

Overview of Disaster Incidences in February 2016

In February, four natural hazard i.e. dense fog, hailstorm, lightning and Nor'wester along with man-made incidents i.e. fire incidents and wall collapse took place. Dense fog was frequent at the beginning of the

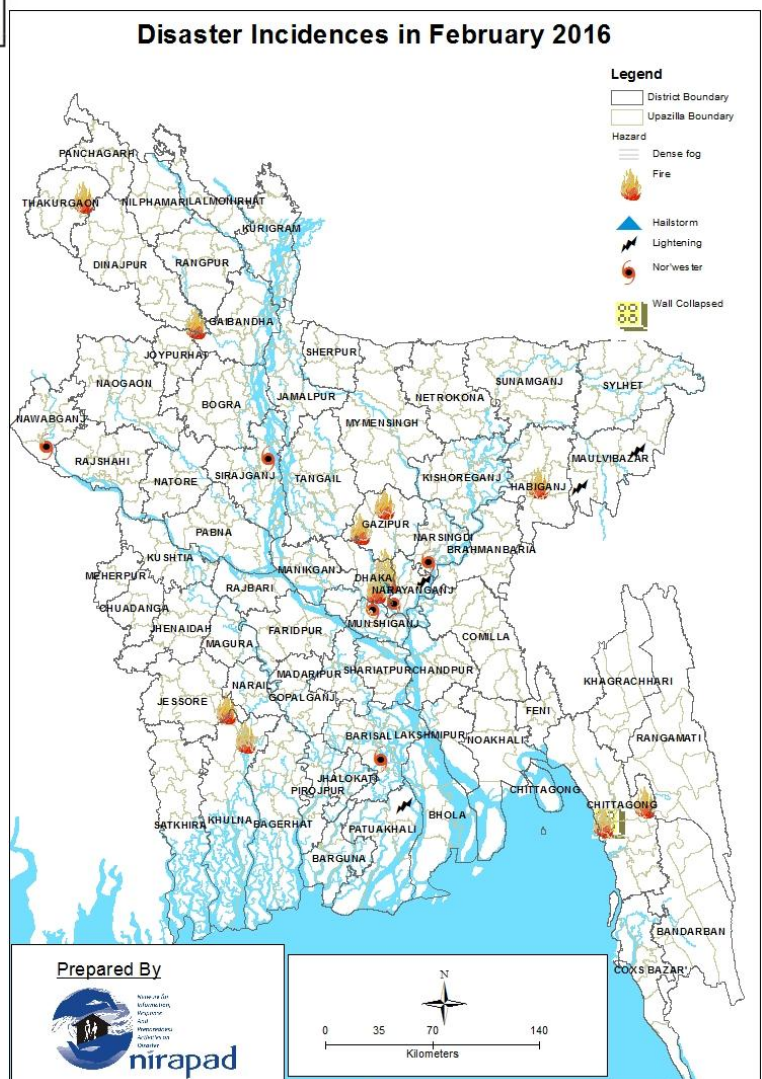
month and disappeared after middle of the month. On 24th February a sudden midday Nor'wester occurred throughout the country and affected 8 districts. In the same day four incidents of Lightning reported to be occurred and affected 3 districts. Fire incidents occurred on 17th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th of February at Malibagh, Abhaynagar, Rangunia, Gazipur, Dhaka New market, Uttara, and Chittagong respectively.

February 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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					

Description of the Events in February 2016

Dense Fog

Dense fog interrupted ferry services several times in between 11th to 16th February on Munshiganj's Shimulia-Kaurakandi route. Ferry services and plying of the water vessels were suspended for nine hours highest on 13th February. Around 500 vehicles were compelled to a halt on both banks (Table 1). On 11th and 16th February for five hours and on 12th for four hours ferry services resumed. Each of the days at least five ferries and hundreds of vehicle were stranded.



