

Proletarian Era

Volume 35 No. 9
December 15, 2001

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA
Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Rs. 2.00
Air surcharge : 5 P.

Puppet Administration Installed in Afghanistan

The Afghan factions holding talks at Koenigswinter, Bonn, Germany for a week signed a pact on December 5 last setting up an interim administration for Afghanistan that will rule the country for six months, paving the way for a transitional government that will assume power for the next two years. Zahir Shah, the ex-king of Afghanistan, now in exile, will return to convene a meeting of the council of tribal elders (loya jirga) that will form the transitional government. The pact also provides for a UN force to be stationed in Afghanistan.

The interim administration will be headed by Hamid Karzai, a Pashtun commander who is slated to take over power from the present de-facto Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani of Northern Alliance (NA) at Kabul on 22nd December.

The Bonn Meet : US imperialist objectives

It was the United Nations that had proposed a quick setting up of an interim administration in Kabul and announced a meet of the Afghan factions in Bonn. How did the UN get involved and whence did it derive

the authority so that when it called for the meet, the Afghan factions meekly complied? Nobody had referred the issue to the UN, nor had asked it to mediate. This can be explained only if it is realized that the UN acted as the facade from behind which the USA operated and it is the pressure of the US military strength that swayed the events. This should surprise nobody who is familiar with how the USA has been making use of UN over the years to rubber stamp its nefarious designs.

The ground reality has been that
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ISRAEL-PALESTIN QUESTION

Israel, with US blessings, steps up aggression

As long as the US imperialists felt the need to line up Muslim countries in support of their war against Afghanistan, they clearly put pressure on Israel to restrain its acts of aggression against Palestinian people. This was also evident from the talk of President Bush after 11 September about a Palestinian state. But this was just a tactical move, and now in the changed situation when US interests in Afghanistan seem more secure, the US imperialists are singing an altogether different tune, and are fully endorsing the murderous politics and barbaric aggression by the fascist Zionists of Israel under Ariel Sharon. Thus, after a short lull, Israel is again on the warpath against Palestinian people.

Israeli forces have carried out a wave of bombing and missile attacks in Gaza, the southern Khan Yunis refugee camp, as well as in West Bank towns such as Ramallah, Tulkaram and Qalqiliya among others, targeting and destroying in particular offices of Arafat's security forces. They laid waste the Gaza airstrip, the personal heliport of Arafat — the symbol of his power. In one such incident, in Gaza city, for example, F-16 warplanes dropped bombs that flattened a

building of the Preventive Security Service in a residential neighbourhood. As the schoolchildren from several schools, surrounding that building, were fleeing in panic, the planes returned and dropped more bombs. 2 persons died and more than 150 were injured in that place alone, half of them schoolchildren.

The Israeli Zionists and the bourgeois press are portraying these wanton war attacks as mere reprisals

(Contd. on page 6)



SUCI activists defy police barricade at the WB Assembly North Gate on 10th December, 2001. The brutal lathicharge that followed received widespread condemnation. 33 comrades were arrested.

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee condemned attack on Parliament

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI condemning terrorist attack on Parliament issued the following statement to the press on 13th December, 2001:

“We strongly condemn the terrorist attack on Parliament today. The BJP-led NDA government must explain how in a highly security guarded area like Parliament this type of dastardly attack could take place. We demand of the government to make a thorough probe to unearth the truth and punish the culprits.

“We express our deep sense of condolence to the kins of those who lost their lives and demand compensation for their families.”

West Bengal Bandh on 10 January, 2002
AGAINST HIKE IN ELECTRICITY, HOSPITAL CHARGES AND EDUCATION FEES

ELECTIONS IN BANGLADESH

Crisis of bourgeois rule more glaring in this election

(Below is the translation of the analysis of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh, published in its organ *Vanguard*, Oct - Nov. 2001)

In this country, the national and foreign capital have for long been trying to strengthen and stabilize the existing capitalist system by keeping the people helpless and without any alternative of their own by dividing them through artificially created polarization in the two party parliamentary system. This has become more clear in the recently held elections.

It is known to all that the Awami League and the BNP are the two main bourgeois parties in this country. The other bourgeois parties including the Jatiya Party and the Jamet exist as appendages, sometimes of the Awami League and sometimes of the BNP. This time most of them were with the BNP and that was known as the 4-party combination. The evaders of loan repayment, the owners of black money and the musclemen fought the elections in competition under the banner of these two main parties. All the bourgeois media of the country brought only these two parties in the limelight. The entire administration too was divided tilting more on one side and less on the other. None of them observed the existing election rules at all. The candidates of both the parties spent at least more than a crore of rupees each and it is an open secret. But after the elections those candidates submitted returns of election expenses of less than 5 lakh. What a despicable fraud! The Election Commission did not utter a word on this question. The loot and plunder perpetrated by the ruling class during the last 30 years is limitless. The lion's share of the amount allocated in each annual budget is pocketed by the leaders of the party, their pet military and civil officials, and the exploiting businessmen. 180 thousand crore of rupees have been received till now as foreign loan and aid. Out of this amount, 145 thousand crore of rupees have been misappropriated. The tussle between the two parties on the question of sharing this loot is now no more secret. As a result a referee is required to decide through elections which of them will get the bigger slice. This referee is known as caretaker government. Both the sides try to protect the relatively neutral image of this government. This was observed at least in the last two elections. But this also got a jolt through the open no confidence expressed by the Awami League this time.

