

Yearly Report 2010

At a glance

Form of atrocity ↓	Perpetrator →	Security Forces	Bengali Settlers	SF+BS	UPDF	Total
No. of person killed		2	2		6	10
No. of person tortured		14	26	25	11	76
No. of person arrested						
No. of person harassed		3	18			21
No. of person against whom case lodged						
No. of house set fire			70	434		504
No. of house looted & destructed		9	5			14
No. of house searched						
No. of person raped			2	1		3
No. of person sexually harassed		3	5			8
No. of person kidnapped					9	9
No. of person whose land grabbed			3			3
Total		31	131	460	26	648

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

Headline of the Report 2010

January 2010

2 January 2010: A Jumma adolescent chopped by Bengali settlers in Naniarchar
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20 January 2010: Magistrate Court denies to accept murder case of Pradip Kanti Chakma in Khagrachari
24 January 2010: 8 Jumma villagers injured by attack of Bengali settlers
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27 January 2010: Meeting of the CHT Land Commission held in Khagrachari
27 January 2010: Meeting of the Task Force held in Khagrachari
28 January 2010: Follow-up report on attack on Santu Larma by UPDF miscreants
30 January 2010: Protest meetings against attack on top indigenous leaders held in Dhaka and Rangamati
CHT Commission and AIPP concerns and condemns attacks on indigenous leaders
30 January 2010: Bengali settlers try to occupy Jumma land

February 2010

2 February 2010: 100 acres of land acquired for expansion of Palaspur BDR zone
16 February 2010: PCJSS sent protest against MoCHTA letter on Tribal-Indigenous issues to PM
19-20 February 2010: Communal attack on Jumma villagers in Baghaihat and Khagrachari
23 February 2010: Communal attack on Jumma people in Khagrachari municipality
2009-10 Session: Non-tribal students get admitted at tribal quota in Comilla University

March 2010

9 March 2010: 2 Jumma women attempted to rape by army personnel in Matiranga
10 March 2010: Meeting in Rangamati on Education on 10 March 2010

11 March 2010: Government resumes initiative to conduct land survey in CHT violating CHT Accord
12 March 2010: Bengali settlers constructed makeshifts on the Recorded lands of Jumma people at Pablakhali in Baghaichari
14 March 2010: Land Commission issues public notice urging application on land disputes from affected land owners
18 March 2010: Concert for Baghaihat Victim prohibited by Deputy Commissioner
18 March 2010: PCG Welcomes UPDF Statement on the CHT Accord of 1997
19 March 2010: Pankaj Bhattacharjee threatened by UPDF
29-31 March 2010: PCJSS National Conference held in Rangamati

April 2010

12-13 April 2010: Report on High Court Verdict on CHT Accord and CHT Regional Council

May 2010

5 May 2010: Government forms “Strategic Management Forum” to oversee CHT situation
4 May 2010: Innocent Jumma beaten to death by UPDF armed terrorists in Sajek
May 2010: CHT Parliament Standing Committee took a decision to monitor NGO activities in CHT by DC
16 May 2010: PCJSS member shot death by UPDF armed terrorists in Rajasthali

June 2010

July 2010

Mid-July 2010: Land Commission’s chairman continues controversial activities
22 July 2010: Parliamentary caucus demands for constitution recognition of indigenous peoples
23-24 July 2010: Regional Workshop on land problem demands amendment of land commission act
24 July 2010: PCJSS member abducted in Khagrachari

August 2010

7 August 2010: Home Minister schedule to visit Rangamati
11 August 2010: Two villgers inhumanly beaten by UPDF miscreants in Matiranga
12 August 2010: Indigenous leaders called on Suranjit Sengupta
15 August 2010: A villger inhumanly beaten by UPDF miscreants in Matiranga
15 August 2010: A Jumma school girl tried to rape by Bengali settlers in Mahalchari
25 August 2010: PCJSS leader Satyabir Dewan released on bail
25 August 2010: Army refused to open a gate for Buddhist monks for pindacharana

September 2010

2 September 2010: Court issues order to re-investigate Kalpana Chakma abduction
19 September 2010: Moriarty had meeting with Santu Larma
22 September 2010: Meeting on amendment of CHT Land Commission Act held at CHT Ministry
25 September 2010: Human chain formed across the country demanding constitutional recognition of IPs
28 September 2010: Seminar entitled ‘CHT Accord Implementation, Development and Constitution Amendment’ organised by CHT Regional Council

October 2010

8 October 2010: PCJSS leader shot death by UPDF miscreants in Rangamati
10 October 2010: Opinion-sharing meeting on Settlement of Land Dispute and Land Survey in CHT held in Rangamati

18 October 2010: Jumma girl attempted to rape by Bengali settler in Mahalchari
19 October 2010: Indigenous people's rights will find place in Constitution, says Suranjit
26 October 2010: A Buddhist temple attacked by army in Rangamati
26 October 2010: Report on PCJSS memorandum for constitutional recognition of IPs
29 October 2010: Bengali settlers attempt to grab land in Ramgarh

November 2010

2 November 2010: Hill people still victim of land grabbing: Larma
3 November 2010: A Jumma girl with disability raped by Bengali settlers in Manikchari
5 November 2010: Four Jumma women tried to sexual assault by Bengali settlers in Dighinala
8 November 2010: Protest against land acquisition for Ruma Cantonment and BDR Wing HQ in Ruma of CHT
12 November 2010: Champatali Buddhist temple searched by army in Lama
15 November 2010: A Tripura girl allegedly murdered in Matiranga
23 November 2010: A Tripura shopkeeper wounded by a Bengali settler in Mahalchari
29 November 2010: PCJSS demands roadmap to implement the CHT Accord

December 2010

5-6 December 2010: Jumma people refrain from attending the meeting of Land Commission chairman in Baghaichari and Longadu
5 December 2010: Bengali settlers tried to grab Jumma's land in Mahalchari
12 December 2010: Indigenous rights activists submit memorandum demanding multi-lingual education for indigenous children
19 December 2010: An innocent villager kidnapped by UPDF terrorists in Jurachari
21 December 2010: Innocent Jumma villagers attacked by Bengali settlers in Longadu
26 December 2010: 3rd meeting of CHT Accord Implementation Committee held in Khagrachari
29 December 2010: NHRC organises workshop on strategic planning for promotion & protection of rights of indigenous peoples
December 2010: Follow up of withdrawn of 35 temporary camps

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January 2010

(1) 2 January 2010: A Jumma adolescent chopped by Bengali settlers in Naniarchar

On 2 January 2010 a Jumma kid named Rikel Chakma (12 years) s/o Sadhan Moni Chakma of Kukurmapa village under Naniarchar upazila in Rangamati district was chopped by Bengali settlers of Islampur of Naniarchar upazila. Ligament of a left leg of Rikel Chakma was cut.

It is learnt that Sadhan Moni Chakma along with his son Rikel Chakma went to nearby jungle to collect bamboos for household use. At that time, a group Bengali settlers numbering 5/6 persons from Islampur settler village led Md. Rubel attacked them at around 1.00 pm on that day. Bengali settlers threw sharp lethal weapon targeting Rikel Chakma while he along with his father was escaping from the attack of Bengali settlers. The sharp lethal weapon directly hit the left leg of the victim and ligament was fully hacked.

He was admitted at Rangamati general hospital on 3 January 2010. Dr. Jitendrijo Tanchangya of Rangamati general hospital advised the father of victim to transfer the patient to Chittagong Medical College hospital for higher treatment. But the father of victim failed to transfer his son to Chittagong due to financial constraint so far. A police case was filed with Naniarchar police station. But nobody was arrested so far.

(2) 2 January 2010: PCJSS leader shot by UPDF armed cadres in Rangamati

On 2 January 2010 a PCJSS leader named Mr. Shanti Mukul Chakma was shot by UPDF armed miscreants at Rajdwip area under Rangamati municipality in Rangamati district. He sustained bullet injury on left hand.

It is learnt that at around 7.00 pm on that day an armed group of UPDF led by Prajnankur Chakma, Sunendu Chakma and Ritan Chakma halted Mr. Shanti Mukul Chakma, Student and Youth Affairs Secretary of Rangamati town committee of PCJSS while he was going out home. However, Shanti Mukul Chakma challenged the miscreants and scuffle was occurred between two sides. At a stage, the miscreants opened fire on Shanti Mukul Chakma and he got bullet injury on his left hand. The miscreants hurriedly fled area after firing on the victim.

Protesting against this incident, PCJSS of municipal branch brought out procession in Rangamati town on 3 January 2010 at 4.00 pm. Presided by Mr. Nilotpal Khisa, president of PCJSS municipal branch, the protest meeting was addressed by general secretary of Rangamati district branch of PCJSS Mr. Bodhi Satta Chakma, general secretary of PCP central committee Mr. Sharat Jyoti Chakma and general secretary of PCP district committee Mr. Shuva Jyoti Chakma. Speakers protested the incident and urged local administration as well as government to arrest UPDF armed miscreants otherwise hard programme will be declared. They accused against the local administration to play passive role in taking stern actions against the UPDF culprits though UPDF miscreants have been continuing terrorist activities at that area for long time. The speakers also demanded to implement the CHT Accord soon.

It is mentionable that on 8 December 2009 a group of UPDF miscreants attempted to shoot Mr. Arabinda Chakma (47) of Rajdwip area under Rangamati municipality.

(3) 17 January 2010: Bengali settlers resume expansion of settlement in Sajek

Since 17 January 2010 Bengali settlers with the support of Baghahat army zone resumed expansion of their settlement in Sajek area under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district.

It is learnt that Bengali settlers started to construct the house at Gangaram Duar area under Sajek union since 17 January 2010. A number of houses have already been erected by the Bengali settlers occupying Jumma villagers' land.

Protesting against the expansion of Bengali settlement, local Jumma villagers are boycotting the Baghahat bazaar since the start of expansion of Bengali settlement. On the contrary, military forces

of Baghahat zone and Bengali settlers are also preventing Jumma villagers who are trying to take their agricultural products to Baghaichari bazaar or Dighinala bazaar for selling. Hence, Jumma villagers are suffering from marketing of their products.

It is mentionable that on 20 April 2008 Bengali settlers with the help of army from Baghahat zone set fire on 7 Jumma villages where 78 Jumma houses were completely burnt to ashes in order to occupy Jumma villagers' land. After the incident, in some cases the Jumma villagers were prevented by the military forces to re-construct their houses on their land. Even one Jumma villager named Ladu Moni Chakma was brutally killed by Bengali settlers on 19 August 2008 as he did not agree to leave his land as per order of Bengali settlers and gave interview to the CHT Commission.

Update of Sajek's situation

It is learnt that on 21 January 2010 two Jumma youths were caught by army of Baghahat zone from nearby place of outpost of the zone closed to Baghahat bazaar. The youths were preventing Jumma villagers from selling their product as Baghahat bazaar was being boycotted in protest of expansion of Bengali settlement in Gangaram Duar started since 17 January. However, local Jumma women protested against the arrest of the youths. At a stage, women took the youths away from army custody.

On the other, it is reported that in retaliation to this incident mentioned above, army conducted operation at adjacent areas of Gangaram Duar under Sajek union. During the operation, Jumma villagers including women were forcefully gathered and tortured indiscriminately. Several women were also severely injured. But the names of the injured villagers including women are yet to be received.

(4) 19 January 2010: Tanchangya villagers beat by BDR at Tamprue in Naikhyongchari upazila

On 19 January 2010 Tanchangya villagers of Tamprue Upper Tanchangya Para under Naikhyongchari upazila in Bandarban district including women were beaten by BDR personnel of Tamprue BDR outpost.

It is learnt that very recently Tanchangya villagers gathered forest products for their domestic uses basically for repairing and re-constructing their houses. However, the BDR personnel from Tamprue outpost conducted operation at Tamprue village. Seeing the trees gathered at their houses, BDR personnel charged villagers with smuggling of forest products. At first they beat male villagers of the Tanchangya community while they were trying to protest. BDR personnel also tortured women while they protested against the false charge and beating of male villagers. The name of victims of Tanchangya villagers are yet to be received.

Until and unless involvement of Army in the local matters of CHT is discarded restoration of peace and stability and resolution of land crisis in particular must be very difficult. So, it is very important to lift the programme "Operation Uttoran" imposed under the Defense Ministry.

(5) 19 January 2010: Adolescent Jumma girl allegedly raped by a Sub-Inspector (SI) and hotel owner in Rangamati

On 19 January 2010 an adolescent Jumma girl named **Tapasi Chakma (13) d/o Anil Chakma and Ani Bala Chakma** was allegedly raped by Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Abdur Rahim from Vedvedi Outpost under Rangamati police station and Manager of Hotel Palace Md. Masud.

It is learnt that the victim of adolescent girl is a student of grade IX of local high school. Couple days before ASI Abdur Rahim introduced himself with the victim. On 19 January ASI Abdur Rahim invited the victim over cell phone for having a cup of coffee at Hotel Palace situated at old bus station under Rangamati municipality. On good faith, she went to hotel at 4.00 pm on that day. However, relatives of the victim alleged that taking her at a room of hotel palace, she was first raped by ASI Abdur Rahman and then by hotel manager Md. Masud.

No sooner of receiving this report, a group of women rights activists led by Adv. Sushmita Chakma rushed there and found the victim at a hotel room logged from outside. Sensing it, ASI Abdur Rahman fled the hotel. Women rights activists went to the police station and put objection against the said ASI

and hotel manager. However, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotwali police station Babul Uddin Sardar at first denied to accepting any case against said ASI in connection with this incident. Finally due to tremendous pressure from women rights and media activists, a case against three persons including ASI Abdur Rahman and hotel manager Md. Masud was registered with Kotwali police station by elder sister of victim.

It is also reported that ASI Abdur Rahman was closed from Vedvedi outpost. Medical test was also done at the evening on 20 January. But medical report is yet to be received.

(6) 20 January 2010: Magistrate Court denies to accept murder case of Pradip Kanti Chakma in Khagrachari

On 20 January 2010 Ms. Shashi Rani Chakma w/o deceased Pradip Kanti Chakma tried to file a case with Judicial Magistrate Court in Khagrachari district. However, the judge did not accept the case showing for late in filing the case. It is mentionable that Pradip Kanti Chakma was killed on 27 December 2009 at Boradam area under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachari district allegedly PCJSS reformist faction. A case was also filed with Dighinala police station against unknown persons but familiar with face, but nobody was arrested so far.

(7) 24 January 2010: 8 Jumma villagers injured by attack of Bengali settlers

On 24 January 2010 Jumma people have allegedly been attacked by Bengali settlers in Baghaichari sadar and Baghahat. At least 8 persons in two places have been injured in this communal attack.

It is learnt that around 9.30 am a group of Bengali settlers made attack on Jumma people at Choumuhani area of Baghaichari sadar under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district. The following persons were injured in this attack-

- (1) Mr. Bijoy Chakma (25) s/o Alok Bikash Chakma of village Magban in Baghaichari, sustained injury on his head;
- (2) Mr. Sohel Chakma (student) of village Chahabachara in Baghaichari;
- (3) Mr. Samapta Chakma of village Babu Para of Baghaichari;
- (4) Mr. Dayal Chandra Chakma of village Malya in Baghaichari.

They were admitted at Baghaichari upazila hospital. Dayal Chandra Chakma came to Baghaichari headquarters to withdraw aged allowance.

On the other, at the morning Bengali settlers made attack on hostel of Baghahat High School where Jumma students have been staying. It is reported that at least 3 students and head teacher of the school were injured. They were identified as-

- (1) Mr. Shakyabodhi Chakma, Head Teacher of Baghahat High School;
- (2) Mr. Rubel Chakma, a student of SSC candidate;
- (3) Mr. Soikat Chakma, a student of SSC candidate;
- (4) Mr. Mithun Chakma, a student of SSC candidate;
- (5) Mr. Rupam Chakma, a student of SSC candidate.

It is reported that at present 28 students including above-mentioned students and two teachers namely Shakyabodhi Chakma, Head Teacher and Ms. Soheli Chakma, Assistant Teacher of Baghahat High School have been logged at school house and encircled by the Bengali settlers from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Finally it is learnt that they were freed and sent to their home under police security.

Tension during last night:

It is also learnt that Bengali settlers gathered at Nursary Para of Baghahat area under Baghaichari upazila to attack Jumma villages. Sensing this, the Jumma villagers gathered at nearby places of Nursary Para to prevent Bengali settlers' attack.

However, Bengali settlers refrained from attack as security forces prevented them and as sensing the gathering of Jumma people to oppose any attack of Bengali settlers. It is also reported that a group of army from Baghahat zone conducted operation at Nandaram villager under Sajek union. During the

operation, army tried to arrest the two following Karbaries (village head), failed to do so as villagers opposed to arrest them-

- (1) Mr. Sumati Ranjan Chakma, Karbari of South Nandaram village;
- (2) Mr. Udayan Chakma, Karbari of North Nandaram village.

Beginning of the incident:

Since starting of January 2010, Bengali settlers with the support of Baghaihat army zone resumed expansion of their settlement in Sajek area under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district. A number of houses have already been erected by the Bengali settlers occupying Jumma villagers' land.

Protesting against the expansion of Bengali settlement, local Jumma villagers have been boycotting the Baghaihat bazaar since the start of expansion of Bengali settlement. It is also reported that the villagers, under the banner of Sajek Bhumi Rakkha Committee, submitted a memorandum to the Baghaichhari UNO on 10 January 2010 with an ultimatum of 16 January to return them their lands. As the deadline expired without any fruitful result on 16 January, Jumma villagers started their agitation and started to boycott Baghaihat market from 18 January.

Army operation and 8 Jummas injured:

Tension mourned since 22 January 2010 while army tortured on Jumma villagers. It is reported that the incident first took place when some indigenous people of Ratkaba scolded two indigenous women as they came to the local bazar to sell their goods despite a ban by villagers.

On information, the security forces of Baghaihat zone picked up two Jumma youths namely Karnajoy Chakma and Kalabija Chakma from the Baghaihat bazaar and beaten them up mercilessly at zone office, leaving them injured. At one stage, Jumma women under the banner of Sachetan Nari Committee, led by its Convener Lojo Mukhi Chakma, protested the army action on the youths and took them away from army custody.

Following the incident, the security forces went to the bazar again and beaten up the indigenous Jumma villagers indiscriminately, leaving following eight people injured-

- (1) Mr. Gyana Moy Karbari (45),
- (2) Gyanendu Chakma (55),
- (3) Bindu Chakma (48),
- (4) Shanti Bimal Chakma (32),
- (5) Anadi Ranjan Chakma (45)and
- (6) Lojo Mukhi Chakma (45)
- (7) Ranjana Bap (42)
- (8) Sharni Bap.

