

However, water and heat are still in short supply at most shelters.

"My husband has a cold. So I came here to pick up medicine for him. We stayed here because city authorities told us to leave our house, saying it is too dangerous to stay. But we can't sleep on cardboard and a couple of blankets on a concrete floor. It won't keep us warm," said a woman waiting outside the Yamanote clinic.

"A nasty cold is around this year. Even healthy people could have it for over a month. Once people living in such conditions catch a cold, it could quickly get worse," Nakayama said.

The best remedy for a cold is to eat nutritious food, drink lots of water, keep warm and sleep well, although none of these remedies are available at most shelters, Nakayama said.

## DAY 11 (Jan. 27)

*The disrupted sections of the Chugoku Expressway between Hyogo and Osaka prefectures are restored.*

**6:15 p.m.** — The Coordinating Committee for Earthquake Prediction renews its warning that aftershocks of up to magnitude 6 on the Richter scale could still take place.

### **Large aftershocks still feared; sections of Chugoku Expressway reopen**

Just as the key transportation link be-



**Flowers of remembrance for lost classmates** KYODO

tween Osaka and other parts of western Japan was reopened, seismologists renewed warnings of a possible aftershock with a magnitude of up to 6 on the Richter scale.

The independent Coordinating Committee for Earthquake Prediction, meeting in Tokyo, said that while the frequency of aftershocks from the Jan. 17 earthquake has decreased, the ripples are expected to continue for a while.

"The possibility of a magnitude 6 class quake occurring still exists, so precautions are still necessary," an expert told the gathering of seismologists and disaster-prevention officials.

More than 130 aftershocks have so far been felt in the quake-ravaged area.

Kiyoo Mogi, chairman of the committee, warned people not to be disturbed by rumors that predict the coming of the next big quake on a specific date or place.

Mogi said it is difficult, even with current technology, to predict when and where an earthquake will take place.

Some elevated sections of the Chugoku Expressway reopened in the morning, ending 10 days of traffic chaos caused when the Jan. 17 quake severed the key road link between eastern and western Japan.

The opening promises to ease at least some of the confusion as the region continues its recovery efforts.

The reopened sections of the Chugoku Expressway are between Yokawa, Hyogo Prefecture, and Chugoku Toyonaka, Osaka Prefecture, and between Suita, Osaka Prefecture, and Nishinomiya Kita, Hyogo Prefecture. Damaged support pillars have been reinforced with steel beams.

Speed limits of 20 kph to 40 kph have been imposed in the section between Nishinomiya Kita and Chugoku Toyonaka, which was badly damaged.

Express bus services on the Chugoku Expressway began, linking Shin-Osaka and Himeji. The services will continue until shinkansen services are resumed between the two points. The first Himeji-bound bus was delayed by more than six hours because of congested roads.

A large traffic jam occurred in and on the approaches to the Takarazuka Tunnel in Hyogo Prefecture.

On the Kinki Expressway, which links with the Chugoku Expressway, vehicles were backed up for a distance of 26 km from the Suita Interchange.

The reinforcement of the pillars is still under way on the expressway. Japan Highway Public Corp. said it will increase speed limits as the reinforcement work proceeds.



**Construction works begins on temporary housing** KIMIO IDA