

Guardiola
sings Fergie's
praises

REUTERS

Manchester United's Alex Ferguson is the number one coach in the world, according to Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola.

Ferguson's Premier League champions were comprehensively outplayed in May by a rampant Barcelona, who had United chasing shadows for the majority of their 3-1 Champions League final victory at Wembley Stadium.

Guardiola said the dominance of his all-conquering Catalans should not detract from Ferguson's trophy-laden reign at United.

"I cannot be compared with Ferguson," Guardiola told reporters ahead of Barcelona's friendly against Hajduk Split in Croatia on Saturday.

"The fact Manchester United lost a Champions League match doesn't mean I am a better coach than he is.

"I still have a lot to do just to attempt to be compared to him. The kind of prestige he has isn't lost for losing a match in the Champions League," added the Spaniard.

"When a person is working for more than 25 years and winning and winning and winning so many times, if there is one person I think is number one it is Alex Ferguson."

The Scot has led United to three Champions League finals in four years, winning in 2008 having also triumphed in 1999.

United overhauled Liverpool as the most successful English club in May when they won their 19th league title -- Ferguson's 12th Premier League crown since joining the club in 1986.

Real stay
unbeaten

AFF, Philadelphia

Jose Maria Callejon and Mesut Ozil each scored first half goals as Real Madrid cruised to a 2-1 victory over Philadelphia Union in a friendly game on Saturday.

It was Real Madrid's third win, with no losses, in the so-called World Football Challenge, which features North American teams playing visiting European clubs.

Real Madrid started their North American tour with an easy 4-1 win over David Beckham's Los Angeles Galaxy. Then Cristiano Ronaldo led the way with three goals as the La Liga giants blanked Chivas Guadalajara 3-0 in their second game.

Michael Farfan scored the lone goal for Philadelphia in the 80th minute in front of a crowd of 57,305 at the Lincoln Financial Field.

This was the first game in which former World Player of the Year Ronaldo did not score for the Spanish club.

Ronaldo played the second half after sitting out the first 45 minutes.

Callejon scored in the second minute and Ozil scored in the 11th to make it 2-0.

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

Does Stuart Law
give you hope?Visit the sports page of
www.thedailystar.net to cast voteFollow the Daily Star Sport on
twitter

www.twitter.com/dssport

What to
WATCH

STAR Cricket

England v India

First Test, Day 5

Live from 4:00pm

ESPN

Sportscentre India

Sports News

Live from 8:30pm



Peruvian striker Paolo Guerrero celebrates after completing his hat-trick against Venezuela in their third place qualifier of the Copa America at the Ciudad de La Plata stadium in La Plata on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

3 for Guerrero, 3 for Peru

REUTERS



Striker Paolo Guerrero scored a hat-trick as Peru crushed 10-man Venezuela 4-1 to take third place at the Copa America on Saturday.

William Chiroque put Peru ahead from Guerrero's pass three minutes before halftime and the striker nicknamed "Predator" rammed home the second in the 64th and two more in added time.

"Third place is very good, I'm very proud of this team," Guerrero told a TV reporter before the medals ceremony.

"I'm a forward and I have to score goals, I work for the team. For me it's more important that the team wins," Guerrero said after becoming top scorer at the tournament with five goals, two more than Luis Suarez of Uruguay and Argentina's Sergio Aguero.

Peru, who began the tournament as outsiders but improved with each match while favourites Argentina, Brazil and Chile fell by the wayside, contributed to one of the best matches.

"Peru played a much better match than us. Peru were a great team that knew how to take advantage of our mistakes," said Venezuela's coach Cesar Farias.

Venezuela, who had midfielder Tomas Rincon sent off

on the hour for a dangerous tackle on Carlos Lobaton, pulled a goal back when midfielder Juan Arango poked home in the 79th minute at the end of a counter-attack.

Four minutes later Venezuela, also outsiders at the start of the tournament, could have equalised when Peru goalkeeper Raul Fernandez was unable to hold Arango's fierce free kick but left back Gabriel Cichero put the rebound just outside the post.

With Venezuela committed to trying to equalise, Guerrero hit them with two more goals in late breakaways, showing great control and exquisite finishing in both to cement his place as one of the best strikers of the competition.

Nippy forward Chiroque could have scored in the 27th minute but goalkeeper Renny Vega blocked his shot from a tight angle when a pass to the unmarked Paulo Cruzado would have been the better option.

