

# Proletarian Era

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## Role of USA Behind Indo-Pak Summit

The Indo-Pak Summit is going to be held from 14th July next. Only a while back India was maintaining that no dialogue would take place with Pakistan unless Pakistan stopped cross border terrorism and democracy was restored in Pakistan. So such a quick turn of events may seem surprising. But this is, however, no enigma as subsequent developments reveal the behind-the-scene manoeuvring of the US-imperialists in exerting pressure on both India and Pakistan for holding the summit. After the announcement of the summit Abdus Sattar, the Pakistani foreign minister was in the US to explain the Pakistani stand on Kashmir to the US. Again, Mr Brajesh Mishra, the national security adviser to the Indian Prime Minister is also to visit the US to keep the Bush administration informed of the event. Even when Vajpayee was telling the reporters that the date of the summit would be known within a couple of days, a whitehouse spokesman announced, "US supports the July 14 meeting between India and Pakistan." From all these and other reports coming in the dailies it is clear that the US imperialists are behind the scene in bringing the two countries together for holding the summit. The US involvement over Kashmir is not, however, unknown despite India's denial of any third party involvement. Nawaz Sharif had to declare ceasefire at Kargil at the instruction of the then US President, Bill Clinton.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, India has been moving closer to the US, and after the assumption of power of the BJP led government

at the Centre the Indo-US relation has become closer still. India and the US are moving hand in glove in many areas. India has been holding joint naval exercises, and recently entered into a defence pact with the US. India extended support to the National Missile Defence Programme of the US. With the growing vista of cooperation with India, a US Army officer had participated in a course at the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School (CIJWS) at Vairange in Mizoram last year. It is reported that India is considering the proposal of giving the US access to sensitive military installations under the military exchange programme. The FBI, the US intelligence agency was allowed to interact with the Indian counterpart of the spy organisation. The FBI was also allowed to open an office in New Delhi sometime back. It is also reported that because of the vulnerability the US faces in the Gulf to the terrorist threats such as the recent attack in Yemen on the US naval Vessel Cole, the US would like the responsibility of safeguarding the Gulf sea lanes with likeminded countries like India.

In the "Cold war" period the US backed Pakistan as the frontal state to protect its imperialist interest and to conduct war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. With the end of the "Cold war" Pakistan lost much of its importance to the US. The US is now for establishing a new equation with India in its global strategic interest. This is apart from its business interest and its attempt to prop up India to contain the growing

(Contd on page 6)

## Statements of Comrade Nihar Mukherjee General Secretary, SUCI

### On Arrest of K. Karunanidhi

30th June, 2001

"Whatever may be the charges against K. Karunanidhi, former chief minister of Tamilnadu and President of DMK — the way police has been allowed to arrest him by applying brutal physical force cannot but be severely condemned by the right thinking democratic minded people of the country."

### On US Military Entry in the Indian Military Bases

29th June, 2001

"It is a matter of unspeakably grave concern that India Government is reportedly going to open a training school for high altitude and desert warfare in Mizoram bordering China and Myanmar in the name of fighting insurgency with US access to military bases.

"Indian official's denial of this media report as "baseless" is nothing but an unabashed hush-up exercise judged in the context of recent remarks of Jaswant Singh in Australia and USA that possibility of US access to the bases could not be ruled out and India was willing to consider requests for access to Indian military bases.

"We strongly protest against India Government's connivance with USA endangering further the question of national security and sovereignty which should be strongly defended by the freedom loving and patriotic people of our country."

### On Firearms Training by Sangh Parivar

19th June, 2001

No word is strong enough to condemn the heinous and blatantly fascistic design of the Sangh Parivar who in the name of confronting the ISI, are giving firearms training to 50 thousand volunteers all over the country obviously with the blessings and patronage of the BJP-led government.

There is no doubt that these armed Hindu Zealots will be hired at will and employed not only against the minority community but also against the legitimate democratic movements in the country.

We demand immediate halt to this arms training and appeal to all secular and democratic-minded people to organise themselves to mount pressure upon the government.



AIDSO's Protest Rally on 20th June in front of Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar against the BJP govt's decision to include Purohit Vidya, Astrology and Vastu-shastra in educational curriculum

# First International Assembly of International League of People's Struggle

First International Assembly of International League of People's struggle was held on May 25-27, 2001 in Zutphen, The Netherlands. For the preparation of this Assembly an International Initiative Committee under the Chairmanship of Jose Maria Sison was constituted in January 2000. They held 10 meetings from 15-16 January 2000 to 24th May 2001 and considered the lists of organisations of the League and prepared the draft documents. They succeeded in gathering 200 delegations consisting 333 delegates from more than 30 countries in twelve regions for participation in the Assembly. Finally 218 organisations from 26 countries including Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands, Turkey, Brazil, Equador, Spain, Mexico, Dominican Republic, USA, Canada, Congo, Niger, Nepal, Maynamar, Bangladesh, Thailand, Pakistan, Malayasia, Indonesia, Iran, New Zealand and Australia participated in the Assembly in Zutphen. From India apart from Comrade Ranjit Dhar, from All India Anti-Imperialist Forum, and Comrade Asoke Samanta from Medical Service Centre three other organisations participated. From Bangladesh Comrade Mobinul Haider Choudhury on behalf of Socialist Labour Front, H. A. Khan Rano from National Workers' Federation and from The Netherlands, Chuck Barkey from Latin American Centre, Hague took part in the Assembly.

The Plenary Session of the First International Assembly started in the Hotel Hall, Hanze Hof, Zutphen on 25th May with the speech of the Jose Maria Sison, Chairman, IIC. In his inaugural speech, he said, "The League answers the urgent need of the broad masses of the people for the creation of an international rallying force in the struggle for national independence, democracy and socialism. It is their weapon against the intensifying exploitation and oppression unleashed by 'free market', globalisation and new world disorder under the hegemony of the US imperialism. He further said, "The League is inspired by the anti-imperialist and democratic mass struggles that have arisen since the beginning of the 20th century. It also reflects and draws strength from the recent anti-imperialist and democratic mass struggles that have arisen since the decade of the 1990s. He said, "The League seeks to attract and mobilize the broadest possible range of mass formations of the anti-imperialist and democratic struggle."

After the speech of the Chairman, the Agenda and the rules of the participation were proposed before the house and accepted.

Thereafter deliberation and amendment of the Statute of the ILPS started. The draft of the Statute of the League inviting amendments sent beforehand to the participating organisations and amendments received were circulated to the delegates in printed form. In the beginning the word 'Statute' was replaced with the word 'Charter' unanimously by the house. Regarding the aims and objects of the ILPS the Charter mentioned, "The League is an anti-imperialist and democratic formation. It shall promote, support and develop the anti-imperialist and democratic struggles of the people of the world, including the workers, peasants, women, youth, professionals

and other sectors of society against the ideological, political, military, economic, social and cultural domination and attacks of imperialist and reaction.

