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Editorial

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Accord 97 has passed 22 years on last 2nd December 2019. It is due to non-implementation of the Accord in precision and full even after 22 years, the PCJSS, one of the signatories, Jumma people and civil society of the country have observed the 22nd anniversary of the Accord in extreme despair, resentment and apprehension. On the other end, although the Ministry of CHT Affairs, army, the three Hill District Councils and the ruling party Awami League have observed the day with a great pomp and publication of 'Supplementary Page' yet not even an iota of effective and spectacular initiative for implementation of the Accord is seen on government's part. Instead, the government including the state machineries is continuing the anti-Accord and anti-Jumma-interest conspiracy while trampling down the CHT Accord without any pause.

The Army and Intelligence Agency forces posted in the CHT are out there facilitating the so-called JSS (MN Larma), UPDF (Democratic) and Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) elements to carry out their coercive extortion of million of money and terrorist activities unabatedly under indulgence and connivance of the authority. On the other side, having projected the Accord signatory PCJSS workers as terrorists, extortionists and armed holders are being entangled in falsehood cases and irrespectively arrested and even those who get released on bail are again taken rearrested by filing up one after another case against and sending them back to the jail, etc. continue to exist without interval.

Along with, practice of extra-judicial killings has now been enhanced in the name of cross-fire in CHT.

In November 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken up action program to control the law & order in the three Hill Districts of CHT and deployed Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) violating the provisions as shrined in the three Hill District Council Act and CHT Accord. This step of action is quite contravening to the given terms of the Accord and the Hill District Council Act as well. At this, the implementation process of the CHT Accord will be obstructed. Thus, how an ill-effort has been being executed continuously by way of creating extreme fear and terror among the Jumma people as to suppress their demand for implementation of the Accord and thereby to silence the protesting voice against persecution by the army and law & order forces. In a nut cell, at present in CHT, the general administration, law & order and all other subjects including development have been devolved with the army and intelligence forces.

In this circumstance, the Jumma people are in compulsion to pass their days under an un-imaginable suppression and oppression, lack of security and uncertain future. While abandoning the political and peaceful solution policy towards the CHT crisis, just trampling the CHT Accord and through applying fascist suppression and oppression as it had been earlier, any ill-design in the name of solution to the CHT crisis can never yield in good result to the greater interest of the country.

PCJSS press conference on the occasion of 22nd anniversary of CHT Accord

On 01 December 2019, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) organised a press conference on the occasion of 22nd anniversary of CHT Accord in Dhaka. Mr. Larma delivered the main speech at the press conference while Education and Culture Affairs Secretary of PCJSS, U Win Mong Joly moderated the event. The personalities also attended the press conference were: Pankaj Bhattacharya, President of Oikya NAP, Prof. Mesbah Kamal and Prof. Robaet Ferdous of Dhaka University, Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, among others.

formulation of the 'Blue-Print' for turning the Non-Muslim area into a Muslim-dominated region began by way of crippling the British-introduced 'The Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation 1900'. The local Tribal Police Force established in 1881 was disbanded; the Inner-Line Permit provision was abrogated; and having the opportunity for infiltration opened, the illegal settlement program of India-left non-tribal refugees (Muslims) in CHT began violating the CHT Regulation 1900; and cases were filed and arrest warrants were issued against the hillmen leaders who were involved in waging movement demanding for inclusion of CHT in India.



Photo: PCJSS President Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma addressing at the Press Conference in Dhaka

The text of main speech of Santu Larma is as follows:

Dear Journalist Friends,

On behalf of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti, I would like to convey our heartiest wishes to you all present in today's press conference organized on the occasion of 22nd anniversary of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Accord 1997.

You are aware that during partition of India based on two-nation theory, the non-Muslim inhabited CHT was annexed to the Muslim State Pakistan on 17 August 1947. Immediately after annexation,

Consequently, all this led to creation of abnormal and formidable situation in CHT.

It is relevant to be mentioned that though the British-introduced CHT Regulation 1900 was later recognized in the first National Constitution of Pakistan in 1956, yet in 1954, the Pakistan government, with a mean political intention, had undertaken the conspiring plan to construct a dam across the Karnafuly River without justifying opinion of the Jumma people. Despite strong objection of the Jumma people, the dam was constructed at a place named Kaptai in 1960. As a result of this dam, the most fertile and developing

lands measuring 250 square miles got inundated and 100 thousand Jumma people became displaced. The government had assured of giving lands in exchange. Measures for proper rehabilitation would be undertaken. But indeed, no measure as such was taken. It was learnt that the government did not spend even a half of the amount so granted for rehabilitation. Consequently, an uncertain and insecure situation overshadowed the CHT. As a result of the situation prevalent by then, some 40 thousand people obliged to migrate to India while 20 thousand people to Myanmar. Due to Kaptai dam, ranging from the social, cultural, lands, agriculture, political and economic situation to holistic lifestyles of the Jumma people got completely jeopardized; boundless plight, cries and disasters swept away all aspects of life. Hence, the Kaptai Dam became a death-trap to the Jumma people.

Thus, with CHT, how the most complicated and unprecedented national problem of today was sown in phases that ultimately led the Jumma people to wage struggle to protect and develop their national entity, establish their administrative and political rights, protect their rights to lands, economy and their social and cultural lifestyles.

Dear Media Friends,

Under the circumstances as aforesaid, the independent Bangladesh found its place in the history of mankind in 1971. The Constitution of independent Bangladesh was originated. A demand of a special democratic administrative system for protection of the national entity of the Jumma people was raised in 1972. In perspective of distinctive governance history, national identity and economic backdrop, the CHT leaders including Manabendra Narayan Larma submitted a demand for Regional Autonomy to the

government in 1972. But despite strong mandate of the people, the demand was ignored and rejected. Instead, the government began to adopt suppressive policy one after another. To that end, 3 army cantonments at Dighinala, Alikadam and Ruma were established in 1973. A State of Emergency was declared in CHT. The Jumma people were defined as Bengali in the constitution. Multi-faceted atrocities, oppression and suppression came upon the innocent Jumma people in the name of subduing Razakars and Mujahidins. With promulgation of martial law in

1975, all the democratic approaches got closed. On the other hand, operation and atrocities of military and para-military forces upon the Jumma people got momentum. Thus, the Jumma people led by PCJSS had to embark upon armed struggle of resistance aiming at protection of national entity, rights to lands and self-determination.

Relevantly, it is highly reckonable that in continuation to the Islamization conspiracy hatched by Pakistan, with active assistance of the army, more than 500 thousand Muslim Bengalis from plains were settled down on the homesteads and lands of the Jumma people under the government plan and finance within the span of time from 1979 to 1985. In 1980, a guised military rule was introduced by promulgation of 'Operation Dabanol' (Operation Wildfire) in CHT. Thus had been the way of how the CHT crisis got escalated from complex to more complex under the then ruling class due to adoption of wrong and motivated policies prompting military suppression and atrocities, getting the Jumma people marginalized minority by illegal settlement of outsiders, illegal land occupation and forcible eviction of Jumma people from their ancestral lands and homesteads, causing communal attacks, carrying out massacres, so-called development under military control, arbitrary arrest, violence against women etc. Consequently, to get rid of such suppression, atrocities and injustice and in the hope for security, more than hundred thousand people were compelled to take refuge to India and Myanmar in 1978.

Dear Friends from media,

At a certain phase, as a result of irresistible struggle of the Jumma people led by PCJSS and having fallen under tremendous pressure of public opinion at home and in abroad, the ultra-nationalist and ultra-communal government, instead of pursuing the wrong policy, obliged to sit in formal dialogue with PCJSS to resolve the CHT crisis politically and peacefully through discussions. The first round of dialogue with the then Ershad government with PCJSS was held on 25 October 1985 and in continuation to the same, 6 rounds of dialogues were held with the Ershad government (1985-1990), 13 times with BNP government (1991-1995) and 7 times with the Hasina-led government (1996-1997) – thus the dialogue was held for altogether 26 times and in the end, with a view to resolving the CHT

crisis politically and peacefully, having kept the national and international communities as witnesses, the CHT Accord was signed on the basis of modified 5-point charter of demand on 2 December 1997.

