

## Yearly Report 2005

### At a glance

Form of atrocity ↓	Perpetrator →	Security Forces	Bengali Settlers	SF+BS	UPDF	Total
No. of person killed		1	1	-	7	9
No. of person tortured		283	5	38	1	327
No. of person arrested		34	3	2	-	39
No. of person harassed		67	-	-	9	76
No. of person against whom case lodged		2	10	-	-	12
No. of house set fire		-	-	-	2	2
No. of house looted & destructed		27	-	-	-	27
No. of house searched		-	-	-	-	-
No. of woman raped		1	1	-	-	2
No. of woman sexually harassed		1	-	-	-	1
No. of person kidnapped		2	-	-	16	18
No. of person whose land grabbed		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>418</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>513</b>

SF+BS = Security Forces & Bengali settlers; UPDF = United Peoples' Democratic Front

### Headline of the Report 2005

#### January 2005

In January 2005: Report on the Fresh Land grabbing by the Bengali settlers at Gamaridhala in Khagrachari district

In January 2005: Combing operation in Baghaichari upazila under Rangamati district and harassment on innocent villagers

15 January 2005: FIO and VDP personnel engaged Islamic fanatic postering in Ruma

15 January 2005: A Jumma villager beat up by the army in Panchari

22 January 2005: Jumma villagers tortured by the army in Panchari

25 January 2005: A Tripura woman rapped by an army in Matiranga

26 January 2005: Two Jummas arrested by the army in Naniarchar

27 January 2005: Shashanka Dhamai victimised again by the army in Matiranga

21 January 2005: Prafulla Tripura shot dead by the UPDF in Guimara

#### February 2005

15 February 2005: 6 innocent Jummas arrested by the army in Baghaihat

PCJSS Appeal to bring the CHT issues during the upcoming Donors Meet to be held in Washington

26-27 February 2005: Road blockade programme observed at Khagrachari-Mahalchari road by local people

#### March 2005

4 March 2005: Rangamati HDC Chairman ill-treated by the army

17 March 2005: Innocent villagers beaten by the APB at Hazaribag area in Rangamati

19 March 2005: Public meeting foiled by army in Baghaihat

In March 2005: Harassment raids by army personnel in Rangamati town

In March 2005: Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs halted by the army

24 March 2005: Returnee PCJSS member killed by the UPDF in Panchari

24-25 March 2005: National Round Table Conference held in Dhaka

#### April 2005

1 April 2005: Expansion of APB Camp in Baghaichari  
 4 April 2005: A public meeting foiled by army personnel in Baghaichari  
 6 April 2005: PCJSS leader insulted by army in Matiranga  
 11 April 2005: PCJSS leaders threatened by the DGFI in Rangamati  
 22 April 2005: Army threatened some local leaders in Baghaihat  
 27 April 2005: Army raids in Baghaihat  
 In April 2005: Bengali settlers rehabilitation in Baghaichari by the army  
 17 April 2005: UPDF Terrorists Kidnapped Twelve Jumma Villagers  
 20 April 2005: Sama Adhikar Andolan called meeting in Khagrachari district  
 In April 2005: Fake leaflet published by the Wadood Gang

### **May 2005**

In May 2005: Tribal quota again under controlled by the military  
 In May 2005: Massive Bengali Muslim settlement in Sajek undertook by the GoB  
 28 May 2005: A Joint Press Conference by Civil Society Organizations of the CHT on Land Grabbing

### **June 2005**

2 June 2005: Harassment on permanent Bengali residents by the army and police  
 14 June 2005: Military atrocity on permanent Bengali residents in CHT  
 15 June 2005: Two false filed against leaders of the PBWC by the instigation of the army  
 In June 2005: Pressure made on the leaders of the PBWC to join Equal Rights Movement by the army  
 23 June 2005: Jumma houses destroyed by the BDR personnel in Sajek  
 23 June 2005: BDR destroyed Jumma's houses in Sajek

### **July 2005**

2 July 2005: Bengali settlers organised public meeting in Rangamati  
 8 July 2005: HWF leader kidnapped by the UPDF  
 10 July 2005: Bengali settlers staged demonstration in Rangamati demanding 'equal rights'  
 10 July 2005: A villager shot dead by the UPDF in Naniarchar  
 24 July 2005: Jumma villagers tortured brutally by the army in Manikchari  
 25 July 2005: Attack on indigenous Jumma village in Kaukhali by the army and Bengali settlers  
 28 July 2005: Military raid in Atarakchara under Longadu  
 In July 2005: Jumma villagers opposed to construct house in Jurachari by the army  
 July 2005: Karbaries ordered to maintain guest register by the army in Rowangchari

### **August 2005**

9 August 2005: Celebration of 9 August International Indigenous People Day  
 17 August 2005: Bomb blast hits CHT  
 20 August 2005: Commercial mobile network being closed in CHT  
 21 August 2005: Government banned Mokammel's documentary film 'Karnaphulir Kanna' on CHT  
 In August 2005: Land grabbing by the Bengali settlers with the help of the military in Panchari: 270 indigenous families facing eviction  
 29 August 2005: Harassment of Army on Indigenous Jummas in Baghaichari  
 30 August 2005: PCJSS member shot dead by UPDF armed cadre in Khagrachari  
 31 August 2005: Parliamentary Standing Committee decided to sommon IP activists  
 31 August 2005: 7 villagers abducted by UPDF in Naniarchar

### **September 2005**

6 September 2005: Protest meeting against land lease in Bandarban  
 7 September 2005: Follow-up report on Parliamentary Standing Committee summon to IP activists  
 7 September 2005: Meeting between UPDF cadre and the military force in Panchari  
 10 September 2005: Three Karbaries received threats from an army Major Tarek in Panchari

- 10 September 2005: Follow-up report on JMB activities in CHT
- 11 September 2005: Workshop on Land Rights of IPs and Development Strategy held in Dhaka
- 13 September 2005: Innocent villager shot dead by forest guards in Kaptai
- 14 September 2005: Continuous Bengali Muslim infiltration in CHT
- 18 September 2005: J B Larma's Bandarban visit and the Sama Adhikar's strike to resist his visit
- 18 August 2005: PCP welcome reception held peacefully
- 20 September 2005: Threats by Panchari army zone commander
- 22 September 2005: Innocent villagers tortured indiscriminately by the army in Bandarban
- 27 September 2005: PCJSS members harassed by the army in Barkal
- 27 September 2005: Army torture on PCJSS members in Jurachari of Rangamati

### **October 2005**

- 2 October 2005: Dawn-to-dusk strike observed by Civil Society Organisations in Khagrachari to stop Jumma's land grabbing by Bengali settlers
- 11 October 2005: Villager ordered to win UPDF candidate in the upcoming Parliamentary election
- 14 October 2005: Military personnel searched and tore off portrait of M N Larma in Panchari
- 16 October 2005: Royal College of Defense Studies team visits CHT Regional Council
- 20 October 2005: Military forces instructed Bengali traders to file case against PCJSS member in Panchari
- 21 October 2005: Innocent Jumma villagers beat by army at Amtali in Panchari
- 21 October 2005: Welcome reception and farewell of Chittagong University students organized by PCP, Chittagong University branch
- 22 October 2005: Military personnel arrested innocent Uttam Chakma and confined him in camp
- In October 2005: Military rule is still operative in the CHT – says Santu Larma in the workshop on "Human Rights and Good Governance" held in Rangamati
- 26 October 2005: Jumma girl raped in Bandarban
- 28 October 2005: Jumma villagers brutally tortured by army in Bandarban
- 30 October 2005: Two including PCJSS member shot dead by UPDF in Panchari
- 31 October 2005: UPDF tried to kidnap two villagers in Laxmichari

### **November 2005**

- 2 November 2005: Innocent Jumma student injured by the army in Khagrachari
- 9 November 2005: UPDF and army attack to foil programme of death anniversary of M N Larma
- 9 November 2005: Unethical letter from MoCHTA to CHTRC and HDCs on Voter List
- 9 November 2005: Follow-up of GoB summons to indigenous leaders
- 10 November 2005: 22nd Death Anniversary of M N Larma observed in CHT and Dhaka
- 12 November 2005: Two innocent villagers arrested by BDR in Longadu
- 13 November 2005: Two innocent students kidnapped by the army in Rangamati
- 14 November 2005: Returnee PCJSS members arrested by army in Panchari
- 23 November 2005: Workshop on Land Issues in CHT stopped by the GoB
- 28 November 2005: Innocent villagers tortured by the army in Longadu
- 29 November 2005: Two persons including PCJSS member kidnapped by UPDF

### **December 2005**

- 2 December 2005: Observation of 8th Anniversary of Signing of the CHT Accord
- 5 December 2005: One NGO worker killed by Bengali settlers in Dighinala
- 9 December 2005: Returnee PCJSS member killed by UPDF cadres in Naniarchar
- 13 December 2005: Two Jumma villagers tortured by BDR personnel in Baghaichari
- 29 December 2005: Three innocent Jumma villagers arrested by the police in Kaukhali

## January 2005

### (1) In January 2005: Report on the Fresh Land grabbing by the Bengali settlers at Gamaridhala in Khagrachari district

Very Recently in first week of January the Bengali settlers of Maischari (Nunchari) cluster village under Khagrachari district tried to occupy land of Jumma people at Gamaridhala area under Khagrachari sadar upazila. For this purpose, the Bengali settlers with the help of local army constructed dozens of houses on land of Jumma people at day-night from 1 January to 3 January 2005. At the last, due to tremendous pressure from the Jumma people, the army and police stopped the Bengali settlers from construction of house and occupying the Jummas' land forcefully. Though, forceful land grabbing was stopped, but the army gathered the Bengali settlers at Maischari High School instead of returning them back to the cluster village. The local people suspected the army to have hidden motive behind gathering the Bengali settlers at Maischari High School, as this is another trick of the administration to grab the land of Jumma people.

#### **Beginning of the incident**

The incident began taking place as on the 31 December 2004 a group of 50/60 Bengali Muslim settlers led by Md. Mostafa, s/o late Mujibar Rahman of Maischari cluster village started cleaning bushes and forest to build houses on the land of Jumma people in order to forcibly occupy the land.

On the 1 January 2005 the Bengali settlers started house construction and the owners of the land along with other villagers went to the place to stop the Bengali settlers from building houses. Then the Bengali settlers came to make attack on the Jumma people where the Jummas hardly escaped. In the night of the day the settlers with the help of the army continued construction of houses.

Getting informed, Mr. Priti Bindu Dewan, Chairman of Khagrachari union and Mr. Dhruva Ranjan Chakma, Headman of Gamaridhala mouza tried to inform the camp commander of the nearby Bijitala and Maischari army camp, but could not make it as the army officer did not meet with him. Rather, the army played inactive role while the Bengali settlers constructing houses. Later Mr. Dewan went to Khagrachari town and informed PCJSS leaders, Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Khagrachari upazila, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khagrachari police station and the Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari district respectively. On 2 January 2005 the UNO and the acting OC rushed to the spot where the verbally instructed Bengali settlers to stop house building.

#### **Memorandum submitted to DC by the local people:**

On 2 January 2005 the Jumma villagers of Gamaridhala area called on and submitted a memorandum to the DC of Khagrachari district asking an urgent solution of the problem. The DC gave them hope of a solution. But instead of the commitment by the DC, the Bengali settlers continued constructing houses. As a protest, the Jumma villagers called Khagrachari-Rangamati road blockade programme on 3 December. Later the DC and the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Khagrachari visited the spot and ordered the Bengali settlers to destroy the constructed houses. The police destroyed some 30/40 newly constructed houses and then the local Jumma people withdrew the road blockade programme.

During the visit of DC and SP at around 1:30 p.m., a group of BNP activists led by Md. Joynal Abedin, Chairman of Khagrachari municipality and President of Khagrachari district Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (student wing of BNP) and Mostafizur Rahman Millat, Joint Convener of Jatiyatabadi Jubal Dal arrived in the spot and protested against the destruction of houses built by Bengali settlers. They rebuked Deputy Commissioner. At that time, DC and SP left the spot for Khagrachari district HQ stopping the destruction of the houses. The Bengali settlers did not leave the place.

#### **Dispute Resolving Committee formed in the midst of Jumma's protest**

Later in the evening at 6 p.m. on that day the DC called a meeting at his office. Among others, Mr. Raktolpat Tripura, Central member of PCJSS and Member of the CHT Regional Council; Mr. Rasamoy Chakma, General Secretary of Khagrachari district PCJSS; Mr. Upendra Lal Chakma, ex-returnee Jumma refugee leader; Mr. Priti Bindu Dewan, Chairman of the Khagrachari sadar union; Mr. Saprue Marma, Chairman of Kamalchari union; Mr. Dhruva Ranjan Chakma, Headman of the

Gamaridhala mouza; BNP leaders namely Md. Joynal Abedin, President of Khagrachari municipality, Mostafizur Rahman Millat, Joint Convener of Jatiyatabadi Jubal Dal, Md. Nazarul Islam, Belayet Hossain Belal, Md. M N Abchar, Advocate Md. Ali Noor, Advocate Md. Abdul Malek Pintu and some other workers; Md. Shahajuddin of Jatiya Party and Sama Adhikar Andolon (CHT Equal Rights Movement) and Md. Abul Hossain of Jamat-e-Islam and some Bengali settlers attended the meeting. On the other, Md. Sirazul Islam, ADC (Revenue) of Khagrachari district; Md. Golam Hossain, ADC of Khagrachari; Mr. Abdul Mannan, UNO of Khagrachari upazila; Md. Nausher Ali, SP of Khagrachari, Md. Abul Kamal Azad, OC of Kharachari police station also attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the government officials proposed to form a committee to settle the land disputes. The Jumma participants opposed the proposal as it might turn problem into new directions. Many of the Jumma participants opined that there is the Land Commission formed under the CHT Accord to resolve all sorts of land disputes in the CHT. So it would be duplication of the committee. But the communal leaders of BNP, Jammāt–e-Islami, Sama Adhikar Andolan, Jatiya Party and Bengali settlers expressed their strong adamant of forming the committee. The DC asked Mr. Rasamoy Chakma, the representative of PCJSS to be in the committee, but he declined stating that it was not necessary to form a committee as the problem could be solved if the settlers stopped occupying the land of Jumma villagers and returning them back to the Maischari cluster village.

Instead of the objection by the Jummas a committee consisting of following 16 members was formed led by the Additional DC (Revenue):

- |  |       |           |
|--|-------|-----------|
| 1. Md. Sirajul Islam, ADC (Revenue), Khagrachari district  | -     | Convener; |
| 2. Mr. Raktolpal Tripura, Member of the CHTRC              | -     | Member    |
| 3. Mr. Upendra Lal Chakma                                  | - - - | Member    |
| 4. Mr. Ananta Bihari Chakma                                | - - - | Member    |
| 5. Md. Abdul Manna, UNO of Khagrachari upazila             | -     | Member    |
| 6. Mr. Shibir Bichitra Barua, AC (land)                    | - - - | Member    |
| 7. Md. Abul Kamal Azad, OC of Khagrachari PS               | - - - | Member    |
| 8. Mr. Priti Bindu Dewan, Chairman of Khagrachari union    | -     | Member    |
| 9. Mr. Saprue Marma, Chairman of Kamalchari union          | - - - | Member    |
| 10. Md. Mustafizur Rahman Millat, Joint Secretary, BNP     | -     | Member    |
| 11. Md. Belayet Hossain Belal, BNP                         | - - - | Member    |
| 12. Md. M N Abchar, BNP                                    | - - - | Member    |
| 13. Advocate Md. Ali Noor, BNP                             | - - - | Member    |
| 14. Advocate Md. Abdul Malek Pintu, BNP                    | - - - | Member    |
| 15. Md. Abul Momen, Jamat-e-Islam                          | - - - | Member    |
| 16. Md. Shahajuddin, Jatiya Party and Sama Adhika Andolan- |       | Member    |

### **Bengali settlers shifted at Maishchari High School**

On 3 January 2005 Mr. Rupayan Dewan, Vice president of PCJSS and member of CHT Regional Council had telephone discussion with Mr. Moni Swapan Dewan, Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Ministry and the GOC of 24 Infantry Division of Chittagong Cantonment, asking to take immediate initiatives for stopping land grabbing and house building by the Bengali settlers. As a result of it, the Brigade commander of Khagrachari brigade informed Mr. Dewan that order had been issued to stop the house construction and land grabbing.

The next day, on 4 January 2005 the UNO of Khagrachari upazila sent two staff from his office for investigation. They have found that construction of 58 houses was completed and construction was continuing under the supervision of the army.

Later, PCJSS and local public representatives of Gamaridhala contacted with the authorities and finally on 4 January 2005 in the evening the Bengali settlers were shifted to Maischari High School by the army and police.

### **Conclusion**

Even though, forceful land grabbing was stopped, but the army gathered the Bengali settlers at Maischari High School instead of returning them back to their cluster village. The local people

suspected the army to have hidden motive behind gathering the Bengali settlers at Maischari High School, not returning them to their cluster village.

On the contrary, so-called Land Dispute Committee held a meeting on 5 January 2005 where the committee took decision that both Jummas and Bengalis had to submit their land documents to the committee by 15 January and a hearing would be held on the 18 January. The Jummas did not accept this decision adopted by the committee, as this is another trick of the administration to grab the land of Jumma people.

**In addition-**

The following information is the additional instances in land grabbing by the Bengali settlers, military and civil authorities in Khagrachari district-

1. In 2000 and 2001, the Bengali settlers with the assistance of military grabbed 110 acres of land of 19 Jummas of Lemuchari mouza and 183 acres land of 44 Jummas of Chongrachari mouza and built 170 houses on it. On 26 August 2003 the Bengali settlers with help of army committed communal attack on the Jumma people in order to occupy Jummas' land where more than 400 houses of 14 Jumma villages were burnt down and 2 Jummas were killed and 10 Jumma women were raped.
2. Khagrachari brigade office issued an order to acquire 147.73 acres of land of the Jumma people at Pujgang area under Panchari upazila for set up a new cantonment. The land acquisition process is going on in Deputy Commissioner's office of Khagrachari district. If the new cantonment is set up, then hundreds of Jumma families would be evicted from their ancestral land.
3. Bengali settlers led by Ms. Shamsur Nahar w/o Arfan, Member of the Latiban union and Md. Mosharaf Sharif tried to forcibly occupy the homesteads and orchards of the Jumma villagers of Perachari village under Panchari mouza and the land of Aranya Kutir, a meditation centre of the Buddhist monk under Chota Panchari mouza in Panchari upazila. Bengali settlers threatened the Jumma villagers to leave the village; otherwise they would kill the Jumma villagers. The Jumma people informed Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari district, but the authority did not take any necessary action for far. As a result, the Jumma people are living with insecurity of life and property.
4. In August 2004 the Bengali settlers forcibly occupied the land of Tripura community of Sindukchai Tripura village under Mahalchari upazila. On the other, in November 2004 the Bengali settlers led by Md. Panku Rashid and Md. Hajarat Ali occupied more than 40 acres of land of 10 Jumma families of Lemuchari Kuting Tila under Lemuchari mouza in Mahalchari upazila. The Bengali settlers already constructed 24 houses on this occupied land. Till to-date, the said Bengali settlers continue land-grabbing activities in this area and construction of houses for settlement of new Bengali settlers families. The Jumma villagers informed Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari district, but the authority has taken no action against this forceful land grabbing.
5. In October 2004 The Bengali settlers led by Md. Lal Mian s/o Hajarat Ali and Md. Jahir Joyarder s/o Tacher Ali occupied 30 acres of grove land of the Jumma villagers at Pakujyachari village under Mahalchari upazila. The Bengali settlers are living on this land constructing 15 houses. The land grabbing process is still continuing till to-date. The Jumma villagers informed local civil and military authority, but the administration has been playing passive role to the atrocities.
6. The land grabbing activities by the Bengali settlers is continuing in Baranal mouza, Toilafang mouza and Gomati mouza under Matiranga upazila and Pablakhali and Merung area under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachari district.

With this backdrop, on 17 January 2005 the CHT Citizen Forum led by Mr. Hangsadwaj Chakma, mediator and Convenor of CHT Liaison Committee organised protest meeting in Khagrachari district HQ. After the protest meeting, the forum brought out a procession throughout district town. The leaders of the forum submitted memorandum to Prime Minister demanding to stop land grabbing by the Bengali settlers and to return back land to Jumma people.

**(2) In January 2005: Combing operation in Baghaichari upazila under Rangamati district and harassment on innocent villagers**

On 3 January 2005 an armed clash took place between the group of patrolling BDR and a group of UPDF armed cadres led by Nila Baran Chakma at Shilchari area under Baghaichari Upazila (sub-district) in Rangamati district. In this clash, a BDR personnel named Shahjahan was shot death by the UPDF. In connection to this clash, local BDR members and army of several camps/zones are engaged in operation in the area. In this operation, innocent public are being harassed in several forms such as arrest, torturing, detention with false cases, looting etc. Many villagers have been compelled to leave their houses. People are leading inhuman life.

More than 200 innocent villagers were tortured brutally and 8 innocent villagers were arrested. One minor boy was sexually harassed by the armed forces. Sacredness of at least 3 Buddhist temples were destroyed by slaughtering chickens in the compound of the temple. More than 50 families left their village due to further military assault. Below are the some examples of the aftermaths of the incident:

1. On 4 January 2005 at around 11 am, a patrolling group of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) of 32 Rifles Battalion of Kachuchari camp under Baghaichari zone of Baghaichari Upazila in Rangamati district caught, interrogated and tortured Mr. Angara Chakma (25), s/o Nishi Kumar Chakma and Mr. Mohan Banshi Chakma (65), s/o Chandia Chakma.
2. Later on the same day Mr. Mukul Kanti Chakma (25), s/o Anil Kanti Chakma and Mr. Badi Ranjan Chakma (32), s/o Nishi Kumar Chakma from Kachuchari village of Sarboatali Union were taken to the nearby Kachuchari BDR camp where they were interrogated and tortured.
3. On the same day the group of BDR searched the house of Mr. Anil Kanti Chakma (46), s/o late Kali Mohan Karbari of Shilchari under Sarboatali union in Baghaichari and took away some valuables. Besides, the BDR looted goods of 25,000 Taka and cash 2,200 Taka from his shop.
4. On the same day, the army of Longadu zone took away chicken and other utensils such as Jar, bowl, dao, spade etc. from the house of Mr. Parbadi Chakma (60), s/o late Kalachan Chakma of Shilchari of Sarboatali union.
5. On the same day at 3 p.m. a group of BDR of 32 Battalion under Marishya zone led by Kachuchari camp commander searched the house of Mr. Sudhir Shankar Chakma (60), s/o Kamal Chandra Chakma of Chota Kachuchari of Baghaichari and harassed his two sons namely Diganta Chakma (18) and Kalyan Chakma (16) and Mr. Atulamoy Chakma (24), s/o Pulin Chakma of Choto Kochuchari of Baghaichari by naming them as terrorist.
6. On the same day around 5 p.m. the army from 16 Bengal Longadu zone along the Bengali settlers ransacked the house of Mr. Bhallukya Chakma of Shilchari village and destroyed two trunk and took Taka 670 and cloths kept in the trunk and looted one small TV, one pump machine of 16 HP and a big size pan.
7. On the same day Mr. Pulin Chakma (42) s/o Bijoy Sen Chakma of Shilchari under Sarboatali union was arrested by the BDR of 32 Rifles Battalion of Marishya zone and after severe beating he was handed over to the Baghaichari police station. Next day he was sent to Rangamati jail accusing of false case.
8. On 5 January 2005 the army camped at Kachalong Arjapur Dharmojjal Bana Bihar caught and tortured inhumanly Mr. Bishwa Mitra Chakma (27), s/o Sumati Lal Chakma of Ugalchari under Baghaichari. He was admitted to Baghaichari hospital with serious injuries. Mr. Bhulukya Chakma (28) and Mr. Debendra Chakma were also seriously beaten up by the army.
9. On 6 January 2005 at around 10 p.m. the army camped at Kassalong Arjapur Dharmojjal Bana Bihar searched the house of Mr. Samratsur Chakma (42), s/o late Nanya Chakma, ex-Chairman of Baghaichari union. The army dug the floor of his house in search of arms and accused him as the arms trader. The army destroyed Mr. Chakma's valuable documents. It is to be mentioned that the

military stayed there from 5 January to 11 January. During their stay the army destroyed the sacredness of the Buddhist temple by slaughtering chickens in the compound of the temple.

10. On 6 January 2005 at 5:30 p.m. a group of army led by Major of Dighinala cantonment camped at Shilmuro Bana Kutir. During their stay the army destroyed the sacredness of the meditation centre by urinating and defecating at the mediation compound. The army also destroyed the signboard of the meditation centre. The army stayed there for one day and one night.
11. Description of the loss of the villagers as a result of the military and BDR operation-
  - 1) Mr. Badi Ranjan Chakma (36), s/o Nishi Kumar Chakma of Shilchari; his furniture was completely destroyed;
  - 2) Mr. Sura Mohan Chakma (45), s/o late Ananda Kumar Chakma; furniture of his house was destroyed;
  - 3) Mr. Milan Kanti Chakma (42); the furniture of his house, cash Taka 300/-, parts of the pump machine, 6 inches television were destroyed and damaged;
  - 4) Mr. Chandra Bikash Chakma (45); the furniture of his house were destroyed and damaged;
  - 5) Ms. Laksman Chakma (30); 5 chickens weighting approximately 7 kgs was looted;
  - 6) Mr. Kalpa Ranjan Chakma (34); 6 chickens weighting approximately 9 kgs was looted;
  - 7) Mr. Kripa Moy Chakma (27); 7 chickens weighting approximately 8 kgs was looted;
  - 8) Mr. Beragya Chakma (50); 3 chickens weighting approximately 5 kgs and 24 eggs were looted;
  - 9) Mr. Mohan Banshi Chakma (65); one goat weighting approximately 7 kgs and chickens weighting approximately 5 kgs was looted;
  - 10) Mr. Pulin Chakma; his house was destroyed, cash Taka 5,000/- and chickens weighting approximately 15 kgs were looted;
  - 11) Mr. Angara Chakma (25); chickens weighting approximately 5 kgs was looted;
12. On 7 January 2005, the followings were indiscriminately beaten up by the patrol party of army on their way from Dojar bazar to Durchase bazar by boat-
  - 1) Mr. Pradip Kumar Chakma (26), s/o Jnana Ratan Chakma of Nalbania village under Khedarmara union in Baghaichari upazila;
  - 2) Mr. Santu Chakma (22), s/o Briksha Moni Chakma of Nalbania village under Khedarmara Union in Baghaichari upazila;
  - 3) Mr. Ujjal Kanti Chakma (24), s/o Gunaban Chakma of Debachari of Ward no. 1 of Khedarmara union;
  - 4) Mr. Badal Kanti Chakma (42), s/o late Kali Mohan Karbari of Dojar village of Ward no. 9 of Baghaichari Union;
  - 5) Mr. Buddha Ranjan Chakma (40) of Dojar village of Ward no. 9 of Baghaichari Union;
  - 6) Montu Chakma (26), s/o Anna Deb Chakma of Monya Ram Para under Khedarmara union;
  - 7) Mr. Uttam Kumar Chakma (38), s/o Kala Chan Chakma of Uttar Pablakhali under Khedarmara union;
  - 8) Mr. Bichinge Chakma (32), s/o Shubha Ranjan Chakma of Purba Khedermara village under Khedarmara union; he was severely tortured by the army during interrogation.
13. On 8 January 2005 the following villagers of Nabochara village under Baghaichari Union were severely tortured by a patrolling group of army-
  - 1) Mr. Ripon Chakma (21), s/o Rabi Chakma of Madhyam Baghaichari
  - 2) Mr. Ripon Chakma (22) of village Konglak of Sajek union (Bara Kajoichari Primary School teacher);
  - 3) Mr. Jnana Shankar Chakma (45);
  - 4) Mr. Jatil Bihari Chakma (35), s/o Naramya Chakma;
  - 5) Mr. Kala Dhan Chakma (30), s/o Naramya Chakma;
  - 6) Mr. Sushil Chakma (35), s/o Chandra Moni Chakma of village Nobochara, Baghaichari union.
14. On the same day (8 January) at 3.00 p.m. Mr. Shambhu Mitra Chakma (32) s/o Surja Sen Chakma of Ultachari, Ward No 1, Sarboatali union and Mr. Purna Jiban Chakma (17) s/o Alo Moy

Chakma of the same village were caught and beaten by the army at Tangumachara Ultachari. They were released with serious injuries on the next day.

