



England cricketer Paul Collingwood (L) is greeted by traditional dancers as the team arrives in Colombo yesterday, ahead of their quarterfinal clash against Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Five magic moments

AFP, New Delhi

**Five magical moments from the first round of the 2011 World Cup:**

**Lasith Malinga's hat-trick**  
- Sri Lanka's king of sling claimed a second World Cup hat-trick in a six-wicket haul against hapless Kenya in Colombo. Malinga sent back Tanmay Mishra, Peter Ongondo and Shem Ngocho in successive balls. In 2007, he had taken four in four balls against South Africa.

**Kevin O'Brien's record century**  
- Irish whirlwind Kevin O'Brien scored the fastest-ever World Cup century, off just 50 balls, as Ireland completed a stunning three-wicket win over England.

**Shoulder to shoulder after quake tragedy**  
- Australia and New Zealand players stood shoulder to shoulder and observed a minute's silence in Nagpur on February 25 in honour of the Christchurch earthquake victims. "We are neighbours and brothers," said Australia skipper Ricky Ponting.

**Tait v Tillakaratne**  
- Aussie speedster Shaun Tait and Sri Lanka opener Tillakaratne Dilshan squared up in Colombo and Tait won hands down. Dilshan edged through the slips to enrage the fiery Tait. The Sri Lankan then pulled away from the crease just as Tait went into his next delivery stride, before the speedster had his man next ball, courtesy of a slip catch.

**Brother bother**  
- Pakistan wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal's calamitous performance behind the stumps against New Zealand unleashed a stream of criticism and paved the way for younger brother Umar to take over. That was until Umar hurt his finger and ankle in two training accidents and was accused by sections of the Pakistan media of feigning injury to save his brother's job.

## 'We hoped you lost daddy'

AFP, New Delhi

England's Paul Collingwood has revealed his daughters wanted the side to lose their must-win World Cup match against the West Indies because they were missing their father so much.

"We hope you lose tomorrow, daddy," Collingwood's girls told the all-rounder via Skype on the eve of England's final group match against the West Indies.

"Then you can come home."

Collingwood told the Daily Mail website: "That was quite tough and I had to think quickly."

"I told them, 'Yes, but if we win, daddy will get a few more pennies to buy you more Barbie dolls'. That seemed to do the trick. 'OK, I hope you win now', said Shannon (one of Collingwood's three young daughters)."

Collingwood's children very nearly got

their original wish though in a match England had to win to stay alive in the tournament.

The West Indies, chasing 244, were cruising to victory at 222 for six.

However, they lost their final four wickets for just three runs to give England an 18-run win that would lead to a quarter-final match against co-hosts Sri Lanka in Colombo on Saturday.

England's progress has been less of a worry for batsman Ian Bell, who is so confident the team will get to the World Cup final he has arranged his wedding for April 6 -- four days after the showpiece match in Mumbai.

"I've not been getting too much stick from home just yet, there might be a bit more the closer we get," Bell told the Independent.

"Chantal, my fiancée, will be desperate for us to get to the final but there will be a quick turnaround after that, three or four days I guess. I have left it to her, I just have to turn up at the moment."

## 'Conditions will favour NZ'

AFP, Dhaka

New Zealand wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum believes his side will benefit from playing their World Cup quarterfinal in Dhaka despite recent painful defeats in the city.

The Black Caps take on formidable South Africa on Friday at the Sher-e-Bangla stadium, the same venue where they crashed to a 4-0 series defeat at the hands of Bangladesh in October last year.

But McCullum said the experience gained on that trip will hold New Zealand in good stead.

"It's a real positive for us," the 29-year-old said. "We have some good knowledge about the conditions in Dhaka and it will help us playing against South Africa in those conditions."

"They would probably have wanted some pace and bounce in the wicket, but they won't

get that. It is not a bad draw for us at all."

New Zealand failed to negotiate the Bangladeshi spinners on turning wickets in last year's series, but the pitches prepared at the Sher-e-Bangla stadium for the World Cup are more sporting.

McCullum dismissed suggestions that South Africa tended to choke in crunch matches, which would make it easier for the Black Caps.

"No, not really," he said. "From our point of view we should just focus on what we can achieve rather than focus on the opposition. If we can control that, hopefully South Africa will fall by the wayside."

"They have got a good bunch of players, but we will obviously have to focus on guys like Kallis, de Villiers, Morkel and Steyn."

"But I would like us to focus on what we can achieve over the next few days and get ready to give ourselves the best opportunity to win this game."



GRAHAM GOOCH

## Gooch calls for the title

AFP, New Delhi

England batting coach Graham Gooch believes Andrew Strauss's men can succeed where he failed as a player and win the World Cup.

The former England captain enjoyed a distinguished and lengthy career as an opening batsman, helping win a couple of Ashes series and posting the Test record score at Lord's of 333 against India in 1990.

But he also became the answer to a somewhat unkind quiz question: name the one England player who appeared in all three of their losing World Cup finals in three different decades?

