

Joseph leaving with hope

SPORTS REPORTER

Joseph Nur Rahman, the 28-year-old Sweden-based midfielder who spent a brief stint in trial with the Bangladesh national team, will fly back to Sweden on Thursday with the assurance that he might be called up to the camp in time for the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship in December.

The attacking midfielder, who plays for Procyon BK in the Swedish fifth division, has received quiet praise from head coach Fabio Lopez, who believes the midfielder has the potential to stake a claim in the national team sooner rather than later.

"He is doing well. Tactically he is good, but I don't have enough time before the matches against Tajikistan and Australia to bring someone new," said the Italian.

The Sweden-based midfielder joined the trial last Wednesday, but was yesterday asked to leave the camp as the coach wants to concentrate on a smaller number of players than the preliminary 30-member squad in the time ahead of the Tajikistan

fixture on November 12.

"If I have to bring someone, I need to bring in Zahid before I can bring him. But I don't have enough time now to bring either Zahid or any other player," added Lopez after the team's training session at the BFF artificial turf yesterday.

Rahman, though, is hopeful that he would wear the red and green jersey one day as his aim is to play for the national team as well as play in domestic football here.

"I am a bit disappointed [that I would have to leave the camp], but I can understand that it is impossible to get into the national team with such a short trial," said the midfielder who attended four training sessions. "The coaches have told me to work on my fitness when I get back to Sweden and assured me that I would be called up again before the SAFF Championship."

If eventually Rahman gets into the side, he would be second expatriate booter to represent Bangladesh after Jamal Bhuiyan, who has become an integral part of the team since his first appearance in the 2013 SAFF Championship.



On his last day in trial, Joseph Nur Rahman (L) smiles for the cameras alongside captain Mamunul Islam at the BFF artificial turf yesterday.

Brilliant Roberto stands out

AGENCIES, Madrid

Barcelona kept pace with Real Madrid at the top of La Liga on Saturday as Luis Suarez and Neymar once again compensated for the absence of Lionel Messi with a goal apiece in a 2-0 win at Getafe.

Neymar and Suarez have now combined for Barca's last 14 league goals since Messi went down with knee ligament damage over a month ago.

However, it was Sergi Roberto who shone brightest for Barca as his stunning backheel assist freed Suarez for the opener before also crossing for Neymar to volley home the second to cap off a rapid counter-attack.

"I think we played a very intelligent game," Suarez said after the match.

"We controlled the ball during the whole game and tried to find the space." Barca's dominance in possession

was rewarded with a brilliantly crafted opening goal as Roberto flicked Neymar's cross perfectly into Suarez's path and the Uruguayan kept his cool to register his 300th career goal for club and country.

Roberto was at the heart of the second goal just before the hour mark too as Bravo collected a corner and bowled the ball out for the midfielder, who carried it forward before picking out

RESULTS			
Villarreal	2 - 1	Sevilla	Llorente 76
Mario Gaspar 25, Bakambu 61			
Valencia	3 - 0	Levante	
Alacer 64-pen, Feghouli 72, Bakkali 79			
Getafe	0 - 2	Barcelona	Suarez 37, Neymar 58
Real Sociedad	2 - 3	Celta Vigo	Aspas 17, 56
Agirretxe 11, 37			

Neymar and the Brazilian fired a volley in at the near post.

Suarez also went on to praise Neymar, saying that he performed his role in the team to perfection.

"We all have clear functions, I can't dribble four rivals, that's a job for Neymar," he said.

Apart from Neymar's goal that sent him top of La Liga's scoring charts, Luis Enrique was equally impressed by his star's all-round display at Coliseum Alfonso Perez, praising his player as "unique".

"He brings us a lot, he is a unique player in all aspects, capable of taking on two or three opponents on his own," the coach told reporters.

"He brings us goals, assists, defensive work, keeps improving and will keep improving. He is so important for us."

"[But] we have not asked more from the players, we always ask for them to give everything. We all had to step up with players out."

Schumi 'still fighting'

AFP, Berlin

Former Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher is "still fighting" as the second anniversary of his skiing accident approaches, according to FIA president Jean Todt.

He is continuing his rehabilitation at home and has yet to make a public appearance since the accident.

Todt told German media that Schumacher is recovering with his family.

"Michael was and remains a close friend of mine," said Todt. "His family is very close."

"I see Michael often and can tell you: Michael is still fighting. And his family are still fighting by his side."

