

KP admits to beamer fear

CRICINFO, undated

Kevin Pietersen has admitted that he was fearful for his safety when Sreesanth sent down a beamer during the second Test at Trent Bridge. It was one of a number of incidents during a highly-charged match, which India won by seven wickets to take a 1-0 series lead.

Pietersen was batting on the fourth afternoon when Sreesanth, who struggled for his rhythm throughout the game, let go a beamer, which flew past Pietersen's head as the batsman, managed to sway out of the way. A few overs later an unsettled Pietersen was trapped lbw, padding up, by RP Singh.

"I was shaken up on a cricket pitch for the first time in my life at Trent Bridge and I'm not too proud to admit it," Pietersen said in his News of the World column. "I thought the beamer that Sreesanth bowled at me was going to take my head off."

"People say that sport is not a matter of life and death, but for a few seconds there I thought my number was up. Luckily, I just managed to get out of the way but I ended up in a heap on the pitch thinking 'that could have killed me'."

Eng T20 squad due today

BBC ONLINE, undated

England will name their squad for the one-day series against India and September's Twenty20 World Championships on Monday.

For the latter, they will pick 15 from the preliminary squad revealed in July.

Opening batsman Marcus Trescothick was in that 30-man line-up but has since ruled himself out of contention, and several domestic stars could come in.

"I think there will be surprises. Our squad will contain what is perceived to be Twenty20 specialists," chairman of selectors David Graveney told the BBC.

"We played two Twenty20 games (in June) against the West Indies, we learned something from that."

Graveney watched a host of the men in the provisional squad take part in Saturday's Twenty20 Cup finals day.

Glen Chapple and Andrew Flintoff played for Lancashire but opener Mal Lye was ruled out of their semi-final defeat with injury.

James Kirtley, Matt Prior and Luke Wright featured for Sussex, while Jon Lewis led Gloucestershire to the final.

The first of seven one-dayers against India takes place at the Rose Bowl on 21 August, while the World Twenty20 begins on 11 September, with England's first game against Zimbabwe two days later.

LOCAL SNIPS

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Singapore in the tournament that starts on September 1.

RECEPTION FOR WOMEN CRICKETERS

Women and Children Affairs Ministry accorded a reception yesterday to the Bangladesh women cricket team that won the ACC women's cricket tournament last month in Malaysia.

Bangladesh clinched the trophy after they beat Nepal by eight wickets in the final.

Women and Children Affairs adviser Geeteera Safiya Chowdhury was the chief guest at the reception held at the National Women Association conference room.

National women cricket team skipper Tajkia Akter said they could have improved further if adequate ground facilities were made available for them.

Later, the Adviser presented a crest to the team captain and medals to the team members.

FED CUP SQUASH

Bhola Lal and Ram Jagdish won their respective matches in straight sets in the Premier Division of the Federation Cup Squash Tournament at the Gulshan Club Squash Court.

Bhola Lal of Sonargaon Hotel beat Bishu Nath of Gulshan Club while Ram Jagdish defeated Zein Omar of Dhaka Club.

