



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BANGLADESH HINDU BUDDHIST CHRISTIAN UNITY COUNCIL (BHBCUC)
Vol. 2 Issue 10- Oct: Published 31st Oct 2009 >Website: www.bhbcuc-usa.org<unitycouncilusa@gmail.com<

NO REFORM REPEAL ENEMY PROPERTY

Again abandoned property act is being reformed. The act which is to be repealed why the question of reforming it is arising?? We think that the law should be completely repealed because the law itself causes the violation of the human rights. In 1965 war was affected between India and Pakistan. At that time Pakistan termed India as an enemy country. Following the war minorities migrated to India. Their properties were termed as Enemy Property. Thus enemy property act was promulgated. After the independence of Bangladesh this act was changed as Vested Property Act. It has been observed that in East Pakistan and later in Bangladesh when a member of a minority family left for India, the properties of the other members of the family were declared as enemy property. As a result this law did not only deprive the lawful right of a citizen but also their rights of property at the same time this law planted seeds of disunity among the common people. Fundamentally this law is unconstitutional because it has deprived a citizen of a state to become the owner of his own property.

In the last term of Awami League government much discussion was held about the enemy property but no result yielded. It was expected that Awami League government would repeal the abandoned property act, but they did not do so. Why the act was not repealed is well known to us. Investigation will reveal that these abandoned properties are in possession of Awami League and B.N.P. followers. This is the inner cause of not repealing the Enemy Property Act. We differ to accept that after reforming and passing the land reform bill the original owner will get back their property as stated by the permanent committee president of the parliament A .K .M. Mozammel Huq. Our view is that the law should be repealed. Then the right way and right process could be found. In that manner right owners will get back their properties.

Though the Awami League government at the last phase of their last tenure passed a revised vested property act and decided to publish the list of the enemy property in gazette form within 180 days. But it did not come into action. Moreover later B.N.P and Jamat government lifted the time period of 180 days. We are doubtful about promises made by the Awami led great alliance government – which states without repealing act they will revise it. In this context it may be mentioned here that by this act not only minorities are badly affected but also the majority community are also affected. Muslims who came from West Bengal (India) exchanging properties of Hindus in Bangladesh are also amidst acute problems.

In this state of condition we expect that government should completely repeal the unconstitutional Vested Property Law instead of revision. This will free the affected people from harassment and deprivation

(Published in the daily Sangbad in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 5th September 2009 in Bengali and it has been translated to English by Kumar sankar Hazra (balu), Kolkata. A detail of the enemy property law will be found at the website www.bhbcuc-usa.org).



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AWAMI LEADERS TAKING INITIATIVE? SAME AS 2001-2006? POLICE INACTIVE?

FORCEFUL CONVERSION OF HINDU GIRLS TO ISLAM: A DANGEROUS TREND: HELPLESS HINDU PARENTS ARE IN DISTRESS

The Daily Janakantha, 7th October 2009: By our staff correspondent from Joypurhat: The Trend of fraudulent conversion by Muslims personifying Hindu girls increased abnormally at Joypurhat in Bangladesh. In those areas, a sense of insecurity prevails amongst the Hindu communities due to such unabated trend. The local administration also failed to give adequate protection to victim families of Hindu communities.

Ms.Purnima Rani daughter of Dulal Roy of Chitra Para-Joypurhat town was missing. The Muslim perpetrator is a relative of a very powerful Juba League Leader of Joypurhat. Ms.Purnima Rani could not be recovered despite desperate arbitration with Awami League Leaders was held several times. Police on duty also neglect to register any case against those perpetrators. Although case was registered after hectic endeavor, but the perpetrators start intimidating the victim's family constantly. So, a sense of insecurity amongst the Hindu communities prevails. It also indicates a forceful conversion after allurement and false personification.

Similarly Ms.Nabami Sarkar daughter of Akhil Sarkar of village Aimar Rasulpur have been the victim of fraudulent events and Ms.Krishna Rani and Ms. Prativa Rani of Govindapur also become target of such trend. A process of fraudulent conversion with intent to deceive minority girls is going on with Ms.Shika Debnath daughter of Ms.Mina Debnath of village Shaljune of the same Upazila.

Police shows negative response on this particular minority issue if the case is filed at the respective police station. As discontentment prevailed amongst Hindu minorities then the police on 1st October 2009 most reluctantly detained Ms.Purnima Roy and produced her before court and the court sent her to judicial custody.

A Muslim man got a Hindu girl, Krishna Rani Protiva into a trap in the same village of Kusumba Union of Govindapur and later abducted her and become absconding. The elder brother of the victim girl protested against this sort of trap and as a result the perpetrators on behalf of the Muslim boy assaulted the victim's brother. In this connection although case was recorded but police kept them silent. Later on the local people recovered the girl.

