

# the kathmandupost

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FNCCI removes Pandey from president's post


**a welcome diversion**


■ People enjoy at the pool of Kathmandu Fun Valley in Palanse, Bhaktapur, on Wednesday. The recreation centre has announced free entry scheme for children until Friday, to help take their minds off the fear caused by the April 25 earthquake.

POST PHOTO: SURBINDRA KUMAR PUN

**RAPE, ABUSE  
REPORTED IN  
ENCAMPMENTS**

PRATICHA DULAL

KATHMANDU, MAY 27

Inclement weather and outbreak of diseases aren't the only things that the families displaced by the earthquake and now living under tents need to worry about. There are also riotous drunkards and worse, sexual predators.

Two cases of rape and five cases of attempt to rape have been reported in temporary shelters inside Kathmandu Valley since the April 25 earthquake. Police said a five-year-old girl who was living in a tent with her family at Lainchour was raped by a 42 year-old man on May 18.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Tara Thapa of Metropolitan Police Office at Ranipokhari said the accused has been arrested and the investigation was underway.

&gt;&gt; CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**US copter crash  
probe still on: NA**

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, MAY 27

The Nepal Army (NA) has said its attention has been drawn to media reports that five injured people who were rescued by a chopper from Dolakha have not been traced yet, and that they might have been killed in UH-1Y Huey helicopter crash in Ghorthali of Sindupalchok district on May 12.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the Army said it has been searching for the five people from Laduk and Lamidanda VDCs of Dolakha who were reportedly airlifted from Singati on May 12 for treatment in Kathmandu. The Army also said that it had retrieved more human remains from the crash site on Monday. The NA had earlier stated that six US marines and two NA personnel were killed in the US helicopter, which was carrying out the

relief and rescue operations in Dolakha district.

The US Embassy in Kathmandu said it would not like to comment on the matter, saying "we have nothing to add other than our thoughts and prayers are with the families (of those who reportedly are missing.)"

The NA statement said the additional human remains have been brought to Kathmandu for further investigations. It added that DNA tests were being conducted on them to see if they match with the remains of eight personnel of NA and US Marine Corps killed in the crash.

"The investigations are still on to ascertain if there were anybody else on board the helicopter apart from the NA and US Army personnel," read the statement.

A joint team of the NA and US Army is investigating to find out the reality through DNA tests."

**CONTROLLED  
BLASTINGS AT  
DAMMED LAKE**

GHANASHYAM KHADKA

MAY 27

Security personnel have made an attempt to clear water from an artificial lake dammed by landslides on the Kaligandaki river.

The Nepal Army (NA) personnel carried out a couple of controlled explosions at the dam on Wednesday in a bid to drain the lake. The water level in the lake has decreased by a foot after the blasts although the NA team had expected more water to recede from the dammed water overnight.

The Kaligandaki river has been blocked at Baisari in Bhagawati VDC by a massive landslide that cascaded down Mahavir in Ramche-9 along the Beni-Jomsom road stretch on Sunday morning. The site is about 8km north of Beni, the district headquarters of Myagdi. The landslide dammed lake has displaced 27 households.

The investigations are still on to ascertain if there were anybody else on board the helicopter apart from the NA and US Army personnel," read the statement.

A joint team of the NA and US Army is investigating to find out the reality through DNA tests."

**LABOUR SHORTAGE**

## Capital grapples with soaring costs

ROSHAN SEDIHAI

KATHMANDU, MAY 27

Labour costs have almost doubled in the Capital after most of the menial workers left the Valley in the wake of the April 25 earthquake and aftershocks.

The labour shortage coupled with their reluctance to work on quake-damaged buildings has shot up the wage, according to the Federation of Contractor's Association of Nepal (FCAN).

Labourers working on piecemeal basis are now charging Rs 700-1,000 for an eight-hour day. Many house owners in urgent need of home repairs are also paying an additional sum in commission to agents.

Even before the quake, labour shortage had been a big problem in Kathmandu and other major cities in the country due to attraction towards overseas jobs.

Nearly 80 percent of an estimated 300,000 construction workers are believed to have left the Valley following the quake. In the absence of enough workforce, hundreds of companies are now employing Indian and Bangladeshi workers.

A Department of Foreign Employment record shows



■ People demolish the quake-damaged building in Syuchatar, Kathmandu, on Wednesday.

POST PHOTO: SANJOG MANANDHAR

President Sharad Kumar Gauchan, adding that there will be a big shortfall of workers as the construction works take pace. He said the federation was preparing to submit a proposal to workers seeking official revision of minimum wage rate to attract enough labourers for the reconstruction.

The General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (Gefont), a trade union, has urged the government to formulate a special scheme to attract adequate workforce in the construction sector.

"The government should immediately suspend foreign employment, and offer better pay scheme and facilities to convince semi-skilled workers going to Gulf and Malaysia to work here instead. We are not in a position to import workers from India and Bangladesh," said Gefont President Bishnu Rimal.

But with the government working to strictly enforce a provision regarding free visa and free air ticket, more Nepalis are expected to take up jobs in the Gulf and Malaysia. Although around 400,000 people enter the labour market every year in the country, most of them go abroad due to better pay and facilities.

# Discrepancies in no. of quake-hit families

Officials suspect wrongdoing by some victims to line their pockets

BHADRA SHARMA  
KATHMANDU, MAY 27

The number of families seeking government relief in the earthquake-hit districts has shot up—as much as by 20 percent in some places—raising suspicion of possible wrongdoing by the victims themselves.

Officials involved in aid works suspect that some victims may have registered their names multiple times with the intention of collecting more cash and relief supplies.

In some of the quake-affected districts officials have asked the local bodies to verify the number of registered households with earlier record.

In some places, officials said, there have been cases of former joint families registering their names as separate households. Nuwakot has received the most complaints regarding 'fake households'.

"In some villages, there was over 20 percent rise in the number of households when

Officials have asked the local bodies to verify the number of registered households to prevent duplication

the data was compared with the latest census," said Kosh Hari Niraula, chief district officer (CDO) of Nuwakot.

The 2011 census puts the number of households in Nuwakot at 65,000. The number of families in the district who have registered themselves as the earthquake victims has reached 69,215.

Officials involved in aid works suspect that some victims may have registered their names multiple times with the intention of collecting more cash and relief supplies.

Although the District Administration Office (DAO) has already held several rounds of meetings with the concerned stakeholders—political parties, civil society members, social mobilisers and village development secretaries—about the issue, no measures have been taken to resolve it so far.

"The political parties and the other concerned sides have assured to assist VDC secretaries in verification process, but they have remained largely non-supportive," said Niraula.

Moreover, he added, there have been complaints against some political parties forcing VDC secretaries into conducting the relief works to suit their political interests.

So far, the Nuwakot administration has taken action against seven people who had received immediate cash relief illegally. Many others had returned the cash relief after the authorities warned of legal action against fake victims.

The local administrations of Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, Rasuwa and Gorkha districts have also stumbled across a similar problem where the number of earthquake-affected families does not measure up with the census data.

"The recent census shows that there are around 9,000 households in Rasuwa, but there are already over 12,000 households who have been identified as the earthquake-affected households.

The government has announced to provide Rs 20,000 each to the families rendered homeless by the earthquake and Rs 15,000 cash package for building temporary shelters.

However, with the local bodies struggling to gather the accurate number of families affected by the quake, the plan to distribute cash relief immediately after issuing ID card to the victims has also been hit.



## क्राडापखालाबाट बच्ने आफ्नो हात धुनुहोस्

यस्तो आपतकालीन समयमा क्राडापखाला लाग्ने सम्भावना निकै बढी हुन्छ। आफू र आफ्नो परिवारलाई स्वस्थ राख्न र यस्ता रोगहरूबाट बच्नको लागि खानु अघि, फोहोर कुरा छोए पछि र चर्पी गए पछि सधैँ आफ्नो हात साबुन र पानीले धुनुहोस्।

क्राडापखालाबाट बच्ने माध्यमबाट सर्न जदिन



साबुनले हात धुनुहोस्



चर्पी गएपछि

लाइफबायड्रारा जनहितमा जारी

## NEWS DIGEST

## Phone services cut off in Kalikot

**KALIKOT:** Telephone services have been disrupted in Kalikot district for the past four days. Landline telephone and mobile phone services of Namaste and Sky came to a halt after the generator of Nepal Telecom started malfunctioning abruptly. The district is under the pall of darkness after flood and landslides destroyed Sannigadhi Small Hydropower Project two years ago. "We are planning to resume the services as soon as possible," said Jit Bahadur Tyagi, an official at the Kalikot branch of Nepal Telecom. (PR)

## Indian nat'l held with tiger bones

**GULARIYA:** Forest officials have claimed that Ramjas Banjara, 60, an Indian national held with a tiger's hide and 47 tiger bones towards March end is a member of a notorious international organised criminal group. A police team had arrested Banjara from the house of Thaggu Rimal in Magaragadh-4 in Manpur, Bardia and is in police custody facing charges for smuggling of animal parts. The wanted list of Central Bureau of Investigation, India specifies Banjara as a member of the group which was led by notorious Virrapan, who died in police action. (PR)

# Around 4,000 returning home daily after quakes

## POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, MAY 27

## nepali migrant workers

## 32 Nepali workers held in Malaysia

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Thirty-Two Nepali migrant workers have been arrested in Malaysia for residing in the country without any valid documents. Altogether 54 foreign migrant workers including 32 Nepalis were detained by Malaysia's Immigration Department during a raid on Monday. Immigration officials raided a company in Kedah and

made the arrest. Some 15 Bangladeshis, two Indonesians and one each from China, Myanmar and France were among the arrestees.

Malaysian news agency Bernama has stated that they had violated the country's immigration laws by staying in the country without any valid documents. (PR)

ment had also pledged a free air ticket to workers without means and who failed to get help from their companies.

"Many companies have not just granted paid leave but have also extended financial support to their Nepali employees whose families have been affected by the earthquake," said Foreign Minister Mahendra Bahadur Pandey. Some smaller companies, who were initially reluctant, have also been granting leave upon being requested by the embassies.

Immediately after the earthquake, the ministry and embassies in the major work destinations had requested the concerned governments and employers to grant leave to workers during crisis.

Various rights groups, including the International Trade Union Confederation, had also called on the government of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE to suspend the Kafala system to ensure easy mobility of Nepali migrant workers during crisis and provide them leave with pay and advance salary. Most of the workers are getting leave without much difficulty, according to the Nepali missions in the Gulf and Malaysia. They say some workers at smaller companies and those staying without legal status are facing problems, however. Thousands of Nepalis are believed to be staying without legal status though the exact number is hard to come by.

Ambika Joshi, second secretary at the Nepali Embassy in Kuwait, said the embassy does not have information on the exact number of the

returnees after the quake as migrant workers do not necessarily inform the embassy before leaving. "A few people, including domestic workers, have approached us for help. They were granted leave after the embassy requested the concerned companies and employers," said Joshi.

The Nepali Embassy in Qatar said that hardly 50 migrant workers have sought mission's help for leave from their employers, while the others have been returning on their own. Nitesh Sapkota, second secretary at the embassy in Qatar, said the office has been helping them "in every way possible".

Senior foreign ministry officials in Kathmandu had twice requested Qatari ambassador to Nepal to facilitate in sending the affected workers on emergency leave with advance salary. The Nepali embassies in Saudi Arabia and Malaysia are said to have been using similar diplomatic channel to persuade the respective governments to press the local companies to grant leave for Nepali workers. "Many smaller companies have been reluctant to provide leave though it's not a problem in big companies," said a Nepali embassy official in Saudi Arabia.

An estimated 3.5 million Nepalis work across the Gulf and in Malaysia, with a majority of them coming from the districts affected by the earthquakes.

## ready to move in



■ Anita Nagarkoti applies clay on the floor in her newly-constructed temporary shelter at Pare Thapa Gaun-6, Lele VDC, Lalitpur on Wednesday.

POST PHOTO: KIRAN PANDAY

## Abducted boy freed after 4 wks

## POST REPORT

RAUTAHAT, MAY 27

Police have succeeded in freeing an abducted 15-year-old boy from Indian town of Barguna bordering with Rautahat district on Wednesday. The boy identified as Shivan Patel from Gaur Municipality-5 of Rautahat had been abducted four weeks ago.

A woman has been arrested in connection with the abduction.

Nepali police personnel with the help of India police secured the release of Patel on Tuesday night from a house belonging to Ram Babu Yadav in Sitamarhi, India and handed him over to his parents. Yadav is also currently under police custody for investigation.

Patel was abducted when he had gone to Barguniya market with his friends on April 29. The boys went across the border to repair a mobile

phone after attending their tuition class. The kidnappers had made several calls on his father Bijaya's phone from different Indian numbers demanding Rs 10 million in ransom for his release.

Police managed to reach the place where the boy was held up by tracing the Indian number. Sitamarhi district SP Hari Prasad actively helped in tracking down the abductors, said Guar Superintendent of Police Sanu Babu Thapaliya.

## Quake-hit Lamjung schools resume morning classes in makeshift tents

## ASH GURUNG

LAMJUNG, MAY 27

The worst quake-hit schools in Lamjung district have resumed morning classes that start at 6:00 am and end at 10:30 am. As their buildings have been badly damaged or razed to the ground, these schools are conducting classes under makeshift tents and tarps at the moment.

"We have started to conduct morning shift classes under makeshift tents as it is inadvisable to do so during day time when it gets extremely hot," said Debaki Parajuli, a teacher at Sarada Secondary School in Dhamlikuwa-2, adding that students will be taught under makeshift tents until they come up with better alternatives.

A 10th grader, Mamata Rana Magar from Palungar-7 in Gorkha said morning classes are not so easy to attend as those conducted during the day because they have to come from faraway places. Magar said classes conducted under tents are also "very uncomfortable" for students due to lack of space and other logistics. Pritam Gurung, a student from Bargaun, also said they have been having problems attending morning classes.

"We are happy to study anytime of the day, but classes held in the morning are shorter and teachers don't have enough time to teach us properly," said Gurung.

On the other hand, Janaklal Shrestha, a health teacher at Sarada School, said that students have been advised to use safe drinking water as the sources of water around the school have become polluted due to disturbance in ecology caused by the recent earthquake.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Sarada Secondary School Management Committee, Krishna Kumar Shrestha expressed the school's inability to conduct classes during the day due to the extreme heat. "We cannot conduct classes under tents during day time because of the tremendous heat," he said.



■ Debaki Parajuli of Sarada Secondary School teaches a class run by the school in a makeshift classroom in Dhamlikuwa-2, Lamjung.

## Makwanpur DEO to set up temp learning centres

## PRATAP BISTA

HETAUDA, MAY 27

The District Education Office (DEO) in Makwanpur plans to resume schools from May 31 by establishing temporary learning centres, managing multiple classes as well as shifts and placing students in nearby schools.

DEO chief Ganesh Paudel said they are going to build 29 learning centres before resuming classes. "One learning centre occupies two rooms," Paudel said, adding that 60 students can be adjusted in a room. The construction of a learning centre at Debaki Secondary

School in Phaparbari was completed on Monday. Some social organisations are also helping set up such learning centres. DEO officials said they need at least 30 bamboos to construct one learning centre.

Paudel said they are going to conduct classes in two shifts. Karma Prapti Secondary School, Shramik Secondary School, Chandrodoya Secondary School and Kalika Secondary School, among others, are resuming classes in two shifts so that two classes can be run in the same room.

"We have also managed to conduct classes in some

community buildings near the concerned schools. Some partially damaged classrooms will be used after some repairs", Paudel said.

Officials said they are not going to teach textbooks for a week as teachers will just counsel the students. Paudel said teachers have already attended training on psycho-social counseling.

According to the DEO, of the total 520 schools in the district, 27 have been completely destroyed and 172 have been partially damaged due to the earthquakes. The districts has 4,000 teachers and 126,000 students.

Dudhokhali, Bichauri, Ilampokhari, Kolkai, Guanda, Pachok, including schools located in eastern and western belts of the district have resumed classes from Sunday onwards.

## Rape, abuse reported in encampments

## &gt;&gt; CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Similarly, a 21-year-old man was arrested on the charge of attempt to rape on an 11-year-old girl at Budhanilkantha. Cases of attempt to rape have also been filed from open shelters at Thakot, Samakhushi, Tundikhel, Basundhara and Thimi. All the victims in these cases were aged between five and nine.