Present of Dipankar Talukdar in Baghaichari:

State Minister for CHT Affairs Ministry is now visiting in Baghaichari area. However, local Jumma villagers alleged that he did not take any effective measure to prevent the Bengali settlers or to control the situation.

Urgent Action Needed:

Tension is going on at Baghaihat area of Sajek union and upazila headquarters under Baghaichari upazila. With this circumstance, the following action should be taken on urgent basis-

1. Bengali settlers should be closed from Baghaihat areas
2. Expansion of Bengali settlement should be stopped
3. Land and homesteads occupied by Bengali settlers should be returned back to Jumma villagers.

(8) 27 January 2010: Santu Larma's convoy attacked by UPDF miscreants in Mahalchhari

On 27 January 2010 at around 10.00 am convoy of Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, President of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) and Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council was attacked by armed miscreants of United Peoples Democratic

Front (UPDF) at three spots, namely, Betchari under Naniachar upazila and Lemuchari and Maischari under Mahalchari upazila on his way to the Khagrachari district headquarters.

It is reported that the miscreants of UPDF threw brickbats indiscriminately and shot several fires on convey of Santu Larma and managed to flee the scenes immediately. The glass of jeep carrying Mr. Larma was damaged in the attack. Mr. Larma sustained minor glass injury in his finger. Besides, following four accompanies also sustained glass injury. They were-

- (1) Mr. Tarjen Khisa, gunman of Santu Larma
- (2) Mr. Jinopal Khisa, personal staff of Santu Larma
- (3) Mr. Barun Kumar Chakma, member of PCJSS
- (4) Mr. Udayan Tripura, President of Hill Students Council (PCP).

Santu Larma was going to Khagrachari district from Rangamati district to attend a meeting of CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission at the circuit house.

Mr. Larma was accompanied by Raja Devasish Roy, Chakma Circle Chief and Mr. Laxmi Prasad Chakma, Vice President of PCJSS. Mr. Roy was also going to Khagrachari to attend the meeting of CHT Land Commission while Mr. Chakma to attend the meeting of Task Force on Rehabilitation of Returnee Jumma Refugees and Internally Displaced Families at the circuit house. It is learnt that vehicle of Raja Devasish Roy also came under attack of UPDF miscreants. He also escaped the attack unhurt.

In another incident, Nikhil Kumar Chakma, Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council, also came under attack in Rangamati on his way to Khagrachhari circuit house in the morning. He also escaped the attack unhurt.

Soon after reaching at Khagrachari circuit house around 11:00 am, Mr. Larma told journalists that if the government provided him proper security, the miscreants of UPDF could not be able to carry out the attacks.

Finally, Santu Larma attended the meeting of CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission at circuit house.

Reaction against the attack

Soon after receiving report of the attack, PCJSS brought out a protest procession in Rangamati municipal, Ghagra under Kaukhali, Barkal and Longadu in Rangamati district and Bandarban district headquarters. Speakers of the procession protested against this barbarian attack of UPDF and alleged that this UPDF attack is nothing but to hinder implementation of CHT Accord and to destroy leadership of PCJSS. PCJSS demanded to the government to take stern action against the UPDF.

On the other, Hill Students Council (PCP) also brought out a procession at Dhaka University and Chittagong University campus. PCP also vowed to eliminate the terrorist activities of UPDF.

Procession was also brought in Laxmichari upazila in Khagrachari district and Ghagra under Kaukhali upazila in Rangamati district. Protesters blockaded Rangamati-Chittagong road for an hour in protesting the attack.

On 28 January 2010 at the afternoon Ms. Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of Jatiya Sangsad and Convenor of CHT Accord Implementation Monitoring Committee called Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma and made inquiries about the health of Mr. Larma. She strongly condemned the attack. She also told to Mr. Larma that he would inform it to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

On the other, in the beginning of the meeting of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission held on 27 January 2010 in Khagrachari circuit house, Chairman of the Commission Justice (rtd.) Khademul Islam Chowdhury condemned the attack on Mr. Santu Larma and Raja Devasish Roy. In his speech, he also demanded to the government to take stern action against the attackers.

Khagrachari district Awami League led by Mr. Mong Swe Prue Marma Apu received Mr. Larma and Raja Devasish Roy at Khagrachari circuit house and extended their sympathy to them for barbarian attack. They condemned the attack on Mr. Larma and Mr. Roy.

Different socio-cultural and political organizations protested the attack on Santu Larma and Raja Devasish Roy. Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Revolutionary Party of Bangladesh, Workers' Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan, International CHT Commission, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) based in Chiang Mai of Thailand, in separate statements, condemned the attack and demanded exemplary punishment of the miscreants.

On 29 January 2010 at 11.30 am Mr. Dipankar Talukdar MP, State Minister of CHT Affairs Ministry went to Santu Larma's residence and extended sympathy to Mr. Larma for the attack. He also condemned attack on Mr. Larma. However, Rangamati district Awami League did not make any inquiry or even a call to Mr. Larma.

Perpetrators of the attack

The sources confirmed that the attack on Santu Larma made on 27 January 2010 at Maischari area under Mahalchari upazila in Khagrachari district was committed by the armed group of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) in collusion with reformist group of PCJSS. Locals identified the following armed members of the UPDF who led the assault-

- (1) Bipin Chakma alias Jalya (40) s/o Prana Hari Chakma from Karalyachari of Mahalchari
- (2) Mintu Chakma (28) s/o Basaki Kumar Chakma from Jaduganala of Mahalchari
- (3) Juyel Chakma alias Anupam (37) s/o Prithwiraj Chakma from Dantakupya of Kahagrachari sadar
- (4) Tapan Jyoti Chakma alias Sushanta from Naniarchar
- (5) Barma Chakma

It is also learnt that Ujjal Smriti Chakma, head of Khagrachari district of UPDF coordinated the whole plan.

On the other, it is reported that Sudhakar Tripura, one of leaders of reformist PCJSS, contacted to brigade office of army day before incident and received money from brigade office for this purpose.

Motive of the attack

It is also learnt that the motive behind the attack was to hinder the process of implementation of CHT Accord and to destroy the leadership of the PCJSS. Hindering to the implementation of CHT is one of the agenda of military forces. It is also mentionable that since its inception, UPDF continues to oppose implementation CHT Accord and to kill members of PCJSS with an aim to destroy the leadership of PCJSS. Since the signing of the Accord, 82 PCJSS members and supporter were killed by UPDF.

It is worth mentioning that Raja Devasish Roy played crucial role in attaining the CHT Accord in 1997 and at present he is one of members of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission. That is why, he might be one of target of the UPDF attack.

(9) 27 January 2010: Meeting of the CHT Land Commission held in Khagrachari

On 27 January 2010 around 11.30 am meeting of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission was started at Khagrachari circuit house with its chairman Justice (rtd.) Khademul Islam Chowdhury in chair.

Among the members of the Commission, Chairman of the CHT Regional Council Mr. Santu Larma, Chakma Circle Chief Raja Devasish Roy, Mong Circle Chief Sasing Prue Chowdhury, Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council (HDC) Mr. Nikhil Kumar Chakma and Chairman of Khagrachari HDC Mr. Ruithy Marma were present in the meeting. Besides, Additional Divisional Commission (Revenue) of Chittagong division attended the meeting on behalf of Divisional Commissioner. On the other, Chairman of Bandarban HDC and Bohmong Circle Chief were absent in the meeting. The following agenda of the meeting were discussed at the meeting-

- (1) Discussion on development of the functions of the Commission;
- (2) Discussion of repairing works of the Commission's office and its formal inauguration and
- (3) Bestowal of power to Secretary of the Commission for discharging daily works.

In the beginning of the speech, Chairman of the Commission Justice (rtd.) Khademul Islam Chowdhury condemned the attack on Mr. Santu Larma and Raja Devasish Roy. He demanded to the government to take stern action against the attackers. They he placed the agenda for discussion.

Santu Larma said in his speech that the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act 2001 should be amended first in accordance with CHT Accord for starting functions of the Commission. He proposed to the Commission to write a letter to the government to amend the said Act. Raja Devasish Roy supported to the proposal of Mr. Larma.

Chairman of the Commission said that the Commission should first review the Act for amendment proposal and then write to the government for the same. He made proposal to discuss this issue at next meeting to the Commission.

Chairman of Rangamati HDC also said that he knew nothing about the amendment proposal of the Act. So, he supported proposal of the Commission's chairman to have reviewed first at the meeting of the Commission.

In response to the proposal of inauguration of the office of the Commission by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Larma and Mr. Roy disagreed to the proposal. They rather further referred for speedy amendment of the Commission Act.

This was the first meeting of CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission under the leadership of its current Chairman. Finally, no concrete decision was taken in the meeting.

(10) 27 January 2010: Meeting of the Task Force held in Khagrachari

On 27 January 2010 at 2.30 pm 2nd meeting of the Task Force on Rehabilitation of Returnee Tribal Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons was held at Khagrachari circuit house where Chairman of the Task Force Mr. Jatindra Lal Tripura MP presided over.

Among others, representative of the PCJSS Mr. Laxmi Prasad Chakma and representative returnee tribal refugee Mr Santosita Chakma Bakul attended the meeting.

Among others, the identification and inclusion of unlisted IDPs, evaluation of implementation of 20 point package facilities were discussed in the meeting.

In regard to the identification of the IDPs, PCJSS representative Mr. Laxmi Prasad Chakma protested against the inclusion of the Bengalis settlers as IDPs. On the contrary, Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong division, representative of CHT Affairs Ministry, Member of the Task Force Md. Safi argued that there were also IDPs among from Bengali settlers. So, they supported to include Bengali settlers as IDPs.

During the altercation, the Chairman of the Task Force Mr. Jatindra Lal Tripura said that this was a sensitive issue. So, he would place it at the meeting of the CHT Accord Implementation Monitoring Commission for final decision.

Government officials also made proposal to send letter to the government for increasing members of the Task Force. But representatives of the PCJSS and returnee tribal refugees opposed the proposal.

The meeting was ended without any concrete decision.

(11) 28 January 2010: Follow-up report on attack on Santu Larma by UPDF miscreants

On 28 January 2010 at the afternoon Ms. Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of Jatiya Sangsad and Convenor of CHT Accord Implementation Monitoring Committee called Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma and made inquiries about the health of Mr. Larma. She strongly condemned the attack. She also told to Mr. Larma that he would inform it to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

On the other, in the beginning of the meeting of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission held on 27 January 2010 in Khagrachari circuit house, Chairman of the Commission Justice (rtd.) Khademul Islam Chowdhury condemned the attack on Mr. Santu Larma and Raja Devasish Roy. In his speech, he also demanded to the government to take stern action against the attackers.

Khagrachari district Awami League led by Mr. Mong Swe Prue Marma Apu received Mr. Larma and Raja Devasish Roy at Khagrachari circuit house and extended their sympathy to them for barbarian attack. They condemned the attack on Mr. Larma and Mr. Roy.

On 29 January 2010 at 11.30 am Mr. Dipankar Talukdar MP, State Minister of CHT Affairs Ministry visited Santu Larma's residence and made inquiries about the attack from Mr. Larma. He also condemned attack on Mr. Larma. However, Rangamati district Awami League did not make any inquiry or even a call to Mr. Larma.

Different socio-cultural and political organizations protested the attack on Santu Larma. Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Revolutionary Party of Bangladesh, Workers' Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan, in separate statements, condemned the attack and demanded exemplary punishment of the miscreants.

(12) 30 January 2010: Protest meetings against attack on top indigenous leaders held in Dhaka and Rangamati

On 30 January 2010 protest meetings and processions against the cowardly attacks on top indigenous leaders in the country namely Santu Larma, Raja Devasish Roy and Sanjeeb Drong were simultaneously held in Dhaka and Rangamati.

In Dhaka, at 11.00 am protest meeting organised jointly by Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum (BIPF), Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP) and Bangladesh Adivasi Odhokar Andolon (BAOA) was started at the Central Shaheed Minar with information and publicity secretary of PCJSS Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma in the chair.

Gono Forum presidium member Pankaj Bhattacharya, convenor of Workers Party of Bangladesh (Reconstituted) Haider Akbar Khan Rano, general secretary of Workers Party of Bangladesh leader Anisur Rahman Mallik, leader of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal Bazlur Rashid Firoz, central member of Communist Party of Bangladesh and Dhaka University teacher M M Akash and its general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, assistant general secretary of Bangladesh National Awami League Party (NAP) Ismail Hossain, Dhaka University teachers Muhammad Samad, Saurav Sikdar and Robayet Ferdous, women rights activists Khishi Kabir of Nejera Kori, Rokeya Kabir of Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha and Rakhi Das Purakayastha of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, indigenous women rights activists Madhabi Lata Chakma of Parbatya Chattagram Women Association, Rakhi Mrong of BAOA, Chaitali Tripura of BIPF and Tandra Chakma, human rights activists Salam Azad, indigenous human rights activists Ajoy A Mree and Sanjeeb Drong, among others, spoke at the protest meeting.

Speakers condemned the recent attacks on the president of BIPF and PCJSS Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, Chakma circle chief Raja Barrister Devasish Roy and general secretary of BIPF Sanjeeb Drong. They urged the government to take stern steps to prevent recurrence of such attacks.

Demanding a proper investigation of the attacks and punishment of the culprits, a protest meeting also accused the government of doing little to protect the members of the ethnic minorities. They said the attack on top indigenous leaders during the Awami League-led government's regime indicated how vulnerable indigenous peoples are in the country. They appalled the government to find out the perpetrators of such attacks and ensure their punishment.

Speakers also urged the government for early implementation of the CHT Accord and to announce a roadmap towards the implementation of the Accord.

Later, the organisers brought out a procession. Starting from Shaheed Minar, the rally paraded different city streets around Dhaka University campus. Several hundreds representative from indigenous peoples from across the country also joined the protest rally.

In Rangamati, PCJSS brought out procession protesting attack on PCJSS president Santu Larma and Chakma circle chief Raja Devisish Roy from outer stadium in Rangamati to Banarupa. Procession was followed by protest meeting held at premises of Deputy Commissioner's office.

The protest meeting was presided over by vice president of PCJSS Laxmi Prasad Chakma while facilitated by assistant information and publicity secretary of PCJSS Sajib Chakma. Among others, acting general secretary of PCJSS Pranati Bikash Chakma, general secretary of PCJSS Rangamati district branch Bodhi Satta Chakma, general secretary of Rangamati district Women Association Suprava Chakma and president of Hill Students Council (PCP) Udayan Tripura spoke at the meeting.

Speakers of the protest meeting urged the government to ban UPDF soon, to arrest and prosecute those responsible for this attack and to conduct judicial investigation into the attack.

It is mentionable that on 27 January 2010 president of BIPF and PCJSS Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma and Chakma circle chief and former special assistant to caretaker government of Bangladesh came under attack by UPDF miscreants in Mahalchari under Khagrachari district. Earlier on 22 January 2010, Sanjeeb came under attack at Rannikhong in Netrakona district when he was returning from Boheratali Christian Mission riding a motorcycle.

(13) CHT Commission and AIPP concerns and condemns attacks on indigenous leaders

Meanwhile, CHT Commission and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), in separate press release, expressed its concern at attacks on indigenous peoples' leaders and human rights defenders in Bangladesh.

CHT Commission, in its press release, said that the Commission was deeply concerned to learn of an attack by armed assailants and very disturbed to see such assaults being carried out on persons who were integrally involved with the passage of the CHT Accord.

Commission also urged the government to conduct an immediate impartial investigation into the incident to identify and apprehend those responsible for this attack and to take effective legal action against them. At the same time, Commission urged the government to implement the CHT Accord as soon as possible.

AIPP was alarmed and expressed its concern and condemnation on the successive attacks to key indigenous leaders and human rights defenders in Bangladesh.

AIPP, in its press release, says, 'Such successive attacks on ethnic minority leaders in Bangladesh are very alarming and put into question the safety and security of human rights defenders,' the release said.

'We would like to call the attention of the government of Bangladesh to give immediate attention and action on this matter. We call on the government to conduct an impartial investigation and prosecute those involved in these attacks,' the release signed by Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact secretary general, Joan Carling, read.

(14) 30 January 2010: Bengali settlers try to occupy Jumma land

On 30 January 2010 the Bengali settlers built a house on the land of Ram Chandra Chakma of Datkuppya village under Datkuppya Mouza, Khagrachari Sadar, Khagrachari District. The settlers occupied 2 acres of land of Ram Chandra Chakma (70) s/o Biswasen Chakma. A group of Jumma women of the Datkuppya village broke the house made by settlers.

February 2010

(15) 2 February 2010: 100 acres of land acquired for expansion of Palashpur BDR zone

Palashpur BDR zone (29 Rifle Battalion) of Matiranga (Khedachara Mouza, Belchari UP of Matiranga Upazilla) of Khagrachari took plan to acquire around 100 acres of land of indigenous Jumma villagers and Bengali permanent residents. Zone authority already demarcated the lands (100

acres land). Zone authority started works related to land acquisition and expansion of zone since 2 February 2010.

(16) 16 February 2010: PCJSS sent protest against MoCHTA letter on Tribal-Indigenous issues to PM

On 16 February 2010 the PCJSS sent a protest letter against letter of Ministry of CHT Affairs (MoCHTA) on Tribal-Indigenous issues to the Prime Minister.

It is mentionable that two letters titled “misdeed to call ‘tribal’ communities as ‘adivasi’” and “mischief to brand hill terror activities as extremism of Muslim settlers” were sent to different government authorities including three hill districts by the MoCHTA. PCJSS, in its protest letter, said that the content of the letter was fully politically motivated, fabricated & imaginary and provocative to communal sentiment and motivated by racial malice. Such type of extreme communal, racially malicious and politically motivated letter is not expected particularly during period of Grand Alliance Government who came to power with commitment to change and to establish secular democratic liberal welfare state. The Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) strongly protested against and condemns it.

In this letter, it is mentioned that “...*the tribal communities have been named as ‘tribe’ in the Hill District Acts, CHT Regional Council Act and CHT Accord of 1997... Nevertheless the tribal communities have been called ‘adivasi’ instead of ‘tribal’ by certain tribal leaders, intellectuals, educated persons living in hill tracts, even journalists.*”

The statement of the MoCHTA is unilateral, prejudice and racially motivated. In fact, the letter of MoCHTA cited only those laws in which mention the word tribal. However, the CHT Regulation of 1900 uses both terms “indigenous tribe” and “indigenous hillmen” interchangeably. Not only that, the term “indigenous hillmen” is also echoed in several references to the Finance and Income Tax Acts in the schedule to the 1900 Regulation, and in several correspondences of the National Board of Revenue [No. 7(Income Tax)/94 as circulated through Memo No. 6(54) Kar-3/94 dated 02.01.1995, for example], the Finance Act of 1995 (Act XII of 1995, cases in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, such as, *Sampriti Chakma v. Commissioner of Customs & Others* (5 BLC, AD, 2000, 29), the National Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper adopted by the Government of Bangladesh in 2005 etc. In the plains regions, the East Bengal State Acquisition & Tenancy Act, 1950 uses the phrases “aboriginal castes or tribes” to refer to several groups who now identify themselves as indigenous or Adivasi.

