

British High Commission Dhaka Hosts Bangladesh Team in advance of the Street Child Football World Cup

On Thursday 8 September, British Deputy High Commissioner to Bangladesh Javed Patel hosted a send-off event for the girls' football team which will shortly represent Bangladesh in the Street Child Football World Cup in Qatar.

The team is comprised of children who were all rescued from life on the streets, and now live at the LEEDO Peace Home in Dhaka.

LEEDO (Local Education and Economic Development Organisation) is a not-for-profit, voluntary-based development organisation founded in 2000. Through the provision of education, shelters, and lifestyle support, LEEDO aims to protect vulnerable street children and help them return to the mainstream community.

During the event, the young guests shared stories of their time living on the street, and appealed to guests to help improve the life chances of other less fortunate children. They were excited about the opportunity to meet two players from the Bangladesh U-19 National Football Team, Most Aklima Khatun and MST Halima Akhther, and talk to the professional players about their upcoming big game. They also showed off their footballing skills, and challenged the British Deputy High Commissioner to a 'keepy-uppy' contest!

Mr. Kazi Nabil Ahmed MP, Vice President of the Bangladesh Football Federation, and Mr. Abu Nayeem, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation, were also present at the event.

British Deputy High Commissioner Javed Patel said:

"Ensuring 12 years of quality education for all children is at the centre of the UK's drive to tackle poverty, promote gender equality, boost economic growth, and reduce conflict. In Bangladesh, we are investing up to 54.5 million pounds over the next eight years to improve education outcomes for children, particularly girls and marginalised children. I wholly believe that sport is integral to a child's education, and today we are proud to stand with the girls' football team that will be representing Bangladesh on the international stage."

Forhad Hossain, Executive Director of LEEDO said:

"We should all raise our voices together to protect the most vulnerable children from the dangers of the streets so that they can create a better Bangladesh. According to the UNCRC all children have the right to survive with dignity. I want to thank the British High Commission for organising this event with LEEDO."

Further information

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Morrisons / McColl's merger only raises concerns in a small number of local areas

However, overall, the deal would not harm the vast majority of shoppers or other businesses.

On 13 July 2022, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) [launched its investigation](#) after the companies submitted the reported £190 million deal for review.

McColl's operates convenience newsagent shops, with over 1,100 stores across England, Scotland, and Wales, while Morrisons (owned by parent company Clayton, Dubilier & Rice 'CD&R') has around 500 grocery stores in the UK. CD&R is also the parent company of the Motor Fuel Group (MFG). MFG owns over 800 convenience stores, the vast majority of which are attached to its petrol stations.

Following its Phase 1 investigation, the CMA has found that the merger between Morrisons and McColl's raises competition concerns in 35 areas, where McColl's or MFG convenience stores will face reduced competition if the deal is allowed to go ahead as planned. Weaker competition could lead to higher prices or a lower quality service for the customers in these areas who rely on their local shops for groceries.

During the investigation, the retailers accepted that the merger would raise concerns in some areas and asked the CMA to move straight to a discussion of remedies to address these concerns.

Morrisons now has 5 working days to offer proposals to the CMA to address the competition concerns identified. The CMA would then have a further 5 working days to consider whether to accept these in principle instead of referring the case to a Phase 2 investigation.

Sorcha O'Carroll, CMA Senior Director of Mergers, said:

As the cost of living soars, it's particularly important that shops are facing proper competition so that customers get the best prices possible when picking up essentials or doing the weekly shop.

While the vast majority of shoppers and other businesses won't lose out, we're concerned that the deal could lead to higher prices for people in some areas. If Morrisons and McColl's can address these concerns, then we won't need to move on to an in-depth investigation.

In the meantime, we're working closely with Morrisons to ensure that it can provide the support that McColl's needs to continue to operate during our investigation.

For more information, visit the [Morrisons / McColl's merger inquiry page](#).

1. The CMA's competition concerns relate to 35 local areas
2. The CMA [previously investigated CD&R's purchase of Morrisons](#) and approved the deal subject to the divestment of 87 MFG petrol stations to address competition concerns. This process is ongoing
3. All enquiries from journalists should be directed to the CMA press office by email on press@cma.gov.uk or by phone on 020 3738 6460
4. All enquiries from the general public should be directed to the CMA's General Enquiries team on general.enquiries@cma.gov.uk or 020 3738 6000

[Emerging evidence of further potential Russian violations and abuses of international law in Ukraine: UK statement at UN Security Council](#)

Thank you President. I thank the previous speakers for their briefings, Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo, Assistant Secretary-General Kehris and Ms Oleksandra Drik for their briefings.

As we've discussed, today we meet to discuss emerging evidence of further potential Russian violations and abuses of international law.

We are deeply concerned by reporting by the UN, the OSCE and civil society organisations that Russia is systematically detaining, processing and deporting Ukrainian men, women and children, with chilling echoes from European history.