15. On 8 January 2005 the following persons were arrested by the army while cutting bamboos at Shilaban area of New Lankar. On 12 January 2005 Mr. Sunil Chakma (35) s/o Sushanti Chakma was seen along with the patrolling army group at Tulaban village. The victims were:
- 1) Mr. Anantashil Chakma (55), s/o Birendra Lal Chakma of Uluchari, Ward No. 1, Khedarmara union;
  - 2) Mr. Dilak Sudhir Chakma (25), s/o Late Jnana Lal Chakma of Ugalchari, Ward No. 7, Baghaichari union;
  - 3) Mr. Chiakn Chela Chakma (25), s/o Jamini Mohan Chakma of Ugalchari, ward no. 7, Baghaichari union;
  - 4) Mr. Sunil Chakma alias Sattabajya (25), s/o Sushanta Chakma of Ugalchari, Baghaichari Union.
16. On 9 January 2005 Mr. Metta Chakma (32), s/o Tukkyia Chakma was beaten by the army patrolling at Gobochari in Baghaichari upazila.

**Memorandum submitted to Prime Minister and other concerned authorities:**

On 15 January 2005 the following local public representatives and leaders submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs of Government of Bangladesh, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on CHT Affairs Ministry, Chairman of the Rangamati Hill District Council and Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati hill district for taking necessary steps to stop military harassment on innocent Jumma people, such as, torture, arrest, lodging false case, looting valuables, religious persecutions etc. The copy of the memorandum was sent to the Chairman of the CHT Regional Council and Circle Chief of Chakma Circle for necessary actions. They mentioned in the memorandum that they condemned killing of BDR personnel but it was not justified to commit brutal harassment by the BDR and army on the innocent Jumma villagers in the area in the name of searching armed miscreants. But the authority has taken no action so far. The signatories were:

- 1) Mr. Priyananda Chakma, Chairman of the Sorboatali union;
- 2) Mr. Suchitra Chakma, Chairman of the Khedarmara union;
- 3) Mr. Uttarayan Chakma, Chairman of the Bangaltali union;
- 4) Mr. Bishwapriya Chakma, Ex-chairman of Khedarmara union;
- 5) Mr. Tridiv Kanti Chakma, Member of the Sarboatali union;
- 6) Mr. Lalit Chandra Chakma, Member, Ward no. 9, Baghaichari union;
- 7) Mr. Brishaketu Chakma, Ex-chairman of the Sarboatali union;
- 8) Mr. Milan Kanti Chakma, Member, Ward no. 1, Sarboatali union;
- 9) Mr. Nikhil Jiban Chakma, local leader;
- 10) Mr. Amalendu Bikash Chakma, Ex-member of the Khedarmara union;
- 11) Mr. Samratsur Chakma, Ex-chairman of the Baghaichari union.

**Follow-up report on massive military atrocity in Baghaichari upazila**

Till 30 January 2005, the army and BDR are continuing combing operation in Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district. It is mentionable that a BDR person was shot dead by the UPDF at Shilchari village under Baghaichari upazila. In connection to this incident, the army and BDR started to conduct operation on the common people of the area in the name of searching armed miscreants. The local public representatives of several unions under Baghaichari upazila submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs of the Government People's Republic of Bangladesh including General Officer of Commanding (GOC) of 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of Chittagong cantonment for stopping military atrocity on the innocent Jumma villagers. In addition, the district branch of the PCJSS and the local public representatives also urged Government to stop military atrocity on the Jumma villagers in a press conference held in Rangamati press club on 28 January. But the combing operation is still going in the area so far. For instances:

1. On 12 January 2005 the army of 20 EBR from Baghahat camp led by Captain Mehedi conducted operation at Shijak area in Baghaichari upazila. After the operation, they stayed all night at Ugolchari BDR camp (32 Rifles) in Baghaichari upazila.
2. On 12 January Major Amzad and Captain Mehedi accused local leaders for killing of BDR member. Captain Mehedi threatened to continue combing operation throughout Baghaichari area so that the people could not cultivate their farmland. Even he would not permit local people to extract forest product so that local people would stay without food. The army officer ordered the local leaders to inform mass people that the army would fire if anybody ran away. Among others, Mr. Bibhu Ranjan Chakma, Headman of 380 Shijak mouza; Mr. Kiran Bikash Chakma, UP Chairman; Mr. Anil Chakma, Member of no. 8 Ward; Ms. Bakul Bala Chakma, Member of UP and Md. Gafur, local UP Member were present at Ugolchari camp at that time.
3. On 13 January as per his declaration Captain Mehedi with a group of army went out for operation to New Lallyaghona village. At 10.00 p.m. the army surrounded the house of Mr. Prabhat Kumar Chakma, Central Member of the PCJSS. Captain Mehedi harassed him and searched his house. The army also searched the houses of the villagers. After that, the army caught the following innocent villagers and took to the camp:
  - 1) Mr. Bachhu Mani Chakma (28) s/o Priya Lal Chakma
  - 2) Mr. Devashish Chakma (29)
  - 3) Mr. Iron Chakma (27) s/o Priya Lal Chakma
  - 4) Mr. Santosh Bimal Chakma (68) s/o Burigala Chakma
  - 5) Mr. Prabhat Kumar Chakma (52) s/o Surashi Sen Chakma
  - 6) Mr. Shankar Chakma (35) s/o Sura Mohan Chakma
  - 7) Mr. Raj Kumar Chakma (58) s/o Budungya Chakma
  - 8) Mr. Bana Bihari Chakma (58) s/o Brisha Mohan Chakma
  - 9) Mr. Sugata Chakma (55) s/o late Gyana Ranjan Chakma
  - 10) Mr. Nitish Chakma (24) s/o Sugata Chakma

Among them, Devashish Chakma and Iron Chakma were kept all night long at Ugolchari BDR camp and released next day after torturing brutally. The army also surrounded the house of Raj Kumar Chakma at night on 13 January and caught the following Jumma villagers who came there for cooperation to Raj Kumar for his mother's funeral function. The victims were:

- 1) Mr. Raj Kumar Chakma s/o Budungya Chakma
  - 2) Mr. Bhupati Chakma (32) s/o Jatindra Chakma
  - 3) Mr. Priya Baran Chakma (28) s/o Jyotirmoy Chakma
  - 4) Mr. Ram Chandra Chakma (27) s/o Ranga Choga Chakma
  - 5) Mr. Binoy Shankar Chakma (34) s/o Raj Chandra Chakma
  - 6) Mr. Khokan Alo Chakma (24) s/o Rabindra Chakma
  - 7) Mr. Devashish Chakma (22) s/o Ratna Kumar Chakma
  - 8) Mr. Tatu Muni Chakma alias Batya (27) s/o Hamesh Kumar Chakma
  - 9) Mr. Jayesh Chakma (22) s/o Sneha Kumar Chakma
  - 10) Mr. Rantu Chakma (22) s/o Samir Karbari
  - 11) Mr. Bantu Chakma (18) s/o Samir Karbari
  - 12) Mr. Anupam Chakma (22) s/o Prabhat Kumar Chakma
  - 13) Mr. Tarun Jiban Chakma (25) s/o Barun Kumar Chakma
  - 14) Mr. Golak Chandra Chakma (22) s/o Sadhan Kumar Chakma
  - 15) Mr. Binoy Chakma (20) s/o Soubhagya Chakma
  - 16) Ms. Bina Rani Chakma (32) w/o Rupam Chakma (returnee JSS member and now police constable)
  - 17) Mr. Iron Chakma (27) s/o Santosh Bimal Chakma.
4. On 14 January early in the morning the army also arrested Mr. Bhupati Chakma (34) s/o Jatindra Chakma from the house of Mr. Raj Kumar Chakma of New Lallyaghona village. The villagers were released later on after torturing brutally.

5. On 16 January 2005 the following two innocent villagers were arrested from their houses and released next day after torturing brutally by the same army led by Captain Mehedi. They got admission to Baghaichari upazila hospital:

- 1) Mr. Satya Prakash Chakma alias Chitta (28) s/o Ananda Kumar Chakma of Battala village under Baghaichari union
- 2) Mr. Ujjal Kanti Chakma (28) s/o Hemanta Kumar Chakma of Lambachari village of New Lallyaghona under Baghaichari union.

The army also searched the house of Mr. Ananda Kumar Chakma. They army caught following three innocent villagers:

- 3) Mr. Chitticha Chakma (20) s/o Ananda Kumar Chakma
- 4) Mr. Bitta Chakma (28) s/o Ananda Kumar Chakma
- 5) Mr. Hitosh Chakma (18) Gyana Lal Chakma

The army kept them all night long at Ugolchari camp and tortured them brutally. They army interrogated them whereabouts armed miscreants. If they (arrested people) informed about activities of the UPDF's armed group, then the army started them to beat and told them that the UPDF were well familiar to them (army). They did not need UPDF they need information about PCJSS. The army also searched the house of Ananda Priya Master and harassed him.

6. On 17 January a group of army led by Captain Masud conducted operation at Moreghonachara village and tortured 4 Jumma youths. The names of the victims were not available.
7. On 18 January a group of RAB (Rapid Action Battalion) from Khagrachari joined the combing operation in Baghaichari. They collected name and address of the accused Jumma people and information of members of the PCJSS living in Baghaichari police station. The group of RAB stationed at BDR camp.
8. On 21 January all the Jumma people while going to Dojar Bazar were brought down from trawlers and gathered at Dojar Buddhist temple. After that, the army started torturing at Dojar Buddhist temple. The army ordered the Jumma to pray to Lord Buddha whether he could save them from torturing.
9. On 23 January at 11.30 p.m. the army led by Captain Mehedi conducted operation at Ugolchari and its nearby villages. In this operation, the army arrested following 8 Jumma villagers from Ugolchari and its nearby areas. Among them, 5 villagers were released after brutally torture. One of them Mr. Sumentu Chakma got admitted to Baghaichari upazila hospital on 24 January. He was transferred to Rangamati general hospital with serious injuries on 25 January. Other 3 villagers, namely, Mr. Shanti Shankar Chakma alias Chipan, Mr. Tunya Chakma and Mr. Bhupati Chakma were handed over to Baghaichari police station on 24 January and produced to district court on 25 January. The army also searched house of Mr. Nirbashish Chakma (35) s/o Lalit Chandra Chakma and harassed him. The victims were:
  - 1) Mr. Shanti Shankar Chakma alias Chipan (35) s/o Mati Lal Chakma of Ugolchari village;
  - 2) Mr. Tunya Chakma (42) s/o Nirmal Kanti Chakma of Ugolchari village;
  - 3) Mr. Bhupati Chakma (38) s/o Jyotindra Lal Chakma of New Lallyaghona village;
  - 4) Mr. Baburam Chakma (23) s/o Nila Mohan Chakma of Ugolchari village;
  - 5) Mr. Kanchan Chakma (24) s/o Sugata Chakma of Ugolchari village;
  - 6) Mr. Annyo Chakma (22) s/o Patyaram Chakma of Ugolchari village;
  - 7) Mr. Tarun Chakma (30) s/o Barun Kumar Chakma of New Lallyaghona village;
  - 8) Mr. Sumentu Chakma (22) s/o Nirmal Chandra Chakma of Ugolchari village.
10. On 23 January 2005 Master Bandachya Chakma a 9 year old minor s/o Pagana Khulo Chakma of Dojar area was sexually abused by an army person while he, along with his one friend, went to collect forest products at nearby forest. The army sent the friend of Bandachya to buy him food and in the meantime he committed the sexual harassment. The army let the boy go home giving Taka 50 not to disclose this matter. Later the boy along with his friend went to the Dojar bazar and disclosed the matter. Mr. Milan Karbari and Mr. Shashanka Chakma informed the army major who was staying at the nearby Primary School.

The Jummas were sent back home with hope that he would deal with this matter. Later it was heard that the major beat and sent the army constable to Marishya.

11. More than 20 groups of army engaged in this operation are staying following areas:

- 1) Three groups of army at Uluchari led by Major Rashed of 16 EBR
- 2) Three groups of army at Ugolchari led by Major Amzad of 2 EBR
- 3) Three groups of army at Kachuchari led by Captain Masud of 28 EBR
- 4) Five groups of army at Marishya area
- 5) Three groups of army at Shijak Dojar area
- 6) Three groups of army at at Halimpur area.

It is learnt that on 5 January 2005 Mr. Sugata Chakma and Mr. Sumitra Chakma of UPDF called on the army of Engineering Core of Gangaram mukh camp at Gangaram mukh area to maintain their relationship.

### **(3) 15 January 2005: FIO and VDP personnel engaged Islamic fanatic postering in Ruma**

On 13 January 2005 Mr. Enamul Hoque, Field Investigation Officer (FIO) of security forces and Mr. Kasem, member of the Village Defense Party (VDP) have been found in sticking posters of Bangali Chhatra Parishad (Bengali Students' Council) in Ruma upazila under Badarban district. The Bangali Chhatra Parishad is extreme Islamic and nationalist organisation and the extreme fundamentalist force backed by army. The organization has been working against the Jumma people including PCJSS.

### **(4) 15 January 2005: A Jumma villager beat up by the army in Panchari**

On 15 January 2005 at around 7.30 p.m. a group of army led by Major Faruk from Nalkata camp under Panchari upazila in Khagrachari district conducted searching operation at Nalkata village in Panchari upazila. In this operation, the army caught and beaten brutally Mr. Bimal Kanti Chakma (35) s/o Bira Mohan Chakma.

### **(5) 22 January 2005: Jumma villagers tortured by the army in Panchari**

On 22 January 2005 a group of army of 6 EBR from Panchari zone conducted searching operation at Sadhuram Karbari Para under Logang union in Panchari upazila. During the operation, the army gathered all the villagers and harassed them interrogating unnecessary questions. The following innocent people were inhumanly beaten by the army. Among the victims, Mr. Indra Gandhi Chakma got serious injury. He was caught while he was going to his farm land for collecting turmeric. The victims were:

- 1) Mr. Mr. Indra Gandhi Chakma (35) s/o Matilal Chakma
- 2) Mr. Nagarchan Chakma (50)
- 3) Mr. Buddha Ranjan Chakma (30) s/o Nagarchan Chakma
- 4) Mr. Eltu Chakma (20) s/o Rangachan Chakma
- 5) Mr. Sadan Jyoti Chakma (18) s/o Kirti Dayal Chakma
- 6) Mr. Tutulya Chakma (16)
- 7) Mr. Sumati Ranjan (28) s/o Mahendra Chakma
- 8) Mr. Babu Chakma (16) s/o Mojara Chakma

### **(6) 25 January 2005: A Tripura woman rapped by an army in Matiranga**

On 25 January 2005 Ms. Kabla Tripura (28) w/o Ratnadhan Tripura of Alutila Madyam Para village under Matiranga upazila in Khagrachari district was raped by an army person of Hriday Member Para army camp under Khedachara army zone. At that time, Ms. Kabla Tripura went to jungle near to village to collect hemp and the army caught her. The name of the army involved with this heinous rape was not identified. The Commanding Officer of the Khedachara zone put pressure upon the relatives of Kabla Tripura for compromising.

### **(7) 26 January 2005: Two Jummas arrested by the army in Naniarchar**

On 26 January 2005 Mr. Uttam Mani Chakma, Mr. Suren Cakma and other three passengers were arrested from a launch at Burighat bazar under Naniarchar upazila in Rangamati district and tortured

inhumanly. Among them, Uttam Mani Chakma was handed over to Kotowali police station of Rangamati district under section 54 on 27 January 2005. The rest were released.

**(8) 27 January 2005: Shashanka Dhamai victimised again by the army in Matiranga**

On 27 January 2005 at around 3:00 a.m., Bangladesh military led by Major Babar from the Matiranga zone under Guimara Brigade in Khagrachari district raided the house of the Mr. Shashanka Dhamai s/o late Jatindra Dhamai of Bailyachari School Para village under Matiranga sub-district of Khagrachari district. The military brutally tortured him for his failure to tell the whereabouts of Jirendra Tripura, an indigenous person who was charged with “terrorist activities” by military intelligence.

Shashanka Dhamai was an international refugee repatriated from India to the Chittagong Hill Tracts under the 20-Point Package Agreement signed between the Government of Bangladesh and leaders of the Jumma refugees in 1997.

The military also accused Mr. Dhamai of having relations with “terrorists”. They interrogated and harassed him over the expenditure of his sons studying in Dhaka and Chittagong. He was set free on the condition of submission of a report of his yearly income. He was ordered to report to the military camp every. He was arrested by Bangladesh military on 11 August 2004 too and kidnapped by UPDF armed cadres twice last year for the activities of his son Binota Moy Dhamai, General Secretary of the Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), an indigenous students organization supporting the PCJSS, the only political organization representing the Jumma indigenous people.

**(9) 21 January 2005: Prafulla Tripura shot dead by the UPDF in Guimara**

On 21 January 2005 Mr. Prafulla Tripura (40) s/o Bipul Tripura of Bailyachari village under Guimara police station in Khagrachari district was shot dead by the armed group of the UPDF. On that day at 7.00 p.m. the UPDF miscreants kidnapped Prafulla Tripura from his house and then shot him dead and left him at the nearby jungle. The UPDF closed Prafulla’s shop some days before. A case was lodged with Guimara police station.

**February 2005**

**(10) 15 February 2005: 6 innocent Jummas arrested by the army in Baghahat**

On 15 February 2005 at 11:00 a.m. six innocent Jumma people were arrested from a shop of Gyanaram Karbari of Hajachara-Baghahat area of Baghachari upazila under Rangamati district and later inhumanly tortured by a group of Bangladesh army led by Lt. Colonel Abdul Rob of Baghahat zone under 203 Khagrachari brigade of Khagrachari district. The victims were as follows:

- 1) Kulin Chakma Swapan, 22, village- Pujgang, Panchari upazila, Khagrachari Hill District. (It is notable that Kulin Chakma is one of relatives of shopkeeper Gyanram Karbari and he went for a visit here).
- 2) Buddha Dhan Chakma, 28, a businessman, village- Baibachara, Baghahat area of Baghachari upazila, Rangamati Hill District.
- 3) Sonaiya Chakma, 29, s/o Banijya Chakma, village- Hajachari, Baghahat area of Baghachari upazila, Rangamati Hill District.
- 4) Nidhu Chakma, 20, s/o Gyanaram Chakma, village- Hajachari, Baghahat area of Baghachari upazila, Rangamati Hill District.
- 5) Shankar Chakma, 23, village- Karenga Tali, Baghachari upazila, Rangamati Hill District.
- 6) Sneha Chakma Machya, 35, village- Pahnchari, Dighinala upazila, Khagrachari Hill District. (He is a businessman of small-scale.)

It was known that on that day the above-mentioned persons were playing caroms and taking tea at the shop of Gyanaram Karbari. At the time of 11:00 a.m. a number of army personnel from Baghahat zone came at and surrounded the shop. After a moment they fired a blank shot. As a result, all the present persons tried to run away from the shop. On the instant, army personnel led by Lt. Colonel Abdul Rob rushed to the spot and arrested the innocent people. After arrest, the attained innocent

persons were beaten mercilessly and threatened by the army saying this that “all the arrested persons are collector and terror of PCJSS. For long 24 years they were involved in terrorist activities of PCJSS and they are still so.” At last, due to physical torture the arrested persons were compelled to admit as supporter and collector of PCJSS.

Next day on 16 February the army led by Major Sourab handed over Kulin Chakma Swapan and Buddha Dhan Chakma to Baghaichari police station along with a country-made gun. The rests were released. The local people told that around one and half month before, a Bengali settler found this country-made gun at the stream near Baghaihat bazar while he was fishing. He deposited this gun to the army zone. But it was mentioned in case filed against Kulin Chakma Swapan and Buddha Dhan Chakma with Baghaichari police station that this was found with them.

### **PCJSS Appeal to bring the CHT issues during the upcoming Donors Meet to be held in Washington**

Rangamati, 21 February 2005

For the first time in the history of Bangladesh the donor community is going to organize a highest-level meet in Washington on 23 and 24 instant, to rethink about their aid strategy to combat the alarming situation in Bangladesh. The series bomb blasts, extra-judicial executions, emerging fundamentalist militancy, deterioration of good governance, human rights violations have forced the donor community to undertake such a stern move. The Daily Star, a prestigious national daily of Bangladesh writes in its 18th February issue under the caption “**Washington Meet, Donors rethink aid strategy for rise in militancy**”.

“...For the first time in Bangladesh's history, donors are sitting in Washington in a high profile meet to take some serious decisions on their aid strategy against the backdrop of their heightening concerns about deteriorating governance, rising lawlessness and the fear that fundamentalist militancy gaining grounds because of the government's inertia.

According to highly placed diplomatic sources, a large group of European donors, an influential European country having substantial aid involvement in Bangladesh and some Scandinavian countries want to persuade the multilateral donors and the US to take a tough line on aid and link it with greater response to good governance and human rights and restraining militants, all issues of serious international concerns.”

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region has been under continuous military rule since the birth of Bangladesh in 1972. It is, still, under a kind of military Rule through “Operation Uttoron”, with near about 500 regular camps, even after signing the CHT Accord in 1997, which has ceased armed conflict between the centre and the periphery and established a special administration, a kind of local autonomy recognizing the 11 indigenous Jumma peoples and permanent Bengalis’ rights. The deliberate violation of the obligations of the CHT Accord and some clauses of the CHT Regional Council and three Hill District Council Acts including continued infiltration by Bengalis from outside CHT and drastic expansion of Bengali settlers over Jumma peoples land have taken the Jumma people’s survival into the stake. Regular military accesses on the Jumma people is a common phenomena, which is always found in favour of establishment of Bengali settlement by out numbering the Jumma people in their own traditional land.

In this situation the PCJSS, on behalf of the CHT people, appeals the donor community to bring the CHT issues during the upcoming Washington Meet. The PCJSS also draws the kind attention of its friendly organizations and Human rights groups throughout the world to immediately take up the issue with their respective governments/quarters with a request so that the CHT issue gets priority in this meet. The CHT Accord and the interest of the Jumma people and the permanent Bengalis can thus be saved.

### **26-27 February 2005: Road blockade programme observed at Khagrachari-Mahalchari road by local people**

On 26-27 February 2005 the local people of Gamaridhala, Lemuchari, Nunchari, Pagujyachari and Katting Tila observed road blockade programme at Khagrachari-Mahalchari-Rangamati road demanding to stop indigenous Jumma people's land grabbing by the Bengali settlers with the help of army at Gamaridhala, Lemuchari, Nunchari, Pagujyachari and Katting Tila under Khagrachari sadar and Mahalchari upazila.

It is mentionable that from November 2004 the Bengali settlers of Maischari (Nunchari), Nunchari and Pagujyachari cluster villages under Khagrachari district became active to occupy land of Jumma people at Gamaridhala, Lemuchari, Nunchari, Pagujyachari and Katting Tila areas under Khagrachari sadar and Mahalchari upazila. For this purpose, the Bengali settlers with the help of local army constructed dozens of houses on land of Jumma people at day-night from November 2004. At the last, due to tremendous pressure from the Jumma people, the army and police stopped the Bengali settlers from construction of house and occupying the Jummas' land forcefully. Though, forceful land grabbing was stopped, but the army gathered the Bengali settlers at Maischari High School instead of returning them back to the cluster village. As a result, the Bengali settlers have started to occupy Jumma people's land and construction of house on occupied land.

In February 2005 a team of Jumma representatives including Mr. Hangsadhvaj Chakma, Convenor of Khagrachari Citizens' Forum, Mr. Santoshita Chakma Bakul, leader of the returnee Jumma refugees and other community and traditional representatives called on Deputy Commissioner and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari district and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Mahalchari upazila several times demanding to stop land grabbing by the Bengali settlers. But no proper step has been taken so far for necessary actions.

### March 2005

#### **(11) 4 March 2005: Rangamati HDC Chairman ill-treated by the army**

On March 4, 2005 Dr. Manik Lal Dewan was forced to stop his jeep by some Captain Quader at a place in between Lemuchari and Chongrachari under Mahalchari Upazila where some Bengali Muslim settlers were constructing their houses on the lands of Jumma people and the Captain, in stead of saluting rather ill-treated Dr. Dewan. These three examples are enough to judge the gravity of the situation and intensity of militarisation in the CHT.

#### **(12) 17 March 2005: Innocent villagers beaten by the APB at Hazaribag area in Rangamati**

On 17 March 2005, a group of APB members in disguise of general Bengali went to gather sand from Hazaribag area of Balukhali Union under Rangamati District by two boats. The owners of the under mentioned land requested the APB members not to gather sand while they were gathering sand from their land. But, at this, the APB members grew angry and began to beat the landowners. The victims are as follows-

- 1) Shantu Chakma (16), s/o Pradip Chandra Chakma
- 2) Binanda Chakma (36)
- 3) Nigaramoni Chakma (18), s/o Shashi Chandra Chakma and
- 4) Juddadhan Chakma, s/o Chokh Kala Chakma (a returnee PCJSS member)

Hearing shouting, publics came forward to rescue the landowners while they were being beaten up by the APB members who were in disguise of general publics. The rescuers realized only then that the disguised publics are the members of security force dressed in white apparels while they opened up their arms. Later, the commander of that group contacted with his senior officer on wireless set and became inspired to take some villagers as fugitive. Ultimately the APB members refrained from gathering sand due to strong protestation by the local people. The locals also showed agitation while the APBs tried to captivate Mr. Jiban Chakma (28) on their returning. Later, the APB members were compelled to leave the spot and anchored their boats at the jetty of Armed Police Battalion in Rangamati.

The local villagers complained that those white dressed APB members went to gather sand for several times from that area before with paying no cost for it.

**(13) 19 March 2005: Public meeting foiled by army in Baghahat**

On 19 March 2005 a public meeting was organised jointly by Sajek union committees of PCJSS and Hill Students' council at Baghahat area under Baghaichari upazila of Rangamati Hill District. At the beginning of the meeting lieutenant Sabbir of Baghahat zone came at the meeting spot and wanted to know the aims and objectives of the meeting from Clinton Chakma, general secretary of Sajek union committee of Hill Students' Council. In replying, Clinton Chakma and his associates said that they would discuss about development activities of UNDP. Hearing this, in counter reply, lieutenant Sabbir said that if UNDP worked, would work through us (army), not through any NGO or another organisation. After that lieutenant Sabbir went to the zone. But after a moment lieutenant Sabbir again came to the meeting spot accompanying by one major and threatening the people said that no meeting would be allowed here in any case.

**(14) In March 2005: Harassment raids by army personnel in Rangamati town**

In the last of the month of March the army personnel made harassment over several Jumma houses of different places in two days in Rangamati town in the name of so-called raid.

It was learnt that on 28 March 2005 at about 9:00 p.m. a group of army personnel conducted a raid over two houses including the house of Mr. Sanchay Chakma, president of Hill Students' Council, Vedvedi area branch of the town. In the same date, at about 12:00 p.m. another group of army personnel raided more five houses of Rangapani area of the town. The names of owner of those houses are: 1) Nilanga Chakma, 2) Kalaya Chakma, 3) Sukhamoy Chakma, 4) Annamuni Chakma, 5) Pushpa Dhan Chakma.

On the other hand, 31 March 2005 late night at about 12:00 p.m. a group of army personnel surrounded the house of Nishi Kumar Chakma at Jogendra Dewan Para of Rangapani and made Nishi Kumar Chakma awake from sleep. Then the army asked Nishi Kumar Chakma groundlessly whether there was any disturbance. Nishi Kumar Chakma is an innocent employee.

**(15) In March 2005: Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs halted by the army**

In March 2005 Mr. Mani Swapan Dewan, M.P. and Deputy Minister, MoCHTA was asked to stop his speed boat by the army check post personnel of Dighalchhari Army Zone Headquarters in Belaichari Upazila (Sub-district) while he was proceeding towards Farua with police escort. In same month, Dr. Manik Lal Dewan, Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council, holding the status of Deputy Minister was also forced to stop his speed boat at a check post under Jurochhari Upazila and was misbehaved and even was asked to climb up the hilltop for reporting to the Army camp commander, while he was in an official tour with police escort and the UNO (Sub-district Administrative Officer) of Jurochhari Upazila.

**(16) 24 March 2005: Returnee PCJSS member killed by the UPDF in Panchari**

On 24 March 2005 at around 11.30 a.m. a group of UPDF's armed cadres fired on house of returnee PCJSS member Santosh Bikash Chakma Rupantor at College Gate of Panchari upazila under Khagrachari district. The UPDF's armed cadres first attack on the PCJSS office of Panchari upazila. But that time, there was no PCJSS member at the office. Then the armed miscreants made attack on Santosh Bikash Chakma's house which was very closed to PCJSS office. In this armed attack, Mr. Santosh Bikash Chakma Rupantor (48) and his wife Ms. Ratna Chakma (45) were injured serious. Soon after attack, Santosh Bikash Chakma and Ratna Chakma were admitted at Khagrachari General hospital.

Due to seriously injury, Santosh Bikash Chakma was transferred to Chittagong Medical College hospital on that day at 3.00 p.m. He got bullet injuries at back and neck. But he died at 9.00 p.m. on 27 March. The police have been playing passive role to-date in connection with this incident.

