

Kabaddi Kabaddi...Catch the Cops!



Police trapped by the prisoners

It was a day with a difference. It was unprecedented. It had never happened before in India and outside. At least not to our knowledge. It was a Kabaddi match between a Police team and that of prisoners. It happened on March 3, 2008. The Kolkata Police agreed to our proposal for a friendly match between their team comprising all international players and the State level kabaddi team of prisoners. This team of prisoners was trained by us after we introduced 'kabaddi' in our correctional homes in the last couple of years. Before the match, as part of the training, we organized matches between kabaddi teams from different correctional homes as well as between our teams and district kabaddi teams from different districts of West Bengal. However, this particular match, that is the one between the Kolkata Police Team and Prisoners' Team was the most difficult. Not to mention the most historic. An event unprecedented in

history. Imagine the nervousness, the hesitation and fear which the prisoners had to overcome in order to take on the Police, their captors!! The Kolkata Police Team, the State Champions at present, defeated our team by a wide margin of 54-25. But for us the event itself is more important than the result. The result could have been still better if only the poor Prisoners' Team was not so nervous or scared. This is however not to take away the credit from the Kolkata Police Team who really played like Champions. The excitement in the Alipore Central Correctional Home on the occasion was something to be seen. Sri Zulfikar Hasan, Special Addl. CP, Armed Police, Kolkata personally came to Alipore Central Correctional Home to witness the match. Our gratitude to Kolkata Police for allowing us to organize this path-breaking event.

Prison Kiddies on Track & Field



Like the last year we organized the children's sports inside Presidency Correctional Home on February 27, 2008. The day long event was organized with the help of Apostolic Carmel, Kolkata - our partner for various correctional activities inside Presidency Correctional Home. About 135 children out of the total 300 children lodged in Presidency Correctional Home participated. The number of children in the prisons of the State has gone up to more than 400, a vast majority of which is from Bangladesh. The staff of the correctional homes and some other enthusiastic adult inmates were observed making hectic preparations for the event for almost one entire week. The annual sports are being organised by us in compliance of the directive by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in R.D.Upadhyay Vs State of AP & Ors.



Tagore Celebrated Across Jails

Over the last few years, we have been celebrating Rabindra Jayanti in different correctional homes of the State. It was different this year, however. This year we decided to celebrate the day in every single correctional home of the State including the smaller ones i.e. the sub correctional homes as well. A general permission was issued from Prisons Directorate to the Superintendents of all the correctional homes in the State to celebrate the 147th Rabindra Janmotsava. Furthermore, the Superintendents were asked to ensure that they encourage as many inmates as possible to participate in the cultural activities, including singing, recitation, dance and oration. Thus on the 8th of May, 2008 the inmates of correctional homes across the State joined mainstream society in celebrating the Rabindra Janmotsav this year. The inmates of Krishnanagar District Correctional Home observed Rabindra Jayanti on the 10th May - two days later as they mourned the death of a fellow UTP Billal Sk - a Bangladesh national on 8th May.