

Bihar Herald

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BIG CABINET SHAKE-UP LIKELY BY END OF MAY

New Delhi, Mar. 31: Major reshuffle of the Union Council of Ministers is likely to take place only towards the end of the current session of Parliament.

Two factors appear to have weighed with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in going slow with the reorganisation of her team. First, she would like to induct new Ministers in key departments only after the demands for grants for various Ministries have been voted by the two Houses. Secondly, she has yet to make up her mind about certain consequential changes that will follow from the induction of the new members.

Mrs. Gandhi has not yet made up her mind finally about expanding or reshuffling her team. But some indications are available to indicate the direction in which her mind is working.

The induction of Congress President D. Sanjivayya in the Union Cabinet appears to be a near-certainty. Mrs. Gandhi is already applying her mind to the question of finding a suitable person to succeed him as Congress President.

The Prime Minister also appears to be in favour of sending Union Minister of State for Home Affairs K. C. Pant to Uttar Pradesh as early as possible to help Chief Minister Kamalapati Tripathi in streamlining the administration and to make it sufficiently dynamic to grapple with the problems of the State. This is regarded as important because U. P. will have to go to the polls in 1974.

The idea appears to be to send Mr. Pant to U. P. as Deputy Chief Minister. If this is done it will indicate that he will assume the stewardship of the State after the Assembly poll.

The election of Mr. T. A. Pai to the Rajya Sabha is likely to be followed by his induction into the Cabinet. Though the Foreign Policy Planning Committee Chairman D. P. Dhar is likely to come to the Rajya Sabha only in November, when election for one member from Jammu and Kashmir will take place, he can join the Cabinet in June, six months before the date of election.

Among the Chief Ministers who were displaced during the pre-election reorganisation in the States, the chances of Mr. Gandhi asking Mr. Brahmananda Reddy to come to the Centre when she drops some of her Cabinet colleagues to take up gubernatorial assignments is rated high. Some of the junior Ministers may also be dropped and asked to take up organisational work.

Among the Central Ministers whose stock has slumped considerably is Industrial Development Minister Moinul Huq Chaudhury. He is unhappy that his candidature for the Rajya Sabha election from Assam was not given the Congress ticket and instead Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

preferred to bring former Chief Minister Mahindra Mohan Chaudhary, arch opponent of the Industrial Development Minister to the Upper House. Mr. Moinul Huq Chaudhury has told some people that he would be quite satisfied if he is given another portfolio, for instance, law.

With the assumption of Chief Ministership of West Bengal by Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, Mrs. Gandhi may naturally like to give representation to that State

(Contd. on last page)

1,400-YEAR-OLD MANUSCRIPT ON EROTICISM

Kathmandu, Mar. 31: A 1,400-year-old, rare, palm-leaf manuscript on eroticism and herbal treatment of sexual inadequacies has been discovered at the National Archives of Nepal.

Entitled "Smara Deepika" (the lamp of erotic sex), the 200-page manuscript dates back to 137 Gupta era and was written by the celebrated poet, Buddha Kirti, who flourished in the court of King Jayadeva Second of Nepal.

The original script, written in Devnagiri, was discovered last month by Pushtakacharya Buddhisagar Panajuli, Director of National Archives of Nepal from among 50,000 palm-leaf manuscripts.

A distinguished Indian author and biographer of the late King Mahendra of Nepal, Mr. V. G. Krishnamurti, has rendered the original text into English with critical essays and introductions.

Mr. Krishnamurti said the uniqueness of the work lay in its over 400 herbal prescriptions for sexual deficiencies.

The manuscript exalts woman as a "miniature part of nature and observes that a "person who cannot achieve full identity in feeling and quest with his wife cannot win the credential for union with the Absolute."

The poet further makes the provocative observation that "if a person has a beautiful wife, he need not think of Parabrahma (Creator)."

The translation of the manuscript will be soon published in book form under the title "Sex, Drugs and Bliss".

Acute Scarcity Of Water In Patna

Patna, Mar. 31: With the advent to summer Patna is in the grip of acute scarcity of drinking water a chronic problem for the people of the town.

In some parts of the town supply position is so bad that water only trickles down the taps and it takes at least half an hour to fill a bucket. In the remaining areas the supply is slightly better only for about an hour either in the morning or in the late evening.

The housewives, particularly in Rajendranagar, Lohani-pur, Nala Road, Mithapur (B. area), Nayatola and Patna City are facing great inconveniences on this account. They have to pay more to their servants for bringing water from distant wells.

The supply position is, however, likely to improve in a day or two in parts of the town and after a week or so in Patna City area, according to Mr. R.C. Arora, Administrator, Patna Municipal Corporation. He told that the Patna Water Board had taken some steps to improve the supply position.

Supply Hours

Mr. Arora said that the supply had been increased from 15 hours to 17 and a half hours since yesterday. "But this is a temporary arrangement for the summer only as the pumping sets are not in a position to continue the burden in winter, he added.

The Administrator announced that two pumping stations each with a capacity to pump 1.25 lakh gallons of water daily would be commissioned on April 1 at Mangal Talab and Khajekalan. "The pumping sets are quite new and they will reduce to halt the problem of scarcity of water in Patna City", he hoped. This would bring the total number of pumping stations to six in Patna City circle.

The worst-affected areas in Patna City are: Pachhim Darwaja, Gulzarbagh, Sultan-ganj, Shershan Road, Jhauganj, Mitanghat Deera, Chowk, Harmandirgali, Gorara, Kachaurigali, Hiralal Shah Ki Gali, Bare Gali and Hajiganj.

A Water Board officer, who did not like to be quoted said that it was futile to hope an improvement in the supply with old and out-dated machines. He said that at least eight more pumping stations were needed to cope with the requirement. He said that it would involve a cost of Rs. 20 lakh for which the Water Board had approached the Government several times.

3-tier Indo-Bangla Trade Pact Signed

★ From A Special Correspondent ★

New Delhi, Mar. 31: A fruitful era of economic cooperation between India and Bangla Desh began on Tuesday with the signing of a one-year trade agreement providing for a trade of about Rs. 100 crores, including Rs. 50-crores in barter trade, between the two countries.

The three-tier trade agreement, which came into force from Wednesday was signed by Mr. M.R. Siddiqui, Bangladesh Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. L.N. Mishra, Indian Minister for Foreign Trade.



Mr. L. N. Mishra

One of the important features of the agreement is that relating to border trade. This would facilitate trade in perishable commodities and articles of daily use among people living in rural areas on either side of the land customs frontiers between Bangladesh on the one hand and West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram on the other.

These facilities will be available to persons holding within 16 km. of the land frontiers and will take care of the day-to-day essential requirements of the people living in the border areas. The goods thus carried across the border would be free from all customs restrictions and duties. Each person will also be allowed to carry in cash a sum not exceeding Rs. 100 in Indian or Bangladesh currency.

The second aspect of the agreement is the provision for barter trade under which import and export of commodities and goods of special interest to the two countries, produced in India, and Bangladesh, would be allowed on a balanced basis.

Under this, India will give Bangladesh coal, cement, asphalt, spare parts for machinery, pharmaceuticals, cotton yarn, unmanufactured tobacco, spices, ayurvedic and unani medicines, books, gramophone records and films.

In exchange, Bangladesh will send to India fresh fish, semi-tanned hides and skins, newsprint, furnace oil, raw jute, kapok, pharmaceuticals including ayurvedic and unani medicines, books, periodicals and films.

Mr. Siddiqui indicated that fish worth Rs. 9 crores, newsprint and writing paper worth Rs. 3 crores and raw jute worth Rs. 7.5 crores will be exported to India from Bangla Desh.

The total value of the barter trade will be Rs. 25 crores each way. The agreement provides for special banking and financing arrangements to give effect to balanced trade. The barter trade is "an interim arrangement" made to meet the "transitional needs arising out of the triumphant emergence of a free, sovereign and independent Bangla Desh".

The third tier of the agreement is general trade between the two countries, to be conducted in accordance with the import, export and foreign exchange laws, regulations and procedures in force in either country from time to time. This will cover imports and exports in excess of Rs. 50 crores (Rs. 25 crores either way) specified in the barter trade. It is expected that the value of this trade in a year may come to Rs. 56 crores both ways bringing the total Indo-Bangladesh trade to the order of Rs. 100 crores.

The two Governments have agreed to make mutually beneficial arrangements for use of their waterways, railways and roadways for commerce between the two countries and for the passage of goods between two places in each country through the territory of the other. This will facilitate the movement of goods between West Bengal and Assam through Bangladesh.

There might also be an agreement between India and Bangladesh on jute production capacity and regulation of jute production so as to avoid unfair competition in jute goods abroad and to get a fair price for such goods abroad. India and Bangladesh together have almost a monopoly in jute goods in the world market.

Described by Mr. Mishra as the "first momentous step in cementing economic relations between the two countries," the agreement will be reviewed after six months so as to remove any difficulty in its implementation.

Behar Herald

ESTD. 1874

A DEPRESSING PICTURE

The Governor's address to the joint session of the Bihar Legislature and the budget speech of the Finance Minister, Mr. Daroga Prasad Rai, ironically presented to the Assembly on the same day, present a depressing picture of State's economy. In their addresses, the Governor and the Finance Minister, for all practical purposes, wanted to tackle the problems of the State from two different directions. While the Governor told the legislators that his Government would give priority to a review of the State's Five-Year Plan on the basis of adequate aid and assistance from the Centre so as to attune it to the development of the State, the Finance Minister said that continued deficit budget had compelled the State Government to run its business by overdrafts on the Reserve Bank of India and it was necessary, he said, that positive steps should be taken now to cover the deficit in order to strengthen the economy. On the same day, it may be recalled, the State Minister for Planning, Mr. Mohan Dharja categorically stated in the Lok Sabha that "no State Government will henceforth be allowed any overdraft beyond what it has already drawn." Mr. Dharja said that the Government had already taken steps to recover the overdrafts taken by the States.