It is mentionable that the UPDF accused that on 20 March 2005 at 7:05 p.m. PCJSS carried out an attack on the UPDF office at Kudukchari in Rangamati district where a supporter of UPDF named Biro Chakma, ex-chairman of Shubholing Union Parishad was shot dead. The PCJSS denied conducting this attack.

#### **24-25 March 2005: National Round Table Conference held in Dhaka**

A National Round Table Conference (NRTC) was organized by the Bangladesh Adivasi Forum (BAF), National Adivasi Coordination Committee (NACC) and Hill Tracts NGO Froum (HTNF) in association with Nojera Kori with the support of Minority Rights Group International, London (MRG) on 24-25 March 2005 at YWCA auditorium in Dhaka.

The inaugural session of the NRTC was held at 10.00 a.m. where Raja Devasish Roy, Convenor of NACC and HTNF presided over and Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, Chairman of CHTRC, President of BAF and President of PCJSS was present as guest of honour at the conference. Among other, Mr. Promode Mankin, MP, Ms. Khushi Kabir, Executive Director of Nijera Kori, Ms. Samia Khan, representative of MRG, Mr. Michael Soren, adivasi leader from North Bengal delivered speech in the conference. Mr. Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary and renowned adivasi writer made welcome address in the inaugural session.

In the closing session of the conference Mr. Mani Swapan Dewan, MP and Deputy Minister, Ministry of CHT Affairs was present as guest of honour where Mr. Sanjeeb Drong presided over. Among other, Mr. Raja Devasish Roy, Mr. Ushit Mong from Barguna district, Mr. Ananda Mohan Singh from Mymensingh, Mr. Ram Bhajan Koiri from Sylhet tea estate delivered speech at the closing session.

50 adivasi representatives from allover the country participated in the NRTC. Besides, 10 intellectuals, academics, human rights activists, media activists and cultural activists of mainstream people attended in the conference as an observer. Among other issues, Land rights and land disputes of indigenous people, rights to self-government, organizational and networking were discussed in the conference. Recommendations comprising 26 points were also adopted in the conference. Among others, the main issues adopted in the recommendations were:

- (1) To recognize indigenous people in Bangladesh constitution;
- (2) To recognize land rights of the IPs;
- (3) To stop eviction of IPs from their ancestral land in the name development, establishment of eco-parks and military installations, afforestation etc;
- (4) To recognize rights to self-government;
- (5) To hand over powers and functions to the CHT Regional Council and Hill District Councils as per CHT Accord;
- (6) To establish a separate ministry for indigenous people living out of CHT;
- (7) To strengthen networking among the indigenous peoples and their organizations;
- (8) To implement CHT Accord properly and immediately.

It is mentionable that in 1997 a National Round Table Conference of Indigenous Peoples of Bangladesh took place in Dhaka organized by National Adivasi Coordination Committee (NACC), Bangladesh Indigenous and Hill Peoples Association (BIHPA) and Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) with the support of Minority Rights Group, International. A declaration (called the *Adivasi Declaration, 1997*) was adopted in the conference. The Declaration included the following recommendations:

- The recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Constitution of Bangladesh;
- The protection and promotion of the languages, culture, customary laws and way of life and indigenous knowledge systems of indigenous peoples;
- The ratification of ILO Convention 169 and measures for the implementation of the same (and for the implementation of appropriate provisions of ILO Convention 107 pending ratification of Convention 169);
- The introduction of primary education in indigenous languages and the establishment of schools and other educational institutions in indigenous peoples' areas on a priority basis;

- Necessary steps to raise awareness about indigenous culture, traditions and way of life and disseminate proper information about indigenous peoples within mainstream society through amendments to national curricula, and through the national media.

The organizers of the forthcoming *National Round Table Conference in 2005* feel that the 2005 conference should draw upon the work of the 1997 Conference and take the process forward. In particular, attention to the following, among other, issues are considered extremely important:

- Review and audit the overall situation of the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh from 1997 to 2005;
- Identify existing and emerging issues of importance to the Indigenous peoples of Bangladesh with a view to meeting those challenges;
- Strengthen networking and solidarity between and among indigenous peoples and their organizations to enable them to take collective and well-organized initiatives to protect their rights;
- Develop and strengthen networking and solidarity between the indigenous peoples and members of civil society within Bangladesh and elsewhere;
- Identify ways and means to help implement specific provisions of the Adivasi Declaration of 1997 in phases.

It may be mentioned that the Government of Bangladesh does not have a formal policy with regard to the indigenous peoples of the country. Therefore, no safeguards on land rights and other vital matters have been identified. Similarly, no measures have been identified to deal with specific problems faced by indigenous peoples. It is partly because of the absence of such safeguards that indigenous peoples continue to face eviction from their ancestral lands in the name of ‘development’ or ‘environment’ or national defence (for “eco-parks”, “national parks”, reserved forests, and military camps, bases and training centres). Indigenous peoples’ culture is treated as inferior and they continue to face discrimination in almost every sphere of life. The self-government systems of the indigenous peoples of the plains districts remain totally unrecognized. On the other hand, the CHT region remains highly militarized, and the most important provisions of the Peace Accord of 1997 on demilitarization, land, self-government and law and order remain unimplemented.

However, despite severe discrimination and oppression, the solidarity between and among indigenous peoples in both the hill region and in the other regions has grown in a significant manner between 1997 to today. Although discriminatory attitudes within mainstream society are still widespread, a number of support networks involving both indigenous and non-indigenous people has grown. However, the number and activities of such networks is quite limited, and the expected focus in mainstream political and developmental agenda has not been achieved. Therefore, the organizers feel that a national round table conference to discuss strategy and programmes on the aforesaid issues is extremely timely.

#### April 2005

##### **(17) 1 April 2005: Expansion of APB Camp in Baghaichari**

The respective villagers of Tulaban and Kadamtali reported that a group of Armed Police Battalion (APB) personnel set up a tent on 1 April 2005 on the land of Mr. Tukhya Chakma, village of Kadamtali. This place is a middle point of Tulaban and Kadamtali village of Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district. The villagers assumed that the APB personnel have been setting up this tent for expanding a camp on that land.

##### **(18) 4 April 2005: A public meeting foiled by army personnel in Baghaichari**

On 4 April 2005 at around 12.00 a.m. PCJSS of local union branch of Baghaihat under Baghaichari called a public meeting on the occasion of Bizu 2005 (a traditional social festival of indigenous Jumma people) as well as regarding development project of UNDP at the house of Jyoti Lal Karbari at

Gangaram Mukh village of Baghahat area of Sajek union under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district. Former union member Shanti Moy Chakma, Organising Secretary of PCJSS of local union branch led the public meeting.

Right at the said moment a group of army personnel led by Lieutenant Kaium of Baghahat zone surrounded the place and participants of meeting. Thereafter, the army personnel noted down names and addresses of the participants and then they left the place.

Just after two hours of that event again a group of army personnel led by one major including the said Lieutenant came to the meeting spot and then they forced the participants to break the meeting. Even the army personnel ordered that nobody would be allowed to organise such a meeting in the area. The major aiming at Shanti Moy Chakma said that the meeting was foiled as per order of Commanding Officer (CO) of Baghahat zone and Shanti Moy Chakma must meet the CO.

Later on 6 April 2005 at about 11:00 a.m. Shanti Moy Chakma met the CO and he had received an order from the CO that any kind of meeting regarding development or non-development would not be allowed at this locality except open Meeting with mike.

#### **(19) 6 April 2005: PCJSS leader insulted by army in Matiranga**

On 6 April 2005 at about 10:00 p.m. a group of army personnel led by Major Babar of Matiranga zone surrounded the house of Amar Sing Chakma, president of PCJSS of Matiranga upazila committee of Khagrachari district. Then Major Babar brought an allegation to Amar Sing Chakma without any ground that PCJSS was responsible for the incident occurred at Nakkopara area under Matiranga upazila on 4 April 2005 where Surendra Karbari of Kholapara was kidnapped. At that time the army personnel motivatedly made pressure on Amar Sing Chakma to find out kidnapped Surendra Karbari. Even the said Major threatened Amar Sing Chakma that if he failed to do so Amar Sing Chakma would be faced severe consequences.

It is mentionable that Amar Sing Chakma is father of Jimpu Chakma who was killed by army personnel of Matiranga army zone through inhuman torture on 23 August 2004.

Besides, the army personnel of Matiranga zone led by Lieutenant Colonel Enaet Ullah physically tortured on the innocent returnee Jumma refugee of Chan Kumar Karbari Para village on 28 March 2005.

#### **(20) 11 April 2005: PCJSS leaders threatened by the DGFI in Rangamati**

On 11 April, two PCJSS leaders, namely, Mr. Gyana Ranjan Chakma, Convenor of Naniarchar branch of the PCJSS and Mr. Siddhartha Chakma, PCJSS local leader, went to Khan Bari (district headquarter of the DGFI) at Tabalchari to meet with Major Siraj in request of Md. Jasim, an agent of Directorate-General of Field Intelligence (DGFI) at 7.00 p.m. During the meeting Major Siraj threatened the PCJSS leaders and asked the following questions:

- 1) Whether PCJSS would participate in the next parliamentary election and whether PCJSS would support Awami League nominee Mr. Shaktiman Chakma in the Parliamentary Election or would support Mr. Mani Swapan Dewan, present Deputy Minister of the BNP. The local PCJSS leaders replied that they did not know anything about the election.
- 2) Whether Samiran Chakma who surrendered to PCJSS quitting UPDF supplied arms for PCJSS. In reply, the leaders said that they did not know Shamiran and the questions asked by Major Siraj were not true.
- 3) Whether Ashapurna Chakma is engaged in extortion in Rangamati area and deposited it to Mr. Satyabir Dewan for various purposes including arms purchasing. The leaders replied that they knew nothing about this.

Major Siraj told them that he did not understand about the Unwritten Agreement between the government and the PCJSS what the PCJSS president has been raising in the public meetings and demanding for the proper implementation of the CHT Accord and withdrawal of all temporary camps.

Finally major Siraj threatened to death by Cross Fire all pro-accord activists including Mr. Satyabir Dewan and Ashapura Chakma. He also motivatedly asked whether the Vedvedi area in Rangamati municipality is base area for the PCJSS. The leaders replied to the Major's question is absolutely baseless. The Major also advised them not to mention (demand) the withdrawal of military and military camps. These would never be withdrawn from the CHT region

**(21) 22 April 2005: Army threatened some local leaders in Baghahat**

On 22 April 2005 C.O of Baghahat zone Lt. Colonel Abdur Rob called local leader Manas Chakma (Manas Babu), Ripan Chakma (Ripan Babu) and ex UP member Shanti Chakma staying at Baghahat area to meet with him. At that time, zone commander Abdur Rob threatened and said that UPDF was opposed to come to Baghahat. So, after this, if any kidnapping occurred here, JSS would be responsible for this. Besides, the commander also said that those who were here would have to bear responsibility of all incidents.

**(22) 27 April 2005: Army raids in Baghahat**

On 27 April 2005 at night army personnel of Baghahat zone surrounded and raided several villages nearby Baghahat area of Baghaichari upazila under Rangamati hill district. The names of the said villages are: 1) Retkapa, 2) Baghahat Guchchagram, 3) Gongaram door, 4) Dipupara, 5) Ahjha Chara, 6) Baiba Chara. While conducting surrounding and raid the army personnel aiming at the villagers said that Bangladesh was a democratic country, so, if PCJSS stayed, why not UPDF?

**(23) April 2005: Bengali settlers rehabilitation in Baghaichari by the army**

In April 2005 it was learnt that 300 Bengali Muslim settler families are being rehabilitated by the army at Baghahat under Baghachari upazila of Rangamati Hill District. The Bengali settler families are being relocated to Baghahat area from the surrounding area of Dighinala Cantonment under Khagrachari district.

This relocation is being undertaken by the army of Dighinala cantonment and Baghahat zone. It is also reported that more than 14 families have already been settled at Baghahat Bazaar area and 117 more families will be brought under the relocation programme.

There is also plan to settle down Bengali on the roadside of Baghaichari-Baghahat-Sajek. Decision has been taken to settle down 4000 families at Machalong area.

The day labors engaged in road construction work are the ones who have settled down there. Sajek road is one of the roads which is being constructed by the army and where all day labors are Bengali settlers.

**(24) 17 April 2005: UPDF Terrorists Kidnapped Twelve Jumma Villagers**

On 17 April 2005, 12 innocent Jumma villagers were kidnapped from Alutilla village of Vedvedi an outskirt of Rangamati town. The local residents accused the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) an anti-CHT Accord organization for this incident. The kidnapped persons are as follows-

- 1) Mr. Banamoni Chakma (35) s/o Debakya Chakma
- 2) Mr. Sunil Bikash Chakma (18) s/o Noadhan Chakma
- 3) Mr. Santimoy Chakma (35) s/o Bhula Chakma
- 4) Mr. Kripamoy Chakma (25) s/o Bhula Chakma
- 5) Mr. Lakshmimoy Chakma (32) s/o Bhula Chakma
- 6) Mr. Sundari Kumar Chakma (18) s/o Chida Chakma
- 7) Mr. Chuchyang Khula Chakma (50) s/o Kalabija Chakma
- 8) Mr. Durbasha Muni Chakma (40) s/o Lambashira Chakma
- 9) Mr. Bhagya Mani Chakma (18) s/o Biraj Mani Chakma
- 10) Mr. Kalachan Chakma (52) s/o Jambu Mani Chakma
- 11) Mr. Liton Chakma (18) s/o Sadhan Mani Chakma
- 12) Mr. Pathar Muni Chakma (35) s/o Debakya Chakma

It is learnt that a group of UPDF armed cadres came to Alutila village and cordoned it and searched every house of the village at 10 pm on 17 April. Later, the miscreants kidnapped twelve villagers on gun points. After the incident, panic prevails over the village and none dares to open mouth in fear.

The relatives of the victims contacted on 18 April to the UPDF office at Kutukchari which is very near to Kutukchari army camp. The UPDF leaders demanded heavy amount of ransom. At the last after paying ransom, the victims were released on last night of 18 April. On 19 April early in the morning, a group of army from Rangamati region rushed to the Katachari village and brought victims to the camp. The victims were kept whole day at the camp and interrogated them one after other. It is also mentionable that, one year ago, seven villagers were kidnapped from the very same village by the armed terrorists of the same organization UPDF, who were, later, released in exchange of heavy ransom.

#### **(25) 20 April 2005: Sama Adhikar Andolan called meeting in Khagrachari district**

On 20 April 2005 communal organisation of Bengali Muslim settlers 'Sama Adhikar Andolan' (Equal Rights Movement) led by Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, MP from Khagrachari organised a public meeting at Mukta Manch in Khagrachari town against the PCJSS and its leader Santu Larma. Among others, local BNP leader Mr. Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan; his brother Mr. Belahet Hossain Bhuiyan, Chairman of Ramgarh pourashave; Mr. Joinal Abedin, Chairman of the Khagrachari pourashava; Mr. Mustafikur Rahman Maruf, general secretary of Sama Odhikar Andolan etc delivered the speech in the meeting. Some Jumma puppets, namely, Mr. Prabin Chandra Chakma, Mr. Animesh Chakma Rinku, Mr. Animesh Dewan Nandit, Ms. Deb Rani Chakma also attended the meeting.

Mr. Wadud Bhuiyan threatened that no obstacle would be tolerated if any body tried to do conspiracy against Bengali people in CHT and to prevent the movement of the Sama Odhikar Andolan. He also mentioned that he would take necessary actions against the elements who were engaged against the Bengali people.

Mr. Belayet Hossain Bhuiyan publicly declared that they would not tolerate PCJSS and its leader Mr. Santu Larma. They would crush PCJSS and its leader Santu Larma by hock and crock.

#### **(26) April 2005: Fake leaflet published by the Wadood Gang**

In April 2005 Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan gang published a fake leaflet in the name of some Jumma civil society leaders against the PCJSS and its leader Mr. Santu Larma. The leaders of the Jumma civil society whose names and signatures were printed in the leaflet complained that the Samna Odhikar Andolan, an Islamic communal organisation of the Bengali settlers led by Mr. Mustafikur Rahman Maruf, played active role to publish this fake leaflet. Mustafikur Rahman Maruf who was a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the Awami League and joined BNP after 2001 parliamentary election has been working actively against the PCJSS and Jumma people with the direct support of the local army. The leaders of the Jumma civil society also mentioned that the army of the Khagrachari brigade might be involved to publish this fake leaflet. They also mentioned that the signatures printed in the leaflet were given on 28 February 2005 in protest letter against the Khagrachari Trade Fair.

It is not worthy that the trade fair was organised in Khagrachari by the Khagrachari district administration and Khagrachari Chamber of Commerce and Industry in March 2005. The leaders of the Jumma civil society protested against it as it would hamper candidates of the SSC and HSC examinations and would attract youth to involve gambling.

It is also mentionable that during the inauguration ceremony of the trade fair, Mr. Rokunuddin, Brigade Commander of the Khagrachari Region threatened the Jumma people that he would not tolerate any strike and road blockade programme. At that time, local Jumma people in support of the Jumma civil society and Khagrachari Citizen Forum called road blockade programme demanding stopping of the land grabbing by the Bengali Muslim settlers in Ghamaridhala, Lemuchari, Joysen Karbari Para, Nunchari of the Khagrachari and Mahalchari upazilas.

## May 2005

### **(27) In May 2005: Tribal quota again under controlled by the military**

The Military personnel who are active in the CHT with the government order "Operation Uttoron" is also seeking from the government their rights to control over "Tribal" quota to engineering and agricultural universities and medical colleges to activate the terms of reference of the "Operation Uttoron". Before signing of the CHT Accord and even after, this quota was controlled by the military. It was maintained from the military point of view. After protests from different quarters including the PCJSS the previous Sheikh Hasina government handed the responsibility over to the CHT Affairs Ministry.

### **(28) In May 2005: Massive Bengali Muslim settlement in Sajek undertook by the GoB**

Massive Bengali Muslim settlement in Sajek under Baghaichari upazila (sub-district) in Rangamati has reportedly been undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh. It is learnt that the Government is preparing to settle 8,000 Bengali Muslim families on the roadsides of the newly built Baghaihat-Sajek road that leads to the border of Mizoram state of India. The road goes through the Kassalong reserved forest that falls under Rangamati Hill District. According to Forest Act of 1927 and Bangladesh Forest (Amendment) Act 2000 there is no scope to settle any people in the reserved forest area. The said road has recently been completed (has not yet been metalled) and it has been built through the Bangladesh army from the inter-border politico-military point of view. The decision for construction of this road was taken up and started by Sheikh Hasina government in 2001.

The information received on 18th May last that the Government of Bangladesh asked the CHT Affairs Ministry to allocate free ration to more 28,000 Bengali settler families. If it is done then there will be in total 55,000 Bengali settler families in the CHT who will be getting free ration. It has been guessed that some will be brought into the CHT and some will be from those who have already infiltrated into the CHT to get the new food grain allocation. This is really an alarming news.

For the last few days military officials have been frequenting to the area. Rangamati Brigade Commander will visit Sajek in a few days. Soldiers are now clearing jungles for a temporary helipad to enable a military copter to drop the Brigade commander. According to the alleged plan the government will settle them on a vast hilly area from Baghaihat to Majolong in the Union. As part of the blueprint, apart from constructing the Sajek road, a new army camp has already been set up in a place called Nandaram.

The settlement of such a large number of Bengali settler families will have devastating effect on the environment. It will evict the Christian Pankua nationality who have been living in the area peacefully.

### **(29) 28 May 2005: A Joint Press Conference by Civil Society Organizations of the CHT on Land Grabbing**

On 28 May 2005 a Joint Press Conference by Civil Society Organizations of the CHT demanding revocation of the order of acquiring land for establishment of BDR camp on Jumma people's land at Babuchara and Pujgang under Khagrachari district, stop the government move to set up Boalkhali Nutton Bazaar, reclamation of land under the Buddha Shishughar Orphanage including that of Pagoda, Hari Temple and burning ground, and illegally occupied Jumma people's land, stop to land occupation and protection of land rights of Jumma people held at National Press Club in Dhaka.

In the press conference, the following leaders were present on behalf of the permanent residents of Khagrachari district:

- 1) Mr. Hangsadhvaj Chakma, Chairman of the Khagrachari District Citizen's Committee and Convenor of CHT Liaison Committee;
- 2) Mr. Santoshita Chakma, General Secretary of Khagrachari District Citizen's Committee and CHT Jumma Refugee Welfare Association;
- 3) Mr. Tapas Tripura, Office Secretary of Khagrachari District Citizen's Committee;
- 4) Mr. Kamal Bikash Chakma, Assistant Office Secretary of Khagrachari District Citizen's Committee;

- 5) Ven. Sumanalankar Mahathero, President of Parbatya Bhikkhu Sangha;
- 6) Ven. Gyanapriya Bhikkhu, Member of Parbatya Bhikkhu Sangha;
- 7) Ven. Sumon Mohathero, Chairperson, Parbotya Bhikkhu Sangha, Mohalchari Branch Mr. Shaktipada Tripura, President of Khagrachari Headmen Association;
- 8) Mr. Suina Prue Chowdhury, General Secretary of Khagrachari Headmen Association;
- 9) Advocate Ashutosh Chakma, President, Hill Law Graduate Association;
- 10) Advocate Supal Chakma, Membre of Hill Law Graduate Association;
- 11) Mr. Pravakar Chakma, President of CHT Jumma Refugee Welfare Association;
- 12) Mr. Mongsa Prue Karbary, Vice President of CHT Jumma Refugee Association.

In a written statement the leaders said during press conference that there was a turmoiling situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) for more than two decades. From 1979 to 1993, a total large 13 massacres were committed by the government agents upon Jumma peoples. At last, with a view to establish lasting peace, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1997 an agreement popularly known as CHT Peace Accord was reached by the Government of Bangladesh and PCJSS after 27 rounds of talks. In addition to that, the Government of Bangladesh signed the 16-Point Package Agreement and 20-Point Package Agreement respectively on 12/02/94 and 09/03/97 with the representatives of Jumma refugees, who took shelter in Tripura state, India for security of life during the conflict period in the CHT. And following the CHT Agreement and Package Agreements, 64609 refugees of 12,222 families returned home from exile in Tripura state, India. New hopes emerged among the Jumma peoples of the CHT that a congenial atmosphere would be created through the CHT Agreement and common people would get back their lands lost during the conflict period. They could live in peace with their family members. But now, those hopes have been shattered into pieces, as the government still keeps on applying the 'divide and rule' policy among the Jumma peoples. State repression has been intensified more. The examples that substantiate this fact are the Babuchara incident (16/10/99), Madhya Boalkhali incident (18/05/2001), Ramgarh incident (19/04/2003), Maischari incident (12/04/98), Bhuachari incident (19/04/2003) and Mahalchari incident (26/08/2003) are notable. These incidents happened with direct support and participation of some government agents and many Jumma people were killed, tortured and women were raped. Houses were looted and set in fire. Moreover, false and concocted cases are filed against Jumma people, for which they are harassed economically, physically and mentally. The Bengali settlers forcefully occupied the Jumma people's registered grove lands (hilly lands) respectively on 23/11/2001 and 25/11/2004 in 250 No. Lemuchari Mouza and Kutting Tilla under Mahalchari Upazilla. Appeals were made to the concerned administration, yet the Jumma people did not back their lands. In order to resolve this land problem, On 25/11/2001, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Khagrachari called a meeting inviting both parties – Bengalis and Jumma people, and other government officials and that meeting adopted a resolution containing decisions – "1) cluster villagers (settlers), at their own initiatives, will wrap up their newly constructed houses at Lemuchari. Otherwise these houses will be dismantled with help of police; 2) until and unless any order is issued by the district administration, no party shall construct any houses in the disputed land." On the other hand, on 13/12/2004, the Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Mahalchari called a meeting in order to resolve the land dispute in Kutting Tilla. That meeting also resulted in a resolution saying that, "the houses, which were constructed in disputed land shall be withdrawn by the constructors (who made the houses) at their own initiatives. Otherwise, police will dismantle those houses." So far, these decisions have not been implemented; whereas the land grabbers lodged a writ with the High Court against these decisions. And also, they have filed false cases against the landowners. The settlers get all out support from the army, police, and district administration. Also notable that Mr. Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, who got appointed to the chairmanship of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) *ultra vires* the CHT Agreement, has been using the CHTDB to rehabilitate the Bengali settlers in the traditional jum lands of Jumma people in Matiranga, Manikchari and Ramgarh. Simultaneously a special quarter of the government keeps on provoking the Bengali settlers to grab the Jumma people's lands.

The government yet did not fulfill its commitments given to the returnee refugees; it could not ensure security for their lives and resources. As per the clauses of 7, 8 and 9 of the 20-Point Package Agreement and article 7 under the Chapter D of the CHT Agreement, no initiatives have been taken for redemption from loan. Thousands families did not get back their homestead, gardens, cultivable

lands, jum and Mouza reserved forests yet. The important issues such as reinstatement to jobs, upgrading the jobs with emolument of persons reinstated, creation of job employment opportunities for the youths in Hill District Councils (HDC) and CHTDB, withdrawal of all temporary camps of the army, Ansar, VDP and APBN, settlement of lands with Jumma refugees on special consideration, and withdrawal of false cases remain unresolved.

Also notable that during the conflict period, thousands of Jumma families were displaced from their ancestral lands. Many of them became refugees in India. A large portion of them took shelter in different parts within the country and they are known as internally displaced people (IDP), who number 90208 families as per the report of Task Force on refugee affairs. As per the CHT Agreement, the Task Force has mandate to rehabilitate the Jumma IDPs and returnee refugees from India. Through a circular with reference No. PCBM (SM – 1) – 09/99, issued on 10/11/2003 by the Ministry of CHT Affairs (MoCHTA), the Task Force was reconstituted for the third time. Since then three meetings were held and the last meeting took place on 21/11/2004. So far, no headway has been made. Due to non-implementation of these commitments, the Jumma refugees have been leading sub-human life. In contrast, the Bengali settlers occupied the Jumma refugees and IDPs' lands in 1986 illegally and to-date these lands are under their control. The settlers, who infiltrated into the CHT in 1979 through Haji Camp project, have receiving ration and other government institutional support until today.

Every citizen has right to practise own religion. But this right has been violated in the CHT in many ways. Many pagodas, temples and orphanage were looted and destroyed and set in fire. For many times in different places in the CHT the images of the Lord Buddha were demolished. Buddhist monks were beaten and got killed by the settlers. As of now, available data reveal that the lands of 6 pagodas, 2 Hari temples, 2 orphanages and many burning grounds of the Jumma people are under the grip of Bengali settlers and army. On 16/10/99, the Buddhist monks and Shramans of Benuban Bouddha Bihar were beaten in Babuchara incident. In Mahalchari incident, a pagoda was destroyed and set in fire. On the last 05/03/2005, at mid night the Bengali settlers constructed 20 houses in the land under the possession of Bouddha Shishughar Orphanage. The orphanage authority lodged a complaint with Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Mahalchari, local army camp Commander, Deputy Commissioner, and Khagrachari Brigade Commander, but no response was received from them. In the last week of the last month, the Bengali settlers again constructed five houses there, as the UNO, Army and Deputy Commissioner remain silent about this matter. Moreover, the Bengali settlers have filed false and concocted cases against some Marma community people (ref. 49/2005, section 447/379/506 (1)/109) and Genera Secretary of Bouddha Shishughar Orphanage and the Headmaster of Bouddha Shishughar High School. Thus the Buddhist monks and Shramans are facing ill treatment and harassment by the army and settlers.

It is notable that the Jumma people were displaced from their ancestral lands through many ways. One of such ways is the establishment of Bazaar. Many Bazaars were established on the Jumma people's lands, for example, Kattoli Bazaar (Boalkhali Nuton Bazaar), Kabakhali Bazaar, Rasik Nagor Bazaar, Madhya Boalkhali Bazaar, Betchari Bazaar and Chongrachari Bazaar. Of them two Bazaars – Tabalchari and Boalkhali Bazaar are 'public market' were illegally set up on Jumma people's land. The District Bazaar Fund Administrator and some other officials are by all means standing by the shopkeepers of these Bazaars to deprive the Jumma people from the rights to their land. Even the Deputy Commissioner and the District Bazaar Fund Administrator (Khagrachari HDC Chairman) do not abide-by the verdict and stay order issued by the Judge Court. The present Deputy Commissioner and District Bazaar Fund Administrator do not agree with the instructions, order or any injunctions issued by the previous Deputy Commissioner, District Bazaar Fund Administrator and Executive Officer of Roads and Highways Department. For example, the verdict against the Miss Appeal (Khagrachari) No. 33/96, 14/03/99) and the stay order issued by the Judge of the Chittagong Judge's Court – of which the Bazaar Fund (Appeal) (Khag) No. 26/04, dated 09/06/2004, UNO of Dighinala, reference No. 6 /48/96, 1353, dated 12/08/96 Sub-Assistant Enginneer (R&HW), \Dighinala Road, Branch – 2, reference No. Merung Road, Branch 3, dated 01/01/03, Additional District Magistrate, Khagrachari reference No – 3-11-16/96-(56)/J,M, dated 25/07/96 etc. are notable. The Jumma refugees are compelled to live in transit camp of Dighinala Residential School, because they did not

get their land back. That is, the land illegally occupied by Boalkhali Nuton Bazaar (Kattoli Bazaar) is their homestead, which they did not get back yet.