In the last five years, when the

top leaders of the Awami League came to be known as godfathers of terror, the sons and the pets of the ministers and MPs were spared from any punishment even after taking forcible possession of houses, markets and even after committing murders, etc. When even after the publishing of reports with photo regarding the murder of a man by shooting from a procession led by the MPs, no action was taken against them, attack led by the minister on the peaceful procession under the leadership of the 11-party, beating of the reporters, taking forcible control of hall-hostel-terminal-river-parks — from all these the people wanted a change from the Awami League rule this time. Sensing this mood, the Awami League handed over power after taking various measures to win elections as a last attempt to again come to power. But the swift reshuffling by the caretaker government made the Awami League perplexed and alarmed. The influence of the BNP lobby increased in the bureaucracy as a result of the reshuffles. The arrest of the son of a minister, the raid by the police-BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) at the Hajaribari, the announcement of the deployment of the military etc. went in favour of the BNP and the Awami League was in discomfiture. The allegations against the caretaker government regarding its favouritism to the BNP combination got a firmer footing from the steps taken by it at the last moment like arresting the goons of the Awami League by making a list of them etc. The Rashtrapati, not being a party man of the Awami League and because of the legacy of his past tussle on many counts with the prime minister and the Awami League ministry did not take side with the Awami League. Besides, the attitude of most of the members of the caretaker government was against the coming to power of the Awami League. Both the Awami League and the BNP tried to get the blessings of the US. It is to be remembered that the Awami League sent Abul Hasan, the then minister of state of foreign affairs on 9th July and the BNP sent Riwez Rahaman (the present minister of state of foreign affairs), Morshed Khan and Rezaul Karim on 24th July to Washington to give assurance of their falling in line with the Bush administration on coming to power. Both these parties met Jimmy Carter, the former US

President and meekly submitted to him 5-point promises. But observing the anti-Awami League mood of the people, and as a trick to combat the reaction to the US attack against Afghanistan and export of gas to India, the indirect support of the US, the EU and India ultimately tilted in favour of the BNP.

This time the ADAB, the organization of the NGOs was divided and couldn't extend support and help unitedly to one side as in 1996. The Chamber of Commerce too was divided. All these contributed to the ignominious defeat of the Awami League. But the attempt to foist a two party parliamentary system through understanding between the two sections of the bourgeoisie has received a serious jolt.

The Awami League at first rejected the results of the elections. Later on, even though they have taken oath under the pressure of the national and foreign masters they have declared non-participation in parliament. They have boycotted the bye-elections for the seats vacated by the BNP candidates. Now the leaders of the two parties are engaged in duel over interpretation of facts. Khaleda Zia has declared that a white paper on corruption of the Awami League government will be published within three months. Side by side, Sk Hasina has also declared that though not done during their tenure in office, now they too would publish a white paper on the corruption during the BNP regime of 1991-96.

All the above stated incidents indicate that the hope of the bourgeois theorists that the existing system will stabilize with acquiring of two third majority by the BNP led combination, will be belied in no time.

Protest demonstration at Chennai

The Chennai District Organising Committee of SUCI, held a protest demonstration near Valluvarkottam in Chennai on 5th December morning against the unprecedented hike in the prices of milk, PDS rice, electricity charges, cement, bus fare and cutting down of 30% of the jobs in government offices. The demonstrators raised slogans against the anti-people and unjustified measures and demanded its complete withdrawal immediately.

Addressing the gathering Comrade N Chandrasekar, member, Chennai District Organising

Besides, another feature is noticeable this time. And that is the unmasking of the politics of the Jamat. However much they might be vociferous about religious values and principles, they used black money and muscle power like the principal bourgeois parties to get seats in the parliament. Their hobnobbing with the US imperialism is now not unknown.

In order to become ministers, two main leaders of the Jamat expressed allegiance to Bangladesh and placed wreath at the memorial column in violation of their so-long preached principle; added to it is the incident of expressing greetings at the Durga Puja pandal with garlanding of the Devi by the devotee of Ali Ahasan Mujahed, indeed particularly amusing. Because of all these reasons a situation will be created for the Jamat to easily come to an understanding with the Awami League. Who can say that in future the Awami League too would not take the same path as the BNP took this time to use the vote bank of the Jamat to win elections by riding rough shod over the nationalist sentiment developed through liberation struggle of Bangladesh?

In that case cleavage within the government will be inevitable. From all these it can be said that the crisis of the bourgeois rule has become more glaring through the elections held this time in Bangladesh.

Now the left forces of the country will have to advance by properly taking advantage of the present situation. Then only the attempt of the national and foreign exploiters to keep the people confined to the vicious circle of the Awami League-BNP will be frustrated.

The Chennai District Organising Committee of SUCI termed this attack as an all-out war on the people of Tamilnadu. He said people are already overburdened and finding it very difficult to maintain their day to day life, this brutal attack again on them will leave them nowhere to go. The decision to cut 30% of the jobs in the government offices will add further to the unemployment which already is on the rise due to closure of industries and layoffs.

He appealed to the people to unite and build up protracted mass movement till the government roll back all the hikes and anti-worker policies. *(Photo on page 8)*

SEX RACKET IN MEDICAL HOSTELS IN CALCUTTA**CPI(M) Shields murderers of
Medical Student****I want my son's murderers
brought to justice****Fervent appeal of a bereaved mother**

(This written statement was made at a press conference on 12.11.2001)

On 25th August, last, on Saturday morning my eldest son Soumitra Biswas (4th year student of R.G. Kar Medical College) left home to attend college, saying he would be back for lunch. What an irony, the dead body of our son reached home next day in the afternoon. On Saturday when he did not return home in the afternoon, I repeatedly rang up his friends in the evening at the hostel and their homes trying to get to know his whereabouts. He was a boarder of the LM Hostel at Belgachia. He mainly mixed with his classmates Abhisek Nath, Subhrajyoti Shil, Amit Bala, Raja Pramanik, Aramita Das — with this group. He had tender feelings for Aramita. Then, sometimes he would tell me, she may not be a clean girl.

My son used to tell me everything. We were like friends. I knew that for quite some time he had strained relations with his friends. The contradiction reached a climax centring round superimposing of Amrita's face on a photo of a nude. My son told me his friends regularly made such superimposes. And he could not tolerate such filthy acts any more. On Friday night (24 August) his friends threatened him over the phone because he had informed Aramita about the superimpose. And Aramita had threatened to file police cases against her friends. On 25th August in the morning his friends called him over the phone to hostel to come to a mutual agreement.