After signing the Accord, though passing of 22 years, the government has left the core and significant issues unimplemented as to this day. It is needless to cite here that during tenure of the government with which the Accord was signed, at present it is that Awami League-led grand alliance government even though seating in the power consecutively for 11 years, has not yet undertaken any effective initiative and step to implement the unimplemented issues to this day. On the contrary, the government has been pursuing uninterrupted conspiracies to abolish the national entity of Jumma people including the CHT Accord for once and all. The guised military rule has been kept on-going by replacing 'Operation Dabanol' (Operation Wildfire) with 'Operation Uttoron' (Operation Upliftment) since the year 2001.

The Awami League government, as though being one of the signatories of the Accord and in the power at a stretch for 11 years, has not yet paced forward to implement the Accord, among the Jumma people, in one hand as there prevails extreme despair, discontent and resentment while tremendous fright for insecurity and uncertain future, on the other. The government, instead of relocating the Bengali Muslim settlers outside CHT with dignity and honour as per the Accord and while keeping two-third sections of the Accord unimplemented, has undertaken a reverse course by way of spreading untrue, concocted and baseless propaganda at home and in abroad claiming "48 sections out of 72 of the Accord have been completely implemented." During the last 11 years, the government has been killing the time by pronouncing mere utterances of solacing commitments: 'Government is sincere in implementing the Accord', 'The CHT Accord will be 100% implemented' and 'The remaining portion of the Accord will be implemented in phases.'

Dear Media Friends,

Indeed, with a mean objective to abolish the Jumma nationals for ever, the government is executing its conspiracy of Bengalization and Islamization simultaneously. To that end, all in a vested group comprising of ruling party, government and certain

quarter of the government-controlled executive, judiciary, legislative and defence are discharging all round ill-attempts to null the Accord implementation process, to ruin the PCJSS leadership and to hinder all the programs directing to implementation of the Accord. Above all, the law enforcement and military forces in conjunction with the local leadership of ruling party and its associate organizations, including their stooges and collaborating forces in direct association with the communal groups, have unleashed arbitrary arrest and sending to jail, enforced disappearance and killing, meting out inhuman tortures in the camps, perpetrating various harassments in the name of searching for extortionists by the law enforcers and security forces while installing check-posts on roads and waterways, indecent behaviour, searching villages, picking up etc. have been strengthened.

Terror has been being perpetrated upon the members of the Accord-signatory PCJSS and supporters of the Accord by way of deploying the terrorist armed cadres of JSS (MN Larma) and UPDF (democratic), the stooge organizations of the local army and intelligence forces, in Subalong Bazar of Barkal upazila, Tintila of Longadu upazila and in different places under Khagrachari hill district. Alongside, these armed elements are carrying out their extortion drives collection millions of money from the people right under eye of the administration and security forces. On the other hand, taking members and supporters of the Accord-signatory PCJSS arrested irrespectively, filing up fabricated cases against them one after another, taking the bail-granted victims arrested again and sending them back to jail etc. are being executed in a row. As of this day, PCJSS members have been entangled in more than 100 projected cases and a conspiracy is being ill-attempted to re-identify the PCJSS as a terrorist organisation.

Dear Journalist Friends,

It may be considered that the government is stubborn to direct the CHT crisis to different course. To that end, the local Awami League leadership, especially, of Rangamati and Bandarban, in league with the state machineries and direct support, by providing shelter and support to the army-backed armed terrorist groups known as 'Reformists' who are interested to introduce themselves to be JSS (MN Larma) and a split faction of Arakan Liberation

Party (ALP), who sometimes introduce themselves to be ‘Mog Liberation Party’- a foreign armed element; and using both the terrorist groups against PCJSS and implementation process of CHT Accord and by them has established a reign of killings, terror, extortion and kidnapping while capitalizing the incidents so perpetrated by those terrorist groups, irrespective military operation, house searching, atrocities, suppression and oppression upon Jumma people are being carried out throughout CHT. In continuation to this trend, having violated the CHT Accord and existing CHT Regional Council Act and three Hill District Council Act, meetings on law & order in CHT were organized on 16-17 October 2019 in Rangamati; and in presence of the Minister of Home Ministry and Minister of CHT Affairs Ministry in the said meeting, having one-sided allegation of terrorism, conflict, extortion and armed-activities brought against PCJSS, the speakers delivered provocative speeches and threatening by saying: ‘formidable days are ahead’ in CHT. This ill-effort, on part of the government, has been nothing but to foster extreme fear and terror among the Jumma people as to suppress their demand for implementation of the Accord and to silence their protesting voice against atrocities of the army and law enforcers.

Dear friends from media,

Today the situation in CHT is extremely delicate. The Jumma people are being obliged to abide in unthinkable suppression and oppression, lacking of security and in an uncertain future. It can safely be concluded that the political party, which had signed in the Accord for political and peaceful resolution sake, it is that political party in the government, which is at its firm stance to nullify the CHT Accord by re-identifying the PCJSS as a terrorist and extortionist organization. On occurrence of any incident, having the PCJSS members falsely alleged, hundreds of them have been turned absconding from their areas while breaking down the structure of PCJSS and sending many members to jail.

In 70s, having evaluated the CHT crisis in view of ultra-nationalist, undemocratic, colonial and ultra-communal outlook, the 4-point charter of demand for Regional Autonomy of Jumma people was rejected with hatred; the path of suppression and oppression was resorted to; and adamant attitude was maintained in fulfilling any demand of the

Jumma people. On top of it, all avenues for assertion of right to self-determination under democratic norm were closed down. Similarly, also at the present time, the overall situation of CHT is being pushed by the government towards that direction. At present, all subjects including general administration, law & order and development have been handed over to the army and intelligence agencies. Under this circumstance, it is needless to say that the Jumma people are being governed, exploited, deprived and oppressed in colonial manner.

Dear Journalist friends,

The ordinary people of Bangladesh hardly know about the identity and lifestyles of the Jumma people who have been living in for the centuries together. In fact, the ruling class of this country has been keeping the movement issue of Jumma people for right to self-determination and CHT Accord in dark very consciously and cleverly. Hence, the non-communal and democratic society of this country is not being let know the correct information about the matters that the colonial-style military rule is on-going in CHT; application of might, atrocities and oppression are on; conspiracy to abolish the national entity of Jumma people is undergoing; and throughout the country, there goes an organised drive of ultra-national chauvinism and Islamization. Even no government has ever been noticed to have encouraged the democratic, progressive, humanitarian, non-communal and leftist individuals, organizations and political parties to undertake or implement any program directing to implementation of the Accord and establishment of just rights of the Jumma people; rather the government continues to create obstacle in every step.

Dear Media Friends,

In conclusion, I would like to express a few more words on behalf of the CHT residents with humbleness – as the chief of PCJSS delegation and President of PCJSS that I had signed the CHT Accord at the behest of CHT inhabitants. The inhabitants of CHT had encouraged and inspired me to sign the Accord in the hope of getting a secure life peaceful and free from exploitation and oppression. But even after waiting for prolonged 22 years, the hope and longing of CHT inhabitants have not been fulfilled. That hope is now far away from likeliness. The CHT inhabitants cannot forget this. The Jumma people cannot let the CHT Accord go in vain. While

leaving aside the political and peaceful policy for resolution of CHT crisis, resorting to trampling down the CHT Accord, getting the outsiders infiltrated, occupying the lands of Jumma people, through military suppression and oppression, closing the doors of all democratic means, entangling the PCJSS members in false cases, turning them to absconding, taking them arrested, killing, holding the Jumma people as hostages and labeling the PCJSS members as terrorists and extortionists – the kind of conspiracy so adopted in the name of resolving the CHT crisis cannot bring in auspicious result in the greater interest of the country.

It is needless to say that the back of PCJSS as well as Jumma people has already stuck to the wall as it had been earlier. They are left with no space to move back any further. The Jumma people have waited implementation of the Accord for 22 years. The Jumma people have given a lot of time to the government and ruling class. The Jumma people are feeble and backward in all respects. For being so, they cannot be an object of negligence and to be

ignored. The Jumma people long for their rights and salvation and this very aspect is their sole capital. At this critical juncture, the Jumma people are at their firm stance to protect their national entity and entity of their birth land. The Jumma people, as citizens of the country, want to live in with equal rights and equal status. Hence, in perspective of the prevalent situation, they are obliged to ponder deeply as to what could be their Dos. It is needless to say that today, two counter parties are standing face-to-face in CHT. One party wants implementation of the Accord while the other party is about to trample it down.

