

Earthquake In Nepal - I

KTM Metro Reporter

April 25, 2015: At 11.54 a magnitude of 7.8 (US Geological record) earthquake hit Nepal today. The epicenter of the quake was somewhere in Lamjung at the 11 km depth. More than 20 aftershocks magnitude between 4.4 and 4.6 felt repeatedly.

More than one thousands people have been confirmed dead. The death toll might be a number of times higher because reports from the rural areas have to come, yet. In Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur and in other towns, people have been out in the open areas fearing the aftershocks. Rains with thunderstorms are anticipated adding misery to already suffering people.

The damages done might be in hundreds of billions of rupees. The historically important buildings such as the famous Kasthamandap, nine-storey ancient palace, and temples of Narayan mandir, Jasidewal, and other temples in Kathmandu had been totally damaged. Surprisingly, the five-storey temple in Bhaktapur stood the quakes. A number of historical buildings collapsed in Lalitpur but the famous Krishna Mandir made of only stones withstood the quakes.

The high magnitude quakes shook the Mount Everest. It caused an avalanche. Eight climbers became the victims of the avalanche. Some of the climbers could save their lives. At the base camp, climbers faced a chaotic situation.

Prime minister Narendra Modi of India has pledged to help Nepal. The Indian army has sent three army aircrafts with medical and medicinal supplies to immediately treat the injured. Thousands of injured people have been treated on the open areas at different hospitals in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur.

The government of Nepal had deposited Rs 500 millions in the prime minister's emergency fund for the expenses of treating the injured. Some people said that the amount might not be sufficient but the government might add any amount required. The international community would also help the affected people.

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala was in Indonesia for a visit. He cut short the visit and flew to Bangkok on the way to Nepal but he could not fly to Nepal. The airport in Kathmandu was closed. The government of Nepal has declared a state of emergency. Chairman of UCPN-Maoist Prachanda and its leader Baburam Bhattarai called on the cadres to help the people.

Earthquake In Nepal – II

KTM Metro Reporter

April 26, 2015: the powerful aftershock sent the prime minister and his ministers fleeing to the safe open space at the Secretariat in Kathmandu today morning. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and his ministers were at the cabinet when the aftershock hit Kathmandu and surrounding areas.

A government office at the Baluwatar area was reported to fall down killing some officials working there. Rescue operators were prompt to save some others. Other buildings weakened by the so many aftershocks have been crumbling, other buildings apparently standing firmly have been shaken to the foundations. Nobody knew how many of them in line to fall down.

Frightened by the repeatedly occurring aftershocks, people have taken shelter at the open spaces to keep away from the buildings that might fall down any time after the powerful aftershocks shake them mercilessly. The nature had been so cruel heavy rains might down pour any time today. People living in the open spaces might get soaked in rain waters down to the underwear whereas some of the survivals under the building debris might end their lives.

Power has gone out. Nobody knew when the Nepal Electricity Authority would restore the power. In turn, water supply has been cut off, too. When the Water Authority would be able to pump up the water is anybody's guess. People have been without water and power. Both the authorities must be working hard to put the power and water supply back to regular.

The regular flights have been disrupted at the international airport in Kathmandu. Tower operators rushed down to open space for safety. Planes could not land or take off without the tower operators functioning. Incoming and outgoing passengers have been stranded at the airports.

Hotels needed to evacuate the guests often. Aftershocks have been causing the tourists to wreaking havoc. They have nothing to see in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur except the debris of the artistic temples. All the carved wooden beams and pillars have been debris. Buses could not be run regularly. Some roads have been split at several places. Driving on such roads has been hazardous.

The Everest climbers have been in trouble, too. Aftershocks have shaken the mighty tallest mountain and other mountains to shed the snow causing avalanches. Seventeen climbers and their assistants have lost the lives, and many more injured in the avalanches. The base camp suffered the heavy loss of supplies.

Reports from rural areas have to come, yet. Nobody knew how villages have been destroyed. A aerial view report of the two pilots posted on <http://annapurnapost.com/News.aspx/story/10921> said that some of the villages had been wiped out. Survivors have been wandering in search of shelter and help.

To rescue the victims of the repeated aftershocks from rains and cold and wind, they needed strong tents that could withstand the heavy wind and rains, and hot sun, too. They needed water, and foods, and makeshift toilets. Disaster-mitigating teams needed to work immediately. The government needed to make the rescue operations easy to launch and execute.

Earthquake In Nepal – III KTM Metro Reporter

April 27, 2015: Some philanthropic Indian organizations have been sending thousands of food packets to Nepal for feeding the earthquake victims, US, Chinese, German rescue teams and even the prime minister of Bhutan came with a team to help Nepalese.

Obviously, all these teams have been in Kathmandu. Even the rural areas of the Kathmandu valley have been on their own not to mention hundreds of thousands of rural people without homes and any foodstuffs and water to drink. Members of the international teams needed to reach those people in need the most.

The government of Nepal must be overwhelmed by the massive scale of the need for managing the mitigation of the disaster, and providing the disaster-affected people with

relief materials. So, every international team needs to take actions on its own to reach the people out of Kathmandu without delay.

Earthquake In Nepal-IV

April 28, 2015: After shocks have been considerably reduced. The US Geological Survey has predicted that two major aftershocks might occur on May 3 and 31, 2015. Nepalese have to be careful on these days, and keep them as safe as possible, and keep the loved ones not far from each other in case of aftershocks come.

Lives in the quake-affected areas have been coming to normal but for the people that have lost the loved ones, homes and in them any assets, lives are not certainly normal. Quick and immediate assistance for them is the immediate requirement. The international community and the government of Nepal have been doing everything possible. In such a massive scale of disaster, to reach immediately to everybody in need might not be possible but efforts are being made.

For those people that have not lost anything, have the earthquake picnics even though they are scared to death to lose anything and anybody. Aftershocks have been terrifying. People have been in terror days and nights. To add to the misery of the quake terrors, heavy rains have been causing another problem to the already heavily suffered people.

