



Background

Network for Information, Response and Preparedness Activities on Disaster (NIRAPAD) has initiated the preparation of monthly report on disaster incidences in Bangladesh with the aim of providing all stakeholders comprehensive information on the disaster events and their impacts; responses by Government and other stakeholders and lessons learned.

The scope of the report allowed NIRAPAD team to review secondary documents regarding emergency response interventions undertaken in Bangladesh, March 2015. Therefore, the report mainly reflects the information available in published documents.

This report portrays general reflection of the disasters that took place in March 2015 and their impacts and associated response and the early recovery efforts undertaken by the Government and other humanitarian actors.

Overview of Disaster Incidences in March 2015

Numerous localized incidents occurred in March, 2015. Majority of them were manmade. They included fire incidents, building collapse, embankment collapse, boat capsize and landslide. 64 fire incidents were reported in all over Bangladesh in this month. Nearly every day there were fire incidents and they spread over almost all parts of the country (see table 1). There were warehouse collapse in Mongla and embankment collapse in Santhia and Shyamnagar upazilas. Also, there was landslide in Bandarban Sadar upazila.

Table 1: Disaster Incidences in March 2015

Hazard/ Disaster	March 2015																														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Fire (F)			F	F		F				F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F			F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F		F	F	
Landslide								L																							
Building Collapse												B																			
Embankment collapse												E											E								
Boat capsize																						C									C
Thunder storm																															T

Source: Adapted from different disaster situation reports of DDM and National Dailies in March, 2015

Description of the Events in March

Fire

There were 66 fire incidents during March 2015. As many as 7 fire incidents occurred on 24th March, six or five incidents in a single day occurred on 12th, 13th, 14th, 20th and 21st March. As for geographic spread, 24 districts experienced fire incidents (see table 2). Highest number of fire was in Narayanganj- 8 incidents, followed by 5 incidents in Dhaka district. 6 districts (Bandarban, Bhola, Faridpur, Gazipur, Manikganj and Nilphamari) suffered from four or three incidences, each. There were one or two incidents in each of the remaining 16 districts. Among 64 incidents, 34 incidents occurred in dwelling places, 19 occurred in shops or trading center, 7 incidents occurred in factories

or warehouses. Also, to be noted that there were fire in a public library (Natore), land revenue office (Ullahpara), Agricultural field (Lohajang and Bheramara) and forest (Bandarban).

Table 2: Fire Incidents in March 2015

Date	Place	Damage & Loss	Source
03/03/15	Khokshabari, Nilphamari Sadar, Nilphamari	4 houses burned and lost Tk 10 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 5</i>
	Shibchar, Madaripur	3 houses, 3 cows, rabi crops burned and lost Tk 10 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 5</i>
	Kalkini, Madaripur	1 house, 3 cows, 15 duck and chicken, 3 bhoi gold jewelry, Tk 50 thousand burned and lost Tk 5 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 5</i>
	Bhola Sadar, Bhola	15 shops burned and lost Tk 2 crore	<i>Janakantha, March 5</i>
	Bagerhat	19 shops burned, 5 people injured and lost Tk 1.50 crore	<i>Janakantha, March 5</i>
04/03/15	Bandarban Sadar, Bandarban	4 houses, 3 shops burned and lost Tk 20 lac	<i>Daily Star, 5 March</i>
06/03/15	Jessore Sadar, Jessore	19 shops burned and lost Tk 15 crore	<i>Jugantor March 8</i>
10/03/15	Bangladesh and Myanmar boarder, Naikhongchhari, Bandarban	10 people injured, 2 people, forest, rabar, mango and banana garden, farm, 7 thousand acre hilly area burned	<i>Jugantor, March 11</i>
11/03/15	Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka	27 jhut warehouses, 5 houses burned and lost Tk 5 crore	<i>Janakantha, March 11</i>
	Amtala, Netrokona Sadar, Netrokona	6 rooms of house, 2 goats and 1cow burned	<i>Janakantha, March 13</i>
12/03/15	Sidla, Kishoreganj Sadar, Kishoreganj	12 rooms of house and 1 shop burned	<i>Janakantha March 13</i>
	Char Fassion, Bhola	2 women burned at a house	<i>Janakantha March 13</i>
	Kamarkhanda, Sirajganj	1 person injured, 1 cow and 1 goat burned and lost Tk 4 lac at a house	<i>Janakantha March 13</i>
	Chorabargachha, Nilphamari Sadar, Nilphamari	1 person killed, 5 houses, furniture, 3 goats and 50 poultry birds burned and lost Tk 15 lac	<i>Janakantha March 13</i>
	Saltha, Faridpur	3 houses burned and lost Tk 20 lac	<i>Janakantha March 14</i>
	Titas, Comilla	7 houses, 30 bhoi gold jewelry burned and lost Tk 1 crore	<i>Janakantha March 14</i>
13/03/15	Tongibari, Gopalganj	1 women killed, 12 people injured, 3 houses burned and lost Tk 50 lac	<i>Janakantha March 14</i>
	Siddhirganj, Narayanganj	8 houses, 8 shops burned and lost Tk 50 lac	<i>Janakantha March 14</i>
	Barisal Sadar, Barisal	1 house, 1 shop burned and lost Tk 15 lac	<i>Janakantha March 14</i>
	Saltha, Faridpur	3 shops burned	<i>Janakantha March 15</i>
	Dhamgar, Bandar, Narayanganj	Cotton, raw materials burned and lost Tk 3 lac at cotton warehouse	<i>Janakantha March 15</i>
	Rajshahi Sadar, Rajshahi	8 shops burned and lost Tk 30 lac	<i>Janakantha March 15</i>
	Char Fassion, Bhola	2 people injured and 10 shops burned	<i>Janakantha March 15</i>

