



TROPICAL CYCLONE 03B

Tropical Cyclone 03B emerged from the monsoon trough during early November and had a relatively brief and uneventful life. A poorly organized surface circulation in the southern Bay of Bengal had persisted for several days in the monsoon trough. A weak upper-level anticyclone centered over the northern portion of the Bay, placed the low-level circulation in an environment of nondivergent upper-level flow which inhibited further development.

The surface circulation remained poorly organized while moving slowly northward until the 5th of November. At this time, it came into superposition with the upper-level anticyclone which had shifted southward. Over the next 24 hours, satellite imagery indicated the development of convective banding features which prompted the issuance of a TCFA at 1600Z on the 6th.

The circulation continued to intensify while moving north-northwestward. The first warning on Tropical Cyclone 03B was issued at 1444Z on the 7th when satellite intensity estimates reached 35 kt (18 m/s). The lack of synoptic data in the area prompted JTWC to rely on intensity estimates from satellite imagery throughout the life of the cyclone.

After passing the axis of the subtropical ridge, Tropical Cyclone 03B assumed a north-northeastward track and continued to intensify. Maximum intensity of 55 kt (28 m/s) was reached at 0000Z on the 9th. This intensity was maintained until landfall, 12 hours later, on the coast of Bangladesh between Chittagong (WMO 41941) and Cox's Bazar (WMO 41950). Tropical Cyclone 03B continued moving northeastward after landfall and dissipated over northern Burma.