

# England's Turkish moment of truth



AFP, Paris

After their uninspiring 2-0 win in Liechtenstein England will look to step up several gears against Turkey in Sunderland on Wednesday recognising even a draw could derail hopes of a place at the Euro 2004 finals.

Skipper David Beckham accepts three points are a must with the Turks two points clear in Group Seven after winning all three of their matches to date, while England dropped home points against Macedonia.

"People were always going to say that England-Turkey was the big one. You have to be hyped up for that game - and we will be," Beckham promised.

"I won't need to wind up any of the players. Nothing less than a win will do," added the Manchester United midfielder whose second half freekick finally ended Liechtenstein's dreams of snatching a shock point following Michael Owen's opener.

Turkey will pose a far greater threat and the likely return of Sol Campbell to the England defence alongside Rio Ferdinand at the Stadium of Light should prove a boon to coach Sven-Goran Eriksson - although Gareth Southgate was hardly overburdened on Saturday.

"The stiffness is still there, but the rest has done me good and I should be alright for the game," said Campbell.

In attack Eriksson says he will not risk throwing 17-year-old Wayne Rooney of Everton into the starting line-up even if Emile Heskey is ruled out with a knee injury.

"We will see if it's only a knock or not. I think he will be okay for Wednesday, I hope so," said Eriksson of Liverpool's Heskey.

Referring to Rooney, he explained: "I don't think we should expect him to come in and resolve a game against Turkey."

But former England boss Sir Bobby Robson believes that Rooney, whom he described as a "phenomenon", deserves a chance.

"It needs a great player and Rooney, even if he is only 17, is already a great player. I don't think Rooney would be in the least bit fazed by the

experience," added Newcastle boss Robson, who reminded reporters that Pele won the 1958 World Cup with Brazil as a 17-year-old.

The Turks, who twice leaked eight goals in previous encounters with England but who bagged third place at the World Cup, have called record goalscorer Hakan Sukur back into the squad for the first time since the World Cup.

The Blackburn Rovers star has since endured persistent injury problems but is due to join fellow English-based colleagues in clubmate Tugay Kerimoglu and Aston Villa defender Alpay Ozalan.

Elsewhere, Scotland will bid to

have no midweek date and the June 7 date between Rudi Voller's side and Vogt's men is likely to decide who secured automatic qualification - unless the Lithuanians can win on Wednesday and launch a challenge of their own.

Wales, who were scheduled to meet Serbia-Montenegro in Belgrade, can rest on their Group Nine leaders' laurels for now having thrashed Azerbaijan 4-0 on Saturday as political unrest has seen the encounter postponed to August 20.

France, the defending European champions, like the Welsh have four wins on a roll following Saturday's 6-0 blitzing of Malta which leaves the holders as good as qualified ahead of a date in Palermo, Sicily, against Israel.

Arsenal skipper Patrick Vieira, rested against the Maltese, could return as coach Jacques Santini believes his knee injury is improving. Benoit Pedretti of Sochaux would be the likely man to make way.

Robert Pires likely to miss out again with an ankle strain while Zinedine Zidane will again skipper the side.

Santini, who has successfully recharged French batteries since taking over from Roger Lemerre following the World Cup, refuses to believe most of the hard work has already been done.

"If we can make it 15 points from five games that would be good. But mathematically we still wouldn't be qualified. We have learned from that in the past," said Santini, alluding to the infamous 1984 World Cup campaign in which failure to win home games with Bulgaria and the Israelis wrecked French hopes.

Elsewhere, Group Three looks like a straight fight between Holland and the Czech Republic, who drew against each other Saturday and remain unbeaten.

The Czechs face Austria in Prague while the Dutch, 1988 European champions, take on Moldova away.

Ireland, who gave new coach Brian Kerr a vital Group Ten win in Georgia on Saturday, will bid to further their recovery with an away win to Albania, who shocked Russia at the weekend.

Leaders Switzerland tackle Georgia away.

