeth, Nami International, and CWIN Nepal's support have also been crucial. Likewise, Handicapped International has recently coordinated to provide wooden stands to needy victims. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Nepal has also started working in coordination with TUTH to provide temporary shelters. TUTH's services have, thus, been the result of collective support.

Take care

Those currently residing outside their houses under tents should pay attention to sanitation and drinking water. Discharged patients and their caretakers should sincerely take heed of the advice of doctors in whatever condi-

tions they are. Let us all give priority to pregnant women, children, and the disabled with regards to providing shelter and nutritious foods. In case you are wounded and notice an infection, do not delay in seeking medical help, for quake-related injuries can cause other diseases and deformity. Try to distract your mind from the horrible scenes of the earthquake and your losses as much as possible. Be hopeful and lessen your stress by doing things you like. Do not forget to wear a medicated mask while among other people or when you are in an area with many decayed domestic animals.

You can contact the social service room or information desk of various hospitals if you have anyone missing, unwell, or in need of care after treatment. Victims of the disaster need not pay any money for their complete treatment in any health centres throughout Nepal. Many social organisations and helping hands are ready to help victims of the quake based on their immediate and long-term need.

Mahara is currently the Executive Director and a Professor at TUTH, Mahajugunji and Regmi is associated with the Nepal Youth Foundation



■ Picasso's Guernica was painted as a response to the trauma of being bombed by the Germans and Italians during the Spanish Civil War.

Letter to the EDITOR

WELCOME CHANGE

■ Ajaya Bhadra Khanal's article ('Who's afraid of the government', May 14, Page 6) comes as a breath of fresh air. Too many people are busy pointing out the inefficiencies of the government, including in these op-ed pages, and turning a blind eye to the problems of large donors and I/NGOs, including the UN. As Khanal rightly points out, most of the money that comes as aid to Nepal, as in normal times, is spent on overhead costs. In times of disaster, the pay-scale of INGO workers and UN staff is even higher to compensate for the 'risk' they are taking by working in a country like Nepal or say, Haiti. Such huge sums of money can be utilised much more effectively if they are channelled through local community-based organisations. But bilateral donors prefer to spend money through their own INGOS. For instance, the



UK government channels money through Oxfam UK, the British Red Cross etc. If one goes through the press release of DfID on its aid to Nepal, it clearly states that it wishes to work with the Nepali government. But it does not provide a single penny of that aid to the Nepali government. Lest we forget, the cost of keeping the three British Chinooks, which are currently stranded in Chandigarh, is also part of British aid to Nepal.

Interestingly, those who seem to be retweeting or sharing photos of bilateral donors handing out relief materials are either their Nepali employees or consultants. In any case, when most Nepali people who function in English are either I/NGO employees or on their payroll as consultants, expecting donor criticism in English newspapers would be too much to ask for. Khanal's op-ed is praiseworthy on all accounts.

Shiksha Sharma, Gothatar

BRING THE MACHINES

■ The government has come up with a good decision to clean up the Kathmandu Valley ('Govt urges all to help clear debris in Kathmandu', May 9, Page 2). I hope everyone will comply with the decision to clean up the city, many parts of which have been reduced to rubble and currently lie covered in debris as a result of the devastating earthquake of April 25. Also, due to the remains of the destroyed buildings, the air is getting polluted and could greatly hamper the health of the Valley's denizens.

Moreover, as the monsoon season is nearing, it could be more difficult to clean up the debris if postponed for later. This initiative should not be limited within the Valley but should also be expanded to all places and the districts affected.

Prastav Karki, Lainchaur

■ The mobilisation of government employees to clean up debris in and around Kathmandu Valley is welcome. However, clearing the rubble by hand, picking up one brick at a time will take forever. In the cities, the government should use dozers and excavators as need be to remove debris. If necessary, it should request other countries to provide relevant technologies and machines to demolish huge buildings, which are currently posing a threat to smaller houses around it too. Many structures are on the verge of collapse and they need immediate attention. Clearing the rubble by mobilising people could work in rural areas, but this is not a smart option for cities.

CM Shrestha, Bhaktapur

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Trust and disaster

Helping people in natural calamities involves two things—the politics of helpers and the politics of receivers



WORDS & ECHOES

ABHI SUBEDI

The government's failure to act promptly and effectively and the circulation of discourses about ethics and trust have created a series of aftershocks in Nepal in the aftermath of the massive earthquake of April 25. The double whammy of the May 12 aftershock further increased uncertainty. Confusion already entrenched has deepened, and minds getting stronger to cope with the effects of disaster have become further weakened.

To add to all these, uncanny cinematic effects involving people, countries, military presences, choppers, and hoppers—a somewhat bizarre combination of things to happen—generated stories that did not have any salubrious effect on the minds of the traumatised. Those who suffer in natural calamities do not necessarily oversee what is going on over their heads, because they rely on the good side of human nature.

The world showed its readiness to help. Helpers landed within a day or two of the happening and started their operations. But the Nepal Army youths had already started their courageous and necessary operations. They were seen bravely falling buildings to rescue trapped people. Similarly, hundreds of Nepali youths had reached the sites with whatever means they had, a process that continues even today. A landslide triggered by the May 12 quake killed the leader of one such team, a Tribhuvan University lecturer, Madhav Bhusal. Nepali youths are doing greatly exemplary works, as are some of the trained foreign rescue workers, who had come with necessary accoutrements and skills.

Trust and cooperation

The massive earthquake of April 25 and the subsequent aftershocks have thus



■ A woman in Dhunche, Rasuwa, looks out at destroyed homes and a tent from UKaid.

continued to play havoc. The casualty figures are rising. Personal accounts, visual representations and descriptions of the appalling tragedy are overwhelming. Getting traumatised and struggling for survival are not two different things, as they result from the same disaster. However, this tragedy has foregrounded a few topics with great stress on the question of trust and cooperation between Nepal, or the Nepal government and the countries and agencies who want to support relief efforts for people affected by the disaster. I would like to raise some of these issues and question what may have been going on imperceptibly so far in this regard.

The question of trust and cooperation raises some important theoretical issues that I do not want to raise here. But what must be mentioned is that helping people in a state of natural

calamities involves two things: the politics of the helpers and the politics of the receivers. Those who come to help, as studies show, come with their own logic of how relief should be carried out. Some major academic texts written after calamities like the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 that hit Sri Lanka and India are eloquent proofs. The Indian operation was also called exemplary. But aid amounting to billions of dollars collected from public and private donors played the most decisive role. In other words, relief operations became possible principally because of that aid. The amount was largely or initially transparent and predictable. The receivers also knew the source of the aid. But things often do not work in that manner. Disaster aid, as some critics maintain, is transformed into power and profit liability. Pious and noble

feelings are turned into a name game with some claiming to do more than others. A certain rivalry becomes involved. Apart from the aid givers' politics, local politics and politics also seek to use the aid money to create a power and profit regime. That money thus transformed into a power commodity is used to create political influence and keep hold of political groups. Stories say that tsunami aid and politics—local and regional—was used for such purposes.

