

## 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 RPSingh.

"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 Loye 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 SNIPPETS

**FROM PAGE 17**  
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, Swapan 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.

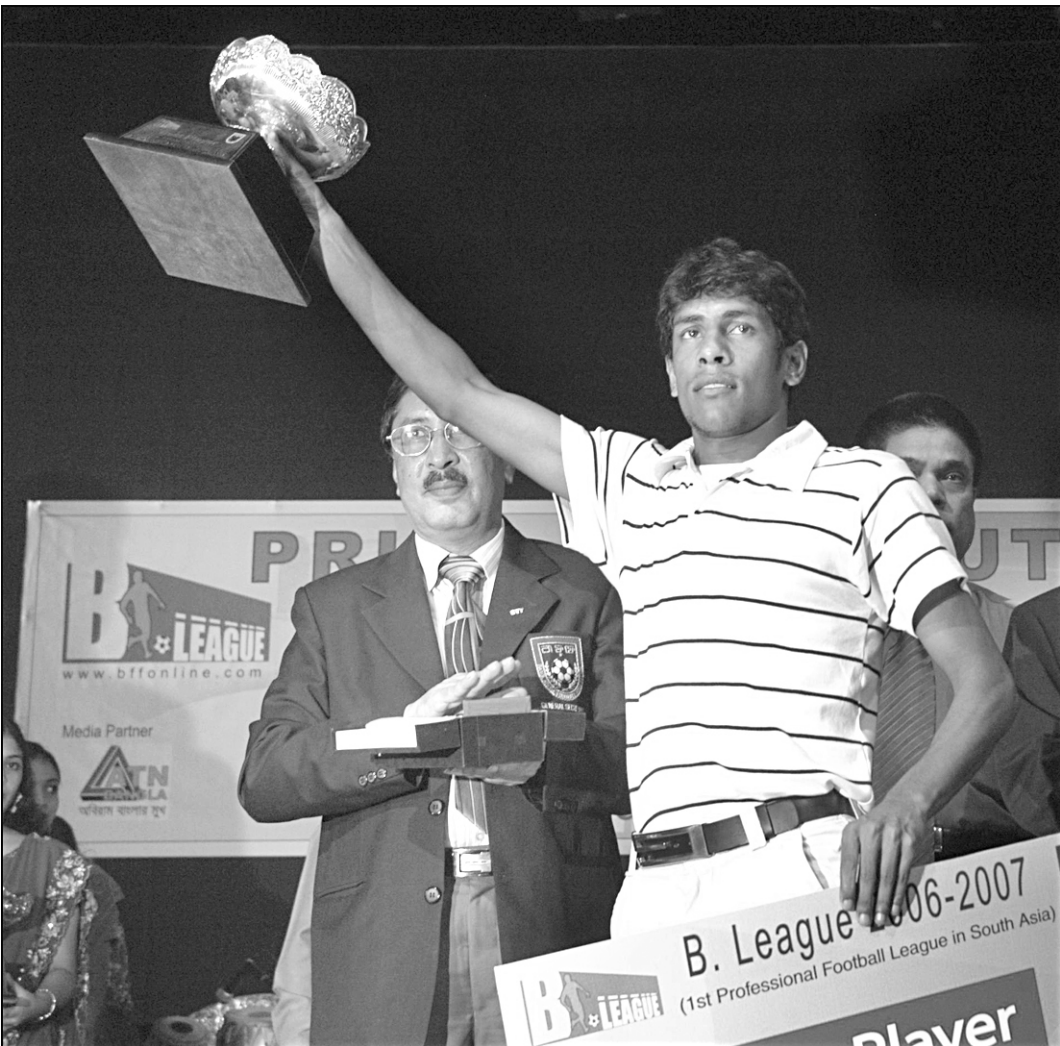


PHOTO: STAR

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), giving 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 per cent 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 hot serve.

Isner, 22, was not even supposed to play this week, only claiming a wild card when 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.

Karlovic netted a backhand to fall in 97 minutes.

Roddick, who turns 25 later this month, reached his third ATP final of the year, having won at Queen's in June but lost at Memphis in February.

Isner mastered last-set pressure to eliminate Britain's Tim Henman, German second seed Tommy Haas, German eighth seed Benjamin Becker, American Wayne Odesnik and saved the greatest dramatics for eliminating speedy Monfils.

Monfils took the first break in either semi-final to grab a 6-5 lead in the third set, but gave the break back with two wide forehands to fall into Isner's tie-break zone.

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."

### 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

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Bundesliga outfit Werder Bremen had to rely on new signing Boubacar Sanogo to score a 90th-minute winner against third division side Eintracht Braunschweig.

There were no such problems for other Bundesliga sides as Borussia Dortmund's new Spanish striker Diego Klimowicz scored twice in their 4-1 win at third division minnows Magdeburg. Mladen Petric also got on the scoresheet.

