

## Sport



This conglomeration of agitating Mohammedan supporters and curious passersby ensured some action at the otherwise inactive Dhaka Stadium arena which was robbed of its usual share of life yesterday by the sudden cancellation of all Senior Division league matches for a day by the organisers DMFA. Although the DMFA attributed the reason to a piece of elder brotherly advice from the BFF, the fact of the matter was a hartial called by the football fans in the stadium arena. It looks like politics has future in football.

—Star photo

## A day of rest in unrest

Sports Reporter

The juggernaut of country's most popular sporting activity has broken down again.

The ongoing Senior Division football leagues hit a strange but steady (given the nature of the authorities' snag as yesterday's all three engagements included the crucial Premier encounter between reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and star-studded Muktijoddha Krira Sangsads fell through).

Not for the first time, the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) organisers of the two-tier leagues — Star Premier and Star First Divisions — cancelled day's all engagements with as brief and curt a notice as of six hours only. The routine explanatory cliché of 'unavoidable circumstances' was replaced by a no less unsavoury but queer phrase — 'day's fixtures have been cancelled on the advice of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), country's highest governing body for soccer.'

The real situation was that the stadium arena was brought to a standstill by the supporters of Mohammedan Sporting Club, who called a strike in protest of DMFA's alleged ill treatment towards their club.

Title aspirants Mohammedans renewed their acrimony with the DMFA, who slapped suspensions on two of the three Russian players Guermann Inataev and Vitaly for their involvement in on-field trouble during the violence-marred match between Mohammedans and PWD which ended in a one-all draw.

More than 100 people in-

## Goals will replace gall?



RIO, DE JANEIRO, Aug 22: Three weeks late, Romario returns to his Barcelona club on Monday to face the wrath of teammates, coach and fans. But it's nothing that a few goals can't fix, reports AP.

The star of Brazil's World Cup champions team predicted a 'tumultuous' reception on his arrival.

That seems a safe bet. Due to report back on Aug 1, Romario ignored the deadline and extended his vacation in Brazil, claiming he was exhausted after the World Cup.

Barcelona's coach, former Dutch star Johan Cruyff, has promised exemplary punishment for his truant star. Some speculated that Romario could be 'demoted' to the club's Second-Division team.

"They say lots of things, but I probably will receive some kind of punishment," Romario said in an interview published Monday in the Rio newspaper.

### IOC course for tennis coaches from Sept 7

A two-week Olympic solidarity course for coaches as well as junior players will be held at the National Tennis Complex from September 7 to 21, according to a press release issued in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Swedish tennis expert Leonardo Snellman will conduct the course, organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation in cooperation with the Bangladesh Olympic Association and International Tennis Federation.

Interested coaches of different clubs and associations have been requested to contact the Bangladesh Tennis Federation by August 25.

Romario did not comment on the reports.

Another Brazilian World Cup star in Spain also is looking homewards: Bebeto.

The star striker of Deportivo La Coruna met on Friday with President Antonion Calcada of Rio's Vasco da Gama, the club that sold Bebeto to Deportivo in 1992.

Calcada said the club was negotiating with a pool of companies interested in sponsoring Bebeto's return.

"Everything depends on the talk. Bebeto has with La Coruna," Calcada said. "He probably will say he doesn't want to stay in Spain and wants to come back to Brazil." Bebeto flew to Spain Sunday night.

Bebeto's contract runs through 1996, Calcada said. It stipulates a fine for rescission, which would be paid by the pool of companies. Vasco also expects to raise money with the sale of centerforward Valdir, who is being scouted by Atletico of Madrid.

He makes no secret that his heart lies in this city, where he was born in the Jacarezinho slum 28 years ago.

"If there were a team in Brazil with conditions to buy me, I wouldn't even leave," he said.

But for now, no Brazilian club can meet Barcelona's asking price of drs 10 million. His homecoming may have to wait until Romario turns 30, when he becomes the owner of his contract.

Meanwhile, local newspapers speculated that the speedy striker may be Italy-bound.

The Rio daily O Dia reported that Romario met over the weekend with officials of Italy's Torino club. The meeting reportedly was to discuss a drs 8 million, three-way deal that would send Romario to Milan by way of Torino.

"After I start to score a few goals, everything will be all right," he said.

Romario spent his last weekend in Brazil doing what he loves best: playing "footvolleyball" on the beaches of Barra da Tijuca, an upscale district south of Rio.

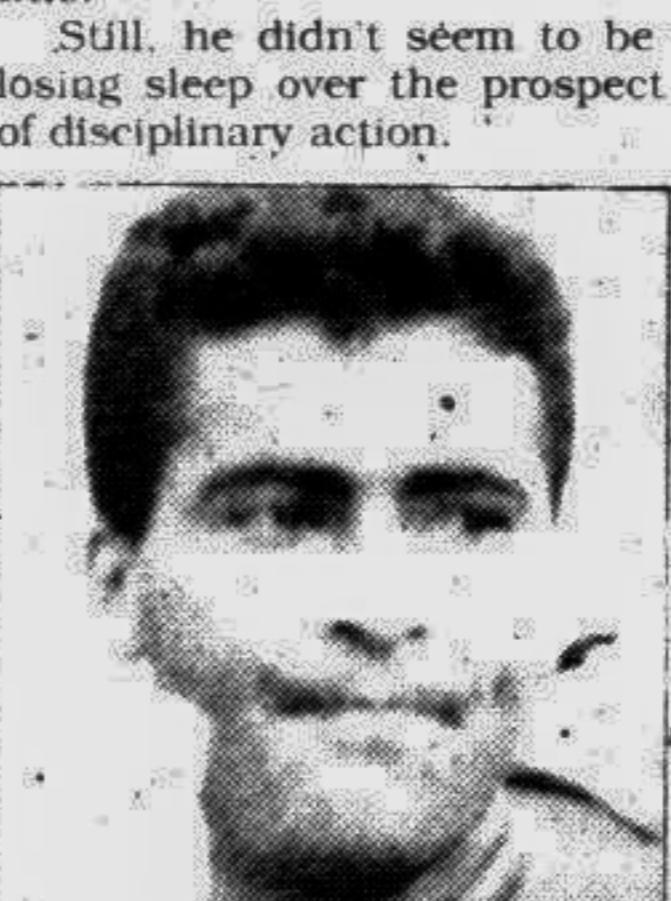
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## Maradona can travel abroad

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 21: Argentine superstar Diego Maradona has received permission to travel abroad, according to local reports on Saturday, reports Xinhua.

Maradona is charged of shooting a air rifle at journalists and is free on 40,000 US dollars bail.

The judge in charge of his case gave Maradona permission to travel abroad, the Noticias Argentinas news agency reported.

Maradona wants to travel to Zurich where the world soccer governing body FIFA is expected to rule on his future in soccer.

Maradona was suspended indefinitely from soccer after testing positive for the stimulant ephedrine at the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

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