There is no doubt that the extensive disaster caused by the recent earthquakes will require aid. Nepal has to rely on a great deal of support from humanitarian organisations and donors. Blame games start in the use of such aids. So much so that even the victims and their behaviours are blamed for some situations. But I hold a

clear view in this matter. In Nepal, the common people, who have always borne the brunt of human and natural atrocities, have never committed any mistakes. They are the greatest and most patient receivers. That is also why perhaps they are often cheated, with others making profit in their names. In the limited space of my column, I want to put forth the following observations and questions.

Aid channels

The not-yet-resolved question is who should channel the aid coming from agencies and donors. The government has said that all aid should be deposited in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. As this has already been discussed extensively, I do not want to repeat the discourse here. This crisis of trust between the government and the donors opens up a major question—was there always a lack of trust between the Nepali government and the aid givers, which has only surfaced now because of the serious situation? How were they operating in the past? Was the government fooling us about the use of aid and funding? If not, why did the government not create a reliable apparatus to channel foreign aid? Why did donor agencies say they do not trust the government? This is a serious matter.

That the government has failed to use the budget in major projects in the country has certainly created the impression that the government has the worst record in spending. That it does not function well, and the bureaucrats have a bad record in terms of fair spending, are some of the charges that the donors are making. Some have become openly vocal. But like every other bitter and necessary lesson that we have learned at this hour of crisis, both the government and the donors should know that commodifying and politicising serious aid is not the right way. The government should learn a lesson and correct its ways. Aid givers and all good people should work in tandem with the government. Donors can certainly and always demand transparency, which would be for the good of all—the receivers, the government, and the givers.

Let them eat local

Locally-available food like sesame, flax, and amaranth can help provide adequate nutrition to children in the aftermath of the quake



DR ARUNA UPRETY

Noodles and biscuits were distributed as immediate relief in the first few days of the Great Earthquake. Though many public health specialists had strong opinions about such unhealthy food being distributed, given the time and calamity, they did not speak out against this. But after two weeks, if biscuits and junk foods are still being provided to disaster-struck communities, we need to speak out.

Junk comes in packets

In many earthquake-hit areas, I have seen survivors eating only junk food because many private relief efforts distributed only packets of noodles and biscuits. Pregnant mothers and children as young as two were seen eating junk food in earthquake-hit areas. But in some place, it was decided by some health workers, in collaboration with the media, that there would be no more junk food for earthquake survivors'. Health workers are also worried that many organisations will now come to Nepal with so-called 'micro-nutrition' and will ask guardians or parents to feed children those packets, which are expensive, unhealthy, and not sustainable. In Nepal, we have much food that are full of nutrients but are ignored by those who bring in packaged food from the outside and pressure local communities to use them.

In the same way, flax seed (*alas* or *aalsi*) can be used to make food full of micronutrients. It contains omega-3 fatty acids and fiber and has antioxidant properties. It can be used as a salad, with lentils, or as

vegetables and is easily available and cheap.

Amaranth (*latte*) can also be used as a vegetable or mixed with wheat or rice flour. It contains iron, magnesium, and high quantity of protein, which most vegetables do not contain. Hundred grams of amaranth contains 9.41 grams of protein and 68.9 grams of carbohydrates as well as 2.15 grams of fiber, which makes it an ideal food. But very few people use it because of a lack of information.

On the fifth day after the earthquake, we went to Botechour in Sindhupalchowk and while passing Sankhu, we saw that many farmers, both men and women, were working in the fields and there were many sacks of potatoes to sell. One 80kg sack cost Rs 1,440 and I bought one to distribute to people. Relief organisations and the government should also distribute potatoes to earthquake survivors, instead of noodles.

The Agriculture Ministry has published a booklet on amaranth, potato, and cassava (*simal taru*) showing their nutritious value, but sadly, this knowledge has not been applied in practice.

It is time for various international and national organisations to refrain from creating a food dependency, as in Haiti or Sudan. We are capable of growing and feeding our people. But I wonder if our government will be able to communicate this to the INGOs? Still, we should be telling the communities about how they can combat malnutrition with local food so that they understand the value of what is locally available. This method, however, will not be a sustainable approach.

Dr Upadhyay writes on nutrition and health



■ A woman carries a sack of rice provided as earthquake relief.

Mutual trust

Instead of being suspicious of the international community, the government should work with them to rebuild Nepal



DIPENDRA JHA

In the aftermath of the Great Earthquake, relief materials and aid began pouring into Nepal, both from other parts of the country and foreign nations. In this context, it is important to ensure fairness in distribution. It is equally important to assess the needs of disaster-affected people. It would not be incorrect to say that there is no mechanism to deal with the distribution and monitoring of relief materials. Nobody knows who is in charge of aid distribution—the Chief District Officer (CDO) or the Army or the bureaucrat sent by the government to quake-affected areas.

Well-coordinated, judicious, and impartial distribution of relief materials is important, because only then can we know what we have received, in what quantity, and plan when and how the relief materials will be distributed. Lack of coordination and monitoring means local political elites could monopolise distribution. Still, there is a lack of criteria to determine who is quake-affected and who really needs relief materials. Distributing relief materials to those who do not need them means that needy people in farflung areas such as Barpak in Gorkha and remote areas of Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha will not get those materials and even if they get them, it will not be adequate.

Trust, not suspicion
The Nepal Army, with the help of foreign rescue missions, has airdropped relief materials in some inaccessible areas, but such operations can lead to unrest on the ground as people could compete for limited supplies. This method, therefore, cannot be a preferred option to distribute relief materials.

Further, we should not suspect the intent of foreign countries who want to come here to help our relief and rehabilitation efforts. We should get rid of our ultra-nationalism and not think that foreign rescue teams are violating our sovereignty. Let us open our door to all kinds of international and national actors for rehabilitation and reconstruction. The poor and needy must not suffer due to the ego of a handful of people who see a conspiracy in every effort of our neighbours and foreign countries who want to help us during these difficult times.

There is a need to pause and ask ourselves, why the international community is not willing to give money to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund? In the recent past, the state bureaucracy was arrogant and instilled fear among the international community in the name of 'non-interference' in Nepal's political matters. The bureaucracy almost silenced them by using different means, sometimes even the media. The government, perhaps, also lost its credibility in the international arena for its handling of transitional justice issues. The government should learn that no matter how strong it is



■ Elderly villagers carrying international relief aid start their 20km hike home from the village of Balua on Thursday. AP

internally, no matter how many Members of Parliament it has in the national parliament in its support, it needs international support in difficult times like these. No nation on earth, at least no poor nation, can live on its own in today's world. Showing too much arrogance to the international community can cost us dearly.

