

= Cyclone Onil =

Severe Cyclonic Storm Onil (India Meteorological Department designation : ARB 03 ; Joint Typhoon Warning Center designation : 03A) was the first tropical cyclone to be named in the northern Indian Ocean . Forming out of an area of convection several hundred kilometres southwest of India on October 1 , 2004 , Cyclone Onil quickly attained its peak intensity on October 2 with winds of 100 km / h (65 mph) and a barometric pressure of 990 mbar (hPa ; 29 @. @ 23 inHg) . However , dry air quickly entered the system , causing it to rapidly weaken to a depression just off the coast of Gujarat , India . Over the following several days , the system took a slow , erratic track towards the south @-@ southeast . After turning northeastward , the system made landfall near Porbandar on October 10 and dissipated shortly thereafter .

Throughout southeastern Pakistan and northwestern India , thousands of residents were evacuated prior to the cyclone 's arrival . In these areas , the storm produced moderate to heavy rainfall , peaking at 145 mm (5 @. @ 7 in) in Thatta , Sindh , Pakistan . These rains led to flash flooding in several areas . Nine people died in several incidents related to the storm in Karachi . The drainage system of Hyderabad sustained significant damage , leading to several protests and demonstrations by city residents . Offshore , 300 fishermen are believed to have gone missing during the storm ; no reports have confirmed their whereabouts since they disappeared .

= = Meteorological history = =

Severe Cyclonic Storm Onil was first identified as an area of convection early on September 30 , 2004 situated roughly 465 km (290 mi) southwest of Mumbai , India . Satellite imagery depicted a poorly organized system with deep convection partially surrounding a low @-@ level circulation . Situated over warm water and within an area of moderate wind shear , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) assessed the system 's chances of developing into a tropical cyclone as " fair " . Within several hours of being identified , the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) began monitoring the system as Depression ARB 03 . Despite a decrease in convection later on September 30 , the IMD upgraded the cyclone to a deep depression , stating that three @-@ minute sustained winds had reached 55 km / h (35 mph) . Early the next day , organization substantially improved , prompting the JTWC to issue a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert . Around 0900 UTC on October 1 , the IMD upgraded the deep depression to Cyclonic Storm Onil . Upon being named , the storm became the first tropical cyclone on record to be named in the northern Indian Ocean . The WMO / ESCAP Panel agreed in May 2004 that in September , tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean attaining gale @-@ force winds would be given names .

Later on October 1 , the JTWC issued their first advisory on the storm , classifying it as Tropical Cyclone 03A . Tracking towards the northeast , Onil intensified as convection consolidated around the center of circulation . Roughly 24 hours after being named , the system attained its peak intensity as a severe cyclonic storm with winds of 100 km / h (65 mph) and a barometric pressure of 990 mbar (hPa ; 29 @. @ 23 inHg) according to the IMD with . Upon reaching this strength , the system featured a pinhole eye surrounded by deep convection . Additionally , Dvorak technique intensity estimates reached 3 @. @ 5 , indicating a high @-@ end tropical storm . However , the JTWC stated maximum winds to be 65 km / h (40 mph) , a low @-@ end tropical storm . As the storm neared the Indian coastline , dry air quickly entered the circulation , causing most of the convection associated with Onil to dissipate . Located within 100 km (65 mi) of land , the JTWC downgraded the system to a tropical depression and the IMD downgraded Onil to a deep depression .

On October 3 , the center of Onil skimmed the coastline of northwestern India ; however , the center did not cross land . Around this time , the upper @-@ level circulation detached from the low @-@ level circulation , further weakening the storm . Early on October 4 , the JTWC stated that the system had degenerated into a non @-@ convective remnant low pressure system . After executing a counter @-@ clockwise loop , the depression slowly tracked south @-@ southeastward , away from land . By October 7 , the system was reclassified as a tropical depression by the JTWC as it

stalled several hundred kilometres southwest of Gujarat , India . The system maintained a relatively low intensity for the following several days before making landfall near Porbandar with winds of 45 km / h (30 mph) . Within hours of moving inland , Onil dissipated early on October 10 .

= = Impact and aftermath = =

In northwestern India , thousands of residents were evacuated in fears of Onil striking the region . According to one of the evacuated residents , this was the seventh evacuation due to a cyclone in the area since 1999 . On October 10 , the storm 's remnants brought light to moderate rainfall in India ; there was no known rainfall amount exceeding 100 mm (3 @. @ 9 in) throughout the region .

In southeastern Pakistan , an estimated 6 @, @ 000 people were evacuated from coastal regions prior to Cyclone Onil 's arrival . Port officials warned fishermen not to venture out during the storm due to rough seas . Cyclone Onil brought moderate to heavy rainfall and gusty winds . A maximum of 145 mm (5 @. @ 7 in) of rain fell in Thatta , Sindh between October 2 and 3 . In Hyderabad , heavy rains amounting to 98 mm (3 @. @ 9 in) caused a 10 ft (3 @. @ 0 m) section of a drainage system to collapse , prompting the evacuation of several hundred residents . Throughout Sindh , an estimated 607 square kilometres (234 sq mi) of land was inundated by flood waters , destroying roughly 70 % of the cotton crop . In the city of Karachi , nine people were killed in various incidents related to the storm at least 35 mph (56 km / h) winds were reported . Two people were killed after being electrocuted by a downed power line outside their home . Many streets in the city were flooded and power lines were downed . Another one of these people died while trying to clear a drain near her house when a wall collapsed on her . Offshore , 163 fishermen were reported to be missing after being caught in the storm . However , reports from Pakistani officials stated that at least 300 fishermen were missing . In other areas , power was lost for more than 48 hours after Onil moved through the region . Around Karo Gongro , 100 people were stranded along a major roadway after flash flooding struck the area .

In the wake of the storm , Pakistani officials set up 26 relief camps where residents were offered food and shelter . Roughly 3 @, @ 000 people sought refuge in these shelters . Mobile units were also set up by the District Health Department to minimize the impacts of any post @- @ storm diseases . On October 3 , Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh expressed his grief over the damage caused by Cyclonic Storm Onil and stated that he would be touring the affected region within the following days . At least 40 million Pakistani rupee (\$ 469 @, @ 000 USD) was allocated in relief funds by Sindh Minister Syed Papoo Shah . On October 4 , port officials stated that it was safe for fishermen to resume their activities in the Arabian Sea . Later that day , a rain emergency was declared for Hyderabad and emergency shelters were set up in the city . All officers in the Hyderabad Development Authority who were initially put on leave ahead of the cyclone were told to resume work to assist in clearing drainage systems . Several days after the storm , reports indicated that there were more than 300 instances where the city 's drainage system collapsed across the area , resulting in standing water in many structures . Residents in these areas , frustrated by the lack of quick action by the government , began holding protests about the flooding . In response to these protests , Shaukat Hayat Bhutto suspended Assistant Engineer Sewage manager , Qamar Memon , for his negligence on draining flood waters .