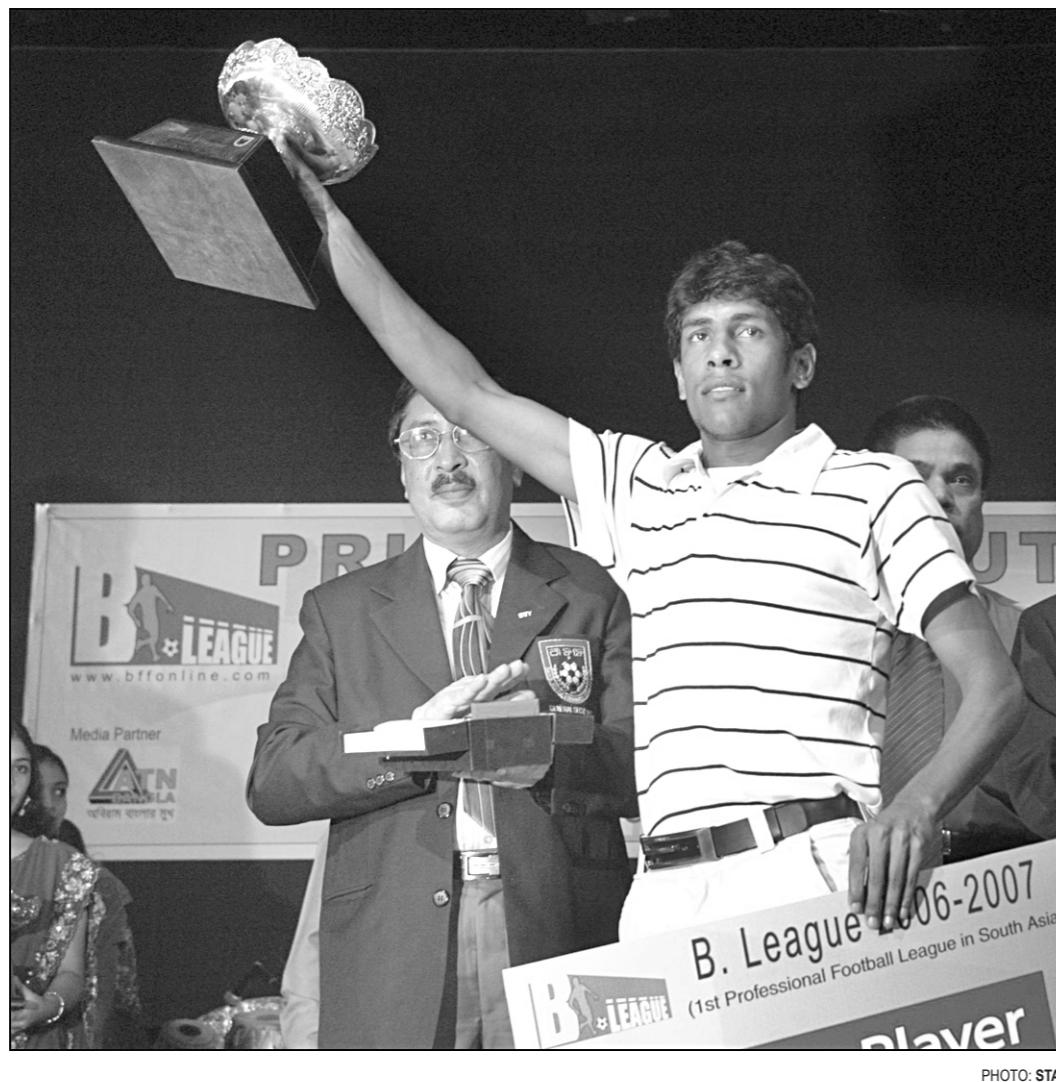
In the day's other Premier Division match, Swapna Parvez overpowered Dilu 2-1.

SERVICES KABADDI

The Services Kabaddi League will begin at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium from August 16.

Bangladesh Rifles, Police, Army, Air Force, Fire Service and Directorate of Prisons will compete in the league.

Directorate of Prisons is making their maiden appearance in the competition.



Abahani striker Zahid Hasan Emily shows off his trophy after being voted the best player of the inaugural B. League at a presentation ceremony at the NSC Tower Auditorium yesterday.

Roddick reaches final

Tennis

AFP, Washington

Top seed Andy Roddick and amazing newcomer John Isner booked an all-American final at the ATP Washington Classic with tension-filled triumphs Saturday in which each set was decided by tie-breakers.

Fifth-ranked Roddick fired 12 aces and a crucial backhand winner on the penultimate point to defeat big-serving Croatian Ivo Karlovic 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (7/5), taking the US star a chance to play for his 23rd career title on Sunday.

Isner, who made his ATP debut a month ago, continued his astonishing streak of winning every match this week in a third-set tie-breaker, doing so for the fifth time to oust Frenchman Gael Monfils 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (7/2).

Roddick, who spoke with Isner this week for the first time, will meet the 22-year-old in the first all-US ATP final since Roddick played James Blake last

year at Indianapolis.

In only his second ATP event, 6-foot-9 Isner has made himself the flashy new hope for US tennis, firing 132 aces this week, including 23 against Monfils with a 74 percent first-serve accuracy rate.