It shall have a broad mass character, shall not be subordinated to any political party, government or church and shall afford equality to all participating organisations. It shall strive to realise the unity, cooperation and coordination of democratic struggles throughout the world."

It was decided that the International Assembly of the League shall be convened once every three years. An International Co-ordinating Committee of the League consisting of 35 members shall be elected by the Assembly to function between the Assemblies. The coordination committee shall abide by the spirit and letter of the resolutions and decisions of the International Assembly. Accordingly, nomination papers were given to the delegates for the election of the ICC for next 3 years.

Next day from 26th the venue of the General Assembly shifted to Landgoed Ehzenwold, Zutphen. On 26th morning General Assembly continued with the discussion and acceptance of the unfinished work regarding proposed amendments on the Charter of the ILPS. Thereafter fifteen workshops on different subjects started functioning separately. Each workshop was provided with respective draft resolution to be discussed and accepted. Comrade Ranjit Dhar took part in workshop No.4 where the subject was "The cause of peace against wars of aggression and against the nuclear and other genocidal weapons". He was also the guest speaker in that workshop. Comrade Ashoke Samanta from Medical Service Centre joined workshop No. 11, subject matter "Right of People to Health care And the Rights of Health Workers".

On 27th the resolutions of fifteen concerns was placed before the General Assembly and accepted. The election for nomination 35 members of the ICC for next 3 years was held and declared.

The First Assembly of ILPS ended with great enthusiasm.

## Address of Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Representative of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum

### The Cause of Peace against the Wars of Aggression and against Nuclear and Other Genocidal Weapons

Dear friends and comrades,

At the outset, I offer my thanks, on behalf of the Indian people and All India Anti-Imperialist Forum, for inviting me to the First International Assembly (FIA) of the International League of People's Struggle (ILPS) being held here in The Netherlands on this 25-27 May 2001. The ILPS, as I could understand, is meant to reflect the rising broad mass movement against imperialist "globalization", recent outstanding examples of which could be found in the battles in Seattle, Washington, Okinawa, Melbourne, Prague, Quebec City and elsewhere. The ILPS is also meant to advance the rights and interests of the workers, peasants, women, youth, intelligentsia

and other social sectors in the 15 concerns of the ILPS, as enumerated in its document. Here I will present my views on the topic stipulated, that is, the cause of peace against wars of aggression and against nuclear and other genocidal weapons, with an understanding that the topic emerges in tune with the cause and goal of the ILPS with which I express my solidarity.

Since the end of the Second World War in the mid-forties of the last century, the US imperialists have perpetrated serious aggressions and interventions into more than seventy countries, as narrated by William Blum in *The Guardian* in July 2000. Notwithstanding these appalling facts, the scenario in the last quarter of the century bears heavily and immediately on us, the peace-loving people of the world.

Some two decades back, the world witnessed the debacle of the Socialist Camp and counter-revolutions in erstwhile Soviet Union and other socialist countries of East Europe. Capitalists - imperialists assured the world of a new world order, in which socialism, the cause of war, as they tried to make home, would no longer be there and so the era of the 'Cold War' would draw to a close. Peace and prosperity loomed large before this new world, they tried to make people believe.

What has been the fate of prosperity in the so-called new world, is not directly of concern to us here; we are here to look at the cause of peace, that was apparently promised by capitalists-imperialists with much ado. Has peace prevailed on this earth in the immediate past of two decades; does it prevail now? We would certainly agree: "no". On the contrary, in this 'unipolar' world, capitalism-imperialism has become a more aggressive, more bestial, more inhuman force that does not hesitate the least to use its brute force of military might on any pretext or none, at the slightest opposition or opportunity.

Naturally the questions that confront us, are: Why has then peace failed to prevail even in this so-called 'new', 'unipolar' world? What causes capitalism-imperialism to grow more aggressive in a world, where the socialist camp does not exist, where the world revolutionary movement is in disarray, though temporarily, but much to the effect of the planned and motivated anti-communist propaganda by the capitalists-imperialists, helped by the contributions of revisionist-neo revisionist deviations from within the movement itself? Does it not then prove that the cause of war did not and does not lie in socialism confronting capitalism-imperialism? Rather, does it not prove unequivocally that the cause of war lies in the capitalist-imperialist system itself? As we all know, however competitive it may be to start with or it may be labeled with, capitalism is a system based on exploitation. It leads naturally to concentration of capital with monopoly, financial oligarchy, the corporates, MNCs and TNCs on one hand, and impoverishment of the masses at large and fall in their purchasing power, on the other. This in effect gives rise to internal market crisis within the respective capitalist countries. The finance capital is then forced to venture out to the external market to exploit the labour force and raw materials of

(Contd. on page 4)



**LIBERHAN COMMISSION AND HIGH COURT CASE****BJP's Falsehood and Deceit Exposed**

About a decade has passed since the Sangh Parivar organised the Ram Rathayatra moving through different states of the country towards Ayodhya, triggering attacks on Muslim community in its trail wherever it passed through and stoking up country-wide Hindu communalism to a frenzied pitch which culminated in the barbarous destruction of the Babari Masjid in Ayodhya by Sangh Parivar kar sevaks on December 6, 1992, a black day in the history of India.

Some recent developments strongly suggest that the BJP and the Sangh Parivar are not only determined to prevent the culprits from being punished and the truth from coming to light, but are also intent upon raking up the Ram Janmabhoomi issue to again fan up Hindu communalism to gain in the coming Assembly poll in UP slated for early next year, even at the attendant risk of a fresh bout of communal riots.

Demolition of the Babari Masjid was a crime against the nation and exemplary punishment should be meted out to its perpetrators. But all attempts to bring the culprits to book have been floundering against determined opposition of the Sangh Parivar. It may be recalled that the UP government had issued a notification for taking up criminal proceedings against L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharati, all currently Union ministers in the BJP-led central government, and 14 others of the Sangh Parivar in 1993. Needless to say, the BJP was not in power in UP at that time. The bourgeois parties, when in power, strive by all means to avoid any exposure or discomfiture, even using the governmental machinery and bending the law to suit their purpose, irrespective of the legal or moral position. This is what they have brought morality in public life to.

As can be expected, the Sangh Parivar resisted progress of the proceedings throughout. The investigating agency, the CBI, was to frame charges against the accused. But on 12 February last, the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court ruled that the government notification was defective but observed that the government could rectify it. Upon this, the special court set up to try the accused dropped the proceedings on 4 May till the legal defect in the 1993 notification instituting that court was rectified by the state government. Reportedly, the CBI sent a communication to the central government over a month back recommending that it should advise the UP government to remove the legal defect in the notification so that the proceedings against the accused could resume.

The Centre has done nothing of the sort. Emboldened, Rajnath Singh, the BJP chief minister of UP has publicly ruled out issuing a fresh notification to try the accused in the Babari Masjid demolition case (report in *The Statesman*, 12.6.2001). Fully aware that the CBI is helpless to do anything in the matter, Singh glibly asserted that "at present, the case is with CBI and they are doing the needful"! Thus, between them, the central and the state governments have seen to it that the criminal proceedings are bogged down in technicalities and effectively blocked. Finding no other way, the CBI has at last made a petition to

the High Court appealing against the order of the special court and written to the UP state government to issue a fresh notification.

