

Semifinals today

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countries with a great soccer tradition," said Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi on Monday. "The mistake Germany made was perhaps psychological."

"We've seen in this World Cup that as soon as a team think they have a match won they are punished."

"The Bulgarians have excellent players who have good technique and who matched the Germans physically," Sacchi said.

Bulgaria play a patient, possession game, knocking the ball around before increasing the tempo with through passes to attackers Hristo Stoichkov, Emil Kostadinov and Nasko Sirakov.

"They are hard to play against as they swap positions, a lot. You must avoid getting caught with four defenders marking one attacker and the rest of the Bulgarian team enjoying space in midfield," said the Italian coach.

For Brazil and Sweden, the two undefeated teams, any similarity with their first-round encounter is mere coincidence.

"The first one was a friendly (exhibition) game," Brazil's coach, Carlos Alberto Parreira, said of their 1-1 tie on June 28 in the Pontiac Silverdome.

"This game is to reach the final of the World Cup competition. The intensity of the game will be great on both sides."

Brazil see a Swedish aerial attack as the biggest threat.

Brazil's attacking pair of Bebeto and Romario have been hogging the limelight in the tournament so far with seven goals between them.

But in the semifinal much of the attention will be focused on central defender Marcio Santos, who is likely to have the job of cutting Swedish giant Kennet Andersson down to size. Andersson scored when the two sides drew 1-1 last month.

The Brazilian players have been ordered to avoid giving away unnecessary free-kicks near their penalty area and spent most of a training session on Monday practising their defending at corners.

The Swedes also have a grudge to settle. In 1958, host Sweden lost 5-2 in the final to Brazil, who unveiled to the world a 17-year-old phenomenon named Pele.

For Sweden, the big question is how the return of Dahlin, the "Black Pearl," will boost the attack — if he returns, that is. Cramps forced Dahlin out of Sunday's quarter-final victory over Romania. He is taking injections and massage treatments while doctors decide if he's fit to play.

But Sweden's hopes ride on the front line of Dahlin and striker Kennet Andersson, who has stepped off the bench to become a key scorer in this Cup.

Their game plan is simple.

"We have to stop the ball before it gets to him," Andersson said of Romario. "For us, the first thing is defence. Every player needs to get back in their position as soon as possible."

That kind of soccer isn't what Brazil would choose. But

they can do it if that's what it takes.

Now it's the result that counts," said Taffarelli. "We'll play whatever kind of soccer is necessary to reach the final."

Italy squeezed into the top four for the second straight time largely thanks to the two Baggios.

Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi said much will depend on which team tires first. Italy has won two games short-handed, with ten men.

"Heat and tiredness have leveled values of the teams. It's a semifinal open to any outcome," he said.

Bulgaria last met Italy in a World Cup final round in the 1986 opening game. They scored a 1-1 tie against the defending champions. Midfielder Nasko Sirakov, a holdover on today's squad, scored Bulgaria's goal. Kostadinov came on as a substitute in that game. None of the Italians are still playing in the national team.

Whatever lineup Italy put out, they are expected to win. Even the Bulgarians know that. "For Italy it would be normal to win," Mihailov said. "We can go in cooler with nothing to lose. We are heroes, win or lose."

Bulgarian coach Dimitar Penev, who celebrated his 49th birthday on Tuesday, wants his team to concentrate on playing positively on the biggest day in their country's soccer history.

"We have been playing our style and I don't want to change that," said Penev, a former Bulgarian captain who won 90 international caps.

"We have enough good players to take care of Roberto Baggio, although the whole team must pay great attention to him. I was a defender during my career but I prefer attacking soccer which brings a lot of goals."

JEC meet begins

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led his country's delegation at the just concluded SAARC Finance and Planning Ministers' meeting in Dhaka is also heading Islamabad's 7-member team at the JEC meeting. He is aided by Pakistan High Commissioner in Bangladesh Anwar Kehal.

Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam, who is the chairman of the JEC, is leading a ten-member home team at the meeting. He is assisted by Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Q A M Rahim.

It is the fifth session of the JEC constituted in 1979. The last one was held in Islamabad in November 1991.

The meeting is expected to cover a wide range of cooperation between the two countries particularly in the fields of industrial cooperation, agriculture, shipping and culture.

Bangladesh imported goods worth 67.98 million US dollar from Pakistan against export of 43 million US dollar during the fiscal 1992-93.

At the inaugural session, Commerce Minister in his opening statement stressed the need for taking "efforts to achieve a satisfactory level of equilibrium in bilateral trade



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and wife Suha are all smiles at the Tunis airport July 11 before boarding the plane taking them to Gaza after 12 years of exile in Tunis. — AFP photo

JP programme

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Mosque was addressed by Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Anwar Hossain Manju, Barrister Abul Hasnat, Khaleedur Rahman Tito, Selim Al Mamoon, Mojibul Huq Chowdhury, Abu Zafar and Abdus Salam.

The JP would observe an 'organisational week' from July 21, hold a procession in Dhaka on August 1, observe a demand week from August 3-7, and stage a grand rally in the capital on August 18 where the next course of action programme would be announced.

Mizanur Rahman said "The opposition parties have been demanding future elections under a caretaker government after rigging in the Magura by-election."

"No free and fair election is possible under this government, so we are demanding a caretaker government," the JP's acting chief told several thousand party supporters.

He alleged that Taslima was the 'creation' of this government which is trying to divert the people's attention from the caretaker issue.

Mizan Chowdhury said the BNP government did not fulfil any of the election pledges. Rather, it took a number of anti-people decisions.

"This government pledged to create jobs for one crore people but instead it terminated the services of thousands of employees," Mizan Chowdhury alleged. He said the government should resign for its 'failures' in various fields.

Moudud Ahmed said the people voted BNP to rule the country but not to conduct election. This government betrayed with the opposition parties in parliament, he alleged.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said this government would lose power by next year and the people would welcome 'palli bandhu' Ershad.

Arafat arrives in Gaza to run self-rule govt

GAZA, July 12: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip today to take up permanent residence after a quarter-century of exile, witnesses said, reports Reuters.

Arafat crossed the Egyptian border with his wife Suha and senior aides in a convoy, arriving in the town of Rafah, part of the self-ruled strip handed over by Israel in May.

Cementing his September peace deal with Israel, Arafat had his first homecoming in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho earlier this month when he formally established self-rule.

Today Arafat returned to Gaza, home to about one million Palestinians.

Aides said he would continue to go abroad to raise money and to campaign for maximum Palestinian autonomy in the rest of the Israeli-occupied lands.

In Cairo, Israeli and PLO negotiators were discussing expanding self-rule to the rest of the West Bank, redeploying Israeli troops away from

Palestinian population centres and preparing for elections.

AFF adds from Jerusalem the Palestinians will not be allowed to carry on receiving ministers and other official guests from abroad in Jerusalem, Israel's Police Minister Moshe Shahal said today.

"We will not accept that the Palestinians receive official representatives from abroad in Jerusalem, whether it is at Orient House or elsewhere," Shahal told state radio.

Orient House, officially the offices of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, is used by the PLO as a de facto headquarters in East Jerusalem, which Israel captured and annexed after the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel's latest broadside in the battle for Jerusalem, which both sides want as their capital, came after Canada's Minister for Public Works, David Dingwall, visited Orient House on Monday.

The minister met Faisal Husseini, leader of Yasser Arafat's mainstream PLO movement on the West Bank.

Diplomats expelled

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A diplomat, First Secretary Naseeruddin Ahmed, was later accused of spying in the same affair. Both were ordered to leave India within a week, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Arif Khan.

Bajwa reportedly was paid 3,000 rupees (dhs 100) and a carton of cigarettes.