China has complained that the Indian air force aircrafts have entered the Chinese air space in the name of rescue flights, according to the Nepalese media website. That might be true because the aircrafts must have gone to see what have happened to the northern villages in Nepal. Those remote areas have no communications with the Kathmandu and other parts of Nepal so only the aerial views could tell what had happened in those northern border areas.

Another media website has it that the Indian aircrafts have been so crowded in the Kathmandu international airports, twenty Chinese helicopters could not land there. It might be a bit exaggeration. Helicopters did not need many spaces to land or they could wait until the Indian aircrafts leave. Let us be friendly than to be unfriendly. Let us all work in cooperation to cope with this unthinkable disaster.

The news in the websites are in Nepalese language"
<http://www.annapurnapost.com/News.aspx/story/10972>
<http://www.khabardabali.com/2015/04/16130/>
<http://medianp.com/2015/04/56372.html>

Earthquake In Nepal: Houses Fallen Apart

Everybody rushed to safety at the airport after the quake hit Kathmandu. Nobody was at the airport tower. Taking the risk, Siddharath and I (Cap Bibek Khadka) took off on a helicopter.

First we flew in the sky over Bhaktapur. We saw the old houses made of mud and bricks falling apart. Some of the houses have roofs falling down, and some have been down the first floor, and others have been down to the ground.

Dust has been rising from the fallen houses. People are rushing everywhere for safety. Some have been gathering at the open places. Some others have already started off looking for the persons buried under the debris of fallen houses.

After Bhaktapur, we flew over Lalitpur. We saw old houses crumbling down. We also saw the ancient temples coming down at Mangal Bazaar. Some roofs have been sitting on their houses.

While flying over Kathmandu, we saw the Dharahara tower fallen down. People were rushing to the Tundikhel: open space for safety. Vehicles were sitting on the roads not being able to move anywhere. The ancient historically important palace at Basantpur was falling down blowing up smoke of dust in the air. We saw the apartment building developing cracks at Dhapasi. One of the temples at Svoyambhu was falling to pieces.

While flying over Panauti in the Kavre district, we saw the old houses falling down. Some houses have the roofs fallen down.

Thereafter, we flew to the Langtang area in the Rasuwa district for a rescue operation. On the way we saw a number of landslides holding back the Trishuli River at various places. At different areas, the road from the Trishul Bazaar to Dhunche has been damaged. On the way from Syabrubesi to Ghoda-tabela area, some villages were swept away by the landslides others were entirely buried under landslides and looked like deserts.

On the bare hills, some people were moving around, and waved us for rescuing them. Unfortunately, the bad weather did not permit us to reach and rescue them. The Langtang village was totally buried under debris. The Langtang National Reservation Area was full of fallen trees.

While flying back from Rasuwa along the Trishuli River, houses in the villages of both sides of the river have fallen apart. People have been homeless.

We have been continuously reporting to the Tribhuvan Airport tower what we have seen on our flight. We also have reported our findings to other concerned agencies.

We have escorted some planes flying to Kathmandu to land at the airport while the airport tower has nobody to guide the planes. As the planes approached, checking the status of the runway for safe landing we advised the pilots to land.

Presented by Isvorkaji Khaiju

Translated from Nepalese news report titled "Langtang Village Fully Buried Due to Earthquake" posted on annapurnapost.com.

<http://annapurnapost.com/News.aspx/story/10921>

Earthquake In Nepal-V

April 29, 2015: thousands of Nepalese are leaving Kathmandu for fear of possible epidemic in the aftermath of the deadly quakes. They feared that not properly cremated corpses, and corpses still lying under debris might cause disease. Thousands of people have been waiting for buses and any other sorts of vehicles.

One vehicle operator has been checking the buses charging more than the regular bus fares. He was doing so to keep the reputation of honesty of the transport operators. On camera he said that even five members of his family had to pay three hundred additional rupees while on the way. So, he was checking the buses how much they have charging the passengers. The minister of home has issued the notice of taking strong actions against the

buses charging more than the regular fares. Obviously, transporter operators have been taking the advantage of the exodus of the people from Kathmandu.

Most of the people leaving Kathmandu must have lost the rented houses. So, they needed to go home. Others must have been going back to the families to say they are well. Even more people must have left the town for fear of aftershocks and certainly of diseases. Basic-need supplies might be soon in short. Regular life has been disarray for some time even though it has been coming back to normal. Businesses were closed. All these reasons pushed the people out of Kathmandu.

Impatient people have shouted slogans against the government for not providing them with the vehicles for the free ride as promised. The government has announced that five hundred vehicles including school buses would be provide for the free ride to different destinations. People waiting for such buses since 3:00 am morning have lost their patience and shouted slogans against the government.

Some injured people at the government-run hospitals complained to the visiting prime minister about the lackluster treatment. They said that they have not received even water according to the Nepalese media. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala made visits to the army hospital, and the teaching hospital at Maharajgunj. He also visited the Basantapur: downtown Kathmandu to check the damages done to the historical buildings. People have shouted against the prime minister making so delayed visit after five days of the quake, the news on ratopati.com stated.

People accused the State administration of irregularities in distributing the relief materials to the victims of the quakes. People demonstrated at the Bhaktapur and Charikot district administration offices against the biased distribution of the relief materials, the news on ratopati.com stated. People in other parts of the country have been denied of any relief materials so far. It was understandable that the government could not reach the victims immediately but if the government were not able to reach the victims even after five days then there must be something wrong. The government needed to let the aid agencies to directly distribute the relief materials to the quake victims.

Israel and Pakistan have set up field hospitals to provide the injured with immediate relief in the Kathmandu Valley. Other agencies have sent medical supplies and medics. Most of them have to reach the quake victims outside the Kathmandu Valley, yet. Probably, efforts have been made to reach the people outside Kathmandu.

Mountaineers have started to rebuild the track to the Mt Everest to continue the climbing. The April 25 quake had triggered avalanches that had destroyed anything on their way. Even the base camp was severely affected. Eighteen climbers have lost the lives to the avalanches, others were injured but they are keeping up to their scaling the tallest mountain in the world.

