



PHOTO: AFP

D-DAY APPROACHES! England goalkeeper David James (front C) and teammates warming up during a training session in Lisbon on June 15.

## Test of English

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Switzerland, missing midfield anchorman Johann Vogel after his red card in their dismal 0-0 draw with Croatia, cannot afford to sit back if they are to stand a chance of qualifying.

Should they survive what England captain David Beckham promises will be a torrid start for Koebi Kuhn's side, they will look to strikers Alexander Frei and 34-year-old Stephane Chapuisat to cause trouble for keeper David James.

The Swiss, who beat England 2-1 in a World Cup qualifier in 1981, at least know they have nothing to lose.

## Bad news for Brad

AFP, Sydney

Pace bowler Brad Williams on Wednesday was ruled out of Australia's two-Test cricket series against Sri Lanka with a lower back complaint, Cricket Australia said.

Williams, who was forced home early from last month's Zimbabwe tour with the injury, was not considered sufficiently recovered by team medical staff to resume full training.

The West Australian tearaway was last week named in the 13-man Australian squad for the July series subject to a fitness test but will now remain at home to help his recovery.

"Brad has not recovered enough from the back injury he sustained in Zimbabwe to resume full training and has therefore been ruled out of the forthcoming series against Sri Lanka," Australian team doctor Trevor James said in a statement.

Williams is now looking to resume international cricket in the ICC Champions' Trophy limited overs tournament in England in September.

"It's a disappointing result because I really haven't played that much cricket over the last couple of months and I was looking forward to rejoining the team in Darwin," Williams said in the statement.

"I was confident I'd be available for selection and had started some light training but it doesn't look like I'll be in a position to increase my intensity levels for another couple of weeks."

"I'll continue to work on my rehabilitation in Perth and I'm sure I'll be ready to go in time for the ICC Champions' Trophy."

Cricket Australia said selectors had not yet decided on a replacement for Williams.

The first of the two Tests against Sri Lanka takes place in Darwin on July 1.

## Mills blow for Kiwis

Cricket

AFP, London

New Zealand pace bowler Kyle Mills is the latest to succumb to the injury crisis that has bedevilled the Kiwis' tour of England.

Mills sustained a rib injury during the third and final Test at Trent Bridge last week and has been ruled out of the forthcoming one-day triangular NatWest Series, it was announced on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old from Auckland made his Test debut in Nottingham but is more established in the limited-overs side having played 32 One-Day Internationals for his country since 2001.

The left-arm swing bowler James Franklin, who joined the Test squad prior to the Trent Bridge Test to bolster the depleted party, will stay on as his replacement in the one-day squad.

Mills is the second Black Cap to head home due to injury after the fast bowler Shane Bond was forced to miss the whole Test series.

Bond, one of the stars of the 2003 World Cup, is trying to make a complete recovery from a back

Mills managed just six overs in England's first innings and did not take the field at all in their second innings.

Franklin returned to the Test side to win his third cap after more than three years' absence.

He was called up from his club cricket commitments in the Lancashire League with Rishton.

The 23-year-old Wellingtonian impressed on his comeback taking 4 for 104 in the first innings and 2 for 59 in the second.

Like Mills he is more experienced in the One-Day International arena having made 28 appearances for his country in the shorter format -- although the last one was in April 2002.

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ailment and was replaced by fellow paceman Ian Butler.

The New Zealand Herald reported that Daniel Vettori and Michael Papps, both of whom missed the Trent Bridge Test due to injuries, will stay on with the one-day squad.

Vettori sustained a hamstring strain in the Second Test at Headingly while Papps broke a finger in his left hand in the first innings at Leeds.

The other players who suffered injuries in the 14-man Test squad were Craig McMillan, also with a broken finger, Jacob Oram with a side strain and Daryl Tuffey and Nathan Astle, both with knee injuries.

New Zealand begin their NatWest Series campaign against England in a day-night match at Old Trafford on June 24. The competition also involves the West Indies. The final will be held at Lord's on July 10.

## James was unprepared

AFP, London

Goalkeeper David James, left gasping by the free kick from Zinedine Zidane that set up France's 2-1 win over England in Euro 2004, has admitted he saw no footage of the Frenchman's deadly strikes prior to the game.

"We watched the compilation tape of France in the build-up to the game to look at their set-piece plays, corners and free kicks. But there was no footage of Zidane's free kicks," the Manchester keeper said.

"I'll have to have a word with whoever put that one together," James said, quoted by The Sun newspaper Wednesday.

The stunning 91-minute equaliser set up France's win in the Group B opener.

A spokesman for England's governing football body, the Football Association, said: "Our video technician compiled a tape of France's last seven games over the past year and all set-piece situations were included.

"Unfortunately there were no notable Zidane free kicks during those games so consequently there was no footage available."

The Sun added that France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez was well-armed to combat David Beckham after being given a detailed video of his penalties and free kicks.

"After watching the video we knew Beckham always shoots to the right," the paper quoted Barthez as saying.

The French keeper blocked his former clubmate's penalty strike with 18 minutes remaining in the game and England 1-0 up.

## Big win for Nawabpur

UNB, Dhaka

Nawabpur KC registered a 4-0 victory over Manik Smriti Sangsads in the Shirepukur Ceramics Pioneer Football League at the Basabgoan ground yesterday.

Arif stuck twice while Jahangir and Indra netted one goal each.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Surjasa SC defeated Arambagh Junior KS 1-0 in a west zone match.

