

Choosing an alternative this World Cup

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The World Cup can be a tough time to deal with if your beloved team gets knocked out. First there is this thing of coping up with the loss. Then you have to act like Bruce Wayne from his early 20s and put up a hollowed smile on your face and move on with your life. But it doesn't have to be this way. You can take another shot at it and try rooting for another team.

There are two ways to go about it, depending on what type of fan you are. If you are the avid football fan whose life suddenly loses meaning at that time of the year when there is a two-month break before the start of a new season, you certainly have enough expertise to make this decision without too much sweating. But if you are the seasonal football fan whose interest is piqued every four years, you will need a little bit of guidance before you are good to go. Nevertheless, here are a couple of strategies you can follow in order to not get your heart broken twice in one World Cup. That kind of setback can potentially send your life into a tailspin and nobody deserves that (except for the fans of your rival team).

THE UNDISPUTED FAVOURITE

This one is a no-brainer and the safest bet to go about. You can personally analyse and come to a conclusion on which team has the highest possibility of lifting the



ILLUSTRATION: FATIUL HUQ SUJOY

trophy at the end of the tournament and jump onto the bandwagon without a moment's hesitation. Or, you can try to be all ears to any conversation related to this (WARNING: PROBABLE TOXICITY) that will help you make the decision. Try to make the move as subtle as possible so that nobody can point their fingers and troll you excessively. Post a status hailing

them AFTER the match is over, if you must.

STICKING TO YOUR CLUB

This will be a rather emotional decision appealing to the fanboy in you. Identify and make a list of all the players and their national teams from your favourite football club. After that, choose the national team with the better sets of players from

that list, because that team mathematically has a higher probability of winning the big one. If all goes according to plan, you will not only be celebrating your team's triumph but also get to brag about how your club has some of the best players who ended up winning the World Cup. From your favourite team getting knocked out to boasting about your alternative team's success courtesy of the club players, that'd be quite the turnaround.

ARCHRIVAL'S OPPONENT

BAD BLOOD! You hardly need any other reason to root for the team which could potentially knock your archrival team out and send them to the airport to catch an early flight, maybe even in the same flight as your old favourite team. You will need to be a bit far-sighted for this strategy to pay dividends.

P.S. This is not applicable in case your first team got knocked out by your arch-rivals next opponent.

GET A PAUL

Remember Paul the Octopus? The overnight sensation correctly predicted the winners in a bunch of matches in 2010. So, in case you are suffering from indecisiveness, go get yourself a Paul the Octopus equivalent whom you can absolutely bet your money on to make the right decision for you. But it's okay if you don't have it in you to make even that call, we can cover that up on a later article. Fair enough?

Struggles of living in Mirpur

MOMOTAZ RAHMAN MEGHA

Mirpur is a mysterious land. Even though it is located inside Dhaka, no one considers it to be a part of Dhaka city. It's the evil twin sister of The Bermuda Triangle which draws you in, sucks the life and money out of you, then tosses the body out after a few hundred hours of insane traffic. The journey to and from this land is one that which a lot of us had to go through but not many survived with their sanity intact. We all know someone who lives in Mirpur. The following features will help identify him/her.

BEING EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD AT RISK ASSESSMENT

People who live in Mirpur and also want to exhibit any sign of civilised life i.e. going to school, college or if they managed to get through that part and finally land a job, have to be exceptionally good at math.

At any given instance you are faced with the challenge of deciding how many hour or sometimes days earlier should you start for your desired destination. Even the slightest of miscalculation could result into hours of delay leading to your inability to catch your school/college/job in time.



PHOTO: STAR

COGNITIVE ABILITY TO DECIDE TO BE LATE OR EARLY

Denizens of Mirpur are never on time. Either they are really late or really early. There is no in-between. You have to have the ability to analyse the event

depending on how time sensitive it is.

There will be times when you reach a very important meeting exactly five minutes before the meeting ends, and you ask yourself questions like whether you should go in to show your face and

later explain your unique living situation or should you return home and give a more credible excuse like "I was very sick" because you have already overused the "I live in Mirpur so..." excuse too many times.

DISAPPEARING SOCIAL LIFE

This is probably the saddest part. Unless you can afford a car, your ability to attend social events will reduce drastically because any place that's not Mirpur is too far away for you.

But even if you are a top tier Mirpur inhabitant who can afford a car, you are still likely to miss these events because getting permission is difficult. While most kids get to go back home by 10 if the movie ends at 9 PM, Mirpur kids go back home at 1 AM. The stakes are always much higher for you.

Needless to say no hangouts ever take place at your place because no one wants to go outside Dhaka for watching a movie at their friend's house.

Life in 21st century is hard. No doubt there. But life in 21st century of a Mirpur inhabitant is harder. Who is the Mirpur inhabitant in your friend group?

Megha Rahman lives in Mirpur and suffers every day. You can share your Mirpur struggles with her at megharahman26@gmail.com.