

Cyclone batters southern Pakistan

by UPI

KARACHI, Pakistan - Thousands of people in southern coastal Pakistan were evacuated Tuesday as Cyclone Yemyin made landfall with winds of 80 mph and torrential rain.

Meteorologists said the storm's path would mostly spare Karachi, which was buffeted Monday by high winds received almost 2 inches of rain, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The region's chief weatherman said Yemyin was moving northwest at a speed of 7 mph, with winds between 45 and 80 mph.

The run-up to Tuesday's cyclone left as many as 200 people dead in and around Karachi and coastal areas, a BBC correspondent said.

Officials in Balochistan said more than 2,000 people were evacuated to higher ground from the Arabian Sea coast.

Flooding reportedly washed away part of the coastal highway linking southern Balochistan with the rest of the country. A Pakistani navy official told reporters a fishing trawler sank but its 12 crew members had been rescued by a navy vessel.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Cyclone batters southern Pakistan by UPI