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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Samad Azad hospitalised

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President member Abdus Samad Azad was admitted to the Suhrawardi Hospital with heart ailment yesterday at 4 pm. He is under treatment of Prof Jalal at the intensive care unit of the hospital, party sources said, reports UNB.

## Gunbattle leaves 4 dead in Algiers

ALGIERS, July 12: A gunbattle near the Italian Embassy left four people dead Tuesday, the latest in a wave of attacks by Muslim fundamentalists insurgents turning up the heat on foreigners to leave the country, reports AP.

## Indian Finance Minister tells FBCCI Dialogue on cooperation and constraints is necessary

By Staff Correspondent

fields of cooperation as well as removing the constraints.

He said Bangladesh's trade deficit with India can be reduced by initiating bilateral talks.

Our common future lies in increased cooperation among ourselves, he said and added that India would not be benefited through subordination of Bangladesh interest.

Manmohan Singh was addressing a meeting organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at Hotel Sonargaon.

The Indian Finance Minister said a dialogue should start immediately between the two countries for identifying the

activities, he added.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and Industries Minister M Zahiruddin Khan attended the meeting, while a number of businessmen and economists took part in the discussion with FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman in chair.

Responding to allegations of high tariff rate on Bangladeshi products, Manmohan Singh said if cooperation between the two countries continued, Indian tariff structure would ultimately go in favour of the Bangladeshi entrepreneurs.

The Indian market would virtually be open for Bangladeshi products through implementation of the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA).

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## Singh praises introduction of VAT

Indian Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh yesterday praised the introduction of value added tax (VAT) in Bangladesh and indicated that his country would also go for the tax mode in near future, reports UNB.

Singh told a discussion on "Progress of Economic Reforms in India" here that already they had an Indian-style of value added tax, and were now considering introduction of VAT within next two to three years.

The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), organised the discussion at its conference room which was attended by ministers, politicians, economists, diplomats, officials, researchers and representatives of business community and NGOs.

Finance Minister M Saifur

See Page 12 Col 7

## A sickening stench of garbage

By Masud Hasan Khan

Stench, stench and stench — the lives of thousands of people living in Sayedabad, Gopibagh, Kamalapur, Mughalpara and Motijheel government staff quarters in the capital have become unbearable because of stench spread from a garbage dump yard at Kamalapur.

Many people in these areas are falling sick, mainly due to air pollution and the sickening smell from the putrid garbage being dumped and left open by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) cleaning trucks.

Fever, headache, nausea and different air-borne diseases have become rampant in the neighbourhood, local people alleged, spread by the flies and different pests from the yard located beside the Biswa Road at Kamalapur.

DCC officials said they could do little for the alleviation of the sufferings of the people until the yard was filled up with garbage.

Local people said the yard will be used as a playground.

The DCC is not following the normal filling rules of dumping one layer of soil or sand on one layer of garbage, many people alleged.

Mountains of garbage rot in the regular heat and rains in the open air dump yard at Kamalapur where DCC dried

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## WC semis today

Sports Reporter

Italy and favourites Brazil will both aim to take another step towards a record fourth World Cup title in tonight's semifinals in the United States.

While Italy, champions in 1982, take on giant killers Bulgaria in the first semifinal at the Giants Stadium in New York, Brazil, the lone South

American side to reach this year's quarter-finals and who last won the trophy in 1970, will meet Sweden in a repeat of their first round Group B tie at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Los Angeles.

TV will show both matches live, the first kicking off at 02:00 am tonight and the other at 05:30 Thursday morning.

Meanwhile, agency reports said the mood in the camps of all four semifinalists was upbeat, with players and officials of every team believing they can win to reach next Sunday's final at the Rose Bowl.

Agencies add: Italy aim to learn from Germany's mistakes as they prepare for their match against surprise team Bulgaria.

Germany and Italy are similar in that they are

See Page 12 Col 1

## FICCI resents NBR move against Ciba-Geigy

Star Report

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) recently ordered freezing of the bank accounts of a top multinational company and withdrew an amount of Tk 3.2 crore against a corporate income tax claim of Tk 6.39 crore, disputed by the company, according to information received yesterday.