With the Congress (R) now commanding a comfortable majority — in addition to the assured support of 35 CPI and four PSP members — Government is now certainly in a position to pull the State out of the rut into which it has fallen as a result of past political instability. But no such effort has been made by the Finance Minister as would be evident from the more or less pedestrian budget presented by him. When the State is facing a deficit of Rs. 33.86 crores, he could think of nothing more than a negligible surcharge on land revenue and an increase in the water tax which together are expected to yield only Rs. 2.50 crores. If, again, past experience in such matters in Bihar be any guide, his promise to initiate steps to realise Government dues to the tune of Rs 7 crores is also likely to remain on paper, because the political hurdles are formidable. The result of this lack of initiative would be a cut in the size of State's annual plan from Rs. 140 crores to only Rs. 100 crores. The last three annual plans have already suffered a considerable pruning because of political instability. As the process is being continued by Mr. Daroga Prasad Rai also, the cumulative effect would be a set-back to the State's economic progress.

The Finance Minister said that the Government was managing its financial affairs by overdrafts on the Reserve Bank of India. The State was running in a deficit of about Rs 118.63 crores in its consolidated fund and the situation might become worse if some positive steps were not taken to meet the deficit of the current year. A succession of natural calamities have caused large and widespread damages to the State and the Herculean task of tackling these ravages of nature has caused a big dent in the State's finances. It is impossible for the State to overcome them unless Central assistance in the shape of grants and loans are received in a big way. But the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission have been thoroughly unsatisfactory to Bihar and the State is confidently looking to the Sixth Finance Commission to undo the wrongs done by its predecessor. The

The data for making an assessment of the total resources available in Bihar for the development of the State are inadequate and there has never been any concerted attempt at arriving at a dependable estimate. Bihar's mineral and forest resources, for example, are immense, but they have not yet been evaluated in terms of quantity and their money value is still anybody's guess. Any development programme must be linked with a proper assessment of the resources and the total resources available in implementing the plans. Unemployment, both industrial and agricultural, is gnawing the State and the development of industries is the only panacea for the State's evils. The Chief Minister, Mr. Kedar Pandey, has outlined a scheme for an all out development of the small-scale industries. But entrepreneurship is shy. The so-called green revolution has hardly benefited the poorer sections among the State's agriculturists. They must be assured of gainful employment all the year round. Of the total outlay proposed to be spent on development a considerable sum must be of a recurring nature on social services, agricultural extension services, etc. The State should be in a position to regulate standard of consumption and raise resources for investment which may not be otherwise readily forthcoming. Public savings through taxation and earnings of public enterprises, is, therefore, an urgent necessity.

Milk Production Strategy

★ By Prof. Sher Singh ★

Union Minister of State, Agriculture

India is predominantly an agricultural country and more than 75 per cent of its population depends upon agriculture. The high pressure on land is, therefore, one of the major problems of Indian economy and calls for immediate action for the development of not only agriculture but also allied industries like dairying. The new agricultural strategy introduced in 1966-67 has already started bearing fruit. The production of foodgrains has increased from 54.9 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 108 million tonnes representing an increase of about 100 per cent during the last 20

Yoga seeks to have insight into deeper truth of life

★ Staff Reporter ★

Patna, Mar. 31 : Dr. Miss Anima Sengupta, Head of the Department of Philosophy, Patna University, said that Yoga as a philosophy seeks to have an insight into the deeper truth of human's life through the process of samadhi.

Dr. Miss Sengupta, who was presiding over a public meeting held in the Indian Medical Association Hall here on Sunday to celebrate the third anniversary of the Indian Institute of Yoga said, 'Yoga literally means union and the yogic process is, therefore a process to elevate different aspects of human nature so as to create a complete personality of man.

She said: 'Yogi or the explorer of the truth of life moves from lover of truth to a higher one and finally to the highest holding fast the thread of unity that runs through all of them. The yogic method is thus the method that enables a man to grow into a purer, higher and more perfect being'.

Concluding she said 'Yogic method of training and motions does enable a man to expand himself as it were in a new dimension of value'.

The Health Minister, Mr. Lahtan Chaudhary, performed the releasing ceremony of a souvenir entitled Yoga in the modern world edited by Dr. Fulgenda Sinha, Director of the Indian Institute of Yoga, Prof. Bishwanath Singh, Reader Political Science Patna University, Messrs G.M. Bhat, R.K. Thakur and S.R. Soorideva. The Health Minister said that India was proud of the system of Yoga and for it the whole world looked to India.

Those who spoke on the ideals of yoga were Dr. B. Mukhopadhyaya, Director of Health Services, Dr. S. M. Nawab, Principal of the Srikrishna Medical College Muzaffarpur, Mr. K. P. Varma, advocate, Patna High Court and chairman of the celebration committee and Mr. Sitaram Chhaparia, Prof. Bishwanath Singh proposed vote of thanks.

The students of the Institute both boys and girls gave demonstration of yogic exercises.

years. Cash crops have also indicated an impressive rise of little more than 75 per cent during this period. This is further evident from the fact that we are no more dependent upon foreign aid for the foodgrains. On the other hand, we are now in a position to supply foodgrains to Bangladesh.

The economy of a country cannot improve unless animal husbandry progresses along with agricultural production. It is a pity that a vast country like ours with unsurpassed cattle population is not able to feed its people with the most important nutritive food, milk. Our efforts have, therefore, to be geared up to see that we are self-sufficient in this respect also.

According to the official estimates of milk production, the total milk produced per year is about 21 million tonnes giving a per capita availability of only 126 grams per diem which is far below the recommended requirement, particularly with regard to meeting the animal protein requirements. It is estimated that the essential minimum requirements can be met if the availability of milk per head can be increased to about 280 grams of milk per day. On the basis of the human population in 1972, the amount of milk produced should be raised at least to 50 million tonnes per year. A comprehensive integrated programme is, therefore, required for improving productivity efficiency of our cattle through improved breeding, feeding and management. Along with these activities, attempts should be made to utilise modern technological methods so that the milk produced is suitably processed and conserved.

The National Dairy Research Institute at Karnal and its three Regional Stations at Bangalore, Bombay and Kalyani are engaged in the research on fundamental and applied problems in dairying. Research on problems related to cattle breeding, health and feeding for high milk production; cultivation of different fodder crops; technology of processing and manufacture of indigenous and western type milk products; engineering of dairy plants and chemical, bacteriological and nutritive values of milk and milk products are being carried out through various divisions.

Increase in the milk production can be obtained in three ways, by a systematic and planned reduction of a large number of uneconomical cattle; by providing high level nutrition and an animal health service; and by rapid improvement in the genetic potential of the animals through scientific breeding processes.

For augmenting milk production, considerable research work has been taken up on cross-breeding of indigenous cattle with bulls of exotic breeds, like Holstein, Jersey, Brown Swiss and Red Dane. In this respect, the National

Dairy Research Institute has played a very important role. The research work carried out has indicated an impressive increase in the milk production of the cross-bred animals ranging from twice to four times of the milk produced by the indigenous cattle. It has also been observed that the cross-bred animal gives her first calf after about two years after birth, as compared to after four years in the case of local cows. The overall improvement in the quality of the cattle is not only carried out through cross-breeding, but also by the use of pedigree bulls like Sindhi, Tharparkar and Haryana for upgrading of the indigenous cattle. The technique of artificial insemination is also now being widely employed in the intensive cattle development project and it is hoped that this will become more popular in years to come and the breeding will be done only through artificial insemination.

Even the best animals cannot produce milk unless these are given proper nutrition and health control. The Government of India has started a number of fodder demonstrations on the farmer's fields. Seed material of improved types of grains and fodder crops are supplied at subsidised rates and subsidy is also provided for growing fodders. This programme has now got the attention of the farmers through the research activities and the extension programme. Improved grasses like guinea, hybrid napier and paragrass are now being grown. Leguminous crops like berseem, lucerne, cowpeas, etc. and improved types of jowar, maize, teosinte are also being grown as fodder crops. The farmers have now realised the value of green fodder for improving milk production and are also conscious about need for growing high quality green fodders.

Simultaneously the feeding of balanced cattle feed to boost milk production should also be taken up. Scientifically compounded cattle feed can be processed through feed compounding factories and supplied to the farmers on no-profit-no-loss basis. With good demonstration about the value of feeding concentrates and publicity through extension activities the farmers are now beginning to accept balanced feed.

With a view to encouraging milk production, the Government of India is looking into the question of pricing policy for milk. This is assuming importance due to the fact that the farmer has sometimes to give milk below the cost because of the lack of demand and this naturally kills the incentive and the initiative of the farmers. To overcome this, an important step to be taken is to organise marketing facilities, offering an incentive price to the farmer for his produce. This should be followed by the supporting programmes like feed and fodder development, veterinary aid, credit facilities and good extension.

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FEMALES MATCHING MEN IN CRIME

★ By Ana Honig ★

Every day is lady's day at police headquarter.

The New Woman, admirable in her ability to gain now footholds in a man's world, is also making it to the dubious top in crime — four of the most-wanted criminals on the FBI list in the US are women.

A look at 1970 FBI statistics shows just how criminal a female can be: Their numbers on police blotters soared 11 per cent over 1969 vs. four per cent for men. They were arrested in 17 per cent of all serious crimes and in 10 per cent of all violent crimes.

They accounted for 27 per cent of all fraud arrests, 25 per cent of embezzlements, 24 per cent of forgeries, 20 per cent of larcenies, 16 per cent of narcotics charges.

And, in the last decade, while arrests for all serious crimes were up 73 per cent among men, they zoomed 202 per cent for women.

Nor is there any fear that the supply of adult female criminals will dry up. There are young girls all over the crime scene. While arrests for boys under 18 rose 98 per cent in the last decade, arrests for girls under 18 skyrocketed 204 per cent.

The FBI says someone in USA commits a violent crime (murders, rapes, robs or assaults to kill every 13 seconds — and 10 per cent of those arrested for those violent crimes are women. Someone commits larceny every 18 seconds — and 20 per cent of those arrested for those larcenies are women.

Although the number of women involved in crimes is understandably a small minority of America's female population, there is no doubt that today's women are less disadvantaged, criminally speaking, than ever before. Armed with good educations, they move into the mainstream of the business world, into jobs where opportunities for fraud and embezzlement loom large. Liberated from household chores and dependence on a man's salary, they are suddenly free to do what they choose — free to compete with men, even in crime. And they do.