## FIXTURES

European 2004 qualifier fixtures on Wednesday (all times GMT):

**Group 1: Ljubljana:** Slovenia v Cyprus (1715), Palermo: Israel v France (1745)

**Group 2: Luxembourg:** Luxembourg v Norway (1700), Copenhagen: Denmark v Bosnia (1615)

**Group 3: Prague:** Czech Republic v Austria (1730), Tiraspol: Moldova v Holland (1700)

**Group 4: Ostrowiec:** Poland v San Marino (1700), Budapest: Hungary v Sweden (1715)

**Group 5: Kaunas:** Lithuania v Scotland (1800)

**Group 6: Las Palmas:** Spain v Armenia (1845), Belfast: Northern Ireland v Greece (1800)

**Group 7: Sunderland:** England v Turkey (1800), Bratislava: Slovakia v Liechtenstein (1600)

**Group 8: Estonia v Bulgaria (1500), Varazdin:** Croatia v Andorra (1600)

**Group 10: Tirana:** Albania v Ireland (1530), Tbilisi: Georgia v Switzerland (1600)

bolster their campaign with three points in Lithuania.

The Scots top Group Five after Saturday's narrow win over Iceland at Hampden Park - but now they face a side who drew in Germany, a result which left Berti Vogt's side top of the group on goal difference.

Germany, ridiculed in their media after their 1-1 draw in Nuremberg,



LOOK WHO'S TALLER! England's Paul Scholes (R) and Jonathan Woodgate train at Slaley Hall near Newcastle on March 31.

# City going great

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their first-innings quota of 100 overs. Experienced middle-order batsman Halim Shah scored highest 87 runs for Brothers. He clubbed four boundaries and a six in his 209-ball vigil at the crease. Opener Salahuddin also scored a fine 55 off 91 balls that included eight fours.

Victoria, in reply, were 70-1 in 26 overs at close of the day's play.

With only a day in hand, the match is heading nowhere but to draw.

## SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards on the third day of the two GrameenPhone Premier Division Super League matches at different venues yesterday:  
**Victoria SC v Brothers Union**  
Venue: BKSP

### BROTHERS UNION: First inning

Salauddin st Salim b Sabbir	55
Shahriar b Razzak	20
Masroor c Anisur b Saiful	7
Halim Shah st. Selim b Mushfiq	87
Mustadir b Manjarul	8
Shamim c W Nayeem b Sabbir	26
Shahnawaz c Razzak b Manjarul	5
Mostakim not out	28
Morshed b Mushfiq	3
Mosaddek not out	1
Extras: (b-19, lb-1, nb-4)	14
Total: (For 8 wks in 100 overs)	265
Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-92, 3-93, 4-141, 5-191, 6-212, 7-255, 8-263	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Saiful	10	4	23	1
Mushfiq	19	4	48	2
Razzak	25	6	66	1
Sabbir	28	8	65	2
Manjarul	18	5	43	2

### VICTORIA: First innings

WNayeem batting	38
Parvez lbw b Mustadir	23
Nuruzzaman batting	9
Extras:	0
Total: (For 1 wkt in 26 overs)	70
Fall of wicket: 1-49	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahnawaz	4	1	16	0
Morshed	6	2	21	0
Mustadir	7	3	11	1
Mostakim	3	0	9	0
Sohel	4	1	5	0
Mosaddek	2	0	8	0

### City Club v Uttara SC

Venue: DCS  
**UTTARA SC: First innings (overnight**

87-8 in 33 overs)

Shahriar b Saifullah	15
Muniruzzaman c Kadir b Tareq	0
Shafiq b Saifullah	29
Faisal b Saifullah	18
Sumon c Tareq b Jamaluddin	1
Monirul c Jamal b Tarek	8
Rashed c Kadir b Tareq	8
Arman lbw b Saifullah	1
Debabrata c Jamaluddin b Saifullah	0
Aslam c Sajjad b Rezaul	2
Rabbani not out	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-4)	11
Total: (All out in 36.4 overs)	93
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-41, 3-58, 4-71, 5-71, 6-79, 7-84, 8-87, 9-89	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tareq	14.4	2	23	3
Rezaul	7	2	17	1
Saifullah	11	4	28	5
Jamaluddin	8	3	18	1

### 93 CLUB: First innings

Faruque c & b Monirul	33
Monir c Arman b Faisal	91
Jamal not out	100
Rajin lbw b Ashlam	28
Hasan c Arman b Monirul	38
Sajjad c Monirul b Faisal	5
Rezaul not out	4
Extras: (b-12, lb-3, nb-14, w-1)	30
Total: (For 5 wks in 75 overs)	329
Fall of wickets: 1-94, 2-165, 3-205, 4-302, 5-308	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Debabroto	7	0	44	0
Rabbani	8	1	36	0
Faisal	14	4	86	2
Ashlam	24	3	58	1
Monirul	18	1	66	2
Saiful	1	0	8	0
Sumon	3	0	16	0