The word ‘indigenous’ was also stated in the circulation issued by Special Affairs (Welfare) Division as per office order of the administration section of Establishment Ministry with memo sangsthapan(ad-2)-39/91-143 dated 10 February 1991 for implementation of the ILO Convention No. 107 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations. In the messages given on occasion of International Day for World’s Indigenous Peoples (9 August) in recent years, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also mentioned that there are 2 millions indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. Even the word ‘indigenous’ was also mentioned in the election manifesto of the present government. Election manifesto assures that the CHT Accord would be implemented, rights of the indigenous communities would be recognised and programme on priority basis for development of indigenous peoples would be undertaken.

The letter of the MoCHTA also states, “...*certain tribal vested persons are propagating against Bengalis living in CHT and by taking advantage of this propaganda they (certain tribal persons) are trying to corner Bangladesh in the international level... They are also thinking that they can easily achieve autonomy by recognising themselves as ‘adivasi’ peoples.*” It is also mentioned in this letter that “...*in this regard, some Christian states hiding behind the banner of different NGOs, foreign news media, United Nations have been doing misdeed to establish a separate state with the help of such tribal vested individuals... A circulation was also issued from Foreign Ministry, in the mean time, asking not to call tribals as ‘adivasi’.*”

The statement of the MoCHTA was fully politically motivated, imaginary and provocative to communal sentiment. The PCJSS does believe that this statement is nothing but to suppress indigenous peoples and to deprive of their just rights. In the letter, the movement for establishment of

just rights of indigenous Jumma peoples has been tried to brand as ‘anti-Bengali’ and ‘misdeed of certain individuals’ and communal incitement and anti-Jumma attitude was clearly reflected in the letter. The PCJSS also expresses its deep concerns as this letter was issued in reference to the racially discriminatory circulation on ‘tribal-aidivasi’ issues sent out by then Foreign Ministry in 2005 during the period of BNP-led four party coalition government as part of the fanatic and communal activities and this letter was issued during the period of present grand alliance government who assumed state power with the commitment to change and to establish secular democratic liberal welfare state.

It is needless to say that establishment of MoCHTA is direct result of the CHT Accord signed with an aim to establish rights of permanent residents of CHT including indigenous Jumma peoples. Hence, this act was not expected from the MoCHTA. The PCJSS thinks that this is an irresponsible, misled and ill-motivated act of the MoCHTA. The MoCHTA is responsible for issuing such irresponsible and ill-motivated letter.

It is mentionable that despite committed to implement the CHT Accord fully by the present government, effective measures for implementation of un-implemented main issues of the Accord except reconstitution of few committees and appointment to certain posts are yet to be taken by the government though 13 months have passed after assuming power. Rather, during the period of present government, some anti-accord measures, such as, declaration of land survey, issuing of aforesaid provocative and racially discriminatory letter, violent attack on Jumma people, land grabbing and expansion of settlement by the Bengali settlers have been made and hence discontents and insecurity among the Jumma peoples have increased.

It is needless to say that government of Bangladesh has already recognised the rights of indigenous peoples by ratifying the ILO Convention No. 107 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations. Besides, several ministers of present government put positive opinion to ratify the more progressive ILO Convention No. 169 and to implement the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Given this circumstance, it cannot be acceptable to sent out such type of motivated and misled letter from the MoCHTA. Hence, the PCJSS demands before government of Bangladesh to implement the following issues-

- (1) To withdraw this extreme communal, racially malicious and politically motivated letter issued by MoCHTA;
- (2) To take stern action against those who are involved in issuing this provocative letter;
- (3) To declare roadmap for full implementation of CHT Accord;
- (4) To recognise ethnicity, language, culture and traditional land rights of indigenous peoples in the constitution;
- (5) To implement the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention (No. 107) ratified by Bangladesh and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to ratify the ILO Convention No. 169.

(17) 19-20 February 2010: Communal attack on Jumma villagers in Baghaihat and Khagrachari

On 19-20 February 2010 massive communal attack on Jumma villages was made by military forces and Bengali settlers at Baghaihat area of Sajek union under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district. It is reported that at least 2 Jumma villagers including a woman were killed and 2 Jumma villagers remained still missing, and 25 Jumma villagers wounded in this attack. It is learnt that more than 400 houses of Jumma villagers including two Buddhist temples and one church were completely burnt into ashes.

It is mentionable that Bangladesh military forces undertook plan to settle down the infiltrated Bengali families along the roadsides of Sajek road from Baghaichari to Gangaram Mukh in 2005. It is also mentionable that thousands of indigenous Jumma families have been living in this area for decades long. Hence, Jumma villagers of these areas have been protesting against this illegal settlement programme. Despite the protesting, in 2008 Bengali settlers illegally constructed some houses at Gangaram area on the land owned by Jumma villagers. At a stage on 20 April 2008 the Bengali

settlers with the direct support of army of Baghahat zone attacked on the 7 villages of indigenous Jumma peoples and at least 76 houses of indigenous villagers were completely burnt to ashes.

Again, since starting of January 2010, Bengali settlers with the support of Baghahat army zone resumed expansion of their settlement in Sajek area under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district. A number of houses have already been erected by the Bengali settlers occupying Jumma villagers' land.

The villagers, under the banner of Sajek Bhumi Rakkha Committee, submitted a memorandum to the Baghaichhari UNO on 10 January 2010 with an ultimatum of 16 January 2010 to return them their lands. As the deadline expired without any fruitful result on 16 January, Jumma villagers started their agitation and started to boycott Baghahat market from 18 January 2010. On the other, on 25 January 2010 the PCJSS sent a letter to the Home Minister with copy to State Minister of CHT Affairs Ministry and other concerned government authorities demanding to stop settlement programme and to withdraw Bengali settlers from Baghahat area. However, government did not take any measure in this regard.

(18) 23 February 2010: Communal attack on Jumma people in Khagrachari municipality

On 23 February 2010 fresh communal attack was made on Jumma-inhabited localities in Khagrachari municipality under Khagrachari district by Bengali settlers with the direct help of military forces. Around 60 Jumma houses were burnt down and several Jummas were injured in this attack. On the other, one Bengali employee who participated in the arson attack on Jumma houses was killed.

(19) 2009-10 session: Non-tribal students get admitted at tribal quota in Comilla University

Comilla University posted the result of the first year admission test of the academic session 2009-2010 at its website (<http://www.cou.ac.bd>). The website shows that some non-tribal students get admitted under tribal quota.

According to the merit list of science unit, Limon Kanti Dey (Roll no. 30724) got chance to admit under tribal quota. Similarly, according to the merit list of business unit, Mohammad Abdullah Al (Roll no. 42050) and Md Minhajul Abedin (Roll no. 45286) get admitted under tribal quota. However, actual tribal were kept in the waiting list of this business unit.

Freedom fighter quota and tribal quota in the arts & humanities and social science unit is not clear as merit list of these two quotas were shown in one list. Total 12 students got chance to admit at this quota. Of them, 5 students are tribal and 7 students are non-tribal.

Please visit to <http://www.cou.ac.bd> for details and click to 'Merit & Waiting List for Quota'.

March 2010

(20) 9 March 2010: 2 Jumma women attempted to rape by army personnel in Matiranga

On 9 March 2010, at 10:00 am 2 Jumma women were allegedly attempted to rape by two army personnel and an Ansar member of Taikatang army camp of Matiranga upazila of Khagrachari district. The name of commander of Taikatang army camp is Lieutenant Mohiuddin.

It is learnt that on that day and time (1) Kalpana Tripura (35) d/o Mriga Chandra Tripura and (2) Barun Bala Tripura (34) d/o late Pancha Kumar Tripura of village- Arbari of Matiranga upazila went to a nearby jungle to cut 'Chhan' a kind of tall grass. At a stage, two army personnel and an Ansar member suddenly arrived at that place and attempted to rape the women. At once, as the women shouted, some people of nearby Jumma village rushed to the spot. Then and there, the miscreants ran away. Thus, the women managed to escape the attempting to rape.

On 10 March 2010, Major Mehedi, second-in-command (2iC) of Matiranga zone went to the houses of women and wanted to know that what happened and who wanted to do that. Then the commander took a number of villagers including the women to their camp. At first, the camp commander,

showing some army personnel, asked the victim women that whether the criminals were among them. The women responded 'no'. Again, the camp commander did so and asked the women same. That time, the women clearly could recognize the miscreants. But, the camp commander made no judgment of the occurrence and no punishment of the criminal. Rather, now, he is pressurizing the victims and their guardians to give an undertaking to this effect that there happened nothing.

(21) 10 March 2010: Meeting in Rangamati on Education on 10 March 2010

On 10 March 2010 Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid visited plots of lands in Rangamati Sadar upazilla for Rangamati Science and Technology University.

In the evening a meeting was held at Rangamati Pourasabha Conference Hall presided by DC of Rangamati. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, Chairman of the CHT Regional Council was absent for his prior programme of meeting in Bandarban on the day. However, he, on request of the DC appointed Goutam Kumar Chakma, member and Krishna Chandra Chakma, Executive member of CHTRC to attend the meeting.

It is noted that a Delegation of CHTRC met Mr. Nahid in October 2009 and raised the issue of transferring the H/S education, Vocational education and education in Mother Tongue to the HDCs through issuing Executive Orders. By the By he asked about the Rangamati Science and Technical College and the delegation responded that that you not be useful to the local IPs at the moment. That is why, that should be postponed for some years till further progress of the implementation of the Accord.

It is noted that previously, the local people placed objection to have the University on their lands. that is why, this time another new plots of lands have been shown to the education minister. It is yet to be known whether these villagers also would agree to vacate their lands for the purpose.

Due to Kaptai Lake most of the IPs lost their lands and now none of them are really ready to loose their lands any further. So it is imperative to consider the matter very carefully and should have further formal discussion with the CHTRC and other actual representatives of the IPs.

(22) 11 March 2010: Government resumes initiative to conduct land survey in CHT violating CHT Accord

Following the recent communal attack on Jumma villagers in Baghaihat and Khagrachari by Bengali settlers with the support of military forces, government of Bangladesh resumed initiative to conduct land survey in Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban hill district of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

As part of this initiative, Land Ministry called an inter-ministerial meeting at the ministry in Dhaka on 11 March 2010 where Land Minister Md. Rezaul Karim Hira presided over. Land Ministry also invited a representative of CHT Regional Council (CHTRC). However, no representative from CHTRC attended the meeting. Hence the land ministry has failed to decide when the government would begin the land survey in the CHT intended to resolve ongoing disputes over land ownership. Land Minister, however, said he hoped these matters would be finalised at the next meeting in mid-April which was being held in one of the three districts of CHT.

CHTRC sent a letter to Land Ministry arguing that land survey would be contradictory to the CHT Accord if it is done before resolution of land disputes through land commission and rehabilitation of returnee refugees and IDPs as per CHT Accord.

It is mentionable that the clause 2 of part D of the CHT Accord stipulates, "After the signing the Agreement between the Government and the Jana Samhati Samiti and implementation thereof and rehabilitation of the tribal refugees and internally displaced tribals, the Government shall, as soon as possible, commence, in consultation with the Regional Council to the constituted under this Agreement, the Land Survey in Chittagong Hill Tracts and finally determine the land-ownership of the tribal people through settling the land-disputes on proper verification and shall record their land and ensure their rights thereto."

In violation of this provision the officials of the government have been all the time interested to have cadastral survey of lands in CHT with a view to providing land titles mainly to the Bengali settlers on the lands they forcibly occupied or illegally allotted by the government.

(23) 12 March 2010: Bengali settlers constructed makeshifts on the Recorded lands of Jumma people at Pablakhali in Baghaichari

Very recently Bengali settlers in the name of Bangladesh Muktiyuddha Punarbasan Society (Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Rehabilitation Society) constructed around five hundred makeshifts on the recorded lands of Jumma people near Bhangamura army sub-zone camp at Pablakhali area under Khedarmara union and Amtali union of Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati.

It is also learnt that on behalf of Bangladesh Muktiyuddha Punarbasan Society, its district president Md. Bacchu Mia and district commander Mokhlesur Rahman submitted application to Land Minister and State Minister for CHT Affairs on 5 January 2010 to get settlement of following 3,200 three thousand two hundred acres of lands situating at the following places -

- (1) Along the roadsides of Longadu to Naniarchar road;
- (2) Along the roadsides of Merung to Maini road
- (3) 500 acres of land from Chibe Aga to Kathaltali
- (4) 175 acres of land of Amtali and Gulshakhali mouzas under Longadu and Baghaichari upazila respectively
- (5) Pablakhali area.

It is noted that without prior approval of the concerned Hill District Council (section 64 of its Act) settlement, lease, sale and transfer of any land is restricted. In this connection, the Land Ministry issued circular in 1989 and the MoCHTA in 1998. In addition, since 2003, MoCHTA issued a letter to stop settlement of land in CHT.

In spite of the above circular and letters about and settlement, on 27 January 2010 Md. Motahar Hossain, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) of Rangamati Hill District issued a letter to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Longadu upazila (sub-district) to send inquiry report on the matter of the application.

In the mean time, in September 2009 Bengali settlers affixed a signboard of Bangladesh Muktiyuddha Punarbasan Society occupying reserve forest land of Pablakhali range under Baghaichari upazila. As continuation of this land grabbing, Bengali settlers occupied grove land and paddy land of indigenous villagers at this area and constructed around 500 makeshifts at Pablakhali in Baghaichari upazila.

Among others, the land of Rupantu Chakma (35), Amar Kanti Chakma (38) and Pritimoy Chakma (42) were forcibly occupied by Bengali settlers. Jumma villagers alleged that Bengali settlers destroyed crops of their farmlands. Bengali settlers ordered Jumma villagers to leave the area; otherwise severe consequences would have to be faced. Tension is has been prevailing in this area, particularly at Pablakhali area due to threatening of Bengali settlers. At least six Jumma villagers removed their children and aged to safe area.

On the other hand, it is learnt that all the leaders of the Bangladesh Muktiyuddha Punarbasan Society are fake freedom fighters. In order to get sympathy and patronization from the administration as well as government, they themselves claimed as freedom fighter. It is also learnt that Bengali settlers included some Chakma as freedom fighter though they are also not freedom fighter.

On 12 March 2010 Chairman of Baghaichari upazila Mr. Sudarshan Chakma and Vice Chairman Diptiman Chakma, Upazila Nirbahi (Executive) Officer of Baghaichari upazila Basirul Haque Bhuiyan, Upazila Executive Officer of Langau upazila Khairul Rahman, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Baghaichari and Longadu police station Nayeem Uddin and Julfikar Mahammad Gajjali, Chairman of Khedarmara and Atarakchara union Sachitra Chakma and Mangal Kanti Chakma visited the spot. No leader of the Bangladesh Muktiyuddha Punarbasan Society was present during that time. Those who were present at that time claimed that they are general member of the Society. But they failed to show certificate of freedom fighter. However, they claimed they were relatives of freedom fighters and landless poor.

As they occupied land illegally, the visiting team ordered the Bengali settlers to destroy the makeshifts and to vacate occupied lands within 15 days. Otherwise, action would be taken against them.

It is important to note here that the settlers occupied the lands with the secret support of the army authority of Bhangamura Army sub-zone camp under Langadu region and unless the army authority stops its patronization, the settlers must not dismantle the makeshifts. Rather they may set fire on them at any moment so that they can claim relief and rehabilitation for the advantage of their permanent settlement there.\

(24) 14 March 2010: Land Commission issues public notice urging application on land disputes from affected land owners

On 14 March 2010 Secretary of CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Md. Abdul Hamid issued public notice asking affected land owners to lodge application on land disputes with Land Commission. The notice said that application must be filed within 60 days; otherwise no application would be accepted.

It is mentionable that this notice was issued without the decision of the Commission. Since after the appointment of present Chairman of CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission, the only meeting was held on 27 January 2010 in Khagrachari. The meeting was ended without taking any concrete decision.

(25) 18 March 2010: Concert for Baghaihat Victim prohibited by Deputy Commissioner

On 18 March 2010 Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati district banned the concert for Baghaihat Victims. The concert was supposed to be held on 19 March 2010 at Rajbari premises by Humanitarian Support Committee for Baghaihat Victims in order to collect fund for the victims.

(26) 18 March 2010: PCG Welcomes UPDF Statement on the CHT Accord of 1997

On 18 March 2010 Peace Campaign Group (PCG) based in New Delhi welcomes the statement of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) on the CHT Accord of 1997. UPDF's General Secretary Ravi Shankar Chakma said in a statement yesterday that his party supports the accord and its full and proper implementation. He said a vested quarter (of the Government) was trying to mislead people on his party stand on the accord and thereby creating confusion. He questioned the sincerity of the Awami League Government about the implementation of the accord to which it was a party. He called upon the Government to resolve the CHT problems by implementing the accord properly and thereby prove its sincerity. His party will fully support its implementation process, he clarified.

UPDF is one of the two political parties representing the Jumma indigenous people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). It was formed in 1998. The other party formed in 1972 is Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (United People's Party = PCJSS), a signatory to the accord.

The CHT Accord was signed between PCJSS and the Awami League Government of Bangladesh in 1997. The Government has not implemented two major provisions of the accord—withdrawal of all 'temporary military camps' from CHT and restoration of lands illegally occupied by Bengali settlers to indigenous people—even after 12 years of the signing of the accord.

The statement assumes a great significance in terms of emergence of a unified stand, if it were not, of all Jumma political parties on the accord and their collective effort for a just solution to the CHT problems and durable peace in CHT, both of which depend, to a great extent, on the proper and time-bound implementation of the accord.

(27) 19 March 2010: Pankaj Bhattacharjee threatened by UPDF

On 19 March 2010 at around 11.00 am a group of members of UPDF threatened presidium member of Gono Forum and eminent human rights activist Mr. Pankaj Bhattacharjee to kill if he would come in CHT. Threatening was made from a cell phone no. 01925628244 and by introducing themselves as UPDF members, they said

Recently Mr. Bhattacharjee led a civil society team comprising human rights activists, eminent intellectuals, women rights activists, political leaders and journalists to visit Baghaihat and Khagrachari areas to conduct on-site inquiry of communal attack on Jumma villages by Bengali settlers with the support of military forces. The members of UPDF made it over telephone accusing that

(28) 29-31 March 2010: PCJSS National Conference held in Rangamati

On 29-31 March 2010, 9th National Conference of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) was held at Rangamati town hall in Rangamati urging to strengthen unity and solidarity of Jumma peoples in order to accelerate self-determination movement. More than 500 representatives and observers of PCJSS, Parbatya Chattagram Mahila Samiti, Pahari Chhatra Parishad, Hill Women's Federation, Parbatya Chattagram Juba Samiti and Girisur Shilpi Goshthi attended the conference.

