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Remembering Mao Zedong

26.12.1893 — 9.9.1976

“World wars end not in favour of the warmongers but in favour of the Communist Parties and the revolutionary people in all lands. If the warmongers are to make war, then they mustn’t blame us for making revolution or engaging in “subversive activities”, as they keep saying all the time. If they desist from war, they can survive a little longer on this earth. But the sooner they make war, the sooner they will be wiped from the face of the earth. Then a people’s united nations would be set up, maybe in Shanghai, maybe somewhere in Europe, or it might be set up again in New York, provided the US war mongers had been wiped out.” — Mao Zedong

[THE CHINESE PEOPLE CANNOT BE COWED BY THE ATOM BOMB, January, 28, 1955 SW Vol. 5]

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee’s Message to Comrades after Bangla Bandh

[A General body meeting of party workers was held at the Yuva Bharati Krirangan, Calcutta on 24 August last at the call of the West Bengal State Committee to discuss about the successful Bangla Bandh on 21 August and the further programme of action. The following message sent by our beloved General Secretary Comrade Nihar Mukherjee was read out at this meeting.]

Comrades,

That the unprecedented success of the Bangla Bandh on 21 August, 2003 has astonished and alarmed the rightist and the pseudo-leftist parties and above all the CPI(M), the chief ruling party in the state, is clear from their conduct, whatever they may say publicly. This Bandh has perturbed

the ruling bourgeois class too a lot. The concerted propaganda by the bourgeois mass media that such an unprecedented Bandh has only been a “partial success”, is proof of this.

All sections of the toiling masses of the state of West Bengal and the common workers of the leftist and

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Central Committee Protests Ariel Sharon’s Proposed Visit

Expressing deep indignation over the scheduled visit of Ariel Sharon, war monger US stooge Prime Minister of Israel, who being backed by the US imperialists is engaged in killing thousands of Palestinian freedom fighters with heinous intention to destroy Palestinian freedom movement so as to perpetuate its illegal occupation of Palestine, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement on 29 August, 2003 strongly criticized the BJP-led Central Government for its dangerous leanings towards this pro-imperialist butcher Government of Israel and inviting its Prime Minister to India which apart from being a severe blow to world-wide anti-imperialist movement was also a slur upon our anti-imperialist tradition.

Comrade Mukherjee, therefore, called upon the people of the country to strongly oppose this visit of Sharon and raise their strong voice against BJP government’s pro-US imperialist policy of developing ties with the Zionist Government of Israel.

West Bengal Bandh on 21 August

Spontaneous Response Gives Shudders to the Rulers

It is the time of storm and stress, time to set the goal without flinch, and rise as one whole to turn the tides. With their overwhelming response to the August 21 bandh in West Bengal the masses, at their

most eloquent ever, put on record their sharpest protest against the onslaughts of the rulers and their firm resolve not to submit to it lying down any more. Against dire threats by the CPI(M) and the government it leads, against vicious, orchestrated propaganda by the bourgeois media, against unheard-of type of police repression, this bandh has won a victory in unprecedented measure, bringing home the truth that the revolutionary politics of SUCI, the struggle and culture of its workers in ceaseless programmes of

movement on people’s own demands succeeded in drawing the masses more and more into spontaneous and conscious participation.

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Deserted Howrah Bridge on Bandh day

Follow correct process of work to give organizational shape to huge mass support

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other parties, have, from the core of their heart, longed for the success of the Bandh. Many of them played an active role to ensure it. Our party workers, supporters and sympathizers have toiled day and night superhumanly. Along with them, our women workers in particular have faced the police and the organized gangs of criminals of the CPI(M) with courage and bravery. I convey to all of them fighting greetings on behalf of the central committee of our party and on my own behalf.

Our party does not organize a Bandh based on governmental power, advantages of parliamentary politics or the force of muscle power but on the strength of revolutionary politics. It is because of the reflection of this politics to whatever degree, in the culture of our party workers and the continuous fighting role of our party they have observed, that the masses have unstintedly considered this Bandh to be their own Bandh. It is you who have to evaluate minutely the various experiences gained while organizing this Bandh as well as the different aspects of its success. Please remember that you will gain similar or even bigger successes in many a programmes of work in future. But the point to be borne in mind is that while conducting such democratic movements and various programmes conducive to these, the real aim of a genuine revolutionary party remains to accelerate the process of revolution. To a revolutionary party, this is the only yardstick to measure all success. And the path to

revolution will not be clear unless the inner-party struggle is conducted in the correct process and continuously side by side with the movements outside.

It goes without saying that the onslaughts of the crisis-ridden Indian capitalist system on the people will be more widespread, unbearable and ruthless as the days pass by. It is the aim of all mass movements including Bandh to spread the consciousness of and organization for anti-capitalist socialist revolution among the masses through conducting movement against each of such capitalist onslaughts. But a correct course of action must be pursued for this. That is why, from the beginning, our party has been laying stress upon conducting mass movements through forming the people's committees. In order to form these people's committees, one has to keep on living among the masses, to mould oneself by being one of them and to attain the position of their leader by winning them over and by dispelling their fear, apprehension and hesitation. When a worker thus truly becomes a leader of the masses through various tests and trials, formation of people's committee ceases to be a problem. But during the Bandh on 27th January last, and this time too, it is mainly the workers who have ceaselessly toiled with their sweat and blood. But Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teaching is :

"It is true that a revolutionary party will lead the revolution. But it is the people who will do the revolution. So, the revolution cannot be accomplished by a handful of

party workers, however honest and dedicated they might be, unless the political power adequate and fit for revolution can be generated among the people. And it should also be remembered that this task of giving birth to political power fit for accomplishing revolution among the people and building up of organization is very difficult and time taking."