Hertha Berlin are also in the second round after they were made to work in their 3-0 win over third-division side Unterhaching.

Hanover made a 3-0 half-time score count as they beat minnows Rot-Weiss Ahlen 3-1.

## 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 Warnaweera 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 complete 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 to the stadium."

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

## Barca ease

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doubtful for the encounter, but he replaced Henry at the break as Rijkaard 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 Olazabak 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 broken up by the changes made by the Catalan outfit.

## 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.

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.

## ICL dispute

FROM PAGE 17

Importantly, no Indian star currently touring England has been linked to the rebel series, prompting BCCI chief Sharad Pawar to dismiss the ICL as a "veterans series no one will want to watch."

Kapil, however, remains unfazed. "They can call it what they like, but our aim is to help young, promising cricketers to rub shoulders with the very best in the game," he said.

"It will be great to have Lara and others teach our players. Standards will improve. That is what we want. Is there anything wrong with that?" Kapil refused to reveal the big names the ICL has signed. "Wait for a few days and you will know. Cricketers from both India and abroad are getting in touch with us."

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

## Ryan's hattrick brings glory

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Kent claimed only their third domestic title in 29 years with a thrilling four-wicket victory in an action-packed and controversial Twenty20 final against Gloucestershire.

Needing 13 off the final over, Darren Stevens crunched two boundaries off an overavered Carl Greenidge, but in chaotic scenes there was confusion over if the match had actually been won.

The equation had come down to six off three balls when Stevens launched Greenidge over cover. Kent's batsmen ran off to begin celebrating, but Gloucestershire were ready for another ball and the umpires weren't sure either. It had been missed, apparently by everyone except TV, that a no-ball had also been called. After a consultation between the umpires the Kent celebrations began in front of a near full-house.

Robert Key led the champagne spraying, but the final was tinged with a moment of controversy involving the Kent captain's dismissal for 18. He flicked a ball from Greenidge and Hamish Marshall dived forward at midwicket to claim, what appeared, another impressive catch. Key took Marshall's word and made his way off, but in similar scenes to Kevin Pietersen's 'dismissal' at Lord's against India earlier this season the big screen flashed up a replay before Key reached the boundary.

## RP's secret

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

India's left-arm swing bowler Rudra Pratap Singh, better known as RP Singh, spent less than a month at Leicestershire earlier this season but that was the period he fine-tuned the delivery juggling back into the right-handers, says Tim Boon, the senior coach at the county.

With a memorable five-wicket haul at Lord's and a couple of fine bursts at Trent Bridge, RP Singh has been a revelation on India's tour to England. Considering that he has never played three Tests in a series before, his haul of 10 wickets from two Tests has been quite a special effort. Not only did he grab important wickets -- including Michael Vaughan's at Lord's and Kevin Pietersen's at Nottingham -- he also consistently clocked more than 80mph, swinging the ball either way and extracting disconcerting bounce.

He lingered inside the rope, but by now the umpires (Neil Mallender at square leg had been happy about the catch), and players were ready for the next delivery and the TV replay wasn't called for. Clearly unimpressed, Key flung his bat across the boundary and stormed into the Kent dug-out. A short while afterwards, having calmed down in the dressing-room, he told Sky Sports: "I'm surprised they didn't take it to the third umpire. The boys told me to go back like Kevin Pietersen."

Repercussions are likely for such a clear show of dissent, but it proved how much the players now want to win the Twenty20 and that it is played as intensely as the other tournaments. "I'll probably cop it," admitted Key afterwards. However, it shouldn't take away from an impressive performance by Kent who were on-song throughout the day. In the end, Key was able to smile with his first trophy as captain and said: "Two overs from the end I was back in the dressing kicking a few things around thinking we were done for, but it's pretty special."

Ryan McLaren's hattrick, the fifth in English Twenty20, helped restrict Gloucestershire to 146, a total around par for the day where scoring never appeared quite as easy as first imagined. After slipping to 62 for 4, Gloucestershire threatened a recovery as Marshall, with a 49-ball 65, formed a useful stand with Mark Hardinges before McLaren intervened. Marshall chopped into his stumps as he tried to

glide a ball to third man, Stephen Adshead was cleaned-up by a beauty that held its line and took off stump and Ian Fisher was trapped in front.

As in the semi-final against Sussex, Kent's chase was handed a flying start by Key and Joe Denly. After Key's dismissal Denly and Walker continued to make good progress. However, Hardinges removed Denly and Martin van Jaarsveld as the pressure mounted. Then Jon Lewis brought himself back and picked up Matthew Walker on the deep square-leg boundary and bowled McLaren. When Geraint Jones was involved in a manic run out, slipping as he tried to abort a second run, Gloucestershire were sensing the win.

