

### **Sajek torture victims to hold press conference tomorrow**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 77/2009, July 01, 2009*

**A group of torture victims from Sajek in Rangamati district is now in Dhaka to narrate their harrowing experience and to highlight the recent land grabbing in their area, says a press release.**

They will be speaking at a press conference tomorrow at Reporters Unity, Dhaka. The press conference will start at 11am.

“Recently military repression and land grabbing incidents have increased in Sajek,” Amar Dhan Karbari, one of the eight victims who traveled to Dhaka for the press conference told chtnews.com.

“The army of the Baghaihat zone is using the murder of two Bengali people in early May to torture Jumma people and grab their lands,” he added. “It all appears that they want us to leave the area so that they can occupy our lands more easily.”

He said the Jumma villagers continued to live in fear of army and settler attacks.

Sajek is one of the flashpoints in Chittagong Hill Tracts. On 20 April last year a group of settlers, in collaboration with the **members of the Bangladesh Army, attacked a number of** Jumma villages and burned down 77 houses.

The incident provoked protests from national human rights organisations as well as progressive forces of the country, and on 8 August members of the International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission, including Lord Avebury, visited the area.

However, after their visit, the settlers carried out further attacks on 9 and 19 August, killing Ladu Moni Chakma and wounding four other villagers.

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### **Sajek torture victims demand end to repression**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 78/2009, July 02, 2009*

**A group of eight torture victims at a press conference today demanded that the government take effective measures to end repression of innocent people and stop grabbing of lands belonging to the Jumma people in Sajek.**

They made this demand while speaking to the media at Reporters Unity Auditorium in the morning.

The victims traveled to Dhaka from Sajek to tell how they were subjected to inhuman torture in Baghaihat zone.

Prussing Thowai Marma read out a written text on behalf of the victims.

One of the victims, Bali Kumar Chakma, 53, of MSF Para in the text said the army beat him with sticks and gave electric shocks twice in his body parts.

Kala Dhan Chakma, 52, of Gangaran village said “They (army) hit me first in the knee, and then give electricity shocks in my body.”

Narrating how he was arrested, Amar Dhan Karbari, 49, of Hogeayatoli village has it to say: “I was on my way to Hillahilly office, an NGO in Marishya, to discuss how to draw UNDP project money. When I reached Balughata at 12 noon or 1pm, the army arrested me.”

He continued: “They took me to the camp, blindfolded. They hit me on the joints of my hands and legs. As a result, my wrists and knuckles got so swollen up that I could not grasp anything with my hands.”

Sukkho Chakma, 29, of Jarulchari said he was taken to Baghaiha zone, blindfolded and tortured.

Jagot Joti Chakma said he was kicked in the abdomen and hit on the neck with the blunt side of his own machete. “One of the soldiers took away Taka 1,230 from my pocket.” he added.

Ms Kamala Chakma, 26, of Balurghat Purbopara said on 20 June she was grazing cows on the bank of river Kachalong when the army came and asked her whether she had seen any terrorist.

“When I said ‘no’, a soldier hit me in the waist and hands with a stick, and poked my eyes with his fingers. I got terrible pain in my eyes, and still I can not see clearly.” she said and added that the army took away Taka 500 from her.

Another victim Mintu Chakma, 29, of Gangaram Dore was tortured on 18 May. He said he was taking a break from work when the army came and picked him up. “I was taken to Baghaihat zone and tortured inhumanly. The army gave me electric shocks.” he added.

Ajit Chakma, 32, of the same village said he was arrested on 28 May from Nanda Kishore Chakma’s shop. “The army took me to Baghaihat zone blindfolded and tortured.” he added.

“At first, they hit me on the neck. Thereafter, they beat me relentlessly accusing me of being a terrorist. The army also gave me electric shocks.” he continued.

### **Land grabbing**

The victims said using the murder of two settlers as a pretext the settlers occupied lands belonging to the Jumma people under protective wings of the army. According to the victims, about 15 – 20 settler families have already occupied the Bain Ghor (waiving house) of a Buddhist temple in Simanachara village, about 20 – 25 settler families have been settled on lands belonging to Mintu Chakma, Buddhi Chakma and a temple in Gangaram, and built 11 houses in the village of Balughat.

### **Demands**

The victims put forward a four point demands. These include 1. an end to repression of innocent people in Sajek and release of innocent victims detained on charge of involvement in the murder and disappearance [of the two Bengalis]; 2. putting an end to land grabbing in Sajek and return of the lands already taken away; 3. stoppage of intimidation in the name of army patrol; dismantling army posts and rolling back of Baghaihat zone; and putting army personnel involved in the torture of innocent people on trial; 4. impartial investigation into the kidnapping and disappearance of Alkajja and Muzibar and bringing those responsible to justice.

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## **ARMY REPRESSION IN SAJEK: VICTIMS HARASSED AFTER PRESS CONFERENCE**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 79/2009, July 08, 2009*

### **REPORTS REACHING FROM SAJEK SAID ARMY HAD BEEN HARASSING THOSE TORTURE VICTIMS WHO HAD TAKEN PART IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN DHAKA TO TELL THEIR STORIES.**

Bali Kumar Chakma alias Ballya (53) was picked up from his home in the village of MSF Para at 4pm on 6 July, Amar Dhan Chakma told chtnews.com by mobile phone from a location in Sajek.

Both Bali Kumar Chakma and Amar Dhan Chakma were present at the Dhaka press conference on 2 July.

It is not known where Bali Kumar Chakma has been kept or whether he has been handed over to the police.

### **HOUSE SEARCHES**

The army also searched the houses of all those who had participated in the Dhaka press conference.

Sources said a group of army personnel from Baghaihat zone carried out the search on 7 July. The aim of the search was to arrest them.

However, none of the victims was present in their homes during the search. Some settlers accompanied the army during the search, they added.

Ten Jumma torture victims participated in the Dhaka press conference. They are Bali Kumar Chakma, 53, of MSF Para; Mintu Chakma, 27, Gangaram Dore; Kala Dhan Chakma, age 52, Gongaram; Amar Dhan Karbari, age 49, Hogeayatoli; Jagot Joti Chakma, 32, village Korengatoli, Bongoltoli Union; Ajit Chakma, 32, Gangaram Dore; Sukkho Chakma, age 29, Jarulchari; and Ms Kamala Chakma, age 26, Balurghat Purbopara.

### **ARMY DETAINS HOGEYATOLI VILLAGE CHIEF**

On 6 July around 7pm, the army raided the village of Hogeayatoli and picked up Manek Karbari, the village chief, and took him to Baghaihat zone.

The army asked him such questions as whether he knew Amar Dhan Karbari, whether he himself had taken part in the press conference, who asked him (Amar Dhan) to go to Dhaka and take part in the press conference, who sponsored his travel and stay in Dhaka, and who helped him organise the press conference etc.

In reply, Manek Karbari told the army that Amar Dhan is involved in a UNDP project in his village and that UNDP might have sponsored his visit to Dhaka.

The interrogation lasted for three hours.

The army also picked up Amar Dhan Chakma's brother-in-law, Priya Shanti Chakma of Hogeayatoli village, took him to the camp and subjected him to interrogation.

### **KOJOICHARI VILLAGE CHIEF DETAINED**

On 5 July, the army detained Ajit Chakma, village chief of Kojoichari. He was taken to Baghaichari zone and interrogated.

The army asked him whether he had participated in the press conference in Dhaka organised by Sajek victims.

One torture victim named Ajit Chakma was present in the said press conference, but he is not the village chief; the army mistook Ajit Chakma, the village chief, for Ajit Chakma, the victim.

Later the army released him after interrogation.

The participants of the conference now fear army reprisals and have been forced to go into hiding.

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## **SANTU LARMA SUPPORTERS ATTACK ONE IN RANGAMATI**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 80/2009, July 08, 2009*

**MEMBERS OF THE JANA SAMHATI SAMITI (SANTU GROUP) YESTERDAY ATTACKED A SUPPORTER OF THE UNITED PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UPDF) IN RANGAMATI.**

UPDF's Rangamati district organiser, Shanti Dev Chakma told chtnews.com that a group of JSS (Santu) members led by Bodhisattwa Chakma and Chinese Chakma attacked Mintu Chakma (42) with hokey sticks and iron rods at Banarupa in the town.

The attack left Mintu Chakma seriously wounded. He was first admitted to Rangamati Sadar Hospital, and then shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

His condition has been stated to be critical. He sustained grievous injuries in his head.

Mintu Chakma is a staunch supporter of the UPDF. Couples of weeks ago his house at Gorjontoli in Rangamati town had come under attack of the JSS members.

He held a press conference against the said attack, holding Santu Larma responsible for it.

Mr. Larma and his gang members have unleashed a reign of terror in Rangamati town. Previously, his men shot and wounded Chandra Shekhor Chakma, ex-General Secretary of the JSS, Pragati Chakma, a Union Council Chairman, Kollol Chakma, a PCP (UPDF) member, and Aungshuman Chakma, a JSS member (Rupayan).

Their terror victims also included Baghaihat Upazila Chairman Sudarshan Chakma and Jurachari Union Council Chairman Kina Mohan Chakma.

The government and the army are providing full support to Santu Larma -- who is also the Chairman of the CHT Regional Council -- in his fascist and anti-Jumma activities, alleged Shanti Dev Chakma.

"Mr. Larma and his gang member have become ferocious recently because they have lost ground and have been ousted from many areas previously held by them." Mr. Chakma said and added that Santu Larma's days are numbered.

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## **PCP ACTIVISTS ARRESTED, RELEASED LATER**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 81/2009, July 08, 2009*

**THREE MEMBERS OF THE HILL STUDENTS' COUNCIL, BETTER KNOWN AS PCP, WERE ARRESTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED BY POLICE IN MANIKCHARI UNDER KHAGRACHARI DISTRICT ON TUESDAY, YESTERDAY.**

PCP sources told chtnews.com the police arrested Apruchi Marma, president of PCP Manikchari branch, Obhinoy Chakma, convenor of PCP Baghaichari Branch and Hridddhi Chakma, a member of PCP, from Manikchari College while they were holding a meeting with students around noon.

The meeting was aimed at persuading the Jumma students to participate in a 10-July rally organised jointly by Boroitali Land Protection Committee and Democratic Youth Forum to protest against recent land grabbing in Ramgarh-Manikchari area.

The PCP activists were taken to the police station, threatened with filing criminal cases against them and forced to sign a blank sheet of paper before being released.

Meanwhile, a leader of Boroitali Land Protection Committee alleged that army personnel have torn down their posters about the 10-July meeting.

“In East Chillyatoli of Lakshmichari, the army has torn down our meeting posters” said Aung Cha Ching, adding that they would continue with their scheduled programme.

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**PCP ACTIVIST ASSAULTED BY SANTU LOYALISTS IN DHAKA**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 82/2009, July 08, 2009

**THUI KYO CHING MARMA, OFFICE SECRETARY OF THE HILL STUDENTS' COUNCIL (PCP), A FRONT ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT, WAS ASSAULTED BY SANTU ARMY LOYALISTS IN DHAKA ON TUESDAY, YESTERDAY.**

When contacted, Mr. Thuiko Marma told chtenws.com that he and his friends were sipping tea at a tea shop in front of Dhaka University Central Library at 1pm after participating in a rally on the campus.

“All on a sudden, I was hit in the head from behind.” Thuiko said, adding “the JSS terrorists were 6 in number and led by Bablu and Batayan.”

“After that they began to punch me from all side. I was trying to defend myself. My friend Arnob from Biplobi Chattra Jubo Andolon barged forward in my defence, and so did Samiul Alam Richi, President of Bangladesh Chattra Federation, and others.”

Thuiko further said the JSS loyalists had threatened him earlier not to come to the campus.

“Bablu called me at my mobile phone at 11am the same day and threatened me not to come to the campus and to refrain from political activities.” he added.

In protest against the assault, the left leaning Five Students Organisations, of which PCP is a component organisation, held a press conference today at Madhu's Canteen on Dhaka University campus and demanded exemplary punishment for the culprits.

The leaders of these organisations termed the JSS loyalists who were involved in the assault of Thuiko as terrorists, and said the incident testified to the complete degeneration of Santu Larma and his loyalists into government collaborators.

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## **“We’ll continue to grab your lands” – Warrant Officer Rezaul in Sajek**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 83/2009, July 08, 2009*

**“YOU MAY PAY SECRET VISITS TO SULTANA KAMAL (CO-CHAIR, CHT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION) AND TELL HER WHATEVER YOU LIKE AND YOU MAY STAGE THOUSANDS OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN AND OUTSIDE CHT, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO US, WE WILL CONTINUE WITH OUR JOB AND GRAB YOUR LANDS”.**

A Sajek resident quoted Warrant Officer Rezaul from Baghaihat zone as saying this to Kalachulo Chakma and Swapanika Chakma, member, Ward No. 16, Sajek Union Council, yesterday when he met them at Baghaihat bazaar.

On 2 July, eight torture victims from Sajek met with Advocate Sultana Kamal, Executive Director of Ain-o-Salish Kendra, and Co-chair of Chittagong Hill Tracts International Commission, at her office in Dhaka and submitted a memorandum to her.

Rezaul was alluding to this meeting, which was neither secret nor confidential.

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## **Govt. is conspiring to foil our program: DYF**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 84/2009, July 09, 2009*

**DEMOCRATIC YOUTH FORUM’S GENERAL SECRETARY, MITHUN CHAKMA HAS ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSPIRING TO FOIL THEIR RALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD TOMORROW, 10 JULY, IN MANKICHARI, KHAGRACHARI DISTRICT.**

He said the UNO had been duly informed of the rally in writing, and that his promise to provide necessary support had also been obtained.

“But as the date for the rally is nearing, the UNO Mohiuddin Kabir Mahin has suddenly reversed his decision which surprised the organisers.” he said.

A team of the organisers led by PCP General Secretary Aungay Marma met with the UNO to discuss the tomorrow’s rally scheduled to be held at Rani Nihar Devi Government High School ground at 1pm.

Mr. Marma quoted the UNO as telling him: “I am ready to provide all the necessary cooperation if the DC or SP gives permission (to hold the rally)”.

The team also contacted the OC Md. Abul Kashem, only to hear the same refrain.

However, he tacitly admitted facing pressure from the military administration. “If the military pressures us, then we are helpless on the issue.” the OC is quoted as saying.

Both the UNO and OC dissuaded the organisers from holding the rally.

The organisers then contacted Manikchari Upazila chairman Md. Jobbar, who told them that the rally might be provocative for the BNP and Sama Odhikar Andolan, a platform of the settlers.

Mithun Chakma said they would discuss the situation and take the right decision. He termed the civil administration as puppet of the army.

“The reversal of the decision goes a long way to prove that it is the army who rules the roost in CHT. The army is the greatest impediment to peace and democracy in this part of the country; they are the evil force (shoitan), acting as a colonial ruler.” Mithun added.

The rally is being organised jointly by Boroitali Land Protection Committee and Democratic Youth Forum to protest against continuous land grabbing in the area.

Another report says the army in Lakshmichari has threatened the bus and jeep owners and drivers not to ferry the participants to the rally.

The organisers entered into a contract with the bus and jeep owners well in advance, but after the army pressure they are refusing to adhere to the terms of the deal, Aungcha Ching Marma told [chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com).

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## **Anti-land grabbing rally held defying army-police obstruction**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 85/2009, July 10, 2009*

**At least 11 Jummas were wounded in army and police actions as the Democratic Youth Forum and Boroitali Land Protection Committee held a rally in Manikchari, Khagrachari today.**

The army also arrested a participant – Chathoi-u Marma (25) – while he was returning home after attending the rally. He was arrested from Amtali in Manikchari town. The army handed him over to the police, it is learnt.

Mithun Chakma, General Secretary of Democratic Youth Forum, condemned the arrest of Mr. Marma and the brutality with which the army and police tried to foil the peaceful rally organised to protest the continuing land grabbing in CHT.

The DYF leader demanded the immediate and unconditional release of Chathoi-u Marma.

The scheduled anti-land grabbing rally was turned in to protest rally, and an estimated 4,000 took part in it, defying army and police brutality and obstructions.

Organising Secretary of DYF, Michael Chakma and Acting General Secretary of the Hill Women’s Federation, Konika Dewan addressed the rally. They condemned the attempt of the army and police to foil the rally by using brute force, and termed their action as fascist.

At the last minute, the organisers shifted the venue of the rally from Rani Nihar Devi Government High School ground to College Gate to avoid confrontation with the police.

The Bangladesh Army soldiers were deployed in a number of locations to prevent the Jummas from reaching Mainkchhari.



In Matiranga, the police blocked five jeeps carrying about 200 persons. They were coming from Khagrachari to participate in the rally. When they tried to protest, the police resorted to indiscriminate baton charges and injured 10 of them, including members of the Hill Women's Federation.

About 600 persons set out from Lakshmichari in 17 jeeps but they were halted at Chittagong – Khagrachari border point. The members of the Ansar Battalion detained the jeep drivers in the camp.

In Lakshmichari, the army refused to allow any vehicle out of the town. About 800 Jummas gathered there waiting to be ferried to the rally. When they protested the decision of the army, they were met with violent action. The police forced them to disperse.

The army also blocked Apruchi Marma, President of PCP Manikchari Unit, and another member of the PCP, at Moghaichari army camp. They were going to Lakshmichari from Manikchari to lead the protest demonstration there.

As no jeep and bus of the organisers were allowed to go to Manikchri, many Jummas tried to reach the venue of the rally using normal passenger buses. However, the army also prevented their attempt, and pulled them down from the buses.

The army checked each and every vehicle coming from Khagrachari and forced the Jumma passengers to get down. They could not reach their destinations.

At around 11am the army beat Suija-u Chowdhury (25) s/o Jotindra Chowdhury at Manikchari College. A soldier hit him in the head with a stick, wounding him seriously. Mr. Chowdhury is from the village of Bholachola under Momprue

Mouza and belongs to Marma nationality. Captain Sarwar from Lakshmichari zone was present when he was being beaten up.

The army and police actions are in betrayal of the commitment made by Manikchari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohiuddin Kabir Mahin to cooperate with the organisers.

All had been going on well until yesterday when the UNO suddenly volte-faced urging the organisers not to hold the rally.

The army also came out with their true colour when they threatened the bus and jeep owners associations not to ferry the participants to the venue of the rally.

On Thursday night, the army called lineman of Jaliapara Bus Owners Association to Guimara zone and threatened him with dire consequences if he dared to allow buses and jeeps to be hired by the organisers. Later Jubo League leaders also threatened him.

The President and General Secretary of the jeep owners association were also summoned to Choichala BDR camp in Ramgarh on Thursday night and were threatened not to help the organisers by providing jeeps to them.

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## **Brigade commander's speech at Guimara rally tantamount to incitement - analysts**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 86/2009, July 16, 2009



**Guimara Brigade Commander Latiful Haider's 15-July speech at a rally in Jaliapara is a direct incitement to violence, political analysts commented.**

A college teacher in Khagrachari said it was the responsibility of an elected government to resolve any land related problem. "The army has no role in this respect. Yet, they are complicating the problem by sticking their nose in the affairs of the civil administration," he added.

Another teacher from Matiranga commented: "What the Brigade commander said in his speech yesterday is a clear proof that the army is not impartial and that they are here on a special and secret mission."

Terming the grabbing of Jumma people's lands as serious, he said "what we are seeing today in CHT is nothing but ethnic cleansing in slow motion."

Held at Saing-guli Borpilak Government Primary School ground, the rally was virtually boycotted by both Bengali and Jumma people.

One estimate put the number of the participants at 250 – of which Jummas amount to merely 25.

A resident in Guimara told chtnews.com the organisers had sent out jeeps in all directions to ferry people to and from the venue of the rally, but almost all the jeeps had come back empty.

Many alleged that the army had forced many Jummas to join the rally. "The soldiers caught hold of anyone they saw, gathered them together in Ballyachari camp and then sent them to the venue" said one of the participants.

Monkya Marma, who was forced to participate in the rally, said "I was in a roadside tea shop at Ballyachari Rubber Plantation No. 1 when the army came and picked me up."

"They just told me that I would have to go to a rally with them," he added.

Uggyo Marma of the same area said he would not join the rally had not the army forced him to do so. He said he was working when the army picked him up.

In his speech the Brigade Commander said it was the terrorists who were behind the resistance to the settler attempt at land grabbing in Boroitali in mid June.

The commander further said the settlers would move to Boroitali, and the army would provide all kinds of supports to them.

"The army will build a camp in Boroitali to protect the settlers," he added.

The Democratic Youth Forum in a statement severely criticized the Guimara Brigade Commander for inciting the settlers to violence and fomenting unrest.

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## **Two JSS (Rupayan) members arrested in Dighinala**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 87/2009, July 21, 2009

**Two members of a faction the Jana Samhati Samiti (Real) led by Rupayan Dewan have been arrested in Dighinala, Khagrachari, sources said.**

The police arrested JSS members Nishit Chakma and Naresh Chakma from Dighinala bazaar at 3pm today, Tuesday, presumably in connection with the disappearance of two Bengali settlers in Merung area, they added.

JSS has condemned the arrest and demanded their unconditional release.

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## **Army, JSS (Santu) conduct joint raid in Mubachari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 88/2009, July 27, 2009*

**Two Jummas have been tortured during a joint raid into a village in Mahalchari of Khagrachari district by Bangladesh Army soldiers and the armed members of the Jana Samhati Samiti (Santu Group), according to sources.**

Army personnel from three zones – Naniachar, Mahalchari and Mainie – conducted the raid today at around 8am.

The soldiers advanced from three directions and surrounded Mubachari area, believed to be a stronghold of the anti-Larma faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti.

Eight members of the Santu Group accompanied the army, eyewitnesses said.

“They were dressed in army fatigues and were carrying automatic weapons,” an NGO worker told chtnews.com quoting villagers.

“The JSS men also made announcements in Chakma language through a hand mike.” They urged their rival faction to surrender.” he added.

“If you come and give yourselves up, we will find you jobs.” the announcement said.

The army and the JSS men beat up Sharat Kumar Chakma’s two sons -- Priti Purno Chakma (45) and Kironmoy Chakma (32) — accusing them of being sympathizers of anti-Santu faction of the JSS.

The JSS men also ransacked the house of Kalo Baran Chakma (35) in the village of Edho Khul Chara under Mubachari area.

The soldiers and the JSS men left the area around noon.

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## **Decision to withdraw Kaptai Brigade an eyewash: UPDF**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 89/2009, July 30, 2009*

**The United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) has termed as eyewash the government announcement to pull back Kaptai Brigade, and demanded a complete withdrawal of the army from the Chittagong Hill Tracts.**

Talking to the Daily Star, UPDF Khagrachari Unit leader Rina Dewan said “the government is pulling out the camps and forces, which are not required any more. It is not being done as part of the implementation process of the accord.”

Commenting on the government decision to pull back one brigade of troops from CHT, an independent observer said if

the decision was “made after analysing the law and order” of the area, the government should have withdrawn troops from all other parts of the CHT as well or at least given first priority to Khagrachari district because the law and order situation in this district is much better than any other parts of the CHT.

“But obviously law and order was not in the mind of the government while taking the decision,” he said adding that the question of protecting the illegal settlers was the prime consideration for the government.

He said the government has decided to pull out troops from the Kaptai brigade because there are no illegal settlers in that area, and hence troops are no longer required there.

However, he hailed the troop withdrawal decision of the government, and said the real challenge for the government was to pull out from other parts of the CHT as well.

Commenting on Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain’s suggestion that “regular law enforcement agencies will have to keep vigil on the activities of United People’s Democratic Front (UPDF)” as reported in the The Daily Star, he said in its manifesto the UPDF has clearly stated that it will try to achieve its goal through peaceful and democratic means.

“It is not clear what he (M Sakhawat Hossain) has meant by the words “keep vigil” and why a democratic organisation like UPDF should be meted out such discriminatory measures.” he added.

He further said the army is a threat to peace and democracy in the CHT. “The army is violating the democratic rights of the Jumma people. They are harassing and torturing innocent villagers, raiding and searching houses in the dead of night and instigating the settlers to grab lands from the Jumma people.”

“There will be no peace in the CHT until and unless a complete withdrawal of troops takes place.” he commented.

## Jumma girl raped by Grameen Bank staff

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 90/2009, July 31, 2009

**A physically challenged Jumma girl has been raped by a Grameen Bank staff in Dighinala, Khagrachari, reports say. She has been admitted to Khagrachari Sadar Hospital with injuries.**

The incident occurred at around 3:30pm today when Nazrul, a Grameen Bank staff, found Meena Chakma, 20, alone at home in the village of Dighir Par in Boradom. He went there to collect installments on loans payable by her parents to the Grameen Bank.

It is learnt that Meena’s parents Sunil Kanti Chakma and Anita Chakma took a small loan from the Grammen Bank couples of months ago.

As an installment on the loan became due, Nazrul, a field level staff of the Bank, went their house to collect it. But Meena’s parents were busy planting paddy in the field.

He raped her when he found none except Meena in the house, and then ran away.

Meena is physically challenged; she cannot walk because she has got her spinal cord broken.

Hill Women’s Federation president Sonali Chakma, Hill Student’s Council president Ricoh Chakma and Democratic Youth Forum General Secretary Mithun Chakma condemned

the rape of Meena Chakma and demanded immediate arrest of Nazrul.

They also demanded that the Grammen Bank stop its micro credit program in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

“The so-called micro credit program is doing much harm to the Jumma people.” Sonali Chakma said, adding it is a conspiracy to destroy the Jumma peasants by burdening them with loans and interests.

Mithun Chakma said “The Jummas lived without micro credit in the past and they will do so in the future; so they don’t need Shylocks like Grameen Bank.”

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## **HWF protests rape of Meena Chakma**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 91/2009, August 1, 2009*

**The Hill Women’s Federation and Hill Student’s Council held rallies in Dighinala and Khagrachari today, Saturday, protesting against the rape of Meena Chakma by a Grameen Bank staff. (Meena Chakma’s photo attached)**

In Dighinala, where the incident took place, the rally was held at Sadar Station at noon. It was addressed by Alo Jibon Chakma, General Secretary, PCP Dighinala Unit and Dipon Chakma, a member of Democratic Youth Forum.

The Khagrachari rally was held at Mukto Moncha in the town and was attended by 200 people, mostly women.

HWF leaders Konica Dewan, Rina Dewan and Juthika Chakma and PCP leader Subir Chakma addressed the rally.