Hours after Bajwa's arrest, an Indian diplomat was detained in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, and accused of "receiving highly sensitive documents from a Pakistani agent," said Pakistan's Foreign Ministry.

V S Chauhan, an attache in the visa section, was ordered out within seven days, it said.

India complained that Chauhan was picked up at his home and interrogated for six hours before he was released at 3 am with severe injuries and bruises.

Each country denied that its officials were engaged in espionage, and accused the other of violating a 2-year-old agreement on the treatment of diplomats that forbids harassment and intimidation.

"The cruel and intimidatory behaviour of Indian authorities... can only further vitiate the atmosphere between the two countries which is already tense," the Pakistan High Commission, said in a statement.

Hasina terms BNP inept, corrupt

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday denounced the ruling BNP as inept and corrupt and said it had lost moral right to run the country, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister and other ministers are steeped in corruption. They have lost moral right to stay in power," she told a group of political workers of BNP Jatiya Party, JSD and Communist Party who met her at 29 Minto Road and joined Awami League yesterday afternoon.

The Awami League president said her present movement for election under a neutral caretaker government would continue until the demand is met.

The Opposition leader criticised the government for passing the national budget keeping entire Opposition outside Parliament. She also alleged that BNP was repressing opposition parties to suppress its failures in last three and a half years of its rule.

A party press release said more than 500 workers of different parties came from Khulgaon areas under the leadership of BNP leader and freedom fighter Shamser Uddin Jugu and joined Awami League.

BMFA deplures use of SPA against Sea Resources Ltd

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 12: The Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Association (BMFA), in a review meeting held here recently with Rear Admiral (Retd) M H Khan in the chair, said that detention of the directors of Sea Resources Ltd under the Special Powers Act (SPA) could not be deemed appropriate since the company was being investigated by the Customs authorities.

A BMFA press release hoped, the authorities would soon clarify the circumstances prompting the application of the SPA against the company and its directors, that is, if there was any proof of the company indulging in anti-state activity or if any of its actions had jeopardised the national interest. Otherwise, the association felt, the authorities had no right to harass the company and its owners under a law that infringed upon their fundamental rights.

The press release also regretted that certain newspapers had published 'fabricated' reports creating misgivings about the company. This, the association said, was against journalistic ethics.

Sea Resources

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export as Sea Resources Ltd used to export 30 per cent of the total.

The company officials say that in case of any allegation against any industry there could be a trial as per law of the country but under no circumstances the industry could be closed affecting the economy.

While the government speaks of free economy and invites foreign investments, the law enforcing agency here by applying a misleading law forced the closure of an organisation having foreign investment, company officials pointed out.

On the other hand, with the closure of Sea Resources Ltd, already several hundreds of employees and small traders became unemployed and jobs of 1500 sailors have become uncertain, company sources said.

The sources said the company might even declare a lay-off anytime in case of non-availability of money from banks.

CHT truce extended

The government has extended the time of the general amnesty in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region upto October 31, 1994 to facilitate the repatriation and rehabilitation of Bangladeshi tribals now staying at Tripura state of India, an official handout said today.

PM urges India

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joint steps taken in the forum, including Poverty Alleviation Commission and South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement.

"SAARC has now emerged as an effective forum under your leadership," he said praising Begum Zia's role as Chairperson of the seven-nation forum.

He urged Begum Zia to call upon other SAARC members to accelerate the implementation of SAPTA aimed at socio-economic uplift of the region.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka K Raghunath, Bangladesh High Commissioner to New Delhi Farooq Sobhan, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister A N M Eusuf, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Mozammel Huq and other senior officials were present.

The Midnight File

UN, OAS to withdraw mission from Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, July 12: The United Nations and Organisation of American States (OAS) decided today to withdraw a joint human rights mission from Haiti, said Joe Sills, a spokesman for UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Haiti's military-backed government ordered the team out of the Caribbean island nation on Monday and gave it 48 hours to evacuate, reports AFP.

