A Crystal Ball of Hope



The pitiful state of children in the Malnutrition and Emergency Ward.

NADER RAHMAN

Valentines day usually means showing one's significant other one's level of devotion and for some committed individuals this year was no different, only all their dedication was directed towards improving the health of underprivileged children. The love and affection of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation's (SAARC) Women's Association was focused on the Dhaka Shishu Hospital and more specifically the Malnutrition and Emergency Ward. On February 14, the SAARC Women's Association arranged a Crystal Ball, Dinner and Dance to help raise funds for its various beneficiaries and it proved to be a stellar event for a worthy cause.

The Ball was held at Radisson Water Garden and amid the pomp and pageantry there was the very real business of fund raising. Each table was sponsored by companies and individuals as they added their donations to the total money raised. The evening started symbolically with as heads of the eight SAARC country missions in Bangladesh gathered on stage to light candles to mark the occasion. There were also a few speeches from the guests, with the ambassadors sharing their thoughts on the evening. They went on to state that the benefits of the fund raising drive may be localised to Bangladesh, but it only goes to show how every SAARC nation has a role to play in the larger picture of development.



The Malnutrition and Emergency Ward at the Shishu Hospital.



The dinner and dance in full flow.

Currently the Shishu Hospital treats between 500 to 800 children a day and of those patients 40% of them must pay for their treatment, but with events such as the Crystal Ball money is raised so that more patients can be treated without cost and provided with medicine.