



Sri Lanka batsman Michael Vandort ducks to a bouncer from England skipper Andrew Flintoff (R) during his century-knock on the fourth day of the second Test at Edgbaston on Sunday.

New faces

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believed that it would be helpful for the national side.

"After returning from Zimbabwe, the A team players will get a week's break to join the national side," he said.

The selected cricketers are asked to report to coach Dav Whatmore, who returned yesterday after enjoying holidays at home, at 7.30am on June 1 at the Bangladesh Army Stadium.

Ace batsman Mohammad Ashraful, however, will miss the preliminary camp as the right-hander is now playing in the Liverpool league in England.

"He is allowed to join the team one week before our departure. I think there is no problem for Ashraful skipping training as he is in touch," said Faruque.

Bangladesh are expected to visit Kenya for three one-dayers prior their Zimbabwe trip but the respective boards have yet to finalise the schedule.

On the other hand, Zimbabwe Cricket had recently sent a proposed itinerary for the five-match one-day series in July-August but it was yet to be disclosed officially as Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is not fully satisfied with the tight schedule.

SQUAD

Habibul Bashar, Shahriar Nafees, Javed Omar, Aftab Ahmed, Mohammad Ashraful, Rajin Saleh, Tushtar Imran, Mohammad Rafique, Abdur Razzak, Manjarul Islam, Khaled Mashud, Mushfiqur Rahim, Alok Kapali, Forhad Reza, Sakib Al Hasan, Mashrafe Bin Mortuza, Syed Raseel, Shahadat Hossain and Tapash Baisya.



Did U Know?

Cards – yellow and red – were introduced in World Cup in the 1970 version in Mexico. That tournament also saw the introduction of substitutes.



Muttiah Muralidaran
(Master Sri Lanka spinner)
"This one means a lot to me because I set a target when we were coming to England, that at least I would take five, six or seven wickets in a Test match because it's going to be my last tour of England. We will next be here in 2010. I don't know if I'll still be playing then."
On his six wickets in England's first innings in the second Test.



TEN Sports
French Open
Day Two
Live at 3:00 pm

Eng win easily in the end



AFP, Birmingham

Liam Plunkett's rapid three-wicket haul provided the platform on Sunday for England to beat Sri Lanka by six wickets in the second Test here at Edgbaston and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

England, needing 78, finished on 81 for four with Alastair Cook 34 not out and England captain Andrew Flintoff four not out, to win with over a day to spare for what was only their second Test victory in nine matches.

Earlier, the 21-year-old Plunkett took three wickets for two runs in eight balls as England dismissed Sri Lanka for 231 before lunch on the fourth day.

He finished with a Test-best three for 17 as Sri Lanka lost their last five wickets for 12 runs and, in total, he had match figures of six for 60.

Plunkett had been unable to bowl on Saturday's rain-affected third day because of a right shoulder injury sustained while fielding Friday.

But after England captain Andrew Flintoff had made the initial breakthrough, taking Farveez Maharoof caught and bowled, Plunkett took over.

He had Chaminda Vaas taken in the gully by Paul Collingwood and next ball the Durham duo combined again to dismiss Nuwan Kulasekara. Lasith Malinga survived the hat-trick ball but soon edged Flintoff to Strauss at second slip.

Michael Vandort was the last man out for 105 for the 26-year-old left-handed opener's second Test hundred.

Vandort became Plunkett's third victim when he was caught behind having batted for over six-and-a-half hours, facing 303 balls with nine fours.

Sri Lanka coach Tom Moody had said a target of 130 would be the minimum star off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran needed to trouble England and bowl the

tourists to victory on a wearing pitch.

Muralidaran, who'd taken six for 86 in England's first innings, struck fourth ball to have Marcus Trescothick lbw for naught.

But with such a small target, and a lack of bowling quality at the other end, not even Muralidaran -- who took all the England second wickets to fall on the way to four for 29 -- and a match return of 10 for 115, the 15th time he'd taken 10 or more wickets in a Test match, could rescue his side this time.

The third Test is due to start at Trent Bridge on Friday.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fourth day of the second Test between England and Sri Lanka at Edgbaston on Sunday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 141 (Plunkett 3-43)

England: First innings 295 (Pietersen 142; Muralitharan 6-86)

SRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 194-5)

Vandort c Jones b Plunkett 105

Tharanga c Jones b Hoggard 0

Sangakkara c Collingwood b Panesar 18

Jayawardene lbw b Hoggard 5

Samaraweera st Jones b Panesar 8

Dilshan lbw b Hoggard 59

Maharoof c and b Flintoff 13

Vaas c Collingwood b Plunkett 1

Kulasekara c Collingwood b Plunkett 0

Malinga c Strauss b Flintoff 2

Muralitharan not out 0

Extras: (lb-8, w-1, nb-11) 20

Total: (All out in 93.2 overs) 231

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-38, 3-43, 4-56, 5-181, 6-219, 7-223, 8-223, 9-231