The leaders of the minority community informed that police kept mum due to direct indulgence of the political leaders now in power this unfortunate fraudulent conversion is on high. This harmful trend of fraudulent conversion of school and college going girls belonging to minorities reminded the incidents of repression of the perpetrators of four party alliances during the year, 2001-2006. Now this issue has been the subject matter of discussions amongst every body. Advocate Nripendra Nath Mondal, President of BHBC Unity Council of Joypurhat expressed deep concern about this harmful trend of conversion while attention was drawn on this point. As a result helpless Hindu father and mother are now in great distress with their young daughters.

FAMILY QUESTIONED: THIS IS WHY WE VOTE FOR AL?

CATHOLIC FAMILY ATTACKED WITH GUN FIRE

A catholic family of Dhaka diocese, under the St. Lawrence Catholic church was attacked by the local Muslims on 22-10-09 at around 7:30 Pm in the evening. From near by location some people fired with Gun aiming the house of the catholic family. St. Lawrence Catholic church is a catholic church with 1000 catholic families.

Ms. Rita Gomes the elder daughter of the family said that our Muslim neighbor Kazi Babuls wife and her allies were trying for more than a year to evict us from the house. On 8-10-09 a group 150 Muslims people came to our house and they forcefully they put a wall and captured our land in the presence of the local police said Ms. Rita Gomes

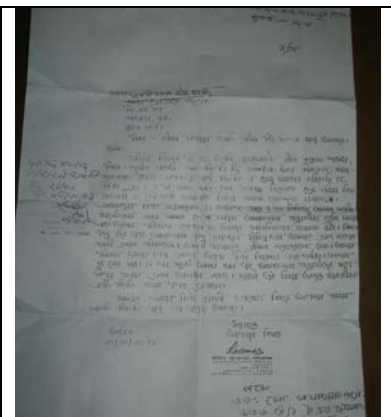
Ms. Rita Gomes said that they was injection from the court about the land they are claiming their own, they cannot put the wall or do anything violating the court order. When they came to put the wall on with a group of 150 Muslims people on 8-10-09, as I went to request them not to do that in presence of the police they hit me, the police remain silent.



Rita Gomes is showing , the new name plate in the gate where was a cross and now Allahu Akbar and the name of. so-called owner!



Rita Gomes showing the wall was made by local Muslims forcefully.



Copy of the FIR

Ms. Rita Gomes said I fell very helpless on that time even the law enforcement agency people don't come to help me. My father is very sick, and my mother a woman is very helpless praying to mother Mary for our protection, my younger sister Jhuma Gomes who will soon will join to be a nun , Was praying and praying for safety.

Jhumur Gomes the younger daughter of the family said I am just praying and preparing to sacrifice myself for the sacred life. Our family and our life are in full danger, we don't know what will happen next, whether they will come and kill us. The Bishop of Khulna Most Rev. Bejoy N cruze , OMI, DD who was visiting Dhaka and came to the house of the persecuted Christian and offered a prayer for them, especially pray that the Jhumur Gomes the younger daughter will in God's time will join the sacred life .

Ms. Rita Gomes the elder daughter of the family said I really very afraid, whether they will kill us or rape me and my younger sister Jhumur Gomes , they are really very ferocious. Our neighbor's



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catholic family was forced to sell their land to them and a last they went to India. They also proposed us to sell the land to them, where we will go. As we are Christians no one is coming to help us all the Muslims are in their side, because they have money and they are powerful politically. They have strong tie with the leading political party; the party is ruling the country Bangladesh Awaji League (AL) said Ms. Rita Gomes the elder daughter of the family

Ms. Rita Gomes the elder daughter of the family said there was a name plate of our house with cross in the main door of the house they had remove and put there “ Allahu Akbar(Allah is great) , we were confined in house for days the blocked the road that we can not go out of the house . My father Sunil Gomes and my mother usha Gomes both of them are aged , if something happened to us they may get heart attack , specially my father who has heart diseases, get sick after the attack said Ms. Rita Gomes the elder daughter of the family. Sunil Gomes the father of two daughter said that I want to leave in peace , if something happened bad to my daughter , they get rapped or killed I can not tolerate , I have heart disease , already I am sick and in bed.

Usha Gomes the wife of Sunil Gomes said I saw helplessly the crowd beat my older daughter Ms. Rita Gomes while he protest them not to put wall in our land on 8-10-09 by a group 150 Muslims The Christ is our only hope now, who can save us from this danger said Ms. Usha Gomes. Ms. Usha Gomes said that We have voted the Bangladesh Awami League (AL) with very hope in last parliament election that we will be in peace and we will be secured by the AI Government , but now the political activist of AI are using their political identity to persecute us and grab our land. The perpetrators are reach and they are Muslims and large in number they want to evict us from our own land as they have created the same situation for our Christian neighbor to leave the country to sell their land to them in a so called price and leave to India. we are now fully cornered here in Bangladesh , we do not have security of life said Usha Gomes.

