

Ban thumped down on Thilanga

Star Sportswatch
A district court of Colombo yesterday has banned former president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) Thilanga Sumathipala for life, says an Internet release.

Along with Thilanga Judge Salam banned the following officials from holding posts in the Sri Lanka Board for life. They are: Anuruddha Polonowita (former vice president), Prasanna Ranatunga (former vice president), Saliya Athangama (former secretary), Trivice Rajaratnam (former treasurer), Mohan de Silva (former asst. secretary), Lawrence Amarasinghe (former asst. treasurer), Carlton Bernardus (former chairman, tournament committee).

This is the sequel to the injunction sought by Clifford Ratwatte, who contested the presidency at the last annual general meeting of the BCCSL. This AGM ended in chaos with security went completely out of control and automatic gun-toting individuals invaded the well-fortified BCCSL building in a plush Colombo residential area.

Thilanga Sumathipala and his 'team' won the election but Clifford Ratwatte went to Courts alleging intimidation, bribery, impersonation and assault.

DU camp for

From page 13
The camp will begin from May 14 and the selected booters have been asked to report to coach Sayed Hassan Kanan on Saturday at the Central Playground of the university at 4 pm.

The preliminary round of the national championship involving 59 teams will commence at ten different venues across the country from May 16. The final round featuring the ten zonal champions, the holders and the hosts will be held in Noakhali.

The selected booters are: Nizam, Khairul Hasan Titu, Mostafizur Rahman, Hasan al Mamun, Firoz Mahmud Titu, Faisal Ahmed, Partho Protim Kundu, Kingshuk Chakma, Masud Rana, Uzzal Chakravarty, Shibu, Babul Das, Iqbal Hossain, Arif Khan Joy, Monwar Hossain, Parvez Babu, Zulfiqar Mahmud Mintu, Saidur Rahman Don, Sahajuddin Tipu, Murad Hossain Milon, Saiful Islam, Saifur Rahman Moni, Asaduzzaman Sagar, Echo and Johnny.

Kalabagan set up

From page 13
for the fourth 'wicket' with Mushfiq.

Despite batting with an injured finger, Mushfiq was not ready to resign without a fight and put on a decisive 92 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket with Pakistani recruit Tariq Mehmud.

Tariq remained unbeaten on 35. A serious contender for a place in the national team Mushfiq hit three fours in his flawless 93-ball knock.

Earlier, skipper Athar Ali Khan and in-form Nasirul Alam Nahid had laid the foundation of an impressive Mohammedan total.

Athar relived the memories of his hay days with a fluent 47 off 59 balls that included a quartet of fours. Nahid scored 78 off 113 balls. The young prospect clubbed three fours and smote a couple of sixes including a straight lofted drive against off-spinner Fahim Muntasir that crashed into the site screen.

For Kalabagan, off spinner Ripon captured four wickets giving away 43 runs from his 10 overs. Former national right-arm seamer Saiful Islam also had impressive figures of two for 29 from his quota of ten.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket Super League match between Kalabagan Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

MOHAMMEDAN SC			
	R	O	M
Hannan c Rajin b Saiful	18		
Rashedul c Ishtiaq b Saiful	5		
Athar b Ripon	47		
Nahid c S Elahi b Ripon	78		
Samaraweera st. Ishtiaq b Ripon	28		
Neyayamur c S Elahi b Ripon	14		
Rafique b Bikash	1		
S Arefin c Ishtiaq b Tariq	6		
Mortuza b Bikash	12		
Babu not out	1		
Monjurul not out	0		
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, nb-1, w-9)	15		
Total: (For 4 wickets in 20 overs) 225			
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-38, 3-119, 4-173, 5-200, 6-203, 7-217, 8-225.			
KALABAGAN KC			
	R	O	M
Hannan c Neyayamur b Monjurul	25		
Ishtiaq c & b S Arefin	8		
S Elahi lbw b A Arefin	13		
Rajin run out	30		
Mushfiq not out	74		
Tariq not out	35		
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-9)	11		
Total: (For 4 wickets in 43 overs) 196			
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-38, 3-48, 4-104.			
Bowler			
	O	M	R
Monjurul	9	0	36
Babu	3	0	21
Shamsul Arefin	9	0	35
Neyayamur	8	0	40
Athar Ali	2	0	16
Rafique	9	0	31
Samaraweera	3	0	16

Result: Kalabagan won by better run-rate.