Bowler **O** **W** **M**

Hoggard 22 3 8

64 22 3 8

Flintoff 19 3 3

50 2 2

Plunkett 13.2 6 6

17 3 3

Panesar 28 6 6

73 2 2

Mahmood 9 2 19 0 Collingwood 2 2 0 0

ENGLAND: Second innings

Trescothick lbw b Muralitharan 0

Strauss c Jayawardene 16

b Muralitharan 34

Cook not out 13

Pietersen lbw b Muralitharan 3

Collingwood c Sangakkara b Muralitharan 4

Flintoff not out 11

Extras: (b-2, nb-9) 11

Total: (For 4 wkts in 27.2 overs) 81

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-35, 3-63, 4-73

Did not bat: Jones, Plunkett, Hoggard, Mahmood, Panesar

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**

Vaas 7 2 12 0

Malinga 7 1 29 0

Muralitharan 12.2 3 29 4

Dilshan 1 0 9 0

Result: England won by 6 wickets and lead three-Test series 1-0.

Man-of-the-match: Kevin Pietersen.

Economy on hold

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All Brazilian financial markets will be paralysed when Brazil -- who captured the world title in 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994 and 2002 -- take the field.

The Brazil Federation of Banks announced Thursday it would curtail hours of operation on the days Brazil are playing.

Brazil have never won a World Cup when they started the tournament as strong favourites, and have never successfully defended their title in Europe.

But that does not seem to deter home fans. A public opinion poll published Thursday showed that 79.8 percent of Brazilians believe they will bring home a record sixth crown.

The match also marked the

beginning of "Gazzamania," when England's Paul Gascoigne, who had been another revelation of the tournament, broke down in tears after receiving a yellow card that would have deprived him a place in the final.

At the end of the match the English striker Gary Lineker famously said, "Football is a game with 22 players and in the end the Germans always win."

So, as in 1986, it was West Germany against Argentina in the final, with Franz Beckenbauer's side slight favourites on account of four Argentine first choice players missing the final through injury or suspension.

Argentina would have forced extra-time again if the unimpressive Codesal hadn't given a penalty when Voller went down in a tackle by Sensini. Matthaus, suffering a painful ankle, left the kick to Brehme, whose low shot edged past Goycochea. The two sending-off, the first in a Final, were almost expected: Monzon for a spectacular foul on Klinsmann, Dezotti for grabbing Kohler by the throat. Maradona, man-marked out of it by Buchwald, who towered over him, shed tears in Gazzesaque quantities. A sight for sore English eyes. Argentina were the first team to fail to score in a Final. West Germany, in their last World Cup as a separate nation, were worthy enough winners but scored only a single goal in each of their last three matches: two from the penalty spot, the other (in a match decided on penalties) with a deflected free kick. The total of 16 red cards was a finals record at the time, the goals-per-game average of 2.21 is still the lowest. With the possible exceptions of 1962 and the only other time Italy were the hosts, it was football-wise the worst tournament ever.

Bangladesh win volleyball Tests

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh volleyball team won the second Test match against visiting Nepal 3-1 at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday.

The hosts took 2-0 lead and play the third and final match on May 31 at the same venue.

The two teams play the first exhibition match today at Gazipur.

BAF aquatics

SPORTS REPORTER

Najim won gold in the 50m backstroke in the inter-base swimming and water-polo competitions of the Bangladesh Air Force at the Naval Swimming Pool in the city yesterday.

Rajib won the 100m free-style.

In water-polo, Air Headquarters Unit defeated BAF Base Kurmitola 15-3 and BAF Base Matiur Rahman trounced BAF Base Paharkan-chanpur 7-1.

India drop in ranking

PTI, Dubai

India paid a heavy price for their series defeat against the West Indies as they dropped two places to fifth in the latest ICC ODI rankings.

Brian Lara's team clinched the series taking an unbeatable 3-1 lead with one match left to play.

The defeat reversed India's recent successful run in ODIs as they succumbed to their first series loss in nine months and having lost four points, now find themselves at 112 ratings points behind Australia, South Africa, Pakistan and New Zealand.

Australia with 132 points are way ahead of second placed South Africa who have 119 points.

Both Pakistan and New Zealand gained from India's loss and surged ahead despite no change in their rating points.

Practice ties for Shoaib

BBC ONLINE, updated

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is to arrange two special practice games to enable paceman Shoaib Akhtar to prove his fitness for the tour to England.

The 30-year-old underwent surgery on both knees at the start of the year.

But he says he is now bowling at over 90mph in the nets and has been named in a preliminary 21-man squad for the tour, which begins next month.