Success of all activities, all programmes of work is to be evaluated in this yardstick. So, the outlook governing conduction of movement and the process of work need to be minutely examined from this view point. It is to be assessed that despite the huge success of the Bandh and some beneficial effects of it, what is its importance from the revolutionary view point. So, unless we can resolve adequately the question of correct process of work, you would not be able to give an organized shape to this huge mass support and direct the mass movements along the desired path — because just pious intention cannot accomplish this. On the other hand, if we can gradually organize and activate the wide masses through conducting movements in the correct process, that will give a new direction to the politics in the whole country.

In the last analysis, this implementation of correct and adequate process of work with due stress is fully dependent on the ideological and political understanding of the leadership. And the development of adequate ideological standard of all workers depends on maintaining a living environment of ideological struggle covering all aspects of life on the basis of Marxism-Leninism Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts within the party. Again, such an environment cannot be maintained without constant common activity, association and discussion-dialogue. Similarly, such an environment cannot be maintained without open self-criticism — criticism at all levels, particularly without open criticism of any blindness towards the leadership. On the other hand, with this, inner-party struggle be conducted in the correct process and consciously, then advanced ideological consciousness, unburdened and free atmosphere, inexhaustible inspiration of work and true dialectical relationship between the leaders and workers

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee

develop at all levels within the party.

But the importance which should be attached to conducting this inner-party ideological struggle, the struggle which is conducive to attainment of advanced character by elevation of cultural and ethical standard of and the attainment of communist qualities by the leaders and workers — is invariably lacking and so this task is being seriously neglected. Because this struggle is being neglected, the relationship between the leaders and the workers is being reduced to basically a working relationship, ideological consciousness and inspiration are being weakened and we are not being able to fully utilize the overall strength of the party. Otherwise that would have helped in extending and consolidating the movements too.

A true communist party is called the general command of the exploited masses in their struggle, every revolutionary worker being a commander in this struggle. The importance of inner-party ideological struggle can never be belittled even in the interest of mass movement, not to speak of the interest of revolution. If this happens, the very essence, the kernel of our party would be endangered, the party which was founded and shaped by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh through hard, arduous ideological struggle as a new type of party on the Leninist model. If that happens, then however much movements be there, these would never attain the cherished goal.

In conclusion, I exhort each of you to take initiative in intensifying the inner-party socialist ideological struggle on the basis of the invaluable teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and your own experience of struggle.

West Bengal State Committee congratulates people for making Bangla Bandh successful

[Congratulating the people of West Bengal for spontaneously making the Bandh on 21 August successful, Comrade Provash Ghosh, State Secretary, issued the following message to them on 22 August, 2003]

You deserve all the credit, honour and glory for the unprecedented success of West Bengal bandh of August 21. We accord revolutionary greetings to you. The bandh has had historic achievement, emphasizing again that when people rise up with firm resolve to respond to the call of a revolutionary party, overcoming threats, terror and all else, so unconquerable becomes their struggle and spirit in face of which even the combined power of the exploiting rulers, autocratic government and ruling political outfits reduces to thin fragility.

The party called this bandh on the strength of people's opinion which took shape in the course of continuous movement conducted for their cause against the menacing attacks brought down upon them by the BJP-led government at the centre and the CPI(M)-led government in the state through their anti-people policies. People have themselves made this bandh a pillar of achievement. We are pledgebound to carry this struggle forward, according full honour to the trust and confidence reposed by people on our party and the movement. How undemocratic and brutal the CPI(M) leadership and the state government are in crushing democratic mass movements and breaking bandhs must have come to your notice. British imperialists used to crush movements with the police and at times by the military. The Congress rulers too deployed police force to the same end. So low has sunk the CPI(M) leadership today as to employ criminals under their fold along with the police to muzzle the voice of people's protest.

Many honest workers and sympathisers of the CPI(M) however, had lent their support to our movements and the bandh.

The capitalist owners and all parties in governmental power including the CPI(M) want people to submit to injustice and repression without murmuring a protest, without daring to rise up in resistance. So the way the British rulers and afterwards the Congress rulers used to raise the bogey of "unrest" and "obstruction to developmental programmes" whenever any such bandh call had been given, the same chorus is being heard today.

You know well, the press, radio, doordarshan are controlled by the owner class. The media employees are required to act on its bidding. The owners give huge publicity to the parties both in power and in opposition who subserve them, in order that these parties are looked upon by the people as people's saviours.

In total contradistinction, our party — a genuine revolutionary party as it is — its very existence, its growing force poses a great danger to them. The people's movements built up by the party unnerve them. Seldom they give us a coverage. Even when they decide to give a little, it is minimal or so distorted lest people get to know the truth about us. Same was the policy followed in the case of Kshudiram, Bhagat Singh or Netaji Subhas in the past.