The speakers condemned the rape of Meena Chakma and urged the government to bring the culprit to justice.

Ms Rina Dewan issued a 15-day ultimatum for the government to arrest Nazrul, the rapist.

The rally was preceded by a procession which took off from Upazila ground.

Meena Chakma, 20, a physically challenged person, was raped by Nazrul, a Grameen Bank staff, at her home in the village of Dighir Par in Boradom on Friday, July 31.

Hill Women’s Federation president Sonali Chakma, Hill Student’s Council president Ricoh Chakma and Democratic Youth Forum General Secretary Mithun Chakma condemned the incident and demanded immediate arrest of Nazrul.

They also demanded that the Grammen Bank stop its micro credit program in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

“The so-called micro credit program is doing much harm to the Jumma people.” Sonali Chakma said, adding it is a conspiracy to destroy the Jumma peasants by burdening them with loans and interests.

Mithun Chakma said “The Jummas lived without micro credit in the past and they will do so in the future; so they don’t need the modern Shylocks like Grameen Bank.”

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## **DYF demands complete troop pull out**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 92/2009, August 2, 2009*

**“Only a complete pull-out of troops from the Chittagong Hill Tracts can bring peace and stability in the area”.**

This was stated by Mithun Chakma, General Secretary of the Democratic Youth Forum, while addressing as chief guest at a conference of its activists in Balaghata of southern CHT of Bandarban on 1 August.

Mithun Chakma said although the ultra rightist elements are raising a hue and cry over the government decision to pull back one army brigade out of five deployed in CHT, this is only a meagre step compared to the demands of the Jumma people.

“There will be no genuine peace unless there is a complete pull out of troops from the CHT who are being used as a tool of ethnic cleansing against, and of maintaining domination over, the Jumma people,” he added.

He also criticized the army for its role in instigating the settlers to grab land from the Jumma people.

Presided by Bikram Tonchongya, the conference was also addressed by UPDF Bandarban coordinator, Choton Kanti Tonchongya and DYF Organising Secretary Michael Chakma.

Choton Kanti said the Jumma people have been pushed to the wall long ago. “There is no other alternative than to fight back. We cannot sit idle when our lands are being taken away by the illegal settlers.” he added.

He urged the government to stop the process of acquiring 7570 acres of land belonging to the Murung nationality in Ruma.

“The ongoing attempt of the army to uproot thousands of Murung families in the name of expansion of Ruma garrison

must be stopped” he said, adding: “We will not accept such gross injustices lying down any more.”

Michael Chakma said the entire government and state apparatus is biased against the Jummas. “The government is only serving the interest of the outsiders,” he added.

He termed the partial troop withdrawal announcement as eyewash and demanded that the government pull back the entire troops from the CHT.

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## **JSS men kidnap UPDF supporter in Rangamati**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 93/2009, August 4, 2009*

**The Santu Larma loyalists kidnapped Shankar Chakma, a supporter of the United People’s Democratic Front (UPDF), from Rangamati stadium on 30 July.**

The 22-year-old went there to watch a football match. The incident occurred at around 5pm when he was preparing to return home after the end of the match.

A group of PCJSS men led by Banchi Chakma, president of Ghagra Unit of Santu Larma-backed PCP, abducted him at gun point.

The kidnappers demanded a sum of Taka 300,000 from his parents as a precondition for his release. However, they lowered the sum to Taka 250,000 later on, it is learnt.

The abductors did not release him till yesterday, 3 August. Mr. Chakma is a staunch supporter of the UPDF. His father’s name is Tusher Kanti Chakma and he is a resident of village Moghaichari Joutha Khamar, Kawkhali, Rangamati.

## **Terrorists shut HWF office in Lakshmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 94/2009, August 5, 2009*

**A group of terrorists today locked the office of the Hill Women's Federation in Lakshmichari after kicking its members out.**

HWF General Secretary Konica Dewan alleged that at around 1:30pm 5 – 7 club-wielding terrorists led by Russel and Sadhan went to the office of the Lakshmichari Unit of the HWF, forced HWF members out and locked the office.

“The terrorists identified themselves as members of the ruling Awami League,” she said adding that “they also assaulted Madri Chakma when she refused to go out of the office.”

Besides Madri Chakma, other HWF members present there were Neepa Chakma, Bobita Chakma, Rina Chakma and Sadhana Chakma.

Before this incident, at about 10:30am the Officer-in-charge of Lakshmichari police station, Md. Belayet Hossain visited the office and ordered them to shut down the office.

“The OC said he was merely conveying the order of the UNO”. Konica told chtnews.com from Khagrachari.

But HWF refused to shut down their office and asked the OC to come up with a formal legal order for it.

The HWF Lakshmichari Unit had reopened its office a couple of days ago and decided to organise a discussion on the plights of the Jumma women in the Chittagong Hill Tracts on 8 August.

Meanwhile, reports said HWF contacted Jotindra Lal Tripura MP and apprised him of the incident.

Mr. Tripura disowned the terrorists and is reported to have ordered their immediate arrest. He is also reported to have ordered the local administration of Lakshmichari to provide necessary assistance to HWF in reopening its office.

## **Meena Chakma demands punishment for her rapist Nazrul Hassan**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 95/2009, August 5, 2009*

**Rape victim Meena Chakma and her family members at a press conference in Khagrachari today demanded exemplary punishment for rapist Nazrul Hassan, an employee of the Grameen Bank. (Photographs of the press conference attached)**

Held at Khagrachari press club at 10am, the press conference was co-sponsored by Hill Women's Federation.

HWF Khagrachari Unit president Rina Dewan read out a written text, while Meena Chakma, the victim, narrated the whole incident.

Her mother Anita Chakma and sister Rina Chakma were also present at the press conference.



When asked, Meena Chakma said she knew Nazrul and had seen him many times before the incident.

She also demanded that the Grameen Bank provides support and lifetime maintenance for her.

In the written statement Rina Dewan said a medical test conducted in Khagrachari hospital has found that Meena Chakma was raped.

She alleged that the police not only failed to arrest the culprit but also helped him to flee.

“The SI of Dighinala police station, Md. Farooq has been trying to force the family members of Meena Chakma to come to a compromise with Nazrul Hassan and settle the issue outside the court.” she said.

She put forward a 4-point demand which included punishment for rapist Nazrul Hassan, taking steps to stop such incidents in future, adequate compensation to the victim and a moratorium on micro credit programme in the CHT.

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## **PCP stages demo against attack on HWF office in Lakshmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 96/2009, August 6, 2009*

**The Hill Student’s Council Dhaka Unit staged a demonstration in Dhaka today in protest against attacks on HWF members in Lakshmichari, Khagrachari.**

At a rally held at Muktangon, PCP leader Thuikyo Ching Marma condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

He held the local army commander responsible for instigating some youths to obstruct the democratic activities of the HWF and shut down its office.

The rally was also addressed by Sumen Chakma and Pushpo Shekhor Chakma.

Before the rally, the PCP activists took out a procession.

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## **UPDF stages protest against kidnapping of its supporter in Rangamati**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 97/2009, August 8, 2009*

**The Kawkhali Unit of the United People’s Democratic Front on 6 August staged a demonstration, demanding the release of one its supporters kidnapped by JSS (Santu) terrorists from Rangamati stadium on 30 July.**

The local administration tried to obstruct the demonstration. The OC of Kawkhali police station delivered a verbal order to the organisers not to organise the planned rally and procession.

“The OC told us that we were not allowed to organise the demonstration; but when we asked him to show any written document forbidding our program, he failed to show us any.” Charan Sing Tonchongya, a UPDF member, told chtnews.com by mobile phone from Kawkhali.



He further said that the OC was merely conveying the order of the UNO. “However, we had duly informed the UNO of our program a day before our program, on 5 August.” he added.

When the procession took off at 2pm, the police tried to prevent it and this led to an altercation between them.

However, the demonstrators broke through the police barricade and paraded the Upazila town. Thereafter, they held a rally at Upazila Gate.

The rally was addressed by Pulok Chakma, Rupok Chakma, Charan Sing Tonchongya and Jubolika Chakma.

The speakers condemned the kidnapping of Shankar Chakma, a UPDF supporter, and demanded his immediate release.

They accused the local administration of colluding with the Santu faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti.

Charan Sing Tonchongya urged the government to investigate the corruption allegations against Santu Larma, who is also the chairman of the Regional Council.

Pulok Chakma urged Santu Larma to shun the politics of killing and kidnapping and join the struggle for the right to self-determination.

HWF leader Ms Jubolika Chakma condemned the police and local civil administration for their undemocratic behaviour and said “gone are the days when the Jumma people had to tolerate all sorts of injustices meted out to them.”

“Now the people have risen up, and therefore no amount of repression will be able to subdue our struggle.” she asserted.

She demanded of the government to take immediate steps to rescue Shankar Chakma.

“The army and the government always maintain double standards.” she alleged, adding “when any Bengali people are kidnapped the army and the civil administration immediately throw themselves into action; but in the case of a Jumma they don’t even raise a finger.”

“This is such kind of communal and racist attitude of the government and the army which is contributing to the problems of the CHT.” she said.

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## **PCP, HWF and DYF holds joint meeting in Dighinala**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 98/2009, August 8, 2009*

**In a joint meeting of the PCP, HWF and DYF in Dighinala on Friday, yesterday, the speakers urged for a complete pull-out of the troops from the Chittagong Hill Tracts.**

Presided over by Remin Chakma, convenor of Dighinala Branch of the Democratic Youth Forum, the meeting also addressed by Mithun Chakma, Convenor of the DYF’s Central Council Convening Committee, Hill Student’s Council (PCP) president Ricoh Chakma, Rupali Chakma, leader of Hill Women’s Federation Dighinala branch, Milan Chakma, convenor of PCP Dighinala Branch, Dipan Chakma and Alo Jiban Chakma.

The speakers said peace cannot be established unless there is a complete withdrawal of the army from CHT.

“Partial troops pull out is welcome, but we will not accept anything other than a complete pull-out of the troops who are the constant source of insecurity for the Jumma people in the CHT.” said Mithun Chakma.

He also urged the government to accord constitutional recognition to the age-old customary land laws of the Jumma people and to return all the lands grabbed from them.

“The settlers have taken away hundreds of acres of land from the Jumma people during the military-backed emergency rule alone.” he said and urged the government to prove its sincerity by returning these lands to their rightful owners.

Ricoh Chakma condemned the rape of Meena Chakma and demanded of the government to bring Grameen Bank employee Nazrul Hassan, the culprit, to justice.

He also urged the government and the money –lending NGOs to put a moratorium on micro credit in CHT.

“Micro credit is not beneficial to the Jumma people and hence it must be stopped.” he said.

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## **Freshers’ reception held in Naniachar College**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 99/2009, August 8, 2009*

**The Hill Students’ Council held a freshers’ reception in Naniachar College on 6 July, with Binoyon Chakma, president of PCP Naniachar Branch, in the chair.**

Upali Chakma, a first year student, read out an address of honour, while Tonni Chakma received a bunch of flowers from Ricoh Chakma on behalf of the fresher students.

Bablu Chakma, vice president of Naniachar PCP, gave an introductory speech.

Among others who spoke were Bilash Chakma, president of PCP Naniachar Branch, Ratan Chakma, president of PCP Khagrachari Branch, Ricoh Chakma and Mithun Chakma.

The function was conducted by Tapu Moni Chakma, General Secretary of PCP Naniachar College Unit.

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## **Attack on settlers in Panchari a hoax**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 100/2009, August 8, 2009*

**The rumour of an attack on Bengali settlers by Jumma people in Panchari has turned out to be a hoax.**

On Friday morning, 7 August, rumours spread that the Jumma people attacked a settler village in Shantila, destroyed their houses and cut away their trees.

This immediately set the Panchari administration into motion. Upazila chairman Sorbottam Chakma and UNO Md. Abdul Kader Sheikh rushed to the spot along with a huge contingent of police force.

They found over one hundred settlers and a few journalists gathered at Shantila.

The so-called Sama Odhikar leaders Habib Daktar, Md. Bahar Mian, Shaheen and Atikur Rahman brought a number of false allegations against the Jumma people.

However, after speaking with the people in the area, the UNO, the Upazila chairman and Shantila camp commander Md. Hamidul Islam confirmed that no such attacks had ever taken place.

After this, the UNO ordered the Sama Odhikar leaders to get away from his presence and warned them not to provoke communal troubles.

The Sama Odhikar Andolon, Bangali Chattra Parishad (Bengali Student's Council) and other ultra-communal organisations of the settlers have stepped up their vicious communal propaganda campaign since the government announced on 29 July that it would pull out one brigade of Bangladesh Army soldiers from Chittagong Hill Tracts.

These communal outfits are patronized by the army and are used as a weapon to counter the democratic struggle of the Jumma people by fomenting communal tension between the settlers and the Jumma people.

On 15 July, an attempt was made to launch a communal attack on Modon Karbari Para in Panchari. Here the settlers uprooted a few young teak plants and cut down redundant plantains planted on lands they had grabbed from the Jumma people, and then lodged a complaint to the local administration that these were the work of the Jummas.

But the attempt failed when the local administration made a swift intervention. The UNO and the Upazila chairman immediately rushed to the area and ordered the settlers to clam down.

Another team of the local administration is scheduled to visit the area to conduct further investigation on the matter today.

Shantila and West Modon Karbari Para villages belong to the Jumma people, locals say. "These two villages, like all other cluster villages of the settlers, were once inhabited by the Jumma people" they claim.

According to them, in 1981 – 82, the settlers occupied these two villages after driving away the Jumma villagers with the help of the army.

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## **JSS leader Chandra Shekhor Chakma dies**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 101/2009, August 9, 2009*

**The General Secretary of the Jana Samhati Samiti, Mr. Chandra Shekhor Chakma has died in Khagrachari, party sources say.**

Mr. Chakma complained of chest pain after attending a rally marking the World Indigenous Day in Khagrachari town today.

He died on the way when he was being taken to the hospital at 4:15pm.

The United People's Democratic Front expressed deep shock at his death.

Mr. Chakma was one of the founder members of the Jana Samhati Samiti and a veteran guerrilla leader.

He was trice elected General Secretary of the Party, and was known for his simplicity, modesty and political acumen.

However, he fell from the grace of Santu Larma during the last party congress in 2006 when he, in an unusually bold manner, criticized him for his involvement in corruption and his undemocratic way of running party affairs.

Mr. Larma never took his criticism kindly and a power struggle ensued between the two. Eventually, Mr. Larma was able to get the support of the most of the delegates present at the congress and to keep the important posts to his henchmen.

Mr. Chandra Shekhor Chakma was elected to the central committee but without any portfolio.

Although Mr. Larma somehow managed to survive, the rift of the party widened with the time passed.

Aside Mr. Chandra Shekhor Chakma, many other JSS stalwarts fell out with Mr. Larma over the same issues and either deserted him or remained inactive in the party.

Among them are Mr. Rupayan Dewan, Mr. Sudhadindu Khisha, Mr. Tatindra Lal Chakma Pele and Advocate Shaktiman Chakma.

In February last, the hired goons of Santu Larma made an attempt to assassinate him in Rangamati town. He was shot point blank and seriously wounded.

But this did not stop his criticism of Santu Larma, and in May, he published a four-page leaflet, openly criticizing Larma and exposing his corrupt practices.

Mr. Chakma left behind his wife Dipti Chakma and two sons, Alen Chakma and Pratibhash Chakma.

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## **UPDF supporter arrested by police in Ghagra**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 102/2009, August 10, 2009*

## **The police have arrested a supporter of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) in Ghagra.**

Sources said UPDF supporter Ratan Chakma, 32, was arrested from Nilomba's shop at Jonumachara at around 11am today.

He is a resident of the village of Chelachara in Ghagra, Rangamati. His father's name is Nua Chan Chakma.

Mr. Chakma is an ardent supporter of the UPDF and played an important role in the opening of the UPDF office in Ghagra bazaar.

Many believed that local members of the ruling Awami League might have colluded with the police in arresting him.

He has been falsely charged with robbery and possession of illegal drugs.

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## **UPDF opens office at Betbunia as OC tries to prevent it**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 103/2009, August 13, 2009*

## **The United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) opened a branch office at Betbunia under Kaokhali Upazila of Rangamati district yesterday, 12 August.**

A discussion was held at the office premises on the occasion. Presided over by Ripon Chakma, UPDF organiser in Kaokhali, the discussion was also addressed among others by Thuiko Ching Marma, Rina Dewan and Apruchi Marma.

The office was inaugurated by Ruisha Aung Karbari, head of the village of Kochupara, at 1pm, while Monchapruue Marma, head of Baro Amchari village, and Mong Paila Marma, ex-

member of Kalampati Union (Ward No. 5) gave solidarity speech.

Mr. Ruisha Aung Karbai thanked the UPDF for opening an office at Betbunia and expressed hope that it would be able to raise consciousness among the people of the area about their fundamental rights and their role in the fight to achieve these rights.

As the discussion drew to a close and some of the participants left the office, a group of army personnel all on a sudden appeared there in a threatening manner, pointing their guns at the participants.

The army looked for Md. Bodiul Alam, the owner of the house that UPDF rented to house its Betbunia unit office.

Meanwhile, at Godapar camp on Chittagong – Rangamati road, the army halted a jeep carrying a group of PCP, DYF and HWF activists back to Khagrachari.

The army interrogated them about a few posters they found in the jeep. However, they released the activists a few minutes later.

#### **Police threatens to arrest the owner of the house**

The UPDF at first leased a house from Md. Malek (70) for the office. In July, a deed was duly signed between the parties to that effect.

However, on 9 August, the OC of Kaokhali police station summoned Mr. Malek to his office, rebuked him for leasing his house to the UPDF and threatened to arrest him. He gave him two options: either to revoke the deal or to give him (OC) Taka 20,000 in bribes.

Again on 11 August, the OC called Malek to his office and asked him to meet either of the two options by the morning of 12 August.

Against this backdrop, the UPDF hurriedly rented a house from Bodi Alam and launched its office.

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## **HWF holds discussion on women rights in Lakshmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 104/2009, August 13, 2009*

**The Hill Women’s Federation on 10 August organised a discussion in Lakshmichari with the slogan “Take part in the struggle for full-autonomy, ensure the rights of the women”.**

Held at the office premises of Lakshmichari Union Council, the discussion was presided over by HWF president Sonali Chakma.

Konika Dewan, General Secretary of the HWF, presented the key note address.

Abdul Wahid, owner of a progressive publishing house “Joban”, and Amir Abbas Tapu, member secretary of Jatiya Mukti Council Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts Chapter, also took part in the discussion as speakers.

Abdul Wahid said in a male-dominated society women are deprived of many rights. He stressed the importance of recognising the rights of the Jumma women in traditional customs.

Amir Abbas Tapu said in the Chittagong Hill Tracts women are suppressed in various ways. “The Jumma women are oppressed by both their male partners in a male dominated society and by various state forces” he added.

Sonali Chakma said women are neglected in our society and they are deprived of their due rights.

“Jumma women are most vulnerable to military repression in the CHT; we have to think twice before speaking about women rights because there are instances of Jumma women being assaulted for raising women issues.” she added.

She said there are daily reports of incidents of rape or repression of women in the newspapers.

On the question of representation, she said Jumma women do not have proper representation in their social, political, administrative and state institutions.

She urged all to take part in the full autonomy struggle in order to speed up the movement for establishing women rights in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and in the whole of Bangladesh.

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## **UPDF will not accept replacement of army camps with police camps – Ujjal Smriti Chakma**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 105/2009, August 14, 2009*

**UPDF leader Ujjal Smriti Chakma said his party will not accept the government decision to set up police camps to replace the withdrawn army camps.**

Mr. Chakma said this when asked to comment on a news article published in the Samakal, a national Bengali daily, today in which it was reported that the government will set up police camps on lands vacated by the army.

Terming the said decision as “contradictory”, Ujjal said “the government has been consistently assuring us that there will be no law and order problems after the withdrawal of the army.”

“So, the legitimate question is: if there is no break down of law and order situation, then what is the need of setting up police camps?” he asked.

He further said “the decision to replace the army camps with police camps only gives credence to our claim that the government announcement of withdrawing one army brigade is purely an eyewash.”

“It also indicates that the government is not willing to end its ultra-Bengali nationalist domination over the Jumma people” he added.

He regretted that the government has succumbed to the pressure of the communal forces like the so-called Sama Odhikar Andolon, Parbottyo Gono Parishad and Bengali Chattra Parishad – all backed by a vested quarter in the army.

Mr. Chakma reiterated their demand for a complete withdrawal of the army from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and said “there can be no peace as long as the army remains in the CHT.”

He said it was also imperative that the government began a rehabilitation programme for the Bengali settlers outside the CHT.

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## Posters about CHTNF in Bandarban and Khagrachari

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 106/2009, August 17, 2009*

**There have been hand-written posters put up in various places in Bandarban and Khagrachari towns saying that the so-called CHTNF (Chittagong Hill Tracts National Forum) is the creation of the army. Photo attached.**

Some of the posters branded the CHTNF as the “new version of the Mukosh Bahini” or Masked force created and patronized by the army in 1995 – 1996.

Others carried slogans such as “stop human rights violations in CHT”, “we demand full withdrawal of troops from the CHT” and “put an end to army rule in CHT” etc.

The posters have been put up in the name of Democratic Youth Forum.

The posters created sensation in both the towns.

In Bandarban, a group of army personnel dressed in civvies went to the house of Rupon Marma, General Secretary of the PCP Bandarban District Unit, in Jadipara yesterday apparently to arrest him.

Mr. Marma was not available at home at the time.

The army men interrogated her mother about him and then left.

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## UPDF supporter beaten in Rangamati

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 107/2009, August 19, 2009*

**A supporter of the United People’s Democratic Front (UPDF) was beaten up by Jana Samhati Samiti (Santu group) members in Rangamati town on Monday, 17 August.**

Mr. Bidit Dewan (36 years), a businessman, was on his way to meet his business partner at around 5pm when the incident took place.

A gang of JSS (Santu) members led by Pohel Chakma halted him at T&T area and roughed him up. They kicked and punched him, and hit him with sticks.

He was admitted to Rangamati Sadar Hospital with serious injuries.

Mr. Dewan is a supporter of the UPDF and lives in Kalindipur of Rangamati town. He ran for the post of Upazila Chairman of Barkal in the last Upazila elections held in January.

One of his neighbours said “this is the second time he has been beaten up by the Santu’s gang members.”

Mr. Dewan was first beaten up before the last parliamentary elections in December last year, he added.

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## Settlers attempt to create riot in Panchari over death of a woman

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 108/2009, August 19, 2009*

**Tensions have been mounting in Panchari as the settlers are trying to use the death of a settler woman to launch attacks on Jumma villages, reports from the area say.**

Ms Nasima Begum (26 years) of Islampur died yesterday in mysterious conditions. Her body was recovered near the paddy



field of Mohammad Awal. Her husband's name is Mohammad Khokan.

Some of the settlers allege that Nasima went to the jungle of Wadokchara adjacent to Horigopal Para, a village of the Jumma people, to collect firewood. As she did not return home till the evening, the settlers began to search for her, and eventually found her lying dead near the paddy field of Awal which is situated near a Jumma village.

Afterwards, the settlers tried to whip up communal sentiment among their fellow brothers by deliberately propagating that she was killed by the Jumma people.

At around 9pm the agitated settlers of Islampur tried to launch a communal attack on Horigopal para village, but the attempt failed as the police intervened in a swift manner.

Panchari Upazila chairman Sorbottam Chakma told [chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com) that he had tried to contact the local army zone headquarters by phone to seek their help to prevent the settlers, but none responded.

He further said that fears and anxiety had been prevailing among Jumma villagers of Horigopal para last night, and many, specially the women and children, had fled the village fearing settler attacks.

Independent sources said relations between Nasima and her husband had become sore and acrimonious over the last few months, and many believe that she might have been killed in a planned way by taking advantage of the charged political situation.

Her dead body has been taken to Khagrachari for autopsy. However, the settlers staged demonstrations in Panchari today against her killing.

A state of fear and anxiety is now prevailing among the Jumma inhabitants in the area.

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## Conspiracy to foil partial army pull out

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 109/2009, August 20, 2009*

**There is a deep conspiracy to frustrate the government move to withdraw some of the temporary army camps from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, observers say.**

“A vested interest group inside the army and the settlers is involved in the conspiracy” said Ujjal Smriti Chakma, a central leader of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF).

According to him, the so-called settler leaders and the army made huge profits by plundering food rations provided to the settlers by the government.

The Samakal, a national Bengali daily, ran a report by Samir Kumar Dey and Sotrong Chakma in its 19 August issue on development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

They said “the army is allocated thousands of tons of food grains and huge amounts of money under ‘Pacification Programme’ and ‘Operation Uttoron’; but the army don't account for it.”

“Sama Odhikar Andolon leader Jahangir Kamal said the people of the country think that these money and food grains are provided to the Bengalee people in the Hill Tracts, but in reality the Bengalees don't get anything. He said that there must be accountability for such food grains and funds provided to the army. He thinks that this was one of the factors

contributing to the misunderstanding between the Pahari and Bengalee people.”

A section of the settlers have been opposing the troop withdrawal decision openly and a section of the army providing them support secretly.

“They are opposing the withdrawal of the army because that would mean that they will no longer be able to plunder public funds in the name of spurious programmes” commented Ujjal Smriti Chakma.

The interest groups are trying to foil the withdrawal process by destabilizing the situation in the CHT.

It has been learnt that a zone commander in Khagrachari district held a number of secret meetings with their Jumma agents in Manikchari and formed the so-called Chittagong Hill Tracts National Forum (CHTNF). The recent kidnappings in Bandarban might have been committed this group. There should be a serious investigation to ascertain the identity and motive of the kidnappers.

On 15 August, a Bengali settler named Shohel was murdered, and his dead body was found the following day near Sorbeshwar Para, a bordering Jumma village in Feni under Khagrachari district. A section of the settlers tried to create communal tensions by blaming the Jummas for his dead. But the police and the civil administration intervened immediately and arrested Taher, the perpetrator.

On 18 August, Nasima Begum’s dead body was found in the paddy field of Awal near a Jumma village in Panchari. Some settlers claim that she was killed by the Jumma villagers of Horigopal Para when she went to the jungle to collect firewood.

The Jummas vehemently denied the allegation and termed it a conspiracy to create communal tension and thereby justify their opposition to troop withdrawal.

