

Bogra dam-cut A



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Villagers helplessly watch the rain-fed Jamuna waters slosh around a flood control embankment partly breached by saboteurs in Bogra.

It was at a quarter to three in the morning on July 14th that a part of the dam near Shimulbari suddenly gave way. The villagers were in deep sleep when the Shaharbari, Shimulbari, Chuniapara, Gosaipara, and Godakhali villages were suddenly hit by floodwater. The rushing water not only inundated a vast area but also left many dead in its wake. Four thousand homes were washed away in that sudden surge of water. The unexpected calamity originated from a break at the dam that protects a vast area and its people. The most shocking revelation is that it was the work of the henchmen of a ruling party leader. According to newspaper reports, a

petty feud between two local Bangladesh Nationalist Party leaders led one to cut a gash in the dam letting the surging water to gush through it.

As the current was strong, the villagers did not get much time to save their belongings. Many stood by while they witnessed their homes being taken away by the sudden deluge. Even while reading the newspaper reports, the aftermath of this human-induced calamity seemed like an apocalyptic vision. Whether the perpetrators sensed that their act could have the potential to take such a devastating turn is not the point here. For any human it is nerve racking even to think that a dispute