Mount Everest shifted southwest due to Nepal earthquake

June 16 2015

A Nepalese porter carries a load towards Mount Everest and the Himalayas (at left with cloud on top), April 20, 2015

The world's tallest peak, Mount Everest, moved three centimetres (1.2 inches) to the southwest because of the Nepal earthquake that devastated the country in April, Chinese state media reported Tuesday.

The 7.8-magnitude quake reversed the gradual northeasterly course of

the mountain, according to a report in the state-run China Daily, citing the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation.

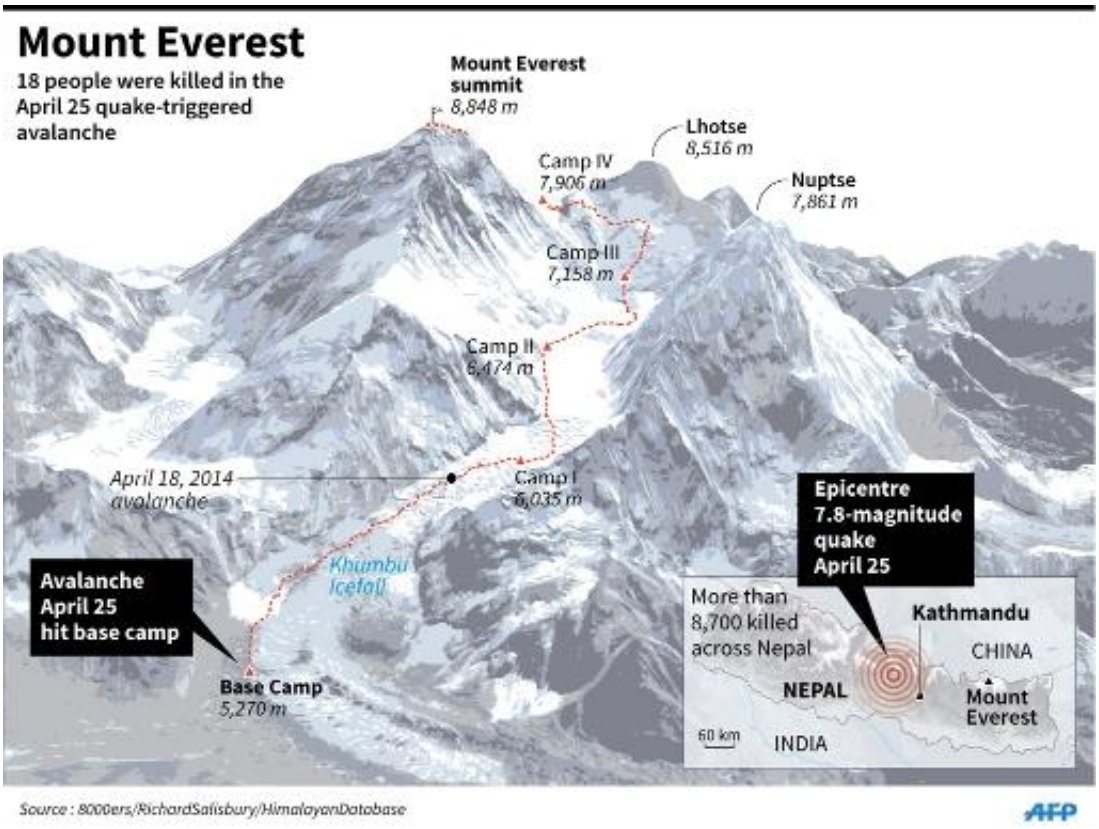
Before the quake, Everest had moved 40 centimetres to the northeast over the past decade at a speed of four centimetres a year, the report said. The mountain also rose three centimetres over the same time period.

The earthquake caused an avalanche on Everest, killing 18 people and leaving its climbing base camp in ruins. It prompted authorities in both China and Nepal to cancel all climbs for this year.

The mountain straddles the border between the two countries.

Two earthquakes, on April 25 and May 12, killed more than 8,700 people in Nepal, triggered landslides and destroyed half a million homes, leaving thousands without shelter just weeks ahead of monsoon rains.

The second quake, which had a magnitude of 7.3, did not move the mountain, China Daily said.



Graphic on the Mount Everest avalanche in April that left 18 people dead

Everest Base Camp shown on April 26, 2015, a day after an avalanche triggered by an earthquake caused the death of 18 people