In fact, there is no alternative except proper implementation of CHT Accord for resolution of CHT crisis.

Many heartiest thanks to you all.

(Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma)

President

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti

22nd anniversary of CHT Accord observed amid despair and military persecution

December 2nd of 2019 has completed 22 years since signing of the CHT Accord. The 22nd anniversary of the Accord has been observed amid extreme despair, resentment and apprehension, this year. The PCJSS President Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, one of the signatories of CHT Accord, has said that in one end, as the other signatory party of the Accord Awami League, even though being in the state power for 11 years at a stretch, it is for not coming forward to implement the Accord, there have arisen extreme despair, discontent and resentment among the inhabitants of CHT while they have become panic-stricken for an uncertain future that lacks of security, on the other.

On the other side, the speakers while contributing speeches in a meeting organized by the civil society on the occasion of 22nd anniversary of the Accord in Dhaka said that even after 22 years peace has not returned back to the hills. All had been in a hope that peace and prosperity would prevail through this long-desired political solution. But the core issues of

the Accord have not yet been implemented even after 22 years. The speakers also opined that CHT has again turned volatile due to enhancement of persecution, coercion, tyranny, picking up, torture and events of human rights violations in the recent days. Amid this situation, the civic society has also become thunderstruck and anxious. Pointing at the unimplemented core issues of the Accord, they demanded for making the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission speedy and effective and to implement of all sections of the Accord immediately.

On 01 December 2019, PCJSS organised press conference on the occasion of 22nd anniversary of CHT Accord, in Dhaka. Mr. Larma delivered main speech at the press conference while Education and Culture Affairs Secretary of PCJSS, U Win Mong Joly, moderated the event. The press conference was also attended by President of Oikya NAP Pankaj Bhattacharya, teachers of Dhaka University Prof. Dr. Mesbah Kamal and Prof. Dr. Robayet Ferdous, General Secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum Sanjeeb Drong, among others.

In the press conference, Mr. Larma said that on behalf of the CHT residents with humbleness – as the chief of PCJSS delegation and President of PCJSS that he had signed the CHT Accord at the behest of CHT inhabitants. The inhabitants of CHT had encouraged and inspired him to sign the Accord in the hope of getting a secure life peaceful and free from exploitation and oppression. But even after waiting for prolonged 22 years, the hope and longing of CHT inhabitants have not been fulfilled. That hope is now a far away. The CHT inhabitants cannot forget this. The Jumma people cannot let the CHT Accord go in vain. While leaving aside the political and peaceful policy for resolution of CHT crisis, resorting to trampling down the CHT Accord, getting the outsiders infiltrated, occupying the lands of Jumma people, through military suppression and oppression, closing the doors of all democratic means, entangling the PCJSS members in false cases, turning them to absconding, taking them arrested, killing, holding the Jumma people as hostages and labeling the PCJSS members as terrorists and extortionists – the kind of conspiracy so adopted in the name of resolving the CHT crisis cannot bring in auspicious result in the greater interest of the country.

In a brief discussion, President of Oikya NAP Pankaj Bhattacharya said that without constitutional recognition of the indigenous peoples, this state cannot become a liberal state. It is nothing but a failure of the government to implement the Accord, which was signed 22 years ago. Pankaj Bhattacharya

urged the government to expedite implementation of the CHT Accord.

Participating in the discussion, Dhaka University teacher and Secretary of Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples, Mesbah Kamal said that there are seventy-eight other ethnic groups in Bangladesh, in addition to the Bengali people. Indigenous peoples want to live with their basic rights, equal rights. He said the problem of CHT is a political issue. Hence, the CHT Accord was signed to solve CHT problem politically. He raised the question to the government, if CHT Accord is not implemented within long 22 years, then after how long will it be implemented?

The PCJSS observed the 22nd anniversary of the Accord in Rangamati on 2nd December 2019. PCJSS organized a mass gathering in the premises of Rangamati Gymnasium. In the meeting chaired by PCJSS member Shyam Ratan Chakma, speeches were delivered by Ashok Saha, Communist Party leader of Chittagong; Prof. Md. Maidul of Chittagong University; Arun Tripura of Parbatya Chattogram Juba Samiti; Bijoy Ketan Chakma, President of M N Larma Memorial Foundation and Jewel Chakma, President of Hill Students Council.

Ushatan Talukder, Vice-President of PCJSS and former Member of the Parliament graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. While delivering speech as the Chief Guest, he said: ‘We are not anti-state elements, we are not against the government and army, we are talking about our



Photo: Journalists and guests at the press conference



Photo: A portion of mass gathering at Rangamati Gymnasium premises

rights, we want proper implementation of the CHT Accord, we want to see that the subjects of Land, Tourism and Environment & Forest have been properly devolved to the Hill District Councils within this month. Prolonged delay in the implementation of the Accord has caused despair in mind of the people. A certain quarter wants to color the PCJSS as a terrorist outfit; we want to live with our rights; and we want to see the Hill District Councils and CHT Regional Council have been empowered with administrative authority as per the Accord.” He called upon the local government high officials to perform their duties and responsibilities with liberal mentality.

A discussion meeting titled: “Let Implementation of CHT Accord be our National Commitment” was organized by the Jatiyo Nagorik Udyog in the Women’s Voluntary Association Auditorium (WVA) of Dhanmondi in Dhaka, on 2 December 2019. Pankaj Bhattacharya, President of Oikyo NAP chaired the event. The participants in the discussion, among others, were: Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma (Santu), Chairman, CHT Regional Council; Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman, former Chairman of

National Human Rights Commission; Syed Abul Maksud, Columnist and Researcher; Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha; Poet Sohrab Hossain, Joint Editor of the Daily Prathom Alo, Professor Dr. Mesbah Kamal, Professor of Dhaka University; Dr. Jobaida Nasreen Kona of Dhaka University, Shamsul Huda, Executive Director of ALRD and Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples’ Forum. Professor Dr. Robayet Ferdaus moderated the event.

Speakers contributing to the meeting said that peace has not returned back to the hills even though it has passed 22 years since the Accord. All were in hope that it was through the much-longed for political solution there would prevail peace and prosperity. But even after 22 years the core issues of the Accord have not been implemented. The speakers continued saying that in recent times, as suppression, coercion, arrest, torture and incidents of human rights violations upon the Jumma people got enhanced, CHT has become unstable again. At this the civic society has become astounded and worried.



Photo: Discussion meeting organised by Jatiyo Nagorik Udyog in Dhaka

Informing that the core issues of the Accord have not yet been implemented, they spoke out demand with a stress to make the Land Dispute Resolution Commission speedy and effective and to implement all the sections enshrined in the Accord immediately.

During discussion, Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma said that over the last 22 years, no initiative was undertaken on rehabilitation of the indigenous and hill people. Expressing resentment, Santu Larma said that the government is not enthusiastic in implementing the Accord. The situation is getting further complicated day by day. Alleging the government, he said that the government terms the PCJSS to be a 'terrorist' and 'extortionist' organization. The consequence of such attitude will not be auspicious.

Dr. Mizanur Rahman said that there remains no difference between not implementing the Accord and not going for the Accord. It is an urgent matter to ensure the land right of the indigenous people. Their right to lands shall have to be returned. That the state will lose sovereignty and integrity, if the Accord is implemented – nurturing the concept as such is not correct.

Syed Abul Maksud said: "The government lacks conviction of commitment in implementing the Accord. Hence, though it has passed 22 years, in words of the government 48 sections out of 72 have been implemented." He also expressed his resentment over not appearing Santu Larma's statement as the Supplementary feature published in more than one national dailies yesterday.

Professor Dr. Mesbah Kamal said that the implementation process of CHT Accord has been put to a halt. Since there has been the Accord already, it is moral duty of the government to implement it. Status of Bangladesh will be further heightened, if the Accord gets implemented.