This is a blatant example of the BJP trying to shield the accused in a crime against the nation, of obstructing even the process of bourgeois justice and law which it professes to serve being in government, because the prime accused include top-notch BJP leaders.

In their bid to suppress the truth, the BJP-Sangh Parivar leaders have been resorting to deceit and falsehood in their depositions before the Liberhan Commission.

This Commission was set up in 1993 by the Narsimha Rao government to probe into the demolition of the Babari Masjid, initially for a period of six months. Since then, its term is being extended after every six months. Although set up eight years back, the Commission could get down to the serious business of recording the depositions of the principal characters only as late as August 2000 because of the non-cooperation of the Sangh Parivar.

On May 14 last, the Union home minister and top BJP leader, Advani, in his third deposition before the Liberhan Commission, played the dove and lamented that demolition of the Babari Masjid had been an "illegal and forceful action" and added "I really felt extremely distressed when the structure was pulled down." He assured the Commission that the BJP was committed to the rule of law and the Constitution and considered court decisions and verdict on the Ayodhya issue binding upon it (Report in *The Statesman*, 15.5.2001).

But only two days later, Ms. Ruchira Gupta, a journalist who had covered the Babari demolition for Business India, in her deposition before the Commission, exposed Advani's falsehood. She said that the BJP leaders had planned the demolition and were jubilant when the masjid crashed down. Advani and other Sangh Parivar leaders were on a terrace overlooking the masjid when it was demolished. Seeing the kar sevaks climb up the mosque domes, Advani cautioned them that they should not do so because they might get hurt as the structure would fall down soon. Clearly, he had prior knowledge that the masjid would be pulled down. When the domes fell, there was jubilation on the terrace. Advani did nothing to restrain the crowd, nor did he try to stop the Parivar activists when they attacked the journalists covering the event in a bid to suppress the truth. He was so "distressed" at the demolition that he offered sugar to Ruchira Gupta, saying "itna bada din hai, chini khao" (it is such a great day, have sugar) ! He was so law abiding that he asked the kar sevaks to put up benches and lie down on the roads to obstruct entry of CRPF men to the masjid site. He said : "nobody from the armed forces has any right to touch the kar sevaks." (Report in *The Statesman*, 17.5.2001)

Though unmasked, Advani was undeterred. At his next deposition before the Commission on June 13, fortified by the UP chief minister's refusal to issue a fresh notification that might lead to his being chargesheeted, he shed off all pretence of law abiding reasonableness. He asserted that the Ramjanmabhoomi movement was a glorious

one, like the freedom struggle of India! He added that 30 October, 1990 was the "happiest day" of his life because on that day the kar sevaks hoisted saffron flags atop the Babari structure housing the stealthily and illegally placed Ram idols, defying prohibitory orders imposed by the then UP government headed by Mulayam Singh Yadav. According to Advani, this signified the "victory of lok shakti over raj shakti". He went on to describe the Ayodhya agitation as a "great movement" and said he was proud to be associated with it. (Report in *The Statesman*, 14.6.2001)

Earlier, on June 11, the Union HRD minister and BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi had "enlightened" the Commission stressing that the Ayodhya problem consisted of three parts : whether Ram was born at the masjid site, who owned the land around the Babari masjid and whether there had been a pre-existing temple at the disputed site. (Report in *The Statesman*, 12.6.2001)

Now, who can determine, and how, if Ram, a mythological figure, was ever "born" and where? As such, there are several sites in Ayodhya itself claimed to be Ram Janmabhoomi! The UP government affidavit says that the Babari masjid stood on Wakf land — the masjid and the land were notified as a Sunni Muslim Wakf by 1944. It is a matter of record that the Babari masjid served as a mosque till that fateful night in 1949 when Ram idols were stealthily planted inside by Hindu fundamentalists. If the point is whether temple was preexisting at the site before Babar built up the mosque a few centuries back, who can prove or disprove it and how, and what is its relevance to the present dispute? By all this, is not Joshi trying to confuse the issue so that the Commission gets bogged down in irrelevant points?

The legal process of charge-sheeting the accused BJP leaders has been blocked. And the Sangh Parivar is on the one hand trying its best to obstruct the work of the Liberhan Commission and confuse it through falsehood, double talk and prevarication while on the other it is engaged in justifying and glorifying the Ramjanmabhoomi movement and the Babari masjid destruction from the forum of the Commission itself! Not only this. They are even trying to treat the Commission frivolously and make fun of it, while justifying the vandalism on Babari Masjid. We have to remember that once the Parivar had even suggested that the masjid fell down of its own accord! Now RSS chief Sudarshan has jocularly suggested that "may be a bomb did it", whereas kar sevaks pre-trained in demolition work did the heinous job and he cannot but be aware of it! To Uma Bharati, Babari Masjid was a "symbol of slavery", an "insult to the nation" but regarding what happened during the masjid demolition, she said she could not remember because she was "disinterested" in what was going on !

In mid-May, Giriraj Kishore, senior vice-president of the VHP, even demanded that the Liberhan Commission itself be scrapped ! As such, the Commission's term expires on 30 June and till the time of going to the press, it has not been extended. Is it that the BJP and the Parivar will allow it to die out "naturally" since its

(Contd. on page 6)

# First International Assembly of International League of People's Struggle

(Contd. from page 2)

the weaker countries, assuming the character of imperialism. But the process also enhances contradictions among imperialists themselves to gain control over the external market to tide over their crisis. The two devastating world wars confirm this Leninist analysis; they were nothing but violent expressions of frantic efforts of the leading imperialist powers to win control over the world market. But even the world wars did not solve the problems for capitalists-imperialists. Emergence of the socialist camp and development of resurgent nationalist countries in different continents added to furtherance of the crisis. Capitalism-imperialism entered into its third intensive phase of crisis, when a boom in the morning crashed into a slump at the close of the day. On the other hand, unprecedented rise of militant peace movement by the democratic-minded people the world over led by the mighty socialist camp under the leadership of Comrade Stalin, the great proletarian leader, upheld the cause of peace defying even the bellicose war-monger system of capitalism-imperialism.

