## Obama reconsiders Indonesia military ahead of visit

AFP, Washington

connection.

of the talks said.

invasion of East Timor and The United States is looking to break a taboo and train an the 1999 violence when the elite Indonesian force linked territory voted for independto past abuses, as President Barack Obama courts the world's largest Muslimmajority nation with a visit.

visited Washington to dis-

cuss a resumption of train-

support for Kopassus under

the so-called Leahy

Amendment in 1997, which

prohibited training to for-

eign military units involved

Asia director at the Center for

Strategic and International

Studies think-tank, said

fundamental" if the Obama

administration was serious

about transforming ties with

be the India of the Bush

administration -- a country

with which they move to a

whole new place because

they understand it and put a

real focus on it," Bower said,

referring to former US presi-

dent George W. Bush's drive

to end decades of mistrust

The talks with Indonesia

come amid unease in some

circles in Washington about

the strong role of the military

in the two historic US allies

in Southeast Asia -- the

Pentagon spokesman

Bryan Whitman said that the

United States was discussing

a re-engagement with

Kopassus "that's in accor-

dance with our laws, our

values and advances our

reforms over the past decade

have been pretty remarkable

and its greatly improved

human rights record has

enabled us to engage more

The United States ended

overall sanctions on the

Indonesian military in 2005,

the same year that Australia

resumed joint training with

But US rights advocates

remain deeply uneasy about

and Australia on March 21.

no more shooting at the civil-

ians in the border areas. The

assurance came when direc-

tors general of the two forces

Some 40 Indians entered

he Bangladesh territory

through Muktapur-Jaintapur

joined by a hundred more.

Backed by the Indian guards,

they attempted to erect bam-

boo huts at Mandir Tila in

Dibir Haor area, about 300

A fight ensued when the

villagers asked the intruders to

leave. Hurling stones, the two

sides chased each other for an

At around 2:00pm, BSF

Bangladesh border guards

opened fire on the villagers

shot back at them, leading to a

gunfight that continued till

Lieutenant Colonel Zahirul

Alam, commanding officer of

21 Rifle Battalion in Sylhet,

said the attack on the villagers

was premeditated. Alongside

BSF jawans, Indian Khasias

confirm the number of shots

last night, BDR Director

General Major Gen Md Mainul

Islam termed the incidents

He however could not

Talking to The Daily Star

the Indians retreated at NaljurandFulbariareas.

and the BDR personnel.

around 4:45pm.

took part in it.

exchanged.

"very regrettable".

yards off the no-man's land.

An hour later, they were

met in New Delhi.

at around 10:30am.

15 wounded

broadly," Whitman said.

"Indonesia's democratic

nterests.

Kopassus.

Philippines and Thailand.

with New Delhi.

"Indonesia was going to

Indonesia.

Ernie Bower, Southeast

in human rights abuses.

who authored the 1997 law that bears his name, stood With its moderate form of firm against training. He said Islam and democratization that Indonesia must first since the 1990s, Indonesia is bring Kopassus members to increasingly seen in justice for past abuses. Washington as an ideal part-"It is important that the ner. Obama spent part of his childhood in Jakarta, giving

people of Indonesia see that justice is possible, and that him a propitious personal impunity for committing serious crimes is no longer Ahead of Obama's trip acceptable," said Leahy, a next week, top officers from member of Obama's Kopassus -- a military unit Democratic Party from that focuses on counter-Vermont. insurgency and intelligence -

500,000 people. It was seen

as a key force in the 1975

Senator Patrick Leahy,

"Indonesia has made progress in its democracy and in curbing some of the ing, people with knowledge excesses of its military. But the past must not be forgot-The United States cut off ten," Leahy said.

One compromise under consideration is for the United States to train only younger Kopassus members.

But T. Kumar, the international advocacy director of Amnesty International USA, said Indonesia should try senior officers involved in past wrongdoing. military ties were "absolutely

"Kopassus has such a bad record that to hold no one accountable in a meaningful way sends the wrong message to others," Kumar

He called for Obama to meet survivors of the 1965 mass killings. The United States is widely suspected of supporting the pogrom, which future strongman Suharto launched in response to rumors of a communist coup.

#### Shibir **FROM PAGE 16**

Shibir cadres, confessed that he participated in the second meeting jointly held by Jamaat, Shibir men and outsiders in Islamia College of Binodpur on February 8 night that agreed to help Shibir.