It is mentionable that on 29 March 2010 at 10.00 am a public gathering was organised at the premises of Rangamati Gymnasium on the inauguration of the National Conference of PCJSS. PCJSS president Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma inaugurated the conference where Presidium member of Gono Forum Mr. Pankaj Bhattacharya, general secretary of Workers Party Anisur Rahman Mollik, presidium member of Communist Party of Bangladesh Shah Alam, information and publicity secretary of PCJSS Mangal Kumar Chakma and Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) president Udayan Tripura also addressed the meeting.

Inaugurating the three-day council, Mr. Larma said the ethnic people in CHT are passing their days in extreme insecurity. He reiterated PCJSS demand for full implementation of the CHT Accord and urged the government to curb all sorts of anti-peace activities in the CHT.

On the other, at the last day of the conference, National Conference elected a 27-member 10th central committee of PCJSS. Soon after the election, the central committee members themselves elected an executive committee with following portfolios-

- (1) Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma – President
- (2) Mr. Ushatan Talukder – Vice President
- (3) Mr. Pranati Bikash Chakma - General Secretary
- (4) Mr. Maxmi Prasad Chakma – Political Affairs Secretary
- (5) Mr. Shaktipada Tripura - Organising Secretary
- (6) Mr. Thuimraching Chowdhury – Assistant Organising Secretary
- (7) Mr. Kyaba Mong Marma - Organising Secretary
- (8) Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma – Information and Publicity Secretary
- (9) Mr. Sajib Chakma – Assistant Information and Publicity Secretary
- (10) Mr. Subhash Basu Chakma – Youth Secretary
- (11) Mr. Chinghla Mong Chak – Land and Agriculture Secretary

Rest of the central members, among others, included Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma, Ms. Madhabi Lata Chakma, Ms. Jarita Chakma, Ms. Kalpana Chakma, Mr. K S Mong Marma et al. Four members on the committee were new faces. They included Mr. Soukin Chakma, Mr. Kyana Mong Marma, Mr. Shambhu Kumar Tanchangya and Mr. Bidhayak Chakma. Central Committee also elected Mr. Amiya Sen Chakma, Mr. Sneha Kumar Chakma and Dr. Kanishka Chakma as advisers.

Seven central members of the 9th central committee, such as, Mr. Rupayan Dewan, Mr. Sudhasindhu Khisa, late Chandra Shekhar Chakma, Mr. Tatindra Lal Chakma, Mr. Mrinal Kanti Tripura, Mr. Binoy Krishna Khisa and Mr. Shaktiman Chakma were expelled on charges of breach of party discipline.

The National Conference also reviewed organisational activities, evaluated the overall situation in the CHT pertaining to overall situation of Bangladesh and the world, assessed the progress in implementing the CHT Accord signed between the PCJSS and the government of Bangladesh, and set the party's future political programme.

The future political programme included to strengthen greater unity and solidarity of Jumma people, accelerate the movement for full implementation of CHT Accord including execution of CHT

Regional Council Act and three Hill District Council Acts, resolution to land dispute by amending the land commission law, withdrawal of all temporary military camps including de facto military rule 'Operation Uttoron' from the CHT and rehabilitation of repatriated refugees and IDPs, participate in all democratic movements, increase the party's involvement in movements against ultra-communal forces including war crimes trial, intensify activities to end all kinds of anti-accord activities including armed violence etc.

April 2010

(29) 12-13 April 2010: Report on High Court Verdict on CHT Accord and CHT Regional Council

On 12-13 April 2010 the High Court (HC) Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court, in a verdict, declared the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) Act 1998 as well as some provisions of the Hill District Councils (HDCs) Acts unconstitutional. The HC, however, announced judgement on the CHT Accord that it being political in nature, an accord with the belligerents could not be reviewed judicially.

It is notable that the Accord popularly known as "CHT Peace Accord" was signed between the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), the then lone political party of indigenous Jumma peoples in CHT on 2 December 1997 with an aim to resolve CHT problem by political and peaceful means. The Accord stipulated provisions to strengthen special administrative system in CHT with CHT Regional Council and three HDCs.

One writ petition against the CHT Accord, CHTRC Act and HDCs Acts was filed in 2000 by Badiuzzaman, a Bengali settler in the CHT, and the other one by Tajul Islam, a pro-Jamaat-E-Islami lawyer challenging the legality of the CHT Accord was filed with the High Court in 2007.

Barrister Rokan Uddin Mahmud and Advocate T H Khan placed submissions as amici curiae (friends of court) while Dr Kamal Hossain and Barrister Sara Hossain argued for the CHTRC, one of the parties of these cases besides the government, to the HC.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Barrister Abdur Razzaq moved for the petitioners while Barrister Imran Siddiq, Barrister Belayet Hossain and advocate Tajul Islam assisted them.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza and Assistant Attorney General Protikar Chakma stood for the government.

High Court verdict

After a prolong hearing, the HC Bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowhury announced judgement on these cases, on 12-13 April 2010 stating that the court observed the CHTRC Act 1998 was unconstitutional for it violated the 'characteristic of the unitary structure of the state.' Same way the HC declared Section 4(6), 17, 32(2), and 62(1) of the Rangamati Hill District Council (HDC) Act 1989, Khagrachari HDC Act 1989 and Bandarban HDC Act 1989, as amended in 1998 in accordance with CHT Accord saying that the amended provisions violated the 'characteristic of a unitary state.'

Section 4(6) of the HDC Acts narrates, "Whether a person is a non-tribal or not and, if so, which community he is a member of, shall be determined, subject to his producing a certificate from the concerned Mouza Headman/Union Council Chairman/Municipality Chairman, by the concerned Circle Chief and without a certificate in this connection being received from the Circle Chief, no person shall be eligible as a non-tribal to be candidate for the post of a non-tribal member".

According to Section 17 of the Acts, no people can be enrolled on the electoral rolls for the elections to the HDCs if they are not permanent residents of the district concerned.. In this connection it is noted that section 3 of Part 'B' of the Accord narrates 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.

Section 32(2) of the HDCs Acts narrates that indigenous persons would get preference for the appointment of Class III and IV employees in the HDCs.

Section 62(1) of the HDCs Acts empowers the HDCs to recruit sub-inspectors and other police personnel below the rank of sub-inspectors with preference to the indigenous persons of the district concerned.

High Court Guidelines

In the judgment, HC issued five guidelines to the government. In one of the five guidelines of the judgment, the HC bench said it has found that the CHT Regional Council Act violated some articles of the constitution but it is still up to the government to form public statutory institution comprising of entirely nominated members as part of the peace process.

The court said that it was certainly an irony of matter that the peace process, aimed at democratic governance, had not been able to ensure the practice of democracy in CHT. However, the democratic governance in the CHT had been the lifeblood of the peace process and that should be encouraged in all earnest.

With regard to the backward section of citizens stated in the constitution, the court said that it was the government's responsibility to adopt a method and procedure, which would be reasonable and convenient for application of it to the indigenous peoples of CHT as well..

The court also said that the peace process has to be pursued against the backdrop of geo-strategic consideration and the historical circumstances under which the conflict arose and was brought to an end in 1997.

Appellate Division stays the HC verdict for six weeks However, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stayed the HC verdict on 15 April 2010 for six weeks. The chamber judge of the Appellate Division passed the order after hearing a provisional petition filed by the government, who stated to prefer an appeal against the verdict.

High Court verdict and relevant issues

Most of the constitutional experts said that the HC verdict was fully *exparte*. HC failed to consider the distinct characteristics and administrative background of the CHT. They said that the judgment would hamper the CHT peace process and create complexities in the functions of CHT regional administration. They also argued that the peace process and stability in CHT would be effected following the verdict.

Experts said that CHTRC formed in 1999 has been created as a special administrative unit under Articles 59 and 60 of the Constitution in furtherance of the goals of local government laid down in Articles 9 and 11. To protect the special rights of the indigenous people in CHT, the CHTRC has been given more power than other administrative units of local government in other parts of Bangladesh.

Such enhanced powers for similar reasons were earlier also given to three HDCs of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari under three separate Acts in 1989. The CHT Regional Council basically coordinates the activities of the HDCs. It also provides recommendations to the GoB on matters relating to CHT.

The CHTRC does in no way resemble any organ in a federative unit e.g. a province in a federal state. It does not violate the unitary characteristic of the state or GoB. The CHTRC has only been given special territorial jurisdiction and powers as a special administrative unit, for which the Parliament is empowered under the Articles 59 and 60.

The special rights of the indigenous peoples relate mainly to their rights on land. Outsiders are not allowed to settle or occupy lands in CHT without the permission of the HDCs or the CHTRC. This is not a creation of the Accord. This was long in existence, recognised both by custom and legislation prior to the Accord.

The provisions of the Accord have been argued to be legitimate rather than violation of equality, equal opportunity and property rights clauses (Articles 27, 29 & 42) of the Constitution. Violation of Article

36 on freedom of movement has also been alleged. In fact, movement to CHT has not been barred at all. Of course, strict control has been imposed on further permanent settlement by outsiders in CHT in order to protecting rights of the indigenous peoples on their own lands in the region.

The exceptions and restrictions have been imposed under the authority of the Constitution itself, and necessarily relying on the qualifying Article 36 a use "subject to any restrictions imposed by law" put before the relevant Articles of the Constitution, or that nothing in the law can prevent the state from making special provisions to protect the interests of any backward class or group of people. This also applies to representation of the indigenous tribes enhanced in the HDCs and CHTRC and reservation of the top posts exclusively for them.

Whatever exceptions have been made in the Accord and in the subsequent enactments have been made to recognise and protect the long established special rights and status of the indigenous people. These have been done within the concept of the local government and under the relevant provisions of the Constitution with their liberal but permissible interpretations.

Next Action

The government and the CHTRC and three HDCs are getting preparation to appeal against the verdict with Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. The official copy of the verdict is yet to be received.

Reference:

- 1) CHT Accord signed between the government of Bangladesh and PCJSS on 2 December 1997
- 2) The Daily Star, 14 and 16 April 2010
- 3) New Age, 14 and 16 April 2010
- 4) Connecting the visible dots: A post-Accord history, Naeem Mohaiemen, The Daily Star, 16 April 2010
- 5) Revisiting CHT Peace Accord, M. Shah Alam, The Daily Star, 8 May 2010

May 2010

(30) 5 May 2010: Government forms “Strategic Management Forum” to oversee CHT situation

Government of Bangladesh decided to form a “Strategic Management Forum” under a minister or an adviser with the CHT Affairs Ministry, Home Ministry, Armed Forces Division, Forest Department, concerned Circle Chief, intelligence agencies in order to curb violence in the CHT and to oversee government development activities in this region. It is reported that on 5 May 2010 the plans were placed at a review meeting on the situation in the CHT chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

It is learnt that the plans include rehabilitation of families affected by ethnic violence under ‘ashrayan’ project, readjustment of the boundaries of the three districts, transferring Baghaichari upazila to Khagrachari district from Rangamati district, curbing poppy cultivation, rehabilitation of poppy growers, holding elections of the Hill District Councils and the CHT Regional Council after earliest completion of the High Court judgment, bringing the regional political parties under registration and legal compliance and regulating the destabilising activities of the United People’s Democratic Front (UPDF) etc.

The leaders of PCJSS, a regional indigenous political party in CHT, sharply criticised this government plans saying that the plans contained elements that go against the spirit of the CHT Accord. They said that the government took the plans to pressurise the regional political parties to go closer to the national political parties and also to create scope for the national political parties to increase their activities in the CHT. They also concerned that the plans might pave the way for greater military supervision in the CHT.

(31) 4 May 2010: Innocent Jumma beaten to death by UPDF armed terrorists in Sajek

Recently first week of May 2010 UPDF armed terrorists conducted operation against the innocent Jum cultivators throughout Sajek area under Baghaichari upazila (sub-district) in Rangamati district. In this operation, UPDF miscreants indiscriminately beat up at least 200 Jum cultivators of 6 villages who cut jungle for Jum cultivation and cultivated gingers and turmeric. Among the injured villagers, following two Jum cultivators were admitted at Dighinala hospital with serious condition on 4 May 2010 and first one died later at the hospital.

- 1) Mr. Kala Marattua Chakma (22) s/o Gumet Kumar Chakma of village Chinalchara of Babuchara under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachari district
- 2) Mr. Batya Chakma (30) s/o Gulmoni Chakma of village Melachara of Gangaram under Sajek union in Baghaichari upazila.

Kala Marattua Chakma went to Melhachara of Sajek union to work for Jum cultivation as day labourer. He tried to make UPDF terrorists understand that he was not owner.

It is mentionable that during the period of arm struggle (before signing of the CHT Accord), hundreds of Jumma villagers were uprooted from their villages (ancestral land) due to series of massacres and oppression by the military forces and Bengali settlers. Some of uprooted Jumma villagers took refuge into neighbouring Indian State of Tripura and Mizoram and rest of villagers took shelter in remote forest areas of CHT who are called by CHT Accord as internally displaced persons (IDPs).

CHT Accord provides a provision to rehabilitate these Jumma IDPs through Task Force. Though Task Force was constituted as per CHT Accord, but the Jumma IDPs are yet to be rehabilitated. Hence, most of the Jumma IDPs are still living at remote forest areas with miserable condition and surviving their livelihood by cultivating Jum (traditional shifting cultivation). But without showing any argument and taking alternative measure, UPDF terrorists issued ban on Jum cultivation and farming of gingers and turmeric. However, having no alternative, Jum cultivators continue their Jum cultivation despite UPDF threatening.

Charging violation of order against the Jum cultivators, a group of UPDF armed cadres numbering 6 personnel led by Junan Chakma (22) s/o Suketu Chakma from Bangaltali of Baghaichari upazila conducted this operation. They first gathered the villagers of Laxmichari under Sajek union and tortured them indiscriminately. Then gradually Moghachara, Bheibonchara, Chelachara and Melhachara became under attack.

Hearing this brutal torture of UPDF miscreants, most of the Jum cultivators became angry on UPDF terrorists. At the last, villagers of Melhachara unitedly protested against the torture of UPDF miscreants and at a stage, they caught all the 6 members of UPDF miscreants on 6 May 2010.

Hearing this news, an armed group of UPDF proceeded toward Sajek area to rescue their colleagues. But they failed to proceed as most of the Jum cultivators became agitated. Finally, a dialogue was held between UPDF and leaders of Jum cultivators and following the dialogue, the UPDF miscreants who were held by Jum cultivators were set free on the condition that they would not commit such kind of heinous atrocity.

(32) May 2010: CHT Parliament Standing Committee took a decision to monitor NGO activities in CHT by DC

In the month of May 2010 CHT Parliament Standing Committee took a decision to monitor NGO activities in CHT by DCs, which was so far entrusted with the CHT Regional Council and three Hill District Councils as per its legislation. CHTRC opposed it and send letter to the concerned one including PM.

(33) 16 May 2010: PCJSS member shot death by UPDF armed terrorists in Rajasthali

On 16 May 2010 around 10.30 pm armed terrorists of UPDF made an armed attack on PCJSS members who were continuing organisational programme and public mobilisation activities in Rajasthali area under Rangamati district. In this attack, one PCJSS member was shot death and one PCP member sustained serious bullet injuries.

It is mentionable that soon after the national conference of PCJSS, reconstitution of branch organisations of PCJSS are going on throughout the CHT. As part of this organisational activity, Rajasthali thana committee with support of the central office and Rangamati district office of the party undertook programme to mobilise party workers for reconstitution of Rajasthali thana branch and mass people for strengthening movement for implementation of CHT Accord. They opened Rajasthali thana office on 13 May 2010 and stationed temporarily at Rajasthali Sports and Cultural Club for launching day-to-day public mobilisation.

However, without any provocation, UPDF armed cadres opened brush fire on unarmed PCJSS members at Rajasthali Sports and Cultural Club on 16 May at 10.30 pm when they were sleeping. In this heinous attack, the following Organising Secretary of Gainda union branch of PCJSS was killed-

- (1) Mr. Uchinue Marma (28) s/o Thoi Hla Prue Marma of village Krongsgoi Para under Rajasthali upazila (sub-district) in Rangamati district

Following PCP member of Raikhali union branch was seriously injured-

- (2) Mr. Ubaching Maram (24) of village Jaganachari under Kaptai upazila in Rangamati district

Ubaching Marma was admitted at Rajasthali upazila hospital first. He was transferred to Chittagong on 17 May. He sustained bullet injuries on his legs.

The Rangamati district branch of PCJSS and PCP brought out a protest demonstrations in the district town and marched towards the premises of the Deputy Commissioner's office. In this protest, Political Affairs Secretary of PCJSS Mr. Laxmi Prasad Chakma said a group of UPDF activists led by Kalaiya Chakma alias Diamond had led this armed attack. Leaders of the organisation demanded immediate arrest and trial of the culprits and a ban on the UPDF.

It is mentionable that on 15 May 2010 Rupayan Chakma (28) s/o Punangchan Chakma of Langudu Upazila and Shohag Chakma (22) s/o Laxmi Manno Chakma of Jurachhari Upazila were gunned down by UPDF armed terrorists in Jurachhari Upazila under Rangamati district.

June 2010

July 2010

(34) Mid-July 2010: Land Commission's chairman continues controversial activities

Despite the huge protest from the all sections of the citizens, the Chairman of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury continues his unilateral and controversial activities. For instance, in mid-July 2010 the secretary of Land Commission issued a notice to the CHT Affairs Ministry and Land Ministry to conduct cadastral survey in CHT soon; otherwise the ministries would be charged non-compliance with court order.

It is mentionable that Land Commission's chairman, without having discussion with the members of the commission, unilaterally declared to conduct cadastral survey in CHT before starting the resolution of land disputes. Indigenous Jumma leaders and civil of the country criticised the unilateral decision of the commission's chairman saying that it goes against provision of CHT Accord.

On the other, Land Commission's chairman also called a so-called opinion sharing meeting with commission's members, government officials in Rangamati on 29 July 2010. However, Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, member of the land commission and chairman of CHTRC did not attend the meeting while another member of land commission Raja Devasish Roy attended the meeting.

