

SPORTS
sports

Pakistan lead by 166 runs in first Test



Pakistan's Babar Azam crunches a pull

● **Babar Azam, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq and Shadab Khan made half-centuries to help Pakistan to 350-8, a lead of 166**

BBC | Lords

Pakistan patiently took a firm grip on the first Test against England on the second day at Lord's.

Babar Azam, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq and Shadab Khan made

half-centuries to help the tourists to 350-8, a lead of 166.

They gave England, a lesson in the discipline, diligence and control required to make runs in Test cricket.

In improved batting conditions, England's bowling was adequate but lacking the penetration demonstrated by Pakistan, perhaps leaving captain Joe Root rueing his decision to bat first.

The home side also did not help themselves by dropping three catches and missing another, to go with a Ben Stokes drop from the first evening.

Daniel Ricciardo looking for Monaco GP payback

● **Ricciardo's lap in 1:11.841 set a new outright lap record for the Monte Carlo circuit**

AFP | Monaco

Daniel Ricciardo hides a streak of raw determination behind his sunny smile and he is looking for 'payback' in Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix after missing out on a merited win in 2016.

After demonstrating his and Red Bull's superiority in Thursday's practice sessions, he believes he has the car to deliver pole in Saturday's qualifying showdown. And from that, a chance to win.

Two years ago, in a dramatic finale, the big-smiling Australian's Red Bull team bungled a late pit-stop which handed victory to Briton Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes -- an experience that still irks and motivates Ricciardo.

"I haven't forgotten it for sure and it is still there to motivate



Red Bull Racing's Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo reacts in the pits after the first practice session at the Monaco street circuit

me," he said. "It's the one that got away and I am still looking for some payback on that."

After dominating opening practice on Thursday ahead of his Red Bull team-mate Dutchman Max Verstappen, Ricciardo was keen to ensure his team remained clear and realistic about their goals.

"I definitely expect all three big teams to be below 1min

12sec (in official qualifying) on Saturday -- we set a benchmark and we have stated our intentions. We are here to try and win this race and to be the dominant team," he said.

Ricciardo's lap in 1:11.841 set a new outright lap record for the Monte Carlo circuit, which appears to suit perfectly Red Bull's chassis and the pink-walled new 'hyper-soft' tyres.

That car advantage, he believes, could be enough to give them an advantage over both Ferrari and Mercedes when they turn up their engine modes to 'qualifying' levels on Saturday.

"Our gap from practice to qualifying isn't normally as big as Ferrari and Mercedes. They will close that gap, definitely. But I feel that if we can put together a really good lap again, we have a chance for pole. And that's my job for Saturday."

Thirty years on from the weekend of Ayrton Senna's celebrated 1988 pole lap for McLaren and 10 years on from Hamilton's first victory in the Mediterranean principality, Red Bull appeared to be in the mood to smash records as the teams and drivers relaxed on Monaco's traditional F1 'rest' day on Friday.

Verstappen will be bidding to out-pace his team-mate and the rest to become the youngest pole-sitter in F1 history, a record currently held by four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, who was third for Ferrari on Thursday.

Liverpool's Mane donates 300 jerseys to supporters in home village of Bambali

Reuters | Liverpool

Liverpool forward Sadio Mane has despatched 300 club jerseys to supporters in his home village of Bambali in Senegal ahead of Saturday's Champions League final against Real Madrid.

Mane's family still live in the village of 2,000 inhabitants, which is expected to come to a standstill as their favourite son looks to help the Premier League club claim a sixth European Cup in Kiev's Olympic Stadium.

The 26-year-old has ensured the village can cheer his team in style as they look to beat 12-times champions Real.

"There are 2,000 in the village. I bought 300 Liverpool



Sadio Mane

jerseys to send to the people in the village, so the fans can wear to watch the final," Mane told the British media.

The Senegalese international is not expected to return home



Liverpool forward Sadio Mane's family still live in the village of 2,000 inhabitants

until after next month's World Cup in Russia but is hopeful he can further reward fans for their continued support.

"Nobody in the village will work this day (Saturday). I will be going back in the summer after the World Cup."

Rory McIlroy sets the pace with brilliant putting display

AFP | Wentworth

Northern Irish golf star Rory McIlroy played such a sublime second round of golf at the PGA Championship yesterday he had defending champion Alex Noren quipping he thought about quitting.

The 29-year-old quadruple major winner carded a bogey free seven-under par 65 to move to 12 under and a three-shot lead over Englishman Sam Horsfield.

Noren -- who played in the same group as the Ulsterman and like him and playing partner Lee Westwood also didn't record a bogey -- may have been joking about retiring but he was in awe of McIlroy's round.

"That's the best round I've ever seen. I'm about to quit golf I think," said Noren.



Rory McIlroy

Noren sits five shots off McIlroy but the Swede will be well aware that after his stunning 62 last year which saw him come from way off the pace to seal victory anything is possible.

McIlroy, though, likes being out in front going into the weekend even if he like Noren staged a last-round blitz to come from seven shots off the lead to win in 2014.

Klopp praises "brilliant fighter" Zidane for supreme record

Reuters | Kiev

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp called opposite number Zinedine Zidane "a fighter" before the Champions League final against Real Madrid and praised the Frenchman for his supreme record in Europe's elite competition despite his short coaching career.

Zidane took the leap from coaching Madrid's reserve team to the top job at the Spanish giants in January 2016 and so far



Juergen Klopp

“Zidane has been a fighter his entire life, when you grow up where he did in Marseille and had the career you have, you need to be”

JUERGEN KLOPP

has won nine trophies, including back-to-back Champions League wins.

"Zidane has been a fighter his entire life, when you grow up where he did in Marseille and had the career you have, you need to be," Klopp told a news conference on Friday.

"He was one of the best five players ever, he was such a good player that it looked like he didn't need to fight but he did. "I've been at Liverpool longer

than he has been a coach and he could win the Champions League three times in a row, that's never happened before so either he's lucky or he's brilliant, I prefer to think he's brilliant, like he was as a player."

Madrid have had an enthralling run to the final, squeezing through their quarter-final tie with Juventus 4-3 on aggregate with a last-gasp penalty from Cristiano Ronaldo. They also survived attacking

onslaughts in both legs of their semi-final against Bayern Munich. "I've seen his team playing, I think it's fantastic football, it's organised when it needs to be, it's chaos when it needs to be and when you have all those world class players I think that's a good idea," Klopp said of Zidane's Madrid.

The ever-jovial German coach's news conference was peppered with outbursts of laughter.