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Did U Know?

There are 20 grass courts available for play at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. There are also five red shale courts, four clay courts, and five indoor courts for club members.



Iain O'Brien
(New Zealand seamer)
"It's not perfect but at the moment we're just too selfish to give up our jobs."
Talking about being away from his wife, who works in England.



- STAR Sports**
Australian Open
Third Round
Live from 6:00am
- STAR Cricket**
Australia v India
Third Test, Day Three
Live from 8:30am
- ESPN**
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm
- TEN Sports**
South Africa v West Indies
Second T20 International
Live from 10:00pm

Youngmen's get 1st win

SPORTS REPORTER
Youngmen's Club registered their first win in two matches when the Fakirerpool outfit blanked Mohakhali XI 2-0 in yesterday's Senior Division Football league at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Sabuj and Pritam scored for the winners either side of the half as they stretched their collection to four points.
Mohakhali drew their earlier match and stuck to one point after two rounds.
The day's other match between old timers Wari Club and Dhaka Wanderers ended in a 1-1 draw.
Pintu put Wanderers ahead after 17 minutes but Wari secured their first point after two losses through Anwar's equaliser on the hour.
It was Wanderers' second draw in three games inclusive of one defeat.

BDNews, Inqilab in quarters

SPORTS REPORTER
The Daily Star's hopes to win a quarterfinal berth was dashed when Inqilab emerged Group G champions with a five-wicket win over Ittefaq in yesterday's Pepsi Media Cricket Tournament organised by BSIJA.
With two wins, Inqilab reached the last eight as today's match between Daily Star and Ittefaq only has academic interest in the group.
BDNews also stormed to the quarters with their second consecutive win when they crushed Banglabazar by four wickets at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.
In other matches, Channel I defeated Independent by 36 runs, New Age beat Financial Express by 34 runs, Korotoa beat New Nation by 36 runs, Jai Jai Din beat Jugantor by 39 runs, Destiny beat BSS by 46 runs and Sangbad handed a five-wicket defeat to Sangram.

India in command

Cricket
AFP, Perth
India captain Anil Kumble claimed his 600th Test wicket but it was his unheralded pace attack that left the tourists in control of the third Test against Australia at the WACA on Thursday.
Kumble became just the third bowler to reach the 600 mark when he removed the dangerous Andrew Symonds, but it was the recalled Irfan Pathan who did the top order damage as Australia lost three early wickets.
Rudra Pratap Singh then ran through the Australian tail as the home side were dismissed for just 212 in reply to India's 330 on the second day of the match.
India were 52 for one at stumps, with explosive opener Virender Sehwag on 29 and nightwatchman Irfan Pathan on two, giving the tourists an overall lead of 170.
With close of play just minutes away, opener Wasim Jaffer's miserable series continued when he fell to Stuart Clark for 11.
Kumble said he was proud of his young attack for their efforts in oppressive 41-degree Celsius (106 degrees Fahrenheit) heat.
He said they maintained a con-