Real complete the Bayern kill

MUNICH, Germany, May 10: Real Madrid swept into the European Champions League final following a 3-2 aggregate win over Bayern Munich to create a further upswing in their roller-coaster season, reports AFP.

The changing fortunes which are a part of life in professional sport have rarely been so starkly evident as in Madrid's performances this season.

Nicolas Anelka's 32nd minute goal equalized Carsten Jancker's early effort at the Olympiastadion and Giovane

Valencia, it doesn't really matter because the main thing was just to reach the final.

Madrid's woes began early in the season with terrible showings in the Spanish league resulting in the sacking of Welshman John Toshack in November and the installing of current coach Vicente Del Bosque.

Results picked up and, by early February, they had amassed a remarkable run to surge back up the table to among the frontrunners. That run could not be kept up and a 1-0 loss at home to Alaves at the weekend left Madrid in sixth, the final UEFA Cup spot.

300,000-dollars. In Tuesday's France Football magazine, Real club president Lorenzo Sanz was quoted as saying Anelka looked set to move to Paris Saint Germain next season, the club which let him go to Arsenal as a raw teenager.

Sanz further said he was negotiating with a French player to draft in next season but refused to reveal his identity.

Real coach Vicente Del Bosque even refused to talk about Anelka's goal.

"I don't just want to talk about one person but the whole team," Del Bosque said after the game. "It was a very competitive match, Munich played well and very competitively, but we converted our chances better than them and were the better side over two legs."

"Our midfield was excellent and after going in 1-1 at half-time we had the confidence that we would eventually win and we merited getting to the final."

French substitute Christian Karembeu also praised his side's performance. "In the Champions League, we have always played well this season. We have been really solid and have managed to find our form at the right moment. I only played a quarter-hour but I'm in the final and the important thing is to win titles."

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld also had magnanimous words for their victors. "Madrid played extremely well over the two matches," Hitzfeld said. "In the quarter-finals, to beat Manchester United was an achievement too. They are a quality side and we wish them all the best."