Let us look at the crime picture, woman-wise:

MURDER: The FBI reports an eight per cent hike in the number of women arrested for murder in 1970 vs. 1969. This figure, however, does not tell the whole story. Authorities agree that women are far less apt to be arrested for murder than men, simply because they are women. Also, women often instigate crimes actually committed by men.

Women kill their husbands and children in one fourth of the cases. Dr. Marvin E. Wolfgang, chairman of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, says.

"When a woman commits homicide, she is more likely than a man to kill her mate, and when a man is killed by a woman, he is most likely to be killed by his wife.

In the USA the most

Women's liberation has unleashed women's energies in all directions — including crime. Although it is still a tiny minority of women who break the law, their number is rising much faster than their male counterparts.

dangerous room in the house for husbands is the kitchen. Women who kill, kill in the kitchen 29 per cent of the time. Usual weapon in kitchen slayings — a butcher knife.

Lady killers are more ruthless, more subtle, than their male counterparts according to the British judge who has tried many of them. Judge Gerald Sparrow says women have what he calls a "natural aptitude for subterfuge and concealment". The woman who kills "has always had to rely on a certain amount of chicanery to make up for her lack of sheer physical strength... The execution of murder is likewise carried out with typical stealth and with consummate care".

Still, the number of women killers is relatively small. One study shows that, of 3,666 murders executed only 31 were women.

LARCENY: The FBI reports a 19 per cent increase in the number of women arrested on larceny charges in 1970 vs. 1969. Larceny, in police talk, means stealing property without using force or fraud — and shoplifting a distinctively feminine crime, is included.

Here, too, statistics cloud the picture. True shoplifters steal about four million dollars in merchandise daily — but only five per cent of them are professional thieves who steal for re-sale. Half of all female shoplifters are young girls looking for a thrill or a way to get even with the established ment, who consider it an adventure or a form of recreation.

Another 45 per cent is made of young women who regard shoplifting as merely a budget-stretcher — young mothers, for instance who in a most uncriminal manner use baby gocats to hide their loot. Dr. Shepard Ginandes, psychiatric courts, thinks women shoplifters may be simply in with the times.

"It is not surprising that they are stealing", he said, after studying one group of female shoplifters. "It would be more surprising if they were breaking the rules about drugs and sex, but not breaking the rules about private property as well".

The FBI reports an eight per cent increase in the number of women arrested on robbery charges in 1970 vs 1969. Robbery is a violent crime, using force to steal and often injuring the victims, it includes mugging and the use of weapons. Actually, women have been charged with virtually every crime on the book. Even forcible rape (a woman can be charged with rape when she aids and abets

a man in the rape of other women.)

There are, of course, crimes without victims — drunkenness drug addiction, prostitution.

Violent Prostitutes

What about the women who play for pay, the prostitutes? Authorities more, violent, often adding assault and robbery to their sexual services. With or without the help of male accomplices, they are beating, robbing, even killing their customers. But the extent of such crime is understandably difficult to measure. How many victims will show up at police headquarters to report these crimes?

Nor can prostitution be used as a measure of increased crime among women. Society has always had its prostitutes. Kings used to install them in palaces and respectable matrons copied their hairstyles. And England still has the Order of Venery, given to distinguished hussies in the past. Literature, too often pictures the prostitute as a lusty, good-hearted girl who works in a colourful brothel (see John Steinbeck and Polly Adler.)

The income is reported good, former call girl told a New York State Assembly hearing recently she was "wined and dined all over the country by a select clientele", earning as much a dollar 100,000 a year. It was, she said, "an easy life".

Nonetheless, sociologists say the woman who peddles her body is filled with self-hate and a need to destroy herself. One study of 20 prostitutes shows 15 of them used drugs: This much seems certain: The role of the prostitute is always linked to the type of society in which she lives. And today's prostitute lives in a violent Society.

DRUGS: Drug addiction, invariably tied to prostitution and or other crime, is also on the rise among women.

Interestingly, some psychologists think that the woman most apt to take to drugs is the woman who envies men. Many are homosexuals. Many are inordinately proud of their masculine activities — they would for instance prefer breaking-and-entry to shoplifting.

Mental illness among women is also on the rise. The Government's National Institute of Mental Health reports 125,351 more women than men received psychiatric treatment at Veterans Administrations hospitals from 1964 through 1968. This does not include private, country or state hospitals or clinics. While it is no crime to be mentally sick, the causes of crime and mental illness among women may be curiously similar.—(H.S.)

FIRST WOMAN FLIER IN INDIA

★ By Nikhil Sen ★

Six decades ago, an aeroplane was a thing of awe and adoration. That was the time when two Belgian aviators came to Calcutta, in December 1910, with their little planes. The two gentlemen were Baron de Caters and M. Jules Tyck. Baron de Caters had a by plane and M. Tyck's was a small monoplane.

It was perhaps the first time that an aeroplane landed in Calcutta. And the two Belgian gentlemen exhibited some daring aerobatic feats with their planes before a large gathering on the Maidan. To rouse further curiosity and interest in Indian people they offered to enthusiastic persons free flights over Calcutta in their planes.

But none dared accept the offer and take the risk of such an adventure.

When men hesitated to take the risk of a free flight a young lady came forward. The English interpreter and guide of the Belgian aviators was an old acquaintance of her husband in England. He told his wife of the great offer and his wife gladly accepted it.

The flight was arranged shortly. Baron de Caters's biplane was ready for the ceremonial excursion before a large crowd at Jodhpur Club, Sir Omar Greagh, the then Commander-in-Chief of India was also present at that time and a photograph was taken of the two aviators along with the lady flier before the start.

The lady, clad in her sari with a white apron and a headgear wrapped tightly, mounted Baron de Caters's bi-plane with a smiling face. There were only two seats. One for the pilot and the other for his guest. She sat by the side of the pilot and held fast the rods in front to escape falling out.

The aircraft circled the Maidan round and round, and gained height, from where the tall dome of the High Court looked like a toy mast and River Hooghly flowing nearby just like a piece of thread.

The lady was exhilarated all the time and never felt nervous. The plane, it might be mentioned, was involved in an accident the day before the flight for a fault which later repaired.

After a few circuits over Calcutta the plane touched the ground with its first woman flier not of India. Both pilot and the flier were hale and hearty. Nothing had happened.

The daring lady the first woman flier in India, was Mrs. Mrinalini Sen, wife of Nirmal Chunder Sen, a son of Brahmabandhab Keshab Chunder Sen.

Mrs. Sen, who died on March 3 last at the ripe old age of 94, was also known as 'Rani Mrinalini of Paikpara.' She was married to Indra Chandra Sinha of the famous House of the Sinhas of Paikpara at the age of 13. But

she lost her husband two years later. She then took to writing. And soon she established herself as a poet of note and published four volumes of poems in Bengali within five years. These are 'Pratidhwani' (1895), 'Nir-jharini' (1896), 'Kollolini' and 'Monobina' (1900). It was the age of Bengali female poets like Girindra Mohini Debi Mankumari Basu and Kamini Roy. And Rani Mrinalini, though much junior to them, had a place of her own in the midst of the eminent woman poets of Bengal. Her poems are sweet and melodious. They have the charm of simple beauty without decorations. They have the directness of appeal as well as depth of sentiments.

After the publication of her fourth book of verse Rani Mrinalini fell seriously ill. She threw away the "Purdah," left her husband's house, and married again. She was then 25. Her husband Nirmal Chunder Sen was then the Educational Adviser to Indian students at India Office, U. K. Mrs. Mrinalini Sen accompanied her husband to U. K. and lived there about 16 years. During her stay in London Mrs. Sen took to writing in English. She had to deliver talks and lectures also at different learned societies in England and the continent. Some of these talks and addresses were later on compiled and published in her book 'Knocking at the Door' (1954) with a foreword by late Dr. Kaikidas Nag.

Mrinalini Sen was very keen on the question of women's right of franchise and championed the woman's cause at home and abroad. She was in fact one of the pioneers of this movement. She delivered her first lecture on women's emancipation before a large gathering at 'Women's International League for peace and Freedom' England.

Mrinalini Sen also gave a fitting reply to Katherine Mayo's scandalous book 'Mother India', vindicating the honour of Indian Womanhood. At a protest meeting in London in 1927 she spoke of herself.

"I myself came of a Hindu family. I was a child widow, married first into one of the oldest aristocratic Hindu families of Bengal (of Paikpara) and was called Rani Mrinalini of Paikpara, when a child of 13. At 15 I became a widow. I was in Purdah till I was 26 and then married again".

In 1917 Mrs. Mrinalini Sen wrote about Rabindranath Tagore in her paper: 'Poet Laureate of India' which she read at a meeting of the East India Association, Westminster, S. W. in May 1917. Her essays and addresses are landmarks in the history of women's emancipation.

—A. B. P.

IBSEN — "not a man but a pen"

★ By Ehurjati Mukherjee ★

A Giant among world dramatists, Henrik Johan Ibsen brought a new era in the history of modern drama as a poet-dramatist of prose realism. The consummate master of stagecraft, Ibsen, considered as the greatest phenomenon in world drama since Jean Racine, transformed mere realism into "character and atmosphere". J. B. Priestley in his famous book 'Literature and Western Man' remarks: "Ibsen gave to the Theatre an appearance of strict realism — for that is what his method amounted to — while doing something for more important, namely, giving prosedrama the density and depth the penetration into the recesses of personality, that we, associate with poetry and so transforming, enriching, ennobling, the modern playhouse.

Born on the 20th March 1828 at Skien in Norway, Henrik, the second son of a merchant Knud Ibsen, showed keen interest in drama from his early youth. "Ibsen," asserted Bjornson, the renowned poet, is not a man but a pen". His account as a dramatist covers three major periods, the first include the powerful, visionary works—'Brand' (Brand 1866), 'Peer Gynt' (Peer Gynt 1867), 'Kjæser og Galilæer' (Emperor and Galilean 1873) and 'De Unges Forbund' (The League of Youth 1869) — the second is made up of the realistic plays that are thought of by the public whenever Ibsen's name is mentioned—'Samfundets Støtter' (Pillars of Society 1877), 'Et Dukkehjem' (Doll's House 1879), 'Gengangere' (Ghosts 1881), 'En Folkfiende' (An Enemy of the People 1882), 'Vildanden' (The Wild Duck 1884), 'Rosmersholm' 1836, 'Fruen fra Havet' (The Lady from the Sea (1888) and 'Hedda Gabler 1899) — and the third consists of the dramas written during the nine years after Ibsen's return to Norway (The master Builder 1882), (Lille Eyolf 1894), 'John Gabriel Borkman 1896) and 'Naar Vi Dode Vaagner' (When We Dead Awaken 1899). Shaw and Chekov, the acknowledged admirers of Ibsen, remarked that his contribution to the art of theatre is permanent. Shaw recognised his creation as a new form of drama and Chekov admitted him as his most favourite author.

