

SOCCER PALS PITCH IN TO HELP APPEAL

BIG-HEARTED young people made a net profit for flood disaster victims when they put on their soccer kit and played a charity game.

The 90-minute effort by members of the Mitalee Youth Association chipped in £55 towards the town's Bangladeshi flood relief fund.

And when they're not scoring goals on the pitch, the young fund-raisers are putting in leg work elsewhere in a bid to help the appeal.

A three-hour street collection raised another £285 and organisers reckon they've now topped the £3,000 mark.

But there's still plenty of fund-raising to go before they hit their £50,000 target.

Highlight of the cash-gathering campaign — organised by the youth

association and Asian advice centre — is another charity football game between a UK Bangladeshi side and former Luton Town players at the Kenilworth Road ground on November 27.

And there's a house-to-house collection planned in the town on November 18 and 19.

Organisers are excited about the soccer fundraiser and predict the Bangladeshi side will include players from Bradford, Birmingham and other major cities. The big match will kick off at 3pm, with a youngsters game starting an hour earlier. Tickets are £2 for adults, £1 for children.

"We're very pleased with our progress," said organisers this week. "And we're confident that the kindness shown by the people of Luton so far will continue. The people of Bangladesh need every penny we can raise."



● Net profit — Mitalee Youth Association soccer players.

Radio Bedfordshire's Bangladesh Appeal

ON JUNE 6 BBC Radio Bedfordshire in conjunction with three of the Luton's Bangladeshi group Mitalee Youth Association (BYL) and Bangladesh Welfare Association went live on air for three hours to raise money for the victims of the recent Bangladesh cyclone.

The programme started at 8pm by an appeal by the Luton's newly elected Bengali Mayor Mick Guha, which followed by interview with various community leaders as well as groups and individuals raising funds, including a representative from Oxfam.

On the night on behalf of Bangladesh government appeal, a senior member of the Bangladesh High Commission collected a cheque for £5000.00 from Bangladesh Welfare Association, and also a cheque from Luton's Pakistan Kashmir Welfare Association.

Luton's Mitalee Youth Association in conjunction

with Berks, Hamps, Surrey Welfare Association has so far raised more than £15000.00, but hoping to raise more than £25,000.00 within next few weeks and all the money they will raise will be distributed directly to the victims by the groups.

3 members from the both group will be flying to Bangladesh in few weeks time with a view to help as many families as possible.

The leader of the group Ashuk Ahmed said that as from our previous experience in 1988, when we went to Bangladesh ourselves and distributed cash, monies, foods, cloths, we feel that we should do the same thing again this time, because this is only way you can make sure where the money is going and also you can distribute in some remote part of the country where foreign aid never reach. We have a complete video film of how we distribute in 88 and we will do the same again this time and if any one

wishing to see the film can contact the group leader on Luton 342859.

Rather than giving cash money, said Mr. Ahmed, this time our aim is to give them something which will generate income, like if there are any able bodied person in any family but due to the cyclone has lost everything and cannot afford to purchase anything like Rickshaw, Pulling Cart, or even Cattles, in that case we will purchase it for that family so that the whole family can love on that for as long as it last and in that time atleast that family doesnot have to starve. We feel that by giving food or cash money it will not solve their problems, as most of the people have lost everything and what will happen after that food or money runs out. For £20.00 we can purchase a pulling cart, and for £50.00 to £70.00 we can buy a Rickshaw for a family, which earn enough to feed up to a family of up to ten members.

THE PRIZE GUYS



● A LOT of teams would like to look back on a season like the Mitalee Youth Association's under-13 five-a-side squad.

● They won 15 games, drew two and lost just one in the Luton Regional Sports Centre's five-a-side league.

● Mitalee's top scorer was Mohammed Salam with 80 goals to his credit. He and other members of the association were recipients of more than 60 trophies at their recent presentation day.

CITIZEN