Like past, numerous conspiracies are being intrigued in the three hill districts of CHT for creating artificial crisis. Ill-attempt made to distract the people of the country as well as the world in publishing and broadcasting wrong and concocted information through various mass medias. According to CHT Accord and 20-point package agreement, there are the provisions for the withdrawal of temporary army camps. The CHT Accord should be implemented for the development and peace of the country. No need to establish camps for creating disturbance on around 450 acres land composing of 10 hills of Jumma refugees and Jumma displace persons of Pujgang area of Panchari Upazilla. There is no logic to establish BDR camp knowingly on the cultivable land and homesteads of Jumma people in Babuchara, which is more than 50 miles away from Bangladesh-India border. It has already proved that hundreds of Jumma families have been displaced and become landless when camps established in any areas of the CHT. Knowing this fact, there is no need to establish camps on any cultivable land and villages of Jumma people. There is no environment for living the Jumma people near the camp areas and compelled them to be displaced. If the Jumma people are really be rehabilitated and returned back their homesteads, gardens, cultivable land, jum land, mouza reserved forests, temples, asrams and burning ground, the Bengali settlers must be rehabilitated outside the CHT in other plain districts of the country with respectful and proper rehabilitation. Because the settlers have been settled on the occupied land, are the ancestral lands of the Jumma people of the CHT from where they have been uprooted by torture.

Therefore, we are appealing for cordial cooperation for the protection of identity and land rights of the CHT Jumma people to all conscious and humanitarian political personalities, social workers, academicians, poets, literatureteurs, Artists, cultural activists, lawyers, business persons, industrialists and journalists of Bangladesh on the basis of the CHT regulation 1900, CHT Accord, ILO Conventions and other international laws related to indigenou and tribal people. We place the following of our demands to the Government of Bangladesh for immediate action and implementation.

- 1) To reclaim the land and burning ground from Bengali settlers and army camps of Buddha Chishughar Orphanage along with Parbottya Chattal Buddha Orphanage, Banuban Buddha Vihar of Bipinkarbari para, Udayan Chan Buddha Vihar of Chotta Hazachara, Fulchan Karbari Para (Ghana Muya Adam), Mohajani Buddha Vihar, Kalachan Mohajon Para Buddha Vihar, Tangya Mohajon Para Buddha Vihar, Khrisna Dyal Para Hori Mandhir, Ramubabu Dhebar Newh Para Hori Mandir and Ramghar Mohamuni Buddha Vihar.
- 2) To cancel the order of land acquisitions for the establishment of army camp in Pujgang of Panchari Upazilla and to immediate cancel the illegal process of establishment of Boyalkhali Nuton Bazaar by the government on the homestead of Jumma refugees.
- 3) To immediate rehabilitation of the India-returned Jumma Refugees and internally displaced persons.
- 4) To immediate rehabilitation of the Bengali settlers to their concerned plain districts for the shake of the proper rehabilitation of Jumma Refugees and Jumma Displaced persons of CHT.
- 5) To stop the infiltration of Bengali settlers for the protection of CHT Jumma people.
- 6) To immediate withdrawal of temporary all army, Ansar, VDP and APBN camps according to CHT Accord.
- 7) To immediately start the activities of land commission with the amendment of contradictory Land Commission Act 2001 in accordance with CHT Accord.
- 8) To re-establish the Boyalkhali and Tabalchari government Bazaar to its previous place and to stop the illegal establishment on the Jumma people's land of Private Boyalkhali Nuton Bazaar, Kabakhali Bazaar, Roshiknagar Bazaar, Madhya Boyalkhali Bazaar, Batchari Bazaar and Changrachari Bazaar.

- 9) To cancel immediately the order of land acquisition process for the shake of forestry and extension of camps in Khagrachari hill district as well as three-hill district.

Day by day, the lives of the Jumma people of three hill districts is becoming in danger as the way the state mechanisms are acting in Khagrachari hill district as well as other two hill districts. Therefore, we are cordially requesting to our journalists sisters and brothers, to draw the attention of the humanitarian people of the country through their writings and immensely broadcasting and publishing to ensure the identity and land rights of unlucky Jumma people. They said that if the government does not take necessary actions for implementation of the above-described demand by June 2005, they, the undersigned organizations, would compel to take up stern programmes.

### June 2005

#### **(30) 2 June 2005: Harassment on permanent Bengali residents by the army and police**

On 2 June 2005 Yusuf Alam, Farid Ahmad and Jaker Hossain were called at the office of the 114 signal company in Rangamati brigade by the said Captain. He ordered them not to work for PBWC and not to meet with Mr. Santu Larma, Chairman of the CHT Regional Council and President of the PCJSS. He also ordered them to join and work for CHT Equal Rights Movement (Sama Adhikar Andolon), a communal and army-back organization of the Bengali settlers. He also threatened them that army has the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and police forces. They can kill any body including them at any time by the RAB or police forces. So, they would kill leaders of the PBWC if they do not leave PBWC and abolish it. Captain Ferdous also threatened the leaders that they would face severe consequence if they disclosed it to Mr. Larma and leaders of the PCJSS.

On the same day, two leader of the PBWC in Khagrachari namely Gafur Ahmed Talukder and Abdur Rahman were caught at 4.00 p.m. by the police and kept at the custody of the Khagrachari police station till 10.00 p.m. The police also ordered them not to attend the meeting of the central committee in Rangamati. The police threatened them that they would face severe consequence if they participate in the meeting. Same threat and pressures were also made in Bandarban district against the following leaders of the PBWC. They were (1) Sadek Ali Munshi, convenor, Bandarban district committee, PBWC, (2) Toiub Ahmed Talukder, member secretary, Bandarban district committee, PBWC, (3) Kazi Nasim, central committee member, PBWC, (4) Ahmmad Hosain Chowdhury, central committee member, PBWC, and (5) Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Joint secretary, Bandarban district committee, PBWC.

It is mentionable that the Central Committee of PBWC called its committee meeting on 3 June 2005 in Rangamati. But, because of the army and police interference this meeting could not take place. The army and police took heinous steps against this meeting and ordered leaders of the PBWC in Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban simultaneously not to hold this meeting.

#### **(31) 14 June 2005: Military atrocity on permanent Bengali residents in CHT**

On 14 June 2005 the army of Rangamati brigade led by Captain Ferdous harassed and tortured 18 leaders of CHT Permanent Bengali Welfare Council (Adi O Sthayee Bangali Kalyan Parishad) at the office of the 114 brigade signal company of Rangamati brigade. Among them, 3 leaders were brutally tortured. Md. Azam Ali Azam, one of the tortured leaders, got admitted to Rangamati General Hospital with serious injury.

Captain Ferdous who is the G-3 of Rangamati army brigade and head of 114 brigade signal company and Field Investigation Operation (FIO) ordered the following 18 leaders of the permanent Bengali residents to meet him at his office at 10.00 a.m.

- (1) Yusuf Alam, President, Central Committee, Permanent Bengali Welfare Council (PBWC)
- (2) Farid Ahmed, President, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (3) Mokhter Ahmed, Vice President, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (4) Azam Ali Azam, General Secretary, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (5) Mohammad Hanif, Organising Secretary, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC

- (6) Nur Hossain, Assistant Organising Secretary, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (7) Md. Iyub, Assistant Organising Secretary, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (8) Md. Mahbub, Social Welfare Secretary, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (9) Khorshed Alam, Office Secretary, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (10) Yusuf Talukder, Cashier, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (11) Nauri Amin, Land and Law Secretary, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (12) Shukkur Talukder, Member, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (13) Md. Harun, Member, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (14) Md. Shamsu, Contractor, Reserve Bazar

The names of 4 leaders were not available. As per the order issued by the said Captain Ferdous, they went at the army signal office to meet him. They were kept in three separate rooms and called one by one for interrogation. The captain threatened them and ordered (a) not to work for Adi O Sthayee Bangali Kalyan Parishad (b) not to keep liaison and contact with Mr. Santu Larma, Chairman of the CHT Regional Council and President of the PCJSS (c) to leave Rangamati with family soon and (d) if fail to do so they would be killed at any time.

During the interrogation, the following were beaten by the army:

- (1) Farid Ahmed, President, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (2) Azam Ali Azam, General Secretary, Rangamati District Committee, PBWC
- (3) Md. Shamsu, Contractor, Reserve Bazar.

Protesting against the military interference and harassment, the PBWC undertook a programme to organize a protest meeting in Rangamati on 15 June 2005. Again, in order to obstruct the meeting, the army again called 18 above mentioned leaders of the PBWC on 14 June and issued above mentioned orders.

It is also notable that on the same day (14 June) at 7.00 p.m. the Equal Rights Movement (Sama Adhikar Andolon) held a meeting at its office of Laker's Public School road, Kattaltali under Rangamati sadar where they decided to:

- (a) attack on the procession of permanent Bengali, if the PBWC organizes meeting;
- (b) make obstacles in organizing any meeting by the PBWC.

On 11 June the members of the Equal Rights Movement attacked on Global Village programme at Rangamati Municipal Hall while organizing Debate Competition from 9 June to 11 June. They declared that no NGO run by Bengali would be allowed to work in CHT.

It is learnt that Mr. Azam Ali Azam, who is now in the hospital was further threatened by the army that he would be kidnapped if this incident is published on newspapers.

#### **Reasons behind the attack on leaders of PBWC:**

There is a provision in the CHT Accord signed between the Government of Bangladesh and the PCJSS in 1997 that "Non-tribal Permanent Resident" shall mean a person who is not a tribal and who has lands of lawful entitlement in the hill districts and who generally lives in the hill districts at a specific address.

According to this provision, the old Bengali people are regarded as Permanent Resident as they have lands of lawful entitlement in the hill districts and have been living in CHT for centuries. But the Bengali settlers who were settled down in CHT since 1979 by the Government are not entitled to "Non-tribal Permanent Resident".

With this backdrop, the old Bengali people who are regarded as Permanent Resident have been supporting CHT Accord. In contrary, the Bengali settlers who are not entitled as "Non-tribal Permanent Resident" have been opposing CHT Accord since its sign in 1997. The old Bengali people formed PBWC soon after the signing of the CHT Accord and have been working for implementation of the Accord. On the contrary, last year the Bengali settlers led by Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan formed CHT Equal Rights Movement to oppose implementation of the CHT Accord and to implement the government's ethnic cleansing policy.

Consequently, supporting to the implementation movement of the CHT Accord is one of the main reasons behind this attack upon the leaders of the PBWC by the army and government agencies.

### **Protest Meeting:**

On 15 June 2005 at 11.00 a.m. the Rangamati Municipal Committee of the PBWC held a protest meeting at premises of the Rangamati Shilpakala Academy where Abul Kashem, President of the Rangamati Municipal Committee presided over the meeting and Mr. Ushatan Talukder, Political Secretary of the PCJSS attended as Chief Guest. Among other, General Secretary of the Rangamati Upazila Committee of the PBWC Mr. Salauddin Karim, Member of the Bandarban District Committee of the PBWC Mr. A K M Abbas, General Secretary of the Rangamati Municipal Committee of the PBWC Mr. Babul Chandra Nath, General Secretary of the Rangamati PCJSS Mr. Palash Kisha and President of the PCP Ujjal Chakma delivered speech in the meeting.

First of all, a procession was brought out from Shilpakala Academy to office of the Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati district. After protest meeting, the leader of the PBWC submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister of Government of Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh through Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati district. The following demands were raised in the memorandum:

- (1) To rehabilitate affected old and permanent Bengali residents of Kaptai dam with an aim to accelerate education, health and socio-economic development;
- (2) To stop harassment and threatening to the leaders of the PBWC by the army intelligence agencies led by Captain Ferdous;
- (3) To ensure fundamental rights of the old and permanent Bengali residents including security of life and property and rights to expression and association;
- (4) To implement CHT Peace Accord properly.

Vice President of the Rangamati District Committee of the PBWC Mr. Mokhter Ahmed was picked up by the DGFI (joint intelligence agent) from Municipal super market at 12.00 noon while he was coming to join in the protest meeting. He was taken to Khan Bari, torturing centre of the military in Rangamati. He was interrogated about the press statement circulated on 14 June 2005 by the PBWC. He was released at 3.00 p.m. It was mentionable that he issued press statement on military atrocity on behalf of the PBWC soon after got release from army custody.

### **(32) 15 June 2005: Two false filed against leaders of the PBWC by the instigation of the army**

On 15 June 2005 a false case (GR no. 145/05 dated 15/06/05 with section 341/323/379 of panel court) was filed against following leaders of the CHT Permanent Bengali Welfare Council (Adi O Sthayee Bangali Kalyan Parishad) (PBWC) with Rangamati police station by Mr. Shahid Chowdhury, ex-commissioner of Rangamati Municipal and President of Rangamati Municipal Committee of the CHT Equal Rights Movement. The defendants were:

- (1) Mr. Sadek Mian Bhandari
- (2) Mr. Abu Taher
- (3) Mr. Abdul Jalil Master
- (4) Mr. Mokhter Ahamed

They were falsely accused to attack on procession of the Equal Rights Movement held on 15 June at 7.00 p.m. Among them, Sadek Mian Bhandari and Abu Taher were arrested on 17 June at 1.30 a.m. from their home located near Rangamati Govt. Women College. Though it was week end but they were produced to Magistrate Court on Friday and first hearing was held on 18 June. The defendants were released on bail on first hearing.

On the other, on 16 June 2005 another false case (GR no. 146/05 dated 16/06/05 with section 341/365/506 of panel court) against following leaders of the PBWC was filed with Rangamati police station by Mr. Anowarul Azim of Reserve Bazar. The defendants of this case were:

- (1) Mr. Azam Ali Azam

- (2) Mr. Jaker Hossain
- (3) Mr. Abul Kasem
- (4) Mr. Mohammad Hasan
- (5) Mr. Kajal Chandra Nath
- (6) Mr. Nurul Islam Murugi

Among them, Azam Ali Azam was tried to arrest and take away from Rangamati hospital on 17 June at 1.00 a.m. But the doctor did not allow police to take Azam Ali away from hospital as he was under treatment. But at 8.30 he was forcefully taken away to Rangamati police station. It is mentionable that he was beaten and seriously injured by Captain Ferdous on 14 June and admitted to Rangamati hospital. The case was lodged in connection with kidnapping of driver of Radhaman bus named Mr. Ripan Chakma from Ghilachari area under Naniarchar sub-district (Ranagmati-Khagrachari road) on 12 June. It is also worth mentioning that the complainant Mr. Anowarul Azim filed this case as an owner of the bus named Radhaman. In fact, the owner of bus (Radhaman) is Mr. Sushil Bikash Chakma, a returnee PCJSS member. It is also interesting that Mr. Ripan Chakma was not kidnapped at that day. Some local people halted his bus as he ran his bus over a goat. It was compromised as he paid TK 1,200 for goat.

Azam Ali Aazam was also produced to Magistrate Court on Friday and first hearing was held on 18 June. He was granted bail. The 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing was held on 21 June and bus owner Mr. Sushil Bikash Chakma and bus driver Mr. Ripan Chakma were present at the hearing. Nevertheless Azam Ali was not granted again. Rather, he was granted police remand for one day.

### **(33) In June 2005: Pressure made on the leaders of the PBWC to join Equal Rights Movement by the army**

Like leaders of the PBWC in Rangamati, the army of 69 region of Bandarban have also been creating pressure upon the leaders of the PBWC to abolish PBWC and join to Equal Rights Movement. Brigade Captain Sohel on behalf of Bandarban region called leaders of the PBWC for the same. But the leaders of the PBWC in Bandarban denied to do so.

On 18 June 2005 army of Bandarban region called following leaders of the PBWC once again at brigade office. But they did not attend there. Failing this attempt, the leaders of the PBWC were invited for dinner by Mr. Mahbub Rahman. The leaders of the PBWC were:

- (1) Mr. Sadek Ali Munsif, Convenor of Bandarban district branch of the PBWC
- (2) Mr. Mohammad Abbas Uddin Chowdhury, Member of Bandarban district branch of the PBWC
- (3) Mr. Liyakat, Member of Bandarban district branch of the PBWC
- (4) Mr. Abul Hossain Master, Member of Bandarban district branch of the PBWC

The following leaders of the Equal Rights Movement were also invited in the dinner:

- (1) Mr. Osman Goni, President of Bandarban district branch of the Movement
- (2) Mr. Mahbub Rahman, Member of the Equal Rights Movement
- (3) Mr. Osman, ex-commissioner of Bandarban Municipal and Member of the Equal Rights Movement
- (4) Mr. Kamal, Member of the Equal Rights Movement

During dinner, the leaders of the Equal Rights Movement put following proposals to the leaders of the PBWC:

- (1) To join to the Equal Rights Movement leaving PBWC;
- (2) To abolish PBWC as it was an anti-Bengali organisation
- (3) To form a new organisation jointly by the leaders of both organisations.

The leaders of the PBWC denied to accept these proposals. As a result, on 19 June at 10.00 a.m. Captain Sohel again called them and tried to make compromise till 2.00 p.m. After that, the leaders of the PBWC were forcefully taken to press club and Mr. Osman Goni, President of the Bandarban district branch of the Equal Rights Movement started to declare one sided that the leaders of the PBWC abolished PBWC and joined to the Equal Rights Movement.

At that time, the leaders of the PBWC opposed it and they declared that the PBWC has been supporting CHT Peace Accord and on the other the Equal Rights Movement has been opposing the Accord. So, these organisations cannot join together.

At that time, camera of electronic media was ready and all the reporters were present for wider publicity. But it was ended into fail as the leaders of the PBWC were adamant to do so.

But some newspapers except Daily Prothom Alo published news that PBWC was abolished and the leaders of the PBWC joined to the Equal Rights Movement. On 20 June, Sadek Ali Munsif, Convenor of Bandarban branch of the PBWC and Mr. M A Toiyab Talukder, member-secretary of the PBWC released rejoinder to the false news.

#### **(34) 23 June 2005: Jumma houses destroyed by the BDR personnel in Sajek**

On 23 June 2005 a group of BDR from Lonkar BDR camp conducted operation through out the New Lonkar and Old Lonkar area of Sajek union under Baghaichari sub-district in Rangamati district. In this operation, the BDR personnel destroyed more than 20 houses of Jum cultivators of Devachari, New Lonkar, Old Lonkar, Halimbari and Chizhuk villages of Sajek Union. It was learnt that the operation was conducted by the instruction of the Zone Commander of Marishya zone. The BDR personnel intentionally accused that the terrorists have been residing in these houses.

#### **(35) 23 June 2005: BDR destroyed Jumma's houses in Sajek**

On 23 June 2005 a group of BDR from Lonkor BDR camp conducted operation through out the New Lonkar and Old Lonkar area of Sajek union under Baghaichari sub-district in Rangamati district. In this operation, the BDR personnel destroyed more than 20 houses of Jum cultivators of Devachari, New Lonkar, Old Lonkar, Halimbari and Chizhuk villages of Sajek Union. It was learnt that the operation was conducted by the instruction of the Zone Commander of Marishya zone. The BDR personnel intentionally accused that the terrorists have been residing in these houses.

It is learnt that on 6 June 2005 Lt. Colonel Md. Azizur Rahman of Marishya BDR zone under Baghaichari in Rangamati district declared to evict Jum cultivators from Sajek area under Baghaichari upazila (sub-district). It was declared in a law and order meeting where upazila level government officials, local political and social leaders and public representatives were present. In his speech, he declared that no terrorist would be escaped from the move against terrorism. Under this move, the Jum cultivators in Sajek union under Baghaichar upazila would be evicted. Among other, the following persons were present in the meeting:

- 1) Mr. Nizam Uddin Babu, President of BNP of Baghaichari branch
  - 2) Mr. Sneha Kanti Chakma, Health and Family Planning Officer
  - 3) Mr. Brishaketu Chakma, President of Awami League of Baghaichari branch
  - 4) Mr. Sudarshan Chakma, General Secretary of PCJSS of Baghaichari branch
  - 5) Mr. Deva Prasad Dewan,
  - 6) Mr. Azizur Rahman Aziz
  - 7) Mr. Samshul Huda
  - 8) Mr. Swapan Kumar Dey
  - 9) Mr. Dilip Kumar Das
  - 10) Mr. Rezaul, 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer of Baghaichari police station
  - 11) Md. Ali Hossain
  - 12) Md. Gias Uddin
  - 13) Mr. Naba Alo Chakma
- and commanders of the VDP (Village Defence Party) and Ansar.

It is mentionable that though the BDR zone commander Lt. Colonel Md. Azizur Rahman declared to evict Jum cultivators in Sajek on that day, but in fact the eviction has been started some days back. Last eviction was conducted by the BDR on 23 June 2005. In this operation, the BDR personnel destroyed more than 20 houses of Jum cultivators of Devachari, New Lonkar, Old Lonkar, Halimbari and Chizhuk villages of Sajek Union. Hundreds of Jum cultivators became homeless due to BDR's eviction move and destruction of their houses.

The Jum cultivators protested against inhuman eviction. They expressed that they would leave Sajek reserve forest area if the government rehabilitates them as per CHT Accord. There is a provision in the CHT Accord to rehabilitate the internally displaced Jumma families on their original homesteads from where they were compelled to leave due to series of massacres committed by the army and Bengali settlers.

***Follow-up of Sajek eviction:***

In June 2005 the BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) of Rului camp of 32 battalion led by one Subedar destroyed the houses of the Jum cultivators in the name of so-called terrorist cleansing programme. The following names of village no. 8 of Kamalak mouza under Sajek union whose houses were destroyed have been received so far. The valuables of the houses have been destroyed and they were also tortured by the BDR personnel. The victims were:

- 1) Mr. Kula Mani Chakma (45) s/o Bhupil Chandra Chakma
- 2) Mr. Chandra Bijoy Chakma (35) s/o Chandra Joy Chakma
- 3) Mr. Gopal Chakma (48) s/o Birendra Chakma
- 4) Mr. Bira Ranjan Chakma (40) s/o Nishi Mohan Chakma
- 5) Mr. Smriti Shankar Chakma (30) s/o Purna Mohan Chakma
- 6) Mr. Indu Bikash Chakma (30) s/o Rajani Kumar Chakma
- 7) Mr. Kiranjit Chakma (60)
- 8) Mr. Madan Kumar Chakma (55) s/o Kalya Sing Chakma.

There are also several Jum cultivators whose names are not available due to remoteness of the areas. On the other hand, on 20 June 2005 Mr. Shanti Kumar Chakma (ex-member of Sajek union) of same village was called to the camp and tortured by the Commanding Officer (CO) of Baghaihat BDR sub-zone Mr. Abdur Rab. He was falsely accused to form and control armed group in favour of PCJSS. On 17 June 2005 Mr. Chittacha Chakma s/o Ban Kumar Chakma of village Gangaram Mukh by the army of local army camp while he was returning home from Jum farm. He was released on the request of the villagers.

On 29 June 2005 the houses of the following Jum cultivators have also been destroyed:

- 1) Mr. Fula Mani Chakma (27) s/o Bhagalya Chakma of village Debachara under Sajek;
- 2) Mr. Ramani Chandra Chakma (32) of village Debachara under Sajek;
- 3) Mr. Nakreng Chakma (35) s/o Tibirabuo Chakma of village Debachara under Sajek;
- 4) Mr. Denga Chakma (28) of village Debachara under Sajek;

It is also learnt that at present 25 families of Bengali settlers are staying at Massalong area of Sajek union under Baghaichari upazila (sub-district). They might be settled down there under recent government's initiative for settlement of Bengali families in the areas.

## July 2005

### **(36) 2 July 2005: Bengali settlers organised public meeting in Rangamati**

On 2 July 2005 the CHT Equal Rights Movement (ERM) organised public gathering at the Rangamati Municipal Hall. They submitted a memorandum to UNDP through Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati district demanding 10 points of charter including followings:

- (1) Equal rights for the Bengali settlers;
- (2) To hang Mr. Santu Larma, Chairman of CHTRC and President of PCJSS to death;
- (3) To cancel CHT Accord;
- (4) To include Bengali settlers to the development programme.

Mr. Abul Kasem, central leader of the ERM presided over the meeting while Mr. Mashui Alam Humayun, central coordinator was the chief guest in the meeting. Mr. Manirujjaman Manir, central leader and Jahangir Kamal, central leader were present as special guest.

A procession led by Mashui Alam Humayun was brought out from Rangamati Municipal Hall to Rangamati Shilpakala Academy. During the procession, Mashui Alam Humayun made attack on the

journalists including Mr. Fazle Elahi, correspondent of daily Suprabhat Bangladesh and daily Amar Desh and director of environmental NGO Global Village who were standing at Dreamland restaurant. The various organisations including Reporters' Unit of Rangamati press club condemned the attack.

On 30 June and 1 July the ERM was miking two days through out the Rangamati town shouting communal slogan against Jumma people.

**(37) 8 July 2005: HWF leader kidnapped by the UPDF**

On 8 July 2005 an armed group of UPDF led by Natun Tripura and Samashanti Chakma kidnapped Ms. Etika Chakma, Secretary for Information and Publicity Department of Hill Women's Federation from her home of Baghaichari Doar under Dighinala sub-district in Khagrachari district.

The UPDF miscreants took away her at gunpoint to Noa Para area and Babuchara. They brutally tortured her with hitting with rifles butt. Local people put pressure to release Etika. Consequently the UPDF miscreants released her on 10 July with condition that she would not disclose the incident and if disclose it then her father would be kidnapped for that.

HWF organised protest meeting in Ranagamti. They demanded to arrest the culprits.

**(38) 10 July 2005: Bengali settlers staged demonstration in Rangamati demanding 'equal rights'**

On 10 July 2005 the Bengali settlers under the banner of CHT Equal Rights Movement (ERM) and Bengali Student Council (BSC) organised 'human chain' in front of office of Deputy Commissioner demanding equal rights for Bengali settlers in the UNDP-funded project. It is mentionable that Mr. Jorgen Lissner, UNDP Country Representative and UN Coordinator was visiting Rangamati on that day. The leaders of the ERM and BSC met Mr. Jorgen Lissner at the DC office. They demanded:

- 1) Ensure parity for Bengalis;
- 2) Stop discrimination against Bengalis;
- 3) Ensure equal participation;
- 4) Ensure transparency;
- 5) No communal patronisation;
- 6) Enroll Bengalis in CHTDF;
- 7) Include Bengalis in policy making;
- 8) Ensure accountability;
- 9) Do justice for all caste and creed;
- 10) Select poor village for development;
- 11) Select Bengali NGOs as development partner and
- 12) Stop patronisation of HTNF.

**(39) 10 July 2005: A villager shot dead by the UPDF in Naniarchar**

On 10 July 2005 at 8.00 p.m. an armed group of UPDF attacked Kukurmara village under Naniarchar sub-district in Rangamati district. In this attack, the UPDF shot death Mr. Sukiran Chakma, a villager of the Kukurmara and kidnapped Mr. Chirajit Chakma from his house. The UPDF elements made attack on them as they were supporter of the CHT Accord.

**(40) 24 July 2005: Jumma villagers tortured brutally by the army in Manikchari**

On 24 July 2005 at around 10.00 a.m. the villagers of Fakiranala Nee Aung Karbari Para under Manikchari sub-district in Khagrachari district, in the name of move against terrorism, were called by Major Sarowar and Captain Aziz of Sindukchari army zone under Guimara brigade. Major Sarowar and Captain Aziz put pressure upon Jumma villagers to find out terrorists, but the villagers failed to do so. Consequently the army started to beat villagers irrespective of men and women. 32 villagers including women were wounded in this attack. Among them, following villagers got admitted to Manikchari health centre with serious injuries-

- 1) Mr. Apruchi Marma (40), s/o Chaihla Marma;
- 2) Mr. Suijau Marma (35), s/o Aung Rey Marma;
- 3) Ms. Chaja Prue Marma (35), w/o Madhu Marma;

4) Ms. Abai Marma (40) w/o Rui Prue Marma.

Besides three villagers namely (1) Usha Marma, 30 yrs, s/o Athui Marma; (2) Aungya Marma, 35 yrs, s/o Chajai Marma and (3) Aprue Mong Marma 20 yrs, s/o Mong Chanai Marma were missing.