Journalist Sohrab Hossain said: "The Accord contains the provision stating that the temporary camps would be withdrawn; but it has not been done so far. This may be ascribed to have been a failure on part of the government.

Non-Government Organizations, i.e. Association for Land Reform & Development (ALRD) and CHT Commission organized a discussion meeting titled: "Full Implementation of CHT Accord Vs Present Scenario of CHT" on the occasion of 22 years of CHT Accord at SIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka on 4 December 2019. Sultana Kamal, Advisor to the former Caretaker Government chaired the occasion.

During the discussion, Rashed Khan Menon, President of Workers Party of Bangladesh remarked saying that the picture of implementation of the Accord is good enough to be disheartened. He said that situation of this region is: as if it has gone back to the times of Zia and Ershad regimes. From mid-seventies of the last century, the armed struggle began on demand of autonomy. Mr. Menon portrayed his experience that he had gained at that time. He became Member of Parliament in 1979 since when settlement of Bengali population had begun at the initiative of the then Ziaur Rahman government. Menon disclosed that he had received a

government order to list out the people suffered from river erosion under his constituency so as to send them to the hills. But some MPs including himself denied to comply with the order. That settlement process continued to exist up till the period of another military ruler H M Ershad. Menon said: ‘Zia and Ershad, none of them had searched for a path leading to political solution to the CHT crisis.’

In 1991, political negotiation with the armed-struggling Shanti Bahini began under leadership of the then Minister Oli Ahmed. By that time, Rashed Khan Menon was a member of the Committee on the government’s side. But the initiative could not be concluded in establishing an understanding with the government. The Accord came into existence during the Awami League government in 1997. With this, the war that continued for 2 decades came to an end. The Accord contained 72 sections. But the PCJSS alleges that most sections of the Accord have not been implemented even after 22 years. Rashed Khan Menon continued saying: ‘It is really a matter of dejection to see that the spinal sections of the Accord have not yet been implemented. Sheikh Hasina had exhibited unthinkable bravery. But various sections of the state machineries could not concede to the earnestness of Sheikh Hasina. Now, the outlook of political solution to the CHT crisis is getting changed day by day; it seems, as if everything has turned to 180 degree’ – he added.

In the discussion, the Chakma Circle Chief Raja Barrister Devasish Roy opined that the countrymen

are not aware of how is going on in CHT. In his speech, Raja Devasish Roy spoke about distinguishable features of CHT, distinguished administrative system, land problems, stance of various sides on implementation of the Accord and present condition of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission. Alleging on procrastination in implementing the Accord he said: ‘Now, it is being seated with calculator to estimate the implementation of the Accord. We want full implementation of the Accord.’ Raja Devasish Roy alleged: that the CHT is a special-featured region – today, an effort is being exercised to erase out the special identity of CHT. Initiatives are alive in many cases to negate the distinguishable feature of CHT. Whereas, the Accord in which the government did sign, the CHT has been mentioned as a backward and Tribal-inhabited area. Barrister Devasish Roy criticized the recommendations sent from the Ministry of CHT Affairs last year. In the first of the 4-point recommendations, it is stated: ‘the security forces and administration may be issued necessary directives to deal the Bengalis with sympathy and humanitarian manner and not to harass them.’ In this regard Raja Devasish Roy threw up a question saying: ‘Is not it ought to have been said a few words on humanitarian approach also towards the hill people in the recommendation?’

During her speech as the President of the discussion meeting, the human rights activist Sultana Kamal said: ‘There is an invisible obstruction in implementing the Accord. Seeing the time passing for no reason in implementation of the Accord there



Photo: Discussion meeting organised by ALRD & CHT Commission in Dhaka

arises question on sincerity of the government. She said: “Those who are in the power now, it was they who had performed the Accord. Hence, it is they to take up responsibility of implementation.”

Professor Mizanur Rahman, former Chairman of National Human Rights Commission said: “The state constitutes one of the signatories of the Accord. So, the greater is their responsibility. There is legal obligation to implement the Accord.”

From among the panel discussants, Md. Nizamul Haque, former Justice of Appellate Division of the Supreme Court said: “While performing of the Accord, I could not think of the need that would prompt us to talk again on implementation of the Accord even 22 years later. I thought, the sounds of arms would get reduced. But as to this day, it has not got reduced.”

Shamsul Huda, Executive Director of ALRD said: “The CHT crisis is not an isolated kind. It is a political problem. It necessitates to cherish a political good will.”

Goutam Dewan, Parbatya Chattagram Nagorik Committee said: “There is no atmosphere for waging conventional movement.”

Nirupa Dewan, former member of National Human Rights Commission said: “Following the Accord, a ray of hope got kindled among the hill people but that ray is now getting disappeared.”

In the event, among others, speech also contributed by Khushi Kabir, chairperson of ALRD and Juamlan Amlai, leader of CHT Forest and Land Right Movement.

CHT Land Commission meeting held in Rangamati



Photo: (from left) Chairman of Land Commission Anowar-Ul Hoque, chairman of CHTRC J B Larma, Chakma Raja Devasish Roy, Bogmong Raja U Shaw Prue, Rangamati HDC chairman Brishaketu Chakma and Bandarban HDC chairman Kyaw Shwe Hla.

On 23 December 2019, a meeting of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission was held at the recently established Rangamati Branch Office of the CHT Land Commission in Rangamati Hill District Council Bhaban. Chaired by Justice Anowar-Ul Haque, among other members of the commission, the meeting was attended by its members, CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya

Larma, Chakma Circle Chief Barrister Debasish Roy, Bohmang Circle Chief U Chaw Prue Chowdhury, Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Brishaketu Chakma and Bandarban Hill District Council Chairman Kyaw Shwe Hla. Rest of the members, Mong Circle Chief Saching Prue Chowdhury, Khgarachari Hill District Council Chairman Kongjori Chowdhury and Additional

Commissioner of Chittagong Division were absent in the meeting.

The meeting began at 11:00 am with the discussion on formulation of Rules of Land Commission. Besides, the other issues discussed in the meeting were: hundreds acres of lands forcibly occupied by 'Laden Bahini' in Bandarban Hill District; forcibly establishment of army camp at the Buddhist temple premises at Sijok Mukh of Baghaichhari Upazila under Rangamati Hill District; settlers' attempt of land occupation at so-called Sonamia Tila at

Babuchara of Dighinala Upazila of Khagrachari Hill District; and the communal and anti-CHT Accord directives dated 1 November 2019 of Ministry of CHT Affairs titled: "On Present Attitude of Security Forces & Civil Administration towards ordinary Bengali community people & Bengali regional organizations and possible long-standing impact" issued as per the circulation of the Intelligence Department of Armed Force of the Prime Minister's office. At last, the meeting concluded with the decision of holding the next meeting of the Commission in Bandarban on 3 February 2020.

Land Commission Chairman and Members barricaded by Bengali Settlers

On the way to attend the CHT Land Commission Meeting, the Bengali Muslim settlers under the banner of recently organized 'Parbatya Chattagram Nagorik Parishad' (CHT Citizens Council), an ultra-communal and ultra-nationalist organization blocked the convoys of CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma and Chakma Circle Chief Barrister Devasish Roy and Land Commission Chairman Anowar-Ul Haque by putting a barricade across the Rangamati-Chittagong

main road at Public Health area towards 9:30 am on 23 December 2019. The Bengali Muslim settlers kept the Land Commission Chairman and Members under seizure for almost an hour. During the barricade, they shouted slogans against the Land Commission chairman-members, the Land Commission Act and Rules while delivering provocative and threatening speeches.

Bengali Muslim settlers also barricaded head office of the Land Commission in Khagrachari hill district.