One villager said it is unusual and unbelievable that Nasima Begum should go deep into the jungle all by herself.

“Secondly, it is also unthinkable that the Jummas should let her dead body lying in a paddy field or anywhere in the open if they had committed the crime.” he added.

Nonetheless, some settlers staged demonstrations in Panchari chanting communal slogans and are scheduled to observe hartal today.

“The vested interest groups desperately need issues to justify the presence of the army in CHT; and since there is none, they are creating issues artificially. The killing of Nasima is one of such issues, and it is horrible and disgusting.” Ujjal said.

“The government should immediately investigate her killing and bring the perpetrators to justice.”

He demanded that the government must take stern actions against those who are creating unrest and murdering innocent people to create communal tension and thereby justify their opposition to the decision of troop withdrawal.

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## **Jumma woman killed by settlers in Sindukchari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 110/2009, September 07, 2009*

**A group of settlers chopped to death a Jumma woman in Sindukchari under Mahalchari Upazila of Khagrachari district on 3 September.**

Sources said a group of 4 - 5 settlers led by Noab Ali of Sindukchari village went to the house of Ms Poney Mala Tripura (age 50) in the village of Chotomura Para and chopped her to death. The incident occurred at around 9:30 PM. Her husband's name is Bibishon Tripura.

Her dead body was taken to Khagrachari for autopsy. A case has been filed with Guimara police station against 4 settlers and a Jumma in connection with the killing.

The accused have been identified as Noab Ali, Rustam Ali, Khairul Islam, Aksar Gaji and Shola Ana Tripura. No one has been arrested till the writing of this report.

Ms Poney Mala Tripura might have been killed over a land dispute with Noab Ali, one of the accused, who has been trying to capture her land. Before the incident, he had been continuously giving threats to her, it has been learnt.

In a village arbitration, it was decided that the disputed land belongs to Ms Tripura. However, Noab Ali refused to accept the verdict.

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**PCP President, 21 others arrested by army, released later**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 111/2009, September 07, 2009*

**The Hill Students Council President Ricoh Chakma was arrested along with 21 others including 5 women in Panchari under Khagrachari district on 4 September.**

Army personnel from Panchari zone made the arrest at 3:15pm when PCP leaders were returning from a meeting organised by Democratic Youth Forum. They were arrested from a tea shop at Taltola.

“The army came in two jeeps and caught us without assigning any reason.” Ricoh Chakma told chtnews.com.

The army gave no reason for the arrest and took them to the Panchari police station. However, they were released after midnight.

Among the arrested were PCP Khagrachari district unit president Ratan Chakma, Chairman (in-charge) of Chengi Union Council Mr. Nabo Kumar Chakma, Chengi UP member Khagendra Tripura and businessman Hirohito Chakma.

The arrested also included 5 Jumma women who were returning from a meeting of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF). All other arrested excepting the PCP members had also taken part in the same meeting.

The army beat up nine of the arrested including Tripti Dhan Chakma, Tinku Chakma and Kamleshwar Chakma.

“We don't know why they have been tortured. None of them has committed any crime and the army personnel also did not ask them anything; they just beat them up.” Ricoh Chakma said.

“The army tied Tripti Dhan and Tinku to a wooden pole and beat them mercilessly”, he added.

He further said the army released them in phases: the five women were released first from Panchari bazaar after forcing them to sign a bond.

All others were released after midnight.  
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## **UPDF Dighinala Unit office launched**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 112/2009, September 07, 2009*

**The United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) has opened its Dighinala Upazila Unit office at Master Para of Dighinala town.**

The office was launched on 2 September at a ceremony held at the office premises. In his inaugural address Mr. Uday Chakma, an organiser of Dighinala Unit of the party, urged the government to demilitarize the CHT and restore the customary land rights of the Jumma people.

Commenting on the government announcement of partial troop withdrawal, he said “it is an eyewash; the government made this announcement to hoodwink the international community.”

He said without a complete withdrawal of the army and an end to “operation Uttoran” which gives the army sweeping powers in the CHT, there will be no peace.

Mr. Chakma alleged that the present Awami League government had been following in the footsteps of the previous BNP government and unleashed repressive measures against the UPDF.

“The present government does not represent any change when it comes to the political freedom in CHT. The government is hell bent on crushing our movement by arresting and intimidating our members and supporters.” he said.

“But we will defeat the design of the government with the support of the people.” he added.

The inauguration meeting was also attended among others by Choyon Chakma, a distinguished elder; Chirot Joti Chakma, former chairman of Boalkhali Union; Nagor Chakma and Iruk Chakma, members of CHT Bus Owners Association; Joti Bikash Chakma, a Jumma businessman; and Dayal Kumar Chakma, a service holder.  
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## **Protest against murder of Poney Mala Tripura held**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 113/2009, September 08, 2009*

**Jumma organisations held a protest demonstration against continuing military repression and the killing of Ms Poney Mala Tripura in Khagrachari.**

The Hill Students’ Council, Hill Women’s Federation and Democratic Youth Forum jointly organised the demonstration on Saturday, 5 September.

They brought out a procession from Swanirbhor bazaar and paraded city streets chanting slogans before holding a protest rally at Chengi Square.

Hundreds of members and supporters of these front organisations of the UPDF joined the demonstration.

Presided over by Arpan Chakma, General Secretary of PCP Khagrachari District Unit, the rally was also addressed by Remin Chakma, central member of DYF, and Konika Dewan, General Secretary (in charge) of Hill Women’s Federation.

The speakers condemned the arrest of PCP president Ricoh Chakma and others in Panchari and the killing of Poney Mala Tripura in Sindukchari.

Arpan Chakma said “Ricoh Chakma went to Panchari on a speaking tour to persuade Jumma youths and students to take part in a joint conference of the Khagrachari District Units of the three organisations to be held on 10 September. But the army detained him along with many others and harassed him.”

Mr. Chakma condemned the undemocratic and fascist behaviour of the army and demanded their complete withdrawal from the CHT.

“The army is the perpetual threat to peace, democracy and development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and therefore they must go back to their barracks in the plain land.” he said.

He also urged the government to bring the killer of Poney Mala Tripura to justice. “It is regrettable that the police have done nothing to arrest Noab Ali and his accomplices” he said and demanded that the government must take measures to ensure that Poney Mala Tripura’s lands cannot be captured illegally by the settlers.

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## **Army arrests two innocent villagers in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 114/2009, September 08, 2009

**Bangladesh military personnel from Joroppya Para camp under Naniachar zone arrested two innocent Jumma villagers in Laxmichari on Monday.**

Sources said on 6 September a group of army personnel from Joroppya Para camp went to Laxmichari zone and returned to their camp the next day, 7 September.

On their way back to their camp, the soldiers picked up the two Jummas from Simana Para and Dojor Para villages.

The arrested are Sadhan Chakma (22 years) s/o Forachan Chakma of Simana Para village and Noaram Chakma (20 years) s/o Rabi Chandra Chakma (Headman) of Dojor Para village.

They were taken to Bogachari army camp, sources said. The army gave no reason for their arrest. One of the arrested, Mr. Noaram Chakma, is a son of a headman or chief of a Mouza, which is composed of a number of villages.

Upon request from Rabi Chandra Chakma, father of arrested Noaram Chakma, Laxmichari Upazila chairman Remrachai Chowdhury contacted Laxmichari zone commander to inquire about the arrested Jummas today.

However, the zone commander Mr. Shariful Islam denied having arrested any one. He said the soldiers had destroyed hemp plants on their way back to the camp.

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## **Two settlers tortured for not agreeing to organise rally against army withdrawal**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 115/2009, September 09, 2009

**Bangladesh military personnel from Naniachar zone yesterday beat up two settler leaders in Naniachari under Rangamati district for refusing to help organise a rally**

### **against government decision to withdraw one brigade of troops from Chittagong Hill Tracts.**

The army had been putting pressure on Ayub Hossain, former chairman of Burighat Union, and Ansar Ali, an incumbent member of the same Union, to organise the rally in the name of Sama Odhikar Andolon, a platform of the Bengali settlers, which is backed the military.

However, the settler leaders consistently refused to take the diktat of the army, and this invited the anger of the army who summoned them to the camp and did the beating.

Even the Second-in-Command (2-IC) of Naniachar zone (1 Bir), Morshed Khan Pathan, took part in torturing them himself.

On the night of 8 September, the army also spread a rumour that the Jumma people had attacked Bengali settlers.

However, after investigation the settlers learnt that it was a hoax.

On 29 July, the Awami League government announced that it would pull out one brigade of troops from the CHT by September this year. In conformity with the said decision 16 army and para-military camps have been withdrawn so far.

However, the process of withdrawal has apparently been stalled in the face of opposition from the Bengali settlers.

It is now an open secret that the army is trying flat out to frustrate the pull out. It is not only giving full support to the settlers in their opposition to the government decision to withdraw troops, but also directly instigating them to resort to violence to thwart the withdrawal process.

Over the last four decades, the army has developed a vested interest in perpetuating their presence in the CHT.

According to a Samakal (Bengali daily) report, the army receives a huge amount of funds and food stuffs annually from the government under the so-called “Pacification Program” and “Operation Uttoron”.

They spend a tiny fraction of this amount and misappropriate the rest.

The army commanders also inflate their pockets by controlling the lucrative logging business in the CHT. No trucks load of logs can move out of the CHT without paying taxes to the army commanders.

If they are withdrawn, they will lose all these opportunities, and hence their opposition to the pull-out decision.

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### **Tensions mount over death of a settler in Marishya**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 116/2009, September 09, 2009*

#### **There have been reports of escalating tensions between the Jumma villagers and Bengali settlers over the death of a Bengali settler under mysterious circumstances.**

Sources said 4 – 5 days ago a Bengali settler was allegedly disappeared from Baghaichari in Rangamati district. Later, on 7 September, his dead body was found floating on the Kaptai lake water near Sijok Dore area.

The settlers tried to use his death as a pretext to fan communal tension and launch attacks on Jumma villages. They claimed that the Jummas were responsible for his death, but gave no evidence in their support.



The Jummas, on the other hand, denied the claim, saying a section of the settlers are engaged in a plot to launch communal attacks on them.

“These settlers might have killed him to create a pretest” one Jumma villager told chtnews.com by mobile phone from a hill top in Marishya.

However, as the telephone line was noisy, the name of deceased settler could not be heard clearly.

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### 30 Jumma villagers tortured by JSS

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 117/2009, September 10, 2009

**Armed members of the Jana Samhati Samiti (Santu group) tortured 30 Jumma villagers in Maghainpara under Rajstali Upazila in Rangamati district.**

The incident took place on 1 September, Tuesday. UPDF and independent sources said a group of armed members of the JSS (Santu) led by Sadhan Tanchangya and Bhagya Tanchangya raided Punorbashon Elaka (Rehabilitation area) No. 1, 2 and 3 and beat up the villagers en mass accusing them of supporting UPDF.

Even minor boys, women and teachers were not spared.

The JSS thugs also snatched away a mobile hand set from Ven. Pragga Bongshaw Bhikkhu of Milon Bihar in Maghainpara, and prevented the villagers from offering him mid-day meals (Seyong).

chtnews.com has obtained a list of the torture victims which we reproduce below:

No.	Name	Age	Father's Name / Husband's Name	Occupation
01	Tejendra Tanchangya	43	Brojo Kumar Tanchangya	Farming
02	Arjun Kumar Tanchangya	14	Tejendra Tanchangya	6th grade student, Titong Para High School
03	Shanti Kumar Tanchangya	26	Fukong Tanchangya	Farming
04	Bombeya Karbari (Village head)	45	Hegera Tanchangya	Farming
05	Amal Kanti Tanchangya	30	Kironto Tanchangya	Farming
06	Kironto Tanchangya	50	Late Rashikya Karbari	Farming
07	Kanta Lala Tanchangya	36	Brojo Kumar Tanchangya	Farming
08	Ratri Mohan Tanchangya	45	Bhokto Tanchangya	Farming
09	Jotin Tanchangya	14	Ratri Mohan Tanchangya	8th grade student
10	Rohin Kumar Tanchangya	37	Late Indra Mohan Tanchangya	Farming
11	Uday Bikash Tanchangya	42	Singha Ram Tanchangya	Farming
12	Chandan Tanchangya	13	Priya Tanchangya	6 <sup>th</sup> grade student
13	Khula Dhan Tanchangya	13	Roamuni Tanchangya	6 <sup>th</sup> grade student
14	Bacharam	35	Paati Mohan	Farming



	Tanchangya		Tanchangya	
15	Natun Joy Tanchangya	40	Laxmi Aung Tanchangya	Farming
16	Laxmi Aung Tanchangya	62	unknown	physically challenged
17	Dhappya Hulo Chakma	35	unknown	Farming
18	Paran Joy Tanchangya	35	Takko Mohan Tanchangya	Farming
19	Suro Moni Tanchangya	35	Rejendra Tanchangya	Farming
20	Bhat Hia Tanchangya	35	Nonokya Tanchangya	Farming
21	Mrs Nishati Tanchangya	35	Udoy Bikash Tanchangya	House wife
22	Rabi Chan Tanchangya	35	unknown	Farming
23	Anik Kumar Tanchangya	16	Rabi Dhan Tanchangya	
24	Rubel Tanchangya	14	Bombeya Karbari	7 <sup>th</sup> grade student
25	Tantu Tanchangya	23	Mullya Kumar Tanchangya	Farming
26	Noaram Tanchangya	23	Pati Mohan Tanchangya	Farming
27	Rabindra Tanchangya	50	Khulo Mohan Tanchangya	Farming
28	Nanekya Tanchangya	52	Late Gondi Aung Tanchangya	Farming
29	Upajoy Tanchangya	20	Suken Tanchangya	Farming
30	Aung Thoai Ching Marma of village Sayong-gong Karbari	35	Suni Aung Marma	Teacher, Shilchari Govt. Primary School.

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## UPDF supporter arrested in Kaokhali

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 118/2009, September 10, 2009

**The army last night arrested a supporter of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) in Kaokhali of Rangamati district.**

Soldiers from Kaokhali army camp raided the house of Atushi Marma (38 years) in the village of Bot-toli in the small hours and took him away. Bot-toli is approximately 7 miles north of Kaokhali town.

Mr. Marma is the president of pro-UPDF Bot-toli Village Committee and provides active support to the members of the party.

The army claims that a home-made gun has been found during a search in the hen house of Mr. Atushi Marma, but his family members denied this, saying it "was a pure lie".

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## UPDF's front organisations hold joint conference in Khagrachari: Demand complete withdrawal of troops

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 119/2009, September 10, 2009

**A joint conference of the Khagrachari district units of the Democratic Youth Forum, Hill Women's Federation and Hill Students' Council has demanded a complete withdrawal of Bangladesh Army troops from the Chittagong Hill Tracts. (Photo attached)**

An estimated 3,000 members and supporters of these three front organisations of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) took part in the conference held at Khagrachari Town Hall today.

Presided over by Rina Dewan, convenor of the Joint Conference Preparatory Committee, the conference was also addressed by Ujjal Smriti Chakma, member of UPDF central committee, Konika Dewan, General Secretary (in charge) of Hill Women's Federation, Mithun Chakma, DYF leader, and Ricoh Chakma, president of PCP.

Besides, Biddut Bhounik, member of Jatiyo Mukti Council Eastern Chapter – 3, Ashish Sharma, convenor, Biplobi Chattra Sangha (Revolutionary Students' Society), Mir Nixon, Joint Convenor, Bangladesh Students' Federation Chittagong Unit, and Prince Mahmud, Secretary of Lamppost, a progressive study circle also addressed the conference expressing solidarity with the just struggle of the Jumma people.

The conference passed a resolution moved by Ratan Chakma, Member Secretary of the Joint Conference Preparatory Committee. The participants approved it with thunderous applause and hoisting their fists.

UPDF leader Ujjal Smriti Chakma said the ruling elites have spread their tentacles of conspiracy to undermine the struggle of the Jumma people. "On the one hand, they are trying to gag the voices of the people by not allowing the news of our struggle and our demands to get into the print and electronic media, and on the other hand, they are launching a racist, communal and ultra-nationalist campaign in the most crudest form." he added.

Commenting on the decision of the CHT Land commission to conduct land survey in mid-October, he said if it is conducted

before a recognition to the customary land rights of the Jumma, it will further complicate the issue.

He urged the government not to conduct land surveys in the CHT until the customary land rights of the Jumma people are restored.

The speakers said despite the announcement of partial troop pullout, the Awami League government is in reality trying to perpetuate military occupation of the CHT.

"The army has created the so-called Chittagong Hill Tracts National Forum (CHTNF) to create anarchy in the area and thereby justify their continued presence in the CHT." they said.

The speakers called for the government to immediately demilitarize CHT, end military rule and concede to the just demand of full autonomy.

Remin Chakma, organiser of DYF, delivered a welcome address while Arpan Chakma, GS of PCP Khagrachari district unit conducted the conference.

After the conference, a huge procession paraded the main city streets of Khagrachari.

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## **Commander Shariful Islam again!**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 120/2009, September 11, 2009*

**The Khagrachari district units of the Democratic Youth Forum, Hill Women's Federation and Hill Students' Council held their joint conference yesterday at Khagrachari Town Hall.**

The conference was attended by an estimated 3,000 members and supporters who came in from different Upazilas in buses and jeeps. They met no obstacles on the way except in Guimara.

The Laxmichari zone commander Shariful Islam and his soldiers halted the jeeps carrying the participants of the conference at a place called Hatimura and searched their hand bags.

The commander was on his way to Guimara Brigade from Laxmichari. He held the participants there for one and a half hours in the name of search so that they reached the conference venue late.

Shariful asked Apruchi Marma, convenor of PCP Manikchari Unit -- who was leading the delegates -- who provided the funds for the conference and how they were collected.

He said “you are misguiding the youths and the school going children by talking about struggle and putting arms into their hands.”

He went on lecturing: “terrorism and extortion cannot be an ideal for any political party; you will join DYF from PCP and from DYF to UPDF. UPDF has one thousand armed cadres.”

He showed pictures of Rupali brand shoes on the screen of his mobile phone and said “UPDF ‘terrorists’ wear this footwear and practice extortion.”

When Apruchi refuted all these slanderous allegations, Shariful Islam took to a mean tactic of inciting communal division.

He asked Apruchi whether he is from Marma community. When he replied “yes”, Shariful said, cunningly: “in Chittagong Hill Tracts Marmas and Tripuras are deprived of

opportunities. The Marmas get only 3 percent of the opportunities, while the Chakmas enjoy all the privileges.”

He went on to say: “out of 31 reserved seats for Australian scholarships for higher education, the Marmas have only 1. Being a Marma, why you are engaged in the struggle?”

In reply, Apruchi told the commander that there is no problem between the Chakmas, Marmas and Tripuras; “it is you who are misguiding the common people by spreading false propaganda.” he said.

Broaching the subject of the settlers, the zone commander said “you are harassing the Bengali people and encroaching on their lands.”

Apruchi refuted this again, saying that it was the settlers who were grabbing Jumma people’s lands and evicting them from their homesteads.

“We are not against the settlers. Rather, on their behalf we are demanding for their honourable rehabilitation in the plain land” Apruchi said. “It is you who are using them as human shields and inciting them to communal violence to destabilize the CHT situation.”

Apruchi protested the way the commander halted their vehicles and said: “it is the job of the terrorists to halt vehicles and harass the passengers like this. You are acting like a terrorist.”

Apruchi gave Shariful a good dressing down, and after much protest the commander had to let them go.

Zone commander Shariful also halted other public vehicles coming from Laxmichari and Manikchari directions in front of Guimara Brigade and checked them.

Lest we forget! It is the same Shariful Islam who had tried to foil a rally organised jointly by Democratic Youth Forum and Boroitali Land Protection Committee in Manikchari on 10 July.

Again, this is the same army commander who held secret meetings with misguided Jumma youths in Manikchari and Laxmichari and persuaded them to join the so-called CHTNF (Chittagong Hill Tracts Nationalist Forum) created by the army in Bandarban.

The name of Shariful evokes terror in the hearts of the Jumma people. He reigns supreme in Laxmichari and Manikchari and terrorize the people.

## **HWF Khagrachari district committee formed**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 121/2009, September 12, 2009*

**The seventh council session of the Hill Women's Federation Khagrachari District Unit ended yesterday with a call to strengthen the struggle of the Jumma people for the right to self-determination.**

A 23-member committee has been formed at the end of the session held at Hill Star Club in Perachara. The councilors elected Riku Chakma as president, Madri Chakma as General Secretary and Swarna Chakma as Organising Secretary of the new committee.

HWF General Secretary Ms Konica Dewan and UPDF Khagrachari District Organiser Kalopriya Chakma also spoke at the council session, which was presided over by Rina Dewan, outgoing president of HWF Khagrachari District Unit.

## **BCP poster against UPDF and UNDP**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 122/2009, September 12, 2009*

**The Bangalee Chattra Parishad (BCP), an ultra-communal organisation of the settlers backed by the military, has put up posters against United People's Democratic Front and UNDP in Laxmichari.**

One of the posters reads: "Parbattya Banglee Chattra Parishad makes call: Down with UPDF and UNDP."

Another says: "Collaborators of UPDF, Beware!"

There is no report of such posters being put up in other parts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

A resident of Laxmichari town told chtnews.com on condition of anonymity that there was no presence of BCP in Laxmichari. He said "it (setting up of posters on walls) is the work of zone commander Shariful Islam."

"In fact, it is the soldiers who have put up the posters in the name of BCP." he added.

The army also tore down the posters put up by PCP-DYF-HWF announcing their joint conference of Khagrachari District Units.

## **UPDF supporter shot at, escapes unhurt**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 123/2009, September 13, 2009*

**The armed members of the Jana Samhati Samiti (Santu group) shot at a supporter of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) in an overnight raid in Rajstali under Rangamati district, however, he escaped unhurt.**

Sources said a group of JSS armed men surrounded the house of Ananta Bikash Tanchangya (37) in Rajstali bazaar in the small hours tonight, at 3:30am to be precise.

When his wife opened the door of the house, they JSS men asked her whether her husband was there.

She lied, fearing for his life. While she kept them talking at the door, Ananta ran away through the back door.

Other JSS men guarding nearby saw him and fired at him with their automatic weapons. However, he could escape unhurt and took refuge in the police station.

He is a staunch supporter of the UPDF. His father's name is late Nalini Tanchanya.

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## **JSS kills UPDF supporter in Belaichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 124/2009, September 13, 2009*

**A UPDF supporter kidnapped on 5 September by JSS gunmen has been found dead in Belaichari, Rangamati.**

According to sources, Borpeda Tanchangya (40), s/o Nunnop Tanchangya was kidnapped by Santu Larma loyalists led by Birottam Tanchanya from his home in the village of Futtachari under Jiptali Union.

Later, on 11 September, his mutilated dead body was found in a nearby jungle.

After the incident, the JSS men reportedly warned his relatives not to report it to anyone and suppress the facts.

In the last few weeks, members of the Jana Samhati Samiti loyal to Santu Larma, Chairman of the Regional Council, have stepped up armed activities in some areas of Rangamati district.

When asked about the recent violent activities of the JSS, Democratic Youth Forum (DYF) leader Mithun Chakma told chtnews.com, "It is an enigma as to why they should step up armed actions at a time when the government has announced partial pull out of the army from CHT."

"Is it to help the army by providing them pretexts to stall the process of withdrawal?" he asked.

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## **JSS (Santu) shoots at fish boat at Barkal**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 125/2009, September 13, 2009*

**The armed members of the Santu faction the Jana Samhati Samiti fired gun shots at a fish boat in Kattali area of Barkal under Rangamati district when their signal for the boat to halt was ignored.**

The incident occurred last night, at around 11:30pm. The JSS men fired from Ukchari Bhangamura. However, no one was hurt.

The fish boat was speeding through Kaptai Lake towards Longudu from Kaptai.

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## **Jumma girl raped in Sindukchari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 126/2009, September 14, 2009*

**A Jumma girl has been raped by a Bengali settler in Sindukchari under Mahalchari Upazila in Khagrachari district.**

Ms Noner Bala Tripura (19) of village Monajoy Karbari Para was raped by Md. Alamgir (20) s/o Altaf Munshi of village Sindukchari Muslim Para yesterday, Sunday.

The incident occurred at around 11:30am when she was carrying lunch for his father working at the *jum* field.

When she reached between Murapara and Muslimpara alone, Alamgir swooped on her, and after raping her, left the scene.

Jumma villagers became agitated when the news of her rape reached them. They put up road blocks and staged demonstrations in Sindukchari in protest and burned down a jeep, locally known as “Chander Gari”.

Today, at around 2pm, the army arrested two Jummas in connection with yesterday’s protest, and has kept them detained in Goriapara Army camp.

The arrested are Ushamong Marma (45) s/o Tingli Boidyo and Chaingkyo Marma (30) s/o Mragya Marma. They have been arrested from their homes in the village of Lichu Bagan under Sindukchari.

It is not known what charges have been brought against them.

The Hill Women’s Federation staged a demonstration in Khagrachari today demanding immediate arrest of rapist Alamgir.

A case has been filed with Guirama police station in connection with the rape incident, but the police have failed to arrest the culprit.

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## **New committee for PCP Khagrachari District Unit formed**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 127/2009, September 14, 2009*

**A 17-member committee for the Khagrachari District Unit of the Hill Students’ Council was formed at the end of a 2-day conference on 11 and 12 September.**

Held at Rega Club in Milonpur of Khagrachari town, the ninth PCP Khagrachari District conference was presided over by Ratan Chakma.

A 14-member subject committee, formed as per the provision of the PCP constitution, elected Ratan Chakma as President, Apruchi Marma as General Secretary and Umesh Chakma as Organising Secretary.

Later, the delegates unanimously approved of their election and of other members of the committee.

PCP central committee president Ricoh Chakma inaugurated the conference session as chief guest.

The closing session of the conference was addressed by Kalo Priya Chakma, organiser, UPDF Khagrachari District Unit and DYF leader Mithun Chakma, while Arpan Chakma conducted.

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## Two Jumma protesters released in Sindukchari

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 128/2009, September 14, 2009*

**The two Jumma villagers arrested today in Sindukchari in connection with yesterday's protest against the rape of Ms Noner Bala Tripura (19) have been released after torture, sources in Khagrachari and Lakshmichari confirmed.**

Mr Ushamong Marma (45) s/o Tingli Boidyo and Chaingkyo Marma (30) s/o Mragya Marma were arrested at 2pm from their homes in the village of Lichu Bagan under Sindukchari Union in Mahalchari Upazila, Khagrachari district.