As per the decision of the second meeting, Jamaat and Shibir leaders, activists in and around the campus including former Shibir leaders of different RU hall units, participated in and assisted Shibir men during the violence.

Earlier in the afternoon, Shibir leaders held their first meeting at the same venue and it decided to drive out activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League from different RU halls for restoring their stronghold on the

After the violence, the attackers talked to Rajshahi city Jamaat Ameer Ataur Rahman, general secretary Abul Kalam Azad and assistant general secretary Siddik Hossain and went into hiding.

Kopassus and few expect a Meanwhile, the same court deal before Obama leaves on yesterday rejected the bail petihis trip to Guam, Indonesia tion of Jamaat Ameer Ataur Rahman and 36 other Shibir Kopassus spearheaded men who were earlier arrested in the anti-communist pogrom connection with the RU vioin 1965 that killed up to

after BDR contacted the

taken at the recent meet do

not seem to have been com-

municated to the BSF ranks at

need for the joint boundary

working group to meet imme-

35, was admitted to Sylhet

MAG Osmani Medical College

Abdur Rahman, 30

Mohammad Russell, 20, Ram,

25, Matin Miah, 30, Abdur

Rahim, 40, Solaiman Miah, 80,

Abdul Halim, 40, Mashuk, 35,

Sabbir Ahmed, Mokbul Ali, 26,

Monir Hossain, 25, Kabir

Ahmed, 22 and Akkel Ali--

were taken to Jaintapur

hail from Dibir Haor, Ghilatail,

Jaintapur border has been

several attempts to occupy

land in Dibir Haor and Kendra

ted nayek Mujibur Rahman

from Dibir Haor. They

returned him after a flag meet-

Indian border force shot and

But on February 14, the

They fired at the villagers

ing on the Tamabil frontier.

injured three Bangladeshis.

On February 4, BSF abduc-

tense since early February.

Beel areas.

He said BSF stopped firing again on February 26 and 28.

Most of those wounded

The situation along the

Indians have lately made

upazila health complex.

diately to prevent a flare-up.

Gen Mainul stressed the

Of the injured, Abul Kalam,

The others--Sumon 25,

the grassroots level.

He observed the decisions

Indian side.

#### 50 more trees FROM PAGE 1

rights activist from the community, told The Daily Star over the phone.

His hired men, in three groups, cut the trees using handsaws, she said. The trees felled on

Saturday were still lying strewn in the place. "Elephants will be engaged in dragging the logs and it will destroy other smaller trees and the Paan Jum," said Talang.

"Khasia people feared an attack from the trader's hired musclemen roaming around the area," she said.

Following a writ petition filed by the trader Salim Uddin Mohalder, the HC bench on February 22 directed the forest department authorities and local administration to allow the tree felling as per an earlier work order.

In 2008, Salim bought around 4,000 trees from Nahar Tea Garden at a cost of Tk 1.5 crore. He had already felled 1,200 trees immediately following a government permit at that

Father Joseph Gomes, a religious leader of Khasia community, said a group of eight Khasia people led by Lutmon Pohlong arrived the capital yesterday morning.

They made preparation for an application to become a party to the case, as the plundering would deprive the indigenous people of their homestead and livelihood.

**Environment and Forest** Secretary Mihir Kant Majumdar said he had instructed the department of forests to engage the department's law section to look into the matter and go for filing an appeal against the HC order.

As to whether the ministry sought help from the attorney general's office, the secretary said they requested the solicitor wing of the law ministry to take steps in this regard. "But am not aware of what actions the solicitor wing or attorney general's office took."

## Petrol pump

FROM PAGE 1

alternative but to go for an indefinite strike if our demands are not met within the deadline."

Nazmul Haque, convenor of a newly formed body called Bangladesh Petrol Pump Owners and Tank Lorry Workers-Owners Unity Council, said this after observing a half-day countrywide work abstention yesterday.

Their demands include enhancement of commission to seven percent from the present six percent for pump owners and dealers, tightening security at petrol pumps, ending police harassment to pump owners and tank-lorry workers and issuing arms licences to the pump owners.

Nazmul, also president of Bangladesh Petrol Pump Owners Association, said "Today's strike was successful as most of the petrol pumps remained closed."

"I had no information about the sudden strike. On my way to office, I had to wait for one and a half hours in the queue before Ramna Petrol Pump for refuelling my car," Sahidul Islam, executive of a private bank, said.

