

FOOTBALL FANATICS

The world has gone wild with the onset of the FIFA World Cup, one of the hottest carnivals the world has ever experienced. Though Bangladesh is not a participant of this mega event, the craziness of Bangladeshi football fans has reached its zenith.

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

What Shahidul and his friends of Sonartori Football club did, epitomises the hype created over the World Cup football in Bangladesh. This tiny football club from a distant village of Bangladesh's Faridpur district has prepared a 1500 feet long flag of Brazil and organized a rally with their massive cloth offering. Another crazed fan of the Argentina football team has painted his entire eight-storied building in light blue and white stripes; this is how he is showing his devotion for his team, Argentina.

But what is the story behind this fanatical support for countries which have almost no connection with Bangladesh except during the time of this quadrennial extravaganza. Ataul Karim a young man from Dhupkhola says, "I have seen my father and uncles support Argentina. Perhaps that's the reason behind my support but the fact is I am a fan of Argentina, that's all what matters to me." Shumon Rahman a student of Stamford University has shaved his entire



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Brazil on his head and in his heart.