For all the Fathers

NADIA KABIR BARB



Last weekend was Father's day in the UK; in fact I think many countries around the world now celebrate Father's Day on the third weekend of June. I believe that it was first observed in 1908 in West Virginia in the USA. We only have to look to the United States of America where President Barack Obama proclaimed the 21st of June 2009 as Father's Day. "NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, .1972, as amended (36 U.S.C. 109), do hereby proclaim June 21, 2009, as Father's Day. I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on this day. I urge all Americans to express their love, respect, and admiration to their fathers, and I call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities."

A few years ago I was not even aware that there was such a thing as Father's Day. Having lost my father at the age of thirteen, and being blessed with having a parent who took up both roles with aplomb, it was never really something I had thought about. But if we can have Mother's Day, to celebrate and pay tribute to women across the world, it seems only fair that we should also acknowledge the men who play just as integral a part in the lives of their children.

Being a parent is definitely quite a rollercoaster ride and I am sure most people would agree that not only is it the most complex job on offer, but also without a doubt, the most rewarding. The highs and lows of parenthood is part and parcel of the job description.