So many international rescue teams wanted to come down to Nepal the government of Nepal had to say, "No more, help teams or rescue teams." The government of Nepal is accepting assistances from all the nations except for Taiwan, the BBC NEWS stated. The government has clearly followed the one-China policy. Following this policy, the government recognizes Tibet and Taiwan are the integral parts of China.

Many Nepalese agencies have been depositing huge amounts of money in the prime ministerial relief fund for the benefits of the quake victims. Non-resident Nepalese also have been mobilizing resources for helping the quake victims. The government also deposited

one billion rupees in this fund. The government had deposited Rs 500 millions immediately after the quake.

"The UN has launched a \$415m (£270m) appeal for Nepal-quake victims. The UN said it wanted to support government efforts to provide emergency relief over the next three months. The UN says more than eight million people have been affected and some 70,000 houses have been destroyed. Riot police have clashed with people trying to leave the capital Kathmandu, and there are reports of villagers blocking trucks carrying supplies," stated the BBC NEWS.

Earthquake In Nepal-VI: Lost Opportunity

May 1, 2015: The Saturday earthquake gave a great opportunity to the government and the political leaders to demonstrate their smartness and efficiency in serving the nation means the common folks in general but none of the political leaders including the prime minister, and his home minister: the most accountable elected officials did show up only after five days of the earthquake.

Obviously, these political guys have been good-for-nothing people. The leader called KP Oli had often roared like a lion but during the earthquake, he probably must have gone to hide in a mouse hole to save him from the cruel and merciless quake. When Mr. Oli talked he gave an impression that he could even lift the mountain but his hiding in a mouse hole demonstrated that he was no more than a little mouse when the nation needed a leader of great courage and determination to serve the people.

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala had been always a mouse-like. When the quake hit the nation he was somewhere in Indonesia. He managed to come back to Nepal only to hide in a secretariat. When the aftershocks hit Nepal he was scared to death; he ran for life. How could he save the lives of the millions of the quake victims when Mr. Koirala did not know how to save him?

Home minister Bamdev Gautam was the most accountable elected official to save the lives and the property of the common folks but nobody knew where he had been hiding to save his lives for four days before appearing in the public. He must be somewhere in a mouse hole to save him and his family from the quake and the aftershocks or having a quake picnic in the tent donated for the quake victims. He might justify having the tent saying he also was a quake victim. Certainly, he was too no doubt about that.

These mouse-like prime minister and ministers could see the daylight after four days of the quake and aftershocks when they were sure that aftershocks would not harm their families and them, too. By that time, the quake had sent thousands of Nepalese to their final destinations; many invaluable cultural heritages had been turned into rubbles and debris. Thousands of people have been sleeping under the open skies under the heavy rains. But these political rodents did not give a fig to the situation of the nation.

Not only these political rodents but also the political creatures that claimed to be the nationalists serving the nation did dare to come out of their hiding spaces to serve the people means the nation. They could shout more than any ferocious dogs could bark at the political rallies and at the interviews on TVs or radios but they could do nothing to the people at the time of disaster. They also could fight for a bone any dogs could do but when serving the nation they were nowhere to find.

Prachanda and Baburam did call on their party cadres to go and work for the quake victims. Thereafter, nothing came out in the media whether the cadres actually went to work or not

or whether they were having the earthquake picnics in the luxury tents when hundreds of thousands have lost not only their houses and everything in them but also their loved ones to the quake.

Deadly scared Prachanda and Baburam appeared in Kirtipur. The party-diehard followers escorted them. They went to such a secured area that they knew that nobody could harm them. Rodent politicians could not think what those shrewd politicians of a new breed had done. Prime Minister got jeered at Basnatapur area: the core area of the old Kathmandu town when he visited the area on the fifth day of the quake to see the magnitude of the destruction done to the ancient culturally invaluable buildings. Home Minister Bamdev Gautam was almost beaten by the crowd. Thanks to the security, Mr. Gautam could save his life not damaged by the quake.

Voters have posted a banner "Where is our elected representative Dhyan govinda?" at the secretariat building in Kathmandu. The poor member of the legislature must have been hiding in a mouse hole or having a lavish quake picnic with the family and relatives somewhere in the safest space where even a nine-magnitude quake could not split the ground. The quake has taken the soul of one lawmaker. The most unfortunate lawmaker neither could have a quake picnic nor have a mouse hole to hide.

The president of the rodent politicians has called the session of the parliament on May 7, 2015. Obviously, the president was safe and alive. His home was still in one piece and standing. He also has no empathy and deeds as other political mammals did not have for the people and for the victims of the quake at the time of writing this article on May 1, 2015. The president must have believed that he had no role to play in the politics except for putting his seal of approval on the bills passed by the parliament. So, why should the president be concern for the quake victims? The people did not elect him. The lawmakers elected by the voters elected him.

The government of Sushil Koirala came out strongly to cut off the helping hands reaching out to the quake victims in the Sindhupalchok district: the most quake-affected area. Probably, Home Minister Bamdev Gautam wanted to show off how powerful he could be to the people that had chased him from the area he went to inspect the quake-damaged buildings. He ordered to centralize the distribution of the relief materials.

The first victim of the centralization of the distribution of the relief materials has been the Shesh Ghale and his team working in the Sindhupalchok district. Talking to the anchor of the Kantipur TV, Ghale said, "I don't know whether I am in North Korea or Nepal? I have tons of relief materials coming from Hong Kong. The government of Nepal has ordered centralization of the relief materials. We don't get the materials from Hong Kong even after months. We could not do anything with our bare hands. We have fifteen doctors working in the Sindhupalchok district."

Home Minister Gautam should have same spirit dealing with the Chinese and Indian rescue-and-assist teams, too. The government of Nepal said that it would not accept the assistance from Taiwan. It was clearly bowing down to the highly venerable god-like Chinese leaders. Similarly, the Indian copters have been flying everywhere even beyond the Nepalese borders to the north but Home Minister Gautam has been almost like a little mouse between these mammoth neighbors.

