

# ***BANGLADESH: CYCLONE***

*20 May 1998*

## ***Information Bulletin N° 02***

### ***The Disaster***

Cyclone storm B-One did not hit the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar regions around midnight yesterday as predicted by the local meteorological department. However, it hit the Chittagong coast between Chittagong and Sitakundu this morning (0800 - 11h30 am on 20 May) and lay as a land depression over the Chittagong Division with its centre near Kaptai town. It was then expected to move north-eastwards further inland and weaken gradually. The maritime port authorities of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar have been advised to lower to cautionary signal number Three, from great danger number Nine (out of a maximum of Ten) by noon today.

Initial information received through BDRCS and CPP (Cyclone Preparedness Programme) network indicates that about 615,000 people sought safety in cyclone shelters. Media reports indicate up to 26 dead, and there is considerable concern regarding the safety of a reported 4,000 fishermen still at sea.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

32,000 CPP volunteers -- mobilised at short notice yesterday evening -- facilitated the night-time movement of over 600,000 persons to cyclone shelters. The volunteers with the CPP zonal staff are currently collecting details of damage to persons and property and a detailed report is expected tomorrow.

### ***Needs***

The needs will be clear within the next 24 hours and are expected to include house-building and repairs.

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