In the course of struggle for long 19 years, English had been reintroduced at primary level, and some roll-backs of enhanced transport fare, education fees, hospital charges and stay on collection of increased power tariff were

made possible. Mammoth rallies and meetings were organised during these movements. What news of these struggles and achievements of demands found space in the media? In the present course of struggle too there have been electricity bill boycott, movements by peasants and agricultural workers, a programme of 'switch off lights' for half-an-hour', students' strike, workers' rallies and several others which practically received no coverage. This time also initially they made all attempts to suppress the call of bandh from public attention. But that failing and support of the masses to the bandh call having silently built up into a tidal current, they unleashed a propaganda onslaught, calling bandh "subversive of work culture" and "obstructive of developmental programmes". What does reality bear out? Who have rendered jobless the millions of industrial workers and office employees to subvert work? Who denied job to the millions of unemployed youths? Our struggle is in demand of work for them. The more the wheel of their 'developmental programmes' rolls on, the more the factories and offices face closures. Millions crushed under this wheel are now gasping, dying of hunger and starvation, receiving no medical treatment. Of course, the bandh does force a break in the looting of profits of millions of rupees by the owning class and hence this mad uproar. Whereas the people accept it as sacrifice for a greater cause, like people did in the days of independence movement.

Those who otherwise never bother to inquire into how the poor subsist, it is they who suddenly appear so concerned about how much loss is suffered by the

poor on a bandh day. It is the poor, the poorest of the poor, who are the major support to the bandh, for they bear the worst of sufferings. All these bids failed to frustrate the bandh and accentuated discontent of the people was aglow in the crimson of the bandh of 21st August to signal an uprising; the bold relief, fervent spirit, steel-strong resolve, granite-strong character and deep lying significance of the people's bandh sent shudders down the spine of the rulers and their servitors. Vainly the CPI(M) leaders claimed from the cozy seat of their state headquarters at Alimuddin Street, "Bandh has failed, normal work schedule maintained." But the state transport minister gave vent to his disgust, "Despite my effort to run buses and trams, so many hundreds more in number compared to any other day, people did not turn up in work places." Which version is true then? To break the bandh, both the central as well as state

BBD Bag, Calcutta's hub of commercial activities, at peak hour on Bandh day

governments took out a full convoy of empty transport — trains-trams-buses-metro rail — burning fuel and consuming power costing crores of rupees. Yet most of the news reports in the press obliquely remarked that people enjoyed another holiday. This is an affront to the masses. What enjoyment could they have from a 'holiday' of bandh, those who eke out a living, those daily wage earners, rickshaw pullers, small shop owners, hawkers whose loss of a day's earning means foregoing a day's meal? What enjoyment could office employees, both government and non-government, have if bandh were indeed a 'holiday' for them in the face of threats from the authorities and the CPI(M)-led Coordination Committee bosses who even took care to see that the plea of non-availability of transport did not come handy? It was even argued that people stayed indoors on the bandh day out of

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Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty Memorial Meeting at Patna

The memorial meeting of Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, the departed Bihar State Secretary of our party, was held on 17 August at the IMA Hall in Patna.

Party workers, supporters and sympathizers from every corner of the state thronged this meeting to pay their homage to Comrade Chakraborty. Leaders of different left parties and distinguished, progressive intellectuals were also present to pay their tribute. Comrade V.N. Singh, Secretary, UP State Committee of the party also attended. Comrade Shivsankar, the present Bihar State Secretary presided.

At the beginning, Comrade K. D. Yadav, representatives of the State Committee, different District Committees, the State Secretary of UP, leaders of different left parties and distinguished intellectuals paid their homage by placing wreaths at the portrait of Comrade Chakraborty. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, central staff member placed wreath on behalf of the Central Committee. Thereafter Comrade Arun Singh, member Bihar State Committee read out the homage sent by our beloved General Secretary, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. (The text was published in the issue of *Proletarian Era*, dt. 15 August, 2003) In memory of departed Comrade Chakraborty two minutes' silence was observed.

While paying tribute to Comrade Chakraborty, Comrade Tarakanta Prasad, Secretary of the Bihar State Committee of RSP said : "Comrade Chakraborty was known to me not only as a leftist leader, our relation was much deeper. He will always be remembered in future left movements." Comrades Bishun Dev Prasad and U.N. Mishra, members of Bihar State Secretariat, CPI said : "Whenever we would deliberate with him in any meeting he would place his points very cordially and calmly. The actual thing to learn from his life is how to be a man of lofty character." Comrades Krishnakant Singh and Chandni Prasad, members, Bihar State Secretariat, CPI(M) said : "We will very much feel the loss of Comrade Chakraborty in united left movement against globalization and privatization."

