

## Injured duo passed fit

AFP, London

Injured doubts Danny Welbeck and Glen Johnson were both passed fit to play at Euro 2012 after being included in England's final 23-man squad for the tournament on Tuesday.

Manchester United striker Welbeck and Liverpool defender Johnson missed last Saturday's 1-0 friendly victory over Norway in Oslo because of lingering fitness issues.

However the duo were both named to travel to Poland and Ukraine in a squad showing only two changes from the original 23 unveiled by manager Roy Hodgson earlier this month.

Everton defender Phil Jagielka comes in for the injured Gareth Barry, ruled out on Monday, while Birmingham goalkeeper Jack Butland replaces John Ruddy, who broke a finger in training last week.

England also confirmed squad numbers for the tournament on Tuesday, and in a possible indicator of Hodgson's preferences in attack, handed Liverpool striker Andy Carroll the No.9 shirt.

Carroll is expected to start for England in their opening matches against France and Sweden in the absence of the suspended Wayne Rooney.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Joe Hart (Manchester City), Rob Green (West Ham), Jack Butland (Birmingham)  
**Defenders:** Glen Johnson (Liverpool), Phil Jones (Man United), John Terry (Chelsea), Joleon Lescott (Man City), Gary Cahill (Chelsea), Ashley Cole (Chelsea), Leighton Baines (Everton), Phil Jagielka (Everton)  
**Midfielders:** Theo Walcott (Arsenal), Stewart Downing (Liverpool), Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal), Steven Gerrard (Liverpool), Frank Lampard (Chelsea), Scott Parker (Tottenham), Ashley Young (Man United), James Milner (Manchester City)  
**Forwards:** Wayne Rooney (Man United), Danny Welbeck (Man United)

## No room for Cacau

AFP, Berlin

Coach Joachim Loew on Monday unveiled his final 23-man squad for next month's European Championships, cutting four players from his initial pre-list.

Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, who leaked five goals in an upset 5-3 loss to Switzerland in a friendly on the weekend, was omitted along with Stuttgart striker Cacau, Schalke's teenage midfielder Julian Draxler and Borussia Dortmund's Sven Bender.

Germany open their Group B campaign against Portugal on June 9 before playing the 1988 winners Netherlands four days later and rounding off against 1992 champions Denmark on June 17.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich), Tim Wiese (Werder Bremen), Ron-Robert Zieler (Hanover)  
**Defenders:** Holger Badstuber (Bayern Munich), Jerome Boateng (Bayern Munich), Benedikt Hoewedes (Schalke 04), Mats Hummels (Borussia Dortmund), Philipp Lahm (Bayern Munich), Marcel Schmelzer (Borussia Dortmund), Per Mertesacker (Arsenal/ENG)  
**Midfielders:** Lars Bender (Bayer Leverkusen), Toni Kroos (Bayern Munich), Thomas Mueller (Bayern Munich), Mesut Ozil (Real Madrid/ESP), Andre Schuerle (Bayer Leverkusen), Sami Khedira (Real Madrid/ESP), Bastian Schweinsteiger (Bayern Munich), Mario Goetze (Borussia Dortmund), Ilkay Guendogan (Borussia Dortmund)  
**Forwards:** Mario Gomez (Bayern Munich), Miroslav Klose (Lazio/ITA),



## Quake disrupts friendly

AFP, Rome

A friendly football match between Italy and Luxembourg scheduled to take place in Parma on Tuesday was called off after a strong earthquake hit the region, killing at least 12 people.

The match was part of preparations for next month's European Football Championships in Poland and Ukraine and was called off by the Italian Football Federation and local authorities.

Italy coach Cesare Prandelli said there were more important things in life than a football match.

"There are situations that make you think and make you realise there are worse things in life (than cancelling a game)," he told Rai.

A federation spokesman told AFP that the match would not be moved elsewhere or postponed to a later date.

Italy still have another friendly to come on Friday against Russia in Zurich before opening their Euro 2012 campaign against Spain on June 10.

## Hazard opts for Chelsea

Football

AFP, Lille

Lille's Belgian international playmaker Eden Hazard announced on Monday he had signed for Champions League winners Chelsea in preference to Premier League champions Manchester City and runners-up Manchester United.

The fee is reported to be 40 million euros with Hazard signing a five year contract and breaks the record for a Belgian footballer's transfer with Marouane Fellaini's to Everton of 20 million in 2008 being the previous mark.

He will also earn a reported 550,000 euros a month.

The 21-year-old - who was voted Ligue 1 Players' Player of the Year for the second successive year recently - had previously said he would definitely sign for one of the Manchester clubs without specifying which one.

However, Chelsea's penalty shootout win over Bayern Munich in the Champions League had he admitted at the time made him hesitate as to his choice - speculation he ended on Monday even though the transfer window doesn't officially open till June 13.

"I'm signing for the Champion's League winner," he tweeted.

Hazard, capped 27 times and scorer of two goals, was inspirational when Lille won the domestic double in 2011 and though they failed to defend their titles this season he nonetheless enjoyed a successful season, scoring 17 goals and providing 15 assists.

Hazard is due to play against several of his new teammates in Saturday's friendly with England at Wembley.

New Belgian national coach Marc Wilmots said that no one should expect too much else to be said on his reasons for choosing Chelsea for the moment.

## Blanc drops Gourcuff

AFP, Le Touquet

France coach Laurent Blanc named his final 23-man squad for Euro 2012 on Tuesday, with Lyon's Yoann Gourcuff and Montpellier's Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa the two men axed from the provisional list.