(35) 15 July 2010: Plan to establish BDR Battalion HQ evicting Jumma peoples in Ruma

On 15 July 2010 Armed Forces Division under Prime Minister's office issued a letter to acquire 25 acres of land at Thana Para under Poli mouza in Ruma Upazila for the purpose of establishment of BDR headquarters in Ruma. Though BDR officially showed 25 acres of land for acquisition,

however, it will be more than 25 acres as BDR marked the boundary of the proposed area up to bank of Shanghu river and Barshi Para and Upper & Lower Rumachar Para other than Thana Para will be affected. If the proposed BDR Wing headquarters is set up, then it will uproot 40 families of Thana Para, 15 families of Barshi Para and 50 families of Rumachar Para (Upper and Lower) from their ancestral land who belong to Marma community. Even a hostel for local indigenous students and a carpentry & sewing training centre run by a local NGO named Toymu will also be uprooted from Thana Para area.

(36) 22 July 2010: Parliamentary caucus demands for constitution recognition of indigenous peoples

On 22 July 2010, in a press conference, the parliamentary caucus on indigenous issues urged the government to ensure the constitutional rights of the indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. After a three-hour meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, chairman of the parliamentary caucus Rashed Khan Menon MP told reporters that the government has moved to amend the constitution. Caucus wants it to recognise them in the constitution and also identify them as indigenous peoples.

The caucus placed a thirteen-point proposal that includes amendment to the constitution, constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples and formation of a separate land commission for the indigenous peoples living in the plains. It also called upon the government to give traditional land rights to the indigenous peoples.

Seventeen Members of Parliament (MP) attended the meeting. They were Mr. Rashed Khan Menon MP (WP) (Convenor), Mr. Hasanul Haque Inu MP (JSD), Mr. Dipankar Talukder MP (AL), Mr. Promad Mankin MP (AL), Mr. Jatindra Lal Tripura MP (AL), Mr. Bir Bahadur MP (AL), Ms. Ethin Rakhain MP (AL), Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir MP (AL), Mr. Moinuddin Ahmed Khan Badal MP (JSD), Mr. AKM Mozammel Haque MP (AL), Mr. Shawkat Momen Shahjahan MP (AL), Mr. Fazle Hossain Badsha MP (WP), Ms. Amena Begum MP (National Awami Party), Ms. Rubi Rahman MP (Ganatantri Party), Ms. Rawshan Jahan Sathi MP (AL), Mr. Nawab Abbas Ali Khan MP (Jatiya Party), Ms. Kabari Sarwar MP (AL).

Earlier a 3 member *Technical Committee* comprising Prof. Mesbah Kamal, General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon, Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma, Member of CHT Regional Council and Mr. Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum was formed to support the formation and functioning of the Parliamentary Caucus.

(37) 23-24 July 2010: Regional Workshop on land problem demands amendment of land commission act

CHT leaders urged the government of Bangladesh to amend the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act 2001 as per recommendations of CHT Regional Council in accordance with CHT Accord. This demand was made at the regional workshop titled 'land problem in CHT and its solution' held at District Sport Association Auditorium in Rangamati by the Movement for Protection of Forest and Land Rights in CHT, Kapaeeng Foundation and Khagrachari District Headmen Association in support of VSO on 23-24 July 2010.

Chairman of the CHT Regional Council Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma and Chief of the Chakma Circle Raja Devasish Roy attended the inaugural session of the workshop as chief guest and special guest.

Mr Larma called upon the government to introduce a special governing system in the CHT region by amending the constitution. He said a 'different reality' would surely emerge in the region, if the High Court verdict scrapping the CH Council Act is upheld by the Supreme Court. Therefore, the government would have to take initiatives to amend the constitution to make the CHT Council Act and CHT District Council Act effective.

The workshop adopted a 24-point declaration to resolve the CHT land problem. Among others, these include removal of current chairman of CHT Land Commission justice Khedemul Islam Chowdhury and appointment of a competent person to this post, respect of traditional land rights of indigenous peoples, transferring the subject of land and land management to the Hill District Councils, etc.

(38) 24 July 2010: PCJSS member abducted in Khagrachari

On 24 July 2010 in the morning a returnee member of PCJSS named Mr. Paran Dhon Chakma (52) was abducted from Boalkhali area under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari district by reformist group of PCJSS. Due to tremendous pressure from local people, he was finally released in the evening.

August 2010

(39) 7 August 2010: Home Minister schedule to visit Rangamati

It is learnt that Honourable Home Minister is to visit Rangamati on 07 August 2010 and is to hold a meeting at Deputy Commissioner's Office on Law and Order situation in Rangamati Hill District, where DC is to preside over the meeting.

It is noted that as per the Rangamati Hill District Council Act amended in 1998 HDC is to supervise and promote Law and Order in the Hill District. Accordingly GoB issued letters to concerned HDCs to hold meeting of the Law and Order in the District. On the CHT Regional Council is to supervise and co-ordinate law and order in CHT.

With regard to the present visit of the Home Minister a tour program has been passed to the DC of Rangamati, who sent copy of it to the concerned authorities like, SP, Executive Officers of Rangamati Hill District Council and Regional Council, political parties like Awami League, Jatiyo Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Chhatra League etc. on 05 August 2010. But DC excluded PCJSS and its student wing PCP.

Now questions have arisen among the conscious elements in CHT:

- Whether present GoB is interested to take back power of supervision of Law and Order in CHT to DCs and ignore HDCs and CHTRC constituted as per the CHT Accord, which was an achievement of the then and present Honorable PM Hasina.
- Whether the GoB is going to neglect PCJSS, one of the signatory party of the CHT Accord.

It is notable that Chairman of CHTRC Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma (Santu Larma) made his tour programmes well in advance about his presence in Dhaka from 05 August to 12 August 2010 to participate in various events to observe the International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples. Remarkably it is noted that decision was made on 19 July to hold CHTRC session on 29 July 2010. On the other, Land Commission secretary issued a letter on 22 July about holding a opinion exchange meeting in Rangamati with several authorities and persons on 29 July 2010. The letter was passed to CHTRC and Rangamati HDC Chairmen and Chakma Circle Chief on 26 July. CHTRC Chairman could not attend the meeting. Of Course, CHTRC took a decision to claim removal of the Land Commission Chairman for his activities, which so far appeared to the CHTRC quite undemocratic as well as inconsistent with the power of jurisdiction and CHT Accord.

(40) 11 August 2010: Two villagers inhumanly beaten by UPDF miscreants in Matiranga

On 11 August 2010 the UPDF armed miscreants led by Maney Tripura inhumanly tortured following two villagers of Takar Moni Karbari Para of Bandarchara mouza under Matiranga upazila in Khagrachari district-

- 1) Mr. Kapalakcha Tripura (19) s/o late Gyanendra Tripura
- 2) Mr. Sandhya Ram Tripura (45) s/o late Jagu Tripura.

Leg and hand of Kapalakcha Tripura were broken.

(41) 12 August 2010: Indigenous leaders called on Suranjit Sengupta

On 12 August 2010 Raja Devasish Roy, Mangal Kumar Chakma and Shakti Pada Tripura called on MP Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the Special Committee for Constitution Amendment. Indigenous leaders briefed him on constitutional recognition for indigenous peoples and requested him to play active role for the same. He advised indigenous leaders to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and

Chair of the Special Committee for Constitution Amendment Ms. Sayada Sajed Chowdhury. He also asked indigenous leaders to continue public voice for the same.

(42) 15 August 2010: A villager inhumanly beaten by UPDF miscreants in Matiranga

On 15 August 2010 the UPDF armed miscreants led by Maney Tripura again brutally tortured an innocent villager named Kapar Tripura (19) s/o Panhari Tripura of Aparna Mahajan Para of Gumti mouza under Matiranga upazila in Khagarchari district.

(43) 15 August 2010: A Jumma school girl tried to rape by Bengali settlers in Mahalchari

On 15 August 2010 a class ninth girl student of Lemuchari High School Ms. Asha Chakma (15) d/o Gyana Chakma of Kalapahar of Maischari mouza in Mahalchari upazila was subjected to a raped attempt by Md. Harun Mian (26) s/o Hazarat Ali and Mahar Ali of both settlers from Lemuchari cluster village in Mahalchari upazila. When she resisted, the rapists hit and broke one of her teeth. Harun Mian run away, but Mahar Ali was caught by public red handed. Mahar Ali was handed over to Mahalchari police station. A case in connection with this incident was filed with Mahalchari police station.

(44) 25 August 2010: PCJSS leader Satyabir Dewan released on bail

On 25 August 2010 around 4.30 pm former general secretary of PCJSS was released on bail from Chittagong jail in accordance with bail granted on 4 August 2010 by a High Court bench.

No sooner of arrival in Rangamati, the workers and supporters of PCJSS and its front organisations gave a reception on the occasion of release of Mr. Dewan with vice president of PCJSS Mr. Ushatan Talukdar in the chair at Rangamati PCJSS district office. The speakers of reception protested the barbaric arrest and brutal torture of Mr. Dewan and other workers and supporters of PCJSS by the joint forces and then Caretaker Government. They also condemned joint forces and then Caretaker Government for trying to destroy PCJSS leadership by taking the advantage of State of Emergency in 2007-2009.

On 18 February 2007 the Joint Forces (army and police) led by Lt. Kazi Mustafizur Rahman of Rangamati army region and Md. Osman Goni, PSI of Kotowali police station of Rangamati district arrested Mr. Satyabir Dewan (56) s/o Hira Lal Dewan of village Balpiya Adam in Rangamati municipality from his home. He is arrested putting a country-made pipe-gun under the bed sheet. In total six false cases were lodged against him with different police station.

The session judge court of Chittagong Divisional Commissioner awarded 17 years rigorous imprisonment to Mr. Dewan in May 2007 for keeping illegal arms and 2 year for keeping illegal foreign currency after summary trials under dubious conditions. He appealed against the verdict of judge court to the High Court.

Mr. Dewan thanked all workers and supporters of PCJSS, lawyers, national and international human rights activists, media workers and civic groups of the country for supporting to release him.

(45) 25 August 2010: Army refused to open a gate for Buddhist monks for pindacharana

On 25 August 2010 the army refused to open a gate at the army zone in Naniarchar upazila under Rangamati district for Buddhist monks of Ratnankur Buddhist temple in Naniachar for pindacharana or alms round. It is mentionable that the gate is used to control the movements of the Jumma people of the area.

September 2010

(46) 2 September 2010: Court issues order to re-investigate Kalpana Chakma abduction

On 2 September 2010 the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Rangamati District, Md. Shariful Islam ordered a re-investigation of the abduction of Kalpana Chakma, a leader of Hill Women's Federation. The

order was issued after Kalpana Chakma's brother Kalindi Kumar Chakma had rejected the final police report filed with the court a few days ago.

Kalindi Kumar Chakma made an appeal for a re-investigation arguing that the final report on the abduction of Kalpana Chakma was not accurate and the investigation was not carried out in an appropriate manner. The court took cognizance of this appeal and ordered the CID to re-investigate the case.

Kalpana Chakma was kidnapped from her home in New Lallyaghona village under Baghaichari Upazila of Rangamati district on 12 June in 1996 by Lt. Ferdous and his accomplices.

(47) 19 September 2010: Moriarty had meeting with Santu Larma

On 19 September 2010 at around 1.00 pm Ambassador of United States to Dhaka Mr. James F. Moriarty called on CHT Regional Council Chairman Mr. Jyoritindra Bodhipriya Larma (Santu Larma) at CHTRC office in Rangamati. Ushatan Talukdar, a CHTRC Member was with Larma while two US embassy officials were with Moriarty.

Mr. Moriarty wanted to know about the CHT situation, land disputes and functioning of CHT Land Commission, activities of anti-element UPDF, US-Aid funded IPAC (Integrated Protected Area Co-management) project etc. Mr. Larma explained the present situation of CHT, non-implementation of CHT Accord by the present government, functions of the Land Commission's chairman that were contradictory to CHT Accord and rules of business etc. Mr. Larma said that UPDF is a terrorist organisation backed by military forces and continuing armed activities in CHT in order to hinder implementation of CHT Accord.

In regard to IPAC project, Mr. Larma opined that Longadu upazila was selected for one of the project areas. However, majority areas of this upazila were occupied by Bengali settlers. A Land dispute in CHT is yet to be resolved. So, implementation of IPAC project in Longadu upazila would go against the spirit of CHT Accord and interest of indigenous Jumma peoples. On the other, the role of CIPD (Centre for Indigenous Peoples Development) that was selected as local implementing NGO in Rangamati was not supportive to implementation of CHT Accord.

They had discussion almost an hour.

(48) 22 September 2010: Meeting on amendment of CHT Land Commission Act held at CHT Ministry

On 22 September 2010 at 11.00 a.m. a meeting on amendment of CHT Land Dispute Settlement Commission 2001 was held at the conference hall of the Ministry of CHT Affairs (MoCHTA) with State Minister for CHT Affairs Mr. Dipankar Talukdar in the chair.

From the government side, chairman of CHT Development Board MP Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing, chairman of the Task Force on Rehabilitation of Returnee Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) MP Jatindra Lal Tripura and officials from MoCHTA, Land Ministry, Forest & Environment Ministry and Law Ministry including secretary of the MoCHTA Mr. Masud Ahmed attended the meeting

From CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) side, its members Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma and Mr. Sneha Kumar Chakma were present in the meetings while Chakma Circle Chief Raja Devasish Roy, representative of Bohmong Circle Chief Chaw Hla Prue Jimi and Mong Circle Chief Saching Prue Chawdhury participated in the meeting.

It is mentionable that the CHTRC reviewed the recommendations/decisions adopted in the meeting held on 06 December 2009 chaired by the Land Minister and participated by CHTRC delegation in its 49th session (27 April 2010) and accepted decision to place recommendations once again on few sections of the CHT Land Dispute Settlement Act 2001 to the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Accordingly the CHTRC placed the recommendations to the Land Ministry and passed its copy to the MoCHTA as well.

Discussion was started on the basis of CHTRC's recommendations for amendment of CHT Land Dispute Settlement Commission 2001, where following decisions adopted on the concerned sections were as below:

1. Section 2- Definition of Rehabilitated Refugees: CHTRC recommended including the refugee returnees, who got returned from India in 1992-1994 as per the 16 point Package Deal between the GoB and the refugee leaders. GoB side not once again denied accepting it and the State Minister opined that yet these refugees would be able to have the opportunity of receiving settlement of land disputes as non-refugees.
2. Section 3(2)(Gha)- To add representative of concerned Circle Chief: Present provision narrates Circle Chief (concerned). CHTRC recommended to replacing it with the provision as 'Circle Chief (concerned) or his representative nominated by him'. This recommendation was accepted in the meeting.
3. Section 6(1)(ka)- To add all others' Land disputes: This provision narrates that land disputes of only the refugee returnees would be settled. CHTRC recommended, as per the CHT Accord, to adding all others' land disputes. Decision was adopted to amend this provision as per the Accord.
4. Section 6(1)(Ga)- Condition: This provision narrates that Reserved Forests, Kaptai Hydro Electric Project Area, Betbunga Earth Satellite Centre, state owned Industrial Areas, lands recorded in the name on GoB or local authorities would remain outside the jurisdiction of the Land Commission. CHTRC recommended, as per the CHT Accord, to omit it. Decision was made to recommend for omitting it.
5. Section 7(3)- Quorum: This provision narrates that Chairman and other two members would fulfill the quorum of the Land commission meeting. Raja Devasish Roy explained that as per this provision the Commission even in absence of the concerned circle chief and the concerned HDC Chairman were entrusted with the power of settlement of the land disputes, which as a consequence, may not be proper and hence presence of anyone of these two institutions must be imperative. In light of it, decision was made that this provision would be amended stating that 'Chairman and three other members would fulfill the quorum'.
6. Section 7(5)- Process of taking Decision: CHTRC put recommendations that in the meeting of the Land Commission decision would be adopted unanimously and if it fails then it would be adopted with votes of majority members including the Chairman. In this meeting decision was accepted to put recommendation to the Land Ministry for reviewing the recommendation of the CHTRC.
7. Section 10: To use the term Deputy Commissioner: CHTRC put recommendation to replace the word 'Zella Prashasak' with the word 'Deputy Commissioner', which is in use in CHT as per the CHT Regulation, 1900. GoB side preferred to retain the word 'Zella Prashasak', which is used in the country.

In the meeting the State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukdar opined the decisions of this meeting would be placed to the Land ministry, which would be asked for holding a meeting for finalizing the amendments on the Land Commission Act as early as possible.

It is notable that it is yet to be known whether the minutes to be framed by the MoCHTA and signed by the State Minister (as chaired by him) would include the decisions of the meeting properly.

In the meeting it was observed that most of the officials of the MoCHTA and the representative of the Forest and Environment Ministry, being anti-Accord elements, were quite against of the decisions particularly on the area jurisdiction of the commission adopted in the meeting.

(49) 25 September 2010: Human chain formed across the country demanding constitutional recognition of IPs

On 25 September 2010 Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum (BIPF) and other Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPOs) organized Human Chain in 16 districts including Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barishal, Barguna, Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts and other parts of the country where indigenous peoples live in. Many IPOs and CBOs representatives, political leaders, journalists,

lawyers, university teachers, human rights defenders, indigenous peoples rights activists had joined the demonstrations and raised their voices for the constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples of Bangladesh.

In Dhaka

Indigenous people's organizations led by Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum organized a human chain in front of Jatiyo Jadughor, Shahbag, Dhaka, demanding Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Peoples of Bangladesh. Many organization including Kapaeeng Foundation, CHT Hill Students' Council (PCP), Bangladesh Adibasi Chatra Songram Porishod, Hill Women's Federation (HWF), Tripura Students Forum (TSF), Indigenous Peoples Development Services (IPDS), Association of Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Adibasi Odhikar Andolon etc. joined the demonstration.

On the contrary, President of PCP Mr. Bablu Chakma, Organizing Secretary of Bangladesh Adibasi Chatra Sangram Porishod Mr. Litus Chiran, Organizing Secretary of HWF Ms. Chanchana Chakma, teacher of Dhaka University Professor Dr. Dalem Chandra Barman and Zobaida Nashrin Kona, chairperson of Patra Somprodai Kalyan Parishod Mr. Gouranga Patra, presidium member of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Haider Akbar Khan Rono, researcher Mr. Pavel Partha, Mr. Sharif Jamil of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, general secretary of Bangladesh Adibasi Adhikar Andolan Professor Mesbah Kamal and general secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum Mr. Sanjeeb Drong have delivered their solidarity speeches during the demonstration, While Mr. Hiran Mitra Chakma conducted the program.

In their speeches, speakers urged the Government to seriously consider the issue of constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples; otherwise, the process of amendment of constitution will remain incomplete. This time, it is the unique opportunity for the county to erase the wrong done in 1972, they added.