There were taken to Goriapara Army camp and tortured. Later, at around 5:30pm, the army set them free, without framing any charges against them.

Meanwhile, parents of the rape victim said they did not admit Noner Bala Tripura to the hospital fearing reprisal from the settlers.

They cited the case of Poney Mala Tripura (age 50) who was murdered by a group of settlers in the same area on 3 September for protesting against settler attempts to grab her lands.

In Sindukchari, the Jummas have to live side by side with the settlers under constant fear of attacks and encroachment on their land.

The army and local civil administration are said to be biased in favor of the settlers, and the Jummas rarely get any justice against daily harassment and threats they receive from the settlers.

“It has become very difficult for us to live here. They (settlers) always harass us and threaten us to leave the village.” a Marma villager told chtnews.com on condition of anonymity for security reasons.

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## Kidnapped UPDF members released after paying ransom

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 129/2009, September 15, 2009*

**Two United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) members, kidnapped by armed gangs of the JSS (Santu group) from Rangamati town on September 2, was released on payment of a ransom of Taka 210,000.**

The UPDF members -- Shukra Sen Chakma (32) s/o Chitra Mohan Chakma of village Dhamaipara, Panchari under Jurachari Upazila and Laxmi Kumar Chakma 929) s/o Brisha Ketu Chakma of village Morongchari under Barkal Upazila – were released on September 13 from Rangapani, a stronghold of the Santu loyalists.

“We had to sell properties and seek other people's help to raise the ransom money.” Sukra Sen Chakma's parents told chtnews.com.

They said the two families managed to raise Taka 150,000 selling their properties, while Jurachari Upazila Chairman Prabartak Chakma and all the UP chairmen under his Upazila raised Taka 50,000, and Shubholong Union Council Chairman Bihari Ranjan Chakma, Aimachara UP Chairman Shyam Ratan Chakma and Barkal UP chairman Prabhat Chakma gave Taka 20,000.



Shukra Sen and Laxmi Kumar were kidnapped from Reserve Bazaar in Rangamati town by a group of JSS (Santu) members led by Bhagya Chakma.

The UPDF members, out on bail in false cases, had come to the town to appear before the court.

The Santu loyalists tortured them badly while in captivity – Laxmi Kumar’s one hand and Shukra’s one leg are believed to have broken.

Although they have been released, they are still unable to receive medical treatment as one of the conditions for their release was to become Sramanas (Buddhist novices) in Swargapuri Temple in Rangapani.

Another condition, apart from the payment of ransom money, is to quit UPDF.

The Santu faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti has stepped up violent activities since the government announced partial withdrawal of the army from CHT on 29 July.

That the army is providing them full support up is an open secret, and the general people are too scared to discuss it in the open.

“The members of Santu group are misguided; from their activities it is apparent that they are hundreds of thousands of miles away from the Jumma struggle. They no longer consider the army as their enemy. What they want is the total destruction of UPDF and in trying to achieve that, they are making the common people to pay dearly.” a Jumma intellectual commented.

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## **Released UPDF members say they were tortured in custody**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 130/2009, September 17, 2009*

**Two United Peoples’ Democratic Front (UPDF) members, released from jail recently, have said they were tortured while in army and police custody after arrest on 13 May 2009.**

Purna Bhushan Chakma (aged 40) and Mongol Dhan Chakma (aged 27) were speaking to chtnews.com correspondent after their release. They are currently in Chittagong for medical treatment of their physical injuries they sustained as a result of severe beatings. (Their photographs are attached herewith.)

They were released on bail from Rangamati jail on 9 September, about four months after their arrest.

They said they were arrested by army from the house of Purna Chakma in the village of Bhijakijing in Badalchari under Balukhali Union in Rangamati district.

“It was about 9:30 in the morning. Suddenly a group of 30 – 35 army personnel surrounded the house and detained us.” Purna Bhushan Chakma, who hails from Shukarchari village under Sapchari Union in Rangamati district, said. “They came from Kukipara Bhija Kijing camp which is under Banajogichara zone within Kaptai Brigade.”

They were not wanted in any case, and went there to attend a meeting with the villagers.

“The army bound us hand and foot and beat us with a big long stick. They tortured us in this way till 4pm, and at about 7:30pm they handed us over to Jurachari police station.”

Mongol Dhan Chakma of Bamey Longudu village under Rangamati district told [chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com).

Both of them were shown arrested under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code which gives the police sweeping powers to arrest anyone on mere suspicion. The next day, they were sent to Rangamati jail.

Later, a false case was filed against them alleging that both of them were engaged in a fictitious incident of shootout with the army.

While in Rangamati jail, they were taken on remand from 21 – 24 May and were tortured during interrogation.

Purna Bhushan Chakma, who have been working for the party since its inception in 1998, said he had one Nokia mobile set (Model No. 2626) along with a SIM, cash Taka over 3,000 and a Siko Five wrist watch. “But the army did not produce these items to the police.”

Mongol Dhan Chakma also brought the same allegation against the army. He said the army did not hand over his Nokia mobile phone, his Citizen wrist watch and Taka 2,400 to the police.

As a result of excessive torture both of them sustained serious injuries in their chests, spinal cords and other vital parts of the body.

They are currently receiving medical treatment from Dr. Anup Dewan and Sumedh Dewan in Chittagong.

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## **Innocent villager arrested by army in Naniachar**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 131/2009, September 19, 2009*

### **An innocent Jumma villager has been arrested by army in Naniachar under Rangamati district.**

Sources said a group of army personnel from Naniachar zone raided the house of Ananda Chakma (aged 36) in the village of Suridas Karbari Para at midnight last night and picked him up.

Mr. Chakma is a bamboo trader and has been vocal against land grabbing in his area. His father’s name is Manek Chandra Chakma.

In April this year, Jumma villagers destroyed a pineapple plantation which the settlers had created on lands grabbed from the Jummas, and he was one of those arrested for this action. He had to spend one night in Rangamati police station before being released.

After the latest arrest, the army put an LG (Light Gun) and some live bullets in his hand, and accused him of providing shelter to the members of the United People’s Democratic Front (UPDF), a regional party of the Jumma people campaigning for full autonomy for Chittagong Hill Tracts through peaceful and democratic means.

Mr. Chakma has been taken to Naniachar zone, and there is likelihood that he may be handed over to the police.

UPDF organiser in Rangamati Mr. Shanti Dev Chakma condemned the arrest and demanded his immediate and unconditional release.

He believes that the army arrested him at the behest of the settlers to silence his voice against illegal land grabbing.

## **DYF Khagrachari district Committee formed**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 132/2009, September 20, 2009*

**A 15-member committee for the Democratic Forum Khagrachari District Unit was constituted yesterday, with Remin Chakma, Arpan Chakma and Subir Chakma elected as President, General Secretary and Organising Secretary respectively.**

The committee, formed at a conference of the DYF Khagrachari District Unit members held at Surya Shikha club at Mahajonpara, will be formally announced today, Sunday, DYF sources said.

## **Jumma villager arrested from wedding house in Naniachar**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 133/2009, September 23, 2009*

**An innocent Jumma villager has been arrested from a wedding house in Naniachar under Rangamati district.**

Sources said a group of 15 army personnel led by Warrant Officer Tapan from Burighat camp raided the house of Gale Bap Chakma in the village of North Edmara (Hatimara) under Burighat Union at around 8am today and picked up Nikhil Chakma (aged 25) s/o Hirohito Chakma from there.

He was attending a wedding ceremony in the house when the army arrested him. He is a resident of the same village.

Mr. Chakma has been taken to Burighat camp, two kilometers away from where he was arrested.

The army has not given any reason for his arrest. A team of the Jumma elders of the village is preparing to meet the army commander for his release.

## **Settlers burn down Jumma houses in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 134/2009, September 25, 2009*

**The illegal Bengali settlers have burned down 3 Jumma houses in Laxmichari under Khagrachari district, sources say.**

Reports reaching from Laxmichari say a group of settlers from Mogaichari launched an overnight raid on the village of Bainamachara under Dulyatoli Union last night and set the houses ablaze.

The houses belong to Naibo Chakma (55) s/o Nayan Sen Chakma, his son Rashik Chakma (33) and Sudikya Chakma (30) s/o Mono Kumar Chakma.

All their belongings in the houses were burnt to ashes.

Bainamachara is about 2 kilometers away from Moghaichari, a concentration of illegal settlers brought in by the government in the 1980s.

The settlers also burned down 4 huts used by the guards of a controversial fruits garden raised by one Anisur Rahman, a Bengali businessman.

Anisur planted the orchard on 1,000 acres of land that the Jummas claim they own.

On 17 September, hundreds of villagers protested the illegal grabbing of their community land and uprooted the mango and jackfruit saplings planted there.

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## Mass arrest by army in Laxmichari

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 135/2009, September 25, 2009

**There are reports of mass arrests and torture of innocent Jumma villagers in Laxmichari under Khagrachari district.**

Sources say army personnel from Laxmichari zone led by Commanding Officer Sharifuddin Ahmed arrested dozens of Jumma villagers from different areas of Laxmichari this morning (Friday).

Ratan Bidu Chakma (32) s/o Dhonya Chakma, a Jumma contractor, was arrested from Morachengey. He was supervising the construction of a bridge in Jotindra Karbari Para area.

Quoting local residents, UPDF's Niron Chakma told chtnews.com that Mr. Ratan had been seen being taken away by army, blindfolded.

Pulindra Chakma (55) s/o late Badi Chakma was arrested from his house in the village of Badipara when he was performing Sanga Dana, a religious service, for his deceased father.

Another source said the army also arrested over a dozen people from 3 – 4 Jumma tea shops at Shilchari.

He added that the Jummas have been taken to an open ground in front of the army zone headquarters and tortured.

However, he could not provide further details.

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## Laxmichari torture victims threatened after meeting Khagrachari MP

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 136/2009, September 27, 2009

**Laxmichari Zone Commander Lt. Col. Shairf has threatened his torture victims with dire consequences after they had met with Jotindra Lal Tripura MP.**

In an interview with chtnews.com, Ratan Bindu Chakma, one of the torture victims, said they had narrated the incident of 25 September to the MP when he came to visit Laxmichari yesterday, Saturday.

After he had left, the zone commander ordered them to appear at the camp at about 1:30pm.

“Complying with his order, Paipruchai and I went to the Zone; other victims were not at home, and so they did not go. The Zone commander also called a Bengalee to the camp. He had appeared in the camp before us.” he said.

“The Zone commander asked him (the Bengalee) several questions such as ‘who have met with the MP’, ‘what they have told him’ etc.

“When we arrived at the Zone, Captain Himel wanted to know why we had met with the MP and told him about yesterday’s incident.

“He told us ‘you will get into troubles if you go too far. We will not spare you. You are genuine members of the UPDF,

and now you are pretending to be members of Awami League and have brought the MP here.”

Ratan Bidu said the Zone Commander appeared a few minutes later and began to threaten them.

He said the commander had asked them why they had told Mr. MP about yesterday’s incident.

He added: “The commander said ‘I did not torture you, and yet why did you bring up false allegations (against me)?’”

“Then I told him that we had told him (MP) what is true. When you brought me here in broad day light, handcuffed and blindfolded, all could see it. After that, you tortured me with electric shocks. These are not lies.

“The Zone commander then repeated his question in a threatening voice: ‘Did I torture you?’ This time we were forced to tell him: ‘No sir, you did not torture us.’

“After that, the Zone commander phoned the Upazila Chairman and told him ‘your people have come to me and said they were not beaten up.’

Ratan Bidu said they had no other alternatives than to retract their statements under such circumstances.

He further said “the zone commander had emphatically told us ‘if necessary I will leave Laxmichari, but before I leave I will create a different situation.’”

However, the commander did not say what he meant by ‘different situation’.

He ordered all his torture victims to appear at his camp again at 10am today, 27 September.

“We are really very scared to meet him again. He may threaten us again or put further conditions” Ratan Bidu said.

“When I was taken to the Zone on the 25th, I was asked to help them (army) capture the UPDF members who are in charge of Laxmichari Unit. And until I am able to do that, I will have to appear at the camp whenever I am asked to. They said I will get into more troubles if I fail in my job.” he added.

On 25 September, army personnel from Laxmichari Zone picked up 6 Jummas and tortured four of them, including Ratan Bindu Chakma and Paipruchai Marma. The army alleged that they provided support to the UPDF members.

When Jotindra Lal Tripura MP visited Laxmichari on Saturday morning, the victims – Ratan Bidu Chakma, Pulindra Chakma, Paipruechai Marma and Aung Sapru Marma – narrated the incident to him and sought his intervention for justice.

After the MP had gone back, zone commander Sharif summoned them to the camp and threatened them for telling the truth to the MP.

Sharif has unleashed a reign of terror in Laxmichari, under Khagracahri district. Scores of innocent people have become victims of his terror. He was the one who tried to foil the 10 July Manikchari rally organized by Democratic Youth Forum and Boroitali Land Protection Committee to protest against illegal land grabbing in Boroitali.

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## **UPDF member kidnapped by JSS (Santu)**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 137/2009, September 27, 2009*

A member of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) has been kidnapped in Ghagra under Rangamati district.

UPDF sources said a group of JSS (Santu) men came in a jeep and took away Raju Tanchangya (age 20) from a tea shop at Ghagra Chowmuhoni on Rangamati – Chittagong road.

The incident took place at around 1pm today.

“The JSS men came from the direction of Champatali and went back in the same direction.” Ripan Chakma, a local UPDF organiser, told [chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com), adding that the miscreants were armed with automatic weapons.

When the people present there sought help from a nearby security check post, the police and army personnel on duty refused to take any action against the JSS thugs, saying “it is your own affairs.”

The security personnel remained silent spectator as the Santu loyalists kidnapped Raju.

Raju is a member of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) and affiliated with Kaokhali Unit. He hails from Rajstali, and his father name is Balaram Tanchangya.

UPDF's Rangamati District Unit Organiser, Shanti Dev Chakma condemned the kidnapping of Raju and urged the local administration to take immediate steps to rescue him.

He also criticized the inaction of the local security check post and said “the so-called security personnel have become not only a burden, but also a threat to the security of the very people they claim they protect.”

He said he does not rule out collusion between Santu loyalists and the security personnel.

## **JSS (Santu) men attack UPDF office in Ghagra**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 138/2009, September 28, 2009*

**Members of the Santu faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti have attacked UPDF office in Ghagra under Rangamati district.**

UPDF sources said the JSS thugs ransacked the office at around 5pm today, destroying computers and other office materials.

“They came in a procession and attacked the office” Michael Chakma told [chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com) by mobile phone and added that “police and members of other so-called security forces remained silent spectator as usual.”

The attack comes one day after the kidnapping of Raju Tanchangya from the same area. He was kidnapped yesterday from a tea shop while meeting with friends there. He has not been traced since then.

Local UPDF members said they had been trying to file a case in connection with the kidnapping of Raju Tanchangya, but that police had refused to accept the case, without providing any reason.

## **UPDF supporter kidnapped in Belaichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 139/2009, September 30, 2009*



**A supporter of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) has been kidnapped in Belaichari under Rangamati district, UPDF sources said.**

UPDF's Animesh Chakma told chtnews.com that Samar Chakma (age 20, father's name Chittibo Chakma) was kidnapped from his home in the village of Orachari, 4 kilometers south-east of Belaichari Upazila Sadar, on the night of 28 September.

Describing him as a strong supporter of their party, Animesh said "a small band of JSS (Santu faction) militants kidnapped him".

The JSS militants also beat up other three villagers including Samar Chakma's older brother Chizimoni Chakma (25).

The other torture victims have been identified as Suchai Marma (45) s/o Aungthui Prue Marma and Mongsha Marma (50) s/o unknown.

Another report said the militants had demanded a toll of Taka 50,000 from Kerongchari UP member Sugandhi Chakma and threatened him with dire consequences if he failed to pay the money.

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**UPDF leader shot dead in Bermachari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 140/2009, October 3, 2009*

**A top leader of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) has been assassinated in Bermachari under Laxmichari Union.**

Mr. Rui Khoi Marma, a central committee member of the UPDF, was shot dead at Bot-toli, near Fatikchari tea estate on Friday, 2 October, at around 7pm.

UPDF blamed a military-backed armed gang for the killing and declared a three-day mourning period, to be observed in all party units throughout the CHT.

Mr. Rui Khoi Marma, 59, was returning home after a meeting with other party members when the incident took place.

UPDF member Ratan Marma, who was present at the same meeting, told chtnews.com that he had heard five gun shots. "I heard the gun shots a few minutes after we had parted with each other" he said.

Rabi Shankar Chakma, General Secretary of the UPDF, termed the attack as cowardice and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

Mr. Rui Khoi played an important role in building the new party, UPDF, and in mobilizing the masses against continuous land grabbing and human rights violations.

The army was particularly angry with him because of this and made numerous attempts, including two raids into his house, to arrest him.

The army, and especially Laxmichari Zone Commander, Sharif, became more ferocious when their favourite candidate lost to a candidate supported by UPDF in the last Upazila elections held in February.

After this defeat, Sharif began to patronize some anti-social elements and held a series of secret meetings in last July to form the so-called CHTNF (Chittagong Hill Tracts National



Forum), which is responsible for the recent kidnappings in the southern CHT district of Bandarban.

Some of the Jummas who had taken part in these secret meetings later realized the real intention of the army, changed their hearts and negotiated a rapprochement with the UPDF.

UPDF has blamed the so-called CHTNF terrorists for the assassination of Rui Khoi Marma and demanded that the government immediately disband it.

UPDF and its front organisations will stage demonstrations in CHT to protest the killing of Rui Khoi Marma.

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## **Protests held against assassination of Rui Khoi Marma**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 141/2009, October 3, 2009*

**Hundreds of people took to the streets today to protest against the assassination of UPDF leader Rui Khoi Marma, who was gunned down yesterday by military-backed CHTNF terrorists at Bermachari, Khagrachari.**

In a protest rally held at Chengi Square in Khagrachari town, the leaders of Hill Students' Council, Hill Women's Federation and Democratic Youth Forum vowed to punish culprits.

Blaming the killing on military-backed Chittagong Hill Tracts National Front, the speakers said "Both JSS Supremo Santu Larma and Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam have a hand behind the dastardly killing."

They termed the CHTNF as neo-Mukhosh Bahini or Masked Force, a military-backed terrorist group which terrorised and tormented the whole of Khagrachari in 1995 and 1996.

"For the traitors, for the enemies of the people and for the murderers, there will be no more mercy" they said. "We will face them taking the people along with us."

Demanding immediate arrest of the murderers and their God fathers, Lt. Col. Shariful Islam, commander of Laxmichari zone, and Santu Larma, President of one of the two factions of the JSS, the speakers said "Rui Khoi Marma was an able leader, who played an important role in mobilizing common people of his area against illegal land grabbing and rampant human rights violations."

Terming Rui Khoi Marma a valiant fighter, they said, "The ideals with which he had fought for the rights of the downtrodden will live for ever."

Protests were also held in Laxmichari, Panchari, Dighinala, Mahalchari and in Dhaka and Chittagong.

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## **After Rui Khoi, who is next?**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 142/2009, October 7, 2009*

**After successfully eliminating Rui Khoi Marma, a central committee member of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF), the conspirators seem to have taken aim at their next target.**

On 5 October, the day Mr. Rui Khoi was cremated, some members of Bangladesh Chattra League, the student wing of the ruling Awami League party, staged a demonstration in

Laxmichari against local UPDF leader Ratan Marma and Upazila Chairman Remrachai Marma.

They chanted provocative slogans against these two leaders and burnt an effigy of Mr. Remrachai Marma.

Mr. Marma had resigned from Awami League before his election in February to ensure the crucial support of the UPDF.

While UPDF strongly backed Mr. Marma, unfortunately Laxmichari Zone Commander Lt. Col. Sharif did everything at his disposal to make Ms Deva Rani Chakma victorious.

After UPDF-backed candidate won the election, Lt. Col. Sharif publicly vowed to “see how Remrachai hold on to power.”

Many in Laxmichari believe that Sharif is the main conspirator and the mastermind behind the killing of Rui Khoi Marma.

The general perception is that the 5 October demonstration is also the work of this master conspirator, who is one of the worst violators of human rights in CHT.

The demonstrators tried to break open the UPDF office and smashed its signboard, and pelted brickbats at the official residence of Remrachai Marma.

All but two demonstrators were Bengalee, eyewitnesses said.

A private television channel, Diganta TV, reported on that day that the demonstration was brought out against Remrachai Marma because he was alleged to have links with UPDF.

“But how that can be a point for staging demonstration against him?” asked a human rights activist. “UPDF is a democratic organisation, and it seeks to establish people’s rights through peaceful and democratic means.” he added.

Lt. Col. Sharif has already earned notoriety for his ruthlessness and for seeking personal vendetta against his perceived opponents.

A resident of Laxmichari commented, “As long as he (Sharif) stays in Laxmichari, there will be incidents like this. He is a pro-Jammat (Jammat-e-Islami party) army officer and has a passion for torturing Jumma people.”

“He (Sharif) does not seem mentally normal. We heard that he was once deputed to RAB (Rapid Action Battalion) and killed many people in cold blood.” Another said.

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## **Lt. Col. Sharif admits to his involvement in Rui Khoi murder**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 143/2009, October 8, 2009*

**Lt. Col. Shariful Islam, Commander of Laxmichari zone, has admitted to his involvement in the murder of UPDF leader Rui Khoi Marma.**

Sharif made his admission while addressing a monthly law and order review meeting held at his office yesterday.

The Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), UP members and chairmen and headmen of Laxmichari Upazila took part in the meeting.

Alluding to the 2 October murder of Rui Khoi Marma, Mr. Sharif said he had finally been able to “fell a big tree” and that he had begun to strike at the “heart of the UPDF”.

A UP member told chtnews.com on condition of anonymity that “from his (Sharif) address it is abundantly clear that he is the mastermind behind the killing of Rui Khoi Marma.”

He said Sharif had also called upon “all the headmen under house arrest” to come out without fear as the “big tree had been fallen down”.

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## **Army raids houses in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 144/2009, October 9, 2009*

**Soldiers led by Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam raided and searched four houses in Laxmichari town last night, Hill Women’s Federation leaders told chtnews.com.**

“The aim of the search is not to find firearms or terrorists, but to intimidate us because the army knows that we have come to the town to perform Shraddhanustan (rituals performed in memory of a deceased) for UPDF leader Rui Khoi Marma.” Rina Dewan, a prominent leader of the HWF, said.

The houses searched belong to Shanti Brata Chakma, Kalendra Chakma, Suniti Bikash Chakma and Sukomol Dewan (Rina Dewan’s Father).

The soldiers carried out the search at around 8:30pm in the name of searching for “four armed terrorists who had come to the town along with Rina Dewan.”

Earlier, the soldiers went to Kushinagar Bana Vihar and asked Dhana Mala Chakma, Rina Dewan’s mother, whether her daughter had come to the house.

Mrs. Dhana Mala and her sister-in-law Pushpa Rani Chakma were attending to their religious duties when the soldiers visited the temple.

UPDF will organise a mass gathering in Laxmichari town on 12 October in commemoration of Rui Khoi Marma, party sources said.

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## **Settlers attack UPDF members in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 145/2009, October 9, 2009*

**At least six persons have been wounded and three others missing when Bengalee settlers attacked a UPDF rally in Laxmichari.**

Sources said UPDF staged a demonstration in the afternoon today protesting an attack on its Laxmichari Unit office on 5 October.

When, after the demonstration, the UPDF members and supporters gathered at their office, hundreds of Bengalee settlers laid a siege to it and pelted them with brick bats.

There were about 70 UPDF members and supporters trapped in the office. At around 7:30pm police came to their rescue.

As the police were escorting them out of the office and to the safety, the unruly settlers, believed to have been instigated by Lt. Col. Shariful Islam, commander of Laxmichari zone, attacked them with sticks, knives and iron rods.

At least six UPDF members or supporters are believed to have been injured, most of them seriously.

Three persons including two HWF members are still missing. They have been identified as Rumi, Sanchana and Paiprue.

The wounded are Maxon Chakma, Pratul, Mongsajai, Minoti Chakma from Morachengi dor in Laxmichari, Joya of Dhudhukchara in Panchari and Zeko from Panchari.

The injured could not be admitted to the hospital for fear of further attacks.

Army personnel led by Lt. Col. Sharif Aziz are now searching the houses of the Jumma people in Laxmichari Sadar to arrest UPDF members.

Later in the day, he had seized a jeep UPDF has hired for its 12 October commemoration meeting for Rui Khoi Marma, a central committee member of the UPDF assassinated on 2 October.

UPDF condemned the attack on UPDF members and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

“The attack has been carried out without slightest provocation, and it is Lt. Col. Sharif who is responsible for the attack.” said Ujjal Smriti Chakma, a central committee member of the UPDF.

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## **Bengalees go into hiding fearing torture by Sharif**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 146/2009, October 9, 2009

## **Four Bengalee people have gone into hiding fearing torture by Lt. Col. Shariful Islam, commander of Laxmichari Zone in Khagrachari.**

One of his torture victims, Md. Al Amin Hossain (23), commented, “I have seen many army officers, but I have not seen one as ruthless and as communal as Sharif is.”

Both Al Amin and his father Abul Kashem were tortured by of Lt. Col. Sharif for allegedly providing support to the UPDF. They have now gone into hiding fearing further torture and arrest.

A resident of Shilachari Para, Al Amin ekes out a living by ferrying passengers on his motorbike for a charge, while his father is a shopkeeper in Laxmichari bazaar.

Bengalee sources in Laxmichari told chtnews.com, on 9 September, Al Amin had ferried a UPDF member from Laxmichari to Khagrachari.

When he was returning from Khagrachari the following day, 10 September, he was halted by Lt. Col. Sharif at Kalapani camp at Guimara.

He was accused of helping the UPDF activist and tortured badly. The so-called CHTNF terrorists comprising both misguided Bengalee and Jumma youths also took part in the beating.

By the night he was taken to a jungle and was buried alive up to his neck.

The next morning Al Amin was taken to Manikchari army camp and was interrogated further.

He was asked the same question again and again: Why he had gone to help UPDF activists?

After he had been released, he sold his motorbike and went into hiding, fearing further torture.