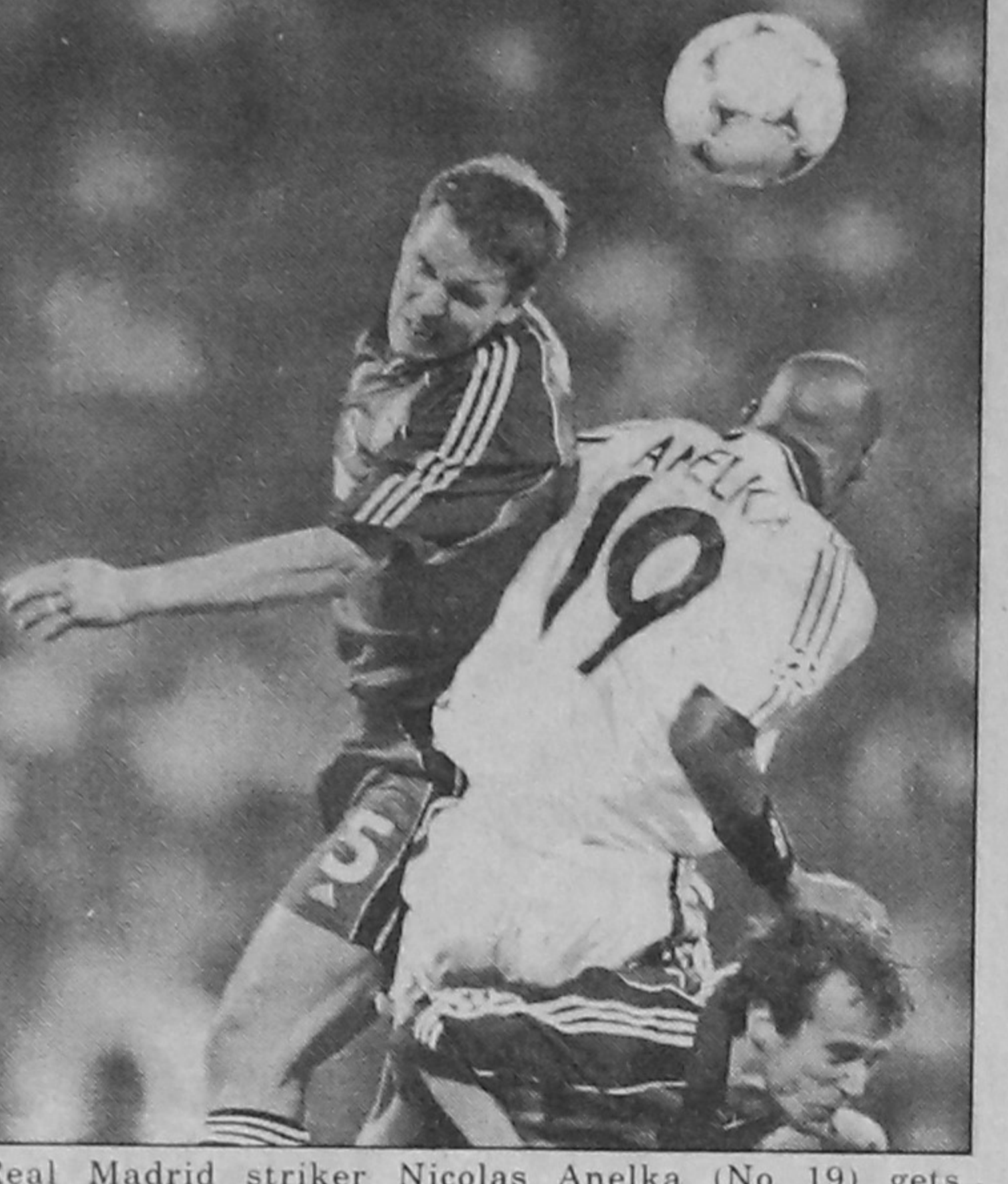
Bayern skipper Stefan Effenberg had a letter printed in German newspapers urging their supporters to get behind the team. Part of it read: "Even if things are not going well by the end of the first half, support the team as best as you can."

Things did not go as planned and the 60,000 supporters went quiet following Anelka's goal.

Skipper Effenberg had bold words in defeat to say after game that they may have been beaten but were not ready to wilt. In the space of a few days, Munich, chasing a treble of titles for the second consecutive season, could see two of those trophies slip out of their hands.

They beat Werder Bremen in the German cup final at the weekend, but if Bayer Leverkusen and Bayern fall to win at lowly Arminia Bielefeld at the weekend, Leverkusen win the Bundesliga.

Although Effenberg was clearly disappointed, he vowed Madrid would be back. "We're going to come back even stronger next year and win the Champions League," he said.



Real Madrid striker Nicolas Anelka (No 19) gets sandwiched between Bayern Munich's Patrick Anderson (L) and Mehmet Scholl during their Champions' League semifinal second leg at Munich on May 9. — AFP photo

Elbe's goal for Bayern was too little too late despite a 2-1 win.

Madrid, who have won seven of 10 European Cup finals, are now looking to make it eight out of 11 against Barcelona or Valencia in Paris on May 24.