14/03/15	Dilkusha, Dhaka	Documentary files burned at a building	<i>Jugantor March 15</i>
	Shibchar, Madaripur	6 houses burned and lost Tk 6 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 16</i>
	Shitakunda, Chittagong	4 shops burned and lost Tk 20 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 16</i>
15/03/15	Natore Sadar, Natore	Books and furniture burned at public library	<i>Janakantha, March 16</i>
	Bheramar, Kushtia	15 bigha betel leaf field burned	<i>Jugantor, March 17</i>
16/03/15	Kamlapur, Dhaka	2 vans and furniture of 4 rooms burned at a six story building	<i>Disaster Situation Report, DDM, March 16</i>
	Senbag, Noakhali	4 people injured, 8 rooms of house burned and lost Tk 30 lac	<i>Prothom Alo, March 17</i>
	Gazipur Sadar, Gazipur	Machineries and raw material of cotton burned at cotton warehouse	<i>Ittefaq, March 18</i>
	EPZ, Chittagong	Commodities of international courier service burned and lost Tk 2 lac	<i>Samakal, March 18</i>
17/03/15	Chandanaish, Chittagong	6 people injured and 13 houses burned	<i>Ittefaq, March 18</i>
20/03/15	Simrail, Siddhirganj, Narayanganj	4 shops burned and lost Tk 4 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 22</i>
	Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka	Raw materials of cotton burned and lost upto Tk 1 lac at a cotton warehouse	<i>Janakantha, March 22</i>
	Uzirpur, Barisal	3 houses burned	<i>Janakantha, March 22</i>
	Kurigram Sadar, Kurigram	4 houses burned and lost Tk 2 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 22</i>
	Narayanganj Sadar, Narayanganj	9 houses burned	<i>Janakantha, March 22</i>
	Ullahpara, Sirajganj	4 rooms of upazila land office, important records, furniture, Photostat machine and 3 computer burned	<i>Janakantha, March 22</i>
21/03/15	Fatullah, Narayanganj	1 people killed at a house	<i>Janakantha, March 22</i>
	Sakhipur, Tangail	2 people injured and 4 shops burned	<i>Janakantha, March 22</i>
	Harirampur, Charbhadrasan, Faridpur	13 rooms of 4 houses, harvested crops burned	<i>Ittefaq, March 23,</i>
	Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria	2 cows killed, 2 rooms of a house, harvested crops, cash burned and lost Tk 6 lac	<i>Ittefaq, March 23,</i>
	Lohagara, Narail	3 rooms of a house burned	<i>Ittefaq, March 23,</i>
22/03/15	Darsana, Damurhuda, Chuadanga	1 house completely burned	<i>Ittefaq, March 23</i>
	Godagari, Rajshahi	20 thousand trees burned at a forest	<i>Ittefaq, March 24</i>
	Kaliakair, Gazipur	25 rooms of several houses and 5 shops burned	<i>Janakantha, March 24</i>
23/03/15	Ghior, Manikganj	25 rooms of 14 houses burned and lost Tk 35 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 24</i>
	Gharua, Bhanga, Faridpur	10 rooms of 6 houses, harvested crops and furniture burned and lost Tk 30 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 24</i>