Nazmul said earlier they talked with the officials concerned of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and other government agencies to implement their demands but neither the BPC nor the ministry paid any atten-

tion. Petrol pump owners said that they were experiencing security threats at their filling-stations as 174 robbery incidents took place at different pumps throughout the country during last eight months.

They also claimed that muggers took away about Tk 16 crore from several pump owners at gunpoint

during the period.

The other demands of the Unity Council include coverage of operational loss, leakage and evaporation of oil adjustment, establishment of a jointmonitoring cell to check adulteration and pilferage, and installing a testing laboratory at each filling station to check adulteration.

# 3 'Huji men' held

Huji.

large.

home ministry.

police station.

in the bomb blasts.

rogation.

FROM PAGE 1

council

interrogation Shakhawat

move to arrest all suspects

accused of politically-

motivated violence following

instructions to do so from the

detained Huji Dhaka City unit

president Moulana Abu Taher

and Moulana Tajuddin, who

supplied grenades that were

used in the attack on an Awami

Idris is the brother-in-law of

League rally on 21 August 2004.

Arif Hasan Sumon, who is also

an accused in the CPB blasts

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan

Khan filed a case with Motijheel

Abdul Hannan, as well as sev-

eral other members have been

arrested for their involvement

Lasker-e-Taiba members have

also been arrested and are

currently on remand for inter-

The clash left at least 20 BCI

men injured. Both factions

blamed one another for the

incident that suspended the

The killing of Ripon fol-

lowed stabbing and beating of

BCL activists by their rival

groups throughout the day,

leaving at least three BCI

Sources said Ripon came

under attack on his way to

Jessore town from his home in

A gang stopped Ripon as he

They hacked him and

Aranda. He was riding a

reached Bhekutia Bazai

dumped his body in the road-

side pond. Whereabouts of

Selim were not known as of

the water and took him to a

local hospital where doctors

declared him dead around

activists, jointly led by Hafiz,

Iqbal and Mikayeel, launched

the attack," alleged Rabiul

are the supporters of loca

lawmakers and Ripon was a

supporter of local upazila

local ruling party lawmaker

stabbed Aziz, 50, an Awami

League leader, in Rail Gate

area of the town, yesterday

Ajhar Hossain Swapon, joint

secretary of district Jubo

League and activist Monwai

Awami League, backed by an

upazila parishad chairman

brought out a procession in

the town protesting the

both factions were seen carry

gation. Some eminent citizens

a business delegation and AI

Moni said the defence coopera-

tion between Dhaka and Beijing

discussed during the visit

Purchase of military hardware

may also come up in the discus-

bilateral ties and cooperation to

reduce the current trade gap of

about \$3.8 billion with China,

Asked whether Bangladesh

would seek Chinese support to

resolve bilateral issues with

Myanmar like settling maritime

boundary and Rohingya repa-

triation she said, "This is not

usual given the good relation

between Bangladesh and

China to use her good offices to

resolve the problems with

ment would not abandon the

"look east" policy taken by the

previous BNP government to

improve relations with South

East Asian countries including

China. "They (BNP) took the

initiative but did not execute it,"

minister said the government

She hinted that her govern-

Myanmar," she added.

blamed Dipu.

of the region.

needed.

Bangladesh may request

she said.

China.

"We want to strengthen

leaders will accompany her.

Sources said members of

attacks.

ing arms.

Road link tops

Hossain Joni in the morning.

The same group beat up

Leaders and activists of

Another group, loyal to a

Sources said the attackers

Islam, Ripon's uncle.

parishad chairman.

"A group of five or six BCI

Locals dragged Ripon from

motorbike along with Selim.

activists wounded.

around 7:00pm.

8:30pm.

7:15pm.

BCL leader

Two Indian nationals and

A top Huji leader, Mufti

Following the bomb attack

Detained Idris is a relative of

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1

CNG-Auto-rickshaw and Mishuk Sramik Union as well as publicity secretary of Bhashantek Punarbashan Prokalpa Sangram Parishad (BPPSP).

Sakhawat was also the former secretary of Dhaka city's central committee of Jatiya Party (Manju's) labour front, the Jatiya Sramajibi Party. Mishuk Sramik Union

President FA Khan Firoz, also adviser of Dhaka City CNG-Auto-rickshaw Union, said that a Rab team picked Sakhawat up on February 16 from Bhashantek. Firoz alleges that a developer

of 'Bhashantek Rehabilitation Project' might influence Rab to arrest Shakhawat as he, under the banner of BPPSP, organised slum dwellers protesting their eviction from the project area by the developer.