Madrid keeper Iker Casillas summed up their fabulous showing over the last few weeks to beat both defending champions Manchester United and now Bayern, who lost to United in the final.

Casillas said: "We showed once again showed remarkable spirit and I'm delighted. Whoever wins out of Barcelona or

By the yardstick of the 'meringue's' fanatical supporters, a poor season was in the offing till their victory over Bayern, mainly thanks to goals by controversial Nicolas Anelka in both legs. He took half a season to score a goal then fell out with his teammates, skipped training to earn a suspension and a huge fine.

Just a month ago he was forced to train on his own after preferring to have a weekend off than prepare for matches. He earned a 45-day ban, which was eventually reduced, and a financial penalty worth about



Real Madrid fans celebrating their team's entry into the final of the Champions' League in Madrid on May 9. — AFP photo

Spain hit by 'Anelkomania'

MADRID, May 10 (AFP): Villain to hero. That is how the soccer-obsessed Spanish media saw erstwhile bad boy Nicolas Anelka on Thursday after the 37-million-dollar man paid off a chunk of his fee to hand his adopted country a priceless gift - an all-Spanish European Cup final.

Anelka has spent this season as football's anti-hero with poor form at Real Madrid, which splorped a huge fine on the Frenchman and suspended him after he skipped three days of training two months ago.

weeks, of letting the Frenchman go back to former club Paris Saint Germain next season, as mooted by Sanz in Tuesday's edition of France Football.

Letting him go would cause a storm at the moment, given the reaction to his semi-final exploits.

Marca magazine was a little more imaginative letting the image speak louder than the word by depicting Anelka's shaven head with a bright red kiss in red lipstick superimposed on it.

"Anelka leads Real Madrid to Paris," was how El Mundo saw things Wednesday while sports daily AS and El Pais were equally forthright, headlining: "Anelka saves Real Madrid."

Richard Dunne also saw red for a two-footed challenge on Michael Bridges.

D'Urso averages 3.75 cards per Premiership game, the fifth highest in the division. Mike Reed, with 77 yellows and seven reds (4.42 per game), tops the table.

Jeremies damages collar bone

MUNICH, May 10: Jens Jeremies, the Bayern Munich defensive midfielder, broke his right collar bone in Tuesday's Champions League semifinal but should recover in time for next month's European Championship, his club doctor said, reports AP.

Jeremies was injured in the 58th minute of the match against Real Madrid. Bayern won 2-1, but Real advanced to the final 3-2 on aggregate.

Bayern doctor Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt said Jeremies will undergo surgery Wednesday. He should be able to resume training in two weeks and to start playing again in three weeks.

The European Championship starts June 10, but Jeremies will miss Bayern's last two Bundesliga games that will decide whether Bayern retains the title.

Jeremies conceded two own goals in recent weeks, one in the Bundesliga and one against Real in the first semifinal leg, and both proved costly for Bayern's title hopes in the two competitions. He was booked in Tuesday's match before his injury.

He was also suspended for one national team game last month after describing the atmosphere in the team as lamentable.

But national team coach Erich Ribbeck reiterated Tuesday that Jeremies was a key member of the squad.

In Bayern, Jeremies has been playing the libero role vacated by Lothar Matthaeus with his departure for the New York-New Jersey MetroStars in the United States.

Solskjaer not going anywhere

LONDON, May 10: Manchester United striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said on Wednesday that he is ready to quash rumours linking him with a move to Leeds or Spurs by pledging his long-term future to the Premiership champions, reports AFP.

The Norwegian international was tipped to leave Old Trafford after United's interest in PSV Eindhoven star Ruud van Nistelrooy became apparent.

But with that deal now having fallen away, the hero of last season's Champions League final win over Bayern Munich is very much part of Sir Alex Ferguson's plans.

Solskjaer himself admitted: "I am contracted until 2004 - and I would love to sign up for another two years after that."

"I can see myself playing for United when I am 33," adds the 27-year-old, in Britain's Daily Star newspaper.