The other reason why international actors are not willing to extend much-needed support to us is because of our track records. Owing to the legacy of corruption in our development works, the international community seems sceptical of directly giving money to the PM's relief fund. It takes long time to build credibility in the eyes of the international community. Still, the government needs support of the international community and the UN and it can get it only when it does not antagonise them.

Join hands
Likewise, the Nepali state should realise that people have no faith that the government alone will be able to reconstruct their damaged houses and lives. Nobody seems to be asking people what their needs are. It is just a one-way supply of goods without understanding the needs and importance of local participation in rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. Lack of knowledge about local values and practices often discourage victims' participation and have thus led to unintended, counter-productive consequences in quake-affected areas. Externally imposed prescriptions cannot better the situation in quake-affected areas.

Let us join hands with the internal community and let them rebuild this country, which requires balancing the holistic view of grassroots realities, mid-level initiatives, and top-level agendas. There is a need to see victims as active participants in the relief distribution process, instead of mere 'receivers' of relief materials.

Jha is an advocate at the Supreme Court

Nepal moves up 10 spots in tourism competitiveness | Page 09 Nepal moved up ten spots to the 102nd position in terms of travel and tourism competitiveness, largely due to the purchasing power parity of tourists becoming a key factor in attracting tourists | 08

CROSS CURRENCY

	USD	EUR	JPY	GBP	CHF	CAD	AUD	INR	NR
NR	102.0300	115.8200	8.5300	160.5400	111.1100	84.9400	81.8100	1.6015	
INR	63.6321	72.204	0.5309	99.997	68.848	52.836	50.906		0.6244
GBP	0.6367	0.7212	0.0053		0.6894	0.5286	0.5098	0.0062	
JPY	119.89	135.83		188.6792	129.68	99.54	95.9000	1.8336	0.1172
EUR	0.8827		0.0074	1.3866	0.9557	0.7522	0.7057	0.0138	0.0086
USD		1.1329	0.0083	1.5706	1.0831	0.8309	0.7998	0.0157	0.0098

HOW TO READ THE TABLE

The chart shows the rates of nine world currencies. Move across the table to find rates of exchange between any two currencies. One unit of currency mentioned vertically is worth that amount in the currency mentioned horizontally.

FOREX	
US Dollar	102.03
Euro	115.82
Pound Sterling	160.54
Japanese Yen	8.53
Chinese Yuan	16.44
Qatari Riyal	28.03
Australian Dollar	81.81
Malaysian Ringgit	28.63
Saudi Arab Riyal	27.21

Exchange rates fixed by Nepal Rastra Bank

self-employment scheme

Quake affects 2k entrepreneurs

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, MAY 16

insured. He said the YSESEF was ready to support the quake-hit entrepreneurs to revive their businesses by extending the loan repayment deadline and other facilitation measures. "Once we get the details of the damages, we will take appropriate decision," said Guragain.

The quake particularly hit the livestock businesses such as cow, buffalo and goat rearing. Those who had opened retail shops, also faced damages. Guragain said the cooperatives through which the loans went to the entrepreneurs also faced damages. Commercial banks such as Agriculture Development Bank, Rastriya Banijya Bank and Nepal Bank, among others, have also lent under the programme.

According to the YSESEF, there has been an investment of Rs730 million in the 13 quake-affected districts, including Sindhupalchok, Rasuwa and Dolakha through 128 cooperatives. "Of the amount, Rs110 million has gone to projects that were damaged by the recent quakes as per the initial estimate," said Binod Kumar Guragain, executive director of YSESEF.

He, however, said the recovery of the loans won't be difficult as all the loans have been

CHINA BECOMES TOP US DEBT HOLDER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, MAY 16

Foreign holdings of US debt rose in March as China ramped up its purchases and displaced Japan as the leading owner of US Treasury securities.

The Treasury Department says overseas ownership of US debt rose 2.1 percent in March to \$6.18 trillion. That is below January's record of \$6.22 trillion.

China added \$37.3 billion of Treasury debt, bringing its stockpile to \$1.26 trillion. That's ahead of Japan, which added just \$2.5 billion, lifting its total to \$1.23 trillion.

In February, Japan became the leading owner of US debt for the first time since August 2008. China overtook Japan that year as the Great Recession, higher government spending and a steep drop in tax revenue pushed up US government borrowing.

The US deficit topped \$1 trillion from 2009 through 2012. Foreign governments account for two-thirds of the foreign holdings. In March, the total held by foreign governments rose 1 percent to \$4.13 trillion.

A group of oil exporting nations, which includes Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Algeria, Venezuela and Nigeria, added \$500 million.



provider Ncell. Milan Sharma, communication expert at Ncell, said the company too has received such requests from customers, but the number is minimal.

"We are counselling such house owners with structural engineers and also accessing the buildings. BTS tower is a

Services returning to normal

KATHMANDU: Telecom service providers on Saturday said their services were returning to normal after the earthquakes. NT Managing Director Buddhi Prasad Acharya said 95 percent of NT's BTS (Base Transceiver Station) towers are functioning. He said services in all districts headquarters are intact. Ncell's Communication Expert Milan Sharma told 90 percent of Ncell's towers in 15 affected districts are up. Ncell said it is facing difficulties in powering up towers in places like

Dolakha where 57 percent services is functioning, and Sindhupalchowk where 78 percent towers are functioning after Tuesday's aftershock. NT too said it is facing problems in areas like Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk and Ramechhap following the aftershock. Both the leading service providers have said there has been a significant downfall in the congestion of voice calls and SMS services as the panic level among the people due to the earthquake has dropped. (PR)

property for us. If it's unsafe putting it on a particular house, we too won't take risk."