There have also been sever-

al complaints of men verbally abusing and harassing women in encampments for the earthquake victims. "We receive phone calls from young women complaining that men living inside the same tent with them often come drunk and tease and harass them," said DSP Thapa.

For women living under tents in Tundikhel, the problem of drunken men is very

big. "We hear a lot of people quarrelling in their tents during nights. Often, it is the case of some drunken man harassing a woman," said Roshani Rai, a 20-year-old undergraduate student from Lagan.

Women rights activists suspect the cases of sexual harassment could be higher in remote areas where police stations are few and far between. "It is an established fact

S.N	Work Description / Contract No.	Average Annual Turnover (With VAT)	Bid Security Amount
1.	Construction of Dudhaura khola box Bridge along Vabanipur Jitpur -Amatar Road DDC/Bara/LRBP/Bridge/03/071-72	NRs. 3,30,00,000/-	NRs. 7,00,000/-
k) Bidders are advised to visit site and assess the actual site conditions before submitting their bid.			
l) The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject, wholly or partly any or all the bids without assigning any reason, whatsoever.			
Office of District Development Committee, Bara			

**making neighbourhoods safe**

This combo photo (clockwise from top) shows Nepal Army personnel demolishing a house, which was damaged by the April 25 earthquake, at Chapagaun in Lalitpur on Wednesday. POST PHOTO: PRAKASH TIMILSENA

**building temporary shelters**

# Govt advised to provide Rs 50,000 to quake victims

**POST REPORT**

KATHMANDU, MAY 27

Stating that the Rs 15,000 cash relief announced by the government is not enough to buy materials needed for constructing temporary shelters, the Special Parliamentary Committee on Wednesday asked the government to provide additional Rs 35,000 for each earthquake-hit family.

The committee made such decision based on suggestions of 14 sub-committees deployed in the quake-affected districts to monitor rescue, relief and recovery tasks being undertaken by the government agencies.

The sub-committees have suggested that at least Rs 50,000 is necessary to build strong temporary shelters before the monsoon. The government has already sent the budget to distribute cash package among quake victims

through district administration offices.

The government had earlier decided to provide Rs 15,000 to construct temporary shelters and Rs 200,000 for homeless people to build permanent houses.

The Special Parliamentary Committee however said that the government could deduct Rs 35,000 from the Rs 200,000 that would be given to the victims.

"The committee has made the decision on the basis of lawmakers' field observations. The additional amount should be provided before the monsoon begins," said Speaker Subas Nembang, who is also the chairman of the panel.

During the Special Parliamentary Committee meeting on Tuesday, Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat had stated that government cannot provide more than Rs 15,000 for building temporary shelters.

Sources said Mahat has expressed dissatisfaction on

the Special Committee's decision to recommend the government to provide additional amount to victims.

"The Committee will continuously press the government to implement the decision," Nembang said, after some lawmakers expressed doubt over implementation of committee's directives.

Lawmakers said distributing the cash package to victims will be very difficult as local bodies lack sufficient staffers.

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, who was present at Wednesday's meeting for the first time, said that the government has already directed Chief District Officers (CDOs) to recruit manpower on temporary basis and send them in those areas where VDC Secretaries are absent. PM Koirala said the government will leave no stone unturned to build temporary houses before the monsoon begins.

# Leaders express concerns over India-China statement

**border issue**

A joint statement of India and China states the two countries have agreed to expand border at Lipu-Lekh, an area which Nepal claims to be inside its territory

expand border trade at Nathu La, Qiangla/Lipu-Lekh Pass and Shipki La."

Concerned over the matter, the Foreign Affairs Ministry has already instructed its New Delhi and Beijing missions to carry out quiet diplomatic efforts to understand the nitty-gritty of the statement and the real motive behind it.

Officials said the issue will also be raised with Indian side during the visit of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala to New Delhi in the second week of June.

The bilateral India-China pact also contradicts a recent remark of Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao in which he told Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and Foreign Minister Mahendra Bahadur Pandey that "India and China are ready to work with Nepal for

its recovery, reconstruction and development endeavours respecting Nepal's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Meanwhile, Minister Pandey said the government is studying the matter through Shrestha said, "India and China know that it is a disputed land and some of the vicinity of Lipu-Lekh has been encroached upon by India and the Indian government itself has admitted that the area is a disputed chunk of land. At this point of time, India and China should come together and make an understanding in consultation with Nepal."

CPN-UML leader Rajan Bhattacharai said Nepal has been opposing deployment of Indian army in Kalapani areas, which also includes the Lipu-Lekh. "Given the historical facts and evidence we have had, we should take up the matter with both India and China through diplomatic channels," he said.

the Mahakali river, lies inside Nepali territory.

"Lipu-Lekh is our territory," said UCPN (Maoist) Vice-chairman and former foreign minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha, who met with Chinese Ambassador Wu Chunhai on Wednesday and drew his attention towards the matter.

Urging the Chinese side to correct the statement, Shrestha said, "India and China know that it is a disputed land and some of the vicinity of Lipu-Lekh has been encroached upon by India and the Indian government itself has admitted that the area is a disputed chunk of land. At this point of time, India and China should come together and make an understanding in consultation with Nepal."

Lipu-Lekh, also known as tri-corner, is the last point of Nepal's border with China and India and used to be an ancient route for traders and pilgrims transiting between Nepal and Tibet. China has regarded the area as the tri-junction boundary point between Nepal, India and China and a Nepal-China boundary agreement signed three and a half decades ago has recognised that Kalapani, an area beyond the origin of Nepal's sovereignty.

Subedi's 38-year-old son Achyut Raj, who was rescued from under the rubble of a collapsed building six hours after the quake at Kalanki in Kathmandu, is undergoing treatment at Medanta Hospital in New Delhi, India.

# Ex-CA vice-chair wants aid to treat her son

**DEVENDRA BHATTARAI**

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

Former Vice-chairperson of the Constituent Assembly Purna Kumari Subedi has requested the government to provide her support to treat her son who was injured in the April 25 earthquake.

Subedi's 38-year-old son Achyut Raj, who was rescued from under the rubble of a collapsed building six hours after the quake at Kalanki in Kathmandu, is undergoing treatment at Medanta Hospital in New Delhi, India.

Initially admitted to the Norvic Hospital in the Capital, Achyut Raj has sustained internal and external injuries including a fractured leg, nerve damage and non-functional kidney.

Subedi had flown her son to Medanta Hospital as per doctors' advice on May 5. "He is battling for life for almost three weeks now," Subedi said, adding that he cannot speak though he sometimes moves his body.

Subedi, a UCPN (Maoist) politburo member and the party's Seti-Mahakali

Purna Kumari Subedi's son, who was injured in the April 25 earthquake, is undergoing treatment at a hospital in New Delhi

in-charge, said though she has been focusing on her duty as a mother more than a political leader. She also appealed to the government for financial support stating that doctors had said her son's condition was stabilising and that she has been entrenched into financial debt. She said

the cost for her son's medication was around INR 100,000 per day. Arranging financial help from friends and relatives, she has not even had the time to appeal for financial assistance from her own party.

At the advice of Nepali Ambassador to India Deep Kumar Upadhyaya, Subedi had appealed the government for financial assistance via Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office and the chief secretary. However, she said she was yet to receive any word from the government.

# Govt to provide health services from tents during monsoon

MANISH GAUTAM  
KATHMANDU, MAY 27**New health post building designs prepared**

The proposed designs of new health posts (left) and primary health care centres.

SOURCE: MoHP

**KATHMANDU:** The MoHP plans to start rebuilding health infrastructures, mainly primary health care centres and health posts, using prefabricated structures, once the monsoon is over. The Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) has

already forwarded the design details of such new structures to the health ministry. As per the proposed design, a single-storey health post, including staff quarter and toilets, will have 238 square metres area. Meera Gyawali, senior divisional engineer at the

authorities said large hospital tents house all range of medical facilities—out-patient-department, male and female admission wards to surgical room—while there will be arrangement of extra tents for doctors and medics to live in and toilets in the vicinity. "As the monsoon is approaching, we are pressed for time. Immediate rebuilding of the damaged structure requires over two years," said Mahendra Shrestha, chief of Policy, Planning and International Cooperation Division (PPICD) at the ministry.

Unicef has already distributed over 200 tents of various sizes (from 72 square meter for hospitals to 24 square meters for health posts) while additional 300 will also arrive soon. According to Unicef, 35 big tents have been provided to hospitals, 60 medium sized (42 square meters) to birthing

centres and 132 small tents for health posts.

As of Tuesday, a total of 33 FMTs, comprising 871 health professionals including 294 doctors and 274 nurses, are working in the quake-affected districts.

MoHP officials fear surge in the number of water-borne diseases, including cholera and diarrhoea, during the monsoon as many people are living in the open without safe drinking water and sanitation arrangements. What accentuates the fear is the recent MoHP survey result which has stated that a majority of tap and ground water cannot be consumed given the high bacterial presence.

centres and 132 small tents for

**NEED OF THE HOUR**  
Experts discuss the nation's rebuilding processes**PREFAB HOMES**  
More on these earthquake-resistant structures**LEARNING IS FUN**  
In conversation with Sakar Pudasaini

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**NEED OF THE HOUR**  
Experts discuss the nation's rebuilding processes

**PREFAB HOMES**  
More on these earthquake-resistant structures

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**LEARNING IS FUN**  
In conversation with Sakar Pudasaini

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## Shelter built for impoverished Bote families

**PALPA:** Through the active participation of the Nepali Congress District Committee of Palpa and Nepal Tarun Dal, shelters have been built for

two Bote families in Yamgha-1, Palpa. The family of Sangita Bote was forced to live under tarpaulin sheets after the quake damaged their house.

Bote had lost her house to the quake. Likewise, the family of Minbahadur and Dilmaya Bote were also rendered homeless by the quake. The

party has decided to build shelters for poor families in the village, where almost all the houses have been damaged by the quake. (PR)

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/५ गते बालादेवि माण्डपोखरीसम्म जाँदा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालय वा फोन नं. ९८४८८८१६३ मा खबर गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।

नाम: राजेन्द्र तामाङ  
राहदानी नं.: ०५५५४५३१  
ठेगाना: कक्षी ६, नुवाकोट

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/५ गते बौद्धदेवि जोरापाटीसम्म जाँदा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालय वा फोन नं. ९८४८८५१२१ मा खबर गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।

नाम: PEMAYANGI SHERPA  
राहदानी नं.: ०७४९५३८  
ठेगाना: BIGU 4, DOLAKHA

### माइग्रेसन हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/५ गते चान्द्रवाट तिक्कलेसम्म जाँदा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालय वा फोन नं. ९८०३८७१५४ मा खबर गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।  
Name: Rajan Kumar Singh  
Regd. No.: 2010-02-03-2197  
Symbol No.: 11032038  
Year: 2014  
Address: Budhanagar, KTM

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/९ गते टेम्पादेवि दिट्टोडाइसम्म जाँदा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालय वा फोन नं. ९८०३८७१५४ मा खबर गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।  
Name: सर्वा लग्नर  
राहदानी नं.: ०७५०६४८६  
ठेगाना: टेम्पा ७, खोटाङ्ग

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/८ गते टेम्पादेवि खोटाङ्गसम्म जाँदा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालय वा फोन नं. ९८०४८८२३७४ मा खबर गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।

नाम: गणेश बहादुर मगर  
राहदानी नं.: ०८५४५६६८  
ठेगाना: टेम्पा ७, खोटाङ्ग

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/८ गते पाहादेवि मान्समसम्म जाँदा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालय वा फोन नं. ९८०४८८२३७४ मा खबर गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।

नाम: मान बहादुर मल्ल  
राहदानी नं.: ०८८८०४३३  
ठेगाना: पाहा ९, कालीकोट

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/१० गते टेम्पादेवि खोटाङ्गसम्म जाँदा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालय वा फोन नं. ९८०३८३८०८८ मा खबर गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।  
Name: सुवास लग्नर  
राहदानी नं.: ०८५०३३८८  
ठेगाना: टेम्पा ७, खोटाङ्ग

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/८ गते टेम्पादेवि खोटाङ्गसम्म जाँदा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालय वा फोन नं. ९८०३८७१०६१ मा खबर गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।  
Name: महेन कुमार मगर  
राहदानी नं.: ०८५०४०४४  
ठेगाना: पाहा ९, कालीकोट

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/९ गते लक्ष्मीदेवि वीरेन्द्रनगरसम्म जाँदै गर्दा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले तलको ठेगाना वा नजिकको प्रहरी चौकीमा बुझाईदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।  
Name: :- भरत बहादुर राबल  
राहदानी नं.: :- ३१०४८६७  
फोन नं.: :- ९८४८८०३७३०

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/९ गते साटाखानीदेवि वीरेन्द्रनगरसम्म जाँदै गर्दा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले तलको ठेगाना वा नजिकको प्रहरी चौकीमा बुझाईदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।  
Name: :- याम लाल ढाकाल  
राहदानी नं.: :- ३२४९६४९  
फोन नं.: :- ९८४८८०३७३०

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/५ गते लक्ष्मीदेवि वीरेन्द्रनगरसम्म जाँदै गर्दा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले तलको ठेगाना वा नजिकको प्रहरी चौकीमा बुझाईदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।  
Name: :- हाम बहादुर गोराम  
राहदानी नं.: :- ३२३३८६  
फोन नं.: :- ९८४९६७११६४

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७२/१/१० गते भारते लम्कीदेवि काठमाडौँसम्म जाँदै गर्दा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले तलको ठेगाना वा नजिकको प्रहरी चौकीमा बुझाईदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।  
Name: :- छत्रराम अधिकारी  
राहदानी नं.: :- भारते ८, लम्जु  
फोन नं.: :- ३२५५५५६

## Change Fusion Nepal builds houses

RADIO KANTIPUR MUSIC SHOW CHEERS NEPALIS

POST REPORT  
KATHMANDU, MAY 27

Radio Kantipur organised Prayas: Pariwartan ka lagi Sangeet, a day-long musical extravaganza, on May 26, in an attempt to uplift the people's morale in the aftermath of the recent quakes.

The programme opened with Aani Choying Dolma performing some of her songs and prayers. Speaking about the programme, Dolma said, "We are all in a state of trauma after the quake. I hope that music helps us to gain back our strength. I want to thank Radio Kantipur for providing this opportunity."

Along with Dolma, the show also featured Kutumba, Satya Raj Acharya and Swarup Raj Acharya, Ram Krishna Dhakal, Milan Amatya, Uday and Manila Sotang, Kamal Khatri, Nirnaya da NSK, Girish and friends, Dharmendra Sewan, Shreyo Sotang, Lochan Rijal, Pramod Kharel, Sugam Pokharel, Night, Underside, Tumbleweed, 1974 AD, Mukti N Revival and Robin N The New Revolution, whose performance brought the show to a close at 8 pm.

The artists also shared personal experiences on how to heal from the disaster and work towards nation rebuilding. "We had been thinking about contributing to helping the people get back on their feet post-quake. And we came to the conclusion that music could play a vital role in inspiring the people to rebuild the nation," said programme co-ordinator Raymond Das Shrestha.

The programme ran from 8am to 8pm.



POST REPORT  
KATHMANDU, MAY 27

Communities in Bhatteredanda, Lalitpur, have managed to build 100 shelter homes in three weeks with help from volunteers.

The volunteers who were part of the 'Dharti' initiative, led by Change Fusion Nepal, had reached Bhatteredanda two weeks after the Great Quake and upon interacting with locals they realised that the locals had enough supply of relief materials but were in desperate need of homes.

So the volunteers came up with a plan to build houses in the community. Six volunteers were trained to build houses by Portal Bikes, Luna Shrestha Thakur, founder of Change Fusion Nepal, said the sense of community

fighting poverty, and they built the first 10 houses in the first week of May. The houses are made of tin sheets, binding wires (four short pieces and four long pieces), eight rods (to provide a strong base) and arch rods (to create the structure for the frame). The shelters end up looking like zinc igloos, and according to volunteers, the first batch of houses withstood the May 12 earthquake and the storms that hit the country over the past few days.

The remaining homes were built by the community members under the supervision of volunteers who had received training from Portal Bikes. Luna Shrestha Thakur, founder of Change Fusion Nepal, said the sense of community

and togetherness shown during the work was commendable. "They were really keen on helping one another. Even after one of their houses was built, they would come help the others. The community was really together," she said.

