

He said he is advising victims to ensure they are getting ample nutritional intake. He is also worried that while many doctors are working hard at the moment, many volunteers may have to return to their hometowns before the homeless can move to temporary housing.

DAY 9 (Jan. 25)

The Kanjo (loop) line of the Hanshin Expressway is reopened, restoring one of the key transport arteries in the quake-hit area. Service is resumed on the JR Tokaido Line between Koshienguchi and Ashiya stations.

11:16 p.m. — A fairly strong aftershock registers 4 on the Japanese scale in Kobe, Nishinomiya and parts of Osaka. It was the 116th aftershock that could be felt since the Jan. 17 quake and the strongest to hit Kobe.

Payday brightens life for some in Kobe as late-night aftershock rocks Hanshin

About 80 percent of the companies in the Hanshin area managed to pay most of their employee salaries as scheduled, a sign that life is gradually returning to normal after the Jan. 17 earthquake.

But the area is still plagued with the continuing fear of aftershocks. Late in the evening, Kobe was jolted by the strongest aftershock since the quake.

In Kobe, some companies whose computers and other facilities were knocked out by the temblor continued clerical work manually, trying only to make it to payday.

Banks were crowded with people hoping to withdraw their salaries.

"I walked around for about 30 minutes to find a bank open. I feel insecure without cash because no one can tell when a big aftershock may come," said Keiko Yamaguchi, 36, at the Mikage branch of Sakura Bank in Higashi-Nada Ward, one of the most badly damaged areas.

Even with salaries being paid, the future remains bleak for many people here.

"Most shoe makers in Nagata Ward were destroyed and the company I worked for suffered damage of more than ¥1 billion. I think I may find myself without a

job," said Katsuyuki Tanaka, 29, who works for a shoe company in the ward.

He said he wonders how he will manage in the future, adding that his wife is pregnant.

Recovery of transportation and other infrastructure, however, was making progress.

West Japan Railway Co. resumed its 6.3-km run between Koshienguchi and Ashiya stations on the Tokaido Line in Hyogo Prefecture early in the morning.

The first train bound for Osaka from JR West's Ashiya Station, whose building collapsed in the quake, departed at 5:46 a.m. Wednesday.

The station was crowded with workers lining up to go through the wickets at around 8 a.m.

"I'm going to work for the first time since the quake. My house was heavily damaged. But I can't ask for many days off to repair it since my company prepared a hotel room," a 54-year-old male office worker living in Osaka Prefecture said at Ashiya Station.

DAY 10 (Jan. 26)

Hanshin Dentetsu resumes operations between Koshien and Ogi, connecting Osaka and part of Kobe by rail for the first time since the quake.

7:13 p.m. — The government convenes the Central Disaster Prevention Council, deciding on a sweeping review of its disaster management policy for the first time in 24 years.

Colds, flu running rampant; doctors struggle to cope with outbreaks in shelters

By SACHIKO HIRAO

Colds and influenza are rampant among people who lost homes and are living in shelters in the aftermath of the Great Hanshin Earthquake, which rocked southern Hyogo Prefecture on Jan. 17, leaving more than 310,000 evacuees shivering in the cold.

A Toho University team from Tokyo has started to provide medical services around

the clock at Yamanote Elementary School, Chuo Ward, which is serving as a temporary shelter for about 1,800 people.

"The number of cases of cold and flu far exceed other illnesses. Many people have symptoms such as fever, coughing and diarrhea. About 80 percent of those who come in here are 50 years or older," said Rie Nakayama, one of the nurses, at a temporary clinic set up in the school's conference room.

Two small electric heaters are the only source of warmth in the large conference room.

"There was only one heater in the clinic. Someone brought the other one from somewhere yesterday. We turned the computer room, next to the clinic, into a special treatment room because it is warmer than other rooms," said Hirosato Kikuchi, the leader of the team, which consists of five doctors and four nurses.

In the special room, two patients were being administered intravenous drips with the containers suspended from a coat hanger. The other half of the room, divided by lines of desktop computers, is for people suffering from flu. Several patients lie on thin blankets on the carpeted floor.

Doctors and nurses regularly treat patients at 91 of the city's 598 temporary shelters, with round-the-clock service available at 30, officials said. Doctors and nurses visit the rest of the shelters daily, they said.

Demolition crews remove debris of collapsed highway in Kobe KIMIO IIDA