Catholic human rights activist Annie halder said the persecution on minorities are growing now a days, recently there was a Christian evangelist was killed Swopon mondol, and now attack on Christian family and there are many attacks on Hindus. The government should take immediate action to insure secure the rights of the minorities.

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INDIGENOUS WOMEN STRANGLER

The daily Destiny, 28th October 2009: From our Correspondent Rangpur: Perpetrators killed Minority Adibashi women on 26th October 2009 in Mitapukur Upazila, Rangpur. Local people and police informed that naked dead body of Karimi Bala Orao, 48 was traced on Monday last at the paddy field 300 yards away from “Benu Ban Buddhist Bihar” of Mitapukur village. The dead body was recovered with multiple injuries and her throat was entangled with her sari.



HINDU WOMEN PICKED UP AND GANG-RAPED WHILE SHE WAS ASLEEP WITH HUSBAND

The daily Manab Jameen, 18th Oct 2009: From our Sathiya Pabna Correspondent: Perpetrators picked up a Hindu woman while she was sleeping with her husband and gang-raped. The victim is now fighting with her life at the hospital. Police informed last Friday that, six perpetrators wearing mask entered into the house of Sagar Das cutting tin shed of his house, forcefully picked up the women, 25 and raped her one after another at night at Madhupur Upazila. While Sagar Das was trying to resist, perpetrators chopped him and injured him seriously with sharp weapon. They snatched and brought the victim at Taila Kupa open field and raped her. Later the victim was found unconscious and was sent to the Pabna Sadar Hospital. Husband lodge an FIR at Ataikulla police station. Police arrested two alleged perpetrators, Majed Ali Maza, 40 and Nur Mohammed, 35.

PERPETRATORS ATTACKED HINDU TEMPLE, DEMOLISHED DEITIES, INJURED 10

The Daily Samakal dated 9th October 2009: From our Correspondent: The powerful perpetrators attacked Shiva Kali Mandir situated at village Sombag within Dhamrai Upazila of Dhaka District on 8th October, 2009 at noon. They also demolished the deities, looted valuables, desecrated them and injured 10 persons including Pujari (priest) of the temple. Mongal Chandra Mondal being informant of the case lodged F.I.R. at Dhamrai Police station on the same day. Police could not arrest any persons responsible for the crime. It is also learnt from the police and the local people that seven decimals of land in the name of the Shiva Kali Temple existed there. Some worshippers started renovation of the temple on 8th October, 2009 while a group of perpetrators under the leadership of Ibrahim attacked them, broke lock of the temple, demolished deities, Shiva Murthi. Pujari Mongal Chandra came forward for their assistance when they attacked him injuring seriously. The executives of the Temple committee came forward for safety of Mongal Chandra while they were also attacked.



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CHRISTIAN MINOR GIRL ABDUCTED FOR CONVERSION?

GHRD and BDMW received an appeal dated 8th October,09 from Julian Sarkar, legal guardian of minority School girl belonging to Christian community on the allegation that police could not recover their minor girl ? Silvia Sarkar (Merry), 12 after her abduction on 30th July 2009. Merry, a student of Class VIII, by faith Christian was abducted on way to her home from Sreemati Matrimongal Girls High School of Agailjhara Upazila of Barisal District. It is alleged that the following perpetrators namely 1) Al-Amin Faria (24) 2) Shamim Faria (22) 3) Sahadat Faria (20) and 4) Sattar Faria (50) of West sujan Kati, P.S. Agoil Jhara, District-Barisal abducted her.

FIR lodged on 2nd August 2009 by Julian Sarkar under section 7/30 of Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2003 started against those perpetrators. Accordingly a case being filed at Agailjhara P.S. case No. 03 dated 2nd Aug 2009. It is also alleged in the F.I.R. that Merry was abducted for forceful conversion to Islam and forceful marriage. The news was reported in the daily Ajker Barta on 08.09.2009, the daily Matabad on 09.09.2009. It is also reported that police arrested two perpetrators but they got bail from the court and after getting bail the perpetrators gave threat to the victim's family to withdraw the case. In this connection a G.D. entry was also made at Agailjhara police station. GHRD-Dhaka scrutinized the documents available with the legal guardian and found that the date of birth of the victim girl as per Birth certificate as on 24.12.1997. Her school roll number is 06 KHA Division.

