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Did U Know?

The French Open has been held in Paris every year since 1891, except from 1939-1945, when it was cancelled because of World War II.



Jose Mourinho
(Former Chelsea manager)
"In my philosophy it was a very bad one because in football 'almost' means defeat and Chelsea almost won the Carling (League) Cup, almost won the Champions League and almost won the Premier League. Almost is nothing."



SET Max
Indian Premier League
Bangalore Royal Challengers v Mumbai Indians
Live from 4:30pm
Kings XI Punjab v Rajasthan Royals
Live from 8:30pm
STAR Cricket
French Open
Second Round
Live from 3:00pm
ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm
England v USA
Friendly Soccer
Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

Beach v'ball semis today

SPORTS REPORTER
The men's and women's semifinals of the International Beach Volleyball tournament will be held today in Cox's Bazar.
India meet Bangladesh Rifles and Nepal Police Bangladesh Navy in the men's match-ups while Abahani are the only side in a foreign-crowded women's last four.
Abahani clash India while Indonesia are pitted against Nepal Police in race to the final.
In yesterday's matches, the men from India beat Navy 21-18, 21-15 while Nepal Police defeated Bangladesh Police 21-18, 21-14.
In the women's group, Abahani beat local side Mitali Sangha 2-0, Nepal Police beat SNT 2-1, Indonesia beat Jawlakhela SC of Nepal 2-0 and India beat Nepal Police 21-12, 21-11.

Pioneer League

UNB, Dhaka
Mir Hazirbagh KC crushed Nasrin Sports Academy 5-1 in an east zone match of the Pioneer Football League at the Jagannath University College ground in Dhupkhola yesterday.
In the day's other match at the same venue, Power Sun Gandaria defeated Commissioner Shafiquddin Smriti Sangsad 3-1.
In the west zone, Noor Sporting Club beat Uttaran Jubo Sangsad 2-1 while Surya Sena Sporting Club edged past Islambagh Lucky Seven by a solitary goal at the Outer Stadium.
At the Basabo Tarun Sangha Club ground, Noakhali Football Academy outplayed Murarapa Sporting Club 4-1 in a central zone match while Siraj Smriti Sangsad defeated Dhaka Ekadash 2-0 at the Mohakhali T&T ground in north zone.

New face is Dollar

Tri-nation, Asia Cup squads announced

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER
Uncapped pace bowler Dollar Mahmud was the only surprise when the national selectors announced the teams yesterday for next month's tri-series at home and the Asia Cup to be held in Pakistan.
Wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim, all-rounder Mehrab Hossain and left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain were recalled as stumper Dhiman Ghosh and Zunaed Siddiqui were ignored while all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan would be missing both tournaments as he is attending his HSC

examinations.
Chief selector Rafiqul Alam announced the same squads at a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur with Mosharraf Hossain, who was left out from the team after only three one-dayers against South Africa, the only addition to the 15-

DOLLAR MAHMUD'S FIRST-CLASS RECORD

Batting		Bowling					
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	50
13	25	4	275	63	13.09	50.64	1
M	W	Best	Ave	Eco	SR	5w	10
13	41	7-52	24.41	3.10	47.1	2	0

committee to bring Dollar Mahmud into the national fold.
But in essence it was the injuries of two senior pace bowlers -- Nazmul Hossain and Syed Rasel -- which played in favour of the young Narail paceman's selection into the 15-member Asia Cup team.
The tri-nation tournament will begin with the match between hosts Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur while the Asia Cup will start in Pakistan on June 24.
The inspiring performance in the Under-19 team followed by notable contributions in the domestic circuit including a hat-trick in the National Cricket League impressed the selection

SQUAD FOR ASIA CUP

Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (vice-captain), Tamim Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Shahriar Nafees, Nazimuddin, Rokibul Hasan, Mehrab Hossain Jr, Mushfiqur Rahim (wicketkeeper), Mahmudullah Riyad, Forhad Reza, Abdur Razzak, Mosharraf Hossain, Shahadat Hossain and Dollar Mahmud.

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Tigers crowd A team

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER
As many as twelve national players were picked in the 15-member Bangladesh A team for the tour to England in July.
After playing the Asia Cup in Pakistan, Tigers Tamim Iqbal, Nazimuddin, Rokibul Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mosharraf Hossain and uncapped Dollar Mahmud will join Alok Kapali, Rajin Saleh, Sajidul Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Syed Rasel and Shakib Al Hasan who are in the second-string team.
The only players in the England-bound A team who haven't appeared for Bangladesh are Nayeem Islam and Rubel Hossain.

