



News and Views from Myanmar

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Sr. No.

CONTENTS

Page

Loss of lives, property in recent earthquake ----- 2

Loss of lives, property in recent earthquakes

YANGON, 28 Dec: Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held a press conference on strong earthquake occurred in the Indian Ocean and damages in some areas in Myanmar. An earthquake of severe intensity with its epicenter about 1,000 miles northwest of Jakarta, Indonesia took place at 7:32:4 am on 26 December. After that, nine earthquakes of intensity about 6.0 on the Richter Scale were recorded in the Andaman Sea. The eighth earthquake of strong intensity with 6.1 on the Richter Scale with its epicenter about 60 miles southwest of Kokogyun took place at 9:38:42 am. The ninth one of strong intensity with 7.3 on the Richter Scale centred about 400 miles south of Kokogyun was recorded.

Some buildings collapsed in Taninthayi, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and some regions in Rakhine and Shan State (South) due to the earthquake and coastal regions were hit by tidal waves. According to the latest information received, 138 buildings were destroyed and 788 people were homeless. Thirty six people were killed, 45 injured and 14 missing. Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and acting Director-General Dr U Tin Win Maung of the Ministry of Health visited the earthquake-hit regions in Ayeyawady Division on 27 December morning and provided relief to the victims. Chairmen of State/Division Peace and Development Councils also visited the affected areas and carried out rescue operations.

According to the figure released on 31 December 2004, the earthquakes claimed 53 lives, leaving 43 injured, while 21 are reported missing. It also destroyed 17 villages and 778 people of 138 households left homeless. Ayeyawady Division is the hardest-hit.

And the figure released on 1 January 2005, out of 21 people who were reported missing on 31 December 2004, six were confirmed dead and 12 returned their homes. Up to now, three victims are still missing .The death toll due to the earthquakes rose to 59, while 43 were injured. As shown by the figures, 592 houses of 17 villages were destroyed, and 3,205 people of 638 households homeless.