However, Guerrero helped break the deadlock before the interval when he exchanged passes with midfielder Cruzado before crossing from the right to the far post where Chiroque steered the ball home past the committed Vega.

Peru's second and Guerrero's first goal came soon after Venezuela were left with 10 men when he took Chiroque's pass and calmly measured his shot into the roof of the net.

Schalke land
Supercup

Football

REUTERS

Schalke needed penalties to defeat reigning Bundesliga champions Borussia Dortmund in their Supercup encounter.

Dortmund had the better of the chances in a cagey encounter but failed to hold their nerve in the penalty shootout with misses by Kevin Grosskreutz and Ivan Perisic proving costly.

The champions bossed the opening 45 minutes, with Sebastian Kehl first to go close on 24 minutes when his header from a corner crashed against the post.

Grosskreutz fired wide of the target 11 minutes before the break while on 43 minutes Robert Lewandowski let fly from the edge of the area but Schalke goalkeeper Ralf Fahrmann made the stop.

Schalke finally found a way through the organised Dortmund ranks on 74 minutes when Jan Moravek was presented with a glorious chance in front of the sticks but Roman Weidenfeller did well to narrow the angle as the chance went begging.

With normal time unable to produce a winner the match went straight to penalties, and soon Dortmund came unstuck.

Ilkay Gundogan and Mats Hummels netted Dortmund's opening kicks while Schalke did likewise through Lewis Holtby and Edu, but Grosskreutz missed to heap the pressure on the champions.

Moritz Leitner's successful kick kept Dortmund in at as Schalke stayed perfect with efforts from Benedikt Howedes and Jose Manuel Jurado, but the game was up for Jurgen Klopp's men when Perisic failed to convert.



Real Madrid winger Jose Callejon (R) beats Philadelphia Union's Carlos Valdes with a first time shot to score during a friendly at the Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia on Saturday.

Bin Hammam
gets life ban

Football

REUTERS

Asian football chief Mohamed Bin Hammam has been banned for life on Saturday after being found guilty of trying to buy votes ahead of last month's FIFA presidential election.

The 62-year-old Qatari was found guilty by FIFA's ethics committee of bribery during a meeting with Caribbean officials in Port of Spain, Trinidad in May, the committee's deputy chairman Petrus Damaseb told reporters.

Caribbean Football Union officials Debbie Mingue and Jason Sylvester were each given one-year bans and Damaseb recommended a further investigation be opened "into the conduct of others who attended the meeting".

Lawyers for Bin Hammam, Asian Football Confederation president since 2002, said he rejected the verdict and would appeal.

"He maintains his innocence," Eugene Gulland said.

"He will continue to fight his case through the legal routes that are open to him."

*I expected
verdict, says
Hammam*

INTERNET, Undated

Mohamed Bin Hammam has alleged his life ban from all football-related activity was decided before FIFA's ethics committee heard his case.

The 62-year-old Qatari has been found guilty of attempting to bribe members of the Caribbean Football Union at a meeting on the FIFA presidential campaign trail in Trinidad in May.

