

**EARTHQUAKE**

# Strong tremor rocks North, shakes buildings in capital

**POST REPORTERS**

A 6.3-magnitude earthquake shook northern Thailand yesterday evening causing extensive damage.

There were no reports of any casualties.

The epicentre of the quake, which struck about 6pm, was 10 kilometres underground in Phan district of Chiang Rai, the National Disaster Warning Centre (NDWC) said.

The Seismological Bureau of the Meteorological Department, confirmed the quake magnitude at 6.3. The quake was also reportedly felt in Bangkok.

Besides Chiang Rai, the quake also shook nearby provinces such as Chiang Mai, Phrae, Phayao and Lampang, the NDWC said, warning residents of possible aftershocks. Dozens of buildings, including homes and businesses, as well as roads

were damaged. Caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra ordered relevant agencies to provide assistance to all those affected.

There were reports of damage in Phan district. A four-storey hotel sustained significant cracks while a road in the same district was badly damaged. The head of a Buddha statue at Wat Pa Udomwaree was also damaged.

In Chun district, in Phayao province, the roof of a house collapsed.

"That was the strongest earthquake I've ever felt," said Somchai Khempetch, the owner of the house.

According to [www.earthquake-report.com](http://www.earthquake-report.com), a resident on the 26th floor of a Bangkok condo said he felt his building shake for about 20 seconds while a light fitting in one of his rooms swayed for about two minutes.



Motorists drive past a large crack in a highway caused by an earthquake in Chiang Rai province yesterday. EPA