The team has also managed to create a system whereby houses situated on hilltops can access drinking water from a government-installed water system in the low-lying areas. During the construction period one of the volunteers and locals discovered that the source of the spring water had been obstructed. So they came up with a project idea to bring water from the low-lying areas. At least 30 households now have direct access to drinking water.

### ldb contributes to kantipur relief fund



■ Chairman and Managing Director of the Kantipur Media Group Kailash Sirohiya (right) receives a cheque from Madhav Prasad Bhatta, chairman of the International Development Bank (IDB), at the Kantipur Publications' premises on Wednesday.

POST PHOTO: KAUSHAL ADHIKARI

## Gulmelis help Chitwan residents

**GULMI:** People from Gulmi who reached Chitwan to help earthquake-displaced families

were deposited Rs 100,000.

Chitwan Maitri Mitra, an organisation of Gulmeli people who work and live in Chitwan, handed over the amount received from the people of several districts and from outside the country has been a huge help. As of Monday, Rs 2.9 million had been deposited in the committee's account.

The earthquake levelled 2,100 houses in the district. (PR)

ARMY HELPS BUILD SCHOOLS IN PARBAT

AGANDHAR TIWARI  
PARBAT, MAY 27

Post-quake, the army is actively involved in Parbat in rebuilding damaged buildings and building temporary classrooms.

After army personnel from the Ranadai Battalion built temporary classrooms at Tulodhara High School, Tilahar, the school is scheduled to start classes from June 1.

"We were reluctant even to enter the badly damaged building, let alone start teaching inside it," said the principal of the school, Suresh Poudel, "the army has done us a big favour by building temporary classrooms."

According to battalion chief Ujjwal KC, the army is building temporary classrooms throughout the district.

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७१/१२/२८ गते पञ्चोचोदेवि दिवसम्म जाँदा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालय वा फोन नं. ९८१९१०२९१९ मा खबर गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।

नाम: मदन गुरुङ  
राहदानी नं.: २४८०८०२  
ठेगाना: धम्पुस-६, कास्की

### राहदानी हरायो

मिति २०७१/१२/२८ गते महेन्द्रपुरदेवि लेक्साइंडसम्म जाँदा मेरो निम्न व्यहोरा भएको राहदानी हराएको हुँगा पाउनु हुने महानुभावले नजिकको प्रहरी कार्यालय वा फोन नं. ९८१९१०२९१९ मा खबर गरिदिनु हुन अनुरोध गर्दछु।

नाम: श्रिला गुरुङ  
र

# Pradhan and friends play for Nepal

**Adrian Pradhan**, the former lead vocalist of the rock band 1974 A D, has been involved with numerous charity musical programmes in the past. Pradhan, along with his musical troupe, Adrian & Frendz, was invited to India three weeks ago to perform at a charity programme for earthquake victims in Nepal. The Kalimpong-born versatile artist shared the stage with renowned Indian artists and Kalimpong-based singer Bipul Chettri on May 8 and May 10 at the DLF Cyber Hub, Gurgaon, India. The event was sponsored by the Hindustan Times. Since then, Pradhan and his musical crew have been raising funds for quake victims by playing at other places too. This week, Pradhan performed in Seoul, South Korea. Pradhan is now scheduled to travel to other parts of Nepal and will also perform in Darjeeling. The Post's **Anup Ojha** talked to Pradhan over Viber about the musician's relief work. Excerpts:

Earlier this month, you performed at a programme in Gurgaon with renowned Indian artists to raise funds for the quake victims back in Nepal. How did that go?

It was one of the greatest moments in my musical career. I got a chance to perform

with Farhan Akhtar, Parikrama, Vishal Dadlani, Indian Ocean, Soulmate, Eshaan Noorani and many other legendary Indian musicians. It was an unforgettable experience. It felt really good to see such noted artists from India performing for the sake of the quake-affected Nepalis. I really appreciate their coming together for this cause. As for me, I felt that it was time for me to give back to my country, whose people have given me so much over the past 20 years. What I am doing now is what every Nepali needs to do—help the nation pull through.

How did the concept of participating in fundraising programmes come up?

I personally wanted to do something for the quake victims. I was planning to do a charity show, and then I got this invitation from Sonam Sherpa, the lead guitarist of the Indian rock band Parikrama. Sherpa was the one who came up with the idea for the Gurgaon event.

How much money did the concert raise? How did you get the money to the earthquake victims?

I am informed that we raised Rs 480,000. The money was handed over to the quake victims through Save the Children. We also performed in Seoul this week, but we don't know how much we raised there yet.

Where will you be touring next?

Adrian & Frendz is travelling to Kalimpong, along with Parikrama, to perform there on June 7.

We will keep doing what we can musically and I believe that people will connect through our music; and we will do our best to collect funds for the quake victims. We want to heal them through our music too.

Where were you when the Great Earthquake shook the country? What did you do?

I was at home with my family, and it was the scariest moment of my life. All my family members and relatives are safe. When I learned about the scale of destruction, I was deeply saddened. When the whole nation goes through hard times, it hurts everyone a lot.

Your message for the Nepalis who are going through difficult times?

I ask all of you to be strong and not to lose hope. This is a time of crisis, and we all need to help each other.



POST PHOTO

## DISASTER FOCAL PERSONS

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3	Yagya prasad dhungel	Under Secretary	Ministry of Finance	-	9851095284	-
4	Dr. Shreeram Ghimire	Under Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture Development	014211665	9851151347	ghimiresr@gmail.com
5	Raju Acharya	S.D.E.	Ministry of Irrigation	014200215	9851136242	raju084@yahoo.com
6	Manish Man Shakya	Engineer	Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport	014211930	9841756208	mnshmn_shakya@yahoo.com
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9	Nutan Pokhrel	Under Secretary	Ministry of Commerce & Supply	-	9841601574	nputaraj@yahoo.com
10	Harihar Dahal	Under Secretary	Ministry of Defence	-	9841018720	harijahal1960@gmail.com
11	Tulsi Prasad Dahal	Section Officer	Ministry of Health and Population	4254759	9851183695	mail.tulsidahal@gmail.com
12	Sagar Acharya	Program Director	National Planning Commission	-	9841256525	sacharya@nepncpl.gov.np
13	Jeebach Mandal	SDE	Ministry of Energy	01-4211504	9841312250	jeebach@gmail.com
14	Laxmi Pandey Gautam	Under Secretary	Ministry of Federal Affairs & Local Development	-	9841504511	pandeylaxmi43@yahoo.com
15	Dhruba Prasad Koirala	Under Secretary	Ministry of General Administration	01-4200187	9843192472	dhrupad_koirala@yahoo.com
16	Subash Kumar Bhattarai	Under Secretary	Ministry of Law & Justice	-	9841414311	-
17	Krishna Kanta Upadhyaya	Under Secretary	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare	01-4200280	9843588686	kku2070@gmail.com
18	Ram Prasad Sapkota	Under Secretary	Ministry of Tourism	-	9741151819	ramprasad.sapkota@yahoo.com
19	Govinda Bdr. Shrestha	Under Secretary	Ministry of Forest & Soil Conservation	01-4211892	9845031219	govindbs44@yahoo.uk
20	Keshab Raj Tripathi	Under Secretary	Ministry of Youth & Sports	-	9841333560	keshabtripathe@gmail.com
21	Nawraj Subedi	Under Secretary	Ministry of Land Reform & Management	-	9851141276	nawraj_s@yahoo.com
22	Dr. Jayaram Adhikari	Section Officer	Ministry of Science & Technology	-	9851127533	jradhikari@hotmail.com
23	Leknath Bhattarai	Deputy Protocol Chief	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	-	9851164955	khotange@gmail.com
24	Bijay Kumar Raut	Protocol Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	-	9841431840	vijaykraut1@gmail.com

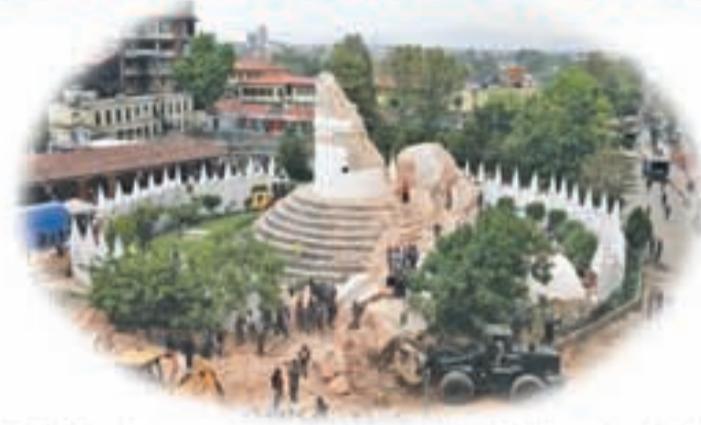
RESCUE AND RELIEF MANAGEMENT  
Nepal Police Hotlines: 1113/100, Contact Number: 4412780/4411549

I wanted to do something for the quake victims. I was planning to do a charity show, and then I got this invitation from Sonam Sherpa, the lead guitarist of Parkirama

## 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: CCBNNPKA at Century Bank Ltd. Likewise you can deposit assistance into Account No.: 00101010315517, Swift Code: NIBLNPKT at Nepal Investment Bank Ltd.

Sunrise Bank, A/c No: 00255555555014, Swift Code: SRBLNPKA

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.

संयोजक

### कान्तिपुर फाउन्डेशन

Rs. 10,00,000/-

सारोकेन्द्र



Rs. 10,00,000/-



Rs. 10,00,000/-



Rs. 35,53,898/-



Rs. 50,00,000/-



Rs. 11,11,111/-



Rs. 10,00,000/-



Rs. 11,00,000/-



Rs. 10,00,000/-



Rs. 15,00,000/-

KALPANA GHIMIRE	KANTIPUR PUBLICATION	3,000.00
RAMAN LALIT LAMA		2,051.00
JESTHA NAGARIK JILLA SANGH	SUNSARI	20,005.00
LEKHA RAJ THAKURI	BHARATPUR-10, CHITWAN	5,000.00
LOK RAJ LEKHAK	BHARATPUR-10, CHITWAN	2,500.00
MAHAKALI LEKHAK		2,500.00
DANA GRAMIN BACHAT TATHA RIN	JHUMKA	4,105.00
SAHAKARI SANSTHA	POKHARA-6, SHUVAKAMANA MARG	2,222.00
GANESH/RAM MAYA DHAKAL	CHAMATI, KATHMANDU	2,222.00
ISWAR LAL KARMACHARYA	BHAGWATI-4, ARGHAKHANCHI	5,555.00
DHARMA RAJ PANTHI	CURRENT: LAKESIDE-6, POKHARA	
ABISHEK SINGH	KAPAN-6(13), KTM	3,000.00
KHUM BDR BASNET DANG	CANADA	2,121.00
SAFAL MARGA TOL SUDHAR SAMITI	NAKKHU LALITPUR	5,555.00
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KRISHNA BDR KHADKA	KAPAN-6(13), KTM	5,555.00
ROSEMARY BRIGGS	CANADA	2,000.00
RIPHART LIM	MALAYSIA	27,000.00
RANGA BAHADUR POUDEL	LALBANDI-7 SARLAHI	50,005.00
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Let's help the victims, show humanity.

# The Kathmandu Post

Since 1993

## EDITORIAL

### Constant vigilance

The WFP must make dead certain that it is not distributing substandard food

**B**ack in 2009, a diarrhoea epidemic broke out in Jajarkot, the same district afflicted with a swine flu epidemic in April. The 2009 epidemic led to 300 deaths, with officials blaming a lack of proper drinking water and sewerage and a lack of adequate health institutions. But a controversy arose when the Informal Sector Service Centre, a human rights NGO, released a report raising concerns over the quality of rice and lentils being distributed in the affected areas by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP). The WFP refuted the allegations, prompting the National Human Rights Council (NHRC) to collect 31 samples of food and test them at the government's Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC). The lentil samples found to be "substandard" and "not edible", while the rice samples were "not suitable for human consumption."

Now, it has happened again. On May 17, locals in Nuwakot's Sunkhani VDC and Bidur municipality complained at a meeting of the District Disaster Relief Committee that the rice distributed as relief by the WFP in the aftermath of the earthquakes was "sub-standard and inedible." Similar reports came in from Kavre and Sindhupalchok. The NHRC again sent a monitoring team, which tested samples at the DFTQC and concluded that the rice was substandard and "posed a serious health risk to the public." The WFP again refuted the NHRC's assertions, claiming that their own "test results found the rice [to be] perfectly safe and edible." Nevertheless, it replaced the remaining five metric tonnes of rice.

Who exactly is at fault here might take some time to ascertain, but what is clear is that there is a clear lack of oversight in the WFP's procurement and distribution of food. The 2009 case in Jajarkot might have been an aberration, were it not for this instance now. Times of crisis, more than ever, demand strict adherence to standards. If not, survivors of one disaster can easily become victims of another. The substandard rice in Kavre and Sindhupalchok could have led to a disease outbreak among already-vulnerable populations living under shelters without proper water and sewerage.

When Jamie McGoldrick, UN coordinator in Nepal, was questioned by *the Post* about the quality of food being distributed, his response was non-committal. "Food is a perishable good, it gets damaged easily," he said. "I am sure there will be small problems when you deliver huge amounts of rice." This reply seems complacent and inadequate. We expect that the WFP will introspect and conclude just what it needs to correct to make dead certain that this doesn't happen again.

Still, the shortcomings do not just rest with the WFP; the government must share some of the blame. When so much relief aid is coming in to the country, concerned authorities must remain vigilant, monitoring the quality of everything that comes in. Towards this end, Tuesday's disposal of 7,000 litres of vegetable oil sent in by the United Arab Emirates is a positive. The DFTQC had concluded that the oil was inedible.

## WORLDVIEW

### On Bin Laden's Bookshelf

What we really want to know is what he was feeling when he read 'The 9/11 Commission Report'

**T**he release of a partial list of books, documents, press clippings and other materials the United States government says were seized from Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan does make for some intriguing rummaging. We imagine Bin Laden cooped up in his hideaway devouring reports on 9/11, trying to figure out his nemesis America through stacks of mainstream and fringe books and articles, boning up on France, firing off messages to Al Qaeda lieutenants, or penning the occasional love note to a wife. It makes for rich speculation, but the question at the end is whether this trove obtained when Navy SEALs raided Bin Laden's hideout and killed him four years ago tells us anything useful about the architect of the great crime of 9/11.

One problem is that the material declassified by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence is only part of the cache; the rest is still secret. Another problem is the timing of the release, and the choice of what was made public. Finally, it is not clear whether the books and articles were selected or sought by Bin Laden, or were just materials brought to him by visitors and lieutenants. That makes a difference: The books found in Hitler's bunker after he shot himself were those he chose to bring there, and so can speak to his state of mind at the end.

Given those caveats, "Bin Laden's Bookshelf," as the intelligence office dubbed the cache, is not particularly surprising for a reasonably well educated and narcissistic leader of a terrorist organization studying his enemy and trying to maintain control of an increasingly decentralized network. As with the banality of all evil, there is certainly to be a humdrum quality to the daily reading and communications of a man who requires practical information and managerial skills, even if it is in pursuit of a fanatical idea through mass murder. What is interesting is not that Bin Laden read "The 9/11 Commission Report," but whether he felt the least bit of remorse or only malicious pride. That we can only surmise.

# Unpleasant truths

After the royal massacre and Maoist insurgency, the earthquake has only made old Nepal more vulnerable



## CROSSROADS

PRAMOD MISHRA

**T**he April 25 earthquake constitutes the tripartite destructions that have wrecked Nepal's 21st century mythopoiesis. Needless to say, all three have been traumatic and extremely painful, especially for those who were caught in them.

The June 1, 2001, royal massacre came as destruction for the top of Nepali society, which had been hollowed out in its core by its many contradictions. Centuries of instilled and cultivated faith in the system symbolised in the royals lay shattered in its aftermath.

