



PHOTO: AFP
Tears roll down the face of an injured Kashmiri girls as she gets her wound dressed at a makeshift medical camp in Muzaffarabad yesterday. New aftershocks rattled quake-hit northern Pakistan as aid trickled into the mountainous region and relief agencies struggled to reach cut-off survivors before winter.

Quake rattles eastern Afghanistan: 5 killed

Pakistan hit by new aftershocks

AFP, Kabul/ Muzaffarabad

An earthquake shook eastern Afghanistan near the border of quake-hit Pakistan early yesterday, with initial reports saying at least five people were killed and six hurt, the defence ministry said.

Initial reports also said some houses were destroyed in the quake that struck mountainous Paktika province at about 6:30 am (0200 GMT), ministry spokesman General Mohammad Zahir Azimi told a press briefing.

"Our national army units are in the region assessing the damage. They're on the ground helping villagers," he said.

Another quake struck adjacent

Zabul province on Friday, killing at least three people, provincial officials said.

Afghanistan was spared the devastation caused by a massive October 8 earthquake that left more than 53,000 people dead and more than 75,000 injured in northwestern Pakistan and Pakistani Kashmir.

Several Afghans were killed in that quake, which shook the east of the country and the capital, Kabul.

Pakistan has been jolted by more than 700 aftershocks since the 7.6-magnitude earthquake, including two early Sunday, a seismological department official said. There were no immediate reports of damage or casu-

alties from the latest tremors.

War-shattered Afghanistan does not have a meteorological agency that can provide information about the scale of earthquakes.

In Muzaffarabad new aftershocks rattled quake-hit northern Pakistan yesterday as aid trickled into the mountainous region and relief agencies struggled to reach cut-off survivors before winter.

An aftershock measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale was felt at 5:44 am (0044 GMT) in Mansehra town, which has become a refuge for thousands of survivors from more badly devastated towns and villages in the Kashmiri mountains.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the latest tremor, one of more than 700 which have shaken the region since the 7.6-magnitude October 8 quake killed more than 53,000 people and left more than three million homeless.

But at least five people were reportedly killed in neighbouring Afghanistan when an earthquake struck eastern Paktika province, bordering Pakistan, around dawn, the Afghan defence ministry said.

"We don't know exactly the scale of the damage. Afghan National Army troops are on the ground helping villagers," ministry spokesman General Mohammad Zahir Azimi told a press briefing.

Bldg collapses in Mumbai: 5 killed

AFP, Mumbai

Five people died and six were injured when a building in a suburban area of India's commercial capital Mumbai collapsed yesterday, an official said.

"A portion of an under-construction building fell in the Andheri suburb of north Mumbai and the labourers who were working at the construction site were buried in the debris," A.D. Jhandwal, Mumbai's chief fire officer, told AFP.

He said a team of rescue workers pulled out 11 labourers from under the debris, of whom five were dead and the others injured.

Mumbai, a city of 15 million people, has seen half-a-dozen building collapses since record rains in August.

Police have launched an eviction drive against people living in dilapidated buildings in the city.

UN OFFICIAL SAYS World failed to respond to quake devastation

AFP, Muzaffarabad

The international community failed to grasp the scale of the South Asian earthquake and more than two weeks after the disaster, the response is still not enough, a UN relief official said yesterday.

Rashid Khalikov, the UN humanitarian aid area coordinator in this quake-hit capital of Pakistani Kashmir, said international relief agencies were "still coming to grips" with the disaster, which killed more than 50,000 people and left more than three million homeless in difficult mountain territory.

"Two weeks after the earthquake that devastated this region countless thousands (of people) need to be reached in high-altitude terrain," he told reporters.

"In the first few days after the earthquake the world clearly did not comprehend the magnitude and complexity of the disaster.

"Even now we are still coming to grips with the extent of the people's needs as new information comes in from previously inaccessible areas."

He said UN agencies, working

alongside the Pakistani army and independent non-governmental groups, had distributed 60,000 tents -- nowhere near enough to protect the millions of destitute from the increasingly cold nights.

Another 190,000 tents were in the UN pipeline but more would be needed if the world body is to prevent what Secretary General Kofi Annan called a possible "second wave" of deaths as winter bites in the Himalayan region.

"From a logistical point of view this is possibly the most challenging emergency relief operation that the international humanitarian community has ever faced," Khalikov said.

In Pakistan-administered Kashmir alone, "some 800,000 people, or 150,000 families, are believed to be without shelter," he said.

"The scale of this calamity is beyond the capacity of any one country. The support of the international community is vital and it is essential that donors contribute the necessary funds as soon as possible."



PHOTO: AFP
Indian firemen search through the debris of a 80-foot long wall which collapsed trapping more than 20 construction labourers in Mumbai yesterday. Five people died and six were injured when a building in a suburban area of India's commercial capital Mumbai collapsed.