Viola catch Inter

AGENCIES, Rome

Fiorentina recaptured top spot in Serie A from Inter Milan on Sunday with an emphatic 4-1 victory over Frosinone that sees them temporarily lead the league ahead of Napoli's clash with Genoa.

Paulo Sousa's men grabbed all their goals in the first half, comfortably dominating the newly-promoted minnows at the Stadio Artemio Franchi.

Inter Milan edged Roma 1-0 on Saturday to snatch top spot in Serie A while Colombian winger Juan Cuadrado hit an injury-time winner to give champions Juventus a 2-1 win over city rivals Torino 2-1.

Chilean defender Gary Medel scored the

only goal of the game at the San Siro on the half-hour mark with a long-range drive which beat Roma keeper Wojciech Szczesny.

Roma had chances to salvage a point but were denied by a string of fine saves from Samir Handanovic in the Inter goal.

"A team is like a house, if you don't have solid foundations, it will sink," Inter coach Roberto Mancini told Sky Sport Italia in reference to his team's seventh win by a 1-0 margin.

In the Turin derby, Paul Pogba put Juventus in front after 19 minutes but Cesare Bovo looked to have saved a point for Torino early in the second period.

However, substitute Cuadrado, on loan from Chelsea, grabbed the winning goal which lifted Juventus into 10th spot, nine points behind Inter.

Inter are joint-top of Serie A despite scoring just 11 goals in 11 games			
RESULTS			
Juventus	2 - 1	Torino	Bovo 51
Pogba 19, Cuadrado 90+3			
Inter Milan	1 - 0	Roma	
Medel 30			
Fiorentina	4 - 1	Frosinone	Frara 87
Rebic 24, Rodriguez 29, Babacar 30-pen,			

Federer downs Nadal in Basel final

AFP, Basel

Roger Federer defeated long-time rival Rafael Nadal 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 on Sunday to win his seventh title at the Swiss Indoors as he played his home final for a record tenth consecutive year.

Federer and Nadal last met in an Australian Open semi-final nearly two years ago and played their last final in Rome in 2013, both of which Nadal won.

The 34-year-old Swiss, world number three behind Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray, claimed the 88th title of his career.

The Basel trophy was his sixth of the season as he polished his record to 58-9.

"Rafa had a great week," said Federer who finished with 12 aces and 44 winners.

"It was special for us to have had this match and I hope we play many more finals.

"To win this one is incredible, a match with Nadal is always special. It was very important for me."

Federer's victory was his 11th against Nadal, who still holds the upper hand with 23 wins.

The win in two hours in front of a charged-up crowd at the St Jakobshalle gave Federer his first victory over the Spaniard since his triumph in the semi-finals of the 2012 Indian Wells Masters, ending a five-match winning streak by the Spaniard.

Nadal had won 14 of their previous finals, with Federer claiming six.

But the Swiss has now improved to 5-1 against Nadal on indoor surfaces.

"It's still been a fantastic week for me. It's my fourth time here and I finally reached the final," said 29-year-old Nadal.

"It's been a very emotional week also. I had to fight in a lot of my matches. But it's been a very important time both now and for the future (season)."

"I've had huge support all week -- maybe a bit less today, but I understand," he joked.

Federer got away to a good start at the venue where he served as a ballboy two decades ago.

The top seed earned a break for 3-2 and concluded the opener with a second break to take the lead after 37 minutes.

But Nadal, who has been making comebacks all week, was having none of it.

With Federer on a roll, the Swiss won the fifth game with three aces and fired his ninth ace to secure a 5-4 lead.

Nadal earned a break point in the next game and converted to shock the Swiss with a 6-5 lead. The Spanish third seed quickly levelled the match at a set each on the first of three set points.

Federer came alive just in time in the final set, breaking for 5-3 and serving out for victory a game later on his second match point.

'I'll retire in 4 or 5 years'

INTERNET

Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has just revealed in an interview that he may will not play football for long, planning to retire in the next three or four years and 'live like a king'.

"You can't control everything, but education is the greatest gift you can give. Every Sunday we break the routine and go out for fast food. Having that balance is important. When I finish my career, in 4 or 5 years I plan to live like a king with my family and friends. They are the most important to me," Ronaldo said in an interview with The Times.

Nobody can deny that Ronaldo is a polarising figure in the football world. While fans of some teams love him for what he is, others are constantly hounding



Wayne Rooney had been sent off at the 2006 World Cup in Germany, to more subtle things like his perceived lack of humility.

"I'm not the most humble person in the world, I admit it. I'm not fake but I'm also humble in the sense that I like to learn. I like to learn from other sports, from the best. By seeing what they are doing, you can improve here and there. And I find that interesting. I'm like that and I like to learn."

