

Severe Weather Advisory for Bangladesh and Myanmar

Flooding risk in a region recovering from Cyclone Mora impacts

Issued on Thursday, 8th June 2017 at 15:00 local time.

Headline

Risk of very heavy monsoon rainfall producing flooding across a region recovering from the impacts of Cyclone Mora just over a week ago.

Impacts

Up to 500-1000mm of rain is possible during the next week, mainly from Saturday, across parts of NW Myanmar and Bangladesh. This would be equivalent of a months worth of monsoon rain falling in just one week. What enhances the potential impacts are the hundreds of thousands of people that have been displaced in this region because of impacts from Cyclone Mora at the end of May.

Therefore, significant impacts on the population looks likely during the next week. However, there are uncertainties in the forecast that are discussed below.

Discussion

During the next week the Indian Summer monsoon is expected to advance north across the northern Bay of Bengal, NW Myanmar and Bangladesh. This process assisted by the development and northward track of the first Monsoon Low Pressure System (LPS) of the season.

The exact track of this LPS will be key to determining where the heaviest rainfall will fall. A more eastward track would bring very heavy monsoon rains (a months worth of monsoon rain in one week) to Bangladesh and NW Myanmar.

However, there are differences between the main models regarding the track of this LPS, with a more westward track likely. This track would take the LPS north across or just west of Kolkata which would greatly reduce the amount of rainfall across the areas recovering from Cyclone Mora impacts, but bring early heavy monsoon rains to Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar.

Heavy monsoon rains here would be welcome, bringing an end to the pre-monsoon heat and bringing welcome rainfall, even though flooding would be expected. Therefore, a more westerly track would bring much less severe impacts.

Therefore, this event is assessed as a low likelihood of international response due to the uncertainty in LPS track and rainfall distribution.

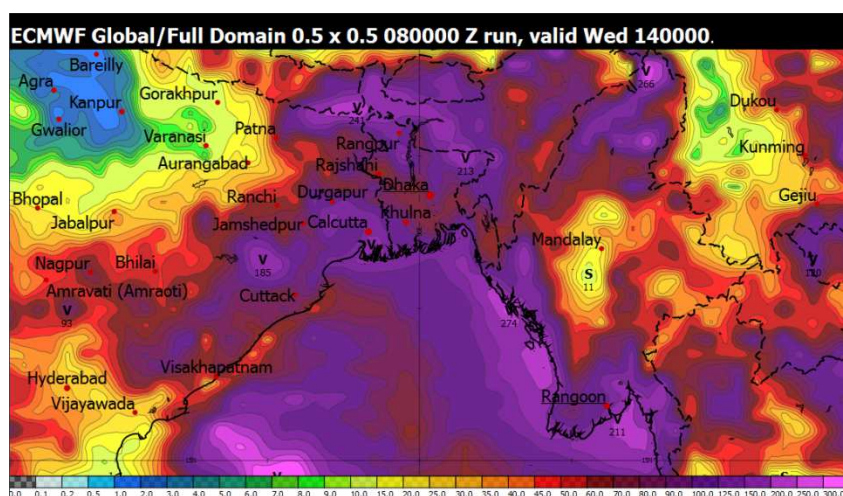
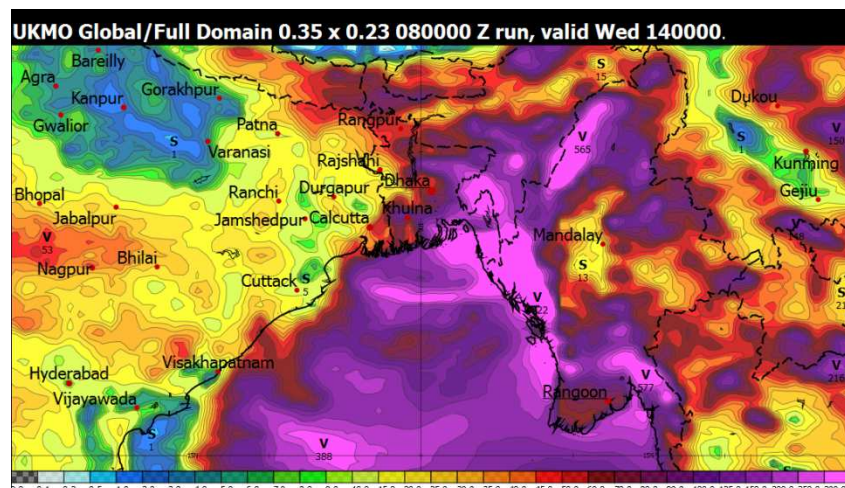
We will keep monitoring the situation and produce an update when there is higher confidence in the evolution from the model output.

This forecast may be amended at any time

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Maps above highlight the forecast rainfall from UKMO for the next 6 days (top), and from the ECMWF (bottom) – note the reduced rainfall across Myanmar / Bangladesh and increased rainfall across parts of NE India from the ECMWF compared to the UKMO. This highlights the uncertainty due to differences in the track of the monsoon low pressure system.

Sources

India Meteorological Department, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Met Office UM, NCEP, ECMWF, Reuters, UN, Relief Web.

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