Photo: Bengali Muslim settlers barricaded head office of Land Commission in Khagrachari

It is noteworthy to be mentioned that the Bengali settlers, in a gathering organized under the banner titled: 'Parbatya Chattagram Nagorik Parishad' at Banarupa of Rangamati town on 21 December 2019, had already declared their barricade program of Land Commission chairman and members attending to Land Commission meeting to be held on 23 December 2019. Accordingly, the settlers had put barricade across the road and begun shouting slogans against the Land Commission at Public Health area since early in the morning

Under this circumstance, while the CHT Regional Council Chairman from his Kalyanpur residence was on the way to the venue, got stuck to the barricade of the settlers. Following this, as the Chakma Circle Chief had started from his Rajbari residence, also got stuck to barricade of the settlers. On the other hand, while the Land Commission Chairman was on his way to the venue from the circuit house, also got stuck to the blockade and came under the seizure of the Muslim settlers. Thus, while being under seizure and barricade, through having contacts with the Ministry of CHT Affairs, higher-ups in Dhaka, Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati, Superintendent of Police and other authorities, the Land Commission chairman and members were able to become free from barricade and reached the meeting venue after almost an hour.

It is further to be mentioned that despite the Bengali settlers' well in advance declaration of their program to barricade the Land Commission chairman and members and even though the settlers while aboard in vehicles were shouting slogans against the Land Commission and uttering provocative, communal and threatening speeches with loudspeakers since that morning, no security measure was undertaken on part of the administration and law & order authorities. Even no police force was deployed at the points adjacent to the barricade site wherein barricade was being erected since early in the

morning. Whereas many personnel of intelligent agencies were present in the Bengali settlers' barricade site. It has become crystal clear that without fanning and cooperation of administration, security and law enforcement authorities, the Bengali settlers would not have been able to enforce barricade and to blockade the convoys of the Land Commission chairman and members under the eyes of the administration and law & order forces in such unabated manner and without any hindrance.

Immediately after the Land Commission meeting was over, a group of representatives of the Bengali settlers met with the Chairman of the CHT Land Commission. They submitted a memorandum containing of their various demands to the Chairman. Of their demands, the significant ones are: to cancel the present Land Commission; to amend the Land Commission Act; to appoint equal numbers of Bengali community in the Land Commission; to stop judicial work of land dispute resolution of the Land Commission etc. They opined that there has been left no space for representatives of the Bengalis in the Land Commission and the Land Commission Act is discriminatory. As a result, the Bengali people will be deprived from their just rights, they mentioned.

It is to be mentioned that the land problems in CHT became complicated as a result emanating from the process involving transfer of Bengali Muslims from plain lands under government sponsor in 1980s and settling them in the lands and homesteads of Jumma people; illegal occupation of lands of the Jumma people by the settlers; giving illegal settlements to the Bengali settlers, inciting the Bengali settlers in communal attacks to evict Jumma people from their homesteads and lands, etc. It was for the purpose of retrieving the dispossessed lands of the Jumma people from the illegal occupiers, the provision for formation of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission was formulated in the CHT Accord of 1997.

Arbitrary arrest, military atrocities and forcible land occupation

As part of on-going government design of identifying the Jumma right activists as terrorists, in December 2019, 4 persons were illegally arrested and searched several houses on allegation of possessing illegal weapons already inset by the army. Of the arrestees, 2 persons were arrested while

they were on their way back home after having their licenses of guns renewed from the police station and they were placed before the court after filing up false case against them on allegation of keeping illegal arms and involvement in extortion. Of the other arrestees, there was also an innocent government

primary school teacher. In December 2019, 2 innocent persons were shot death by the armed terrorist outfits sponsored by the security forces.

With a mean objective of portraying the members of the Accord-signatory PCJSS as extortionists and terrorists for propagation, a fake, concocted and baseless directive/letter bearing signature of Managal Kumar Chakma, Information & Publicity Secretary of PCJSS signing for Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma was made public through social media; and referring to the said fake document, a fabricated news was motivatedly published through some online news portals.

On the contrary, PCJSS made it public through a Press Release signed by Sajib Chakma, Assistant Information and Publicity Secretary asserting that neither such directive for subscription in money was issued on part of PCJSS nor it necessitates to raise question for issuing such directive. The said document has been a flat lie, concocted and fake. PCJSS is in conjecture that such fake and concocted directive/letter has been articulated by the anti-Accord and anti-PCJSS quarter through conspiracy and with a mean political objective. PCJSS has strongly protested and condemned the propagation of conspiring, motivated and fake directive through social media and without verification, publishing news in the online news portal referring to such fake document.

A group of army numbering 12-13 personnel commanded by Subeder Md. Solaiman, Commander of Bame Longadu Sub-Zone under Longadu Army Zone conducted a search operation in Kattoli village at 11:00 am on 2 November 2019. During the operation, data of holding number of houses, name of family head and phone number of each house was collected. Inquiry was carried out if there were any terrorists, if so where did they stay and after massive interrogation they ordered to inform the army on arrival of the terrorists.

On the other side, the Intelligence Agency personnel arrested Porayan Chakma, Chairman of Subhalong Union Parishad under Barkal Upazila of Rangamati district from the front side of Rangamati Hill District Council office in Rangamati town at 8:00 am on 6 November 2019. He was held for 2 days in the army zone and later he was handed over to the Kotwali Police Station. It was learnt that he was falsely entangled in killing case of Smriti Moy Chakma

Khoko of Subalong area and sent to the jail.

A troop of army arrested Tarun Kanti Chakma (52) Father: Late Nagor Chan Chakma, Assistant Teacher of Panchari Government Primary School of Ghagra Union under Kaukhali Upazila of Rangamati Hill District from his home at the wee hours on 9 December 2019.

It is learnt that the army surrounded his house at 3:00 a.m. and ordered to open the door. As soon as opening the door by his wife, the army entered the house and tied up Tarun Kanti Chakma and began asking him for arms and ammunitions. As he replied that he did not possess any arms and ammunitions, they army men started beating him up inhumanly. They vandalized the household articles in the name of searching. They broke the wardrobe and showcase partially but got nothing objectionable. During the search, they picked up the money amounting to 9,400 Taka, a deposit of Tarun's daughter-in-law and grand son. They also took away 2 sets of cell phones belonging to Tarun Kanti Chakma and his wife.

Dino Mukhi Chakma, wife of Tarun Kanti Chakma said: "As my husband lost consciousness due to severe beating, the army men poured in water, themselves. They broke 4 pieces of sticks in beating him. They also slapped me when I told them that no weapon was lying under our possession. Afterwards, the army numbering 8/10 having boarded in 3 CNG-run auto-rickshaw from Ulta Rangi Para, took away Tarun Kanti Chakma and and got him boarded in a waiting army pickup at Kashkhali of Kaukhali Sadar and set out for Rangamati.

After one week of taking the school teacher arrested, by way of insetting arms, he was shown arrested and handed over to the police station. After meting out physical torture round the week, he was dramatically groomed as an armed terrorist by producing his photograph with a fire arm. The genre of this drama or dramatic photographs is a matter of nothing new in CHT. The ordinary people have to face this sort of harassment perpetrated by the army all the time. Pre-planned picking up the innocent Jumma men from their houses and then publish news with manipulated photographs of holding arms and then killing them in cold brain followed by articulating as incidents under cross-fire through mass media – these are regular performances of the army in CHT.

The army arrested Bona Kumar Tanchangya and Mona Kumar Tanchangya from Jarulgram of Ghilachari Union under Rajasthali Upazila of Rangamati Hill district on 10 December 2019 and handed them over to the police. It is learnt that the duo had brought their guns to the police station to renew their licenses. While they were on their way back home, the Bengali laborers engaged in road construction work saw them and reported to the nearest army camp with an exaggeration that the armed terrorists had come to them and demanded money. Based on the report of Bengali laborers, a group of army from Rajasthali Army Sub-Zone set out and took Bano Kumar Tanchangya and Mano Kumar Tanchangya arrested. After meting out severe beating, the army handed them over to the police. The Officer-In-Charge of the Police Station was though reluctant to file up the case for, theirs were licensed guns yet the army compelled the police official to register a case of arms and extortion and then send them to jail.

The army held 2 persons from a brick field area under Perachhara Union of Khagrachari Sadar Upazila under Khagrachari district towards 1:00 pm on 14 December 2019. It is learnt that the persons held were: Nitu Chakma s/o Ajit Kumar Chakma of Maischhari and Plolimoy Tripura s/o Sonali Bikash Tripura of Perachhara village. The army claimed that they had recovered 2 US-made pistols and magazine-loaded 3 rounds of ammunitions from them. The persons held were handed over to the police.

