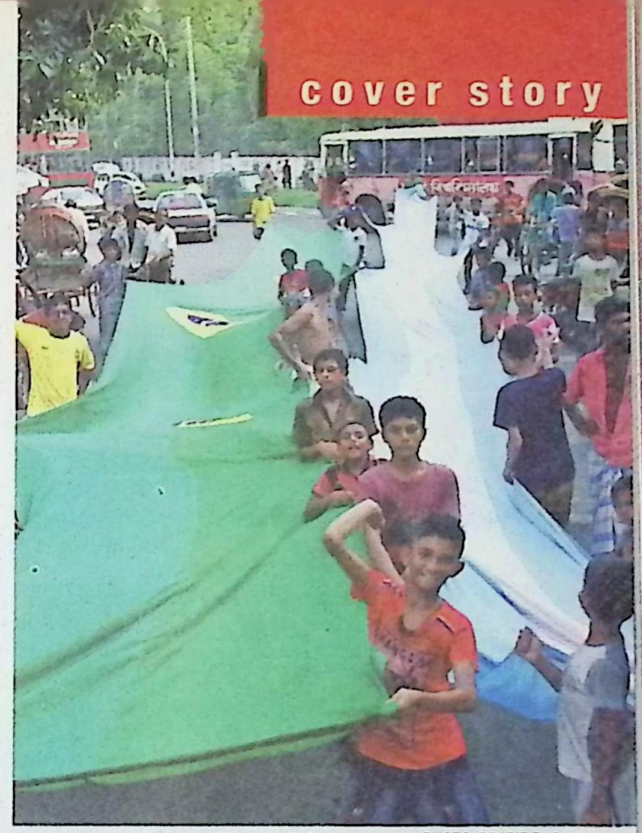
Like Dhaka, youths of Chittagong have turned the city into a place of celebration. Committees have been formed with names like "Argentina Supporters' Committee", "Brazil Supporters' Committee" etc. Moinul Islam Khan is the President of Argentina Supporters' Committee and he says, "Like every other year we will install a giant screen at *Cheragi Pahar* to enjoy the matches of our team Argentina." When asked what they had done when Argentina lost the game last year Khan replies, "It was a sad day. We had to flee from the spot leaving our projectors and screen behind to avoid being beaten up by the angry mob of Argentina supporters. We had formed a procession challenging that very match between Argentina and Germany. But this year we hope that Argentina will be the champion."



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Nothing but wearing the jersey of their favourite players could bring such a happy smile.



A crazy procession of football fanatics. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Football dominates the 'adda' for these DU students.

But for some this season of football brings good fortune. Seasonal business men like Abul Hosen and Md Khokon Mia have been earning a lot by selling flags of football playing countries and jerseys of famous players. Md Khokon Mia has been using his rickshaw van for carrying and selling jerseys. He says, "Actually I used to pull this van for my livelihood. But this world cup has given me the chance to earn good cash by doing less work. I have bought these jerseys from Bangabazar and now they are selling like hot cakes."

Abul Hosen a seasonal flag seller makes a valid argument. He says, "Yes I am happy with this business of selling flags. But when I sell a Brazilian flag, I advise the buyer to buy a Bangladeshi flag of a same size with it. It makes me feel sorry to see such big foreign flags dominating tiny flags of our own country. I wish I could give them Bangladeshi flags free of cost."

Every four years the football fever engulfs Bangladesh. From toddlers to grannies, everybody enjoys the game with equal enthusiasm. Seeing this unbridled interest, can't we hope that one day Bangladesh will also be a part of this tournament not just as a simple audience but as a significant competitor?

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