sistent line and length and used the prevailing breeze to perfection to assist their swing.
"RP, Irfan, Ishant (Sharma) bowled brilliantly," he said.
"RP at such a young age is leading the attack, and Ishant and Irfan supported him."
"Those 40 minutes before lunch were bowled brilliantly."
"RP and Irfan started off and picked up those three wickets and that changed the momentum to our favour."
"We had a pretty good day."
Australia won the first two Tests of the four-match series to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, but their quest for a world record 17th straight Test win is in serious trouble.
It was India who broke Australia's previous streak of 16 wins in Kolkata in 2001, when they followed on 274 runs behind but won the match on the back of the batting heroics of Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman.
India squandered the good foundation provided by Dravid (93) and Sachin Tendulkar (71) when they collapsed from 328 for six early in the day, losing their last four wickets for only two runs in 17 balls.
However, Pathan (2-63) turned their fortunes around with a superb opening spell in his first Test of the series.
Selected ahead of spinner Harbhajan Singh, Pathan swung the ball prodigiously and trapped local debutant Chris Rogers LBW for four in front of a disappointed home crowd.
He then snared Australia's other opener, Phil Jaques, who was caught by Laxman at second slip for eight as Australia slumped to 13 for two.
RP Singh then joined the party, having the prolific Mike Hussey caught behind by Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who took five catches, for his first Test duck.
Australia were 14 for three and seven wickets had fallen for just 16 runs in 45 minutes of amazing cricket.
Skipper Ricky Ponting was the next to go, caught by a diving Dravid in the slips for 20 off Sharma.
Sharma (2-34) also claimed the wicket of Michael Clarke, caught behind for 23, before Symonds and Adam Gilchrist steadied the innings.
Symonds enjoyed plenty of good fortune. He was inexplicably dropped by Tendulkar at first slip on three from the bowling of Pathan, going on to top-score with 66 from 70 balls.
He and Gilchrist (55) put on 102 in 104 minutes to lift Australian



India's young paceman Ishant Sharma (C) vociferously appeals for an lbw decision against Australian superstar Adam Gilchrist (L) on the second day of the third Test at WACA in Perth on Thursday.

Baghdatis edges a thriller

Australian Open
The Grand Slam of Asia/Pacific
AFP, Melbourne
Roger Federer stretched his unbeaten run to 16 matches at the Australian Open but his efforts were almost overshadowed by 2006 finalist Marcos Baghdatis beating Marat Safin in a five-set thriller.
Baghdatis held off a spirited comeback from Marat Safin to win a five-set thriller and set up a third round showdown with Lleyton Hewitt at the Australian Open on Thursday.
The Cypriot 15th seed, a runner-up to Roger Federer two years ago, began strongly but was drawn into a five-set dogfight with the 58th-ranked Russian before prevailing, 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2 in three hours and 12 minutes.
Baghdatis improved his five-set record to 8-3 in Grand Slams and will now take on Australian 19th seed Hewitt on Saturday.
"Marat played great tennis in the third and fourth sets and I just tried to stay focused and serve big in the fifth set," Baghdatis said.
"It was very important that I kept concentration and won points on my serve and Marat made a few errors."
Federer's young rival Novak Djokovic also put in another impressive straight sets demolition job on Thursday, belting out a 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 victory over the 70th-ranked Italy's Simone Bolelli.
Top seed Federer was described by beaten opponent Fabrice

Santoro as 'coming from somewhere else' as he cruised into the third round 6-1, 6-2, 6-0 in one hour and 22 minutes.
He now has a third-round encounter with Serbian Janko Tipsarevic.
Santoro has a reputation as an



An elated Marcos Baghdatis pumps his fists after beating Marat Safin in one of the most enduring second round ties in the Australian Open on Thursday.

Tough draw for Bangladesh

Football
SPORTS REPORTER
The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) released Bangladesh's international football schedule for national and club teams for the early part of 2008.
The national team received a very tough draw for the AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers, where they will have to face hosts Kyrgyzstan for a place in the finals.
Bangladesh are also pitted

against rather easier opponents Afghanistan and Laos in the Group C qualifiers, which will be held in Kyrgyzstan from May 5-10.
The four group champions will join automatic qualifiers DPR Korea, Turkmenistan, India and Myanmar in the final round. The venue and date of the finals have yet to be decided.
The Group A matches will be played in Chinese Taipei, initially chosen as the venue of the second edition of the tournament but cancelled by the AFC for lack of facilities. Apart from the hosts, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Guam complete the group.
Philippines will host defending champions Tajikistan, Brunei and Bhutan in Group B while Nepal compete at home against Palestine, Cambodia and Macao in Group D.
The inaugural AFC Cup was held in Bangladesh, which has not even won the rights to host club matches.
Abahani, the professional football league champions of the country, will have to travel to Kathmandu to play their Group A



Former national football captain Arif Khan Joy speaks to the media as present and former footballers stand together at the BUET ground in protest of the Bangladesh Football Federation's delay in announcing the transfer dates for this season.