Nepal-visiting Indian yoga guru in Kathmandu even said that the Pakistani foods intended for the quake victims might be contaminated with beef. Home Minister Gautam had nothing to say about such an irresponsible comment by such a highly venerable guru. Pakistan has duly denied any contamination of the foods sent to Nepal. Nothing was uneatable than the

beef for Hindus. Yoga guru wanted Nepalese to boycott any food coming from Pakistan. I could not imagine that yoga guru could be so naïve. So, it was not a surprise that the government of India had forcibly removed such a naïve guru from the makeshift yoga camp he set up in New Delhi when he had stubbornly demanded the end of corruption in the Indian administration a few years ago.

On May 1, 2015, the Nepal Rastra Bank: the central bank of Nepal called on all organizations and individuals to deposit their donations or other relief materials in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, and also called on organizations or individuals that have collected or been collecting donations or other materials to deposit the collected donations and materials in the same fund.

<http://setopati.net/society/6392/Deposit-relief-in-PM's-Disaster-Relief-Fund:-Rastra-Bank/>

Deputy Chairman of Terai Madheshi Democratic Party Hriday Tripathi said that his party had deposited the relief materials in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund for providing the flood victims of the far western region last year but the materials have not reached the victims, yet; so, this year his party would not deposit anything in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, the news on the ratopati.com stated.

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/01/230461.html>

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala has been sitting on more than three billion rupees deposited in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund for distributing it to the victims of the floods and landslides occurred in 2014. This time, the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund for the quake victims might swell to hundreds of billions. How could such a lousy prime minister manage such a huge fund for the quake victims could be anybody's guess.

Donor nations would surely opt to rebuild any fallen temples or pagodas or to provide the quake victims with anything directly than channeling through the popularly known corrupt administration of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala. Japan has already declared it. Other countries might soon follow suit.

Bhutanese prime minister has been trekking through the rough foot treks in the quake-affected rural areas in Nepal to see the magnitude of damages done by the disastrous earthquake occurred in Nepal on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Nepalese ministers including prime minister and leaders could not dare to come out of their hiding mouse holes. Chairman of CPN-UML honorable PhD holder (see his CV on face-book) KP Oli frankly told that it was not the job of leaders to go to the rural areas, the news on dcnepal.com stated.

<http://dcnepal.com/news/news.php?nid=149232>

Dr KP Oli did not appreciate how the Bhutanese prime minister has been walking around rural areas to see the quake-affected areas and provide the victims with relief materials. Other political leaders of NC, UCPN-Maoist, and RPP-Nepal have been going around villages with relief materials since May 2, 2015.

The Nepal army, the armed police force and the Nepal police have been doing highly commendable job of digging the quake victims out of debris and rubbles since the high magnitude quake hit the country. They have continued to do so. Heavy equipment operators also have been doing a great job in clearing the debris and removing the rubbles to clear the way for finding out the buried quake victims. The State needed to make the special recognition of their high-risk jobs done by these respectable guys at the time of disaster.

The government and the political parties have failed disastrously in serving the nation at the time of the need. The government has even stopped the aid teams from performing their duty on helping the quake victims in the Sindhupalchok district. For example, the team of

Shesh Ghale came from Australia has the problem of getting the relief materials from Hong Kong after the government of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and Home Minister Bamdev Gautam ordered to channel the relief materials through the State bureaucracy that has been infamous for widespread corruption and deadly inefficiency.

Nepalese political leaders needed to forget about their political difference and join the hands to reach out the quake victims and do something. Stupid would be the most appropriate word for using it for an adjective to these politicians. They needed to keep the politics aside for some time and do some humanitarian work. These political guys could spend millions of rupees on holding rallies and enforcing the Nepal shutdown in protest but they hardly could spend anything on assisting the quake victims. Not helping the quake victims has brought shame on those political leaders.

Nepal earthquake spin-off is tens of if not hundreds of donation collectors. But nobody knows how many of these collectors would reach out the victims of the incredible and destructive quake. Some of these donation collectors have collected millions; others have billions; many more have collected in hundreds of thousands.

Nepal Rastra Bank: central bank of Nepal has requested the public to deposit the donations in the Prime Disaster Relief Fund. Some political parties including the NC have declared to deposit their donations in millions in the fund. Other politicians have been reluctant to deposit the donations in the fund because the prime minister has been sitting on the huge money he has collected for the victims of the floods and landslides happened in 2014.

The non-actions of the political leaders and the corrupt actions of the government of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and Home Minister Bamdev Gautam have alienated and even angered the people. Nepalese felt that the political leaders and ministers including the prime minister were the fellow creatures on this planet with the least concern for the people. They were corrupt and shameless and unaccountable leaders and ministers. They were parasites thriving on the sweats and bloods of the voters and common folks. They were like leeches that would suck the people to death.

The government of Nepal through the circular notice sent by the central bank of Nepal: Nepal Rastra Bank following the section 79 of the Nepal Rastra Bank Act of 2002 has scared the organizations collecting donations for the quake victims of the money deposited in their accounts at various banks in Nepal might be automatically transferred to the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. Foreign non-governmental agencies and donation collectors have been reluctant to deposit the donations in the fund. They knew that the government was so much corrupt and irregular in doing businesses.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/05/01/top-story/govt-to-take-all-bank-deposits-meant-for-disaster-relief/404711.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/nepal/11577706/Nepal-aid-donors-may-halt-fundraising-amid-fears-government-will-seize-donations.html>

May 2, 2015

Earthquake In Nepal–VII: Relief Supplies/Customs Clearance/PM Disaster Relief Fund

"We have received things like tuna fish and mayonnaise. What good are those things for us? We need grains, salt and sugar," BBC News quoted Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat. Dr Mahat has ignored that Nepalese people buy and eat tuna fish and mayonnaise. These

foodstuffs are available in the Kathmandu market. Dr Mahat also did not realize that these food items are ready to eat at any time. These were the foodstuffs quake victims could immediately eat at any place at any time. Thank god Dr Mahat did not say that he would sell those relief supplies and buy food grains, salt and sugar as the then panchayat government of king Birendra said in 1980s.