Comrade K. D. Yadav, member of the Central Committee, CPI-ML (Liberation) also spoke paying homage to Comrade Chakraborty. Secretary of the Bihar Chapter of All India Anti-imperialist Forum and former president of Bihar Secondary Examination Board, Prof. O.P. Jaiswal said : "The atmosphere of the condolence meeting conveys the heartening pain. I am here to offer my respects to such a great man who dedicated his entire life to the cause of emancipation of the workers-peasants from exploitation". Renowned physician Dr. P. Gupta said : "Despite my being a CPI member never did I feel the slightest uneasiness to discuss any issue with him. He never showed concern about his own health. But as soon as he got news of ailments of his comrades-in-arms he was sure to ring me up." Prof. Purnendu Mukherjee, Dept. of Bengali, B. N. College and Vice-President of Premchand-Saratchandra Birthday Celebration Committee said : "It was a personal misfortune for me to attend this memorial meeting. Despite his being physically ill, Comrade Chakraborty was vibrant with fighting spirit. Inspired by his character and his discourses on cultural movement I joined the Premchand-Saratchandra Birthday Celebration Committee. To strengthen his unfinished struggle is to pay real homage to the departed leader". Comrade Ranjit Dhar, central staff of the party said : All the different leftist leaders and the distinguished intellectuals in today's

Leaders paying respect to the revolutionary life of Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty at the meeting at Patna.

From left : Comrades Tarakanta Prasad, Shivshankar, Arun Singh, Ranjit Dhar, V. N. Singh.

memorial meeting have paid tribute in one voice to Comrade Chakraborty as not only a distinguished left leader, but a personality of rare mettle. His was a lofty character, that he acquired through a distinct process of struggle. To pay respect to him we have to know and grasp this particular process of struggle that Comrade Chakraborty conducted to the end of his life. Comrade Dhar said, the great Marxist leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh started to build up a genuine working class party with a handful of his compatriots. It was indeed a most daunting task to build up such a new type of party based on the ideology of Marxism-Leninism in a vast country like India and that too, where a party going by the name of Communist Party, recognized by International Communist leadership, existed. It was even more daunting for a handful of youth having no resources and reputation. Without higher cultural standard and a deep yearning for truth none can involve himself in this process. Comrade Chakraborty at the very beginning of the party formation came in contact with Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and engaged himself in this process.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh along with those comrades who came forward to build up this new type of party

based on Marxism-Leninism, conducted an intense ideological struggle in order to develop ideological centralism, covering all aspects of life, before giving organizational shape to the party through a convention in 1948. During this process of building up of the party, Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty with great devotion engaged in the struggle to become a worthy communist. Comrade Dhar said, he who could consider his personal needs secondary to the cause of the class, party and revolution was regarded as a good communist during the days of the Soviet and the Chinese revolution. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh taught us that in the present decadent stage of vile, reactionary individualism, this standard is just the beginning. In this era, to be a good communist one has to completely identify oneself with the class, party and revolution.

Comrade Chakraborty went to a great extent to achieve this standard and was in the midst of this struggle till the last days of his life. He was not a very good orator, hardly entered into theoretical discourses, but his steadfast loyalty to ideology, firmness of his character and higher cultural standard left a deep imprint on all including even the educated elite and the

intellectuals alike.

He used to lead a very simple life and practise in his life what he used to tell others to do.

Comrade Dhar, continuing, said that in the past, many a struggle by peasants-workers-exploited masses were waged in our country and many laid down their lives. But we could not advance even a step forward. Rather, the reactionaries became powerful. Reason for this, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said, if struggles are built up merely on economic demands, if they lack firm ideological basis, and are not built up on the edifice of higher ethics and culture, then these cannot advance far. That's why, he laid the utmost stress on the struggle to acquire higher proletarian culture. He used to say, politics springs from a noble emotional faculty and revolutionary politics from a higher and nobler one. Today, we are in the vortex of movement and so long as exploitation-oppression would exist, this struggle would continue. For, in order to live there is no other course other than struggle left for the oppressed. If we do want to lead the struggles to the correct goal, then these must be based on higher ideology and culture. Those who would change this exploitative society, must change themselves first

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Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Meeting in States

Tripura

Memorial meeting was held at the T.B. Prevention Samiti Hall in Agartala. It was presided over by Comrade Malin Dev Barma. Comrade Prativa Mukherjee, Central Staff and member, West Bengal State Secretariat, was the main speaker. In her address Comrade Prativa Mukherjee highlighted, inter alia, how Comrade Shibdas Ghosh concretized Marxism on Indian soil and left behind his invaluable teachings concerning the all-embracing life struggle of the revolutionaries, the stage of anti-capitalist socialist revolution in India, danger of neo-revisionism, weaknesses of the world communist movement and the role of social democracy, among others. She said, led by the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, SUCI is now developing sustained mass movements in 22 states. Comrade Mukherjee called upon the people to strengthen the communist movement being built up by our party in our country.

Durg, MP

The memorial meeting at Durg (MP) held on 10 August was presided over by Comrade Badshah Khan, veteran leader of the party. In his presidential speech, he called upon all present to wage struggle from the correct proletarian outlook covering all aspects of life. Comrade Dipankar Roy, member, W.B. State Committee, while addressing as the main speaker focussed on the historic role of Engels in developing the Marxist philosophy and how Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, in finest continuity, concretized Marxism-Leninism on Indian soil and in the process further enriched this noble ideology to guide the Indian revolution.

