

Brazilian Marquinho for Leverkusen

LEVERKUSEN, Germany, May 31: Midfielder Marquinho will add to the Brazilian contingent at Bundesliga club Bayer Leverkusen next season after joining the Champions League hopefuls on a deal worth eight million marks (3.5 million dollars) from Brazilian club Sao Paulo, the club announced Tuesday, reports AFP.

Coach Christophe Daum has added the 19-year-old to an already strong squad that features fellow Brazilians Ze Roberto, Robson Ponte, Paulo Rink and Emerson.

Leverkusen missed out on their first Bundesliga title last season when they lost their last game handing the title to rivals Bayern Munich on goal difference.

King's men may come to India

CALCUTTA, May 31: Some members of the South African Commission of Inquiry probing match-fixing allegations against former skipper Hansie Cronje are likely to visit India in connection with the investigation, the country's high commissioner in India, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, indicated yesterday, reports PTI.

"Some members of the King Commission may visit India when the need arises," Mashabane told newspapers here when asked whether the members of the commission had plans to come to India.

The five-member commission, headed by retired South African Judge Edwin King, would submit its report by the end of next month.

Bridge tourney
Sports Reporter

A daylong world wide bridge tournament commences at a city hotel on June 2.

The pair bridge competition, to be played on instant scoring basis, will start at 4pm. The Bangladesh Bridge Federation is organising the meet in co-operation with the World Bridge Federation. Interested players have been asked to contact the joint secretary of the federation to complete their entry formalities before 3pm of Friday.

Bacher

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plying that concept to cricket. He is expected to put a proposal to this effect at next month's meeting of the International Cricket Council.

A one-day tournament is envisaged, and would be something sought for some time by administrators at provincial level to boost interest in the game at this level.

The Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg is earmarked to stage the tournament in September, this being a relatively "dead" month in the cricketing calendar.

If an Australian side is present, there is a good chance it will be Queensland, the first-class champions, rather than Western Australia, the one-day champions.

Former Australian Test player, Dean Jones, has a similar (and probably conflicting) vision. He plans to assemble the domestic champions of England.

India, South Africa, and Australia on the sub-continent later in the year, although he is not overly optimistic that the plan will eventually become a reality.

Second Test

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win to square the series, both men could play, especially as the Trent Bridge pitch has been a seamers' paradise in recent seasons.

Bryan Strang's left-arm swing could prove effective if overhead conditions are right while his flamboyant tail-end runs, as seen at Lord's, are a valuable asset.

If someone can do a decent job supporting Streak, Zimbabwe could restrict England in the field -- but that's a big if.

Should Zimbabwe go for a seam-only frontline attack leg-spinner Brian Murphy will be dropped.

That would be hard luck on the Cape Town University student who bowled respectably at Lord's and demonstrated admirable defensive endurance with the bat.

Grant Flower's left-arm spin would then provide the slow variation.

England meanwhile have hardly any selection headaches. They simply reduced their squad by one after Yorkshire all-rounder Craig White, left out at Lord's mysteriously collapsed in the street last week.

England's seamers did a fine job at Lord's and so the chances of Durham paceman Steve Harmison winning his first cap at Trent Bridge are remote.

Lancashire leg-spinner Chris Schofield didn't bowl a ball on his Test debut and so should get a second chance, particularly as the England attack looks lopsided without him.

Zimbabwe's history as a Test nation can be summed up by the old adage "cricket makes fools of the wisest". Still it's hard to see how, even allowing for the positive effect of wounded pride, they can win this Test. Hard but not impossible.

One consolation for Zimbabwe, whatever the result, is that they cannot possibly play any worse than they did at Lord's.

Barthez joins Man. United

Chelsea get Hasselbaink

UNDATED, May 31 (AFP): Chelsea roped in one of the hottest properties in Europe after Dutch international striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink reportedly agreed to join the Premiership side on Wednesday. Meanwhile French international custodian Fabien Barthez also completed a move to the Premiership after signing for champions Manchester United.

Hasselbaink back in the Premiership

MADRID: Hasselbaink moved from Atletico Madrid of the Primera Liga to the FA Cup winners Chelsea. His Spanish club announced Wednesday.

Details of the transfer were not released although a club spokesman said the offer of 24 million dollars from the London-based club was the best of numerous offers for the highly rated striker.