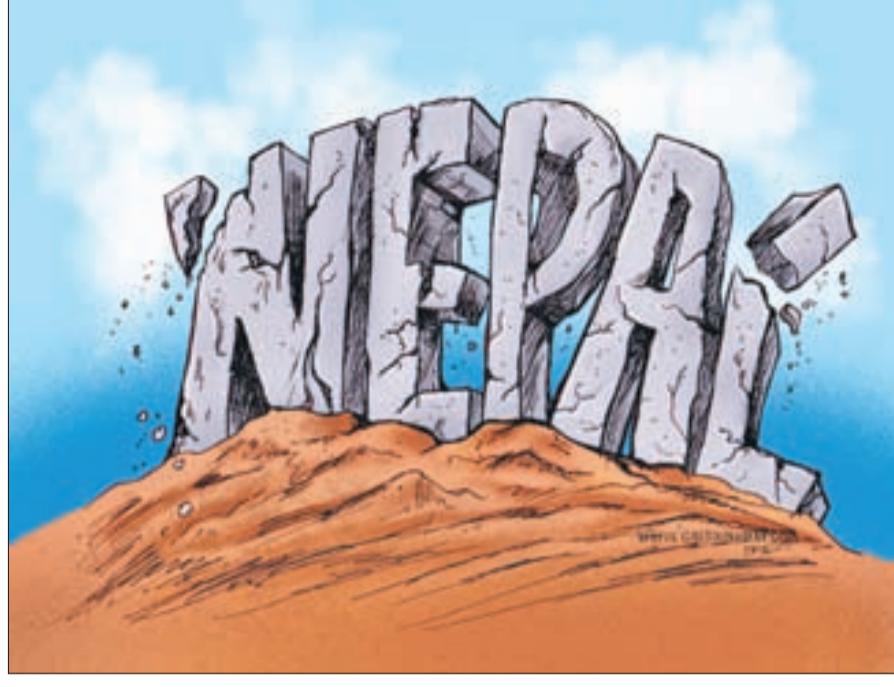
Then, the Maoist insurgency, which lasted 10 years and didn't come as suddenly as the earthquake or the royal massacre. But it was destruction of the rot launched from below. People oppressed for centuries found voice in the Maoist insurgency, even though the non-Maoist common people very often became victims of the cat-and-mouse game between the security forces and the Maoists. The political configurations since the 2008 Constituent Assembly have clearly demonstrated who the true allies of the marginalised are.

The earthquake of April 25 came as suddenly as the royal massacre, but this natural calamity, which mostly affected 14 districts, destroyed the rural hill villages and old and poorly-built structures in Kathmandu. Most of those who lost their lives in this quake were the common folk.

### Nationalist pride

While the quake may be non-ideological, its effect has been very much political. First of all, it has exposed the inefficiency and incompetence of the civilian government. The fact that the Nepal Army and the Armed Police Force, trained as they had been to face emergency and disaster (for war is nothing if not an emergency and disaster), jumped into action hardly exonerates the lack of immediate response and long-term preparedness from the government.

Stunned, Nepalis at first responded to the quake the way traumatised do—emotionally. While one popular journalist publicly



announced the cancellation of his vacation so he could use the funds for relief work, another media prodigy emotionally vowed never to settle in the West. A popular young politician urged everyone not to be beggars but be self-dependent.

The quake also provoked nationalist sentiments, some ennobling while others condescended and knee-jerk. Most voices in the media invoke Nepali pride and self-respect, bemoaning not breaking, fallen but not defeated, etcetera, etcetera. Even otherwise, Nepali-speaking folks of a certain class and sentiment wear their nationalism on the sleeves. At a time when they found themselves without the wherewithal to cope with a disaster of this magnitude and saw outsiders, especially India, swiftly sending plane-loads of help, their helplessness surfaced as an emotional response of national pride and resentment at their own inability to cope. And when they saw, and continue to see, the civilian government criticised, they reacted as if the government was their uncle. But this attitude won't help.

### India and others

Nepal must thank Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his swift response. But for a country whose culture industry has

perfected the vulgarity of lad-and-lass dance-and-song *nautanki* of village and small-town into the fine art of Bollywood item numbers, one shouldn't be surprised if its media vulgarises even its best and noble efforts to help people in need. After all, who are these media folks? The city-bred sons and daughters of the English-speaking famed Indian middle classes. Their counterparts in Nepal are the sons and daughters of the Nepali-speaking middle classes. Their insensitivity and arrogance are two sides of the same nationalist coin. But we should be considerate. India and its media are learning to handle their rising capacity and emergence as a regional and global player.

But then, the global response to Nepal's earthquake has been swift and genuine. Nepal's natural beauty, its rich culture, and the simplicity of its common folks, despite its perfidious ruling classes, have created deep attachment among those who have come in contact with them. While the Nepali diaspora is responding emotionally and financially, the Indian diaspora has also responded on its own. The guilt of those who are outside the country or whose houses withstood the tremors because they were strongly built has been overwhelming.

Even those who hadn't heard much about

While the quake may be non-ideological, its effect has been very much political.

First of all, it has exposed the inefficiency and incompetence of the civilian government

Nepal have now put their finger on the map and found the country, and expressed words of sympathy. In this sense, the earthquake may have made the old state further vulnerable, badly damaged as it had become after the royal massacre and the Maoist insurgency. Nepal's new sovereignty has emerged ever more strongly now, because the earthquake forced the country on the consciousness of people the world over. This goodwill of the world community can be at times overwhelming but Nepal's political and nationalist class must not squander it by wearing cheap nationalism on their sleeves.

### Ensuring accountability

To be sure, they should negotiate hard so that donor funds for the earthquake don't work like foreign aid—much of it spent on overheads and little on the people on the ground. Conversely, the government can't just gather comedians, movie stars, and athletes and ask them to vouch for its credibility in handling funds. Nor can Prime Minister Sushil Koirala simply warn of jailing embezzlers of earthquake funds. Celebrities and warnings have hardly worked in restoring decades of eroded integrity. Why doesn't the government involve civil society leaders of diverse persuasions, whose reputation and integrity are impeccable, such as Kanak Dixit, Padma Ratna Tuladhar, Damjan Nath Dhungana, Rudra Raj Panday etc, to oversee the earthquake funds? After all, these civil society leaders' efforts restored non-Maoist party leaders' credibility and helped bring about the second Janaandolan of 2006 at a time when people had turned their backs on the parties.

It is our (whether Nepali or non-Nepali) right to demand structural accountability from the government as it has been, should be, and will be our duty to raise funds everywhere across the globe for victims of the earthquake.

So, ultimately, it all depends on what we make of the earthquake, not what the earthquake has made of us. If the earthquake arrived, can New Nepal be far behind?

# Conspiracy of silence

It is high time we began questioning, debating, and discussing menstrual taboos more publicly



MONA SHRESTHA ADHIKARI

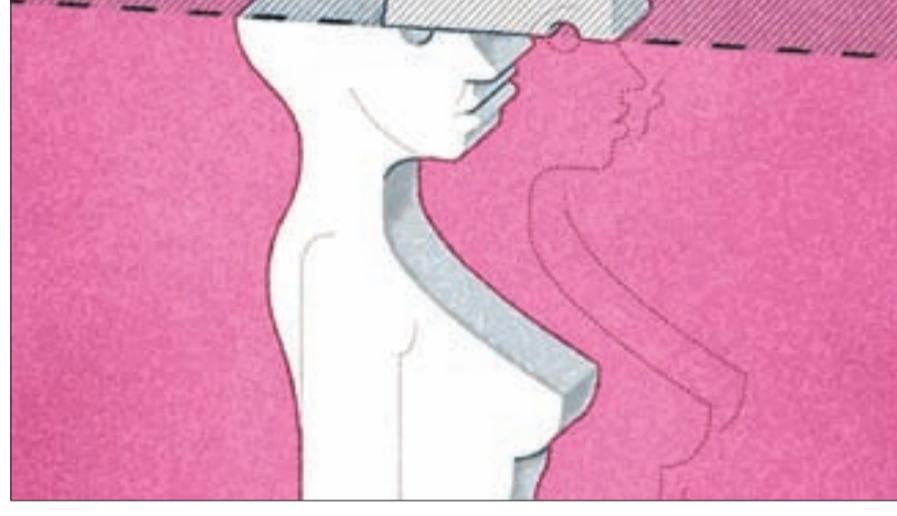
**I**n the aftermath of the quakes, one commendable aid effort has been the attempt to meet the needs of menstruating women and girls. Individuals and organisations are joining hands to prepare and distribute menstruation bags (*mahnawari jhola*, also referred to as 'dignity kits') to quake-affected women. However, challenges remain as to find ways to address menstrual taboos that are engrained in our social norms and practices. Thus, this article is an attempt to create a public discourse on this topic, particularly in the context of Menstrual Hygiene Day, a global initiative to spread awareness about menstruation hygiene, which falls on May 28.

It is natural for women to generally menstruate every 28 days. This is a biological process that is linked to reproduction. Still, there are multiple menstrual taboos prevalent in society, such as forbidding menstruating females from touching other people and prohibiting them from participating in religious and community activities during their periods.

### Still unacceptable

In Nepal, a country with multiple religions, diverse ethnicities, castes, and geography, menstrual taboos and rituals vary, further complicating the situation. While some religions and castes are more liberal than others, geographical location and family type (nuclear or joint) also make a difference in the forms of practices. Till date, the humiliating tradition of *chhaupadi*—the ritual isolation of women during periods, forcing them to live in animal sheds—is practiced in Far- and Mid-Western Nepal.

Menstrual taboos prescribe girls and women do's and don'ts during periods, restricting their choices and subjecting them to seclusion and discrimination. At times, menstruating girls and women are



## Menstrual Hygiene Day

even forbidden from eating together with other members of their family, entering rooms with carpets, and even entering the kitchen. Some even refer to it as a 'monthly ostracisation' and it can result in low self-esteem, the development of an inferiority complex, and long-term implications that hinder women's empowerment.

### Gradual resistance

Even now, discussing the menstrual cycle or questioning socio-cultural practices associated with it remains confined to a small circle consisting predominantly of women. Often, religious norms discriminate against women and girls having their periods, thus rendering it a sensitive political topic that not many would like to discuss, question, or initiate a public debate on.

Fortunately, of late, a new generation of women and girls have begun questioning such ill-practices. While some of them are courageous enough to rebel against and defy such practices altogether, many seem to be covertly conforming to and/or are forced to adhere to such practices due to family pressure. Then, there are other girls and women who strictly follow such

practices, while others do not. In between them are a large number of girls and women and their families that have their own way of doing things.

A growing number of families and their female members also pretend to adhere to such menstrual norms before others, but in reality, they do not. Some other members of society, regardless of their gender, oppose such practices in public, but religiously follow them in private. In these situations, what implications do these behaviours have for issues surrounding the integrity of women, and what message will they convey to future generations? Many say, 'We do what we do because they are our social norms and values...this is what our culture prescribes.' Such people want activists to look elsewhere for a solution. But the question remains: 'What are you doing to change this state of affairs?'

### A better future

There could be three plausible ways to address the prevailing woes of menstruation.

First, the very terminology used to describe a menstruating female in Nepal's society needs to be reviewed. The terms

'para sareko,' meaning one who has moved aside, and 'nachune bhayeko' (someone who has become untouchable) are the common phrases used to describe menstruating women. These phrases are derogative and demeaning towards girls and women. Why not just use the term '*mahnawari*', meaning a monthly process, while referring to menstruation?

Second, it is the right of every menstruating girl and woman to live a dignified life free from discrimination and stigmatisation. It is important that every individual in the household is caring towards and understanding of women's biological changes at play. Women and girls need an environment of support and care, rather than that of fear, subservience, discrimination, and shame. In addition, they need adequate nutrition and rest during their periods. Moreover, it should be a personal choice for girls and women to inform anyone whether they are menstruating or not.

Third, to bring about much-needed change in society, we should start questioning, debating, and discussing socio-cultural practices related to menstrual taboos more publicly. We should continue to question traditional norms and values that humiliate girls and women and infringe upon their human rights. We ought to support those who question such practices and help create a non-discriminatory environment at the household level, enabling female family members to lead a dignified life. We can also take support from leaders, along with other public figures and change-makers, who can, through mass awareness campaigns, contribute to changing the mindset of the public.

Coming back to the quake and its responses, it is a positive sign that people and organisations have thought to address the needs of menstruating girls and women. But this is a short-term response, in the longer term, it is important to start questioning what we practise and observe and find solutions to free women from taboos associated with what is a perfectly natural phenomena.

*Adhikari holds a PhD from the Centre for the study on Women and Gender, University of Warwick, the UK*

## All-important board exam

ANJILA TAKHACHHEN

**T**he failure of a generation is the failure of a whole nation. And in such a situation, the slogan 'We will rise again' will actually be limited only to words. If our education system had only realised the fact that classroom evaluation is more important than board exams, we would not be facing this problem today. I am confident that nobody will be organising rallies to have tests postponed. People are traumatised here, many have lost their family members, and others do not have writing hands

and walking legs. They need rest, they have dreams and futures to live, but for our government, what matters solely is the board exam. Sympathy, society, health, and wealth are the kinds of things that only exist in the pages of social books. They do not seem to apply here.

There may be students who have recorded 100 percent attendance throughout the year. Their presentations may be the best in class every time. They may be tutors in their friend circles. Their aspirations may be higher than all of ours and the teacher themselves. But it doesn't matter.

It doesn't matter that their houses are broken and their stomachs hungry. According to the rule, they should be intelligent, prosperous, healthy and, most importantly, fearless all the time.

Who cares that a hardworking student is not going to sit for the exam because he doesn't have any books? His time, his failure, his anguish are all his private property; the government can't do anything about them, as if he had called the earthquake to turn his goals into ashes. What always matters is the

last-minute study for the board exams, even if the student has been absent for half of the year and has copied other people's work the rest of the time. Yes, many might surely want to argue with me. But all I want to say is that if our whole year were to be considered in the results, the board exams would just be one part and there would be no chaos in students' mind.

I cry every night because my home got a yellow sticker. My family doesn't have a proper roof over their heads, and the walls don't have any windows.

I do not know how many days we will have to live like that. Seriously, I don't want the exams to be postponed because even if they are taken later on, they are not going to give a proper judgment. Sadly, I feel so helpless that we cannot change the system at this moment. All we can do is go to our rooms, close the door, and study with a shaking brain. Three cheers to the education board that you are producing and going to produce a failing generation through your super-duper hit system. No worries, we are going to smile because that is all a Nepali can do in any situation.

## ROBIN LOW

Nepal has been hit by several strong earthquakes and aftershocks in the span of a month. Thousands are dead, many others injured, yet instead of planning for relief work, search and rescue efforts are still ongoing. It has been more than 3 weeks and many of the armies doing search and rescue are moving out of the country or have left. Although much aid is donated, the distribution is slow and many people have not eaten for days.

So far, only 14 per cent of the humanitarian aid sought by the United Nations for the relief effort in Nepal has been met, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. One of the factors is because Nepal has received far less business aid. In the aftermath of the Japanese disaster, firms around the world rushed in with cash and goods, providing more than half of the total international aid for Japan's relief. But the corporate flow into Nepal has been barely a trickle.

Everyone in Nepal is affected. Aid workers and survivors live under constant earthquakes since April 25, and this can be a psychological toll on the people. For many survivors in Nepal, this long term emotional consequence of the disaster will also affect their mindset; they feel helpless as they cannot do anything to stop

survivors directly after the disaster, but many fail to realize that you can give the survivors many things, but they can never get their dignity.

Donations are still needed initiatives should support local businesses, employment of locals or promote local exports

survivors. This is the major challenge because the support that follows is usually not as widely recognized and supported than immediately after the disaster. People understand that providing food, water and aid is essential for the

survivors. Many homes are destroyed and many people are now homeless and there is a call for tents to be provided. Soon, when the situation is more stable

and the debris is cleared, construction of incremental housing—a low cost, scalable building framework can begin.

As there is still a short fall in the aid sought, donations are still needed. However, to prevent

dependence on the aid provided and turning the survivors into refugees, initiatives that would support local businesses, support employment of locals or promote local exports would help local economy, much needed for a complete recovery.

There are always ways to contribute. I plan to go to Nepal in the summer and restart businesses.

In every disaster, sole-proprietor business owners who have structurally sound buildings, cannot access business loans. However, instead of waiting for the government to act (which may take months), loans can come from other local companies or through online crowdfunding. I intend to ask these business owners are interviewed and 4 questions are asked:

■ What happened during the disaster?

■ What did you lose?

■ How much do you need?

■ What are you going to use the money for?