Booters threaten to boycott all competitions

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER
The top footballers of the country once again threatened to take the streets in demand of playing.
With the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yet to announce the transfer dates for this season, the footballers yesterday threatened to boycott all competitions until the BFF declares the calendar for 2008.
After an exhibition match between Dhaka Eleven and visiting London Tigers from UK at the BUT ground, the booters declared that they will even boycott Mohammedan's Victory Day tournament -- due to start on January 26.
"It has been five months since the last B. League but the federation has not taken any initiative for starting the new season. The B. League transfer is due to start in January and the league scheduled to begin in February. We are worried about the fate of this. If the BFF does not announce the tournament schedules including the second B. League by January 24, we will boycott all competitions," said former national and Arif Khan Joy.
"This is an ultimatum. We will not play until our demand is fulfilled," said current national skipper Hassan Al Mamun.

Players breathe easy

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER
Cricket players from across the country breathed a collective sigh of relief after Brothers Union's case withdrawal, meaning that local cricket in Dhaka will go ahead as planned.
Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) will sit with the different Premier and First Division clubs on January 21 to decide on the dates for inter-club players' transfer.
A Division Bench of the High Court suspended activities of two leading competitions Premier and First Division League since November 2007 after the Gopibag-based club turned to the court in reply to BCB's decision to relegate them along with Indira Road.
The two clubs had earlier failed to turn up for their relegation playoff match on October 4, resulting in the court case. But on Wednesday evening, Brothers Union withdrew their case and agreed to comply with the ruling of BCB, clearing the path for the smooth running of Premier and First Division League in this season.
Club president AFM Jahangir, who 'decided to accept the decision for the greater interest of the game', met BCB president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali at the board's management office in Gulshan along with three other Brothers officials, in a meeting that determined the fate of domestic cricket.
"I am happy, excited and relieved," said leg-spinner Mohammad Al-Mamun, who played in this season's Challengers Cup. Mamun echoed the community's reaction, as most cricket players were gravely concerned for their financial future.
"I am hoping to play Premier League this season so it is a big deal for me. I think all players will be happy that the league will go ahead," added the young leggie.
CCDM chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu admitted that it is great news for players and the game alike.
"We are quite relieved because Premier League adds attraction to local cricket," said Lipu.
"The players must be very happy now just like we are and I think it was done for the greater interest of cricket," added the former national captain.
BCB's decision and steadfastness would serve as an example for clubs in future as Lipu mentioned that dispute over relegations in the lower leagues would reduce greatly.
In the past, relegation matches were marred by match-fixing allegations that meant more and more teams were being left in First Division as their demotion was held up by dispute over the match results. Now, clubs will be mindful that holding up a cricket competition for their own interest would ultimately be fruitless.
For Brothers Union, one of the top sports clubs in Bangladesh, relegation to the First Division will be an opportunity to blood youngsters. They have no other way as most of their players from last season have either confirmed a Premier League club or are in the process of doing so.

Kumble, the 3rd 600-man

Cricket
AFP, Perth
India captain Anil Kumble became just the third bowler in Test history to claim 600 wickets on the second day of the third Test at the WACA here Thursday.
With India's seamers on top of the Australians early in their innings, Kumble delayed his introduction into the attack, but struck just after tea to end a 102-run partnership between Andrew Symonds and Adam Gilchrist.
With the fourth ball of his fifth over, Kumble bowled a shorter, faster delivery and it cramped



Indian captain Anil Kumble holds aloft the match ball after claiming his 600th wicket in Test matches with the dismissal of Australia batsman Andrew Symonds on the second day of the third Test at WACA in Perth on Thursday.

JOURNEY TO 600

Wkt no.	Tests
100	21
200	47
300	66
400	85
500	105
600	124