In recent times, Ronaldo seems to have shied away from the lifestyle he previously used to live. Although he is staunchly against drinking due to the death of his father from a liver disease, Ronaldo was often spotted late at night in Manchester and Madrid, being involved in a car crash on the Manchester highway during his days there.

However, the birth and the pressure of bringing up his son have led to Ronaldo making major changes in his life and he speaks about his bundle of joy at every turn.

"I would like him [Ronaldo Jr] to follow in my footsteps. I want him to be a forward and score many goals but he prefers goalkeeping. He has changed me a lot. I dreamt of having a son since I was 25 years old and he really changed my way of thinking. He always supports me and he's always smiling," said a smiling Ronaldo.

"It's easy to be spoiled when you have a big bed to sleep in, yogurts and fruit and fast cars in the garage. A few days ago he asked me for an iPhone 6 but I told him 'no'. He said he needed it to contact me, but I told him to use his grandmother's phone whenever he missed me."

the superstar over one thing or another. However, their jeers may be having the opposite effect of what they intend, as Ronaldo says it's just more fuel for him.

"I don't mind that others may hate me; that motivates me. When I play there are always those that are against me but that's good. It has all to do with the positive things the 'haters' bring me. I need an enemy. It's all part of this. They start shouting when I touch the ball. It was already like that when I was 18 or 19 and that's no problem for me. It ends up being motivation," said Ronaldo.

Ronaldo has been involved in his fair share of controversies over his career, from the infamous 'wink' against England after

Locker room against Jose?

INTERNET

After Chelsea's 3-1 defeat to Liverpool at home on Saturday, a member of the first-team said he would "rather lose than win" for Jose Mourinho, according to BBC Radio 5 Live presenter Garry Richardson.

Richardson said, "My information comes from a Chelsea first team player. I was told that Jose Mourinho's relationship with many of his players is at rock bottom. I was told they're fed up with the way he's been dealing with some of them. They're fed up with his outbursts. I was told that his relationship particularly with Eden Hazard was under immense strain," continued Richardson, a man who has reputable sources inside clubs across England.

"One player said recently, 'I'd rather lose than win for him.' Now that last quote may well have been said in the heat of the moment, but it perhaps gives an insight into the mood of some of the players," concluded Richardson.

Tofees hit Black Cats for six

REUTERS, London

Arouna Kone grabbed a hattrick as Everton piled on the Premier League relegation worries for Sam Allardyce's Sunderland with a 6-2 demolition job at Goodison Park on Sunday.

Everton's victory lifted them to eighth in the table with 16 points from 11 games while Sunderland remained second from bottom on six points.

Kone and Gerard Deulofeu put Everton 2-0 up in 31 minutes. Kone sent a looping ball over the defence for Deulofeu to score the opener and the Ivory Coast international added a second goal following a one-two with strike partner Romelu Lukaku on the edge of the box.

Jermain Defoe inspired a brief Sunderland rally, volleying their first goal in stoppage time before playing a part in Steven Fletcher's headed equaliser in the 50th minute.

However, Everton made it 3-2 when Sebastian Coates prodded a right-wing cross from Deulofeu into his own net, before Deulofeu set up Lukaku for a fourth.

Another Everton counter-attack led to Kone planting the ball into the net with his left foot in the 62nd minute before the Ivorian completed the rout with a close-range header following a centre with the outside of his left boot from Lukaku.

Archers off to Thailand

SPORTS REPORTER

A 24-member Bangladesh archery contingent left for Thailand yesterday to take part in the 19th Asian Archery Championships, which will get underway today.

Bangladesh is participating in all the events of recurve bow and compound division -- individual, team and mixed team -- in the championships, which will double up as the continental qualifying tournaments for Olympics.

Costa facing 3-match ban

AGENCIES, London

Chelsea striker Diego Costa is waiting to discover if he will be retrospectively punished by the Football Association for an alleged kick on Liverpool defender Martin Skrtel.

Costa, 27, appeared to dig his boot into Skrtel's chest as both fell to the ground in the middle of the field during Liverpool's 3-1 win at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Referee Mark Clattenburg took no action over the specific incident at the time, but several former referees have said that they would have dismissed the Spain international had they seen it.

However, if Clattenburg did see Costa move his leg towards Skrtel but deemed it accidental, then he could escape action.

Costa and Skrtel have had several heated battles -- dating back to when Slovakia beat Spain in a Euro 2016 qualifier in October 2014.