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Durbar Bulletin -71

Padatik Football League, 2017

By 2004, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Community (DMSC) felt that there is an urgent need to promote self confidence and spirit of collectiveness through various sports activities. DMSC took an initiative to build up a sports team comprising around 100 children of sex workers from various red light districts and other indigenous communities like 'Sabar'. Rahul Vidya Niketan, Baruipur is the main sports centre of DMSC. Amra Padatik, the organization of the children of the sex workers, came up with the cause. It was established in the autumn of 2006.



Like every year this year also Amra Padatik in association with Durbar Sports Academy organizes Padatik Football League 2017 to engage these children in mainstream sports in order to regain their self esteem. The league was named as Nirmala & Nagandra Sriti Challenge Cup.

Like 2016, this year also the league was designed like the Indian Soccer League. Players were divided into 16 teams. A bunch of citizens in Kolkata are proud owners of 16 football team. The basic idea to have such a league is to make them feel that they are not isolated from the society.

The inaugural program of the league was held today (14.01.2017, Saturday) at 3pm on Kumartuli Park, Near Sobha Bazar Metro Station, North Kolkata. The program was inaugurated by lighting lamp followed by a cultural program of Komal Gandhar. After that the 1st match was played between Khidirpur and Rambagan team.

Prominent personalities from various walks of society and veteran football players were present in the event to convey their support. Bikash Paji(former footballer), Manash Bhattacharjee (former footballer), Babun Banerjee (former Footballer), Tarak Chattapadhyay (Counsilor), Mitali Saha(Councilor), Sunanda Sarkar (Councilor), Pradip Choudhury (HOD, University of Calcutta, Department of Sports), Chandan Kanti Chattapadhyay (Additional Public Prosecutor, Howrah Judge Court) among them.



Campaign to Guarantee Employment and ensure food security

2nd February is marked as the National Employment Guarantee Day in India. National Employment Guarantee Act which was passed in 2005 (later named after Mahatma Gandhi) aimed to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing 120 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household. This was a unique initiative by the state to create employment to the people having long lasting effect in securing rights of the labour through guaranteed employment. The act can have far reaching impact in stabilizing and enhancing daily wage of labourers as the government program could set up a yearstock for minimum wage for the workers. Unfortunately despite of the good intentions the act has not been properly implemented and has failed to ensure partial employment guarantee for poor and under privileged section of our society.

To raise the demand for proper implementation of the act Right to Food and Livelihood Campaign Committee, West Bengal organized an unique program called “Thalabajao”(Drum your plates) campaign. The primary slogan of the campaign is “Hate hateKaaj Chai-Pate pate bhaat chai” (We demand work for our hands and food in our plates). As a primary constituent member of Right to Food and Livelihood Campaign Durbar organized 2 street demonstration one in Domjur and the other in Ghatal followed by a deputation to the local administration and Food Supply Office.

Unorganized workers who are in the lowest stratum of the society spontaneously joined in the demonstration, shouted slogans, distributed leaflets demanding for effective implementation of the Food Security Act, National Employment Guarantee Act and universalization of Public Distribution System. There are similar programmes organized by other constituent members of Right to Food and Livelihood Campaign throughout the week starting from 2nd of February to 9th February.

It was followed by a similar programme was organised in front of the New Secretariat Building on 9th of February, targeting Panchayat and Rural Development Department which is housed in the new Secretariat Building. Representatives from various districts of West Bengal gathered in front of New Secretariat Building and drummed the plates to raise their demands. After the program representatives of the campaign committee submitted a deputation to the Secretary of panchayat and Rural Development, Govt. of West Bengal.

I will Go Out to Claim Public Space

On 31st December night, Bengaluru witnessed the most shameful public molestation in the recent past where a CCTV footage confirmed molestation of women by two men on the scooter. It became viral immediately and the women across the country showed their solidarity for claiming public spaces for women. From students to transgender to elderly women, men joined hand in hand across 30 cities in India, resisting claiming public spaces on 21st January. In Kolkata as a Durbar member of Maitree, Will Go Out participated in the “I Campaign” in Allens Park, Park Street. Women, Transgender, Students gathered holding colourful posters,



Bengaluru women spaces for women. elderly women, men joined hand in hand across 30 cities in India, resisting claiming public spaces 2017.

member of Maitree, participated in the “I Campaign” in Allens Park, Park Street. Women, Transgender, Students gathered holding colourful posters,

wearing yellow ribbons and shouted with slogans, singing vibrant songs and performing dance drama claiming public spaces. The audience enchanted with the folk song “Amar Haat Bandhibi Pao Bandhibi Mon Bandhibi Kyamne”(My hands can be tied, feet can be tied but my soul cannot be tied up) and compelled to dance with the performers. This initiative is to erase the stigma attached to the women being out at late night and to change the percept and practices of the society. Bishakha Laskar from Durbar said that a part of their job is on the streets which should be safe for women to ensure their rights to mobility. Eminent Social activist Ratnaboli Roy, Anuradha Kapoor were also present in the programme to extend support and spread awareness among the mass.

Durbar set up a Day care centre for the children of Nachnis and other marginalised communities

On 2nd September 2016, Durbar set up a day care centre in Senabona, Arsha Block, Purulia. The centre was inaugurated by West Bengal Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs Minister Shanti Ram Mahato. Guests from different sectors were present in the program. A survey was conducted by Durbar with the support of Indienhilfe e.V. Herrsching, Germany in 20 blocks of Purulia district. The report revealed that the people of Senabona block are living in a very distressed condition. The people are mainly engaged in different folk art like Nachni, Jhumur, ghoranaach etc. Durbar provided support and helped Nachnis to organise their own collective and also established a day care and research centre there. The day care centre provides tuition support to 30 children belonging to Jhumur and Nachni Community.

Durbar’s participation in Kolkata Book fair

In Kolkata, India, after the monsoon and autumn comes the winter season. As the cold and chill begins it gives ample opportunity to get active and enjoy ourselves under the warmth of the sunshine. Hence, plenty of fairs get organised in the city of joy, Kolkata. The Milan Mela Prangan of popular hangout to gossipers for most awaited people waits for The International 41st year, is the The fair was held February 2017. year’s book fair Russia celebrated diplomatic had a special 2017. Besides, UK, Vietnam, 11 Latin American countries and Bangladesh were also present at the Book fair 20-17.



Kolkata becomes a location for book lovers some days. This is the event of the city that enthusiastically.

Kolkata Book fair, in its Asia’s biggest book fair. from 25th January to 5th February 2017. The focal theme of this was Costa Rica.

70 years of the country’s relationship with India, presence at Book fair USA, France, China,

Durbar has been taking part in Kolkata Book fair since last 9 years and the Prakashani of Durbar (the publishing house of Durbar) launched its new publication namely ‘Notebondi-ke kar pokkhe’(Demonetization) and ‘Dharshan-Aparadhi ke’ (Rape-who is criminal) written by Dr. Smarajit Jana on 4th February 2017 at Montmartre. Advocate Mr. Kollal Basu(High Court), Sunanda Mukherjee (Chairperson of Women’s Commission, Kolkata) and other eminent person from literary world were present in the program.

The first book is all about demonetization happened in India, its impact on the people and the 2nd book is dedicated to the Park Street Rape victim Suzeet Jordan.



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