Date	Table 1: Loss and damage by dense fog in February 2016		
	Location	Impact	Source
11-Feb	Munshiganj's Shimulia-Kaurakandi route	Disruption of ferry transportation from 6 am. Five ferries were compelled to a halt at the middle of the river. Vehicles were stranded on both banks.	<i>bdnews24.com, February 11</i>
12-Feb	Munshiganj, Shimulia-Kaurakandi route	Ferry services and plying of the water vessels were suspended four hours due to blurred visibility for dense fog. Five ferries stayed motionless in the mid-river. Several hundred vehicles were kept waiting on both sides of the river.	<i>The Daily Star, February 13</i>
13-Feb	Munshiganj, Shimulia-Kaurakandi route	Ferry service resumed nine hours from 12 February 11:30 pm to Saturday 8:30 am. Five ferries with hundreds of passengers were compelled to a halt at the middle of the river. Around 500 vehicles were stranded on both banks.	<i>The Daily Star, February 14</i>
16-Feb	Munshiganj, Shimulia-Kaurakandi route	Ferry service stopped for 5 hours, no signal light or beacon could be seen. Six ferries with hundreds of passengers were anchored in the middle of the Padma River.	<i>The Daily Star, February 17</i>

Hailstorm

A hailstorm that followed dark clouds and thunder caught Dhaka residents off guard. It hurt 13 people at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka on 23rd February (The Daily Star, February 24.)

Nor'wester

In the month of February, a Nor'wester along with hailstorm and lightning caused damaged in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Nawabganj, Munshiganj, Sirajganj, Narshingdi, and Barisal districts on 23th February. At least 10 people including 2 children were killed and more than 43 people injured the storm boat or trawler capsized. More than 150 houses were damaged. Many trees and houses were uprooted during the storm. Supreme Court's fence was collapsed. 16 electric poles collapsed and many villages were out of electric supply for several hours (Table 2).

Table 2: Loss and damage by Nor'wester in February, 2016				
Date	Location		Impact	Source
	District	Union/Upazila/Area		
	Narayanganj	Dhaleshwari River	Trawler capsized and 6 people killed.	<i>The Daily Star, February 25</i>
		Shantibazar area of Fatulla	1 Rickshaw puller died from electric shock by broken roadside electric wire.	<i>The Daily Jugantor, February 25</i>
		Fatulla	Wall collapsed of Govt Girls College. 1 Rickshaw puller died.	<i>The Daily Janakantha, February 25</i>
			Wall collapsed, 8 injured.	<i>The Daily Jugantor, February 25</i>
	Sirajganj	Enayetpur	Boat capsized and 22 cows died.	<i>Bdnews24.com, February 25</i>
	Narshindi	Narshingdi sadar	Wall collapsed and 2 children died, storm blew away the roof the house.	<i>The Daily Star, February 25</i>

23-Feb	Mushiganj	Sirajdikhan	Tin roof of school collapsed during class, 25 students were injured.	<i>The Daily Star, February 25</i>
		-	10 villages were out of electricity for several hours.	<i>The Daily Samakal, February 25,</i>
	Dhaka	Supreme Court	Tree fell on and a large portion of fence collapsed.	<i>The Daily Star, February 25</i>
	Barisal	-	Out of electricity for 15 hours, several tin roofs collapsed.	<i>The Daily Samakal, February 25,</i>
	Nawabganj	Dohar	10 injured. 16 electric poles collapsed. 150 houses including 10 academic buildings damaged. Crops damaged.	<i>The Daily Jugantor, February 25</i>
Total			10 people including 2 children killed, more than 43 people injured, and more than 150 houses were damaged. 16 electric pole collapsed.	

Lightening

In the month of February, 4 incidents of lightning have been reported to be occurred in 3 districts Moulvibazar, Patukhali and Narayanganj on the same day of nor 'wester occurred. 4 people were killed in these incidents (The Daily Star, February 25).

Fire

There were 17 fire incidents during February 2016. As many as 5 fire incidents occurred on 27th February, three or two incidents in a single day occurred on 26th, 28th and 29th March. As for geographic spread, 9 districts experienced fire incidents (Table 3). Highest number of fire was in Dhaka- 6 incidents, followed by 4 incidents in Gazipur district. Chittagong suffered from two incidences. There were one incident in each of the remaining 6 districts. Among 17 incidents, 5 incidents occurred in dwelling places, 6 occurred in shops or trading center, 4 incidents occurred in factories. Total estimated loss was approximately BDT 45 lakh (Table 3).