Subsequently, advent of revisionism in Soviet Union brought confusions and disunity in the world revolutionary movement, entirely to the advantage of the capitalist-imperialist camp and to the detriment of the peace movement. But the capitalists-imperialists could hardly ever get rid of their crisis. In fact, the unprecedented global recession of the last quarter of the twentieth century, prompted them to raise the slogan of 'globalization- liberalization- privatization' and take resort to such measures as signing of GATT 94, developing the WTO and such others. These were desperate attempts at a manoeuvred, concerted exploitation of the global market, in which, by all means the bigger and more powerful imperialists would have the edge in exploiting the markets of weaker nations. But that was in vain too! Right at the moment, the GATT 94 was being signed. Sutherland, the erstwhile Secretary General of GATT 94 issued the warning: it was really the beginning of bitter trade war. In fact, before the ink of the signature dried, the world of imperialism tore up into three economic alliance-cum-power centres, with US, Japan and European Union headed by Germany, leading each respectively. Even they were not permanent, as NAFTA led by USA gave way to Free Trade Summit of Americas, under the same leadership. Interests of these centres clashed vehemently, as was evident in all subsequent meetings, conferences etc. of the WTO, World Bank, IMF and so on. Countries, particularly the leading imperialist ones agreed on certain points, say, on liberalization of service sectors or on opening of markets of developing countries, but differed strongly on opening their own market or on various other measures. Thus globalization to stave off crisis is, in reality, giving way to frenzied efforts to divide and redivide the global market, which, in turn, generate bitter trade wars, always fraught with possibilities of breaking out into hot wars. Shadow of wars unceasingly follows the shadow of crisis of capitalism-imperialism. In fact, the crisis has reached such a stage that military, war, war-like situations have been intertwined with the capitalist economy itself. The vicious cycle runs as follows.

With growth of capitalism, particularly with the tremendous technological growth of the

twentieth century, the capacity for production, that is the productive force, increases manifold. But acute disparity and deprivation follow inevitably; high-tech growth brings more lay-off, merger, closure and unemployment; even in agriculture high-tech boom causes less work for more people. The crisis merely deepens further. It pushes capitalist countries, big or small, weak or strong, to develop a military-industrial complex, in which the military, rather in its name, the government, places orders to the industry and buys back the produce. The more the pauperization of masses, the more is the market crisis, and to overcome it the higher is the military budget, the stronger is the military-industrial complex. But it has its inherent contradictions, too. Increased production of military hardwares, armaments, and arsenals knows only one way to keep production alive, and that is by using them in war. Thus from creating war-psychosis to war-incidence is a necessary course for capitalist-imperialist countries to minimize stockpiling of arms and stagnation and thereby to artificially stimulate the economy. Today the capitalist economy cannot survive without producing arsenals and without their consumption in wars. The fact is betrayed in figures. In the fiscal year 2001, the USA spends on military nearly 590 thousand dollars (\$ 589802) every minute, 849 million dollars (\$ 849,314,880) every day. Out of a global 809 billion dollar on military expenditure a year, USA alone spends 310 billion. These staggering figures of expenditure on military, and not on any crying humanitarian need, point to the strength as well as decadence capitalism-imperialism has reached today. And the more decadent, the more moribund the system becomes, the more inhuman and ruthless, in character, it grows into. The cause of peace is thus endangered!

Series of recent incidents and developments bear testimony. Thus we see prolonged sanction for over several decades against the tiny but resolute socialist Cuba, that has put the country into sustained misery, but could not break its morale to succumb to the pressure of the imperialists, particularly the US imperialist. The world witnessed naked intervention by USA, using UN as its rubber stamp, in the Kuwait-Iraq conflict in Middle East; what followed is the gruelling Gulf War including missile attacks on civilian targets; even hospitals, schools, etc., and economic sanction against Iraq. All this took its toll not only in devastating the economy of that country, but also in death, starvation, disease and plight of the population, particularly the children.

The world further saw the barbaric arrogant transgression of national sovereignty of Yugoslavia by the NATO under the leadership of the US imperialism, ravaging bombardment on that soil, and intrigues and interventions to disintegrate that Balkan country that continue still today, so long after the end of the war. Well-meaning people were shocked to know that US surveillance, that is spy planes flying as far away from their country as over the China Sea or over Peru, killed a Chinese pilot and an American missionary with her baby in their planes, respectively.

The world was awe-stricken to know that in the name of containing narcotic trade and drug mafia in Colombia, the US planes combining with, and financially and militarily supporting, the

Colombian army had destroyed not only the coca (chief ingredient of cocaine) fields; they had targeted populous farmings and vast stretches of other agricultural fields, even human habitations and fumigated them with toxic and dangerous chemicals. The world found imperialist-engineered fomentation of ethnic and racial enmity and resulting bloodbath in series of countries in Africa, sanctions against North Korea and Libya, interventions in Haiti, Indonesia and so on and so forth.

Over and above these wars involving conventional, though often genocidal arsenals, there is the case of nuclear weapons. Hypocrisy of the imperialists, more so of the most belligerent of them, the US imperialists, is completely unmasked in this case. During the days of the 'Cold War', the US imperialists were the most concerned about curbing the military supremacy of the erstwhile Soviet Union, at least containing it. Raising the bogey of nuclear war, star wars and the like, they left no stone unturned to increase their might in all respects, while at the same time, to put bridles on others in the form of different treaties. The ABM (Anti Ballistic Missiles) Treaty was one such. Subsequently they tried through CTBT (Comprehensive Test banning Treaty) to prevent other nations, particularly the weaker ones, from developing as nuclear power, while they maintained their tests using improved technologies incurring huge expenses. At present, with renewed belligerence, the US imperialists are now trying to enter a newer, further aggressive phase. This time their bogey is the 'rogue' states, like North Korea etc. They propose NMD (National Missile Defence) for their national security from 'rogue' states; though anybody with a modicum of rationality will laugh at this ridiculous claim of states like North Korea or Libya, threatening American security. The US imperialists however, dish this out even violating the ABM Treaty that they themselves had thrust upon others at one stage.

Added to these, are the imperialist practice of using depleted uranium or plutonium in warheads. It has been alleged that the NATO forces, under the leadership of the US imperialists, have used depleted uranium, a metal 1.7 times as dense as lead, to make shells that penetrate steel armours. The US imperialists used this DU in their war of aggression on Iraq in 1991, in Bosnia in 1995 and in Kosovo in 1999. Besides hundreds of metallic tiles with plutonium contents in them were found in forest Kouri in northern Greece. Both these are highly radioactive and the latter can cause death even on touch. Thus, not only are the US imperialists using radioactive metals in warfare; they are using them even in military exercises and operation centres, as evident from the finds from the Greek forests. The results are found in the 'Gulf War Syndrome' affecting over 90,000 US war veterans, leave aside the Iraqi people themselves, in increased incidence of leukemia deaths of Italian, Belgian, Spanish, Portuguese and other NATO troops as also the signs of strong radioactivity in the population of the occupied or invaded territories. It may be mentioned that the Former US Attorney General Ramsay Clark called for total ban of use of DU weapons.

Such developments point to the fact that today capitalism-imperialism, led by the US imperialism, is not just strengthening their military

(Contd. on page 5)

# LF Government's Police Kills Jute Mill Worker

On 20th June last the Left Front police killed one jute mill worker and seriously injured a few others firing several rounds on the striking casual workers of the Ganges Jute Mill in Hoogly district near Calcutta. Thousands of casual workers were demanding getting them back into their job with ESI and PF facilities and daily wages of at least Rs. 130 per day as before instead of Rs. 80 per day proposed by the management.