Russia lifts sanctions against South Africa

MOSCOW, July 12: Russia today lifted all remaining sanctions against South Africa in the wake of the UN Security Council's decision to scrap a 17-year-old arms embargo against Pretoria. President Boris Yeltsin signed an order announcing all measures aimed at restricting Russian trade with South Africa had been annulled, reports Reuters.

Singh praises VAT

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Rahman, Gano Forum leader Dr Kamal Hossain, economists Prof Rehman Sobhan and Prof Nurul Islam, and Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed took part in the discussion, moderated by BISS Chairman A H K Morshed.

Dr Singh spoke in details about the introduction of reform measures and their implications on the Indian economy, considered as one of the most controlled economies in the world. India switched over to economic reforms in 1991.

He said that social safety-nets have been designed to protect the interests of workers who might be adversely affected in the process of restructuring.

Giving an outline of the situation of Indian economy when he became the Finance Minister three years ago, Singh said fiscal consolidation got the top priority in the reforms.

He said the country now had a dramatic success in improving the state of balance of payments, the foreign exchange reserve, which was barely one billion US dollars in June 1991, has now exceeded 16 billion and inflation rate also declined, although not at the desired level.

"Today, we have created an enabling environment under which the private sector is making investment," said Dr Singh, said to be the champion of reforms in Indian economy.

The Indian minister said major reforms have been made in the tax structure and "we are moving nearer to rational tax system." He also revealed that major reforms were undertaken in financial sector covering both banking and capital markets.

He said despite a stock scam, investment in capital market was increasing and the foreign investment last year stood at about 1.7 billion US dollars. The amount is expected to reach the range between 5 and 15 billion dollars next year.

Singh said despite certain drawbacks, India attracted foreign direct investment to the tune of five billion dollars last year.

Speaking on privatisation, Dr Singh said that his country will continue to attach priority to economic deregulation rather than privatisation. "Our concern is deregulation rather than privatisation. Profitable public sector will be given all opportunities to flourish," he said.

Saifur's call

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Trading Arrangements (SAPTA), Saifur said: "SAPTA is the basic core of all our joint cooperation within the parameter of the SAARC and all member countries should make it a viable and durable regional trading forum for the benefit of the people of the region."

Reciprocating the sentiments, the Indian Finance Minister stressed the need for strengthening relationship between the two countries through bilateral and regional cooperation.

Mannohan Singh praised the excellent macro-economic stability achieved by Bangladesh during the last few years and said there are some areas where Bangladesh is much ahead on India. The experiences of Bangladesh, particularly regarding the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT), will be helpful for India, he said.

The Indian Finance Minister said that there were ample scopes where India and Bangladesh could learn from each other's experiences and successes with regard to the on-going reform process in the two countries.

Mannohan thanked Saifur for his achievements in the reform programmes.

The two Finance Ministers also discussed various issues relating to cooperation in the field of economy and trade within the framework of bilateralism and SAARC.

Bangladesh High Commissioner in India Faruq Sobhan, and Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh K Raghunath were present during the meeting.

Responding to a question, Singh said India is gradually lowering tariff barrier which is now maximum 65 per cent. The government allows import of all capital goods, except consumer goods which, he said, will also be allowed to be imported in due course of time.

Bangladesh Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said India has achieved excellent progress in economic reforms in last three years. "But the country is also facing some sort of problems which we are facing in our country," he said.

He observed that if the trend of reform continues, India will become a giant economy within next few years. "We also want that because a stable and prosperous India is also good for Bangladesh."

LDF, GF call to resist communal forces

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and Gano Forum (GF) yesterday said that concerted efforts should be made by the democratic forces to resist the fascist communal forces in the country.

The policy makers of the LDF and GF met yesterday afternoon to exchange views on the prevailing socio-political situation and work out a common strategy to combat the revival of religion-based politics in the country.

The meeting resolved that all the democracy-loving patriotic forces should unitedly fight the communal politics of the 'religion peddlers' who had actively opposed the nation's war of independence in 1971.

