

THE World Cup Football competition is taking place in some far away country but its fever is spreading fast in Bangladesh. One can see flags of various playing countries fluttering atop houses all over. People are also painting their faces in a frantic show of fraternity. And to add fear to the fervour, already a 'fatwa' from a petty peddler of religion has been handed over to the people regarding hoisting the flags of the 'infidels' in this country! But it seems the people of the land are not interested at the moment to delve into divine dialectics. The earthly euphoria centering on a round object called football has a greater 'kick' than anything else.

All the statistics indicate that football, especially the World Cup, is an occasion for men's merriment, and mayhem. All the players are ubiquitously men. The referees are men. And ninety percent of the spectators at the stadium, or at home sitting before the TV sets are men. If there are women at the stadium, they also are there for the men as well. 'For your eyes only.'

Since most games will be held in late evenings Bangladesh time, working men will have tough time getting up from sleep to go to office. One will find a

sleepy-looking boss reprimanding a sleepy-looking official for coming late to work. But by lunchtime they will be discussing the game of last evening like two buddies.

This World Cup Football furor is causing upsets not only in the playgrounds but also in many homes in our country. To an important segment of our population the frenzy of kicking a silly-looking round object by some over-paid and over-indulged adult men is next to buffoonery. This segment comprises our mothers and housewives. They are against the whole house watching



World Cup Boon and Blues

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