"Winning a World Cup didn't happen for me," said Gooch, beaten in finals against the West Indies (1979), Australia (1987) and Pakistan (1992).

"I hope this team have got it within them to win the World Cup -- and I'm convinced they have," added Gooch, brought back into the national set-up by head coach Andy Flower.

Gooch said it was England's spirit that had impressed him most in a see-saw group phase where they tied with India and beat South Africa yet lost to both Ireland and Bangladesh.

They also came back from the brink of defeat against the West Indies in a match they had to win to reach the quarter-finals.

"They've come through this first stage of the competition, shown their fighting qualities and their resilience," added Gooch.

"We can get better, and if we do we have as good a chance as anyone else."

"The objective was to get into the knockout stages. We've made that; we've scraped through. We're not going to look back; we're going to look forward to the next challenge."

That sees England facing Sri Lanka in the last eight on the co-hosts' own turf in Colombo on Saturday.

Sri Lanka, who boast dynamic batsmen in Tillakaratne Dilshan and captain Kumar Sangakkara, as well as slingshot seamer Lasith Malinga and off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, have been tipped to repeat their 1996 World Cup triumph.

## Samba lights up Chelsea

AFP, London

Chelsea climbed above Manchester City into third place in the Premier League after David Luiz's late goal inspired a 2-0 win on Sunday.

Luiz sunk City with 12 minutes to play at Stamford Bridge and Ramires added a second goal in stoppage time as Carlo Ancelotti's side moved one point ahead of Roberto Mancini's men.

The Blues are also nine points behind leaders Manchester United with a game in hand.

In Sunday's other game, Dirk Kuyt scored a controversial penalty as Liverpool bounced back from their Europa League exit with a 2-0 win at 10-man Sunderland.

Chelsea's clash with City was a meeting between the two most expensively assembled squads in Premier League history, with over £500 million lavished on star players by both clubs' billionaire owners.

For long periods of a scrappy encounter, there was little reason to believe the money had been well spent.

City suffered a blow before kick off when Carlos



Chelsea defender David Luiz (L) is ecstatic after scoring the opening goal against Manchester City during their Premier League encounter at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tevéz failed a late fitness test on a groin injury, but they had the best moment of the first half when Yaya Toure's low drive forced Petr Cech into a sprawling save.

There was an injury scare for reappointed England captain John Terry as the Blues defender needed treatment on a knee problem, but he was able to continue, to the relief of Fabio Capello ahead of next week's Euro qualifier against Wales.

Fernando Torres is now without a goal in seven matches since his British record £50 million transfer after the former Liverpool striker was hauled off in the

70th minute.

The change paid dividends as Torres's replacement Didier Drogba curled over a free-kick that Brazilian defender Luiz glanced

past Joe Hart before his compatriot Ramires scored with a fine solo effort in the 90th minute.

Liverpool were beaten at Sunderland in dubious circumstances last season

when Darren Bent scored with a goal that deflected in off a beach ball which had been thrown onto the pitch.

But Kenny Dalglish's side enjoyed their own moment of good fortune at the Stadium of Light this time as Kuyt netted a first half penalty awarded for a tackle by John Mensah that took place outside the area.

Replays showed Mensah's challenge made contact with Jay Spearing before the midfielder fell in the area and referee Kevin Friend initially gave a free-kick, only to change his decision to a penalty on the advice of a linesman.

Sunderland were furious and Kuyt rubbed salt into their wounds as he drove home the spot-kick.

Luiz Suarez scored Liverpool's second goal from what seemed an impossibly tight angle in the 77th minute to help erase the memory of his team's lacklustre midweek defeat against Braga in the Europa League and lift the Reds within four points of Tottenham. Mensah's miserable day was completed when the Ghana defender was sent off for a professional foul on Suarez in the closing stages.

| RESULTS                         |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chelsea 2 (Luiz 78, Ramires 90) | Manchester City 0                    |
| Sunderland 0                    | Liverpool 2 (Kuyt 33-pen, Suarez 77) |

**SPORTS POLL**  
Which big team will miss out in the World Cup quarterfinals?

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| Bangladesh  | 53.5% |
| England     | 30.3% |
| West Indies | 16.1% |

**TOTAL VOTES: 155**

**WEEKLY QUESTION**  
Who has been the best performer in the World Cup's first round?

Visit the sports page of [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net) to cast your vote

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**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 11:30pm

**DAY'S EVENT**

**National Cricket League**  
(Four-Day Match, Day-2)  
Rajshahi v Khulna at Sylhet  
Chittagong v Dhaka at Rajshahi  
Barisal v Sylhet at Bogra

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**BOMBAY SWEETS**  
To know it... You have to eat it!!  
**AS A CAPTAIN OF AUSTRALIA WHICH WORLD CUP DID RICKY PONTING WIN?**

**Potato Crackers**  
**BOMBAY FRIES**

**SCRATCH AND WIN ATTRACTIVE BOMBAY CRICKET CARDS**  
For answer... see tomorrow's newspaper Yesterday's answer... Lance Klusener