'Brand', written in Italy, is an abstract statement on the claims of vocation where the individual — an exceptional figure — is against society and any form of compromise. It is a traditional moral play packed with dramatic power emphasizing Ibsen's intellectual consciousness. 'Peer Gynt', undoubtedly his most consistent work where mature mind and dramatic technique are evident, is an antithesis of the former play. 'Brand' stands for singleness of purpose while 'Peer Gynt' is the embodiment of distraction and dreaming. The two plays, as Shaw remarked, deal with the effect of idealism on individualists whose vacillation and opportunism are of exceptional imaginative aspect

of excitability. Ibsen's next masterpiece 'Emperor and Galilean' is an ambitious poetic drama in the form of a realistic historical play. Of this play, which he considered his best but dismissed by the critics, Ibsen writes: "The illusion I wished to produce was that of reality. I wished to leave on the reader's mind the impression that what he had read had actually happened — We no longer live in the days of Shakespeare — My desire was to depict human beings and therefore I would not make them speak the language of the gods."

Ibsen's satiric comedy 'The League of Youth' was followed by the realistic prose plays concerned with social problems. The necessity of a society which would provide the maximum possible opportunity for the free growth of the individual is the principle inherent in most of his works. He realised that all movements of reform tended to subordinate the individual to the state — and to Ibsen the state was always his enemy. The title of his significant play 'Pillars of Society' might be taken to cover all the social dramas which succeeded it. The second play of the period 'A Doll's House', after the skilful but crude 'Pillars of Society', is life itself—a social rather than a literary phenomenon. An emphatic statement of Ibsen's individualistic creed, the struggle between society and individual, is depicted in the

drama. It has a strikingly original theme justified by Shaw as an "instance of the general validity of rejecting mores and morals". In the new creation beginning with 'Ghosts', the dramatic approach arises "through a conflict of unsettled ideals rather than through vulgar attachments, rapacities, generosities, resentments, ambitions, understandings, addities and so forth as to which no moral question is raised". It is temperamentally different and more serious than "A Doll's House", both dealing with the repudiation of duty by women. Ibsen retorted on the critics, after 'Ghosts' roused fury, with 'An Enemy of the People' in which he satires the stupid majority who prefer "disease to the confession of their disgrace".

The fundamental idea in most of his works is the supreme importance of individual character on whose development lies the only hope of a really cultured and enlightend society. The other important concept is the belief that the only tragedy that can be suffered and the only wrong that can be committed is the denial of love. The idea of individualism is proclaimed by most Ibsenites as the key to his drama. Ibsen who had an abiding faith in the extraordinary individual "never shifts the burden of responsibility from the individual to social condition, or economic pressures"

(Contd. on page 124)

14 Million Dollars For Bihar's Agricultural Marketing System

New Delhi, Mar. 31 :

Improvements in the agricultural marketing system in Bihar State, an important element in India's strategy to sustain the momentum of growth in the agricultural sector, will be assisted by a credit of 14 million dollars from the International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank.

The credit, first from the World Bank group in direct support of development of market centres for farm products, will finance a five-year programme of investment in market facilities in 50 towns in Bihar, and will provide funds for training of personnel in marketing and project evaluation.

Developments in the 50 market centres will include access roads, fenced yards, auction platforms, office buildings, wholesalers shops and storage. In addition, amenities for farmers, like tea shops water from human and animal consumption, parking areas for bullocks and carts will be provided. Ultimately, these centres are expected to have buildings for other facilities like banks, post offices, extension services and shops selling various agricultural inputs — fertilizers, pesticides and high-yielding seeds and implements.

The project will help to bring about fair trading practices, competitive prices, efficient handling of produce,

and to reduce wastage. About 1.5 million farmers in the State, mostly smallholders, are expected to increase their incomes through the project. Better farm prices, resulting from the project, should stimulate higher agricultural production.

Each of the market centres to be developed under the project will be owned by a Market Committee (MC) consisting of both traders and farmers. A State Marketing Board (SMB) will be established by the Government with powers to supervise the MCs and their finances. SMB will be responsible for the planning and development of the markets and their operation. The Town and Country Planning Organization, an agency of the State Government, will conduct detailed surveys to determine the location of each market.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$23.3 million, of which \$5.9 million will be in foreign exchange. The IDA credit of 14 million dollars will finance the foreign exchange costs and about 50 per cent of the local costs. Land for market centres will be provided by the State Government. The balance of the cost will be provided by the Agricultural Refinance Corporation (ARC), an agency established in 1963 to provide medium and long-term finance to agricultural credit institutions, the State Bank of India and the MCs.

AN EARLY ARAB WRITER

★ By Parisa Bendjelloul ★

The poet posterity was to know as Al-Jahiz was born as Abu Uthman Amr ben Bahr al-Kinani al-Fukaymi al-Basri in Basra (Iraq) around 775.

A descendant of former slaves, probably of Abyssinian origin, he owed his adopted name to his unprepossessing appearance: 'Jahiz' means 'goggle-eyed.'

We know little of his early years. Obviously he took advantage of the opportunities offered by his native to educate himself: he began studying when he was still very young, mingled with groups which gathered in the mosque to discuss philosophical questions, listened in at philological enquiries, and attended the lectures of the greatest scholars of the time in philology; lexicography and poetry. Thus it was not long before he had a real command of both the Arabic language and traditional culture.

This enabled him to acquire a fuller understanding of the society in which he was living, made up of a pure Arab element who felt that their supremacy was slipping away from them, and a foreign element who had to be content, for the time being, with economic power.

He was able to make penetrating observations on the new middle class and on the various manifestations of the Arabo-Persian antagonism which he saw as a danger for Arabio culture and even for Islam.

Middle Class

Al-Jahiz's quick intelligence soon admitted him to the circles of the Mu'tazilites (The Mu'tazilite School maintained the dogma of the divine authorship of the Koran, and completely rejected the anthropomorphic exegesis of the Holy Scriptures), and the bourgeois 'salons,' where conversation ranged around the problems with which the Muslim community was most concerned at that time: in the theological domain, the harmonisation of reason and faith: and in the political sphere, the thorny question of the Caliphate which was continually being raised by the adversaries of the Abbassides, the conflicts between the different Islamic sects and the demands of the non-Arab population.

Although he started to write early, the first of his manuscripts to survive dates from around 815. His career was finally determined by the commission from Caliph M'amoun to write works justifying the accession of the Abbassides to power.

Summoned to Baghdad at the prince's command, Al-Jahiz spent almost all the rest of his life in the capital. There he seized the opportunity to study translations of the Greek philosophers, especially Aristotle.

Unlike most of the poets and writers of his age he never became a courtier. But he does seem to have acted as eminence grise or unofficial adviser to the leading personalities of the Caliphate. He admitted to having received large sums for the political

dedications he gave some of his books, and for a time he received a privy purse from the Divan.

Journeys

Following the immediate success of his first writings, he wrote a whole series of essays addressing the authorities on some topic of the day. He went on a number of journeys, in particular to Syria. Towards the end of his life suffering from partial paralysis he retired to his home town where he died in January 869.

Al-Jahiz is known — to have written close on two hundred works, of which some thirty have come to us in more or less complete form. They can be divided into two major categories, those belonging to the Jahizian adab. In other words, those intended to instruct the reader while diverting him; and the more original writings, the dissertations, where the writer's talent and his faculty as a thinker are more clearly manifest.

The main work of the first category is the "Kitab al-Hayawan" (Book of the Animals), in seven volumes and unfinished, in which under the pretext of describing the peculiarities of various animals, he accumulates religious references textual glosses and personal observations on a vast range of topics it is a sort of apologia, every page of which casts new light on the marvels of Creation.

Generosity

The "Kitab al-Bayan wal Tabyin" (Enlightenment and Understanding) is an inventory of what one might call the "Arab humanities," and was intended to be a hymn of praise to the rhetorical and poetic talents of the Arab peoples. It is a huge work, a sort of anthology of eloquence, in which selected pieces by poets and orators are used to illustrate the often original ideas of the author. In order to justify his choice, he laid the foundations of an art of poetry.

Another quality of the Arabs — generosity — is in evidence in the "Kitab al-Bukhala" (The Book of Misers), which is both a gallery of portraits, a charge against the non-Arabs (especially the Persian middle class), and an analysis of avarice.

In the second category, a number of his dissertations and other texts have survived, and among them the eleven Risala (Epistles). Most of his politicoreligious works have been lost; the most important to have been preserved is the "Kitab al-Uthmaniyya" which defends the legitimacy of the three first caliphs and justifies the accession of the Abbassides.

Al-Jahiz's place in Arabic literature is an important one, for he remained a literary writer even at his most philosophical. With him Arabic prose reached a high point of elegance. Each of his essays, in the form of a conversation, is full of psychological, moral, religious, political or scientific observations, which are a constant joy to the reader and are often reminiscent of Montaigne's Essays.

(UNESCO Features)

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Drama In Real Life — LVIII

ESCAPE FROM DACCA

★ By Atulendu Gupta ★

II

Disguised As A Muslim

The dacoits were only four in number. They pointed their guns at the boat and cried, "Halt!". They challenged the passengers to dare proceed further without paying a sum of ten thousand rupees.

Everybody stood speechless with fear. A Shankhari girl, however, answered the challenge. She came out of the boat and boldly faced the dacoits. "Kill us!" cried she. "And see what booty you get. We have already been looted by the Pak soldiers who have left us paupers. You will hardly get anything besides the cloth we have put on".