While discussing the strategy to combat the undemocratic forces, the meeting felt that giving concessions to the Jamaat and the Jatiya Party (JP) by the Awami League (AL), in the name of a tactical alliance, would eventually prove to be suicidal for the nation as well as the AL, meeting sources said.

Ciba-Geigy

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The move by the NBR drew sharp reactions from the company and the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

"The NBR move came as a big shock for us as an appeal was pending," a senior official of Ciba-Geigy said, requesting anonymity.

"We strictly maintain all requisite accounting procedures and we do pay all our taxes. As a multinational company, we also want to be good citizens."

The company, he said, also wrote a letter to the NBR Chairman protesting the move to freeze and withdraw money from its bank accounts during the pendency of its appeal.

A top official of the NBR, when contacted yesterday, acknowledged the facts but declined to comment, instead asking this 'correspondent to seek the comments of the NBR Chairman himself.

Despite repeated efforts, the NBR Chairman could not be contacted.

In a strongly worded letter addressed to the NBR Chairman, the FICCI also protested the 'harassment' meted out to Ciba-Geigy.

Requesting a 'dispassionate look' into the matter, the letter cautioned about the negative impact of such a move in attracting foreign investments.

"We feel very strongly that such an attitude of the tax authorities will not only compel an internationally reputed company like Ciba-Geigy to rethink about their investment in this country, but also send a negative signal abroad which will definitely hinder future foreign investment in Bangladesh," the letter said.

Issued on July 7, copies of the letter were also sent to the Finance Minister, the Industries Minister, the Secretary at the Prime Ministers' office, the Chairman Board of Investment and the Member (income tax) of NBR.

Sickening garbage stench

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gers shuffle the wastes and the winds carry the foul smell over a large area.

Cats, dogs, crows and vultures prowl in the garbage fall out along with many children — plastic pickers.

Commuters approaching Sayedabad from Kamalapur along the highway have to stop talking and plug their nose as the air of the locality is heavy with the stench. Children and old people in these densely populated areas have become the worst victims since they cannot cope with the daily ordeal.

A resident of Kamalapur, Jalil, said that many people in the area were suffering from any one of an assortment of diseases linked with air pollution.

According to an estimate, nearly 10 lakh tons of domestic garbage is dumped by some 70 lakh citizens of Dhaka every year.

DCC officials, however, say their cleaners collect some 3000 tons a day, putting the annual domestic garbage collection to 10 lakh 80 thousand tons. Besides, there are industrial garbage.

"It's absurd," commented Fazlul Huq, a resident of Sutrapur area of Dhaka. "If it was so, then why there are garbage piled up in our neighbourhood for days?"

People of Motijheel staff quarters said now they have to complete taking their supper before the start of the daily smell hazard, borne by the northward wind.

A resident of Motijheel AGB Colony, Jahanara Begum, said

that the stench spreads the AGB Colony at 11 every night when the DCC trucks start dumping garbage in the Kamalapur yard.

"The wind carry the stinks from Kamalapur to our homes," she said. "We cannot even go out on our balconies. During summer, when it is too hot inside the houses, people get choked up with the stench," she added.

DCC officials said 1,000 cleaners employed by the Corporation were engaged in collecting garbage by 188 trucks.

Besides, 4,000 road sweepers and scavengers were also engaged in 10 zones in the city.

The DCC spends some three crore taka for filling the low-lying areas of the capital with domestic garbage.

Dr Mohammad Hossain of South Mugdpara told this correspondent that the people living around the garbage dump yard have to keep their windows closed to ward off the bad smell.

"My ailing father needs fresh air," he said. "His health is at a great risk since we have to close all the south-facing windows in his room closed."

Many of the 'bad-smell victims' raised questions about the DCC's policy in this regard. "What is the policy of the Corporation?" asked one resident of Mugdpara. "Should the DCC first dump garbage, develop the land and then settle people or settle people first and then start dumping garbage?"

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