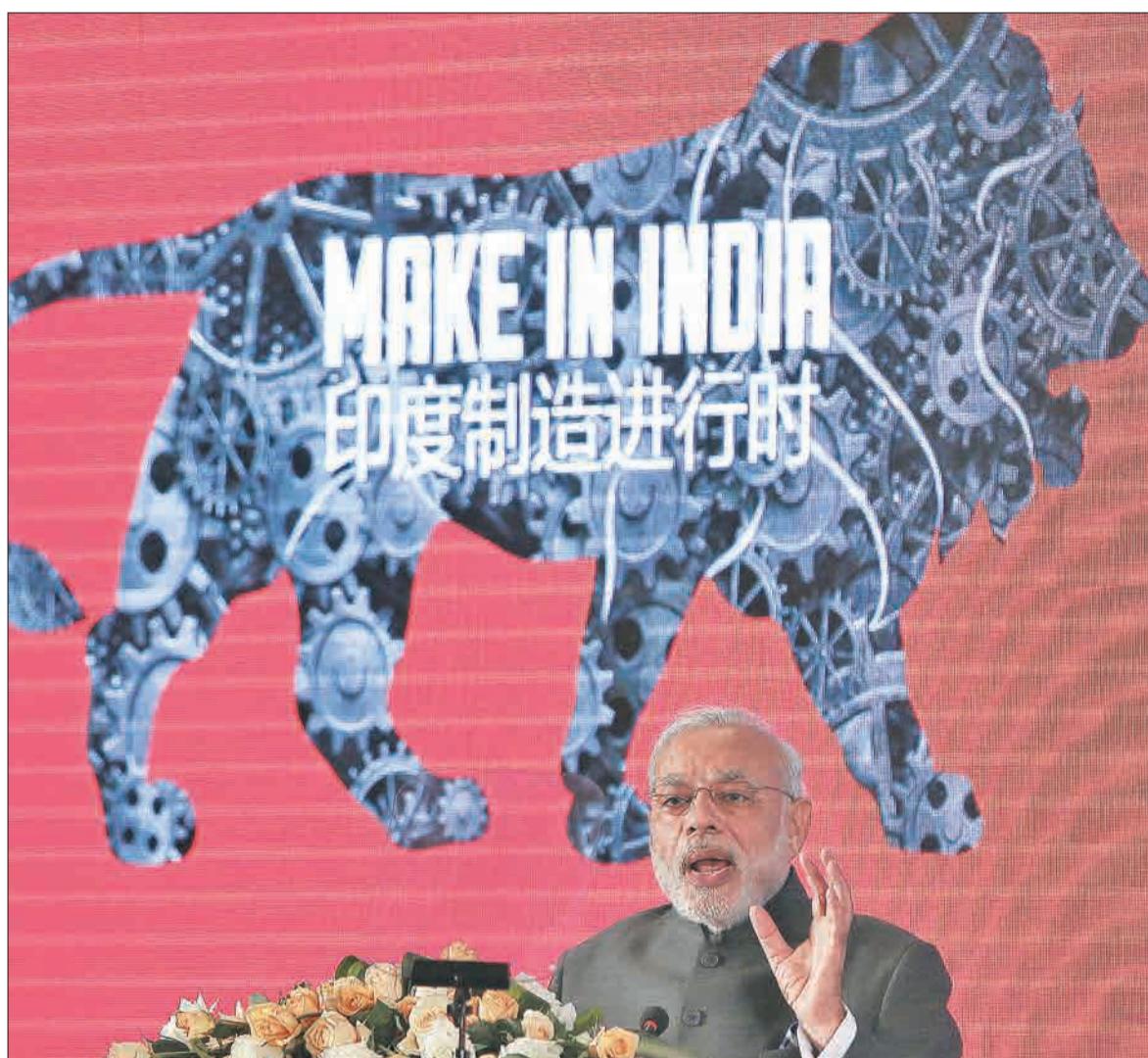
Sharma said, adding apart from severe structural damages, the house owners need not worry since there is no specific report on a house that has been collapsed due to the tower.

According to an Ncell source, two buildings with

Ncell tower has collapsed in Kathmandu.

An official with a leading telecom service provider told the Post if the there is nominal impact on a house, the company might take a stand on not relocating the tower on contractual obligations signed by the house owner and the service provider at the time of installation.

make-in-india push



■ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the India-China Business Forum in Shanghai, China, on Saturday.

REUTERS

EYEING DEEP-POCKET CUSTOMERS

Despite rise of e-retailers, fund managers make big bet on high-end malls

REUTERS

NEW YORK, MAY 16

Even as the rise of online retailers such as Amazon.com Inc leads analysts to predict the eventual death of the American shopping mall, real estate fund managers are betting some will prosper—if they can lure the right kind of consumer.

Simon Property Group Inc, the largest high-end mall operator in the country with properties including the Palo Alto, California's Stanford Shopping Center and suburban Philadelphia's King of Prussia Mall is the top holding in 53 of 11 US real estate funds tracked by Lipper.

The average real estate fund devotes 8.8 percent of its portfolio to Simon, a bigger average bet than the 7.6 percent that tech funds invest in Apple Inc and

almost one percentage point more than the weight of Simon in the benchmark S&P US REIT index.

Still a symbol of a car-based, middle-class suburban America, malls are increasingly seen as viable only if they attract the affluent.

Fund managers are bullish on so-called Class A malls, anchored by department stores like Bloomingdale's and featuring retailers like Apple, reflecting how better-off consumers have thrived since the end of the financial crisis while middle and lower income consumers have struggled.

"Class A malls are repositioning themselves to be destinations with more restaurants, which is making them more resilient to what's going on with the Internet," said Rick Romano, a

portfolio manager of the \$3.8 billion Prudential Global Real Estate fund, who holds 4.5 percent of his portfolio in Simon, his top holding. Class A malls are also the only shopping centers able to attract an Apple store, which can post annual sales of more than \$5,000 a square foot—the highest of any US retailer—and boost sales growth for other retailers throughout the mall, Romano said.

As a result, Simon has been able to post rent increases of 18.9 percent for new leases over the last 12 months, according to Paul Morgan, an analyst at MLV & Co.

Simon's average rent per square foot—which includes ongoing and new leases—rose 4.5 percent in the first quarter compared with the year before, or about six times the 0.8 percent pace of inflation in the US

Still a symbol of a car-based, middle-class suburban America, malls are increasingly seen as viable only if they attract the affluent

Bloomingdale's is the most frequent anchor store at the highest-rated malls in the country, followed by Nordstrom.

Those Americans in the top 20 percent of income—or Class A mall shoppers—have seen their household assets jump from about \$15 trillion in 2010 to \$25 trillion in 2014, according to Green Street Advisors.

Household assets for Class B and lower mall customers rose from about \$7 trillion in 2010 to a little over \$10 trillion in 2014.

Class B malls are often saddled with struggling department stores such as Sears or JC Penney as anchors, making them less attractive to prospective tenants. Some 24 such malls have closed since 2010, and an additional 60 are on the brink of closure, according to Green Street Advisors.

No REIT fund holds Class B or lower mall operators as their largest holding, according to Lipper. JC Penney and Sears are the most frequent anchor stores at Class C and lower malls, according to Green Street.

There are about 1,000 enclosed shopping malls in the US. Foot traffic at malls during the November and December holiday shopping season fell from approximately 35 billion visits in 2010 to 17.6 billion in 2013, according to an October Cushman and

Wakefield report.

Online commerce now accounts for 15 percent of retail sales—just 5 percentage points less than the percentage of retail sales that come from malls and gaining, according to a report from Green Street Advisors.

Investor demand for high-end malls will rise even if consumer spending overall flattens or starts to slow, said Jason Ko, a co-portfolio manager of the \$2.1 billion JP Morgan Realty Income fund who has 7.8 percent of his portfolio in Simon, his largest position.

Macerich Co, the third-largest mall owner in the US, rejected a \$16.8 billion takeover offer from Simon Property on April 1, a merger that would give Simon an even larger hold of the high-end mall market. Simon is not expected to come back with a higher offer, analysts and fund managers

said. "What that attempt signifies is that high quality malls are irreplaceable: difficult to build and difficult to buy," Ko said.