When Sharif knew about this, he put pressure on his father to bring him back and hand him over to him.

Bengalees told chtnews.com that on 25 September, Al Amin's father, Md. Abul Kashem, was tortured along with other four Jumma villagers for their alleged support to the UPDF.

Abul Kashem also went into hiding after being released.

The other two Bengalees went into hiding, according to sources, are Sohag of village Moshkaba and Jaminul of a cluster village.

However, the reasons why they went into hiding could not be known. Jaminul was an army informer, according to the sources.

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## **JSS (Santu) kidnaps UPDF supporter in Rangamati**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 147/2009, October 10, 2009*

**A supporter of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) has been kidnapped in Rangamati, UPDF sources said.**

JSS militants belonging to Santu faction kidnapped Bancha Ram Chakma, 37, s/o Dhananjay Chakma from Rangamati town at around 10am today.

He was beaten up and taken to an unknown location.

The incident comes amid CHT-wide protests against setter attacks on UPDF members in Laxmichari yesterday.

Bancha Ram Chakma is a resident of Kudukchari Abashik, 10 kilometers north-west of Rangamati town, and a staunch supporter of the United Peoples' Democratic Front.

UPDF Rangamati district unit organiser Shanti Dev Chakma condemned the incident and demanded his immediate release.

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## **Laxmichari attack: UPDF announces fresh action programme**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 148/2009, October 10, 2009*

**The United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) Khagrachari District Unit has announced a fresh programme of action to force the government to meet its five point demands, which include, among others, punishment of Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Sharif, the mastermind behind the killing of UPDF leader Rui Khoi Marma on 2 October.**

The programmes include road blockade in Khagrachari district on 14 October, protest rallies in all Upazila headquarters of the district on 12 October and putting on black badge by school and college students in Laxmichari from 12 – 14 October.

The other demands put forward include arrest of the killers of UPDF leader Rui Khoi Marma, arrest of military-sponsored CHTNF terrorists, arrest and punishment of those involved in the attack on UPDF on 9 October in Laxmichari, and put an end to military repression of innocent people in Laxmichari.

The announcement was made at a rally held in Khagrachari town this afternoon.

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## **Laxmichari attack on UPDF: protests continue**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 149/2009, October 10, 2009*

**There have been protest rallies throughout the Chittagong Hill Tracts and in Dhaka and Chittagong following the settler attack on UPDF in Laxmichari, Khagrachari yesterday.**

### **Boycott**

UPDF Laxmichari Unit enforced a boycott of Laxmichari bazaar today in protest against yesterday's attack on its members and supporters by illegal settlers.

It also held a protest meeting at Morachengi dor area, near Laxmichari Upazila headquarters.

UPDF leaders alleged that the settlers had been instigated by Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Sharif.

HWF leader Rina Dewan, while speaking to chtnews.com, said the police had intentionally given the settlers the opportunity to attack them.

### **Manikchhari**

Sources from Manikchhari said in protest against the attack the general people of the area had removed the plates of three bailey bridges at Kalapani, Thulipara and Toimatai (Ballyachari) on Khagrachari – Chittagong road, disrupting traffic till noon today.

### **Naniachar**

In Naniachar of Rangamati district Hill Women's Federation and Hill Students' Council staged a demonstration protesting the attack.

They held a rally at Rest House ground at 1pm and later took out a procession, which paraded Naniachar bazaar.

Presided over by Bilash Chakma, President of PCP Naniachari Upazila Committee, the rally was also addressed by HWF leader Juthika Chakma, Bigna Khisha, Binayon Chakma and Tapu Moni Chakma.

### **Dhaka**

PCP Dhaka Unit staged a demonstration at Muktangon in the afternoon. Later they held a rally in front of National Press Club. Presided over by Sumen Chakma, President of PCP Dhaka Unit, the rally was addressed by Ashim Chakma, Subrata Tripura, Ahsish Sharma of Biplobi Chattra Sangha and Ayon Ahmed from Lamp Post, a progressive literary circle.

The programme was moderated by Thuiko Ching Marma.

The Students Unity Against Imperialism also staged a demonstration on Dhaka University campus in protest against the Laxmichari settler attack.

They took out a procession at 11:30am and held a rally on the campus. Moderated by PCP leader Thuiko Ching Marma, the rally was addressed by Samiul Alam Richi, President of Bangladesh Chattra Federation, and Ram Krishna Mazhi, a representative from Naya Bangla Lal Padakke, a progressive organisation.



## Chittagong

The Chittagong protest was organised jointly by Hill Women's Federation, Hill Students' Council and Democratic Youth Forum.

They took out a procession from Chittagong Press Club and held a rally at Dost Building near New Market.

The rally was addressed by Konica Dewan, General Secretary of HWF; Sumi Chakraborty, convenor of Progotishil Porabrajok Dol Chittagong University Unit; Anwar Hossain, convenor, Jatiya Chattra Dal; Piki Majumder, member, Jatiya Mukti Council; Mohammad Mamun, General Secretary, Jatiya Gonotantiric Front; and Michael Chakma, a leader of Democratic Youth Forum.

Protests were also held in Mahalchari, Dighinala and Betbunia.

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## Laxmichari attack: bazaar boycott begins

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 150/2009, October 11, 2009*

**In protest against the 9 October communal attack, the Jumma people have begun an indefinite boycott of Laxmichari bazaar.**

Today was the market day for Laxmichari bazaar where the gruesome attack took place. At least six UPDF members and supporters were injured and three others went missing in that unprovoked attack.

The Laxmichari zone commander, Lt. Col. Sharif, one of the architects of the attack and who has committed numerous violations of human rights including masterminding the recent killing of UPDF leader Rui Khoi Marma, tried to force the Jumma villagers to come to Laxmichari bazaar.

When the Jummas rejected his request to participate in the Laxmichari bazaar, he boarded a few Jummas on to his lorry and dumped them at the bazaar.

The Jummas not only boycotted Laxmichari bazaar, but also set up a new bazaar at Morachengety, one and a half kilometers east of the old bazaar.

The Jummas said they would continue the boycott.

Sources from Laxmichari further add: in protest against the barbarous attack the Jumma students have begun a boycott of classes. The boycott, called separately by the students themselves, will continue for a week.

They also wore black badges as a mark of protest.

Another source said the army have snatched a bag from a Jumma who was carrying it from Laxmichari bazaar. The bag belongs to Democratic Youth Forum leader Remin Chakma.

He had left the bag at a house in Laxmichari bazaar before fleeing the attack on 9 October.

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## UPDF stages demo at Upazila headquarters in Khagrachari district

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 151/2009, October 13, 2009*

**The United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) yesterday staged demonstrations in all Upazila headquarters in Khagrachari district, protesting the 9 October attack on its members in Laxmichari and urging the government to**



**concede to its five-point demands including punishment to Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Sharif.**

In Laxmichari, thousands of people gathered at Morachengey where a new bazaar has been set up in protest against the attack.

The army assembled hundreds of settlers at Laxmichri bazaar to prevent the demonstration from taking place. They were armed with sticks, iron rods and other sharp implements.

However, UPDF held its rally at Morachengey to avoid any confrontation with them.

Yet, the unruly settlers beat up Sunil Chakma (25) of Botgash Para village of Dullyatoli who was on his way to participate in the demonstration.

The settlers halted him at Moyurkhil at about 11am, beat him up and snatched his mobile set and Taka 200.

The settlers also halted 200 Jumma people at Mongla Para and prevented them from taking part in the demonstration. They were coming from Dulyatoli.

When Upazila Vice President Nirmal Chakma protested such undemocratic activities of the settlers, SI Faridur Alam said “There may be demonstrations in other areas, but I will not allow any such demonstration here.”

He also told him that he would not allow UPDF to hold any public meeting in Laxmichari.

The UPDF programme went off peacefully in other 7 Upazilas of the district. No untoward incidents have been reported.

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## **Jumma traders’ goods seized by Laxmichari SI**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 152/2009, October 13, 2009*

**The Sub Inspector of Laxmichari police station, Faridul Alam, yesterday seized goods from five Jumma traders they bought from new Morachengey market.**

The Jumma traders were carrying the goods in a jeep to Manikchari bazaar.

SI Faridul Alam, who is in charge of Laxmichari police station, seized the goods at 7:30am.

The goods are perishable and include fruits and vegetables.

He demanded that the goods must be sold at Laxmichari bazaar, but the Jummas refused.

The Jumma people have been boycotting Laxmichari bazaar in protest against an attack on them on 9 October.

The Jumma traders whose goods have been seized have been identified as Hridoy Chakma, Kajol Chakma, Dhannaka Chakma and Ms Rani Chakma from Jotindra Karbari Para of Morachengey and Bhupon Chakma of Sumanta Para village.

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## **UPDF holds road blockade in Khagrachari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 153/2009, October 14, 2009*

**Traffic to and from Khagrachari district headquarters remained suspended as the United Peoples’ Democratic**

**Front (UPDF) held road blockade to force the government to concede to their five-point demands including punishment for Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam for masterminding the killing of one of its central leaders.**

Despite deployment of a large contingent army and police personnel to combat the pickets, the blockade ended successfully and by and large peacefully, without any major untoward incidents.

“The transport owners and workers associations responded positively to our request to honour our road blockade programme, and we thank them for this.” Ujjal Smriti Chakma told chtnews.com.

“It is good to see that they have ignored the pressure of the army commanders to defy our call and operate as usual.” he added.

Mr. Chakma urged the government to meet their five-point demands, and warned that “more of such programmes are in the offing if they are not met”.

UPDF called the road blockade following a series of attacks on its members and supporters in Laxmichari, leaving its central committee member Rui Khoi Marma dead and six injured. The party blamed Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam for masterminding these attacks and called for his punishment.

Today’s road blockade is the first such programmes UPDF has undertaken during its nearly 12- year existence as a party.

bdnews24.com reports, “Transport link between Khagrachari and all Upazilas of the district remained suspended from

Wednesday morning as the United People's Democratic Front enforced a road blockade programme in the district town.”

It adds: “Pickets enforcing the road blockade Wednesday damaged five vehicles in front fire service station at around 9:30am. No vehicles were moving towards the Upazilas fearing the pickets.”

Some over enthusiast pickets (or agent provocateurs?) beat up a Marma boy named Chailaprue Marma of Headman Para, Panchari in Khagrachari town for a petty issue. He has been admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for treatment.

UPDF activists saw him at the hospital and enquired about his well being.

UPDF Khagrachari District Unit organiser Kalo Priya Chakma and PCP General Secretary Aongay Marma apologized for the incident and announced that they would bear all his medical expenses.

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## **JSS (Santu) attacks UPDF office at Subholong**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 154/2009, October 15, 2009*

**A group of Jana Samhati Samiti (Santu faction) members led by Sadhan Chakma attacked the office of the United Peoples’ Democratic Front (UPDF) at Subholong bazaar under Barkal Upazila, Rangamati, UPDF and independent sources said.**

The incident took place at about 8:15am this morning. The Santu loyalists came in boats from Rangamati town and Halamba.

They ransacked the office, destroying furnishers, smashing the signboard and tearing down a banner.

The JSS men then tried to open their old office, but failed as the owner of the house they had hired refused to renew an agreement. In the end of the day, they had to come back, crestfallen.

UPDF Rangamati district organiser Shanti Dev Chakma condemned the attack and urged the government to bring the culprits to justice.

He said “It is sad that despite our repeated appeal to come to the negotiating table, the Santu faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti continues to attack us.”

“All such attacks, all his policies with regard to UPDF certainly benefit those who want perpetual domination over the Jumma people.” he added.

Mr. Chakma called upon all the patriotic Jummas and their well wishers to put pressure on Santu Larma to shun violence and agree to the offer of talks with UPDF.

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## **UPDF stages demo against attack on its Subholong office**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 155/2009, October 15, 2009*

**The United Peoples’ Democratic Front (UPDF) and its front organisations staged demonstrations at Subholong bazaar, protesting an attack on their office by members of the Santu faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti.**

The demonstrators chanted slogans against the attack. At a rally held at 3:30pm, the speakers held Santu Larma

responsible for the attack and demanded of the government to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Presided over by Smriti Moy Chakma, President of Barkal Upazila Unit of Democratic Youth Forum, the rally was addressed by Moharon Chakma, Vice President, Jurachari Upazila Unit, DYF; Riton Chakma, Joint Secretary, Jurachari Upazila Unit, DYF; and Bindu Chakma, a UPDF member.

The rally was followed by a procession which paraded the small island town of Subholong.

Over 250 took part at the demonstration.

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## **Jumma girl raped in Matiranga**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 156/2009, October 15, 2009*

**A Jumma girl is alleged to have been raped in Ballyachari under Matiranga Upazila in Khagrachari district, according to sources.**

The incident occurred at around 1pm today when Ms Sumita Tripura of Arbari village was on her way back home after attending exams at her school.

She is a ten grade student in Matiranga Pilot High School. She has to pass through a settler village – Rasulpur – to and from her school.

The 17-years-old is alleged to have been raped by some settler youths when she reached Rasulpur.

She is still being held by the settlers, who are trying to force her parents – Dukhi Ram Tripura and Redu Tripura -- to reach a compromise with the rapists.

Sexual violence against Jumma women by illegal Bengali settlers is common in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and in the past not a single perpetrator has been punished for the crime.

Konica Dewan, General Secretary of the Hill Women's Federation, a front organisation of the UPDF, has condemned the rape of Sumita Tripura, terming it "outrageous".

"The settlers continue to commit such heinous crimes with impunity because no one is punished, because the culprits roam scot-free and because there is virtual sanction of the state for such acts of violence against Jumma women," she said.

Hill Women's Federation will stage demonstrations tomorrow in Khagrachari and Chittagong in protest against the incident.

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## **One arrested, released later in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 157/2009, October 17, 2009*

**One Jumma villager was arrested in an army raid last night in Laxmichari under Khagrachari district. However, he was released later, sources said.**

According to sources, a group of army personnel led by Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam raided Morachengey Dor area at around 8pm.

"We heard Sharif ordering his men to shoot anyone running away", one villager told chtnews.com.

Later, the soldiers picked up Bitti Chakma (32 years) s/o Tambul Charan Chakma of Jatindra Karbari Para village from the passenger shed at Badipara.

They took him up to Shilachari, near the army camp and released him from there.

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## **Settlers raid Jumma village in Ramgarh**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 158/2009, October 20, 2009*

**The settlers had taken hostage 5 Jumma villagers after a raid into the village of Goiapara under Patachara Union of Ramgarh Upazila in Khagrachari district, sources from Khagrachari said.**

Over one hundred settlers led by Latu Master (50), Oli Ahmed (50) and Nur Mohammad (45) from Ratnapur and Mohammadpur villages under Dantmara Union in Fatikchhari took part in the attack that was taken place today, 20 October, about 9:30am.

Armed with sharp weapons, the marauding settlers used jeeps during the attack.

They beat up Mon Kumar Chakma (50) s/o late Shyama Charan Chakma and his daughter Sonabo Chakma (25) and took away five villagers including these two.

The attack was carried out without slightest provocation, and the Jummas were not prepared for it.

The motive of the attack could not be known. However, the settlers alleged that "the Jummas were involved in theft and robbery in their villages."

Talking to the chtnews.com one Jumma villager vehemently denied the allegation and said it was the members of the army-sponsored CHTNF (Chittagong Hill Tracts National Forum) terrorists who committed these crimes.

“These terrorists are patronized by the army, and to be precise, by Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam.” he said.

The other villagers taken away by the settlers have been identified as Guri Morotto Chakma (25) s/o Thandra Ram Chakma, Juddha Kumar Chakma (22) s/o Chikon Chan Karbari and Milon Dhan Chakma (22).

However, all of them were released after Dev Danta Tripura, Organiser of UPDF’s Ramgarh Unit, contacted the settler leaders including Dant Mara UP Chairman Md. Habib and proved their innocence.

Sources said the so-called CHTNF terrorists, comprised of both Jumma and Bengali youths, had been committing crimes in the area with direct support from the army.

The CHTNF was created by the army to create unrest in the CHT to frustrate the decision of the Awami League government to withdraw troops from CHT. They were given Light Guns (LG) and ordered to kidnap people indiscriminately, especially Bengali businessmen in Bandarban.

This terror outfit came into the media spotlight when its members kidnapped a number of Bengali businessmen in Bandarban.

Many joined the CHTNF in the hope that they would be able to earn quick bulks, but when they found the risk involved they left.

Some of them told chtnews.com that “the one thing the army asks us is to kidnap people and exact ransom from them.”

Now that their aim has been achieved, they army have turned their attention away from the CHTNF, and in Bandarban they have arrested four of its members along with the arms they had given them.

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## **Bangali Chattra Parishad demands banning of UPDF**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 159/2009, October 21, 2009*

**The so-called Bangali Chattra Parishad, an ultra-communal settler outfit backed by the military, will hold a rally in Baghaichari, Rangamati tomorrow to demand the banning of the United Peoples’ Democratic Front (UPDF).**

The Parishad members have been propagating their programme through loudspeakers since yesterday.

“All activities of the UPDF must be banned”, shouted the announcer. However, he stopped short of providing any ground for the ban.

Commenting on the BCP’s programme a UPDF activist said “UPDF is a democratic organisation which has broadened its support base in the last couple of years, and we know it is this which has made a few people in the army quite jittery.”

He said, “Santu Larma is also making similar demands; on 19 October, at a rally in Rangamati he repeated his demand for banning UPDF. But we don’t care about what he says, but when BCP and his likes make the same demand we have to ponder, because these organisations are proxy of the army. They are merely spokesperson of the military in the CHT.”

Knowledgeable persons admit that that attempts are being made to curb the growing influence of the UPDF is quite evident.

They cited the creation of a terrorist group called CHTNF, denying democratic space to the UPDF, attacks on its rallies and offices, arrest and killing of its leaders and supporters, providing support to the Santu Larma faction of the JSS as some of the measures taken to cut the UPDF to size.

“The overall aim is to sustain the conflict between the UPDF and JSS.” one CHT observer commented.

“But no matter what you do you cannot prop up someone all the time who has lost public confidence; history has proved this fact over and over again.” she added.

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## **Torture victims demand removal of Lt. Col. Sharif**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 160/2009, October 21, 2009*

**A group of torture victims have demanded that the Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam be removed and punished for creating unrest and torturing innocent people indiscriminately.**

They made the demand at a press conference held at Reporters Unity in Dhaka today. Of the scores of people who were tortured at the hands of Lt. Col. Sharif, seven Jummas and two Bengalees came to Dhaka to speak of their sufferings to the journalists.

In a written statement read out by Pai Prue Sain Marma they said “We have been tortured at various points of times at the hands of Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam for no faults of ours.”

“We had to flee our homes and go into hiding in fear of further torture.” they said.

One of the torture victims, Al Amin (20) said “On 10 September, when I was returning from Khagrachari I was halted by army personnel who were in wait for me in two pick-up vans near the police barrack at Jaliapara.

“They forced me get off my Honda bike and slapped me in my face repeatedly. 10 – 15 minutes later when CO Sharif came I was blindfolded with a piece of black cloth and boarded an army van.

“I was led into a deep jungle and tortured. Mr. Sharif asked where UPDF men live. He also asked, ‘Where is the UPDF man that you carried on your bike?’”

Al Amin said that he was made to dig his own grave.

“Mr. Sharif kicked me into the grave and buried me up to my neck, and then asked the same questions about the UPDF man.” he added.

When he gave the same answer, Sharif lifted him from the grave and ordered his soldiers to beat him again.



“The soldiers beat me with sticks and rifle butts” he said.

Then the army men took Al Amin to a store house made of mud at Hatimura where a group of Pahari and Bengali people attacked him and snatched away Taka 1,000 from him, he alleged.

The next morning he was taken to Manikchari camp and was interrogated one more time. They army put a pistol in his hand and then photographed him and threatened him to file false cases against him.

Before releasing him, the army broke the headlight and signal light of his bike and scratched the petrol tank with bricks.

“Then they asked me to tell the people that the bike was broken when the terrorists attacked me,” he said.

Al Amin’s father Abul Kashem (45) said he was taken to the army camp on 25 September and tortured.

He said Sharif had ordered him to produce his son Al Amin before him by the evening of that day.

He said both he and his son had to flee their home in Laxmichari in fear of further torture.

Similar stories were also shared by Ratan Bindu Chakma (32), Pai Prue Sain Marma (32), New Hla Prue Marma alias Ning Hla Prue (37), Aungsa Prue Marma (25), Barun Bikash Chakma, Mong Sajai Marma (21) and Rumi Chakma (20).

On 17 October, six elected public representatives from Laxmichari including Upazila chairman Mr Remrachai Chowdhury also held a press conference in Dhaka and demanded that Lt. Col. Sharif and OC Faridul Alam be removed and punished.

At both the press conferences, Sharif and Alam were accused of fomenting unrest and whipping up communal sentiment among the settlers.

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## **UPDF member shot dead by JSS (Santu)**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 161/2009, October 22, 2009*

**A member of the United Peoples’ Democratic Front (UPDF) has been shot dead by armed militants of the Santu faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti.**

The incident occurred about 12:30pm today when six UPDF members went to Sakrachari village, 2 kilometers south-east of Barkal Upazila headquarters in Rangamati district, to attend a meeting.

The JSS men fired on them indiscriminately, killing Rafel Chakma on the spot. He hails from Aimachara Union, Barkal. However, other UPDF members could escape unhurt.

JSS (Santu) has intensified its armed offensive against UPDF in the last few months, killing at least three.

It has also kidnapped 5 members and supporters of the UPDF, tortured scores of villagers and attacked UPDF offices in Ghagra and Subholong.

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## **Army raids UPDF house in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 162/2009, October 24, 2009*

**Army personnel last night raided a house rented by United Peoples’ Democratic Front (UPDF) in Laxmichari, Khagrachari.**



The raid was carried out by police and army personnel from Laxmichari zone about 10pm.

They searched and turned the house upside down, but found nothing incriminating.

The UPDF office staff members, who lived in the house, had fled before the arrival of the army, fearing that they might be arrested.

Before raiding UPDF house, the army also searched the house of Satyo Ranjan Chakma, a primary school teacher.

On 20 October, the house of Ms Sagarika Chakma, the lady vice president of Laxmichari Upazila, was also raided. She was not at home at the time.

She, along with the Chairman and other vice chairman, has gone into hiding fearing harassment by Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam.

In a press conference in Dhaka on 17 October they demanded that the zone commander Sharif be removed and punished for inciting communal violence, torturing innocent people and plotting murder.

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## **JSS member shot dead in Baghaichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 163/2009, October 24, 2009*

**Unknown assailants yesterday shot dead Tipu Chakma (32), a resident of Pablakhali village in Baghaichari, Rangamati.**

Mr. Mongol Kumar Chakma, the publication and publicity secretary of the central committee of the Jana Samhati Samiti (Santu faction), claimed that he was the General Secretary of the JSS Khedarmara Union branch.

Locals believe that Tipu Chakma might have been killed as a result of an internal conflict between the two factions of the JSS.

The other faction of the JSS is led by former Shanti Bahini guerrilla leader and member of the CHT Regional Council, Rupayan Dewan.

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## **Bengali woman stabbed by CHTNF terrorists**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 164/2009, October 24, 2009*

**The so-called CHTNF terrorists, publicly known as Borkapora (literally means clad in Muslim veils), stabbed a Bengali woman named Rumana Aktar yesterday in Ramgarh, Khagrachari.**

The 25-year-old was on her way back home from a shop about 7pm when she met the terrorists, who were seven in number and wore pants and veils.

They struck her with a knife without asking her anything. When Rumana screamed for help people from nearby area rushed to the spot and rescued her.

However, the terrorists had left the scene before their arrival.

Rumana is a resident of Belchari village under Patachara Union. Her husband's name is Rahim.

The CHTNF is a terrorist outfit created by a section of the army to create unrest in the CHT and to counter the growing influence of the UPDF.

Drawn from both Bengali and Jumma youths, its members are now engaged in theft and robbery in Manikchari and Ramgarh areas.

### **Settlers seized goods from 3 Jumma traders**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 165/2009, October 24, 2009*

**The settlers have seized goods from three Jumma traders as an overwhelming boycott of Laxmichari bazaar by Jumma people continues.**

Sources said Shanti Kumar Chakma, ex-member of Laxmichari Union, Tarani Sen Chakma, incumbent member of Dulyatoli Union and Shanti Chakma today bought goods worth about Taka 20,000 from Manikchari bazaar to be sold at their shops in Laxmicahri.

When they reached Laxmichari bazaar at about 1:30pm the settlers led by Alamgir and Khokan, two Bengali traders, seized all their goods.

Earlier, on 12 October, the Sub Inspector of Laxmichari police station, Faridul Alam, had seized goods from five Jumma traders they bought from new Morachengey market.

However, he had to return it after protest.

The Jumma people have been boycotting Laxmichari bazaar in protest against a communal attack on them on 9 October.

### **Army arrests two in Manikchari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 166/2009, October 25, 2009*

**The army arrested two innocent villagers in a raid last night in Manikchari under Khagrachari district.**

Sources said a group of army personnel from Manikchari camp raided the village of Mahamuni Para around 10pm on Saturday and picked up Kongyo Marma (40) s/o late Aungjairi Marma and Kyopru Marma (35) s/o late Nira Aung Marma.

Kongyo Marma was eating his dinner when the army came and began beating him.

Both of them were taken to the camp and tortured severely.

At one stage the army tried to photograph them after putting guns in their hands, but when they resisted the army put some Indian wine bottles in front of them and then photographed them.

Later, they were handed over to the police, and have been kept in their custody till the writing of this report at 10am.

A human rights activist, after making inquiry about the arrested Jummas, told chtnews.com that both of them are completely innocent.

“There could be only one possible reason for their arrest, and it is that they are relatives of Apruchi Marma, General Secretary of PCP Khagrachari District Unit, who played a very important role in organising protests against the recent land grabbing in the area.” he said.

Kongyo Marma is his elder brother while Kyopru Marma his sister's husband, he said.

The Hill Students' Council president Ricoh Chakma condemned the arrest and demanded their immediate and unconditional release.

He said PCP will not tolerate such actions of the army any more and warned of vigorous programmes if it does not stop human rights violations in the CHT.

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## **UPDF office searched in Ghagra**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 167/2009, October 29, 2009*

**Members of the Rapid Action Battalion searched the Ghagra office of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) in Rangamati last night.**

UPDF sources told chtnews.com that the RAB members had come in two jeeps at midnight and searched for what they said firearms in the office.

