Hazard Incidences in Bangladesh in March, 2016

Overview of Hazard Incidences in March 2016

Seven localised incidents occurred in March. Fire, Road Collapse, Bridge Platform Collapse, Wall Collapse and Chimney Collapse as well as two natural incidents, Nor'wester and Lightning were the major incidents stricken in this month.

According to the dailies, Nor'wester struck on 6th, 7th and 20th March and affected 4 districts. Lightning occurred in on 22nd, 27th, 28th and 31st of this month.

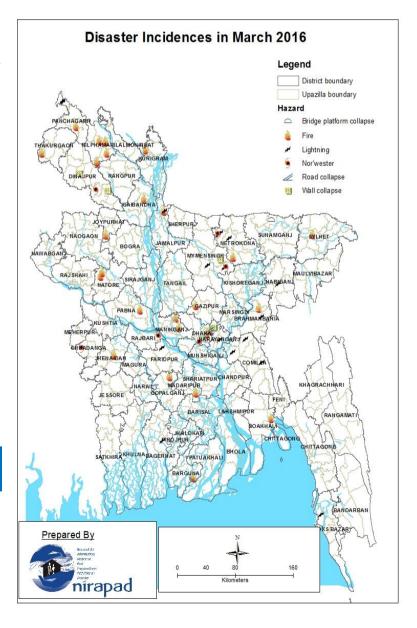
Also, there was Wall Collapse in Nawabganj upazila under Dinajpur district and Ishwargani upazila of Mymensingh district. As well, a chimney of a rice mill collapsed on 5th March in Ambari upazila of Dinajpur district. In addition, a road collapsed at Gulshan in Dhaka and a bridge platform collapsed in Biswambhapur under Sunamganj district. Apart from these, 27 fire incidents occurred on 1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 16th,17th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 22nd, 24th and 26th March at Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Sylhet, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Manikganj, Pabna, Mymensingh, Joypurhat, Jhenaidah, Brahmanbaria, Dhaka, Gazipur, Natore, Netrokona, Barguna, Noakhali, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Gaibandha and Khulna districts, respectively.

Description of the Events in March 2016

Nor'wester

In March, Nor'wester hit 4 districts e.g. Dhaka, Rajbari, Chuadanga and Netrokona districts. Total 4 people were killed and 31 people injured including

March-2016						
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women and children (Table 1). On 7th March, ferry service at Goalandaghat paused for 12 hours during the storm. Nor'wester also caused damage to crops in Chuadanga on 20th March.

	Table 1: Loss and damage by Nor'wester in March 2016							
Date	Location		n Impact		Remark			
	District	Upazila/ Thana						
		Keraniganj upazila	1 child killed and 5 people injured	The Daily Star, March 7	Due to storm, roof of a 2 storied building collapsed			
6-Mar	Dhaka	Rampura thana	1 child killed and 1 person injured	The Daily Star, March 7	Due to storm, part of an under- construction building fell on a tin shade house			
7-Mar	Rajbari	Goalandaghat upazila	Disruption of ferry service at 4 ghats for 12 hours. 6 ferries stayed motionless in the mid-river	The Daily Jugantor, March 8	-			
	Chuadanga	Damurhuda upazila	1 killed and 16 injured and Crops damaged	The Daily Ittefaq, March 21	-			
20-Mar	Netrokona	Purbadhala upazila	1 killed and 10 injured in Hogla union of Purbadhala upazila. As well, breakage of electric pole caused upazila's electricity disruption	The Daily Ittefaq, March 21	-			
Total			4 people including 2 children killed and	32 injured.				

Lightening

In the month of March, 14 incidents of lightning have been reported to be occurred in 11 districts i.e. Cox's Bazar, Netrokona, Panchagarh, Habiganj, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Comilla, Narayanganj, Brahmanbaria, Faridpur and Bagerhat in just four days. Among them, 7 incidents occurred on the same day (31st March) in Narayanganj, Mymensingh, Comilla, Netrokona, Brahmanbaria, Faridpur and Bagerhat districts (The Daily Star, March 30). Total 26 were killed and 18 were injured in these incidents (Table 2).

Table 2: Loss and damage by Lightning in March 2016						
Date	Location		Impact	Source		
	District	Upazila/ Thana				
22-Mar	Cox's Bazar	Maheshkhali upazila	2 killed	The Daily Star, March 23		
27-Mar	Netrokona	Purbadhala upazila	3 children killed	The Daily Star, March 28		
	Panchagarh	Tetulia upazila	1 man and 1 child killed	The Daily Star, March 29		
	Habiganj	Habiganj sadar upazila	2 killed	The Daily Star, March 29		
28-Mar	Jamalpur	Bakshiganj upazila	1 woman killed	The Daily Star, March 29		
20-iviai	Mymensingh Trishal upazila		1 man killed in Balipara union of Trishal upazila	The Daily Star, March 29		
	Comilla	Daudkandi upazila	1 man killed	The Daily Star, March 29		
		Titash upazila	1 man killed	The Daily Star, March 29		
30-Mar	Narayanganj	Rupganj upazila	2 killed due to the storm wall collapsed of an under construction shop	The Daily Star, March 31		
31-Mar	Narayanganj	Sonargaon upazila	2 killed and 1 Injured in Char Kishorganj union of Sonargaon upazila	The Daily Jugantor, March 30		

