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Durbar Bulletin -45

Amra Padatik Football League

On Saturday November, hundred Sonagachhi neighboring gathered a special celebrate the beloved Bidya Rambagan in of the Before the match kicked



22nd 2014, three people from and its areas together for ceremony to world's most sport. Rahul Niketan met the final leg football off, Komol

Gandhar, the cultural wing of Durbar greeted the guests with their lively dance numbers.

Prominent personalities from various walks of life, including veteran football players were present in the event to convey their support. Guests of honor included: Dr. Sashi Panja, Minister of State for Women & Child Welfare, Dr. Debashish Kumar, MMIC, artist Subrata Ganguly, and ex-football players, Surojit Sengupta and others.

Every year Amra Padatik, in association with DMSC, organizes a football league to introduce children to mainstream sports in order to build their self-esteem and share a sense of equity among all children in society. Durbar strongly believes that sports are the best activity to remove barriers between class, caste and occupation.

In the words of Dr. Smarajit Jana, Chief Advisor of DMSC: "We feel proud and happy for Amra Padatik. For the past 15 years, we have worked hard to introduce these talented youth from the sex workers' community to the arena of international and national sports. Recently we have successfully launched them in the Poland Homeless Slum Soccer 2014, where they represented India and mark with their outstanding performance. Not only this, footballer from Durbar sports academy performed in the IFA Nursery League and other national level league and flaunted their talent."

Dr. Sashi Panja addressed the players, saying, "You children prove that in sports, the talent of players is more important than the birth identity."

“Next year these boys will represent India in the Norway Cup, 2015!” added Krompton Dutta.

At the end of the day, Debashish Kumar and Krompton Dutta handed the Nirmala Smriti Challenge Trophy to the Champion team, *Rambagan*. D. N. Chatterjee awarded the Nagendra Smriti Challenge Trophy to the runners up, *Rahul Bidya Niketan*.

The Padatik Football League 2014 closing ceremony will conclude with a spectacular presentation of music by Amra Padatik Band.

Medical tie-ups between Durbar Sports Academy and Peerless Hospital

Durbar Sports Academy earned another feather in its cap: Peerless Hospital, one of the leading Eastern India, has announced that it will offer a medical partnership for the players of Durbar Sports Academy. In a press conference held in Krirangan, Salt Lake, in the presence of Yuva Bharti Lake, Durbar Sports Academy announced its new partnership. The goal of this alliance is to nurture football and support young talent from the community in their aspiration to represent India in the international stage.



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Mr. Dilip Samaddar, the Managing Director of Peerless Hospital, said, “I take pleasure to declare that Peerless Hospital is adopting 60 children of Durbar Sports Academy for their medical needs. The children of this club have really shown great efforts to journey from regional to international sporting initiative.” Peerless Hospital has offered:

1. Health insurance for a cover of 30, 00,000 INR (1,00,000 INR cover for each player in the senior group);
2. Health Cards (60 health cards) with West Bengal Health Scheme rates;
3. Free Annual Health Check-ups for 60 players in Baruipur;
4. 60 Free ISL match tickets.

Sex Workers participated in Pension Parishad Rally in Delhi

DMSC, the collective of Sex Workers of West Bengal, participated in an assemblage organized by the Pension Parishad, during the winter session of the Parliament. The group held the two-day long public assembly at the Ambedkhar Bhavan from 30th November to 1st December, 2014.

This was followed by a large scale protest of unorganizaed workers from all across the country demanding food security, Dalit rights and rights to employment, education, health care, housing and land rights.

“Abki Bari, Humara Adhikar” (This time, it’s *our* rights!) was the rallying cry of 15000 people from 20 states who marched from the Ambedkar JantarMantar.



Stadium to

Some of the champions Gyarsi Bai, Sahariyas Bai, Sarpanch, Ganga Bai Devama from Sangathan, an a few.

leading community and leaders were Leader from communit, Nauroti Harmanda, Jaipur, from Chattisgarh, Navjivan Mahila organization of the Community to name Prominent civil

society leaders included, Aruna Roy, Harsh Mander, Nikhil Dey, Jean Dreze , Annie Raja, Dipa Sinha, Paul Diwakar, Kavita Srivastava, Kavita Krishnan, Jagmati Sangwan, among many others.

The people’s concern included legislations such as the National Food Security act, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the Right to Information, the Forest Rights Act, and Land Acquisition Act and labour laws.

The representatives from AINSW (All India Network of Sex Workers) as well as DMSC took part in this assemblage. On behalf of 65000 sex workers in West Bengal, PutulHaldar, State Coordinator , AINSW stated that “being a primitive worker of human civilization, sex workers are still deprived from their basic rights. In the absence of workers’ rights, governments and state administrations deny us justice and honour. Under these circumstances, we the network of sex workers demand equal rights and entitlements which include workers’ rights and pension for aged workers. Eighty eight organizations joined the call for equal rights and equality opportunities.

Durbar’s training program on Ebola

Ebola, which wreaked havoc in some parts of West African countries, is a deadly and highly contagious disease. However, according the WHO guidelines, it is important to note that the disease is not airborne, but rather, it is transmitted through close contact with bodily fluids such as sweat, saliva, and cough of an infected person. As sex workers are more prone to get into contact with bodily fluids, they need to be extra cautious and made aware of the signs of Ebola. To this end, Durbar organized a training programme for sex workers of Sonagachhi to identify the symptoms and understand the risks of this deadly disease. The sex workers were advised to be careful when entertaining foreigners, especially Africans, who are their regular clients. The training programme was also extended to other red light districts in West Bengal, especially in port and bordering red light areas. In addition to learning about Ebola, sex workers were also educated about other sexually transmitted diseases.

Dr. Smarajit Jana, the Chief Advisor of Durbar, warned that though Ebola has not yet reached Kolkata, we best be prepared for it if and when it comes.

Durbar Celebrated World Aids Day

On the occasion of World Aids Day, Durbar organized a day long awareness campaign on the 1st of December in various red light districts of West Bengal to keep the public informed about the reality, myths and misconceptions about HIV/Aids and also to stop discrimination against HIV positive people.

To mark the day, Sonagachhi sex workers of pledged not to sell sex without using condoms. Puja Roy, Project Manager (Health) of Durbar, said that free condom service was initiated with the aim of making Sonagachhi a “Zero Aids” area.



This was followed by a rally, which commenced from Sonagachhi. Over 300 sex workers and their children participated in this rally to demand an end to discrimination towards HIV infected people.

Children’s Library in Rahul Vidyaniketan

On 19th November, 2014, with the initiative from Booksellers Guild Publishers, a children’s library was inaugurated in Rahul Vidyaniketan, a residential home in Baruipur. The program commenced with a ceremonial lighting of a lamp, followed by an inaugural song by Mita Mondal of the Durbar Band, who was rescued by Durbar.

On behalf of Booksellers Guild Publishers, the Secretary, Director, Vice President and former President and Treasurer, were present for the occasion. Eminent personalities, such as singer, Surojit Chattopadhyay of the Bangla band, Bhoomi, author, Dev Kumar Bose, Baruipur Panchayat Pradhan, and our very own Dr. Smarajit Jana and Bharati Dey graced the program with their presence.

In his speech, Dr. Jana said that, like the one in Baruipur, Durbar wants to establish a library in each of the red light districts where Durbar runs a TI project. Ms. Bharati Dey expressed her gratitude towards Booksellers Guild Publishers. She also shared that her dream that someday there would be a platform for the children of the community to showcase their talents has finally come true.

The program closed with Komal Gandhar’s and children of Rahul Vidyaniketan’s dance performance, which was greatly appreciated by the people present there.

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