



Introduction

This report portrays general reflection of the disasters that took place in February 2015, their impacts and associated response and the early recovery efforts undertaken by the Government and other humanitarian actors. The scope of the report allowed reviewing the secondary documents regarding emergency response interventions undertaken in Bangladesh, February 2015. Therefore, the report mainly reflects the information available in published documents.

Overview of Disaster Incidences in February 2015

In February, two natural incidents i.e. hailstorm and landslide, along with several man-made incidents i.e. fire incidents, bridge collapse and launch capsized, took place. Hailstorms occurred on 18th and 26th in 14 and 2 districts respectively. Landslide occurred in Sylhet on 22nd February 2015. Fire incidents occurred on 3rd, 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th and 25th of February at Agailjhara, Bakerganj, Brahmanbaria, Misharia, Akhaura, Rangamati, Tongi, Sylhet, Hatibandha, Begumganj, Rupganj, Gazipur and Agargaon, respectively. Apart from these, 50 years old bridge over Dhaijan River on Borovita – Koimari –Jaldhaka road at Borovita village under Kishoreganj Sadar upazila collapsed on 18th February, 2015. Also, a launch named MV Mostafa capsized on the River Padma near Manikganj on 22nd February, 2015.

Hazard/ Disaster	February 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	
Hailstorm (H)																		H									H		
Landslide (L)																						L							
Fire (F)			F											F	F	F		F								F			
Bridge Collapse (BC)																		BC											
Launch Capsize (LC)																						LC							

Description of the Events in February

Hailstorm

In February, hailstorms struck twice in Bangladesh. On 18th February, 2015 hailstorms occurred in 14 districts, namely, Bagerhat, Jessore, Jhenaidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Rajbari, Munshiganj, Joypurhat, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Natore and Comilla (The Daily Ittefaq and The Daily Star, February 20, 2015). Then, it occurred in Gaibandha and Naogaon on 26th February (Janakantha and The Daily Ittefaq, February 28, 2015).

Hailstorm coupled with heavy rain caused heavy damage in Bagerhat, Jessore, Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Rajbari, Munshiganj, Joypurhat, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Natore and Comilla, districts. A number of trees and houses were uprooted or damaged during the storm. Chilly, wheat, maize, vegetables, lentils and paddy on vast areas of land were damaged as the hailstorm lashed different char areas of Jamuna River basin in Sariakandi upazila under Bogra district (The Daily Ittefaq and The Daily Star, February 20, 2015). According to upazila agriculture office, chilly on 2,100 hectares, lentils on 1,300 hectares, wheat on 1,000 hectares, maize on 350 hectares, boro paddy on 350 hectares, vegetables on 145 hectares and other crops on about 300 hectares of land were damaged due to the hailstorm. Besides, at least 80 houses were completely damaged as well as 150 houses were damaged partially (The Daily Star, February 20, 2015). Crop damage due to includes,

damaged of standing crops in 540 hectares of land in three unions under Sonatola upazila, and the financial losses resulting from the crop damage in Bogra district may go up to 2 crore taka in Bogra (Upazila Agriculture Officer cited in The Daily Star, February 20, 2015). In Jessore, hailstorms killed one woman (in Abhaynagar upazila) and injured three people in Monirampur upazila. Also, three thousand houses and one school building were damaged in Monirampur, Chowgacha, Keshabpur, Bagherpara, Jhikargachha, Sharsha upazilas of the district. Moreover, hailstorms damaged standing crops that included chilly, maize, vegetables, lentil, potato, mango, banana and litchi were damaged. According to Upazila Agriculture Officer, lentil on 2000 hectares, wheat on 650 hectares, banana orchard on 200 hectares, maize on 100 hectares and buds of litchi and mango on 100 hectares of land were damaged in 12 unions of Maheshpur upazila under Jhenidah district; of them, the worst affected unions were Natima, Jadabpur, Manderbaria and Swaruppur (The Daily Star, February 20, 2015). In Comilla, one person was killed and another person was injured by thunder storm. In Meherpur district, hailstorm damaged standing crops such as lentil, tobacco and mango as well, it damaged a brick factory destroying bricks worth taka 50 lac. 100 houses were damaged and 500 trees were uprooted in Sadullapur upazila under Gaibandha district. Bangram union was the most affected region in Gaibandha district (The Daily Ittefaq, February 28, 2015).

In Naogaon, wheat, mustard, onion, buds of mango and some other rabi crops (winter crops) were damaged and taka 1 crore was lost due to damage (Janakantha, February 28, 2015).

Damage and Loss in Hailstorm	
Place	Damage and loss
Bogra	2100 hectares chilly, 1300 hectares lentils, 1000 hectares wheat, 350 hectares maize, 350 hectares boro paddy, 145 hectares vegetables and 300 hectares other crops of land damaged; 80 houses completely and 150 houses partially damaged and lost 2 crore taka
Jessore	One woman died and 3 people injured; Chilly, maize, vegetables, lentils, mango and potato damaged; 3000 houses and 1 school destroyed
Jhenidah	2000 hectares Lentil, 650 hectares wheat, 200 hectares banana orchard, 100 hectares maize and 100 hectares buds of litchi and mango of land damaged
Comilla	1 person died and 1 person injured
Meherpur	Lentil, tobacco, buds of mango and brick factory damaged and lost 50 lac taka
Rangpur	Chilly, maize, onion, garlic, buds of mango and potato damaged
Pabna	Wheat, lentil, buds of mango and mustard damaged
Natore	Jujube, buds of mango, wheat, lentil, coriander leaf and rabi crops damaged
Bagerhat	Betel leaf damaged
Joypurhat	Potato, mustard wheat and buds of mango damaged.
Gaibandha	100 houses damaged and 500 trees uprooted
Naogaon	Wheat, mustard, onion, buds of mango and other rabi crops damaged and 1 crore taka lost
<i>Source: The daily star, The daily ittefaq February 20, 2015; Janakantha, The daily Ittefaq 28 February, 2015</i>	

Landslide

Landslide occurred at the biggest stone quarry of the country at Bholaganj in Companiganj upazila under Sylhet district on 22nd February, 2015. Four workers were killed at this incident (The Daily Star, February 24, 2015).

Fire

Fire incidents occurred several times in several places in February. According to The Dailies, fire occurred at Sadar market in Agailjhara upazila under Barisal on 3 February (The Daily Ittefaq, February 5, 2015); at Bhorpasha village in Bakerganj upazila under Barisal on 13th February; at a market in Brahmanbaria; at Nurul absar market in Mirsharai upazila under Chittagong district; at a house in Akhaura upazila on 14 February (Jugantar, February 15, 2015); at a market in Rangamati district; at a market in Tongi on 15th February; at a market in Sylhet; at Parulia market in Hatibandha upazila under Lalmonirhat district on 16 February (Janakatha 17 February 2015); at Nayab spinning mill in Rupganj under Narayanganj district; at upazila land office in Begumganj upazila under Noakhali; at Jamuna Electronics and Automobiles in Gazipur on 18 February (The Daily Ittefaq, February 20, 2015); at Agargaon slum in Dhaka on 25 February (Disaster Situation Report, DDM, February 25, 2015).

Fire Incidents in February 2015		
Date	Place	Damage & Loss
03/02/15	Agailjhara	10 people injured, 50 shops burned & lost 2 crore taka
13/02/15	Bakerganj	3 houses burned & lost 15 lac taka
14/02/15	Brahmanbaria	5 pharmacy, goods of 4 stores burned & lost 2 crore 50 lac taka
14/02/15	Misharia	10 shops burned & lost 60 lac taka
14/02/15	Akhaura	1 house burned
15/02/15	Rangamati	1 people killed; 4 houses, 1 shop & 1 factory burned; and lost 20 lac taka.
15/02/15	Tongi	Lost 30 lac taka
16/02/15	Sylhet	5 shops burned & lost 60 lac taka
16/02/15	Hatibandha	6 shops burned
18/02/15	Begumganj	Documentary files, Computers burned
18/02/15	Rupganj	8 people burned, 15 people injured & lost 50 crore taka
18/02/15	Gazipur	5 people burned
25/02/15	Agargaon	1 child died & 70 houses burned
<i>Source : Disaster Situation Report, DDM, 25 February 2015; The daily Ittefaq, 5,20 and 28 February 2015; Jugantar 15 February 2015; Janakatha 17 and 28 February 2015</i>		