The interview video is shown in an event where business owners are invited to get interest bearing business loans from them. The video can also

be used as an online pitch to get loans. Restarting businesses is low risk ways of helping the economy recover. The business owners can start to make money again, and the employees can get their jobs back.

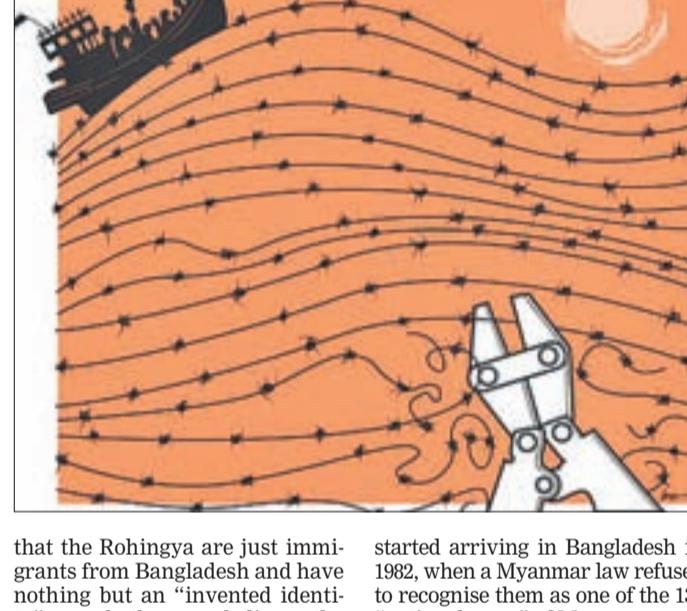
Even though I may be going to Nepal by myself, I am never alone. I am crowdfunding my trip online with Fundedbyme.com. When I meet the local organizations, and engage the locals in the shelters, I will share information about their capabilities, resources they can access to, so social enterprises who want to start their businesses in Nepal can also understand the local eco-system more, and collaborate on possible projects.

Helping does not mean donations or giving people things, you can support them by 4 simple ways; engage, enable, empower and connect. The locals know their situation best, and they should be allowed to decide how to rebuild their lives.

Nepalese needs a lot of support and this disaster can be an opportunity for us to join in to rebuild and make Nepal better than before the disaster. It is up to the international community, spared of all the disasters to show solidarity and help each other in times of need.

*Robin Low is an entrepreneur who is active in community projects and a frequent disaster relief volunteer.*

## JONATHAN EYAL



FOR the moment, humanity has triumphed: The Thai, Malaysian and Indonesian governments have done their humanitarian duty towards the boat people from Myanmar and Bangladesh stranded on rickety boats in the Andaman Sea and the Strait of Malacca.

But those governments are right to say they cannot be expected to bear this burden forever. They are also right to say the problem of the boat people is bound to get worse unless its root causes are addressed and the legal regime that handles such situations is radically reformed. It is worth recalling some fundamental facts about these tragedies—facts that usually get drowned out when a crisis of this sort erupts.

First, the phenomenon is not new: The coastlines of South-east Asia and those of the Mediterranean between Africa and Europe have been subjected to large influxes of "boat people" for centuries. What has changed is the ability of nation states to monitor their coastlines and survey the high seas. Furthermore, far from indicating a failure of immigration controls, the rising number of boat people comes precisely because global immigration procedures are tight.

Still, the truth remains that we are entering a new age of mass migration pressures, which will test our sense of fairness and morality to the extreme and even overhaul our concept of national borders. One reason for this is the growing gap between poor and rich nations, which is no longer measured in just statistical numbers, but also in the many generations of backwardness—unlike their predecessors, people now are aware of their poverty and helplessness.

Yet that does not mean that governments are impotent. Much can be done by adopting sensible new policies and tightening global cooperation. The starting point should be an admission that while some of the pressures that prompt people to board rickety boats in search of a better life are beyond anyone's control, many are the result of botched government policies that are eminently preventable?

Governments around the world should also get better at emergency planning for seaborne refugee outflows: The Rohingya refugees first

## MUSINGS

he following is a translation of the Henshu Techo column from The Yomiuri Shimbun's May 13 issue.

Ken Kaiko saw Ajinomoto—an artificial condiment developed long ago in Japan and whose name literally means "stock of flavor"—being sold under the name Ajinomoto ("friend of flavor") in Peru during a visit to the South American country. But according to the novelist, Ajinomoto means "Don't park your motorcycle there" in a local language. "Aji"

means "there," and "no" means "don't park" and "moto" is "motorcycle," Kaiko said.

In "Shosai no potofu" (Pot-au-feu of the study), a collection of three-way conversations released by Ushio Publishing Co., literary critic Satoshi Mukai asked Kaiko to confirm that this was not a made-up story, and the novelist replied, "It's the solid-gold truth."

It is interesting to see, even though "moto" (stock) changes into "tomo" (friend) there, both make sense as a product name in the Japanese language.

Allow me to take a cue from

that the Rohingya are just immigrants from Bangladesh and have nothing but an "invented identity", or whether one believes the claim of the Rohingya themselves that they are the descendants of ancient Persian and Arab traders.

The reality is that their forced resettlement inside Myanmar and the tightening noose of restrictions imposed on them by the authorities have directly contributed to the current refugee crisis.

**Cross-border dialogue**  
ASEAN governments may wish to continue adhering to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, but they will have to accept that ignoring major lapses in governance in one country has serious consequences on all its neighbours. A vigorous cross-border dialogue about good governance has never been needed more than now.

And this dialogue needs to go beyond old clichés whereby Western nations are the only ones that one can safely criticise in public. If a Western country chose to segregate its Muslim residents and encourage their departure, the howls of protests around the world would have been deafening, and rightly so. But when Myanmar did precisely that for decades, there was largely silence. Is this myopic, selective response either acceptable or sensible?

Governments around the world should also get better at emergency planning for seaborne refugee outflows: The Rohingya refugees first

BUT many thousands of boat people will continue to perish unless the world's governments accept sweeping, profound changes to the way we tackle the problem. The current international legal regime on refugees was devised for a period when the number of people crossing borders was relatively small and the distinction between refugees and migrants was clear. But the system is now being largely abused as another method for immigration.

The current legal regime also decrees that the country on whose territory refugee seekers land first is stuck with them forever. Since this places a disproportionate burden on the nations closest to immigration flows, states have a vested interest in pushing migrants farther afield, rather than rendering them immediate assistance. The result is, perversely, an even greater accidental loss of life as well as greater cruelty, as refugees are passed from one authority to the next in order to maintain the fiction that they do not exist. And that breeds a further layer of corrupt middlemen and bribe-seeking officials.

**Shared quotas**  
WHAT is required is the introduction of a new system of temporary quotas, with countries sharing the burden of refugee settlement in a more equitable manner.

For when all is said and done, the truth remains that while governments have to uphold the basic responsibilities of humanity, they also have to, as their first priority, look after the welfare of their own citizens and take into account the growing opposition in all developed countries to further large migration inflows.

This is not a morality tale, but a painful debate between the desirable and the possible.

this experience of Kaiko's. When I heard a certain piece of news recently, my heart dropped. I felt the time had finally come when even "tomo" (old friend) would be imported from some distant place. I am talking about the unverified report that Ajinomoto Co. plans to terminate domestic production of its flagship product Ajinomoto. I actually danced to the news, but it reminded me of my childhood days when my family members sat around a low dining table, passing around a small bottle of the artificial condiment. Well, I must say that even a rumor sometimes has its merits.

"Sprinkle Ajinomoto like shimmering snowflakes over sujiko salmon roe..." is a line from "Human Lost," a short novel by Osamu Dazai, a writer who loved Ajinomoto so much he used it even on yokan (sweetened and jellied bean paste) and manju (cake with such fillings as adzuki bean paste). Upon hearing the rumor, some of you might have recalled your own family's dining table in the old days, with fond memories shimmering like snowflakes.

## THE DAILY YOMIURI

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## THE DAILY YOMIURI

## Japan's key role in disaster management

Japan has the potential to play a very significant role in helping other nations prepare for disasters

TARO NISHIJIMA

On April 25, a devastating earthquake struck Kathmandu. On the morning of April 27, we headed to the ruins of a building where we heard some survivors were trapped in rubble. We looked on as rescue workers from Nepal, China, and Turkey continued the risky task of searching for survivors amid ongoing aftershocks.

At about 2am on April 28, cheers erupted as a young man was rescued—the first survivor to be rescued in approximately 62 hours. One of the members of the Turkish rescue team told us how happy he was to find a survivor. But when asked whether there were other survivors, he shook his head solemnly.

We saw another rescue worker from Turkey on his knees as a rescue worker from China put his arm around him. They both seemed to be crying.

The reality is that financially strapped developing countries simply cannot afford to prepare for disasters that may or may not happen. This issue was brought up in March at the Third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai. The new guiding principle for dealing with disasters—the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction—specified that "adequate and sustainable" support would be offered to developing nations.

It is difficult to convince countries that are already struggling with difficult situations of the importance of disaster-preparedness measures. However, it is essential for the world to lend a hand and convince these countries of the importance of such measures to prevent the unnecessary loss of lives.

Japan, which has suffered through catastrophic natural disasters time after time, has the potential to go beyond financial support and be very effective in teaching other countries the importance of preparing for disasters. The government should invite disaster-management officials from countries across the globe and educate them about the latest in disaster-preparedness technology and work with private organisations to teach local residents what they can do to prepare for disasters.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, a senior member of the Los Angeles Fire Department who flew to Japan to lead a rescue team in the coastal region of Iwate Prefecture commented after returning to Los Angeles that he was struck by how well Iwate residents were prepared for the disaster. The world has much to learn from Japan, he said.

Japan has the potential to play a very significant role in helping other nations prepare for disasters.



A Japanese rescue worker with a sniffer dog in Kathmandu after the quake.

When we told one of the local residents that this was clearly meant to cut costs, he told us that some construction companies do this to cut costs, but many of the clients overlook it.

"We can't afford to prepare for an earthquake," he said.

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## THE NATION



**Queen talks referendum plan**

Britain's Queen Elizabeth said the government would pass a law paving the way for a referendum on the country's membership of the EU, in a speech setting out PM David Cameron's legislative plan for the coming year. "Early legislation will be introduced to provide for an in-out referendum on membership of the EU before the end of 2017."



**Thaksin's passport revoked**

Thailand has revoked two passports belonging to ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra after he gave an interview that posed a risk to national security and the country's reputation, the foreign ministry said on Wednesday. Thaksin lives abroad to avoid a jail sentence handed down for graft in 2008.

**Denmark PM calls general election**

Denmark's PM Helle Thorning-Schmidt has called a snap election for 18 June, when her centre-left coalition is expected to face a tough challenge from the opposition. "The choice is clear: time is right," Thorning-Schmidt said. The opposition centre-right bloc, led by Lars Løkke Rasmussen, has been leading in the opinion polls.

**balaji chariot**



■ Indian devotees pull the rope to move the silver chariot carrying an idol of Hindu god Balaji during the annual festival of Kote Venkatramana temple in Bangalore, India, on Wednesday. The 17th Century temple festival is one of the oldest continuously celebrated festivals of Bangalore.

# UN says over 2,500 migrants still adrift

REUTERS

BANGKOK, MAY 27

More than 2,500 migrants could still be stranded on boats in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, according to estimates by the United Nations, as Thailand prepares to host a regional meeting it said was focused on "immediate action" to tackle the crisis.

Thousands of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar and migrants from Bangladesh have tried to land in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia since a Thai crackdown on people smugglers in early May led to trafficker crews abandoning them at sea.

Regional governments have struggled to respond, although images of desperate people crammed aboard overloaded boats with little food or water prompted Indonesia and Malaysia to soften their initial reluctance to allow the migrants to come ashore.

More than seven boats carrying around 2,600 people are thought to be still at sea, according to data from UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) sources.

Friday's meeting in Bangkok will bring together 17 countries from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and elsewhere in Asia, along with the United States, Switzerland



■ Afghan immigrants land at a beach on the Greek island of Kos after crossing a portion of the south-eastern Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greece on a dinghy.

REUTERS

## SKorea, US and Japan talk NKorea nuke threat



■ South Korea's envoy Hwang Joon-kook (centre), US State Department's Special Representative Sung Kim (right) and Japanese Foreign Ministry's Director-General Junichi Ihara on Wednesday.

AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, MAY 27

The top nuclear envoys from South Korea, the United States and Japan agreed on Wednesday on the need to increase pressure on North Korea and urged the country to engage in serious negotiations on its expanding nuclear weapons program.

Wednesday's meetings are part of a series of such talks meant to coordinate a unified stance on North Korea's growing arsenal. Prospects are slim that larger disarmament talks with Pyongyang will happen soon. Washington and its allies want North Korea to demonstrate its sincerity by following through with past nuclear pledges. North Korea, however, has consistently demanded that Washington and its allies recognize it as a nuclear weapons power.

"We reaffirmed our commitment to continuing the closest possible trilateral

coordination and consultation," US envoy Sung Kim told reporters after the meeting. "We agreed on the importance of enhancing pressure and sanctions on North Korea even as we keep all diplomatic options on the table and open."

South Korean envoy Hwang Joonkook urged the North to engage in discussions in a sincere manner, warning its diplomatic and international isolation would deepen if it defiantly pushes to develop more weapons.

Worries about the North's stability rose earlier this month when South Korea's spy agency said that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had his defense chief executed for disloyalty.

Hwang described Wednesday's meeting as "particularly timely" because of uncertainty in North Korea.

## India continues to grapple with extreme heatwave

BBC

DELHI, MAY 27

Heatwave conditions continue to sweep India where more than 1,100 people have died in the past week, officials say.

Although temperatures have marginally fallen in the worst-hit states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, they continue to hover around 45C (113F).

But clouds have formed over some parts of the two states and weather officials say pre-monsoon showers are likely to provide some relief in the coming days.

At least 24 people have died from the heat in West Bengal and Orissa too.

Heatwave conditions have also been prevailing in large parts of India, including in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan and the capital, Delhi, with temperatures nearing 50C (122F) in some areas in the past week.

Hospitals have been put on alert to treat heatstroke patients and authorities have



■ Authorities are advising people to cover up when in sun.

AP

advised people to stay indoors.

Officials say the majority of the victims are people who have been exposed to the sun directly, usually aged 50 and above and from the working classes. Most of the heat-related deaths in the last week have taken place in Andhra Pradesh where 852 people have died and in Telangana where the toll is 266.

"Heatwave conditions continue to prevail in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. In Telangana, temperatures

range from 42 to 45C. In Andhra Pradesh, temperatures continue to remain steady and the heatwave continues. The temperatures should return to normal by the week end," YK Reddy, meteorological department official in Hyderabad - the joint capital of the two states - told BBC Hindi.

Meanwhile, the authorities were advising people not to venture outside without a cap and to drink plenty of water and keep hydrated.

Saudi-led air strikes killed at least 80 people near Yemen's border with Saudi Arabia and in the capital Sanaa on Wednesday, residents said, the deadliest day of bombing in over two months of war in Yemen.

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels seized Sanaa last September and then thrust into central and south Yemen. Seeing the Houthi advance as a bridgehead for Iranian influence in the region, a Saudi-led coalition began air strikes on March 26 in a campaign to restore Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power.

Wednesday's air raids on the Baaqil al-Meer area in Hajjah province across Saudi Arabia's border with Yemen killed at least 40 people, most of them civilians, local inhabitants said.

Tribesmen aligned with the Houthis have been fighting Saudi ground forces in the area, and border clashes have escalated the conflict between the Shi'ite Muslim rebels and the coalition of Sunni Muslim Gulf Arab states.

"Houthi gunmen were attacking Saudi border positions from this area but the coalition's planes failed to hit the fighters and bombed civilians (instead)," one resident told Reuters by telephone.

Several hours later, air strikes on a special forces base allied with the Houthis in central Sanaa, the Houthi-run state news agency Saba said, in an account confirmed by residents.

"Around 40 people were martyred and more than 100 others were wounded, according to a preliminary toll, in bombing by the Saudi aggression's planes on the Sabaeen area in the capital Sanaa today," the Saba dispatch said.

A Yemeni soldier who survived the attack said the raid hit a warehouse where soldiers and Houthi militiamen were receiving their weapons. "So far we're not sure how many are dead," the soldier told Reuters.