Adv.Rabindra Ghosh

President-Bangladesh Minority Watch and Observer-GHRD-Dhaka, Bangladesh.

www.bdmw.org

MS. ANAMIKA SAHA, 14 A HINDU SCHOOL GIRL ABDUCTED AND RESCUED

The daily "Janakantha", 11th October 2009 & BDMW: Serious tension was prevailing at Patuakhali town in Bangladesh while Ms.Anamika Saha, daughter of Netai Chandra Saha was kidnapped by some perpetrators on 30th September 2009 by Naseruddin (Babu), 20 sons of Chan Meah Behari and Rana alias Zamal Rana, 22. Ms.Anamika is a student of Class X studying at Centre Para Adarsha High School at Patuakhali. On the day of 30th Sept 2009, the victim went to shop nearby at her house to purchase candle while the perpetrators abducted her. A FIR & a case have been filed. Netai Chandra Saha lamented getting back his daughter from Muslim guardians of the perpetrators, who assured to return the girl, but did not. BDMW-Dhaka took initiative, talked with Saibal Kanti Chowdhury-Superintendent of Police, Patuakhali over phone and also with Syed Rabiul Islam, OC of Patuakhali Sadar police station. Later the victim along with one perpetrator, Md. Naseruddin Babu was arrested on 13th Oct 2009 and put them to court for trial. BDMW also came to know that the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Patuakhali allowed the victim girl for medical examination at Sadar hospital.

NIRAPAD BAIRAGI KILLING: BHBCUC LEADERS PROTESTED AND DEMANDED JUSTICE

A 3-Continent, 6-Country conference call was held today, Friday 16th Oct 2009 among 16 leaders of world wide BHBCUC joined. It lasted 2½ hours and the main agenda was ‘Killing of Nirapad Bairagi’. The meeting also discussed ‘Geneva Conference’ and other related issues. Those who joined are: Bangladesh: William Gomes, President, CDA; USA: Ratan Barua, President; Thomas Dulu Roy, President; Nabendu Dutta, President; Susil Saha, General Secretary and Sitangshu Guha. London: James Swapan Peris, President, BHBCUC, Europe; Dr. Santayan Kabiraj, Secretary, Student & Youth Front, UK, BHBCUC; Dr. Debabrata Chowdhury, Presidium Member, BHBCUC, UK; Ms. Luna and Arun Karmaker, both member of BHBCUC, Europe. Sweden: Chitra Paul, Country Director, BHBCUC, Europe. Tarun Chowdhury, President, BHBCUC, Europe, informed that he is in London at this moment. Switzerland: Palash Barua, General Secretary, BHBCUC, Europe, Arun Barua, President, Swiss Minority Council. France: Udayan Barua, President, BHBCUC, Europe. Swadesh Barua, President, Minority Association, France. House decided to continue movement jointly on killing of Nirapad Bairagi. The meeting protest General Ershad’s statement in which he said that, ‘if government reinstalls 1972 constitution, Jatio Party will not be in Mohajote’ and called upon the government to install 1972 constitution again. Leaders re-irritate Oikyo Parishad’s 8-Points ‘charter of demands’ and demanded that those demands be implemented immediately.



Oikyo Parisahd demanded punishment of the killers of Nirapad Bairagi

A two member delegation of BHBCUC, USA met with the Consul General of NY today, 13th Oct 2009 and handed over a memorandum to the Consul General. Ratan Barua & Dr. Thomas Dulu Roy attended the meeting with the Consul General Shamsul Haque and demanded immediate action. BHBCUC, USA also met with an emergency meeting also on Last Monday, 12th Oct 2009 in the evening at Sunnyside.



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WILLIAM GOMES APPEALED FOR SAFETY OF HIS FAMILY'S LIFE

From: William Gomes cda.exe@gmail.com; Date: Thu, 24 Sep 2009 12:04:03 +0600
Subject: Urgent Appeal: BNP activist attack on minority Christian human rights activist and journalist in Dhaka, Bangladesh, police remain silent where the local Awami League activist helping the BNP activist spread communal violence
To: "Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative"
<abdul_momen@hotmail.com>
Cc: afaiz <afaiz@amnesty.org>, secgen <secgen@amnesty.org>, senator <senator@biden.senate.gov>, editor <editor@thedailystar.net>, news <news@prothom-alo.com>, news <news@jugantor.com>, news desk<newsdesk@amardesh.net>, Eric avebury <ericavebury@gmail.com>, secretary <secretary@mha.gov.bd>, ig <ig@police.gov.bd>

Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations.

Your Excellency,

I am William Gomes from Bangladesh. I am a freelance journalist and human rights activist. I used to work to insure the human rights of the minorities of Bangladesh. I am also a converted catholic Christian from Islam. I am really in a helpless condition in Dhaka, Bangladesh with my wife Annie Halder and Son Felix Gomes (22 months).

Incident: On 23rd September 2009 the local political leader of Bangladesh Nationalist party(BNP) suddenly attacked on my cousin Mohammed Faruk, who came to visit us with his wife at around 6:45 in the evening, As my father and mother run to save him, they hurt my father and mother. After wards I run to the place and then they start threaten me , that I am converted to Christianity, if I want to live in that place, leave the place now , other wise they will kill me. These people were spreading rumor to kill me before for my conversion to Christianity before. I run away from the place and called up the local Jatrabari police station.

