

## Bangladeshi girls raise \$10,220 for Queensland Flood appeal

The evening of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2011 saw members of the Bangladeshi community in Campbelltown gather for a good cause despite the intense heat. More than 350 people came together at the request of Projonmo Bangladesh Sydney (Probashi), a registered charity organisation run by a group of young Bangladeshi girls intent on catalysing social change through assisting those in need in Bangladesh and abroad.



We at Probashi, are deeply aware of social and current issues and actively works to address them. Born in 2001, we are an organisation that arose from a collective need to better the lives of the disadvantaged in Bangladesh as well as Australia. Our main focus was originally to raise funds for the acid victims of Bangladesh. Still raising funds for our original cause, today we have branched out in order to aid many other causes in Australia and Bangladesh. Over the past 10 years, we have been an active participant in the cultural programs, Tree Plantation Day, Blood Donation program and festivals and fairs held in Sydney. We have held stalls to raise funds for our dedicated projects including charity functions for the Red Cross, cancer council breakfasts and clean up Australia day among other initiatives.

Funds raised for acid victims of Bangladesh have been successfully used for their treatment, Legal aid, rehabilitation, self employment needs and social awareness campaigns. In the past, we have raised money for a cancer patient named Prapti (a 3 years old girl in Bangladesh) and a Bangladeshi cancer student in Australia. We also raised funds for SIDR Flood affected people in Bangladesh. We held a Cadbury chocolate run and raised money for 20 most affected families in Nilfamaría north of Bangladesh and provided them with income generating items such as rickshaws, sewing machines, Cows, Van, Wheelchair and Tins for their shelter.

Last September 2010 in the month of Ramadan we organised a Iftar party and raised \$5,000 for Fistula Patients in Bangladesh. Fistula is an injury of obstructed labour without timely medical intervention. It may result in stillbirth and leave the mother with many complications. We have successfully organised for 25 Fistula patients to be operated on as they have been suffering from this disease for 10 to 20 years. We organised these operations through Motaleb Community Hospital in Dhaka. It costs on an average \$200 per patient. In Bangladesh there are 100,000 unfortunate poor mothers who still suffer from fistula disease today.

While our main aim is to raise funds to assist the acid victims in Bangladesh, we felt it was important to rally local efforts to support our neighbours in Queensland. We took on the task of contacting the Premier and validating our efforts and thus held a charity dinner and auction. The dinner was attended by the Federal **MP Laurie Ferguson** and the Ambassador of Bangladesh **Lieutenant General Mausud Uddin Chowdhury**. We also received support and donations from Mr Andrew McDonald, Local state MP, Campbelltown.

The successful event raised \$10,220 through the selling of tickets and an auction of items sponsored by the local business community and proved to be an enjoyable night for everyone that attended. Our total expenses totalled to \$1,199, which was fully sponsored by businesses in our local community.

**A bank cheque of \$10,220.00 payable to The Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal was handed over to the Honourable Federal MP Mr Laurie Ferguson at his Office on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2011.** Mr Ferguson received the cheque on behalf of the Premier of Queensland.



**The Honourable Federal MP Mr Laurie Ferguson is receiving the cheque for \$10,220.00 from Probashi members on behalf of the Premier of Queensland**

The final accounts of this event are available from Mr Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Mr Mahbubul Islam Chowdhury, Mr Mossaref Chowdhury, Mr Jacob Chowdhury, Mr Mustaq Khan and at the registered office of Probashi.

We are overwhelmed by the help and co-operation from our community, sponsors and donors. We are grateful to all the members of the community that assisted us and would like to extend our appreciation and thank all of the participants of the dinner. We would also like to thank those who bought the tickets but could not make it on the night. Community members, sponsors, children, and the Media all extended their sincere co operation to make this event successful. On behalf of Probashi we would like to thank you all for your support.

We will be holding a stall at the Bangladeshi Boi Mela (book fair) at Ashfield Park on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2011 to raise further funds for the acid victims of Bangladesh from 10am to 6pm. Please come and support us in our endeavours.

By Shafeen Mustaq – Probashi Reporter