When he did not return in the evening of 25th, I became very worried. I asked my brother who stays at Paikpara (close to R.G. Kar Medical College), to go to the hostel. He went there at night to discover that Soumitra committed 'suicide' (!) by hanging himself in the hostel room. He was hanging from a nylon strap of his college bag — a strap that cannot be tied into a noose. A handkerchief was stuffed into his mouth. The door was open. Does anybody commit suicide in this manner? He was perfectly combed, his hair parted in the middle. Although he always used to comb

his hair, parting it on the side. Observing all these it always appeared to us that it is a planned murder.

Once, the police interrogated Amit Bala in front of me. During the interrogation he confessed that Soumitra had been forced to write a confession that he was responsible for Aramita's superimposed photo. I think my son was murdered and then hanged after the extraction of the confession. When she heard about the suicide Aramita raised a hue and cry that it was unbelievable. I think Aramita knows who killed my son.

On 26th August I lodged an FIR in Chitpur and informed the investigating officers everything. Then I repeatedly appealed to the College Principal, Police Commissioner, Health Minister, even the Chief Minister for justice. Five times my application at the Chief Minister's office got lost. Till today I did not get justice. Even the post-mortem report I did not get.

Again and again I went to the SFI led Student's Union. My son was a supporter of the SFI. And his hostel, the L.M. Hostel is controlled by SFI. So I thought, I would get at least some help from them. I greatly suspect Subarna Goswami and Arunava Dhar, two SFI leaders. Each time I went to meet the Principal, they forcefully stopped me from doing so. And these days they are saying that I am deranged. Subarna, Arunava and the president of the student's union Souvik Dubey know everything about the death of my son. Who has the might to extract a confession from my son at an SFI controlled hostel, without their knowledge?

With the agonizing pain in my heart of a mother who lost her son, I appeal to everybody that those who murdered my son must be punished. May not the taking of life in a college that teaches to save lives, be repeated.

Yours sincerely,
Sabita Biswas
Joyhind Palli
Barrackpore

12.11.2001

**Mete out stern punishment to the
murderers of Soumitra Biswas
SUCI State Secretary's letter to the
Chief Minister**

Sir,

Despite your busy schedule you might have gone through the news in the media as to how brutally Soumitra Biswas, a fourth year medical student was murdered on 25th August last, by a clique engaged in sex racket inside the R. G. Kar Medical College hostel, and also how the investigating police conspired to cover up this murder as suicide. You might also have gone through the fervent and heartrending appeal of the bereaved mother Smt. Sabita Biswas, seeking justice at a press conference on 12 November.

Naturally the questions arise :

- 1) How can such type of filthy sex racket continue for long in the heart of the city, despite the (lady) principal of the medical college being close to the ruling CPI(M) and the college union and the above-mentioned hostel being run by the SFI?
- 2) Why has the police tried to pass this murder off as suicide? Why does the police not arrest those SFI leaders whom the mother of murdered Soumitra suspects to be involved in the murder?

In this connection let it be pointed out that not only many leaders and activists of the ruling party of this state are involved in different acts of corruption and

crimes, but because they have government labels on them, the police and administration never as much touch them even, rather shield them. The reality is that there is one kind of law and justice for ruling party leaders, activists and immunity criminals enjoying and an altogether different kind of law and justice for the opposition and the common people. Is this democracy and leftism? We trust that you are able to realize what perilous consequences follow from the misuse of government administration for petty party interest, despite some pragmatic advantage.

We demand :

- 1) Immediate arrest and severe punishment to those involved in the murder.
- 2) Severe punishment to those responsible for the sex racket.
- 3) Punishment to police officers engaged in the conspiracy to hush up the matter by passing it off as suicide.
- 4) Institution of judicial inquiry to investigate the matter in entirety.

With thanks
Provash Ghosh
Secretary,

West Bengal State Committee

13.11.2001

SUCI

SUCI MARCH TO NAGPUR ASSEMBLY

SUCI along with AIMSS, AIDYO, AIDSO, AIKKMS, UTUC-LS marched to the Assembly on 5th December 2001. It started from Yashwant Stadium Maidan on burning issues.

AT TRIVANDRUM, KERALA

All India Save Education Committee Meet

The fight for the cause of education in India is on. Education loving people of the country led by front ranking educationists, intellectuals, scientists, litterateurs have closed their ranks to launch a resolute fight against what is going on in the name of education today. The whole gamut of the concept of secular, scientific and democratic education, once fostered by the great renaissance stalwarts, here and abroad, has suffered a severe jolt at the hands of the present rulers. The Sangh Parivar-brand Hindutvavadis conspire to poison young minds with bigotry, obscurantism, unhistoric and unscientific concepts. Over and above, education is gradually becoming dearer with the government giving free reins to market laws operating in this field.

leaders. The report placed at the outset of the meeting by the General Secretary Shri Dipankar Roy, noted with indignation the RSS Chief K Sudarshan's "fussilade of vituperation" on the leaders of the movement in an RSS meet at Nagpur on October 26 that "Anything that linked India with its glorious past was anathema to these Euro-Indians". But against whom the RSS ideologues are directing these canards? The report of the General Secretary very appropriately noted: "They are the last representatives of the age of the Renaissance and freedom movement of India, an age, resplendent with the real glory wrought in the domains of science, culture, literature and philosophy. Even at the fag end of their lives, these septuagenarians,

resistance struggle throughout the country." He placed an account how the movements gained ground in states, how the authorities were forced to roll back their decisions on the issues like fees hike, etc., under the combined protest of the students and guardians."

The members from the states present in the meeting tried to enrich the report further while participating in the discussion on the report.