The government and the management had admitted that the discontent had been brewing among the casual workers for some days past in the mill centering round payment of their wages and on other demands and workers were setting up pressure on the management for the just solution of the impasse. And the management met their demands in this way on 20th June with the help of police and under the patronage of this government. The workers had been staging stay-in demonstration in front of the mill gate and called strike on this day which was a complete success from the morning. But when a group of CPI(M) backed workers under the management's instigation tried to break the strike and demonstration at about 10 a.m. and the workers resisted, police unprovokedly resorted to indiscriminate lathi-charge, teargas shelling and firing on the striking workers resulting in one

death and many injured.

Sharply condemning police firing and torture on the workers at the instance of the owners, Comrade Shankar Saha, Secretary, West Bengal, UTUC-Lenin Sarani and Comrade Dilip Bhattacharya, General Secretary, Bengal Jute Mill Workers' Union demanded exemplary punishment to the offending police officers, proper medical attendance to the wounded workers, payment of due compensation to the families of the dead and the injured and employment to one of the family members of the killed. On 24th June a team of ten members under the leadership of Comrade Dilip Bhattacharya visited the surrounding localities and coolie bustees and met the bereaved family of the killed worker Someswar Rao and the families of the wounded. It has been known from the eye-witnesses that the victim Someswar Rao first fell on the ground with bullet injury on his knee and then the police repeatedly fire on his chest. It has also been reported by the insiders that the whole gameplan of massacring the workers was jointly masterminded in a secret meeting of the management, the local police officer and the leaders of the CITU, INTUC, BMS and other big four unions in the mill. Significantly none of the CITU, INTUC, BMS and other unions in the mill and the newly elected

local CPI(M) MLA visited the mill area or coolie basti even after the incident.

Comrade Provash Ghosh, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI in a statement sharply pointed out that this incident once again proves that the Left Front government is acting nakedly in the interest of the owners as against that of the workers. On 21st June SUCI MLA Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar demanded judicial enquiry into the death of the jute worker and compensation by the government to the family of the killed and injured, in the West Bengal Assembly. A successful industrial bandh at the call of the UTUC-LS in the Hooghly district was observed on the same day.

It is to be noted that while all the trade unions condemned the police firing squarely the Chief Minister simply as a public gesture expressed his regret for the death of the worker. But the actual intention and attitude of the LF Govt and the CPI(M) have been exposed by the rude and cynic utterances of Mr. Biman Bose, the CPI(M) politbureau member and Minister for Industry. Mr Nirupam Sen. Defending the police action Biman Bose charged: "This is not the right way to agitate" (*The Times of India*, 21.6.01) Mr Sen cynically pooh-phooed the killing of the worker

(Contd. on page 7)

## First International Assembly of International League of People's Struggle

(Contd. from page 4)

might and the military-industrial complex, albeit in vain to stave off their crisis: they are coming out with all their teeth and claws and perpetrating heinous crime of affecting humanity with the danger of radioactivity, chemical or biological warfares.

Keeping in mind that capitalism-imperialism cannot keep on their present spate of aggressiveness neither for ever, nor even for long, democratic-minded, peace-loving people, however, face an apparently uphill task. They have to realize certain very basic, though unpleasant, truths in order to uphold the cause of peace. The soul-searching question we will have to answer is: How is it that from a situation in the immediate post-war days, when "we had almost reached the threshold of world revolution, so to say, just a few yards from it" as expressed by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the great Marxist-Leninist thinkers of our time, the world was brought to the present state, where capitalism-imperialism could carry on their war-monger activities and policies unabated, or even more and more without caring the least for world-opinion?

The answer, we must trace in the history of the revolutionary movement, the only deterrent to the arrogance and high-handedness of capitalism-imperialism. We may recall, once again, the words of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh where he characterized the post-war situation as: "... the communists must bear in mind that in the existing changed international situation the possibility of preserving peace and the danger of outbreak of wars are both equally real." Thus in spite of incessant intervention and aggression from imperialists, there were surges of national liberation struggles and militant peace movements in days immediately succeeding the Second World War. With modern revisionism establishing its ugly clutch on the world revolutionary movement, the militant peace movement of the post-war days

suffered a major jolt. Subsequently the debacle of the socialist camp and setback of the international communist movement drove also the anti-capitalist revolutionary movement to the backstage. With the working class swamped in confusion from the anti-communist tirade of the reaction, but no less from the revisionist-neo revisionist deviations and their movement left without an effective leadership, capitalism-imperialism found it an opportune moment to lead the peace-loving people further astray. It was thus possible for them to drag people towards anti-revolutionary path swamped in counter-revolutionary ideas. Capitalism-imperialism could thus emasculate the revolutionary forces, only to their own advantage. They could thus blatantly transgress upon national sovereignty of a country, as in Yugoslavia, chanting at the same time the slogans of their commitment to preservation of human rights, as pleas; they could violate the human rights of Cuban or Iraqi people, leave aside a number of such others the world over, in the name of fighting dictatorship. The peace-loving people of the world could only stand as silent onlooker of these heinous acts for years together. The cause of peace remained the unfortunate victim!

However, invincible zeal for survival has been the elixir to bring mankind to this stage of civilization. The impact and injury inflicted by continuous aggression, inhuman barbarism and naked arrogance of the reaction stirred up the conscience of toiling people of different countries, of even the aggressor countries, and anti-capitalist anti-imperialist movements, militant peace movements are coming up now and then on this or that issue, in different parts of the globe. True, they are still of a spontaneous character, lacking the well-knit organization and well-planned direction. And here lies the task for us - those who really care for the cause of peace against all sorts of imperialist intrigues and wars of aggression,

including nuclear armaments.

These zealous, enthusiast though spontaneous anti-imperialist movements must be brought under the correct leadership, which in the present days cannot but be the revolutionary Marxist-Leninist leadership, to guide them through towards the cherished goal of anti-capitalist socialist revolution, with a view to genuinely and effectively protecting the cause of peace; the leadership will need to forge the unity of the widest section of democratic forces, the broadest masses of toiling people to whom peace and democracy stand synonymous as life. So we require to develop anti-imperialist movement in countries all over the world and lead them to movements conducive to the anti-capitalist socialist revolutionary movement of each soil. We need to coordinate and organize the anti-imperialist struggles of different countries, through sharing of experiences and exchange of ideas to develop the solidarity of different anti-capitalist anti-imperialist forces and the international working class movement as well. Only these remain the ways to ensure and protect peace against imperialist onslaught.

Friends and comrades, we must realize that our path may be tortuous, the enemy arch-reactionary and all-powerful; but the strength of the determined vanguard of toiling masses armed with iron-strong organization, noble ideology and lofty culture-morality-ethics and fighting in the correct base line under a revolutionary leadership is invincible. We gather in this conference and may be in many such in coming days only to take pledge to accomplish our task and hasten the process to alleviate the hapless exploited people of the world of their miseries and pull them out of the stiffening clutch of war-monger capitalism-imperialism, as early as possible. I offer our mite for peace on behalf of the revolutionary people of India and solicit, in return, your fraternity and cooperation! Thank you! Long live Revolution!



