

## **Report from Bangladesh: PBSP Holds Third Congress Amidst Suppression**

**By the Proletarian Party of Purba Bangla (PBSP)**

The Proletarian Party of Purba Bangla (Purba Banglar Sharbahara Party [PBSP]), a participating party of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement (RIM), successfully and enthusiastically held its Third Congress in February 1992 despite a renewed campaign of suppression by the reactionary state. This Congress is, for many reasons, extremely significant and marks a turning point in the life of the Party.

The Second Congress of the Party, held in 1987, had decided that in the course of summing up past mistakes in the ideological line of the Party, past and present political lines should also be reviewed. In fact, the Second Congress decided that this task of reviewing the political line should be the Party's principal task. Later, the task of reviewing the military line was added. The main aim of the Third Congress was to bring to a successful conclusion the process of review and the two-line struggle that accompanied it, to resolve the line questions and elect a new Central Committee on that basis.

The Third Congress, with great devotion, has accomplished the historic task with which it was entrusted. While defending and upholding the correct aspects of past lines, it has identified and rectified the mistakes in past lines and reached new, more correct positions on a series of line questions. It has also elected a new central body, the Third Central Committee, which reflects and is based on these new positions. The Congress has also decided that building armed struggle and organization is the main task of the Party in the coming period, while simultaneously, but secondarily, review of certain line questions will be continued.

This Congress was held in a political situation in which the parliamentary autocratic regime of Mrs Khaleda Zia has been carrying out the second stage of a countrywide counter-revolutionary campaign of suppression, "Operation Durbar" (Operation Irresistible), aimed at the Party. (The first stage of Operation Durbar was launched and carried out by the preceding government of General Ershad, which, though disguised as civilian, was actually a military regime, and was overthrown in December 1990 as a result of an almost decade-long movement of students and urban masses. This was followed by the introduction of parliamentary and "civil" democracy.) It intensified the great difficulties the Party was already facing from the serious setbacks suffered during the heavy, year-long campaign of suppression throughout the country conducted against the Party. In this context, even holding the Congress was complex, risky, and difficult - but it was successful.

The world situation today is marked by the complete collapse of phoney socialism, the extreme bankruptcy of the different varieties of revisionism and the great lies and propaganda by the imperialists that "socialism and communism are dead", the daydreams and vain efforts by the imperialists to impose a new world order, and, on the other hand, the beginning of a new worldwide upsurge of the Maoist communist revolutionaries. In this national and international situation, successfully holding the Third Congress of the Maoist PBSP, which proudly promises

to firmly advance the revolutionary armed struggle, is an event of importance and a victory of the Maoists worldwide.

The Congress included delegates from the ranks of the workers, peasants, middle class intellectuals and women, and, reflecting the use of three-in-one combinations, there were delegates from the older generation, the middle-aged and the youth. All of the delegates had been tempered in struggle, including the newest ones, who had experienced the great suppression campaign of 1989, and all had played a leading role in rebuilding the Party (after the 1989 setbacks) at its various levels.

After an inaugural speech by the Secretary of the Second Central Committee, Comrade Anwar Kabir, the first resolution adopted by the Congress was to pay revolutionary red tribute to the fallen comrades of the Party and in other countries, especially Peru and Iran. The Congress stood for a minute's silence in honour of the communist and revolutionary martyrs. A message from the Committee of RIM greeting the Congress was then submitted and read aloud.

The Congress adopted eleven resolutions, ten of which dealt with basic line questions. These eleven resolutions in fact make important changes in a number of the basic lines of the Party. At the same time, the general correctness of past lines on basic questions has been defended and upheld. The Congress also firmly rejected a number of revisionist lines that emerged in the course of the two-line struggle over the past few years, and it identified questions on which further review of line was needed. It has reaffirmed and emphasized that, despite some basic mistakes, in the final analysis Comrade Shiraj Shikder was the representative of the most advanced trend in the communist movement of Purba Bangla (Bangladesh) during the decades of the 1960s and 1970s.

The Congress adopted "Maoism" instead of the previous formulation of "Mao Tsetung Thought".