Shares of Simon Property are down 5.5 percent since Macerich rejected its takeover offer, while shares of Macerich have fallen 2.2 percent over the same time. Over the last 12 months, shares of Simon are up 5.7 percent, or about 2 percentage points less than the 7.9 percent gain in the benchmark index.

Simon shares closed Wednesday at \$181.31, compared with the average target price of \$217.05 among analysts tracked by Thomson Reuters.

At that price, Simon is selling at 39 times trailing 12 month earnings, slightly below the average 45 times earnings among its peers, according to Thomson Reuters data.

NEWS DIGEST

Airtel gets \$2.5b credit line

MUMBAI: India's top mobile carrier Bharti Airtel has received financing commitments of up to \$2.5 billion from top Chinese banks as it tries to invest in the growth of data networks across its global operations. Bharti Airtel, which operates in 20 countries across Asia and Africa, said on Saturday that China Development Bank had committed a \$2 billion credit line, while Industrial and Commercial Bank of China has offered a \$500 million credit line. The company signed the term sheets for the financing options in the presence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on an official visit to China. The transaction needs approvals, including from India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India, it said in a statement. (REUTERS)

Lockheed-Boeing JV lays off execs

WASHINGTON: United Launch Alliance, a joint venture of Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co, on Friday said it was cutting its executive ranks by 30 percent in December through what it called voluntary departures by 12 executives. Tony Bruno, chief executive of the venture, told Reuters in an emailed statement the layoffs were part of ULA's ongoing efforts to adapt to what he called "an increasingly competitive business environment" and redesign its leadership team. ULA, formed by the two largest US weapons makers in 2006, has long been the sole company able to launch US military and intelligence satellites into orbit, but the Air Force expects to certify a new rival, privately-held Space Exploration Technologies, to compete for some of those launches next month. The company is also under pressure from a new law that limits its use of the Russian RD-180 rocket engines that power its Atlas 5 launch vehicles after 2019. (REUTERS)

Toys R Us to close FAO store

NEW YORK: Toys R Us is closing its iconic FAO Schwarz store, citing the high and rising costs of running the retail space on New York City's pricey Fifth Avenue. The company said Friday it will close the 45,000-square-foot store July 15 and it is looking for another location in midtown Manhattan. FAO Schwarz says it is the oldest toy store in the US, as it has had a location in New York City since 1870. It moved to its current Fifth Avenue location in 1986. The location features a candy store, numerous specialty toy departments spread across three levels, and personal shoppers. It has been featured in several movies, including "Big," where Tom Hanks danced on its large floor piano. Toys R Us, of Wayne, New Jersey, has been privately held since 2005. (AP)

travel and tourism competitiveness 2015

Nepal moves up 10 spots to 102nd position

SANGAM PRASAIN
KATHMANDU, MAY 16

Nepal moved up ten spots to the 102nd position in terms of travel and tourism competitiveness, largely due to the purchasing power parity of tourists becoming a key factor in attracting tourists, according to the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness 2015 report.

But big worries remain whether Nepal will be on the world tourism map after the Great Earthquake that has destroyed most of the tourism infrastructure, including major heritage sites, which are the major tourism draw.

The report published biennially by the Swiss-based World Economic Forum ranked Nepal 7th in terms of the purchasing power parity, among 141 countries surveyed.

With the exchange rate going in favour of foreign visitors, tourists get Rs 100 for \$1

and the stronger US dollar has made Nepal one of the cheapest destinations for travelers.

Backed by the strength of increased tourists' purchasing power, or devaluation of Nepali currency against the US dollar, the global report has ranked Nepal 23rd in terms of the price competitiveness destination.

In terms of the travel and tourism competitiveness in the South Asia, Nepal trails behind India (52nd), Bhutan (87th), but ahead of Pakistan (125th) and Bangladesh (127th), according to the report.

Suman Pandey, president of the Pacific Asia Travel Association's (Pata) Nepal Chapter, said due to growing investment in the country's tourism industry and enhanced service levels, Nepal's competitive ranking has improved significantly for the last couple of years.

Pandey said tourism is

NEPAL'S PERFORMANCE

INDICATOR	RANK
Price Competitiveness	23
Natural Resources	25
Prioritization of Tourism	59
International Openness	81
Health and Hygiene	86
Human Resources	96
Air Transport Infrastructure	106
Business Environment	110
Safety and Security	113
Tourist Service Infrastructure	118
Ground Infrastructure	119
Cultural Resources	123
ICT Readiness	126
Environmental Sustainability	133

(Source: Travel and Tourism Competitiveness report)

among the worst hit areas by the current disaster that throws both opportunities and challenges. "The tourism recovery will not be far if there is government commitment to address the sector in a more practical way."

Nepal is ranked 29th among

the 141 countries in terms of the number of World Heritage natural sites, 16th position in terms of the Natural tourism digital demand and 25 in natural resources. But branding of these products has not been so effective. Nepal's effective marketing to attract tourists also stands poor at 78th in the global ranking.

The government has not accorded priority for the development of tourism. The report said the government's priority to Nepal's travel and tourism stands 51st in the world.

In 2013, Nepal was ranked 52nd in terms of the government's prioritisation of the travel and tourism industry. Safety and security of tourists has also been a matter of concern. The report ranked Nepal 113th in terms of security.

The worse part is the quality of air infrastructure is deteriorating by the year. In 2013, the country's air transport infrastructure was

ranked at 121st and within two years, the quality of air transport infrastructure dropped to 128th position.

In terms of the quality of roads, Nepal is ranked 115th, while in terms of tourist service infrastructure it is ranked 118th.

The report said the country is not open when it comes to the openness of bilateral Air Service Agreements.

Nepal's travel and tourism industry generated 503,800 jobs and its contribution to the country's GDP stood \$738 million annually, the report said.

The office used to collect Rs 55 million revenues on an average daily. After the quake, the amount has dropped to Rs 20 million.

Dhungana said one of the main reasons behind the downfall in imports is Indian vehicle drivers' reluctance to enter Nepal fearing the quake.

However, the most significant growth in international arrivals is observed in South-East Asia, thanks in part to its region's price competitiveness and the rapid expansion of its middle class.

Imports through Biratnagar customs down 50 percent

BINOD BHANDARI
BIRATNAGAR, MAY 16

Imports through the Biratnagar customs have decreased by more than 50 percent.

Imports of items like industrial raw materials, business items and petroleum, among others, have dropped after the April 25 Great Earthquake. Due to a significant drop in demand, industries along the Sunhari-Morang Industrial corridor have reduced industrial production.

"The imports have gone down by almost 70 percent," Rajendra Dhungana, officer at the Biratnagar Customs Office said.

The office used to collect Rs 55 million revenues on an average daily. After the quake, the amount has dropped to Rs 20 million.

Dhungana said one of the main reasons behind the downfall in imports is Indian vehicle drivers' reluctance to enter Nepal fearing the quake.