Sagar

State Coordination Committee of MP organized the memorial meeting on 8 August at Sarsamaty Assembly hall at Sagar. Comrade UP Biswas, State Coordinator of the party, presided over and Comrade Dipankar Roy, member, West Bengal State Committee, was the main speaker. Comrade Ramavator Sharma, Secretary Sagar district unit also spoke on the occasion.

Bhopal

Bhopal unit of the party organized the memorial meeting on 5 August at the party office. Comrade Asit Mohanty, district organizer, presided over and Comrade J.C.

Barai, in-charge of the district unit was the main speaker.

Jabalpur

Jabalpur District Organizing Committee convened the meeting on 5 August at the party office. Comrade Bhavani Ghosh, a leading organizer of the party in MP addressed. Afterwards, a tape-recorded speech of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, delivered at a conference in Jharia (Bihar) was played.

Bangalore, Karnataka

To observe the memorial day of Comrade Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, two great leaders of the proletariat, Bangalore State Committee organized a mass meeting on 6 August 2003 at Gandhi Sahitya Sangha, Bangalore. Comrade Manjunath, member Karnataka State Committee and president of the meeting in his speech showed how the Congress-led Karnataka government was nakedly following the path of globalization and shamelessly encouraging all kinds of unethical activities like lottery, gambling etc. to devastate the life of the common people. Comrade K Radhakrishna, Karnataka State Secretary, in his address as the main speaker discussed in details how the BJP-run central government is capitulating to the US-imperialists. He also said that all political parties right from BJP, Congress to sham Marxists are pursuing the vote-based politics to serve the class-interest of the monopolists. He exhorted all to imbibe the truth in the illuminating thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and accomplish anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

Kerala

Under the auspices of the Kerala State Committee, memorial meeting was organized on 5 August at Yatra Auditorium, **Ernakulam**. Comrade A. Jalaludeen, member of the State Secretariat of the party, presided. Comrade C. K. Lukose, Kerala State Secretary was the main speaker. Comrade Lukose, among others, stressed that in the present critical situation the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh alone can show the path of emancipation for the toiling people. The penetrating analyses made by Comrade Ghosh long back are being proved true to the hilt by developments in the national and international arena. Shibdas Ghosh thoughts are a powerful beacon illuminating the path, dispelling the thousand and one confusions created by the capitalist-imperialists and

A view of the dais of Memorial Meeting at Cuttack on August 6. Comrade Tapas Dutta, member, Central Committee and Orissa State Secretary addressing and Comrade Sitesh Dasgupta, member, Central Committee sitting to his left followed by Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Central Staff and other state leaders. (Report published in 15 August issue of Proletarian Era).

their lieutenants — the social democrats as well as the modern revisionists. That is why communist revolutionaries all over the world are getting attracted towards his thoughts.

Comrade V. Venugopal, a member of the State Secretariat, also spoke.

Nagpur, Maharashtra

The memorial day of Comrade Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, was observed on 6 August last, at Rastrabhasha Prachar Samity Hall, Nagpur (Maharashtra) under the auspices of Nagpur unit. Comrade Madhan Bhonde, in-charge of Nagpur unit presided over. In his speech as the main speaker, Comrade Dipankar Roy, member W.B. State Committee, dwelt upon some essential teachings of these two giant communist leaders and called upon all to engage themselves in organizing conscious mass movement against the anti-people policies of the central and state governments and strengthen SUCI, the genuine working class party on the soil. Also spoke on the occasion were Comrade Debashish Roy, General Secretary AIDS0, Comrade Rabindra Sakhre, and Comrade Ramdas Godbole local organizers of DYO and DSO, respectively.

Yavatmal

The memorial meeting in Yavatmal was held at Vaishali Society on 7 th of August with Basakapila, a renowned leader of teachers' movement on the chair. Comrade Debashish Roy, General Secretary, AIDS0 and Comrade Promode Kamble, in-charge of Yavatmal unit addressed the gathering.

Mumbai

Mumbai unit of the party

organized the memorial meeting on 9th August at Social Service Hall. Comrade Y.K. Kulsreshtha, member, Mumbai-Thane unit took the chair. Comrade Debashish Roy, General, Secretary, AIDS0 was the main speaker. Comrade Anil Tyagi, in-charge of the unit also addressed.

Andhra Pradesh

A public meeting presided over by Comrade Ch. Murahari, Secretary, Hyderabad District Organizing Committee was held at Dilsukhnagar Cross Roads, **Hyderabad** on 10 August. Comrade K. Sridhar, Secretary, AP State Organizing Committee, addressed the gathering. He showed how the workers are being made to increasingly bear the burden of growing economic crisis while even the democratic rights guaranteed by the constitution are being denied to them. Pointing to the Telugu Desam government, he said, while small children of the state are dying helplessly without any medical help, the government has not hesitated to spend Rupees 50 crores by organizing Puskarams in a big way to woo the majority religious people, employing the same tricks as the arch-communal BJP and Sangh Parivar.

Jaunpur, UP

Memorial meeting was held in Auditorium of Badlapur Inter College on 10 August. The meeting was presided over by Jaunpur District Committee member Comrade Dinesh Kant Dubey and addressed by Comrades Moti Lal, Sri Pal Dubey, N. Kisharma, Jagannath Verma and Swapan Chatterjee.