In the morning session on 29th, presided over by Prof Mukherjee, the welcome address was delivered by Prof Karim. Prof Karim in his speech observed: "The authority responsible for running the education have taken very decisive steps to communalise, globalise and commercialise the education."

geographically. Problems like commercialisation, communalisation are not our making, but we have to bear the brunt of them. ..." He appealed: "Awake, arise and fight — a firebrand struggle is the need of the hour."

In this session Prof Mukherjee, Prof Karim, Prof Sukomal Dasgupta, Sri Manik Mukherjee, Dr Venugopal and others deliberated at length on how to further the save education movement to resist the attacks by government. They adopted resolution to bring the movement, in various forms, to the grass-roots level by forming save education committees at schools, colleges, localities and district level, and taking up various programmes, in order to lift the struggle to the stage of resistance movement.



Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer delivering his inaugural speech on 30th November at Kerala Save Education Convention

while the NDA government shirks its financial responsibility. Public reaction is mounting at the growing adamancy with which the minister in the concerned department and the leaders of various hues in the Sangh Parivar push forward the disastrous education policy. The mood of the people was very clear in the deliberations of the recent meeting of the All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) held in Trivandrum, Kerala on 29th November and the convention of its Kerala chapter on the following day. The AISEC with its rich tradition of waging resolute struggle to save education from the days of Rajiv Gandhi's National Policy on Education 1986, and at its helm the eminent personalities like Justice VR Krishna Iyer, Prof Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, Prof N A Karim and others, has had so much impact on people's mind that the apprehensive saffron brigade has started propagating canards against the

octogenarians and even nonagenarians dare to take to streets as standard bearer of truth and justice in fulfillment of the behest of the great pioneers of our modern education. Even when their flesh tends to flag, the spirit never." The General Secretary was jubilant to report the response to the call of the AISEC: "It is really heartening that scientists, intellectuals and education loving people have not taken things lying down. The spirit of protest is everywhere in the air. This spirit slowly but steadily is being congealed into a mighty



Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee addressing the Convention on 30th November at Muslim Association Hall

Justice Iyer in his presidential speech in the second session on the same day was very emotional. He observed: "The issue is not simple, it transcends the country

On 30th the AISEC held a press conference addressed by Justice Iyer and other leading members of the committee.

(News of Convention on page 6)



A section of the overcrowded Muslim Association Hall

US machinations to suit imperialist design

(Contd. from page 1)

while the USA carried out widespread devastating bomb and rocket attacks indiscriminately all over Afghanistan to lay the country waste, it was the NA that bore the brunt of actual fighting and captured large areas from the Taliban including Kabul. So, in the normal course of things, either feud and fighting between the NA and the other Afghan factions would have continued or else, in case of a consensus being arrived at by them, the NA could well have preponderance in the resultant set up.

This does not suit US imperialism at all. Shelter given by the Taliban to Osama bin Laden provided a handy pretext to US imperialism to invade Afghanistan. In doing so, the USA has been guided by the multiple imperialist objective of strongly establishing its presence in central Asia thus destabilizing both Russia and China, extending its hegemony in the oil-rich Caspian-central Asian regions, gaining control over the vast untapped oil and natural gas resource of Afghanistan itself and over the very lucrative drug traffic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Moreover, a specific immediate objective is to establish a pipeline route for transporting central Asian oil through Afghanistan and Pakistan to an export terminal on the coast of Arabian Sea to reap superprofits by selling it in Asian markets. To achieve this, it is essential that the USA must instal its puppet government in Afghanistan and not one in which the NA, with its close linkage with Russia, predominated.

That is why the USA counselled the NA not to enter Kabul even as the NA forces were closing in on the city, in order to gain time to have a more advantageous alternative worked out. The NA did not oblige and that queered the pitch somewhat. This had now to be offset at the negotiation table.

US machinations carry the day at Bonn

The first step was to dilute the strong NA presence by ensuring that supporters of Zahir Shah, the long-deposed king of Afghanistan in exile in Italy, attend the Bonn meet in strength. There was lobbying by the western world, especially by Britain, in favour of Zahir Shah as being the only figurehead who could unite the Afghan factions. In the event, four delegations met and conferred at Bonn. Besides the NA delegation,

the other major one was a 8-member delegation sent by Zahir Shah. The remaining two represented exiled groups in Cyprus and Peshawar. Press reports have it that from the very beginning, the delegations were under strong pressure from the UN, the US and the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan to agree to a formula for an interim administration and the stationing of a UN security force in the country. The USA and the neighbouring countries posted observers at the talks, while Lakhdar Brahimi, UN special envoy for Afghanistan, conducted and piloted the proceedings.

For long had the NA been in close relationship with Russia and enjoyed its support. Now, with the talks on, Russia pledged support to Rabbani's de-facto NA government in Kabul against US pressure to the contrary. But the Russian effort failed ultimately, firstly because the NA itself is not a monolithic whole but a combination of factions not working in unison but exerting pulls and counter pulls in different directions. There is the Wahdat faction composed of Hazaras from central Afghanistan who are of the Shia sect as against the majority Sunnis. Then there is the Uzbek faction led by the warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum. And of course, there are the followers of Rabbani.

Secondly, the NA factions represent just some of the ethnic minorities of Afghanistan. It is the ethnic Pashtuns inhabiting southern Afghanistan who are the majority, constituting 40% of the total population. And the pashtuns constitute about 15% of the total Pakistani population too. It is to be remembered that the bulk of the Afghan Taliban were Pashtuns, that Pakistani Army officers and military advisers had been for long guiding the Taliban operations against the NA forces and that many Pashtun Taliban supporters from Pakistan went over to Afghanistan after the US bombardments began there, to fight jihad alongside the Taliban. So, Pakistan naturally exerted the not inconsiderable leverage it has with the USA to ensure safety of the Pakistani Taliban and proper Pashtun representation in the interim Afghan administration to be chalked out. It appears that this concern of Pakistan came handy to the USA and the USA made use of the Pak pull to block the dominance of NA in the proposed interim administration, while allowing numerous Pakistanis fighting alongside the Taliban, now trapped

and besieged by NA forces, to be airlifted to safety by Pakistan. After all, the USA had to ensure that its puppet and not Russia's would head the interim set up. And of course, a puppet can serve its master better if it is seen to be representing the majority ethnic group rather than the minorities.

