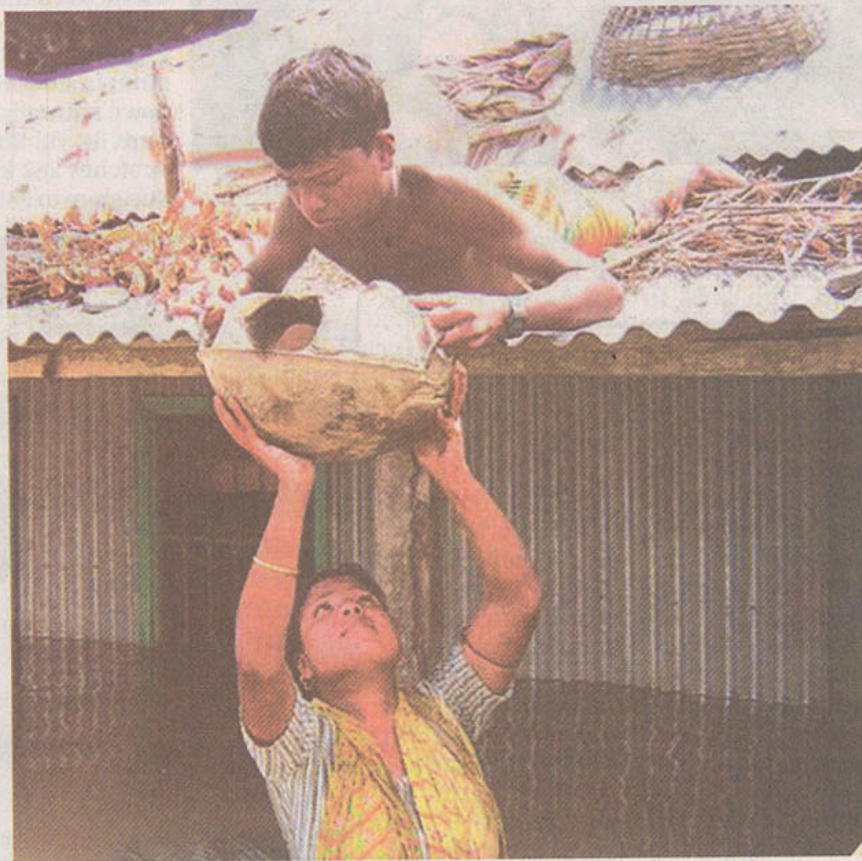


feud leads to a calamity

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 could lead to deluge of such catastrophic proportions.



Desperate to save her valuables from the raging floodwaters in Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj, a housewife shifts an earthen stove onto the tin-roof of their half-submerged house.

could lead to deluge of such catastrophic proportions. Being the leaders of the community, how could the people suspected of carrying out the act of sabotage not think of the consequences? The very act serves as an example of how politics has become an abstract game on an imaginary chessboard just to get an upper hand in every occasion for the people at the helm. Although there were denials from the BNP bastion regarding their leaders having a hand in the dam-cut incident, the circumstantial evidence points to sabotage.

Call it sabotage or 'fate' of the villagers, the calamity cost dearly both in terms of lives and property. Over

3,000 people lost their homes. While around 60 villagers remained missing, death counts, two days after the dam-cut, stood at six. The local leaders claimed the dam at Shimulbari of Dhunat Thana needed fixing, although the observation of the engineers belonging to the Water Development Board (WDB) refuted this. They denied having seen any volatile point in the dam, especially in that area near Shimulbari. The water level in the Jamuna river was flowing not only over the danger level, but also in fierce velocity and the cut had made the water to rush in and level off the part of the dam resulting in the immediate flooding. A *Daily Star* report said it was a 500 metre