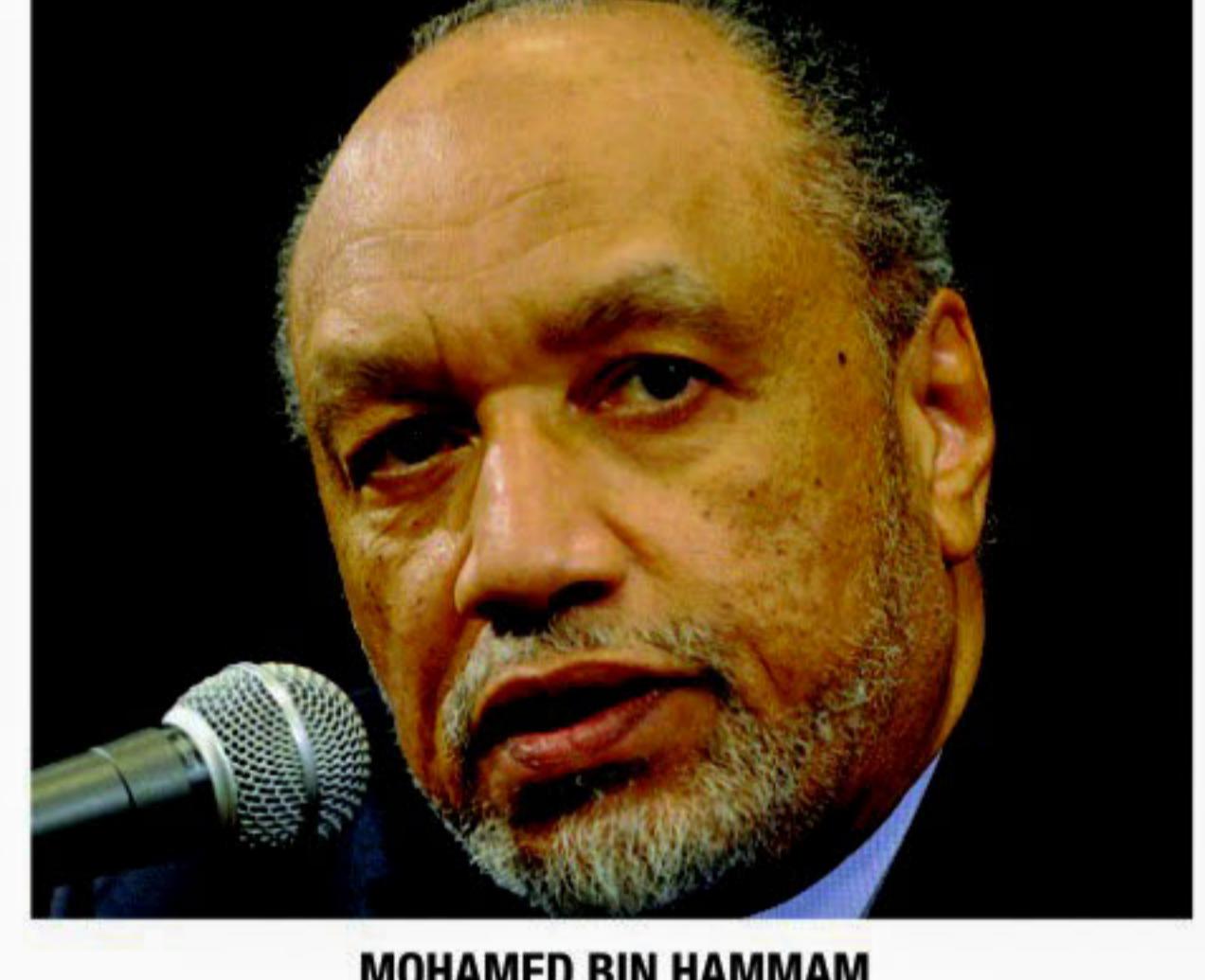
Bin Hammam, who has continued to maintain his innocence, claimed the decision was an act of revenge for his standing against Sepp Blatter for the FIFA presidency. In an interview with Radio Five Live's Sportsweek programme, he said: "I was expecting it actually."

He added: "The ban for life, that shows how much these people are angry, how much they are full of revenge."

Asked if he meant revenge for standing against Blatter, he replied: "Exactly, there is nothing else."

Bin Hammam also alleged the ethics committee was not independent.

He added: "The ban for life has already been written before the investigation started. These are leaking from somebody."



MOHAMED BIN HAMMAM

Qatar lament loss

Football

REUTERS

Qataris lamented Mohamed Bin Hammam's spectacular fall from grace on Saturday and said his reputation and legacy as president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) would remain intact.

The 62-year-old Qatari has been banned for life after world soccer's ruling body found him guilty of trying to buy votes ahead of last month's FIFA presidential election, a race he later withdrew from.

"It's sad for all of Qatar, not just Mohamed," said Mohamed Johar, 50, head of logistics for the Al Jazeera sports channel in Doha.

"We grew up together. He was president of my club, Al Rayyan. From the beginning I never thought these charges were true. He faced problems and tried to solve them honestly."

"He tried to do his best in Asia. The people will remember him very well, not just in Qatar but in Asia and Africa as well," added Johar.

Bin Hammam, AFC president since 2002, was found guilty by FIFA's ethics committee of bribery during a meeting with Caribbean officials in Port of Spain, Trinidad in May.

"He's been involved with (football) for so long, his whole life. Banning him is like killing him," Johar said.

Fellow Qatar Ahmed Abu Hamra, 18, added: "He doesn't deserve it. It's not fair. Of course they would find him guilty, so he's not a threat (for FIFA's presidency) in the future."

"Bin Hammam is okay. I've known him for over 30 years. He tried to lift the sport and that was very important for him," said Ali Hassan, 54.