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candles and confetti, get ripped off at expensive and exclusive restaurants, buy presents from clothing to jewellery to toys..., but there are only 365, and most of them are taken. Then what? Relax! In fact there could also be a very popular "relaxing day".

When all the days will be taken by the United Nations and the countries of the world, and some even duplicated, we will have to look beyond sunset and before sunrise. We may have to book our important occasions, people, and products atwww.night.kom. Soon we shall have Aunty Night, Uncle Late Night, and so on. It is only a matter of time before we get Solicitors Midnight and Matchmakers Twilight. If matters turn for the worse, then Haircutters Noon and Laundry Afternoon will have to be accommodated. As for sports, any international event on the other side of the globe will be dubbed world cup early morning.

That brings us back to Brazil 2014. The basic wrong with this World Cup is technology, too much of it. Once upon a time someone used to catch the news on the radio and we would all huddle around him and listen in awe, and then argue about it. Live coverage in the 1960s was on radio. Then came the black & white television and we wondered how colourful the games could be. After that the coloured channels made everything clear, and we learnt that footballers do wear different shoes on their two feet, which is not a bad idea since we have seen how some of them have two left feet or right. And with the advent of HD, we discovered that some of these football superstars need to groom their nostrils.

We used to look forward to controversies: goal line, handball, offside, and ten-yards, and (alas!) now plus-thirty cameras keep an eye on everything. There is hardly anything to discuss, argue or contradict, except whether the presence of *omuk* player's girlfriend in the stand had any effect on his passing. Or, was it his boyfriend? Even the free-kick distance is now marked with foam. Great business relief for foam suppliers as more and more people are now emerging with a rich stubble.

The goal-line controversy it seems is over for good, and that is not good for football. Where is the passion in the games when one section of the public says it was a goal and the other shouts "offside"?And where would Maradona be if his hand-play was allowed to be reviewed on slo-mo? Six Englishmen would not have frozen on the field and the legendary Argentinian would not have gone on to score perhaps the greatest goal ever.

Also on the World Cup fever, 99 degrees at best to date, the prime minister's endorsement last week of flying flags of the football finalists ensures that the *pataka ain* (flag rules) will be applicable to only India and Pakistan flags in our cricket matches at our stadiums. That is justified because we have a history with those two countries, and we have 1971, and alongside them we are one of the top ten contenders in world cricket.

Those two sub-continental flags symbolise pro- and anti-liberation forces, however marginal the flag carriers may be. With those two flags some Bangla-speaking fanatics try to make a political statement and that cannot be allowed. With Brazil, Argentina, Spain and Germany, and the rest of the guys kicking ball, the flags atop our buildings is pure love for the game.