The central point of the new political decisions taken by the Congress was the advance in the Party's concept of neo-colonialism, and the corresponding basic changes regarding the Party's socio-economic analysis, including agriculture and the principal contradiction. The essence of the new political line on these questions is, briefly: Purba Bangla is a neo-colonial country oppressed by imperialism; the socio-economic character of the country is distorted capitalism that is under neo-colonial subjugation to imperialism; a commodity economy is already the principal aspect of agriculture, yet semi-feudalism is still a basic problem; the contradiction with Indian expansionism is a basic one; the dominant force in the state is the native comprador bureaucrat bourgeois class, who are the lackeys of imperialism-expansionism, and the contradiction between this class and the broad masses of workers, peasants and middle classes is the principal contradiction in society. It is only through overthrowing this class that it is possible to overthrow imperialism, expansionism and the remnants of feudalism and to establish a new democratic socio-economic order opposed to imperialism, expansionism, feudalism and bureaucrat comprador capitalism. Therefore the stage of revolution is new democratic, and the character of the war is class war, or civil war.

In line with this more advanced understanding of neo-colonialism, the Congress summed up a few basic mistakes, including nationalist errors, made at different times in the past in determining the principal contradiction, the resolution of the national question and the character of the state.

Very important changes were made by this Congress in the military line: it was determined that the central task was war against the state with armed struggle right from the beginning. In regard to this, the Congress summed up that it was wrong to initiate this through annihilation of local enemies and to consider this a stage in itself.

The most important other decisions on line questions included:

- amendments to and changes in the Party Constitution;
- a resolution on the present world situation;
- a resolution on the current domestic political situation;
- nine other resolutions on political and other questions.

These latter nine resolutions mainly dealt with RIM, the struggle against revisionism, the people's war in Peru, the emerging armed liberation movements in South Asia, the Middle East and the Madrid Conference, the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts district, the death of Comrade Chiang Ching, the women's liberation movement, etc.

A resolution was adopted to promote debate, discussion and review within RIM on the basis of the new political lines.

The Congress also discussed and adopted an organizational report by the Secretary of the Second Central Committee. This report dealt with practical work and the situation of armed struggle and organizational activity over the four years since the Second Congress. It also dealt specifically with the situation of the Party at the height of the struggle against the suppression campaign and the subsequent setback, as well as with the present situation of the organization. The report expressed sympathy and solidarity with the masses, who have suffered enormous physical, psychological and material harm, and it paid tribute to comrades who have been injured, crippled or captured during the state's suppression campaign.

The important final session of the Congress was held during the night of February 9th in a rural area of Purba Bangla. The meeting hall was decorated with carefully prepared, nicely drawn banners, posters, festoons and portraits of the five great leaders - Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao - as well as a portrait of Comrade Shiraj Shikder, the founder of the Party. The Party's red flag, with the hammer and sickle, stood proudly at the front of the podium. Photographers, technicians and other comrades were all busily helping. The delegates drank tea and ate a light meal. They wore various kinds of camouflage for security reasons. Selected armed guerrillas stood round-the-clock sentry. In the middle of the night, in this hall lit by flashlights, hurricane lamps and numerous candles, this session commenced with a speech by a representative of the presidium. After a final round of discussion and debate and the adoption of a series of measures which have great significance for the future course of the revolution in Purba Bangla, the Congress elected the Third Central Committee by secret ballot. Of the newly

elected Central Committee members, the name of Comrade Anwar Kabir, secretary of the previous Central Committee, was publicly announced. The session ended with an informal cultural presentation, during which the important task of dispersing the leaders and delegates was carried out. By that time, the hall had filled with neighbouring supporters of the Party—men, women, young and old.

As the various delegates headed back to their areas of work around the country, they passed through the fields of winter crops, wet with the morning dew, and, in the pleasant morning breeze of late winter, watched as the rising sun spread its red glow over the eastern sky. The faces of the marching comrades shone with their determination to face the life-and-death revolutionary struggles lying ahead.

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[http://www.aworldtowin.org/back\\_issues/1993-19/pBSP\\_Holds\\_Third\\_Congress\\_Amidst\\_Suppression.htm](http://www.aworldtowin.org/back_issues/1993-19/pBSP_Holds_Third_Congress_Amidst_Suppression.htm)

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