

Al-Amin steals Sajeer Abbas' thunder

Sports Reporter

Al-Amin's last minute firework with the willow saw City Club to an improbable one-wicket victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club in the Yamaha First Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

With the team needing 13 runs in the last over for a victory, Al-Amin, not quite respected for his batting ability, raged storm in the late afternoon. He struck two sweetly-timed sixes to the second and third ball of T Islam and led the hosts to victory with one ball still to go.

It was a crowning performance for the City Club seamer, who earlier returned with an enviable analysis of 9-5-8-1.

In the morning, Pakistani Sajeer Abbas dragged Wanderers from a precarious 23 for four to an impressive 182 all out with a responsible 101-ball 73. The right-hander blended caution with aggression and hit five fours during his tenure at the wicket.

Abbas later used the new ball effectively and returned figures of two for 23 but his efforts had little consequence in the face of Al-Amin's late afternoon magic.

MSC make light of Tarun



NADEEM YOUNUS ... 76

Pakistani Nadeem Younus produced a power-packed half century and Selim Shahed a useful all-round display as title-aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their third win in the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The former champions, who got off to a horrible start to this year's league championship with a shocking four-wicket defeat to Damal Summer runners-up Victoria Sporting Club, beat Surja Tarun Club by 46 runs in the day's one of the two Navana engagements.

Playing his second match after being sidelined at the onset of the season with a wrist injury, the tall, hard-hitting Pakistani batsman, scored a polished 76 off 86 balls with the help of nine boundaries as Mohammedans, sent in to bat first, managed 193 for six wickets from the stipulated 45 overs.

Mohammedans raised visions of a much bigger total than what they eventually did with the opening pair of Younus and young Sajjad Mansur raising 94 in the first 24 overs with the latter contributing a sedate 22.

One-drop Selim Shahed, who has reasons to feel distinctly unlucky for not being considered for the Bangladesh team in the recent four-nation SAARC cricket tourney, joined Younus and ensured the steady flow of runs with his characteristically correct and refreshing batsmanship.

Shahed, the stylish right-hander who excelled with his accurate off-spin later in the day, saw his senior partner Younus go at 118, smartly

Sports Reporter

caught by Pakistani Test veteran Rizwanuzzaman off his own bowling from a stinging hit by his compatriot, but progressed to play a controlled knock of 31, embellished with one straight sixer before becoming Rizwan's second victim of the match.

The Mohammedan innings suffered a slump after Shahed's departure with skipper



NADEEM YOUNUS ... 76

Aminul Islam, Nurul Abedin and Pakistani Test-discard Aamir Malik all departing cheaply.

Mohammad Rafiq, who has distinguished himself of late as one of the leading spinners of the country, threw his bat around quite effectively in the slog overs to remain unbeaten on 22 studded with three fours as Mohammedans entered the zone of relative safety with a final total of 193 for six.

Perked up by his bowling success, the grayish Rizwan helped Tarun off to a promising start in the company of

Suman Biswas with the pair realising 70 in 21.4 overs.

Shahed halted Tarun's progress by having Biswas stumped for 24 but Rizwan who saw two more wickets tumble to the slow left-armers Mustafizur and Rafiq, kept the scoreboard moving, much to the discomfort of the Mohammedan fans.

The reasonably balanced contest took a decisive swing in favour of Mohammedans when Rizwan, going for a drive against Mustafizur, could only manage a fatal inside edge. He made 59 off 90 balls sending the ball across the fence on five occasions.

Tarun, who are yet to register a victory against Mohammedans since their arrival in the big league, gave it up and finally closed at 147 for six.

Selim Shahed had a satisfying day, claiming three wickets for 23 from nine overs to mark him out as the most successful Mohammedan bowler on the day.