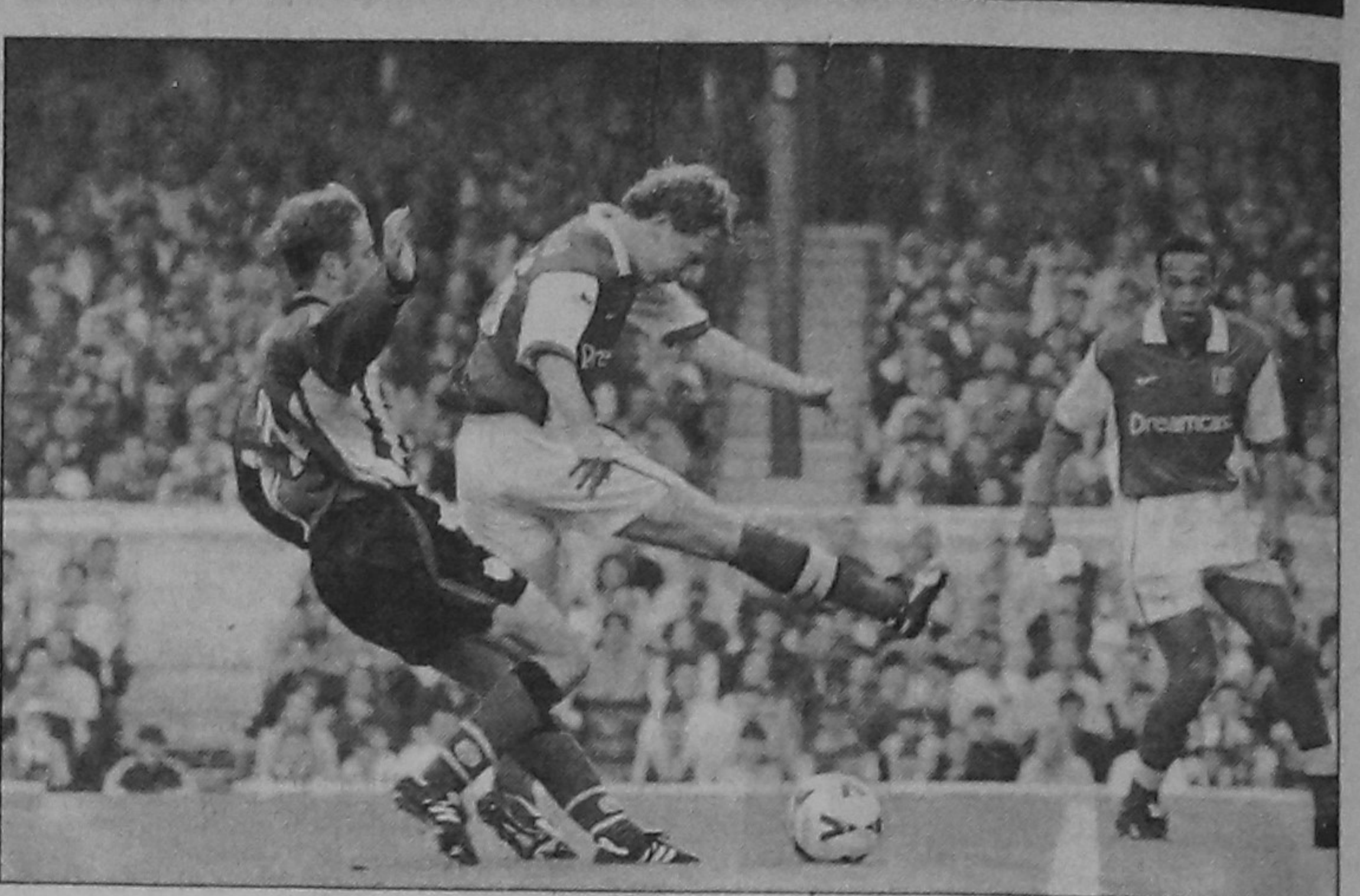
"I did not become a professional until I was 25, and I have not exhausted myself while I have been here, so I think I can keep playing at this level for quite some time."