BPPSP leaders also brought the same allegation against the developer at a press conference in the city on March 3. The government awarded a

work to the developer to con-

struct flats for middle and lower income people after its decision in September 2003. A team from the Rab intelli-

gence wing captured the three men during a five-hour raid from 12:30 am yesterday at Krishimarket, Town Hall and Dhaka Uddyan in Mohammadpur. Sources in Huji said that Idris

was a member of Huji and Latif was a trainer of explosives of the banned militant organisation. The two men were previ-

ously arrested for their involvement in various deadly attacks. When they were released on

bail they both absconded. Commander Sohail, legal and media wing director of Rab, told a press conference at its headquarters in Uttara that the three arrestees are number 2, 20 and 22 accused in the case,

which has 24 suspects. Asked about Shakhawat, the Rab director said in primary

### BNP visit

The party lawmakers Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Abul Khair Bhuiyan, Ashrafuddin Nizam, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie and Nazimuddin Ahmed will join the team. Our Khagrachhari corre-

spondent adds: Two indigenous organisations yesterday declared that they would boycott the BNP parliamentary team in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) terming the party "fundamentalist" and "evil-force" for minor communities.

Sajek Bhumi Rakkha Committee (SBRC) and Sajek Nari Samaj in a joint release, signed by SBRC leader Bijoy Kanti Chakma, also urged the government to conduct a judicial inquiry into the recent violent activities in CHT.

Meanwhile, BNP's Khagrachhari district unit general secretary Abu Yusuf Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday that the BNP parliamentary party team will try to find out the main reasons behind the violent incidents and would report by

construct railway up to that

The foreign minister said

The agreements are:

Economic and Technical

Cooperation Agreement,

Framework Agreement on

Shahjalal Fertiliser Factory and

Agreement on Seventh

Bangladesh-China Friendship

will also discuss a number of

projects including Second

Padma Bridge, Eighth

Bangladesh-China Friendship

Bridge, capacity building in

agriculture sector, telecommu-

nications and setting up of solar

she said the prime minister

would hold official talks with

Chinese premier on March 18 at

the Great Hall where she will be

given a formal reception. The

next day she will hold a meeting

with Chinese President Hu

Jintao to discuss bilateral,

regional and international

Hasina will also meet the

Chairman of China's National

People's Congress. On her way

back Hasina will visit Kunming

to see for herself the proposed

Chittagong-Kunming road and

railway links. She will return

Syed Abul Hossain, Industries

Minister Dilip Barua, Foreign

Minister Dipu Moni and State

Minister for Chittagong Hill

Tracts Dipankar Talukdar will be

in the 16-member official dele-

Communications Minister

home on March 21.

Giving a preview of the visit,

energy projects in Bangladesh.

Dipu said the two countries

three agreements are

expected to be signed between

FROM PAGE 16

border point.

Bridge.

issues.

the two countries.

#### ACC chief FROM PAGE 16

blamed lengthy legal procedures for increasing corrup-

tion.

admitted that he is a member of The ACC boss said financial He also that now only crimes are on the rise because Moulana Monir remains at of "absence of any laws" and the use of sophisticated tech-Law enforcers started a fresh

nology by the criminals. He said the existing system does not permit the ACC to probe the financial crimes.

"An independent and effective judicial system is vital for eradicating poverty," he said.

Rahman stressed the need for a joint move by the judiciary and the ACC for freeing the country from corruption. Replying to a query on the

recent quashment of cases

against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the ACC boss said, "substantial matters were there for the decision." Manzur Elahi, a leading businessman, said: "A day will come when honest business-

men will be driven out of the market by dishonest businessmen." Referring to the recent share market situation, he said: "Games are being played on the

stock market as a result of which the small investors will be affected badly." He said the Securities and Exchange Commission is keeping mum despite knowing all

the things. Elahi said the government's political will can root out corruption.

Former NBR chairman Badiur Rahman said corruption is accepted socially, which is very dangerous.

"Corruption is inevitable where there is a scope for the well-known thieves and criminals to go to parliament as lawmakers," he added. Economist Muinul Islam

alleged that former presidents Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad were responsible for giving corruption an institutional shape.