"Maybe he is the best server on the tour now, with Karlovic," Monfils said. "I've never played a guy who serves like this. With his serve, he can be in the top 10 easy."

Tall ATP aces leader Karlovic, who added 19 against Roddick to his 700 earlier this season, suffered his first loss in four semi-finals this year. His style was perfect preparation for Roddick's first taste of Isner's shot serve.

Isner, who was not even supposed to play this week, only claiming a wild card with sixth-ranked Fernando Gonzalez of Chile pulled out late last week.

Roddick, the 2001 and 2005 Washington winner, scrambled to his left and swatted a passing backhand winner past seventh seed Karlovic to grab a 6-5 lead in the last tie-breaker.

Monfils hit an ace for a 2-1 lead and never won another point, making two unforced errors followed by four Isner winners.

"I'm not arrogant, but I was so much better than him," Monfils said. "I'm so pissed. It's tough when you are so much better than another guy and then he beats you."

MU capture Shield

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the 35th minute.

His perfectly-weighted pass sent Patrice Evra clear down the left and the French defender crossed towards Giggs, who showed great awareness to lift and shoot past the ball past van der Sar.

On a blisteringly hot afternoon, Wayne Rooney and Tal Ben Haim did little to cool the temperature.

Ben Haim had a history of clashing with Rooney during his time at Bolton and the Chelsea newboy was at it again as he was booked for a crude body-check.

It didn't take Rooney long to get his revenge and he was booked for a lunging that actually did more damage to Cech than Ben Haim as he followed through onto the keeper.

Rooney drove home United's third kick to give Ferguson's side the psychological advantage on the eve of the new season.

Abahani recalls Sheikh Kamal

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani observed the 58th birthday of Sheikh Kamal, the eldest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and founder of the club, yesterday.

A Milad Mahfil was held at the club premises in remembrance of the revered sports organiser.

Bayer, Cottbus

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Bundesliga outfit Werder Bremen had to rely on new signing Boubacar Sanogo to score a 90th-minute winner against third division side Eintracht Braunschweig.

Ferguson gave United fans a glimpse of new signing Nani for the last 20 minutes, but it was the Portuguese winger who got in front of the ball past van der Sar.

His surging run took him past Glen Johnson but Cech blocked at the near post and the match went to a shoot-out.

Now van der Sar took centre-stage. He produced a brilliant one-handed stop from Pizarro to keep out Chelsea's first effort, then plunged to his left to deny Frank Lampard before beating away Shaun Wright-Phillips's effort.

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Counted over as beat minnows Rot-Weiss Ahlen 3-1.

Hungary Hamilton's

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"It was kind of a boring race, just waiting behind (Hamilton), waiting for something to happen."

"When two cars are very close the guy in front has to make a big mistake for you to pass."

Nick Heidfeld of BMW was third with Alonso fourth just ahead of Poland's Robert Kubica in the other BMW.

The final point-scorers were German Toyota driver Ralf Schumacher in sixth, Nico Rosberg of Williams in seventh and Heikki Kovalainen of Renault in eighth.

Felipe Massa, currently fourth in the championship, had an unhappy weekend, finishing 13th.

The race started in bright sunshine and Hamilton made a clean getaway ahead of normally fast-starting Heidfeld.

On this occasion Heidfeld struggled off the grid and was immediately passed by Raikkonen who slotted in behind the leader.

Back in sixth Alonso made a poor start, soon finding himself back in

eighth place when Robert Kubica and Red Bull's Mark Webber forced past him in the opening lap.

Alonso fought back but was soon stuck behind Ralf Schumacher who defended his fifth place expertly.

Meanwhile Sakan Yamamoto was the first man to drop out of the race. The Japanese Spyker driver lost control at turn 11, prematurely ending his first grand prix appearance of the season.

After 15 of the 70 laps Hamilton had established a lead of nearly five seconds from Raikkonen.

The leaders made their first pit stops five laps later with Raikkonen making up over a second on the McLaren.

Perhaps spurred on by a strong Finnish contingent in the grandstands, Raikkonen continued to gain on Hamilton and the gap was down to one second by the halfway point.

