

Severe Typhoon Neoguri hit Japan

A powerful typhoon is pounding the southern Japanese islands of Okinawa, with residents taking refuge from destructive winds, towering waves and storm surges. The storm killed two people and left a trail of damage. Officials said the storm could be one of the strongest to hit Japan in decades, generating waves up to 14 metres (46 feet) high. About 500,000 people were advised to evacuate, and about 500 sought refuge in Naha's city hall. With gusts of up to 110 miles an hour (180km/h) the typhoon was forecast to hit the southern main island of Kyushu as early as July 7 before moving east along the Japanese archipelago.