Thirdly, given the present geopolitical scenario, any Russian attempt to sponsor and promote its proteges was bound to be a nonstarter in the face of far superior US economic and military might.

So, Rabbani's bid to become head of the new administration petered out. As a last minute attempt, he tried to enlist the support of even Pakistan, NA's enemy of long standing, and expressed willingness to meet Pakistan President General Musharraf. But all this came to naught. Rabbani said on 30.11.01 that his delegation had been pressured to agree to name members of interim bodies and accept an international security force. (*The Statesman*, 1.12.01), The NA delegation eventually agreed to an interim administration without Rabbani as its head and was pressurized into accepting a UN peace keeping force. As a sign of growing fissures within the NA, Abdul Quadir, NA governor of the Pashtun province of Nangarhar, walked out of the talks to protest against the lack of Pashtun representation. It cannot be ruled out that Russia and India struck a deal with the USA to gain some advantages from it in exchange for withdrawing support to the NA. At any rate, Russia and India were not found in a strong supporting role to Rabbani and the NA at the decisive hour.

Diplomats of advanced imperialist capitalist countries, notably the USA, monitoring (actually pressurizing) the talks, let it be known that Rabbani "was not seen as an unifying force" and that the former king Zahir Shah as the administrative head was not considered a "practical option" (Report in *The Statesman*, 2.12.01) After tough bargaining over power sharing, the participating Afghan factions finalized composition of the 30-member cabinet of the interim administration headed by Hamid Karzai.

USA instals puppet administration : voices of dissent

So far, the USA has secured, in essence, what it wanted, Karzai is a

Pashtun, but not a Taliban. What is more, he is something of a US creation. Karzai, who had been a deputy foreign minister in a pre-Taliban government in Kabul, entered Afghanistan soon after the US strikes began in Afghanistan on October 7. His mission was to organise a revolt among Pashtun tribals supporting the Taliban. At the same time, another anti-Taliban tribal leader Abdul Haq was engaged in a similar mission further north in Afghanistan. Haq was captured and executed by the Taliban. Karzai too came close to being captured during a gun fight while he was being chased by the Taliban inside Uruzgan province in Afghanistan. But he escaped Haq's fate. How ? The US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld has "announced that US helicopters had rescued him and ferried him to safety in Pakistan before depositing him back inside Afghanistan for another try at raising a revolt". (Report in *The Statesman*, dated 9.12.01.) The same report says that diplomatic sources hold that Pakistan has accepted Karzai as the Afghan head not just because he is a Pashtun but also from the realization that Karzai has strong backing from Washington.

There is no doubt whatsoever that Karzai is a US puppet, placed into position by US pressure and diplomatic manoeuvres taking advantage of tribal, ethnic, factional feuds in Afghanistan. His strength stems from his US links. How secure is the US hold on Karzai has already been demonstrated within just the few days that have passed since the accord. On December 6, for whatever reason, Karzai reportedly told the CNN about the Taliban chief Mullah Omar: "If he doesn't (renounce terrorism), then he won't be safe. If he does, he would be afforded protection." But the former Taliban envoy to Pakistan, Mullah Zaeef, said the Taliban militia had agreed to surrender Kandahar on condition that Mullah Omar would not be put on trial. "They've promised us that Mullah Omar will live in his home and there'll be no fighting with him. They'll protect the honour and life of every Taliban fighter." The US defence secretary Rumsfeld reacted sharply. "He iterated the USA's stand that Omar and other senior Taliban leaders, as well as Osama bin Laden shouldn't be allowed to escape accountability for their support to terrorism. And he warned that if such a deal was struck by Omar and its opponents, the USA's ties with the anti-militia

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Put US-Israel, perpetrators of terrorist attacks, in the dock

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or punishment for the recent suicide attacks by Hamas militants in Jerusalem and Haifa. Calling the suicide bombers terrorists of Al-Qaida type who need to be crushed and against whom war must be waged, they make Arafat personally responsible. The fascist Zionists are warning that there would be even harsher 'reprisals' if he did not crack down on the terrorists. "The purpose was to send a clear military message ... Friends, we've had enough, take the responsibility that you have and stop the terrorism", said the Israeli army spokesman, Brig. Gen. Ron Kitrey. (*The Times of India*, Dec. 5) Israel is brushing aside the arrest of more than 150 Islamic Hamas militants by Arafat's security forces as mere window dressing, while at the same time destroying the very apparatus for this with missile attacks! Yet endorsing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's declared war on terror, the White House too demanded of Arafat to crack down on militant Palestinians. But who is Sharon to declare war on terror, whose hands are dripping with the blood of countless civilian Palestinians from worst acts of state terrorism perpetrated under his supervision as army colonel and general, starting in the early fifties, if not earlier.

