

BENGALI CHRONICLE 270, JANUARY 2003

SOME VILLAGES' PORTRAITS

Some foreign guests visiting us some days have taken some nice pictures of our neighborhood hamlets, especially Gohalopota, our own village, whose resident I am with some thirty inmates of ICOD who have now here their permanent voters 'cards. They have been welcomed, but it seems to me that young teen boys and girls were rather absent! I personally understand this distrust from very poor villagers towards unknown foreign people. Anyway, our three friends were unanimous about the kindness and simplicity of those villagers even if not a single one could speak English! Since now there are 6 years that I cannot walk and visit outside families, I thought that those pictures can perfectly describe the cheerfulness and humanity of our Bengali families.





(School)





NEW YEAR 2023



The crib helps us to remember the poor and downtrodden....as also this 'Kalamkari' of Telengana sent by Catherine Mâge some years ago. I have discovered by chance this huge poster at the entrance for my 50Th year in India!

VISIT OF Dr CHANEMOUGANE'FAMILY



On 31st decembre, all of them appeared and remained several days!

Dr Coumar Chanemougane (2nd on right), is from Puduchery, but working and living in Paris, France. He has been working several years in Bhangore SHIS to establish a TB Hospital with my brother Wohab da. He was also a volunteer

to help us to run several dispensaries during several big floods of the early eighties. His daughter Selma (third from left) He is a real “Shevok” and now in his retirement’s years, is plunging in the depth of the Advaita. His compassion and love for the poor were –and is- legendary!



Nice family indeed, including the youngster “Loup-Gaston” who has received my name.

VISIT ON 4th JANUARY OF MY COUSIN-SISTER, ANNICK PRIEUR



From right to left, Annick et Christine and her son Judicael..

With her late husband Bernard, who died last year, Annick has visited India 15 times, especially when I was in the slum of Pilkhana, but since the late seventies, and many other villages in Bengal and Odhissa!



Gopadi was crying at her departure, as also after the departure of Selma!

VISIT of CATHERINE, SWISS ASSISTANT OF J.M. Grillon, aka Ali Baba



Here Annick with Binay and Annick. She is a nurse visiting our friendly NGOs.

There have been many more visits, but during the (for me) terrible cold wave of January, It was not possible for me to go outside!

6th BIRTHDAY OF THE SON OF BINAY & MAMPI.



Shop-shop (Shopnomoy) has given me a small card written :
« I love you because I have found the key of your heart!” You imagine how I can love him myself!

SARASWATI PUJA



Since I was bedridden, a Muslim girl, Azyma, has brought to me a Christian, the Light of Saraswati, the Beloved of the Hindu children, sent by Gopa, a Brahmin. This interreligious interaction has warmed up my heart!



Shop-shop has made his own Puja with Saraswati modeled by Mollika, his orphan friend!.

VERY IMPORTANT VISIT OF THE D.Y.O. (District OFFICER for Youth)



With her five collaborators, ARUNIMA came to thank us for our Successful Christmas Sports' Days made with their funds. They are ready to continue to help us for some projects of trainings. We are waiting for concrete proposals.

SEVERAL DISTRESSED PERSONS BROUGHT BY THE POLICE REHABILITATED



1. Anima Mahato, mentally sick and with us since 18 months. At last, we have found her husband. She has hardly recognized him!

2. The old woman Khatun, brought by night, could not give us her address. She was lost. Although leaving at 100 km (Nadia) through the police they could find her. But the police had no time. So the family remained with us...three days! Then they have met the judge, but the layers have asked them 2000 rp! A shame! Since no police officer accompanied them, we could not do anything!

3. One young muslim Ahmed is arrested at 4 AM. Put in one room, he seized a stick and beat two of our sick people, abusing Gopa who tried to stop him! Some of our workers threatened him and called him goonda (bandit!) When I heard it, I went and obliged the staff to open his room and let me alone with him. They

refused pretexting about the danger, but I gave order (which I never do since I have no more responsibilities in ICOD!) They let me pass, but soon some 20 men were behind the door! We spoke some words together in Urdu. Then he took my hand and started to search my clothes, open my blouse and checked my legs. I let him do it quietly. Clearly, he was afraid I hide a weapon! Quite clearly, I realized he has an unbalanced mind. So I treated him as a patient and he gave me his name he refused before to the police or for admission! I requested him to push my wheelchair to the door. But I was angry because some men were quite brutal to prevent him to follow me! Next day, he did the same thing in a new cell. He accepted but reluctantly to take a picture with me...All is well... But by night he broke a cemented highly placed skylight and escaped! Poor little brother Ahmed, are you now suffering in a police cell?

