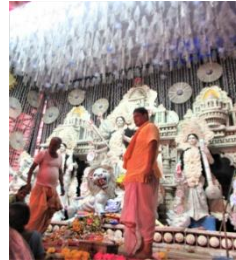


BENGALI CHRONICLE 267, OCTOBRE 2022

KOLKATA DURGA PUJAS FESTIVAL:

Small pavilions of Pujas close to ICOD



At ICOD, arrival of LOKHIDEVI, and her installation in the Hall.



Tania prepares... Shop-Shop, Binay's son, is master of the sounds... Our girls are playing

BEAUTIFUL « KHAAS PHUL »-Pampa Grass.



SUR



DEV DUT/RANA with his certificate of SECRETARY of the new “ ICOD’s YOUTH ORGANIZATION”

His young nephew Shop-Shop’, shall start a circus!

AGNES MÜLLER and her group of XII friends from France.



Agnes is an old friend of ICOD who came here several times.

VICTOR LACOIN and HIS YOUNG WIFE, CONSTANCE (married in July).



He came first 5 years ago and is now police Commissioner at PARIS He is helping us regularly and has an exceptional beautiful and good heart for the poor. Both remained ten days here, including at ABC-Kathila.

On 29th October, we organized a Bengali marriage for them !



Both are discovering a beautiful bride and a not so old bridegroom!!!



Gopadi and Binay are also both quite satisfied of this factice marriage!



On 30th October, one small ceremony for my Golden Jubilee in India



Cake, dances and joy...But I vehemently refused to make a big feast for 50 years of voluntary service of the poor throughout Bengal!

JULIEN, my helvetic friend of so many years is coming !



Since more than 20 years, he is helping many ONG to install solar batteries...

MY YOUNG MUSLIM BROTHER WORKING SINCE MORE THAN 45 YEARS WITH ME.



Now, he is 75, but continues to carry on development work with his big team in many West Bengal Districts. He was a personal friend of Dominique Lapierre and is a real Servant (shebok) of the poor. The lady on my right is Jyoti, the catholic niece of Lucy Didi, the “Angel of Pilkhana”.



PHILOMENA, an Anglo-Indian catholic from Pilkhana, whose miserable family has received me beautifully when I arrived in India

HINDU-ISLAMIC BROTHERHOD



INAMUL & SOHODEV, both were physically handicapped orphan 27 years ago in our Belari Home. Now, both are married and rehabilitated and keep intact their childhood fraternity. It is really an example for all of us of interreligious harmony in their distresses!

TWO ORPHAN SUCCESSFULLY REHABILITATED AFTER BELARI.



Orsini and Rajesh have even built a large house.

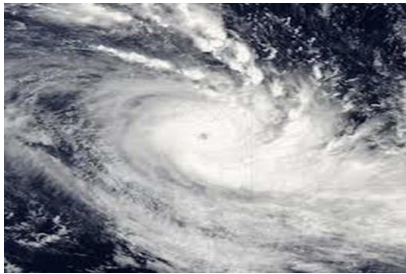
But a grave motorcycle accident in February put Orsini in the coma. He then got a head operation, but full of complications. He has practically lost his memory, and can just speak slowly some words. Rajesh is now in debts for he was obliged to leave his Bangalore work. We admitted Orsini at ICOD so that he can joint his job.

LES JEUNES GARÇONS QUI NOUS RESTENT

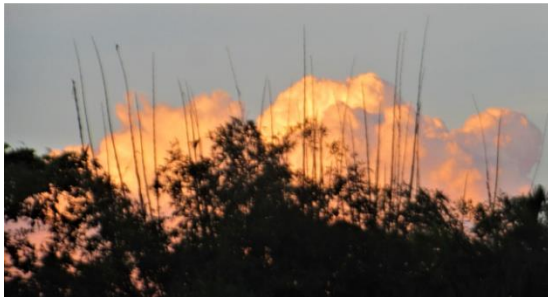


The boys who are remaining are almost all mentally retarded, sick or dement and even completely mad. In front, Raju is really dangerous and is beating every one. But slowly, after so many years, he becomes able to go outside with all. Some days ago, just for the pleasure, he hurt my hand, and a nice scar remains. We do love them all!

PASSAGE OF A CYCLONE ...whose tail we could just shortly observed when it was going to Bangladesh where 2millions persons were displaced.



I have never seen such a sky incredible coloration, although I have been witnessed to so many cyclones in Sundarbans (1981- 83- 87?), Andhra Pradesh (1977), and ICOD in 2018.



Some days later, the end of the monsoon with again beautiful sky's sceneries...

AT LAST, ONE CAN REPAIRED OUR SO DAMAGED COCONUT TREES ORCHARD!



It will take several weeks and it is not completed!