Dr Mahat's statement reminded me the incident happened about 30 years ago when I was working at the then SATA (Swiss Association for Technical Assistance) in Nepal. At that time, SATA purchased 10 tons of rice in Thailand and shipped it to Nepal for the drought-hit Nepalese. I was the program officer and directly helping the director of SATA. He sent me to see what had happened to the rice SATA provided. I went to the home ministry. The home ministry official told me that the ministry sent the rice to the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC): the State-run corporation for purchase and sale of foodstuffs. Obviously, the ministry sold the rice to the NFC. I went to the NFC, and met with the concerned official. I asked him, "Has the rice SATA provided gone to the target people?" He said, "The rice is high quality. We will sell the rice in the Kathmandu market, then we will buy corn and send it to the drought-stricken people." I did not know whether the rice reached the target people or not.

The next trouble the aid providers had been encountering was the delay in the customs clearance of the relief stuffs sent to Nepal for the quake victims. In the name of checking the relief stuffs the customs officials have been taking time. Everybody knows that customs officials are rent-seeking creatures. Delaying the customs clearance means they are seeking something. If anybody greases the palm of customs officials every thing gets out of the customs. So, it has been easy to smuggle gold or anything anybody likes out of the Nepal customs. But the customs officials delaying the customs clearance of the stuffs intended for the quake victims means they are abusing the authority. The Commission on Investigation into Abuse of Authority (CIAA) needed to get the picture of what has been happening at the customs office in the Kathmandu international airport. The immediate customs clearance of the relief stuffs was vital otherwise the unscrupulous actions of the customs officials would cost the quake victims many lives.

The UN has said that relief supplies arrived at the Kathmandu airport for the quake victims have been held in the name of the customs clearance. On Saturday, May 2, 2015, UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said Nepal had a duty to provide faster customs clearance for relief supplies, the BBC NEWS stated. Baroness Amos drew the attention of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala to the agreement Nepal had signed with the UN in 2007 for fast customs clearance for relief aid in a disaster. "The Nepalese government should not be using peacetime customs methodology," the BBC NEWS quoted Jamie McGoldrick: UN representative in Nepal.

For the public information on the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and how it works, a short write-up is posted on directionkathmandu.com under the title of "What is the PM's Disaster Relief Fund and What it is not?" The prime minister has its name only in the fund but he has nothing to do with the fund if we believe in the write-up. Vice-chairperson of National Planning Commission is the coordinator and eight secretaries to the different ministers are the members of the committee to manage this fund. They make the decisions unanimously.

One thing is clear that the prime minister is not on the committee managing the fund but his persons are on it. The prime minister could dictate the Vice-chairperson and the secretaries what to do and what not, too. They are the pets of the prime minister he has appointed. So, the statement of the prime minister is not on the committee does not make sense. The prime minister could do anything he wants using those people on the committee. That must be the reason why Prime Minister Sushil Koirala has been sitting on the huge sum of money collected for the floods-and-landslide victims in 2014. Why those Vice-chairperson

and eight secretaries did not do anything with the money collected for the floods-and-landslide victims. Are they accountable to managing the fund collected for the victims? If so, the question is why the floods-and-landslide victims have not received those resources collected for them, yet. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala might think that the victims have forgotten it but I have not and some other people also have not.

If the donations collected for the quake victims were to deposit in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, Prime Minister Sushil Koirala should guarantee that the money would be sent to the benefits of the target people without delay. Then, it would make sense that the government is surely for helping the quake victims. But we have seen that the prime minister has not been accountable to the floods-and-landslide victims. So, he has been keeping the money in the fund in his name, and let the victims suffer from the loss of their property perpetually.

The international community needed to understand this situation of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund in the historical background. Donors would take a long time to withdraw the money from the fund. That is for sure. The victims might suffer from the loss of property forever once the donations landed in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. No matter what the prime minister would say and others on his behalf, Prime Minister Koirala had been a very lousy decision maker in the past. So, his persons on the committee and Prime Minister Koirala might take indefinite time to use the money in the fund for the quake victims.

May 3, 2015

Earthquake In Nepal-VIII: Second Round Of Quake

May 12, 2015: Again at the mid day, one of the major quakes has hit the central Nepal panicking the innocent people that have thought the aftershocks have been fading away but it is not so the major quakes have been back again to tear down the already weakened buildings by the first quake.

The parliamentary session was going on at the conventional hall when the second round quake hit Nepal. It shook the conventional hall at Nayabanesvor in Kathmandu. The man at the dais speaking to the lawmakers was shaking. Lawmakers ran for their lives leaving their seats. The Speaker adjourned the meeting, the Nepal TV said.

The second round of destruction has been in the Kathmandu Valley and in the areas hit by the second quake. It was daytime when the second major quake hit so people managed to run for their lives and save them from falling houses, and rocks and anything coming down. The 7.3 magnitude quake sent Nepalese to take a shelter at the safe and open areas again on May 12, 2015. Hundreds of thousands of people became homeless once more.

The death toll reported in the Nepalese media has reached more than 40 but it might increase, as the news of destruction and death would reach the home ministry in Kathmandu. More than one thousand folks have been injured. Those victims had been mainly the unsuspected people working to salvage anything possible from the quake wreckages, and the people in the regular business.

Academic institutions had been still closed otherwise thousands of school children and college students might be the victims of the severe quake. Wisely, the academic institutions would remain closed for another two weeks as reported in the media. They were supposed to reopen on the coming Friday.

People gone for work have had hard time to be with their loved ones after the second devastating quake. The ring road in Kathmandu has been packed with the vehicles.

Everybody rushed to the loves ones taking any possible means of transportation. Unfortunately, the Internet and cell phone snapped for a brief time causing panic to the common folks.

The first quake on April 25, 2015 did not leave any cultural heritage for the second quake to tear down on May 12, 2015. So, no news about destruction of any temple or building of cultural heritage has been online at the time of writing this news. The tall temples that withstood the first quake continued to stand. They shook but did not come down.

Most of the mundane buildings fell down were with the red marks the engineers had put on them after the first quake. Those buildings were not fit for residing without major repair. The buildings had no humans to crush in them. The second-quake toll might not be so high as had been of the first one.