All-rounder Shakib will join the England-leg of the tour after completion of his HSC examinations.
Chief selector Rafiqul Alam admitted that the tour would be used as preparation for the much tougher challenges ahead.
"Bangladesh national team would be touring Australia (in August) after the Asia Cup. England would be the best place to prepare for such a tough series," said Rafiq.
This policy would also mean that the door of the national setup is all but closed for the likes of Khaled Mashud, Habibul Bashar and Tushar Imran.
The tour to England and Ireland, from June 23, would be an assignment after more than a year for the second-string side, who last travelled to Sri Lanka on March 2007.
The selectors have also announced a 14-member A team for the short tour to Ireland, with fewer national team players.
Shamsur Rahman, Nadif Chowdhury, Dhiman Ghosh, Jahurul Islam, Imrul Kayes, Suharwardi Shuvo, Arafat Sunny and Mahbul Alam will return home after taking part in the Ireland tour and a tour match against England under-19 at Loughborough in Leicestershire.
Eight players from the Asia Cup squad, who will most likely fly from Pakistan, would replace them.
Batsmen Farhad Hossain and Imran Ahmed were the 'nearly men' from these two squads as they have shown consistency. Farhad, the Rajshahi batsman, scored nearly 500 runs in the Premier League and



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Australia paceman Stuart Clark celebrates taking the wicket of West Indies' Dwayne Bravo (in the foreground) on the fifth and final day of the first Test at Sabina Park in Kingston on Monday.

Clark sinks Windies

Cricket
AFP, Kingston
Australia recorded their 13th win in the last 14 Tests against the West Indies here on Monday as five wickets from Stuart Clark inspired them to a 95 run victory on the fifth and final day of the first Test.
Clark captured a Test best five wickets for 32 runs from 20 overs to earn the man-of-the-match award, as West Indies, chasing 287 runs to win, were dismissed for 191 in their second innings about 40 minutes before the scheduled tea break on the fifth and final day of the Test at Sabina Park.
Leg-spin bowler Stuart MacGill sealed victory, when he had batting bunny Arjit Jaggermuth dubiously caught at forward short leg for a duck -- a dismissal which TV replays showed that umpire Russell

Tiffin's decision was incorrect.
The victory gave Australia a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series which continues on Friday in Antigua and concludes with the third and final Test in Barbados, starting on June 12.
Denesh Ramdin hit the top score for West Indies in a rearguard effort of 36, Darren Sammy supported him in a 67-run, seventh-wicket stand with 35, opener Devon Smith made 28, and Daren Powell enjoyed himself in a late flourish of 27.
But Clarke made sure the match was over as a genuine contest, when he ripped out Ramnaresh Sarwan and Smith in the first half-hour of the morning to leave the home team 60 for three.
He and Brett Lee shared five wickets in the morning period to bowl Australia into a match-winning position, as West Indies reached 117 for six in their second



National selectors Rafiqul Alam (C), Akram Khan (L) and Naimur Rahman are all set to announce the Tigers squad at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium media room yesterday.

Gayle, Taylor boost for WI

AFP, Kingston
Chris Gayle has been included in West Indies' 14-member squad for the second Test against Australia, starting on Friday at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in Antigua.
Gayle, who will resume his role as captain, returns to the side after being sidelined with a groin injury for the first Test which West Indies lost on Monday by 95 runs at Sabina Park.
Also included in the squad is fast bowler Jerome Taylor. He has recovered sufficiently from a sore back, after he missed the Sabina Test.
Amrit Jaggermuth is the only notable casualty from the West Indies squad that contested the opening Test.
The off-spin bowler collected one wicket on his debut and is one of two players dropped from the squad.
"In the ideal world we could take a bigger squad and he would still be with the squad," West Indies coach John Dyson said.
"It's just a matter of looking at the balance of the team and getting the right mix."
Jaggermuth and left-handed all-rounder Ryan Hinds have been left out to make way for Gayle and Taylor.

Chennai in semis

INTERNET, undated
Chennai Super Kings grabbed the last available semifinal spot in the Indian Premier League after beating Deccan Chargers by seven wickets in their last league match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Tuesday.
Chasing 148 to win, the visitors overhauled the modest target with four balls to spare, thanks to sensible batting by Suresh Raina (54 not out) and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (37).
The Chennai team not only sealed a semifinal place for themselves, they also broke the heart of Sachin Tendulkar-led Mumbai Indians team, which is now out of the tournament.
A loss of Chennai yesterday and a Mumbai win tomorrow against

Bangalore Royal Challengers would have enabled Mumbai to enter the last-four stage of the tournament. Now, Mumbai's last league match has been rendered inconsequential.
Dhoni played some blistering shots in his 25-ball knock which included four fours and one six and shared a crucial 55-run stand with man-of-the-match Raina for the third wicket.
Skipper's fall brought Albie Morkel on the crease, and he together with Raina saw their team home, though some tight bowling at death made the encounter interesting. Pragnan Ojha had Dhoni caught in deep by Gibbs and that put brakes on run-flow.
Chennai required 17 runs off the last two overs. RP Singh bowled the penultimate over, which fetched the visitors 10 runs.
Raina hit Vijaykumar for a six on the second ball of the last over to seal the victory for his team and

also brought up his half-century. Raina consumed 43 balls for his brilliant 54-run innings adorned with five boundaries and two shots over the fence.
Vijay Kumar drew the first blood when he dismissed former Kiwi skipper Stephen Fleming (14), but the hosts could build on the early success as Parthiv Patel and Suresh Raina did not give them any chance.
Earlier, a heroic 76-run fourth-wicket partnership between Y Venugopal Rao and D Ravi Teja propelled Deccan Chargers to 147 for eight.
Rao (46) and Teja (40) joined hands when their team was stuttering at 57 for three, after deciding to bat on a good batting pitch. Only Rao and Teja batted with guile and grit as all other batsmen struggled to find rhythm and big-hitters like Hershel Gibbs (8) and Shahid Afridi (1) disappointed once again.

