

DAY 12 (Jan. 28)

More than 15,000 rescue workers from Hyogo Prefectural Police and the Self-Defense Forces launch a massive search for the missing among the debris of the quake-ravaged areas, finding six bodies by the evening.

15,000 rescuers launch final search for survivors

More than 15,000 rescue workers launched what was seen as a last-ditch effort to find survivors in the rubble of the quake-devastated areas of Kobe and other cities in Hyogo Prefecture, 11 days after the earthquake hit the region Jan. 17.

By evening, the rescuers had recovered six more bodies in Kobe, adding to a death

toll that has already topped 5,000, the worst loss of life in Japan's postwar history.

About 7,000 Hyogo Prefectural Police officers and some 8,000 Self-Defense Force troops were mobilized until sunset in the all-out search in Kobe, Ashiya and Nishinomiya.

Despite the daily efforts of between 3,000 and 4,000 rescuers, no survivor has been found since Jan. 21, when a 74-year-old woman was rescued after being trapped under rubble in Kobe for more than four days.

DAY 13 (Jan. 29)

Prime Minister Murayama asks Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura to study the feasibility of issuing government bonds to finance the reconstruction of the quake-hit areas.

DAY 14 (Jan. 30)

JR Sanyo Line fully resumes operation. Municipal kindergartens, elementary and junior high schools in Nishinomiya reopen.

The vice governor of Hyogo tells the national government for special legislation to finance costs of rebuilding the quake-devastated city infrastructure, estimated at ¥8.55 trillion.

DAY 15 (Jan. 31)

As the evacuees grapple with cold weather, the Emperor and Empress visit the quake-hit areas to encourage people in temporary shelters.

Hyogo Prefecture Gov. Toshitami Kaihara says the local government will provide emergency housing for all people left homeless by the quake.

The death toll reaches 5,102, with 12 still missing, but city officials say the figure could rise further as about 300 deaths have yet to be reported to police.

DAY 16 (Feb. 1)

A shuttle service between Sannomiya and

Kosoku Kobe stations was opened by Hanshin Electric Railway Co. It was the first time since the Jan. 17 earthquake that the Sannomiya district, the quake-ravaged city center, was able to be reached by train.

Data from employment security offices in Kobe showed that small and medium-sized firms in the quake-shattered Kansai region may dismiss some 4,500 employees, while another 120 prospective job openings could disappear, according to Kyodo News Service.

DAY 17 (Feb. 2)

Hyogo Prefecture suffered ¥9.5 trillion in damages from the earthquake, an amount equivalent to about 13 percent of the fiscal 1994 national budget, the prefectural government reports.

West Japan Railway Co. says a quake-damaged section between Shin-Osaka and Himeji stations on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line will be restored in early May, a month ahead of schedule.

DAY 18 (Feb. 3)

The death toll from the earthquake rises to 5,243 as 139 people whose bodies were cremated without police inspection are added to the list of victims.

Underlining the severity of life for evacuees, Kyodo News Service reports that at least 24 elderly survivors of the Jan. 17 earthquake have died from pneumonia or other illnesses after staying in evacuee shelters in the city. Doctors said that the deaths apparently stemmed from weakened resistance to illness due to life in cramped, un-

heated shelters that lack sufficient medical services.

Kazusuke Kobayashi, professor at the Chiba Institute of Technology, says pillars for elevated bullet train tracks damaged in the quake may have broken because builders ignored standard practices.

DAY 19 (Feb. 4)

Top officials of the government and the ruling coalition parties decide to set up a headquarters within the government to oversee all efforts to rebuild areas devastated by the quake.

DAY 20 (Feb. 5)

The Construction Ministry, seeing the damage to subway tunnels that had long been regarded as safe from quakes, begins a full review of antiquake building standards for certain underground malls.

DAY 21 (Feb. 6)

The Kobe municipal government begins accepting application for "risai shomei" certificate, which will be necessary for the quake victims when they seek benefits such as contributions, rent-free or low-cost housing, etc.

The Kobe Municipal Government reports that a total of 94,109 buildings in the city suffered severe damage in the quake. There were 54,949 completely destroyed buildings, while 31,783 others were partially destroyed.