Table 2: Loss and damage by Lightning in March 2016						
	Mymensingh	Nandail upazila	2 killed	The Daily Star, March 30		
	Comilla	Muradnagar upazila	2 killed and 17 Injured	The Daily Star, March 30		
	Netrokona	Netrokona sadar upazila	1 killed	The Daily Star, March 30		
	Brahmanbaria	Brahmanbaria sadar upazila	1 killed	The Daily Star, March 30		
	Faridpur	Faridpur sadar upazila	1 child killed	The Daily Star, March 30		
	Bagerhat	Morelganj upazila	2 killed	The Daily Star, March 30		
	To	tal	26 including 5 children ki	lled and 18 injured		

Fire

There were 27 fire incidents in March, 2016. As for geographic spread, 21 districts (Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Sylhet, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Manikganj, Pabna, Mymensingh, Joypurhat, Jhenaidah, Brahmanbaria, Dhaka, Gazipur, Natore, Netrokona, Barguna, Noakhali, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Gaibandha) experienced fire. These incidents caused death to 3 person; 9 cows, 9 goats and injury to 33 people. Total 58 shops and 91 houses was burnt, estimated loss was about BDT 1 crore 74 lakh (Table 3).

As many as 6 fire incidents occurred on 2nd March, three or two incidents in a single day occurred on 17th, 18th, and 26th March. There were two fire incidents each in Nilphamari, Natore and Dhaka district and one incident in each of the remaining 16 districts. Seven incidents occurred at individual houses and other affected rest house, office, slum, market and factory.

In the last week of the month, there was forest fire in Sundarban. Fire incident occurred on 26th March from the fire set of fishermen. It was brought under control on 28th March 2016 morning. Though there has been no human casualty in this incident, a large number of trees were burnt in the fire.

	Table 3: Loss and damage by Fire in March 2016						
Date	Location		Impact	Source	Remark		
	District	Upazila/ Thana					
1-Mar	Panchagarh	Boda upazila	10 shops burnt	The Daily Star, March 2	Fire originated from electric short circuit from a grocery shop		
2-Mar	Nilphamari	Jaldhaka upazila	1 woman burnt into death, 3 injured, 3 cows and 9 goats killed. Estimated loss BDT 15 lakh	The Daily Janakantha, March 3	-		
	Sylhet	Sylhet sadar upazila	Sylhet circuit house caught on fire. Two rooms were burnt. Estimated loss was not found	The Daily Janakantha, March 3	Fire originated from a VIP room		
	Dinajpur	Phulbari upazila	1 child burnt to death	The Daily Janakantha, March 3			
	Thakurgaon	Nandogaon village of Haripur upazila	20 houses gutted. Damages worth BDT 25 lakh	The Daily Star, March 7	Fire originated from a nearby house.		
	Manikganj	Saturiya upazila	Estimated loss was not found.	The Daily Jankantha, March 7	Syntax Polymer Industry caught on fire from a house.		
		Fulbaria upazila	8 houses burnt.	The Daily Jankantha,	Fire caused by electric		

	Table 3: Loss and damage by Fire in March 2016					
Date		cation	Impact	Source	Remark	
	District	Upazila/ Thana				
			Estimated loss BDT 60 lakh.	March 7	short circuit of a house.	
	Pabna	Santhia upazila	5 shops burnt in Khetupara union of Santhia upazila; Estimated loss BDT 4 lakh.	The Daily Jankantha, March 7	Fire originated from a shoe shop.	
7-Mar	Mymensingh	Nandail upazila	3 shops burnt in Mushuli union at Nandail upazila; Estimated loss BDT 15 to 20 Lakh	The Daily Jugantor, March 9	Fire broke out at "Taraghat Bazar".	
9-Mar	Joypurhat	Akkelpur upazila	2 houses burnt in Sonamukhi union of Akkelpur upazila; Estimated loss BDT 8 to 10 Lakh	The Daily Jugantor, March 9	Fires erupt at the cowshed.	
10-Mar	Jhinaidah	Achintanagar upazila	4 burnt.	The Daily Jugantor, March 10	"Taji Agro Industries" caught on fire.	
11-Mar	Brahmanbaria	Sarail upazila	8 people including 3 children burnt.	bdnews24.com, March 10	Fire originated from accumulated gas due to leakage of the gas cylinder.	
14-Mar	Dhaka	Gulshan thana	50 houses burnt.	The Daily Jugantor, March 19	Korail slum caught fire. Fire originated from electric short circuit.	
16-Mar	Gazipur	Chapair union of Kaliakair upazila	2 houses burnt.	The Daily Jugantor, March 17		
	Nilphamari	Jaldhaka upazila	6 houses burnt and 2000 kg tobacco burnt in Mirganj union of Jaldhaka upazila	The Daily Jugantor, March 17 The Daily Janakantha, March 19		
17-Mar		Kishoriganj Sadar upazila	Exact data of loss was not found.	The Daily Janakantha, March 19	Fire originated from electric short circuit in Ranochandi union of Kishoriganj Sadar upazila	
	Natore	Natore sadar upazila	1 house burnt.	The Daily Janakantha, March 19	Fire originated in from electric short circuit.	
	Netrokona	Kendua upazila	16 shops and 1 house burnt. Estimated cost BDT 8-10 lakh.	The Daily Janakantha, March 19		
18-Mar	Barguna	Amtali upazila	1 woman died, 7 injured including 6 children in Gulishakhali union of Amtali upazila	The Daily Janakantha, March 19	Fire broke out from gas cylinder.	
	Dhaka	Banani thana	7 injured and a six stories building damaged.	The Daily Star, March	Fire caused by gas pipe leakage.	
19-Mar	Natore	Naldanga upazila	3 houses and 1 cow burnt.	The Daily Janakantha, March 20	Fire caused by mosquito coil.	
21-Mar	Noakhali	Companiganj upazila	18 shops burnt.	The Daily Jugantor, March 22	Fire originated from an oil shop.	
22-Mar	Nilphamari	Saidpur upazila	A warehouse of Saidpur Raiway Workshop caught fire. Estimated loss BDT	The Daily Ittefaq, March 23		