The dacoits believed her. They reduced their demand to two thousand rupees.

"Nothing doing" said, the girl. "Better kill us and take away our empty purse".

The dacoits then relented further. "Give us whatever you like", said they. "We leave the choice to you".

The refugees murmured among themselves. Some said, "We are between three to four score in number. We have ample arms hidden under the platform of the boat. What could four do against so many?"

The boatmen intervened. They said, "These dacoits have many associates within hailing distance. If they all come, we shall simply be overwhelmed by their superior number. Better to make terms with these four. These few rogues are out to make some little private income behind the back of the whole gang. It will be more prudent our part to give a little hush-money to four rascals quietly than to raise the hornets' nest round us".

The refugees collected a sum of fifty rupees by subscription and paid it to the dacoits. Thereupon they released the boat.

Owing to the loss of time occasioned by this hold-up, the boat could not go far. Darkness descended upon the earth and no clear outline of the place could be discerned in the gloaming. To make matters worse, the boatman who guided the party suddenly said he had lost the way. He could not identify the place at all.

No bazar or bustee was visible. Out of the darkness a man appeared from somewhere. On being questioned he said, "You have come to the wrong place. Kaliganj is far away from here. This place is Boalkhali. You cannot go anywhere in the night. Even the nearest bazar is at some distance and the way is unsafe."

The refugees passed the night in the boat in empty stomach. In the morning they discovered a hidden den of the freedom fighters (Mukti Bahini) numbering about 250. The guide asked them the way to Kaliganj. The freedom fighters made enquiries about Pak collaborators. They wanted to know whether

anybody had seen any suspicious characters in the neighbourhood. On being told that nobody had seen any Razakar in the locality, they wanted the refugees to tell their story and give a satisfactory account of themselves:

Nanku and his friends recounted the whole history of their escape from Pak troops. Somehow the boatman and guide thought that he was being looked upon with suspicion by the freedom fighters. Did they think he was a collaborator and a Razakar? Of course, the boatman's fears were baseless, but all the same he smelt a rat and told Nanku of his misgivings. Nanku reassured him as best as he could.

The freedom fighters then gave directions as to how Kaliganj could be reached safely. The shortest route was through Shripur bazar, but this had to be avoided in view of the presence of the Pak troops near the bazar. The direct route must therefore be abandoned and the boat must make a detour through a roundabout passage across jute fields. Fortunately rains had set in long before the usual time and the fields were full of water. But the boatmen said their boat was too big to ply through the flooded fields or make its way through dense jute plants and Nymphaea Lotus (now the National Flower of Bangladesh). Whatever the difficulties, said others, go they must across the half-submerged jungle. They pointed out how the regular waterways were infested by Pak gunboats. The boatmen struck a compromise. They covered the boat with tarpaulin and hay whereunder the passengers hid themselves. Wherever the water was deep, they entered the jute fields and made their way through the jungle. But if they found the flood water too shallow, they temporarily came out into the open river. They did meet a gunboat or two, but nobody challenged them.

In this way the boat made a detour round Shripur and reached Kaliganj at 2 A. M. The Shripur mosque was quite near. The senior boatman cum-guide said the Indian border was not far off. However, he would enquire and make sure. With these words he jumped on the shore and disappeared in the darkness. Day dawned, but he never returned. He had been too terrified by the freedom fighter's searching questions and had made good his escape.

What were the crew to do without their guide? Some said, let us stay where we are till help comes from somewhere. Others said, let us go back to Boalkhali and get further directions from the Mukti Bahini. Still others were of the opinion that they should go forward and ask their way as they proceeded.

Nanku was in the last category. He was in favour of going forward after consulting some local people who could give sound advice. He volunteered to go to Shripur

Nazrul's works in Kazakh language

Alma Ata, (Soviet Union; — Selected works by the renowned Bengali poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam, have been included into the "Library of Great Poets," which is now being published in Kazakh language.

Tass said the collection includes poetry in which the poet glorifies friendship among peoples and his motherland.

At present Kazakhs read in their mother tongue about 100 works of Indian litterateur. Novels, stories and poetry by Tagore, M. Raj Anand, Prem Chand and many others have been published in Kazakhstan in large editions.

Long hair, mini dress taboo in Ceylon

Colombo, March 31: The Government proposes shortly to ban the youth from having goatees hippie-type flowing hair and side-whiskers, official sources said here today.

Mini-dress will also be a taboo for schoolgirls, and lady teachers will be forbidden from wearing mod dresses exposing the midriff, or low cut blouses. An Education Ministry directive will go out to all schools.

The government is concerned that Lanka's fashion-conscious sons and daughters are increasingly aping mod fashions alien to this country's culture.

mosque and seek information. Of course, the mosque people would be Muslim Mullas and might look upon a Hindu with suspicion. But Nanku had the hope that his identity could not be discerned easily. What with want of time to shave and what with a desire to assume the appearance of a Muslim, Nanku had grown a beard and a moustache with a lungi and a tattered banian as his dress, he looked, or he thought he looked, like an ordinary rustic Muslim. While practicing terrorism in British India in the thirties, he had fooled the police many a time by adopting this disguise or that. Could he not deceive a simple-hearted Muslim villager in the same way? His plan was to contact the inmates of the Shripur mosque and pose to be their brother-in-faith. The plan was perfectly fool-proof.

Nanku boldly walked up to the mosque and knocked. A bearded Maulavi came out and asked who he was and what he wanted.

Nanku said, "My name is Muhammad Islam. I want to go to Ramchandrapur".

The Maulavi looked straight in his face and said, "Babu Saheb, give up your pretence. You are a Hindu."

DEMOCRITUS SAID IT

★ By Fred Treccillo ★

"The truth of nature lieth hid. In certain deep mines and caves."

—Democritus, about 400 B. C.

To Democritus, the Greek philosopher credited with being a founder of the atomic theory, "the truth of nature" was that all things consist of tiny particles.

His assertion sent science on a 2,000-year search for the tiniest of those particles — the fundamental building block of matter. Physicists working at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) have announced that a new procedure based on a theory of Albert-Einstein, has enabled them to take Democritus's search into new "mines and caves."

Hyperons

The physicist hope to make the first observation of "quarks," which many theorists believe are the fundamental building blocks that Democritus had in mind, by studying the activity of a rare and elusive sub-atomic particle called the Omega-minus.

The Omega-minus belongs to a family of atomic particles called hyperons whose lifespan is less than one billionth of a second — of brief that observation and measurement is almost impossible. Since the Omega-minus particle was discovered at the Brookhaven lab in 1965, only 30 have been observed throughout the world.

The Brookhaven physicists say they have been able to increase this lifespan by applying Einstein's time-dilation theory that space travellers approaching the speed of light would return to earth

younger (by earth standards) than when they left.

By accelerating Omega-minus particles to just under the speed of light, the physicists said, the particles live 10 times as long, making them "easy" to observe the measure. In two days alone, a spokesman said, the scientists were able to record the lives of 1,500 Omega-minus particles.

"The most interesting possibility this provides is the study of quarks", said Jay Marx of Yale University. "We thought first that the atom was the basic building block of matter, then we thought it was the nucleus of the atom, then the protons and neutrons which make up the nucleus. For the past five or six years physicists have been searching for the even smaller particles (quarks) which we believe make up the protons and neutrons. This produce gives us a new place to look".

Marx, 26, is one of several physicists from U. S. universities who have been working on the project for three years. "Within another year, we hope to move our research to the National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia" (Illinois, U.S.) Marx said. "Their new atom smasher can accelerate the particles 10 times the speed of the one at Brookhaven."

If the group is successful in proving that quarks are the basic building block of matter, Marx said, "It will confirm the way we've been looking at things for more than 2,000 years. It will prove that Democritus was on the right track". —(The Newday)

Battle To Save Borobudur Temple

DjaKarta, — Borobudur, the massive, 1,000-year-old Buddhist temple in Central Java which ranks with the parthenon and the pyramids as a wonder of the ancient world, is in serious danger.

For more than 10 centuries, water has seeped into porous stone chosen by the temple's Javanese builders. The water has accumulated over the ages, gnawing away at the interior and sinking into fissures and joints in the walls and floors.

One section of the northern wall has moved 2.5 centimetres from the perpendicular. While the huge stones of the terraces and walls are worn by erosion and covered with moss and lichens.

Indonesian military engineers are already hard at work restoring sections of the northern wall, whose decay, accelerated by intermittent earth tremors, threatens the great stupa surmounting the temple complex.

However, the Indonesian Government has appealed for international help in the repairs. It hopes that both technical and financial aid will be forthcoming on a scale befitting the challenge.

Studies already undertaken by UNESCO estimate restoration of the entire temple will take six years and cost about six million U.S. dollars.

Archeologists believe it was built in the ninth century A.D., after Hinduism began to put down deep spiritual roots in parts of Java.

The name of the temple is a blend of the Sanskrit word Boro, meaning monastery, and the old Javanese Budur, or hill.

According to Buddhist teaching, the stupa enshrines the stupa enshrines the "supreme truth" — inaccessible to all since it can be perceived only at the instant when the sage renounces his quest to attain it.

A narrow stairway between terraces enable pilgrims to reach the open-air galleries. Where they are cut off from the outside world and its temptations, and thus can meditate more deeply.

Borobudur is already made well known by more venturesome foreign travellers. Indonesian officials, noting the growing popularity of Southeast Asia as a tourist destination, are confident that the temple will eventually become one of the world's major tourist attractions.

As such it will provide a steady source of badly-needed foreign exchange as well as creating employment in what is ironically the world's largest Muslim nation.

China & the Indian Ocean: New Alignments?

★ By Bhabani Sen Gupta ★

A significant realignment of forces appears to be in the offing in the Indian Ocean region, posing delicate political, and strategic problems for the Government of India. The powers that seem to be playing key roles in this realignment are the Soviet Union, China and Japan.

Because of their huge fear of the Soviet Union the Chinese leaders take a dim view of a powerful Russian naval presence in the Indian Ocean. Peking's fear came out clearly during the India-Pakistan conflict of December 1971. The Chinese delegate at the United Nations affirmed at the Security Council that the Soviets supported the Indian action in Bangladesh because they were determined to further strengthen (their) control over India and thereby to contend with the other super-power for hegemony in the whole of the South Asian subcontinent and the Indian Ocean....

