

In the name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful
..... The HOPE Bulletin

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CALIFORNIA JAMA'AT PROJECT: APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL ANJUMAN, LAHORE

HURRICANE "THOMAS" IN FIJI

News: Asia-Pacific

Powerful cyclone batters Fiji

A powerful cyclone has battered the South Pacific island nation of Fiji, damaging homes and forcing thousands of residents to flee to evacuation shelters.

One death was reported as Cyclone Tomas, packing winds of up to 205kph, ripped through Fiji's northern islands on Monday, damaging crops and causing power outages.

Officials said gusts could reach up to 280kph, but that the storm would likely only sideswipe the island.

A 31-year-old woman was swept away by strong ocean currents in northern Vanua Levu's Cakaudrove province.

The Associated Press quoted the police as saying the woman had been swept away late on Friday after she saved her two children from a storm surge.

Curfew clamped

Elenoa Osborne, a journalist with Fiji Broadcasting Corporation, told Al Jazeera that some areas had been flooded and many residents moved to shelters.

"Villages have been moved to higher ground, and some moved to evacuation centers around the country," she said.

"At the moment, a curfew is in place in central, eastern and northern parts of the country, to minimize the movement of the public and ensure their safety.

"Currently there are over 200 evacuation centers, with over 5,000 evacuees and its expected to increase."



The country's disaster management office had warned thousands of people living on the coast of outer islands in the path of the cyclone to move to higher ground because of expected floods.

Pajiliai Dobui, the director of Fiji's disaster management office, said that the cyclone was likely to be the most powerful storm in recent years.

"Our worry is how devastating the cyclone will be," Dobui told Fiji radio.



A cyclone in December killed three people and forced thousands to flee home [EPA]

Schools closed

Fiji's meteorological service has classified the cyclone as a Category Four storm, the second-most destructive rating on a five-point scale.

The storm was expected to intensify later on Monday and into early Tuesday, with average wind speeds rising to 200km an hour, and gusts of up to 270km an hour, forecasters predicted.

Forecasters have said that the eye of the cyclone is expected to pass to the east of Vanua Levu and the largest island Viti Levu, although many smaller islands would be close to its path.

Schools across the country were closed on Monday and most public services suspended.

In December, Cyclone Mick hit Fiji, killing at least three people, causing flooding, damaging homes and forcing thousands of people to flee to shelters.

Source: Al Jazeera and agencies

Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha Sahib expresses concern

“Assalaam-o-Alaikum Wa Rakhmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hoo.

A devastating tropical cyclone hit the north and northeastern parts of Fiji earlier this week. We at the Central Anjuman were concerned for the safety of the Fijian people and, in particular, members of the Jama'at. Hazrat Ameer spoke to brother Mehboob Raza and Maulana Fazl Haq yesterday morning and we were greatly relieved to learn that the storm had passed and all members of the Jama'at are safe by Allah's grace.

Al Hamdo Lillah.

Please continue to pray for the safety and wellbeing of our brothers and sisters all over the world.

Seeker of you prayers

Lahore Ahmadees Moderator

Mohammad Saeed “

Editor's Note:

Parveen's and my relatives who reside in the main Island, Vanua Levu in Fiji kept us informed on daily basis to apprise us that from the broadcasts of local weather reports and from the observed direction and course of the hurricane the main force of the storm will most likely bypass the main island of Vanua levu. Nevertheless, I expressed my concern and welfare of our Jama'at brethren in Fiji by writing to Brother Mehboob Raza, Secretary of AAIIIL, Masjid Noor, Suva, Fiji. Alhamdollillah! Both Parveen and I are relieved that none of our Jama'at members and relatives sustained any injury or suffered any personal or property losses, for which we thank Allah (swt). Aameen.

OBITUARY NEWS

The Late Sheikh Muhammad Syed Tantawi Marhoom, Grand Imam of Egypt's world's renown Al-Azhar Islamic University returned to Allah in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia while attending a conference there.

Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Iلهi Rajعون

Amir Aziz, General Secretary, AAIIIL, Pakistan, who studied in the world's renowned Al-Azhar Islamic University, penned the following memories and reminiscence with his personal contacts with the late Imam and prominent scholar:

“My impression about late Imam of Al- Azahr Al-sharif His Eminence Shiekh Muhammad Syed Tantawi

I am fortunate that I had many chances to meet Late Sheikh Tantawi may Allah bless his soul and enter him in the heavens of eternity. It was with his support that I got admission in AL-Azhar. During my stay in Egypt, his assistance was source of great comfort for me.

He was a very humble and down to earth. He was a great scholar having thorough understanding of the religion of Islam. His main aim was to unite Muslim Ummah leaving aside all differences. I was wonder struck to watch him on television visiting Christian Church on Christmas day to show solidarity with people of other religions.

During his time Historic and valuable manuscripts were preserved through scanning process and first ever website of Al- Azhar was launched. Had it not been done then, a great source of ancient knowledge would have been wasted.

Sister Samina Malik and I had the honour to attend that historic event when first website was launched. Sister Samina Malik was specially invited to attend this event from USA.

He had great respect among Muslim Ummah and it is beyond exaggeration that he was symbol of toleration and moderation in Islam. His endeavours for building image of Muslims as a civilized nation will be remembered for ever.

We all members of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-e- Islam Lahore worldwide condole his untimely departure from this temporary world and pray that may Allah bless his noble soul in the heaven.(Ameen)

Amir Aziz
General Secretary
AHMADIYYA ANJUMAN ISHATE ISLAM LAHORE”

Allah Hafiz, Brother Akbar Abdullah,
Humble seeker of your prayers.

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