### UTTARA: Second innings

Saful b Tarek	3
Shahriar lbw b Tarek	4
Monirul lbw b Tarek	0
Ashlam c Tarek b Saifullah	24
Faisal c sub b Tarek	14
Sumon batting	31
Rashed batting	0
Extras: (b-1, nb-5, w-1)	7
Total: (For 5 wks in 22 overs)	83
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-8, 3-18, 4-29, 5-76	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tarek	6	0	29	4
Rezaul Haq	4	1	11	0
Saifullah	7	0	17	1
Jamal Babu	2	0	20	0
Sajib	3	1	5	0

# Matured, motivated

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after he relinquished the captaincy in 2000 ahead of the home series against Pakistan and Zimbabwe when he went on a self-impose exile.

"It was a period of introspection after that when I gave up the captaincy and at present, I think it will be a great challenge," Larasaid.

He made it clear that he has West Indies cricket at heart and could not refuse the offer to captain the team again.

"Realistically, looking at the setup of our team, we have a big age gap between the youngsters and older guys in the team.

"We have three or four guys in their 30s and a lot of guys in their early 20s. Other than Carl, myself and Ridley (Jacobs), there is not much there in terms of experience so I think it would be a dereliction in my duty, if I was presented with the job and to turn it down. I see my responsibilities and I want to play a part," Larasaid.

Larasaid he would be bringing a new approach and new ideas to the

captaincy of the regional team after going through a learning period during his time of captaincy and playing under the likes of Jimmy Adams and Hooper.

"It was a period of learning. A lot of things I've done two years ago, I don't think I will be doing now," Larasaid.

"I've got a lot of experience now. Since my absence, we've seen Carl and Jimmy before that, I've learnt a lot.

"I've been one of the guys in the team and I've seen the way they have operated and definitely it will be a different style but it will be a different Brian Lara you are seeing out there," Larasaid.

Lara, with 7,572 runs in 90 Tests at an average of 49.49, also revealed that team success would mean that he could continue as captain for the rest of his career.

"I think success will bring that. Good leadership will bring that. I think I've got the right tools to do that but it is whatever the Board and the selectors decide that is for the benefit of West Indies cricket," Larasaid.

# Counts on BD tour

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steep, were well within their grasp.

"A lot of thought will go into how we chase down targets, especially on wickets that are not conducive to paying big shots.

"Without resorting to going for the big shots, we have to find a way of keeping the scoreboard ticking."

The UCB decided to allow the tour to go ahead after being advised by the South African Ministry of Foreign

Affairs. They were also given safety guarantees by the Bangladesh cricket board.

## SQUAD

Graeme Smith (captain), Paul Adams, Mark Boucher, Alan Dawson, Boeta Dippenaar, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Makhaya Ntini, Robin Peterson, Shaun Pollock, Jacques Rudolph, Charl Willoughby

## Proteas confirm

**FROM PAGE 8**  
Bucknor will join Bowden to conduct the Test matches between South Africa and Bangladesh in Chittagong and Dhaka.

The Chittagong Test is scheduled from April 24 to 28 while the Dhaka Test will start from May 1.

**FIXTURE OF THE TVS CUP TRI-NATION TOURNAMENT**

Date	Match
April 11	Bangladesh v India
April 13	India v South Africa
April 14	Bangladesh v South Africa
April 16	Bangladesh v India
April 17	Bangladesh v South Africa
April 18	India v South Africa
April 20	Final

Note: All the matches will be day-night affairs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## King annoyed!

**FROM PAGE 8**  
"Whether it's the right time for me, that's something I've got to discuss with my family and also the ACB.

"I'll certainly be making sure the decision is the correct one."

# Biggest since Brazil



INTERNET, Sunderland

David Beckham has admitted that the crucial Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey is England's biggest match since the World Cup quarter-final against Brazil last summer.

Sven-Goran Eriksson's side go into the match two points adrift of the Turks, who top the group with a 100 percent record.

Beckham said: "We've had some big games since (the Brazil game) but none as big as this one.

"It's the biggest game of the group, especially for us - they've been playing well. They're top of the group and they've got nothing to lose.

"We said that at the start of the week - everyone was talking about the Turkey game being the big one and we're all up for it."