Table 3: Loss and damage by fire in February 2016

Date	Location		Impact	Source	Remark
	District	Upazila/ Thana			
17-Feb	Dhaka	Malibagh	6 residents were injured.	<i>The Daily Star, February 18</i>	Fire broke out on the ninth floor of "Twin Tower" residence building.
18-Feb	Jessor	Abhoynagar	Five shops were burnt into ashes, estimated loss around TK 14 lakh.	<i>The Daily Star, February 19</i>	
20-Feb	Chittagong	Rangunia	A housewife was burnt into death and a child was injured.	<i>The Daily Star, February 21</i>	Fire originated from gas oven.
22-Feb	Gazipur	Signboard area	A garment caught on fire on eighth floor. Raw materials, equipment and clothes were burnt.	<i>bdnews24.com, February 23</i>	
23-Feb	Dhaka	New market	1 man burnt into death, 3 injured and died later.	<i>bdnews24.com, February 24.</i>	Fire originated from a shop.

Table 3: Loss and damage by fire in February 2016					
Date	Location		Impact	Source	Remark
	District	Upazila/ Thana			
26-Feb	Dhaka	Uttara	2 children killed, 3 injured among them 2 died later.	<i>The Daily Star, February 27</i>	Fire originated from accumulated gas and for the fault in the gas burner or pipeline.
	Dinajpur	Ghoraghat	1 woman and a goat died.	<i>The Daily Jugantor, February 27</i>	Fire caused by smoke of straw made for killing mosquito.
	Dhaka	Kakrail thana	No loss determined.	bdnews24.com, February 27	Fire broke out on the fifth floor of a 14 storied commercial building.
27-Feb	Chittagong	Kotwali thana	Estimated loss BDT 5 lakh.	The Daily Janakantha, February 28	Fire broke out at station road "Nupur Market" by electric short circuit.
	Dhaka	Mohakhali	Papers and documents burnt. 5 injured.	bdnews24.com, February 28	Fire broke out at "Brac Center" on the fourth floor from electric short circuit.
	Gazipur	Tekngar	1 covered van loaded with paper rolls burnt.	<i>The Daily Janakantha, February 28.</i>	Fire broke out when broken electric wire fell on the van.
	Gazipur	Sripur	Estimated loss BDT 5 lakh.	<i>The Daily Janakantha, February 28.</i>	Fire broke out in a paper house from electric short circuit.
	Gazipur	Kaliyakair	No loss determined.	<i>The Daily Janakantha, February 28.</i>	Fire broke out in a Jhut house.
28-Feb	Habiganj	Habiganj Sadar	6 injured.	<i>The Daily Star, February 29.</i>	
	Thakurgaon	Sadar upazilla	12 houses gutted in the fire.	<i>The Daily Star, February 29.</i>	Fire originated from the earthen oven of a kitchen.
29-Feb	Dhaka	Hatirpul area	Damages worth BDT 20 lakh.	bdnews24.com, March 1.	Fire erupted in the 7th floor of a 15 storied shopping complex called "Meher Tower".
	Khulna	Khalishpur area	Cause and damages were unknown.	bdnews24.com, February 29	Fire broke out in Bihari colony of Khalishpur area.
Total			9 killed, 20 injured, 2 business, 15 houses burnt, and more than 5 shops burnt. Estimated loss is about BDT 45 lakh.		

Wall Collapse

An incident of building collapse made 5 children injured in Kotwali thana of Chittagong (The Daily Janakantha, February 28).

Description of Response in June

GoB Response in Nor'wester

Deputy Commissioner's office allocated BDT 20,000 to each family of the 6 deceased for burial who died in Trawler capsized due to the Nor'wester (The Daily Star, February 25).

Conclusion

Fire was the most common hazard in the month of February and occurred almost every day at the last of the month. It caused death and injuries as well as huge damage to the property. However, response and preparedness were quite inadequate. Nor'wester was the most devastating incident in the month of February. It occurred on 23th of the month and resulted in other hazards like boat capsized, wall collapse, lightning etc. Along with death and injuries it also caused huge damage to the property. Responses to these incidents were inadequate.