***Follow-up of military raid on Fakiranala Nee Aung Karbari Para of Manikchari:***

The 3 (three) missing persons have been recovered. They fled to nearby area during the military raid and took shelter to relative house. The 4 (four) wounded persons who got admitted at Manikchari Health Centre have left hospital after improvement of their condition. They were hit with stick and rifle butt, kick with boot etc.

But the military operation is still going on in Manikchari area in name of searching terrorists. But no report on massive atrocity on the villagers has been received so far. Anyway, the Jumma villagers are passing days with insecurity.

It is mentionable that on 24 July 2005 the villagers of Fakiranala Nee Aung Karbari Para under Manikchari sub-district in Khagrachari district were beaten by a group of army led by Major Sarowar and Captain Aziz of Sindukchari army zone under Guimara brigade in the name of move against terrorism. In this raid, 32 villagers were tortured by the army. (Please correct the name “Fakinala” with “Fakiranala” as it was mentioned as “Fakinala” in the earlier report).

**(41) 25 July 2005: Attack on indigenous Jumma village in Kaukhali by the army and Bengali settlers**

On 25 July 2005 at the evening the army along with some Bengali settlers made attack on Harangi Para (Marma inhabited village) under Kaukhali upazila in Rangamati district. At least 23 villagers were beaten by the army and Bengali settlers during the attack.

It is reported that, that day was a market day. At around 5.00 p.m., some Marma men and women were returning home together from Kaukhali bazar. Among them, Ms. Sanu Bhai Marma (15) d/o late Chaprue Marma of Harangi Para of Ghagra union under Kaukhali upazila entered the jungle for natural call after crossing Shamukchari-Ichamati Bridge. At that time two Bengali settlers, namely Md. Jabbar Ali and Md. Yakub Ali, caught her back and tried to rape. She was shouting loudly and the other companions rushed there to rescue her. Md. Jabbar Ali was caught by the Marmas and Md. Yakub Ali fled into the direction of Kaukhali bazar. After beating, Md. Jabbar Ali was released.

After that, Md. Jabbar Ali went to Panchari (Ghilachari) army camp and propagated that the Marma villagers ran after them to kill. He could narrowly escape and his companion might be caught and killed by the Marma villagers. Then and there, a group of army from Panchari (Ghilachari) army camp of 23 Bengal under Ghagra zone along with some Bengali settlers rushed to Harangi Para and gathered villagers in a place. Without any enquiry, the army ordered villagers to find out Md. Yakub Ali and started to beat villagers side by side. But the villagers failed to do so as they knew nothing where Jabbar Ali fled. At last, the army arrested two Marma villagers, namely, Mr. Uchi Prue Marma (30) s/o late Monghlau Marma and Mr. Reihla Marma (50) from Harangi Para and brought them to the camp. On the other, the army and Bengali settlers ordered the Marma villagers to find out Md. Yakub Ali by next day, otherwise they would attack village and destroy completely. The following villagers were beaten:

- 1) Mr. Uchi Prue Marma (30) s/o Monhhlau Marma of Harangi Para
- 2) Mr. Pruechi Marma (50) s/o Kyangmpa Marma of Harangi Para
- 3) Mr. Aungchi Mong Marma (20) s/o Chaihla Mong Marma
- 4) Mr. Tusi Marma (40) s/o SuiJaiu Marma of Harangi Para
- 5) Mr. Thowai Chau Marma (40) of Harangi Para
- 6) Mr. Chaithowai Marma (30) s/o Rigrail Marma of Harangi Para
- 7) Mr. Mongthui Aung Marma (25) s/o Rigrail Marma of Harangi Para
- 8) Mr. Madhu Chandra Chakma (40) s/o Judhisti Chakma of of Harangi Mukh Para
- 9) Mr. Charan Sing Chakma (25) s/o Rao Mani Chakma of Harangi Mukh Para
- 10) Mr. Jadhisti Chakma (65) s/o Nagendra Chakma of Harangi Mukh Para

- 11) Mr. Suiching Marma (32) s/o Kyajai Marma of Narangi Para
- 12) Mr. Chaiu Rui Marma (45) s/o Mraihla Marma of Narangi Para
- 13) Mr. Thowai Ching Mong Marma (28) s/o Kala Prue Marma of Perachara Para
- 14) Mr. Dangu Marma (20) s/o Kala Prue Marma of Perachara Para
- 15) Mr. Myahla Aung Marma (30) s/o Nashi Marma of Perachara Para
- 16) Mr. Suihlau Marma (27) s/o Chanji Marma of Perachara Para
- 17) Mr. Uchi Mong Marma (25) s/o Chaihla Prue Marma of Perachara Para
- 18) Mr. Banyachi Marma (22) s/o Chanji Marma of Perachara Para
- 19) Mr. Ranga Lal Chakma (40) s/o Kalajoy Chakma of Harangi Refugee Para
- 20) Mr. Barunya Chakma (40) s/o Nila Mani Chakma of Harangi Refugee Para
- 21) Mr. Moila Chakma (40) s/o Hara Mani Chakma of Harangi Refugee Para
- 22) Mr. Bekkuya Ban Chakma (25) s/o Ratna Sen Chakma of Harangi Refugee Para
- 23) Mr. Metta Chakma (25) s/o Rup Mani Chakma of Harangi Refugee Para.

Next day (26 July) the Bengali settlers held meeting at the mosque and threatened to Jumma villagers again to find out Md. Yakub Ali, otherwise they would attack Jumma villages. They extended one day more (27 July) to find out the Bengali settler. As a result, the some Jumma villagers of Harangi Para, Lambia Para, Ghilachari, Talukdar Para and Shamukya Para fled to more safer area worrying possible attack by the Bengali settlers and army.

To mitigate the tension, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Kaukhali upazila (sub-district) called meeting with the representatives of Bengali and Jumma people on 27 July. He urged both ethnic groups to be patient. On the other, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Rangamati district Sheikh Muhammad Maruf Hasan visited Kaukhali on 28 July. At the last, Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati district Md. Gazi Muhammad Julhas, SP and UNO acknowledged that the missing Bengali settler Md. Yakub Ali was found. The police of Kaukhali police station also released the arrested Marma villagers on 28 July to the local leaders. They were inhumanly tortured. At present, the administration claims the situation is under control.

It was learnt by reliable source that Md. Yakub Ali was not missing. He kept hiding by the Bengali settlers in order to create communal tension and with this chance they could attack on Harangi Para and Lambia Para to uproot Jumma villagers and occupy their lands. The lands of Jumma people are very adjacent to Bengali settlers' villages, such as, Nihlachari, Kaukhali, Betchari, Muni Para, Ghilachari etc.

Some Bengali national dailies, such as, Daily Samakal, Daily Sangbad etc published news on this incident on 29 July.

#### **(42) 28 July 2005: Military raid in Atarakchara under Longadu**

On 28 July 2005 at mid-night a group of army from Maini Mukh zone headquarter of 26 Bengal conducted operation at Daine Atarakchara area. In this operation, the army rounded up the houses of following villagers:

- 1) Mr. Dayanidi Chakma, Assistant Organising Secretary of PCJSS Longadu branch;
- 2) Mr. Shanti Ranjan Chakma s/o Anadi Kumar Chakma
- 3) Mr. Anadi Ranjan Chakma s/o late Goladhan Chakma

But the army searched the houses and destroyed valuables. They got nothing illegal in the house and hence the following persons were arrested from the house of Dayanidi Chakma:

- 1) Mr. Dayanidi Chakma s/o late Debendra Chakma, Assistant Organising Secretary of PCJSS Longadu branch;
- 2) Mr. Jyotish Jiban Chakma s/o late Laxmi Kumar Chakma of Daine Longadu village
- 3) Mr. Anil Kanti Chakma a/o Bira Bara Chakma of Chenginala of Mahalchhari upazila.

Among them, Anil Kanti Chakma and Jyotish Jiban Chakma have been staying at Dayanidi Chakma's house as house tutor and daily labourer respectively. They were handed over to Longadu police station in connection with illegal toll collection along with three receipt books of Unity Club, Kathina

Chibar Danotsab (a Buddhist holy day) and Hill District Council (toll collection book). In fact, these receipt books were not found at the house of Dayanidi Chakma while these were also not illegal on the other. At the last, Dayanidi Chakma and Jyotish Jiban Chakma were released, but Anil Kanti Chakma was taken into Rangamati to produce at the court. Anil Kanti Chakma was tortured by the army.

**(43) In July 2005: Jumma villagers opposed to construct house in Jurachari by the army**

In July 2005 the following landowners were opposed to construct house on their land by the army of Banjogichara zone at Maischari area under Jurachari upazila in Rangamati district. Some army personnel asked the landowners whether they were constructing house by the instigation of any vested group. The army personnel informed them that the government might settle down Bengali families there. On 7 July 2005 a group of four civil dress army personnel went there and took video record of the whole area of Maischar. Again on 28 July 2005 a group of army led by one Captain and one Lieutenant went there and took video record of whole areas of Pibirachari, Kudurkhiya, Betchari and Maischari under Jurachari upazila. It is also learnt that 200 families of Rohingya Muslims would be settled down at the areas from Shimultali to Maischari and Bijakizing army camp to Jurachari sadar. Name of the land owners:

- 1) Mr. Bipin Chandra Chakma (62) s/o Madan Mohan Chakma of Hazachara (He has 5.00 acres of land at aforesaid area of Maischari);
- 2) Mr. Tarun Jyoti Chakma (42) s/o Nila Kamal Chakma of Hazachara (He has 5.00 acres of land at same area)
- 3) Sons of late Biraj Chandra Chakma (They have 4.00 acres of land at same area).

**(44) In July 2005: Karbaries ordered to maintain guest register by the army in Rowangchari**

In July 2005 the army authority of Rowangchari camp ordered the Karbaries (traditional village head of Jumma people) to keep record of all those persons who visit village and stay night. For this purpose, the army also supplied register book with columns of name and address of visited person/guest, to whom house he stayed, time of staying, reason for visit etc. The karbaries are compelled to maintain this register otherwise they are harassed.

**August 2005**

**9 August 2005: Celebration of 9 August International Indigenous People Day**

On 9 August the International Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated in Bangladesh by the non-governmental organization. The Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, a national organisation of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh undertook daylong programmes, such as, public gathering, rally, discussion meeting and cultural programme to celebrate the day. Besides, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum also organised press conference at national press club in Dhaka and published a magazine named Sanghati 2005.

It is mentionable that by resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly of United Nations decided to celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August every year during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. This date marks the day of the first meeting, in 1982, of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The goal of the International Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health.

**(a) Press Conference in Dhaka:**

A press conference was held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2005 at the National Press Club on the occasion of the International Indigenous Peoples Day where 10 (Ten) points were demanded to the government for implementation. The Chairman of the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Mr. Jyotirindra

Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma speaks the press conference and Mr. Sanjeeb Drong, Secretary General of the Forum, Mr. Laxmi Prasad Chakma, Assistant General Secretary of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), Mr. Johinul Kawoang, Vice-President of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Ms. Choitali Tripura, President of Hill Women's Federation and Ms. Nerola Tongsung were present at the press conference.

Santu Larma said that the Indigenous peoples of Bangladesh continue to face various forms of repression by the majority Bengali speaking people with direct and indirect support of the Government. The majority Bengali people have been grabbing the lands and evicting indigenous peoples from ancestral land, but the government is not taking any action against the accused persons. The land and forest is the part of our life and livelihood. Losing the land means losing everything.

He reiterated that the indigenous peoples are deprived of their rights, as they do not have constitutional recognition. He called for constitutional recognition of the indigenous peoples whose existence is at stake because they were facing increasing repression and being driven from their lands.

Criticizing the government for its indifferent attitude towards the indigenous peoples, Mr. Larma said only a secular, democratic and pro-people government can ensure the indigenous peoples rights. He also accused the government for non-implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord and imposing military rule in CHT violating the Accord. He placed a ten point charter of demands for implementation to the Government:

- 1) To recognize Indigenous Peoples immediately at National Constitution of Bangladesh with the rights to self-determination;
- 2) To ensure the indigenous peoples rights to traditional land, forest and natural resources and to ensure the perpetual/ permanent acquisition on traditional ancestral land;
- 3) To stop so-called Eco-park development project on indigenous peoples ancestral land;
- 4) To implement Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord properly and immediately;
- 5) To stop all kinds of torture, oppression, false cases, land grabbing on Indigenous peoples; to punish those responsible for land-grabbing, harassment and discrimination against the indigenous people;
- 6) To form a ministry for plain land Indigenous Peoples like CHT Affairs Ministry and form a Land Commission for them as well;
- 7) To ensure primary education through mother language for indigenous students;
- 8) To ensure free, prior, informed consent in undertaking project or any development initiative on Indigenous Peoples' land and territories by the Government and Non-government organizations; to ensure the meaningful and effective participation of indigenous peoples to the development activities;
- 9) To implement UN Conventions, Protocols and Declarations including ILO Convention 107, which were ratified by Bangladesh Government;
- 10) To ensure the representative in the national policy making process;

**(b) Opening ceremony of the daylong programme at Shahid Minar:**

On 9 August at 10.00 a.m. the opening ceremony of the daylong programme was held in the Central Shahid Minar with the presiding by the President of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma and delivered speeches the General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Mr. Abdul Jalil MP, President of Communist Party of Bangladesh Mr. Manjurul Ahsan Khan, President of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Mr. Hasanul Hauqe Inu, General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers' Party Mr. Bimal Bishwas, Executive Director of Ain O Salish Ms. Kendra Sultana Kamal, President of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal Mr. Dilip Barua, teacher of Dhaka University Prof. Dalem Chandra Borman and Associate Professor Mesbah Kamal amongst others.

Indigenous peoples demanded their constitutional recognition that was not implemented even 34 years after independence, an issue that surfaced by World Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples from across the country came up at the Central Shahid Minar with a theme **“Indigenous Peoples have the**

**Right to Self-determination**", turning their centerpiece even into a rallying point for their right to land.

Mr. Larma called Government of Bangladesh to withdraw temporary military (Army) camps from Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) without any delay. He said, "The army is trampling the rights of indigenous peoples in the CHT." He also called to the indigenous communities to join hands with the pro-liberation and progressive democratic forces to help establish a pro-people government in the country.

He added, "The Awami League Government did not implement the CHT peace accord in about four years in office after signing it. It could have implemented the agreement at the time.

Mr. Larma also President of PCJSS (A political party in the CHT region) and Chairman of the CHT Regional Council (Status as State Minister) criticized the BNP led coalition government for not implementing the CHT Accord. He said, "The extreme nationalist government has a stubborn attitude towards the life and livelihood of indigenous communities. The indigenous peoples suffer because of the outlook of the government. Our achievement in a decade is nothing to mention".

Abdul Jalil MP said that Awami League would implement CHT Accord if it could assume power. He protested against the oppression and suppression of indigenous peoples by the four-part coalition government. He urged the indigenous people to come forward to build up an anti-communal, democratic and pro-people government.

Mesbah Kamal said that 99 percent of indigenous people in the North of Bangladesh are day workers and the government does not acknowledge the traditional ownership of their ancestral land. He alleged local influential people have long been suppressing them a cruel trend that scarred the CHT as well.

#### **(c) Rally:**

After opening ceremony, a colorful rally was brought out from Shahid Minar to Dhaka Engineering Institution. Dressed in Indigenous clothes, peoples from Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Garo, Khasi, Santal, and Oraon etc. communities rendered songs and danced as part of a daylong cultural programme. Around more than five thousands indigenous peoples across the country, determined to uphold their rights with the slogan "**Indigenous Peoples have the Right to Self-determination**", gathered in the capital at 9<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

#### **(d) Discussion meeting at Engineer Institute auditorium**

In the afternoon, a discussion meeting was held in the Engineer Institute auditorium with chair of Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, President of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum. The discussion meeting was addressed by Esko Kentrschynkyj, Ambassador and Head of Delegation, European Commission, Mehal Aminuzzaman, representative of Danish Embassy in Dhaka, Khushi Kabir, executive director of Nijera Kori, Fahter R W Timm, Pankaj Battacharjee, Prema Ranjan Dev, member of Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddha and Christian Oikya Parishad, Anna Minj, and Sanjeeb Drong, prominent writer on indigenous people's issues.

Speaking at the discussion as the chief guest Dr. Kamal Hossain said the indigenous people have long been living a life amid threat and the present four-party alliance government has come up with a more hostile attitude towards them. They have to unite to achieve their rights, adding they also struggle for the country. Criticizing the government for "pursuing a communal politics," he said a united movement by the indigenous and the poor people could put an end to the "mis-rule of this anti-liberation and anti-people' government. He said that, the country's people – both indigenous and Bengalis – have started raising their voice against the 'divide and rule' politics. Dr. Kamal also said, "there should not be any issue of Bengali versus Indigenous. Time has come to get united against the rulers who are oppressing the indigenous peoples destroying their homes and driving them out of their mother land".

As special guest, the Head of Delegation and Ambassador of European Commission Mr. Esko Kentrschynskyj told that the military will be grabbing the ancestral land of indigenous peoples it is

very regrettable but it has been continuing in Bangladesh on Indigenous Peoples. That entire incident, as a democratic state it is undesirable and unacceptable. He also added to show an effective role-play for indigenous peoples rights not as speech but also the activity, attitude and manners. He said, we do not expect any incident such as Mahalchari in Khagrachari. To make sure their life and livelihood is a major responsibility for State and government as well as for secure life for indigenous peoples.

Promode Mankin MP said that the indigenous people had played a vital role during the Liberation War of the country in 1971 by sacrificing lives, but they had yet to receive the benefit of freedom; rather they have to identify themselves as 'tribals' or 'minority' though Bangladesh was a multi-community country. He alleged that the indigenous people of northern Bangladesh had no land to reside on due to the illegal occupiers' grabbing of their land.

Mr Santu Larma presided all over the meeting. He called young section of the indigenous people to try to understand the situation and get ready to fight against '*new colonialism*'. He urged that, I grew up in CHT with the natural forest and land, but now a day the settlers who were settled down in CHT from low land declared him and PCJSS leaders unwanted.

He added that 'the indigenous peoples in CHT, they do not know how long they will have to live under military rule. Children are growing up in panic and nightmare.

### **Regional observation of IID**

The international indigenous peoples day was also celebrated in three districts i.e. Rangamati, Khagrachari, Bandarban of CHT. Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum celebrated in Rangamati while local NGOs led by HTNF celebrated in Khagrachari and Bandarban.

**Rangamati:** The CHT branch of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum observed the IID in Rangamati. The programme included discussion meeting, rally, arts competition, cultural function and prize giving ceremony. Indigenous women leader Ms. Sagorika Roaza inaugurated day-long programme while Mr. Sukumar Dewan, General Secretary of Upajatiya Samajik Form presided over the meeting. Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma, Member of the CHTRC; Prof. Gazi Shaleh Uddin, General Secretary of University Association and teacher of Chittagong University; Dr. Hossain Kabir, teacher of Chittagong University, Ms. Madhabi Lata Chakma, Member of CHTRC and President of CHT Women's Association; Mr. Nirmalendu Tripura, eminent social worker; Ms. Tuku Talukder, women rights and development activist; Mr. Mriganka Khisa, PCJSS leader and Obang Marma, General Secretary of Marma Sangskritic Sangsad were present as discussant.

The discussion meeting was held at premises of Rangamati Municipality. A colourful mammoth rally was brought out from Municipality premises to district Shilpakala Academy where umpteen numbers of indigenous people from different part of the district attended the function.

**Bandarban:** The day was observed in Bandarban through rallies, processions and cultural programmes highlighting the indigenous people's demands. Some local NGOs organised the programmes. In one such rally held at Baghmara Bazaar in Bandarban Sadar, speakers called upon the government to take steps to establish peace in the hills by giving constitutional recognition to the rights of indigenous people. Anannya Kallyan Sangstha (AKS), a local NGO, in cooperation with Care, Bangladesh, organised the rally. It was addressed by, among others, CHT Regional Council member K S Mong, AKS Executive Director Donai Prue Neli, teacher Kya Shwe Prue, journalist Monirul Islam Monu, Buddha Joyti Chakma, Headmen Mong Prue Marma, Thwai Ching Prue and Kheyang.

**Khagrachari:** Rally and public meeting was organised in Khagrachari. Mr. Pailha Prue Chowdhury, Mong Circle Chief inaugurated the rally. Rally ended at M N Larma Square of Khagrachari headquarter. Mr. Hangsdhwaj Chakma, Convenor of Khagrachari Citizens' Forum presided over the public meeting while Mr. Sudhasindhu Khisa, Member of the CHTRC and Central Member of the PCJSS attended as chief guest. Mr. Jatindra Lal Tripura, ex-chairman of Khagrachari Hill District Council; Mr. Nabin Kumar Tripura, eminent teacher; Binode Bihari Chakma, ex-member of Khagrachari Hill District Council; Udayan Tripura, student leader; Sathowai Marma and Indira Chakma, chief executive of Milanpur Mohila Kalyan Samiti.

**Tangail:** The World Indigenous Day was observed in Madhupur through various colourful programmes on Monday. It was jointly organised by Madhupur Tribal Welfare Association, Joinshahi Adivasi Unnayan Parishad, Garo Student Association and Achick Machick Society. The programme included a colorful rally, discussion meeting and cultural function. A discussion meeting was held at the Jalchhatra Corpost Christy High School ground with Ajoy Moor in the chair. Indigenous Writer Shubhash Jem Chum addressed the meeting as chief guest. Among others, the indigenous leader Albart Mankin, Action Aid Country Director Nasrin Haque, its official Manjur Rashid, Executive Director of SUS Tapan Kumar Goon, Uzin Nokrek, Nisharun Nokrek and indigenous women's leader Jasinta Nokrek spoke at the meeting. The discussion meeting concluded with a cultural function.

**Rajshahi:** The day was observed in Rajshahi with a call to the government to take steps for constitutional recognition of rights of indigenous people and protection of their traditional culture. The day was observed in a festive mood through various programmes including rally, cultural presentation, discussion meeting and prize distribution at Kakonhat College ground. The programme was jointly organised by Adivasi Unnayan Sangstha (AUS) and Uttal Bangla Adivasi Lahanti Network. A large number of indigenous people including those from Santal, Pahari and Munda communities from northern districts joined the programme that began with a big colorful procession in Kakonhat town. The processionists carrying banners and festoons highlighting their demands paraded the town streets chanting various slogans. The procession began with a Santal song. The rally adopted a resolution containing the 20-point demand of indigenous people. It was read out by Adivasi Unnayan Sangstha representative Nogan Murmu. The demands include constitutional recognition to their rights and right to education through their mother tongue.

AUS Executive Director Bhavabat Tudu presided over the rally, attended by Social Welfare Department Assistant Director Aftab Uddin Sheikh as chief guest. Godagari Upazila Social Welfare Officer Abdul Khalek, advocate Norandronath Kischu, AUS Advisor Norandro Tudu, Blast Coordinator in Rajshahi Abdus Samad and Kakonhat College Principal Abdul Hannan were present as special guests. Speakers at the rally said that they have a distinctive culture and heritage, but those are fading away due to lack of government patronisation and "aggressive" activities by sections of local Bangalees. Earlier, a memorandum containing the demands, addressed to the Prime Minister, was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi. After the meeting, artistes from Santal, Orao and Pahari communities presented traditional Danta, Dashai, Baha and Doshai dances. Prizes were given to best performers.

In Rajshahi city, the Adivasi Sangskritik Sangstha, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad and Rajshahi University Adivasi Students Association jointly formed a human chain at the Zero Point to press for acceptance of indigenous people's demands. The Rajshahi University Adivasi Students Association also formed another human chain in front of Central Library premises to press the demands. It held cultural function on the Central Shaheed Miner premises.

**Lalmata, Dhaka:** Solidarity Bangladesh, an organisation of human rights-environment-peace, held a discussion on the occasion of IID at its office at Lalmatia in the city. Presided over by Sheikh Faruk, president of the organisation, the meeting was addressed by Razina Parvin, Mominul Islam, Ataur Rahman, Dr Zainal Abedin and Suraiya Parvin.

**Thagore Gaon:** Human chain on occasion of IID was organized by jointly Thagore Gaon district branch of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, RDAS (a non-governmental organization) and Caritas with demanding 10-points. After that, a rally was brought from Chowrasta Morh to Office of Deputy Commissioner. Indigenous peoples also submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister of Government of Bangladesh through Deputy Commissioner to implement 10-point of demands.

**Sylhet:** Discussion meeting and rally to mark IID was organised by Ethnic Community Development Organisation in Sylhet. Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet S M Foisal inaugurated discussion at Sylhet Town Hall.

**Nalita Bari of Sherpur:** Nalita Bari branch of Adivasi Kalyan Sangatan observed the IID through organising rally, discussion meeting and cultural function at Baruyajani Mission of Nalita Babri in Sherpur district.

**Shribardi of Sherpur:** On the occasion of IID, colorful rally, discussion meeting and cultural function were organised by Tribal Welfare Association and Indigenous Youth Society at the premises of Tribal Welfare Association at Bablakona of Shribardi in Sherpur.

**Gomastapur, Chapainawabganj:** Public meeting was held at Gomastapur upazila where indigenous peoples from four upazilas (sub-district) attended.

#### **(45) 17 August 2005: Bomb blast hits CHT**

Like other parts of the country, bombs exploded in three hill districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts on 17 August 2005 during 11.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. 5 bombs exploded in Rangamati, 4 in Khagrachari and 5 in Bandarban.

In Rangamati, one bomb at dustbin of Banarupa, one in front of Happy Hotel of Banarupa, one in front Press Club, one at auto-rickshaw stand of Reserve Bazar and one at College Gate area blasted. Besides, two un-blasted bombs were recovered from Banarupa and nearby area of Press Club. One Bengali boy was injured at auto-rickshaw stand of Reserve Bazar.

In Khagrachari, one bomb at Mukta Mancha of Shapla Chattar, one outside of court-room of DC office, two inside premises of district court (one at Krishnachura tree and one at inside) blasted. Four persons, two at DC office and two at district court, were injured. Among them, one was Chakma elder and three were Bengali including one woman.

In Bandarban, one bomb in front of Bandarban police station, one at staircase of DC office, one at chamber of Lawyer Association, one at Traffic Point and one in front of Bazar Masque blasted. Two including 12-year old girl were injured.

Three persons were arrested in Khagrachari in connection with bomb blast. Police first arrested Abdul Munnaf. As per confession of Munnaf, Abul Hasem from Matiranga and Moulabi Noman from Guimara were arrested later. They were sent to Dhaka for JIC interrogation.

On 28 August 2005 Sunday police arrested Mohammad Nasir (35), the mastermind behind August 17 bomb blasts in Khagrachhari and also the Amir of Jamaatul Mujahideen (JMB), from Panchhari Bazar and three other JMB activists from his Islampur residence in the district headquarters. Besides, police also recovered bomb-making equipment and remote control devices along with JMB publications that include bomb-manufacturing booklets, training manuals and JMB constitution.

Police said that, according to confession of Dighinala upazilla JMB Amir Emdadul, and Shahidul, an Ansar who is also a JMB member, police conducted several raids on suspected spots. The other arrestees are Shagar Miah (18) of ChapaiNawabganj, Sakib Khan (18) of Rangpur and Shabuj Ali (22) of Jhenaidaha. They confessed to their involvement in the bomb blast incident and pointed at Nasir as the key person.

Police said Nasir, who rented a house of one Mannan at the Islampur area in the disguise of a cloth retailer, made five bombs 15 days before the attack. He engaged Sagar, a rickshawpuller, to plant the bombs at five particular spots in exchange for Tk four hundred. According to his directives, Sagar placed the bombs at the deputy commissioner's office, court premises, Shapla Square, Mukta Moncho and Shahid Kader Road at dawn on August 17.

It is mentionable that on 17 August 2005 terror struck the country not seen at this scale since its independence with explosions of nearly 459 small homemade bombs – commonly known as improvised explosive detonations (IED) – that exploded in a meticulously synchronised manner in all but one of the nation's 63 of 64 districts including the capital city, between 11.00 am and 11.30 am, leaving at least two killed and nearly 200 injured.

The serial bomb blasts targeted the Dhaka's key locations like the Zia International Airport, courts, government offices, National Press Club and the heavily guarded diplomatic enclave that instantly spread panic resulting in disruption of normal life in the capital as elsewhere in the country.

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, the banned militant group, claimed responsibility for the blasts through leaflets that left the countrymen in shock.

**(46) 20 August 2005: Commercial mobile network being closed in CHT**

On 20 August 2005 it has been learnt that the government is going to close down the mobile network of the private operators in three hill districts – Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari on security grounds. Mobile connections of more than two hundred mobile centres in Rangamati were closed on August 17 under the process.

A businessman of mobile centre in Bandarban said the mobile centres are being closed following orders of the security forces and the same thing is going to happen soon in Bandarban and Khagrachhari.

Though Aktel, City Cell, Bangla Link and Grameen Phone have been operating mobile networks in 61 districts for two decades, the hill region could not be taken under the mobile connectivity in face of obstructions from the security forces.

