

## Violence erupts in Chittagong

From Our Spl Correspondent

**New Delhi:** In a disturbing development as an important North East-Bangladesh summit is underway in Dhaka, the Government has arrested about 100 tribals on the wake of violence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) in a statement said that about 100 indigenous tribal people including 40 from Khabhampujya area under Khagrachari district were arrested on the eve of the visit of Home Minister Sahara Khatun in the area.

On Tuesday, around 75 persons, mainly tribal people, were injured and their houses were reduced to ashes after the illegal plain settlers attacked a peaceful demonstration by the United Peoples Democratic Front.

One plain settler was also killed in the violence which has ignited the ethnic violence.

Several Chief Ministers and other leaders are in Dhaka for the ongoing international trade fair being organized by the India Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

After the massacre of the Jummas last week under Rangamati district, the only people arrested were the Jummas (tribals) who had sustained bullet injuries in the firing of the Bangladesh Army and when they went to obtain medical treatment at Baghaichari hospital, Mr Suhas Chakma, Director of Asian Centre for Human Rights said.

There are serious biases amongst the law enforcement personnel and the government of Bangladesh has failed to uphold the rule of law and the principles of non-discrimination in combating the violence unleashed by the settlers with the active support and participation of the security forces, it added.

The non-implementation of the CHTs Accord of 1997 and continuing appropriation of the lands of tribal peoples are the root causes of the ongoing violence.

The Asian Centre for Human Rights once again called for a judicial inquiry to be completed within 90 days into the killings and destruction of properties.

It also demanded the end of "Operation Uttaran" that authorises the military presence; withdrawal of all the military personnel to the cantonments as provided in the CHTs Accord; stop all programmes relating to the implantation of illegal plain settlers on the lands of indigenous Jumma peoples in the CHTs; and fully implement the CHTs Accord of 1997 within specific time frame.