

Slow Bay system likely to bring moderate rain in city

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Calcutta: A deep depression over the Bay of Bengal moved towards the Bengal coast at a snail's pace on Monday.

The system was expected to make landfall on Monday afternoon. However, at 5.30pm, it was still about 20km off the Bengal coast, according to a bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and shared by the Alipore Met office.

The bulletin, based on observations at 5.30pm, said: "The deep depression over north-west Bay of Bengal

moved slowly west-north-westwards at a speed of 7kmph during the past six hours and lay centred at 17.30 hours over north-west Bay of Bengal, close to the West Bengal coast, about 20km east of Digha, 20km south-south-west of Contai, 40km west of Sagar Island, 60km southwest of Haldia, 80km east of Balasore (Odisha) and 120km southwest of Canning."

"It is very likely to move nearly west-north-westwards and cross the West Bengal-North Odisha coasts close to east of Digha and west of Haldia by the early morning

of July 28 (Tuesday)," the bulletin said.

The system is likely to bring moderate rainfall to Calcutta till Tuesday night, Met officials said.

Rain is likely to continue even after that because of active monsoon currents.

Moderate gusts of wind are also expected.

As the system neared land, East Midnapore received heavy rainfall. Till 5.30pm, Contai recorded 51mm of rain and Haldia 59mm. Wind speeds were also stronger in East and West Midnapore than in Calcutta.

East Midnapore, West Midnapore, South 24-Parganas, Jhargram and Bankura are among the districts bracing for heavy rainfall, according to the Met forecast.

Areas to the southwest of a Bay system usually bear the brunt of its impact, especially during the monsoon. "The northern part of Odisha lies to the southwest of this deep depression. The districts there will receive significant rainfall," a Met official said.

In Calcutta, the sky remained overcast for most of Monday, but rainfall was negligible till night.

The Alipore Met office recorded around 7mm of rain till 8.30pm.

The Met bulletin forecast heavy rainfall in East and West Midnapore, Jhargram, Bankura and Purulia on Tuesday.

"Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty surface winds (40-50kmph) are likely in East Midnapore, West Midnapore, Jhargram and South 24-Parganas. Thunderstorms with lightning and gusty surface winds (30-40kmph) are likely at one or two places over the remaining districts of south Bengal," the bulletin said.



Dark clouds over Esplanade on Monday afternoon.
Picture by Bishwarup Dutta