In CHT

In three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region, human chain was also formed by CHT branch of BIPF and other local IP organisations. In Rangamati, BIPF and M N Larma Memorial Foundation jointly formed human chain in front of Deputy Commissioner's office long the mail road. Among others, convenor of CHT branch of BIPF Mr. Prakriti Ranjan Chakma, convenor of M N Larma Memorial Foundation Mr. Bijoy Ketan Chakma, Dr. Kaniska Chakma, former teacher Mr. A K Newar, youth leader Mr. Udayan Tripura at el spoke during the human chain.

On the other, human chain was formed in front of Shapla Chattar area in Khagrachari while in front of Press Club in Bandarban district.

In Chittagong

Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Socheton Nagorik Somaj, Pahari Shramik Kalyan Forum, CHT Hill Students' Council (PCP) have jointly organized the Human Chain in front of Shaheed Minar in Chittagong town. Hundreds of indigenous people and rights activists participated in this demonstration. Among others Mr. Sharat Jyoti Chakma of PCJSS, Mr. Indra Nandan Dutta, Vice-president, Jatiyo Somajtantrik Dal; Advocate Abu Hanif, General Secretary, Chittagong Metropolitan Unit, Workers' Party of Bangladesh; Advocate Rana Dasgupto, General Secretary, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikyo Parishod and Mr. Andrew Solomar, Finance Secretary, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum at el spoke during the demonstration.

All speakers demanded the constitutional recognition of the indigenous peoples. They urged the government for the greater interest of they country and for ensuring fundamental rights and dignity of the indigenous peoples, government should consider this issue seriously.

In Rajshahi

Human Chain was formed in front of Shaheb Bazar Zero Point in Rajshahi city. Hundreds of indigenous and mainstream people have taken part in this demonstration. Principal Shafiqur Rahman

Badsha, General Secretary, Rajshahi Metropolitan Unit, Bangladesh Awami League; Mr. Liakat Ali Lipu, General Secretary, Metropolitan Unit, Workers' Party of Bangladesh; Mr. Bimal Chandra Rajowar, Organizing Secretary, Jatiyo Adibasi Porishod; Mr. Anil Marandi, President, Jatiyo Adibasi Parishod; Mr. Rabindranath Soren, General Secretary, Jatiyo Adibasi Parishod and Vice-President of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum at el spoke during the demonstration.

In addition, Adibasi Chattra Parishod and Hill Students' Council (PCP) of Rajshahi University unit have also joined the Human Chain and delivered their solidarity speeches demanding constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples.

In Sylhet

Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Sylhet Chapter organized Human Chain in front of Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar. Many other IP organizations have joined the demonstration. Advocate Shahidul Shaheen, President, Lawyers Association of Sylhet, Ghana Sangma, Ex President of Tribal Welfare Association, Mr. Mintu Deshowara, President, Sylhet Adibasi Chattra Parishod et al spoke and delivered their solidarity speeches.

BIPF Demands

BIPF published a leaflet demanding constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh on the occasion of human chain programme where following demands were placed before government of Bangladesh-

- 1) Ensure constitutional recognition of national entities, languages and cultures of indigenous peoples;
- 2) Provide constitutional recognition of special governance arrangement of CHT region for the protection of political, economic, cultural and religious rights of CHT;
- 3) Provide seat reservation for indigenous peoples including women in the parliament and local government councils;
- 4) Ensure constitutional guarantee so that no law and constitutional provisions related to indigenous peoples' rights would be changed without consent of indigenous peoples;
- 5) Recognise rights to control over land, territory and natural resources of indigenous peoples;
- 6) Provide constitutional recognition of CHT Accord signed in 1997 and laws formulated under this Accord.

(50) 28 September 2010: Seminar entitled 'CHT Accord Implementation, Development and Constitution Amendment' organised by CHT Regional Council

On 28 September 2010, at auditorium of Khudro Nrigosthir Sangskritik Institute, Rangamati a seminar entitled 'CHT Accord Implementation, Development and Constitution Amendment' was organised by CHT Regional Council in association with UNDP-CHTDF.

Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma (Santu Larma), Honourable Chairman of the CHT Regional Council himself conducted the programme, while Mrs. Suborna Chakma, assistant executive officer presented the seminar.

In the seminar, Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma, Member of CHT Regional Council, Mr. Goutam Dewan, former Chairman of Rangamati Local Government Council and Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma, Secretary for Information and Publicity Department of PCJSS central committee delivered their speech as key speaker. Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma and Mr. Goutam Dewan basically discussed on CHT Accord Implementation and Development issues, while Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma discussed on the Indigenous Peoples Issue in Constitution Amendment. Mr. Robert Stolemen, officer of UNDP-CHTDF and a Member of Khagrachari Hill District Council also spoke in the seminar.

Besides, Mr. Bijoy Keton Chakma, Convener of M N Larma Memorial Foundation, Mr. Mokhlesur Rahman Bhuiyan, Editor of the Daily Rangamati, Advocate Protim Roy Pampu, Mr. Hari Kishore Chakma, Journalist also put their opinion at open session.

At last, the seminar was ended through conclusive address of Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma.

October 2010

(51) 8 October 2010: PCJSS leader shot death by UPDF miscreants in Rangamati

On 8 October 2010 around 3.00 am newly elected general secretary of PCJSS Naniarchar branch Mr. Abhilash Chakma (42) s/o late Dayal Krishna Chakma was shot dead by armed cadres of UPDF.

Miscreants of UPDF entered house of the deceased at Kalyanpur under Rangamati municipality and fled away after shooting him in his forehead. It is learnt that one miscreant was called as Bijoy Chakma by Abhilash Chakma while he tried to oppose the miscreants.

Mr. Abhilash Chakma is from Hajachara Purba Para under Ghilachari union of Naniarchar upazila in Rangamati. Till to-date, UPDF miscreants killed more than one hundred PCJSS members and supporters.

On 8 October PCJSS and its wing organisations brought out procession protesting against this heinous killing in Rangamati.

(52) 10 October 2010: Opinion-sharing meeting on Settlement of Land Dispute and Land Survey in CHT held in Rangamati

On 10 October 2010 at 10.00 am an opinion-sharing meeting on Settlement of Land Dispute and Land Survey in CHT was held in Rangamati chaired by the Land Minister Rezaul Karim Heera. The meeting was moderated by secretary of Land Ministry Mr. Ataur Islam while welcome address was delivered by Secretary of Ministry of CHT Affairs (MoCHTA) Mr. Masud Ahmed.

Barrister Raja Devasish Roy, Chakma Circle Chief was asked to speak first. He said that the CHT Accord narrates in the clause 2 of the Part Gha/4 that after the implementation of the Accord and rehabilitation of the refugees and internally displaced persons, the Government, in consultation with the Regional Council, is to take up the program for land survey in CHT and as per the Accord Land Commission is to settle land disputes and land survey is not the function of the Land Commission. He stressed to amend the CHT Land Dispute Settlement Commission Act and pointed out that no lands or areas as per the Accord could be left outside the jurisdiction of the Land Commission.

Participating in the discussion, representative of Bohmong Circle Chief Mr. Chawhla Prue (Jimi) supported Raja Devasish Roy and demanded amendment in the Land Commission Act to accept representative of Bohmong Circle Chief in the Commission meeting as well.

Three HDCs Chairmen namely Khangrachari HDC's chairman Mr. Kujendra Lal Tripura, Bandarban HDC's chairman Mr. Kyew Chahla and Rangamati HDC's chairman Mr. Nikhil Kumar Chakma also spoke in the meeting. They raised the issue of proper execution of the procedure of having prior approval of HDCs relating to transfer of lands in HDCs as cited in the CHT Accord and inserted in the section 64 of the HDC Acts. They touched the issue of granting lease by the Standing Committee headed by Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Division.

Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma (Santu Larma), CHTRC Chairman told that 29 months of this GoB already passed over and no progress has yet held in the implementation of the Accord. Yet the people are waiting for execution of the issues of CHT Accord. With regard to settlement of land dispute and land survey very clearly stated that without the settlement of land disputes and rehabilitation of refugees and IDPs, land survey should not be done. That was not the function of the Land Commission. Yet the Land Commission's Chairman, without holding meeting with the members of the Land Commission took up few steps, which created confusion among the masses and the process of land dispute settlement has been jeopardized. He worked as a political element against the Accord and settlement of land dispute. Hence, CHTRC sent letters to the GoB to dismiss him. He added that there should be congenial environment relating to law and order and general administration and economic development for which demilitarization of the administration in CHT was unavoidable. He demanded transfer of the subjects- Land and Management, Forest and Environment to the HDCs.

In his speech, Mr. Jatindra Lal Tripura, MP and Chairman, Task Force on Rehabilitation of Refugee Returnees and IDPs also supported to amend the Land Dispute Settlement Commission Act 2001 as per recommendation of CHTRC and to conduct land survey as per CHT Accord.

Mr. Bir Bahadur MP said that there should be practically some progress with regard to implementation of the Accord.

Mr. Dipankar Talukdar emphasised on implementation of the CHT Accord. He opined that there were some elements who all the time made attempts to create chaos and confusion in the region. He provided instance that when this meeting was scheduled to be held on today in Rangamati then the incident of killing was held in Rangamati (in the night of 8 October) and in another incident two persons were killed in Kassalong just yesterday (9 October).

Participating in the discussion, Goutam Kumar Chakma, Member and Convenor of Committee on Law, Land and Local Councils of CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) told that CHT Land Dispute Commission was to settle land disputes and then Land survey could be done as per the provision of the CHT Accord. The Land Commission is of 9-members to deal with the matters about functioning of the Commission and however, it is of 5-members Commission to settle land disputes as a Quasi-judicial body. The present Land Commission chairman did not follow the procedure so far that is why CHTRC took resolution and put recommendation to the GoB for dismissal of him. He opined that he went through the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2010 chaired by Mr. Dipankar Talukdar, State Minister of MoCHTA on amendment of the CHT Land Settlement Dispute Act 2001 and found recorded the issues properly.

The State Minister of Land Ministry opined that there should be series of meeting on the issues of the CHT.

Mr. Rezaul Karim Heera, Land Minister and Chair of the meeting spoke that land survey would be held only after the settlement of land disputes. In this connection, he spoke that all the necessary legislation would be made and amended as per the clause 2 of the Part ka/1 of the CHT Accord. His ministry would implement all the concerned issues related to the Accord. He also opined that if necessary appointment of new chairman of the Land Commission would be considered. He said that he would inform all these issues to the Prime Minister for necessary consideration.

At the end of the meeting there held a short brief to the media persons.

The meeting was attended by, among others, Chandra Nath Basak Moitra, Joint Secretary & Director (land records, Directorate of Land Records and Survey, additional divisional commissioner (Revenue), officials from Land Ministry, MoCHTA, Law Ministry and Prime Minister's office, Deputy Commission (DC) of Khagrachari & Bandarban and representative of DC of Rangamati, Mr. Krishna Chandra Chakma, Executive Officer in Charge of CHTRC and Mr. Bishwajit Chakma, APS to Chairman of CHTRC.

(53) 18 October 2010: Jumma girl attempted to rape by Bengali settler in Mahalchari

On 18 October 2010 a Jumma girl named Ms Ila Talukder (21) was attempted to rape at Lemuchari village under Mahalchari Upazila in Khagrachari district by Zahidul Islam (24), a Bengali settler from Maddyom Lemuchari village. It is learnt that Zahidul Islam (24) tried to rape victim while she was taking a break from work at the courtyard of their house about 8.00 pm. Victim's mother Sadhana Chakma rushed there hearing her daughter's screaming for help. Then they caught the victim.

Jumma villagers handed culprit over to the settler leaders. A criminal case was filed with Mahalchari police station. However, even police failed to take any actions to bring Zahidul to justice so far.

(54) 19 October 2010: Indigenous people's rights will find place in Constitution, says Suranjit

Co-chairman of Special Parliamentary Committee for Constitution Amendment (SPCCA) Mr. Suranjit Sengupta, MP, said the rights of the indigenous community would be recognised incorporating their rights in the Constitution.

He was addressing as chief guest at the seminar on 'Constitutional Recognition of the Indigenous Peoples of Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Adivasi Forum with the support of Action Aid Bangladesh at CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka on 19 October 2010.

Suranjit Sengupta also said that earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told them to take it seriously when we discussed the issue with her. "I am impressed with the presence in this house; especially to see the movement that indigenous peoples have shaped successfully, at least intellectually. Now we have a good-chance to establish rights for all in the Constitution. We will incorporate the good things that were left out from the Constitution of 1972," he said. He urged the indigenous community to place a draft to the SPCCA outlining the way they want their rights incorporated in the Constitution.

"The SPCCA will take decision about the recognition of the rights of the indigenous people in the Constitution," Suranjit said. Bangladesh emerged through a bloody battle to establish the rights of the people not to deprive them, he said. He also urged the leaders of the indigenous community to continue their movement to materialise the dream of Manabendra Narayan Larma, the pioneer leader of the indigenous community.

In his speech, Hasanul Huq Inu, MP, and member of the SPCCA said, the issue of constitutional recognition of the indigenous community would be taken seriously. I personally as a member of the SPCCA and conscious citizen of the country support the demand for recognition of their rights in the Constitution, he added. "Many high profile politicians do not want the indigenous people's constitutional recognition," he added.

Eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud said that national recognition of the ethnic minority was logical as they were citizen of Bangladesh. He hoped that this government would take it seriously to establish secular order in the country.

Information Commissioner Prof. Dr Sadeka Halim said that indigenous peoples should be recognition in the constitution as 'indigenous peoples'. He urged indigenous leaders to continue their movement and to put demand before government as they want.

Prof Mesbah Kamal said with the constitutional recognition the spirit of Bangali nationality will not be undermined. "We have to honour the emotion of the indigenous people who want their own identity, and the best way to honour their spirit is to give them constitutional recognition."

General Secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum Sanjeeb Drong presented the keynote paper while Robaet Ferdous moderated the seminar.

Publicity Secretary of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samity (PCJSS) urged the government to include a definition of indigenous community in the Article 152 of the Constitution, side by side to insert the rights to participation, identity, consent and self-government of indigenous peoples.

In his keynote paper, Sanjeeb Drong said that USA, Canada, Bolivia, Mexico, Brazil, Paraguay, Ecuador, Venezuela had recognised the rights of indigenous community in their Constitution. Not only constitutional recognition of their rights but also traditional land rights and ownership of territory were recognised in the constitutions of these countries, he mentioned in his keynote paper. Drong mentioned the specific articles of the Constitution Article 3, 28(4), 59, 65(3a) and 80 to incorporate the term of indigenous community.

Among others general secretary of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Rabindranath Soren and Action Aid country director Farhah Kabir spoke at the seminar.

It is mentionable that Manabendra Narayan Larma (Santu Larma), founder of Parbatya Chattagra Jana Shanghati Samity, who was a member of the parliament in 1972, had opposed the original constitution since there was no mention about the indigenous community.

(55) 26 October 2010: A Buddhist temple attacked by army in Rangamati

On 26 October 2010 at night 4:00 a.m. a Buddhist temple named 'Tiratna Bono Sadhana Kuthir' located at Chegeya Chhari (Amtola) of No. 1 Suvolong union under Barkol upazila (sub-district) of Rangamati Hill District came under attack of Bangladesh Army. There are also 12 small Kuthirs

(cottage) including the main temple 'Triratna Bono Sadhana Kuthir'. It is mentionable that the Kuthirs (cottage) are used as meditation place.

It is learnt that on that time a group of army numbering 20/25 of nearby Bhijey Kijing Army Camp and Banduk Chhari (Banajogi Chhara) Zone Head Quarter, 23 Bir Regiment led by Lt. Colonel Mijanur Rahaman broke into the temple area and destroyed 9 Kuthir and threw valuable things including images of Buddha away into river after destruction.

It is also learnt that after committing such a religious profanation, Lt. Colonel Mijanur Rahaman is again threatening that if this incident is made public outside, all will be picked up and beaten.

(56) 26 October 2010: Report on PCJSS memorandum for constitutional recognition of IPs

On 26 October 2010 Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) submitted a memorandum before the Special Parliamentary Committee on Constitution Amendment demanding constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. A six-member delegation of PCJSS headed by its vice president Mr. Ushatan Talukdar called on chairperson of the Special Parliamentary Committee Ms. Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury at her office of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka and handed over the memorandum to her.

Other members of the PCJSS delegation were central member Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma, general secretary Mr. Pranati Bikash Chakma, publicity and information secretary Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma, organising secretary Mr. Shakti Pada Tripura and assistant organising secretary Mr. Thoimraching Chowdhury.

In its memorandum, PCJSS placed following demands before the Special Parliamentary Committee for providing constitutional recognition to indigenous peoples-

- 1) Provide constitutional recognition of national entities, languages and cultures of indigenous peoples;
- 2) Provide constitutional recognition of special governance arrangement of CHT region for the protection of political, economic, cultural and religious rights of CHT;
- 3) Provide seat reservation for indigenous peoples including women in the parliament and local government councils;
- 4) Ensure constitutional provision with a guarantee that no amendment of constitutional provisions and laws relating to indigenous peoples will be made without the prior consent of indigenous peoples;
- 5) Recognise the rights to control over land, territory and natural resources of indigenous peoples;
- 6) Provide constitutional recognition of CHT Accord signed in 1997 and laws formulated under this Accord.

In its memorandum, PCJSS placed 14-proposal before the Special Parliamentary Committee to amend the constitution for providing constitutional recognition to indigenous peoples.

The chairperson expressed positive attitude towards the constitutional recognition to the indigenous people.

Please find the attached memorandum in Bangla for kind information.

It would be highly appreciated if your good office tries to influence government of Bangladesh for constitutional recognition of IPs.

(57) 29 October 2010: Bengali settlers attempt to grab land in Ramgarh

On 29 October 2010 a group of Bengali settlers made an attempt to grab lands belonging to the Jumma people in Baro Kalapani village under Ramgarh Upazila in Khagrachari district.

It is learnt that Bengali settlers led by Karim Ullah (35), president of Jubo League Patachara Union No. 9, went to Baro Kalapani village mounting on a jeep at 12:15 pm on that day and tried to occupy

lands belonging to the Jumma villagers. However, they were forced to retreat when the villagers resisted them.

November 2010

(58) 2 November 2010: Hill people still victim of land grabbing: Larma

Chief of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma yesterday said Bangla speaking people from the plain land are still grabbing the lands of jummo (indigenous) people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) under the shelter of a vested interest group.

Security personnel are maintaining dominance over the hilly areas in the name of peacekeeping while the people of CHT region are passing their days amidst insecurity, the PCJSS leader, who is popularly known as Santu Larma, said at 'freshers' reception' on the campus of Rangamati Government College.

He was addressing as chief guest at the event organised by the college unit of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), a student front of PCJSS, in the morning.

Referring to the government's decision to set up a university of science and technology and a medical college in Rangamati, Larma, also chairman of CHT Regional Council, said new problems will be created in CHT if those institutions are set up without considering whether CHT people want them.

