

Newsletter

Our latest news, updates and announcements

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**Friends of Street
Children Bangladesh**

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Photograph (above): The Road to Doha event at British Council - with Deputy British High Commissioner

The Road to Doha 2022

The children get ready take part in international football tournament

From 3rd to 15th October 2022 a team of girls from the LEEDO Peace Home will be taking part in the Street Child United Street Child World Cup 2022 in Doha. 10 girls and 3 leaders will be travelling to Doha. One of the leaders will be one of the young women who took part as a player in the Street Child Cricket World Cup in London in 2019.

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh are pleased to be supporting the team. We have helped with finding

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Images (top): University of West England (Bristol, UK), London College of Legal Studies (Dhaka South) and US Bangla Airlines are sponsoring the children

Photographs (below): Children practice for the tournament in Dhaka

sponsors and funds raised from the sleep out at Dhaka station will also help to cover costs. The University of West England will again be the main sponsor and members of their staff will also be travelling to Doha as volunteers. The college headed by one of our Active Supporters, London College of Legal Studies (Dhaka South), are also sponsoring the team and US Bangla Airlines are providing free plane tickets.

The British Council in Dhaka held a launch event for the Road to Doha on 11th March. During the event supporters in Dhaka donated funds. The children performed a play and sang some songs. A video with the popular Bangla Band Blue Jeans and a song written especially for the team was launched at the event. Our supporters will be able to see parts of this special programme at the fundraising meal we are holding at the Diwana restaurant in Camden on Saturday 9th July 2022.

The Road to Doha for the children of LEEDO Peace Home is not simply a journey by plane from Dhaka to Doha. It is a journey from a childhood suffering extreme poverty and abuse, surviving on the crowded streets of Dhaka to a transformational opportunity to meet children who have experienced similar difficulties from all over the world and to make their voice heard. Most of the children who took part in the Street Child Cricket World Cup are now leading activities at the LEEDO Peace Home and campaigning for the rights of children in Dhaka. This includes one young woman who will be a staff member leading the team from Bangladesh in Doha. The countries taking part in the tournament this year are:

Girls' teams: Bangladesh, Brazil, Bolivia, Darfur, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, USA, Zimbabwe

Boys' teams: Brazil, Burundi, England, Hungary, India, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Tanzania, Uganda

Sponsor a child on the Road to Doha

We are seeking sponsors who will help children supported by LEEDO on their journey from the streets to taking up opportunities such as participation in the Street Child Football World Cup.

☀ **Sponsorship of £100** provides one month of funding for a worker on the streets of Dhaka, contacting and rescuing children surviving on the streets.

☀ **Sponsorship of £250** is the typical cost of a child staying at a transitional shelter before rehabilitation with their family or moving to long term care including at LEEDO's Peace Home

☀ **Sponsorship of £500** enables children at LEEDO Peace Home to realise their potential by funding classes such as football, cricket, art, music, and computing for one year.

All sponsors will hear directly from children taking part in the Street Child Football World Cup about how this opportunity has changed their lives.

Meet Fatima

Fatima (not her real name), whose journey has been from the streets of Dhaka and who will be travelling to Doha as a member of the football team Fatima is 15 years old. She has been living at LEEDO Peace Home for about 3 years. Before that she stayed at the shelter near the railway station in Dhaka. She was there for about one month.

Fatima's home district is in Mymensingh District of Bangladesh. She was born there and lived there until coming to Dhaka. Her father and mother separated and both re-married. Then Fatima lived with her aunty who forced her to go and work for a family in Dhaka to earn money which was then sent back to her aunty in Mymensingh. The family in Dhaka mistreated Fatima. They did not give her proper food and if she made any mistake in her work, they used to beat her. Fatima left them and went to the street. She was on the street for one day and met with the LEEDO team in the afternoon who took her to the shelter near the railway station.

Fatima likes Peace Home a lot including all the food. At school she is studying in class one and her favourite subject is Bengali. At Peace Home she especially likes the computer class because she can watch cartoons, play games, and learn a lot. She likes singing Bengali songs.

Fatima started playing football to prepare for the tournament. She did not play before. She likes football and she thinks all girls should have the opportunity to play.