Many have questioned whether Solskjaer will be happy to stay in the shadows of Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke at United, but the Norwegian insists that he has no problem with that situation.

He said: "I am having a great time here - and you never know what you get if you move."

"I will win trophies and play in the Champions League every year here, and no club in the world can compete with the interest this club is getting."

"I have got used to sitting on the bench and I am handling it a lot better now than before."



Ray Parlour (C) of Arsenal attempts to kick while under pressure from Sheffield Wednesday's Steve Haslam during their Premiership fixture at Highbury on May 9. — AFP photo

Premiership Wednesday's last show of grit

LONDON, May 10: Arsenal failed to increase their tally of 13 consecutive victories when they drew 3-3 at home to Sheffield Wednesday on Tuesday - a result which confirmed the Yorkshire club's relegation from the top flight, reports AFP.

After Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Coventry, caretaker manager Peter Shreeves blamed Wednesday's poor goalkeeping record for their lowly league position - yet the visitors became the first team to register three goals at Highbury in the Premiership since Blackburn Rovers in December 1997.

Wednesday looked dead and buried after Lee Dixon put the Gunners, who by virtue of third-placed Leeds United's 1-1 draw with Everton on Monday had already qualified for next season's Champions League, in front in the first half from Thierry Henry's cross.

But substitutes Gerald Sibon and Gilles De Bilde both scored within seconds of coming on - Sibon with his first touch - and Alan Quinn added a third in an unbelievable 12-minute spell to give Wednesday the faintest of hopes.

Arsenal were not to be denied in their last home game of the season, however, and Brazilian substitute Silvinho, who has

just earned a call-up to the Brazilian national squad for the friendlies with Wales and England later this month, reduced the deficit with a 25-yard screamer before Henry scored his 26th goal of the season to confirm the visitors' fate.

It was also the seventh league game in succession in which the Frenchman had scored, equalling the Premiership record held by Alan Shearer and Mark Stein.

Arsenal started the game the more adventurous, forcing several early corners from a number of speculative attacks. But no Arsenal player could take advantage of Nigel Winterburn's and Marc Overmars' teasing crosses.

The visitors kept the Gunners at bay until 11 minutes before the interval. Henry moved menacingly down the left wing and beat defender Ian Nolan with ease before driving a low ball across the face of Kevin Pressman's goal.

The ball seemed to bypass everyone until Dixon slid in from nowhere to bundle the ball in.

The second half started in much the same vein with Arsenal dominating territorially and appearing the only side capable of scoring.

In the 50th minute, after good work by Nwankwo Kanu, Henry almost doubled the home

side's advantage but he stroked the ball inches wide of the left-hand post.

The miss looked to have proved costly when Wednesday levelled after 58 minutes.

Sibon, who scored in the game between the two sides at Hillsborough, rose above Frenchman Patrick Viera from a left wing corner to glance a header past David Seaman.

The goal inspired Wednesday and two minutes later they took the lead.

De Bilde broke free of the Arsenal defence to confidently slot past the exposed Seaman from 16-yards out.

Wednesday were now buzzing and Quinn gave the scoreline a surreal look with 20 minutes to go, racing clear of a static home defence before slotting past David Seaman.

But the goal provoked an emphatic response from Arsenal Wenger's side who piled the pressure on the visitors' defence.

The Yorkshiremen buckled in 76th minute when Silvinho, a second half substitute for Winterburn, rifled home a spectacular left foot drive from 25 yards.

And parity was restored moments later when Henry fired home the equaliser to condemn Wednesday to the First Division.

Friendlylies against England, Wales Romario returns to Brazil fold

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 10: Veteran striker Romario has been recalled to Brazil's squad for friendlies.

