



Evacuees pass through Higashi-Nada Ward KIMIO IDA

Umeda Station on the Hankyu Kobe Line at around 9 a.m.

Because of extensive damage to the tracks, commuter trains are running only to Nishinomiya Kitaguchi Station in Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture, the halfway point between Osaka and Kobe.

A Hankyu spokeswoman said the company is operating shuttle runs on the line every three minutes.

At Nishinomiya Kitaguchi, Yumi Sasabe, a 28-year-old securities house employee of Kobe's Higashi-Nada Ward, said she was waiting for her friend from Osaka to bring water and food.

"I drove to the station. It took me about two hours," she said.

She said she is beginning to feel anxious about her family's future after the earthquake deprived them of water, gas and electricity supplies in addition to family ties.

Her grandmother was sent to a relative's home in Kawanishi, Hyogo Prefecture, while she is taking turns with her parents and brother to stay at another relative's home in Osaka.

Chikako Urahama, 38, of Nishinomiya, said she is heading to Osaka to buy plastic tanks to save rain water for the toilet as the first rainfall in a week is expected over the weekend.

Her three elementary school children were sent to her relative's house in Osaka while she and her husband clean the debris at their accounting office in Nishinomiya.

"Kobe wasn't prepared for an earthquake at all. They (the city) don't know what to do," said Lester Patrick, 34, an English teacher whose apartment was demolished by the earthquake.

He said he helped dig out residents bur-

ied in the debris of the collapsed houses although some were found dead. Patrick said he is working as a volunteer at an Ashiya hospital.

A 26-year-old man of Suita, Osaka Prefecture, said he will visit six relatives living between Nishinomiya and Suma Ward, western Kobe, and has

brought portable cooking stoves for them. Because no transportation is available from Nishinomiya Kitaguchi Station, most passengers headed west by foot. It takes



A girl pushes a cart overloaded with her possessions KIMIO IDA

about four hours to walk to the Sannomiya district in the central part of Kobe.

Others took ferry services that resumed on Jan. 19, linking Kobe with Osaka and Kansai International Airport.

About 150 passengers with heavy luggage boarded a high-speed ferry at Osaka's Tempozan harbor at 9 a.m. to bring relief goods to their relatives and friends. They arrived in Kobe about 50 minutes later.

At a destroyed pier in Harborland,

which opened two years ago as part of the city's waterfront development project, hundreds of Kobe residents waited in lines that stretched about 100 meters in a bid to get out of the city by the shuttle boat going back to Osaka.

"I've been waiting for the ferry since midnight Friday," said Yasuo Naoe, 39, with a cart carrying a cardboard box and a bag packed with bottled water, a portable gas stove and clothes. "I couldn't get water in Osaka, so I had someone send them to me."

Naoe said he lives in Hyogo Ward, Kobe, but moved to Osaka immediately after the quake, leaving his family behind at a temporary shelter in the ward.

"The reality is quite different from what you see on television. It was like a war. I have to stay in Osaka because that's where I work, but I'll come back here every weekend to bring necessities for my family," he said.

Satoshi Watanabe, 55, who was aboard the ferry with his wife and cousin, said he came from Nagoya to look for relatives with whom he hasn't been able to make contact since the quake.

"I don't know if we can find my relatives, but we brought water and food and other things for them anyway," he said.

A group of three men from Mie Prefecture was trying to walk about 5 km from Harborland to Nada Ward, each carrying a backpack and bags in both hands. "My relative called us, asking us to come and help. I was really stunned by this. It looks much worse than what I saw on TV. I may visit here again next weekend," said Kazuo Konishi, 32.

Kazutoshi Takekoshi, 30, visiting several work colleagues who live in Kobe, said he brought water, a portable stove and clothes.

"When I saw warehouses destroyed from the boat, I could tell how terrible the earthquake was that hit the city," he said.

Many others rode motorcycles from Osaka to bring relief goods for their relatives and friends as private cars are being kept off of National Routes 2 and 43, the only arteries connecting Osaka and Kobe.

Kazuo Ujimori of Yao, Osaka Prefecture, came here with three others, each on a 50cc minibike loaded with water and other goods, to visit a colleague living in Tarumi Ward.