Fatima is looking forward to meeting teams from other countries, but she is a bit afraid about flying in a plane.



To sponsor a child please visit our on-line donation page at People's Fundraising. Please remember to claim Gift Aid if you are eligible.

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/friends-of-street-children-bangladesh>

For further details please email us at: friendsofscbd@gmail.com

All sponsors will receive a certificate acknowledging their support.

Sleep out at Dhaka Station raises more than £1,200 to support LEEDO

On Sunday 27th February our chairperson, Mike Sherriff, took part in a sleep-out at Dhaka Railway station with the Executive Director and several staff from LEEDO. The sleep-out followed a similar fundraising initiative that Forhad, the Executive Director of LEEDO, took part in when he came to London prior to the Street Child Cricket World Cup. On that occasion Forhad slept at the Lord's Cricket Ground but the idea in Dhaka was to sleep at the station, at the place where LEEDO runs its street school and alongside the children, families and others who spend every night there. Several staff who usually work with the children joined the sleep out and the children were very pleased that we had come to spend the night at the station. A meeting was held with some families who had been staying on the street and who LEEDO subsequently provided with simple accommodation.



Photographs (above): FSCBD chairperson Mike Sherriff and participant take part in the sleep-out

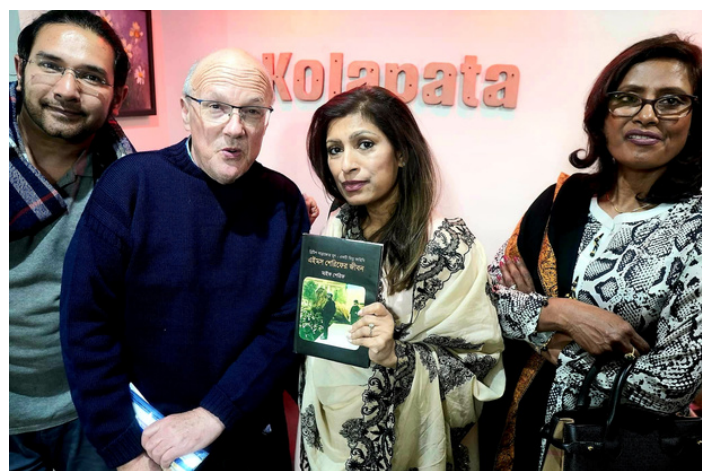
At the beginning of the sleep-out, in the evening, street theatre was performed by children from LEEDO's Peace Home. The children also sang some songs. Several people from the UK joined using facebook live. Passers-by stopped to find out what we were doing and some donated to support the work of LEEDO.

Hundreds of people sleep at Dhaka Station every night. For most of the night it was noisy and hot so quite difficult to sleep but the rats scavenging for food nearby provided entertainment into the early hours of the morning.

Thanks to everybody who donated to this fundraising initiative, which raised over £1,200.

Iftar Party raises over £500 to support the work of LEEDO

Huge thanks to everybody who attended our Iftar Party at Kolapata restaurant in Whitechapel on International Day for Street Children. Special thanks to our Active Supporter, Hamida, who encouraged people to come along and organised a brilliant raffle, that raised almost £200 towards the overall total. The money raised will be used to help continue LEEDO's important education and outreach work on the streets of Dhaka.



Photographs (above): Iftar meal at Kolapata, Whitechapel

LEEDO's work with street families

There are many children who survive on the street for most of their childhood. Some fall in love when they are older and marry. There are also families with nowhere to live who survive on the streets, for example at the railways station. These families often have very young children aged under 5, facing a future growing up on the streets.

LEEDO has recently started a project to provide these families with simple accommodation. 5 families have each been provided with a room and live as neighbours just outside Dhaka City. They share washing facilities. In future LEEDO plan to help the families to start small businesses or find work to earn a living.



Photograph (above): Tareque and his family

Become and Active Supporter

Our Active Supporters are making a huge difference by organising fundraising activities, encouraging people to take part in our events, and donating on a regular basis to support our work.

We keep in contact with Active Supporters by email and using the Active Supporters face book page. Please contact us at friendsofscbd@gmail.com if you are willing to become one of our Active Supporters.

