



This is the moment that the less foolish Bangladesh fans switched off the TV on October 24. The smart ones aren't watching.

PHOTO: REUTERS

5 things to do when there is a Bangladesh match on TV

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UNSPORTING CORRESPONDENT

You know there is a Bangladesh match on. You've cleared up your schedule, it's a world cup match after all. Eight hours with nothing to do but lean back and enjoy the men in green in action.

An hour later, they have lost the toss, and that's basically that. The match is gone. If they win the toss, you get around two hours of actually thinking that there is a contest on. In the unlikely event that Bangladesh score more than 250 after batting first, you could possibly make it past the innings break and till the first 10 overs of the second innings. You'd be foolish, but you could try.

At any rate, that is the extent of it, so it leaves you a minimum of two and a half hours and a maximum of eight with absolutely nothing to do. What do you do?

We here at Satireday have observed the lives of hapless Bangladesh supporters and come up with a list. You're welcome.

GET BROWNIE POINTS

You've no doubt told your significant other that you can't make any "us" plans because there is a Bangladesh match on. Well, be smart, and after Bangladesh loses the toss, tell the better half that nothing matters more than spending time with them.

Bangladesh have four matches left, and you should use this allowance wisely. You can't do this every match, so maybe skip this ploy once and watch the match, or do one of the other things on this list.

But make sure to skip the other three. That will free you up for the semifinals and final --

matches that may actually be interesting and non-soul-destroying.

HARNESS THE DARKNESS

Okay, at the other end of the spectrum, if you are one of those people who has been in a dead-end relationship and you just haven't gotten around to taking it out back and capping it, here's your chance.

Invite your worse half to watch the match with you, and then, as sure as the sun will bounce off Chandika Hathurusingha's head tomorrow, you will have plenty of reason to start yelling at the TV. And then, when you get that feeling that every Bangladesh fan gets at least 25 times a year, of there really being no reason to care about anything, break it off.

Let us assure you, nothing brings on the dark mood like watching the Tigers lose four wickets in chase of 478 before your food order arrives. It will arm you for difficult conversations

BE (ANTI) SOCIAL

If you are one of those who do all your writing and your living on Facebook, this is your time.

Half-form an opinion (anything more than half is disqualifying) and tell everyone what's on your mind, or more importantly, what should be on theirs.

Rant about the cricket team, about how Tamim Iqbal should not have been left out of the squad, about captain Shakib Al Hasan coming back to get two days of practice with his childhood coach, leaving a bleeding team in the war zone.

Or you could make fun of other fans and their expectations, making it seem like you knew all along. The sky, or the earth's core,

is the limit. But don't stop there. This will only take up just about half an hour, so wait around for comments and attack anyone who disagrees. That should tide you over till the end of the World Cup.

GET SOME ACTUAL WORK DONE

We understand that this may be the least popular option, but you know, you could do it. Other people do it all the time. Be happy about the inevitability of Bangladesh's failure. It will help you structure your life.

How many teams ensure that, because everyone expects you to watch the match as a diehard fan, you actually have eight hours to catch up on work and get ahead in life? The first step is to realise the day before the match that watching would be a futile exercise, and then act accordingly.

GET A LIFE

At the risk of repeating ourselves, you are lucky to be a fan of a team that virtually guarantees eight hours of free time every time they play in a global event.

You can use that time to catch up with friends, expand your mind by pursuing new topics of interest like why watching sport obsessively may not be an out and out positive thing.

You could also think about the fact that following a group of people who have nothing to do with you except sharing the same geographic location (that too not in all cases), under a board that has done nothing for the last 12 years, may be a waste of time.

Or you could actually go to sleep. That way you may actually see Bangladesh making the semis.

Celebrities of Bangladesh offering support

NADIA NECTAR

Celebrities all across Bangladesh and other fortunate places under the Guava Convention have come together to offer support. They have held a demo kabaddi match as a press conference to show that they are concerned.

"We care so you should too," stated the programme theme and slogan.

Citizens have been clamouring to know what the celebrities are supporting. "We blindly follow whatever celebrities do, so we need to know if we should buy tickets, T-shirts or dubious face creams. Or should we just clap?" asked one Fatema Jhora in a Facebook post.

The kabaddi match formally brought the alliance together although it ended with a scuffle and a few punches. "This is also a symbol of getting together to do things for support," stated singer-songwriter Sofar

The celebrities responded that they need to come together to make a difference.

"We are a marvel that the common people look upon with amazement," stated actor Prince Khan (formerly Baron Khan) whose growing popularity among movie buffs suggests he will become King Khan in about three years.

The kabaddi match formally brought the alliance together although it ended with a scuffle and a few punches. "This is also a symbol of getting together to do things for support," stated singer-songwriter Sofar, whose singing career has come so far since the kabaddi match. "It's just that after the Fight on the Kabaddi Floor, we show support



Celebrities have developed a new sideways fist-bump called 'StarPower' to show support.

for different groups. But the main thing is we show support," he explained further.

Celebrities signed a few documents to commemorate the event. These documents were later sold as autographs to raise money for their extended support. Another celebrity sporting event has been arranged to make sure this alliance of support continues to continue. Sources say it is going to be cricket next time although most celebrities cannot throw a ball farther than they can throw insults.

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Palesreal the only solution, says privileged American

LUBNAN KHALEESI

The current crisis in the middle east has a simple solution: Palesrael.

This is the radical proposal being put forward by Phil Bob, an expert on the Middle East and a professor at the American University of America in Dholaikhal.

"Look, this proposal writes itself. Palesrael, pronounced Pals is real, is a pretty straightforward idea that has been staring at us in the face all this time," he said in a conversation with Satireday, the only publication which has ever reached out to him.

So what is Palesrael?

"You know the two-state solution? That's really dumb and quite a weird form of the continuation of our very, very secret colonisation project. What I recommend is just putting the two together. The motto: Only pals is real, a land where friendship triumphs all."

But the name change is only the start of Bob's project.

"What are we looking at? Thirty-three percent Europeans who we have successfully settled in the Middle East? And called



PHOTO: REUTERS

Where most of us see death and destruction, some others see real estate opportunity.

it their land? LOL. But yeah, we should probably stop that. White Americans, now massively settling in the West Bank, can ease on claiming the Holy Land and stick to the gang signs borrowed from yet another culture," he said.

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The halt to by-default naturalisation isn't the only problematic aspect of Bob's proposal.

He also wants restrictions of entry lifted at holy sites. "Look, share and share alike man. It's not like they have oil or anything. So, we can even cut down on that couple-

of-billion-dollar funding each year," Bob shared.

Asked how he thought Palestinians -- who have been fighting for their land for decades now -- would feel, Bob said that problem would be solved as well.

"What's in a name? They have their country. They could probably earn money and buy more real estate, but it's not that the poor the world over are very economically-advantaged. It will be the same there."

Bob also said he wasn't comfortable leaving such large swathes of land to a people "radicalised".

"I don't know why people must answer violence with violence. Ghassan Kanafani was completely wrong. A sword and the neck can have conversations. They can also be friends, actually. That's what Palesrael is all about."

Asked why he thought he was any authority on the matter, Bob just laughed and pointed at his skin.

"Free this, free that. I say put a price on it. If you can afford to live in the new state -- where real estate will not be cheap by the way -- then nothing else matters," he concluded.