

AFP, Sao Paulo

Controversial striker Luis Suarez said he was delighted to prove a point after scoring two goals to see Uruguay to a 2-1 win over England on Thursday, revealing he had taken time to console Liverpool team-mate Steven Gerrard.

The 27-year-old forward has regularly made the headlines for all the wrong reasons since he joined the English Premier League giants in 2011.

He started last season completing a 10-game ban for biting Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic -- a punishment that came a year after he received an eight-game suspension for racially abusing Manchester United's Patrice Evra.

Even before he joined Liverpool, Suarez was dubbed "the cannibal of Ajax" when he bit an opponent's shoulder and was handed a seven-game ban.

"I'm very happy about this victory. I wanted to help the team, try to get three important points, but it's not the final word," said Suarez, who was voted player of the season by his peers in England.

"It was a dream afternoon because we won, because of the way we won, and for what the rival meant to me, for everything that was said, the doubts, and this was a way to demonstrate everything I wanted to prove." Suarez, back in action just

four weeks after knee surgery, put Uruguay ahead with a 39th-minute header before Wayne Rooney equalised. But the Uruguayan had the

final say when he latched on to a long ball and smashed home the winner five minutes from time after Gerrard mistimed a header in midfield.

Suarez, who missed Uruguay's opening defeat to Costa Rica, said he was delighted to prove to his doubters he was playing at a "world-class level" despite speculation over his fitness.

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by stalemate

Stadium yesterday.

Jamal. Although Abahani might be disappointed with the

draw, the result gave Feni Soccer Club a real boost to come out

of the red zone as they have now climbed to eighth position of

Abahani, who came into the match on the back of a morale-

boosting 3-0 win over Brothers Union in the previous game,

conceded the lead from a counter-attack with Gambian Kabba

Jobe beating goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Shohel with a

grounder in the 20th minute before Morison levelled the

Charles found the back of the Abahani net with an angular

Feni made no mistake in restoring the lead as Chuka

Morison again equalised with a tap-in after Awudu

Ibrahim set him up inside the box in the 58th minute to save

the 10-team table with 13 points from 20 matches.

margin with a close-range header on 31 minutes.

shot from the right-hand box in the 45th minute.

Abahani from their third defeat of the league.

I've proved a point: Suarez Why so many goals?

FIFA WORLD CUP

AFP, Rio de Janeiro



After a steadily diminishing goals-per-game ratio at recent World Cups, the 2014 tournament has bucked the trend in spectacular

A week into the competition, the average number of goals scored per game is just under 2.9, leaving the tournament on course to become the most highscoring World Cup since the 1958 event in Sweden (3.6).

Here, AFP Sports identifies six factors behind the unexpected goal explosion:

THE LEGACY OF 'TIKI-TAKA': Spain's tournament may have been ended by Chile on Wednesday, but the defending champions' six-year reign as the world's pre-eminent national team has had a profound impact on the way that teams play. The 'tiki-taka' passing style pioneered by Spain and Barcelona has been copied around the world, with proactive, attacking football and aggressive pressing now widespread. The example set by players

such as Xavi and Andres Iniesta means that players have become accustomed to taking more risks in possession, which leads to more turnovers, and in turn, more goals.

WARM WEATHER: Compared to the cold weather of South Africa, where the 2010 World Cup took place, games in tropical and sub-tropical Brazil have in the main taken place amid warm conditions. The heat and humidity means that players tire more quickly and when players get tired, they make more mistakes. "Certainly (the conditions) are playing a part," said Australia coach Ange Postecoglou, quoted by the Daily Telegraph. "It's contributed to the openness of the competition, because games get spread in warmer climates. That's why you've seen some pretty open games."

EARLY GOALS: It took Brazil defender Marcelo only 11 minutes to put the ball into his own net in the tournament's opening game, the hosts' 3-1 win over Croatia, and early goals have become a recurring theme. There were 25 first-half strikes in the tournament's first 20 matches, and nothing opens a game up like an early goal. Already, seven teams have come from behind to win matches. Only four managed the feat at the 2010 tournament.

