



SAKURA

No. 96

March - April 2016



はやり 流行ものは すがた もの 廃り者 Fashion comes and goes



On 17th of January, 2016, Sunday, early in the morning, 55 of us gathered in Golpark for a picnic organised by the NKKS. Everyone boarded the bus and embarked on the journey. Singing songs and playing Antakshari, we reached the picnic spot in Jagatballavpur, near Ram Mandir. On reaching the spot, we had tea, biscuits and cakes and started exploring the area. There were

Ikebana 2016



Ikebana Show

The Ikebana Wafu, Kolkata chapter Flower Show organized by Kazuko Nigam Sensei - inaugurated by Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, acting Consul General, The Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata.

(photograph: courtesy Hindustan Times, 5th Feb'16)

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Cultural Exchange:** 12th Mar 2016
At Nippon Bhavan 4:30 pm
(Shantiniketan)
- ◆ **Academic Session:** 23rd Apr 2016
Japanese Communication Game
At Sarat Samity 6:30pm



MOMOYAMA & JOUCHI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' INTERACTION WITH INDIAN STUDENTS ON 21ST FEB

several ponds with water lilies in them, the ponds were lined with bamboo trees, there were seats around the ponds, a scaffolding (like those built for hunting animals)...and flowers...colourful, beautiful flowers covered almost every part of the area. There were petunias, bougainvilleas, marigolds, chrysanthemums, roses and even orchids. Swings, a playground -- there was something for everyone. Around 11 o'clock, everyone gathered for breakfast, and after that the games started. Musical chairs, housie, Frisbee catching and badminton was enjoyed by everyone with equal vigour.

Then everyone settled down for a deliciously prepared lunch. After lunch, few members visited a nearby temple while others clicked pictures, played games or simply chatted...

Around 5 o'clock, everyone was called for the group photo and then between singing songs, checking the clicked pictures and chatting excitedly about the well-spent day, we set on our journey back home.

Medha Goswami

AN INTERVIEW WITH MAIKO MORITA

Ms. Maiko Morita, Vice-Consul, Cultural Section, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata has come to Kolkata in April 2013.



Since then for almost three years she has been staying in Kolkata.

Assigned to a huge administrative job in her office she has to be busy always. But after that she finds time to watch the people of Kolkata. She finds Bengali people so nice, helpful. But she is very scared about the stray dogs of Kolkata streets, though in general she does not dislike dogs. More or less all are scared of stray dogs, but during her experience Morita san has found Kolkata people very helpful - they have helped her during that dreadful situation - people drive the stray dogs away, much to her relief!

While conversing with her in the office of the Consulate of Japan, Kolkata, we broached questions about music. She tells us that in future she wants to learn to play Tabla! On December 2014, She organized a programme of Aki & Kuniko, a Japanese music duo of acoustic guitar and Koto - a traditional stringed instrument, and Tanmoy Bose, the famous Tabla maestro of India. After seeing Tanmoy Bose's performance, she has become a big fan of Tabla, and started to look for a personal Tabla set for herself, which she has not yet found.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Your birthplace....

A: Osaka.

Q: Your hobby.

A: To solve jigsaw puzzles... my only hobby.

Q: Your childhood—education- etc----

A: In my childhood, I had to learn many subjects. I was very bad in Mathematics. But I liked History very much.

Q: So, in connection with your passion for world history –have you read Indian History?

A: Yes- Vedic Period- and the Mughal Dynasty etc—

Q: In university, what was your major?

A: Political Science.

Q: But why Political Science?A: I have an interest in Political Science, especially in national security. I am also interested in the bilateral relations between

between India and Japan.

Q: Yes- bilateral relation between India and Japan – always cordial, warm.....

A: Yes. India and Japan have always had a warm bilateral relationship. Both countries have so many things in common. Especially regarding Buddhism in Japan, which has its roots in India.

Q: How did you start your career?

A: After my graduation, I completed internship in an insurance company in U.S.A. - I had to translate for them along with other jobs- the company was associated with U.S. Navy. After that, I took an exam to enter the Ministry of Defence in Japan, and somehow I passed it.

Q: You have travelled to so many countries....

A: Yes. Since I came to India, I have visited Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh.....

Q: You went to Bangladesh.

A: Yes...Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh...culture of Bangladesh, I think resembles very much with Kolkata...probably because both of them were previously one nation.

Q: You know Japanese, English and...

A: I also know Chinese language I learnt the language in the university. Later it helped me to interact with some Chinese people in my work field.

Q: Any memorable experience in India...

A: Actually I have had so many good experiences while working. Recently I went to Kashi (Benaras) where our Prime Minister Sinzo Abe visited the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi. I was in the management team- I had to interact with the press media. I had to guide the camera installation position etc. I liked the experience very much. I enjoyed the chanting, the serene superb holistic beauty of the Ghats (stairs of river Ganges).

Q: Have you seen any Indian films?

A: Yes...I have seen '3 Idiots' and 'The Lunchbox'. 'The Lunchbox' had become quite popular in Japan.

Q: Besides Kolkata and Kashi have you ever visited any other places of India?

A: Recently I went to Andaman and Nicobar Islands .I was so mesmerised by the enigmatic and exotic locales of the islands! Also, I learnt a lot about Freedom Fighters by visiting the Cellular Jail.

Q: Your impression about our NKKS programme *In Nichi Bunkasai*?

A: It's a very beautiful programme which strongly

....contd. on page3

....contd. from page 2

The endeavours, the collective efforts and presentation by the participants show their dedication and enthusiasm. Both Indians and Japanese enjoy the programme. I really appreciate the NKKS members who continue such a great programme.