Security forces opine that law and order situation in the hill region will deteriorate considerably due to mobile phones as several terrorist groups have taken shelter there. Mobile network of Chittagong zone will be available in some places in the hill region. More than four hundred mobile phones have been set up in last few years in different areas of district sadar and upazila, installing antennas on the high hills. The regular customers said that they would not be able to contact their dear ones living abroad if the mobile phone shops are closed down in the hill region.

**(47) 21 August 2005: Government banned Mokammel's documentary film 'Karnaphulir Kanna' on CHT**

On 21 August 2005 the government of Bangladesh banned Tanvir Mokammel's documentary film "Karnaphulir Kanna," for what it said depicting objectionable messages against the interests of the country as well as its people. The hour-long film depicted the after effects of construction of the Kaptai dam on CHT people. A handout said, "the film has been banned as per Criminal Procedure Code Act 99(A) for depicting objectionable messages against the interests of the country as well as its people." All the copies of the film have been confiscated and its screening, sale, distribution and preservation prohibited in the country as the objectionable comments made in the film threaten the social and political harmony in the country, it added.

The film maker Tanvir Mokammel Sunday reacted sharply at the ban of his documentary Karbaphulir Kanna saying nothing objectionable in it. "There is nothing objectionable in my film. The contents have been already been written in different books, articles and research works. There is a problem in CHT and we should accept the fact," he told BDNEWS.

"The film has been made with interviews of both Bengalis and the indigenous people. I don't think there is anything in the film which is untrue," Mokammel said.

"Besides, in this age of digital technology, it is senseless to ban a film. Lot of people has that film in DVD, CD or in their computers in all different forms. This kind of colonial mentality to ban a film will serve nobody's purpose," he said.

Meanwhile, Rupayan Dewan, a top leader of Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS), also a leader of Adivasi Forum, condemned the ban of the film.

"The movie illustrated the real lives of CHT people. Nothing exaggerated has been showed in the film," he said adding, "By banning the documentary, the government again proved its unwillingness to solve the CHT issue."

On 21 August 2005 Bangladesh Federation of Short Film Societies and Asia Shilpa O Sangskriti Sabha (Asian Conference for Art and Culture) condemned the government ban on the Karnaphuli Kanna. They said that it would discourage the filmmakers to make free, creative and healthy film. They demanded to withdraw the government ban.

On 24 August 2005 leaders of five organisations in Rangamati have demanded withdrawal of ban on the 'Karnaphulir Kanna'. In a joint statement, leaders of the five organisations claimed that there is nothing 'objectionable' or 'against national interest' in the documentary.

The statement was signed by Sukumar Dewan, secretary of Upajatiya Samajik Forum; Jhimit Jhimit Chakma, president of Jhum Aesthetic Council; Kalayan Chakma, vice- president of Girishur Shilpi Gusthi; Sajeeb Chakma, secretary of Jhum Lekhok Forum and Chanchu Chakma, Radang Shilpi Gusthi.

**(48) Land grabbing by the Bengali settlers with the help of the military in Panchari: 270 indigenous families facing eviction**

Conspiracy continues to grab indigenous village by the Bengali settlers in Panchari Upazila (Sub-district) of Khagrachari District. At least 270 indigenous families of 246 No Chota Panchari Mouza are passing their days with great anxiety of being evicted from their village. It is known that the Bengali settlers are continuing conspiracy to evict indigenous peoples from eight villages occupying six hundred acres of land with the direct support of the military forces.

On 9 August 2005 eight Bengali settlers under the leadership of Habibur Rahman who is a member of 3 No ward of Latiban Union Parishad forcefully cut down three *Koroi* trees, three jackfruit trees and one teak tree which they took away. Among the eight culprits three including the ward member were identified. The plunderers are Harunur Rashid s/o Manu Mia, Shaiful Islam s/o Shaban Ali and Hazarat Ali s/o Abdul Khalek respectively. All the plunderers are also identified to be the residents of Amarpur village under 3 no ward of Latiban Union Parishad. The owners of the garden respectively Chandradhar Chakma s/o late Pratul Chandra Chakma, Bajra Chakma s/o late Battoram Chakma, Mrs. Aniladevi Chakma w/o late Nilokdhan Chakma and Shuresh Kanti Chakma s/o late Nabeen Chandra Karbari said in their blame that the Bengali settlers showed various threats including killing to them if they (the owners of garden) blame them (the Bengalis) for this while they were taking away the trees after cut them down.

On 17 August 2005, more than hundred Bengalis under the leadership of Habibur Rahaman alias Hobi member of Zia Nagar, Muslim Nagar and Ultachari area again launched an attack on indigenous villages. The Bengalis started process to grab six hundred acres of land attacking on eight indigenous villages in Panchari. They damaged the paddy and orchards of the indigenous Jumma Peoples. The Bengalis also framed a time for three days for the affected indigenous peoples for taking decision or leaving their villages otherwise they (the Bengali settlers) will forcefully set up houses in the indigenous peoples villages.

On 18 August 2005, the indigenous peoples submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner to stop forceful land grabbing by the Bengali settlers. The source says, without going to protest or conflict with the Bengali infiltrators while they went to occupy the indigenous villages and their *jums* (traditional farmland), the indigenous peoples just simply asked them why they are grabbing their lands. In reply, the Bengali settlers said that they allowed by the military forces to run their process to grab lands from the Jumma peoples. The indigenous villagers convicted the military forces for encouraging the Bengali settlers to grab lands.

On 17 August, the military suddenly took position in three Jumma villages in name firing training. During this time in the presence of the military the Bengali settlers grabbed indigenous lands. It was blamed that firing training continued till 6.00 p.m. on the 17 August nevertheless it last 1-2 hours in other days. It was known that the Bengali settlers were instigated by the military in grabbing lands of the indigenous peoples while firing training was continuing under the joint leadership of Major Nashim, Deputy Commander of 6 Bengal Regiment of Panchari Sub-zone and Major Tarek, Commander of Jarnatila army camp. One UP member who is unwilling to expose his name informed that the military forces create panicky situation firing to and from between the indigenous villages of Ziranikhola, Rachai Karbari Para, Paddini Para and Basha Kumar Para during so-called firing training session. It was informed that during the time of firing training the people of the above mentioned villages could not come out of their houses. The villagers including Kepa Marma informed that gun bullets of firing training hit the roof and fence of Kepa Marma's house. The villagers also blamed that

they could not have gone to work as movement of people was banned during firing training session. The villagers objected several times about this matter but the military authority paid no importance. Rather, the villagers were advised to leave villages if they could not tolerate.

On 18 August 2005, a memorandum jointly signed by the villagers of the villages of Basha Kumar Para, Paddini Para, Ziranikhola Para, Shingsha Para, Korka Para, Paiung Para, Prafulla Para and Ruhindra Para under Latiban Union Parishad of Panchari Upazila (sub-district) was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari district appealing to stop grabbing indigenous people's lands. The present Ultachari, Zia Nagar and Muslim Para villages once existed as Paiung Karbari Para which was an indigenous Tripura village before 1980/81. Then military administration settled Bengali infiltrators in this village evicting its original Jumma inhabitants. These are the Bengali infiltrators, who were once settled down on indigenous village, are obviously reported to grab indigenous villages with the support of the military.

The indigenous peoples are appealing to the Deputy Commissioner to justly interfere to stop land grabbing as per Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation of 1900, ILO Convention of 107 and Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord. But it is a matter of sorrow that no measure has been taken till writing this report.

#### **(49) 29 August 2005: Harassment of Army on Indigenous Jummas in Baghaichari, Rangamati**

On 29 August 2005 at 2.00 a.m. a group of army led by Lt Colonel Abdul Rouf Khan of 20 Bengal from Baghaichari army zone conducted searching operation at B-Block village of Bongaltoli under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district. At first a group of army surrounded the house of Laxmi Rani Chakma (35) w/o late Manindra Chakma alias Tarzen. They searched her entire house, even climbed on the roof and interrogated her again and again. The army found nothing and came out from the house but they kept surrounding the house. After 15-20 minutes, another group of army led by Lt Colonel Abdul Rouf Khan arrived there and started searching again and an army person climbed up on the roof and declared to have found out an AK-47 rifle and 15 round of bullets from the roof.

Recovering AK-47 rifle from the roof is fully baseless. It is fully pre-planned conspiracy to harass the Jumma villagers, particularly member of the PCJSS. In fact, the army of the first group who climbed up the roof left the AK-47 rifle there and as per pre-planned the second group of army came there and searched again and recovered the arm. Lt Colonel Abdul Rouf Khan looked for Laxmi Rani's husband and came to know that her husband who was also returnee PCJSS member was killed by the UPDF armed cadres in 2002; the army did not arrest her. But for giving legitimacy of their pre-planned activity, Lt Colonel Abdul Rouf Khan tried to look for people against whom the case could be filled. At a stage, the army first arrested some villagers who were going to their farmland early in the morning. Some villagers were arrested from their home. The arrested villagers were:

- 1) Mr. Uday Bikash Chakma (26) s/o Shashdhar Chakma, Member of Bongaltoli union
- 2) Mr. Subhash Chakma (27) s/o Chikanya Chama
- 3) Mr. Rigan Chakma (17) s/o Sonadhan Chakma
- 4) Mr. Rangabrata Chakma (18) s/o Dhananu Chakma
- 5) Mr. Rajib Chakma (26) s/o Satish Chandra Chakma
- 6) Mr. Sonaiya Chakma (35) s/o Barunya Chakma

The victims were taken to the army zone. Among them, Mr. Subhash Chakma, Mr. Regan Chakma and Mr. Rangabrata Chakma were tortured. The next day, the relatives of the victims and public went to the army zone and created pressure on Lt Colonel Abdul Rouf Khan to release the arrestees, as they were innocent. At last, under tremendous pressure, Lt Colonel Abdul Rouf Khan released the arrestees at 9.00 p.m. on 30 August. But a false case in connection with keeping illegal arm and ammunition was filed with Baghaichari police station against two villagers, namely, Ripon Chakma (25) and Milon Chakma (28) who were not among the above listed.

#### **(50) 30 August 2005: PCJSS member shot dead by UPDF armed cadre in Khagrachari**

On 30 August 2005 at 7.00 a.m. the armed cadres of UPDF shot death innocent PCJSS member Mr. Jagadish Chakma (52) s/o Kabindra Chakma of Itchhari village under Khagrachari sadar upazila (sub-district) in Kharachari district.

The arms cadres of UPDF opened fire on Jagadish Chakma who died on the spot while he was having breakfast at a shop nearby to his house at Itchari village. His dead body was sent to district sadar hospital for autopsy. PCJSS in a statement, demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the involved UPDF cadres.

A case was filed with Khagrachari police station in connection with this killing. But no action has been taken by the police. It is learnt that an army patrol team from Mohalchhari zone under Khagrachhari region led by Major Moazzem arrested Kalachand Chakma, 40, son of Nandi Kumar Chakma of village Noapara in Manikchhari, Ripon Chakma, 18, son of Sonaranjan Chakma of village Shibmandir in Khagrachhari, Kanti Chakma, 36, son of Parikshit Chakma of Thakurpara village under Khagrachhari and Baichchadhan Chakma, 32, son of Bailla Chakma of Thakurpara village in Khagrachhari district. An AK47 rifle, one SBBL gun (US made), two light guns (LGs), one revolver, four cartridges of SBBL gun, seven bullets of AK47 rifle and some important papers

#### **(51) 31 August 2005: Parliamentary Standing Committee decided to summon IP activists**

In its meeting held on 31 August 2005, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on CHT Affairs Ministry took decision to summon following indigenous people activists for giving alleged anti-state statements during the last meet of the United Nation's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), held in last May at the UN Headquarters in New York. Parliamentary Standing Committee alleged that statements of said leaders do not match with the reality of the country. Hence, the committee will ask for action if the indigenous people leaders fail to respond with appropriate replies. The activists were:

- 1) Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma, Secretary for Information and Publicity of PCJSS
- 2) Mr. Mrinal Kanti Tripura, Secretary for Information and Publicity of PCJSS
- 3) Mr. Devasish Roy, Chakma Circle Chief,
- 4) Ms. Ina Hume, Jumma Peoples Network, London, and
- 5) Mr. Albert Mankin, Garo/Mandi leader from Madhupur

But, the decision for summon was taken after the Deputy Minister left the meeting. The government might impose restriction to attend the international conference including United Nations PFII on them and take other punitive action against them. The decision taken by Parliamentary Standing Committee proves the intolerance of the government and the non-recognition of United Nations PFII's activities.

It is mentionable that after the participation of the Indigenous rights activists of Bangladesh, particularly Raja Devasish Roy, Chakma Circle Chief; Mrinal Kanti Tripura, Assistant Secretary for Information and Publicity of PCJSS and Mangal Kumar Chakma, Secretary for Information and Publicity of PCJSS, in the 4<sup>th</sup> session of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) held on 16-27 May 2005 at UN Headquarters in New York, the Government of Bangladesh including Bangladesh military force has become angry on them and started propaganda against and harassment on them. Army officials and some writers (even using pseudonym) started propaganda in some newspapers. Even they have been writing against Ms. Ina Hume, Jumma People Network International, London, Rev. Prjnalankar Bhikkhu, Peace Campaign Group, New Delhi and Farmark Hlawning, Asian Indigenous Peoples Caucus. For instances-

1. On 26 June 2005 in the Bengali daily 'Nayadiganta' published an article titled "CHT Issue: A Woman and Some Questions" written by R K Barua. He introduced himself as researcher on CHT, but no body knows him. He says in his article, "He patiently read the news 'United Nations Indigenous Peoples Conference: Appeal to stop militarization in CHT' written by Sanjeeb Drong published in a daily newspaper dated last 26 May and it would disclose a long-term evil conspiracy if some background are analyzed." Basically the main statements of the article are: Mrinal Kanti Tripura, Raja Devasish Roy and Ms. Ina Hume made anti-state statement in the meeting. He mentions, particularly Raja Devasish Roy has been addressing in home and abroad against Bangladesh. Last year he delivered statement in the meeting of UNWGIP held in Geneva on CHT and non-implementation of CHT Accord. Consequently, pressures have been put upon the Government. The writer also mentioned that the legitimacy of participation of Mr. Mrinal Kanti Tripura and source of funding must be looked into. The Foreign Ministry should take active

role for that. Besides, Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, head of the PCJSS and Chairman of the CHT Regional Council should be issued show cause notice.

2. On 22 July 2005 the same article of R K Barua but in short and different title “Chakma Chief’s ambition” was published in the daily ‘Jugantor’.
3. On 3 August 2005 in local Bengali newspaper named ‘The Daily Giridarpan’ published lead news captioned “Conspiracy to tarnish country’s image is going on through showing video film in home and abroad”.

The Giridarpan says in its news, “PCJSS have started conspiracy to create instability in the CHT. It made a false and fake video film to tarnish country’s image in home and abroad and to continue propaganda against the military force deployed in CHT. PCJSS would try to make opinion in favour of tribal peoples showing video film in Dhaka and indigenous peoples conference to be held in Switzerland.”

“In the meantime, the PCJSS made video film collecting interview at gunpoint and offering money from four leaders of recently abolished Adi O Sthayee Bangali Kalayn Parihad (Old and Permanent Bengali Welfare Council). The conspiracy was come out after releasing a statement by the 4 leaders of permanent Bengalis.”

“It is learnt that the international indigenous peoples’ conference is going to be convened on 9 August on the occasion of International Indigenous Peoples Day in Switzerland. Raja Barrister Devasish Roy, Chakma Circle Chief; Mr. Mrinal Kanti Tripura, Coordinator of Hill Tracts NGO Forum (HTNF) and Assistant Information and Publicity Secretary of PCJSS; Ms. Naiu Prue Marry, Office Assistant of HTNF; Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma, Member of HTNF and Information and Publicity Secretary of PCJSS; Mr. Lalit Chandra Chakma, General Secretary of HTNF are going to attend the conference. The source informs that they carry out the video film to show there. Besides, the PCJSS takes plan to show this video film during the celebration of international indigenous people day in Dhaka.”

In fact, no indigenous peoples conference was held in Geneva in Geneva but International Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated in Dhaka on 9 August 2005 by Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, a national organization of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. On the other, making video film is also fully baseless. Propaganda of collection of interview at gunpoint and offering money from four leaders of recently abolished Adi O Sthayee Bangali Kalayn Parihad (Old and Permanent Bengali Welfare Council) is also baseless and politically motivated. No such events took place in CHT. Rather, on 14 June 2005 the army of Rangamati brigade led by Captain Ferdous harassed and tortured 18 leaders of CHT Permanent Bengali Welfare Council (Adi O Sthayee Bangali Kalyan Parishad) at the office of the 114 brigade signal company of Rangamati brigade to create pressure to join extreme Bengali communal organization named ‘CHT Sama Adhikar Andolon’ (CHT Equal Rights Movement) abolishing CHT Permanent Bengali Welfare Council. Among them, 3 leaders were brutally tortured. Md. Azam Ali Azam, one of the tortured, got admitted to Rangamati General Hospital with serious injury.

4. Another article titled “Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Army and the Role of the Media” written by Lt. Col. Md. Nazrul Islam, PSC, AEC and Director of the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) published in the Bengali daily newspapers, namely, the Sangbad on 22 July 2005 and the Bhorer Kagoj on 26 July. The same article but with different title was also published in the Bengali daily Prothom Alo on 29 August 2005. This article did not mention directly about the statements made by the said indigenous activists in the 4th session of the UNPFII. But the writer accused PCJSS, its leader Mr. Jyotirindra Bhodhipriya Larma and Chakma Circle Chief Raja Devasish Roy of making conspiracy to tarnish Bangladesh army’s image and anti-state activities in home and abroad.

The issue was also discussed in the 20th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry (CHTAM), Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh based on a report of the Bangladesh High Commission to UN. In this meeting some MPs had been seem to be extremely biased and were in favour of taking drastic action while some

had been reasonable when the committee was briefed by Mr. Mani Swapan Dewan, Deputy Minister, CHTAM on the indigenous peoples issue, role of UNPFII and ratification of some UN instruments by the Bangladesh Government.

**(52) 31 August 2005: 7 villagers abducted by UPDF in Naniarchar**

On 31 August 2005 Wednesday at night the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) armed elements took away at gunpoint following PCJSS supporters from Krishnamachhara village under Naniarchar upazila in Rangamati district. The victims were:

- 1) Mr. Atul Bihari Chakma, 35, s/o Natun Chandra Chakma
- 2) Mr. Raj Bihari Chakma, 45, s/o Natun Chandra Chakma
- 3) Mr. Kanak Kumar Chakma, 55,
- 4) Mr. Kali Chukkha Chakma, 45, s/o Buddhandra Chakma
- 5) Mr. Bhuban Chakma, 25, s/o Kala Chukkha Chakma
- 6) Mr. Tejendra Chakma, 45, and
- 7) Mr. Ripon Chakma, 25

Hours later, they freed Ripon Chakma and asked him to tell the families of the rest of the captives that they wanted Tk 1.00 lakh for the others' release. After negotiation by the local Union Parishad chairman anti-peace accord UPDF set free the villagers on Thursday. However, it has yet to be learnt whether the abductors released the seven against ransom.

**September 2005**

**(53) 6 September 2005: Protest meeting against land lease in Bandarban**

On 6 September 2005 a protest meeting against lease was held at Faruk Para in Bandarban district by the Bawm Zo Land Rights Committee. Bawm people demanded to cancel land lease given to a military commander named Captain Ashraful Islam, OC, ADO immediately. It is mentionable that 25 acres of grove land was given lease for 40 years to Captain Ashraful Islam of Namdar village of Kabatira in Tangail district for rubber plantation in 1982 without being notice to Bawm community. At least 180 Bawm families of Faruk Para and Laima Para have been farming on this land for decades. They knew it when the lessee Captain Ashraful Islam ordered Bawm villagers to vacant land.

Mr. Pakdir Bawm, General Secretary of the Bawm Zo Land Rights Committee and Member of Sualak union presided over the protest meeting and Mr. Chinghla Mong Chakma, General Secretary of Bandarban PCJSS district branch and Mr. Kyaba Marma, President of Rowangchari PCJSS upazila branch delivered solidarity speech in the meeting. Mr. Layel Devid Bawm, Member of the CHTRC and Bawm leader also delivered speech in the meeting. Hundreds of Bawm people attended the meeting.

It is learnt through reliable source that due to tremendous pressure, Captain Ashraful Islam gave up land for Bawm community.

**7 September 2005: Follow-up report on Parliamentary Standing Committee summon to IP activists**

On 7 September 2005 four human rights and women organisations, namely, Nijera Kori, Karmojibi Nari, Ain O Salish Kendra and Association for Land Reform and Development jointly submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister (PM) expressing their concern over the reports that the government may impose ban on joining international seminars by some leaders of indigenous community, namely, PCJSS Members Mangal Kumar Chakma and Mrinal Kanti Tripura, Chakma Circle Chief Raja Debashish Rai, Ina Hume of London-based Jumma People's Network and Garo leader of Madhupur Albert Mankin.

In the memorandum, they said that on September 1, some newspapers published reports that the parliamentary standing committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs has brought allegation against four leaders of indigenous community for tarnishing the image of the country by making

objectionable remarks against Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty and its army at a conference of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its headquarters in New York from May 16-27. Quoting Article 39 of the constitution, the leaders of rights organisations said if the government wants to restrict the freedom of speech and movement of the leaders of the marginal community, it will be tantamount to opposing the constitution and undermining the values of democracy.

The signatories to the memorandum were Khushi Kabir, co-ordinator of Nijera Kori, Shirin Akhter, chairperson of Karmojibi Nari, Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development and Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra.

It is mentionable that the meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of CHTAM is yet to be convened.

#### **(54) 7 September 2005: Meeting between UPDF cadre and the military force in Panchari**

On 7 September 2005 a group of UPDF led by Mr. Alok Bikash Chakma (Tushar) met with Second-in-Command (2IC) of Panchari zone Major Nasim. They reached an agreement to bring the UPDF in public front and to remove and kill Mr. Kiran Udoy Chakma, Organizing Secretary of PCJSS Panchari Thana branch. It is mentionable that Mr. Alok Bikash Chakma stayed at the house of Mr. Belal Hossain in Panchari at night of 7 September and was sent to Pujgang area in very early morning of the 8 September.

#### **(55) 10 September 2005: Three Karbaries received threats from an army Major Tarek in Panchari**

On 10 September 2005 Saturday at 11 a.m. Major Tarek of Panchari Jharnatila camp has threatened three karbaries of three indigenous Tripura villages. The three karbaries namely Mr. Basa Kumar Tripura of Basa Kumar Karbari Para, Mr. Kironmani Tripura of Padmini Para and Mr. Lombadhan Tripura of Singcha Karbari Para were called at the camp and given threats that the villages would be replaced by Bengali settlers with the assistance of army.

It is to be mentioned that on 17 August 2005 with help of army of Jharnatila army camp and the Bengali settlers of Zia Nagar, Muslim Nagar and Ultachari of Panchari upazila under Khagrachari district led by union parishad member Habibur Rahman attempted to evict 270 indigenous families of eight villages of 246 Chota Panchari mouza. Demanding for stopping the eviction the indigenous families submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Khagracharri district on 18 August 2005. The harassment of the army on the villagers is because in the memorandum the villagers stated about the involvement of the army in the eviction. It is reported that Major Tarek asked the three karbaries to attend the camp regularly otherwise they would be faced severe consequences. Finally the army Major declared that if necessary, Bengali settlement and army camp would be established on the villages. The villagers are in panic now.

#### **(56) 10 September 2005: Follow-up report on JMB activities in CHT**

On 10 September 2005 three JMB activists, namely Abaidur Rahman (22), Ruhul Amin (35) and Rafiqul Islam were arrested from Bhushanchara under Barkal upazila in Rangamati district. Leaflets and documents of Ahali Hadis, an Islamic extremist organisation were also recovered from them. Abaidur Rahman is Emam of a local mosque.

On the other, the leaders of 'Jamaatul Mujahidin Bangladesh', namely, Emadul Master, Shahidul Islam and Ruhul Amin who were arrested from Khagrachari soon after bomb blast on 17 August had confessed that JMB Supremo Shaiyokh Abdur Rahman and Commander Siddiqur Islam alias Bangla Bhai had come in Dighinala and gave training to them some days before bomb blast on 17 August 2005. The Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Ministry Mr. Mani Swapan Dewan expressed his grave concern over the existence of training camp of Islamic extremists JMB in CHT region. He said the people of CHT have become panic and anxious for this.

#### **(57) 11 September 2005: Workshop on Land Rights of IPs and Development Strategy held in Dhaka**

On 11 September 2005 a workshop on Land Rights of IPs and Development Strategy held at BIAM in Dhaka was organised by national daily Samakal, RDC (Research and Development Collective) and Action Aid where Mr. J B Larma, President of the PCJSS and Chairman of the CHTRC attended as chief guest. Addressing the first session of the workshop, Mr. Larma said that the CHT Accord could not be materialized, as the policy makers of the country were not sincere and interested. He reiterated that it would be easy to implement the Accord if the policy makers were sincere, democratic-minded and progressive. It was a political issue and the political leaders have to come forward to solve the problem politically.

He said that the indigenous people were being uprooted from their own lands across the country. Around 25 lakh indigenous people were on the verge of extinction across the country. He also mentioned that a land right of the indigenous peoples was neglected under different systems and hence they were losing their own land. He said that the demands of indigenous peoples would not be fulfilled until a democratic and progressive government comes to power.

Editor of the daily Samakal Mr. Golam Sarwar presided over workshop while Prof. Dalem Chandra Barman of Dhaka University and Dr. Abdur Razzak, MP attended the meeting as special guest.

#### **(58) 13 September 2005: Innocent villager shot dead by forest guards in Kaptai**

On 13 September 2005 at around 4.00 p.m. an innocent villager named Mr. Uching Nue Marma (22) s/o Mong Chinghla Marma was shot dead by the forest guards led by Md. Saidur Rahman, Assistant Forest Conservator and Mr. Habibur Rahman, DRO of Karnaphuli forest post. The victim was caught by the forest guards while he entered the jungle for finding out his cows. He was first tortured and then shot death by the forest guards. The forest guards ran away when the villagers rushed in the jungle hearing firing. The dead body of the victim was found on next day in the jungle (14 September).

The local people of the area protested against the killing of innocent villager and Mr. Thowaiching Marma, Chairman of the Chitmaram union, on behalf of the local people, submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister of People's Republic of Government of Bangladesh through Upazila Executive Officer (UNO) demanding exemplary punishment to the forest department personnel involved with this incident. Besides, the forest department officials are threatening relatives and local people to lodge forest case against them if they (relatives and local people) would continue campaign against the forest employees in connection with this incident.

#### *Follow-up of killing of Uching Nue Marma in Kaptai*

The victim's father Mr. Mong Chinghla Marma lodged case in connection with the killing of his son Uching Nue Marma against the following 6 persons with Kaptai police station:

- 1) Md. Saidur Rahman, Assistant Forest Conservator, Karnaphuli Range
- 2) Mr. Habibur Rahman, DRO of Karnaphuli forest post, Karnaphuli bit
- 3) Md. Harun, Forest Guard
- 4) Mr. Shyamal Chakma, Forest Guard
- 5) Mr. Sunayan Dewan, Forest Guard
- 6) Md. Jaker Hossain, Forest Guard

Though Mr. Mong Chinghla Marma filed case against them but he himself is a Forest Guard of the Forest Department. That is why he has nothing to do against his boss and colleagues. As a result, for the sake of his job, he came up in a compromise with his boss and colleagues. Consequently, Mr. Mong Chinghla Marma is no more vocal against the killing of his son and the police are also playing passive role. No body has been arrested by the police so far. In fact the local people including Mr. Thowaiching Marma, Chairman of the Chitmaram union became angry with Mr. Mong Chinghla Marma for coming up compromise without consultation with them.

On the other, as Mr. Thowaiching Marma, Chairman of the Chitmaram union, on behalf of the local people, submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister through Upazila Executive Officer (UNO) demanding exemplary punishment to the forest department personnel involved with this incident, an official order has been issued from Prime Minister's office to the Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati

district for enquiry of the incident. A copy of this enquiry order has also been sent to Mr. Thowaiching Marma as a complainer. But the name of the inquiry officer was not known.

Though victim's father Mr. Mong Chinghla Marma was compelled to come up in a compromise, but it is true that he filed case against the forest department personnel mentioned above.

It is mentionable that on 13 September 2005 at around 4.00 p.m. an innocent villager named Mr. Uching Nue Marma (22) s/o Mong Chinghla Marma was shot dead by the forest guards led by Md. Saidur Rahman, Assistant Forest Conservator and Mr. Habibur Rahman, DRO of Karnaphuli forest post. The victim was caught by the forest guards while he entered the jungle for finding out his cows. He was first tortured and then shot death by the forest guards. The forest guards ran away when the villagers rushed in the jungle hearing firing. The dead body of the victim was found on next day in the jungle (14 September).