However, they found nothing incriminating.

There were three UPDF members in the office at the time, but the RAB did not harm any of them.

"When they (RAB) said there are firearms in the office, we asked them to check, and they turned the office upside down in the name of a search" Bitu Chakma, one of the UPDF members present during the search, said.

It needs to be mentioned that in last September, the Ghagra office of the UPDF had come under attack by JSS (Santu) members. The JSS men destroyed the office furnisher, the computer and other office materials in the presence of the security personnel during the said attack.

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## **Santu group kidnaps UPDF supporter in Rajstali**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 168/2009, October 30, 2009*

**A UPDF supporter was kidnapped by armed militants of the Santu faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti from Rajstali, Rangamati last night.**

UPDF and independent sources said the Santu loyalists led by Sadhan Tanchangya kidnapped Longa Moni Tanchangya (35) s/o Chok Kala Tanchangya from the house of Medoshi Marma in the village of Khagrachari in Rajstali Sadar at midnight.

Mr. Tanchangya is a resident of Bogachari village under Ghilachari Union in Rajstali. He went to Rajstali bazaar to buy daily necessities.

He decided to stay at Medoshi Marma's house for the night to avoid threading back home through the jungle path after sunset.

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## **Santu group militants orders villager to leave**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 169/2009, October 31, 2009*

**A group of Jana Samhati Samiti militants loyal to Santu Larma raided the village of Bogachari in Rajstali Upazila yesterday and ordered the villagers to leave the village within two days.**

The order came about 17 hours after they kidnapped Longa Moni Tanchangya, a UPDF supporter, from Rajstali Sadar.

The JSS men tortured him and took him to his village – Bogachari – in search of UPDF members. They fired blank shots to scare the villagers believed to be strong supporters of the UPDF and ordered them to leave the village by November 1.

Latest reports say most of the villagers have fled their homes in fear of JSS reprisals.

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## **Army picks up 4 villagers in Ramgarh**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 170/2009, November 01, 2009*

**Members of the Bangladesh Army picked up four Jumma villagers from Beltali in Ramgarh under Khagrachari district, locals said.**

The arrest was made on the night of 31 October after a raid in to the village by a group of army personnel from Batna camp in Manikchari Thana.

The arrested have been identified as Manindra Tripura (40), member of Patachara UP; Sanjeeb Tripura (22) s/o Kashiram Tripura; Kajol Tripura (37) s/o Naja Kumar Tripura; and Teja Roy Tripura (60).

They were taken to the camp and tortured ruthlessly.

Latest reports say they have been shifted to Sindukchari army camp, and the village elders have been making frantic efforts to get them released.

The sources could not say what might be the possible reasons for their arrest. However, arrest and detention of innocent people in arbitrary and unlawful manner is a common practice of the army in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Dev Danta Tripura, a member of the central committee of the UPDF, has condemned the detention of the innocent Jumma villagers and urged the authorities concerned to release them immediately.

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## **JSS Santu group kidnaps UPDF member in Baghaichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 171/2009, November 02, 2009*

**Militants loyal to Santu Larma faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti have kidnapped a member of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) in Baghaichari of Rangamati district, sources say.**

A group of armed JSS men made a foray into the village of Baghaichari at about 8am today and kidnapped Lesson Chakma, a UPDF member.

Lesson Chakma is a resident of Bongol-toli village in Marishya.

UPDF's Shanti Dev Chakma condemned the JSS action as "a desperate attempt to divert attention from growing demand for

investigation into Santu Larma's monumental corruption and scandals" and demanded his immediate release.

He called upon Santu Larma to stop violence and come to the negotiating table.

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## **Irregularities in HYSAWA Fund Project alleged NGOs seek Danish Embassy intervention**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 172/2009, November 03, 2009*

**The Non-Government Organisations operating in the CHT in a letter addressed to the Ambassador of the Royal Danish Embassy have alleged gross irregularities in the selection of NGOs for the implementation of the CHT HYSAWA Fund Project and sought the intervention of His Highness in the matter.**

In the undated letter entitled "Unfair PNGO selection process for HYSAWA Fund Project in CHT", circulated on the internet, the NGO leaders have listed 14 cases of irregularities in the selection process.

The letter alleged that the "Total NGO selection process was motivated, unfair and illegal".

Without naming anyone, it said the selection was done mostly by one single individual "without following Danish (government's) prescribed guidelines".

It further alleged that many NGOs selected for the project -- such as SDO, Shantir Alo, Banchete Sikhi -- had no offices before their selection.

The letter is signed by Shimul Chakma, Executive Director, Welfare Association; Advocate Mrinal Kanti Chakma, Executive Director, HRDP; and Kiron Chakma, Executive Director, BORGANG.

They urged the Royal Danish Embassy to enquire into the matter and suggested four measures for it to be taken in mitigating the irregularities.

Similar letter has been written to the Chairman, CHT HYSAWA Fund Board and the Secretary, Ministry of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs.

Thirteen leading local NGOs including Jabarang, Kabidang, Alo, Jumphul, Shantir Alo Unnayan Sangsta and Ashika Manobik Unnayan Kendra signed the letter, which was also circulated on the internet and a copy of which has been obtained by chtnews.com.

### **UNDP funds misused?**

When contacted, a NGO executive told chtnews.com requesting anonymity that most the NGOs selected are merely an extension of the JSS (Santu faction).

"Santu Larma has selected these NGOs in return for money or other favours" he alleged. "And what is more important is he does not invest this money in any productive sectors. He uses it to buy arms and ammunitions to kill his political rivals."

Another leading NGO boss alleged that a significant portion of the development funds handled by the UNDP in some way falls into the hands of the Santu faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti, which controls the activities of the NGOs in CHT.

"This is one reason why the fratricidal conflict goes on endlessly." he said, adding the UNDP should ensure its funds do not contribute in any manner to the sustenance of intra-Jumma conflict.

## Santu group kidnaps Jumma trader in Rangmati

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 173/2009, November 03, 2009

**A Jumma trader was kidnapped by Santu Larma faction of the Jana Samhati Samti yesterday, sources said.**

Alo Bikash Chakma (age 42) son of late Natun Moni Chakma of Banojogichara under Jurachari Upazila was kidnapped around 11am from Samata Ghat in Banrupa in Rangamati town.

Some of the kidnappers have been identified as Ujjal, Bhaggyo, Barijhya and Ritan.

Mr. Chakma, an ex-JSS member, went to the town to sell bananas.

He was an active member of the JSS till 2006 and later became a supporter of the UPDF.

UPDF staged a demonstration in Jurachari today, Tuesday, demanding his immediate and unconditional release.

“We urge the JSS not to harm him and release him immediately.” one of the speakers demanded.

He also called upon Santu Larma to shun the politics of killing and violence and launch a movement for full implementation of the CHT accord.

“We will throw our full weight behind such a movement” he said.

## UPDF member arrested in Longudu

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 174/2009, November 05, 2009

**A member of the United Peoples’ Democratic Front (UPDF) has been arrested in Langudu in Rangamati, UPDF sources say.**

UPDF member Jiban Chakma, 22, was arrested by army from the village of Golachari at around 2:30pm today.

The army personnel were clad in civilian attires when the arrest was made, Shanti Dev Chakma, UPDF’s Rangamati District Unit Organiser, told chtnews.com.

“We have reports that some other villagers have also been arrested, but we could not verify it yet.” he further said.

Mr. Chakma condemned the arrest and demanded his immediate and unconditional release.

## Jumma woman raped in Ghilachari

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 175/2009, November 08, 2009

**A Jumma woman has been raped in Ghilachari under Rangamati district, sources say.**

Mrs Juboni Chakma (22) was raped by an army soldier at around 3pm today when she was babysitting at her home in the village of Jurachari. His husband Shyamol Chakma was not at home at the time.

The unnamed soldier is from Ghilachari camp under Naniachar zone and was on duty at a sentry post near their house.

The village and the army post sit on Rangamati – Khagrachari road and are situated 2 miles from Ghilachari camp.

Hill Women's Federation General Secretary Konika Dewan has condemned the incident and demanded an exemplary punishment of the culprit.

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## **UPDF refutes JSS claim that Shukra Sen Chakma is JSS member**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 176/2009, November 08, 2009*

**The United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) has vehemently denied allegations that Shukra Sen Chakma (32) was abducted by its members.**

Refuting JSS claim that Mr. Chakma is a member of the JSS, UPDF's Rangamati District Unit Organiser, Shanti Dev Chakma told chtnews.com "this is an absolute lie".

"The fact is that Shukra Sen Chakma is a member of the UPDF. He and another UPDF member, Laxmi Kumar Chakma, were abducted by JSS members on 2 September from Rangamati town when they went there to appear before the court." Shanti said.

He went on to say: "Later, they were released from Rangapani, a stronghold of the JSS Santu faction, on payment of a ransom of Taka 210,000. However, after the release the JSS put Shukra Sen Chakma under house arrest."

"What our supporters have done is that they have rescued him from house arrest." Shanti Chakma said.

The statement claiming Shukra Sen Chakma as their member has been published in today's (Sunday) Daily Star.

It needs to be mentioned here that the incident of the release of Shukra Sen Chakma and Laxmi Kumar Chakma was reported in the chtnews.com on September 15, 2009.

In News No. 129/2009 chtnews.com said "The UPDF members -- Shukra Sen Chakma (32) s/o Chitra Mohan Chakma of village Dhamaipara, Panchari under Jurachari Upazila and Laxmi Kumar Chakma 929) s/o Brisha Ketu Chakma of village Morongchhari under Barkal Upazila -- were released on September 13 from Rangapani, a stronghold of the Santu loyalists."

It further added: The Santu loyalists tortured them badly while in captivity – Laxmi Kumar's one hand and Shukra's one leg are believed to have broken.

"Although they have been released, they are still unable to receive medical treatment as one of the conditions for their release was to become Sramanas (Buddhist novices) in Swargapuri Temple in Rangapani."

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## **NGO activist shot in Rangamati**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 177/2009, November 09, 2009*

**Rintu Chakma, an NGO activist, was shot and wounded in Rangamati town on Friday night, 7 November.**

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and was released after treatment.



Mr. Chakma works for Ashika Manobik Unnayan Kendra, a non-government organisation active in Rangamati district.

AMUK is one of the 13 local NGOs who signed an appeal to the CHT HYSAWA Fund Board and Secretary, Ministry of CHT Affairs against irregularities in selecting NGOs for development projects.

There is widespread allegation that CHT Regional Council chairman Santu Larma has selected unskilled NGOs in return for money and other favours.

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## Two UPDF members arrested in Babuchara

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 178/2009, November 09, 2009*

**Army arrested two members of the United Peoples' Democratic Front, popularly known by its acronym UPDF, from a house in Babuchara under Dighinala Upazila in Khagrachai district in the small hours of today.**

Sources said a group of army personnel led by 2-IC Major Enam and Major Hemayet from Dighinala zone raided the house of Jotirmoy Chakma (65) at Nuabazar at 4am and picked up the UPDF members -- Rupam Chakma alias Pabitra, 30, son of Mukta Lal Chakma of village Rangapani, Rangamati and Miko Chakma, 27, son of Bindu Lal Chakma of village Amtoli Headman Para.

They were handed over to the police at about 8:30am.

When Suresh Kanti Chakma, a member of Babuchara Union Council, contacted Major Enam and requested him to release the UPDF members, he (Enam) reported to have said, "This is a matter not related to us. The police will decide it."

Our correspondent from Dighinala adds: The army was taking the UPDF members back to its custody at 12 noon.

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## Ghilachari rape attempt: villagers blocks road, government pledges to punish the culprit

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 179/2009, November 09, 2009*

**The Jumma villagers in Ghilachari successfully ended their road blockade programme today, with the government giving a pledge in writing to punish, within three days, the army man who made an attempt to rape a Jumma woman yesterday.**

The villagers, mostly the women, began the blockade of the Rangamati – Khagrachari link road at 9am in protest against an attempted rape on Mrs Juboni Chakma (22).

They demanded exemplary punishment of the culprit, withdrawal of Ghilachari army camp and measures for protecting the dignity of all women in CHT – Jumma and Bengali alike.

No vehicle was allowed to cross Ghilachari, and those blocked had to return to their respective stations.

Late in the afternoon, a deal was reached between the agitating villagers and the government representatives.

As per the deal, the government side represented by Naniachari Upazila chairman Priti Moy Chakma and Naniachari Upazila

Nirbahi Officer signed a pledge to award maximum punishment to the delinquent soldier under the Army Act.

The United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) expressed their support for the road blockade programme.

The government representatives and representatives of the agitating villagers and five witnesses who also put their signatures on the written pledge will hold a meeting tomorrow at 10am to identify the army man involved in the attempted rape.

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### **Another rape attempt on a Jumma woman in Panchari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 180/2009, November 10, 2009*

**As the Jumma women in Ghilachari were busy enforcing a road blockade in protest against an attempted rape on a Jumma woman, another Jumma woman became a victim of a similar rape attempt in Panchari under Khagrachari district.**

Sources said the rape attempt was made by Md. Sukur Ali, 25, son of Abdul Kader of village Mohammadpur on Sabita Tripura, 30, wife of Manindra Tripura at around 3pm yesterday in the house of one of her relatives in the village of Miladhan Karbari Para. Sabita also lives in the same village.

She was alone, puffing Daba (smoking pipe made of bamboo) in the courtyard of her relative's house when Sukur Ali suddenly appeared from no where and grabbed her. (He must have been stalking somewhere)

When she screamed for help people from nearby houses rushed there and caught Sukur Ali red handed. Later, he was handed over to the Panchari police station.

HWF General Secretary Konika Dewan condemned the attempted rape on Sabita Tripura and demanded that the culprit be awarded maximum punishment for the offence.

She said as long as the army and settlers remain in the CHT, there will be no security for the Jumma women.

She reiterated their demand for complete withdrawal of the army from CHT and proper rehabilitation of the settlers elsewhere in the plain land.

Hill Women's Federation, Hill Students' Council and Democratic Youth Forum will stage demonstrations in Panchari and Khagrachari today against the incident.

Tripura Mohila Kalyan Samiti (Tripura Women Welfare Association) will also bring out a procession in Khagrachari town today.

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### **Settlers prevent Jummas from cutting jungle in Sajek**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 181/2009, November 10, 2009*

**The illegal settlers have been preventing the Jummas from clearing jungles for construction of houses on their own lands in Gangaram Doar in Sajek in Rangamati district.**

Sources say groups of settlers led by Md. Akhtar and Md. Shamshu have been preventing the Jummas from building houses since 3 November.

On 4 November, Warrant Officer Rezaul from Baghaichari army zone told the local village elders that “No one, neither Paharis nor Bengalis, is permitted to cut jungles in the ‘disputed lands’ in Gangaram Dor until the disputes are settled.”

However, on 8 November, the illegal settlers cleared jungles in the so-called “disputed” area, but the army took no action against them.

On the contrary, the Jumma villagers suspect that the army might have instigated the settlers to do so.

Sajek has been one of the flashpoints in the CHT in the recent times. Nearly one hundred Jumma houses were burnt down on 20 April in 2008. During the two years’ emergency rule there had been continuous reports of land grabbing and settler violence from the area.

The army was directly responsible for these violence and illegal land grabbing.

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## **Update from Ghilachari: govt. reluctant to implement the pledge**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 182/2009, November 10, 2009*

**The government has apparently gone back on its promise to punish the army man responsible for an attempted rape on a Jumma woman in Ghilachari in Rangamati.**

As per a deal reached yesterday, representatives of both the government and the Jumma movement met in Ghilachari bazaar today. An estimated seven hundred Jumma women were present there.

But instead of identifying the army personnel who made the attempt to rape Mrs Juboni Chakma on 8 November, the Naniachar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Jahirul Islam asked the representatives of the movement to submit an application.

Naniachar Upazila Chairman Priti Moy Chakma, Naniachar UP chairman Panchanon Chakma and Ghilachari UP chairman Mitu Chakma were also present at the meeting.

In the afternoon, the Second-in-Command of Naniachar army zone took part in the meeting and echoed the request of the UNO.

But the Jumma movement representatives refused to submit any application or petition and urged the government side to fulfill its own pledge it made to the Ghilachari people yesterday.

They said they would not go back home until their demands are met.

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## **Attempted rape in Ghilachari and Panchari: HWF stages demo**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 183/2009, November 11, 2009*

**The Hill Women’s Federation, a front organisation of the United Peoples’ Democratic Front, staged a demonstration in Khagrachari yesterday in protest against attempted rape on Juboni Chakma in Ghilachari and Sabita Tripura in Panchari.**

At a rally held in Chengi Square, the HWF leaders condemned the attempted rape on these two Jumma women and demanded exemplary punishment of the culprits.

Ms Riku Chakma, president of HWF Khagrachari District Unit, brushed aside the accusation made by Brigadier General Abdullah Baki of Rangamati Regional Army Headquarter that “a regional political party is trying to use the incident (Ghilachari incident) to make the situation complex”.

She termed his statement as ill motivated and a desperate attempt to cover up the rape incident.

General Secretary of PCP Khagrachari District Unit, Apruchi Marma said Jumma women are vulnerable to sexual abuses by army and settlers and urged that government to meet the just demands of the people of Ghilachari.

Organising Secretary of the Democratic Youth Forum Khagrachari District branch Subir Chakma said there is no alternative to a complete withdrawal of the army and settlers from CHT.

“Our girls and women are not safe. They cannot go to schools, they cannot go to the rivers to fetch water or to take baths, they cannot go to their work, they cannot go to the temples, they cannot visit their relatives, they cannot go to the market places, they cannot go to the nearby jungles, they cannot work in the paddy fields, and now they cannot even stay home, they are raped every where. Even the small girls as young as 4-5 years and the physically challenged women are not spared.” he said.

Alleging that hundreds of Jumma women have been raped since the arrival of the army and the settlers in the 1970s and 1980s, he further said, “The job of the army and the settlers seems to be to rape our women and grab our lands.”

He maintained that there can be no peace and the Jumma women will never be safe until the army and settlers are withdrawn from CHT.

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## **Attempted rape in Ghilachari: army deployed to the area**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 184/2009, November 11, 2009*

**Hundreds of soldiers from a number of army camps under Naniachar zone have been deployed to Ghilachari and adjacent areas of Kudukchari and Bogachari in an apparent attempt to distract the attention of the media from the people’s uprising against sexual violence on Jumma women, sources say.**

“Army have been scattered all over the area”, Michael Chakma, a UPDF leader, told chtnews.com from Kudukchari by mobile phone.

“They were deployed in the evening” he added.

He said he believed that the deployment of the army is part of a desperate attempt of the government to cover up the facts of the incident and save Ziaul, the army man who was responsible for the attempted rape on Juboni Chakma on 8 November.

Meanwhile, reports said the Deputy Commissioner of Ranamati has formed an investigation committee to probe the incident of attempted rape on Juboni Chakma.

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## Attempted rape in Ghilachari: inquiry team to visit Ghilachari today

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 185/2009, November 12, 2009

**The inquiry committee constituted yesterday to probe the incident of an attempted rape on Juboni Chakma is likely to visit Ghilachari today, sources say.**

The five-member committee headed by Additional District Magistrate of Rangamati Nurul Alam Chowdhury is required to submit its findings within three days.

The other members of the committee are Abdul Al Farooq, Additional Police Super, Rangamati district; Nirupa Dewan, a retired school teacher, Nirmalendu Tripura, a prominent cultural personality; and Tanzila Begum, Women Affairs Officer in Rangamati district administration.

Meanwhile, sources from Kudukchari say the army has reopened its check-post at Kudukchari bazaar and is checking each and every vehicle moving towards Ghilachari.

The check post had remained closed for few months after people rose in protest against harassment in the name of checks at such army posts in April.

Meanwhile, UPDF's Samrat Chakma told chtnews.com that army personnel had searched each and every shop belonging to the Jummas in Kudukchari bazaar last night.

"Five pick-ups loads of army personnel came to Kudukchari bazaar last night. They were soon joined by other army men from nearby Kudukchari camp. Together they surrounded the market and searched the Jumma people's shops there." he said.

## UPDF leader Sachib Chakma re-arrested from Rangamati jail gate

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 186/2009, November 12, 2009

**Sachib Chakma, an influential member of the central committee of the United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), has been re-arrested at Rangamati jail gate immediately after his release on bail.**

Plainclothes security personnel arrested him at around 11:45am today immediately after he had come out of jail, and whisked him away in to Kotwali police station.

Earlier, he was granted bail in all the three cases filed against him.

He was granted bail in Gyana Lal Chakma murder case on 20 July 2009, in Arjun Moni abduction case on 6 August 2009 and in Captain Gazi killing case on 11 November 2009.

No reason has been cited for his re-arrest, but there is indication that he might face new charges.

Over one hundred JSS members and supporters (Santu faction) thronged the police station to oppose his release.

They demanded that he (Sachib Chakma) be handed over to them.

Rangamati District Unit organiser Shanti Dev Chakma condemned the re-arrest of Sachib Chakma as vengeful and demanded his immediate release.

“We believe he (Sachib) has been re-arrested at the behest of a leader of a regional party who has unleashed a reign of terror in Rangamati town and in some areas of the district.” he said.

He warned that his party will be forced to announce tougher programme if Sachib Chakma is not released following the court order.

Sachib Chakma is no stranger to arrests and jail. He was first arrested from Naniachar bazaar on 11 February 1998, the day after the JSS laid down arms in much fanfare in Khagrachari stadium.

His second arrest came on 23 May 2005 when police raided the Khagrachari district unit office of the UPDF at Swanirbhor bazaar in a bid to foil a planned rally.

He was released on bail on both occasions but was arrested again on 8 February this year at Bogachari AP Army camp check post in Naniachar while he was on his way to visit his ailing mother.

His mother died when he was in jail. Sachib Chakma has two children – Mishuk Chakma aged 8 and Mitra Chakma 4.

#### **Cased filed against Sachib Chakma:**

1. Kudukchari UP chairman Gyana Lal Chakma murder case No. 09 Kotwali Thana, dated 21.01.2007, under sections 302/34 of Bangladesh Penal Code;
2. Arjun Chakma abduction case No. 15/10/2000, Kowtali Thana, under sections 364/379/11 of Bangladesh Penal Code;
3. Captain Gaji killing case No. 2001 Naniachar Thana, dated 27.12.2006, GR – 304/6, under sections 304/34 of Bangladesh Penal Code.

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## **Laxmichari acting UP Chairman and his office staff arrested by army**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 187/2009, November 13, 2009*

**Laxmichari acting Union Parishad chairman Swapan Chakma, his secretary Md. Habibullah and peon Eka Chakma were arrested from their office late in the evening yesterday, sources said.**

Laxmichari zone Commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam, notorious for torturing innocent people, made the arrest himself and handed them over to the police.

“Swapn may not be that clean, but I think he has been arrested for speaking against the misdeeds of Lt. Col. Shariful Islam in a press conference in Dhaka.” said a school teacher in Laxmichari on condition of anonymity.

Newspaper reports say they have been arrested on charge of misappropriation of VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) food grains, and a case has been filed against them.

“But the news, as reported in some dailies including Daily Purbokone, that they were arrested by police is not true,” commented a Upazila vice president of Laxmichari who has gone into hiding in fear of reprisals from Lt. Col. Sharif.

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## **Protest against re-arrest of UPDF leader Sachib Chakma**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 188/2009, November 13, 2009*



**Protest demonstrations were held across Chittagong Hill Tracts against the re-arrest of UPDF leader Sachib Chakma after the court ordered his release on bail yesterday.**

Demonstrations were held in Naniachar, Subholong, Jurachari, Khagrachari and Panchari on Thursday, yesterday.

Hundreds of UPDF members and supporters took part in these protests. They demanded Sachib Chakma's unconditional and immediate release.

More protests will be held in Kaokhali and Bandarban.

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**Three organisations stage demo against Lt. Col. Sharif**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 189/2009, November 13, 2009*

**Three front organisations of the United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) have staged demonstration in Khagrachari demanding arrest and punishment of Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam for masterminding the killing of UPDF leader Rui Khoi Marma on 2 October.**

The demonstration was organised by Democratic Youth Forum, Hill Students' Council and Hill Women's Federation.

They took out a procession from Swanirbhor bazaar at 4:45pm which marched to Shapla Chattwar in downtown Khagrachari.

Later, they held a rally at Chengi Square which was addressed by DYF leader Subir Chakma, HWF Khagrachari District unit president Riku Chakma and PCP activist Subrata Tripura.

"We urge the government to arrest and punish Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Sharif for orchestrating the murder of UPDF leader Rui Khoi Marma." Subir Chakma demanded.

Recalling the 9 October unprovoked attack on the activists of the three organisations in Laxmichari, Riku Chakma said "it was a planned attack; Lt. Sharif himself instigated the settlers to launch it. During the attack, we could not distinguish between the settlers and the police because the police were also in civilian uniforms. Even it might be possible that some army personnel had come and taken part in the attack wearing civilian dresses"

Subrata Tripura demanded a complete withdrawal of the army. "The army is the greatest threat to peace and security in the Chittagong Hill Tracts." he said.

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**Army searches houses in Ghilachari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 190/2009, November 14, 2009*

**Army personnel raided and searched three houses in Ghilachari last night in an apparent bid to intimidate the participants of an uprising sparked by an incident of sexual violence involving a member of Bangladesh Army.**

According to sources, the soldiers searched the house of Angad Chakma, a member of Bangladesh Navy, whose wife Poheli Chakma has played an important role in the uprising.

The soldiers entered their house in a threatening manner, asked her silly questions about their marriage and took away her husband's photographs apparently to pressure him to stop her from taking part in the movement.

The other two houses the soldiers searched include Amar Jibon Chakma, ex-chairman of Ghilachari Union Parishad, and Jogendra Chakma, incumbent member of Ward No. 7 under Ghilachari Union.

A resident of Ghilachari told chtnews.com by mobile phone that “the army is still there in the area.”

“My view is that the aim of the deployment of the army is to intimidate and coerce the people into retreat.” he commented.

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## Settler grabs land in Kobakhali

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 191/2009, November 14, 2009*

**A Bengali settler has grabbed 1.2 acres of registered land belonging to Niron Chakma, 40, in Kobakhali village under Pablakhali Mouza in Dighinala.**

Mr. Niron Chakma (son of Nitipurna Chakma) alleged that one Yunusur Rahman s/o Anisur Rahman had begun ploughing the land since 5pm on 12 November.