## Australian boy in Syria creates quandary for government

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA, MAY 27

A 7-year-old Australian boy who horrified the world a year ago when he was photographed holding the severed head of a Syrian soldier by the hair has created a quandary for the government, which wants to make scores of Australian fighters in the Middle East someone else's problem and revoking their citizenship.

News on Wednesday that the boy's mother has had enough of the horrors of Syria and wants to bring her five children back home to Sydney has prompted questions about how governments should protect their own citizens and how they draw the line between terrorists and their victims.

Sydney-born convicted terrorist Khaled Sharrouf posted a photo on his Twitter account from Syria

of his youngest son with his extended arms straining under the weight of the gruesome trophy.

US Secretary of State John Kerry described the image as "one of the most disturbing, stomach-turning, grotesque photographs ever displayed."

Sharrouf also posted a photograph of his three sons posing with him in matching camouflage fatigues and armed with assault rifles and a pistol with an Islamic State flag as a backdrop.

Fairfax Media newspapers reported Wednesday that the Australian family of Sharrouf's Muslim-convert wife, Tara Nettleton, was trying to help her bring her three young boys and two teenage daughters to Sydney.

Asked about the family, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said if the children had



■ Syrian government soldiers who were captured by Islamic State militants in Palmyra area. Syrian army is deploying troops in areas near the ancient town of Palmyra in apparent preparation for a counterattack to retake it.

whether they're female, whether they're criminals abroad or criminals at home," Abbott said.

"Criminals will be punished and to participate in the kind of barbarism that we have seen so often in the Middle East is just wrong. It's morally wrong and it's a crime under Australian law and it will be punished," he said.

There is no evidence that Sharrouf, who slipped out of Australia in late 2013 using his brother's passport because his own had been canceled, wants to return to Australia, the newspaper reported. Police have confirmed he faces an arrest warrant in Australia on terrorism offenses.

Nettleton later took their children to Syria to reunite with her husband, flying with roundtrip tickets for Malaysia to hide from Sydney airport officials their intended final destination.

Nettleton's father, Peter Nettleton, said he did know the family's location and would not comment on the Fairfax report.

"I still love my daughter and hope she comes home safely," he told reporters outside his Sydney home.

Australia used controversial new counterterrorism laws in December to make even visiting the Islamic State movement's stronghold of al-Raqqa province in Syria a criminal offense punishable by 10 years in prison.

Australia has canceled the passes of scores of suspected extremists, preventing would-be jihadis from leaving the country and stranding foreign fighters overseas. Australia also plans to pass a law to give the government the power to strip citizenship from dual nationals who are suspected terrorists even if they are not convicted of a crime.

# the kathmandu post

# life & style

PG 09 | THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015

ekantipur.com

## Azealia Banks to star in 'Coco'

Rapper Azealia Banks has been roped in by Lionsgate to star as the title character in music drama Coco. Directed by RZA, the film marks Banks' feature film debut. Common, Jill Scott, Lucien Laviscount, Lorraine Toussaint and Hana Mae Lee will also star in the film, which is produced by Paul Hall.

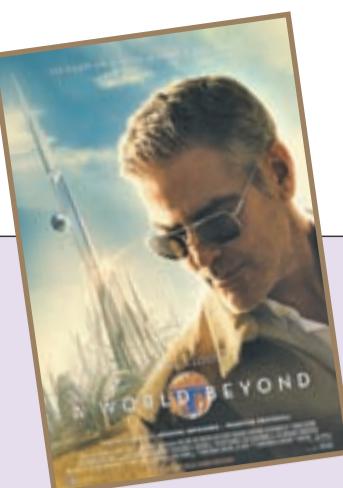
## BORN TODAY

British actress Carey Mulligan is 30  
Australian singer Kylie Minogue is 47  
British actor Toby Hemingway is 32  
Pakistani cricketer Misbah Ul-haq is 41  
American wrestler Kamala is 65



## Tomorrowland nets \$42.7m debut

Fantasy adventure Tomorrowland ended up earning slightly more in its debut than Monday estimates suggested. While that's within the range of what the studio and analysts predicted going into the four-day weekend, it's going to be an uphill battle for the film starring George Clooney to make up its reported \$180 million production budget.



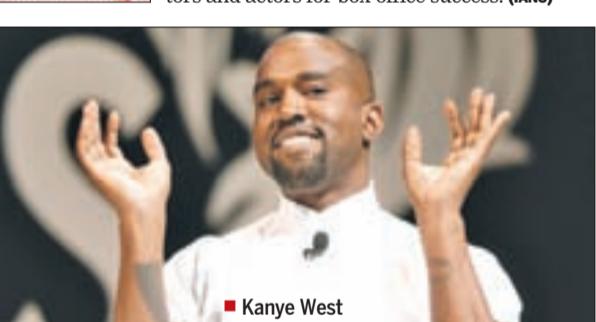
■ Bob Dylan

## NEWPORT FESTIVAL TO MARK 50TH YEAR SINCE DYLAN WENT ELECTRIC

**NEWPORT:** This year's Newport Folk Festival plans to pay tribute to the moment when Bob Dylan made rock history by going electric 50 years ago. The festival, noted for introducing performers who later became big stars, will have a secret line-up of musicians billed as '65 Revisited. Festival producer Jay Sweet said on Tuesday that nearly a dozen contemporary musicians are included in an all-star lineup, but the audience won't know who they are until they take the stage to close the festival with a massive set celebrating Dylan's 1965 performance. Dylan first appeared at Newport as a guest of Joan Baez in 1963. His three-song electric set two years later - including Like a Rolling Stone and Maggie's Farm — is widely viewed as one of the most pivotal moments in rock 'n' roll history. It marked Dylan's break with the folk movement and spurred others to go electric as well. The festival runs July 24-26. Other headliners include Roger Waters and The Decemberists. (AP)

## JACKIE CHAN OPENS ACTING SCHOOL IN CHINA

**BEIJING:** Martial arts movie star Jackie Chan, one of Asia's most famous actors, has founded a film and television school in China, web portal Sina reported on Wednesday. Chan, whose Hollywood successes include Rush Hour and a remake of Karate Kid, said in his personal micro-blog that the new school, in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, was his life-long dream. The actor attended the school's inauguration in the company of Chinese movie celebrities, including director Feng Xiaogang and actor Li Bingbing. The Jackie Chan Film and Television Academy will offer courses in acting, animation and other fields related to digital media. Hong Kong-born Chan, 61, complained recently that Chinese films depend on big budgets and foreign directors and actors for box-office success. (IANS)



■ Kanye West

## KANYE WEST WAS ALMOST 'BLOWN TO BITS' ON MINEFIELD?

**LOS ANGELES:** Rapper Kanye West was reportedly almost blown to bits while hiking on an abandoned military minefield in Hawaii with his trainer Harley Pasternak. The 37-year-old rapper's trainer and close friend Pasternak claims they narrowly escaped death after wandering into a dangerous area during one of their outdoor workouts in Hawaii a few years ago, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The duo were nearly blown to bits in an abandoned military minefield but luckily saw warning signs for explosives and navigated their way back to safety, according to billboard.com. Meanwhile, Kanye's wife Kim Kardashian West's personal trainer Gunnar Peterson claims the New Slaves hitmaker "is single-handedly keeping the floral industry alive as he is always buying her bouquets". The couple, who have 23-month-old daughter North, celebrated their first wedding anniversary on May 24 and are said to be happier than ever. (IANS)

## I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ACTING: LAUREN GOTTLIEB

**MUMBAI:** A successful dancer from the US, Lauren Gottlieb has been trying her luck in Bollywood. Ahead of the release of her next film Welcome 2 Karachi, Lauren says she has fallen in love with acting. "Dancing is all about expression and acting is very internal, so it's interesting to bring that to life," said Lauren. "For me, dance is love and responsibility. I have reached the peak because of my dancing capabilities," added the talented girl, who made her Bollywood debut with ABCD - AnyBody Can Dance. Her new movie Welcome 2 Karachi, directed by Ashish R Mohan, also features Arshad Warsi and Jacky Bhagnani. Asked about how life changed for her after ABCD, the dancer who will turn 27 on June 8 said: "I am on other side of the world from where I grew up in (US). Life has changed in so many ways — it's a new environment, new language, and new culture. And now I am a movie star." "I am already doing so many films. When I was offered ABCD, I knew right away that I was meant to come to India. Ever since I have come here, things have just been happening." (IANS)

## U2 brings 'Innocence & Experience' tour to LA

U2, one of the greatest rock acts in history, is front man Bono, guitarist the Edge, bassist Adam Clayton and drummer Larry Mullen, who have been performing together since 1976. The band does know how to put on a rock show



■ Bono and Edge



■ Irrfan Khan and Ritesh Batra

## The Lunchbox director would love to work with Irrfan again

IANS  
NEW DELHI, MAY 27

Their first outing together—The Lunchbox—exuded a new fragrance of cinema that Indian and international audiences equally seemed to enjoy. Now, director Ritesh Batra says he wants to again team up with actor Irrfan Khan to recreate magic on the silver screen.

"I would love to work with Irrfan again. I am always looking for an excuse to work with him again," Batra told IANS over phone from Mumbai before flying off to Britain for his foreign project.

The 2013 film presented a unique love story between a love-lorn wife and a lonely man — played by Nirmal Kaur and Irrfan,

ignited due to a mistaken delivery by Mumbai's dabbawallas.

Love blossoms between the two after exchanging letters with food becoming the bridge between them.

The movie, produced by multiple names, has done its round of international film festivals, including those in Cannes, Zurich, London and Toronto.

The film made India proud after earning a nomination at British Academy of Film and Television Arts (Bafta) awards in the Film Not in the English Language category. However, it lost to Polish drama Ida.

After finding fame across the globe thanks to his debut movie, Batra has landed up a chance to direct a movie adaptation of Julian Barnes' novel The Sense of an Ending, featuring Oscar-winning actor Jim Broadbent.

Batra notes that the casting process for the film is still on, but getting Irrfan on board for the project seems highly unlikely.

"The novel is very British with British characters," he said. However, the director mentioned that he will find a way to work with Irrfan again.

"If not this one, then may be the next one," he said when asked about casting Irrfan for the British film.



■ Jessica Lange

BBC  
LONDON, MAY 27

Oscar-winning actor Jessica Lange is set to return to New York's Broadway, after a decade, in Eugene O'Neill's play

Long Day's Journey Into Night. Lange will return to the role she played in London during 2000, for which she was nominated for an Olivier Award.

She will play Mary Tyrone, a matriarch addicted to morphine, opposite Irish actor Gabriel Byrne next year. This is her third appearance in New York's theatre district, said the Roundabout Theatre Company.

The 66-year-old previously starred in Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire in 1992 and The Glass Menagerie in 2005. The play, widely considered to be a 20th Century American classic, will start previews on 31 March and open to the public on 19 April, said the company. Lange, originally from Minnesota, won an Oscar for best actress in 1994 when she appeared opposite Tommy Lee Jones in Blue Sky, a period drama about a family moving to a military base.



LOS ANGELES  
IANS, MAY 27

Singer Nicole Scherzinger is going through a very transformative time in her life following her split from reigning Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton. The Don't hold your breath hitmaker, who split from Hamilton in February after seven years together, believes they will eventually reunite if they are truly meant to be together, but she is

currently trying to focus on herself.

"I think it's hard. I think sometimes people stay in relationships because they get complacent, because it's comfortable for them, because they don't want to be alone. For me, what's helped me to get through this is I'm quite a spiritual person. It has grounded me and I realize I do have a great purpose in life."

"If relationships or people in your life are meant to be, then they

will come back around, but that shouldn't be what is holding you back from your ultimate destiny," she said.

Asked if she has any advice for getting through a breakup, she said: "Focus on yourself. Because a lot of the times when you're in a relationship, you lose yourself and you lose who you are, what makes you so special in your own light."

■ Nicole Scherzinger

## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Intensity is the order of the day, and you won't settle for anything less. So if there's turmoil, intrigue or secrets to deal with, you'll be more than up for the challenge.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

No matter what you're spending your money on now, you'll definitely want it to be worth your while. That means you won't settle for anything less than what you want -- and why would you even try to?

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Whatever you're asked to voice your opinion about now will mean a great deal to you. Even if you didn't have a strong opinion when you started, just go easy; folks will listen more attentively if you're nice.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Your family members and dear ones may be up to their eyeballs in tough situations now. If you can manage to stay objective and unbiased, you'll end up doing a far better service for you both. Be fair, above all else.

## LEO (July 23-August 22)

The younger folks in your life -- who look up to you -- will take up quite a bit of your time today. You'll feel good about helping them out. But be sure that you're passing out the right advice.

## VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

Whatever you're up to today, let's just say you're going to be quite into it, and very involved with it. That means your dear ones will have to take a backseat. Do become completely immersed in what you love.

## LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

Holding hands with someone will be a major thing for you at this point. In fact, no matter what you plan to do with another person, it won't happen if you don't feel it right down to your toes.

## SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

You'll be quite ready to become intimate with someone today, on a variety of levels. And that they'll be equally delighted about becoming more personally involved with you.

## SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

Long-distance communications will take on an added tone of urgency now, as will all your dealings with teachers, mentors and counselors. Of course, the tables may also turn, causing you to become the one who's looked to for advice.

## CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

If you find yourself in a public situation now, you'll probably feel a bit uncomfortable -- but for nothing but pleasant reasons. Others will want to know more about you, to examine your life and what you've done. Don't be shy! Talk about yourself.

## AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)

Your friends will want a lot more from you now than just platonic, casual chitchat. Don't hesitate to let them in on your secrets -- or to listen to theirs.

## PISCES (February 19-March 20)

Your urge to spend some time in private with someone near and dear to you won't be easily dismissed. In fact, you'll be willing to cut yourself loose from anyone or anything to do just that. Grab whatever time you can away from the crowds, and have that chat.

## LAUGH OUT LOUD

## KANTIPUR TV

## KANTIPUR FM

## EVENTOGRAPHS

## GETAWAY

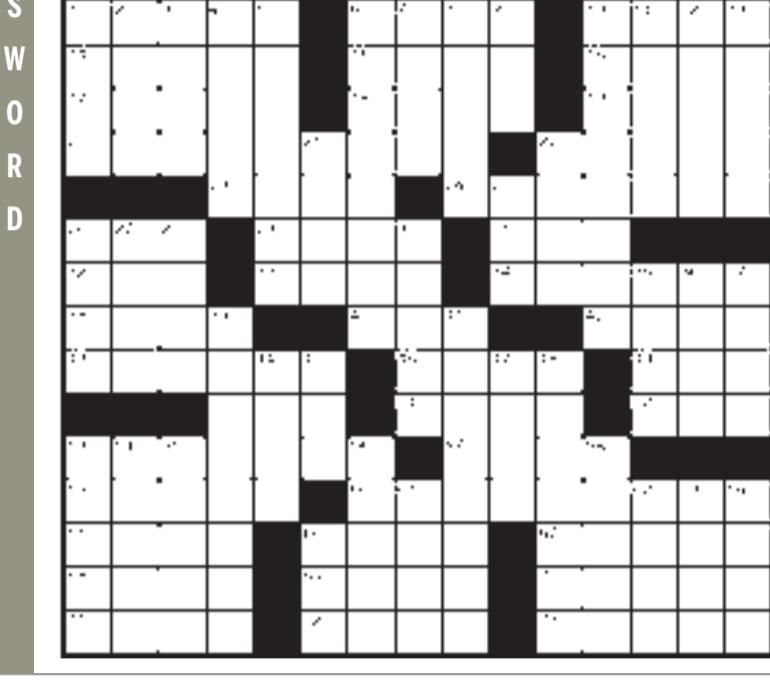
## ACROSS

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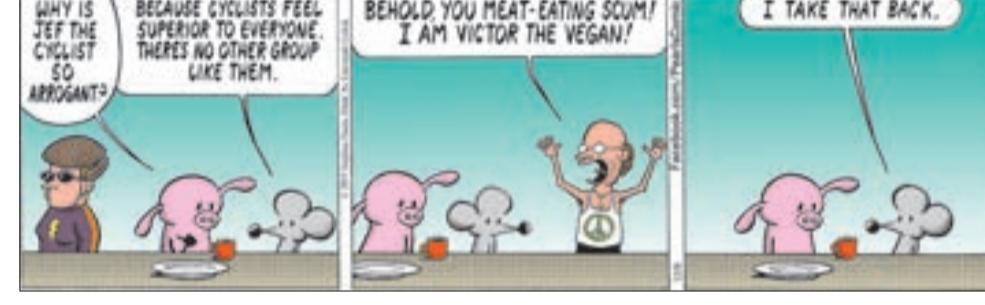
## CROSSWORD