Zakir scored the all-important goal.

The day's other matches, Hazi Jumman vs Great Wall and Khilgaon Jibon Sangha vs Khilgaon Pragati Club, were abandoned due to heavy rain.

## B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Durbar Cricket Club and Chalantika Cricket Club won their respective matches in the Shaheed Freedom Fighter Rango Mia Cup tournament at Shahjadpur Junior High School playground in Brahminbaria yesterday.

In the first match Durbar defeated Progati Cricket Club by 17 runs.

Winning the toss Durbar batted first and collected 80 runs in 26.2 overs after being all out. Kaisar topscored with 48 and took three wickets.

In reply, Progati were all out for 72 in 25.1 overs.

In the other match Chalantika recorded a five-run win over Nabaran Cricket Club.

Chalantika batted first and managed 80 for eight in stipulated 30 overs. Hamid topscored with 42 and grabbed three wickets.

In reply, Nabaran collected 75 all out in 27 overs.

## Ruud class

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which neither side threatened the other's goal.

Germany looked most threatening in the 23rd when Kuranyi drove a shot from 25 meters (yards) that van der Sar leaped high to tip over the crossbar. Seconds later, defender Christian Woerndt bounced a close-in header off the turf and over the bar.

Germany was taking the play from the Dutch midway through the half, and the goal seemed to give it even more confidence. Kahn had little to do in the first half.

The best chance for the Netherlands came in the 42nd minute when Rafael van der Vaart turned and sent a low, left-footed shot just inches wide of the far post after collecting a through ball from Edgar Davids.

The Dutch opened with two changes in the second half -- Wesley Sneijder for Edgar Davids and Marc Overmars for Boudewijn Zenden.

They tried to spread play out, particularly from the left side with Overmars. He got off a blistering shot from 20 meters (yards) in the 74th that Kahn punched away. The shot came as the Dutch sent on striker Pierre van Hooijdonk for extra punch and his size and power in the air shook the German defense late in the game. It was Hooijdonk who forced Ernst into the error before the Dutch scored.

"The mistake ruined our game," said German striker Kevin Kuranyi.

## Yuvraj relishes the prospect

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Yuvraj Singh, almost a certainty to open in Tests next season, has revealed that he wished to follow the same route as Virender Sehwag.

"I think it's an advantage because if one sees through the new ball, one can also score big runs. So, I am looking forward to the challenge."

In the last domestic season, Yuvraj opened in all the three matches that he played for Punjab. He found the transition very smooth and the report card included 138 against Delhi, 80 against Railways and 38 in a low-scoring game against Andhra Pradesh.

When asked if he will return to the middle-order if he did not succeed as an opener, he said: "When you play cricket at international level, you don't think about ifs and don'ts. Whatever the situation, you have to go through it, and be positive about it."



YOU BETTER SLOW DOWN: India captain Sourav Ganguly (R) shares a light moment with Virender Sehwag while Yuvraj Singh looks on between training sessions on the third day of a fitness camp at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore yesterday.

## Lara leads WI in England

REUTERS, St John's

Brian Lara, who contemplated quitting as captain after a lacklustre West Indies display in a Test last month against Bangladesh, will lead a 16-man squad for the four-Test series in England starting at Lord's on July 22.

The tour follows a triangular one-day series starting on June 24 and also involving New Zealand and hosts England.

West Indies won by an innings and 99 runs, restoring some self-respect because of a 3-0 home series defeat by England, lightened only by Lara's world record 400 in the final Test.

## SQUAD

Brian Lara (captain), Ramaresh Sarwan (vice-captain), Christopher Gayle, Devon Smith, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Dwayne Smith, Ridley Jacobs, Ravi Rampaul, Tino Best, Fidel Edwards, Jermaine Lawson, Pedro Collins, Omari Banks, Carlton Baugh Jr, Dwayne Bravo, Sylvester Joseph.

Manager: Anthony Howard.

Coach: Augustine Logue.

## Friends, Kallol split points

## CU CORRESPONDENT

Friends Club and Kallol Sangha shared points in the CJKS-Elite Paint Premier Division Football League when their match ended 1-1 at the Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Mehdi shot Friends ahead with a powerful drive from the left side in the 16th minute.

Syed Hossain equalised for Kallol in the 38th minute with a close-range shot.

League leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on Satadal Club in today's match.

## Muralitharan

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always stirring the pot," said Warne.

"I was looking forward to going head to head with Murali again. I'm really disappointed that he has decided not to come to Australia.

"It's disappointing for everyone, the players and the public. I suppose he will not tour a lot of countries now.

Warne trails Muralitharan's world record of 527 wickets by 10.

## WIMBLEDON

REUTERS, Halle

A photographer at last week's Halle Open complained that Roger Federer made a poor subject because he looks bored when he is playing.

It is an ominous sign for rivals hoping to steal the Swiss world number one's Wimbledon crown.

"I'm much more confident this year than last year and I'm definitely playing better," said Federer, who was travelling to London on Tuesday to begin training.

"

There are always little things I would like to improve but if I'm playing at this level already then obviously things are looking good for Wimbledon too," he added.

Federer's success at last year's Halle tournament, when he beat local favourite Nicolas Kiefer 6-1 6-3 in the final, paved the way for his ascent to the top of the world rankings and for his triumphs at the All England Club and the Australian Open.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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