A group of army consisting of 20/22 personnel from Subalong Army camp surrounded the house of Subal Chakma of Bhasanyaadam under Longadu Upazila

of Rangamati Hill District at 3:00 am on 18 December 2019. The army made all the inmates go out and vacated the house and then searched the house thoroughly. As having no objectionable thing recovered, they collected name and address of the family head and after staying for an hour, they left the village. Along with the army, there were 3 masked men who could not have been identified – the source added.

8 members of the PCJSS were released on bail on 12 January 2020 when the Bandarban Chief Judicial Magistrate appeared before the court. Two of the bail cases from 2016 have been abruptly denied bail. It has been reported that there is a deep conspiracy by the ruling party and Special Forces of vested interest behind the dispatch leaving people in the area shocked.

The PCJSS members who have been sent to jail are Joli Mong Marma (Education and Cultural Secretary of Central committee), K S Mong Marma (Assistant Organizational Secretary of Central Committee), Sadhuram Tripura (Law Affairs Secretary of Central committee), Kyawba Mong Marma (General Secretary of Bandarban district committee), Aungthoaching Marma (vice president of Bandarban district committee), Shambhu Kumar Tanchangya (Organizational secretary of Bandarban district committee) along with Headman Mongpu Marma (Land and Agriculture Affairs secretary of Sadar Upazila Committee) and Chaihla Marma (Member of Sadar Upazila committee).

It is to be noted that numerous false cases have been lodged against the members of the PCJSS in Bandarban in 2016 for conspiracy of the ruling party



Photo: 8 members of PCJSS being greeted with floral wreaths after freed from Bandarban jail

and various influential political elements to obstruct the process of implementing the CHT Accord and politically harass the leadership of the agitating PCJSS demanding implementation of the Accord. Among them, Abdul Karim filed false cases against 11 members of the PCJSS on 01 August 2016 (Case No. GR 199/16) and Mongsanu Marma filed false cases against 18 members of the PCJSS on 18 August 2016 (Case No. - GR 224/16). However, the allegations regarding these two cases were completely baseless, deceptive and self-contradictory.

Members of the PCJSS have been regularly present before the lower court on the bail of the High Court in different cases filed with the two cases. Since the two alleged cases are conspiracy, Abdul Karim, the plaintiff of the case filed on August 1st, has submitted a written petition to the court to withdraw his case. On the other hand, plaintiff Mongsanu Marma, who filed the case on August 18th, also negotiated with members of the accused PCJSS members. After negotiating the settlement of the area where the Mongsanu filed the case in Bandarban, the local Awami League's acquaintance had bought it. But despite the plea of Abdul Karim to withdraw some of the cases and the agreement by

Mongsanu Marma, the police have submitted the charge sheet to the two cases, citing the names of the members of the PCJSS of a conspiracy against the CHT Accord. As part of the conspiracy, Bandarban Chief Judicial Court cancelled bail and sent 8 PCJSS member appeared for a permanent bail to jail on 12 January. Later, at a hearing on 19 January, the Sessions Judge Court granted them permanent bail, leaving eight leaders of the JSS free.

At around 11:30 am on 14 January 2020, the DB police arrested Sushil Chakma from TTC road in Rangamati municipality. He was handed over to the Kotwali police station on 15 January 2020.

On 18 January 2020, a secret meeting was held between the reformists, the ruling Awami League, the DGFI and the NSI, at the Rest House of Rangamati Hill District Council in Baghaichari upazila. On behalf of the reformists, general secretary Gyanajib Chakma and member Rubel Chakma, Awami League general secretary Giaz Uddin al-Mamun, former general secretary Ali Hessen, Amtali UP chairman Russel Chowdhury, four members from DGFI and NSI were present. However, the details of the meeting and the decision were not known.

House searched by the army in Rangamati

On the morning of 28th January 2020, a group of army numbering 20-25 personnel from Subalong army camp of Barkal Upazila of Rangamati district made a searching the house of Foren Chakma (33), a member of the PCJSS, at Rajdwip area of Rangamati municipality. Army also searched houses of Nirumoy Chakma (41) and Koushalya Ma (49). Troopers detained Napun Chakma, brother of Foren

Chakma, from Lichubagan area of Rangamati municipality and took him along with them during the searching operation and later released him. It is reported that Rupayan Chakma, a member of the reformist group along with the army, who once lived in the Rajdwip area, and another one of the reformist elements participated in the search operation wearing black mask.

Protests against entangling PCP in the so-called grenade attack in Subalong

The Hill Students Council (PCP) strongly condemned and protested against the news published in the national daily Bangladesh Pratidin falsely entangling PCP in the alleged grenade attack at Subalong Bazar in Barkal Upazila of Rangamati district at around 8:00 pm on 01 November 2019.

In the press release of 2 November 2019 signed by Milan Kusum Tanchangya, Office Secretary of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), it was mentioned

that the news published in the Bangladesh Pratidin stating: "An armed group of PCP, an associate organization of PCJSS, carried out sudden grenade attack on JSS (MN Larma) group also widely known as 'Reformist Group' Office located in Subalong office with an aim to expand supremacy." The news entangling PCP in the alleged grenade attack is absolutely false and baseless. PCP does not maintain any armed unit nor has it been involved in any such armed activity.

PCP is of opinion that the organization has been waging democratic movement of indigenous Jumma peoples of CHT for establishment of the right to self-determination and will continue to carry on in the future. With a mean objective to make the CHT situation unstable and to flow the democratic movement of traditional organization PCP towards

other direction, some quarters of vested interest continue to spread false, baseless and politically motivated propaganda through their own yellow newspapers. PCP urged all the concerned including the daily Bangladesh Pratidin, to stop immediately and refrain from spreading such propaganda in the greater interest of the nation.

Propagation against PCJSS alleging involvement in extortion through a fake directive

In the press release dated 22 November 2019 signed by Sajib Chakma, Assistant Information & Publicity Secretary, expressing strong protest over, it was stated that recently some unidentified actor/actors made public a fake, concocted and baseless directive/letter bearing fake signature of Mangal Kumar Chakma signed for PCJSS President Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma demanding subscription in cash on the occasion of 22 anniversary of CHT Accord through social media and based on the fake document, the news was circulated through some online news portals, such as, parbattanews.com, alokitorangamati,

banglatribune, etc.

In fact, no such directive has been issued by the PCJSS nor any question can arise for doing so. It is completely baseless, fabricated and fake one. PCJSS believes that such false and deceptive letter might have been disseminated by the anti-Accord and anti-PCJSS quarter of vested interest by conspiring and for mean political objective. The PCJSS strongly protests and condemns over the propagation of such conspiring, motivated and fake directive through social media and publishing news based on the fake document without justification.

8 Jummas impeded by settlers from farming their own lands in Longadu

The local Jumma people in Boropera area under No. 25 Sonai Mouza of Longudu Upazila under Rangamati Hill district, namely, (1) Deba Kumar Chakma, (2) Mayadhan Chakma, (3) Jubesh Kanti Chakma, (4) Lokkhi Kumar Chakma, (5) Krishna Mohan Chakma, (6) Gyana Moy Chakma, (7) Mangal Chandra Chakma and (8) Fula Mohan Chakma have been farming their own lands for the years together without any dispute. But in recent days, the Bengali settlers, namely, (1) Md. Mizanur

Rahman, s/o Md. Kalo Mian, (2) Md. Hanif, s/o Md. Amzad Hussian, (3) Md. Hafez, s/o Md. Hanif, (4) Md. Farid, s/o Md. Mukhtar, (5) Md. Abu Taher, s/o Md. Abdul Khalek, (6) Md. Altab Khan, s/o Md. Ratan Khan and (7) Md. Mukhtar of Sonai Block under Mainidor Union of Longadu Upazila under Rangamati Hill district are preventing the Jumma villagers from cultivating own lands with proclamation of the land ownership by purchasing.