This time the most fortunate thing had been the rescue teams and medics were at the sites. Most of the damages had been done in the first quake. So, not many human structures were left for the second quake to tear down. However, some hills gave in to the quake falling down to the rivers. The high mountains shook off the snow from their bodies causing avalanches challenging the climbers. Even the tallest and apparently mightiest Mt Everest had to tremble from the quake and send the snow falling down to the base camp.

The administration of Prime Minister Sushil Koirala had been too slow to react to the quake. Former minister Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani wrote in the ratopati.com that he had advised Prime Minister Sushil Koirala to buy 400,000 tents on the second day of the first quake. Communication Minister Rijal complained a few days ago, the government had managed to procure 49,000 tents against the need of 400,000.

I could not imagine what stopped the ministers and the prime minister to buy or procure the tents even though the "Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund" had sufficient fund, and numerous well wishers were ready to provide the government of Nepal with whatever stuffs it needed even at the short notice.

One Nepalese blogger diligently went through the working style of the administration and reported that the administration had assigned ten ministers with different jobs to do immediately after the first quake but none of them had done anything to that end. Why did they take the assignments if they were not to do anything?

It was understandable some of the ministers were panicked, too. Most of them have lost their homes. They had been as homeless as the common folks living in the tents at the Tundikhel in Kathmandu. It did not mean that they should stop working as ministers and enforcing the laws, and doing everything possible to bring back the lives of the people to normal. The ministers including prime minister had demonstrated that they were not fit for the jobs they had been holding. What these ministers had been doing was to recycle their commitments that they never kept.

Consequently, the international airport in Kathmandu had been chaotic. Some of the aircraft carrying the relief materials had to turn back because the airport had been crowded with aircrafts. Some of the aircrafts flew unnecessarily near the northern borders. The Indian and Nepalese media went wild. They wrote unbelievable things. The quake victims continued to suffer from the lack of tents, water and foods not to mention other human requirements such as clothing. These were all the consequences of the ministers including the prime minister not working, as they should.

May 12, 2015

Earthquake In Nepal-IX: Profound Dismay

May 13, 2015: to the profound dismay of everybody, the Nepalese members of parliament have shamelessly fought for getting the tents intended for the earthquake victims. Certainly, these brazen and callous parliamentarians also had been the victims of the earthquake but they had been enjoying the luxurious lives even in the tents. Then, why did they need the tents sent for the common folks? The greed made them inhuman and heartless.

Tent distribution: <http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/13/233299.html>

The chief minister of West Bengal, India Mamata Baneerjee had sent thousands of tents for the earthquake victims that had been living in either under the sizzling sun or heavy rains. Some of the victims had nothing left after the heavy quakes except for the clothing they had been wearing.

The unashamed lawmakers fought for the tents. To stop the fiery fights of the members of the parliament for a tent, the Speaker ordered to stop distributing the tents. Some parliamentarians feeling the unworthy fight for getting a tent returned the tents while the lawmakers belonging to the UCPN-Maoist sent the tents they had received to Dolakha, according to the news on the ratopati.com.

MPs taking tents: <http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/13/233324.html>

Without having any concern for the homeless earthquake victims, the good-for-nothing government of the NC, the CPN-UML, the RPP and other minor parties headed by Prime Minister Sushil Koirala blatantly ignoring even the little ethic of compassion for the sufferings boldly distributed the tents received for the earthquake victims to the parliamentarians. Now, the question is whether Prime Minister Koirala would let his yeomen properly use the billions of rupees deposited in the "Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund" for the earthquake victims. If the parliamentarians looting the tents were to be any guide for the future use of the relief materials intended for the earthquake, the money from the "Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund" would fill out the pockets of the parliamentarians and the trunks of the prime minister and his ministers. Then, what's use of depositing the charity in the "Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund"? Certainly, it is no use if we are to see the proper use of the charity.

Nobody could believe in the assurances of the Prime Minister Sushil Koirala that he would build houses for the homeless after the monsoon. At one of the visits to the earthquake victims, Mr. Koirala said, "I would not like to make an unrealistic promise to build houses for you now but I would surely build houses after the monsoon," according to one of the Nepalese online newspapers. I doubt very much that Mr. Koirala would keep his commitment. He might not even have the memory of what he had said to the folks. He had the good habit of forgetting his commitments.

Now, the Home Minister Bamdev Gautam said in the parliament on May 13, 2015 that the government would distribute the tin sheets to the earthquake victims before the monsoon set in, the RSS news on the setopati.net said. Nobody would like to see even a single sheet going to any parliamentarian. That is one thing another thing is Mr. Gautam needs to keep his commitment. However, these ministers have the habit of recycling their commitments but never keeping them. He could use the money from the "Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund" for buying the tin sheets. The tin sheets should be on the way to Nepal if Mr. Gautam were to keep his commitment. Pre-monsoon rains have been already pouring in. The monsoon is already at the porch.

See more at: <http://setopati.net/politics/6602/Corrugated-sheets-before-monsoon:-Home-Minister/#sthash.DLXX2kPs.dpuf>

Foreign donors have a little faith in the Koirala administration that it would do the job, as it should. So, more than often they funneled the charity through the multi-lateral agencies or UN agencies or INGOs to Nepal rather than turning over the money directly to the morally bankrupt Koirala administration. So, it is not a surprise that "the government of Japan has provided one million US dollars to the UNFPA to support girls and women affected by the earthquake; UNFPA Nepal Representative Giulia Vallese has stated the funds will be used strategically and efficiently to ensure maximum reach in the districts worst hit by the quake," said the RSS news on the setopati.net. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the support for the earthquake victims on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 providing through the UNFPA appreciating the work it has done in Nepal.

