

TROPICAL CYCLONE 04B

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Tropical Cyclone 04B was the most intense tropical cyclone in the North Indian Ocean during 1995. Its path was similar to Tropical Cyclone 02B of 1994, forming north of Sumatra, recurving, and making landfall near Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

II. TRACK AND INTENSITY

A flare up in the convection associated with the tropical disturbance that became Tropical Cyclone 04B was the reason for the reissuance of a Significant Tropical Weather Advisory at 182330Z November. A Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert was issued for the area of persistent convection at 211130Z, followed by a first warning, valid 211800Z. The tropical cyclone intensified rapidly, increasing two T-numbers a day from 220000Z [25 kt (13m/sec)] to 230000Z [55 kt (29 m/sec)], then one-and-a-half T-numbers a day from 230000Z to 240000Z [95 kt (49 m/sec)], reaching a maximum intensity of 105 kt (54 m/sec) by 240600Z. The 250600Z intensity prior to landfall was 85 kt (44 m/sec). The JTWC issued a final warning, valid at 251800Z, as Tropical Cyclone 04B's weakening low-level vortex dissipated over land.

III. IMPACT

Cox's Bazar reported 50 kt (26 m/sec) sustained winds and a 989.5 mb pressure at 250600Z — three hours before this cyclone swept across the coast. Press reports indicated nine people were killed and 300 were missing in the area. Monetary figures were not available for property damage incurred.

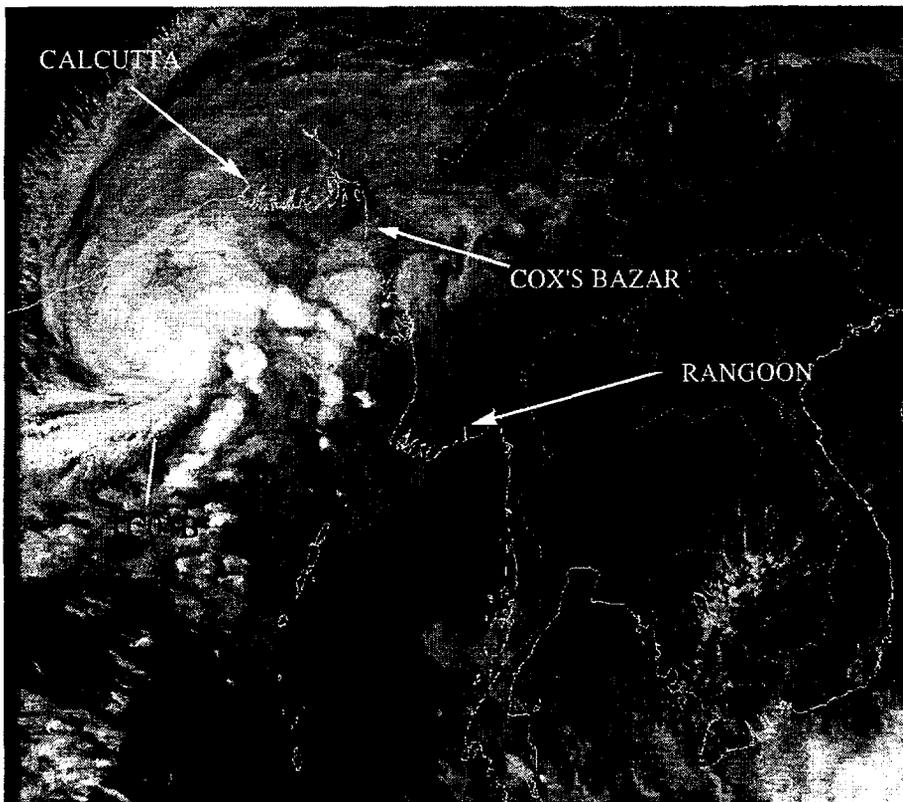


Figure 3-04B-1 The most intense cyclone in the North Indian Ocean in 1995, TC04B churns across the Bay of Bengal towards Bangladesh (241618Z November infrared DMSP imagery).