Aloke Basu



UNIQUE JAPAN -5

On the morning of April 13, 2015, we left Osaka for the historic city Hiroshima by *Shinkansen* (Sakura - 553). While we were approaching towards our hotel by JR bus we passed A-bomb tomb and got down at the Peace memorial park stop. We just crossed the road and saw our, 'Hotel Sunroute'. At that very moment we decided to see A-bomb tomb and Peace Memorial Hall on the same day. Due to light breakfast and long journey, we were very hungry. After check- in formalities in the hotel we went out for lunch. But the fact was that we were not getting any food without beef, pork, chicken. What to do? We got a list of nearby restaurants from the hotel reception, but in vain. At last, in one of the restaurants, a lady prepared '*Okonomiyaki*' as per our requirement. We had shrimp, carrot, cabbage *okonomiyaki*, it was very tasty indeed. We reached the 'Peace Memorial Hall'. There was an enthralling depiction of all the incidents of the fall of Atomic bomb on August 6, 1945 at 8.15 a.m. over there. Remains of burnt, destroyed items were kept. Many photographs were displayed with a vivid description in English. Video shows were going in many places. Seeing all this my heart was pained. It was such a cruel incident. We spend one hour in the Peace Memorial Hall with a heavy heart, and in the visitor's book I wrote '*namida ga kita*'. Saw Peace Tower, Fountain of Prayer, Cenotaph for the A-bomb victims, Pond of Peace, Flame of Peace, Children's Peace Monument, Statue of Mother & Children in the storm, Peace Fountain one after another. In the year 1996 A-bomb tomb was acknowledged as World Heritage Site of UNESCO. Till today the A-bomb tomb is kept as it was. Only the repairing job had been done to save this world heritage site from any damage. A grill wall was constructed encircling the A-bomb tomb with a sensor to protect the site from any outside encroachment. During the A-bomb incident the surroundings were muddy due to black rain, afterwards many trees and plants were planted, now the total area is green. Tulips of different colours bloomed just next to the place of such repugnant incident. Tulips do not bloom in our place, due to

the tropical climate, so I was elated with joy to see Tulips of different colours.

Next day, i.e. on April 14, 2015 we went to World Heritage cultural site Miyajima. We reached Miyajima island by JR train from Hiroshima up to Miyajimaguchi followed by ferry. This island was full of natural beauty. We went to Otori gate, Itsukushima Shrine, Five storied Pagoda, Koumyin temple. While going to Momijidani park, we had fried oyster and potato. Other tourists were also having foods. As we were climbing upward, those tasty fried items energized us. We also went to Mount Misen Observatory by cable car (ropeway). Ropeway was going through the dense forest. We changed our first cable car at Shishiwa station, boarded in another cable car with many other tourists. Finally we got down from cable car at around 150 meter before Mt. Misen Observatory. It was a beautiful spot indeed on observatory. From the Observatory we had a view of this island, all around sea, many small and medium islands. We spent about twenty five minutes in that spot. When the sun became scorching, and we started to get down at Momijidani Park in the same way. We had a walk in Machiya street. In the Miyajima traditional Crafts Centre handicrafts like toys, show pieces were demonstrated for sale. We had a long wait at Ferry terminal due to heavy rain. We reached Hiroshima (nearby our hotel) by ferry, train and at last by bus. In the local market we did window shopping, bought gift items, had dinner to the heart's content with salmon rice, pan fried noodles and mackerel grilled fish.



..to be contd.
Debi Das

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

*ASHIM BOSE san, our dear member -
Although you have departed for your
heavenly abode on the 23rd of December
2015, we shall never forget your sincerity
and dedication towards NKKS.*

You shall remain in our hearts forever!

JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(March - April)

1.	2.		3.		4.	5.	
6.				7.			
8.		9.			10.		11.
				12.			
	13.		14.			15.	
16.					17.		
18.		19.		20.			21.
22.					23.		

ACROSS

- 1) Masterpiece
- 4) To bind
- 6) Intention
- 7) Buying and selling
- 8) Write down
- 10) Atmosphere
- 12) Umbrella
- 13) Harvest
- 15) Boil rice
- 16) Bridge
- 17) Thing
- 18) Large/serious
- 20) Easy
- 22) Postmark
- 23) Region/zone

DOWN

- 1) Accuracy
- 2) Consciousness
- 3) Distribute
- 4) Lawn grass
- 5) Rainy season
- 9) Night stay
- 11) Plan
- 12) To cut (crop)
- 13) Loan out
- 14) Question
- 15) Enjoyable
- 16) Farm
- 17) To grope
- 19) Good
- 21) Breath

Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee

Answers to
JAPANESE CROSSWORD
(January- February)

1. あ	2. い	3. く	る	4. し	5. い		6. な
	7. め	い		8. あ	ら	9. か	み
10. け	い	こ	く		く	い	き
ん		13. み	ず	14. く	さ	い	
	15. た		16. て	ん		17. ぬ	18. の
19. う	け	20. も	つ		21. ひ		う
22. み	が	く		23. さ	か	ず	き
	24. き	ず	ぐ	す	り		く

WORD JUMBLE - 42

Unscramble the following words, and join the circled letters to find out the answer:



1. ぎょうき (Enterprise, company)

○		○	
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2. どけいこうで (Wrist watch)

○				○
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3. なるにびく (Be fired)

○				
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4. まあざけ (sweet sake)

	○		
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5. ちまちま (Stepfather)

○			
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Sontu Debnath

ANSWERS TO
WORD JUMBLE - 41

- 1. のうか
- 2. かどまつ
- 3. からて
- 4. てつがく
- 5. でんぼう
- 6. かるい

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EDITORS: Tanusree Chatterjee & Alope Basu

BOOK POST

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53/1/2, HAZRA ROAD
KOI KATA - 700 019

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Address correction requested