Referring to Awami League's election manifesto to eradicate corruption, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman urged the government to implement election pledges to combat corruption.

#### Police asked FROM PAGE 16

report yesterday, although it was the deadline for submission set by the court earlier.

The same court on February 9 this year also cancelled Azfar Pasha's bail, and ordered his arrest as his bail guarantors had failed to produce him before the court.

However, another Adflame Director Dr Helena Pasha, and Manager Mizanur Rahman, both of whom are also accused of the same charge and are out on bail, were present at the court yesterday during the case's hearing.

The court yesterday also directed complainant of the case Drug Superintendent Abul Khair Chowdhury to appear before it to give his statement on April 19, as he was not present despite being required to do so.

On December 23, 1992 the Directorate of Drug Administration filed the case against five Adflame Pharmaceuticals officials for producing adulterated paracetamol syrup under the name 'Flammodol', which had been tested positive for the deadly chemical diethylene glycol.

The court framed charges against the accused on May 28, 1994.

Replying to a question, Dipu The proceedings were, however, brought to a stop later in 1994 as the HC issued a temporary stay order, which has continued for a long time and this matter would also be was never challenged. Although two years ago, the HC had lifted the stay order, the Drug Court was unaware of the order until The Daily Star during its recent investigation revealed it.

Azfar Pasha, Helena Pasha, and Mizanur Rahman got their bail right after the case had been filed, and the other two accused Nrigendra Nath Bala, and Md Noman have been absconding since then.

Seventy six children reportedly died after intake of poisonous Flammodol.

#### CHT land survey

FROM PAGE 1

The minister said they are now working in line with the CHT peace treaty signed during the tenure of the Awami League government in 1997.

Since the formation of the commission on June 3, 1997, three retired judges served as its chairman until December 2007. But they could hardly make any noticeable progress in settling land disputes.

About China's access to The land commission, Chittagong seaport, the foreign which sat only once in the last decade, includes the chairwants to make Chittagong and man of the CHT regional Mongla seaports business hubs council or his representative, the chairmen of three hill She said Bangladesh is district councils, the circle planning to build a deep-sea chiefs and the divisional port and to make it viable, the commissioner or his reprefast-growing China would be sentative as its members.

AFP, Stockholm

Developing countries have embarked on a dangerous "arms race" with huge sums ploughed into combat aircraft in unstable parts of the world in the past five years, a top defence think-tank has said.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in an annual report to appear Monday that global arms sales had soared 22 percent in the period from 2005 to 2009 compared to 2000 to 2004.

Imports of combat aircraft accounted for 27 percent of the volume in the last five years. "Orders and deliveries of

these potentially destabilising weapon systems have led to arms race concerns in the following regions of tension: the Middle East, North Africa, South America, South Asia and South EastAsia," it said.

According to the expert in charge of the report, Paul Holtom, resource-rich countries were setting the trend by using their earnings to build out their combat aircraft fleets.

"Neighbouring rivals have reacted to these acquisitions with orders of their own. One can question whether this is an appropriate allocation of resources in regions with high levels of poverty," he added.

In the case of South America, the institute found arms imports "were 150 percent higher during the last five years compared to the beginning of the millennium.

"We see evidence of competitive behaviour in arms acquisitions in South America," said SIPRI Latin America expert Mark Bromley.

"This clearly shows we need improved transparency and confidence-building measures

Brazil is currently looking to buy 36 combat aircraft with the French-made Rafale, Sweden's Gripen and the USF/A-18 in the

dramatic increase between 2005 and 2009 with Malaysia ramping up its arms imports by 722 percent, Singapore 146 percent and Indonesia 84 percent.

imports to Singapore made the island country the first member of ASEAN to make SIPRI's list of top 10 biggest arms importers since the end of the Vietnam war, giving the nation seventh

destabilise the region, jeopardising decades of peace," said SIPRI Asia expert Siemon Vietnam has also been busy building up its military capabili-

Like Singapore, Algeria made it into the list of top ten biggest arms importers for the

# Nights in forest

Khagrachhari was also visiting the area, and she brought Minoti to this correspondent.

killed her husband Ladu Moni Her house was also burnt back then," said Kristi.

many others injured.

