

Editorial

Tuesday, March. 13, 2018

Proletarian Feminism and the Path to Women's Liberation

Women of the popular classes are an important part of the rise of the struggle of the masses. Today in the heart of women's organizations a struggle is beginning between proletarian feminism and bourgeois feminism. Mothers, wives, workers, fighters, are searching for a path, therefore it is of utmost importance that it be the ideology of the working class which guides their endeavors.

In every society, the predominant ideas reflect the economic and political base that sustains that society. These ideas are transmitted primarily through education and the media. Therefore, ideas around women also become detached from that base. In our country, capitalism is backward and has semi-feudal foundations, thus the ideology and conception of women's role is backward and feudal. In other words, historically reactionary and patriarchal.

From there we understand that the idea of women as inferior to men did not fall from the sky. Neither did it arise with capitalism, rather, it is much older, in fact, it was born as a product of the emergence of class society and private property, centuries ago. Because of this, women's oppression can only disappear in communist society, where private property no longer exists in the means of production.

In India, although they want to depict a "modern" country, women are politically, economically, and culturally undervalued. The miserable conditions of life that bureaucratic capitalism (capitalism which is backward and submitted to foreign capital) imposes, fall most heavily on women of the popular classes.

Proletarian feminism explains that the woman of the popular classes is exploited and oppressed, first, for being part of the people, and secondarily, for being a woman. In other words, she suffers oppression based on class and sex. Because of that, not all women find themselves in the same trench, because there are also exist women who exploit the people, pertaining to the monopoly and usurer classes of our country.

On the other side, we have women of the popular classes, who constitute the immense majority: workers, peasants, temporary workers, domestic employees, migrants, small traders, students, intellectuals and professionals, etc. All of them, in addition to working in productive gainful employment, work in the home raising children and supporting the family without payment. It is also these women of the popular classes who are the strongest in the face of adversity when they fight for housing, for wages in the strike, or the right to education.

Bourgeois and petit-bourgeois feminism deal with the problem primarily from a cultural point of view, decoupling it from its political and economic base. And even worse, they propose an individualist path of liberation, which will never conquer rights for women, because as we have indicated, the origins of women's oppression are in the social relations of production. And because of that, we must fight to transform them, destroying the old State that defends them, adhering ourselves to the struggle for New Democratic Revolution.

Within the views that divide us as a people, there are the more recalcitrant positions, which affirm that the problem is that men "are bad," while others claim that women's liberation would be associated almost exclusively with sexual liberty and even with social advancement, centering on competing with men. At the same time, out of a lack of understanding of the material and class base, petit-bourgeois feminism looks for the solution to the problem of double oppression in an individual liberation: "my body, my choice," "I liberate myself," and not in the collective struggle against class and sex oppression by women of the popular classes together with their male counterparts.

The idea that women can sweep away male chauvinism through individual liberation is an illusion, seeing as the root of the problem is found in the political and economic base of our society. Only by changing this will we be able to sweep away the male chauvinism which is characteristic of patriarchy. Consequently, all steps toward uniting women to the struggle and combating male chauvinism at the same time are an advance in this sense. In turn, it is the men of the people who actively unite with the struggle that go about combating the male chauvinist ideas in which they have been educated, advancing together with their female counterparts.

Women of the popular classes who are organizing themselves, who are daring to march, debate, and search for the path to liberation needs to be appreciated. Brave women of the popular classes who advance their class position, opposing every form of oppression and exploitation, lifting their head to struggle against the abuses and violence exerted against them, just as a growing number of male counterparts are doing.

Without the emancipation of women, there will be no emancipation of humanity. Without the struggle of class conscious women, there will be no revolution. The "woman question" is not a minor matter. The role of women is crucial for a change.

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More State News

Several efforts made to save Sangai, Nongin & Shirui Lily:

New Delhi, March 13:

K. Bhabananda Singh, Member of Parliament from Manipur, in an unstarred question, in the Rajya Sabha today enquired about the efforts made by the Central Government to save Sangai (brow antlered deer), Nongin (Mrs. Hume Pheasant) and Shirui Lily flower found in Manipur; and the details of funds made to the State for conservation of the above endangered flora and fauna of Manipur during the last three years, year-wise and project-wise. Further, he also put the questions whether objectives of the above projects could be achieved and whether poaching of Sangai was detected frequently; the details thereof and the details of penal action taken against the culprits.