The police came and with in a moment more than 100 people came along with the perpetrators local BNP Mohammed Mijan Bandari and his older brother Mohammed Mojibar. I asked the police to let them go out of the room, the police remain silent. But the crowd remains in side of my room and start threaten me. Finally, I went to the local police station to save myself with my coworker Dipal Barua. There I filed a general Diary, but later on the perpetrators warned my parents along with a huge crowd to file a memorandum saying that everything has finished. The police take a silent role in this situation; we are living in fear to be persecuted. In a situation like this I will ask you to please pray for our safety and ask Bangladesh government to take actions.

Your Excellency, I and my family are in great fear of being n persecuted by the local communal people. Where the honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is visiting UN and committed to secure the rights of the minorities and in a moment like this attack on our family leads us into hopeless and highly insecure situations. I would like to appeal to you and international community thorough you to insure my protection rather than giving promise to insure the rights of the minorities before the world than practically secure the rights of the minorities.

With Thanks

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Press Conference of Shahriar Kabir on 17th Oct 2009 in NY, organized by Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, USA & BHBCUC, USA. In stage from left to right: Nabendu Dutta, Fahim Reza Noor, Dr. Mohsin Ali; Shahriar Kabir; Ratan Barua & Sitangshu Guha, Mahfuza Ali.

[SHAHRIAR KABIR IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN NY](#)

WE WANT A ROAD MAP FOR THE TRIAL OF THE WAR CRIMINALS

Humanist Shahriar Kabir (www.secularvoiceofbangladesh.org) told that, government is sincere to try the war criminals but there may be confusion about the procedure. He told, we had expected that the trial would have been started by this time, but it is not, if it would not start by this year, we may need to be in the street again and that would be unfortunate for us and for the government. Mr. Kabir was talking in a crowded press conference in NY on Saturday, 17th Oct 2009 organized by Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, USA (Forum for Secular Bangladesh <FSB>) & Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, USA (BHBCUC). Mr. Kabir declared that, there is no confusion with the 1973 law, but we don't understand why government is delaying the trial. He told that we want a road map for the trial, but the government is not saying anything. Mr. Kabir said, the more people will be frustrated, trial of the war criminals will be more difficult.

About minority issues, Mr. Kabir told that, minority representation although a bit better than before, but is not enough and we wanted to see proportionate representation in every sphere of life. He said that, now we have highest number of minority MPs in the parliament, but we are not happy with that and we want more. He also told that we are protesting against any minority persecution and we don't give any concession to Awami League government. He pledged to continue his fight for secular Bangladesh. To answer another question, he stressed that, definitely we want reinstitute of the 1972 constitution. About terrorism, he told that, government is trying to control the terrorists, but that is not enough, government needs to be stronger. He told that, if the new education policy is implemented, fundamentalism will shun down



ATTACK ON CHRISTIAN VILLAGE: WOMEN INJURED: VICTIM COMPLAINED OF COMMUNAL PERSECUTION

The Daily Ajker Paribartan, 21st October 2009 & GHRD, Dhaka: From our correspondent from Kolapara : At least 25 families belonging to Christian community, the only Christian village in Sadarpur of Kolapara Upazila of Barisal district suffered attack by some perpetrators on last Monday morning. Ms. Rani Baidya (40) a Christian women was seriously injured.

Hebol Baidya, husband of Rani Baidya filed a FIR against perpetrators namely 1) Md.Zahangir Hossain (35) son of Abul Hossain Majee, 2) Abul Hossain Majee (55) son of late Abdul Motaleb Majee and 3) Mst. Fatema Begum wife of Zahangir Hossain Majee and 3 to 4 more persons at Kolapara police station. Accordingly a case has been recorded as case No. 24 dated 19th Oct 2009 under section 143/448/323/345/379/380/506 (kha) and 111 Penal code. A counter case has also been filed by Mst. Fatem Begum against those Christian communities in the court on 20th Oct 2009 stating that she along with her husband was beaten by Christian community under section 380/307/452/427/506/143/323/354 of Penal code. Accordingly the Magistrate also directed the O.C. Kolapara PS to treat the petition of complain as FIR.

Ms. Rani Baidya stated that while she was catching fish, as routine work, in the adjacent river on 19th Oct 2009 7:30am, above perpetrators attacked her and tried to kill her by throttling. Then she was admitted to near Health Complex. She also claimed that since 200 hundred years ago their forefathers have been permanently living in this village, but they are now under threat by those perpetrators with a view to wipe out the Christian community from this village, and they are the victim of communal persecution.

GHRD representative received an appeal filed by 25 Members of Christian family and accordingly GHRD investigated the matter at the spot on 23rd Oct 2009 and found some material evidences of repression on those 25 families. Their statements have been video-taped at the spot. During investigation police Sub-Inspector along with two police constables were present. No perpetrators have yet been arrested by police. A sense of insecurity was prevailing amongst some Christian communities.