"Many indigenous people were evicted due to the creation of Kaptai Dam. They lost their arable land and homesteads. The jummo people do not want to lose their lands any more," said the former guerrilla leader.

"During the 39 years of independence, we have failed to establish a progressive and democratic government in the country. And so, crime and corruption has grabbed the country and human right is being violated everywhere," he lamented.

Blaming the government for politicising all the three hill district councils in CHT, he said nowadays the poor people have hardly any scope to get help or assistance as the ruling party men are enjoying all the facilities from the organisations.

Suggesting the students to acquire knowledge from the outside environment alongside academic education to become worthy citizen, Larma called upon them to come forward for full implementation of the CHT deal.

Chaired by Dhires Chakma, a student and president of PCP Rangamati College unit, the function was also addressed, among others, by civil society leader Prakriti Ranjan Chakma, former PCP central president Udoyan Tripura, its central committee general secretary Sunirmol Dewan and district secretary Nitol Chakma.

Later, a band show programme was held at the college campus.

(59) 3 November 2010: A Jumma girl with disabilities raped by Bengali settlers in Manikchari

On 3 November 2010 a Jumma girl with disability named Muichinung Marma (13) was gang raped by four settlers in Manikchari under Khagrachari district.

It is learnt that the culprits picked her up from her family home around 10.00 pm on that day, took her to Ramiz Tila (hill top), raped her by turn and then left her unconscious. It is reported that police arrested two settlers namely Abul Kashem (26) and Delwar Hossain (22) in this connection and sent them to jail. The incident occurred on 3 November in the village of Godatuli under Borbil Union of Manichari Upazila. The other two accused namely Mohammad Belal (25) son of Abul Boshor and Md. Raju have not been arrested.

(60) 5 November 2010: Four Jumma women tried to sexual assault by Bengali settlers in Dighinala

On 5 November 2010 at around 5.00 pm following four Jumma women from Kobakhali Headman Para under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachari district were allegedly subjected to sexual assault by Bengali settlers at Kobakhali village under Dighinala Upazila.

- 1) Rita Chakma (24) wife of Kamal Joti Chakma and
- 2) Ms. Ripana Chakma (22) wife of Kingkor Chakma,
- 3) Parani Chakma (23) wife of Jangalya Chakma.
- 4) Tusha Rani Chakma (25) wife of Milon Joti Chakma,

It is learnt that the Jumma women were on their way back home from a nearby jungle. When they reached Roshya Moni Karbari Para area the settlers suddenly appeared and grabbed the women.

When they screamed for help, members of the paramilitary Ansar from a nearby camp rushed there and detained Md. Shohag (27) son of Abdul Kashem of Ambagan village and Md. Nazim Uddin (22) son of Abdul Malek of village Ali Nagar. Later, they were handed over to Dighinala police station.

(61) 8 November 2010: Protest against land acquisition for Ruma Cantonment and BDR Wing HQ in Ruma of CHT

On 8 November 2010 indigenous Jumma peoples in Ruma upazila under Bandarban Hill District organised demonstration and held meeting at Ruma Upazilla HQ protesting against acquisition of lands of the Jumma people recorded in their names as well as occupied by them so far for expansion of Ruma Cantonment of the Bangladesh Army and establishment of new wing headquarter of BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) in Ruma. The protest was organised by the local Jumma people under the banner of the people from all walks of life in Ruma.

It is noted that the Army authority during the pre-CHT Accord period put a plan to acquire 9,560 acres of land for expansion of Ruma cantonment. Since mid 1980s the local Army authority time and again made attempts to have acquisition of the proposed area. Every time the local Jumma People particularly the Murung (Mro), who numbering to about 15,000 (Fifteen thousand) are to be uprooted even from their whole mouza (local traditional area unit) and would become completely landless and deprived from their livelihood, the occupation of plough land cultivation and shifting agriculture cultivation.

During the state of emergency in 2007-2008, when the Army administration emerged as the most powerful force in the country and the CHT was brought under double military Rule i.e. the Operation Uttoran renamed after the CHT Accord and the State of emergency of 2007-08 there was an attempt by the army to evict the local Jumma people including Mro community from proposed area. In order to executing the programme of the acquisition of the said land area many local Jumma persons were tortured and arrested among whom, the Mro leader named Ranglai Mro was notable. Very recently the local army authority led by Lt. Col. Wasim, Commander of the Ruma Cantonment took up the process once again.

It is noted that Lt. Colonel Wasim, the then Army Zone Commander of Bagaichari Army Zone under 24 Infantry Division of Bangladesh Army was the main perpetrator of the communal attack upon the Jumma People at Baghaihat area in Sajek Union under Bagaichari Upazilla in Rangamati Hill District in February 2009 where two Jumma villagers were shot death and around 450 houses of 12 (twelve) Jumma villages were completely burnt to ashes. The UNDP-CHTDF (United Nations Development Programme- CHT Development Facility) has been all the time prepared to provide rehabilitation to the affected Jumma families. But the army authorities imposed embargo that unless primarily 100 (one hundred) Bengali settlers families, which were collected from different Cluster Villages since 2007 (Bengalee Settlers Settlements) from neighbouring Dighinala Upazilla in Khagrachari Hill District and Longadu Upazilla in Rangamati Hill District and presently 500 (five) hundred settlers' families were not rehabilitated there they would not allow the UNDP-CHTDF to work for the rehabilitation. UNDP-CHTDF formally put proposal to the GoB through Ministry of CHT Affairs (MoCHTA) for the purpose but it is yet to yield any positive response.

On the other hand, the GoB authority took plan to acquire another 25 acres of land at Thana Para under Poli mouza in Ruma Upazila for the purpose of establishment of BDR headquarters in Ruma.

Though BDR officially showed 25 acres of land for acquisition, however, it will be more than 25 acres as BDR marked the boundary of the proposed area up to bank of Shanghu river and Barshi Para and Upper & Lower Rumachar Para other than Thana Para will be affected. If the proposed BDR Wing headquarters is set up, then it will uproot 40 families of Thana Para, 15 families of Barshi Para and 50 families of Rumachar Para (Upper and Lower) from their ancestral land who belong to Marma community. Even a hostel for local indigenous students and a carpentry & sewing training centre run by a local NGO named Toyumu will also be uprooted from Thana Para area.

On the day of 8 November 2010 the meeting was chaired by Mr. Numlai Mro, Headman of Pantola mouza and the meeting was addressed by Mr. Mongcha Ching Marma, member of Galenga union Parishad (a local government council), Mr. Cham-a-u Marma, Headman of Chanda Mouza, Mr. Kyochya Prue Marma, Karbari of Rumachar Para, Mr. Ruihla Mro, ex-member of Galenga union parishd, Thoiching Marma, Karbari (Village head), Mr. Ukya Ching, President of PCP (Pahari Chhatra Parishad, a student wing of PCJSS) of Ruma Branch and Vice president of PCJSS of Ruma branch Mr. Jial Bawm while general secretary of PCJSS Mr. Lue Prue conducted the programme. The procession was brought out in Ruma bazaar area at ruma Upazilla HQ in Bandarban Hill District.

The protesters submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister of GoB through the Upazila Nirbahi Office (UNO) demanding for cancel of the plan to acquire lands for the expansion of the Ruma Cantonment and setting up the new BDR Wing HQ there and to stop uprooting them from their ancestral territory as well as depriving them from their occupations and livelihoods.

It is noted that although the PM Hasina and her GoB frequently continue reiterating fullest implementation of the CHT Accord but there has been hardly any progress in it. But, the process of forcible land grabbing and expansion of settlements of the Bengalee settlers as well as fresh infiltration, which has been the main process to wage the war against the indigenous Jumma people of CHT continue unabated.

It is further noted that though until the date there have been more than 400 hundreds army camps and cantonments, BDR and Ansar camps yet there are attempts from various corners of the GoB to set up new camps of army and BDR on the pretext of combating terrorist activities and drug trafficking in CHT. But, the reality is to occupy lands to make rooms for the expansion of settlements of Bengalee settlers in CHT.

Remarks: Article 17(Ka) and 17(Kha) of CHT Accord respectively narrate that all the temporary camps except the BDR camps and 6 (six) permanent army installations would be closed down and the vacate lands would be restituted to the owners (obviously the Jumma persons) and the concerned Hill District Council. So the move for expansion of the Ruma Cantonment and setting up the new BDR wing HQ in Ruma is violation of the said provision of the CHT Accord of 1997. Considering the extremely deplorable condition of the Jumma people of the Ruma Upazilla in Bandarban Hill district of CHT it appealed to raise the issue with the PM and the Army Authority in particular and send urgent action letter as well.

(62) 12 November 2010: Champatali Buddhist temple searched by army in Lama

On 12 November 2010 around 11 p.m. a group of army led by Subedar Kasem from Champatali army camp searched Champatali Buddhist temple and misbehaved with the monk of this temple Rev. U Poiyeo. Subedar Kasem also harassed village head Mr. Chathowai Aung Karbari (45) s/o late Mong Ching Ching Karbari. Army accused temple authority to allow PCJSS to hold memorial meeting on the occasion of 27th death anniversary of M N Larma.

(63) 15 November 2010: A Tripura girl allegedly murdered in Matiranga

On 15 November 2010 a Tripura girl named Ms Koshmoti Tripura (14) s/o Shanto Kumar Tripura of village Brajendra Karbari Para of Doliya mouza under Matiranga upazila of Khagrachari district was killed after rape. Her mutilated body has been recovered from a jungle in Matiranga under Khagrachari district on 22 November 2010.

It is learnt that Ms Koshmoti Tripura went missing on 15 November while working in a paddy field near their house in the village of Brajendra Karbari Para. Her mutilated body was recovered one week later from a jungle.

Police arrested Md. Bablu, Md. Shafique and Md. Jafar of village Palashpur of Matiranga Upazila and Chhuto Ali of village Adorsho Gram of Matiranga Upazila in Khagrachari district on suspicion of being involved in the murder. A case has been filed with Matiranga police station in this connection. The police sent her body to Khagrachari Sadar Hospital for autopsy on 23 November 2010.

On 25 November 2010 at 10 am CHT Women Resource Network and TSF organised a human chain in front of Khagrachari press club protesting said gang rape and killing.

(64) 23 November 2010: A Tripura shopkeeper wounded by a Bengali settler in Mahalchari

On 23 November 2010 a Tripura shopkeeper named Bishwachan Tripura (42) s/o Hug Kumar Tripura of village Sindukchari under Sindukchari union Mahalchari Upazila in Khagrachari district was attacked by a Bengali settler named Khairul Islam s/o Ajgor Ali of Sindukchari.

It is learnt that at a stage when being altercation regarding business transaction at the shop of Mr. Tripura at Sindukchari Bazaar, Khairul Islam suddenly hit Bishwachan Tripura on his head firstly with stick and then with a cup and Mr. Tripura became senseless. He was taken with senseless at army hospital (army camp) near the Sindukchari bazar. The people who were present at the time of incident brought Khairul Islam to the Camp Commander but Camp Commander did not take any step against him. At a stage, the culprit could escape. Relatives of Biswchan Tripura went to police station to file case but police did not accept to receive the case.

It is mentionable that Khairul Islam was a defendant of murder case of Ponemala Tripura of Sindukchari village. Bengali settlers have been trying to uproot Bishwachan Tripura from this market. Relatives believe that the attack was made as part of uprooting him from his business.

(65) 29 November 2010: PCJSS demands roadmap to implement the CHT Accord

Press conference on the occasion of 13th Anniversary of the CHT Accord

On 29 November 2010 Press conference on the occasion of 13th anniversary of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Accord was held by the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), only political party of indigenous Jumma peoples in CHT and one of the signatories of the Accord, at Sundarban Hotel in Dhaka. President of the PCJSS Mr. Jyotorindra Bodhipriya Larma briefed the journalists about the present state of implementation of the Accord.

Mangal Kumar Chakma, Information and Publicity Secretary and Shaktipada Tripura, Organising Secretary of PCJSS, Elderly politician Pankaj Bhattacharya of Gano Forum, Sanjeeb Drong of Bangladesh Adivasi Parishad, Prof Mesbah Kamal, secretary of Adivasi Adhikar Andolon, Rabindra Nath Soren of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad and Bablu Chakma, President of Hill Students Council (PCP) were also present at the press conference.

Demanding announcement of a roadmap to implement the CHT Accord, Mr. Larma said two years have passed since this government took the office but it is yet to take any fruitful and effective actions to implement the Accord. Due to non-implementation of the Accord, the situation remains the same like before. He said that the process for implementation of the Accord had been stalled for lack of political will on the part of the government. No steps had been taken as yet to protect the character of indigenous-majority of the CHT region; rather conspiracies continued to turn the CHT into a predominantly Muslim area.

He opined that no major authority has been given to the CHT Regional Council (CHTRC); rather it had been ignored deliberately by every office concerned. He also claimed that though the government had in its electoral commitment to fully implement the Accord, but the most important departments and subjects, including general administration, coordination and monitoring of law order, land management, police (local), forest and environment, secondary education etc, were yet to be handed over to the three Hill District Councils (HDCs).

“So far the government is only promising to implement the Accord. But no effective steps have been taken to secure life and properties of the indigenous peoples living in CHT,” he said. “Rather, many indigenous peoples have been evicted from their land and the conspiracy of making the Muslim a majority in the CHT region still goes on,” he added.

“CHT Accord Implementation Committee is not functioning actively due to lack of political sincerity by the government to execute the Accord fully.” Santu Larma complained. He mentioned that the Accord is the only solution to make the CHT stable and peaceful, he said the prime minister received an international award by signing this accord so it is a moral duty of this government to implement the accord effectively. “So, the government should have implementation of the CHT accord in its priority list,” he said.

While evaluating the steps of the government, Mr. Larma said the government has so far recast some committees and appointed indigenous people in some posts like state minister for CHT affairs, Taskforce on Rehabilitation of Repatriated indigenous refugees and IDPs, chairman of CHT Development Board, CHT Land Commission and recasting of CHT Accord Implementation Committee. He also mentioned withdrawal of a brigade and 35 temporary camps from the CHT region as one of the tasks the government has done.

At the press conference, Santu Larma also said the present government has cancelled lease allocations of 593 plots, out of 2,000 on 50 thousand acres of land. “But still the leaseholders are occupying the land. They are now trying to make a fresh lease contract of that land,” he said. He also said around 9,780 indigenous families, out of 12,222 who returned from Tripura of India are yet to get back their land.

He said the clauses of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act 2001 which were ‘contradictory’ to the Accord were yet to be amended and the commission chair was triggering controversies by unilaterally announcing a cadastral survey. ‘Although an individual from indigenous community has been made state minister for CHT affairs ministry, activities of the ministry are against the implementation of the CHT Accord and the interests of indigenous peoples.’

‘Instead of implementing the deal, the government is carrying out contrary to its provisions such as its move to form a so-called strategic management forum to undermine the special governance system in CHT, announcement of a cadastral survey before settling the land disputes and unabated acquisition of lands,’ he said.

Santu Larma said the High Court ruling cancelling the 5th amendment to the constitution had cleared the way for constitutional recognition of the indigenous peoples and called for constitutional protection of the CHT Accord, and recognition of political, economic and socio-cultural rights of the ethnic minorities and their traditional land rights in the constitution.

He also asked the government to prioritise with due legal importance the appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the High Court ruling that had declared formation of CHTRC illegal. He referred to prime minister Sheikh Hasina who had said, ‘They had surrendered arms and signed the treaty placing their faith in the government and we cannot betray their trust,’ and lamented that such sincerity still remained rhetoric.

Mr. Larma demanded an end to what he said ‘military rule’ in the CHT region in the name of Operation Uttaran, withdrawal of temporary camps of army, armed police, ansars and VDP from the CHT.

The demands of PCJSS also include making the CHTRC and three HDCs active, banning the united people democratic front (UPDF).

Mr. Larma demanded of the government to ban the activities of the terrorist organisation United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF). He accused the UPDF activists of involvement in anarchy and terrorism in the CHT region. Replying to a question he said, a vested section of all the governments had fostered the UPDF activists to hinder implementation of the Accord and to destroy Jumma peoples’ movement led by the PCJSS. Mr. Larma also accused the UPDF activists of killing more than 200 people in the CHT, including 65 activists of PCJSS during the past 13 years.

He announced that marking the 13th anniversary of CHT Accord signing on 2 December 2010, the PCJSS will hold daylong discussion at the Institute of Diploma Engineers in Dhaka while local party units would stage processions and rallies in every district and upazila headquarters in CHT.

December 2010

(66) 5-6 December 2010: Jumma people refrain from attending the meeting of Land Commission chairman in Baghaichari and Longadu

On 5 and 6 December 2010 Land Commission chairman Justice (rtd.) Khademul Islam Chowdhury visited Baghaichari and Longadu upazila under Rangamati district respectively and organised opinion-sharing meetings there. However, there was very low participation of indigenous Jumma people in the meetings.

It is reported that in the Longadu meeting held on 6 December, no Jumma was present there. One indigenous woman who is Upazila Officer of Women Division and one head teacher of local high school who went there to collect textbooks for his students were picked-up to attend the meeting. The meeting was basically attended by around 100 Bengali settlers who were settled down in CHT in 80s on Jumma's land. The Land Commission was created to resolve the land disputes mainly arisen due to forcible occupation of Jumma's land by the Bengali settlers.

The meeting was held at Longadu upazila rest house with the Longadu Upazila Nirbahi Officer in the chair. In his speech, Khademul Islam Chowdhury said that land disputes will be resolved as per applications that were already submitted to the Commission and every body who did not yet apply can submit their application seeking resolution of land disputes. The land disputes will be resolved as per CHT Regulation of 1900 as CHT Accord stipulates, he said.

On the other, in the Baghaichari meeting held on 5 December at upazila hall, no headman and public representative except Upazila Chairman and two Vice Chairmen attended the meeting, though all the headmen and public representatives under Baghaichari upazila were invited to this meeting. However, widows irrespective of Bengali and Jumma who went to upazila office on that day to collect their widow allowances and Jumma officers and employees were compelled to attend the meeting. Besides, a so-called reformist leader of PCJSS Mr. Sushil Bikash Chakma and a village head named Bishwapriya Chakma were attended the meeting.

It is mentionable that after appointment as Chairman of Land Commission chairman, Justice (rtd.) Khademul Islam Chowdhury started to visit to hill districts and held opinion-sharing meetings with district and upazila level officers during his visit. At a stage, during tour of the three hill districts on 3-5 August 2009, he unilaterally declared to conduct land survey without having discussion with and decision of Land Commission and even violating the provision of CHT Accord. Further, he issued public notice asking affected land owners to lodge application on land disputes with Land Commission. This notice was issued without the decision of the Commission.

