

## **Two Day Conference at Dharmadhar Centenary Hall by AIFBB**

This year also on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 All India Federation of Bengali Buddhists or AIFBB organized a two day Conference at Dharmadhar Centenary Hall, Kolkata commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Bharatratna Babasaheb Dr. B.R.Ambedkar.

**27<sup>th</sup> February, Saturday:** The first day of the Conference was scheduled for the seminar on “The Influence and Contribution of Buddha and Dr.B.R.Ambedkar in Indian Constitution and the Present Socio-economic Condition of India”. Presided over by Dr. B.P.Barua the programme started with the “Mangalacharan” by Ven. Jinopriya Thera, followed by Smt. Sushoma Barua’s inaugural song. Then after the ritual of “panchashil”, Mr Ashis Barua delivered the welcome address note. Prof. Basudeb Barman, the ex vice-chancellor of Kalyani University chaired the occasion as the chief guest. There were also other distinguished persons like Sri Nitish Biswas, ex Joint Registrar, Calcutta University and Dr.Avijit Pakhira from Burdwan University. Prof. Barman talked about various aspect of Buddhism along with the struggle of Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar. Issues like poverty, equality, Brahministic rituals, reservation and children’s right to education were also discussed. Sri Nitish Biswas voiced for the upliftment and advancement of the downtrodden, underprivileged people of India. Dr. Avijit Pakhira made a judicious comparison between Buddha’s Philosophy and Ambedkar’s work. He also talked about various rights and pointed out the importance of unity. Then other notable members of AIFBB like Sri Amulya Ranjan Barua (Tollygunge), Sri Satyajit Barua (Pottery Road), Sri Rahul Barua (DumDum Cant.) delivered their valuable lectures on the same subject. The program reached its end with the thanksgiving note by Sri Supriyo Barua.

**28<sup>th</sup> February, Sunday:** The topic of the seminar on the second day of the Conference was “Discussion on the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Religious Book ‘Ratnamala’ by Saman Punnananda Swami.” Six research scholars took part in the discussion. It started with Ven. Sumonopal Thera who discussed on the first chapter of this book named “Sadharan Upadesh”. Then it was followed by Bandana Bhattacharya who talked about the second chapter “Shila Sangraha”. The third chapter dealing with “Bandana” was analyzed by Suman Barua. The fourth chapter “Puja” and the fifth “Paritran” were discussed by Smt. Aparna Barua and Satyajit Pal respectively. The last chapter named “Dana o Danaphal” was explained by Smt. Soma Ray. Dr. B.P. Barua discussed about the usefulness and importance of this book in our everyday life. With the thanksgiving ceremony the second phase of the Conference came to its end.

During the third phase of the Conference ‘Bengal Buddhist Women Forum’ played the leading role. The Forum organized a seminar on “Buddhist Women at Home”. The chief guest of the occasion was Dr. Saswati Mutsuddi, Department of Pali, Calcutta University. Other dignified guests were Shramani Khema and Dr Debbonhni Barua. The program was presided over by Smt. Sushoma Barua. Prof. Mutsuddi discussed the universal role and identity of women. She put emphasis on women’s social role in its overall development. Dr Debbonhni Barua talked about women education and its importance . Then the discussion was followed by Smt. Dipa Barua,

Smt.Juthika Barua, Smt.Dipika Barua. There was also a questionnaire session which made the discussion more lively. The third phase came to an end with a jolly cultural program.