Coach Wanderley Luxemburgo on Tuesday included the forward in his party for the British tour which includes a clash with Wales on May 23 in Cardiff and a game with England at Wembley on May 27.

Romario, who turned 34 in January, last played a full international against Argentina in April 1998 and missed the subsequent World Cup in France due to injury. He was named World Footballer of the Year in 1994.

Luxemburgo had come under pressure from fans and the Brazilian media to pick the 1994 World Cup hero since taking over as Brazil coach in August 1998.

"I always said I would call Romario when I thought it necessary. I'm already familiar with his football and he doesn't need to show me anything more. Now I thought it was important to call him," Luxemburgo said.

Luxemburgo had refused to pick Romario for the national squad despite his outstanding form for title-chasing club Vasco da Gama, apart from a friendly against Spanish side Barcelona last year.

Fans have speculated that Luxemburgo found it hard to forgive a 1995 episode when he was forced to resign as Flamengo coach after his attempts to discipline the then Flamengo player Romario floundered due to lack of backing from club directors.



ROMARIO

Romario was overlooked by Luxemburgo for last month's 2002 World Cup qualifier against Ecuador.

Brazil are scheduled to play two more World Cup qualifiers in June - against Peru in Lima on June 4 and against Uruguay on June 28 in Rio de Janeiro - the 50th anniversary of the city's massive Maracana stadium.

Other new names in Brazil's line-up for the friendlies are the Sao Paulo striker Franca and defender Emerson from the Portuguesa side.

SQUAD
Goalkeepers: Dida (Corinthians), Carlos Germano (Santos)

Defenders: Antonio Carlos, Aldair and Cafu (all AS Roma), Evaniilson (Borussia Dortmund), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid), Silvinho (Arsenal), Emerson (Portuguesa)

Midfielders: Cesar Sampaio (Palmeiras), Flavio Conceicao (La Coruna), Emerson (Bayer Leverkusen), Ze Roberto (Bayer Leverkusen), Rivaldo (Barcelona)

Forwards: Amoroso (Parma), Elber (Bayern Munich), Franca (Sao Paulo), Romario (Vasco)

