

# 'Shaken to the core'

By Andy Sully BBC News

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**The earthquake which struck Nepal on Saturday is the main story in much of the British press today.**

The quake - measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale - "wrecked houses, levelled centuries-old temples and triggered avalanches on Mount Everest", in the Observer's words.

The paper reports at least 18 people have died on the world's highest mountain and hundreds of others are trapped.



years

to hit Nepal for 80

The overall death toll has reached 1,300, mainly in Nepal although parts of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have been affected.

A Nepalese man who lives near the epicentre of the quake tells the Observer: "Our village has been almost wiped out. Most of our houses are either buried by landslide or damaged by shaking." The paper's science editor, reports that the "shallow" source of the quake - 11km below ground - added significantly to the amount of damage caused.

The Independent on Sunday says that many of the buildings in Nepal were of poor construction and collapsed easily, although it notes that Kathmandu's Dharahara Tower - a nine-story monument built in the 1830s, also collapsed. "Nepalese television reports showed people digging by hand to reach those trapped in mounds of rubble," the paper adds.

A number of Britons have been reported missing in the Himalayan country.

The Sun on Sunday reports that a newly-wed couple Alex and Sam Chappatte of London are among British climbers trapped on Everest by avalanches. The couple had wed two weeks ago.



Another Briton in the area James Grieve spoke to the paper via satellite phone, saying the shaking lasted two minutes and "you could feel Everest move".

The Sunday Telegraph reports half of the 70 climbers on a British-organised expedition are missing on Everest, including climb leader Dan Mazur, of Bristol. Mr Mazur tweeted he was trapped at 20,000ft with no apparent route down the peak. He urged his Twitter followers to "pray for everybody". The paper reports this time of year is popular with foreign travellers to the region, and Nepalese authorities say 300,000 tourists may be in the country.

Amid six pages of coverage, the Telegraph tells how the quake triggered landslides which obliterated entire villages and cut much of the country's power supplies. "Science is unable to predict quakes with any accuracy," the paper adds.