#### **(59) 14 September 2005: Continuous Bengali Muslim infiltration in CHT**

With the direct and indirect help of government machineries, infiltration of Bengali Muslim families has been continuing in the CHT. For instance, on 14 September 2005 a Bengali Muslim family was found at the premises of Longadu Girl School in Longadu upazila under Rangamati district who was coming to Marishya (Baghaichari upazila) from Chandina of Comilla district. The family head was identified as Md. Moharam Ali (75) s/o late Narul Afsar along with following family members:

- 1) Begum Nur Jahan w/o Md. Moharam Ali;
- 2) Farida Begum d/o Md. Moharam Ali
- 3) Jamal Uddin, son-in-law of Md. Moharam Ali.

Md. Moharam Ali told the Jumma witnesses that they (infiltrators) were got down in Longadu from launch as they failed to pay launch fare. But they were begging for launch fare for going to Marishya.

#### **(60) 18 September 2005: J B Larma's Bandarban visit and the Sama Adhikar's strike to resist his visit**

Soon after receiving news about Bandarban visit by Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma (Santu Larma), President of PCJSS and Chairman of CHTRC, the Bengali extreme nationalist organisation so-called 'Sama Adhikar Andolan' (Equal Rights Movement) declared two-day strike to oppose Mr. Larma's visit.

It is mentionable that Bandarban district branch of PCP (Hill Students' Council) declared to organise welcome reception to the new students on 18 September 2005 in Bandarban and J B Larma gave consent to attend the reception as chief guest. Receiving this news, the Sama Adhikar Andolan declared two-day on 17-18 September strike to oppose Mr. Larma's visit. They declared to resist J B Larma's visit by hook and crook. It is also notable that Sama Adhikar Andolan, with the direct support of extreme communal forces including military forces deployed in the CHT declared J B Larma unwanted and demanded to hang him to death.

Amidst declaration of strike by the Sama Adhikar Andolan, J B Larma visited Bandarban successfully and without any hindrance. The Sama Adhikar Andolan shouted slogans against J B Larma while he was entering Bandarban town along with his long convoy. At that time, the Bengali extremists picketed at Balaghata and Traffic Point area (near press club) in Bandarban town. They hosted black flag. The Bengali extremists threw bricks while J B Larma's convoy was passing Traffic Point and a helper of jeep named Jamal Uddin got injuries on his head. The picketers of Sama Adhikar Andolan also attacked in front of police forces on the Jumma people at Traffic Point who were coming to attend the welcome reception where following persons got injuries. Among them, Mr. Gangja Marma was admitted at Bandarban hospital. The injured persons were:

- 1) Mr. Aung Chingneo Marma (18) s/o Uthowai Marma of Thongjama Para of Rajvila mouza;
- 2) Mr. Aungcha Thui Marma (20) s/o Thuihla Marma of Rajvila village of Rajvila mouza;
- 3) Mr. Alo Mohan Tanchangya (22) s/o Niran Tanchangya of Rajvila village of Rajvila mouza;
- 4) Mr. Gangja Marma (20) s/o Suikyewching Marma of Thongjama village of Rajvila mouza, injury at leg;
- 5) Mr. Aching Marma (20) s/o Uthowai Marma of Mashabania Para of Rajvila mouza.

Miscreants of the Sama Adhikar Andolan also tried to attack on Buddhist monks at Balaghata area. Sama Adhikar Andolan always tried to create communal riot during the visit of Mr. Larma. Several groups of Bengali adolescents consisting 6/7 boys in each group brought out procession in the Jumma inhabited areas shouting slogan against J B Larma and PCJSS so that the Jumma people become sentimental and attack them (Bengali adolescents) and in connection with the attack they (Sama Adhikar cadres) could make attack on the Jumma people. But the Jumma people kept alert to this conspiracy.

#### **18 August 2005: PCP welcome reception held peacefully**

As per declaration, at 4.00 p.m. of 18 August 2005 the PCP's welcome reception to new students was, amidst massive communal tension, held peacefully at Bandarban Town Hall. Mr. Juli Mong Marma, President of the Bandarban district PCP presided over the meeting where Dr. Gazi Salah Uddin, teacher of Sociology Department and Dr. Hussain Kabir, teacher of University of Chittagong attended the meeting as special guest. Mr. K S Mong Marma, President of Bandarban PCJSS branch and Mr. Kyewchahla Marma, ex-Chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council were present in the meeting as discussant. More than two hundred new students both Jumma and Bengali attended the welcome reception.

In his speech as chief guest, Mr. Larma says that there are lots of high educated people in the society, but genuine educated persons are found very rare. He urges the students to develop themselves as genuine educated person. For that he advises new students to study not only textbooks, but also other books of social, political, cultural etc. He also urges the students to participate in the political movement to achieve just rights of oppressed and suppressed people. It is the duty of young people to think about the political cause of the non-dominant sector of the society.

#### **(61) 20 September 2005: Threats by Panchari army zone commander**

On 20 September 2005 in the evening Panchari army zone commander Moin Chowdhury called and threatened Mr. Kiran Uday Chakma, Organizing Secretary, PCJSS Panchari thana branch, Mr. Supan Chakma (Sagar), PCJSS member and Mr. Nirmal Jyoti Dewan, Information and Publicity Secretary of PCP that they would understand the bad consequences of involvement in struggle. The army also threatened as Mr. Chandra Sekhar Chakma, the General Secretary of PCJSS in his article mentioned that the army were engaged in raping of Jumma women and said that he would understand what rape is. 2IC of Panchari zone Major Nasim was also present there and misbehaved with them.

#### **(62) 22 September 2005: Innocent villagers tortured indiscriminately by the army in Bandarban**

On 22 September 2005 at 4.00 p.m. the army led by Lt. Manir of 19 Bengal from Baghmara camp under Bandarban sadar upazila tortured Jumma people indiscriminately at Baghamara bazar in connection with a trifling matter. Mr. Tongula Tanchangya s/o Purna Kumar Chakma from Jogesh Chakma Para of Baghamara, among others, went to the teashop run by Md. Nurul to have snacks. Shopkeeper Md. Nurul supplied stale food to him. A quarrel was occurred while Tongula Tanchangya refused to eat this stale food. In the meantime, the shopkeeper Md. Nurul secretly sent information to Baghmara army that some tribal miscreants entered in the shop. Receiving this news, a group of army led by Lt. Manir rushed there and started to beat the Jumma people without any enquiry. More than 15 Jummas were beaten indiscriminately. Among them, following three Jumma got injuries:

- 1) Mr. Mong Prue Marma s/o Ushamong Marma of Wayabai Para of Baghamara;
- 2) Mr. Babul Chakma s/o Bilendra Chakma of Jogesh Chaka Para of Baghamara;
- 3) Mr. Tongula Tanchangya s/o Purna Kumar Chakma from Jogesh Chakma Para of Baghamara.

In protest against the incident, the Jumma villagers have been boycotting the teashop since 23 September. Later the army tried to compromise with the Jumma villagers. The army also confessed and apologized for the incident. But the Jumma villagers were adamant to boycott the shop.

#### **(63) 27 September 2005: PCJSS members harassed by the army in Barkal**

On 27 September 2005 at around 11.30 a.m. a group of army led by Major Shamim of 27 Bengal from No. 1610 Camp under Banjogichara zone in Jurachari upazila (Sub-district) conducted operation at

Parosap area under Jurachari upazila in Rangamati district. During the operation, the army tortured General Secretary of Juba Samiti (Youth Association) of Parosap village committee Mr. Subhash Jyoti Chakma s/o Guna Chandra Chakma. After brutal torture, he was given some medicine for treatment and ordered to submit list of members and supporters of PCJSS to the camp within 15 days, otherwise he would be faced more severe consequences.

The same army also tortured Mr. Arun Kumar Chakma (22) s/o Peda Chakma and Mr. Midamo Chakma (50) s/o Bira Chandra Chakma of Kusumchari village of Jurachari upazila. The army also ordered them to collect list of members and supporters of PCJSS and submit it to the camp. The army ordered Mr. Rabi Chandra Chakma (53), member of no. 6 ward of Jurachari union to leave his homestead. The army informed him that a camp would be set up there.

**(64) 27 September 2005: Army torture on PCJSS members in Jurachari of Rangamati**

On 27 September 2005 at around 11.00 a.m. a military operation was carried out by the army of 1610 camp under Bonjugichara zone of Jurachari upazila under Rangamati district led by Major Shamim (27 Bengal) in the area called Porosap under Jurachari. During the operation the army tortured Mr. Subhash Jyoti Chakma s/o Guna Chandra Chakma, Secretary of PCJSS of Jurachari thana branch. He was released with serious injuries, given some medicines and the army Major ordered him to supply the list of PCJSS members and supporters of this area within 15 days otherwise he would face severe torture again.

On the same day the army tortured Mr. Arun Kumar Chakma (22) s/o Peda Chakma and Mr. Midamo Chakma (50) Birchandra Chakma of of Jurachari. They were also ordered to supply the list of PCJSS members and supporters. Besides, the army ordered Mr. Rabi Chandra Chakma (53), Union Parishad member to leave his home. The army informed that an army camp would be established on the place.

**October 2005**

**(65) 2 October 2005: Dawn-to-dusk strike observed by Civil Society Organisations in Khagrachari to stop Jumma's land grabbing by Bengali settlers**

On 2 October 2005 a dawn-to-dusk road blockade programme was observed in Khagrachari district by 6 organisations, namely, Khagrachari District Citizens' Committee, Parbatya Bhikkhu Sangha, CHT Jumma Refugee Welfare Association, Khagrachari District Headmen Association, Hill Law Graduate Association and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum demanding implementation of 9-point programme. In a press release signed by Mr. Santoshita Chakma Bakul, Khagrachari District Citizens' Committee demanded revocation of the order of acquiring land for establishment of BDR camp on Jumma people's land at Babuchara and Pujgang under Khagrachari district, stop the government move to set up Boalkhali Nutton Bazaar, reclamation of land under the Buddha Shishughar Orphanage including the Pagoda, Hari Temple and burnt ground, and illegally occupied Jumma people's land, stop to land occupation and protection of land rights of Jumma people.

The 9 points of demands placed to the Government of Bangladesh for immediate action and implementation were:

- 1) To reclaim the land and burnt ground of Buddha Shishughar Orphanage along with Parbottya Chattal Bouddha Orphanage, Benuban Bouddha Vihar of Bipinkarbari para, Udayan Chan Bouddha Vihar of Chotta Hazachara, Fulchan Karbari Para (Ghana Muya Adam), Mohajani Buddha Vihar, Kalachan Mohajon Para Buddha Vihar, Tangya Mohajon Para Buddha Vihar, Khrisna Dyal Para Hori Mandhir, Ramubabu Dhebar Newh Para Hori Mandir and Ramghar Mohamuni Buddha Vihar from Bengali settlers and army camps.
- 2) To cancel the order of land acquisitions for the establishment of army camp in Pujgang of Panchari Upazilla and to immediate cancel the illegal process of establishment of Boyalkhali Nuton Bazaar by the government on the homestead of Jumma refugees.
- 3) To rehabilitate immediately of the India-returned Jumma Refugees and internally displaced persons.

- 4) To rehabilitate immediately of the Bengali settlers to their concerned plain districts for the shake of the proper rehabilitation of Jumma Refugees and Jumma Displaced persons of CHT.
- 5) To stop the infiltration of Bengali settlers for the protection of CHT Jumma people.
- 6) To start immediate withdrawal of all temporary army, Ansar, VDP and APBN camps according to CHT Accord.
- 7) To start immediately the activities of land commission with the amendment of contradictory Land Commission Act 2001 in accordance with CHT Accord.
- 8) To re-establish the Boalkhali and Tabalchari Bazaars at its original places and to stop the illegal establishment of Boalkhali Nuton Bazaar, Kabakhali Bazaar, Roshiknagar Bazaar, Madhya Boalkhali Bazaar, Betchari Bazaar and Changrachari Bazaar on the Jumma people's lands.
- 9) To cancel immediately the order of land acquisition process for the shake of forestry and extension of camps in Khagrachari hill district as well as three-hill district.

During the road blockade programme, the army and BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) tried to run passenger buses and jeeps breaking the strike. At Garitanahala under Manikchari upazila, Major Md. Arif from Koichara army camp ordered bus drivers to run their buses. On the other, BDR from Ramgarh camp arrested three picketers namely Mr. Mrasathowai Karbari, Mr. Hari Sadhan Tripura and Mr. Bikram Kishore Tripura from Bali Tea shop of Joutha Khamar area in Ramgarh. Although they were released later, but the BDR personnel brutally tortured Mrasathowai Karbari.

**(66) 11 October 2005: Villager ordered to win UPDF candidate in the upcoming Parliamentary election**

On 11 October 2005 at 11.00 am a group of UPDF cadets led by Mr. Tapan Jyoti Chakma held a public meeting with the villagers at the house of Nabin Kumar Chakma of Patachari village under Naniarchar upazila in Rangamati district. In this meeting the UPDF leaders ordered the public that by any means they have to vote for Mr. Prasit Bikash Khisa, the UPDF candidate in the upcoming Parliamentary election. Otherwise they have to face severe consequences. The UPDF leaders also told the villagers that UPDF does not care about other contestants from Awami League, BNP and JSS. Victory of Prasit Bikash Khisa is a must.

**(67) 14 October 2005: Military personnel searched and tore off portrait of M N Larma in Panchari**

On 14 October 2005 a group of military personnel led by Major Nasim, Second-in-Command (2IC) of Panchari Zone searched the house of Mr. Sohel Chakma's father. It is mentionable that Mr. Sohel Chakma was a PCJSS member of Panchari Upazila branch. There the military tore off a portrait of late M N Larma, the ex-member of the Constituent Assembly and Parliament and the great leader of the indigenous Jumma peoples. Besides, the military also ransacked the portraits of Sheikh Hasina, the former Prime Minister of Bangladesh Government, Ven. Sadhananda Mahasthabir (Bana Bhante), Mr. J B Larma alias Santu Larma, the Chairman of CHT Regional Council and Mr. Debashish Roy, the Chakma Circle Chief respectively and abused them harshly.

**(68) 16 October 2005: Royal College of Defense Studies team visits CHT Regional Council**

On 16 October 2005 UK Royal College of Defense Studies (RCDS) South Asia Tour 2005 team members called on Mr. Rupayan Dewan, Councilor, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council at council's head office at Rangamati. The team was led by Air Vice-Marshal Mr. S. Chisnal, Senior Directing Staff (Air) Steve of the RCDS, London. The team was received by Mr. Dewan, Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma (Councilor) and Ms. Jumbee Chakma (CHTRC official) at 12.00 hrs.

Mr. Rupayan Dewan briefed the team for about 30 minutes on the Special Administration and Present Situation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh. Afterwards, the floor was open for question and answers which lasted for about 30 minutes. During this session some of the visiting team members wanted to know whether the PCJSS ever demanded independence, how to establish the claim of human rights violations, how to prove the Operation Uttoron as a de facto Military Rule, challenges before the Jumma people and achievements made so far. During this session Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma also participated.

It was the maiden visit of RCDS team to South Asia. The team was in Bangladesh after visiting Pakistan and India. Mr. Rupayan Dewan requested Mr. Chisnal to conduct research on the CHT situation as the RCDS carries out such activities. In response to this request Mr. Chisnal said that it could be decided after their briefing before a group of about 60/80 persons, after their return to RCDS. Before closing the meeting a crest of RCDS was presented to Mr. Dewan while he presented *Khadi*, traditional piece of woven cloth to each of the team members. As soon as the meeting was over Mr. Chisnal passed a remark that they got “completely two different briefings”. It is worth mentioning that before visiting the CHT Regional Council the team was briefed at local Region Headquarters by 305 Infantry Brigade of Bangladesh Army.

The team members were:

- 1) Air Vice-Marshal Mr. S. Chisnal, Senior Directing Staff (Air);
  - 2) Mr. B T Burton, UK Ministry of Defence;
  - 3) Colonel N Bojie, Croatian Ministry of Defence;
  - 4) Colonel S F Deakin, British Army;
  - 5) Colonel M Demier; French Army;
  - 6) Brigadier General P Gerometta, Italian Army;
  - 7) Group Captain N J Gordon, British Royal Air Force;
  - 8) Mr. V Nepodas, Ministry of Foreign Affaires, Ukraine Government;
  - 9) Group Captain G B Odesola, Nigerian Air Force;
  - 10) Mr. B Ruge, German Foreign Service;
  - 11) Colonel J Y R A Viens, Canadian Air Force;
  - 12) Mr. W G Wilson, RCDS;
- Brigadier Ian Rees, Defence and Military Adviser, British High Commission to India.

**(69) 20 October 2005: Military forces instructed Bengali traders to file case against PCJSS member in Panchari**

On 20 October 2005 Major Nasim, Second-in-Command (2IC) of Panchari military zone confined the Bengali small businessmen (who engaged in turmeric and zinger business) at Panchari zone while they were returning from Logang Bazar under Panchari upazila (sub-district) in Khagrachari district. The Major instigated them to file a false case against Sohel Chakma and Kiron Udoy Chakma who are the members of PCJSS Panchari branch. Major Nasim’s accusation was that both Sohel Chakma and Kiron Udoy Chakma are extortionists. He further instructed to the Bengali businessmen that writing an application would be enough, the names of the accused could be added with the application by him later. Then he would take necessary measures against them later. Seeking time for a day to think of Major’s instruction they left army camp and never came back to see the Major.

**(70) 21 October 2005: Innocent Jumma villagers beat by army at Amtali in Panchari**

On 21 October 2005 at 8.00 a.m. a military operation by a group of army from Panchari army zone, led by Major Nasim, Second-in-command (2IC) was conducted at Amtali village under Logang union of Panchari upazila. During this operation the military personnel severely beat Mr. Sadhan Bikash Chakma (32), son of Hangsa Moni Chakma, a resident of Snehamoy Karbari Para village who was at a shop at that time and Mr. Bimal Kanti Chakma (33), the owner of the shop and who was son of one Sadhan Kumar Chakma with sticks of fire woods. It is worth mentioning that Mr. Sadhan Bikash Chakma was seriously injured. It is mentionable that he was shot by the UPDF terrorists in the last September. Besides, the military personnel also conducted operation in the village of Shuvodhan Headman Para. There they searched for members of PCJSS namely Mr. Sohel Chakma, Gojendra Lal Chakma and Tridiv Chakma. They also abused the locals in slang language.

**(71) 21 October 2005: Welcome reception and farewell of Chittagong University students organized by PCP, Chittagong University branch**

On 21 October 2005 a welcome reception to new students and farewell to passing out students was organised by Chittagong University branch of Hill Students Council (PCP) at the auditorium of faculty of Social Science of Chittagong University. Mr. Sukhen Chakma, President of Chittagong University of PCP branch presided over the event and Professor A J M Nuruddin Chowdhury, Vice

Chancellor of Chittagong University was present as Chief Guest. Besides, Mr. Sudhasindhi Khisa, Central Member of PCJSS and Member of CHTRC; Professor Dr. Muhammad Al-Amin, Proctor and teacher of Forestry and Environment Science of Chittagong University and Mr. Ujjal Chakma, Central President of PCP also attended the meeting as special guests. Girisur Shilpi Gosthi performed a cultural function after the discussion meeting.

In his speech, Mr. Sudhasindhu Khisa raised to the Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University to provide residence for the Jumma students in the university hostels. In response to this proposal, Professor A J M Nuruddin Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University said that residence for girl students would be solved if the construction of Khaleda Zia Hall was completed. But residence for boy students was still very difficult. For the solution of the residence problem for boy students, he proposed the CHTRC to provide fund for construction of a separate hostel for Jumma students and the authority of Chittagong University would provide land for that purpose.

**(72) 22 October 2005: Military personnel arrested innocent Uttam Chakma and confined him in camp**

On 22 October 2005 a group of military personnel led by Major Nasim, Second-in-command (2IC) from Panchari army zone conducted operation at the village of Dewan Para of Bhaibonchara under Panchari upazila. During operation they took an innocent Jumma villager named Uttam Chakma who was a PCJSS supporter with them. They threatened Uttam Chakma's wife that if she informs others even the military about that incident she would grave face consequence. Though the Major assured her that her husband would be released in due time and would not be beaten up in their custody, he was not still released and confined in camp.

**(73) In October 2005: Military rule is still operative in the CHT – says Santu Larma in the workshop on “Human Rights and Good Governance” held in Rangamati**

A three daylong workshop on ‘Human Rights and Good Governance’ was held in Rangamati in initiative of ‘Manusher Jonno’, a NGO in the country. Mr. Jyotirindra Boudhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, President of PCJSS and Chairman of the CHTRC was present as the chief guest in the function that was presided over by Ms. Rina Roy of the organizing organization of the workshop. The following persons who were present and delivered speech in the function as the special guests were Dr. Manik Lal Dewan the Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council; Mr. Rupayan Dewan, member of CHTRC and Ms. Tuku Talukdar, a NGO representatives respectively. Dr. Shamim Imam, Consultant of capacity building for ‘Manusher Jonno’ delivered welcome speech in the inauguration ceremony.

Mr. J B Larma addressed the function that pro-people government is a must to establish good governance and maintain human rights. Many things depend on the characteristics of government. Good governance and human Rights cannot be expected if the policy makers of the government are corrupt and immoral. He said that the constitution of 1972 is limited in papers only. This constitution could not be implemented in the administrative system of the country. Those governments, which had successively ruled the country never tried to actualize the constitution. The Chittagong Hill Tracts is still under military rule. So, how can it be possible to establish good governance and human rights in this region?

He further said in the workshop that feudal system that is governance by Headmen and Karbaris is still active in the CHT. There are racial, sexual, social and communal discriminations in this region. People of CHT are divided into various classes. Moreover, repressive rule upon the Jumma People run from pre-Pakistani period. Human rights in this region have repeatedly been trodden down. The rulers ruled the CHT for their own interests. An armed struggle of more than twenty-five years for rights to self-determination ran in the CHT region. Much bled and hundreds of Jumma women lost their chastity to Bangladesh military forces and Bengali settlers during this bloody movement. In one phase of the movement the “Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord” was signed in 1997. Now, struggle for implementation of the CHT Accord is going on.

He also said, huge news regarding human rights is being written in hundreds of daily newspapers every day in the country. Millions of words are being published to establish human rights. But human

rights are imperiled with repression, exploitation and torture. He identified human rights as golden deer. Jumma people are deprived of all rights in some ways. Jumma people want to re-establish their rights of self-governance in CHT. He mentioned that both Jumma People and permanent Bengalis residing in CHT want rights.

**(74) 26 October 2005: Jumma girl raped in Bandarban**

On 26 October 2005 Miss Painu Sing Marma (15) a Marma indigenous girl who was the daughter of Keja Aung Marma and Mathui Marma and a resident of Mewa para village of Rajvilla under Bandarban district was gang raped by a group of Bengali culprits while she was going to Bandarban Buddhist orphanage in the evening. The rappers picked her up their motorcycle forcefully and raped her in a secluded area. The rappers were identified as-

- 1) Mr. Rajib Dhar, son of the owner of Aunga Shova Jewelers of Bandarban bazar
- 2) Md. Hadip of Balaghata area
- 3) Md. Amin (32) of Bandarban Bus Station
- 4) Md. Jahangir (26) of Bandarban Bus Station
- 5) Mr. Rubel Barua (30) of Bandarban Bazar and
- 6) Md. Soyed (30) of Hotel Khawadawa slum.

It was reported that the victim herself has filed a case against the culprits. It was also learned that the police arrested some of alleged miscreants. Leaders of PCJSS including PCP and Hill Women's Federation demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of all criminals.

**(75) 28 October 2005: Jumma villagers brutally tortured by army in Bandarban**

On 28 October 2005 at around 6.00 p.m. the army Lt. Saiful Islam Sohel of Dolupara camp under Bandarban zone brutally tortured followings;

- 1) Mr. Sui Hla Ching Marma (27) s/o Khwisa Aung Marma of Dolupara village of Bandarban upazila in Bandarban district.
- 2) Mr. Thui Nue Moug Marma (19) s/o Saing Chui Moug of village Dolupara of Bandarban upazila in Bandarban district. He is a student of class XI of Bandarban Govt. College.
- 3) Mr. Thui Mra U Marma (19) of Dolupara village of Bandarban upazila in Bandarban district.

It is reported that Mr. Sui Hla Ching Marma went to Dolupara to collect the dues from Md. Bashar as Mr. Marma has lent his plough machine to Md. Bashar where at one stage Md. Bashar in association with his son started beating and informed the army of nearby camp. Later the army took the above-mentioned three Jummas to Dolupara camp and brutally beaten. The army threatened them not to go to hospital and inform anybody. If not they would be tortured further. The army also threatened that the Jummas would be indiscriminately tortured if there were any further quarrel between Bangalis and Jummas.

**(76) 30 October 2005: Two including PCJSS member shot dead by UPDF in Panchari**

On 30 October 2005 in the evening a group of armed cadres of UPDF led by Sukrasen Chakma shot dead Mr. Kamal Bikash Chakma (35) s/o Hriday Bhishan Chakma and Ms. Putul Chakma (17) d/o Bani Kumar Chakma of Ananda Mohan Karbari Para of Rajendra Para under Logang union in Panchari upazila of Khagrachari district. Mr. Kamal Bikash Chakma was returnee member of PCJSS and Ms. Putul Chakma was a student of grade IX of Logang High School. The UPDF cadres rounded up the house of Bani Kumar Chakma and fired indiscriminately. A case was filed with Panchari police station.

**(77) 31 October 2005: UPDF tried to kidnap two villagers in Laxmichari**

On 31 October 2005 a group of UPDF cadres tried to kidnap a shopkeeper named Mr. Sathowai Marma (50) s/o Thowai Prue Aung Marma and a villager named Mr. Aungsui Thowai Marma s/o Pathowai Marma of Dulyachari under Laxmichari in Khagrachari. But failed to do so as the villagers rushed there to rescue him while they shouted. Failing to kidnap, the UPDF cadres fired upon them indiscriminately. But they narrowly escaped. It is mentionable that the UPDF miscreants demanded a heavy amount of tolls from Sathowai Marma in April 2005. As he failed to pay it, the UPDF extortionists tried to kidnap him.

## November 2005

### **(78) 2 November 2005: Innocent Jumma student injured by the army in Khagrachari**

On 2 November 2005 at 12.00 noon a group of army from Rabi Chandra Karbari Para camp under Dighinala upazila injured an innocent student named Mr. Dipan Chakma (14) s/o Murati Mohan Chakma of village Rangapanichara under Khagrachari upazila. Dipan Chakma is a student of Class IX of Khagrachari Vocational Textile Institute.

It is learnt that the army led by one captain went out for patrolling operation at Bagara Para and Natha Para area under Khagrachari upazila in Khagrachari district. At a stage they wanted to know about the way of Natha Para from Dipan Chakma, but due to misunderstanding he showed the way of Bagara Para. As a result, the army (name not available) became angry and he chopped Dipan Chakma with spade taking it from him (Dipan). He got serious wound on his leg and was admitted at Khagrachari hospital. The army gave Taka 100 for treatment and ordered to his guardians not to do anything in connection with this incident.

### **(79) 9 November 2005: UPDF and army attack to foil programme of death anniversary of M N Larma**

On 9 November 2005 at around 10.00 a.m. a group UPDF cadres made armed attack on PCJSS and PCP workers in Panchari (near Panchari Buddhist temple) under Khagrachari district while they were taking preparation for commemorating 22<sup>nd</sup> death anniversary of M N Larma. But the workers of PCJSS and PCP escaped narrowly from injuries.

Soon after the UPDF's attack, a group of army from Panchari zone led by zone commander Moin Chowdhury and 2IC Major Nasim rushed there and arrested Information and Publicity Secretary of PCP (Hill Student Council) Mr. Narmal Jyoti Dewan (26) s/o Sukiran Dewan. He was taken into Shanti Ranjan Karbari Para and tortured by army. Zone commander Moin Chowdhury ordered him to leave PCP and join UPDF by 13 November; otherwise he would be faced physical torture. On the other, he would be given money if he joins UPDF and works for army. He was released in the evening.

### **(80) 9 November 2005: Unethical letter from MoCHTA to CHTRC and HDCs on Voter List**

On 9 October 2005 Ministry of CHT Affairs sent an order on cooperation to formulate of voter list to Election Commission to CHT Regional Council and three Hill District Councils. The order has been issued mentioning unethical words that actions would be taken against the CHT Regional Council and three Hill District Councils if they failed to cooperate Election Commission. On the other, there are not mentioned about voter list only with the permanent residents of CHT that acknowledges in the CHT Accord.