A resurgent Victoria Club, too, picked up their third win in the Navana league when they beat Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by six wickets in the day's other engagement played at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

After Vishai Singh Yadav, the left-arm Indian spinner, and opening bowler Tanveer Ahmad had evenly shared six wickets to restrict lowly Eskaton Sabuj Sangha to 152 for nine from 45 overs, Ziauddin Ahmad played made an unbeaten 69 off 98 balls with the help of five fours and a sixer to guide Victoria to 153 for four from 38.3 overs and a big six wicket run.

TODAY'S MATCH

GMCC vs Wart Club (DS)



A goalmouth melee during yesterday's Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league encounter between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Usha Krira Chakra at the Hockey Stadium. Mohammedans won the match 2-1. — Star photo

India A fare well on Day 1

BANGALORE, India, Jan 14:

England A bowlers toiled gamely on a slow wicket to restrict India A to 236 for four on the opening day of the first five-day international here Saturday, reports AFP.

The tourists appeared disappointed when skipper Allan Wells lost the toss and were denied first use of a wicket that was expected to deteriorate as the game progressed.

But the bowlers offset the home team's advantage with a well directed display through the day that kept the normally free-flowing Indian juniors in check.

Yorkshire's left arm spinner Richard Stemp was the pick of the bowlers who conceded just 56 runs in 32 overs and was rewarded with two wickets in a single over.

Seamer Glen Chapple lent admirable support with one for 63, but leg-spinner Ian Salisbury, the only bowler in the side to have played Test cricket, disappointed with figures of one for 42 from nine overs.

Indian A opener Vikram Rathore held the innings to-

gether with a spirited 90 and Test prospect Rahul Dravid contributed an unbeaten 50 to prop the home score.

Rathore, who opens with test star Navtej Sidhu for the Punjab team in Indian domestic cricket, was aided in a 99-run first wicket stand with Jitender Singh, who made 32.

The pair batted confidently, but slowly, and appeared headed for a century partnership when the resolute Stemp

Div II football

Sports Reporter

Shahidullah struck twice as Badda Jagorani Sangsad recorded a convincing 3-0 victory over Lalbagh SC in one of the two Second Division football league matches billed for the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Shahidullah struck in the very first minute of the proceedings and added another in the second half before Thomas sealed the fate of the match scoring the third four minutes away from the long whistle.

In the other match of the day, Mirpur Chalanika beat Prantick Krira Chakra by two goals to nil with Mizanur Rahman and Mehdi Hasan scoring once each for the winners.

turned the tide with two quick wickets.

Off the first ball of his 13th over after lunch, Stemp forced Singh to send an easy catch to Nick Knight at silly point.

The final delivery of the over saw promising Amol Mazumdar edge one that turned sharply across his bat for Wells to take a simple catch at first slip.

The highly rated Mazumdar could only manage a solitary run.

SCOREBOARD

Scores on the opening day of the five-day international between touring England A and India A here Saturday.

INDIA: 1st innings

J Singh c Knight b Stemp	32
V Rathore c and b Salisbury	90
A Mazumdar c Wells b Stemp	1
P Amre c Nixon b Chapple	38
R Dravid not out	50
V Yadav not out	14
Extras: (b-5, lb-6)	11
Total (for four wickets)	236
Fall of wickets: 1-99; 2-101; 3-157; 4-207.	

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Cork	15	3	25	0
Chapple	24	7	62	1
Stemp	32	10	56	2
Salisbury	9	1	42	1
Weekes	10	1	40	0



A 22-member Rahmatganj team, which leaves Dhaka today to take part in the King's Birthday Cup football tournament in Nepal, is seen with the State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain at his NSC office yesterday. The Star First Division football league champions will play their first match in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu on January 17. — Star photo

Acme div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Azad Sporting Club recorded an emphatic 57-run win over East End Club in yesterday's lone Acme Second Division cricket league match at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Electing to bat first, Azad Sporting piled up an imposing 222 in the stipulated 40 overs, thanks to the upper order batsmen who lived up to the expectations.

Openers Kazi T Islam and Faiyaz Hasan gave the winners a superb start, collecting 81 runs in 19.3 overs for the first wicket and Syed Adil Ahmed followed their cue in the middle to lead Azad to a big total.

