



# SAKURA

No. 117

September – October 2019



あめふり じかた 雨降って地固まる Adversity strengthens the foundations

## THE 30<sup>TH</sup> CINEMA NIPPON



The 30th Cinema Nippon was organised at Nazrul Tirtha, a cultural centre located in the heart of Newtown, from 2nd August to 4th August. The event was co-organized by the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, and HIDCO. A total of 5 movies were screened- starting from those directed by the legendary Akira Kurosawa to the newer, more popular amongst youth-directed by Makoto Shinkai.



The film festival was graced by the Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr. Masayuki Taga, Vice Consul Public Relations & Culture, Ms Risa Tamura, Chairman of HIDCO, Mr. Debashish Sen, and President of NKKS, Mrs. Poonam Nand De.

The final day saw an overflowing crowd at NazrulTirtha, who came to watch the splendid movie **Children Who Chase Lost Voices** by Makoto Shinkai. The film festival was brought to an end with a movie- **The End of Summer** by Yasujiro Ozu.

The films were appreciated widely by the audience and Cinema Nippon, as usual, turned out to be a huge success.

*Anusha Banerjee*

## Heralding the new....



On the first day, two movies based on famous Shakespeare plays were shown- **Throne of Blood**, by Akira Kurosawa, which was based on Macbeth, and **A Mid Summer's Okinawan Dream**, which was based on A Midsummer Night's Dream. Some

technical problems lead to the cancellation of the first movie, on the second day. However, the next movie (which was screened twice) made up for it!



On 31st July, NKKS ushered in the new batch of Japanese students through a well-organized cultural program at Sarat Samity held from 6pm that evening. Around 50 students joined the program from both RKM and IJLSS, with vigour and enthusiasm. The Young enthusiasts had put up a good show starting from old Hindi vintage songs to modern recitation pieces. The audience had enjoyed it thoroughly. Eventually, Poonam Sensei, the president of NKKS delivered a wonderfully motivating speech. A short quiz session was also conducted for the newcomers. The senior NKKS members sang "Shiawase nara ...." \_ a Japanese song with all their warmth and love for the students. Evening refreshments added a flavour to the program and teachers and students left the premises with gleeful faces!

*Uttara Sarkar*

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## AN INTERVIEW WITH TAKESHI NARABE

Takeshi Narabe, South Asia Bureau Chief of a Japanese Daily Newspaper, the “Asahi Shimbun”, now lives in New Delhi. He enjoys his work as a reporter. Besides India he also reports for Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan in the fields of politics and culture etc. for the Asahi Shimbun. He came to Kolkata



in 2003 for the India-Japan students’ Conference. We remember him clearly. At Nigam Sensei’s residence, we chatted informally on various topics, from his present job passion, hobby and obviously sweet memories of the Students’ Conference.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q: When did you start your career as a reporter?

A: I started my career as a reporter in 2005. Now I live in New Delhi.

Q: We remember you had come as a participant to Kolkata for the India -Japan Students’ Conference in 2003

A: Yes, I still cherish that memory very much.

Q: That was your first visit to India?

A: Actually I had come to India with some of participants of the students’ conference a few months before, to survey the various arrangements of the Conference. That was my first visit to India. After that I came again for the Conference.

Q: Memories of the students’ conference?

A: I remember some Indian members very much. During that time I met Sanjay Ganguly san who is now Secretary of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society. He is a very large hearted person. I am still in touch with all of them.

Q: Any special memory of that conference?

A: I still remember the visit to the holy shrines of *Dakshineswar* and *Belur*. I was mesmerised by the serene and pious atmosphere of the surroundings.

Q: You also went to an overnight trip?

A: Yes I enjoyed that also. Though I cannot remember the name of the place right now but I still remember Ilina san, an Indian girl, who went with us. She felt very lonely because for the first time she was staying without her parents.

Q: Mother House Visit?

A: Yes we went to Mother House. I was overwhelmed seeing the magnanimous and selfless service the missionaries were doing to the distressed.

In spite of doing this noble job constantly their behaviour was so humble and amicable!

Q: You remember your home-stay in Kolkata?

A: The home-stay was in Abhik Chatterjee san’s house. I can still feel the warmth of the affection and love they showed to me. His sweet grandmother and other members of his family were so hospitable towards me!

Q: Did you participate in any stage programme performed by the students during the conference?

A: Yes I sang a chorus with the Japanese students on the stage.

Q: What was your subject in the university?

A: Politics and Linguistics. I studied at Keio Daigaku in Tokyo.

Q: Why had you chosen those subjects?

A: Actually I wanted to be involved internationally with various countries by learning these subjects. I would be able to get more opportunities.

Q: You also learnt some Tamil language when you went to Chennai?

A: Yes at the time of students’ conference I became conversant about the diversity of Indian culture. I also learnt something about Tamil Nadu and took an interest in Tamil language. After the conference I came to India again and travelled to Tamil Nadu. I was also influenced by the writings of famous Japanese scholar Dr Susumu Ohno, who claimed that Japanese language had originated from Tamil language.

Q: Where were you born?

A: In Tokyo.

Q: You have travelled to many countries in connection with your job....