PASSAGE OF OUR DEAREST BROTHER, J.M. GRILLON DE SUISSE



He is better known as « Ali Baba ». Since several years, he is our beloved guest and generous donator. He is following many NGOs in Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and India, especially ABC and ICOD. He was hoping to see a stronger old man than my poor bedridden self. He shall come back early February and in March.

VEGETABLES, FRUITS & FLOWERS



In front of the dispensary, we can admire beautiful broccolis and cauliflowers



We have cleaned up for the third time the lemon trees' orchard. We expect some thousands of lemons this year.

Exceptional blooming of mangoes trees



... Expecting also one ton of mangoes...if storms do no destroy them, if draught does not dry them, if monkeys (langurs) do not eat them in troops, if virus do not sicken them, and if heat wave permit them to ripen ...

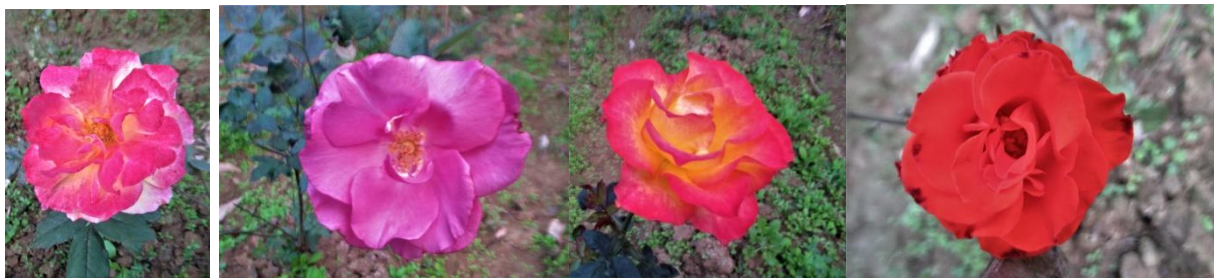


Two kinds of 'channas' captured by our boys in the mud. They can remain there during months of draught. Their flesh is some of the finest fishes.



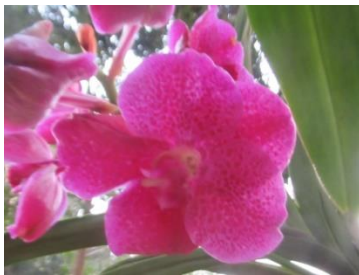
Young 'calotes versicolor' dragon. When the adult is angry, it becomes scarlet and deep blue.

FLORALIES D'HIVER





Futures hedges





The advantage of orchids are that they can remain one or event two monts...But this year, several died away without reason...Probably the pollen of the mangoes'trees, deadly for them!



We have started to renew the roof 'straw. But since the paddy harvest was bad this year, we have to purchase the straw in the next District. It is quite expensive! We first started with "Gandhi Bhavan". My room is just the black hole on the left.



The 'marine Mediterranean Cemetery » continues to be filled up by the so frequent drowning of distressed refugees from Africa or Middle East...under the general indifference of the Western countries that refuse to open their borders to new migrants. The richest countries, the less generous! Let us see the three children: and if they would be mine?

Every winter guest who came to visit us has asked me was I was thinking about the UKRAIN WAR!

For me, it is not a 'war', it is the 'Coliseum Games' where every European nations can see massacres, missiles, cannons and death

at their daily TV show!
If, instead of clapping hands to applaud Zelinski and Biden,
and sending tons of weapons to destroy and kill,
and mercenaries to increase the bloodbath,
they would send Good Samaritans to care and cure,
or boats to prevent the drowning,
would it not been a better idea?
I detest the hypocrisy of the pharisian rich, foreign or Indian!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

On first February, we shall be starting the new building for the mentally sick women, and for the general old and sick ones: One in two! It is our friendly Bangalore's NGO OFI that is bearing the cost. Engineer and contractor have just arrived, and Binay/Palash will supervise everything. More in February!