Midfielder Gourcuff endured a miserable season with his club, marred by injuries and lack of form, but had been given hope of going to the finals in Poland and Ukraine when Blanc -- who previously coached him at Bordeaux -- included him in an initial 25-man squad.

However, he failed to impress in Sunday's 3-2 friendly win against Iceland and will now watch the tournament from home.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Cedric Carrasso (Bordeaux), Hugo Lloris (Lyon), Steve Mandanda (Marseille)

**Defenders:** Gael Clichy (Manchester City/ENG), Mathieu Debuchy (Lille), Patrice Evra (Manchester United/ENG), Laurent Koscielny (Arsenal/ENG), Philippe Mexes (AC Milan/ITA), Adil Rami (Valencia/ESP), Anthony Reveillere (Lyon)

**Midfielders:** Yohan Cabaye (Newcastle United/ENG), Alou Diarra (Marseille), Florent Malouda (Chelsea/ENG), Marvin Martin (Sochaux), Blaise Matuidi (Paris Saint-Germain), Yann M'Vila (Rennes), Samir Nasri (Manchester City/ENG)

**Forwards:** Hatem Ben Arfa (Newcastle United/ENG), Karim Benzema (Real Madrid/ESP), Olivier Giroud (Montpellier), Jeremy Menez (Paris Saint-Germain), Franck Ribery

## Kagawa set to join MU

AFP, Berlin

German football magazine Kicker reported Tuesday that Japan star Shinji Kagawa is set to join English giants Manchester United for 15 million euros (\$18.8 million) with the deal almost complete.

Borussia Dortmund's director of sport Michael Zorc told Kicker that some details have yet to be finalised and Kagawa is still contracted to the German league and cup winners until June 2013.

The club have already slapped a price tag of 20 million euros on their attacking midfielder with several Premier League clubs reported to be interested.

### SPORTS POLL

#### WEEKLY QUESTION

Who has been the best player in the IPL?

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

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## EURO2012 PREVIEW

### Burden of expectation

APP, The Hague

World football's perennial bridesmaids, the Netherlands, will be hoping that Euro 2012 is the tournament at which they end their 24-year wait for a major title.

Making the latter stages of tournaments has never been a problem for the nation that has given the world Johan Cruyff, Marco van Basten, Dennis Bergkamp and Total Football.

Beaten World Cup finalists in 1974, 1978 and 2010, they have reached the semifinals at the European Championship three times since they last lifted the trophy in 1988, only to fall before the final on each occasion.

The Dutch side that competed at Euro 2008 were the sensation of the group phase, beating Italy (3-0) and France (4-1) in scintillating fashion, but they went out timidly to Russia in the last eight.

In a bid to address the country's traditional football failings, coach Bert van Marwijk turned the team that went to the 2010 World Cup into a more dogged and pragmatic outfit.

It was enough to take them to the final -- and an extra-time defeat at the hands of Spain -- but the team were disowned by Cruyff, who accused them of betraying their footballing heritage.

Nobody could accuse the Netherlands of being boring on the road to Poland and the Ukraine.

With 37 goals in 10 matches they were the top scorers in qualifying, while their 11-0 annihilation of San Marino last September was the biggest victory in the country's history.

Klaas-Jan Huntelaar topped the scoring charts in qualifying with 12 goals and he has also been in sensational form for club side Schalke, plundering 29 goals to win Kicker magazine's award for the Bundesliga's top marksman.

Robin van Persie played second-fiddle to Huntelaar in qualifying but over the past 18 months he has belatedly



09  
DAYS  
TO GO

memories of "The Battle of Nuremberg" in the 2006 World Cup, which saw an unprecedented 16 yellow cards awarded.

But van Marwijk said: "I only look at the first match. For me the first match is the most important. At the World Cup (in 2010), it was similar: we also played the first match against Denmark (which the Netherlands won 2-0), and now we will again.

"So that will be exactly the same. We just have to win it."

The weight of history is nothing new for the Netherlands, and nor is the burden of expectation.

As ever, the quality in their squad is undeniable but only by prevailing in the final on July 1 can the Dutch emerge from the shadow of their glorious predecessors.

## Ribery ready to fire

APP, Le Touquet

"I hope that this time I'm back on track again."

He explained that part of the problem was that he feels unloved in his native country.

"Recently with the France team I haven't been relaxed, able to let go, always being criticised," said Ribery, who was nevertheless cheered when he replaced Yoann Gourcuff, who was booted off the pitch, in the 75th minute.

"There comes a time when you begin to ask yourself what you should do. It's been a long time since my name has rung out in a French stadium."

"I hope that this is the trigger. When the public calls out my name, that gives me even more confidence to try things, to score, to dribble. These are things that I lost. I'm loved at Bayern."

Ribery said he had put the Champions League final defeat on penalties to Chelsea behind him.

"It's better now. It was difficult for three or four days because it was a mad scenario. We had a perfect match, we were at home, we had chances and we didn't score. It's a pity, we deserved this title."



PHOTO: AFP

French star Franck Ribery signs autographs after a training session in Le Touquet-Paris-Plage on Monday.

### NEO Cricket

#### French Open

Second Round

Live from 7:00pm

ESPN

Sportscaster India

Sports News

### DAY'S EVENT

#### Bangladesh Premier League

Brothers Union v Sk Russell

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Team BJMC v Abahani

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Targanji v Soccer Club, Feni

Time: 4:15pm