	Siddhirganj, Narayanganj	1 shop burned and lost Tk 7 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 24</i>
	Narsingdi Sadar, Narsingdi	1 person killed, 1 house and 3 cows burned	<i>Janakantha, March 25</i>
24/03/15	Barguna Sadar, Barguna	5 shops and 1 office burned	<i>Janakantha, March 25</i>
	Bandarban Sadar, Bandarban	8 houses burned	<i>Janakantha, March 25</i>
	Domar, Nilphamari	7 shops burned	<i>Janakantha, March 25</i>
	Lakshmipur Sadar, Lakshmipur	4 shops burned and lost Tk15 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 25</i>
	Shailkupa, Jhinaidah	11 houses burned and lost Tk 50 lac	<i>Janakantha, March 25</i>
	Sonargoan, Narayanganj	30 houses burned	<i>Prothom Alo, March25</i>
	Manikganj Sadar, Manikganj	2 rooms of a house burned	<i>Samakal, March 25</i>
25/03/15	Gazipur Sadar, Gazipur	Machineries, chemical and goods burned at a factory	<i>Prothom alo, March, 27</i>
26/03/15	Singair, Manikganj	30 shops burned and lost Tk 1 crore	<i>Prothom alo, March, 27</i>
27/03/15	Jaldhaka, Nilphamari	2 people injured, 7 rooms of two houses, furniture, cash burned, 1 cow and 3 goats killed and lost Tk 10 lac	<i>Janakantha, March, 28</i>
	Kaharol, Dinajpur	9 houses burned and lost Tk 25 lac	<i>Ittefaq, March, 29</i>
29/03/15	Lohajang, Munshiganj	24 metric tons harvested potato burned in agricultural field	<i>Prothom alo, March 30</i>
30/03/15	Gournadi, Barisal	11 shops and 8 houses were burnt	<i>Janakantha, March, 31</i>
	Kishoreganj Sadar, Kishoreganj	raw materials burned at a cotton warehouse and lost Tk 10 lac	<i>Janakantha, March, 31</i>
	Narayanganj Sadar, Narayanganj	cotton and jhut burned at jhut warehouse	<i>Janakantha, March, 31</i>

In March fire incidents caused death (4 people) and injuries (44 people) and loss of livestock (11 cows, 6 goats and 65 poultry birds). Also, these caused huge damage to the property (180 houses and 162 shops) and approximately total estimated asset loss was BDT 302,250,000 (see table 3).

Table 3: Damage and Loss in Fire					
Hazard	Death	Injury	Loss of livestock	Damage to property	Loss of assets (BDT)
Fire incident	4 people,	44 people	11 cows, 6 goats, 65 poultry birds	180 Houses, 162 Shops,	302,250,000
<i>Source: Disaster Situation Report, DDM, Prothom Alo, The daily Star, Janakantha, Jugantor, Samakal, Ittefaq, March, 2015.</i>					

Thunder storm

In March, 3 people were died due to thunder storm in Chapainawabganj on 30th March (Ittefaq, April, 1, 2015)

Landslide

Landslide occurred in Siddiquenagar under Bandarban Sadar upazila on 8th March. It happened when a group of workers were cutting a hill for road construction. Among the affected workers, one worker died and 4 others were injured (Daily Star, March 9, 2015).

Building Collapse

In Mongla, Bagerhat, roof of a cement factory warehouse (under construction) collapsed on 12th March. It trapped many people under the rubble and killed 7 workers, injured 40-50 people (Disaster situation report, DDM, March 21, 2015).

Embankment Collapse

Embankment of Kholpetua River in Burigoalini union of Shyamnagar upazila collapsed during high tide on 22th March (Prothom Alo, March 23, 2015). It caused 500 feet breach in the embankment and flooded 11 villages of Burigoalini and Atulia union. 200 shrimp farm was washed away (Prothom Alo, March 23, 2015).

S-19 Canal embankment was breached at Hasanpur under Santhia upazila on 12th March (Janakantha, March 24, 2015). It flooded 20 fish ponds, 50 bigha agricultural fields and 100 houses in Santhia. (Janakantha, March 24, 2015).

Boat capsized

A boat sunk at Muktarpur in Dhaleshwari river while loading cement on 21th March where 1 people died (Ittefaq, March 22, 2015). Also, a boat was capsized with 20-25 passengers at Narayanganj in Sitalakhya river on 30th March. It killed 1 person (Prothom Alo, April, 1, 2015).

Description of Response in March

Response in Building Collapse

GoB Response:

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief announced 20 thousand taka to each of families of the dead and 5 thousand taka for injured person (Disaster situation report, DDM, March 21, 2015).

Response in Embankment collapse

GoB response:

23 vulnerable locations of embankment at Gabura union, Burigoalini union, Padmapukur union and Kaikhali union were identified for repair and reconstruction through Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in Shyamnagar and the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Shyamnagr, requested BWDB to commence repairing work (Prothom Alo, March 23, 2015). Upazila Project Implementation Officer, Santhia, prepared a list of the affected people and submitted that to the Deputy Commissioner, Pabna, for humanitarian assistance (Ittefaq, March 22, 2015).

Conclusion

Fire was the most common hazard in the month of March. It occurred almost every day in last month and caused death and injuries as well as huge damage to the property. However, response and preparedness were quite inadequate. Along with fire, other types of localized disasters such as thunderstorm, embankment collapse, building collapse and landslide were reported in March. Landslide was manmade and development induced. It occurred because of construction of road through the hills. Poor awareness about safety measures resulted in building collapse and loss of seven lives. The government system responded to several incidents however, resources that it could mobilize were not adequately to meet the challenges.