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Komal Gandhar presented a tribute to the stars

On 30th July 2014, Komal Gandhar conferred a tribute to cultural doyens of 19th century through a dance drama conceived by Riddhi Banerjee. She developed a unique script focusing on the work and their lives over the said centuries. The event intuitively captured the history of development in Bengal framing renowned artists' of the last century e.g., Binodini, Angurbala, Indubala, Kanon Devi and



Ashchoryomoye Dasi. The program was held at ICCR and was attended by few hundreds of spectators from the city. Renowned singers like Bijoylaxmi Barman, Anindita Kaji and Sarasi Chakraborty gave their voice in the program.

Children of Komal Gandhar rehearsed regularly to present pastiches of the lives of those artists who have risen from the red light localities. 11 dancers including two supporting singers, one of whom was trafficked as a child, were veterans on the stage. With the humble presence of 500 viewers, the evening witnessed a standing ovation.

The program was graced by eminent personalities of different fields like Sashi Panja, Minister In charge WCD, Debasish Kumar (MIC, Parks and Gardens), Ranjit Mallick (Serif of Kolkata) and many theatre personalities and singers.

Durbar initiated Durgostav with Khuti Puja

On 4th August 2014 Durbar organised 'Khuti Pujo' to mark the start of Durga Puja. The puja was held at the juncture of Abinash Kabiraj Street and Masjid Bari Street in front of Durbar's Clinic. This is the 2nd year that Durbar is planning to organize Durga Puja in Sonagachi red light district. The celebration begun in the evening followed by a dance program of Komal Gandhar.

Khuti Puja is a ritual where a piece of bamboo is worshipped before a Puja Mandap is erected in the same site with an expectation that there will be smooth and obstacle free preparation of Durga Puja. The day marks the beginning of making of the kathamo or the wooden frame on which the clay idol of Durga will be built. It is equivalent to Bhoomi puja what is worshiped before undertaking a construction of a house or any permanent structure. It is significant to devotees, who pray to the God seeking blessings for the construction of puja pandal and a grant start of the festival.



One Step forward to materialize Dream

A few years back Durbar had a dream to take forward the expertise of playing soccer of the sex workers' children as well as to create an academy of sports where children with special focus to marginalized communities could get a fair opportunity to arise and to establish their talent and accomplishments in the arena of sports.

With the help of hard working and years long efforts the children of sex workers have successfully won the heart of the people and held their mothers' heads high. Until a few days ago, whom the society characterized them as "illegitimate" now could sponge over all their issues of outcast and embrace these children of sex workers in national as well as international arena of sports.

By creating gems in soccer world Durbar has also successfully set up an academy of sports in Baruipur, West Bengal, named "Durbar Sports Academy". It has also registered with society registration act 2013-14 on 24th February 2014. "Durbar Sports Academy" is a unique in its time in so many ways. Firstly, it is sex workers' children own academy. Secondly, it is a place where the children, especially, from marginalized communities could get the opportunity to show their skills, who otherwise could access nowhere quality training and career building opportunities in sports.

In next few months time the implementation of planned residential will be operationalized. The academy is well equipped with training tools and classes for various kinds of sports including soccer.

Komal Gandhar bagged another achievement

Like every year this year also Pariwar Seva Sangathan, an NGO based in West Bengal organized a talent hunt show named 'Amra Korbo Joy'. Around 50 cultural team representing states of West Bengal and neighboring states participated in the competition. Komal Gandhar emerged as the winner beating 49 other cultural groups establishes themselves as the best cultural team in Eastern India.

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