

CASSANO MAKES THIRD U-TURN

Antonio Cassano has confirmed he intends to play on, seemingly performing a U-turn on his retirement for the third time in three weeks, as the bizarre saga of the veteran striker's short-term future continues. The former Italy international signed for Serie A side Verona on July 10 but eight days later told club officials he wanted to retire, only to change his mind hours later. Cassano then appeared to reassess his future again when he left Verona a week into a training camp, using his wife Carolina Marcialis' Twitter account to confirm his retirement. However, the 35-year-old is now seeking fresh opportunities and will also consider offers from outside of Serie A. "When I spoke with Hellas, I never said: 'I'm retiring,'" Cassano told La Stampa. "I challenge anybody who claims the opposite. When we terminated my contract, they asked about inserting a compensation clause in the event that I found another club. I accepted. It has nothing to do with homesickness. I definitely want to continue and I have more than a few ideas, but no offers."

—AGENCIES



Two-goal scorer Rashedul Islam Shuvo (R) celebrates with teammates after one of Rahmatganj's goals against Arambagh during their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Ugly incident mars entertaining game

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace from Rashedul Islam Shuvo powered Rahmatganj MFS to a thrilling 4-2 win over Arambagh KS in the day's lone fixture of the Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the battle between two mid-table sides, both played entertaining football, enthralling the few hundred spectators but later an attack on a spectator by Arambagh KS supporters for hurling abuse towards coach Maruful Haque marred the spirit of the game.

After the match's completion, Arambagh KS coach Maruful rushed inside the gallery to speak with the

middle-aged spectator, who had been punched and slapped by a few Arambagh fans. Maruful's move was termed an indecent one by those present at the stadium.

"I could not concentrate on the match due to uncontrolled comments from the gallery and I went to there to

RAHMATGANJ 4 - 2 ARAMBAGH
(SHUVO-15', 83',
MONDAY-50'
BANGOURA-77') (BUKOLA-19'
IKANGA-57')

ask him why he said such things about my parents, who are not part of the game. I don't have a problem if he said something about me," explained Maruful.

Meanwhile, in the match, Shuvo gave Rahmatganj the lead in the 15th

minute driving on a square-pass from Mohammad Sohel, but the lead lasted only four minutes as Arambagh hit back with a glancing header from Bukola.

Rahmatganj MFS restored the lead in the 50th minute when Monday Osagie hit the back of the net with a free-kick, forcing Arambagh to stage a comeback again with Ikanga converting a penalty kick in the 57th minute.

Rahmatganj, who had better ball possession throughout the match, reclaimed the lead once again in the 77th minute when Bangoura headed a Shuvo cross home. Shuvo then confirmed victory seven minutes from time by beating opposition goalkeeper Mahfuz Hasan Pritom with an angular shot from inside the box.

Neymar in China

AFP, Shanghai



Neymar greeted fans in Shanghai on Monday as speculation mounted that the Brazil star could be set to quit Barcelona for Paris Saint-Germain for a world-record 222 million euros.

The 25-year-old striker is at the centre of an apparent tug of war between the two European giants in what would be the most expensive transfer fee in football history.

A training spat with new Barcelona signing Nelson Semedo during a pre-season tour in Miami ramped up chatter that Neymar could be about to swap Spain for the French capital.

Neymar, who has remained tight-lipped about the transfer rumours, posted a message for Chinese fans on Weibo, China's equivalent of Twitter, after arriving for a promotional visit.

"Ni Hao China! I'm Neymar Jr. and I've

just arrived in China," he wrote on Monday.

"I'm in Shanghai at the moment. I would like to send a huge hug to all my Chinese fans, thank you very much for your support."

He posted messages in English and Chinese and asked for suggestions as to what he should do while in Shanghai, where he was scheduled to appear at an event for a fashion brand later on Monday.

Separately, China's biggest online travel company Ctrip had said it was cancelling an event with Neymar on Monday in Shanghai because he and his advisers were "busy with transfer issues".

People close to the player subsequently told media there had never been an arrangement with the firm.

Even after the training-ground bust-up in the United States, after which Neymar appeared to storm off, his Barcelona teammates said they wanted him to stay at the Camp Nou.

LA to host Olympics

REUTERS, Los Angeles

Los Angeles will host the 2028 Summer Olympics after reaching a deal with Olympic organizers, the Los Angeles Times reported yesterday, citing an unnamed source close to the negotiation.

The agreement paves the way for the 2024 Summer Games to be awarded to Paris. An announcement from the International Olympic Committee was expected later. Reuters could not immediately confirm the report.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's office said an announcement regarding the city's bid for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games would be made at 5 p.m local time.

CR7 pleads his innocence

REUTERS, Pozuelo de Alarcón



Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo protested his innocence after testifying in court yesterday against charges of evading 14.7 million euros in taxes.

The 32-year-old Portuguese, who was in the Pozuelo de Alarcón court for about 90 minutes, declined to speak to reporters afterwards, but he released a statement through his agency Gestifute.

"The Spanish tax authorities know my income in detail, because we have given it to them. I have never hidden anything in my declarations, nor have I had the smallest intention of evading taxes," Ronaldo said.

"I always make my declarations voluntarily, because I think we all have to declare and pay tax in accordance to our incomes. Those who know me know what I ask my advisors: that they take their time on it and pay correctly, because I don't want problems."

Ronaldo explained that he did not create a special structure to manage his image rights after joining Real from Manchester United in 2010, saying he utilised the set-up which was deemed "legal and legitimate" by English tax authorities.

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Amir talks about 'bond' with Kohli

Pakistan's ace quick Mohammad Amir has spoken about the bond of friendship between him and India's Virat Kohli.

UEFA fines Man United Manchester United and two of their players have been fined by UEFA after they failed to comply with anti-doping regulations, European soccer's governing body said.

Juventus top Roma on penalties Juventus closed out the International Champions Cup friendly tournament with a 5-4 win on penalties over Roma after the Italian clubs played to a 1-1 draw.

Bolt departure great for rivals, bad for athletics Usain Bolt's rivals will, for once, be glad to see the back of a man who has dominated global sprinting for the last decade but the sport of athletics will be far less enthusiastic about bidding a final farewell to the charismatic Jamaican.



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-Dr. Steve Parscale
ACBSP Chief Accreditation Officer



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-Dr. Amit Sareen, Lead Evaluator,
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