

## **Bogachadar-Gulshakhali Attack:**

### **Massive communal attack on Jumma villages by Bengali settlers with the support of security forces in Longadu**

*23 houses burnt to ashes, 2 injured*

On 17 February 2011 around 5.30 pm, following the death of a Bengali settler, the Bengali settlers numbering 200-250 from Gulshakhali settler area of Gulshakhali union under Longadu upazila in Rangamati district in collaboration with Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB) (formerly BDR) made a massive communal attack on Jumma villages of Gulshakhali and Rangi Para areas. It is learnt that at least 23 houses of Jumma villagers including one BRAC school and 3 tobacco ovens were reportedly burnt to ashes in the attack while two Jumma students were seriously injured in another attack made at Tintilya Launchghat in Longadu at noon. Huge valuables were looted by Bengali settlers before setting fire on the houses.

It is learnt that on 15 February 2011 in the morning two Bengali settlers named Md. Saber Ali (33) s/o Nehat Ali and Md. Sahid (35) s/o Jyula Pagala from settler's village- Rahamatpur of Gulshakhali union went to nearby jungle of Gulshakhali area to collect flower-broom (a kind of natural broom). Of them, Md. Sahid returned to home, however, Md. Saber Ali went missing. On 16 February 2011 around 10.00 am police and BGB recovered dead body of Saber Ali from Rangi Para area and brought it to police station of Longadu headquarter at 3:00 pm.

It is learnt that Saber Ali was suffering from epilepsy. So, locals including the administration guessed that Saber Ali might die due his illness. Witnesses also confirmed that no injury was found on dead body. However, in the evening time around 5.30 pm, Bengali settlers spread communal tension alleging Jumma villagers responsible for the death of Saber Ali and brought out processions separately at Gulshakhali bazar and Choumuhani bazar. Bengali settlers also brought out another procession at Longadu headquarter area at night about 12.00 pm.

On 17 February 2011 the Bengali settlers again began to spread communal agitation in the areas since morning. At a stage, at 11:00 am the Bengali settlers led by Khalilur Rahaman Khan, president of Bangalee Student Council and one Abdur Rahim (journalist) brought out a procession at Longadu headquarter. Police and local administration did nothing to stop spreading communal tension. No sooner ending of procession, at about 1.00 pm, two Jumma passengers (students) who came from Rangamati by a launch were attacked by Bengali settlers at Tintilyaghat of Longadu headquarter. They (Jumma students) were severely injured. They were identified as-

(1) Mr. Apolo Chakma (20) s/o Mono Ranjan Chakma of Sijakmukh area of Baghaichari upazila

(2) Mr. Mangal Moy Chakma (15) s/o Daya Mohan Chakma of Simana Para of Barkal upazila

Later, the injured students were admitted to Rangamati general hospital.

Afterwards, at about 5:00 pm the Bengali settlers again began to gather and at a stage with a group numbering 200-250 made attack on Jumma villages and set fire to the Jumma houses one after another. In the attack, at least 23 Jumma houses including one BRAC school were burnt to ashes. The BGB did nothing to stop the Bengali settlers from setting fire on Jumma houses.

Bengali settlers first set fire on the houses of Sukra Chakma and Amiya Kanti Chakma of Rangi Para. Then Jumma villagers gathered themselves and tried to defend the remaining houses and facing off the settlers. Jumma leaders also informed the local administration including police. However, no action was taken by the administration to stop Bengali settlers from attack.

On the other, a group of BGB of Rangipara Tematha camp led by Habildar Jahangir under Rajnagar BGB zone rushed there at that time and Bengali settlers increased their attack soon after arrival of BGB personnel.

Bengali settlers then proceeded to Gulshakhali village and set fire on Jumma houses indiscriminately. Jumma villagers alleged that BGB personnel supported the Bengali settlers while setting fire to the

Jumma houses. Till 7.00 pm on 17 February Bengali settlers burnt down at least 23 houses of Jumma villagers including one BRAC school and 3 tobacco ovens in two villages. Besides, 45 pieces of CIT sheets that was stored by UNICEF for building a school were also looted.