# BJP's Falsehood and Deceit

(Contd. from page 3)

continuation would expose them more and more which their subterfuges cannot cover up?

Is this the value-based politics the BJP boasts of? A Muslim place of worship is destroyed in broad daylight, and the sight of the vandalism sends the BJP-Sangh Parivar leaders into raptures! Is this not beastly delight? The journalists covering the incident are attacked and beaten up. Where have the democratic norms gone? Is such conduct worthy of human being with any sense of values or culture?

Criminal proceedings against the accused are wilfully blocked on technical ground. What sense of justice and respect for rule of law and democratic norms does this reflect?

An inquiry commission is formed to probe the masjid demolition. The BJP and the Sangh Parivar have been obstructing its work, trying to mislead it and even behaving frivolously to belittle it — in short, doing everything to ensure that the truth does not come to light. If suppression of truth is their object, why do not they say so openly?

Their conduct is not straightforward or transparent. When pressed to spell out the official position of the BJP on the Ramjanmabhoomi temple issue, BJP leaders sidetrack the point by saying that the Ram temple is not on the NDA agenda, in order to keep the other partners of the NDA pacified. But the Sangh Parivar goes on making elaborate arrangements and preparation for constructing the temple defying the law and at the risk of triggering a fratricidal bloodbath. The VHP has even announced that construction of the temple would be taken up early next year, and parts of the stone work for the temple are already being readied in different places. It would not do for the BJP to try to wash its hands of the issue by saying that all these are the Parivar's doings. If this be so, why does not BJP condemn the Parivar for destruction of the Babari Masjid and publicly dissociate itself from the Ramjanmabhoomi temple movement? If it considers demolition of the Babari a noble deed for upholding Hindutva, why does it not boldly declare so before the Commission, in the same way in which the freedom fighters of yesteryears openly declared their objective of overthrowing the British raj at the trial courts, knowing full well that that was the surest way to the gallows. They were men of principle with a lofty sense of values, they were ready to make the supreme sacrifice for the cause they fought for. That was valued-based politics in the true sense. As against this, what sense of values do the BJP-Sangh Parivar reflect? Advani assures the Commission that the BJP will abide by court decisions while the BJP government blocks the criminal proceedings in the Babari masjid demolition case! Advani tells the Commission that he was "distressed" at the demolition, but at this next deposition, he declares that the "happiest day" of his life was the day when Parivar kar sevaks hoisted saffron flags atop the Babari masjid and says he is proud to be associated with the "great" Ayodhya movement whose outcome the Babari masjid destruction undoubtedly was! It may be recalled that when the Jain Commission investigating the carnage of Sikhs in the wake of assassination of Sm Indira Gandhi was trying to slur over the heinous role of Congress organising the sikh killing and suppress the truth, the BJP, being in opposition, raised hue

and cry over such misdemeanour of the Commission. And now, the same BJP is obstructing the Liberhan Commission so that the truth about the Babari destruction does not come out because the boot is on the other leg and BJP is the guilty party. Value-based politics indeed!

The monopoly press and other media have been consistently projecting prime minister Vajpayee as a reasonable, liberal man who is not communal. For this, an imaginary difference between Vajpayee and the BJP-Parivar hawks is being played up to emphasise that it is not Vajpayee but the others who are responsible for the naked onslaughts of Hindutva that we see all round. Taking advantage of this, Vajpayee is resorting to tricky manouvres, blowing hot and cold to pacify all. He says that Ramjanmabhoomi temple is not on the NDA agenda and the UP government notification should be rectified, but in practice, all preparations for building the temple go on and no fresh notification is issued. Is it not Vajpayee who has said that the Ram temple movement is a reflection of the national sentiment? Does he think that it is only the Hindu fundamentalist zealots organising the temple movement utilising the religious sentiment of the common Hindus that constitute the nation, to the exclusion of all non-Hindus? If so, why does he not come clean by openly saying so?

Such is their character, yet it is leaders like this who are projected in the media as great statesmen. How will sense of morality and ethics grow in this country?

Falsehood and deception, double talk and two-facedness — such are the attributes of the BJP, the standard bearer of Hindutva which makes so much of Hindu religious values. And it is this party that the ruling capitalist class has entrusted with governing the country on its behalf, as the best bet to provide stability to the country!

But the true character of BJP's "valued-based" politics being what it is, how can such a party do any good to the country? People should understand this clearly and have no illusion about it. It is only a countrywide mass movement on anti-capitalist base political line built up on the edifice of higher proletarian culture and ethics that can create a social counter current to provide the antidote.

## SUCI Tamilnadu Condemns Appointment of A Convict as CM

The Tamilnadu State organising Committee of the SUCI, in its meeting held on June 17 and 18, 2001 has issued the following statement on the decision of the Governor of Tamilnadu to invite Ms J Jayalalitha to form the government in the state.

"The way the General Secretary of the AIADMK, Ms J Jayalalitha, who has been convicted on corruption charges by a court of law, and who was debarred by the Election Commission from contesting the Assembly Elections, was hurriedly sworn in as the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu and allowed to enter the Assembly through the back door, has set a very bad precedent, violating all democratic norms and moral standards, especially at a time when morality in the political life of the country is in sharp decline, which cannot but be severely condemned by all right-thinking and democratic-minded people.

The incident also exposes the hollowness of the legal system in the country, which cannot stop a person convicted of corruption from occupying even the highest position in the government."

## SUCI, WB Condemns Fee Hike

In a statement issued on 16.6.01 Comrade Provas Ghosh, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, SUCI condemned the Left Front government's decision to hike fees in educational institutions and, inter alia, said:

The CPI(M) leadership recommends steep hike in student fees in West Bengal, where 83 % of the students drop out at school level, on the plea that the guardians' income has increased so much that their wards go to their institutions riding costly cars and take ice creams worth Rs 100. So they can afford to pay higher fees. The CPI(M) has not disclosed what class these guardians belong to and what their number is.

In fact, the CPI(M), like the BJP and the Congress, is out to close the door of education to the poor and the middle class only to leave it open for the handful rich. They are also trying to curtail education in order to restrict the number of educated unemployed — the potential voice of protest.

We vehemently protest this policy of curtailment of education and demand:

Stop hike in student fees and open the scope of education to all.

