



# CYCLONE BULBUL

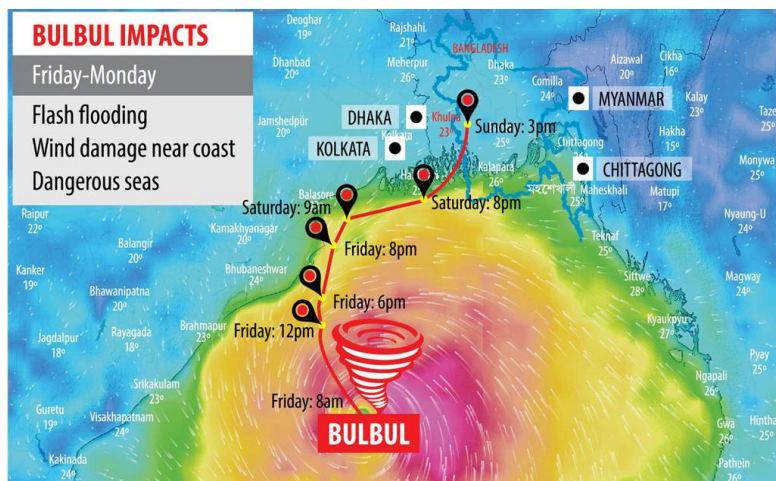
---

## SITUATION ANALYSIS AND COAST RESPONSE



## 1. Origin:

Because of the impact of climate change, the world is facing frequent natural disasters in different forms. Bangladesh is amid the top position of the most vulnerable countries in the world. During the period of 1978-2019, a total of



approximately 133 tropical cyclones formed in the Bay of Bengal. According to the current Statistics, an average of 1.15 tropical cyclones hit Bangladesh per year. Currently we are facing another the very severe cyclone storm named Bulbul where the international name of it is Matmo. Actually Bulbul is the reborn form of it and the rare overland passage by this cyclone brings a threat to India and Bangladesh, since it originated from the remnant of a Western Pacific tropical storm in the South China Sea in late October of 2019. The cyclone lost strength and entered Bangladesh through the Sundarbans in Khulna

around midnight of Sunday (10.11.2019), after making landfall at Sagardwip in the southern part of India's West Bengal. Because of this very severe storm, the coastal districts have started experiencing heavy rainfall and stormy wind since 10 November, 2019 morning under the impact of the cyclonic storm Bulbul as it was crossing the coastline of Bangladesh.

## 2. Situation Analysis:

In total 13 people were killed in Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barishal, Madaripur, Barguna, Pirojpur, Shariatpur, Bhola and Patuakhali. Among all the coastal districts, Satkhira and Bagerhat were in the most vulnerable positions. Around



Date: 10/11/19; Women and children gathered in a cyclone shelter at Char Hardinge Union under Lalmohon Upazila

50,000 houses were fully or partially damaged due to cyclonic storm here. Moreover in two unions of Shyamnagar upazila under Satkhira, 80% of the houses were damaged. In Bagerhat, 7,234 fish *ghers* (Shrimp Farms) have been washed away. Apart from that around 9,000 houses were fully damaged here. Besides, 18.35 kilometers of embankments were also damaged due to the cyclonic storm. The district administration has declared 62 of the 75 unions in Bagerhat as "disaster-affected" as 1, 32,300 people in these unions have been affected by "Bulbul". And about 36,000 houses were damaged in the other coastal districts naming Bhola, Barguna, Patuakhail,

Barishal, Pirojpur, Jhalokathi and Khulna.

In total 2, 89,006 hectares of land for 18 different crops were inundated in the 16 districts. All educational activities postponed for next 2 days in all the coastal districts. Furthermore 5 coastal districts are staying out of electricity facilities for last 2 days. At least 151 fishermen from Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna who had gone to the sea, were missing. Now more specifically in Bhola District, about 50,000 people's fate are remain uncertain ahead of cyclone Bulbul as there are no cyclone shelters in several parts, especially Dhalchar, Char Patila and Char Nizam of Charfassion upazila, and Kalatali of Manpura upazila. In another Upazila of Bhola District named Lalmohon the cyclone left at least 10 people injured.

Around 50 houses were damaged in the two upazilas. . In Patuakhali, about four to five thousand homes have been damaged by the cyclone. In Ramgoti upazila under Noakhali district, more than 100 houses were damaged due to the cyclonic storm. In Barishal, total 3,500 houses were damaged and low-lying areas and roads went under ankle to knee-deep water. And 15 villages in Kutubdia Upazila under Cox's bazar district flooded away due to the impact of Bulbul.

It is mentionable here that the government took several initiatives to respond the cyclone. A total of 17,36,174 people were evacuated from their homes and taken to 5,551 cyclone shelters in 14 coastal districts. And army, navy deployed for emergency response especially for the highly affected regions. Furthermore in all the coastal districts control rooms were opened on behalf of the government different departments for any type of emergency response.



COAST was distributing relief in Lalmohon Upazila with the presence of Upazila Chairman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer and SP circle

COAST Trust has been staying alert for 24/7 and taking some specific initiatives to respond to the people in its working areas immediately.

### 3. COAST in Action:

Several initiatives have been taken under the above mentioned circumstances. These initiatives are:

- a. All the offices were remained open for Saturday and Sunday.
- b. Leave facility and station leave had been cancelled and staff were instructed to remain alert.
- c. COAST Community Radio, Radio Meghna ([www.radiomeghna.net](http://www.radiomeghna.net)) was broadcasting the updated Weather Bulletin received from BMD consequently.
- d. All staff were remained 24/7 alert.
- e. COAST staff did miking and emergency preparedness campaigns in coordination with the local administration.
- f. COAST offices remained open to provide shelter to the people affected by cyclone.
- g. Dry food and drinking water had been distributed to 1,500 affected families.
- h. COAST staff were present in the preparatory meetings arranged by the local administration.
- i. Sufficient cash was available in all the offices to provide dry food and drinking water for the affected people.



Radio Meghna was broadcasting the Weather Bulletin received from BMD

#### **4. COAST advocacy Issue:**

Definitely the Government initiatives during the cyclone period were praiseworthy. But still there have number of issues/areas to be improved and these are:

- a. No Cyclone Shelter in some of the coastal islands especially in Dhalchar and Char Patila under Charfassion upazila and Char Nizam and Kalatali under Manpura upazila. Additionally no cyclone shelters were found in eight coastal islands at Rangabali upazila under Patuakhali district also. These islands are- Char Kashem, Char Kalagachia, Char Kankuni, Char Maishor, Char Najir, Char Tojammel, Char Kawkhali and Char Lata.
- b. Poor or somewhere no mobile network coverage during the tropical storm was a great concern and consequently the communication was severely disrupted to get the weather updates.
- c. Still people are reluctant to move to the cyclone shelters. More awareness raising campaigns as well as cleanliness and overall managerial issues regarding the cyclone shelter are needed to overcome this situation.
- d. Fisherman missing is become a common topic during a cyclone. Registration system and mobile connectivity should be strengthened to reach the weather bulletin to the fishermen.