A HINDU FAMILY IS ON RUN: DEITY DESTROYED

The daily Sangbad, 24th Oct 2009: & the daily: Paribartan, 22nd October 2009: Our Correspondent from Gournadi: The local influential land-grabbers forcefully occupied the land properties including house belonging to a Hindu family at Chandshi within Gournadi Upazila of Barisal District. The victim family has been deprived of any legal assistance despite appeal to local government and law enforcing authority. Helpless Ram Prasad Mondal in a press conference held on Wednesday last at Gournadi Press Club described that some land powerful grabbers in the same village namely 1) Nur Mohammad Mollah, Shafiqul Islam, Monir Hossain along with 5/6 persons on 26th March 2009 get the family members out and assaulted his wife, sons and daughters during his absence. He also alleged that the land grabbers also looted “Kali Murthi”, “Radha Krishna Jugal Murthi” other belongings and destroyed. He is now hiding for fear of life and staying at Dhaka. He tried his best to get his properties back submitting written complain at Gournadi police station, U.P. Chairman and RAB-8 and others. He along with his family is now absconding for fear of life.



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AWAMI LEAGUE LEADER FORCEED A HINDU FISHERMAN TO SIGN ON BLANK PAPER TO GRAB HIS PROPERTY.

The daily Sangbad, 7th October, 2009: From our Correspondent from Ramganj (Laksmipur): Leaders of Awami League forcefully procured signatures on blank non-judicial stamp detaining minority Hindu fish-traders at Police station at Laksmipur, Noakhali. There is serious allegation against Awami League Leader who extorted money from Khokan Chandra Das ? a Minority Fish-trader and he also brought him at Ramganj police station forcefully procured signatures on the non-judicial stamps and in the blank papers.

Khokan Chandra Das in this connection filed a case against Md. Amir Hossain Khan, President of Ichapur Union Awami League and also against Md. Chowdhury Meah, Dalal of Ramganj Police station at Judicial Magistrate court on last Sunday. Khokan Das alleged in writing during press conference held at Journalist Association at Ramganj at noon reported that he has two decimals of lands at Dhaka Mohammadpur. Since long Md. Amir Hossain Khan had been putting pressure mentally to give up those lands to him at a minimum cost of Taka 30 lacks. Khokan Das did not agree to his proposal and as such on 17th August 2009 Md. Amir Hossain Khan influencing one Abdul Khaleque, Sub Inspector of Police of Ramganj P.S. brought Khokan from Ramganj Bus stand to Ramganj police station on duress and procured signatures intimidating him on the non-judicial stamp from Khokan Das. The ex-chairman of Ichapur Union and Md. Amir Hossain Khan, President of Union Awami League denied the allegations.

2 HINDU FAMILIES CRY FOR JUSTICE: APPEALED TO PM

Two Minority Hindu Families at Kalapara Upazila, Patuakhali in Bangladesh are going to be uprooted from their home because of false cases filed by Hashem Sikdar, a Muslim of the same locality. Continuous repression on both families has been described in a report in the daily "Janakantha", 4th Oct 2009 with pictures which clearly states that they have no rights to live in their own country. Both the Hindu families submitted an appeal to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to save them. Ms. Sima and Ms. Ruma, daughters of Makhan Lal, the victim, expressed their anguish and called upon the people to come forward to rescue them.

HUMAN CHAIN, BLACK FLAG FOR ASSAULT ON BIJOY KRISHNA DEY

The Daily Ajker Paribartan, 21st -22nd Oct, 2009: From the Desk Paribartan: Bijoy Krishna Dey, Founder member of Amrita Lal Dey College and a reputed Hindu Social leader and donor was physically attacked and harassed by Faisal Bin-Islam on 17th October 2009. On the day during "Shyama Puja" at mid night Faisal Bin-Islam, ex-Sports Secretary of BM College forcefully entered into the house of reputed leader Amrita Lal Dey and attacked his brother Bijoy Krishna Dey and assaulted him without any provocation. As soon as the news of such assault on Bojoy Krishna Dey came to knowledge of various organizations at Barisal town started demonstration against such hooliganism. Various organizations, cultural organizations staged human chain with black flags in front of Ashwami Kumar Hall in Barisal. Many speakers protested this sort of attack and demanded exemplary punishment of the perpetrators.