The United States, by its decision to withdraw the Seventh Fleet from the Chinese waters, has made it possible for China to play a more active role in the power politics in the Indian Ocean. The bulk of the Chinese navy has so far been engaged in guarding the coastline against a possible attack by the Seventh Fleet or an American-backed invasion from Formosa. The Chinese navy has so far been given virtually no role to play in guarding against a major flare-up along the Sino-Soviet border.

What the Chinese fear most is a naval compact between the USSR and Japan. It is to thwart the growth of such a compact that Peking has initiated a new phase in its Indian Ocean diplomacy.

In projecting this diplomacy, China has announced its support for the joint Indonesian, Malaysian and Singaporean position that the Straits of Malacca fall within their territorial waters and are therefore within their domestic jurisdiction. The three littoral states rejected in November last the Japanese claim that the Straits constitute international waters. They also turned down a Japanese proposal to dredge the Straits to ensure transit of large tankers. Ninety-eight per cent of Japan's petroleum imports from the Middle East and the Persian Gulf area pass through the Straits of Malacca, which are thus of great strategic importance to Japan.

The Chinese support for the stand taken by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore follows Soviet support for the Japanese position. Thus, while the Soviet Union and Japan regard the Straits of Malacca to be international waters, the Chinese contend that the waterway belongs to the three Southeast Asian countries which are legally competent to close it to the shipping of any nation especially in times of war.

The Chinese are quite clearly playing to the Southeast Asian countries' fear of Japanese imperialism. By simultaneously pandering their nationalist power aspirations,

Peking is also trying to build up better relations with its US-oriented neighbours.

The Chinese leaders could not fail to take note of the convergence of Indian and Soviet strategic interests in the Indian Ocean brought about during the December war by the despatch by the US Government of a task force of the Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal ostensibly to rescue American citizens, but, as Jack Anderson revealed in one of his "papers" actually to intervene on behalf of Pakistan if the war in Bangladesh continued for some days more. Anderson also revealed that the Soviet Ambassador, Nicolai Pagov, assured the Indian Government that the Soviet Navy "will not allow the Seventh Fleet to intervene" on behalf of Pakistan.

The Chinese Government may now be expected to revive its theme that the USSR has been trying to effect an encirclement of China with the help of India and Japan. This kind of propaganda is not without an impact on Japanese public opinion which strongly supports a Sino-Japanese *detente*.

The Indian Government may be soon faced with the task of defining its attitude toward the status of the Malacca Straits. If it supports the Soviet stand, or more precisely the Japanese stand, it will be offending the three Southeast Asian neighbours. India's considerable trade with Japan, however, inclines this country to regard the Straits as international waters.

The Chinese support for the territorial water theory may alter once relations with Japan change clearly and definitely for the better. The Japanese are not too happy with their dependence on Middle and Near Eastern oil which has to be shipped across the seas. They have a standing offer of joint development with the Soviet Government of the vast untapped oil resources of Siberia and thus be assured of alternative supply across a much shorter pipeline route. The offer was repeated by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Gromyko, during his recent talks with the Japanese leaders in Tokyo. It is said to be receiving serious consideration of the Japanese Government.

Japan's interest in the Indian Ocean may diminish over the years if its leaders embark upon joint development of Siberia with the Soviet Union, and if improved relations with China throw open the vast Chinese market for Japanese exports, Chinese interest in the Indian Ocean, however, is certain to grow over the years. China projects itself as the leading power in Asia and Africa. The Indian Ocean links China with most of Southeast and West Asia and with the continent of Africa.

China is not a naval power yet in the sense that the United States or the USSR is. But China already has the largest naval force in Asia, and, apart from Japan,

it is the only country with a long-term programme of naval shipbuilding. China which had no navy at all in 1949 has now 2,00,000 men in its navy. The fighting fleet has 2 cruisers, 20 destroyers, 30 frigates, about 50 light torpedo boats, and 300 troopships; it also has a number of troop landing craft. Destroyers and frigates are being built in large numbers at Shanghai and Canton.

A greater source of strength is the submarine fleet of 40 of the W-type whose range is upon 15,000 km. Three more are being built every year. China has also 40 type-G missile-launching submarines with a range of 30,000 km. each armed with three missiles capable of taking nuclear warheads. China is at present trying to produce missiles which can be launched from submarines. Five years ago some submarine rockets were tested west of Port Arthur, each capable of carrying three atomic warheads.

The Chinese navy is still of course essentially defensive, but it may not take it many years to grow into an offensive force. Almost all naval development to date has taken place since 1960, the industrial infrastructure today is capable of sustaining a much larger naval expansion programme. What is important is that China is no longer content to be a mere land power, in recent debates over military doctrines, an increasing priority is being given to the development of the sea and air forces. It is entirely possible that by the end of the 70's there will be as much of a Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean as there is a Soviet presence now.

It is interesting that while there is considerable anxiety in the United States and Britain over the expanding Soviet naval presence in the world's high seas, almost none is expressed with regard to the expansion of the Chinese navy. The US Secretary of the Navy, John Chafee, testifying recently to the Senate Appropriations Committee, highlighted the danger posed by the Soviet navy to the US naval forces in the high seas extending from the Mediterranean to the Pacific Ocean. The US, he said, was particularly disturbed by the increasing quality of the quieter Soviet submarines and the development of antiship missiles carried by planes, surface ships and submarines. In reply, the current US budget provides for the construction of 20 new ships including 6 nuclear-powered attack submarines and for beginning work on a fourth nuclear-powered carrier!

Mr. Chafee had not a word to say about the Chinese navy. Which made some China watchers in Hong Kong speculate that, depending upon rapid improvement in Sino-US relations, America may even be inclined to sell warships to China. —(H.S.)

Why They Need Mussolini Now

★ By Barry Zwick ★

"In Italy you can tell what time it is simply by watching a train run into a station. For it will be neither one second too early nor one second too late.

"What they used to be like, I do not know. But under Mussolini, the things run like clockwork," wrote British journalist John Gibbons in 1932.

These days more than one foreign tourist has been known to disembark at the train station at Florence and shout, "Mussolini, where are you, now that we need you?"

To get the real feeling of travelling by Italian rail, you ought to start in the south, perhaps in Naples. Sophia Loren was born there, and there are many more back there just like her.

At the railway station you may even find a more aesthetic version, a Sophia as cast by Michelangelo with colour by Tintoretto and special effects by Botticelli.

But no matter where YOU are going, it will turn out that she is taking the train to Palermo.

You approach the platform and await the 11 p.m. *direttissima* (this is supposed to mean super-express) for Florence. By midnight you are still waiting.

And you have accumulated an entourage of romance-seeking spinsters from America and female derelicts from England, one of them pregnant.

The pregnant one says to her sister, "I daresay you should have learned by now that midnight is far too early to arrive for the 11 O'clock train."

At 12:25 a.m. a voice issues forth over the public address system, interrupting the incessant humming and static to announce that the *direttissimo* for Florence has just pulled in and will be leaving in five minutes.

All of which would be fine, except that the train is on the wrong platform, on the opposite side of the station, and 500 peasants and 3000 cardboard boxes stand between you and the train.

Your train has come in from Sicily, and hundreds of bedraggled migrants are pouring out, accompanied by all their earthly possessions.

The train is just beginning to make fitful starting noises as you arrive to board — or attempt to board.

It seems that not quite enough Sicilians have left the train, for the entrance to the car is crammed from floor to ceiling with crates, bambinos, wine bottles, gourds, sausages peasants.

You ram your way through and collapse exhaustedly on an old ruck-sack. Or what appears to be an old rucksack. In reality it's the conductor. But he's very civil about the whole thing. He just looks up and falls back asleep.

You are about to attempt to do the same, when suddenly a torrent of locker room Latin rains through the entrance compartment. An an-

cient hag has emerged from the W. C. and has discovered that she is boxed in like a trapped rat.

You scurry back to join the rest in search of seats. But there are none. The door of every compartment is closed and the lights are off.

But this is a first class car, you protest; there must be some empty seats.

Then the pregnant Briton explains, "All these peasants sneak into the first class cars with second class tickets because the conductors never bother to check."

Later, lights click on, lire jingle and jangle, and yellow teeth grapple with week-old bread as thick brown arms reach out the windows to seize the wares of the entrepreneurs of Etruria.

With the lights on, you discover that the train has plenty of vacant seats. The locals have simply decided to sprawl across three where one would do.

Arriving in Florence three and a half hours behind schedule, having stood in the aisle for 10 hours, you conclude that the only good thing about Italian trains is that on a clear day you can see France from one.

(The Los Angeles Times)

Ibsen

(Contd. from page 122)

as Krutch remarked. The symbolic dramas of the last period, though dismissed as a decline, demand consideration as works of art. The powerful realisation of the experience of guilt and retribution in 'The Master Builder' and the tension between life and inevitable death in 'John Gabriel Borkman' are marked for their saturation with death—romanticism. 'When We Dead Awaken', the last play of Ibsen, is an epilogue curiously misunderstood by many. The drama, a rejection of the individual personality as evident earlier in 'Brand' and 'Peer Gynt', is enacted by symbolic creatures but not human individuals.

The poet, the realist, the symbolist and the propounder of social problems—Ibsen created the "consciousness of modern European drama." The extraordinary creativeness of his dramatic method of 'Ghosts' to 'Rosmersholm' where he experimented with a new form is unparalleled but it is also essential to recognise the other forms in 'Brand' and 'Peer Gynt' and in 'Hedda Gabler.' After Ibsen's death in 1906 at Oslo, W. D. Howells wrote in the North American Review, "The great and dreadful delight of Ibsen is from his power of dispersing the conventional acceptations by which men live on easy terms with themselves, and obliging them to examine the grounds of their social and moral opinion." Ibsen is the friend and counsellor of modern man and woman and his dramatic writing has had incalculable effect on every modern playwright. — (H.S.)