VARIOUS FLOWERS



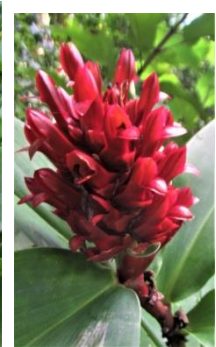
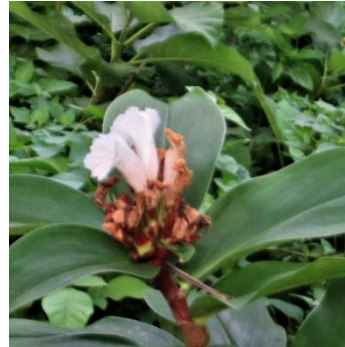
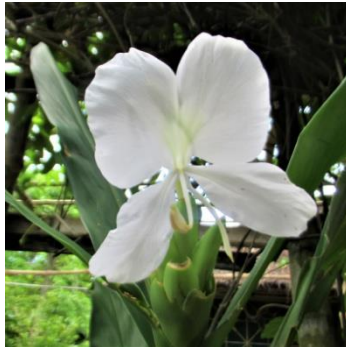
Japanese lotifera



Delicate hybrids of hibiscus.



White hibiscus



White and red varieties of Ginger spices



We have six differnt varieties



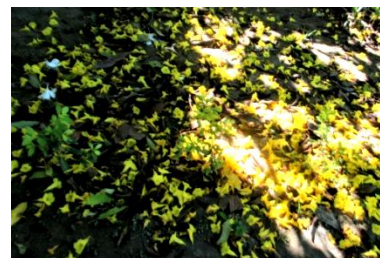
Giant canna with quintuple flower.



Wild red hibiscuses



Daily carpet of 'shiuri' and of Radha-trees' flowers.





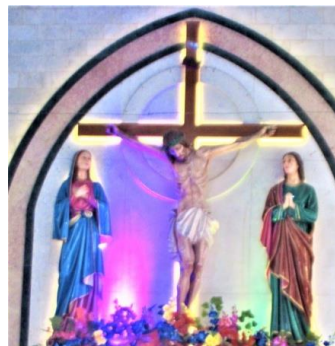
Suspended gardens for 1: Pointed gourd 'Bothol' and 2. Dwarf gourds. They are the only vegetable not flooded this season!

GOLDEN JUBILEE FOR MY 50 YEARS IN INDIA THANKSGIVING MASS AT HOWRAH "NIRMALA MATA MATA GIRJA"

(Pictography by Binay Mondol , ICOD's Administrator)



Markus Toppo, , my Prado brother, has hidden me the preparation of this beautiful ceremony.



Three priests have celebrated the Holy Mass in front of 200 persons, including many Hindus, Muslims, and Christians from outside, and Adivassis, some even belonging to the Varna religion.

Most of my friends have never put their feet in a Church and were astounded by the silence, the beauty, the ambiance, the piety and the music of the liturgy.



In the middle, the Parish Priest has made an exceptionally remarkable sermon (according to my friends, because my deafness prevented me to understand it!) Father Laurence, successor of Father Laborde at HSP was also there, with his compassionate smile. I was very moved to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus through their hands, a first for me in India, sealing for me the acceptance of my mission by the Indian Church.

AFTER THE CELEBRATION, THE RECEPTION



Through also Father Laurent, a French Priest: Garlands, cake, embroidered shawl and scented roses...



Then after, hundreds of people came to felicitate me, asking for my blessings...the Swiss Julian, the German Dr Helgo , many Sisters (Prado, MC), Annie Joseph (a very famous Shevika from Kolkata known in 1976 at Pilkhana!)



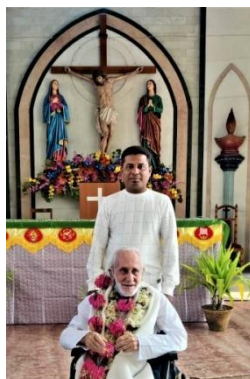
Immense joy to receive HSP (Howrah South Point) with Helina, their first President since so many years (holding my hand). She has been my student in the dispensary ...Their Adivassis dance were wonderful!



My cake has been eaten by the HSP children. It is the first time of my life that I have to face so many hundred "mobiles" with their flash just in front of me as the star that I am not. In the villages, there are thousands of people in the meetings I am invited, but hardly one phone here and there...and no flashes!

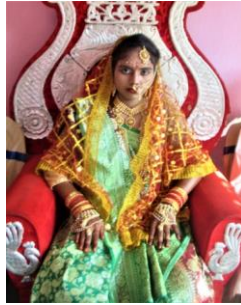


Some foreigners...



And the big sacred show-biz end up with Binay, the photographed photographer!

MARRIAGE OF THE SECOND DAUGHTER OF ASHA AND KOKHON MULLAH



AïCHA, 19 years old, exceedingly shy, although I have received her in my lap at her birth!



Some of her friends covered of gold. On left, our young Muslim orphan tailor...



MARYAM, her elder sister of 23 years old, who is my first grand-daughter in 1999, now assistant nurse. She is just the opposite of Aïcha, highly social and opened to her “Nana” (grandfather for Muslims)



Binay and Asha, the bride’s mother, my orphan sister from Belari. She was the first marriage organized by Sukeshi and Gopa in 1998. Around 30 others have followed, for abandoned orphan, daughter of prostitutes, distressed girls etc.