Our Annual Report and Accounts

Our annual return to the Charity Commission and our annual accounts for 2021-22 will soon be available on the Charity Commission web site. You can view them at: <https://tinyurl.com/d56nca8b> The current balance of our funds is £9,391.73 of which £6,350 has been committed to support the girls' team participating in the Street Child Football World Cup (including £4,150 from the University of West England) and £1,500 to support the street school at Rayer Bazar in 2022/23. We have committed to supporting the Rayer Bazar School for the next 3 years and to supporting LEEDO's participation in the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023.

Tareque and his family

Tareque (not his real name) is 19 years old. His wife Salma (not her real name) is 20 years old. They both lived on the street at Sadarghat when they met and fell in love. They used to sleep under the bridge at Ghat 4. They collected rubbish to earn money. They now live in a room on the outskirts of Dhaka with some other families supported by LEEDO. They have a small boy who is 3 years old.

Tareque was born in Dhaka but his family were originally from outside Dhaka in the South of Bangladesh.

Several months ago, Tareque and Salma moved from Sadarghat to the station because they were beaten. At Sadarghat Tareque used to take drugs but he has now stopped. The baby was very small when they moved to the station.

At Sadarghat and at the station Tareque and Salma attended the LEEDO schools. At the station they used to sleep near the school. At the station they did the same work that they did at Sadarghat – collecting rubbish and carrying bags.

Tareque is currently unemployed. His ambition is to become a rickshaw puller or to run a small shop.



This year our income was greater than our expenditure and we finished the year with a surplus of £2,393.24. During the year income was £10,873.24 including a £2,600 grant from a Charitable Trust towards LEEDO's education work at the station and £5,000 from University of West England to support the girl's football team. Our fundraising generated £3,273.24 including income from our Celebrating 50 Years of Bangladesh programme and an innovative art workshop on the theme of rivers.

This year we sent 2 grants to LEEDO: £2,600 to support education work at the station and £5,000 for social mobilisers and non-formal education. We also paid the fee for the girls' football team to participate in the forthcoming Street Child United tournament in Doha. Our only other expenditure was for transfer of funds (bank charges).

During the year we produced two issues of our newsletter, which is circulated to 180 supporters. We have 1,297 face book followers and a you tube channel. We recruited volunteers in the UK and Bangladesh to provide careers advice to some of the older children at LEEDO Peace Home.

Please consider making an online donation at our People's Fundraising page or, if you have a restaurant providing meals or take-aways, please encourage your customers to donate to us by text using of our virtual collection bucket. The continuation of our support for LEEDO's work with children on the streets depends on these donations. Thanks to all our supporters over the past year.

Our Annual Meeting - Saturday 9th July 12.30pm- 2.30pm

This year we will be returning to the Diwana vegetarian restaurant 121-123 Drummond Street, London NW1 2HL for our annual fundraising lunch and meeting. Please make a note in your diary and book your place by emailing friendsofscbd@gmail.com During the meeting we will connect with the children of LEEDO and watch performances of song, dance, and drama.



Photograph (above): Diwana vegetarian restaurant



Photograph (above): Our 'School under the sky' initiative

News from the School we Support at Rayer Bazaar

The school at Rayer Bazar next to the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Dhaka continues to flourish. In January twenty five new students started at the school and children from the previous batch transferred to Government Schools to continue their education.

The school recruit children from the street. They learn Maths, Bangla, English and human values education. A speciality at the school is art and a Street Art Exhibition was organised by the school during a visit from the Director of the British Council in Bangladesh.

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh has committed to fund this school for the next 3 years- providing some stability for a much-needed initiative.



Photograph (above): Director of British Council Dhaka at Rayer Bazaar Street Art Exhibition

New on-line donation platform

Following some difficulties with their old Golden Giving platform the company who runs it have transferred us to their new People's Fundraising Platform. If you wish to donate online then please use this new platform. We understand that all donors who pay a regular amount will automatically be transferred to the new platform but please get in touch if this does not happen. Remember you can claim Gift Aid when donating on-line. This is the link to the new donations page:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/friends-of-street-children-bangladesh>