Actually such a one-sided portrayal of events, such belligerent rhetoric, is but an attempt to blot out a totally different reality, a diabolical design by the present Zionist ruling clique. Though suicide bombings of civilian targets as the recent ones in Jerusalem and Haifa, that killed 26 civilians, can by no means be supported by any right-thinking person, it must not be forgotten that these are acts of desperation by people who after decades of legitimate freedom struggle are driven to the wall, a people that has been driven out of their homeland and grievously wronged for decades at the hands of Israeli Zionists who have been violating all UN resolutions and international laws with the support of the US imperialists. These are acts of desperation of a people who have to live under Israeli occupation — a people whose millions are under suffocating siege within the scattered Palestinian administrated areas that constitute but a tiny fraction of Gaza and West Bank, discriminated against, humiliated, and

economically ruined while at the same time Israel is continuously building and fortifying Jewish settlements at a feverish pace, illegally, in order to forestall Palestinian claims for and viability of their own state. These suicide attacks are acts of desperation by a people whom the Jewish settlers are free to attack without being answerable before the law. If the isolated suicide attacks by Hamas constitute terrorism, then what can the repeated, deliberate acts of assassination by Israel under Sharon of no less than 80 picked and chosen Palestinian leaders, through missile attacks in the last 14 months alone be called, not to speak of the wanton demolition and even bombing of civilian Palestinian houses? Are these not acts of Israeli state terrorism of a much higher magnitude, which is also born out by the fact that of the over 1000 people killed in this period more than 800 are Palestinians.

Though misguided, these militants can by no means be called terrorists, but are engaged in freedom struggle. In this context, however, the need to conduct such freedom struggle on the basis of a correct anti-imperialist base political line cannot be overemphasized. Still, these suicide attacks did not come out of the blue, all of a sudden, but were the result of extreme provocation, made by the Sharon ruling clique. It was the pre-planned

killing of senior Hamas leader, Mahmoud Abu Hanoud by Israel, and of five Palestinian children in a refugee camp, among others — in other words such extremely provocative acts of state terrorism by Israel that sparked the recent suicide attacks by the Hamas militants.

One of the reasons may be found in a policy speech on Nov. 19, of US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who talked of a Palestinian state, of an end to the occupation, of freezing the settlements, and of sharing Jerusalem. But he also laid down the preconditions being put forward by the Sharon government for any talks — namely, that the Palestinian Authority make arrests and put an end to the resistance. A period of nonviolence by the Palestinians was a precondition for negotiations. He announced that to get the "peace process" going again, a delegation was to go to the region that included Anthony Zinni, former head of the US Central Command in the Middle East and Central Asia.

According to the Alternative Information Center, a Palestinian-Israeli organization based in Israel, "The summary execution of the Hamas military commander ... ordered by the Israeli government was clearly timed to coincide with the arrival to the region of the American envoys, led by Gen. Anthony Zinni. Israel's assassination

of Abu Hanoud crowned a bloody week in which more than 14 Palestinians were killed, among them five children, six Palestinians were assassinated and hundreds of houses were damaged."

It continued, "the execution ... was an attempt to establish a new reality that will make the envoys' task impossible to implement." (*Workers World*, Dec. 13)

This is only one aspect. The other has even more sinister implications. Israel has not only demanded the arrest and crackdown on Hamas and other Islamic militants, but militants of Arafat's own organization — the Fatah, obviously with a view to bring about further split in the ranks Palestinian people, or worse, even civil warlike conditions, in order to completely liquidate the Palestinian liberation struggle — which is a thorn in the flesh of all the reactionary regimes in the region as well as the US imperialists. They are doing so in the name of fighting terrorism, taking advantage of the present international situation. No words are strong enough to condemn this heinous politics and in their deep hour of crisis Palestinian people need more than ever support and solidarity of all freedom loving people throughout the world to put pressure on US-Israeli imperialist goons to desist from this murderous war of aggression and repression of an entire people.

Kerala Save Education Convention

In continuation with the All India Save Education Committee meeting held in Trivandrum on 29th November, Kerala chapter of the committee organised a state level convention on 30th November which was inaugurated by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, president of AISEC. Hundreds of participants from different walks of life gathered at the Muslim Association Hall, Trivandrum on this occasion. The convention started at 11 AM. Dr N.A. Karim, former Pro-VC of Kerala University, renowned scientist and a senior member of the presidium of the All India Committee and other distinguished members from different states and a host of luminaries from Kerala were also present.

Justice Krishna Iyer in his

inspiring speech urged the people to unleash a determined struggle to prevent the onslaught of commercialisation, saffronisation which kill the fountain head of values of human civilization. DPEP, the brain child of World Bank which is disguised as child centred methodology, is not only a scheme hostile to child development, but it also dooms generations to come.

Referring to Aldous Huxley's novel *Brave New World*, he showed how one could manufacture persons who will be shudras, who never read and who will hate books. He said that DPEP is creating 'bibliophobia' among children. In the DPEP, teachers are mere silent onlookers to the child's activities.

Touching upon the trial and tribulations of the modern society, he

said that the end result of commercialisation would be the transformation of the cream of Indian intellect into export commodities. The situation is so alarming; what we need is a new awakening, a renaissance.

Dr Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, the chief guest in the convention, said that it is ridiculous to argue that our nation has to go to the World Bank or IMF to meet its basic educational needs. A mere 1% of the fabulous defence allocation, if set apart for education, is sufficient to give education to all.

Prof Sukomol Dasgupta, one of the senior members of the presidium of AISEC also spoke. He showed that as the World Bank, IMF and other funding agencies were

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All-round democratisation of Afghan Society – the crying need

(Contd. from page 5)

groups would 'take a turn to the south', implying a halt to the military and economic cooperation." (Reports in *The Statesman*, 7.12. & 9.12.01) This cut Karzai to size and on the very next day, echoing the US statement, he vowed that Mullah Omar would have to face trial!

It is not that the various Afghan factions are reconciled to Karzai leadership and none of them have seen through the US game. Some of them have already spoken out against the accord. Uzbek warlord General Dostum has charged that his faction has not been fairly represented in the cabinet and announced a boycott of the new administration. He has gone on record saying that like him, the Shia Hazara leader Khalili too has objections to the new administration. Ethnic Pashtun spiritual leader Gailani has also charged that the Bonn accord was unjust. (Report in *The Times of India*, 7.12.01) Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of a faction that was not invited to the Bonn meet, has said that the accord is a US solution imposed on the Afghans; the meet was organized by the UN only in name; it is the USA which has pulled the strings from behind to install a puppet government. (Report in *The Ananda Bazar Patrika*, 7.12.2001)

The Afghan situation is in a flux and may continue to remain so. But the fact is that the USA has got itself firmly entrenched in Afghan politics and, with the installation of Karzai at the helm of affairs, has taken a decisive step towards establishing a full-fledged puppet government in Afghanistan in pursuance of its imperialist objectives.