Kazi top-scored with 55 followed by Adil, and Faiyaz who hit 49 and 37 respectively.

Mustafizur Rahman took four for 42 to be the most up-and-down bowler.

In reply, despite a fighting 60 from Saidur Rahman, East End could manage 165 runs for eight in the 40-over quota.

Motaleb's hatrick in Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Motaleb notched the first hatrick in the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league as Kawanbazar Pragati Sangha came from behind to force Rahmatganj to a high-scoring 3-3 draw at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Rahmatganj took a comfortable 2-0 lead at the breather with Nasirullah scoring both goals.

But Motaleb almost turned the table scoring three goals on a trot in the 47th, 50th and 61st minute before substitute Laboni restored parity for Rahmatganj three minutes away from the final whistle.

In the other match of the day, Dhaka Sporting Club earned a lone goal win over Purbachal Parishad with Jiban Kumar Devnath notching the match decider in the 42nd minute.

Cafu's dream comes true

MADRID, Jan 14: As World Cup star Romario returned home after his spell at Barcelona, fellow-Brazilian Cafu arrived in Spain late on Friday to play for Real Zaragoza, reports Reuter.

"I feel very happy to be able to play, at last, in Spain," said the 24-year-old defender, who had tried to join Real Madrid two years ago.

His previous effort had been blocked by his Brazilian club, Sao Paulo, who were reluctant to let him go.

Javier Paricio, the general director of Zaragoza, who are second to Real Madrid in the Spanish league, called Cafu's 35 million peseta (270,000 dollars) contract "a loan until June 30".

He said there was no option to buy at the moment, but Cafu could stay on if the two teams reached an agreement at the end of the season.

Singapore takes cue from Malaysia

SINGAPORE, Jan 14: A former Singapore international footballer and a club manager will go on trial next month on two courts of match-fixing, state television said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Kannan Kunjuran and Changi United manager Ong Kheng Hock were arrested last October and are accused of offering a total of Singapore 145,000 (US 100,000 dollars) to national goalkeeper David Lee on two occasions in 1994.

State television said there is an additional charge against former striker Kannan of receiving 5,000 Singapore dollar (3,450 US dollars) for assistance in arranging the deal.

Match-fixing is an offence punishable under the penal code and the trial is set to start on February 15.

The developments are the latest in the controversy over corruption allegations in Malaysian and Singapore soccer.

Singapore, winners of the prestigious Malaysia Cup last season, has been accused by Malaysian sports officials of not doing enough to prove it has cleaned up alleged corruption.

In Malaysia, 58 players have been arrested following a five-month crackdown on match-fixing. And earlier this week the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) deputy president, Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, threatened to keep Singapore out of this season's Malaysian Premier League unless it takes steps to eradicate corruption.



Danish captain Brian Laudrup displays the trophy after beating Argentina in the final of the Intercontinental Cup soccer tournament in Riyadh on Jan 13. Denmark won the match 2-0. —AFP photo

Danes get another one

RIYADH, Jan 14: Denmark added the Intercontinental Cup to their European title after refusing to

be subdued by intimidation in a 2-0 win over 10-man Argentina here on Friday, report agencies.

Michael Laudrup and Peter Rasmussen settled a match in which holders Argentina used unrestrained aggression rather than football finesse.

Defender Jose Chamot could have been sent off in the first half but referee Ali Abou-Jassim of the United Arab Emirates eventually sent him off in the dying seconds.

Roberto Ayala could also have been dismissed for another cynical foul as Argentina used bullying tactics — particularly against Brian Laudrup — throughout the showpiece final.

Michael Laudrup's early penalty enlivened the match after a clear foul on Jes Høgh. Høgh, looking dangerous on the right side of Argentina's area, was upended by Roberto Ayala.

Ayala had tried to pull back his right leg, but his reactions were too slow, and defender Høgh, playing his 11th international, was left sprawling.