	Table 3: Loss and damage by Fire in March 2016					
Date	Location		Impact	Source	Remark	
	District	Upazila/ Thana				
			50 thousand.			
24-Mar	Gopalganj	Muksudpur upazila	6 shops burnt. Estimated cost BDT 6 lakh.	The Daily Jugantor, March 25	"Noukhanda Bazar" caught fire. Fire originated from electric short circuit.	
	Madaripur	Kalkini upazila	4 burnt. Estimated cost BDT 20 lakh.	The Daily Jugantor, March 25	An association called "Surakkha Cooperative Credit Union" caught fire.	
26-Mar	Gaibandha	Gaibandha sadar upazila	5 cows died in Ghagoya union of Gaibandha sadar upazila.	The Daily Jugantor, March 27	Fire originated from mosquito coil in the cowshed.	
	Khulna	Nangli area near Dhansagar station in Chandpai range of the Sundarbans	A large number of trees were burnt in the fire. Fire fighters doused the flame under control on 28 March 2016 morning	The Daily Star, March 28	Fire Broke out for the fire set by the fishermen to destroy the bushes.	
Total			3 people killed, 33 injured, 58 shops and 91 houses burnt, 9 cows and 9 goats killed and estimated loss was about BDT 1 crore 74 lakh			

Road Collapse

In Gulshan thana of Dhaka district, a 30 feet road next to Gulshan lake collapsed on 11th March. It caused disruption of traffic and pedestrian movement (The Daily Ittefaq, March 10).

Bridge platform collapse

Michkhali river bridge at Biswamvopur upazila under Sunamganj district collapsed during the rubber dam construction on 3rd March, 2016. It was reported that 7 labors were injured during the occurrence (The Daily Janakantha, March 4, 2016).

Wall Collapse

In this month, two wall collapse incidents occurred and caused death of 2 people including 1 child (Table 4). Incidents occurred on 12th, and 18th March in two districts i.e. Mymensingh and Dinajpur.

Table 4: Loss and damage by bridge, road and wall collapse in March 2016						
Date	Location		Impact	Source	Remark	
	District	Upazila/ Thana				
12-Mar	Mymensingh	Ishwarganj upazila	1 child killed	The Daily Star, March 13	A wall collapsed on a boy while passing by the area.	
18-Mar	Dinajpur	Nawabganj upazila	1 killed and 2 injured in Aftabganj union of Nawabganj upazila	The Daily Janakantha, March 19	Boundary wall of "RTB Bricks" brick field collapsed.	
Total			2 people including 1 ch	ild killed and 2 injured.		

Chimney Collapse

In this month, chimney of a rice mill collapsed on 5th March and caused death of 1 person. Incidents occurred in Ambari upazila of Dinajpur district.

Description of Response in March

GoB Response in Fire

The Minister of Cultural Affairs who is the Parliament Member of Nilphamari district distributed one bundle CI Sheet and BDT 3 thousand to each of the affected families of different fire incidents in Kundupur, Gorgram, Sonaray, Kochukata, Ramnagar, lokkhichap, palashbari union of Nilphamari district (The Daily Janakantha, March 18).

Conclusion

Fire was the most devastating incident in the month of March. It occurred almost every day and caused death and injuries. Still, response and preparedness activities are quite inadequate as noticed in earlier month. Along with fire, several lightning incidents were occurred in March that took twenty three lives along with few injuries. Amongst these incidents, only fire were responded by the Government, but it could not mobilize enough resources to deal with them adequately.