NA, India Government's favourite, no better than Taliban

The Indian government, following its hegemonistic design of gaining a foothold in Afghan affairs, has for long been maintaining close relationship with the NA and aiding it as a counter to Pakistani backing provided to the Taliban. Taking the cue from this, there has been a **tendency in Indian monopoly press to paint the NA as a body of angels. But nothing could be farther from**

the truth. The NA and the Taliban both are given to medieval tribal factionalism, obscurantism and bigotry and represent different hues of fanatic fundamentalism. This is what Saher Saba of the Revolutionary Association for the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) had to say about the NA in Calcutta on 29.11.01: "Alliance is only another face of the Taliban. ... The whole truth is that the Northern Alliance leaders are as fundamentalist, criminal and anti-democratic as their Taliban counterparts. They were in power between 1992 and 1996 and perpetrated the worst crimes against Afghan women." (Report in *The Statesman*, 30.11.01). Even after the recent capture of Kabul by the NA, women were not allowed to go to cinema halls for "security reasons". Members of Women In Afghanistan have twice been refused permission to take out procession celebrating freedom. Younus Qanooni, interior minister of the NA who now continues to hold the same post in the presently formed interim administration, said that the processions were prohibited due to "security reasons!" Amnesty International Report No. ASA II/003/1995 dated 18.5.2001 has stated that the NA, during its rule between 1992 and 1996 considered rape and

sexual torture means of striking the ultimate terror in the defeated and as just rewards for the soldiers. Wearing of burkha (veil) was made compulsory in Afghanistan in 1994. Debarring women from education began even before the Taliban came into power. There were numerous instances of flogging of women and many women were stoned to death on charge of adultery. There were instances of a teacher being killed by soldiers because he taught girl students, of soldiers raping the daughter after killing the father, of mass raping by Mujahids and much worse. (Article in *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, 11.12.01) The same Younus Qanooni referred to above came on a 3-day official visit to India on December 7 last, met union ministers Advani and Jaswant Singh and lauded the BJP-led government's role in Afghanistan!

Task of the hour

US imperialism has now made decisive inroads into Afghanistan, taking advantage of the Afghan factional feuds. A fragmented Afghanistan is what is desirable to US imperialism to attain its imperialist objectives. Through adjustments with the Afghan factional warlords, the path has now

been cleared for stationing a multinational imperialist force in their country under the banner of the UNO.

The Afghan people should realize that it is the USA that nurtured and strengthened the Taliban and Osama bin Laden for long. Now that the USA has fallen out with Laden, it has used Afghans to kill Afghans in a fratricidal war in the name of fighting terrorism, devastated the whole country turning it into a desert, brought it down upon its knees before the USA, utterly dependent on the USA for food, relief, shelter and medicine, and has now foisted a puppet government on their country: For ages, the Afghans suffered under the rule of one set of tyrants after another. Through the present puppet government, the USA is about to impose slavery on the Afghan nation in a new form. Freedom and democracy remain far cries.

The path to emancipation lies in a thorough democratization of the Afghan society and for this, the only course is to organise democratic ~~movements on Afghan soil under~~ correct leadership and to develop it ~~from~~ strength to strength. And it is only a correct Marxist-Leninist party that can provide this leadership.

Kerala Save Education Convention

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investing huge amount of money in the field of education of our country in the interest of the imperialist MNCs, so also Ambani-Birla Commission is funding crores of rupees in the interest of Indian corporate sector. This Commission has clearly stated that investment in educational field in today's perspective fetches maximum profit — more than in the agricultural, industrial and even infrastructural fields. We, therefore, find a convergence, if not connivance, of interest between the ruling class of the USA and India.

Dr N.A. Karim in his presidential address told that the dreams of the makers of our Constitution are shattered. With **pain** he pointed out that man making mission of education has been **thrown to the winds today by our pseudo-democratic rulers. He urged**

the sober sections of the society not only to extend support but to join the historic save education movement.

Shri B. K. Rajagopal, Secretary, Kerala State Save Education Committee moved the main resolution which was adopted by the convention.

On various issues confronting education discussions were held thereafter. Papers on 'Education in the background of globalisation', 'commercialisation of education', 'Saffronisation of Education', and 'DPEP and SSA' (Sarva Siksha Abhiyan) were placed by Prof P. A. Vasudevan, N. Subramanian, G.S.Padmakumar and Jyothikrishnan ~~respectively~~. Dr D. Surendranath, Dr **C. K. Rajan**, George Mullaikkara, Dr **K. P. Godakumar**, Advocate P. A. Pouran, Sri Rajan Cherukkad, Prof Johnikutty Ozhukayil and Sri D. Narendran were among those who

took part in the discussions. Sri Manik Mukherjee, one of the leading figures and a member of the presidium of AISEC, was also present.

Dr N. A. Karim has been elected president of Save Education Committee, Kerala Chapter and B. K. Rajagopal its Secretary, Mr Pavanan, Prof M. K. Sanu and Dr Nandiyodu Ramachandran were elected Vice-presidents. N. Subramanian, P. N.Thankachan, P.P.Rajeevan and M. Jyothiraj were elected secretariat members.

The concluding session was presided over by Dr Nandiyodu Ramachandran, a veteran in the educational cultural field of the state and a member of the Expert Committee appointed by the Kerala government to review DPEP curriculum. Sri Dipankar Roy, All India General Secretary, AISEC gave an inspiring concluding speech.