"Shoaib is an important member of the team," said PCB director of cricket operations Saleem Altar.

"But he will have to play in the practice games to prove he has made a full recovery from his knee problem."

N'ganj ride

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Gaibandha edged past Bagerhat by 11 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium.

Gaibandha totalled a meagre 126, with Faruq scoring 20.

Under heavy skies, Bagerhat stuttered despite a half-century from Jupiter. They were eventually bowled out for 115 in 36.5 overs. Rakibul picked up four wickets for the winners.

The match between Chandpur and Barisal at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium was postponed once again, due to heavy rain without a ball being bowled.

Del Piero a likely

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"Totti is difficult to replace but we have won without him before, and in all of our most recent matches," Lippi said.

Italy open their campaign against Ghana on June 12 in Hanover before matches against the USA and Czech Republic in Group E.

Spain's boy-wonder

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playing back in the Primera Liga, who have been excited by his precocious talents.

Arsenal fans and foes would be hard pushed not to applaud a player whose arrival helped the despairing Highbury fans get over the departure of French midfield general Patrick Vieira.

In his place, they got a quick, intelligent and versatile midfielder who can lay on goals - and score them.

Fabregas became the youngest-ever Arsenal goalscorer when he scored a goal at the age of 16 years and 212 days in December 2003 in a 5-1 League Cup win over Woverhampton.

His first goal in the Champions League goal came in Arsenal's 5-1 victory against Rosenborg BK in December 2004.

This season his confidence has grown, and he has performed consistently at the top level in Europe notably against Real Madrid, who are said to be interested in making a move to sign him.

Federer labours through



REUTERS, Paris

Roger Federer made hard work of his opening match at the French Open on Sunday before claiming an error-strun 7-5, 7-6, 6-2 victory over Argentine qualifier Diego Hartfield.

The world number one and top seed has not played since his Rome Masters final defeat by Rafael Nadal two weeks ago and trailed 3-0 in the first set before eventually subduing an opponent playing his first match at tour level.

Federer is seeking to complete his grand slam collection by winning the clay-court event but will need to improve greatly on Sunday's showing when he was often outplayed on Centre Court.

"I prefer easy games," said Federer.

"Today was a tough one. I did not know him, I had no idea how he was playing. He was good from the baseline. I'm happy to have won in three sets."

With the Swiss struggling for timing, Hartfield dominated the first set and served for it at 5-4 before Federer clawed his way back.

The 25-year-old Argentine owes his ranking of 156 to good performances on the lesser Challenger circuit and he forced a tiebreak in the second set but lost it 7-2 as Federer slowly found his range.

Hartfield began to struggle physically in the third set and Federer eventually wrapped up victory with some ease, sealing his second match point with a forehand winner after two

hours 36 minutes.

The Roland Garros Grand Slam started on a Sunday for the first time with the aim of increasing television exposure, meaning the first round is being spread over three days instead of two.

Tommy Robredo, the seventh seed and Hamburg Masters winner, eased past Czech player Tomas Zib 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in his first-round match on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

In the women's section, Russian 14th seed Dinara Safina, runner-up at the Italian Open in Rome earlier this month, beat compatriot Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 7-5 in the first match on Centre Court.

Japan's Ai Sugiyama recovered strongly from losing the first-set tiebreak against Greece's Eleni Daniilidou to win 6-7, 6-0, 6-3.



World No. 1 Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return against Argentinian Diego Hartfield during their French Open first round match at Roland Garros on Sunday.

Zidane angry at fans

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whistling at me. I'm very disappointed. We need people to get behind the team."

Zidane said French fans had been similarly unsupportive prior to their victory at the 1998 World Cup.

"It was similar back then," Zidane said. "The friendly matches before the tournament didn't go too well and people started saying that we should forget it, and that we wouldn't last a single round."

"But thankfully once the tournament began people got caught up in it and supported us," French coach Raymond Domenech said he was speechless at the abuse.

"I can't really understand it," Domenech said. "The players were completely stunned. It just doesn't make any sense. We're preparing for the World Cup and this happens. I'm lost for words."

Liverpool striker Djibril Cisse, who provided the cross for Florent Malouda's spectacular first-half winner, was equally baffled.

"We play and they whistle. It's very disappointing," said Cisse. "Vikash (Dhorasoo) hardly touched the ball and they whistled, they whistled at me, they whistled at Fabien (Barthez). Everyone whistled -- it's astonishing."

Malouda meanwhile put a

brave face on the controversy, saying that it was something professional footballers would have to learn to live with.

"We wanted it to be a party for Zizou (Zidane) but the fans decided they wanted to make a statement," said Malouda. "You have to be disappointed by that. It doesn't help the French team at all."