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THIS WEEK IN INDIA

BPE Wants Top Men of Public To Be Professionals

The Bureau of Public Enterprises has suggested that management in public undertakings should be professionalised. A locker, operated by a Bombay businessman staying in a fashionable flat on Marine Drive, hid his unaccounted wealth in the shape of 165 costly, automatic wrist-watches worth Rs. 1.85 lakhs. The Government at the highest level is considering imposing full control on sugar distribution. The Government has set up a committee to report on the causes of failure of Government lifts in Delhi and to suggest steps to avoid them in future. The Chief of the Army Staff, General Manekshaw, says that one of the things that Indian Generals are not taught is to give lectures. A Congress worker of Moirang in Imphal has sacrificed a finger on losing an election bet.

An 11-member M. P. Ministry, headed by Mr. P. C. Sethi, was sworn in at Bhopal. Mr. K. P. Naidu, a honorary first class magistrate, has been arrested by officers of the Hyderabad branch of the CBI on charges of cheating and corruption. Members of Parliament have been exempted from the 15 per cent inland air travel tax levy with immediate effect. The West Bengal Government has superseded the Calcutta Corporation. More than 500 villages in Ahmednagar district face acute famine condition. The sixth unit of the Rs. 100-crore Soviet-aided Patratu thermal power project was commissioned. L.I.C. Chairman T. A. Pai is likely to be included in the Union Cabinet.

The Centre has decided to supply raw materials at international prices to drug exporters. Big size ancient stone images of Devi Parvati and Siva Linga along with brass snake were stolen from famous Loknath Dev Temple in Puri. The villagers of Fatehpur in UP were taken aback when they found a sacked police constable among dacoits. France will give India during the next financial year assistance totalling 150 million French francs (Rs. 20.25 crores). The procurement price of wheat is likely to be reduced. Republic Day celebration in New Delhi, excluding the fly past, cost the National Exchequer Rs. 16.60 lakhs, Rs. 17.12 lakhs and Rs. 20.17 lakhs during 1969, 1970 and 1971 respectively.

The net arrears of Income Tax outstanding at the end of 1970-71 amounted to Rs. 499.68 crores. The 14 nationalised banks lost about Rs. 1.14 crores between September 1969 and May 31, 1971. Restrictions on the opening of foreign liquor shops in Haryana towns are being relaxed. Mr. Baleshwar Prasad, a senior IAS officer, was sworn as Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi. The final decision to shift the Assam capital to the plains in the Brahmaputra valley would be taken very soon. Oral contraceptives, used as a birth control measure, definitely interfere with the maintenance of lactation (breast feeding). Church sources confirm nun-running from Kerala to Europe.

A Namboodiri youth, who has passed the SSLC and lower grade typewriting, has been appointed 'masalachi (sweeper)' of the Kozhikode Taluka office by the Kerala Public Service Commission. Prof. Nurul Hasan will now hold charge of the Union Ministry of Education and Social Welfare and the Department of Culture. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, calls upon the nation to be vigilant against the possibilities of some external powers attempting to create communal disturbances in the country. The President of the Akali Dal, Sant Fateh Singh announces his decision to retire from active politics. The Finance Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, announces liberalisation of bank credit to borrowers from weaker sections of the community.

The Government of India has set up a 24-member national committee for the bi-centenary celebrations of Raja Ram-mohan Roy beginning on May 21. The honour of being India's first woman chief engineer goes to a Kerala woman—Miss P. K. Thressia, at present Superintending Engineer, Buildings and Roads, Calicut. The Punjab Chief Ministers, Giani Zail Singh, calls upon political leaders and Government employees to set an example for people by abstaining from drinking liquor. The Finance Minister has cut the additional levy on kerosene from six paise a litre to four paise a litre, partly meeting MPs demand. The Union Finance Minister told the Lok Sabha there is no question or intention of demonetising the currency at the present moment. Congress CMs have been told to speed up land reforms. The Government has decided to allow bulk import of steel to meet the requirements of exporters of engineering goods. A Naxalite leader, Mr. Ganesh Ghose, was beaten to death by an angry mob at Kadampur village in Nadia district. The Punjab University at Patiala will shortly undertake preparation of an encyclopaedia on Sikhism and culture of Punjab. The foundry plant of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, successfully poured 120 tonnes of steel for the heaviest casting made so far in this country. The Union Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10 crores outside the Fourth Plan allocations for flood control schemes in Bihar.

Tailpiece: Naxalite leader Nagabhusan Patnaik, who is under a death sentence, has suggested that he should be executed by severance and removal of his limbs, physical organs, including heart and kidneys, and blood for use by the needy people. —*News-item*

—N. Mitra

New Coal Seam To Feed Patratu Power Unit

Patna, Mar. 31: The National Coal Development Corporation will open and operate a new coal seam in the vicinity of the Patratu power plant in Hazaribagh district to ensure adequate supplies to the 400 MW plant which had often to face full or partial shut-down owing to coal shortage.

This decision was taken on Tuesday at a meeting attended by the Union Minister for Steel and Mines, Mr. Mohan Kumaramangalam, the Bihar Chief Minister, Mr. Kedar Pande, and top officials of the union and state governments.

A four-man committee headed by Mr. Ranchore Prasad, Deputy Chairman of the Bihar State Planning Board will be set up and asked to submit its report within a month on the coal seam operation project. The committee will include representatives of the State Electricity Board, the NCDC and the Union Ministry of Steel and Mines.

In the meantime, it was suggested, the NCDC should step up supplies from its existing mines to feed the Patratu plant.

The Rakha copper mine project in Singhbhum district will be pushed through. In the first phase the project will cost Rs. 9 crores and during the second phase the total investment will exceed Rs. 30 crores. A road linking Rakha with Jamshedpur will be constructed. It will reduce the distance between Rakha and Jamshedpur from 48 km to 27.2 km. A bridge will be constructed on the Subarnarekha, connecting Mosabani with Maobhandar. Both these places on the two banks of the river have rich copper deposits. The State Government has agreed to give top priority to these schemes.

Ancillary Units

The question of development of ancillary industries around Bokaro steel city and the Heavy Engineering Corporation was raised during the discussions. The chief executive of the two central undertakings agreed to extend full co-operation to the state government in this matter. A beginning has been made with the establishment of 24 ancillary units in the HEC area. It is proposed to have 65 units at Ranchi.

Regarding the Bokaro steel plant, the Union Minister said the plant would undergo continuous expansion from the first phase of 1.7 million tonnes to 5.5 million tonnes Planning for the four million tonnes stage was in an advanced stage. No new decision would be required for further expansion for the next seven years. The Bokaro steel project would go on expanding without any break. The total investment would be Rs. 1,200 crores.

Reorganisation of the collieries under the Bharat Coking Coal Corporation was discussed in detail. The State Government has agreed to take up development of roads in the colliery area. Firm action will be taken against unauthorised construction of collieries.

Token Strike By Varsity Teachers

★ Staff Reporter ★

Patna, Mar. 31: Over 2,000 teachers of Post-Graduate departments of the Universities of Bihar observed one-day token strike on Tuesday to press their long-standing demands.

Dr. G. P. Sinha, President of the Federation of University (Service) Teachers' Associations of Bihar claimed here that the strike was complete and total. The strike was observed on a call given by the Federation.

Demonstrations were also organised by the teachers before their respective university offices in the morning and demonstrators raised slogans in support of their demands.

In Patna University classes remained suspended on Tuesday.

Decision Reiterated

The teachers of the Patna University after holding the demonstration before the university office held a meeting and reiterated their decision to launch an indefinite strike from April 11, in absence of any response from the State Government.

They also, supported the demands of the students and urged them to remain peaceful.

The main demands of the teachers include: An inte-

grated pay scale for all categories of teachers; D.A. at Central rates; creation of more superior posts besides promotion of demonstrators to the post of lecturers.

Employees Strike

In the meantime about 500 non-teaching employees of Patna University Colleges and hostels went on an indefinite strike on Tuesday in protest against the failure of the Vice-Chancellor to honour the agreement reached between the Treasurer Mr. R. Chinappa (in the absence of the Vice-Chancellor) and the representatives of the Sangh on February 1, last.

The Sangh was to launch an indefinite strike from February 1 last to press its long-standing demands, but it was called off following an agreement reached between the Treasurer and the Sangh.

The non-teaching employees had already been on 'go slow' strike since March 22.

Following Tuesday's strike all the teaching, examination and administrative work remained paralysed.

Cancer Cure Round The Corner

Clearwater, Florida, Mar. 31: A search through the world of plants is turning up a host of potential anti-cancer drugs, a chemist's report said yesterday.

One of the most promising new ones is a chemical, named Maytansin, derived from a shrub that grows in Ethiopia and Kenya.

In early tests, Maytansin is doubling the life span of mice suffering from leukemia. Dr. S. Morris Kupchan of the University of Virginia told an American Cancer Society seminar for science writers.

Maytansin is remarkable in that it is an antibiotic-like chemical, apparently the first to be obtained from a plant rather than from microbes, he said. This means there could be other more potent such chemicals in plants. There is a slight chance, being investigated now, that

the chemical is produced in the soil by microbes and then enters the root systems of the shrub, Dr. Kupchan said.

Maytansin is so rare that it accounts for only one part per 5 million parts of dried shrub, but its potent in anti-cancer tests over a wide range of dosages, which implies it could be fairly free of side effects.

Steps were now under way to produce about one-tenth of an ounce of the chemical and begin a long series of studies preparatory to testing it in humans, Dr. Kupchan said.

He and associates have discovered about 100 tumor-inhibiting chemicals in plants, in a search started 13 years ago at the University of Wisconsin and since expanded around the world.

Lavender Against Waste Waters

Nuremberg (DaD) — In order to create a relief for the strained olfactory nerves of citizens living near municipal purification plants, the city administration of Nuremberg (Federal Republic of Germany) has thought up something special. Officials are now trying to fight the unbearable smell coming from the drainage pits with roughly ten liters of perfume per day. Every 30 seconds, six different

scents are sprayed via an atomizer in a chamber, the saturated air is then removed by suction and sent via plastic tubes to the starting point of the objective smells. The new method has been successful for the most part. Instead of putrid smells, the local residents now inhale lavender or rose scents. But on many days, the old smells come through full force. Up until now, the experts have been unable to react fast enough to sudden changes in the composition of the smells created by the waste waters and to change the perfume composition accordingly. The responsible experts are sure, however, that this last hurdle will soon be taken in the attempt to gain better environmental conditions.