Industries Association President Shiva Shankar Agrawal told the Post the industries have not received payments for goods that were dispatched before the quake. Workers too are reluctant to come back to work.



ing fully which resulted in reduced imports.

Rajendra Raut, senior vice president of Morang Merchant Association, said imports and production have dropped due to the decrease in consumption in markets including Kathmandu. "Until the consumption resumes to normal, the situation will remain the same," he said.

Industries along the corridor have cut production by over 50 percent.

Industries Association President Shiva Shankar Agrawal told the Post the industries have not received payments for goods that were dispatched before the quake. Workers too are reluctant to come back to work.

SENSEX GAINS FOR SECOND STRAIGHT WEEK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, MAY 16

The benchmark BSE Sensex extended gains for the second straight week, surging 219 points to end at 27,324.00, on persistent buying mainly in auto, banking, consumer durable and healthcare stocks on hopes of cut in policy rates by RBI.

Hopes of timely arrival of southwest monsoon by IMD amid short-coverings at the flag-end of the week also boosted the market sentiment.

The Indian Meteorological Department said that conditions are becoming favourable for advancement of southwest monsoon and is likely to hit the Kerala coast on May 30 even as the country stares at the possibility of below normal rains for a second consecutive year.

The Sensex resumed higher at 27,249.42 and hovered in a range of 26,750.01 and 27,544.24 before ending the week at 27,324.00, showing a gain of 218.61 points or 0.81 percent. It has gained 312.69 points of 1.16 percent in two weeks.

The 50-share NSE Nifty also firmed up by 70.85 points or 0.86 percent to close at 8,262.35 after moving in a range of 8,089.80 and 8,332.75 during the week.

Of the 30-share Sensex pack, 16 stocks rose and the rest fell in the week.

On the macro front, the industrial output growth touched a five-month low of 2.1 percent in March from a revised 4.9 percent in February on the back of an across-the-board slowdown in production while consumer price index-based retail inflation eased to a four-month low of 4.87 percent in April from a revised 5.25 percent in March.

Inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) remained in negative zone last month. WPI inflation stood at negative 2.65 percent in April. WPI inflation was (-) 2.33 percent in March.

VW sales fall for first time in years

REUTERS
FRANKFURT, MAY 16

Volkswagen group sales fell for the first time in at least four and a half years in April, raising pressure on the German carmaker to fix trouble spots laid bare by the shock ouster of Chairman Ferdinand Piech.

Deliveries at the 12-brand group, including luxury division Audi and sports-car maker Porsche, slid 1.3 percent year-on-year to 853,200 cars, VW said on Friday, as slowing momentum in China and a drop in Latin American sales outweighed gains in Europe.

Monthly sales at Europe's largest automotive group have not shrunk at least since December 2010, according to company records checked by Reuters. The drop in April,

published by VW after German stock markets had closed for the week, reflects the 4.8 percent decline published earlier this week in core brand sales which account for 60 percent of group deliveries.

"While we felt tailwinds in Western Europe and North America and could increase group deliveries strongly in some places, South America and Eastern Europe remain

challenging, especially due to the market development in Russia," VW sales chief Christian Klinger said in a statement.

Volkswagen Chief Executive Martin Winterkorn has pledged to tackle problems - such as weak profitability at the core VW brand and underperformance in the United States - that have come into focus after being flagged by Piech, prompting a public show-down with the CEO and the Chairman Piech's ouster.

While VW is struggling to revive business in the US due



debt issues



■ Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras delivers a speech during the Economist Conference on 'Europe: The comeback, Greece: How resilient?' in Athens, Greece, on Friday. Tsipras said Athens and its lenders had found common ground in their negotiations but the government would not back down from its red lines such as no cuts to wages and pensions.

REUTERS

LOOMING DEADLINE

Google versus Oracle case exposes differences within Obama administration

REUTERS
SAN FRANCISCO/WASHINGTON, MAY 16

The Obama administration has been locked in internal wrangling over what position to take in high profile litigation between two American technology giants, Google and Oracle, according to multiple sources familiar with the discussions.

It faces an end-of-May deadline to decide whether to take sides in a case before the US Supreme Court that will have wide implications for the technology industry.

The case involves how much copyright protection should extend to the Java programming language. Oracle won a federal appeals court ruling last year that allows it to copyright parts of Java, while Google argues it should be free to use Java with-

out paying a licensing fee.

Google, which used Java to design its Android smartphone operating system, appealed to the US Supreme Court. The high court then asked the Obama administration in January for its opinion on whether it should take the case.

The nine justices request that US Solicitor General Donald Verrelli, Jr., the government's top lawyer before the Supreme Court, weigh in on about 20 cases a year in which the federal government has a strong interest.

The justices generally give greater weight to what he or she says than other third parties that take a side in a case, an influence which has caused the solicitor general to be dubbed the "tenth justice."

According to Google, an Oracle victory would obstruct "an enor-

mous amount of innovation" because software developers would not be able to freely build on each other's work. But Oracle says it is effective copyright protection that's the key to software innovation.

It is unclear what position the administration will ultimately take. Deliberations within the Obama administration have mirrored the larger debate in the technology world about how broadly copyright should apply to software, the sources said.

Charles Duan, a lawyer for interest group Public Knowledge, which backs Google in the case, said he met with officials at the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice anti-trust division to advance the view that Oracle is seeking a monopoly on software. "They were very interested in the competition

and faces May-end deadline to decide whether to take sides in the case that will have wide implications for the technology industry

implications of the case," Duan said of the antitrust regulators. An FTC representative declined to comment.

Another source briefed on the discussions said the solicitor general's office has pushed back on pro-Google arguments. The debate is coming down to the wire as the solicitor general's office, a division of the DOJ, usually files its opinions by the end of May to give the Supreme Court time to make a decision by the conclusion of its term at the end

of June. Google's Android operating system is the world's best-selling smartphone platform. Oracle sued Google in 2010, claiming that Google had improperly incorporated parts of Java into Android. Oracle is seeking roughly \$1 billion on its copyright claims. The case examined whether computer language that connects programs (known as application programming interfaces, or APIs) can be copyrighted.

A San Francisco federal judge decided that the Java APIs replicated by Google were not subject to copyright protection and were free for all to use. But the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit reversed that, saying it was bound to respect copyright protection for software "until either the Supreme Court or Congress tells us otherwise."

Google has a close relationship

with President Barack Obama's administration, and executive chairman Eric Schmidt has long been a high profile supporter of the president's. But there is no indication the internal debate on software copyright involves any issues beyond legal policy.

Legal teams from both Oracle and Google made separate presentations to government officials in March, a third source familiar with the meetings said. The company pitches attracted so much interest from different government agencies that they had to be moved to a larger conference room at the Department of Justice to accommodate all the lawyers, this source said.

Some of the administration's technology advisers have been advocating the pro-Google position as well, the second source said. This week, the White House

appointed Edward Felten as deputy US Chief Technology Officer. Felten, a computer scientist, signed onto a legal brief last November urging the Supreme Court to hear Google's appeal.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment. Representatives for Oracle and Google declined to comment.