Criminal acts of the army-sponsored armed groups

With a view to flowing the CHT crisis towards different course, the army-backed terrorist armed groups, respectively identified as the Reformist JSS and off-shoot group of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) are being used against PCJSS and CHT Accord 1997 by the local Awami League leadership under direct support and association of the security forces and it is by these armed elements, a reign of

unabated killings, terror, extortion and kidnapping has been established in CHT.

As part of the activities, the Reformist Group kidnapped one Bhagya Jyoti Marma alias Apu (26) s/o Sunil Marma from Dhanpudi Bazaar in Longadu Upazila of Rangamati Hill district at 2:15 pm on 3 November 2019. It was learnt that the victims of

kidnapping are inhabitants of Kharikata village of Longadu Union. On the other side, the Reformist group cadres kidnapped one Mihir Kiron Chakma alias Bormo, s/o Rajendra Prasad Chakma, an inhabitant of Korolyachari village under Longadu upazila at the gun point around 6:00 pm on 13 November 2019. It was

learnt that the Reformist terrorists released Mihir Kiron Chakma on clearance of their demand of a sound amount as ransom.

On 01 December 2019, an armed Reformist element arrived at Boradam area of Mogban Union under Rangamati Hill district by a speed boat and shot to death one Bikram Chakma. News of this incident was published in some online news portals and national online editions stating the deceased Mihir Chakma to have been a collector of PCJSS and that the incident occurred centering feud over sharing amount of extortion – a far fetching tale of fabrication. The PCJSS, in a press release signed by Sajib Chakma, protested the malign allegation stating that PCJSS was not involved in any form of extortion whatsoever or in any feud over sharing amount of extortion so stated. The PCJSS is in view that such projection of deceased Bikram Chakma as to have been a collector of PCJSS in the news has been an ill-effort, politically motivated in absolute sense and of conspiring.

On 4 December 2019, one Shubha Chakma Greek (40) was shot dead by a joint armed group identified as Reformist JSS and UPDF (Democratic) in Egojyachari village under Sabekkhoyong Union of Naniarchar Upazila under Rangamati hill district. This killing soon triggered a panic among of masses living in the area.

Some online portals, namely, parbattanews.com, alokitorangamati.com, banglatribune, etc. went on articulating news referring to a fake and baseless directive/letter bearing signature of Mangal Kumar Chakma, Information and Publicity Secretary of PCJSS signed for Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, President of PCJSS asking for subscription in cash on the occasion of 22nd anniversary of CHT Accord.

On 18 November 2019, another foreign terrorist group of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) backed by the local Awami League leadership and the army, entered No. 8 Noapara village of Ward No. 5 of Rajvila Union under Bandarban Sadar Upazila of Bandarban Hill district in a heavy state of

drunkenness. On entering the village, they begun to pick up the youths and males and beat them irrespectively. At last, they forcibly took away 4 persons including Monaram Tanchangya (55), karbari (village head) of Noapara village, and his son Sukhamoni Tanchangya (Shukramoni) (32) away at the gun point at 4:00 pm that day. Though they released one of them in that evening yet they brutally killed in firing all the other 3 persons including Monaram Tanchangya and Sukhamoni Tanchangya at Balumura area, a border spot of Gaidya Union and Rajvila Union.

It is worthy to be mentioned that with a mean intention to give a legal shape to their ill-efforts of bringing allegation against the PCJSS workers on extortion, killings and armed activities, the army, intelligence agency, law & order forces, BGB and administration in association with the local Awami League leadership and communal forces, the said killing news of innocent three Tanchangya villagers by the ALP offshoot was distorted and sent to the mass-media coloring it as to have been an inner-party armed conflict of PCJSS, the news of which, without having properly verified, was published in the widely-circulated media like BBC and the daily Prathom Alo, specifically, in the army-led news portals and blessed online media based in CHT.

Even on the very occurrence of the incident, without rushing to the spot and rescuing the dead bodies for autopsy, the police and administration including the Superintendent of Police of Rangamati district and Officer-in-Charge of Rajasthali police station issued a Press Statement in the evening of 18 November 2019, ascertaining that the incident had been an armed conflict between the two factions of PCJSS; and it is the news media, considering the news to have been genuine, went on publishing and telecasting right from that evening within hardly 1/2 hours of the incident.

Stepping one pace ahead, the parbattanews.com well in advance published the news stating: “The killed terrorists might have involved in the killing of the election-duty-returnee officials in Baghaichari on 18 March 2019.” Studying over orchestration of the channelized news on the incident, it easily gives out a conjecture that this killing incident of the innocent Tanchangya villagers was caused to happen through the ALP offshoot sponsored by the army, police and

administration in association with the ruling party local leadership that had chalked out the deep-political conspiracy. In fact, the innocent victims of killing were not PCJSS members and also by no way were involved in any armed activities. Further to be mentioned that according to the local sources, these quarters of vested interest have been trying hard to evict the Tanchangya villagers from their ancestral homesteads by using this foreign terrorist elements of ALP.

On 20 November 2019 ALP kidnapped two Tanchangya villagers, namely, Sujan Tanchangya s/o Babulya Tanchangya and Tipon Joy Tanchangya (17) s/o Chokhya Moni Tanchangya both from Talum Para of Rajvila union under Bandarban sadar upazila.

It is needless to say that the reign of killing, conflict, terror, extortion and kidnapping has been established by using the ALP offshoot, which sometimes introduced themselves as 'Mogh Party' and the local armed terrorists known as 'Reformists', under direct sponsorship of the state machineries and the local Awami League leadership aiming at directing the CHT crisis to take different course. On pleas of the incidents being perpetrated by these army-backed terrorist elements, fascist-way suppression and oppression including irrespective searching of houses, filing false cases, meting out inhuman torture, arrest and killing have been being carried out unabatedly.

Attack on Chakma village by ALP terrorists in Kuhlalong, set ablaze 1 house

The foreign terrorist group of ALP attacked 7 houses of the Chakmas in Kattoli Noapara village of Kuhlalong Union under Bandarban Sadar upazila at 9:00 pm on 21 November 2019. As the Chakma villagers fled for life, the ALP terrorists set 1 house on fire. The villagers fallen victims to ALP attack are: (1) Dharoj Chandra Karbari, (2) Mohini Ranjan Chakma, (3) Gyana Lal Chakma, (4) Supankar Chakma, (5) Boli Chakma, (6) Ronge Chakma (former Bhutanpara Karbari) and (7) Rohin Chakma. As the aftermath shock, the villagers are still passing days in panic due to lack of security measure.



Photo: A house belonging to Chakma villager ablazed by ALP terrorists in Kuhlalong

24 villagers tortured by ALP armed miscreants in Rowangchari

On 29 December 2019 at around 9.30 pm a group of armed miscreants of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) raided Ghorau Bazar Para of Rowangchari upazila in Bandarban district. They beat up 24 innocent villagers indiscriminately leaving 17 villagers seriously injured. The seriously injured 17 villagers were taken to Rowangchari upazila headquarters for treatment.

After meting out torture, the ALP miscreants took a boat from Barashila Bagan of Rowangchari upazila and rowed down to Kolamachang Para. It is learnt that one serviceholder named Kyaw Ching Marma

s/o Mongchohri Marma of Bandarban sadar upazila leads this group. His party name is Bochou. He is son-in-law of the Karbari (village head) of Mongbai Para under

Rowangchari upazila. Another member of the ALP terrorist group has been identified as Mongpu Marma, brother-in-law of the Mongbaithong Para Karbari under Rowangchari upazila.

It is learnt that while the ALP miscreants were meting out torture upon the villagers at Gherau Bazar Para, Headman (mouza head) of Gherau

mouza Mr. Shoisa Aung Marma went to Rowangchari camp and informed the army about ALP atrocities. He requested the army to go to Gherau Bazar to rescue the villagers, but the army

authority declined to do so. It was reported that in the morning of 30 December 2019, the army men went there for searching allegedly only for an eye-wash.