Twins born to mare

Vienna: A four-year-old mare has given birth to twins at Feistritz, Austria — an event, which according to experts happens only once in a century, says DPA. The birth was without complications and both foals were said to be well.

Pak Bid To Create Trouble In Kashmir

Our Staff Correspondent

Jammu, March 31 : Pakistani Forces have committed over 200 ceasefire violations in Jammu and Kashmir, according to official sources.

The Pakistanis have fired indiscriminately on Indian picquets and border patrol parties and on peaceful people working in the fields in Uri Tithwal and Gurez sectors in Kashmir Valley and in Poonch and Rajori areas. Two civilians were killed and a dozen others injured in the fringes.

Kashmir Chief Minister Syed Mir Qasim also informed the Assembly on Wednesday that 18 Pakistani infiltrators had been caught in Poonch and Rajori, and nine others who were trying to enter Indian territory were killed in encounters.

These fresh Pakistani attempts to create trouble in Jammu and Kashmir, according to political observers, make it clear that Pakistan has not given up its nefarious designs to grab Kashmir and belie all claims made by Pakistan President Bhutto that he is eager to have friendly relations with India.

According to a group of members of the Kashmir Assembly from Poonch, Rajori, Uri and Tithwal sectors, the people of Kashmir

particularly living just near the ceasefire line, are not at all perturbed by the fresh Pakistani attempts to disturb the peace and tranquility in the State.

They said that not only the Indian security forces but also the people of the broader areas were alert and vigilantly guarding the borders while carrying on their day-to-day activities.

The people were confident that if Pakistan tried to create fresh trouble in any border area of the State, the Indian security forces would again give them befitting reply and foil their plans to grab any part of Kashmir.

The Indian authorities have lodged strong protests with the United Nations observers against the ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces.

China Trades With Racist Regime

New Delhi Mar. 31 : China, according to reports in the West African press, has been importing several thousand tons of chrome from Rhodesia in defiance of a UN mandate forbidding trade with the racist regime of Ian Smith.

The Senegal weekly, *Afrique Nouvelle*, reports in its 14 February issue that Peking has been trading with Rhodesia, importing chrome through re-exporters using Hong Kong and ports in Portuguese-controlled Mozambique.

The weekly published from Dakar states that a delegation from Salisbury visited Peking recently and held talks with senior Chinese officials. At the end of the negotiations, the two sides signed an agreement for increasing Rhodesian export of chrome and graphite to China. *Afrique Nouvelle*, commenting on the deal, said that China while formally condemning facism in Africa, shuts its eyes to the problem of racism in Rhodesia.

Another West African paper, the *Sunday Post* of Nigeria, reported on 19 March that Chinese activities seriously hamper the struggle of African peoples against racism and colonialism. For many years China has been maintaining commercial contracts with the racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia and the Portuguese colonial regime in South-west Africa.

According to the paper, Peking recently bought 70,000 tons of chrome from these countries and is preparing to sign an agreement with Pretoria on further expansion of trade.

China's trade with the racist countries, the paper added, give the racists and colonialist an opportunity to strengthen their oppression.

It should be recalled; in this connection, the US Government recently authorised the import of chrome from Rhodesia in violation of the UN mandate which it had supported in the world organization.

AMAZING FEAT OF MEMORY BY JAIN MUNI

New Delhi, Mar 31 : The delegates from different countries participating in the International Sanskrit Conference were on Monday dazed at the amazing feats of memory power presented by the Jain Muni, Mahendra Kumarji "Deviteeya".

The demonstration of memory power, technically called "Avadhana Vidya", included digital memory, linguistic memory and a number of mathematical problems.

The Muni reproduced a long numeral of 27 digits, a Sanskrit verse, a Persian verse and a French sentence, after hearing all these only once.

He also told the dates of several years back. In one of the items the Muni told the fifth root of a number in crores within a fraction of seconds.

Dr. R. C. Majumdar, the

PATNA DIARY

Mar. 23 : Mr. Sunil Mukherjee, leader of the Bihar Communist Legislature Party, today appealed to the Chancellor, Mr. D. K. Barooah, to take steps for ensuring examinations of the Patna University on due dates and timely publication of results.

Dr. A. K. N. Sinha, President of the Indian Medical Association, was elected a member of the Patna University Senate by the Bihar branch of the I.M.A. today.

Mar. 24 : The Chief Minister of Bihar, Mr. Kedar Pandey to-night ruled out further expansion of his 35-member Cabinet.

Mr. K. N. Sahaya, President, Bihar Organisation of Industrial Employers and former President of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce, has been elected by the Chamber as a member of the Senate of the Patna University.

The Central Government has decided to launch a pilot scheme on crop insurance to assess its financial implications.

A special meeting of the Bihar Cabinet today decided to remit interest on agricultural and natural calamities loans if paid by June 30 this year.

The Bill on reduction of ceiling land will come for consideration during the current session of the legislatures, according to Mr. Chandra Shekhar Singh, Revenue Minister.

Mar. 25 : An irate mob of Patna University students

Big Cabinet....

(Contd. from front page)

at the Cabinet level. In that case, Union Minister of State Debi Prasad Chattopadhyaya, about whose standing in West Bengal the Prime Minister has a high opinion, may be upgraded.

Closely connected with the induction of new Ministers and the appointment of some of the senior Ministers as Governors is the question of reallocation of portfolios. The Ministries likely to be affected in the process are Finance, Railways, Food and Agriculture, Information and Broadcasting, Home, Company Affairs, Industrial Development, Law, External Affairs, Education and some others.

So far as Finance is concerned, the Prime Minister appears to have veered round to the view that banking and insurance should be looked after by a separate Minister. Whether this should be done at the Cabinet level or at a Minister of State level is still to be decided.

eminent historian, who presided over the function, said that though the feats demonstrated by the Muni were beyond the conception of human mind, it proved that India had developed mystic methods of accomplishing things bordering the incredible.

Dr. Majumdar said that in his life of 34 years, he had not come across any man having such tremendous power of memory.

today created a rumpus at the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Mahendra Pratap's residence and manhandled him.

Mr. Jagdish Chandra Mathur, Hindi Adviser to the Central Government, said here today that mass communication media could play an important role in the development of under-developed countries.

Mer. 26 : A large number of teachers, students and their Associations have condemned the attack on the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Mahendra Pratap yesterday by an agitated mob of students and described this incident as "unfortunate".

Mar. 27 : The Bihar State CPI leaders made it clear at informal discussions held here yesterday with the President of the Bihar Pradesh Congress Congress Committee, Mr. Vidyakar Kavi, that the party's support to the Congress Government would be conditional.

The Vice-Chancellor of Patna University, Mr. Mahendra Pratap, broke his three-day fast this evening by taking a little Ganga water and orange juice from the hands of his mother.

The LSG, Housing and Transport Minister, Mr. Rafiq Alam, said he wanted election to the Patna Municipal Corporation to be held at the earliest so that the civic problems of the people could be solved.

The birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira was celebrated with due enthusiasm and solemnity at several places in the town today.

Mar. 28 : The Bihar Cabinet today appointed Mr. P. K. J. Menon as Chief Secretary to the State Government.

Over 2,000 teachers of constituent colleges and Post-Graduate departments of the Universities of Bihar observed one-day token strike today to press their long-standing demands.

The Chief Minister of Bihar, Mr. Kedar Pandey, said here tonight that he would examine the demand of the college teachers of Bihar for payment of dearness allowance at Government rate.

The Revenue Minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar Singh, today justified the detention of Mr. Ghulam Sarwar, Editor of a local Urdu daily, under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, on grounds of "Public and national interest."

Mar. 29 : Mr. Karpoori Thakur (Socialist), a former Chief Minister, was declared the leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly today.

Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav alleged in the Bihar Assembly today that there were about 100 ghost doctors in the State, who regularly received their salary but they were physically not traceable.

The arrear salaries of teachers of non-Government high schools of Bihar totalled about Rs. 2 crores.

States may have their own urban property law

New Delhi, March 31 : The Congress High Command has left to the State Governments to have their own legislation providing ceiling on urban property or to authorise the Union Government to enact a similar legislation for them.

Since urban property is a state subject, request by two or more states to the Centre is required to enable it pass a central legislation on the matter.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Ministers of Congress-led states, A. I. C. C. General Secretary Shankar Dayal Sharma has asked them either to pass the legislatures or authorise the centre to legislate on the subject.

Eight states have so far favoured Central legislation on ceiling on urban property and they had been asked to get a resolution passed in their legislature under article 252 of the constitution requesting the centre to do the same.

Dr. Sharma in his letter has drawn the attention of the chief ministers about the party's election manifesto in the recent assembly poll which stated "the coming into force of the 25th constitution amendment will clear the way for the imposition of ceiling on ownership of urban property based on the family as a unit. Effective steps will also be taken to prevent racketeering in the purchase and sale of urban lands"

It was reported that the high command was of the view that the Centre should pass the legislation during the current budget session. The Chief Ministers have been asked to inform the high command accordingly.

Bangkok Sinking

Bangkok, March 29—Bangkok, known as the Venice of the East until its canals were filled in to make roads, may soon regain its reputation.

Engineers report that the city is sinking.

A three-day symposium at Chulalongkorn University heard engineers report artesian wells were sucking up too much underground water, causing the city sink.

A Bangkok (Krung Thep) is built on the muddy estuary of the Chao Phraya river and at the driest of times is barely two feet above sea-level, the city faces a wet future, the engineers said.

Prof. Chai Muktaphan, of the university's engineering department, said the Government should take action "before it is too late".

The engineers at the Asian Institute of Technology presented a similar report several months ago.

A New Zealand forestry expert predicted in a separate study published a week ago that Bangkok would be under water in a few years, but for different reasons.

The expert, Mr. Keen, in a report to the South-East Asia Treaty Organisation, said indiscriminate slash and burn farming in the mountains of Northern Thailand had ruined water catchment areas, causing the heavy monsoon rain to run on into the lowlands instead of being held in the mountain soil.

Mr. Keen said that if he were planning to take an apartment in Bangkok, it would have to be a penthouse, "because everything down, below is going to be flooded in five or six years."