"But that's the life of a professional footballer these days. More and more people come to matches with the intention of targeting a player for abuse. But as long as we keep getting results we'll get the crowd behind us."

France's World Cup preparations were jolted last week when goalkeeper Gregory Coupet stormed out of the team's hotel in protest at perceived preferential treatment afforded to Barthez by coach Raymond Domenech.

Domenech surprised French fans earlier this month by declaring that 1998 World Cup winner Barthez would be his No. 1 keeper in Germany despite preferring Coupet for much of the qualifying campaign.

Chants of 'Coupet, Coupet' rang out around the ground at the end of the match, reflecting widespread sympathy for the popular Lyon shot-stopper.

BITS AND BOBS

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to come to Germany on May 15. They were followed by Costa Rica and Angola.

Santos in Portugal squad

AFP, Lisbon

Portugal have drafted Sporting Braga goalkeeper Paulo Santos into their World Cup squad following an injury to Bruno Vale, the Portuguese Football Federation announced Saturday.

Santos was called up by coach Luiz Felipe Scolari after Vale broke a bone in his right foot during Thursday's friendly with Serbia-Montenegro, who defeated the Portuguese 2-0.

Santos has played only once before for Portugal under Scolari, appearing in a friendly last year against Northern Ireland.

Aloisi fit for warm-up

AFP, Sydney

Striker John Aloisi said Sunday he would be fit to play in Australia's World Cup warm-up match against the Netherlands in Rotterdam next weekend.

Aloisi, who missed Australia's 1-0 win over European champions Greece in Melbourne last Thursday with a foot injury, told television here: "I'm sure the foot will be alright, so I'll be looking to play against Holland."

The Australian squad, under Dutch coach Guus Hiddink, has arrived in Mierlo, Holland, for a week's training camp in final preparations for next month's World Cup finals in Germany.

Everton midfielder Tim Cahill, who also missed the Greece match

with a knee injury, said he expected to resume training with the rest of squad this week.

"The knee's okay, I suppose I'm joining proper training this week and going to wait and see how I get on. But everything is very positive and I'm just looking forward to being part of the squad," Cahill said.

Liverpool forward Harry Kewell, who stayed behind in England to treat a groin injury, joined his teammates at the training camp this weekend. He said he was confident of being fit for Australia's opening World Cup group match against Japan in Kaiserslautern on June 12.

Boost for Poborsky

AFP, Prague

Czech international Karel Poborsky received a pre-World Cup boost Saturday after seeing his unfashionable Ceske Budejovice club promoted to the top-flight.

Poborsky, 34, the most capped Czech player in history with 112 appearances, started playing for Ceske Budejovice after acrimoniously splitting with Sparta Prague in December last year.

The ex-Manchester United, Lazio and Benfica star has been playing in front of crowds amounting a few hundred rather than the tens of thousands that used to see him play.

Poborsky has been selected as a key player in the Czech World Cup squad with manager Karel Bruckner saying he was unworried Poborsky had stepped down a division.

The Czechs have been drawn in the same opening World Cup group as Italy, the United States and Ghana.

A rivalry that

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German reflex has nearly disappeared -- not counting the odd German tourist who has to answer demands of 'give us back our bicycles', referring to the occupation when German troops seized bicycles -- but the rivalry remains in football.

"Now it is not as deep as it was in 1974 when the war loomed large in the background ... We also beat Germany in the European Championships in 1988 which erased some of the trauma of 1974. Now it has become a more normal sort of reciprocal teasing," Auke Kok said.

According to him the rivalry also comes from conflicting styles with the Dutch fans rooting for the more offensive playfulness of their team against the businesslike Germans who rely on good defences and 'kaempfgest' or fighting spirit.

Joris Rotmans, who wasn't even born when the Netherlands suffered their traumatic 1974 loss, agreed.

"A loss to Germany is almost never deserved because they have such bad teams. They just win because they do not give up," he said, voicing the typically Dutch idea that a beautiful loss is better than an ugly win.

Still going into the World Cup the Dutch have already scored one psychological victory over their football rivals, as most of the games will be played on Dutch grass.

A Dutch company has been commissioned to supply eight of the twelve World Cup stadiums with a new pitch, a fact that all Dutch media gleefully reported.

"It's a sort of triumph, they need out grass," said Auke Kok.

German tabloid Bild complained of the "bad omen" for the German team that "our football archival the Netherlands is supplying the field".

In the Netherlands the supplier kept the location where the grass was being grown a closely guarded secret for fear of vandalism but it is unclear who he feared most: Dutch or German fans.

World Cup

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The New Jersey native hasn't played since May 14, when Cottbus won its season finale to earn promotion next season to the Bundesliga, the country's top league.

Berhalter will be changing clubs next week -- he said a deal with another German team has been finalised, but it's up to the club to announce it.