See more at: [http://setopati.net/society/6600/Japan-provides-\\$1-m-to-UNFPA-for-quake-hit-Nepali-women/#sthash.gJE1ONXD.dpuf](http://setopati.net/society/6600/Japan-provides-$1-m-to-UNFPA-for-quake-hit-Nepali-women/#sthash.gJE1ONXD.dpuf)

It has been more than two weeks since the first deadly earthquake hit Nepal on Saturday, April 25, 2015 but the parliament has passed the resolution only on May 13, 2015 directing the government to conduct the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction as a national campaign activating all the State agencies; to provide the families that had lost the loved ones in the earthquakes with the suitable compensation, and provide the injured folks with the free treatment, the RSS news on the setopati.net said. Anybody could imagine what the parliament had been doing during the last seventeen days nothing to mitigate the sufferings of the earthquake victims.

See more at: <http://setopati.net/politics/6597/Parliament-passes-common-resolution-proposal/#sthash.bk5GtPVG.dpuf>

The parliament also set up a 73-member National Disaster Management Monitoring and Directive Special Committee on May 13, 2015 with the mandate to hold detailed assessment of the damages done by the April 25 earthquake, to run the rescue and relief operation, and to make the resettlement of the victims following the assessment, and to make recommendations to the government for taking the necessary steps, the RSS news on the setopati.net said. The Chairman of the Constituent Assembly (CA) serves as the ex-officio Chair of the committee, the Vice-Chair as the ex-officio Vice-Chair. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, DPM Bamdev Gautam and Minister for Law, Justice, CA, and Parliamentary Affairs Narahari Acharya sit on the committee as the ex-officio members.

See more at: <http://setopati.net/politics/6603/House-forms-73-member-committee-to-assess-quake-damages/#sthash.wJGJlu15.dpuf>

We have seen that none of the ten ministers assigned to perform certain jobs immediately after the first quake on April 25, 2015 did nothing. We could not anticipate that these non-performing ministers including the prime minister, and members of the parliament would do anything for the people except for looting the things provide for the earthquake victims. The high profile National Disaster Management Monitoring and Directive Special Committee would be nothing but the committee of the good-for-nothing guys.

May 13, 2015

Earthquake In Nepal-X: Disastrous Delay In Delivery Of Relief Materials

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala was so unaware of the field conditions of the quake victims that he got surprised to the question of a foreign reporter that his government has been a totally failure in delivering the relief materials to the victims of the devastating quakes started off on April 25, 2015, and continuing even today: May 17, 2015. He claimed that his government absolutely unprepared for such a dreadful event has done a remarkable job of rescuing and providing the quake victims with everything needed, the news posted on ratopation.com on May 17, 2015 stated.

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/17/234060.html>

Obviously, Koirala has no idea of what has been happening in the field. He also did not bother to go and see how the victims have been doing without water, foods, hygiene, disposal of human feces, and even the tents. Certainly, the Nepal army, the armed police force and the regular police had done a marvelous job of rescuing the trapped quake victims. However, relief-material distribution has been much to be desired.

Many people have not received tents, yet. Those living in the tents have the problem of having water, foods, and disposal of waste not to mention the space to cook and eat foods. Probably, Mr. Koirala had not even thought of the most urgent need for managing the quake-victim camps. What Koirala must have thought that his government had distributed a few thousand tents against the need for hundreds of thousands, and some thousands of food packets against the need for millions; and that was what he must have thought that his marvelous achievement in rescuing the victims, and providing the relief materials to the quake victims had been?

The CNN news agency reported that the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said on Friday, May 15, 2015 that the international community has met only 14% of the humanitarian aid sought by the UN for the relief effort in Nepal; and it was only the fraction of the aid the country needed, and the international community has committed. "We are not out of the emergency situation yet," said Leszek Barczak, public information officer for the OCHA. "Some 500,000 to 600,000 families have lost their homes in the two earthquakes. Shelter is the minimum for the people to get on with their lives."

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/05/15/asia/nepal-earthquake/>

The government had announced that it would take stock of the damages done to every house and then provide the householders with the compensation. That was the immense job for the government of Mr. Koirala if not almost impossible to do. Some victims have not even touched their fallen houses in anticipation of the government coming to inspect the damages done to their houses else the government would not pay them the compensation.

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/17/233990.html>

Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) in Nepal has taken up the job of delivering the relief materials to the quake victims in the four districts such as Okhaldhunga, Ramechhap, Dolkha, and Khotang through the District Disaster Relief Committee except for Dolkha. They purchased tents, mattresses, linen, and water purifying tablets, and sent those stuffs via Biratnagar to the districts. Helicopters were used for transporting the relief materials to the remote areas. The relief materials have reached the 21,000 quake victims in those four districts, the news posted on np.karobardaily.com on May 17, 2015 stated.

<http://np.karobardaily.com/2015/05/53954/>

More than two and a half billions of rupees have been accumulated in the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund as of May 17, 2015. It has been more than 20 days since the first ruinous quake hit in Nepal destroying hundreds of thousands of houses and making millions of people homeless and forcing them to sleep in the open at the time when the sun has been sizzling hot and the pre-monsoon rain and thunderstorms have been the every-day events. Mr. Koirala has not said, yet how much money for what purposes have been spent from the fund. His deputy Bamdev Gautam said that buying a large quantity of tin sheets was the urgent need but such things had been limited to the speeches while millions of quake victims continued to live hazardously.

Saying that his government had made a success in dealing with the disaster even though his government was unprepared for it, Prime Minister Koirala simply ignored the fact that

the experts have been officially warning the public that any quake might cause a great loss to the lives and property of the people at any time. Such quakes were anticipated but Koirala was fully unprepared for them. Is it not a shame on Koirala to saying his government was absolutely unprepared for, and then claiming whatever a little thing was done a great achievement?

For the information of Koirala, anybody watching the TVs and reading the news online and on the print media know that some quake victims have managed to procure tents or build makeshift shelters on their own. Hundreds of philanthropic organizations and individuals have delivered the tents, tarpaulins and foods to the quake victims immediately after the quake hit the country. If Koirala had kept up-to-date news of the conditions of the quake victims he would have known that some individuals have spent millions of rupees on providing immediate relief materials to the quake victims.