Hasselbaink joined Madrid who were relegated this season after 64 years in the top flight from another English club, Leeds last season for 19 million dollars and was a huge hit in the Primera Liga scoring 35 goals in 47 matches.

The Dutchman was also a success at Leeds where he notched 34 goals in just 69 appearances, after joining them from Boavista of Portugal with whom he scored 20 goals in 29 matches.

Barthez now man United's

MANCHESTER: French international goalkeeper Fabien Barthez Wednesday signed for English champions Manchester United, the club said.

Details of the contract will be released at a press conference to be held at Old Trafford at 1500 GMT.

The 28-year-old Barthez played for French league champions Monaco last season, but had grown increasingly restless and had strongly indicated he wanted a move.

Press reports had said that the transfer fee could be around 15 million dollars which would be a world record for a goalkeeper.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson, trying to solve his side's goalkeeping problems, had twice attempted to lure the headstrong stopper to Old Trafford this season only to be knocked back in his approaches.

An AFP file photo of Dutch international striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink in action for Atletico Madrid. The star striker has reportedly joined English FA Cup champions Chelsea.

But Barthez's relations with Monaco have deteriorated in recent weeks, with club coach Claude Puel attacking his attitude in an end-of-season clash against former club Marseille.

The move for Barthez, who conceded only two goals as Toulouse won the World Cup in 1998, puts a huge question mark over the future of current keeper Mark Bosnich.

The Barthez move could also trigger a game of French First Division musical chairs.

With his distinctive appearance Barthez emerged as one of the icons of France's 1998 World Cup winning team.

Born in Lavelanet in the south-west of the country he cut his footballing teeth at Toulouse. He won the European Champions League in 1993 with Marseille, switching to Monaco in 1995.

He's rarely out of the sports or gossip pages where he figured as a result of his relationship with top model Linda Evangelista.

"The fans can relax, they can't leave Barcelona," Nunez added.

Since the announcement of Nunez' resignation a number of clubs have shown an interest in World footballer of the Year Rivaldo and his teammate Figo but both players have stated their desire to stay at Barca.

Concerning a possible change in the status of the two players' contracts, Nunez replied: "I will not take any decisions which may affect the new management or the financial status of FC Barcelona".

Nunez has spent 22 years at the head of Barcelona and his successor will be elected at the end of July.

International friendly**Scotland edge Republic of Ireland**

DUBLIN, May 31: Craig Brown's depleted Scotland came back from Mark Kennedy's deflected second-minute goal to beat an experimental Republic of Ireland side with strikes from Don Hutchison and Barry Ferguson here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

It was a deserved success for the Scots who will not play again until their first World Cup qualifier against Latvia in Riga in September.

Having seen his team go down in front of more than 30,000 fans at Lansdowne Road, Irish boss Mick McCarthy must now contemplate a three-match tour of America later this week.

He will again be without a string of his first-choice performers and will want to see more emerging from their deputies who puffed and puffed their way through this friendly but failed to make a real impact.

Both managers fielded what amounted to B teams at the end of another long season. But that certainly did not seem to worry the fans, especially the 3,000-odd members of the Tartan Army who converged on Dublin.

"We will sign the contract on Thursday. We will re-evaluate it in January and the possibility for an extension is open," Terim told reporters here after talks with Florentina officials in Rome on Monday and Tuesday.

"I will continue my career in Italy as Turkey's soccer ambassador," an emotional Terim said.

"It is not easy to express my feelings now. It is like leaving a child, but I made this decision," said the coach, rendered national hero earlier this month when Galatasaray won the UEFA Cup.

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The 27-year-old began his career in France with Brest before stints with Nantes and Marseille before joining Celta Vigo in 1998 where his current contract expires in 2002.

As for Anelka and Morientes, Sanz says they are "not for sale" unless a club can come up with 40 million dollars.

Today Morientes and Anelka are going nowhere but the world of football has gone mad and if someone comes up

they look to strengthen their squad while trying to hold onto their current stars, reports AFP.

Euro champions busy already

MADRID, May 31: Newly crowned European champions Real Madrid are not resting on their laurels as

they look to strengthen their squad while trying to hold onto their current stars, reports AFP.

They want for Makelele. It is certain that we won't be paying more than nine million dollars," said Real president Lorenzo Sanz.

"Obviously I want to play for Real but I must calmly evaluate all the offers that are currently on the table," Makelele told Spanish sports daily AS.

One player who could be on

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