Replying to his question, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Dr. Mahesh Sharma stated that several efforts have been made by the Ministry of

Environment, Forest & Climate Change to save Sangai (brow antlered deer), Nongin (Mrs. Hume Pheasant) and Shirui Lily flower found in Manipur. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has provided financial assistance to the State Government of Manipur for conservation and protection of Sangai (brow antlered deer), Nongin (Mrs. Hume Pheasant) and Shirui Lily flower in Protected Areas under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) as per the proposal submitted by the State Government of Manipur. Under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) during the last three years 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17; a sum of Rs. 18.97 lakhs, Rs. 64.431 lakhs and Rs. 112.832 lakhs respectively has been provided for Keibul Lamjao National Park; Rs. 12.18 lakhs, Rs 15.61 lakhs and Rs.49.14

lakhs for Yangoupokpi Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary; Rs7.39 lakhs, Rs 12.71 lakhs and Rs. 10.39 lakhs for Shiroi National Park; Rs. 2.87lakhs, Rs. 6.638 lakhs and Rs.11.08 lakhs for Jiri- Makru Wildlife Sanctuary; Rs. 3.63 lakhs, Rs. 6.166 lakhs and Rs.14.56 lakhs for Bunning Wildlife Sanctuary; and Rs.3.68 lakhs in 2016-17 for Kailam Wildlife Sanctuary. Total amount released to Manipur under scheme during the three years period are Rs.45.04 lakhs, Rs.105.555 lakhs and Rs. 201.682 lakhs. In addition to the above, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has provided financial assistance for recovery programme of Sangai under 'Recovery programme for saving critically endangered species' of Central Sponsored Scheme-IDWH. Details of funds released to Manipur under the programme during the last three years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are Rs. 79.152

-Dr. Mahesh Sharma lakhs, Rs. 131.189 lakhs and Rs. 128.48 lakhs.

An amount of Rs 130 Lakhs was released to Wildlife Institute of India for 'Endangered Species Recovery programme (ESRP)- Sangai under Adhoc Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA) for the year 2016-17. The projects have shown positive indications by increase in population of Sangai, improved awareness among people and change in their approach towards conservation in both Keibul and Shirui area. Since Nongin (Mrs. Hume Pheasant) is naturally found in Shirui area, the habitat improvement in the Shirui National Park has positive impact on its population. He further stated that no reports of poaching of Sangai have been received in the last three years and current year so far.

National & International News

Nepal crash seemingly followed confusion over plane's path

Agency

Kathmandu, March 13: A plane crash at Nepal's main airport killed 49 of the 71 people on board, police said Tuesday as an investigation was ordered into the cause of the accident, which occurred after seeming confusion over landing instructions before the plane, flying low and erratically, struck the ground and erupted in flames. In the recording posted by air traffic monitoring website liveatc.net, the pilot asked for permission to land from the north, which an air traffic controller granted. Less than a minute later the pilot said he was ready to land from the south, and the controller repeated that, clearing the plane to land from the south. A separate conversation between the tower and a Nepali pilot added to the sense of miscommunication between the controllers and the pilot of the Bangladeshi plane before the crash Monday.

"Looks like they are really confused," one man says in Nepali talking about US-Bangla Flight BS211. "They appear to be extremely disoriented," another man said. Just before landing the pilot asks,

"Are we cleared to land?"

Moments later, the controller comes back on, using a tone rarely heard in such conversations - perhaps even panic, and tells the pilot: "I say again, turn!"

Seconds later, the controller orders fire trucks onto the runway. Kathmandu airport's general manager however only told reporters Monday that the pilot did not follow the control tower's instructions and approached the airport's only runway from the wrong direction.

"The airplane was not properly aligned with the runway. The tower repeatedly asked if the pilot was OK and the reply was 'yes,'" Raj Kumar Chetri said. Flight BS211 from Dhaka to Kathmandu was carrying 67 passengers and four crew members. Police spokesman Manoj Neupane said Tuesday that 49 people were confirmed to have been killed and 22 injured. They were being treated in several hospitals in Nepal's capital. Autopsies on the dead would be done at the Teaching Hospital morgue.

The government has ordered an investigation into the crash. A

statement from the prime minister's office said the six-member team headed by a former government secretary will gather the facts to determine the cause and prevent future crashes.