THE DEMOLITION OF RAMNA KALI TEMPLE IN MARCH 1971

RAJEN THAKUR

www.Asiantribune.com: The birth of Bangladesh in 1971 was a unique phenomenon- it was the first nation state to emerge after waging a successful liberation war against a postcolonial state. The nine-month-long liberation war in Bangladesh drew world attention because of the genocide committed by Pakistan, which resulted in the killings of approximately three million people, and raping of nearly a quarter million girls and women mostly over 70 percent were Hindus. Ten million Bengalis, of whom 80% were Hindus, reportedly



took refuge in India to avoid the massacre of the Pakistan army, and thirty million people were displaced within the country were poor Muslims and Hindus. In Bangladesh there are more than 30,000 temples and religious citadels in Bangladesh, and most of those were ransacked, demolished and desecrated. Thousands of people-men, women and children-were killed and women raped by Pakistani army and their local stooges and collaborators of the so-called peace committees looted Hindu properties. When the burden of the killing became too much for the army, the Pakistanis enlisted and trained paramilitary units made up of non-Bengali Muslims and Bengali collaborators from right-wing religious parties.

MASSACRE AT RAMNA KALI BAR: AN AMERICAN EYEWITNESS

On that night of 25-26 March on the orders of General Yahya and the Pakistani ruling clique the Pak forces armed with mortars, cannons and recoilless guns attacked the citizen in their sleep. In an attempt to drown in blood and silence in terror the upsurge of Bengali Nationalism, the military junta of Yahya Khan unleashed the most barbaric war of extermination against the entire people of Bangladesh. In the wake of this war



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the occupation Pakistani Army have been indulging in an unparalleled orgy of wanton loot, rape, murder and destruction. It is these gruesome happenings which have been characterized by U Thant the then Secretary General of the United Nations, as “one of the most tragic episodes in human history” and as “a very terrible blot in the page of human history.”

"On the night on 27 March 1971 all the 250 Hindu men, women and children, who lived in and around the 700-year old Ramna Kali Bari in the heart of Dacca, were massacred. The priest of the Temple Swami Paramananda Giriji held the deity and prayed to Goddess Kali and he remained like that until incendiaries of the Pak army 'cremated' him alive along with all others.

An American eyewitness said: "There are no more Hindus in Ramna Kali Bari... I went to see it. Houses were still aflame and bodies were stacked at grotesque angles." This American added, "The sight staggered foreigners allowed to see it --- among them Mr. David Gordon, head of the World Bank in Pakistan". About 100 corpses were put on display in the village on 29 March 1971.

Dr John E. Rohde of USAID noted that “on the 29th we stood at Ramna KaliBari, an ancient Hindu village of about 250 people in the center of Dacca Ramna Race Course, and witnessed the stacks of machine-gunned, burning remains of men, women and children butchered in the early morning hours of March 29,1971. I photographed the hours later.”

Mr. Gordon Allott's speech in the Senate on July 14, 1971 mentioned that the 'Ramna Kali Bari is an ancient small Hindu settlement situated in the middle of the Dacca racecourse. Even during the most violent Hindu-Muslim riots of partition, the village was able to avoid participation in communal strife ...on March 29, a pile of bodies charred and machine-gunned, was on visible display in Kali Bari. The entire village was burned to the ground.' There was something of a joker in Yahya Khan. Perhaps because of the World Bank officials' disapproval of the destruction of the Ramna Kali Temple, the military President of Pakistan or his trusted Governor, General Tikka Khan, sanctioned Rs.20, 000 for rebuilding, the temple which had been not only razed to the ground but after the rolling of bulldozers over it not a single brick remained there.

The Ramna Kali Bari and the two villages are now an extension of the grassy racetrack of Dhaka. When a World Bank official was shown a temple, a foolish stage show was arranged to convince him that the Hindus were freely pursuing their religious duties. A non-Bengali police constable was made to shave off his head leaving a tuft on it. He put on a dhoti and was made to sit and offer flowers as if he was doing the usual puja. When the Inspector- General of Police and others brought the World Bank official there, the fake Hindu priest seeing his boss, jumped up to stand to attention and gave a smart salute, said Mr. A B M Musa of Times, London and BBC correspondent at Dhaka. A new report, that Pakistani invaders raided the Temple and the Ashram again around end of April or early May in 1971, was published in January 31, 1972 issue of 'Daily Purbadesh' on the destruction of Ramna Kali Temple and Ma Anandamoyee Ashram.

(TO BE CONTINUED). Shri Rajen Thakur is a freedom fighter, an organizer of Mujibnagar Government and columnist- author.

BLOW BY BLOW





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KRISHAN BHEEL, AN ENRAGED HINDU MP, SLAPS QARI REHMAN IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. PAKISTAN'S WOEFUL MINORITY TALE.

