PROBASY



BRING LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHARITY BREAKFAST MONEY FOR OUR LITTLE SISTER PRAPTI?

The charity breakfast party for Prapti held at Glenfield on 18th June 2006 was a great success. With the help of our community and Bangladeshi artists who were in Sydney at the time, we made this breakfast as enjoyable as possible. Probasy would like to thank everyone who put in their time and effort to bring back Prapti's beautiful smile.

We colleted a total of \$6,880 of which sales proceeds were \$2,760, cash donations \$2,320, donations from the Canberra's charity breakfast \$800 and \$1000 was donated by Probasy. From the grand total of \$6,880, \$5750 (3 Lakh taka at TK52.17 exchange rate) was donated to Prapti through Prothom Alo. Abdus Naser from Minto, Sydney, kindly took the responsibility of handing the money over to Prapti's family. A bank draft of Tk. 3 (three) Lakh taka was handed to the family at the Prothom Alo office at Kawanbazar Dhaka on 28th June 2006. Prapti's fupi Saria Tasnim and her mother Tahmina Bashir Polin came to collect the money from Abdus Naser.



From the left: Saria Tasnim (Prapti's fupi), Tahmina Bashir Polin (Prapti's mother), Abdus Naser, Abdul Qauyum Mukul and Shajjad Sharif.

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The cheque for Prapti.

The remaining money in the fund was \$1130 of which \$180 was spent for the Charity Breakfast (Hall hire and Miscellaneous Expenses). Currently Probasy has a fund of \$950 from this project.

Abdus Naser personally had a meeting with Prapti's mother, maternal grandfather, Saria Tasnim and her Doctor from PG Hospital and found that the fund currently they have is enough for maintaining Prapti's treatment. They mentioned that they have also received some donation from other sources as well as Probasy. After researching this matter further we have come to the conclusion that Prapti has enough funds for her treatment, this has also been confirmed by her doctor. Anyone who would like to help Prapti, we request you to contact us before making a donation.

Meanwhile Probasy has encountered another project. Arif Tanvir is an international student from Bangladesh, currently studying M.Sc in InterNetworking at UTS. Arif was born in Mehedibag, Chittagong, Bangladesh. His father Mr. Abu Ahmed Rashidullah is a retired professor of English literature of Chittagong Government College and his mother is a house wife. He is the only child of the family. He completed his Secondary and Higher Secondary education from Chittagong Ispahani Public School and College. He came to Dhaka and completed his B.Sc in Computer Science from IUT (Islamic University of Technology) in December, 2002. He worked as a Network Engineer for one and a half year in 2 different companies in Dhaka. Then in July 2004 he came to Australia for higher education.

In July 2004 doctors of St George Hospital diagnosed Arif with brain tumour. After a biopsy doctors confirmed that not only did he have brain tumour but it was already in stage 2 and it was malignant. Then therapy started, unfortunately the tumour began to grow and surgery was urgent. After 6 hours of vigorous surgery only a small portion of the tumour could be removed as it was too deep. Arif was then admitted to Prince of Wales hospital. Unfortunately, despite all this treatment the tumour had elevated to stage 4 from stage 2 and this then was called brain cancer rather than brain tumour. Doctors then began oral chemo therapy. He took 6 doses of which each dose cost AU\$3600. This meant altogether he spent \$22,000 which is a huge burden on his family. Medibank only covered 50%-80% of the surgery but no chemo therapy was covered. Some financial help was provided from our Bangladeshi community in Australia. Further treatment is required for Arif, but money has become an unfortunate barrier.

Probasy has decided to donate the remaining \$950 to Arif Tanvir to help him continue his chemo and fight for life. Probasy will be keeping this as one of our ongoing projects, not only to financially help Arif but also socially and mentally and we welcome any one who would like to join us.

Despite such a life changing event Arif has continued his studies and completed his 3rd semester, and is about to finish his 4th semester. He will be graduating in November 2006 inshallah. The government has cancelled his student visa stating that he is a burden of Australia. He has been issued with a breezing visa until he finishes his studies. His doctor has said if he was to return to Bangladesh his chances of recovery would weaken. Probasy believes that Arif has all means to protest against the government. Probasy also believes that as a large and strong Bangladeshi community in Sydney, we should stand with our brother Arif and help him in the fight for life and in the fight for his rights.

If you would like to know more about any of these projects please email us at <u>assistance@probasy.org</u>

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