As we have heard, civilians reportedly face interrogation, body searches, stripping, invasive data collection, ill-treatment and torture while passing through 'filtration'.

Those who are deemed most threatening are reportedly held indefinitely in detention centres, while others, including unaccompanied children, are forcibly deported to Russia. Some simply disappear.

So we call on the Russian Federation to allow the UN and other relevant international organisations immediate, full and unhindered access to those held in filtration camps and detention centres. And for these reports to be fully investigated to ensure those responsible can be held to account.

We are concerned, too, that Russia may in fact be using forced deportations and displacement in an attempt, forcibly, to change the demographic makeup of parts of Ukraine.

What does this tell us about Russia's war?

First, it tells us about their method and their disregard for the rules that we agreed and observe here at the UN – the collective rules that bind us together. They act as if the Charter and international humanitarian law do not apply to them.

Second, it confirms this is not just an attempt to destroy Ukraine's democracy, but also Ukrainian identity and culture. Alleged 'Denazification' is a cover for 'de-Ukrainian-isation' and annexation. Mass movements of Ukrainian people give the game away.

Finally, it confirms what has been abundantly clear over the last six months: Russia's army is not being welcomed as it enters Ukrainian territory. This is a war of conquest, a war of occupation, a war of oppression, and a war to eliminate Ukraine.

So once again we call on the Russian Federation to observe fully its obligations under international law and to bring an end to its illegal invasion of Ukraine.

Prime Minister Liz Truss's call with

Chancellor Olaf Scholz: 7 September 2022

Press release

The Prime Minister spoke to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.



The Prime Minister spoke to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz this evening.

The leaders discussed the energy challenges faced by the UK and its European partners as a result of Putin's illegal war. Both agreed on the importance of energy resilience and independence.

The Prime Minister underlined the importance of ensuring democracy and freedom were upheld in Europe, and of protecting countries made vulnerable by Russia's economic blackmail.

The UK and Germany were important economic partners, and the Prime Minister said she was keen to expand defence cooperation between the two countries.

Discussing the Northern Ireland Protocol, the Prime Minister was clear that her priority is protecting peace and stability in Northern Ireland and upholding the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. She stressed the importance of finding a solution to the fundamental problems with the text of the Protocol as it stands.

The Prime Minister said she looked forward to working closely with Chancellor Scholz in the coming months.

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UK condemns Iran for reckless cyber attack against Albania

Press release

The UK has condemned the Iranian state for a cyber attack against Albania's government that destroyed data and disrupted essential government services.



The UK has today (Wednesday 7 September) condemned the Iranian state for a cyber attack against Albania's government that destroyed data and disrupted essential government services, including paying utilities, booking medical appointments and enrolling schoolchildren.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) assesses that Iranian state-linked cyber actors are almost certainly responsible for the series of cyber attacks against Albanian government infrastructure from 15 July, which caused significant impact to online public services and other government websites.

The websites of the Albanian Parliament and the Prime Minister's office, as well as 'e-Albania', a portal that Albanians use to access a number of public services, were attacked and subject to a shut down. The attackers also leaked Albanian government data, including details of emails from the Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said:

Iran's reckless actions showed a blatant disregard for the Albanian people, severely restricting their ability to access essential public services.

The UK is supporting our valuable partner and NATO ally. We join Albania and other allies in exposing Iran's unacceptable actions.

NCSC assesses that Iran is an aggressive and capable cyber actor. Cyber operations are likely conducted by a complex and fluid network of groups, with differing degrees of association to the Iranian state, the workforces of

which are highly likely a mix of departmental and contractual staff.

These cyber attacks are the latest in an increasingly reckless pattern of behaviour by Iran. Iranian-linked cyber actors have a number of powerful disruptive and destructive tools at their disposal. The UK has previously attributed and advised on a number of cyber incidents by Iranian actors:

- 22 March 2018: The UK's National Cyber Security Centre assessed with high confidence that the MABNA Institute were almost certainly responsible for a multi-year Computer Network Exploitation (CNE) campaign targeting universities in the UK, the US, as well as other Western nations, primarily for the purposes of intellectual property (IP) theft
- 24 February 2022: CISA, FBI, CNMF, NCSC and NSA released a joint Cybersecurity Advisory highlighting a group of Iranian government-sponsored advanced persistent threat (APT) actors, known as MuddyWater, conducting cyber espionage and other malicious cyber operations targeting a range of government and private-sector organisations across sectors in Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America
- 17 November 2021: CISA, FBI, ACSC and NCSC released a joint Cyber Security Advisory on Iranian government-sponsored APT actors exploiting Microsoft Exchange and Fortinet vulnerabilities to gain initial access in advance of follow-on operations. The Iranian government-sponsored APT actors are actively targeting a broad range of multiple US critical infrastructure sectors as well as Australian organisations

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