On June 4, the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes (DCT) Circle 2, Dhaka, notified the bankers of Ciba-Geigy (Bangladesh) Ltd to freeze all bank accounts of the company and transfer any credit balance and deposits to the government's account upto an amount of Tk 3.2 crore, from the company account, with the High Court and the hearing was set for July 4.

But on July 2, the tax authorities asked one of Ciba-Geigy's bankers to deposit Tk 3.2 crore, from the company account, with the national exchequer and immediately withdrew the earlier notification.

pending with the Taxes Appellate Tribunal.

Ciba-Geigy subsequently filed a suit seeking an injunction against the DCT notification with the 3rd Sub-Judge's Court, Dhaka, which was later shifted to the 5th Sub-Judge's Court.

After hearing the case on June 22, the court refused to issue an injunction citing jurisdictional reasons. The company then filed an appeal with the High Court and the hearing was set for July 4.

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yesterday

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WORLD CUP SEMI-FINALS  
ON BTV THURSDAY

Bulgaria vs Italy at 02:00 (BST)

Sweden vs Brazil at 05:30 (BST)

. JEC meet begins

Agreed minutes  
with Pakistan  
tomorrow

A three-day meeting of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) began in Dhaka yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, agency reports said the mood in the camps of all four semifinalists was upbeat, with players and officials of every team believing they can win to reach next Sunday's final at the Rose Bowl.

A Joint Working Group was constituted at the opening session to formulate draft agreed minutes on expansion of bilateral cooperation in various sectors. The agreed-minute is expected to be signed at the concluding session tomorrow.

The Working Group will also identify new areas of cooperation.

Adviser to Pakistan Prime Minister on Finance and Economic Affairs V A Jaffrey, who

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India, Pakistan expel each other's diplomats

NEW DELHI, July 12: India and Pakistan issued expulsion orders Tuesday against diplomats from each other's embassies, accusing them of receiving classified documents, reports AP.

It was the first case in more than a year of tit-for-tat expulsions and marked a continuing decline in relations between two countries that are virtually in a state of low-level war.

Indian federal agents arrested an official of Pakistan's high commission Monday in a fashionable shopping district after he had taken 117 pages of documents from an unidentified local contact, who fled, police said.

The Pakistan High Commission complained that Mohammad Afzal Bajwa was shoved into a car and beaten.

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JP announces agitation programme

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party yesterday announced a month-long agitation programme to press home its demands for a caretaker government and release of the party chief Ershad.

Announcing that the programme will start from July 21, the party's acting chief, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, said the people would not leave the streets unless their demands were accepted.

Chaired by the city unit chief, Colonel (Retd) M A Malik, the meeting at the south gate of the Baitul Mukarram

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## বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইনান্স কর্পোরেশন

## অবগতির জন্য নোটিশ

- পুরাতন মেমো বইয়ের বদলে জোন ভিত্তি নির্মিত রংয়ের নূতন বইয়ে জুলাই '98 হতে খণ্ডের মাসিক কিত্তি জমা দেয়ার জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি দেয়া হয়েছিল। কিন্তু প্রেস থেকে যথাসময়ে নূতন মেমো বই না পাওয়ার কারণে কর্পোরেশন সকল প্রাইভেট গ্রান্ড কার্যালয়কে বই সরবরাহ করতে পারছে না বলে দুর্বিষ্ঠ। তবে এ আইকনের অস্বীকৃত দূর্বাকরণের জন্য এই মর্মে সিদ্ধান্ত দেয়া হয়েছে যে আগস্ট মেসেকের '98 মাস পর্যন্ত পুরাতন মেমো বইতে তথ্যাবলী জোন নথ রেজিস্ট্রেশন করে সোনালী বাংকের নির্ধারিত যে কোন শাখায় কিত্তি জমা দেয়া যাবে। বাংক শাখাসমূহ এ মর্মে উপদেশ পাঠানো হয়েছে।
- কর্পোরেশন আরো জানাচ্ছে যে, এপ্রিল '98 মাস পর্যন্ত যারা রিসিডেন্টিল-এর (৪টি কিত্তি জমা করে) সম্পত্তি প্রাপ্তি দাখিল করেছেন কিন্তু এখনো পর্যন্ত উপদেশগত পান নি (ডাক বিডাট বা টিকানা পরিবর্তনের কারণে) তাদেরকে সংশ্লিষ্ট জোনের জোনাল প্রধানের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করতে অনুরোধ ক