## DILBERT



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



## GARFIELD



## FOOD &amp; DRINKS

**China Garden** offers delectable dishes from across Asia, including Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and Chinese. **Timings:** Lunch: 1230-1445 hrs, Dinner: 1900-2245 hrs, contact: 427399 at Soaltee Crowne Plaza

**Mammy's Eatery and bar** introduces a special lunch package that is affordable, tasty, nutritious and quick enough to fit your lunch break, Jawalakhel, Shaligram complex, 5536919

lunch from 12 noon. Enjoy affordable and delicious meals starting from Rs 99! We are currently offering Indian & chinese combos along with momos. Call: 4441703

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## EVENTOGRAPHS

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## Asia World Travel Pvt Ltd presents fascinating luxury escapes to amazing destinations: Prague, Ladakh, Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Mount Kailash and Panchphokhari in North East Nepal. Contact: 6222604

**Garden Terrace** offers an authentic world cuisine, providing diners with the unique experience of observing their selected dishes being prepared by chefs. Contact: 427399 at Soaltee Crowne Plaza

**Kaiser Cafe Restaurant & Bar at The Garden of Dreams**, opening time: 9 am till 9 pm, offers an international cafe menu serving breakfast, lunch, dinner, specialty tea's, coffees and pastries, contact: 4425341

**The Italian restaurant** serves authentic Italian cuisines in an elegant ambience for both lunch and dinner. **Timings:** Lunch: 1230-1445 hrs, Dinner: 1900-2245 hrs, Contact: 427399, at Soaltee Crowne Plaza

Savour the cardamom and saffron spice, slow-cooked kebabs and kormas at **Indian restaurant serving Awadhi cuisine**. contact: 427399, at Soaltee Crowne Plaza

**Embers Bar, Pulchowk**, in all its sophistication and glory is happy to announce Happy Hours every 6-7pm. It will be hosting a Barbeque night every Friday from 6:30-9:30pm

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We serve nothing but the finest **Arabica coffee** at great value prices at **Barista Lavazza Coffee Restaurant**, Lazimpat, Contact: 405123/4005124

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Rosemary Kitchen and Coffee shop, **Thamel**, opening hours: 7:00 am to 10:00 pm offers an International cuisine in reasonable prices. Contact 01-4267554

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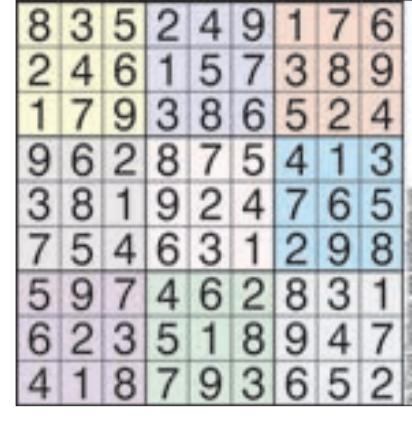
**Revolution Cafe, AmritMarg, Thamel**, away from busy crowded street, offers great music, fast wi-fi and wide menu with reasonable prices. Operation hours: 7 am to 10 pm, contact: 4433630

**Artudio, Chhauni Hospital Road, Swyambhu**, organise Spring Art Camp for School Children for 10 days from April 7-16, 2015. Opening Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Contact: 9851180088.

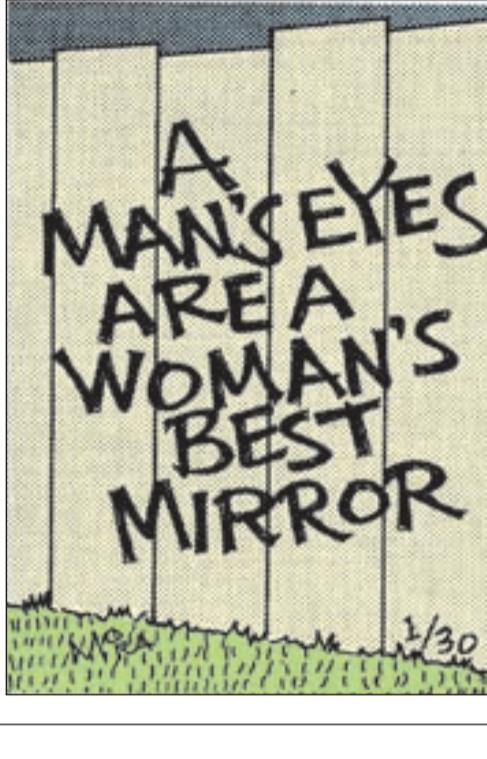
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## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



## GRAFFITI



## WORD GAME

## TODAY'S WORD -- PREPARED

(PREPARED: gerb-PAIRED: Made ready for a specific purpose.)

Average mark 24 words  
Time limit 30 minutes

Can you find 3 or more words in PREPARED?  
The list will be published tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S WORD -- WORKFORCE

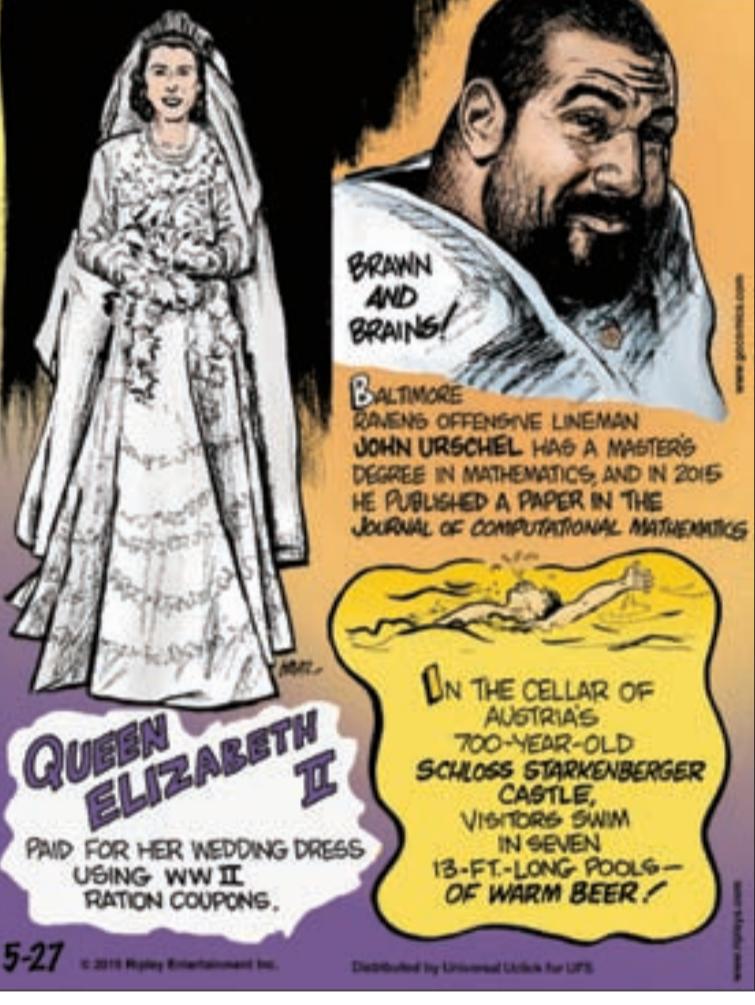
woke	rework	fore	core
worried	rocker	cock	cockier
worrier	rooster	frow	cockle
worse	roost	crew	cocksw
work	roster	cock	cockw
wreak	herf	cooker	cockoo
wreck	force	cooker	cockoo

Did you find any words not on the list?

RULES OF TRUE GAME: 1. Words must be of four or more letters. 2. Words that require four letters by the addition of "e," such as "bake" or "dive," are not allowed. 3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "e" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" is not allowed. 4. All words must be in dictionary order. 5. Proper nouns, abbreviations, and vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed. To contact Word Game creator Kathleen Saxe, write to Word Game, Kathleen Saxe, Universal Uclick, 1120 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

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## RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT



### Eintracht coach Schaaf quits

Eintracht Frankfurt coach Thomas Schaaf has stepped down, blaming the club's board for making him leave after only one season in charge. Schaaf says he cannot accept the "incredible and incomprehensible accusations and insinuations" about him and his work made by club officials, giving him no option but to leave. Schaaf had another season on his contract.

### FA charges Ipswich's Bishop

The English FA says it has charged Ipswich midfielder Teddy Bishop with multiple breaches of its betting rules. The 18-year-old Bishop plays for Ipswich in the League Championship. FA rules introduced in August prohibit players at Bishop's level from "betting, either directly or indirectly, on any football match or competition that takes place anywhere in the world."



### Rhodes to give fielding tips to SL

Sri Lankan cricketers are to get fielding tips from the man who pretty much revolutionised the art after former South African player Jonty Rhodes agreed to a short stint with them. The 45-year-old arrived for a 10-day stint ahead of Sri Lanka's home series against Pakistan next month.



## SPORTS DIGEST

### Eddie Howe wins League Managers' award

LONDON: Eddie Howe, who is in charge of Championship winners Bournemouth, was named the League Managers' Association (LMA) manager of the year on Tuesday. Howe took the accolade after leading his club this season to promotion to the top flight for the first time in their 116-year history. Chelsea's Jose Mourinho won the Premier League manager of the year prize. Mourinho, in his second spell back at the club, led his team to the top-flight title as Chelsea finished eight points ahead of 2013-14 champions Manchester City who ended up in second place. (REUTERS)

### Sao Paulo hire coach Osorio

SAO PAULO: Brazilian club Sao Paulo said they have signed Colombian coach Juan Carlos Osorio for the next two seasons. Osorio had been with Colombian club Atletico Nacional since 2012, where he won six titles. The 53-year-old coach previously managed Colombia's Once Caldas and worked for the Chicago Fire and the New York Red Bulls in the Major League Soccer. He also coached Puebla in Mexico and was an assistant coach at Premier League side Manchester City for five seasons in the beginning of the last decade. Sao Paulo had been without a coach since Muricy Ramalho left in April following a series of poor results. (REUTERS)

### Nigerian GK banned for 1 year

CAIRO: A Nigerian goalkeeper was banned for a year for spitting at an assistant referee and clubs were handed fines totaling \$85,000 in disciplinary decisions announced by the Confederation of African Football on Tuesday. Goalkeeper Tejiri Rhiogbere was given the 12-month ban from all African competitions following CAF's disciplinary committee meeting on Sunday. CAF said it would also forward Rhiogbere's case to Fifa to possibly make his ban worldwide. The spitting incident happened in Nigerian club Warri Wolves' 1-0 win at FC MK of Congo in their African Confederation Cup tie on May 1, when Rhiogbere was also sent off. (AP)

# Malik stars in Pakistan win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAHORE, MAY 27

Allrounder Shoaib Malik made a winning return to limited-overs cricket with a blistering century as Pakistan defeated Zimbabwe by 41 runs in their first one-day international (ODI) on Tuesday. Malik's 112 off 76 balls helped Pakistan to a challenging total of 375-3, and even an impressive 117 off 95 balls by Zimbabwe captain Elton Chigumbura's wasn't enough as the tourists reached 334-5—their highest total against Pakistan in 49 ODIs. Malik, returning to ODIs after two years, combined in a 201-run stand with Haris Sohail, who scored an unbeaten 89 as Pakistan's top order prospered against weak bowling.

Mohammad Hafeez (86) and captain Azhar Ali (79) laid a solid platform by putting on 170 runs. "My (batting) order was at No 5, but when we got a good start, the coaches told me to go up the order and I performed," Malik said.

Chigumbura led Zimbabwe's run-chase by hitting 10 fours and four sixes in his maiden century before being bowled by Wahab Riaz, who finished with 3-47. "We did well in the chase but didn't go hard in the last seven overs," Chigumbura said. "It was satisfying to score a hundred but we have to improve our bowling in the remaining two matches."

Zimbabwe's captain featured in two productive stands, adding 124 runs with Hamilton Masakadza (73) for the third wicket and a further 74 runs with Sean Williams (36). Malik broke the century-stand when he had Masakadza caught at deep midwicket, after Hamad Azam had missed a sitter for Chigumbura at the same position when the Zimbabwe captain was on 64.

Chigumbura completed his



Pakistan's Shoaib Malik hits boundary as Zimbabwe's Christopher Mpofu looks on during their one-day international match at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Pakistan on Tuesday.

century in his 174th ODI when he sliced Mohammad Sami over point for a six..

Malik, who had been dropped from ODIs since the 2013 Champions Trophy in England, had earlier hit 12 fours and two sixes before being caught off the last ball of the innings. Sohail also matched Malik's sparkling performance with six fours and two sixes. Offspinner

Prosper Utseya (2-63) removed both openers off successive deliveries before Malik took charge, scoring his first ODI century since the 2009 Champions Trophy against India at Centurion.

Ali and Hafeez started off cautiously before scoring at will. Hafeez hit eight fours and two of his four sixes came off successive deliveries when he lofted left-arm spinner

Williams over his head before Utseya struck. Ali top-edged a slog sweep and holed out in the deep and the offspinner clean bowled Hafeez.

Malik and Sohail then combined in Pakistan's best third-wicket stand against Zimbabwe as they hammered 112 runs in the last 10 overs. Former captains Javed Miandad and Aamir Sohail held the previous record when

they made 145 at Hobart during the 1992 World Cup. Masakadza had Malik dropped at point in the last over before making amends off the last ball of the innings.

Pakistan beat Zimbabwe 2-0 in the earlier T20 series, which marked the return of international cricket to the country after an attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore killed seven people in 2009.

### SCORECARD

**Pakistan**  
 M Hafeez b Utseya 86, A Ali c Panyangara b Utseya 79, S Malik c Masakadza b Panyangara 112, H Sohail not out 89  
**Extras:** 9 (4lb, 1w, 3w, lnb)  
**Total:** 375-3 (50 Overs)  
**FoW:** 1-170, 2-174, 3-375  
**Zimbabwe bowling:** Panyangara 10-0-75-1, Vitor 10-1-77-0, Mpofu 10-0-70-0, Williams 5-0-42-0, Utseya 10-0-63-2, Raza 5-0-43-0

**Zimbabwe**  
 V Sibanda c and b Riaz 23, S Raza c Hafeez b Ali 36, H Masakadza c Azam b Malik 73, E Chigumbura b Riaz 117, S Williams c Ahmed b Riaz 36, R Mutumbami not out 21, P Utseya not out 21  
**Extras:** 7 (2lb, 5w)  
**Total:** 334-5 (50 Overs)  
**FoW:** 1-56, 2-65, 3-189, 4-263, 5-293  
**Pakistan bowling:** Sami 7-0-63-0, Ali 10-0-81, Riaz 10-0-47-3, Azam 5-0-29-0, Shah 6-0-35-0, Hafeez 8-0-44-0, Malik 4-0-31-1  
**Result:** Pakistan win by 41 runs  
**Series:** Pakistan lead three-match series 1-0

# Neuer, Mueller, Kroos left out

### squad announcement

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFURT, MAY 27



Goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, forward Thomas Mueller and midfielder Toni Kroos have been left out of Germany's squad for the upcoming friendly against the United States and the European Championship qualifier against Gibraltar.

The three key members of Germany's World Cup-winning team are being rested after a busy season, according to coach Joachim Loew. In addition, Neuer has "several injuries" that need to be treated.

Defender Benedikt Howedes is out with an ankle injury, while forwards Marco Reus and Julian Draxler are

### Del Bosque picks two newcomers

**MADRID:** Spain coach Vicente del Bosque included two newcomers in his squad on Tuesday for upcoming internationals against Costa Rica and Belarus. Sergio Rico, a 21-year-old goalkeeper, and 25-year-old midfielder Aleix Vidal were both added to the squad on Tuesday.

Both play for Sevilla, on call. Both have injury-plagued seasons behind them. Midfielder Patrick Herrmann could make his Germany debut. He was in the squad once in March 2013 but

who will play in the Europa League final later on Wednesday. Bayern Munich midfielder Thiago Alcantara was left out because he is still recovering from a muscle injury.

Spain will play a friendly against Costa Rica on June 11 in Leon and a Euro qualifying match at Belarus three days later. (AP)

did not play.

