

The cold spell has created the most severe impact on the northern region of Bangladesh, affecting millions of people. Heavy fog and mist has unsettled people's normal routines. During 24 hours the whole area covered with fog and mist.

Temperature in Rangpur region

Date and day	Temperature (C)		Wind		Visibility	Pressure (mb)	Relative humidity
	Max in day	Min in night	mph	wind direction			
Sunday 07.12.07	22° C	9° C	6	North westerly	poor	1018	78

Source- BBC-weather center

Northern part of Bangladesh is generally disaster-prone and poverty-stricken throughout the country. Disasters like flood with river erosion, draught, cold wave, nor'easters etc. are very common phenomenon in this region due to its geographical characteristics. Gaibandha is more vulnerable district in this part as two rivers *Jamuna* and *Brahmaputra* with its numbers of tributaries are following over the district making vast lands char areas and thousands of the households becoming land-less, houseless as well as asset-less due to those disasters almost in every year.

Fog with cold breeze started to sweep over the Gaibandha district from January 02, 2007 created extra havoc on the normal lives and disrupted daily activities especially for day-labours, rickshaw/van pullers and marginal peoples. The livelihoods of the 60,000 HH (approximately) day-labours, rickshaw/van pullers and marginal peoples become helpless because of cold wave.

Due to dense foggy cold wavy atmosphere, they couldn't come out for their scheduled activities. Children up to 5 years, pregnant & lactating mothers and elderly people are the worst sufferers to face the cool atmosphere for shortage of warm clothes. Usually the houses in the poor community especially in the chars area have made of straw that can't protect cold spell. It is also creating suffering during night.

On the other hand, cold fevers, pneumonia, dysentery, tonsillitis, respiratory problem increasing severely intensifying sufferings of the poor and destitute people. Vehicles on the road are plying with high risk and accidents are taking places due to densely foggy weather and injuring people's lives. According to local newspaper reports, total of **14 persons died** in Gaibandha due to cold and many others are fighting to survive inhumanly.

Cold wave has taken it's pressure on the **agriculture** also. The situation has laid upon bad impacts on the standing crops, vegetables and seedlings of the farmers whether they were expecting better production from their lands.

The vulnerable community of this area just faced **MONGA** (seasonal food crisis) and again they attacked by cold wave. During MONGA the helpless people expended their last-savings for surviving their lives. Now they do not have money to buy warm cloths. If the situation remains unchanged then the sorrow and sufferings of poor and destitute would be turned into more severity. No initiatives so far taken by the Government as well as by the non-government organization. Government and NGO should take initiatives to protect the vulnerable community.

Sources of information

Report from SKS field offices, Union Parishads, Local & National Newspaper, Website