<http://www.politicoindia.com/newsreader.aspx?id=609>

mariana baabar

BHEEL STILL REMEMBERS: "I DIDN'T SLAP HIM TWO-AND-A-HALF TIMES. I SLAPPED HIM THRICE,"

It was an occasion quite rare for the national assembly (NA): Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz had finally taken time off from his foreign sojourns and sumptuous banquets to participate in the December 7 proceedings of the Lower House. His presence spurred Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal's Qari Gul Rehman to laud Aziz in a remarkably florid language for providing gas connections in precisely those areas Qari had recommended. Horrified at the display of the mullah-military link, despite the MMA was an Opposition party, the 'real' Opposition—members of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) & Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) - began to hoot Rehman. "Stop it, you Durbari Maulvi. Enough of buttering," someone shouted. Soon Opposition members began to chant, "Durbari Maulvi, Durbari Maulvi". Vocals were PPP's Naheed Khan, a close confidant of Benazir Bhutto, Khawaja Asif, a die-hard supporter of Nawaz Sharif and **Krishan Bheel, a Hindu member of the PML(N)**.

While the NA hall filled with chant of "Durbari Maulvi", **Rehman harshly shouted at Bheel: "You Hindu bania, how dare you?" Bheel bravely walked to & slapped Rehman lapped on the face. Then, again. Scantly before the third one, others intervened. The House was stunned for this unique incident. Rehman took Bheel's slaps not just a violation of the rules of conduct governing the house; but grave insult to Islam: a Hindu hitting a Muslim in Pakistan?**

Rehman and his party refused the PML(N) and Bheel's apology. They declared that Bheel's membership to the NA must be cancelled. The MMA mounted pressure on the speaker. Finally, the two warring parties compromised after which the NA began to function normally from December 12. **The media speculated on the number of slaps: 'Two, three or two-and-a-half?'** In all aspects, the slaps grabbed the front pages of newspapers. Many people delighted who thought Rehman deserved it, though Bheel's behaviour set an awful precedent. Nusrat Javeed wrote in The Post: 'Bheel represents the low-caste Hindus of Sindh in this assembly. His remaining an ardent loyalist of Nawaz Sharif makes him more vulnerable to whimsical ire of our elite of all varieties. The political maulan...have also been pushed to higher classes. They are incurably angry and self-righteous'. Others derided Rehman.

"Our women are converted forcibly and married off to Muslims." — Bheel

Absar Alam of The Nation's detailed about his hilarious encounter with Rehman. At the cafeteria, Sindhi journalists who know the Karachi-based Rehman started narrating anecdotes of his worldly affairs and how he makes the best of them. These issues quickly become a symbol of the regular humiliation of the Pakistan's minorities. As Bheel waited for the MMA to retract from its stubborn position of no compromise, he told outlook, "Whatever the decision, I leave it to the court of God. After hearing day in and day out abuses against my religion, that day I rose and controlled my tongue. But I could not control my hands. I had just no power over them." He also underscored the MMA's attitude to the Hindus. ".....because I was the most vulnerable, Rehman bad-mouthed my religion. I could not take it anymore," Bheel said. He detailed Rehman's similar



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anti-minority attitudes in NA. Bheel bemoaned, "All the time we have to hear taunts from Muslims about our religion. This time it was a learned Maulvi, a member of the house, who taunted our religion. Our women are picked up in Sindh, converted forcibly and then married off to Muslims. Jobs are a problem for us. Where is this enlightened moderation? The West is blindly helping the government. Our plight should also be highlighted. You must come to Sindh and see for yourself what Hindus and their women are undergoing. Our voices do not reach Islamabad."

Indeed, President Pervez Musharraf's 'enlightened moderation' has yet to leave its imprint on the Pakistani society. Just the other day a church in Lahore was burnt; a Hindu temple was ransacked and burnt in Nowshera (NWFP) recently; members of minority communities are routinely brought to courts for violation of the Blasphemy Law. Agrees Samina Ahmed, director, International Crisis Group: "The intolerance reflected in the NA clearly reflects the level of intolerance towards the minority in Pakistan." However, Sabah Khattack, who heads the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, feels intolerance is an urban phenomenon; that the virus of hatred hasn't yet afflicted rural Pakistan. Finally, Bheel tendered a public apology from the floor of the house and Rehman embraced Bheel.

But what Bheel still remembers: "I didn't slap him two-and-a-half times. I slapped him thrice," he said to put the record straight (**Edited & re-written by Dr. Santayan Kabiraj, London**).

SWISS CONFERENCE 2009

THEME: 'BANGLADESH MINORITY RIGHTS: VISION 2021'

Date: Sunday, 21st Oct- Monday 23rd Oct 2009

Venue: Maison Internationale Des Associations, Geneva

PROGRAM:

21st Nov, Saturday: 4-7PM: Reunion of New leaders of BHBCUC, Europe. Discussion, Organizational & Dinar.

22nd Nov, Sunday 2009: 12Noon- Lunch, 1:30 -4:30PM: Seminar

23rd Nov, Monday: Memorandum giving & Gathering in front of UN

There may be a Documentary Show in either day. Elaborate program will be available on a later date.

Slogan:

**BANGLADESH: RESTORE 1972 CONSTITUTION
STOP HINDU BUDDHIST CHRISTIAN CLEANSING**

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