The skipper accepted the criticism

that had been directed at England following the lacklustre display in the 2-0 win in Liechtenstein.

"But he insisted that the result was more important than the performance.

"The Liechtenstein game could have been a dreadful banana skin," said the Manchester United midfielder.

"But we came out of there with three points.

"We were on a no-win thing. If we have come away winning 5-0 then we should have won 6-0.

"But you have to accept criticism. If you're going to accept it (praise) when you do play well then you have to accept when you don't play well."

Beckham is looking forward to the lively atmosphere expected at the Stadium of Light tomorrow.

"Everyone knows what the fans are like here," he said.

"They're up for every game whether it's an England game or a Sunderland-Newcastle game."

## No deputy for Proteas

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Mark Boucher has been dropped as vice-captain after the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa decided on Monday against re-appointing anyone to the post.

The decision followed the sacking of Shaun Pollock as captain after South Africa failed to reach the second round of the World Cup.

Graeme Smith, 22, was appointed captain earlier this month. A UCB media release said the selection panel had decided against naming a vice-captain for South Africa's tour to Bangladesh in April and May, "but has elected rather to work through a process to identify the right candidate during the tour".

The vice-captain would be decided on a match-by-match basis, the UCB said.

"I expect that ... as the selectors try out new combinations on this tour, a player will emerge who can take responsibility for the vice-captaincy," said UCB chief executive Gerald Majola.

## BFF names

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The players are: Biplob Bhattachariya, Titumir Chowdhury, Firoye Mahmud Titu, Mohammad Sujon, Papel Mahmud, Mahmudul Hasan, Shamsheer Alam, Mostofa Anwar Parvez, Monwar Hossain, Faisal Mahmud, Azmal Hossain Bidyut, Khokon Das, Rokonuzza-man Kanchan, Saifur Rahman Moni, Mehedi Hasan Ujjal, Maksudul Alam Bulbul, Asadur Rahman, Rajani Kanta Barman, Arif Khan Joy, Mohammad Arman, Motiur Rahman Munna, Hasan-al-Mamun, Ariful Kabir Farhad and Aminul Haque.

The officials are: Team leader Abul Kalam Mohammad Zaki, manager Mohammad Shafiquzzaman, assistant manager Amirul Islam Babu, coach Shafiqul Islam Manik and team doctor Moshiur Rahman.

## Chief Lankan

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Fernando. On Monday, coach Dav Whatmore was told his contract would not be renewed when it runs out in May.

## SHARJAH SCHEDULE

Schedule of matches in the Sharjah Cup one-day international cricket tournament which begins on Thursday:

Apr 3	Pak v Zim
Apr 4	Pak v SL
Apr 5	Kenya v Zim
Apr 6	Kenya v SL
Apr 7	SL v Zim
Apr 8	Kenya v Pak
Apr 10	Final

# Brian back

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on tour of New Zealand where they were beaten 2-0 in the Test series and 5-0 in the one-dayers.

The world Test (375) and first-class (501) batting record holder had said subsequently that he was not interested in the team's captaincy, but has now reversed that position.

"It was a period of introspection when I gave up the captaincy and at present I think it will be a great challenge."

"I've had two years of introspection, two years of looking and seeing where I had gone wrong," Larasaid.

"Now it's a big challenge. I think it would be a dereliction of duty if I was presented the job and turned it down," Larasaid.

Sarwan, a rising batting star in the side and leader in the team's batting averages at the World Cup, will be Lara's deputy in a move WICB President Reverend Wes Hall described as a "developmental plan".

"Sarwan's performances on and off the field will obviously ensure him a long and successful future in West Indies cricket and his appointment is viewed as a development plan, we feel very confident about this young man," Rev Hall said at the press conference.

Larasaid he is prepared groom the

## Rajib stays

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with 5.5 points at the end of the sixth round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium yesterday.

Rajib beat Khandakar Aminul Islam in the round to stay half-a-point clear from second-placed Grand Master Niaz Murshed and IM Reefat Bin Sattar. Niaz won his board against FIDE Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed while Reefat defeated Monjur Alam.

In other games, IM Abdullah Al Rakib overcame Syed Mahfuzur Rahman, Sawkat Hossain Pallab beat FM Rezaul Haque and Mehdi Hasan Parag beat Mohammad Javed.



## ESPN

Primera Liga  
Real Madrid vs Atletico Madrid  
Repeat at 6:30 pm  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm