

What it means when we hoist foreign countries' flags during the world cup

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On the eve of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, something unusual happened in Bangladesh. A freedom fighter filed a writ petition to prevent fans from hoisting up flags of foreign countries during the World Cup. Thankfully for fans, the High Court dismissed the petition.

With the 2022 World Cup right on the horizon, every balcony and rooftop around the country will soon be adorned with the colours of football powerhouses again. Given the high levels of enthusiasm and passion from fans, it seems unfair that they might face restrictions in flying the flags of their favourite teams during the event.

We must not forget that the FIFA World Cup only comes around once every four years. For football fans, the World Cup is simply not "just another tournament." Special events need special celebrations, so hoisting foreign flags pales in comparison to the magnitude of the stakes at play.

Our undying love for football has been well-documented over the years. Although Bangladesh National Men's Football Team never got anywhere near the World Cup, the fans' passion for other nations really stood out. Flying flags of our favourite teams not only shows how much we care for our favourite teams, it also allows the world to see first-hand how fervently we

love football.

Supporting nations from far-flung continents and hoisting their flags promotes a sense of inclusivity among the populace. It can even go a long way towards debunking myths Bangladeshis might have

A deep look into the flags reveals the tales of struggles and the natural wonders of a country. Not only do they enhance our cultural knowledge

while the yellow represents their abundance in gold.

The blue globe and stars signify the star-filled nights and the states of Brazil. For Germany, their flag represents the German Reich, national unity, and civic freedom in their tri-colours.

This shows just how special of an experience flag hoisting is for fans.

That being said, fans should be mindful and respectful towards the teams, even the ones they do not support. It's a fan's responsibility to adhere to specific rules about flags in order to make sure that no nation is being disrespected amidst the celebrations and anticipation. To make sure of that, it's imperative to ensure those flags are untampered and should also be stored properly with care after the World Cup.

As fans, it's natural we will be passionate, but we must not forget to enjoy responsibly and respectfully.

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about foreign countries. Learning more about diverse cultures helps in developing a sense of togetherness between the countries, which can potentially contribute to reducing discrimination and prejudice.

about a country, they also allow us to get a vague idea about the natural beauty of a particular country.

Take Brazil for example. The green represents their vegetations and wildlife,



Curating a wedding *dala* for anime fans

AYAAN SHAMS SIDDIQUEE

Exchanging *dalas* between the families is one of the most popular pre-wedding customs in Bangladesh. As the years pass, these decorated goodie baskets have become more ornate, thought-out, and variegated. While the gifts usually include traditional items such as clothing accessories, cosmetics, jewellery, and the likes, you might want to take a different approach if your soulmate is an anime fan.

Now, one might argue that it's impossible for a die-hard otaku to tie the knot in the first place. But to celebrate the fabled few who break free from societal expectations and eventually settle down, you might want to go the extra mile and plan out their gifts carefully. That being said, here's a list of surprise items that you can sneak into a wedding *dala* for anime fans to lighten up their special day.

Anime figures

There are few things that speak to an otaku's heart like a good anime figure. Depending on the size of your heart and the depth of your wallet, you can give

them anything from a simple figma figure to a full-sized Gundam model. And for moe enthusiasts, a figurine of Rem or Nezuko will undoubtedly overwhelm them with joy.

Original manga volumes

Anyone who has been involved in the anime community for some time knows how difficult it is to get hold of original manga volumes in Bangladesh. Since they're not directly printed in or supplied to our country, collectors have to break the bank to get them imported from foreign countries, costing them more than twice the original price.

Under these circumstances, gifting authentic manga copies for an otaku's

wedding would speak volumes in favour of your love.

For an extra touch, you could also eye a deluxe edition.

Plushies

Regardless of how strong, cold-hearted, or resilient they may be, no one can resist the temptation of hugging a soft plushie against their face. In accordance with their softie of choice, get them a little Pochita or a bloated

Tanjiro. Either way, you can't go wrong with adorable plushies.

Slight disclaimer though, be prepared to get your hugs stolen by inanimate cartoon dolls for an indefinite period of time.

Ilish maach in kimonos

To keep in line with our rich traditions,

you can still include a couple of hilsha fish in the *dala*. However, instead of wrapping them in traditional Bangladeshi clothing, consider adorning them with kimonos to stand out from the crowd. And if you want to leave a long-lasting impact, sprinkle on a handful of cherry blossoms around the aquatic duo.

Cosplay accessories

Behind every responsible and functioning member of society is a little child who once dreamt of dressing up as their heroes. Whether it be Guts from *Berserk* or Zero Two from *Darling in the Franxx*, you can do your part in making sure that an anime fan can fulfil their childhood dreams by gifting them awesome cosplay accessories!

Anything from wigs and katanas to full body outfits will tick the box without question, and you might even introduce cosplaying dreams that your partner was unaware of themselves.

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