

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL and BALFORD HENRY  
in Kingston, Jamaica  
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**HURRICANE DEAN ROARED** into Jamaica yesterday with 145 mph winds and at least eight deaths in its wake, slashing across the Caribbean and building toward Category 5 strength.

It ripped off roofs and threw trees and power poles across the flooded streets of the capital, Kingston. One man was missing after falling trees tore into his house.

The first hurricane of the season, which was expected to dump 20 inches of rain on the island, led to the opening of emergency shelters in more than 1,000 schools and churches as well as the national sports arena — and prompted a chilling warning from the government.

"This is my final appeal to you who are in danger in flood-prone areas," Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller told her citizens shortly before noon. "Get to a shelter now or it will be very dangerous."

But some refused to leave their homes, whether from fear of looters or a lack of fear of the storm.

"We are going nowhere," Byron Thompson said in the former buccaneer town of Port Royal, settled by pirate Henry Morgan in the 16th century. "In fact, if you come by here later today, you will see me drinking rum over in that bar with some friends."

After an exodus of most tourists, Jamaican officials closed the airports late Saturday and ordered all businesses shut-

## Locals hunker down as 145 mph winds whip island

tered until tomorrow to prevent the kind of looting that followed Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

By yesterday afternoon authorities had declared a curfew to clear the streets, enforced by military patrols.

Dean is the first major storm of what experts predict will be an intense Atlantic hurricane

season and had grown to a Category 4 storm by the time its outer bands lashed the coastline of Jamaica yesterday.

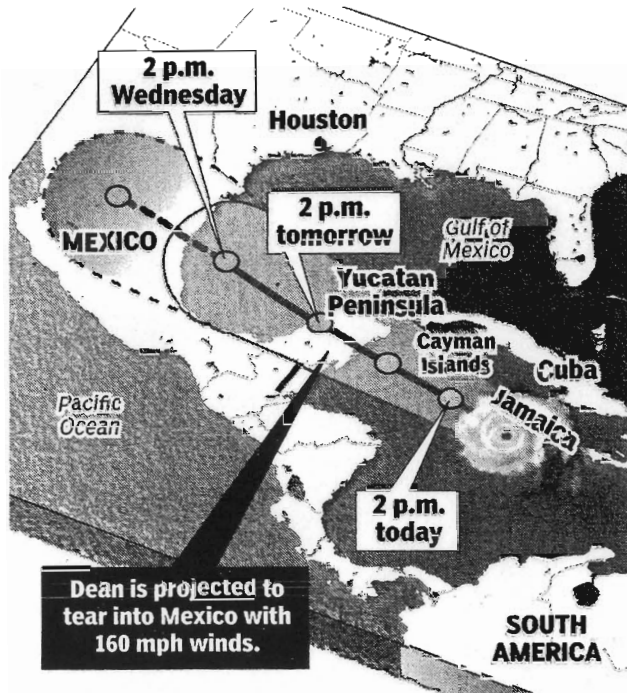
Jamaica took a near-direct hit, with Dean's eye passing just to the south of the island last night.

As a Category 2 storm on Saturday, Dean caused deadly mudslides and 18-foot waves that swept people out to sea in the Dominican Republic, where authorities say at least 150 homes were destroyed.

Meteorologists at the National Hurricane Center in Miami expect Dean to grow to a Category 5 storm, with winds reaching 165 mph, by the time it strikes Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula near Cancun tonight or tomorrow.

NASA decided on Saturday to play it safe and bring space shuttle Endeavour back a day early tomorrow just in case Dean's path strayed toward Houston, home of the agency's Space Center.

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## Qns. mom fears for boy she sent for summer in paradise

CLAUDIA MCGIVAN watched anxiously from Queens yesterday as Hurricane Dean slammed her home country of Jamaica, hoping her 6-year-old son would be okay.

She had sent little Tahj Bucknor to enjoy a tropical summer with relatives, but she didn't have a hurricane in mind. As the storm landed yesterday, she tried frantically to reach her sister by phone.

"It's hard to get through to them directly.

When you try to call, they say all circuits are busy," McGivan said. "I don't know if I'm going to be able to sleep. I'm just going to keep trying."

Irwine Clare, director of Caribbean Immigrant Services, was apprehensive about the havoc Dean wrought on the island.

"Jamaica is blessed with having a significant amount of its population outside of Jamaica," said the Jamaican-born Clare.

"Whenever we have a disaster like this, the diaspora always rallies in support."

Claudia Pyke of Queens Village, whose 2-year-old daughter has been visiting family in Jamaica for three weeks, tried unsuccessfully to get through to the girl's godparents on their cell phone.

"I'm pacing back and forth," the 34-year-old biochemist said. "I'm getting news, but I want more news."  
**Alyssa Giachino**