Following a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes, Austin Okocha, Mutiu Adegboju and Austin Eguavoen traded penalties with Alberto Garcia Aspe, Benjamin Galindo and Luis Garcia.

After Campos foiled Amunike, Carlos Hermosillo scored as did Ben Iroha for Nigeria, but Suarez converted his final attempt to earn his side 800,000.

The Nigerians earned 800,000 in the tournament. Mexico missed a chance to go ahead in the fifth minute when Hermosillo missed on a pass with only goalkeeper Peter Rufai to beat.

It took another 15 minutes to get the goal back. Ramon Ramirez taking advantage of a screened Rufai to score from a melee near the Nigerian penalty area.

Nigeria got the goal back in the 31st minute when Campos failed to grab a shot from Eguavoen and Daniel Amokachi lobbed the ball home.

Nigeria made repeated forays into the Mexican defence and missed a chance at the lead in the 50th minute. Okocha's powerful shot sailed centimeters wide. The Africans had another chance in the 78th when Campos deflected an Eguavoen shot wide.

Two minutes later Nigerian keeper Rufai brilliantly saved a shot from Luis Garcia.

Romario's return to Rio

BARCELONA, Spain, Jan 14: Romario announced on Friday he had finally signed for

Flamengo after difficult and lengthy negotiations with Barcelona club officials, his agent and Flamengo president Kleber Leite, reports AFP.

And according to Barcelona's vice-president Joan Gaspart, the Catalan club received 600 million pesetas (about 4.5 million dollars) in the form of a bank guarantee which was meticulously examined by Barcelona accountants.

The 28-year-old Brazilian World Cup star, who had played at Barcelona for a season and a half, leaves for Rio this morning.

Romario, who has signed a two-year contract with the Rio club, said at a press conference: "I am not leaving Barcelona for professional reasons, but because I think the moment has come for me to return to my country and join up with my house and friends."

Nevertheless, I would like to express my gratitude to supporters, players, coaches and directors of Barcelona."

Barcelona are set to gain should Romario ever again play outside Brazil.

Romario would have to pay between 600 and 900 million pesetas (between 4.5 and 7 million dollars) to Barcelona, depending on which country and continent he moved to.

And if Flamengo wanted Barcelona to relinquish this right, they would have to pay an extra 600 million pesetas, Gaspart added.

Romario said he was leaving with a clear mind and on good terms with Barcelona. "I arrived at Barcelona at a very difficult time in my career and the players totally accepted me. I have tried to give my best," he added.

Cruyff, who on Friday extended his coaching contract until July 1997, has been unsettled by Romario's season.