## Indo-Pak Summit

(Contd. from page 1)

influence of China which is viewed by the US as a potential competitor in the world market. The main thrust of the US is to build up a new Indo-US axis. So long the US and Japan were moving in collaboration. But with the accentuation of crisis of world capitalism, the US feels that the US-Japan ties will not remain in tact. The European Union is developing serious contradictions with the US. In this situation Indo-US axis will help in promoting the US interest in Asia. Indian ruling class will also get benefit out of this collaboration with the US. But the US wants to draw both India and Pakistan to its side, and this however cannot be realised in the present strained situation between the two countries over Kashmir. Besides, India also cannot play its role to the fullest extent in this part of the world if it is entangled in hostility with Pakistan

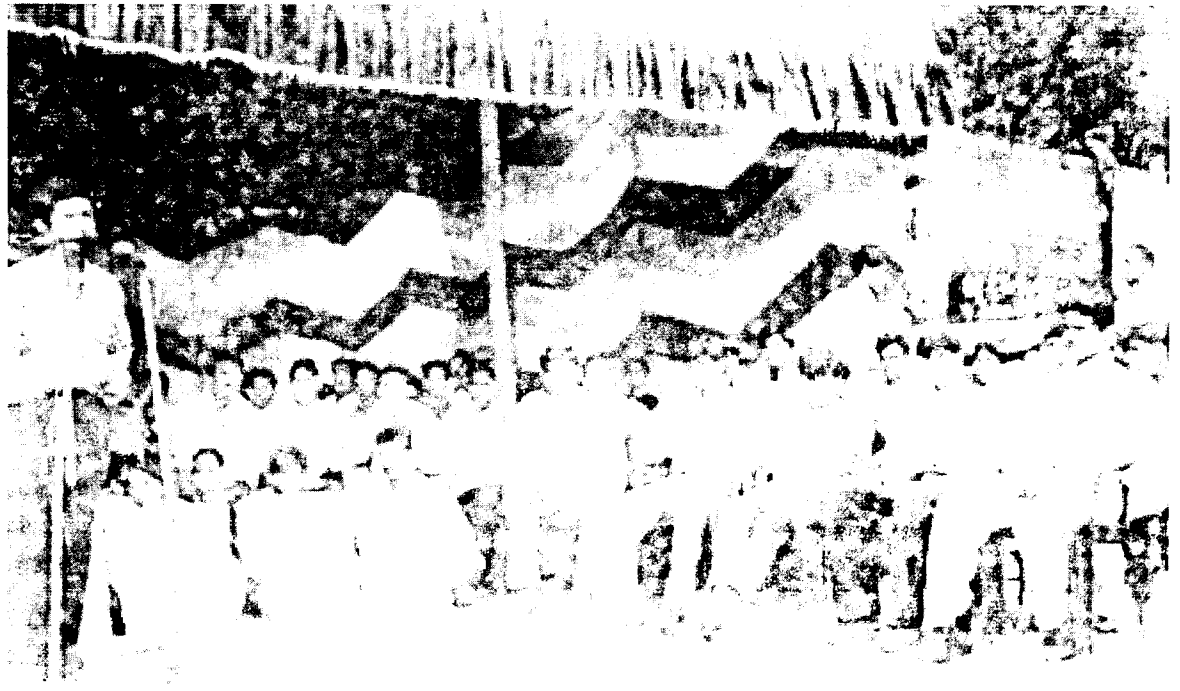
and the subcontinental arms race over Kashmir. So the US exerts pressure both on India and Pakistan to initiate at least the process of normalisation of relation between the two countries. With this aim in view the US warns Pakistan to take measure against cross-border terrorism and other terrorist activities within Pakistan. Though Pakistan has not supported the NMD and voted against the US to oust it from the UN Human Rights Commission, its economy is in such a precarious condition that it will collapse unless bailed out by the imperialist controlled IMF and the World Bank. But these institutions imposed conditionalities like stopping hostility towards India, reduction of military budget and terrorist activities within the country. Pakistan has no other way but to follow suit. Ensuing Indo-Pak Summit is to be viewed in this perspective.

# AIDSO in Jharkhand launches movement

Ranchi, 17 June : As a part of the movement launched by the Jharkhand unit of AIDSO against the burning problems of education in the state, a seminar was organised in the state capital. Students and teachers from various districts of Jharkhand attended the seminar. The issue in discussion was — 'The State of education in Jharkhand and responsibilities of the government'.

Senior journalist, teacher and social worker Mr Sashibhushan Pathak presided over the seminar. Noted intellectuals were invited to place their views. Prof. Ravibhushan, department of Hindi, Ranchi University and Dr. Ramesh Sharan, dept. of Economics, Ranchi University were also present. They criticized the anti-people educational policies of the Jharkhand State government and stressed the need of building up a powerful 'Save Education movement'.

The General Secretary of All India Save Education Committee, Dipankar Roy also spoke on the occasion. Speaking at length about the various problems of education throughout the country, he outlined the conditions and objectives behind the formation of the All India Save Education Committee and urged those present to build up a strong movement under its banner. Pallab Biswas, lecturer of Shyama Prasad College, Jamshedpur and Mr Gajadhar Mishra, a teacher from W. Singhbhum also placed their views.



*A view of AIDS Dharna at Ranchi on 18.6.2001*

Earlier, the Secretary of AIDSO Jharkhand, Comrade Mohan Singh placed a paper on the subject. On 18th June a dharna was held in Ranchi against curtailment and saffronisation of education. It was presided over by Comrade Jolly Das, President, Jharkhand AIDSO. Comrade

Swapan Chatterjee, General Secretary, AIDSO was the main speaker. Other speakers were Comrades Mohan Singh, Monoj Kumar Singh, treasurer, and Biplab Kumar, Krishna Kumar, Rajeev Das, Rajesh Ranjan, Ramakant and others.

## Police Kills Jute Mill Worker

*(Contd. from page 5)*

saying it was an isolated event. He did not even hesitate to brand the Baranagar Jute mill incident in January this year where the most notorious Chief Executive Officer of the mill gunned down one of the hundreds of workers thrown out of job for months together, at point blank range and two managers, including that CEO, died thereafter at the hands of the infuriated workers — as an isolated event.

Under the 24 years rule of the Left Front government the owners, rather now-a-days the promoters, have established a jungle raj in every jute mill of the state. A large number of mills have been grabbed by these 'promoters', i.e. financial manipulators. Swindlers and financial manipulators are thriving in jute industry with the increasing political manipulation in between the Left Front leadership and the tardy business world. The mills' profits are soaring, turnover increasing but they are curtailing regular workforce by increasing the number of casual workers namely *Vagwalas, Badli, Bhurjiwala, Voucher* and *Zero number* workers with a meagre daily pay of Rs.30-70 only denying benefits of ESI, P.F. and other legal benefits, and openly evading payment of all kinds of retirement benefits to the retired and retrenched workers. The owners are flouting tripartite agreements and locking out mills or closing down looms at their sweet wills or unscrupulous business exigency. In a word, the workers have been thrown into a land of unbridled oppression and nineteenth century exploitation and it seems there hardly exists any government in the state.

