

LETTER

MADHYANNA AND MAYDAY

May Day with a difference. That is how one may describe the 41st May Day observed by *Madhyanna* at Teosophical Society hall in Kolkata on 26 May, 2010. The Bengali little magazine *Madhyanna* has been out of circulation for long but its editor Sailendranath Basu continues to keep the legacy of observing May Day under the banner of *Madhyanna* every year braving all odds and financial hardships, preferably on the last day of May.

It began with observation of 2 minutes silence in memory of distinguished departed souls in the year gone. Sailendranath Basu himself sung a classical song to inaugurate the meeting. Professor Nityananda Ghosh dwelt at length on the relevance of May Day even in today's suffocating atmosphere when labour is on the defensive everywhere because of ruthlessness of globalised economy. Timir Basu, the editor of *Frontier*, delivered his short speech on 'global warming' while highlighting how the Sunderbans would vanish not in the distant future because of sea-level rise. Prof Dilip Mitra spoke on litterateur Buddhadev Basu's works.

Noted mass singer Pratul Mukherjee inaugurated the special issue of Bengali magazine *Nagarpath* on the late Hiren Basu, the editor of *Darpan*, a left-wing journal that had to face tremendous official attrition during the Congress regime. Mali Dutta and Suman Bandyopadhyay, performed *Sonaliya Aakhyan*, a Sailendranath Basu story-based drama. Finally Pratul Mukherjee thrilled the audience with his popular songs on May Day and the on-going resistance movement in Bengal.

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