By the night the same day he had prepared the land for planting.

Producing documents relating to the said land, Niron said, “The land is registered in the name of my father, the Khatian No. of which is 90.”

He further said that a case is still pending in the court of Judicial Magistrate and that in an arbitration facilitated by the authorities of Dighinala cantonment earlier it was clearly stated that the said land belongs to the Paharis (Jumma).

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## Sachib Chakma’s wife demands his release

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 192/2009, November 14, 2009*

**UPDF leader Sachib Chakma’s wife Ms Amita Chakma has demanded his immediate release, claiming that her husband is innocent.**

She made the demand while speaking at a press conference in Rangamati town.

Held at Rangamati press club at 3pm, the press conference was also attended by Sachib Chakma’s younger sister Shanti Bala Chakma and HWF leader Juthika Chakma.

In a written text, Ms Amita, the headmaster of East Ghilachari Non-government Primary School, said the cases filed against Sachib Chakma are politically motivated. “They were filed to harass him politically” she said.

“I think he was arrested because he criticized the CHT accord and opposed the destructive politics of a political party.”

She termed the re-arrest of Sachib Chakma at Rangamati jail gate after he was ordered to be released by the court as inhuman and contrary to the provisions of Bangladesh constitution, human rights laws and natural justice.

“It is also tantamount to contempt of court.” she added.

Refuting police statement that Sachib was arrested because they considered him a threat to the law and order of the district, she said “this argument of the police is laughable; Sachib

Chakma can never be a threat to law and order because he is a responsible political leader”.

“I think he was arrested at the behest of his political opponents.” he said.

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## **Ghilachari bazaar committee president threatened**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 193/2009, November 15, 2009*

**The Commanding Officer (CO) of Naniachar zone has threatened Ananta Bikash Chakma, president of Ghilachari bazaar committee, sources say.**

The CO and Major Mehedi came to Ghilachari bazaar in the morning yesterday and accused Ananta of providing leadership to the recent uprising of the Jumma women in Ghilachari.

“Since I have come here, I will do something and then leave. And I am informed that it is you who is behind all this (uprising)” the CO is reported to have told Ananta Chakma.

Major Mehedi threatened him, saying “We know what you do. We have got all the reports. So be careful!”

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## **HWF Rangamati Unit Committee formed**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 194/2009, November 15, 2009*

**An eleven-member committee for Hill Women’s Federation Rangamati District Unit was formed yesterday with**

**Juthika Chakma and Sadhana Chakma elected as convenor and member secretary respectively, HWF sources said.**

The committee was formed at a meeting held at UPDF office at Kudukchari in Rangamati.

HWF Acting General Secretary Konika Dewan and Democratic Youth Forum leader Alakesh Chakma spoke at the meeting as special guests.

HWF members and supporters from various parts of Rangamati district, including members of Marma and Tripura communities, took part in the meeting.

The HWF will hold its seventh central council from 20 – 23 November in Chittagong.

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## **One tortured, meditation hut ransacked in Baghaihat**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 195/2009, November 15, 2009*

**An elderly Jumma villager was detained and tortured in Baghaihat zone under Rangamati district on 13 November, sources said.**

A group of army personnel from Baghaihat zone raided the village of Balughat at around 8am and picked up Pathor Moni Chakma (72) son of late Narammya Chakma from his home.

He was detained till 3pm and tortured. He was released after forcing him to sign on a blank sheet of paper.

Mr. Chakma’s son Rupan Chakma is an active member of the UPDF.

### **Meditation hut ransacked**

On 10 November, a group of army personnel led by Subedar Selim and Habildar Iqbal (44 Bengal) from Majalong army camp raided Poriola Chug Arannyo Kuthir or jungle hut (meditation centre) and ransacked it.

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### **DYF Naniachar Upazila Committee formed**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 196/2009, November 16, 2009*

**Democratic Youth Front's Naniachar Upazila committee was formed yesterday with Priya Lal Chakma and Milton Chakma elected as president and general secretary respectively, DYF sources said.**

The 19-member strong committee was formed at a council session held at Naniachar College under the slogan "Unite the Youth for Self-determination".

A total of 80 activists of the DYF active in Naniachar attended the session, which was also participated by DYF General Secretary Mithun Chakma, Organising Secretary Michael Chakma, PCP member Pruching Thoai Marma and Naniachar PCP president Bilash Chakma.

After the council session a rally was held which was addressed by HWF Naniachar branch president Juthika Chakma and Priya Lal Chakma.

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### **Attempted rape in Ghilachari: protest rally held**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 197/2009, November 17, 2009*

**The women of Ghilachari continued their peaceful agitation yesterday, protesting against the attempted rape on Juboni Chakma.**

They held a rally at Ghilachari bazaar under the banner of the Ghilachari Committee for Guiding Movement Against Women Repression. An estimated 1,000 women participated.

They will enforce another round of road blockade today.

Army and police personnel including policewomen tried to intimidate the participants of the rally, but stick-wielding women chased them away.

Many including the OC of Naniachar police station, an Army Habilder, Naniachar Upazila chairman Pritimoy Chakma and Ghilachari UP chairman Mitu Chakma were clubbed.

They also waved ragged *pinon* (lower-part garment of Chakma women) at them as a mark of protest.

Condemning the sexual attack on Juboni Chakma, the movement leaders demanded exemplary punishment of the guilty army man and immediate withdrawal of Ghilachari army camp from their area.

The rally, which began at 1pm and ended at 3:30pm without a break, was addressed by Rina Chakma, Sabina Chakma, Romita Chakma, Ittugi Chakma, Kajoli Chakma, Sumoti Chakma and Zhinu Prabha Chakma – all housewives and first-time speakers.

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## Section 144 imposed in Naniachar

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 198/2009, November 17, 2009

**The local administration last night imposed section 144 to prevent from taking place a planned rally in commemoration of those killed in Naniachar massacre 16 years ago.**

The Hill Students' Council, Hill Women's Federation and Democratic Youth Forum decided to hold the rally at Upazila ground, but the UNO ordered the police to dismantle stage being prepared there.

"No public meetings, rallies and processions are permitted within 200 yards of the Upazila" the announcement said.

Later, the organisers reached an agreement with the UNO and shifted the venue to Amgashtola area.

Nanicaahar massacre took place on 17 November 1993. About 36 Jumma people were killed when the Bengali settlers and the Bangladesh army personnel attacked them in Naniachari bazaar.

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## JSS Santu faction kidnaps DYF leader

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 199/2009, November 17, 2009

**A leader of the Democratic Youth Forum has been kidnapped by members of the Jana Samhati Samiti (Santu faction) in Rangamati.**

Sources said Shakyo Muni Chakma (28) son of Binod Karbari of village Indrama Chara under Subhlong Union was

kidnapped from Samaresh Dewan's Saw Mill at Samataghat in Rangamati town at around 10am.

He is the member secretary of Barkal Upazila Unit of Democratic Youth Forum, a front organisation of the United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF).

The kidnappers were led by JSS (Santu faction) members Padmalochon Chakma, Chinese Chakma, Fodangtang Chakma and Foren Chakma.

They demanded Taka 500,000 (\$ 7142.85) as ransom from his relatives.

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## Naniachar Massacre Day observed

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 200/2009, November 17, 2009

**The Hill Students Council today observed Naniachar Massacre Day in Naniachar as the local administration imposed section 144 on parts of the town.**

About 1,000 participated in a commemoration rally held at Rest House ground at 12 noon. Earlier a procession was taken out and floral wreaths were placed before a makeshift monument set up for the martyred.

Presided over by Bilash Chakma, president of PCP Naniachar Unit, the rally was addressed by Mithun Chakma, General Secretary of the Democratic Youth Forum, Ricoh Chakma, president of Hill Students' Council and Juthika Chakma, convenor of HWF Rangamati District branch.

Besides, Sushil Jibon Chakma spoke on behalf of the martyred families.

The speakers urged the government to publish the inquiry report on Naniachar massacre and punish those involved in the gruesome killing.

At least 36 Jummas were killed in this massacre.

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## **Ghilachari road blockade: 12 injured in army attack**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 201/2009, November 17, 2009: 9:45pm*

**At least 7 persons including 5 Jumma women were wounded as the army attacked them in a bid to break a peaceful road block set up by Ghilachari Committee for Guiding Movement Against Women Repression today, sources said.**

Three of the injured have been admitted to Rangamati Sadar Hospital with serious injuries.

They have been identified as Maya Chakma, a class nine student of Baro Mahapuram High School, Chandrahela Chakma (40) wife of Suresh Chakma of village Kudukchari Nich Para and Dev Rani Chakma (45) of village Kudukchari Headman Para.

Maya Chakma's condition has been stated to be critical as she has sustained injuries on her head.

Other injured women are Manti Chakma, a class nine student of Baro Mahapuram High School and Zhinu Chakma (35) wife of Sumati Lal Chakma of village Hazachari Pachchim Para.

These five Jumma women were wounded at Kudukchari when the army led by the 2-IC (Second-in-Command) of Naniachar zone resorted to indiscriminate baton charges in retaliation for stopping his boss's vehicle in the morning.

The road block was enforced by Jumma women under the banner of "Ghilachari Committee for Guiding Movement Against Women Repression"

They were demanding punishment of an army man involved in an incident of attempted rape on a Jumma woman on 8 November and withdrawal of Ghilachari army camp to which he belongs.

Many vehicles remained stranded on Khagrachari – Rangamati road as the blockade began at 9am.

In the morning, there was chase and counter-chase between the army and the stick-wielding Jumma women.

In Bogachari, a few kilometers north-east of Ghilachari, some settlers spread rumour that one of their fellows were attacked and injured by the Jummas in Ghilachari.

This instigated the settlers who came out of their homes and attacked Anil Chakma son of Nandi Kumar Chakma of village Maischhari. He was left unconscious after heavy beating. Later, the Additional District Magistrate sent him to Rangamati for treatment.

Another unnamed Jumma was also injured when the army beat him up at Atharo Mile area on Khagrachari – Rangamati road. He was returning from Khagrachari on foot.

The settlers also tried to attack the Jumma women, but when they saw them in large numbers and armed with sticks, axe,



*dao* (a kind of knife) and *beyong* (weaving tool), they went back.

In the afternoon, some army personnel also tried to attack a group of Jumma women at Ghilachari Buddhist temple, but they were resisted.

Meanwhile, UPDF said the army has imposed an undeclared curfew in and around Kudukchari bazaar and no one is being allowed to move in and out. Many have been trapped there.

Earlier in the afternoon, an army captain from Kudukchari camp entered UPDF office at Kudukchari and threatened Sona Moni Chakma, a UPDF member, not to get involve in the road block.

Another source from Naniachar told [chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com) that the C.O. had got 8 settlers – 6 women and 2 men – admitted to the hospital with no injuries. He then forced the attending doctors and the nurses out of the room.

“Many believe that there is something on his mind. And it is that he wants to show that these people have been injured in attacks by Jummas.” the source said.

UPDF’s Shanti Dev Chakma and Hill Women’s Federation president Sonali Chakma condemned the attack on Jumma women who were enforcing a peaceful road blockade to realize their just demands.

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## **DYF members beaten by JSS Santu faction**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 202/2009, November 18, 2009*

**As the Jumma women were putting up a brave fight against the army during their peaceful road block in Ghilachari yesterday, the pro-government JSS (Santu) beat up three members of the Democratic Youth Forum in Chittagong.**

The DYF members came under attack of the JSS men at 10:30pm when they were putting up posters announcing the Hill Women’s Federation’s upcoming central council.

The council will be held from 20 – 23 November in Chittagong.

The JSS people were 15 – 16 in number and led by Bakul Chakma, Romel Chakma and Bhaskar Chakma.

The tortured DYF members have been identified as Dipu Chakma, 22, son of Kanchon Moni Chakma of village Barazhola Para, Matiranga; Polen Chakma, 28, son of Shanti Kumar Chakma of village Baghaihat, Sajek; and Tapan Chakma, 21, son of Adi Chandra Chakma of village Harubil, Panchari.

DYF General Secretary Mithun Chakma condemned the attack on his organisation’s members, and urged the JSS to come to senses, shun violence and join the struggle of the Jumma people for survival.

He said “the JSS should have supported the Ghilachari movement instead of killing, kidnapping and beating its own brethren.”

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## **Sachib Chakma released again**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 203/2009, November 18, 2009*

### **UPDF leader Sachib Chakma has been released from Rangamati jail, party sources say.**

A judicial magistrate ordered his release yesterday. Earlier he was granted bail in all the three cases filed against him.

But he was arrested again at the jail gate on 12 November under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which gives the police arbitrary powers to arrest anyone on mere suspicion.

Sachib walked out of the jail at about 3pm today.

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## **Solidarity demonstrations for Ghilachari uprising**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 204/2009, November 18, 2009*

### **Solidarity demonstrations for the just cause of the Ghilachari women have been held across Chittagong Hill Tracts and in Dhaka and Chittagong.**

In Khagrachari, hundreds of people, mostly women, took to the streets today to protest against yesterday's brutal army attack on the agitating Jumma women in Ghilachari who were enforcing a peaceful road blockade, demanding punishment of an army sex offender and withdrawal of Ghilachari army camp.

The demonstration was organised by Hill Women's Federation, Hill Students' Council and Democratic Youth Forum.

They brought out a procession from Upazila ground at 11am, proceeded to Khagrachari bazaar and then held a rally at Mukhta Mancha.

Chandani Chakma, Vice-president of HWF Khagrachari District unit; Subir Chakma, Organising Secretary of DYF Khagrachari District Unit and Apruchi Marma, General Secretary of PCP Khagrachari District unit addressed the rally.

The speakers condemned the unprovoked attack on the Jumma women in Ghilachari and demanded that the army personnel involved in the attack be punished.

They expressed solidarity with the movement of the Jumma women in Ghilachari and urged the government to concede to their just demands.

Solidarity meetings and demonstrations have also been held in Panchari, Dighinala, Mahalchari, Kaokhali in CHT and in Dhaka and Chittagong.

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## **Ghilachari road blockade continues: army arrests two in Kudukchari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 205/2009, November 19, 2009*

### **Jumma women in Ghilachari enforced peaceful road blockade for the third consecutive day today without any untoward incidents.**

Army personnel remained deployed all over the area, and in Kudukchari, which lies five kilometers south of Ghilachari on Rangamati-Khagrachari road, they have arrested two Jumma villagers from Halfchari market.

The army also ordered all the shops in Halfchari market, 8–10 in all and belonging to the Jummas, to be closed.

The arrested Jummas are Arabindu Chakma, 35, and Mulukya Chakma (34). They were taken to Kudukchari camp.

Last night the army raided a hostel of Kudukchari High School, searched the rooms and insulted its inmates.

In another incident, the army stopped Sumoti Chakma son of Shukro Kumar Chakma of Kabukchari village from entering Ghilachari bazaar at 2:15pm today. He was going to the market to buy some medicines.

#### **Statement**

The Ghilachari Committee for Guiding Movement Against Women Repression in a press statement yesterday said, “the rumour that the blockade enforcers had attacked students of Betchari Osmania High School is completely false, fabricated and baseless. There is not an iota of truth in it.”

It went on to say: “We think a corrupt element within the army spread this rumour to attain a certain objective, and it is to divert our movement by creating a Pahari-Bengali communal riot”

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### **HWF begins its 7<sup>th</sup> central council in Chittagong**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 206/2009, November 20, 2009*

**The Hill Women’s Federation has inaugurated its seventh central council with a call to resist repression of Jumma women and speed up the struggle for full autonomy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.**

The inaugural ceremony was held at Islamabadi Memorial Hall of Kadam Mobbarak High School with the hoisting of the national, UPDF and HWF flags.

The hall was packed with participants, who spilled over on to the school ground.

Advocate Bhulon Bhowmik inaugurated the council at 11:30am to the thunderous applause. In his inaugural address Mr. Bhowmik said it was Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had set and initiated the repressive policies on CHT. “The Pahari people have their own land laws which are based on customs, but the Bangladesh state does not recognise them.” he said and demanded that this just right be recognised and protected.

Presided over by HWF president Sonali Chakma, the inaugural ceremony was also addressed by Mamun, General Secretary, Ganotantrik Front Chittagong Unit; Md. Anwar, convenor, Jatiya Chattra Dal Chittagong Unit; Sumi Chakrabarti, central committee member of Paribrajok Progoti Dal and a Masters student of Chittagong University; Rakib Uddin, a leader of Naya Ganotantric Gano Morcha; Mithun Chakma, General Secretary, Democratic Youth Forum, Ricoh Chakma, president, Hill Students’ Council and Shanti Dev Chakma, organiser, UPDF Rangamati District Unit.

HWF president Sonali Chakma expressed her solidarity with the Ghilachari women who have been enforcing road blocks, demanding punishment of an army man for attempting to rape a Jumma woman.

She said the Jumma women have become more vulnerable to sexual violence then ever. “They are nowhere safe in the CHT” she said adding, their safety and dignity can be ensured only if the army and settlers are withdrawn from CHT.

She demanded constitutional recognition to the Jumma people and their traditional land laws.

Shanti Dev Chakma said when it comes to the issue of Chittagong Hill Tracts there is no difference between the ruling national political parties such as Awami League, BNP, JP and Jammata.

“UPDF has been oppressed under all the previous governments and continue to be oppressed under the present government.” he said.

“This is because in the CHT the real government is not AL or BNP, but the army; it is the army who rule the roost, they are the final authority.” he added.

Expressing solidarity with the struggle of the Jumma people, Mamun emphasized the need for linking the struggle against national repression to the struggle against feudalism and imperialism.

“Until the struggle against imperialism and feudalism is won, there will be no let up in national repression”, he said.

He also condemned the killing of UPDF leader Rui Khoi Marma in Laxmichari.

Md. Anwar said Bangladesh is a multi-national country. “It is not possible to find a solution to the national question under the existing state structure.” he said.

Supporting the demands of the Ghilachari women, Sumi Chakrabarti said the message of their resistance should be spread all over.

Rakib Uddin said the ruling class has ruined the country and the Jumma people should not expect much from this government.

Mithun Chakma narrated his experience of his recent visits to Panchari, Laxmichari, Naniachar and Jurachari, and said the army is the greatest threat to peace and survival of the Jumma people in CHT.

He described how Lt. Col. Sharif in Laxmichari has formed a terrorist gang -- the so-called CHTNF (Chittagong Hill Tracts National Forum) which is popularly known as Borkha Bahini or Veiled Force as its members cover their faces with Muslim veils during their actions.

Ricoh Chakma said full autonomy is the only solution to the CHT problem.

### **Rally**

The inaugural ceremony was followed by a procession which marched to the Chittagong press club on Jamal Khan road.

An estimated 750 Jumma women took part in the procession, holding banners and placards and waving UPDF and HWF flags. They came from all over the CHT including Bandarban and belong to almost all the Jumma nationalities.

In addition, 50 Bengali sympathizers and 100 PCP and DYF members and supporters also took part in the programme.

### **Discussion**

Later in the afternoon, a discussion on the role of women in the resistance against repression in Chittagong Hill tracts was held at the same hall room with Sonali Chakma in the chair.

The speakers included professor Mohammad Hossain Khan, joint convenor, Committee Against Fascism and Imperialism, Chittagong; professor Ferdous Ara Alim; Arup Barua, member,

Bangladesh Lakhok Shibir Chittagong unit; Sadaf Nur-e-Islam, Associate professor, department of anthropology, Chittagong University; and Shanti Dev Chakma, a UPDF leader.

Professor Ferdous Ara Alim said the way the Jumma women have built up their movement is most appreciable. “My head bends down with respect when I think of it” she said.

Justifying the struggle of the Hill Women Federation, Mrs Ferdous said the Jumma women are regularly assaulted. She cited the example of Kalpana Chakma who was kidnapped by Lt. Ferdous in 1996.

Chittagong University teacher Sadaf Nur-e-Islam said “Kalpana Chakma is a symbol of resistance in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Once we tried to name a place after Kalpana Chakma on Jahangirnagar University campus, but the university authority refused to give us permission.”

She went on to say, “We – Paharis and Bengalis -- live side by side. When I hear the news of human rights violations in CHT it reminds me of the incidents of Ekattor (Liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971).”

Arup Barua shared his experience of his visits different parts of CHT and narrated how the Jumma people are subjected to repression and inhuman and degrading treatment.

He said the movement initiated by HWF is of different kind; it is born out of resistance against repression.

Professor Hossain Khan stressed the need for a simultaneous movement in the Hills and in the plain.

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## **Ghilachari women suspend road blockade**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 207/2009, November 20, 2009*

**The agitating Ghilachari women have suspended the ongoing road blockade till 25 November after taking annual examinations of the school children and the suffering of the people into consideration, says a statement issued by Ghilachari Committee for Guiding Movement Against Women Repression today.**

“But the protest will continue” it added.

“We are suspending the blockade till 25 November” one of the organisers told chtnews.com.

They had blocked Rangamati – Khagrachari road for four days since 17 November in protest against an attempted rape on a Jumma woman and demanding punishment of the guilty army man and withdrawal of Ghilachari camp.

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## **Army orders one to shut his roadside shop**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 208/2009, November 21, 2009*

**Army personnel have ordered Kamal Dhan Chakma, 38, to shut his shop at Jatri Chouni near Kudukchari bazaar for good and quit his business, sources say.**

“The army came in the evening today and asked me whether I had documents for my business. I said I had license. Yet, the army men told me to shut my shop for ever.” a Jumma activist quoted him as saying.

Kamal Dhan Chakma's original home is in Ugudochari under Laxmichari Upazila. He opened his shop 2/3 years ago.

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## **New central committee for HWF formed**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 209/2009, November 24, 2009*

**A 21-member strong new central committee for Hill Women's Federation has been formed with Sonali Chakma and Konika Dewan as its president and General Secretary.**

The committee was announced today at the end of a three-day conference that began on 21 November in Chittagong.

Over 70 delegates from all over the CHT had taken part in the seventh conference.

Sonali Chakma has been re-elected president unanimously for the third consecutive term, while Konika Dewan and Rina Dewan retained their positions as General Secretary and Organising Secretary respectively.

Apart from electing a new central committee, the conference also revised the organisation's charter of demands and made a few amendments to the constitution.

The conference, presided over by Sonali Chakma, expressed solidarity with Ghilachari women who have risen in an uprising, demanding punishment of an army personnel for sexual attack on a Jumma woman and withdrawal of Ghilachari camp.

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## **Borkha party men beat ex-Upazila chairman in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 210/2009, November 27, 2009*

**Army-backed Borkha party men raided the house of ex Upazila chairman Dashrath Chakma in Laxmichari Sadar last night and beat him up severely.**

According to his family sources, a group of 8 – 10 Borkha party or veiled force men raided the house at about 9pm, beat him and looted away cash and a mobile phone set from him.

Mr. Chakma was seriously wounded and admitted to Laxmichari Health Complex.

The army zone headquarters is a few hundred yards from his house, but they did nothing to prevent the Borkha attack or nab them, apart from making a few shouts.

The terrorists also searched a few houses including the house of Golap Chandra and Bindu Chakma for Ratan Chakma, an ex UPDF member and snatched Bindu Chakma's mobile hand set.

They asked Golap Chandra to tell UPDF supporters Dipak, Ratan and Shanti Moy to meet with them (Borkha party) but refrained from saying specifically where.

The villagers later resisted the terrorists who fled in the direction of Beltolipara.

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## **12 Jummas tortured in Majolong, Sajek**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 211/2009, December 04, 2009*

**A belated report said 12 Jumma villagers were tortured in a remote village in Majolong under Sajek Union of Rangamati district.**

It said a group of army personnel from Majolong camp raided the village of Milonpara at about 10pm on 9 November.

The victims were watching a film in a house in celebration of one of their relative's birthday.

The soldiers entered the house and picked up 12 of the villagers. They were taken to the camp and tortured. However, they were released the next day.

Six of the victims have been identified. They are Boren Chakma (21), Batty Chakma (26), Bata Tripura (32), Monakya Chakma (20), Sidharth Chakma (30) and Khuku Moni Chakma (20).

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## **UPDF launches office in Pujgang**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 212/2009, December 09, 2009*

**The United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) has opened an office at Pujgang under Panchari Upazila in Khagrachari district.**

The office was inaugurated yesterday by Alok Bikash Chakma, a UPDF organiser affiliated with Panchari Unit.

Presided over by Chandra Dev Chakma, the inauguration ceremony was also addressed by Riku Chakma, president of Hill Women's Federation Khagrachari district unit, Shipu Tripura, member of PCP Panchari branch, Anil Kumar Chakma, chairman of Chengi Union No. 2, Nanda Joy Chakma, a businessman, and Nila Kumar Chakma.

In his inaugural address Mr. Alok Bikash Chakma said UPDF is committed to democratic values and principles and is campaigning for the rights of the Jumma people through peaceful means.

"But the government and the army have been engaged in a conspiracy to thwart the advance of our party," he alleged.

He urged all to strengthen the hands of the UPDF for peace and progress in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

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## **Santu Larma's demand for banning UPDF is a frustration of an old, unelected leader – DYF**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 213/2009, December 09, 2009*

**The Democratic Youth Forum General Secretary Mithun Chakma, Hill Students' Council President Ricoh Chakma and Hill Women's President Sonali Chakma in a statement today, 9th December, termed the demand of Santu Larma to ban United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) as a frustration of an old man who has not been elected to serve the people but has been indulging in open corruption, says a press release.**

Brushing aside his demand, the three Jumma leaders said “the point is not whether to ban UPDF or not, but whether Santu Larma, chief of the Jana Samhati Samiti’ Santu faction, has any legitimacy to serve as the Chair of the Regional Council considering that he has never been elected. He is a stooge irrespective of which ever government is in power in Dhaka and indulges in corruption. Even during emergency no action against his corruption has been taken.”

They alleged that Santu Larma uses the government funds allocated to the Regional Council to sustain his terrorist gangs and to procure arms and ammunition to kill his opponents including UPDF members and supporters.

They said UPDF is campaigning for full autonomy through peaceful and democratic means, and added that Santu Larma has killed more than two hundred members and supporters of the UPDF since 1998 when the party came into being. It is precisely because UPDF has participated in the elections while Santu Larma often boycotted under various pretext.

