

THE WEATHER SIGNAL IN BANGLADESH

Classification of Cyclones

The following is the classification of the cyclone according to the intensity and velocity of wind.

- (a) Depression : Wind speed 31 miles/hr or 50 km/hr.
- (b) Deep depression : Wind speed 32-38 miles/hr or 51-61 km/hr.
- (c) Cyclone : Wind speed 39-54 miles/hr or 62-88 km/hr.
- (d) Severe Cyclone : Wind speed 55-73 miles/hr or 89-117 km/hr.
- (e) Cyclone with hurricane : Wind speed 74 miles/hr or 118 km/hr or more.

Warning Signals for Sea and River Ports

1. For sea ports the following 11 (Eleven) kinds of cyclone warning signals are used.

Warning Signal Number	Explanation
(i) Distant Cautionary Signal No. I	(i) There is region of squally weather in the distance sea where storm may form.
(ii) Distant Cautionary Signal No. II	(ii) A storm has formed in the distant sea.
(iii) Distant Cautionary Signal No. III	(iii) The port is threatened by squally weather
(iv) Local Cautionary Signal No. IV	(iv) The port is threatened by a storm but it does not appear that the danger is as yet sufficiently great to justify extreme precautionary measures.
(v) Danger Signal No. V	(v) The port will experience severe weather from a storm of slight or moderate intensity, that is expected to cross the coast to the South of the port in case of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and, East of the port in case of Mongla.
(vi) Danger Signal No. VI	(vi) The port will experience severe weather from a storm of slight or moderate intensity that is expected to cross the coast to the North of the port in case of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and to the West of the port in case of Mongla.
(vii) Danger Signal No. VII	(vii) The port will experience severe weather from a storm of slight or moderate intensity that is expected to cross over or near the port.
(viii) Great Danger Signal No. VIII	(viii) The port will experience severe weather from a storm of great intensity that is expected to cross the coast to the South of the port in case

of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and to the East of the port in case of Mongla.

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| (ix) | Great Danger Signal No. IX | (ix) | The port will experience severe weather from a storm of great intensity that is expected to cross the coast to the North of the port in case of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and to the West of the port in case of Mongla. |
| (x) | Great Danger Signal No. X | (x) | The port will experience severe weather from a storm of great intensity that is expected to cross over or near to the port. |
| (xi) | Communication Failure Signal No. XI | (xi) | Communications with the Meteorological warning centre have broken down and the local officers consider that a devastating Cyclone is following. |

2. The following 4 (four) types of signals are meant for River Ports

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| (i) | Warning Signal No. I | (i) | The area is threatened by squally winds of transient nature. |
| (ii) | Cautionary Signal No. II | (ii) | A storm is likely to strike the area (vessels of 65 feet and under in length are to seek shelter immediately). |
| (iii) | Warning Signal No. III | (iii) | A storm will strike the area (all vessels will seek shelter immediately). |
| (iv) | Great Danger Signal No. IV | (iv) | A violent storm will soon strike the area (all vessels will take shelter immediately). |

- 3.** Every year 13-14 number cyclones (with wind velocity at 38 miles per hour) are formed in the Bay of Bengal. Out of them 5 (five) attain the strength of cyclone (with wind velocity 39 miles per hour or more) and cross the adjacent coastal areas. The possibility of any one such cyclone taking a turning and passing over the coastal areas of Bangladesh always remains.