In Rangamati, 1 person was killed, 4 houses, 1 shop and 1 furniture manufacturing factory were burnt down on 15 February and it caused damage to goods worth taka 20 lac; in Barishal 10 people were injured, and 32 shops were completely gutted and 18 shops partially gutted resulting asset losses of estimated 2 crore taka; 5 pharmacy and 4 shops in Brahmanbaria were gutted destroying goods worth taka 2crore 50 lac ; 10 shops were gutted with estimated assest loss of tak 60 lac in Misharia; fire destroyed 3 houses and assets worth taka 15 lac in Bakerganj; 5 shops were burnt down and assets worth taka 60 lac were lost in Sylhet; 6 shops were gutted in Lalmonirhat and 30 lac taka was lost in Tongi; documentary files, computers and furniture were destroyed in Noakhali; 8 people were burnt, 15 people were injured, machineries and threads were destroyed and 50 crore taka was lost in Narayanganj; 5 workers were burnt as well as freeze, televisions and machineries were destroyed in Gazipur; and 1 child was died and 70 houses were burnt in Agargaon in fire incident (Disaster Situation Report, DDM, February 25, 2015).

Damage and Loss in Fire					
Hazard	Death	Injury	Burned	Damage	Loss in BDT
Fire incidents	1person and 1child	25 people	13 people	78 Houses & 81 Shops	56,35,00,000
<i>Source: Disaster Situation Report, DDM, 25 February 2015; The daily Ittefaq, 5,20 and 28 February 2015; Jugantar 15 February 2015; Janakatha 17 and 28February 2015</i>					

Bridge Collapse

50 years old bridge over Dhaijan River on Borovita – Koimari –Jaldhaka road at Borovita village in Kishoreganj upazila collapsed on 18 February, 2015 (The Daily Star, February 20, 2015).

About 60 thousand people of 12 villages e.g. Borobhita, Koimari, Sholmari, Shipurhat, Melabor, Ronochandi, Kutipara, Fotepara, Bearapara and Baroipara of Nilphamari district and Nohali and Kachua of Rangpur district are affected due to the bridge collapse. They faced difficulties to transport their agricultural products to the markets, because this 65 feet long bridge was the only means that connected these 12 villages to two big haats in Koimari of Jaldhaka and Borovita of Kishoreganj upazila (Disaster Situation Report, DDM, February 25, 2015).

Launch Capsize

The MV Mostafa launch was sunk on The River Padma near Manikganj on 22 February 2015. Department of Disaster Management reported that, it was carrying 150 passengers (Daily Disaster Report, NDRCC, February 23, 2015). The Daily Star reported the launch was carrying more than 200 passengers in spite of having a capacity of 150 passengers only (The Daily Star, 23 February 2015). 70 people were killed including 27 men, 24 women and 19 children in this launch capsizing (Disaster situation report, DDM, February 25, 2015).

Description of Response in February, 2015

Response in Fire

- **GoB Response:** District administration provided blanket and cash to each of the affected businessman in Agailjhara upazila under Barisal (The Daily Ittefaq, February 5, 2015).

Response in launch capsizing

- **GoB Response:** Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan announced 1 lakh taka to each of families of the dead for compensation and 5,000 taka each for burial purpose in launch capsizing. Manikganj district administration announced 20,000 taka to each family of the victims (The Daily Star, February 23, 2015).

Conclusion

Both of natural and man-made hazards, with their diversified consequences, occurred in the month of February. Hailstorms caused very little human casualties, nevertheless, it caused significant damage to the properties, especially, to the agricultural crops which may trigger a consequent economic loss in long run. On the other hand, launch capsizing took a number of lives. But it was fire incidents, which caused a number of casualties along with a great damage to properties. These incidents were accompanied by bridge collapse and landslide. Amongst these incidents few were responded by the Government, but it could not mobilize enough resources to deal with them adequately.