Germany play the United States in Cologne on June 10 and then travel to Faro, Portugal, to face Gibraltar three days later.

# Bolt cruises to 200m win, Powell takes 100m golden spike meet

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSTRAVA, MAY 27

Usain Bolt cruised to victory in the 200 meters race at the Golden Spike meet on Tuesday, as the Jamaican star prepares for the World Championships after a season marred by injuries.

Facing rain and cold at the IAAF World Challenge event, Bolt had the slowest reaction of all the sprinters, his traditional problem. "It was one of my slowest reactions in a long time," Bolt said. "For me it was not a perfect day. It

wasn't a perfect curve." Still, the six-time Olympic champion came out of the bend slightly ahead and breezed unchallenged to victory, crossing the line in 20.13. Isiah Young of the United States finished second in 20.35 and Lykourgos Stefanos Tsakonas of Greece was third in 20.62. "The shape that I'm in, and I'm coming back, I don't really know what to say is a decent time, or not," Bolt said. "I think I just need races, need to run a lot."

Bolt improved on his previous season's best of 20.20, clocked in April in Jamaica, though both are still far from his world record of 19.19 set in 2009. On Tuesday, it was more about dipping below 20 seconds. "You can't be satisfied if I don't break 20.0, I really wanted to," Bolt said. "The conditions didn't allow. And I'm coming back from injuries, so it's going to take time."

He said he was not worried by not running fast times just yet. Tuesday was his first race in Europe this season as he prepares for the worlds in August in Beijing.

"I don't really try to stress too much over time," Bolt said. "I just want to get everything together and start feeling better."

He will have more chances to improve his times in the Diamond League meets in New York in June, and in Paris and Lausanne, Switzerland, the following month. "The more I run the better I feel, the faster I can go," Bolt added. "Hopefully, in New York (there) are better conditions and I'll be able to push myself."

His countryman Asafa Powell won the 100 in 10.04, ahead of Young in 10.13 and while Britain's Richard Kilty clocked 10.31 in third. "The time in this condition isn't that bad after all," Powell said.

Olympic champion Christian Taylor of the United States leaped 17.52 to win the men's triple jump for a meet record. "I'm very happy with my performance today," said Taylor, who jumped 18.04 in Doha, Qatar, at a Diamond League meet earlier in May, the fourth-longest of all time.

# Bale pledges to come back stronger

REUTERS

MADRID, MAY 27

Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale has promised to "come back stronger" next season and quashed media speculation he might leave the club he joined in 2013 for a world record fee.

The Welsh international had a disappointing second year in Spain as his team failed to win a major trophy, prompting the sacking of coach Carlo Ancelotti on Monday.

Whistled by some fans at Real's Bernabeu stadium, Bale's agent raised eyebrows this month when he complained the 25-year-old's teammates were not passing the ball to him enough and he has also been criticised for what some perceive as selfishness in front of goal.

Reports in England have suggested he might leave, with Manchester United apparently interested in signing the former Tottenham



Hotspur man. However, Bale took to Twitter on Tuesday to say he would be vying for titles again with the world's richest club by income in 2014-15. "Not the end of the season we had hoped for, we always want to win trophies," Bale wrote. "Will be working hard in the off season and looking forward to coming back next season stronger with @realmadrid."

Bale's woes have marked a startling turnaround for a player who scored in the finals of the Champions League and the King's Cup last term. He has scored 17 goals in 48 outings in all competitions this season, compared with 22 in 44 appearances in 2013-14. Bale has also produced slightly fewer assists, setting up 11 goals for teammates after 12 the previous year.

The statistics are similar but according to a survey of 725 Real members conducted by market research firm SigmaDots for Marca sports daily, Bale rated five out of 10 for the season. That compared unfavourably with Portuguese team mate Cristiano Ronaldo, who scored 7.8 after netting a La Liga-best 48 goals and 61 in all competitions.



## SPORTS DIGEST

**Benitez to clear air on Real rumours**

**MILAN:** Napoli coach Rafael Benitez will hold a news conference on Thursday amid speculation that the Spaniard is set to take over at Real Madrid, the Italian club said on Tuesday. Napoli said the news conference would be held jointly with club president Aurelio De Laurentiis. Spanish media have made former Liverpool, Inter and Chelsea coach Benitez the favourite to replace Carlo Ancelotti, who was fired by Real on Monday. (Reuters)

**Russia cuts 2018 WCup budget**

**MOSCOW:** The Russian government has cut its budget for the 2018 World Cup by more than \$70 million. When Russia won the bid to host the event, its economy was booming. But under the pressure of Western sanctions and low oil prices, the economy has suffered over the past year and concerns are high about the financial burden of the World Cup. The government website says the budget will be cut by \$71 million. (AP)

**Villa chairman to stand down**

**LONDON:** Aston Villa's American owner Randy Lerner will stand down as club chairman whether or not he manages to sell the club, he said on Wednesday. In an interview with The Times, he said he should have moved aside some years ago and that he took responsibility for the team's poor performance over the last few seasons. Lerner has been trying to sell the club he bought in 2006 for some time and is looking for between £150-200 million. (Reuters)

# Ugly Fifa facet surfaces

■ Swiss open criminal proceedings in WCup votes ■ Seven Fifa officials arrested



■ Jack Warner (left), Eugenio Figueredo (centre) and Jeffrey Webb.

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

ZURICH, MAY 27

Swiss federal prosecutors opened criminal proceedings related to the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, throwing Fifa deeper into crisis only hours after seven officials were arrested and 14 indicted Wednesday in a separate US corruption probe.

Fifa, meanwhile, said Friday's presidential election would go ahead as planned with Sepp Blatter going for a fifth term. Blatter was not named in either investigation. Fifa also ruled out a revote of the World Cups won by Russia in 2018 and Qatar in 2022.

The Swiss prosecutors' office said in a statement they seized "electronic data and documents" at Fifa headquarters on Wednesday as part of their probe. Swiss police said they will question 10 Fifa exco members, who took part in the World Cup votes in December 2010. The Swiss investigation against "persons unknown on suspicion of criminal mismanagement and

The US Department of Justice said in a statement that two current Fifa vice presidents were among those arrested, Jeffrey Webb and Eugenio Figueredo

of money laundering" again throws into the doubt the integrity of the voting.

The announcement came only hours after seven football officials were arrested and detained by Swiss police pending extradition at the request of US authorities after a raid at a luxury hotel in Zurich. The US Department of Justice said in a statement that two current Fifa vice presidents were among those arrested, Jeffrey Webb and Eugenio Figueredo. The others are Eduardo Li, Julio Rocha, Costas Takkas, Rafael Esquivel and Jose Maria Marin.

The indictment alleges corruption that is rampant, systemic, and deep-rooted both abroad and here in the US," Attorney General Loretta Lynch said in the statement. "It spans at least two generations of football officials who, as alleged, have abused their

positions of trust to acquire millions of dollars in bribes and kickbacks."

The Swiss prosecutors' office said the US probe was separate from its investigation but that authorities were working together. The US case involves bribes "totaling more than \$100 million" linked to commercial deals dating back to the 1990s for football tournaments in the US and Latin America, the Swiss Federal Office of Justice said. The Justice Department said the corruption is linked to World Cup qualifying matches and the Copa America.

Dozens of football officials are in Switzerland for the Fifa congress and presidential election, where Blatter is widely expected to win re-election at the helm of the governing body of world football.

"He is not one of the ones arrested. He is not involved at all," Fifa spokesman Walter de Gregorio said. "We are trying to find out more from the police." Blatter had been scheduled to attend a meeting of the Confederation of African Football in a different downtown Zurich hotel, but he canceled his appearance.

The arrests were made at the lakeside Baur au Lac Hotel in downtown Zurich, long favoured as a place for senior Fifa officials to stay. It was the stage for intense lobbying for votes ahead of the 2018 and 2022 World Cup hosting decisions in December 2010. The Swiss Federal Office of Justice said in its statement that US authorities suspect the six arrested officials of having received or paid bribes totaling millions of dollars and that the crimes were agreed to and prepared in the US, and payments carried out via US banks.

"The bribery suspects are alleged to have been involved in schemes to make payments to the football functionaries (Fifa delegates) and other functionaries of Fifa sub-or-

**ARRESTED OFFICIALS****Jeffrey Webb (Cayman Islands)**

■ Age: 50, Fifa Vice President, President of concacaf since 2012, Chairman of the Fifa Anti-Racism and Discrimination Task Force, President of Cayman Islands FA

**Eugenio Figueredo (Uruguay)**

■ Age: 53, Fifa Vice President, Former President of South American Football Confederation (2013-14), Former President of Uruguayan FA (1997-2006)

**Jack Warner (Trinidad & Tobago)**

■ Age: 72, Minister of National Security, Trinidad & Tobago, Former President of CONCACAF (1990-2011), Former Fifa Vice President (to 2011), Former President of the Caribbean Football Union (1990-2011), Resigned from all football posts on June 11, 2011, bringing an end to Fifa Ethics Committee procedures against him

**Rafael Esquivel (Venezuela)**

■ Age: 68, President of Venezuelan Football Federation (Since 1987), Member of Fifa's Disciplinary Committee

**Jose Maria Marin**

■ Age: 83, Former President of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) (2012-2015), President of Local Organising Committee for 2014 World Cup, Former Governor of Sao Paulo State (1982-1983)

**Nicolas Leoz (Paraguay)**

■ Age: 86, Former President of CONMEBOL (1986-2013), Former member of Fifa's executive committee (1988-2013), Twice former President of Paraguayan FA, Retired from all football posts for "health and personal reasons" in April 2013

**Eduardo Li (Costa Rica)**

■ President of Costa Rican Football Federation, Special advisor to the Organising Committee for the Fifa U-20 and U-17 Women's World Cups

**Julio Rocha (Nicaragua)**

■ Former President of Nicaraguan Football Federation (1990-2014), Elected to CONCACAF Hall of Fame in 2009, Fifa Development Officer

**Costas Takkas (Cayman Islands)**

■ Former General Secretary of the Cayman Islands Football Association

Source: Reuters

# Ashes task gets harder after Bayliss hiring

**REUTERS**

SYDNEY, MAY 27

There was general consensus in Australia on Wednesday that retaining the Ashes this year got a little bit harder after the appointment of wily compatriot Trevor Bayliss as England's new head coach.

While former cricketers lined up to hail the success of "a ripper of a bloke" in landing such a big job, Australia coach Darren Lehmann gave a reminder that immediate success for Bayliss could mean failure for his country. "Trevor has been a great servant of the game in Australia and has had great success with New South Wales in both the long and short format," he said from Antigua, where the Test side are preparing for a series against West Indies.

"A trademark of Trevor's teams are that they are well prepared and this just serves as another reminder to us that this Ashes will be a tough contest." English cricket fans will be happy if Bayliss has as much impact on their team, humiliated 5-0 in the last Ashes series in 2013-14, as Lehmann had on Australia after taking over in the wake of the sacking of Mickey Arthur in 2013. If Bayliss does manage to galvanise England in time for the start of the Ashes in Cardiff on July 8, it is safe to say it will not be through extended data analysis or complicated tactical or psychological interventions.

"He has been successful for very simple reasons, and that is he keeps it simple," former Test bowler Geoff Lawson told Cricket Australia's website when Bayliss first applied for the England job last year. "He never gets overly excited or overly depressed by the game or by performances, and he's got a great knowledge of



■ Trevor Bayliss

the game. (But) his man management is a real strength—he's relaxed and calming and able to get the best out of players."

Bayliss will certainly bring inside knowledge of the Australia side with Michael Clarke, Steve Smith, David Warner, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood among those to have played under him at New South Wales. And if the first Australian to run the England side lacks any local knowledge, he will have assistant coach Paul Farbrace at his side, as he did when he led Sri Lanka to the 2011 World Cup final.

Bayliss was described as "old school" by spin-bowling great Shane Warne among others and there was widespread agreement on the quality of the 52-year-old as a man. "Fantastic bloke—that is what pretty much everyone when you speak to them about Trevor Bayliss," former New South Wales paceman Trent Copeland told Sydney's Daily Telegraph.

# Sharapova sets up Stosur clash; Federer marches on



■ Roger Federer of Switzerland returns against Marcel Granollers of Spain during their French Open tennis tournament match at the Roland Garros in Paris on Wednesday.

REUTERS

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

PARIS, MAY 27

Maria Sharapova will get an early test in her bid for a third French Open title.

The defending champion,

who has been battling a cold, limited her mistakes to just eight unforced errors as she beat Russian Fed Cup teammate Vitalia Diatchenko 6-3,

6-1 on Wednesday. Sharapova advanced to a third-round match against 2010 French Open finalist Samantha Stosur. The Australian swept to a 6-0, 6-1 victory over French wild card entry Amandine Hesse. The rout extended Stosur's winning streak to seven matches after she arrived in Paris on the back of her first title this year in Strasbourg.

In men's play, second-seeded Roger Federer made light work of Marcel Granollers, winning 6-2, 7-6 (1), 6-3, while 2014 Australian Open winner Stan Wawrinka reached the third round with a 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3 defeat of Dusan Lajovic. No 12 seed Gilles Simon eased past Martin Klizan, 7-5, 6-2, 6-3.

The 26th-seeded Stosur has

not beaten Sharapova since a

match on hard court in Tokyo

three years ago, with

Sharapova boasting a 14-2 career record against the

Australian veteran. But Stosur can take confidence from their previous match on the Parisian clay in the fourth round last year, when she led 6-3, 4-3 before Sharapova won the next nine games. "It's one of those matches that's a tough match up, but I know I've got the game that can trouble her, and hopefully I can do it well and we will see what happens," Stosur said.

After reuniting last month with former coach David Taylor, Stosur is hitting at the right time. Before Strasbourg, where the 2011 U.S. Open champion won a seventh career title, Stosur had won back-to-back matches just once in 10 tournaments. She said her good spell of form is mainly due to her renewed partnership with Taylor.

Sharapova's main focus at the moment is to fully recover from her cold after winning the Italian Open. "For me right now it's really about recovery and just being healthy for the next round,"

said Sharapova, who is bidding to become the first player to retain her title in Paris since Justine Henin in 2007.

She also won in 2012. Fortunately I played a lot of tennis in the previous two tournaments and this is not a stage where you're trying to fix things or work on things. It's really about maintenance and recovery and getting ready for the next match," she said.

Among other seeded women to advance were No 13 Lucie Safarova and No 20 Sabine Lisicki.

On Tuesday, tournament favourite Novak Djokovic found his stride with a 6-2, 7-6 (2) defeat of Finn Jarkko Nieminen. The Serb, whose winning march now extends to 23 matches, came within a point of a 5-1 deficit in the second set but extricated himself to clinch victory with trademark precision. Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov, the men's 10th seed and the prospective fourth-round opponent for Rafael Nadal, fell at the first hurdle for a

**Selected results****Men's Singles**

Kei Nishikori (5) bt Thomaz Bellucci 7-5, 6-4, 6-4; Damir Dzumhur bt Marco Baghdatis 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; Benjamin Becker bt Fernando Verdasco (32) 6-4, 0-6, 1-6, 7-5, 10-8; Teymuraz Gabashvili bt Juan Monaco 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; Roger Federer (2) bt Marcel Granollers 6-2, 7-6(1), 6-3; Stanislas Wawrinka (8) bt Dusan Lajovic 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3; Gilles Simon (12) bt Martin Klizan 7-5, 6-2, 6-3

**Women's Singles**

Alice Cornet (29) bt Alexandra Dulgheru 6-2, 7-5; Maria Sharapova (2) bt Vitalia Diatchenko 6-3, 6-1; Annika Beck bt Paula Kania 6-2, 6-2; Lucie Safarova (13) bt Kurumi Nara 6-2, 6-0; Samantha Stosur (26) bt Amandine Hesse 6-0, 6-1; Sabine Lisicki (20) bt Daria Gavrilova 6-1 (Gavrilova rtd)

second consecutive year, going down in three sets to American Jack Sock.

Women's top seed Serena Williams joined the party, lighting up a dull evening with a pink outfit and some powerful tennis to beat Czech qualifier Andrea Hlavackova 6-2, 6-3. Eugenie Bouchard became the highest seed to fall when the No 6, the golden girl of 2014 when she reached the Wimbledon final after making the semi-finals in Paris, slumped 6-4, 6-4 to Kristina Mladenovic of France.

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