Extortion by ALP continues

Gravity of extortion by ALP terrorist continues to get widened in Bandarban. It appears that opinion conflicts between the influential quarters in power and the ALP terrorists and their handymen is taking an extreme shape centering the extortion issue. On 17 January 2020, some 8–10 persons riding on 4 motor bikes came to Mombatang village and beat two ALP supporters indiscriminately and then went away. Contradiction between the two ends has now heightened to the extreme point as advocating by one party for favor of keeping the mass extortion rate at an endurable level while the other party insists on

enhancement of rate to high up. Of the two, one party is preventing the mass extortion. The police busted 2 ALP men who were caught red-handed in Chimbuk area while collecting hard cash through cell phone payment system known as Bkash on 17 January 2020. The police also arrested 3 ALP men with a huge amount of money from Jam Jam Hotel in Bandarban town on 18 January 2020. It is to be mentioned that the ALP terrorists have imposed their demand amounting to 3–5 lakhs Taka from 30 villages of Rajvilla and Kuhlalong union of Bandarban Sadar upazila and Rowangchari Upazila.

Rangipara Village Head Kidnapped by Reformists

The Reformist terrorists kidnapped Kali Kumar Karbari (55) s/o late Mohima Ranjan Chakma of Rangipara village under Longadu Upazila of Rangamati hill district, from Mainidor Bazaar at 3:00 pm on 7 January 2020. They picked up Kali Kumar Chakma from the launch station and having

him boarded in a vehicle drove away. It was learnt that during the operation, one person from the Maini Army Zone was noticed along with the kidnappers. Later on, the Reformist terrorists were compelled to release Kali Kumar Chakma in the face of mass pressure.

Sajek-Kamalak transit road destroys huge gardens belonging Jummas

The government of Bangladesh and India undertook a plan to construct a transit road from Ruilui to Bara Kamalak area under Sajek union of Baghaichari



Photo: Ruilui-Bara Kamalak road in Sajek being constructed destroying gardens of indigenous villagers

upazila (sub-district) in Rangamati district the length of which is approximately 20 kilometers. The road will run through Sijakchara, Dari Para, Balpiyeadam, Upper Choinalchara, Lower Choinalchara, Bara Kamalak and Sijak River bank.

It is reported that the transit road road will connect the road coming from Hmar Bazaar under Mamit district of Indian state of Mizoram to Bangladesh border. Under this plan, in late April of 2019, the Engineering Corps of Bangladesh army led by one Captain from 119 RCB (engineering corps) conducted a survey from Ruilui to Bara Kamalak for starting the construction of the transit road without inviting their Indian counterpart. Consequently, on 5 June 2019, Bangladesh government organised an inauguration ceremony at Ruilui area of Sajek union for construction of the road running from Ruilui to Bara Kamalak in which the Indian counterpart was

invited. Major General SM Matiur Rahman, General Commanding Officer (GOC) of 24th Infantry Division of Chittagong Cantonment; Brig. General Hamidul Haque, Brigade Commander of Khagrachari Brigade and Lt. Col. Humayun, Commanding Officer (CO) of Baghahat Zone were present from Bangladesh side while Director-General of BSF was present from the Indian side. Director-General of BSF kickstarted the construction of the road. Many bulldozers and tractors are already brought to start construction of the road.

The Jumma villagers living at least in five villages including Bara Kamalak, Choinalchara and Sijakchara covering around 300 families expressed their worry for possibility of eviction fearing that if the road is built without taking their traditional land rights into account, then they will lose their lands. The villagers have been cultivating their lands under the customary land rights shined in the CHT Regulation of 1900,

which is also ensured by the CHT Accord 1997 and ILO Convention No. 107 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations. Nobody has land title. So, they urged the government to ensure their land rights before starting construction of the transit road from Ruilui to Bara Kamalak. It is also worthy to be mentioned that at least 90% of the Sajek inhabitants are the families of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who

had been uprooted from their respective villages and homesteads during the unrest from 1970s to 1990s. Despite there is a provision in the CHT Accord for rehabilitation of the IDPs on their lands from where they had been uprooted, but the government did not rehabilitate them even in last 22 years after signing the Accord.

A wide-range of destruction of groves/plantations and lands belonging to many indigenous Jumma villagers during construction of the Sajek-Kamalak Transit Road in the mean while. The major sufferers, among others, are: (1) Chayon Chakma, s/o Prabhat Chandra Chakma of Daripara lost 2,500 teak trees in 3.0 acres of grove land; (2) Jagadish Chakma, s/o Suchi Chandra Karbari of Daripara lost 900 trees in 1.0 acre of grove land; (3) Binal Chakma of Daripara lost 150 coconut trees and 400 beetle nut trees in 2.0 acres of grove land; (4) Anil Kumar Chakma, s/o Melaram Chakma of Daripara lost 400 Lichi Trees in 3.0 acres of land; (5) Man Mohan Chakma of Daripara lost entire teak trees and turmeric crops in 2.0 acres of grove land; (6) Prem Ranjan Chakma s/o Prabhat Chandra Chakma of Daripara lost 500 teak trees in 1.0 acre of grove land; (7) Battya Chakma s/o Ananta Kumar Chakma of Daripara lost entire turmeric crops and the plants with which broom is made of; and (8) Sumati Ranjan Chakma, s/o Ananta Kumar Chakma lost entire turmeric crops and broom plants in 2.0 acres of plantation land.

PCP council and conference of Rangamati district branch held

The 22nd occasion of Rangamati District Branch Council and Conference of Parbatya Chattagram Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) was held keeping the slogans ahead: “Resist the Reactionaries, Opportunists and Anti-Accord Elements!” “Students-Youth Society Get Plunged into Movement!”

Formalities of the Council began with hoisting of national and organizational flags in harmonization with PCP organizational anthem. Attending as the Chief Guest Ushaton Talukder, Vice-President of PCJSS and former Member of Parliament graced the occasion that was held in Rangamati Cultural Institute Auditorium under chairmanship of Rintu Chakma, President of PCP Rangamati District

Branch. In the conference, speeches were delivered as the Special Guests by Suman Marma, PCP central Vice-President; Sagor Tripura Nantu, member of

Juba Samiti and Shanti Debi Tanchangya, General Secretary of Hill Women’s Federation.

While addressing the students, the Chief Guest Ushaton Talukder urged: “Chhatranang Adhyana Tapo” (Students are to concentrate in studying). He continued saying: ‘The principal responsibility of students is to study. It is through study, the student community has to understand the politics. Mere attending to the educational institutions will not work, a student has to become a man as it ought to be. Do remind, there is a certain quarter that is die-hard to prevent the CHT Accord from being



Photo: Vice President of PCJSS Ushatan Talukder hoisting national flag at PCP Council in Rangamati

implemented. The core issues of CHT Accord have not yet been implemented; the political and administrative powers have not yet been devolved to the Hill District Councils. As a result of which, today, the administration and law & order forces are playing one-sided role. The government has kept the implementation process of the Accord hanging. Rights of none will be hampered, if the Accord gets implemented; it is for no reason, the implementation of the Accord is being obstructed – he added.

Ushaton Talukder further said: ‘The crisis that exists in CHT can be peacefully solved through implementation of the CHT Accord. We can step towards a precise solution, if the problem of CHT is heeded. If self-developed interpretation is given and kept the issue hanging, welfare can prevail to none. All must come forward so that the Accord can be implemented. There are many who come with wrong interpretation of the Accord saying that the Bengali-speaking people will have to leave CHT if the Accord gets implemented, which is not correct; rights of none will be ceased to exist here. Wrong explanation is being articulated on CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission. The Land Commission program is obstructed; let the Land

Commission work; if the Commission takes any wrong decision, then there is a space to rectify it.’ He called the students and youths to play pioneer role in establishing the right to self-determination of the Jumma peoples in the coming days.

Since beginning of the occasion in the morning, the intelligence agency members had an effort to interrupt the event. They misbehaved with the Central Vice-President Suman Marma and got involved in squabbles. At certain phase, they threatened Suman Marma of picking him up right from spot of the occasion. During the time of running the event, presence of security forces was also noticed outside the Rangamati Cultural Institute. Such undemocratic gesture of the government forces in a democratic country is thus coercively pushing the CHT situation towards the instability. Despite various manner of restrictions and obstructions on part of the intelligence agency members, the PCP Rangamati District Conference, however, ended in success. In conclusion, a 21-member PCP Rangamati District Committee was constituted with Milon Kusum Tanchangya as President and Jagadish Chakma as the General Secretary.