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TYPHOON NANMADOL MAKES LANDFALL IN JAPAN

Relevant for: Geography | Topic: Important Geophysical Phenomenon - Tropical Cyclones

Typhoon Nanmadol made landfall in southwestern Japan on Sunday night, as authorities urged millions of people to take shelter from the powerful storm's high winds and torrential rain.

The storm officially made landfall around 7 p.m. local time (1000 GMT) as its eyewall arrived near Kagoshima city, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said.

It was packing gusts of up to 234 km per hour and had already dumped up to 500 mm of rain in less than 24 hours on parts of southwestern Kyushu region.

At least 20,000 people were spending the night in shelters in Kyushu's Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, where the JMA has issued a rare "special warning" — an alert that is issued only when it forecasts conditions seen once in several decades.

"Please stay away from dangerous places, and please evacuate if you feel even the slightest hint of danger," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida tweeted after convening a government meeting. "Please move to safety while there is still light outside."

The JMA has warned the region could face "unprecedented" danger from high winds, storm surges and torrential rain."

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