According to the relief distributing NGO's register, 397 is around 50.

living in the distant hill jungle like her destitute neighbours under a propped up polythene awning.

and insecurity.

own villages near the road. Ranjit Chakma, a young

Adivasi man of Hajachhara who was sitting by the road, said, "I live in the jungle now, almost a kilometre and a half from here." When asked why he does not

are still afraid. Ranjit got a blanket from the NGO, and was waiting in the

"They killed my father in 1986 at Dighinala Bazar. I was only two years old. My mother had a very hard time raising me." Just four months ago Ranjit had bought a rice husking machine, and was running it commercially for a living.

house, my husking machine, and everything else I had in my house. Nothing was left," said Ranjit adding, "Now I have to start from zero again." He said he recognised one of

the Bangalee settlers who torched his house, but did not get a chance to talk to him as the law enforcers were also shooting at the indigenous people.

Ranjit said. Allegations against the law

enforcers were common among the gathered homeless Adivasis. They alleged that the law enforcers do not even pay the Adivasis fair prices for the goods they sell in the local market. They also alleged that the law enforcers helped the attacking Bangalee settlers.

They will not be able to live there if the government withdraw the They also claimed since the

violence, relief has been going to the indigenous people only, while the Bangalees have not been getting anything. Mohammad Abdullah Mamun, who introduced him-

as the indigenous people are trying to drive them away, he

When asked which specific government official or agency gave them lands in the reserve forest, he could not answer, but said the lands the indigenous people have been claiming, are actually forestland, which were

He also said the law enforcers are not protecting the

Bangalees properly. INTERVIEWOF SANTU LARMA

blamed successive governments for creating mistrust between Bangalee settlers and the indigenous communities in

In an interview with The Daily Star in his Rangamati residence, Santu Larma said the recent violence in Baghaichhari was not a separate incident, rather it was linked to a bigger systemic problem.

The Pakistan government attempted to make Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) a muslimmajority area, he said adding that the attempt is still on.

ment of the indigenous communities in CHT cannot be separated from that trend, he claimed

The state created the mistrust between the settlers and the indigenous communities, and now that has taken a serious turn, he alleged.

man of CHT Regional Council, who had led a guerilla war for over two decades against the Bangladesh law enforcers to secure rights for the indigenous communities, said no indigenous person is safe in CHT.

Santu Larma, also the chair-

here," said Santu Larma, who survived an attack on him just before the Banghaichhari incident.

cal organisation, United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), carried out the attack

on Santu Larma.

# Developing world launched 'arms race': think tank

to reduce tension in the region."

South East Asia also saw a

The increase in arms olace overall.

East Asian acquisitions could

first time with the ninth place.

relief seekers, who were sitting under a propped up polythene awning. Kristi, a college student from

"In 2008, Bangalee settlers

Soft-spoken Minoti was not talking much. Following repeated enquiries, she said after her husband's killing she had built a hut again on her land, but that was also burnt down on February 20 in the ethnic violence started by Bangalee settlers that left two indigenous persons dead, and

Adivasi houses were burnt by Bagalee settlers during the recent violence there, while the number of burnt settler houses Since then Minoti has been

Almost three weeks were past since the ethnic violence had subsided in Baghaihaat of Baghaichhari when this correspondent visited the area, and found that the indigenous people were still living in panic

They come out of the jungle for relief during day light, and return to villages situated in deep forest to spend their nights, afraid of being attacked by settlers if they go back to their

return to his village, he said, "We

queue to get a sack of rice.

"They burnt down my

"So we just ran. Since then we are living in the jungle,'

It was evident that the settlers and the Adivasis of the area do not trust each other.

While returning from there, this correspondent stopped to

running for the contract.

"The current wave of South

ties, ordering submarines and long-range combat aircraft in

talk to some Bangalee settlers who had moved there a few years ago. They were living in 28 polythene tents on the side of

> Bagalee families settled so far in Baghaichhari. They said they were also victims, as the indigenous people extort them, and keep them under various threats.

> the Baghaichhari-Dighinala

Road. One of them said 537

troops from there, they said.

self as a leader of the local settlers, said, they have rights to live anywhere in the country. So a few years ago they moved to Baghaihaat area, and the government gave them some lands in Kasalong Reserve Forest. But they cannot live there anymore

alleged.

given to the Bangalees.

Joytirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, the chairman of Parbatya Chattagram Janashanghati Samity (PCJSS),

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The violence, and harass-

"Even I am not totally safe

PCJSS claims that rival antipeace treaty indigenous politi-