A: Yes I have travelled to Bangladesh, US, France and many other countries ---and I have been enriched with a vast colourful experience ---about people, place, culture etc.

Q: Your impression about Indian people?

A: They are really kind, hospitable and energetic!

Q: Your hobby?

A: Playing the piano, reading books and playing tennis. Also visiting new places.

Q: Do you like watching films?

*Contd. in page 3....*



Contd. from page 2....

A: Yes, I enjoy it very much. Besides Japanese films I like Bollywood films also.

Q: Can you name any of them?

A: *Hindi Medium, Pink and Padmavat, PK, Padman, Madam in New York, Dangal, Barfi, Om Shanti Om.* I also like Satyajit Ray movies.

Q: Have you seen famous tourist spots of New Delhi?

A: Yes, Qutub Minar, Red Fort and the Taj Mahal in Agra.

Q: Any special memory?

A: During my home stay in New Delhi I had a great experience of warm hospitality. At that time I wanted to go Pakistan but my friend's mother forbade me to go there. But I still decided to go. During my journey to Pakistan from New Delhi to Amritsar from there to Lahore, I opened the food in the train, which was given to me by this mother. I was thinking about her concern for me and love which touched that *Aloo Ka Paratha!*

I still feel that warmth and love!

*Aloke Basu*

## FUJIKO FUJIO



### WHO IS HE?/They?

-a pen name of a manga writing duo formed by two Japanese manga artists. The Japanese cartoonist duo who created DORAEMON, NINJA HATTORI, KORO SUKE, KITERETSU, PER MAN & MISS DRACULA. Let's thank him for making our childhood!

*Contributrd by Sanjoly Ganguly*

## BIRTHDAY NKKS



On the 15th of August 2019, NKKS celebrated its 35th birth anniversary. Like every year, all the members, old and young had gathered together for a warm celebration at Nigam Sensei's residence; to strengthen old bonds and connect new links to this never-ending chain of friendship that has been forged for all these years. The members themselves had arranged a small but a lovely little program – a flawless rendition of the song 'Wakamonotachi' by Aratrika San, Namrata San, Dolan San and Moumita San. Rwidhi San and Smritiman San, along with many others sang beautifully and were all greeted with smiles, cheers and applause. After a series of Japanese melodies one after another, hip-hop too seemed to have found its place in the hearts of our younger members with a Rap sequence by Aditya San and a dance performance by Aditya Raj San. After a string of beautiful performances, we were all welcomed by Partha-San and made us feel at home. He introduced us all to the executive members of NKKS. After a couple of group songs performed by our members, our dearest Nigam Sensei along with her mother, respected Chieko Fujiwara San, sang a delightful duet, painting our hearts with the joyous colours of compassion. Respected Chieko Fujiwara San was invited to cut the birthday cake as we all sang for NKKS, wishing for a better future for our growing family. It was at around 6:30 when we all had a share of the cake and greeted each other. as our celebration slowly came to an end.

These 35 years, NKKS had never just been a society; it has been a family from the very start. A family that will keep on growing and the chain will never seize to end.

*Rohan Bhattacharya*

### MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Nihongo Quiz:** 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019  
RMIC Shivananda Hall 2pm
- ◆ **Bijoya Sammilani:** 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019  
Sarat Samity 6:30 pm

**JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(September - October)**

1	2	3	4	5	
6					7
8			9		
	10	11			
12				13	
14			15		

**ACROSS**

- 1) Over sleeping
- 6) Supreme court
- 8) Colour
- 9) World bank
- 10) Atmosphere
- 13) To win
- 14) Silk
- 15) Steamer

**DOWN**

- 1) Shallow
- 2) Recording
- 3) Cat
- 4) Spinning
- 5) Rabbit
- 7) Printing press
- 11) Ocean
- 12) Flower vase
- 13) Song lyrics

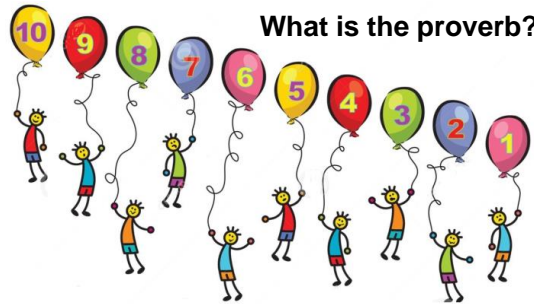
*Mahashveta Basu Mukherjee*

**Answers to  
JAPANESE CROSSWORD  
(July - August)**

1 さ	2 い	3 か	い	4 は	5 つ
6 い	し	き		7 た	か
こ		8 と	う	ら	い
9 う	10 け	る		11 き	か
12 さ	る		13 す		た
い		14 な	み	だ	

**WORD JUMBLE – 61**

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



What is the proverb?

1. ようじゆ (Demand)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

2. みんじゆう (Citizen)

		○		
--	--	---	--	--

3. ぎょうんに (Doll)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

4. あせわとい (Inquiry)

○	○		
---	---	--	--

5. ろろい (Various)

	○		
--	---	--	--

*Sontu Debnath*

**ANSWERS TO  
WORD JUMBLE – 60**

1. いっすい
2. かんさつ
3. きはい
4. やみいち

い	っ	す	ん	さ	き	は	や	み
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