It is mentionable that the Bengali settlers who were brought from plain lands and settled down at Gulshakhali, Bogachadar and Kalapagujya areas under Longadu upazila in 1980s have been trying to grab the lands of Jumma people. As a part of this attempt, on 21 December 2010 the Bengali settlers made attack on Jumma village of Shanti Nagar and inhumanly beat 14 Jumma villagers and ransacked 5 houses motivatedly alleging Jumma villagers to beat a Bengali settler who went to jungle to collect firewood.

It is suspected that Saber Ali might be killed by Bengali settlers to create lame excuse for making attack on Jumma peoples. Bengali settlers fabricatedly spread that there were several injuries on dead body. However, a doctor, who made dead body post-mortem and wished not to be named, said that no injury was found.

The list of Jumma villagers whose houses were burnt to ashes (with approx. account of losses) are as follows:

**Rangipara Helipad area, Bagachatar union**

Sl.	Name	Family members	Valuables burnt to ashes
1.	Sukra Chakma (50) s/o late Prodip Chandra Chakma	8	Paddy 2000 kg, dry turmeric 400 kg, fresh turmeric 480 kg, 50w solar plate and one battery, gold ear ring 1 fair, 1 gold chain, wedding materials for daughter work TK. 30,000 and furniture & valuables of house. 7 goat looted
2.	Amiya Kanti Chakma (45) s/o late Dharendra Chakma	9	Paddy 2000 kg, rice 200 kg, dry turmeric 800 kg, fresh turmeric 400 kg, one pump machine (4 horse power), one solar plate and one battery, one TV, one tobacco oven, one paddy machine and furniture & valuables of house
3.	Amalendu Chakma (40) s/o late Bara Bondhu Chakma	6	Paddy 1800 kg, fertilizer for tobacco 5 bags, urea fertilizer 8 bags, one tobacco oven and furniture & valuables of house. 4 cow and 5 goat looted
4.	Ripan Chakma s/o Ramesh Chandra Chakma	5	Paddy 2200 kg, rice 200 kg, dry turmeric 720 kg, fresh turmeric 600 kg, one tobacco oven and furniture & valuables of house.
5.	Shambu Ranjan Chakma s/o Bara Bandhu Chakma	9	Paddy 1200 kg, dry turmeric 400 kg, fresh turmeric 800 kg, fertilizer for tobacco 6 bags, urea fertilizer 5 bags, one solar plate and one battery, one TV, VCD player, 3 spray machines, 2 sets of book of grade VII and 2 sets of books of grade II, and furniture & valuables of house. 3 cows looted.

**Ranjit Karbari Para, Gulshakhali union**

Sl.	Name	Family members	Losses (in Taka)
6.	Milan Chakma (35) s/o Ranjit	4	Tk 400,000 including paddy 2200 kg, dry

