

World Cup 2006 and our National Flag

I would like to thank Mr. Ziaur Rahman and Mr. Atiqur Rahman for raising the issue of our own national flag. I was very disappointed to see flags of different countries hoisted in such a manner, which is against the pride of our national flag. Something else that bothered me was the article, World Cup Boon and Blues, written by Shahnoor Wahid where it is mentioned that to be against the hoisting of flags is called 'fatwa'. Is this not the infidelity to the country? Like Ziaur, I also expect the media to play a vital role to raise this awareness and in this regard I believe the Daily Star can lead. Patriotism is something, which should always come first.

"Fake Patriotism"

In last week's edition of SWM, Atiqur Rahman from Jigatola said that flying our national flag alongside other World Cup flags is dishonouring it because flying it after sunset is not allowed. As far as I know, it's only during certain official occasions that we should hoist down the national flag after sunset. There is no law stating that flying our flag is not allowed in non-official occasions. And talking about 'fake patriotism', patriotism is a feeling of love. Some people do tend to be very patriotic only on special days like 21st February and 16th December. I think, we, as Bangladeshis, have every right to be patriotic at any time of the day, at any time of the month, at any time of the year, not just on special occasions like Victory Day or International Mother Language Day. It is not wrong, is it, to show our love and support for our country by flying our national flag besides flying our favourite teams' flags?

Nila

Where there is a will there is a way

The cover story on "Hope on the water" on 16th June was an inspiring one. It is really a praise worthy contribution to provide health care in the remotest island which is devoid of electricity, running water and communication with the next of the country. The Friendship project for relief and rehabilitation, education and cultural preservation is really astonishing. The activities of the project revealed the truth of the saying 'Where there is a will there is a way.'

Nothing can be compared to the sweet smile of a person who has just been cured. The Lifebuoy Friendship floating hospital is really a precious gift to the deprived islanders. Thanks to the organisers as well as the donors for this great humanitarian effort.

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On 'Fair Factor'

Although I consider The Daily Star as one of the best newspapers in Bangladesh, I think the Star Weekend Magazine is apparently biased towards women and has continuously overlooked men even when it would look appropriate to include them. For example, on May 12, 2006 issue, The Star Weekend Magazine published a cover story titled 'Fair Factor' where the authors discussed how our society treats individuals based on their colour of skin. However, as the authors have continuously focused on the impact of 'colour of skin' on our women, they have simply overlooked its impact on our men and boys. Just as there are men in our society who give priority to complexion while selecting their partner, there are also girls in our society whose 'partner-selection' decisions are also influenced by her prospective groom's or boyfriend's colour of skin. Also, just as many newborn dark skinned baby girls become a headache for their parents in some part of our society, many newborn dark skinned baby boys also become a headache for the same group of parents. The authors never acknowledged that in their article.

Regads,
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