

People carried bottled water, canned tea, food and blankets for their families, relatives and friends who survived the quake in the hardest-hit area.

There were also many people traveling in the opposite direction, evacuating the devastated city and seeking shelter in the homes of relatives in Osaka.

Hankyu Railway restored service from Umeda Station in Osaka to Nishinomiya Kitaguchi Station, midway between Osaka and Kobe. It is the only train service available between the two cities.

Auto traffic was clogged because Route 43 is currently the only road that leads from Osaka to Kobe.

Many passengers either started walking or bought bicycles at a local bike shop, one of the few businesses open in the area.

Collapsed homes and shops, buildings with broken windows and fallen power poles line both sides of Route 2, which like many roads in the area is now cracked and bumpy, and littered with broken glass.

At a local junior high school designated as an evacuation center, people formed long lines in front of a water supply tank that arrived in the morning. Some set up tents on the school grounds.

"I stayed where there was only a roof because the place was packed and I couldn't find space. I could hardly sleep. It was cold and we had aftershocks," said a 21-year old woman whose house was damaged.

In the surrounding areas, some people were able to retrieve bare necessities from their half-collapsed condominiums through broken windows.

Experts in earthquake engineering start-

ed examining the destroyed homes and buildings in the area.

"Houses were totally flattened. This shows the power of the quake," said Masakatsu Miyajima, an associate professor in civil engineering at Kanazawa University. "Most wooden structures collapsed, while buildings made of reinforced concrete survived. It was a sharp contrast."



Engulfed by flames KIMIO IDA

DAY 3 (Jan. 19)

7:30 a.m. — New fires break out in central Kobe.

9:16 a.m. — A team of 25 Swiss rescuers and search dogs arrive at the Kansai International Airport.

Murayama visits the region, saying that the damage is beyond his imagination.

3:25 p.m. — A 9-year-old boy is rescued 57 hours after being trapped under the debris of a condominium in Nishinomiya.

10:02 p.m. — The government sets up an emergency headquarters led by Murayama.

11:45 p.m. — The NPA reports the death toll at 4,015, with 587 missing, making the quake the worst disaster since the Great Kanto Earthquake.

Rescuers pull survivors, bodies from wreckage of collapsed houses, buildings

Several lucky people, including a 9-year-old boy, were freed from collapsed houses and buildings in Hyogo Prefecture, more than 50 hours after the area was hit by a powerful quake.

But nearly 1,500 others were pulled out from the rubble as dead bodies on Day 3 alone.

A team of rescue dogs and their Swiss trainers arrived in Kobe in the morning to help locate people buried in the rubble.

"We got the call at 9:30 a.m. and were on the flight from Zurich at one," said one of the trainers. "It was over a 12-hour flight, and with all the dogs, together they didn't get any sleep."

But their search efforts proved grim. By the next morning, they located five bodies, but no survivors.

They were aware that hopes of finding survivors were fading fast. "It's possible that people could survive this long (after the Jan. 17 quake), but the collapsed homes here crushed down on the bodies, making it hard to find space to breathe," said a Swiss dog handler.

Shinsuke Yamada, 9, was rescued from the ruins of a collapsed condominium in Kobe at around 3:30 p.m., 57 hours after he was trapped, police said. He was conscious and was rushed to a nearby hospital.

The condominium building was completely destroyed in the quake. In Ashiya, a 74-year-old were rescued from a crushed house at around 11:10 a.m., police said.

In Kobe's Higashi-Nada Ward, a 70-year-old woman was rescued from the de-



A man stands before the ruins of his home on Awaji Island CAMERON HAY