

Magnitude 6.3 earthquake rocks nation

Written by Taipei Times

Tuesday, 21 April 2015 08:00 -



A Taipei stacked parking lot lies in disarray after a magnitude 6.3 earthquake hit Taiwan yesterday.

Photo: Wang Yi-sung, Taipei Times

The nation was struck by a magnitude 6.3 earthquake and four large aftershocks yesterday, killing one person and damaging infrastructure and private properties in the north.

After the main earthquake hit at 9:42am, an aftershock measuring magnitude 5.0 occurred seven minutes later, with the two epicenters only 13.2km apart.

A magnitude 5.5 aftershock struck southeast of Hualien at 7:20pm, which was measured at Level 4 intensity along the east coast. At 7:45pm, a magnitude 5.8 aftershock hit, generating Level 3 tremors in Yilan, Hualien and New Taipei City. Another aftershock came 15 minutes afterward, which was measured at magnitude 5.7.

The Central Weather Bureau said the offshore earthquake occurred at 9:42am, with the epicenter identified as being near the east coast of Taiwan. It was categorized as a shallow earthquake, with the hypocenter 17.5km below the ground.

An 84-year-old man in Sinjhuang (屏東) died in a fire in his apartment building that was reportedly caused by an explosion of an electricity transformer box nearby. Another tenant in the building was injured in the fire.

Magnitude 6.3 earthquake rocks nation

Written by Taipei Times

Tuesday, 21 April 2015 08:00 -

The earthquake caused 11 cars to fall from a parking tower on Songjiang Road in Taipei, damaging some beyond repair.

Flooding was reported in New Taipei City's Shulin District (樹林) after the earthquake, due to a broken underground water pipeline.

The Ministry of Education reported damage to facilities in nine institutions, including five schools in Yilan and four schools in Taipei, New Taipei City, Tainan and Hualien City. The financial losses were estimated at more than NT\$290,000.

While the earthquake did not damage railway tracks, it forced 32 trains in operation to temporarily reduce speed. About 8,000 passengers were delayed.

Statistics from the bureau showed the greatest intensity of shaking generated by the tremors, Level 4, was in Yilan and New Taipei City.

Meanwhile, Taipei, Hualien, Nantou, Taoyuan, Hsinchu, Changhua, Taichung and Yunlin recorded Level 3 intensity. Intensity levels across the rest of the nation reached Level 2 and Level 1.

People in New Taipei City's Banciao District (板橋) felt the strongest effects of the earthquake, with the earthquake continuing at Level 4 intensity for about 0.12 seconds. The shaking continued at Level 3 intensity for about 16 seconds and at Level 2 intensity for about 1 minute and 2 seconds, the bureau said.

Bureau seismology center director Kuo Kai-wen (郭錫山) explained why an earthquake occurring off the nation's east coast would be felt so strongly in New Taipei City.

"The sediments in the soil in Banciao are thick, but soft, which amplifies the effects generated by earthquakes. The earthquake's waves would have bounced back and forth in the Taipei

Magnitude 6.3 earthquake rocks nation

Written by Taipei Times

Tuesday, 21 April 2015 08:00 -

Basin, making people in Taipei more aware of the tremors than in other regions of the nation,” he said.

Kuo said the earthquake yesterday morning occurred at the Nanao Sea Basin (南澳海盆), which is a major source of earthquakes in Taiwan.

He added that its epicenter was close to that of the magnitude 6.8 earthquake that occurred on March 31, 2002, which killed 15 people.

The earthquake yesterday morning was caused as the Philippine Plate was subducted north into the Eurasian Plate. It was the third earthquake this year with a magnitude of more than 6.

“We do not exclude the possibility that another earthquake measuring magnitude 6 or above would occur this year,” Kuo said.

A magnitude 6.8 earthquake occurred in December last year, the only magnitude 6 earthquake last year, he added.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2015/04/21](#)