INNOVATIVE TACTICS: While the 4-2-3-1 formation was the dominant playing system at the last World Cup, teams have enjoyed success in Brazil with more idiosyncratic tactical configurations. Holland's 5-3-2 system enabled them to crush Spain 5-1 as it gave Louis van Gaal's side numerical parity in midfield whilst allowing forwards Arjen Robben and Robin van Persie to remain high up the pitch. "The fact that our defence plays very deep frees up a lot of space for Robin and me," explains Robben. "We have the whole pitch for leading counterattacks." After a seemingly ineluctable slide towards single-striker systems in recent years, more and more teams are playing with two central forwards, and more forwards often means more goals. SUBSTANDARD GOALKEEPING:

Fans in Brazil have already witnessed some exquisite goals -- Van Persie's looping header against Spain; Tim Cahill's jaw-dropping volley against Holland; Lionel Messi's solo special against Bosnia-Hercegovina -- but

standards of goalkeeping have been less impressive. Spain's Iker Casillas made two woeful errors against Holland, while Russia's Igor Akinfeev and Mathew Ryan of Australia have also committed high-profile blunders. Several leading nations have problems in the goalkeeping department --Brazil's Julio Cesar and Argentina's Sergio Romero are both short of match practice, while Italy's Gianluigi Buffon missed his side's opening game through injury -- so it could prove a tournament to forget for the men between the posts.

THE SNOWBALL EFFECT: The early-tournament goal spree is encouraging teams to throw caution to the wind, creating a climate where risk-taking is applauded and defensive play derided. "I'm surprised how open it's been," admits England striker Daniel Sturridge. "It's been quite open and, for the neutrals, it's a great World Cup to see, with so many goals and chances. I'm enjoying it, enjoying the occasion -- watching games as well as playing."

'All bite on the night'

ESPNFC.COM



A gleeful Uruguayan media focused its attention on two-goal Luis Suarez, praising him for overcoming both criticism and injury to lead his country to a 2-1 World Cup win over England on Thursday.

"Suarez does not bite them, he swallows them," Ovacion headlined, referring to the Liverpool forward's infamous bite on Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic. The paper said his match-winning performance was revenge for the criticism the 27-year-old had endured in England.

"As all Uruguayans dreamed, Luis Suarez returned just in time against England, and was the hero," it said. "The Pistolero got revenge for so much criticism received from the English by leaving them on the brink of elimination. It is true that England was the country which sheltered him and brought him to be one of the best forwards in the world (and why not the best?), but it was also the place which has systematically mistreated him."

El Observador also hailed the striker, recalling that only four weeks ago he had been in tears when a knee injury appeared likely to wreck his World Cup hopes.

"Suarez was the hero, against the opponent he most wanted to beat," the paper said. "That is because he scored the first when the team was soaring, and above all for giving victory when everything seemed lost.

The construction of that goal began 28 days ago, when Luis emerged from the Medica Uruguaya (hospital) with a distraught face and sitting in a wheelchair, when the tears flowed after he was told an operation was needed. But he got up, he walked, he ran and he scored two golazos -- like in a fairytale." Across the River Plate estuary in Buenos Aires, the

Argentine media was also enjoying the moment. Ole's match report was headlined "The Incredible Suarez" and said a shocked England were still not sure how they had suffered a second consecutive World Cup defeat. "England, another to have been hit with a frying pan at

this World Cup, are saying goodbye," it added. "They once invented football, but here they were bewildered again. Suarez, and Uruguay, whacked them." Meanwhile, a downbeat English media knew that, barring a "miracle," the World Cup is over for Roy

Hodgson's side -- and there were plenty more bite puns on both front and back pages. "It had to be chew!" headlined the Sun, which also reported that England boss Roy Hodgson has no intention

of resigning from his post. But the paper's chief sports writer Steven Howard laid into England, damning their performance under the headline "Same old England: Defensive blunders, poor

final balls, even worse finishing." "All bite on the night," said the Guardian's front page headline, while the Daily Mail said Suarez was "just two good" and Martin Samuel joined the chorus of condemnation of the performance. "Ultimately, England cannot handle the heat," Samuel wrote. "Not the searing tempera-

tures of an Amazonian rainforest, or the muggy humidity of a South American World Cup. They cannot handle the heat



Flight Wayne Rooney takes off after scoring his first World Cup goal, against Uruguay on Thursday.

Abahani set back Keenan in

coaching trip SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka on

A brace from Ghanaian Osei Morison helped Michael Keenan, a high-Abahani play out a 2-2 draw against lowly Feni profile coach of the Soccer Club in the Nitol Tata Bangladesh International Hockey Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Federation (FIH), arrived here yesterday morning on It was a good opportunity for four-time an eight-day trip to coach champions Abahani to close the gap with leaders the Bangladesh national hockey team and to con-Sheikh Jamal DC following the latter's defeat against Brothers Union on Thursday but the their eighth draw duct a coaching course in in 20 matches saw the Sky Blues on 38 points, seven behind Dhaka.