Lothar sings revival song

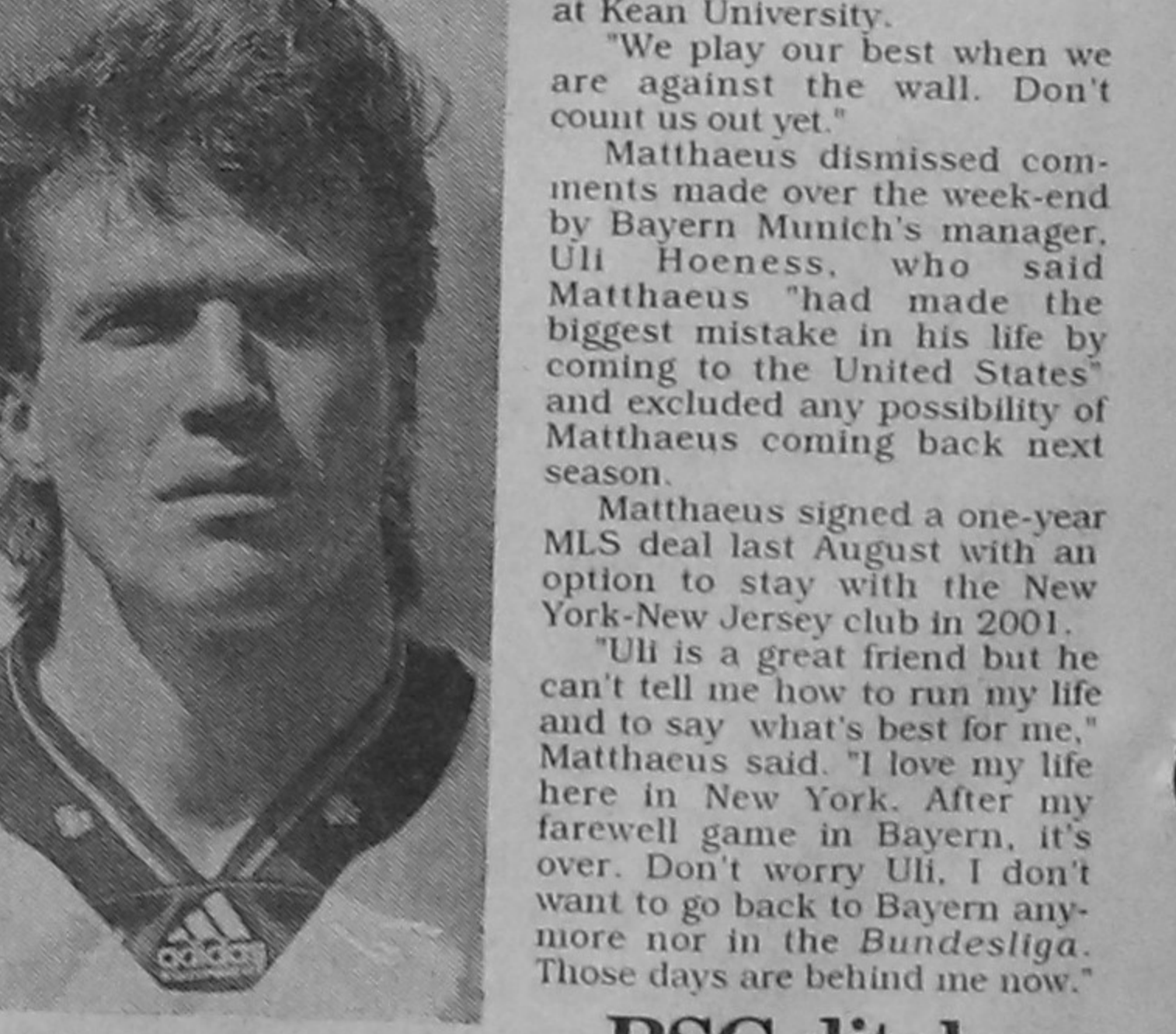
UNION, New Jersey, May 10: German international star Lothar Matthaeus vows his nation's team will overcome internal squabbles and could rally to reach the finals of next month's Euro 2000 championships, reports AFP.

The 39-year-old libero said he will not let the German team sink into disarray in his final international event with the team.

"I want to leave on a high note," he said. "I'm going to play like I never played before. I've given my soul to this team. I'm not going to let it die."

The Euro 2000, hosted jointly by Belgium and the Netherlands, begins June 10 and concludes July 2.

Germany, the defending European champions, have fallen from grace since winning the Euro 96 final at Wembley.



LOTHAR MATTHAEUS

"We have quality players on this team and if we get good results in the early matches, we can go all the way to the Finals," Matthaeus told AFP after a Tuesday workout with Major League Soccer's MetroStars here at Keen University.

"We play our best when we are against the wall. Don't count us out yet."

Matthaeus dismissed comments made over the week-end by Bayern Munich's manager, Uli Hoeness, who said Matthaeus "had made the biggest mistake in his life by coming to the United States" and excluded any possibility of Matthaeus coming back next season.

Matthaeus signed a one-year MLS deal last August with an option to stay with the New York-New Jersey club in 2001.

"Uli is a great friend but he can't tell me how to run my life and to say what's best for me," Matthaeus said. "I love my life here in New York. After my farewell game in Bayern, it's over. Don't worry Uli, I don't want to go back to Bayern anymore nor in the Bundesliga. Those days are behind me now."

PSG ditch Madar
PARIS, May 10: Paris Saint-Germain have informed their former Everton striker Mickael Madar that they will not be renewing his contract beyond the end of June, reports AFP.