Honda's Jenson Button, winner of this race a year ago, struggled towards the back of the field on this occasion.

Back in sixth Alonso made a poor start, soon finding himself back in

the back of the field on this occasion.

But the Briton will still have been

bitterly disappointed when he had to retire from the race after a mechanical failure at the halfway point.

Raikkonen made his second and final stop on his 47th lap, moving to the super-soft option tyres.

Hamilton stayed out for another three laps and the strategy paid off, he eventually emerged from the pits with a four-second lead.

Behind the front two Alonso had finally edged past Schumacher but he could not quite manage to pass Heidfeld and had to settle for fourth.

Raikkonen put Hamilton under intense pressure throughout the closing stages of the race but the 22-year-old showed great maturity to hang on and win by just over a second.

It was McLaren's 154th grand prix win and their sixth of the season. However the English team's joy will be tinged by the reality that, unless they win an appeal against the action the FIA has taken against them for the qualifying debacle, they will not be awarded any constructor's championship points from the race.

The FIA is due to meet on September 21 to discuss the ICL developments.

Galle set for Dec 18

CRICINFO, undated

Work on one of the world's most picturesque cricket grounds, the Galle International Stadium, is going ahead as scheduled to host the third Test between Sri Lanka and England starting on December 18.

There was fear that Galle may not host a Test match at all because of the delays the stadium underwent during its rebuilding process following the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami that entirely destroyed it.

However, work on the stadium has increased at a hectic pace after the construction of the pavilion, dressing rooms, media centre, VIP enclosures etc was handed over to one of the country's leading construction companies last week.

"It is a very challenging task but I am confident we can complete it by the deadline of November 15 set by Sri Lanka Cricket. We did Dambulla Stadium in 155 days," said Priyantha Perera, a director of the construction company.

Galle Stadium curator Jayananda Warnaveera was more definite in his assumption. "We will definitely host the Test match," he said. "The centre wicket is ready to stage a match even now. Grass has been planted on the outfield. All that needs to be completed is the pavilion, dressing rooms and media centre which will be able to accommodate 150 journalists."

Outlining the delays they experienced in getting work started on the stadium, Sri Lanka Cricket secretary K Mathivanan said: "Our original intention was to put up a five-storey building. But we ran into trouble with the Archaeological Department and the Urban Development Authority who objected to it because there is a rule that does not allow construction of buildings higher than two storeys in front of the Galle Fort which is on the UNESCO list of world monuments."

"We eventually settled for two storeys but we expanded horizontally demolishing the Galle Cricket Club and Municipality buildings so that we had 38,000 square feet of space. Even then the UDA did not approve it. We had to finally seek the help of the President. All these delays pushed back the construction of the stadium."

The total cost to Sri Lanka Cricket is expected to be around Rs 400 million (approx \$3,577,817).

Karlovic reaches final

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doubtful for the encounter, but he replaced Henry at the break as Rijkarda began his swathe of changes.

Beijing Guoan did come close to levelling matters when Walter Martinez found Jorge, but his shot clipped the post after beating Oier Olazabal in the visitors' goal.

In the 57th minute, Barcelona did add a second goal to the scoreline when Eto'o turned provider, moments after striking the post, as his pass across the face of goal was turned in by Iniesta from close range.

The third goal of the night was the one that the supporters inside the stadium had been waiting for, however, as Ronaldinho lined up a free-kick and lifted over the wall and into the top left corner of the net.

Maxi Lopez was given his first run out of pre-season, but the Argentinian failed to impress and the game continued to be broken up by the changes made by the Catalan outfit.

Hertha Berlin are also in the second round after they were made to work in their 4-1 win over third division side Unterhaching.

But victory in Pakistan was followed up last year by a 1-0 win in a four-match series in the West Indies.

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Michael Vaughan (capt), Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Ian Bell, Matt Prior (wk), Chris Tremlett, Ryan Sidebottom, Monty Panesar, James Anderson, Stuart Broad.

England add

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back from 1-0 down to square the series 1-1.

Up until three years ago India had won only one series out of 19 against major Test opposition on foreign soil since their last triumph in England.

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