The plane had circled Tribhuvan International Airport twice as it waited for clearance to land, Mohammed Selim, the airline's manager in Kathmandu, told Dhaka-based Somo TV by telephone. The plane swerved repeatedly as it prepared to land, said Amanda Summers, an American working in Nepal.

"It was flying so low I thought it was going to run into the mountains," said Summers, who watched the crash from the terrace of her home office, not far from the airport in Kathmandu's valley. "All of a sudden there was a blast and then another blast."

Fire crews put out the flames quickly, perhaps within a minute, she said, though for a time clouds of thick, dark smoke rose into the sky above the city. Nitin Keyal was about to board a domestic flight at the airport when he saw the plane coming in. "It was flying very low," said Keyal,

a medical student. "Everyone just froze looking at it. You could tell it wasn't a normal landing." He said it landed just off the runway, broke apart and burst into flames. "For a few minutes no one could believe what was happening. It was just terrible," he said.

US-Bangla spokesman Kamrul Islam said the plane was carrying 32 passengers from Bangladesh, 33 from Nepal and one each from China and the Maldives. He did not provide the nationalities of the four crewmembers.

US-Bangla operates Boeing 737-800 and smaller Bombardier Dash 8 Q-400 planes, the model of the plane that crashed.

The airline is based in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, and flies domestically and internationally. The parent company, part of US-Bangla Group, is also involved in real estate, education and agriculture.

Kathmandu's airport has been the site of several deadly crashes. In September 2012, a Sita Air turboprop plane carrying trekkers to Mount Everest hit a bird and crashed shortly after takeoff, killing all 19 on board.

BJP blames Congress for impasse in Parliament

Agency

New Delhi, Mar 13: The BJP today blamed the Congress for the impasse in Parliament and dubbed it "anti-democratic", claiming that the party continues to have contempt for democracy as it had during the Emergency. Briefing reporters on the BJP parliamentary party meeting, which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and its president Amit Shah, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar said the government has been talking to different parties to break the deadlock in Parliament and targeted the Congress.

In the meeting, Kumar had spoken to parliamentarians about continuing deadlock in Parliament, whose second phase of the Budget Session has been a washout so far.

He also made light of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's invite to opposition parties for a dinner, saying her dinner politics will be only about dinner while the BJP under Modi remains a "winner" with the ruling NDA attracting more allies.

Kumar cited BJP's alliance with local parties in North East states to claim that the NDA is becoming "NDA plus". The Congress is

becoming more and more isolated, he said.

He then raked up the excesses during the Emergency declared across the country by the then Indira Gandhi government in mid 70's and accused the Congress of harbouring a similar mindset. Congress had imposed censors, extended Parliament's tenure to six years from five years and put

opposition leaders in jails during the period, he said.

"It continues to have a similar repressive mindset toward democracy. The Congress is not letting Parliament function. This is our duty to let it work and the government has been doing everything to ensure that it happens," he said. He claimed that the Congress was

running away from a debate on the PNB scam as it "feared" that many skeletons in its cupboard will tumble out if a debate occurred.

The proceedings of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha this morning were disrupted for the seventh consecutive day today as various parties continued with their protests on several issues, including the PNB scam.

Advisor to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal resigns

Agency

New Delhi, March 13: V K Jain, the advisor to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, has resigned citing personal reasons and family commitments, days after he was questioned by police in connection with the alleged assault on Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash, sources said today.

"Jain has resigned from the post of advisor to the Delhi chief minister citing personal reasons and family commitment," one of the sources told PTI.

He has submitted his resignation letter in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and sent a copy to the lieutenant governor, the source added.

He was appointed to the post in September last year, days after he had retired as the CEO of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB). The board is chaired by Kejriwal.

Jain had not been coming to the CMO since the incident and had gone on a week-long medical leave, the sources said. Prakash was allegedly assaulted by AAP MLAs during a meeting at the chief minister's residence in the evening of February 19. The Delhi Police had last week told a court that during interrogation, Jain disclosed that AAP MLAs Prakash Jarwal and Amanatullah Khan surrounded the chief secretary and saw them assaulting him at

Kejriwal's residence. However, Jain had earlier said that he did not see anything as he had gone to the washroom at the time of the incident.

The alleged assault on Prakash took place in the presence of Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia.

In solidarity with Prakash, IAS and Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Services (DCS) officers have not been attending meetings with AAP ministers, and only maintaining written communication with them.

The joint forum of the Delhi government employees has demanded action against Kejriwal and Sisodia in connection with the case.