Memorial meetings were also organized in **Allahabad, Sultanpur and Pratapgarh.**

Transport Minister's Admission : Government Ran Bus-Tram-Trains but People Boycotted

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Just as this victory has baffled the forces opposed to the bandh, equally has it elated the common people. In district after district, from the hills in the north to the seas in the south, from the parched lands in the west to the marooned plains in the east of the state, the all-conquering sweep of the bandh has unnerved the capitalist owners, the police and administration, and the parties in power. People, on the other hand, have seen in this a victory of their own cause. Overjoyed, they are congratulating party workers, giving their own assessment that this bandh has surpassed the earlier ones in depth and extent: "You have truly struck roots, struck it deep". "You are advancing, move further ahead. It is necessary in this hour of strife and crisis. You need to gather more strength." This spontaneous expression of sharing the

to the vilification campaign against the bandh unleashed by the bourgeois media, and took it as their own movement. Initially after the party had announced a bandh on 15 July, the monopoly capitalist-controlled media maintained a deliberate silence to conceal the issue from public attention. But our party SUCI has never relied on the media to carry on its political campaign. This time too, while implementing one programme of movement after another, the party workers carried on their campaign for the bandh. The thousands upon thousands of wall writings throughout the state bear ample testimony to this. 6 lakhs of bulletins in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu, and 20 lakhs (2 million) handbills reached the people, explaining against which central and state policies this bandh was directed, why movement is

people themselves for street-corner meetings held and campaigns conducted with mobile address systems in towns, villages, mills, factories and fields. They took up the bandh as their own cause, so they did all they could to ensure a total success. They read out bulletins and handbills to neighbours, family members, public circles. In some places where they felt that the campaign was lacking they rang up party offices and requested party workers to campaign. They opened their hearts to talk among themselves on the streets, in buses and trains: SUCI is the party whose workers shed blood under police brutality to selflessly carry ahead the struggle for us. So we are for this bandh of August 21, like we did stand by the previous ones called by the party. Nobody can prevent it. In support to the bandh, at times in silence and at times openly, honest workers of other parties too, of the CPI(M) and of its allies in the Left Front also, have been around.

A few days before August 21, when the support of the masses to the call for a total bandh had silently built up into a tidal current, the CPI(M) leadership ordered for a counter-campaign to be conducted, deploying party musclemen against the bandh, issuing threats to market stall owners, shop owners and their committees. Simultaneously, the ruling capitalist class through media orchestration raised a hue and cry that 'people don't want a bandh' and 'as an instrument of movement bandhs have become blunted'. When it failed to produce any effect, the propaganda pitch was raised to yet shriller levels. But still all this failed to produce a response in the people. For the people witnessed how they took up

the cudgels to oppose the SUCI sponsored bandh, shedding crocodile tears for the plight of the people 'inconvenienced' by the bandh while they were silent about the terrible plight of the workers who

sprinkling of bandh-breakers. Such was the picture in Calcutta, in the district towns, in the far-flung corners. All markets had pulled down shutters in the state's nerve centre, Calcutta. The wholesale

Trams without passengers in Calcutta

are being ruthlessly exploited by the owners. They are silent when millions of unemployed youths are deprived of jobs. Who have rendered millions of industrial workers and office employees jobless? They do not talk about this gigantic subversion of right to work and earn a living, but cry hoarse about subversion of work culture when it comes to a one day bandh. Where is their concern for people's plight when the central and state governments continuously burden the people with ever increasing taxation and fee hikes for education-hospitals and electricity, putting into question the very survival of theirs, and for redressal of which there is no alternative course to that of movement. And the bandh of August 21 comes as part of this movement, their movement.

The vindictive government took out a full convoy of transport on the streets, but there were no passengers to board, no office-goers, workers, students and the usual contingent of commuters, except for those few who had some special personal problems to attend and

markets of Barabazar, Baithakkhana, Posta and Kolay were closed and empty. Hawkers, bank employees, lawyers, gold jewelry makers, shop owners, pavement food stall owners, rickshaw-drivers, porters, daily labours had all struck work. At Senhati market, traders took the device of unloading two truckful of sand at the market gate to prevent entry. Many pedestrians refrained from taking tea at pavement tea stall, if any were kept open. Such had been the picture all over the state. Only the creamy layer, the capitalist owners, leaders of their subservient parties and the government machinery opposed the bandh. If someone was doubtful whether the bandh could succeed because the SUCI was small, someone else was there to tell to check it for himself on the bandh day. If someone doubted the necessity of calling bandhs twice in the same year, answer was not wanting that onslaughts on people were manifold, and multiplying every day, so protest in all-out form needed to be made again and again, and again.

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Baharampur Central Bus Terminus, Murshidabad

common cause is because of identification — not of interests alone, but of growing consciousness of its necessity.

The bandh was not foisted by force of governmental power, neither by privileges attaching to parliamentary parties, nor by muscle power. The bandh came as a necessity of progression in waves of struggle for the cause of the people, as a logical culmination of the surge forward. That is why the people did not pay heed

the only way for redress, and the difference between genuine movement and mock show of movement, the difference between SUCI as the genuine Marxist-Leninist revolutionary party and the sham Marxist leadership of CPI(M), and pointing to Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts as the real source of the revolutionary strength and culture of the SUCI. It was a political campaign highlighting the politics of SUCI.

