

= 2002 West Bengal cyclone =

The 2002 West Bengal cyclone ( JTWC designation : 04B , officially known as Severe Cyclonic Storm BOB 04 ) was a deadly tropical cyclone that affected India and Bangladesh in November 2002 . The sixth tropical cyclone and fourth cyclonic storm of the 2002 North Indian Ocean cyclone season , it developed in the Bay of Bengal northeast of Sri Lanka on November 10 , as a tropical depression . After tracking northeast , the system strengthened into a cyclonic storm on November 11 , as maximum sustained winds exceeded 65 km / h ( 40 mph ) . On November 12 , it further intensified into a severe cyclonic storm . Later that day , the storm made landfall on Sagar Island in West Bengal with winds of 100 km / h ( 65 mph ) . After moving inland , it rapidly weakened and dissipated over Bangladesh on November 12 .

Rough seas offshore Odisha caused two fishing trawlers to collide , resulting in 18 fatalities , while two additional trawlers were reported missing . In West Bengal , the storm uprooted trees and dropped heavy rainfall . Throughout India , 124 deaths were confirmed . Strong winds and heavy rainfall in Bangladesh impacted many cities and villages , including the capital city of Dhaka , forcing thousands to evacuate . Ten wooden trawlers carrying 150 men sank offshore Bangladesh , with only 11 reaching safety . Eight additional boats with 60 occupants were reported missing . One death was reported in Bangladesh after a man attempted to cross a swollen river . Overall , there were 49 fatalities in Bangladesh . The storm was attributed to at least 173 fatalities in India , Bangladesh , and offshore areas .

= = Meteorological history = =

Around 0300 UTC on November 10 , a depression developed in the southwestern Bay of Bengal . Three hours later , a bulletin from the India Meteorological Department ( IMD ) indicated that BOB 04 formed about 265 km ( 165 mi ) east @-@ southeast of Chennai , India . The system steadily intensified and headed northeastward . At 1200 UTC on November 11 , the depression reached gale force and was upgraded to Cyclonic Storm BOB 04 . At that time , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center ( JTWC ) initiated warnings on Tropical Cyclone 03B . Further strengthening briefly slowed later on November 11 . However , early on the following day , the storm resumed intensification .

At 0600 UTC on November 12 , BOB 04 became a severe cyclonic storm and reached its maximum sustained wind speed of 100 km / h ( 65 mph ) , in addition to an estimated minimum barometric pressure of 984 mbar ( 29 @-@ 1 inHg ) . However , the Regional Meteorological Centre ( RMC ) in Kolkata , India bulletin at 0530 UTC on November 12 , reported maximum sustained winds of only 55 @-@ 75 km / h ( 35 @-@ 45 mph ) . At 0900 UTC on November 12 , it made landfall near Sagar Island , West Bengal with winds of 100 km / h ( 65 mph ) . Shortly after moving inland , the storm rapidly weakened to a depression . The JTWC issued their final advisory on the storm at 1200 UTC on November 12 , while it was centered about 200 km ( 125 mi ) northeast of Kolkata . However , the IMD tracked the cyclone until about six hours later , at which time it dissipated over eastern India .

= = Impact = =

As the storm approached , residents of low @-@ lying areas were advised to seek shelter . According to the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority , the communication system had been activated and collectors in coastal districts were given satellite telephones . Additionally , district authorities collected food , water , and other essential emergency supplies . Offshore Odisha , rough seas caused two trawlers to collide , resulting in 18 fatalities ; their bodies were later found floating Dhamra Port in the Bhadrak district of Odisha . Two additional trawlers were reported missing . Nine fishing trawlers sank offshore West Bengal , with only 66 fishermen accounted for . Initially , as many as 600 were estimated to have been missing , though 250 people swam back to Digha , where most of them received treatment at either a medical clinic or a hospital . According to the Chief Minister of West Bengal , 111 people were still missing offshore West Bengal by late on

November 12 . Forty @-@ nine fatalities were confirmed offshore India , while two deaths occurred inland in West Bengal . Later , the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters raised the death toll to 124 .

Prime Minister of Bangladesh Khaleda Zia urged senior officials in Dhaka and coastal districts to prepare for the storm . Officials in Chittagong asked that all 24 ships be moved out of the harbor and river channel . In coastal areas , thousands of Red Crescent volunteers reported for duty in order to assist vulnerable villages in preparation of the storm . Winds destroyed bamboo huts , uprooted trees , and disrupted road transport between towns and villages on the shore of the Bay of Bengal . Torrential rainfall in the area flooded dozens of villages , forcing thousands to evacuate . Heavy precipitation also lashed the capital city of Dhaka , inundating streets , which caused a shutdown of electricity and interrupting public transportation . One death was reported after a man drowned while attempting to cross a river in southern Bhola Island . Ten wooden trawlers carrying 150 men sank near Cox 's Bazar ; only 11 of them were known to have survived . An additional eight fishing boats transporting 60 people was reported missing off of Barisal Division . By November 15 , 47 fishing vessels were still unaccounted for . A navy motor boat also sunk near Kutubdia , though its six crew members swam ashore . In the aftermath of the storm , the number of deaths in Bangladesh rose to 49 .

Overall , the storm resulted in 173 confirmed fatalities . Officials in West Bengal accused the meteorological offices of issuing warnings too late , as most of the fishermen were already in deep sea areas . Immediately following the storm , the Indian Red Cross Society and the Participating National Societies began to assess the situation and plan . At a warehouse in Salt Lake City , Kolkata , the Indian Red Cross Society prepared to distribute 2 @,@ 000 tarpaulins , 2 @,@ 000 blankets , 200 kitchen sets , and 20 @,@ 000 mosquito nets .