chintito

Sports IS Always Politics (Occasionally)

CHINTITO

Unless a person who lives in Bangladesh, subsists on Bangladesh, who speaks in Bangla (I hope), who has a father and a mother who also speaks in Bangla, is totally devoid of self-respect, can he or she carry (chee!) the flag of another country inside a stadium in his (supposedly) own country, wave (chee! chee!) the foreign colours in wanton ecstasy for the rest of the world to see on television; their display is but an expression of their deep political views because a flag after all is a symbol of a political property.

It is most unfortunate, tragic indeed in our fifth decade of independence, that their parents never told them even for once that the *lal-sobuj* flag they abandoned during those 100 or so overs at a cricket match was earned at the cost of three million martyrs; their senseless orgy is a triumph of the 1971 *ghatak* over their paralysed conscience.

If you care to lend your ear, you can still hear the whimper of the mother who lost her child, the sobbing of the daughter who lost her father, and yet I cannot bear the shriek of the woman being raped as she clings on to the flag that today those animals at Sher-e-Bangla Stadium and Fatullah replaced with that of Pakistan and India.

There are sports lovers all over the world, at the World Cup, the Olympics, the European competitions and Asian and others, but no Soviet fan of Maradona will have waved the Argentine flag in Moscow, no American fan of Maria Sharapova (and there are millions) will sway the Russian colours at the US Open, no Indian fan of Shahid Afridi will dare to touch a Pakistan flag, no Pakistani fan of Sachin Tendulkar think of an Indian flag. They are all sports lovers and yet patriots. There are dignified ways of appreciating sports persons of other countries. God gave us two hands for that.

Shakib Al Hasan remained the world's number one all-rounder for months. Have any of those Bangla-speaking political elements in the garb of cricket lovers seen one Bangladesh flag waved by any non-Bangladeshi at any cricket stadium anywhere in the world where Shakib was playing?





Have any one of them done it at the IPL matches where Shakib sparkled? Or at the County cricket matches? They too love their cricket. But they do not use that as a passport to deliberately undermine their own country.

It is obvious that the Pakistan and Indian cricketers in Dhaka, and the Pakistanis and the Indians watching the coverage in their own countries must think very lowly of us. And yet we call ourselves Tigers for our heroism in 1952, 1969, 1971, 1990... Do the rest of us deserve to be shamed by a bunch of morons who know not history, have no culture,