Referring to an interview of Santu Larma published in daily Jugantor in 2000 in which he had virtually ordered his men to lynch UPDF members and supporters, the three leaders said “terrorism is the motto of Jana Samhati Samiti (Santu faction).”

They further alleged that despite UPDF assurance that it would help any efforts to implement the CHT accord in full, the Santu faction of the JSS has continued its armed offensives against UPDF while the government has stepped up political repression.

The press release is signed by Thui Kyo Ching Marma, General Secretary, Hill Students’ Council, Dhaka Branch.

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## **Settlers obstruct Jummas from working in their land in Sajek**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 214/2009, December 10, 2009*

**Settlers obstructed two Jumma families from working in their own land in Sajek under Rangamati district.**

Sources said Lallo Chakma’s wife Hasina Chakma and Boli Chakma of Gangaramdore village went to their land to cut trees yesterday at about 9am.

But three settlers named Md. Abdul, Mofiz and Rubel chased them away wielding daos (knives).

Earlier on 11 November, in a similar incident Aroti Chakma of Gangaramdore was obstructed by Mofiz from clearing jungle in her own land.

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## **JSS (Rupayan) member shot dead by Santu group**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 215/2009, December 12, 2009*

**An activist of Jana Samhati Samiti (Rupayan), popularly known as reformists, was shot dead yesterday by Santu group in Merung area under Dighinala Upazila in Khagrachari district.**

Leaders of the Rupayan faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti have confirmed the death of Jiten Chakma alias Shanti. He is from Naraichari village in Babuchara, Dighinala, and his father’s name is Purno Mohan Chakma.

The killing took place in the evening at Moner Manush area under Merung Union, south of Dighinala bazaar.

JSS (Rupayan) allege that Pulin Bihari Chakma, 26, son of Rajyo Muni Chakma and Sona Kanti Chakma alias Lambapeda, 26, son of Shanti Lochon Chakma of the Santu faction masterminded the killing.

“They shot him point blank”, a member of the JSS Rupayan said.

The Daily Star, an English newspaper published from Dhaka, and the Purbokone, a Bengali daily published from Chittagong, covered the incident but referred to the victim’s name as Sunil Bikash Chakma (30).

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### **13 Jumma villagers arrested in Dighinala**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 216/2009, December 13, 2009*

**Thirteen Jumma villagers have been arrested during an army raid in Jora Bridge area under Dighinala Upazila in Khagrachari district, sources say.**

Quoting villagers of the area, an NGO activist told chtnews.com a group of army personnel from Dighinala zone raided Jora Bridge area at around 3:30pm today and picked up 13 persons from a tea shop there.

The arrested Jummas were taken to the camp and reportedly tortured.

They are Purno Bikash Chakma (30) son of Lalit Kumar Chakma, Dhan Kumar Chakma (35) son of Birendra Chakma, Ratna Kumar Chakma (41) son of Purno Chandra Chakma, Swapna Kumar Chakma (35) son of Ashwini Chakma, Ranjit Chakma (17) son of Ramchandra Chakma, Arekyo Chakma (30) son of Kina Chan Chakma, Ananda Chakma (17) son of

Lamba Peda Chakma, Nironto Chakma (45), Rupayan Chakma (30) son of Barna Kumar Chakma, Ripon Chakma (20) , Mrs. Dhaturi Chakma (50) wife of Bangali Chan Chakma, their two sons Surjo Uday Chakma (10) and Batya Chakma (12).

Surjo Uday and Batya Chakma are students, studying in a school in Dighinala. Their mother Dhaturi Chakma went to the tea shop to look for them when the arrest was made.

None of the arrested has been released till the writing of this report at 7:50pm.

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### **Army ransacks Buddhist hut in Majalong**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 217/2009, December 14, 2009*

**A belated report said a group of 12 army personnel led by Warrant Officer Selim from Majalong camp on 19 November raided a Buddhist Kuthir or hut at Puriholachug hill in Majalong under Sajek Union of Rangamati district and destroyed the belongings of Ven. Chiroso Bhante, the Buddhist monk who resides in the hut.**

This was the second raid in the same month, sources said. “The army reached the Kuthir at about 10am. Then they entered it with their boots on defying temple rules and destroyed the Bhante’s belongings including his Chabek (alms bowl) and plates.” one villager quoted Bhante’s attendant Shanti Chakma as saying.

The soldiers also drank up beverages (7ups) stored for the Bhante, he added.

It needs to be mentioned that Warrant Officer Selim first raided the Kuthir on 10 November and ransacked it.

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## **Settlers attempt to grab land in Langudu**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 218/2009, December 16, 2009*

**The illegal Bengali settlers have been making repeated attempts to grab approximately 50 acres of land belonging to Jumma people in Langudu Upazila under Rangamati district.**

Sources from Langudu said 21 settler families from Bheibone Chara have been trying to grab the land since October.

The lands are registered in favour of five Jumma villagers, namely 1. Dayal Chandra Chakma son of late Laxmi Charan Chakma, Bondobosti (settlement) case no: 1205 (d)1975/76, Holding No: H/9; 2. Shidham Chakma son of late Pottya Ram Chakma Bondobosti case No: 1067(d),1972/73 Holding No: H/49; 3. Ashasur Chakma son of late Protibondhu Chakma Bondobosti case No: 1272(D), H/68; 4. Krshina Chandra Chakma son of Purnamashi Chakma Bondobosti case No: 1071(D)1972/73 Holding: H/48; and 5. Bashanta Chakma son of late Kalachan Chakma Bondobosti case No: 1200(D)1975/76 Holding -H/5.

The lands in question are situated in Harikaba, Modyo Harikaba, Bor Harikaba and Boradam areas.

The Jumma land owners submitted a memorandum to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, the highest government authority in the Upazila, one week ago, and he has set a date for a meeting with both the parties to settle the dispute.

Land grabbing is still a huge problem faced by the Jumma people in CHT.

“No matter which government is in power – be it AL, BNP or caretaker government, the settlers continue to grab our lands.” Mithun Chakma, a DYF leader, said.

He thinks most of the government officials are biased in favour of the settlers, and “it is one of the reasons why the settlers are so aggressive in their attempts to grab our lands.” he said.

“Not a single settler has so far been punished for grabbing or attempting to grab Jumma people’s lands.” he added.

Michael Chakma, another DYF leader, is apprehensive about the outcome of the tomorrow’s scheduled meeting.

Speaking to chtnews.com from Langudu, he said “From past experiences I can say that such meetings are a useless exercise; the settlers are not deterred even if we have proved our case showing relevant documents and the local government officials have settled the matter.”

Eleven of the 21 settlers who are making attempts to grab land have been identified.

They are Md. Makbul, Md. Tafa, Md. Motaleb, Md. Rafique, Md. Ainul, Md. Abu(ex UP member of 7no Lungudu Sadar UP), Md. Rahman, Md. Mofajjal, Md. Shahidul, Md. Mansur Ali and Md. Imam Ali.

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## **JSS’ Santu faction kidnaps 5 in Jurachari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 219/2009, December 19, 2009*

**Members of the Santu Larma faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti have kidnapped five supporters of the United Peoples’ Democratic Front (UPDF) from the village of**

### **Shalbon under Jurachari Union, report Shamakal, Naya Diganta and Daily Purbokone.**

According to a news report published in these Bengali dailies today, the UPDF supporters were kidnapped yesterday morning.

The victims have been identified as Sapta Moni Chakma (70), Sumiti Bikash Chakma (35), Ujjal Chakma (22), Arun Tonchongy (25) and Bimal Chakma (30).

“The JSS orchestrated the kidnapping with a view to foiling our party’s founding anniversary programmes on 26 December.” the papers quoted Maha Ranjon Chakma as saying.

### **Army search houses in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 220/2009, December 19, 2009*

**A group of army personnel from Laxmichari zone in Khagrachari district last night raided the village of Bhukkyachara, about 1km north-west of Laxmichari Upazila headquarters, sources said.**

“The number of the soldiers was about 18, and they were accompanied by two other people who had covered their faces with bandanas,” a school teacher told chtnews.com by mobile phone from Laxmichari.

He said the army surrounded the houses of Rabi Kumar Chakma and his two sons Bishu Kumar Chakma and Babu Chakma in the village.

According to him, the soldiers looked for Bishu Kumar Chakma, an avid supporter of the UPDF, and his daughter

Bobita Chakma, who is a member of the Hill Women’s Federation.

### **Three villagers kidnapped, released after paying ransom in Sajek**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 221/2009, December 19, 2009*

**Three Jumma villagers were kidnapped and released later in a remote mountainous area of Ruilui under Sajek Union of Rangamati district, sources said.**

A belated report said a group of JSS militants (Santu faction) kidnapped Jotirmoy Chakma (45), Sadhan Chandra Chakma (44) and Diptiman Chakma (50) at gun point from Meet-point area at 1:30pm on 1 December.

The JSS men accused them of not paying “Jum tax” to them last year and demanded Taka 50,000 (\$715) as ransom for their release.

They ordered the money to be paid within three days.

The next day the village elders contacted the kidnappers, paid Taka 20,000 and got the hostages released.

### **Borkha party’s terror campaign in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 222/2009, December 21, 2009*

**The military-backed Borkha Party members have unleashed a reign of terror in Laxmichari.**

“They are terrorising people with direct support from Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam.” alleged Rina Dewan, Organising Secretary of Hill Women’s Federation.

A resident of Laxmichari, Rina said on Sunday, 19 December, the Borkha Party terrorists led by Nirmal Kanti Chakma stopped a jeep at Kali Mandir area of Hatichara and forced those bound for Manikchari bazaar to get down along with their merchandise.

The terrorists tried to force them to sell their goods at Laxmichari bazaar, instead of Manikchari bazaar.

“When the people tried to resist the terrorists, they phoned zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam, who appeared there within minutes with his force.” Rina further informed.

Then the Borkha men beat up the market-going people in his presence.

One of those tortured is Juddha Moni Chakma (46) son of Smriti Mohan Chakma of village Gobmara. He was on his way to Manikchari bazaar to sell goods.

On 20 December, four Borkha party men accompanied a group of army men from Laxmichari zone during a raid on Jatindra Karbari Para village in Morachengey area. They are Kapil Sen Chakma, Bishu Chakma, Phorachan Chakma and Alubo Chakma.

The terrorists threatened the villagers and ordered them to shut their shops down.

The same say another group of Borkha terrorists went to the village of Master Para in Dullyatoli Union, terrorised the people and ordered them to come to Laxmichari bazaar.

The Borkha terrorists also collect tolls regularly from people in Bannyachola of Laxmichari Upazila, and in Bholachola of Manikchari Upazila, and share the booty with Sharif.

The Jumma people have been boycotting Laxmichari bazaar since 9 October following a communal attack on them. They are demanding punishment to Lt. Col. Sharif.s

Lt. Col. Sharif, who is responsible for deterioration of relations between Jummas and Bengalis in recent months in Laxmichari, has been trying to coerce the Jummas to come back to Laxmichari bazaar.

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## **Army arrests PCP activists in Naniachar, released later**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 223/2009, December 21, 2009*

**The army arrested three Jumma activists from zone gate in Naniachar today. However, they were released one hour later, after seizing copies of posters from them, sources in PCP say.**

The arrest was made at 4:30pm when PCP and DYF activists were on their way to Naniachar bazaar to put up posters about the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary programmes of the United Peoples’ Democratic Front (UPDF).

The army kept the activists for an hour and questioned them about the language of the posters.

One of the hand-written posters was about the withdrawal of the army from CHT.



“The army asked why we demand withdrawal of the army,” Ricoh Chakma, president of PCP central committee, told chtnews.com by phone from Khagrachari quoting Bilash Chakma, president of PCP Naniachar Branch committee, who was among the arrested.

“Bilash replied ‘we demand your (army) withdrawal because you torture us’”

“When the soldier asked for proof, he cited the most recent Ghilachari incident in which an army man made an attempt to rape a Jumma woman.”

“After that the soldier kept quiet.”

However, the army kept four posters dealing with the demand for army withdrawal and land rights of the Jummas, Ricoh further said.

The arrested PCP activists are Bilash Chakma, president of PCP Naniachar Branch committee, Gautam Muni Chakma and Toel Chakma, members of PCP Naniachari College branch, and Real Chakma, member of Democratic Youth Forum Naniachari Unit.

The Khagrachari district branch of the Hill Students’ Council staged a demonstration in the afternoon against undemocratic intervention of the army in Naniachar.

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## **Four villagers kidnapped in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 224/2009, December 22, 2009

**Four Jumma villagers have been kidnapped in Laxmichari under Khagrachari district, sources say.**

According to various sources, a group of military-backed Bokha Party members led by Kapil Sen Chakma and Bizu Chakma last night raided the village of Bokyacahra under Laxmichari Sader Union.

They picked up Babullya Chakma (30) son of Rabi Kumar Chakma from his house and demanded a sum of Taka 100,000 (\$1428) as toll from him.

When he refused to agree to pay the toll money, the terrorists forcibly took him away. Babullay Chakma is blind in one eye.

The Borkha terrorists also kidnapped three others from the village. They are Joy Dhan Chakma (25) son of Dhanakka Chakma (village head), Bindukya Chakma (16) son of Palokya Chakma and Anil Chakma (25) s/o Khiluk Dhan Chakma.

The Borkha Party was created by military in June – July this year to create disturbance to justify opposition to army withdrawal from CHT. Its original name was CHTNF (Chittagong Hill Tracts National Forum), but it became known as Borkha Party as its members used borkha or Muslim veils during robbery and hijacking.

The Borkha members are now concentrated mainly in Laxmichari after they were ousted from Ramgarh, Guimara and Matiranga areas by popular resistance.

Lt. Col. Shariful Islam, commander of Laxmichari zone, is openly patronizing them.

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## **Settler attempts to grab land in Panchari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 225/2009, December 22, 2009

**The settlers are making attempts to grab 7 acres of land belonging to four Jumma individuals in Panchari under Khagrachari district.**

The land, which falls under third class category suitable only for plantations, lies in Taiongpara village under Choto Panchari Mouza in Latiban Union and belongs to Chandra Joy Tripura son of late Koni Ram Tripura, Modyo Joy Tripura s/o late Moni Mohan Tripura and two others.

“Four Bengali settlers from Choto Panchari went there to occupy the land and cleared jungles this morning,” a DYF member from Panchari quoted Chandra Joy Tripura as telling him.

Mr. Tripura told his that one month ago, Hedayet from Choto Panchari had gone to the Jumma land owners taking police along with him, apparently to intimidate them, and claimed that the land in question belonged to him.

Since then, the Jumma land owners have gone to many people in authority including Latiban Union Council chairman to seek justice, but to no avail.

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**Demo held against military-backed Borkha party**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 226/2009, December 22, 2009

**Three Jumma organisations -- Hill Students' Council, Hill Women's Federation and Democratic Youth Forum – staged a demonstration today in Khagrachari, demanding immediate release of four kidnapped Jumma villagers in Laxmichari. (photo attached)**

The Jummas were kidnapped last night by military-backed terrorists popularly known as Borkha party because its members used to put on Borkha or Muslim veil while committing crimes.

At a rally held at Mukta Mancha in Khagrachari bazaar, Apruchi Marma, a leader of Hill Students' Council demanded that the Borkha Party be disbanded and its members arrested and put on trial.

He accused Laxmichari zone commander Lt. Col. Shariful Islam of sheltering the Borkha party terrorists.

The rally was preceded by a procession which took off from Swanirbhor bazaar and paraded Khagrachari town.

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**Military raids and torture in Sajek**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 227/2009, December 24, 2009

**Two Jumma villagers were tortured during army raids in three villages in Sajek Union under Rangamati district.**

According to sources, on the night of 21 December, a group of 10 – 15 army personnel led by Habilder Tarikul Islam from Baghaihat zone raided Baghaihat cluster village.

The soldiers conducted searches into the houses of the village and beat up Sukumar Chakma (40).

They also picked up 10 others. They are Chitta Ranjan Chakma, the village head, Hridoy Ranjan Chakma, ex-member of UP, Laxmi Moni Chakma, teacher of Baghaihat High School, Ujjal Chakma, teacher of Baghaihat High School,

Sudarshan Chakma (35), Binoy Chakma, Moti Lal Chakma, Jagadish Chakma, Nirupam Chakma and Ananda Chakma.

However, they were released the next morning.

On the same day, another group of army personnel led by Major Amin and Lt. Masud raided East Balughat and beat up one Arun Bikash Chakma (35) son of Shati Kumar Chakma there.

They also prevented the villagers from constructing an office of a Samiti (group) formed by UNDP.

The army made another raid in the village of Daney Baibachara, searching the house of Biralal Chakma (45) son of Narammya Chakma.

They interrogated him about UPDF and warned against settlement of any landless Jumma family in the area.

“If anyone settles defying our order, we will shoot him,” the army told Biralal.

On 23 December, the army raided East Balughat again. They tried to take away the signboard of the UNDP-formed Samiti (group). But their attempt failed when the village women resisted.

The army then made attempts to pick up a villager named Mano Ranjan Chakma but they had to leave him as the women put up resistance again.

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## **One arrested in Ghilachari, UPDF posters torn down in Manikchari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 228/2009, December 25, 2009*

**One innocent Jumma villager was arrested by police yesterday from Ghilachari bazaar, while the army tore down UPDF’s founding anniversary posters in Manikchari under Rangamati district.**

UPDF sources said Padma Kumar Chakma (42), a poor peasant of Madyapara village, was arrested at noon from a tea shop in Ghilachari bazaar.

He was reportedly implicated with the murder of Captain Gazi, an army officer who was killed couples of years ago in mysterious circumstances while his troops were on a night patrol in Ghilachari.

UPDF Rangamati District Unit condemned his arrest and urged the authorities concerned to release him unconditionally.

### **UPDF posters torn down**

UPDF’s Alakesh Chakma from Rangamati alleged that the army had torn their party’s founding anniversary posters down at Manikchari yesterday.

“The army also gave the people a scolding for allowing us to put up the posters there,” Alakesh told chtnews.com.

Some of the slogans are “Eleventh founding anniversary message: Build up movement for achieving land and ethnic rights”, “On the eve of eleventh founding anniversary, we call on students, women and youth: join the struggle for preserving national dignity and land rights”, “We Want Full Autonomy”, “We Want Complete Withdrawal of Army from CHT”, “Recognise Jumma People’s Customary Land Laws”, Stop land grabbing and human rights violations in CHT”.

## Seven UPDF supporters kidnapped by JSS (Santu) in Manikchari

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 229/2009, December 26, 2009

**As the United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) observes its eleventh founding anniversary today, seven of its supporters have been kidnapped by Santu faction of the Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS) from Manikchari under Rangamati district.**

The incident comes barely one day after the army tore down UPDF posters pasted on walls in the same area.

UPDF sources said their supporters were kidnapped yesterday at about 4pm while putting up posters in Manikchari.

The posters were about withdrawal of the army, land grabbing, continuing human rights violations and constitutional recognition to the ethnic Jumma people and their traditional land laws.

“The JSS men came in 10 – 12 motor bikes from Rangamati and took our people away at gun point.” Alakesh Chakma, a UPDF organiser in Rangamati district, told chtnews.com.

“They were taken towards Rangapannya and tortured,” he added, quoting village elders who had been sent to Rangamati to verify the incident and contact JSS leaders.

The JSS men also beat up Anil Chakma, the driver of a CNG auto rickshaw which the kidnapped UPDF supporters had hired for their work. However, he was released hours later when other drivers and the owner of his vehicle put pressure on JSS.

The kidnapped UPDF supporters are all students. Their full identities have been given below:

No .	Name	Age	Father's name	Mother's name	Class	School / address
1	Pratul Chakma	17	Shanti Moy Chakma	Choto Devi Chakma	7	Ghilachari High School
2	Santosh Chakma	16	Manik Bikash Chakma	Happy Chakma	8	Ghilachari High School
3	Jiten Chakma	17	Rupanya Chakma	Shefali Chakma	9	Ghilachari High School
4	Thero Chakma	13	Shovaram Chakma	Shova Devi Chakma	6	Ghilachari High School
5	Bikash Chakma	17	Late Deva Moy Chakma	--	--	--
6	Mishon Chakma	13	Surjo Kumar Chakma	--	6	Kudukchari High School
7	Bindu Dhan Chakma	27	Ranga Dhan Chakma	--	SSC candidate, Open University	Moantola Para village, Kudukchari

## PCP leader kidnapped by JSS, feared dead

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 230/2009, December 26, 2009

**A local leader of the Hill Students Council, a front organisation of the United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), was kidnapped by members of the Jana Samhati Samiti's Santu Larma faction, PCP and other sources said.**

UPDF's Subolong office said Promod Kanti Chakma, General Secretary of the PCP Jurachari branch, was kidnapped from the village of Dharmajoy Para under Jurachari Union at about 8:30AM on 21 December.

According to it, a group of 17 armed JSS (Santu faction) men led by Nikhil, Jyoti Chakma and Samira Chakma masterminded the kidnapping.

The whereabouts of Mr. Promod, a resident of Shugonochari village under Banajogichara Union and son of Chakra Kumar Chakma, still remains untraced.

A UPDF supporter from Rangamati said his (Promod's) parents have failed to contact the local JSS leaders and are very much worrying for his safety.

"In fact, many in the village fear that he might have been killed already," he said.

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## **Attempted rape of Jamuna Chakma: perpetrator identified**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 231/2009, December 29, 2009*

**Jamuna Chakma has identified the army personnel who tried to rape her on 8 November in Ghilachari under Rangamati district.**

Ms Chakma, mother of a young child, identified him at Naniachar zone headquarters in the presence of Naniachar Upazila Vice Chairmen Kumentu Chakma and Milki Chakma, Ghilachari Union Council Chairman Mithu Chakma, Burighat Union Council chairman Pranati Bikash Chakma, Naniachar Sadar Union Council chairman Panchanon Chakma, Ghilachari Committee for Guiding Movement Against Women Repression's convenor Jhinu Prabha Chakma.

Besides them, some of the eyewitnesses were also invited there.

The Second-in-Command of Naniachar zone on 26 December invited Jamuna Chakma, her husband and her father-in-law to the camp to identify the perpetrator.

The Commander at first presented a group of army personnel clad in combat dresses before Jamuna Chakma and others at Goul Ghar (round house) at the zone headquarters.

She immediately identified without any difficulty the army men who made the sexual attack on her.

After that the same group of the army men was presented before her once again but this time without combat uniform, and yet she was able to single him out.

The army officers did not disclose the delinquent soldier's name to the Jummas present there but told them that Jamuna Chakma would have to make herself available at Naniachar zone two or three more times in the future.

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## **Borkha Party terrorists beat one in Laxmichari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

*News No. 232/2009, December 29, 2009*

**A Jumma villager has been tortured by military-sponsored Borkha Party terrorists in Laxmichari under Khagrachari district.**

Sources said a group of 5 – 6 Borkha Party terrorists led by Bizu Chakma and Phorachan Chakma picked Bindu Chakma, 42, son of Phulchan Chakma from his home in Beltali Para village at 9AM today.

He was warming himself by fire in the courtyard when the terrorists came.

The Borkha men took him to an undisclosed location, beat him up, snatched his mobile phone and then released him.

Beltali Para is about half a kilometer north-west of Laxmichari army zone headquarters.

Lt. Col. Shariful Islam, Commanding Officer of the zone, is said to be personally patronizing the terrorists.

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## **Two injured in JSS Santu Group attack in Jurachari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 233/2009, December 31, 2009

Two people including a Democratic Youth Forum member have been injured in a pre-dawn attack in Jurachari under Rangamati district.

Sources said in the small hours today a group of 16 armed members of the Jana Samhati Samiti (Santu faction) led by Soheli Chakma (28) and Jitesh Chakma (26) raided the village of Labour Para in Jurachari Sadar and carried out the attack.

They shot and wounded DYF member Prashanta Chakma (36) son of late Prem Moy Chakma and went for Hichchonnya

Chakma (35) son of Krishna Ratan Chakma with knives and sticks.

Hichchonnya Chakma is a day labourer. He was hit in the throat with a knife and beaten with sticks.

Prashanta Chakma sustained injuries in his left hand. Both of them are now undergoing treatment at Jurachari Sadar Hospital.

UPDF Rangamati District Organiser Shanti Dev Chakma condemned the attack and called upon the local administration to bring the culprits to justice.

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## **Land grab alleged in Nakyangchari**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com)

News No. 234/2009, December 31, 2009

There have been allegations of encroachment of Jumma people's land in Rezu Mouza under Nakyangchari Upazila in the southern CHT district of Bandarban.

According to a report published today in the Chattagram Manch, a daily newspaper in Chittagong, the land encroached

## **Breaking News: JSS kidnaps 3 UPDF supporters in Rangamati**

[chtnews.com](http://chtnews.com) July 12, 2009

**Jana Samhati Samiti members loyal to Santu Larma have kidnapped three UPDF supporters from Raj Bana Vihara gate in Rangamati town.**

**They were kidnapped a few minutes ago, at 8:20pm, while they were returning from the Vihara after paying homage to the Great Bana Bhante.**

**They have been taken to the residence of Santu Larma, one source in Rangamati said.**

**The victims have been identified as Satya Brata Chakma (26) s/o Amrita Chakma and Kalachan Chakma (23) s/o Purna Chandra Chakma, General Secretary and Office Secretary of PCP Jurachari Unit respectively, and Suman Chakma (24) s/o Kamini Kumar Master, a member of Democratic Youth Forum, Jurachari Unit.**

**A group of about 30 -40 JSS members and supporters led by Udayan Tripura, president of Santu Larma backed PCP, took part in the kidnapping.**



upon by Rahmat Ali, Ziaur Rahman, Zafar Alam and others belongs to late Thinka Aung Chakma.

The Khatian number of the land measuring 0.90 acres in Rezu Mouza No. 268 is 68.

Thinka Aung Chakma's son Mongba Thoai Chakma created an orchard on the said land, but as he was away from home for study the Bengalees entered upon his land unlawfully and grabbed it by way of building houses over there.

When Mongba Thoai protested, the grabbers threatened him with death.

After that he lodged a general diary (GD No. 912) with Nakyangchari police station on 27 December.

He is yet to recover his land from the trespassers.

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**chtnews.com** is an independent and voluntary online news service dedicated to projecting and analyzing the current events in the Chittagong Hill Tracts from the perspective of the Jumma people's struggle for the right to self- determination. For further information please contact at: [chtnewsonline@gmail.com](mailto:chtnewsonline@gmail.com)