FRENCH OPEN Kuznetsova sails in rain

AFP, Paris
Torrential rain washed away top seed Maria Sharapova's eagerly-awaited 2008 French Open bow on Tuesday as Russian compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova sailed into the second round.
Start of play on the third day of the tournament was delayed by almost three hours as Roland Garros was swamped by a deluge which resulted in 20 of the day's scheduled 72 ties being put back to Wednesday.
Sadly for the wet and cold crowd, one of those was Sharapova's match-up against fellow Russian Evgeniya Rodina.
Fourth seed Kuznetsova, the 2006 runner-up to the now-retired Justine Henin, saw off Japan's Aiko Nakamura 6-2, 6-3 and will face either America's Vania King or French wildcard Violette Huck for a place in the last 32.
Kuznetsova, a former US Open champion, took just over an hour to see off world 71 Nakamura as she tries to fulfil Henin's prediction that she could be the likely winner of the 2008 title.
"I spoke to her and she told me that this could be my year and that really cheered me up," said the 22-year-old who was of only two players to complete matches before the rain returned to cause another lengthy delay.
Fellow Russian Dinara Safina, the 13th seed was also safely through seeing off Katerina Bondarenko of Ukraine 6-1, 6-3 to set up a clash with either Croatia's Karolina Sprem or Slovakian qualifier Magdalena Rybarikova.
Kuznetsova said she enjoyed the bleak, heavy atmosphere in the French capital.

Booters off to Bangkok

SPORTS REPORTER
Winners of 2003 and losing finalists in 1999 and 2005 SAFF Football Championship, Bangladesh reached Thailand yesterday to play two preparation matches in Bangkok ahead of the fifth edition of the June 3-14 biennial South Asian football meet.
Abu Yusuf's men will play their first preparation game today in the Thai capital and the second one on Friday before flying to Colombo on the same night.
Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) vice-president Badal Roy and member Hasanuzzaman Babloo bid the 26-member team goodbye at the Zia International Airport in the afternoon.
"We are looking forward to these matches to correct our mistakes and find the right combination," coach Yusuf told before the team's departure.
"We have tried to do the same thing in the last two weeks after our return from Kyrgyzstan and our focus will remain the same before the SAFF," added the former international centre-back.
When asked to compare his team's current standard with the other seven teams, Yusuf men-

tioned that Bangladesh's main lack is they play very few international games.
"We have had a very irregular domestic season recently and that is why whenever we start national camp for any event, we have to start from the scratch. For this huge gap, we have had no consistency."
"Most of the other teams, especially India, have regular domestic season and also train abroad as well as playing more international matches than us."
"That is why we have to realise the other teams' strength when we go to the pitch to play against them. All we can do now is guessing about the others' strength and preparation," said Yusuf adding boldly that his team will fight till the end.
"I am always positive and my team will be there for success. I believe we are heading towards that goal," he said confidently.
Bangladesh who played three successive final matches in the regional football festival -- in Goa, Dhaka and Karachi -- after failing to make the semifinals in Kathmandu 1997, are expected to beat Bhutan in their group opener. But after their draw against lowly Afghanistan in the Challenge Cup in Kyrgyzstan earlier this month, questions have been raised about the last year's runners-up's chances to make even the semifinal from the group, also involving the Afghans and co-hosts Sri Lanka.

"The match against Afghanistan is going to be the key. Their level is not higher than us but they have the ability to stick to a plan. We didn't do that in the Challenge Cup. If we can rectify this mistake, we will beat them."
This is the first time the event is jointly hosted by two nations and three-time winners and defending champions India kick off the tournament in Maldives capital Male on June 3. Maldives will meet Pakistan in the day's other match while the Sri Lanka leg starts on the next day.
The co-hosts will get some advantage, only if they reach the semifinals, as they will be playing the knockout matches at home unless pitted against each other.
In case of a Maldives-Sri Lanka clash in the last four, the group winners will host the game.
FIXTURE
June 3: India v Nepal, Maldives v Pakistan (Male)
June 4: Bangladesh v Bhutan, Sri Lanka v Afghanistan (Colombo)
June 5: India v Pakistan, Maldives v Nepal (Male)
June 6: Bangladesh v Afghanistan, Sri Lanka v Bhutan (Colombo)
June 7: Pakistan v Nepal, India v Maldives (Male)
June 8: Afghanistan v Bhutan, Bangladesh v Sri Lanka (Colombo)
June 11: Semifinals (Male and Colombo)
June 14: Final (Colombo)



SAFF Championship squad's national footballers and coach Abu Yusuf (4th right) share a laugh while waiting for their flight to Bangkok at the Zia yesterday.