Meanwhile, the US Copyright Office, a division of the Library of Congress, is known as being pro-copyright which could make it more likely to back Oracle, according to a lawyer for groups that support

SPORTS DIGEST

Rooney, Shaw set to miss Arsenal clash

LONDON: Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney and left back Luke Shaw will miss the Premier League game against Arsenal on Sunday due to injury. Rooney suffered a dead leg in last weekend's 2-1 win at Crystal Palace and Shaw sustained a facial injury, the latest in a succession of fitness problems to plague the 19-year-old in his first season at Old Trafford. (REUTERS)

Middlesbrough reach playoff final

LONDON: Middlesbrough moved within one win of securing a golden ticket to the Premier League by cruising past Brentford 3-0 to win their Championship semi-final promotion playoff 5-1 on aggregate on Friday. Middlesbrough, coached by Spaniard Aitor Karanka, will meet Norwich City or Ipswich Town in the final at Wembley on May 25. Bournemouth and Watford were automatically promoted. (REUTERS)

Ludogorets win Bulgarian title

RAZGRAD: Ludogorets landed a fourth successive Bulgarian crown, and their first under coach Georgi-Dermendzhiev, with two games to spare by beating second-placed Lokomotiv Sofia 4-1 on Friday. The Eagles continued their dominance of domestic football by winning an eighth trophy since 2012. (REUTERS)

Dnipro charged by Uefa

LONDON: Uefa has opened disciplinary proceedings against Ukraine's Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk following their Europa League semi-final win over Napoli, European football governing body said on Friday. Dnipro are facing charges over the behaviour of their fans, with offences including the setting off and throwing of fireworks, crowd disturbances, a pitch invasion and a racist banner. Uefa also cited organisational issues such as blocked stairways. The cases will be dealt with by Uefa's disciplinary body on May 21. They will face Sevilla in the final on May 27 in Warsaw. (REUTERS)

Dallas held 0-0 by Red Bulls

FRISCO: Dallas missed a chance to go clear at the top of the MLS standings when they were held to a scoreless draw at home against the New York Red Bulls on Friday. The point was enough to move Dallas top of the Western Conference standings, above Vancouver and level with East leader DC United. (AP)

CSK thrash Kings XI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, MAY 16

Table-toppers Chennai Super Kings (CSK) assured themselves of a spot in the Indian Premier League (IPL) Qualifier 1 as they registered a overwhelming seven-wicket victory over Kings XI Punjab here on Saturday.

Two-time champions CSK finished their league campaign with 18 points, while all of the five higher placed teams have only a game left to play and they have 15 or 14 points. CSK put up a strong bowling performance and restricted KXIP to 130-7. During the chase, a 92-run stand between Faf Du Plessis (55) and Suresh Raina (37 not out) got them to an easy victory, dumping last year's runners-up to the bottom with only six points from 14 matches.

Earlier, after skipper George Bailey won the toss and elected to bat, KXIP never got it going from the start and lost wickets regularly. Axar scored 32 in 28 balls and forged a 44-run stand for the second wicket with Rishi Dhawan (25) to ensure that they cross the 100-run mark. Kings XI lost three wickets inside the first six overs. Opener Wriddhiman Saha (16) was holed out at cover off left-arm spinner Pawan Negi.

Later, Bailey (7) paid the price for touching an away moving Ashish Nehra delivery that landed in the hands of wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Manan Vohra (4) sliced an Ishwar Pandey delivery to Nehra at third man to leave them reeling at 35-3 in 5.1 overs. CSK off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin



■ Faf Du Plessis of Chennai Super Kings bats against Kings XI Punjab during their IPL match in Mohali on Saturday.

PHOTO COURTESY: CRICINFO/BCCI

indian premier league

Jadeja took a wicket each to restrict Kings XI to 130-7.

In reply, CSK gave their opponents a glimmer of hope at the beginning. Veteran Michael Hussey (1) and Brendon McCullum (6) lost their wickets to leave CSK in a spot of bother at 10-2. However, du Plessis and Raina brought CSK in a comfortable position with a handsome partnership that saw them playing some delightful strokes but at the same time they were very guarded. Till medium pacer

had Gurkeerat Singh Mann (15) stumped by Dhoni and Glenn Maxwell was bowled by left-arm tweaker Ravichandran Jadeja. Following Maxwell's wicket, the hosts were in trouble at 55-5 in 10 overs and the script refused to change in the next 10 overs.

Negi returned to remove left-handed batsman David Miller (11) to shut the door on Kings XI's chances of a comeback. Afterwards, Patel and Dhawan put up a useful 44-run stand. For the visitors, Negi took 2-25. Nehra, Dwayne Bravo, Pandey, Ashwin,

helped Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad in a rain-curtailed match. Gayle smashed a 10 ball 35. Chasing a revised target of 81 runs from six over, the Challengers got over the line with a ball to spare and with six wickets in hand.

Raina remained not out during his 41-run knock in 31 balls and along with Dhoni (not out 25 in 16 balls), the Indian left-hander completed KXIP's misery.

On Friday, Virat Kohli's late blitz of 44 runs from 19 balls and Chris Gayle's cameo

helped Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad in a rain-curtailed match. Gayle smashed a 10 ball 35. Chasing a revised target of 81 runs from six over, the Challengers got over the line with a ball to spare and with six wickets in hand.

Summary

Chennai Super Kings 134-3 in 16.5 overs (F du Plessis 55, S Raina 41*, S Sharma 1-9, B Hendricks 1-25) beat Kings XI Punjab 130-7 in 20 overs (A Patel 32, R Dhawan 25*, P Negi 2-25, R Jadeja 1-18) by seven wickets

Zimbabwe 'confirms' Pakistan tour

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD, MAY 16

Zimbabwe Cricket has officially confirmed it will be sending its team to Pakistan as per schedule next week, a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman said on Friday.

Agha Akbar said that ZC has confirmed the tour "in writing" to the PCB on Friday and the tourists will arrive in Lahore early next Tuesday for two Twenty20s and three ODIs. Earlier, PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan and his ZC counterpart Wilson Manase talked three times by telephone since confusion arose on Thursday when Zimbabwe canceled the tour, then deferred the decision to Friday. Khan said Manase told him the tour will go ahead, and Khan asked him to send confirmation in writing.

"Manase told me he has got the clearance from his government, and he will send it in writing too," Khan said. Khan said on all three occasions, Manase reassured him about the tour, the first by a Test-playing nation to Pakistan in more than six years. Manase also said he will accompany the team. The tour was jeopardized after militants killed 45 minority Shiites on a bus in the southern port city of Karachi on Wednesday.