### **(81) 9 November 2005: Follow-up of GoB summons to indigenous leaders**

On 9 November 2005 the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on CHT Affairs Ministry was held. The indigenous activists were not summoned to attend the said meeting for giving explanation on alleged anti-state statements during the last meet of the United Nation's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), held in May 2005 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

But Mr. Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, ruling party MP from Khagrachari hill district and communalist raised the issue why the indigenous activists were not summoned. Md. Mosharaf Hossain, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee replied that it would be discussed only among the 7-member of Parliamentary Standing Committee. He explained that there is no need to summon the indigenous activists. He also mentioned to have received protest letter from several national and international organizations against the decision of the Parliamentary Standing Committee to summon indigenous activists.

It is notable that in the 21st meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee held on 31 August 2005, the committee took decision to summon Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma and Mr. Mrinal Kanti Tripura (PCJSS leaders), Mr. Devasish Roy (Chakma Circle Chief), Ms. Ina Hume (Jumma Peoples Network, London), and Mr. Albert Mankin (Garo/Mandi leader from Madhupur) for giving alleged

anti-state statements during the last meet of the United Nation's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), held in last May at the UN Headquarters in New York. Parliamentary Standing Committee alleged that statements of said leaders do not match with the reality of the country. Hence, the committee would ask for action if the indigenous people leaders fail to respond with appropriate replies.

**(82) 10 November 2005: 22nd Death Anniversary of M N Larma observed in CHT and Dhaka**

On 10 November 2005, 22<sup>nd</sup> death anniversary of forerunner of the renaissance of the Jumma people, the member of the Gona Parishad (Constituent Assembly) and the Parliament Manabendra Narayan Larma was observed in three hill districts of CHT and Dhaka.

Commemorating the death anniversary of M N Larma, the PCJSS organized day-long programme such as mourning rally, offering flower-wreath to the martyrs, discussion meeting, lighting of candles and hosting of paper-balloons in three hill districts. Hundreds of people attended the programme to pay tribute to great leader M N Larma and other martyrs. The speakers of the meetings held in three hill districts demanded full implementation of the CHT Accord signed between the government and the PCJSS in 1997.

A discussion meeting was jointly arranged by Bangladesh Adivashi Adhikar Andolon and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum at the Liberation War Museum auditorium in Dhaka. Mr. Ajoy Roy of Sammilita Samajik Andolan chaired the meeting while prominent indigenous writer and general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Sanjib Drong conducted it. PCJSS president Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma attended the meeting as main discussant. Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) president Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu, Workers Party leader Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Awami League MP Promod Mankin, Dhaka University History Department Associate Professor Mesbah Kamal, Anthropologist Professor H K Arefin, Labour leader and ex-MP Abdullah Sarkar and General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Jatiya Parishad Rabindranath Soren spoke there.

Jyotiprova Larma, elder sister of M N Larma, spoke about the life and character of the deceased. PCJSS vice president Rupayan Dewan and Assistant General Secretary Laxmi Prasad Chakma narrated their experiences while working with M N Larma. At the beginning of the programme a cultural session was held where Girisur Shilpi Gosthi and Udichi Shilpi Gosthi rendered songs.

In his speech, Mr. J B Larma expressed that the government is reluctant to implement the CHT Accord that ended a bush war of more than two decades in the region in 1997. Military rule has been imposed on the hill people since the liberation of the country and the human rights situation deteriorated since then. The rulers of the country have been depriving and torturing the hill people for long. But seven hundred thousands of hill people would not allow it to continue any more. He also mentioned that the assassination of M N Larma was a national and international conspiracy. M N Larma worked and sacrificed his life not only for the Jumma people but also for the marginal poor people of the country.

It is mentionable that some misguided activists of PCJSS assassinated Manabendra Narayan Larma on 10 November 1983.

On the occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> death anniversary of M N Larma, PCJSS published special issue of its news bulletin 'Jumma Sangbad Bulletin' and poster.

**(83) 12 November 2005: Two innocent villagers arrested by BDR in Longadu**

On 12 November 2005 around 9.00 p.m. a group of BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) from Rajanagar BDR zone and Kathaltali BDR camp of Bagachatar under Longadu upazila conducted operation at Naluya village under Longadu upazila. They first rounded up house of Apan Chakma. The BDR tried to enter the house, but Ms. Milan Shushi Chakma, wife of Apan Chakma, opposed it. At a stage, Apan Chakma could narrowly escape. Failing to arrest Apan Chakma, the BDR personnel rounded up house of Bishwa Sahan Chakma. They arrested three villagers from his house, namely, Mr. Bimal Kanti Karbari, Kala Kachu Chakma and Surja Kumar Chakma without showing any allegation. The BDR also arrested Mr. Diganta Chakma alias Picchu and Shukramani Chakma from roadside while

returning to camp along with arrestees. Later, the BDR personnel released them except Surja Kumar Chakma and Shukramani Chakma. Latter were handed over to Longadu police station in connection with a false case.

**(84) 13 November 2005: Two innocent students kidnapped by the army in Rangamati**

On 13 November at 10.30 a.m. two Jumma student were kidnapped by the army from TTC Road in Rangamati. The students were:

- 1) Mr. Pranayan Chakma (18) s/o Utpal Chakma, student of class IX of Rangamati Technical Training Centre;
- 2) Mr. Raman Chakma (18), student of class IX of Rangamati Technical Training Centre.

The army arrested them while the victims reached at TTC Road near College Gate area. The army picked them up on their vehicle and tied their eyes up. Then they were taken into a camp where they were interrogated till mid-night on whether they involved with terrorist activities and Hill Student Council (PCP). They were released at night around 2.00 a.m. in front of Gauchia Market of College Gate area on the condition that they would not disclose the incident. As their eyes were tied up, they could not identify the camp and name of the army.

**(85) 14 November 2005: Returnee PCJSS members arrested by army in Panchari**

On 14 November 2005 in the evening the following PCJSS members were arrested from their houses by the army of Panchari zone led by 2IC Major Nasim. The victims were:

- 1) Mr. Sushil Kumar Chakma alias Sohel (43) s/o Shiddadhan Chakma of Shuvadhan Headman Para of Panchari;
- 2) Mr. Gajendra Lal Chakma (48) s/o late Ramani Mohan Chakma of Shuvadhan Headman Para of Panchari;
- 3) Mr. Shanti Chakma (30) s/o late Nalini Kumar Chakma of Barkalak of Panchari;
- 4) Mr. Ujjal Chakma alias Madbhadi (32) s/o Khagendra Lal Chakma of Bharat Barsha Para of Panchari.

The army told them first to go to the camp as the zone commander called them. But they were arrested and started torture while reached at the office of the local Union Council. Seeing this, local villagers rushed there to rescue them from army torturing. But the army zone authority sent more army to bring arrestee to camp. After bringing arrestees at zone headquarters, the army took photograph with country-made gun and then handed over to Panchari police station with arms after brutally torturing. A false arms case was filed against them.

It is mentionable that the arms that were given with the arrestees were received from UPDF cadres namely Tejomitra Chakma alias Happy from Tarabanya of Panchari on that day at 3.00-4.00 p.m. After that, Sushil Kumar Chakma alias Sohel and other three persons have been taken from their houses. A public representative of local Union Council and a Bengali elder told that they did not see any arm while the arrestees were being taken into camp.

Protesting the conspiratorial arrest of the PCJSS members, the PCJSS and its wing organizations observed down-to-dusk road blockade programme in Khagrachari-Panchari road under Khagrachari district on 16 November and protest procession in Rangamati on 17 November. A memorandum on behalf of residents of Khagrachari district was submitted to Prime Minister of People's Republic of Government of Bangladesh protesting the military atrocities on 16 November. They demanded to immediate release of arrestees and to stop military atrocities on PCJSS members and supporters as well as general public of the district. But no action has been taken so far.

**(86) 23 November 2005: Workshop on Land Issues in CHT stopped by the GoB**

On 23 November 2005 workshop on Land Issues in Chittagong Hill Tracts was stopped by the Government of Bangladesh in Rangamati. The six indigenous NGOs and POs, namely, Hill Tracts NGO Forum, Kapaeeng, Mrochet, Movement for the Protection of Forest and Land Rights (MfPFLR), Maleya and Taungya with the support of Human Rights and Good Governance-Programme Support Unit, Royal Danish Embassy/Danida arranged the workshop on 23-24 November 2005. The objectives of the workshop were:

- To identify key land related issues, strategic priorities and possible programme and initiatives for the intervention for the promotion and protection of the land rights of the CHT.
- To identify and assess the constrains, and opportunities of various actors on the issues of land rights of the CHT at local, national and international level.
- To provide an opportunity for the CHT peoples to further strengthen their network on the issues of land at the local level.

The workshop was divided into four core issues, such as, (1) Present land related situation of CHT and land dispute between indigenous people and settlers, (2) Land settlement, acquisition and transfer system and lease, (3) Mouza Forest and Reserved Forest AND (4) Jumma Refugees and Internal Displaced Persons.

Ms. Nathalia Feinberg, Deputy Head of Royal Danish Embassy was supposed to inaugurate the workshop. But she could not inaugurate the workshop as she was also asked not to attend the workshop from her Embassy. On the other, as per schedule, the workshop was started at 9.30 on 23 November. After the morning session, Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati district referring an order of Prime Minister's office issued to the organizers to stop the workshop and informed police authority to take necessary action for the same. Soon after receiving the order, the police also rushed the workshop venue for taking necessary action. Consequently, the organizers were compelled to stop the workshop and the participants including six organizing organizations decided to hold press conference protesting the Government order to stop workshop. In the workshop 65 participants from three hill districts both from indigenous Jumma people and permanent Bengali residents attended. Many representatives from governmental bodies and civil society and other professional organizations and indigenous elders also attended the workshop.

In the press statement the participants and organizers opined that land is a burning issue in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. We know that the government of Bangladesh has kept taking various initiatives for implementation of the 1997 CHT Accord, and many Ministers expressed commitment for the same on various occasions. Land is one of the crucial issues addressed in the CHT Accord. Implementation of the CHT Accord is not possible at all without a solution to this issue. We organized a two-day long workshop with an aim to extending our cooperation to the government for implementation of the Accord. The main purpose of the workshop was to identify the land-problems and make recommendations, which are of great importance for the Land Commission and the government as well in terms of solution to these problems. However, by dint of an order No. 2016/Joint Ops (A)/1304 dated 21 November 2005 issued from the Prime Minister Office, Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati sent a letter to the office of the Hill Tracts NGO Forum ordering stop of the workshop.

We, the undersigned leaders of various development organizations, express our indignation and protest this undemocratic and unconstitutional order of the government. We think that this order has violated our fundamental right to expression of opinion and freedom of speech, and it is against the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution. The order from the Prime Minister Office to stop the workshop without any reason is not understandable to us. As citizen of a democratic country everyone has the right to participation in meetings peacefully and to expression of his/her opinion. This order amounts to violation of the right to speech of the people of the CHT.

We think that this undemocratic and autocratic order of the government is a threat to democracy, human rights, good governance, and development, and such unlawful order will definitely hamper the implementation process of the Accord.

We have called this press conference to take up this matter with the people of the country through the media friends present here. We call upon the government and the people of Bangladesh to ensure the fundamental rights of the people of the CHT and to solve their land-problems.

The signatories of the press statement were:

- 1) Mr. Lalit Chandra Chakma, General Secretary, Hill Tracts NGO Forum
- 2) Mr. Gautam Dewan, President, Movement for the Protection of Forest and Land Rights
- 3) Advocate Shaktiman Chakma, President, Hill Tracts NGO Forum, Rangamati District Committee

- 4) Mr. Shaktipada Tripura, President, Headmen Association, Khagrachari District
- 5) Mr. Santosita Chakma, (Bukul), General Secretary, CHT Jumma Refugee Welfare Association
- 6) Mr. Sudatta Bikash Tanchangya, General Secretary, Movement for the Protection of Forest and Land Rights
- 7) Mr. Mukta Ranjan Chakma, Secretary, Hill Tracts NGO Forum, Khagrachari District Committee
- 8) Mr. Ranglai Mro, President, Mrochet
- 9) Mr. Udbhasan Chakma, Member Secretary, Kapaeeng
- 10) Advocate Bhabatosh Dewan, Secretary, Maleya
- 11) Mr. Amlan Chakma, Executive Director, Taugya
- 12) Mr. Bishwa Kalyan Chakma, President Union Parishad Forum, Khagrachari
- 13) Janab Mohammad Ali Ahmed, President, Global Mission, Bandarban
- 14) Ms. Tuku Talukdar, Organizing Secretary, Movement for the Protection of Forest and Land Rights
- 15) Mr. Jumlian Amlai Bawm, President, Bawm Social Council
- 16) Mr. Arun Librace, President, Khyag Kalyan Sangstha
- 17) Mr. Chaithoi Marma, President, BRAPA
- 18) Advocate Susmita Chakma, Joint Secretary, Movement for the Protection of Violence Against Women, Rangamati
- 19) Mr. Ashok Kumar Chakma, Executive Director, Trinamul
- 20) Mr. Bishwa Priyo Karbari, Ex-Chairman, Khedarmara UP, Baghaichari
- 21) Ms. Sagarika Roaza, Advisor, Tripura Kalyan Foundation.

#### **(87) 28 November 2005: Innocent villagers tortured by the army in Longadu**

On 28 November 2005 at mid-night (12.00) a group of army led by Lieutenant Mehedi from Karalyachari sub-zone under Longadu Maini zone of 26 Bengal conducted operation at Bame Atarakchhari village under Longadu upazila (sub-district) in Rangamati district. During the operation, the army brutally tortured following innocent villagers. They got injuries. The victims were:

- 1) Mr. Elision Chakma alias Kishore (31) s/o Kali Ratan Chakma;
- 2) Mr. Dipankar Chakma (38) s/o Kali Ratan Chakma;
- 3) Mr. Kiranmoy Chakma (30) s/o Bimalendu Chakma;
- 4) Mr. Shyamal Chakma (22) s/o Apan Bihari Chakma.

It is learnt that the army divided into two groups rounded up house of Elision Chakma first. They caught him and started to beat. At that time, his elder brother Dipankar Chakma was brought there and also started to beat by the army. Another group of army rounded up the house of Kiranmoy Chakma of the village. The army entered the house and caught him. The army also arrested brother-in-law of Kiranmoy Chakma who stayed there. The army fastened their hands and eyes and started to torture them. At a stage, all the arrestees were gathered at the premises of Elision Chakma's house. After torturing for 4 hours, the army released them early in the morning. The villagers believed that this operation has been conducted to create terror among the Jumma people so that Bengali settlers could be settled on the Jumma people's land.

#### **(88) 29 November 2005: Two persons including PCJSS member kidnapped and then killed by UPDF**

On 29 November 2005 at 8.00 p.m. the armed group of UPDF kidnapped Mr. Bimala Chakma (40) s/o Mahesh Chandra Chakma of Khulyang Para under Naniarchar upazila and Jatin Bikash Chakma s/o Amalendu Chakma of Kukurmara village under Naniachar from the village of Kukuramara. The villagers feared that the UPDF might kill them.

### **December 2005**

#### **(89) 2 December 2005: Observation of 8th Anniversary of Signing of the CHT Accord**

On 2 December 2005 the 8th anniversary of signing of the CHT Accord was observed in three hill districts of CHT, Dhaka and Chittagong. PCJSS held protest meeting and brought out processions in

the headquarters of three hill districts and sub-districts (upazilas) demanding full implementation of the Accord. Demanding immediate implementation of the Accord, PCJSS organized press conference at national press club in Dhaka on 30 November. On the occasion of the 8th anniversary of signing of the CHT Accord, PCJSS published report of the present status of implementation of the CHT Accord and circulated leaflet.

### **Three hill districts programme:**

**Rangamati:** The protest meeting was held at Gymnasium premises of Rangamati where Sukumar Chakma, general secretary of Upazatya Samajik Forum presided over. Among others, PCJSS leader Ushaton Talukder, Chittagong University teacher Dr. Hossain Kobir, leader of Socialist Party of Bangladesh Rajekujjaman Ratan, Social worker Nirmolendu Tripura, Assistant Director for youth affairs of PCJSS Dhiro Kumar Chakma, Secretary for student and youth of Rangamati PCJSS Mrikanka Khisa, leader of Hill Women's Federation Suprova Chakma and president of Hill Student Council Ujjal Chakma spoke in the meeting.

Speakers blamed the past Awami League government for not implementing the accord fully and the present government for violating its vital clauses. An influential quarter in the coalition government instigates anti-accord elements. They alleged that the government is instigating anti-accord elements through various ways to complicate the situation in the hills.

Later, a protest procession paraded the main streets of the town.

**Khagrachari:** Protest meeting was held at Larma Square in Mohazon Para in the town. PCJSS leader Rasamoy Chakma presided the protest meeting. Among others, Assistant General Secretary of PCJSS Tatindra Lal Chakma, central member of PCJSS and CHT Regional Council member Roktatalpal Tripura, Secretary for student and youth of Khagrachari PCJSS Braja Kishore Tripura, refugee leader Sontoshita Chakma Bakul and Nagorik Committee (citizens' committee) leader Hemanta Tripura addressed the meeting.

Speakers said there has been no achievement in the hills from the peace accord in last eight years as the government is not sincere to implement it. They alleged that events in the last four years proved that the government 'has no intention' to implement the peace and establish peace in the hills. They bitterly criticised government's 'reluctance' to implementation of the Accord and urged indigenous people to continue agitation to realise their rights. If this continues, the indigenous people will have no option other than launching tougher agitation to realise their demands.

A large number of indigenous people from all upazilas attended the rally and procession demanding full implementation of the Accord.

**Bandarban:** Protest meeting was held at the premises of Rajbari Math in the town. President of Bandarban upazila PCJSS Ucho Mong presided over the meeting. Among others, General Secretary of PCJSS Chandra Shekhar Chakma, President of Bandarban district PCJSS K S Mong Marma, Vice President Jali Mong Marma, leader of CHT Women Association Wching Prue Marma, leader of the Hill Women's Federation Meiyo Ching Marma, AGS of PCP Uchohowai Marma spoke in the meeting. Following the protest meeting, a procession paraded the main streets of the town.

Protest meeting was also held at Baghaichari, Barkal, Longadu, Jurachari, Kaptai and Bilaichari upazilas in Rangamati district and Rowangchhari and Ruma upazilas in Bandarban district.

### **Dhaka programme:**

**Press Conference:** Press conference was held at national press club in Dhaka by the PCJSS demanding for full implementation of the CHT Accord where on behalf of the PCJSS, its President Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma spoke. Among others, Assistant General Secretary of PCJSS Laxmi Prasad Chakma, Information and Publicity Secretary Mangal Kumar Chakma, Adivasi Forum leader Juhinal Khasia, Andrew Solemor, and Hill Women's Federation President Choitali Tripura were present at the press conference.

Mr. Larma reiterated that Awami League government signed the accord but did not implement it fully. The present coalition government is working against the Accord. These are intrusion of Bengali

settlers in the hill region, encroachment of Jumma people's lands, attempt to increase the number of Bengali settlers to soar vote banks, creation of division between the permanent Bengali and Jumma people, and encroachment of lands for setting up of military camps. He also mentioned that military atrocity is the part of life of indigenous Jumma people.

He said different vested quarters are now engaged in various activities in a bid to deprive the hill people of their rights. He alleged that Sama Adhikar Andolon, an extreme communal organisation of the Bengali settlers and United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), a terrorist outfit, have been carrying out anti-accord activities with the assistance of the Armed Forces. He also mentioned that due to non-implementation of the Accord, Islamist militants have set up hideouts in the hill region. They have close links with their counterparts in Myanmar. These separatist militants have been providing training to Bangladeshi militants posing serious threat to the country.

He expressed that full implementation of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord is not possible without a secular and democratic government in the country. He placed a six-point charter of demand to solve the problems prevailing in the hill region, such as, holding of national and local elections following separate voter lists of the permanent inhabitants in the hill region, immediate withdrawal of temporary army camps and suspension of 'Operation Uttaran', activation of Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Commission and rehabilitation of returnee Jumma refugees and internally displaced persons.

**Discussion meeting:** Bangladesh Adivasi Adhikar Andolon and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum jointly organized day-long discussion meeting at the Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in Dhaka marking the eighth anniversary of the CHT Accord. The discussion meeting was divided into two sessions. The first session was presided over by PCJSS and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum President Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma. Other speakers at the first session included Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Ministry Mani Swapan Dewan, Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, retired justice Golam Rabbani, Dhaka University teachers KHS Arefin, Mesbah Kamal and Robayet Ferdous, women's rights leaders Shirin Aktar, General Secretary of Dhaka Journalists' Union and Chief News Editor Shah Alamgir, Bangladesh Agriculture University teacher Dr. Abidur Reza, and Advocate Rafuqul Amin. In the open discussion during first session, adivasi leader Albert Mankin, activist of Somnilito Samajik Andolan Sharifujjaman Sharif, journalist Tipu Rahman, student of Dhaka University Tushar Ahmed and president of Hill Women's Federation Choitali Tripura spoke.

The second session was presided over by Gono Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharja. Among others, the speakers were Awami League Presidium Member Dr. Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir, Vice President of PCJSS Rupayan Dewan, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu, Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Ruhin Hossain Prince, Executive Director of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha Rokeya Kabir, General Secretary of Jatiya Adibasi Parishad Rabindranath Saren and Director of Ekata Trade Fair Forum Arshad Siddiquee. In the open discussion during first session, PCJSS president J B Larma, teacher of Dhaka University Dr. Dalem Chandra Burman, cultural activist Pradip Kumar, retired bureaucrat Julfikur Ali, Dilara Rekha of Institute of Environment and Development, student Aungya Marma and Manju Chowdhury spoke.

Both sessions were facilitated by Jinnat-e-Fedousi of Bangladesh Adivasi Adhikar Andolon and Mangal Kumar Chakma of PCJSS.

In his speech, PCJSS president J B Larma said that the military forces have been playing anti-accord role in CHT. Due to continuing military role, the army have been conducting operation and atrocities on Jumma people, such as, arbitrary arrest, extra judiciary killing, harassment, torturing, forced labour etc. They have also been patronizing Bengali settlers to grab Jumma people's land, to instigate Bengali settlers to commit communal attack on the Jumma people. Due to non-implementation of the CHT Accord, Islamist militants of Myanmar are also helping the Bangladeshi militants by giving them arms and training, which has now posed a threat to national security. Parbatya Chattagram Sama Adhikar Andolon (Movement for equal rights in the CHT), under the shelter of security forces, is carrying out communal activities against the indigenous people in the three hill districts and conspiring for cancellation of the CHT Accord. Various communal organisations are mobilising Bengali settlers in the CHT against indigenous people as well as opposing the CHT Accord.

Moreover, the United Peoples' Democratic Front created by a vested quarter in the government is engaged in activities against the accord.

PCJSS Vice President Rupayan Dewan alleged repression on indigenous people by security forces. They are also creating obstacles to implementation of the CHT Accord. He regretted rehabilitating thousands of Bengali settlers and leasing out land to them in the three hill districts. He demanded immediate implementation of the peace accord.

Deputy Minister of CHT Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan admitted that the CHT issue should be considered a national problem. No militant operations should be allowed in the CHT and its problems should be resolved through dialogue. And the policy makers of the government have a key role to play in this regard.

PCJSS President Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, who chaired the discussion, stressed political will for resolving CHT problems since, he said, it is a national issue and not an issue of indigenous people only. He has a firm belief that the peace accord will be implemented.

Awami League (AL) leader Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir reiterated that they would implement the CHT Accord if AL could assume in the government power.

Leaders of the indigenous people, opposition political parties and human rights bodies said Islamist militant forces have gathered strength in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) with the security forces.

### **Chittagong:**

Discussion meeting demanding for the Implementation of the CHT Accord was held at the Muslim Hall in Chittagong on the eighth anniversary of the signing of the Accord. Samiran Chakma chaired the meeting. Leader of Communist Party of Bangladesh comrade Shah Alam, central member of PCJSS Sudhasindhu Khisa, advocate Rana Dasgupta, journalist and poet Omar Kawsar and Dipayan Khisa were present in the discussion meeting. Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was the chief guest at the meeting.

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, in his speech alleged that the CHT accord has been acclaimed as one of the epoch-making steps but the incumbent government is now dilly-dallying to implement the treaty.

Mr. Sudhsindhu Khisa said, in his speech, that the previous government signed the accord but was not cordial in implementing, did not implement the major provisions and the present government did not implement rather violated some major provisions such as the appointment of Deputy Minister instead of a full minister in the CHT Affairs Ministry, the appointment of Abdul Wadood Bhuiyan as the Chairman of CHT Development Board. He also said that both the previous and present governments were more active in forming and patronizing the anti-accord groups such as UPDF and Sama Adhikar.

### **Activities of anti-accord element:**

The Sama Adhikar Andolon (Equal Rights Movement), army-backed extreme communal organization of Bengali settlers observed the day as black day hoisting black flags in the three hill districts. The flags were supplied by local BNP men, who also threatened them if they do not hoist those. At a rally held at the Muktangon of Khagrachari district with BNP lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan as the chief guest, Sama Adhikar leaders demanded cancellation of the CHT Accord. Rally in front of Rangamati Municipality was brought out by the Sama Adhikar Andolan demanding cancellation of the Accord. Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad also held a rally at Banarupa in Rangamati in the evening against the Accord.

UPDF (United Peoples Democratic Front), terrorist outfit of indigenous people opposing the CHT Accord, held a discussion meeting and brought out a procession in Khagrachari town demanding self-rule in the hills. They also held protest at Muktangon in Dhaka.

### **(90) 5 December 2005: One NGO worker killed by Bengali settlers in Dighinala**

On 5 December 2005 Ms. Jyosi Chakma, BRAC Field worker has been killed in Jamtali Settler village under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachari while she was going back to her home after collecting installment of loan of the Micro-credit program run by her organization. She was stabbed with knife

as she was disagreeing to give the money to the miscreants. The robbers stabbed her and run away taking 20,000 taka which she collected from the field. She was taken in to hospital, but after some while the doctors declared her dead and they found she is 7 months pregnant. The policemen arrested one Bengali settler guy in the evening and still looking for the second suspect. MSF-Holland (Medicines Sans Frontiers) has temporary stopped their operations in Dighinala.

The incident has lead to increase tension between the Bengali settlers and the indigenous peoples in Dighinala. On 6 December 2005 the indigenous communities has organized a protest rally in Khagrachari Sadar to protest such type of attack on the development worker. On 6 November the local and national NGOs working in Khagrachari are going to organize one preparatory meeting to response the attack.

**(91) 9 December 2005: Returnee PCJSS member killed by UPDF cadres in Naniarchar**

On 9 December 2005 returnee PCJSS member Mr. Shanti Ranjan Chakma alias Sudreshya s/o Gyana Ranjan Chakma of Dewanchara under Naniarchar upazila in Rangamati was kidnapped and then killed by armed cadres of UPDF from his house. After returning to normal life as per CHT Accord, he has been living at his village and is not involved with politics.

**(92) 13 December 2005: Two Jumma villagers tortured by BDR personnel in Baghaichari**

On 13 December 2005 the following two innocent villagers were tortured by Habilder Ashraf of 12 battalion of BDR while the victims were constructing house at Naluya of Bagachadar union in Baghaichari upazila:

- 1) Mr. Sushil Bindu Chakma (22) s/o Ranjan Kumar Chakma;
- 2) Mr. Bijoy Shanti Chakma (32) s/o Punong Chan Chakma

**(93) 29 December 2005: Three innocent Jumma villagers arrested by the police in Kaukhali**

On 29 December 2005 following innocent Jumma villagers from Maghachari area under Kaukhali upazila in Rangamati district were arrested by the police of Rangunia police station under Chittagong district. It is learnt that one Bengali named Matiur Rahman alias Pakya (50) was killed by unknown miscreant/s on 28 December while he returning farmhouse from Maghachari shops. The miscreant/s kept his dead body on the way to Marma village. In connection with the killing, the police led by Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Rangunia police station along with acting local Chairman rushed the Marma village and arrested 7 (seven) Marma villagers. Among them, four villagers were released, but following three villagers of Dulyachari village under Islampur union of Rangunia upazila were sent to jail custody in connection with killing of Matiur Rahman:

- 1) Mr. Aungya Prue Marma (32) s/o late Ruechai Marma;
- 2) Mr. Ching Kyew Marma (28) s/o Ching Thowai Marma;
- 3) Mr. Kyaning Aung Marma (20) s/o Mong Thue Marma.

In connection with this killing, some Bengali leaders of Maghachari area namely chairman Alam and ex upazila chairman Md. Nurul Alam are instigating relatives of victims to lodge case against the Marma villagers so that Marma villagers were compelled to evict from the locality and Bengali villagers could grab their land. Even Bengali villagers led by Rafiq (35), Md. Siraj Mian (50), Shamsul Alam (32) s/o Siraj Mian etc are also trying to commit communal attack on Marma community.

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