Funds came from the

West Bengal State Committee congratulates people

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'fear'. Who were those of whom the people were scared ? Do the SUCI workers use muscle power, firearms and bombs to enforce success to the bandh? Workers of the SUCI give blood under police repression in the course of conducting movements, but has anyone ever found them setting fire on public transport vehicles? The party has worked its way into the innermost recess of the hearts of the masses, so this question of fear is totally irrelevant. The masses of people warm up to the workers of the SUCI. The CPI(M) sponsored bandhs might well be a paid government holiday. The rightist forces could well enforce a bandh with indiscriminate threat and violence. But the SUCI depends on people, seeks their opinion before giving a bandh call. Hence the bandh the party calls assumes a character distinctly different. The barrage of propaganda unleashed against such bandhs is calculated to dishonour the masses, undermine their fighting spirit.

We pointed out earlier too that our movement is just not only to realize some demands. Even if a single demand is not won, we cannot abandon the path of struggle. In the absence of struggles, in the absence of protest and resistance, the rulers-oppressors-exploiters grow more desperate in their act thinking there were no

men to rise against them. Great men of all times including Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, great leader of the proletariat, exhorted again and again that struggle builds character, struggle begets honour, struggle it is that fosters the human spirit. Without struggle, one is not worthy to be called a human.

But all these struggles and sacrifices would go to waste unless there is a genuine revolutionary ideology to guide, a higher ethical and moral base of character to support, a mighty revolutionary party to lead. Wherefrom does come this strength of ours to carry the struggle onward in the face of naked attacks and slanders ? Wherefrom does arise this dedication, spirit of sacrifice and courage of the party workers ? It is from the fount of the noble ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts. Comrade Ghosh taught: revolutionary politics demands higher emotional faculty. It is not only a matter of intellectual grasping but also of nobler emotions. He also taught : the kernel of revolutionary politics lies in its higher ethical and cultural standard. Guided by his illuminating thoughts and strengthened by the ever growing support and affection of the people, our party is making rapid strides ahead. We are to advance further, we are to muster greater strength still. Our appeal to your conscience: Arise with resolve firmer, hold higher the banner of the

revolutionary party in these hours of great distress and sufferings.

So long the deadweight of the capitalist order sits upon us, there would be no relent of ever accentuating exploitation and oppression. The ballot greedy BJP, Congress, CPI(M), Trinamool and their like would be more eager to serve the oppressive ruling class. So more struggles will surge forth, struggles will continue, struggle will advance onward and forward. But it would not be enough even if thousands of our cadres face savagery or imprisonment. People at large have to come in active participation. Now are needed volunteer corps of honest and spirited youth in millions who would not yield to pressure, succumb to allurements and surrender in the face of threats and intimidation, but would help to build up democratic movements, giving their all, and at the same time carry on social welfare works, stand guard against outrage on women and indignities to the old. We need people's committees, in hundreds and thousands everywhere, for giving us advice on the plans and programmes of the movement and for taking up responsibilities at political and social levels.

It was in undivided Bengal in the east of India where the thoughts of Renaissance first blossomed. In resplendence that spirit emanated to light up the whole country then immersed in feudal obscurantism and enchained by the British imperialist rule. The spirit of courage of the valiant youths of Bengal had awakened the youth of the land, kindling flames in millions of hearts, striking again and again at the foundation of the imperialist power. The hour now demands of the youth in West Bengal to take on the mantle of that glorious historic role once again in response to the need of the

Mahanadna Bridge in Siliguri, North Bengal, on Bandh day

anti-capitalist revolution in the country. Which option would choose the youths of West Bengal ? Subjugate themselves to the ruling class and its political outfits to throttle the voice of conscience, surrender to the lure of money and job, extirpating their humaneness by addiction to liquor, gambling, satta, cabaret dance, and blue films and worse ? Or rekindle the patriotic fervour of Kshudiram-Bagha Jatin-Surya Sen-Pritilata by joining the anti-capitalist revolutionary struggle, enrolling as volunteers of the

democratic mass movement built on the noble ideal of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts ? This is the question Comrade Shibdas Ghosh posed before the youths of West Bengal in one of the historic speeches of 1975 : Once people in India used to say that the youths of Bengal would illumine the path of the country. The point today is whether the youths of Bengal would lead the country towards fascism, or would guide the country against fascism and towards anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

Memorial Meeting

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through struggle on a base of higher culture, morality and ethics.

Comrade Dhar said that while paying homage to Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, we have to keep in view this distinct form of struggle of the party. Particularly, we have to grasp the teachings and life struggle of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, following

which and along the path shown by him Comrade Chakraborty through a process of struggle attained such a high level.

True homage can be paid to Comrade Chakraborty only through taking the pledge of completing his unfinished tasks.

The memorial meeting ended with the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and the *Internationale*.

