= Cyclone Akash =

Cyclone Akash (JTWC designation : 01B , also known as Cyclonic Storm Akash) was the first named tropical cyclone of the 2007 North Indian Ocean cyclone season . Warned by both India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) , it formed from an area of disturbed weather on the Bay of Bengal on May 12 , and gradually organized as it drifted northward . An eye began to develop as it approached land , and after reaching peak 3 @-@ min sustained winds of 85 km / h (50 mph) it struck about 115 km (70 mi) south of Chittagong in Bangladesh . Akash rapidly weakened over land , and advisories were discontinued on May 15 .

The storm initially brought heavy rainfall to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands . Upon striking Bangladesh , Cyclonic Storm Akash produced a moderate storm tide , along with strong winds and heavy rains . The storm left dozens of boats missing , with three fisherman confirmed killed and another 50 missing . Near the coast , thousands of houses were damaged from the flooding caused by the storm . In Burma , its storm tide caused some coastal flooding . In all , 14 people were killed and damages amounted to US $ 982 million .

= = Meteorological history = =

During the second week of May , low pressures persisted across the Bay of Bengal . An area of convection developed on May 11 , and the next day the India Meteorological Department (IMD) classified it as a depression . The system drifted northward , and initially moderate wind shear kept the deep convection on the periphery of the consolidating low @-@ level circulation center . Gradually , banding features developed along the eastern semicircle , and with decreasing amounts of wind shear the system organized further . By May 13 , the pressure had dropped to 1000 mbar as wind shear levels dropped significantly . An anticyclone developed over the system , while a mid @-@ latitude trough over northeastern India provided favorable outflow . Convection continued to consolidate around the low @-@ level circulation , and with well @-@ defined banding features and a central dense overcast over the center of circulation , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) upgraded it to Tropical Cyclone 01B at 1121 UTC on May 13 while located about 545 km (340 mi) west @-@ northwest of Yangon , Burma .

Upon first being upgraded , the storm tracked steadily northward due to a break in a mid @-@ level ridge . Early on May 14 , IMD upgraded the system to deep depression status , and six hours later classified it as Cyclonic Storm Akash after attaining 3 @-@ min sustained winds of 40 mph (65 km / h) . Akash continued to organize , with deep convection wrapping fully around the low @-@ level circulation . An eye began to form as the storm approached land , and at 1800 UTC on May 14 JTWC estimated 1 @-@ min sustained winds of 120 km / h (75 mph) . Officially , Akash attained peak 3 @-@ min sustained winds of 85 km / h (50 mph) and a minimum central pressure of 988 hPa . Additionally , meteorologists in Burma estimated Akash peaked with winds of 160 km / h (100 mph) . As it interacted with the mid @-@ latitude westerlies , it began to become extratropical . Shortly after reaching peak winds , Akash made landfall about 115 km (70 mi) south of Chittagong . The storm weakened rapidly as it continued inland , and early on May 15 IMD issued its final advisory on the system ; shortly thereafter , JTWC discontinued advisories . The name was contributed by India , Akash means Sky in Hindi language .

= = Preparations = =

In its daily tropical weather outlook , the India Meteorological Department warned fishermen on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to not go into the ocean due to the anticipated rough seas . Upon approaching the coast of Bangladesh , officials canceled all flights to and from the Shah Amanat International Airport . Additionally , authorities at the port of Chittagong worked to protect cargo ships from the storm , and it was ultimately closed for a period of 19 hours . In preparation for Akash , officials advised coastal residents to evacuate further inland ; about 80 @,@ 000 total residents left for emergency shelters . About 40 @,@ 000 Red Cross volunteers were prepared to aid those

potentially affected .

= = Impact = =

The India Meteorological Department estimated winds of 45 ? 55 km / h (28 ? 34 mph) affected the Andaman and Nicobar Islands , though no land reports were received . In Sittwe in Burma , the storm produced a storm tide of 3 m (10 ft) , which flooded coastal areas .

In Chittagong , about 115 km (70 mi) north of where Akash moved ashore , surface stations reported peak winds of 37 km / h (23 mph) and a pressure of 996.8vhPa. Near its landfall location , Akash produced high tides that flooded coastal areas with up to 1 @.@ 5 m (5 ft) of water , destroying at least 30 businesses . The cyclone destroyed 205 houses and left an additional 845 damaged . Akash caused moderate crop damage near the coast , including 2 ha (4 @.@ 9 acres) of destroyed lands of shrimp farms . Heavy precipitation was reported , with one station reporting a total of 53 mm (2 @.@ 12 in) ; the rainfall caused flooding in inland areas . The heavy rains , caused by outer bands of the cyclone before it made landfall , limited play in Chittagong in the third One Day International cricket match between India and Bangladesh , before the match was abandoned . Strong winds caused power outages throughout Cox 's Bazar District , and downed about 200 trees on St. Martin 's Island . The cyclone left a total of 10 boats unaccounted for , with about 50 fishermen missing . In total , three fisherman were confirmed killed , all on St. Martin 's Island , with two people left hospitalized . The passage of Cyclone Akash left many people homeless . Initially there was no response from the government . In all , 14 people were killed by Akash and damages amounted to US $ 982 million .