



Brazil star Neymar scores the second goal from a penalty during their London Olympics warm up match against Great Britain at the Riverside Stadium in Middlesbrough on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Barca post record profit

REUTERS, Madrid

Barcelona's failure to win La Liga helped them post a record 48.8 million euro (\$59.38 million) profit for the 2011-12 season, vice-president for economic affairs Javier Faus said on Friday.

After two consecutive years of financial losses, and three consecutive league titles, Barca were beaten to the top spot in Spain by Real Madrid in May but avoided having to pay out 12 million euros in win bonuses.

"If we had won La Liga the overall surplus would have been 36 million euros and it would still have been the best end-of-year figure in the history of the Club," Faus said.

The Catalans increased their income 21.5 million euros to 494.9 million, while cutting back on expenditure which fell to 441.1 million euros, 31.5 million less than the previous year, exceeding budget forecasts.

Bin Hammam wants to quit

Football

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Mohamed bin Hammam, the scandal-tainted former FIFA presidential candidate whose life ban was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport this week, has said he wants to retire from football.

The 63-year-old, who was accused of offering cash bribes to buy FIFA delegate votes during campaigning to unseat long-standing president Sepp Blatter last year, said he wanted to quit due to "jealousy" within the sport.

"My wish now is just to quit actually and retire," the Qatari, who was this week suspended as the head of the Asian Football Confederation for 30 days over fresh corruption allegations, told the BBC.

"Frankly speaking, what is my wish? To quit. Really I served football that long, more than 42 years, and the last year really I have seen a very bad, very ugly face of the sport and of the football, you know, jealousy," he said.

"I wish to leave football."

Asian football officials could not be reached for comment, while Peter Velappan, who was AFC general secretary for 30 years and a bitter rival of bin Hammam, declined to comment.

Bin Hammam on Thursday won his appeal at the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport against a life ban from all football-related activity over the bribery allegations.

But a three-member panel that considered the case stopped short of exonerating him.

Bin Hammam has denied any wrongdoing, saying cash hand-outs he made during the election were merely gifts, and describing the charges and his punishment by FIFA as politically motivated.

A one-time close associate of the powerful Blatter, the two became estranged following a falling-out.



Capello gets down to work

AFP, Moscow

Italian Fabio Capello, appointed Russia's national football coach this week, on Saturday attended his first domestic game as coach, a Premier League clash between CSKA Moscow and Rostov.

Capello took his seat in the VIP stands at the CSKA-Rostov match outside Moscow, one of the first games of the new Russian domestic season which kicked off on Friday.

He will be able to make an early check on the form of Russia's top stars, with the CSKA line-up including midfielder Alan Dzagoev and goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev.

Capello takes over from Dutchman Dick Advocaat, who guided Russia to the Euro 2012 finals in Poland and Ukraine.

Napoli fell Bayern

AFP, Rome

Bayern Munich fell 3-2 to Napoli in the final match of the Bavarians' pre-season training camp on the banks of Lake Garda in Italy on Friday.

Napoli succeeded where they had twice failed in last season's Champions League group phase, having been held to a 1-1 draw at home before losing 3-2 in the return match in Munich.

Young Austrian David Alaba opened the scoring for beaten Champions League finalists Bayern in the 17th minute, with Paolo Cannavaro equalising shortly before half-time.

New signing Xherdan Shaqiri equalised for Bayern after Macedonian striker Goran Pandev had put Napoli 2-1 up, only for 21-year-old forward Lorenzo Insigne to claim the winner for the Italians with seven minutes remaining.

Bayern were missing their eight Germany internationals, who are still on holiday after Euro 2012, as well as France winger Franck Ribery, who has resumed pre-season training on his own in Munich.

Jupp Heynckes' side will fly to China on Sunday for two friendly matches: against Beijing Guoan in Beijing on July 24 and then Wolfsburg in Canton on July 26.

Oscar yet to make up his mind

AFP, Middlesbrough

Brazil midfielder Oscar has said that he will make up his mind about whether to sign for Premier League giants Chelsea after the Olympics.

The 20-year-old Internacional playmaker has been the subject of intense speculation linking him with a move to Stamford Bridge all summer.

"I only had a meeting with the doctor, nothing else. I didn't sign any contract yet and I will wait until the end of the Olympic Games to decide my future," said Oscar.

"All Brazilian players have this dream. I have, like everybody the dream to play in Europe and the Premier League."

He insisted though that Olympics remain his primary focus for now.

Brazil outclass GB

AFP, Middlesbrough

Brazil showed Team GB the standard required to win gold at the Olympics as the tournament favourites warmed up for the London Games with a 2-0 win at Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium on Friday.

First-half goals from Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Sandro and Santos forward Neymar earned the South Americans a deserved friendly success and suggested that manager Stuart Pearce has a considerable amount of work to do ahead of Great Britain's first Olympic fixture against Senegal at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Brazil's swaggering display confirmed their status as leading contenders for Olympic gold, the only major honour to have so far eluded the five-time World Cup winners and eight-time Copa America champions.

It was a chastening experience for Pearce and his players in a fixture that was supposed to showcase their qualities ahead of Great Britain's first appearance in the Olympic football event since 1960 in Rome.

There was Welsh representation in the form of Neil Taylor, Joe Allen, Ryan Giggs and Craig Bellamy, supplementing the core of a side that was largely made up of English players.

There was no David Beckham though, with the former England skipper having been overlooked as Pearce selected Giggs, Bellamy and Micah Richards as his three over-age players.

Team GB play their opening Olympic fixture against Senegal in six days' time, and their only warm-up game pitted them against the strongest possible opposition.

Only one member of Brazil's 18-strong squad is not a senior international, and the quality at the disposal of head coach Mano Menezes was apparent from the outset at the Riverside.

Brazil should have claimed the lead as early as the sixth minute, but while long-time Chelsea target Neymar outpaced James Tomkins to reach Leandro Damiao's flick-on, he blazed a wild shot over the crossbar.

The visitors did not have to wait long to claim the lead though.

Six minutes later, Neymar floated over a bouncing free-kick from the edge of the penalty area and Sandro peeled off at the back post to head home from an acute angle.

Richards saw a 15th-minute header cleared off the line by Paris Saint-Germain new boy Thiago Silva, but that was to prove a rare positive moment for Team GB amid a barrage of Brazilian attacking.

Brazil went close again when Leandro Damiao headed Rafael Da Silva's right-wing cross over the crossbar, but the South Americans deservedly doubled their lead 10 minutes before half-time.

Richards fouled Hulk as he twisted beyond the British back four, and Neymar calmly drilled a powerful penalty beyond Jason Steele's right hand.

Steele was replaced by Jack Butland at the interval, and the Birmingham City goalkeeper produced smart saves to deny both Oscar and Leandro Damiao in the opening 10 minutes of the second half.

Bellamy drew an excellent point-blank save from Brazil goalkeeper Rafael Barbosa, although the Liverpool striker had already been flagged offside, and the hosts at least enjoyed a greater share of possession in the latter stages.

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

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DAY'S EVENT

Premier Hockey League

Mohammedan v Mariner Youngs

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Maulana Bhasani

Advertorial

সর্বোচ্চ মূসক পরিশোধকারীদের সম্মাননা প্রদান অনুষ্ঠান

জাতীয় মূসক দিবস-২০১২

সর্বোচ্চ মূসক পরিশোধকারীদের সম্মাননা প্রদান

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