But the reality is that there very much exists a government, a particular government ridiculously self-styled as 'Left', which is avowedly functioning

to keep 'peace in industry at any cost' for the interest of the owners at the cost of the workers' sweat and blood. During the last 24 years the government has suppressed every toiling people's movement by brute police force from outside and emasculated the working class from within with the politics of naked opportunism-economism. The party leading this government, i.e. the CPI(M) being a diehard bourgeois hireling for a long, cannot but go on appeasing their masters behind the peoples' eyes. But this time before the Assembly election, sensing people's widespread discontent at its 24 years' anti-people rule, it openly surrendered before the local and foreign monopolists and business houses for their blessings and gave them assurances of serving their interests in every possible ways. They repeatedly threatened the working class of West Bengal of 'not tolerating any kind of militant trade union movement or agitation' although during their rule all these years, let alone militant movement, any trade union movement in the state was virtually absent, thanks to the terror tactics and deception of this government. Immediately after coming to power, the CPI(M) leadership invited the captains of chambers of commerce & industries to their party office before framing their industrial and labour policies and attended dinner party of the business houses arranged in felicitation of the sixth Left Front government. The obvious signal reached the jute industry manipulators without delay and they locked out 6 jute mills throwing nearly 40,000 workers out of job within a few days in reply to the new government's rhetoric of 'industrialization and development!' At present, at least 13 jute mills are closed in the state, the total numbers of victims rising upto 85,000 workers including those for closed down shifts in numerous mills. The signal

## Birsa Munda Day

AIDSO, Jabalpur held a memorial meeting of Martyr Birsa Munda on 10th June at its Jabalpur office, Kanchghar at 10 AM. The meeting was inaugurated with a mass song : "Azadi Ke Paarowane" in memory of the great martyrs of our freedom struggle and then Comrade Subhadra Biswas, Secretary, AIDSO, Jabalpur discussed on the life struggle of the great martyr. She called upon the students and youth to take lessons from the life struggle of such martyrs and get united against all attacks on education.

Shri Sanjay Yadav of Buniyad Club expressed that such observance programme bears significance only when we organise poor and oppressed people against all oppression.

Comrade U P Biswas, leading SUCI organiser, presided over the meeting. He urged the students to follow the lifestyle of greatmen.

The meeting ended with the song : "We shall overcome" presented by Comrades Punita Verma, Veenita Verma, Sucheta Patra, Shail Jha, Manish Yadav and Subhendu Biswas.

### Bhopal

The AIDSO, Bhopal also observed Birsa Munda Day. In a meeting on this occasion Comrade Asit Mohanty, incharge, AIDSO, Bhopal recalled how Birsa Munda united tribal people against British rule. He urged the students to take this lesson and fight capitalism. He said, Birsa Munda was an inspiration before us.

has also reached the Left Front govt.'s police.

Naturally more Ganges Jute Mill massacre are expected to be perpetrated by the mill owners and their stooge Left Front government and the toiling people have to take proper lessons from all these to close their ranks, find out the correct leadership and develop mighty militant struggle to fight back such onslaughts in coming days.

## Delhi AIDSO's Movement against Admission Problem



On 13 June last, Delhi AIDSO held a protest demonstration against fee hike, admission problems and privatisation and communalisation of education at Delhi University Campus, and burnt the effigy of the education traders.

Students from different schools and colleges gathered near Vivekanand Statue at Delhi University Arts faculty.

The gathering was coordinated by Prakash Saini, convenor, AIDSO Delhi State, and addressed by Ms Ritu, Mamta, Aruna, Ritu Aswal, Atul, Prashant among the students.

The demonstrating procession went near Morice Nagar Chowk (D.U.) raising slogans against fee hike, communalisation of education and demanding admission to all students who have passed 12th standard. At Kranti Chowk the students were addressed by Comrade Om Prakash, member of the All India Secretariat Council of AIDSO, Comrade Harish Tyagi,

AIDYO Delhi State Secretary and Comrade Prakash Saini, coordinator AIDSO Delhi State.

The speakers of the gathering condemned the all-out attack on education. They stated that today the government is withdrawing from its basic responsibility to provide education. UGC has curtailed the grants given to universities, colleges and authorities are resorting to fee hike, ransom donation and capitation fee. The government is inviting private business agencies to invest in government schools and colleges, and has allowed them to open the private schools and colleges. The sole purpose for such investors is to earn profit. Hence education is going beyond the reach of middle class and poor students. All the speakers appealed to the students community to build a massive students movement against this anti-education policy.

At the end an effigy of the education traders was burnt.

## Education Seminar in Delhi

The Delhi Unit of the All India Save Education Committee recently organised a seminar in Urja Vihar, East Delhi, against commercialisation and communalisation of education. Parents, teachers and students of the area participated in the programme. The seminar was presided over by Sri Narendra Sharma, Reader in Zakir Hussain College, Delhi and member of the Presidium of AISEC. Shri J. N. Mondal, commenced the seminar with an introduction to the present situation in education and stressed the need to develop a peoples' movement. Smt. Shalu Kumar presented a resolution against commercialisation, privatisation and communalisation of education, seconded by R. Rajesh. Deepak Thukral, a student, presented a second resolution against cultural degradation and spread of obscenity through media and entertainment, seconded by Sri Girvar Singh. Speakers from different parts of East Delhi spoke at the seminar. Shri P.K. Sharma, Pratap Samal, Rakesh Kumar, Prof Narendra Sharma, Advocate Ritu Kapur and Smt Jana Manohari were some of them.

Speakers described various specific problems like fee hike, shortage of schools, reduction in number of seats, reduction in UGC grants and the move to convert education into a commodity. Both resolutions were adopted. It was decided to strengthen a people's movement against attacks on education under the banner of AISEC.

The Delhi Unit of AISEC also organised a seminar on the same subject at Tri Nagar in North-West Delhi. Students, parents and teachers of the areas attended. Local students presented songs and a skit. The seminar was presided over by Sri A.K. Majumdar. A resolution placed by Ms. Aruna was seconded by Sri Manager Chourasia.

AISEC members Depinder Kapur and R. Rajesh as well as a number of others spoke on the commercialisation of education under the National Policy on Education, 1986 as well as shortage of schools, problems of admission, school admission through lottery system, and fee increase by private schools which came up for issues of discussion. Speakers called for the development of a people's movement, encompassing students, parents and teachers alike.

An Area Committee was formed comprising Depinder Kapur (Convener), Bihari Lal Nirmal, Ajinder Kaur, Prakash Saini, Kafil Ahmed Ansari, Dr Nishit Kumar, Gajendra Yatharth, Uma Shankar, Mamta and Aruna.

### Corrigendum

In our last issue dt. 15.6.01 the headline of the news item 'Nation Labour Conference' should have read 'Indian Labour Conference' and the preface should have read: 'Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, President, UTUC-LS while representing UTUC-LS at the thirtyseventh session of the Indian Labour Conference in Delhi, sharply denounced the government's globalisation policy in presence of the Labour Minister and Prime Minister respectively on 11th and 12th May, '01 and in the conference on 18th and 19 May '01. We regret the mistakes.



Students' protest march in Calcutta against Left Front government's policy of Fee Hike on 22 June, 2001

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