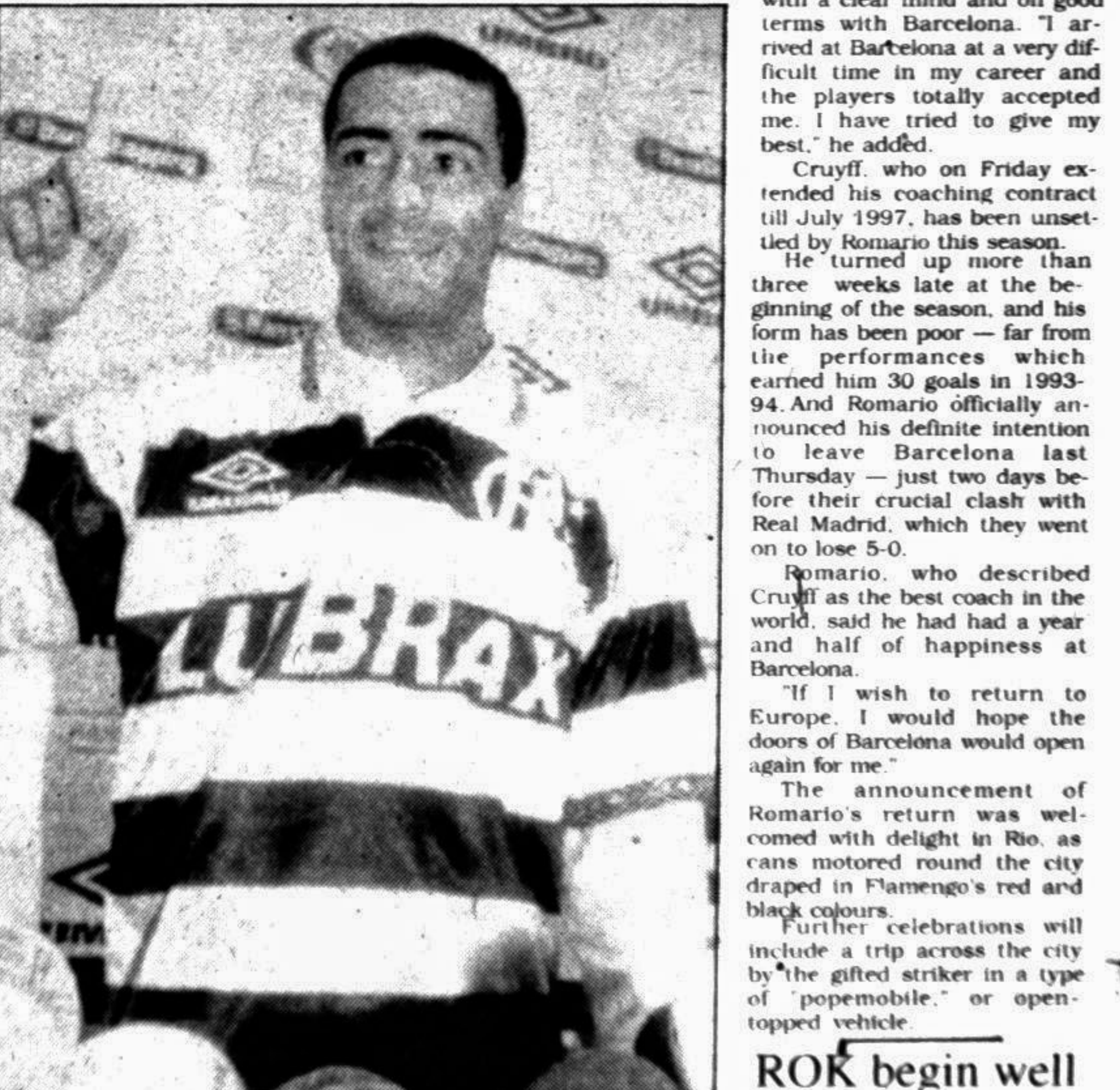
He turned up more than three weeks late at the beginning of the season, and his form has been poor — far from the performances which earned him 30 goals in 1993-94. And Romario officially announced his definite intention to leave Barcelona last Thursday — just two days before their crucial clash with Real Madrid, which they went on to lose 5-0.

Romario, who described Cruyff as the best coach in the world, said he had had a year and half of happiness at Barcelona.

"If I wish to return to Europe, I would hope the doors of Barcelona would open again for me."

The announcement of Romario's return was welcomed with delight in Rio, as fans motored round the city draped in Flamengo's red and black colours.

Further celebrations will include a trip across the city by the gifted striker in a type of "popemobile" or open-topped vehicle.



Brazilian World Cup soccer star Romario da Souza, wearing Flamengo jersey, addresses a press conference in Barcelona on Jan 13, moments before leaving for Brazil. —AFP photo

Exhibition cricket

Sports Reporter

Rezaul Haque scored an unbeaten half century as Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) recorded a facile six-wicket win over Banque Indosuez in an exhibition match at Dhanmondi yesterday.

Set to score 132 in the stipulated 30-overs for an outright win, Rezaul, guided Standard Chartered Bank to an easy victory with a quick-fire 58 off 64 balls.

Earlier, Saqeeb played the pivotal role in Banque Indosuez's 131-9 with a sparkling 62.

Nafees took three wickets for 15 runs for the eventual winners followed by Iftekhar, Naser and Masum who evenly shared the other six wickets.