With this backdrop, all sections of the citizens including CHT Regional Council and PCJSS and also three circle chiefs protested against the unilateral and controversial activities of Land Commission and also demanded removal of Mr. Chowdhury from post of the Chairmanship. However, despite the huge protest from the all sections of the citizens, Mr. Chowdhury still continues his controversial activities including visit to the hill districts and holding opinion-sharing meeting without holding formal meeting of the Commission.

(67) 5 December 2010: Bengali settlers tried to grab Jumma's land in Mahalchari

On 5 December 2010 Bengali settlers constructed houses on the land of Jumma people at Lemuchari under Mahalchari upazila in Khagrachari district.

It is learnt that around 10.00 am on that day more than 100 Bengali settlers started to construct makeshift on the 8 acres of recorded land of Sunil Kumar Chakma s/o late Chandra Kumar Chakm and 3 acres of land of Ripan Talukdar s/o Gyana Talukdar at Lemuchari village under Lamuchari mouza of Mahalchari upazila in Khagrachari district and completed to erect 10 houses by the end of

the day. A group of army from Mahalchari zone and Kengalchari sub-zone were present at the spot while Bengalis settlers were erecting the houses on the Jumma's land.

Protesting against it, Jumma villagers demolished the houses in the morning of 6 December. On the contrary, Bengali settlers gathered there with the intention to attack indigenous Jumma villagers in presence of military forces.

Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari Anisul Haque Bhuiyan, Acting (in-charge) Mahalchari Upazila Nirbahi officer Rahet Hossain and Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Mahalchari police station Joynal Abedin rushed there today (on 6 December 2010). During the visit of the government officials, in absence of land owner Sunil Kumar Chakma, his son Kerington Chakma was present there and showed title deed of the land. It is mentionable that Sunil Kumar Chakma bought this from Painda Mog who got settlement this land in 1965-66.

However, DC of Khagrachari Md. Anisul Haque accused local Jumma villagers for destruction of Bengali settlers without accusing Bengali settlers for illegal construction of houses on the Jumma's land.

It is also worth mentioning that Bengali settlers with the support of military forces and local administration occupied hundreds acre of land belongs to Jumma people in Mahalchari areas even after the signing of the CHT Accord in 1997. Very recently, Bengali settlers intensified land grabbing at these areas and as part of this move, they constructed houses on the land of Sunil Kumar Chakma and Ripan Talukdar.

Today (on 6 December 2010) the PCJSS, in a press release, protested against the land grabbing by Bengali settlers and support to them by the military forces and local administration in grabbing Jumma's land and demanded to remove Bengali settlers from this area.

Please find the press release for your kind information and necessary action.

(68) 12 December 2010: Indigenous rights activists submit memorandum demanding multi-lingual education for indigenous children

On 12 December 2010 delegation of indigenous rights activists submitted a memorandum demanding Multi-Lingual Education (MLE) for indigenous children and inclusion of indigenous issues in the primary curriculum policy to Mr. Abdul Awal Majumder, Secretary of the Primary and Mass Education Ministry of the Government of Bangladesh.

Headed by Professor Mesbah Kamal of Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon, other members of the delegation of indigenous rights activists were Mr. Pallab Chakma of Kapaeeng Foundation and Mr. Brajendu Shekhar Chakma of Kabidang. Besides, Mr. Rabindranath Soren and Mr. Anil Marandi of Jatiyo Adivasi Porishod also signed at the memorandum. In the memorandum, the following demands were placed to the government-

- Introduce mother tongue-based-MLE in primary level in indigenous-inhabited areas in the country
- Ensure proper coordination of MLE activities of NGOs
- Undertake awareness building programme among indigenous and mainstream people on mother tongue based MLE
- Ensure preserve and practice of indigenous scripts
- Conduct research on indigenous languages.

On behalf of the delegation, Professor Mesbah Kamal explained the issues and challenges of indigenous children in primary level education. He also raised the arguments for introducing mother tongue based multilingual education for indigenous students in primary and pre-primary level. Referring National Education Policy and National Child Policy he also said, now government has the scope to work on this issue as it is clearly mentioned in both of the policies.

In his reply, secretary of Primary and Mass Education Mr. Awal said that present government is committed to work for the development of indigenous peoples. His ministry will do all possible for ensuring primary education of the indigenous children. This is a right time to knock as ministry is

formulating curriculum policy in accordance with the new Education Policy, he added. He also requested the delegation to arrange a community workshop so that they could listen all issues concerned from the community. His ministry will support the workshop, he further added.

(69) 19 December 2010: An innocent villager kidnapped by UPDF terrorists in Jurachari

On 19 December 2010, at about 4:00 pm an innocent villager named Meghnad Chakma (42) s/o Bundukya Chakma of village- Barkalok of Dumdumya Union under Jura Chari upazila of Rangamati Hill District was kidnapped from Jurachari upazila sadar (headquarter) by a group of UPDF armed terrorists led by Maha Ranjan Chakma Batya (45) and Hemanta Chakma (22).

(70) 21 December 2010: Innocent Jumma villagers attacked by Bengali settlers in Longadu

2 Jummas injured, 12 beaten, 5 houses ransacked

On 21 December 2010, innocent Jumma villagers of Shantinagar of Gulshakhali union under Longadu upazila (sub-district) of Rangamati hill district were attacked by a group of Bengali settlers from nearby Bengali settler areas. In this communal attack, 2 Jummas were injured, 12 were beaten and 5 houses were ransacked.

It is learnt that on that day early in the morning a group of Bengali settlers went to a nearby area belongs to Jumma villager to collect wood and bamboo. The Jumma villagers opposed them to collect wood and bamboo from their land and at a stage Jumma villagers beat one Bengali settler named Md. Imtaz (25) of village- Choumuhani area of Gulshakhali union. However, he could return to his home almost safely. But, soon after coming back home, he rapidly spread the news of the incident and tried to make the Bengali settlers agitated.

Around 12:00 to 1:00 pm a group of Bengali settlers numbering 33-35 equipped with sharp weapons made the communal attack on Jumma area of village- Shantinagar. In the attack, following 12 Jumma villagers were detained and beaten severely by the attackers:

- (1) Mr. Dhak Badhi Chakma (25) s/o Dal mohan Chakma of village- Shantinagar;
- (2) Mr. Binay Chandra Chakma Maratto (40) s/o Dal Mohan Chakma of village- do;
- (3) Mr. Milan Chakma (30) s/o unknown of village- do;
- (4) Mr. Ripan Chakm (25) s/o unknown of village- do;
- (5) Mr. Samarpan Dewan (20) s/o Banu Dipak Dewan of village- do;
- (6) Mr. Karun Chakma (37) s/o unknown of village- do;
- (7) Mr. Bawm Chakma (43) s/o unknown of village- do;
- (8) Mr. Himel Chakma (18) s/o Bivishon Chakma of village- do;
- (9) Mr. Subha Shanti Chakma (23) s/o Bawm Chakma of village- do;
- (10) Mr. Palash Chakma (18) s/o Mahendra Chakma of village- do;
- (11) Mr. Riten Chakma s/o Rasik Mohan Chakma of village- do;
- (12) Mr. Suman Chakma s/o Reboti Mohan Chakma of village- do.

Of the above victims, Mr. Dhak Badhi Chakma (25) and Mr. Binay Chandra Chakma Maratto (40) were injured severely and admitted to Longadu hospital. Besides, in the attack, the Bengali settlers ransacked following 5 houses:

- (1) Mr. Barun Kumar Chakma s/o Sonaram Chakma;
- (2) Mr. Raj Mohan Chakma s/o unknown;
- (3) Mr. Kala Chiji Chakma s/o unknown;
- (4) Mr. Bimal Shanti Chakma s/o unknown;
- (5) Mr. Binay Chandra Chakma s/o Dal Mohan Chakma.

It is learnt that the following two persons led the whole attack:

- (1) Mr. Abu Hanif (45), village- Juba Laxmi Para, member of No. 9 ward of Gulshakhali union council;
- (2) Mr. Rufijuddin (40) s/o Khalekh, Member of No. 8 Rahamatpur ward of Gulshakhali union council.

It is learnt that BDR personnel of Raj Nagar camp did not oppose Bengali settlers while settlers were going to attack on Jumma villagers. At a stage, a group of BDR led by Lt. Colonel Habib with Major Aminul of BDR went there and saved the Jumma villagers from being beaten.

Later, an emergency meeting was arranged with the leaders concerned led by Lt. Colonel Habib and UNO. Mr. Sukhamoy Chakma, ex-UP Chairman, Mr. Premlal Chakma, President of Headman Association of Longadu, Mr. Moni Sankar Chakma, President of Juba Samiti of Longadu also attended the meeting on behalf of the Jumma community. In the meeting, the following decisions were made:

- (1) A co-ordination meeting will be held on next 23 December 2010 in this regard;
- (2) In the meantime, no Bengali person will be allowed to go to Jumma areas and no Jumma person will be allowed to go to Bengali areas without permission of the Zone Headquarter Commander Lt. Colonel Habib.

It is learnt that (1) Md. Abdur Rahim, general secretary of Longadu upazila Awami League, (2) Md. Halim, acting Headman of Gulshakhali mouza (Awami League leader) and (3) Abu Taleb, acting chairman of Gulshakhali union and also BNP leader was the main instigator and conspirator behind this entire communal provocation.

Further tension and gathering to attack

Though, it was a decision to hold a co-ordination meeting on 23 December 2010, the meeting was postponed and again determined to hold on 27 December 2010. In the meantime, on 24 December 2010 in the evening, the Bengali settlers again tried to create tension and make attack on nearby Jumma villagers of Shanti Nagar village. The Bengali settlers even gathered and proceeded towards the Jumma village. Jumma villagers also tried to gather in order to oppose the opponent. In this circumstance, Jumma leaders then informed UNO of the fact and requested to take urgent measure. Then, a group of BDR rushed to the spot and stopped the settlers and made them come back.

New BDR camp set up on Jumma land

Following the communal tension, on 23 December 2010 BDR set up a camp at middle place in between the Bengali settler village and Jumma village and a group of BDR numbering 30-32 of Raj Nagar BDR zone headquarter took their position there. BDR also cleared the bushes around the newly built camp that almost covers 5-6 acres of land. It is mentionable that the camp was set up on land belongs to two Jumma villagers with due records. BDR constructed the camp occupying a BRAC school and 2 houses of Jummas. The owners of the land are as follows:

- (1) Santosh Chakma (35) s/o Bhulsing Chakma, village- Gyana Ratan Karbari Para, Shanti Nagar; case number of his land is 953.
- (2) Sharat Chandra Chakma (38) s/o Madan Kumar Chakma, village- do; case number of his land is 1485.
- (3) Mr. Nabin Kumar Chakma s/o Bhulsing Chakma, village- Gyana Ratan Karbari Para, Shanti Nagar
- (4) Mr. Shanti Moni Chakma s/o Remesh Chandra, village- Gyana Ratan Karbari Para, Shanti Nagar, case no. of his land is 821

Jumma's land grabbed by Bengali settlers

Following the attack, Bengali settlers led by Raju Khalifa (Rajnagar), Ramdan (VDR Nayek) and Alal (Rajnagar) have been trying to grab at least 30 acres of lands belong to 10 Jumma villagers. It is mentionable that Jumma villagers have been cultivating these lands for decades. Jumma villagers put objection to the BDR camp authority and local administration, but no action has been taken so far. If the land grabbing is continued, then 10 villages of 800 families numbering 8,000 Jummas will be uprooted from this area.

The owners of the lands whose lands have being tried to occupy by Bengali settlers-

1. Anil Chakma (25) s/o Maya Ranjan Chakma of Chato Malya
2. Sharat Kumar Chakma (35) s/o Thakur Chakma of Chato Malya
3. Sonadhan Chakma (35) s/o Ekanya Chakma of Chato Malya
4. Birbahu Chakma (45) s/o Indrajoy Chakma of Chato Malya
5. Sushil Kumar Chakma (50) s/o Sidalya Chakma of Chato Malya
6. Anil Chakma (45) s/o Batya Chakma of Chato Malya
7. Shambumoni Chakma (50) s/o late Sida Chakma of Chato Malya
8. Dayal Chakma (40) s/o Surendra Chakma of Chato Malya
9. Sura Lal Chakma (45) s/o Nalini Mohan Chakma of Chato Malya
10. Debendra Chakma (35) s/o Ramani Mohan Chakma of Chato Malya.

(71) 26 December 2010: 3rd meeting of CHT Accord Implementation Committee held in Khagrachari

On 26 December 2010 the 3rd meeting of the CHT Accord Implementation Committee was held at Khagrachari circuit house in Khagrachari district. Presided over by Convenor of the Committee Ms. Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, members of the Committee Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, President of PCJSS and Mr. Jatindra Lal Tripura, Chairman of Task Force on Rehabilitation of Returnee Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons attended the meeting. ADC (general) of Khagrachari district was also present in this meeting for secretarial service.

Progress of the implementation of CHT Accord was mainly discussed in the meeting. The issues of execution of CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) Act and Hill District Council (HDC) Acts, transfer of subjects to the HDCs, approval of the Rules of CHTRC and HDCs, withdrawal of temporary camps and de facto military rule Operation Uttoron, resolution of land disputes by amending the contradictory provisions of CHT Land Dispute Resolution Act 2001 as per recommendations of CHTRC, rehabilitation of internally displaced persons and returnee refugees and strengthening Task Force, consideration of services of reinstated service holders during the period of insurgency as qualified service-period, seniority, regularisation of pay-scale, allowances and retirement benefits etc, development of the CHT were discussed and reviewed.

It is learnt that decision was taken to identify and list down the unimplemented issues of the Accord. It was also decided that Mr. Larma and Mr. Tripura with the secretarial support of ADC (general) of Khagrachari district would prepare the list of unimplemented issues and then it would be placed before Prime Minister soon for necessary directions and actions.

The meeting also decided to postpone hearing on land related appeals until the amendment of CHT Land Dispute Resolution Act 2001 as per CHT Accord. It was decided to place the Act for amendment in the parliament's next session.

The meeting was begun around 4.15 pm and continued till 7.30 pm.

It is mentionable that different organisations and groups of indigenous peoples staged demonstrations in Rangamati and Khagrachhari on 26 December 2010 demanding halting of the hearing of the land dispute appeals by the chairman of the Land Commission and removal of the chairman of the Commission immediately. They urged the government to amend the CHT Land Commission law before starting legal procedures for resolving land disputes in the CHT.

It is also worth mentioning that UPDF's armed terrorists made attack on convoy of Mr. Larma at Khamar Para of Betchari area under Naniarchar upazila in Rangamati district while he was returning Rangamati from Khagrachari district on 27 December 2010 in the morning. The terrorists first fired and then threw brickbats on the convoy. Mr. Larma escaped the attack unhurt. However, a glass of a vehicle was broken.

(72) 29 December 2010: NHRC organises workshop on strategic planning for promotion & protection of rights of indigenous peoples

On 29 December 2010 the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) organized a workshop on "Strategic Planning for promotion and protection of Rights of Indigenous and Ethnic Minority Groups" at YWCA auditorium in Dhaka. Representatives from indigenous people's organization, civil

society leaders, human rights and indigenous peoples rights activists, human rights defenders and journalists were attended the workshop. As a part of Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on Draft Strategic Plan, NHRC has organized this planning workshop.

At the very beginning, on behalf of NHRC Professor Dr. Niru Kumar Chakma, honorary member of the NHRC welcomed and briefed the audience about the strategic planning workshop. After that, another honorary member of the NHRC Ms. Nirupa Dewan has given a presentation on 'Stakeholder Consultation Meetings on Draft Strategic Plan'.

Finally, all participants were divided into four groups and each group did their group work on the two topics- (a) Situation in CHT and local access to justice and (b) Discrimination against indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities. At the end four groups forwarded the following recommendations-

- encourage government to fully implement CHT Accord;
- encourage government to amend the CHT Land Disputes Settlement Act 2001 in an urgent basis;
- undertake mass awareness programme by NHRC to promote CHT Accord;
- encourage government to take into consideration the recommendations pledged by different international organizations and UN agencies for implementing CHT Accord;
- NHRC should take lead role protesting gross human rights violation in grass root level;
- establish NHRC wing at regional level or district level;
- establish a separate CHT cell in NHRC considering the gross violation of human rights;
- NHRC should monitor implementation process of the CHT Accord;
- encourage government to arrange special training for govt. officials to be trained up with indigenous rights, their traditional land rights and basic human rights;
- introduce media advocacy program for constitutional recognition of IPs;
- encourage government to ratify the ILO Convention 169 and support the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples etc.

Among others, Mr. Pallab Chakma of Kapaeeng Foundation, Mr. Goutam Dewan and U K Zain of CHT Citizens Committee, Ms. Sultana Kamal of ASK, Mr. Philip Gain of SEHD, Mr. Krishna Kanti Singh, Ms. Chaitali Tripura of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Mr. Sontosh Tripira of UNDP et al attended the workshop.

(73) Follow up of withdrawn of 35 temporary camps

As per the CHT Accord, all temporary camps of Army, Ansar and Armed police Battalion except 6 permanent installations were to be closed down and the time-limit shall be fixed for its purpose. Previously some camps, after the Accord, were withdrawn and of course, some new camps have been set up at various strategic places.

On 29 July 2009 present grand-alliance GoB made announcement about withdrawal of 35 camps from different places of Khagrachari and Rangmati districts. According to news media report 35 camps were closed down too by September 2009. It was of course appreciated from various corners as a positive move for implementation of the Accord. However, GoB is also yet to withdraw de facto military rule 'Operation Uttoron' from CHT by which military forces have been interfering upon the civil administration and conducting military operation throughout the CHT.

In addition, we have got such information that some camps either have been reestablished or replaced by other armed forces. Such as-

- 1) Kathaltali BDR Camp of Bogachator Union of Longadu Upazila, Rangamati: This camp was withdrawn. But, after 10/15 days of withdrawal, it was again reestablished and still continues.
- 2) Hara Kumar Karbari (Islamabad) Para Police Camp of Mainee Mukh Union of Longadu Upazila: Though it was closed down, but within 8/10 days, was replaced by army.

- 3) Gabo Ghona Army Camp of Moghban Union of Rangamati Sadar Upazila, Rangmati: Around 3 months ago, APBN personnel first replaced this withdrawn Army Camp, then again reestablished as Army Camp.
- 4) Kurkuti Chhari Army Camp of No. 2 Barkal Union of Barkal Upazila, Rangamati: Immediately after withdrawn of this Camp, BDR replaced it.
- 5) Maischhari Army Camp of Suvalong Union of Barkal Upazila, Rangamati: This Camp was also replaced by BDR Camp immediately after closing down.