On Thursday, the Zimbabwe government, which must clear all sports tours, recommended the cricketers not go to Pakistan over security concerns. Zimbabwe Cricket initially announced the tour was canceled, but less than 30 minutes later said there was no decision yet. Test teams



■ Shaharyar Khan

stopped visiting Pakistan after the Sri Lanka team bus was attacked by gunmen en route to a Test in 2009 in Lahore. Six police and a driver were killed, and several Sri Lankans wounded.

Zimbabwe had already gone against the advice of the international players' association in agreeing to the tour. ZC managing director Alastair Campbell was just in Lahore last week with a delegation from Zimbabwe, and said they were excited about the tour, and that Pakistan "left no stone unturned to make sure that we will be safe."

A meeting of organising committee of the series was held at Gaddafi Stadium on Friday and the ticket sales will begin from Saturday. "The preparations for the tour are in full swing and this morning we had a meeting of the organising committee to tie all the loose ends," PCB chief operating officer Subhan Ahmad said. "From the inquiries and feedback that we are getting, people are really eager to come and watch the revival of international cricket in Pakistan."

Gatlin sprints to best ever 100m victory

REUTERS
DOHA, MAY 16



■ Justin Gatlin

Justin Gatlin blasted out a warning that he is ready to challenge Usain Bolt's 100 metres hegemony when he stormed to a lifetime best 9.74 seconds to win the event in the opening Diamond League meeting of the season on Friday.

In a sizzling night's action Mo Farah suffered a rare loss, to Ethiopian Hagos Gebrhiwet over 3,000m, Pedro Pichardo and Christian Taylor joined triple jump's exclusive 18-metre club and Jasmin Stowers continued her heady rise in the 100m hurdles. As always, however, the 100m was the race everyone wanted to watch, with the big question being whether 33-year-old Gatlin would start this season in the form he finished the last where he posted six of the year's seven fastest times.

The twice-banned doper wasted no time in answering as he was first out of the blocks and clear by halfway, punching the air after clocking the world leading time and leaving second-place American Mike Rodgers trail-

ing by more than two metres in 9.96. Jamaican Bolt remains the favourite to retain his world title in Beijing later this year but knows he will have to be right at the top of his game and fully fit to hold off the challenge of the 2004 Olympic champion. "It was a magical night for me," Gatlin said. "Doha is a great place for me and with that performance I put out a statement."

Double world and Olympic distance champion Farah was hoping to do the same in the

3,000m and looked in control until just after the bell. However, the Briton, who broke the world indoor two-mile record earlier this year, struggled over the equivalent distance in Doha. When Ethiopian duo Gebrhiwet and Yomif Kejelcha burst past him, Farah was unable to hold them off and, although he clawed his way back into contention on the home straight, he finished second to clear 18 metres.

Fans alongside the triple jump pit were treated to a memorable night as Cuba's Pichardo soared to 18.06 metres with his third jump, making him the third-best triple-jumper ever behind Kenny Harrison and Jonathan Edwards. There was more to come, however, as Taylor flew to 18.04 with his final jump of the night—becoming only the fourth man to clear 18 metres.

Fellow American Stowers hammered a stacked field with her third personal best of the year and a Diamond League record 12.35 seconds in the 100 hurdles.

Mane scores fastest hat-trick

REUTERS
LONDON, MAY 16



■ Southampton's Sadio Mane (centre) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal against Aston Villa during their Premier League match at the St Mary's in Southampton on Saturday.

Southampton's Senegal forward Sadio Mane rewrote the record books with the fastest ever hat-trick in the English top-flight inside three minutes as they thrashed relegation-threatened Aston Villa 6-1 on Saturday. His treble was timed at two minutes and 56 seconds breaking Scotland striker Graham Leggat's record of three minutes for Fulham in a club record 10-1 win over Ipswich Town in 1963. Mane also snatched Robbie Fowler's record for the fastest Premier League treble hat-trick which was four minutes and 33 seconds for Liverpool against Arsenal on August 28 1994. Fans alongside the triple jump pit were treated to a memorable night as Cuba's Pichardo soared to 18.06 metres with his third jump, making him the third-best triple-jumper ever behind Kenny Harrison and Jonathan Edwards. There was more to come, however, as Taylor flew to 18.04 with his final jump of the night—becoming only the fourth man to clear 18 metres.

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The win provisionally took Southampton into sixth place, which will bring a Europa League spot for next season, above Tottenham Hotspur who host Hull City later on Saturday. Villa's defeat leaves them still in danger of the drop in 14th place four points and four places above Hull, who occupy the last relegation spot, with one game remaining.

Mane struck in the 13th, 14th and 16th minutes to give Saints a 3-0 lead before Shane Long netted twice to send the home side into the dressing

rooms leading 5-1 at halftime. Villa's Belgium striker Christian Benteke had pulled a goal back in added time before the break prompting the travelling fans to sing: "We're going to win 6-5!"

But it was Southampton who scored again through striker Graziano Pelle in the 81st minute after Mane played a sublime one-two before crossing for the Italian to sweep home. A smiling Mane shook hands with some of the delighted Southampton fans at the end of the match, walking around the pitch with the match ball.

english premier league

Mourinho set to stay away from market

LONDON: Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho is expecting to be busier on the beach than in the transfer market as he prepares to defend the Premier League title next season.

Mourinho signed striker Diego Costa and midfielder Cesc Fabregas after selling defender David Luiz last year and Chelsea's new recruits helped the club to a first league title since 2010. With the majority of his squad in place for next season, Mourinho is not planning much activity this year. "I expect to be busy walking from the sand to the water, swim a little bit and be back to the sand again," Mourinho told a news conference on Friday. "Last year, I was very keen to sell some players. This year, the base is to keep the squad." (REUTERS)

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DESPERATE TIMES, DESPERATE MEASURES



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- 1) Women stand among the rubble of their houses destroyed by the April 25 quake in Bhaktapur on Saturday.
 - 2) An earthquake victim receives relief at Banchare in Lamidanda, Dolakha. Government relief materials are yet to reach many remote villages in the district hit hardest by earthquake.
 - 3) Security personnel demolish a quake-damaged house at Kalopul in Kathmandu.
 - 4) An aerial view of the quake-ravaged Sukhani village in Dolakha.
 - 5) People donate blood for quake-injured people at Bhrikutimandap in Kathmandu.
 - 6) Political and religious leaders participate in a prayer at Pashupatinath area in the Capital.
 - 7) Children play by their tent at Sanepa in Lalitpur. A large number of people are still living out in open spaces in the Valley.
 - 8) A woman after receiving relief materials from donors at Chiti VDC in Lamjung.
 - 9) Security personnel load emergency supplies in a helicopter in Dolakha.
 - 10) United Mission to Nepal bring relief materials for quake-hit families at Lapa village in Dhading.

POST PHOTOS: KAUSHAL ADHIKARI, NIMESH JANG RAI, HEMANTA SHRESTHA, SHALIGRAM TIWARI, SURBINDRA KUMAR PUN, HARIHAR SING RATHOUR & ASH GURUNG



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