AIDSO Protest at Parliament and Convention

Protest at Parliament

Hundreds of students from the North Zone units of AIDSO protested at Parliament on November 21 against growing commercialisation and communalisation of education. Students marched in a rally from Ram Lila Maidan to Parliament Street carrying placards and banners, and raising slogans denouncing the spiralling cost of education, the promotion of privatisation by the BJP-led NDA government and the systematic communalisation of syllabi by agents of the Sangh Parivar appointed to educational bodies by the government.

The demonstration was addressed by Comrades Pratap Samal, All India President, Swapan Chatterjee, All India General Secretary, Jagannath Varma, All India Vice President, and secretariat members Ram Avtar Sharma and Om Prakash. Rajmal Sharma (Rajasthan), Prakash Saini (Delhi), Inderjit (Punjab), Sunil Gopal (Madhya Pradesh), Ramesh Chander (Haryana), Pushpender (Uttar Pradesh) and Asit Mohanty (Madhya Pradesh) also spoke.

The speakers pointed out the disastrous impact of liberalisation and privatisation on education. They, among others, criticised the World Bank supported DPEP. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, where central and state governments shirk their responsibility and passed on the financial and administrative burden to people, came in for severe criticism.

The speakers pointed out that scientific and secular education have been a casualty even in the years of Congress rule. The BJP and its cohorts within the NCERT are picking up the idea of value education that had been introduced during the Congress period and are using it to propagate their communal ideology. This is a threat to the young and future generations, who will grow up with a sectarian view of society. The promotion of religion in the National Curriculum Framework of school education, the rewriting of history textbooks, and the introduction of astrology and 'karmakand' reveal a sinister design.

A students' delegation submitted a memorandum to the HRD Ministry.

Convention

The AIDSO held its North Zone Convention, attended by students

from northern Indian states, at Shankar Lal Hall, New Delhi on 22nd November last. It was organised to protest against the commercialisation and communalisation of education.

The Convention was addressed by Shri Anil Sadgopal, Professor, Central Institute of Education; Prof. Arun Kumar, Centre for Economic Study and Planning, JNU; Prof. Narendra Sharma, Reader, Jakir Hussain College, Comrade Ashutosh Banerji, member of the Central Committee, SUCI; Comrade Pratap Samal, All India President, AIDSO; Comrade Swapan Chatterjee, All India General Secretary. The Convention was chaired by Jagannath Varma, All India Vice President.

Prof. Arun Kumar said, inter alia, that the ruling classes in India have decided to advance their own interest by becoming partners of the global ruling classes. He also said that elite Indian intellectuals no longer care about problems faced by their own people, but focused on such research as will help promote their careers in prestigious foreign universities.

Prof. Anil Sadgopal said that the government aimed to provide 'frontline' education in space, biotech and IT to a few. The majority who would not get the benefits of such elite education would be indatinated with value-education as outlined in the NCERT's National Curriculum Frame Work. The NCERT is communalising syllabus under the garb of value education.

Comrade Ashutosh Banerji said that the students movement needs to have a definite class outlook if it is to achieve the demand for secular scientific education. In a class divided society the ruling class uses education to spread its class outlook and rule over the oppressed classes. A genuine students' movement will require its own class outlook to counter this.

Professor Narendra Sharma said that the objective of education is to prepare individuals with a scientific and democratic outlook who will serve society.

Students' leaders from Punjab, Haryana, UP, MP. and Delhi recounted their struggle against fee hike as well other educational problems.

A resolution condemning commercialisation and communalisation of education was adopted unanimously by the Convention.

Build up Invincible Movement On to Bangla Bandh on 10 January 2002

The clarion call of the SUCI has reached all nooks and corner of West Bengal. The new phase of movement against fresh state government hikes in power tariff, hospital charges, education fees and against other attacks on the people as well as against commercialisation and saffronisation of education, fresh onslaughts on the industrial and agricultural workers by the BJP-led central government, has started from 1 December. Street corner meetings, campaign at electricity cash counters, students demonstrations, signature campaign, demonstrations and deputations to hospital authorities, road blockades and other forms of movement are on with evergrowing mass participation and cooperation in many forms.

The mass violation of law by the SUCI at the northern State Assembly gate on 10 December in the face of severe police lathicharge and indiscriminate arrests have hammered home to million minds the message of conscious, organised, sustained battle.

And on that very day, the 10 December, Comrade Provas Ghosh, State Secretary, SUCI, gave a call of BANGALA BANDH on 10 January, 2002 against the anti-people policies of the central and the state governments.

The SUCI has called upon the people to enroll in thousands as volunteers, to build up people's committees at grass roots level and to take the movement from strength to strength on the basis of higher culture and ethics along the path illumined by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat.

ORISSA

Joint protest against police firing

SUCI and CPI, held protest meeting at Jeypore town on 15.11.01 against police firing on 30.10.01 and 12.11.01. Police twice fired on a tribal gatherings at Raighar block. 5 innocent tribal people were killed. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Y. Raula

and addressed by Comrades S. S. Das, S. N. Bisoi of SUCI and P. Mohanty, R.K.Das of C.P.I. The speakers condemned the firing and killing and called for to develop mass movements against police brutality. People's participation was spontaneous.

AIMSS movement in Durg

In Durg, Chhattisgarh recently the All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan (AIMSS) organised movements against rape and murder of Madhavi, a Class XII student. She was first abducted from home and crime committed on her. The AIMSS condemned police inaction to arrest the culprits and organised programmes against callousness of the police and administration. It

urged people to develop movements against atrocities on women.

Simultaneously, movements were organised against people's burning problems.

AIMSS held several demonstrations at the Collector's office and the Municipal office.

The movements were organised during October and November last.

SUCI Chennai protests price-hike



Chennai District Committee, SUCI, held protest demonstration on 5th December, 2001 near Valluvarkottam against price rise of milk, PDS rice, power tariff, bus fare and 30% retrenchment of govt jobs. (News on page 2)