Mumbai Blast Condemned

Strongly condemning the deadly blast which occurred today (27 August, 2003) in Mumbai which killed more than 50 innocent people, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement strongly criticized the state and the central governments for their despicable failure to ensure safety and security of life of the common people. Strongly opining that these types of indiscriminate terrorist acts not only kill innocent people and vitiates atmosphere but also disturb social harmony besides providing bourgeois governments with ready pretext to promulgate draconian measures. He also demanded immediate arrest of all the culprits and deterrent punishment.

Anti-Cow Slaughter Bill Condemned

Strongly condemning the move of the BJP-led central government to introduce the so-called Anti-Cow Slaughter Bill during the present session of Lok Sabha in haste, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement on 29 August, 2003 said that this was a sinister move which apart from being an attack upon the fundamental right of the minority people was intended to create further cleavage between the majority and the minority people so as to reap harvest at the hustings. He, therefore, called upon all sections of the people of the country to come forward to resist this highly communal move of the central government.

Reduction of state government employees – a rabid anti-people move

Expressing grave concern and anguish over the despicable move jointly initiated by the BJP-led central government and chief ministers of different states including West Bengal at Srinagar meeting of the Inter State Council held on 27 and 28 August, 2003 to resort to drastic reduction of number of state government employees and in its stead to introduce the system of contract labour, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement said that no word was strong enough to denounce the rabid anti-people move which if not resisted would surely open the floodgate of similar practice likely to be resorted to by other governments, semi-government agencies and public sector industries and result in a catastrophe in the field of employment.

Comrade Mukherjee, therefore, called upon the people of the country to come out to resist this heinous anti-people policy and defeat the same by all means.

Red Salute Comrade Leena Mukherjee

Comrade Leena Mukherjee is no more. She breathed her last following a sudden massive heart attack on 28 August last at 12.40 p.m. She was 53.

She was initiated into the party at a very young age while she was staying at Suri in Birbhum district, West

Bengal and could come in close contact of our beloved leader and teacher Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. She came to Calcutta in early seventies and dedicated herself wholeheartedly to building up Komsomol, the young communist wing of the party, as its in-charge and played a very important role in this regard. Just before the First Congress of the party, she was elected a member of the Calcutta District Committee.

Comrade Leena Mukherjee was not only a whole-time worker and organizer of the party, she accepted the party ideology as guide to action in life. She had a special knack for cultivating the theoretical aspects of politics. She was a good orator and attained the capacity of ably placing the political viewpoint of the party. Whenever the party had sent her outside West Bengal for organizational work, she could leave behind a deep imprint on the workers, supporters and sympathizers of the party from those places. Comrade Leena Mukherjee was very upright, determined and straightforward. Whatever responsibility of the party she took upon herself, she made every endeavour to discharge the same enthusiastically, creatively and with due grit. Due to various ailments, she, for quite some time, had not been in a position to take active part in the party work. In her premature demise, the party has lost one of its most dedicated workers.

As soon as the news of her demise was received, the Red Flag was dipped at half mast at the central party office. Her body was brought to the central party office at 6 p.m. on 28 August. The comrades present there paid red salute to her struggling political life. On behalf of the General Secretary of the party, Comrade Anil Sen, member, Central Committee, placed floral wreath on her body. Those who paid their respect by offering floral tribute were Comrades Provash Ghosh and Asit Bhattacharyya, members, Central Committee, Ranjit Dhar, Manik Mukherjee, central staff members and Prativa Mukherjee, member, West Bengal State Secretariat and Chhaya Mukherjee, All India General Secretary, AIMSS and other state and district leaders as well as leaders of Komsomol and other mass organizations.

sufferings and distress is this deadweight of capitalist order sitting upon us. Ours is to follow the correct political course, the correct leadership and build granite-strong organizational power.

We are to remember, no goal can be attained unless people take part in struggle.

Now is time for the masses to plunge into struggle — struggle for survival, struggle to usher in justice, struggle to be freed of exploitation and oppression. Onward to the goal under the banner of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts.

Beastly savagery raved wild — police pouncing on SUCI workers on Bandh Day in Calcutta

BANGLA BANDH

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In all the districts — in the north, south, east and west — educational institutions, markets, shops, courts, transport, banks almost all remained closed. Veterans did observe at some places: 'Such bandh we have not witnessed in the last 25 years.' But the police and CPI(M) criminals and musclemen could hardly let it pass. They tore down SUCI banners, arrested SUCI workers, brutally beat them up. They tried to force

shopowners to open their shops, mostly in vain though. Police stopped peaceful processions by SUCI workers, while they allowed CPI(M) to lead processions against the bandh at the same time and in the same place. They arrested 1,379 party workers from all over the state. They were savage and beastly in dealing with SUCI women cadres, tearing down their dresses, dragging them on the streets, clubbing and molesting during scuffles. This is where the CPI(M)

leadership is today — trampling under foot norms, decorum and humane senses, fomenting base instincts in policemen — only to anyhow cling to power and secure favour of the capitalist rulers.

This bandh has gone a long way to bring further to light that the sides, in the trial court, are only two — they and us. They, the capitalist owners, vested interests, their servitor political parties: us, the masses of working people, all purposive elements and forces, the SUCI as the vanguard detachment. The source of all evils, all

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