

TC 31-81 was the second tropical cyclone to develop during the transition period of the monsoon season in the Bay of Bengal. As a tropical disturbance it was first detected on satellite imagery at 031200Z December as it began moving westward from the Malay Peninsula. On 5 December the disturbance began to organize and surface pressures dropped to 1005 mb. A Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) was issued the following day as slow intensification continued. The first warning followed the TCFA by 24 hours and was issued at 070200Z.

until late on 6 December when the system headed north in response to an approaching mid-tropospheric trough. TC 31-81 maintained this northerly track while reaching it's maximum intensity of 75 kt (34 m/sec) at 091400Z. Movement remained slow until the 500 mb trough had passed far enough eastward to cause an increase in the gradient at the low- and mid-tropospheric steering levels. TC 31-81 accelerated in response to the ambient flow and tracked inland making landfall 20 nm (27 km) southeast of Calcutta.

TC 31-81 moved erratically under the influence of weak low- and mid-level steering

TC 31-81 inflicted widespread destruction to fishing villages along the Bangladesh coast and contributed to at least 92 deaths.