> Pakistani Naveed Alam is currently coaching the national hockey team at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan ahead of September's Asian Games in South Korea. The national players are expected to receive three days of training from today.

Keenan also came here ahead of Bangladesh's engagement in the World Hockey League Round-2 in 2013.

Tougher times ahead

Shakib hearing today

SPORTS REPORTER



A series which had the potential to be Bangladesh's 'get-out-of jail' card has only managed to further deepen the Tigers'

woes. The two-nil defeat to India's youngsters now stretches Bangladesh's disastrous run in ODIs this year to nine defeats in 10 games, with the last one washed out.

Just like in the previous tournaments, the India series too was marred by controversies and startling statements. The first ODI was almost overshadowed due to Shakib Al Hasan's scuffle with a spectator. The left-hander, previously banned for three games in the aftermath of the gesture on live television, will attend a hearing today at the BCB. He is likely to be charged for leaving the team dressing room during an ongoing match and breaking the ICC's code of conduct. He is also expected be charged on disciplinary grounds for physically assaulting a spectator.

Following the second ODI, which saw Bangladesh slump to 58 all out in chase of India's 105, captain Mushfigur Rahim described the defeat as 'shameful' and even went on to say that a second-string Bangladesh team could have put in a better display.

The series has also shown that Bangladesh are yet to begin solving a plethora of problems which led them to defeat to Afghanistan in the Asia Cup and a disastrous World T20.

Opener Tamim Iqbal's age-old weaknesses, which haunted him during the start of his career, seemed to have found a way back into the batsman's batting approach. He failed to dispatch deliveries bowled on the middle and leg and like in the World T20, he aimlessly went down the track out of despair.

Spinner Abdur Razzak bowled just five overs in the series but that was enough for the selectors who decided to leave the slow left-armer out of the team for the last two games.

Whether chief selector Faruque Ahmed and co will pick the left-hander for the upcoming tour of the West Indies

remains a vital question. While Razzak's exclusion could have been justified, the plan to drop Mominul Haque -- who had scored three half-centuries in the first seven ODIs this year -- after just one bad game seemed inexplicable.

The only positive for Bangladesh was the advent of young Taskin Ahmed. From being a backup, the 19-year-old bowled as though he was leading the attack. He took seven wickets in the series and became the first Bangladeshi bowler to take five wickets on debut. However, with Taskin prone to injuries due to his unique tendon issue, the management needs to handle him with care.

With a number of youngsters in the A team having gained experience in West Indian conditions recently, it will not be a surprise if Bangladesh's squad for the tour of the West Indies in August sees a major facelift.

That a strong A team were blown away by the West Indian High Performance Squad this month only goes on to show that life for the Tigers is only going to get tougher and that they need to find an answer to their problems as soon as

WI level series

AFP, Port Of Spain

A quickfire, unbroken firstwicket stand of 95 by Chris Gayle and Kraigg Brathwaite saw West Indies cruise to victory over New Zealand by 10 wickets in the second Test at Queen's Park Oval on Friday.

New Zealand were finally dismissed in their second innings just before lunch for 331, to leave the home side a modest target of 93 for the series-squaring victory. After further rain delays, Gayle led the way with an unbeaten 80 off 47 balls while Brathwaite backed him up with 14.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: 221 all out and 331 all out (Craig 67, Watling 66 not out, Williamson 52, Latham 36, Taylor 36; Roach 4-74, Taylor 2-73, Benn 2-78) WEST INDIES: 460 all out and 95 without loss (Gayle

80 not out) Result: West Indies win by 10 wickets

Player-of-the-match: Kraigg

Brathwaite

Lankans 257 all out after Broad hattrick



AFP, Leeds

Liam Plunkett took his Test-best figures and Stuart Broad his second Test hat-trick as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 257 by England on the first day of the second Test at Headingley on Friday.

Fast bowler Plunkett, on his Yorkshire home ground, took five for 64 in only his second Test in seven years after he was recalled for the drawn first match of this two-Test series at Lord's.

Broad, who previously took a hat-trick against India at Trent Bridge in 2011, became the first England bowler, and only the fourth in all to perform the feat twice in Tests, after Australia's Hugh Trumble, Jimmy Matthews and Pakistan's Wasim Akram, when he removed Kumar Sangakkara (79), Dinesh Chandimal (45) and Shaminda Eranga with successive deliveries split across two overs.