	Chakma		turmeric 600 kg, fresh turmeric 480 kg and furniture & valuables of house
7.	Sneha Kumar Chakma (26) s/o Ranjit Chakma	4	Paddy 2400 kg, rice 100 kg, dry turmeric 320 kg, fresh turmeric 600 kg, one spray machine and furniture & valuables of house. 2 goat looted
8.	Basanti Lata Chakma (60) w/o late Gyana Ratan Chakma	6	Tk. 500,000 including paddy 1800 kg, rice 100 kg, dry turmeric 480 kg and furniture & valuables of house
9.	Shapan Chakma (35) s/o Khetra Mohan Chakma	5	Paddy 1000 kg, dry turmeric 640 kg, fresh turmeric 720 kg and furniture & valuables of house
10.	Daya Moy Chakma (60) s/o late Jagulukya Chakma	5	Paddy 2000 kg, rice 100 kg, dry turmeric 440 kg, fresh turmeric for seed 400 kg, one spray machine and furniture & valuables of house
11.	Singha Moni Chakma (45) s/o Adendra Chakma	8	Tk. 500,000 including paddy 1400 kg, dry turmeric 480 kg, fresh 600 kg, teak 45 feet and furniture & valuables of house
12.	Montu Chakma (45) s/o Sumati Kumar Chakma	6	Paddy 2800 kg, rice 150 kg, dry turmeric 800 kg, fresh turmeric 600 kg, one spray machine, 20w solar plate and one battery and furniture & valuables of house
13.	Bimal Kanti Chakma (45) s/o late Birendra Chakma	7	Paddy 1600 kg, rice 400 kg, i dry turmeric 400 kg, fresh turmeric 800 kg, 40w solar plate and one battery, one TV, one VCD player, teak 120 feet and furniture & valuables of house made of teak
14.	Gyana Lal Chakma (45) s/o Kali Charan Chakma	5	Tk. 500,000 including paddy 1200 kg, rice 80 kg, dry turmeric 400 kg, fresh turmeric 600 kg, one spray machine, one paddy machine, one goat and furniture & valuables of house
15.	Chandu Chakma (35) s/o Mon Mohan Karbari	4	Paddy 1200 kg, dry turmeric 800 kg, fresh turmeric 1000 kg, 20w solar plate and one battery, 17 inches TV, VCD and furniture & valuables of house
16.	Mon Mohan Chakma (65) s/o late Janma Joy Chakma	9	Paddy 1800 kg, dry turmeric 600 kg, two spray machine, 50w solar plate and one battery and furniture & valuables of house
17.	Priti Moy Chakma (35) s/o Baksa Chakma	4	Paddy 1200 kg, dry turmeric 600 kg, fresh turmeric 1200 kg, 40w solar plate and one battery and furniture & valuables of house
18.	Smrit Milan Chakma s/o Tonga Muni Chakma	4	Paddy 800 kg, rice 100 kg, dry turmeric 800 kg, fresh turmeric 480 kg and furniture & valuables of house

**Gulshakhali Shanti Nagar, Gulshakhali union**

19.	Sona Ram Chakma (52) s/o late		Paddy 600 kg, rice 50 kg, dry turmeric 200 kg, fresh turmeric 400 kg and furniture & valuables
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	Kebal Chandra Chakma		of house
20.	Sushil Kumar Chakma (35) s/o late Badsha Dhan Chakma		Paddy 500 kg, rice 20 kg, dry turmeric 160 kg, fresh turmeric 400 kg, 50w solar plate and battery and furniture & valuables of house
21.	Sukha Moy Chakma (35) s/o Rijab Chandra Chakma		Paddy 700 kg, rice 50 kg, dry turmeric 800 kg, fresh turmeric 800 kg, teak 12 feet and furniture & valuables of house

#### Perpetrators:

The culprits and miscreants who led and made the Bengali settlers to attack and setting fire on Jumma villages were identified as follows:

- (1) Wajed Ali, Chairman of Bagachatar union;
- (2) Rahim, Chairman of Gulshakhali union;
- (3) Amir Hossain Molla (55) s/o unknown of village- Boiragi bazar of Bagachatar union;
- (4) Samsu Sardar (55) s/o unknown of Thegapara of Bagachatar union;
- (5) Mannan Sardar (50) s/o unknown of Rangipara of Bagachatar union;
- (6) Salauddin (30) s/o unknown of Rangipara of Bagachatar union.

#### Case filed and submission to NHRC:

On 22 February 2011 a victim Mr. Milan Chakma lodged a case in connection with this arson attack against following 18 Bengali settlers and other 950/1000 attackers with Longadu police station. The case no. is 5 of Longadu thana under section 143/ 144/ 323/ 374/ 380/ 436/ 448/ 506/ 34 of Bangladesh Penal Code.

Sl.	Name	Sex	Father's name	Address
1.	Md. Rafiq Uddin	M	Unknown	Member, Ward no. 9, Gulshakhali union, Longadu
2.	Md. Ershad Ali	M	Unknown	(Assistant Teacher), Gaujpur Govt. Primary School, Longadu
3.	Md. Amir Hossai Molla	M	Hasan Pardan	Bagachadar Union, Longadu
4.	Md. Kamal Hossain (20)	M	Md. Adam Ali	Bagachadar Union, Longadu
5.	Md. Solayoman	M	Unknown	Thega Para, Bagachadar Union, Longadu
6.	Md. Mohan Mian	M	Edot Mian	Rangipara, Bagachadar Union, Longadu
7.	Md. Kamal (30)	M	Unknown	Thegapara Club president, Bagachadar Union, Longadu
8.	Md. Khalil	M	Md. Nazim Uddin Headman	Gulshakhali union, Longadu
9.	Md. Jasim Uddin (21)	M	Abdul Malek	Rangipara, Bagachadar Union, Longadu
10.	Md. Marfat (32)	M	Atab Uddin Member	Gulshakhali union, Longadu
11.	Md. Rezaul Khalifa	M	Unknown	Choumuhabi Bazaar, Gulshakhali union, Longadu
12.	Md. Ramdan	M	Unknown	Rahmatpur, Gulshakhali union, Longadu
13.	Md. Liyakat Ali (40)	M	late Naheb Ali	Rangipara, Bagachadar Union, Longadu
14.	Abu Taher (58)	M	late Nur Mohammad	Rangipara, Bagachadar Union, Longadu
15.	Md. Nur Hossain (29)	M	Abu Taher	Rangipara, Bagachadar Union, Longadu

