



Taher Bagh Lane.

WORLD CUP ART

The World Cup Soccer tournament brings immense joy to many around the world. The Bangladeshis are no exception. Soccer appears as a great equaliser at this time. The distance between rich and poor, old and young, religious and non-religious disappears as soccer fans debate on the performance, skills and strategies of their favourite teams and players.

The soccer World Cup provides a rare opportunity for people here to show their supports in creative ways. Street artists are brought to action to draw heroic murals on walls. Many fans cover streets, lanes or sometimes their whole building with flags of their favourite teams while posters of favourite players or teams are pasted on almost everywhere. There are also serious fans who like to make their statement with haircuts. Yet these displays are transient. Ads for coaching centres, schools or political slogans will replace these displays swiftly once the tournament is over. I tried to catch the efforts of Bangladeshi fans in my camera. These photos of Dhaka streets are my tribute to the artists and the fans.

BIOGRAPHY

IHTISHAM KABIR is an amateur photographer who has photographed Bangladesh since 1984. He writes in web blog Back to Bangladesh (backtobangladesh.blogspot.com) and authors a daily photo-blog on Bangladesh (www.bangladeshimages.com). His Web Exhibition, "Discovering the Children of Bangladesh," was recognised as one of the Web's ten best photo sites in 1996. In professional life, he worked over two decades as a software engineer in Silicon Valley, authoring several patents and the book *High Performance Computer Imaging*. Recently he has taken up the role of rubber planter. Readers can contact him at ihtishamkabir@yahoo.com.



Rankin Street.



Bonogram Road.



Behind Hossaini Dalan.



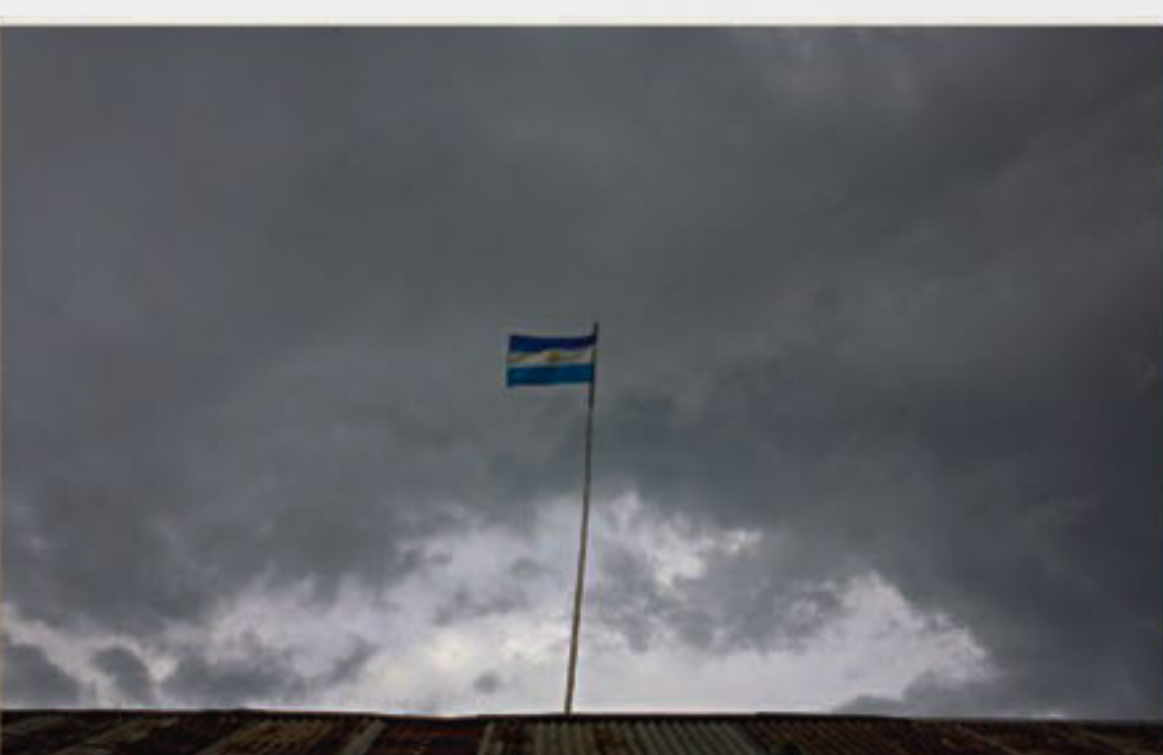
Off Nazimudin Road.



Mr. Mehub, showing his Argentine haircut in Tati Bazar.



Bashabo.



Khilkhet.



Padmanidhi Road.



Sutrapur.