Bipinbahadur Karmacharya: a social worker residing at Kalimati in Kathmandu distributed relief materials to the quake victims in Panauti at his personal expenses, the news on ratopati.com stated on May 14, 2015. The government has been for following the disgusting one-window policy to pass through even such individuals' efforts on assisting the quake victims at the time of so desperately needed help. The government even if it works it has been too slow to reach the people. So, one-window policy is nothing but to have everything in the pockets of the people in the Koirala administration.

Bipinbahadur Karmacharya relief materials:

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/14/233590.html>

But the government has been thinking to funnel all the resources through a single window to the victims when millions of windows are necessary to the needy victims of the quakes. The useless pitiless and heartless Finance minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat has been telling the donor agencies to give all the resources to his government to pass on to the victims. Does Dr Mahat believe in the donors trusting him, surely not but he is still talking about it. Donors know how the corrupt government uses the resources intended for the victims.

If Dr Mahat has been sincerely willing to help the victims then he would have told the donors to go and deliver what the quake victims needed without delaying even a single minute. He would have allocated different areas to the different donors for going to the areas for the immediate relief of the quake victims. What he wanted were all donors to put their money in his pocket. Will Dr Mahat distribute the money to the victims once it is in his pocket? Only the most stupid persons or his sycophants would say, yes.

At the meeting with the donors in Kathmandu on May 15, 2015, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance Suman Sharma proudly said, "The government needs a reliable amount of international assistance to manage resources for Reconstruction and Recovery (R&R) for next year's budget and beyond, in absence of early announcement of a comprehensive R&R plan, unplanned sporadic interventions are being announced by individuals and agencies and this should be controlled immediately and one door policy should be adopted," according to the news posted on myrepublica.com. See more at: <http://myrepublica.com/t20/item/20992-one-door-policy-must-for-reconstruction-work-mahat-tells-donors.html#sthash.hxGoDud9.dpuf>

"One door policy should be adopted" is the disaster one could think of; such thing happened during the previous regime. This is the unwise thing to do but this is what one of the top bureaucrats of the Koirala administration has shamelessly said to the donors to do. This man wanted to stop even the individuals and agencies from helping the helpless at the time of the great need. This is the government of Nepal headed by the most inefficient man called Sushil Koirala.

It is no surprise that some politicians have been talking about a national government to manage the national disaster properly. One thing is clear that such a government will be another national debacle. Chairman of the Madheshi People's Rights Forum-democratic Bijaya Kumar Gacchedar said that the nation would have a national government within ten days. Leader of UCPN-Maoist Dr Baburam Bhattarai said that the country needed a new government to tackle the overwhelming damages caused by the quakes. Chairman of CPN-UML has been busy with talking to the leaders of other political parties to form a new government. Mr. Oli has been meeting with Chairman of UCPN-Maoist Prachanda twice a day for forming a new government, according to the information posted on the social media by Kapil Shrestha: Human rights activist. Mr. Oli even met with the Indian envoy in Kathmandu seeking the support for his future government. Some NC leaders have been busy with apparently forming a government of all political parties. So, Mr. Koirala needed to take the account of all these things happening under his noses before claiming that his government has done a perfect job of providing the quake victims with what they needed.

News on Oli meeting with the Indian ambassador Ranjit Ray:

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/17/233947.html>

The Legislature has set up National Disaster Management, Monitoring And Guiding Special Committee. It has published a notice in the state-run newspaper 'gorkhapatra' calling for informing it about whether the quake victims have received the relief materials or not. It has been nothing but ridiculing the victims. This legislative committee has the ample information on the status of the quake victims from the media. Every day the TVs, and newspapers online and on print, and FM radios have been telling the disastrous state of the quake victims, and their untold sufferings from the lack of everything needed for a life. What else the legislative committee needed for what purposes? The committee pretended not to know anything about the status of the quake victims from the media.

<http://gorkhapatraonline.com/epaper/showimage?img=uploads/epaper/2015-05-15/62e818762f67732c593d0ec68cf81ce8.jpg>

If we take a look at the relief material distribution published on the ratopati.com on May 6, 2015 then the relief materials have been nothing more than a drop in the bucket of the requirement. The government has published a long list of a number of items the State has delivered to the quake victims but the relief materials are nothing compared to the requirements to mitigate the sufferings of the victims.

Information on relief material distribution:

<http://www.ratopati.com/2015/05/06/231811.html>

The British Chinook helicopters have been staying in India for about three weeks waiting for the permission from the Koirala administration to fly in for helping to airlift the relief materials for delivering to the sufferers and transporting any injured to the better equipped hospitals for treatment of the quake victims in Nepal but Prime minister Koirala did not approve it obviously giving in to the pressure of the neighbors. "The British government announced on Friday that the aircraft would now head back to the UK, unused," the news on news.sky.com on May 18, 2015 stated. The British government had paid for keeping the Chinooks so long in India from the taxpayers' money. The most incompetent government of Prime Minister Koirala had no guts to let the Chinooks work in Nepal for helping the quake victims, and relieving them from the acute need for survival.

<http://news.sky.com/story/1485914/nepals-pm-ban-on-raf-chinooks-is-not-politics>

Chairman of CPN-UML KP Oli had shown his concern for the quake victims at least in words. He said to the party people at his party office Balkhu on May 14, 2015 that at least two millions tin sheets were needed to build temporary shelters for hundreds of thousands of

the quake victims rendered to homeless. Mr. Oli bashed the Koirala government for not delivering the relief materials to the quake victims expeditiously. He also told his party people that discrimination had been in distributing the relief materials, the news on myrepublica.com stated on May 14, 2015.

See more at: <http://myrepublica.com/politics/item/20942-2-million-corrugated-sheets-needed-promptly-oli.html#sthash.S3du6QFQ.dpuf>

The worst possible decision the government made was to suspend the construction of new houses until mid July 2015. On whose advice the government had made the most stupid decision was not known, yet. What the government thinks could do suspending the construction of houses for the next couple of months. Instead of encouraging the people and assisting them in reconstructing their houses and homes, the government had bound the hands of the people for building their houses.

See more at: <http://setopati.net/politics/6669/Limit-buildings-to-two-stories:-Govt/#sthash.yYFU7ysp.dpuf>

May 18, 2015