16.	Md. Salauddin (23)	M	Md. Islam Sau	Rangipara, Bagachadar Union, Longadu
17.	Md. Shahid (33)	M	Unknown	Village Physician, Choumohani Bazaar, Gulshakhali union, Longadu
18.	Md. Abdul Wadud (25)	M	Md. Mohan Mian Jamidar	Rangipara, Bagachadar Union, Longadu

However, no body was arrested by the police though the culprits are moving frequently in the day light. Rather, it is learnt that authorities of security forces and civil administration are looking for Mr. Milan Chakma and his phone number with the intention to harass him. It is also learnt that all Bengali leaders irrespective of ruling Awami League (AL), Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and other national level political parties are organising themselves to conduct move and to file case against Jumma villagers.

On 5 March 2011 Milan Chakma also submitted an objection to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in Dhaka demanding to investigate attack by the NHRC, to immediate arrest and punish those who involved with this attack, to provide adequate compensation and rehabilitation for affected Jumma families, to provide security of life and property of affected families and to remove Bengali settlers from this area.

However, NHRC is yet to take any necessary action for these demands.

#### **Administration initiatives:**

On 18 February 2011 in the morning Additional Deputy Commissioner Md. Khalilur Rahman and Senior Police Super Md. Faruk visited the spot. They talked to the Jumma victims whose houses were burnt to ashes. It is reported that taka 5,000 were provided to the family of Saber Ali. It is also learnt that army authority distributed taka 2,000 to some affected families.

After returning from spot to Longadu upazila headquarters, they held a law and order meeting with upazila level government officials, police and army officers, public representatives and traditional leaders at upazila hall. A committee was formed in this meeting comprising following persons led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Longadu upazila-

- (1) A F M Fazle Rabbi, UNO, Longadu upazila
- (2) Mr. Sukhamoy Chakma, ex-chairman of union parishad
- (3) Mangal Kanti Chakma, chairman of Atarakchara union
- (4) Abdul Barek Sarkar, president of Longadu AL
- (5) Md. Janey Alam, vice chairman of Longadu upazila parishad
- (6) Mr. Binoy Prasad Chakma, village head (Karbari)
- (7) Abu Taleb, acting chairman of Longadu upazila parishad

They will identify affected families and person who were involved with this attack and submit report to DC by 22 February 2011.

On 9 March 2011 State Minister for CHT Affairs Mr. Dipankar Talukdar visited spot and distributed 2 buddle of CIT sheet to each family. He also declared taka 50,000 and two matrix tones of food grain for each family. Astonishingly, Mr. Talukdar also included three settler families in the list of compensation, though the incident was one-sided attack on Jumma villagers by the Bengali settlers.

#### **Protests:**

On 18 February 2011 at 3.00 pm PCJSS brought out procession protesting against the arson attack in Rangamati. The procession was followed by brief protest meeting at the premises of Deputy Commissioner's office. Speakers condemned the arson attack and demanded to arrest the perpetrators of Bengali settlers and BGB personnel and bring them under trial, to provide adequate treatment and

compensation and to rehabilitate Bengali settlers outside CHT. They also demanded to implement CHT Accord properly with an aim to stop such communal attack on Jumma peoples.

Hill Students Council (PCP) also organised protest meeting at Dhaka University campus in Dhaka while Jumma students brought out procession in Comilla.

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