But Lewis had gambled on giving the final over to Greenidge, the weakest link in his attack, and the move backfired badly as he followed long-hop with half-volley, even bowling one delivery off two steps. Stevens connected cleanly with two mighty swings and the first trophy of the season was heading to Canterbury. That, though, was only one of the talking points from another eventful Twenty20 final.

### BRIEF SCORES

**GLoucestershire:** 146 for 8 in 20 overs (Marshall 65, Hardinges 39\*, McLaren 3-22, Arafat 2-13); **KENT:** 146 for 6 in 19.3 overs (Walker 45, Stevens 30\*, Lewis 2-28, Hardinges 2-24).

**Result:** Kent won by four wickets. Man-of-the-final: Ryan McLaren.

improvement, especially with regard to the ball that came into the right-hander. "Once he increased his leg strength, there was more stability in his run through the crease, which in turn gave him a better wrist position. He could get off the back foot quicker. And look at the end result. He can swing the ball back into the right-hander and away from the left."

Boon also credited Singh's work ethic. "His commitment and desire to want to change -- get an extra half-yard, swing the ball into the right-hander -- was there. He came off the plane and played the next day. He said he felt as if he was bowling with deep-sea diving boots on."

Zaheer Khan, who bowled India to victory at Trent Bridge, has spoken about the importance of his stint with Worcestershire. If India go on to win the series, they may have the English county game to thank for some of the success.

## Gill's letter to Henry

FROM PAGE 17

in Pakistan. The Australian hockey team has withdrawn from the Champions Trophy in Lahore in December following last month's bloody military siege at the Red Mosque in Islamabad.

A Cricket Australia delegation has just returned from a security mission to Pakistan, confident Australia's first tour of the country in 10 years will go ahead next March.

Lawson was shocked by what he labelled an extraordinary misunderstanding of safety in Pakistan.

Lawson wasn't always tolerant of Pakistan. He toured there in 1980, didn't play a Test and admitted he counted down the days until he left.

Just months earlier, Russia had invaded Afghanistan. Lawson recalled escorts by military jets, tanks lining railways, soldiers on the streets and the Australian team bunking in spartan army barracks.

He didn't care to understand the culture. In fact, he admits he fought

against it, upset to be woken before dawn by the first of five daily calls to prayer.

On his next tour of Pakistan in 1982, Lawson said he refused to let things get him down. He survived the three-Test tour on a diet of Vegemite on naan bread with black coffee, lost 8kg and arrived home with dengue fever. But he had been Australia's player of the series.

Lawson said he now loves visiting the sub-continent and he is reading The History of Islamic Society.

He has learned the courtesies of the local tongue and used them when he addressed the Pakistan players for the job, at a picturesque mountain training venue 60km north of Islamabad.

His message was to "play for the team, leave egos aside (and) not get distracted by external influences". He emphasised each point with the phrase Insha Allah -- God willing.

The Pakistan Cricket Board wanted Dav Whatmore as their new coach. The players wanted Lawson.

Controversy has been common, with

a doping scandal involving star pacemen Shoab Akhtar and Mohammad Asif, and the walk-off after an alleged ball-tampering incident at the Oval in England last August.

Lawson said of Akhtar: "He's going to be a big part of the success of that team. He's very enthusiastic. We've had a few phone calls back and forth over the last couple of weeks."

Of the ball-tampering incident, Law son said: "They wouldn't have walked off (if I was coach), absolutely not. I don't care where you are or what you're doing, if you're not happy with the umpiring you don't take your ball and run away."

The Pakistan board has demanded a major tournament victory in the next two years -- a condition Lawson deems to be fair.

Lawson's family will remain in Sydney, but he says it's a practical solution for his son, who will begin Year 11 next year.

Most people have asked Lawson why he would take on such a task.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>36</b> Secret	<b>56</b> Oklahoma city	<b>20</b> Bike
<b>1</b> Family member	<b>37</b> Type measures	<b>22</b> Ruhr city	<b>24</b> Bowling game
<b>5</b> Inclination	<b>38</b> Mainlander's memento	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>25</b> "Eureka!"
<b>9</b> Bratty sort	<b>39</b> Cracked slightly	<b>1</b> Perfor-mances	<b>26</b> Occupation, colloquially
<b>12</b> Stage-hands	<b>42</b> Possessed	<b>2</b> Caspian Sea feeder	<b>27</b> Underwear with underwire
<b>13</b> Reed instrument	<b>44</b> Rock-well's magazine	<b>3</b> Sleuth Wolfe	<b>29</b> Osirich's cousin
<b>14</b> Darin's wife	<b>48</b> Promptly	<b>4</b> Bike	<b>30</b> East Coast st.
<b>15</b> South Seas starch source	<b>49</b> Ex-frosh man	<b>5</b> Lids	<b>31</b> Mel of Coopers-town
<b>16</b> Sell	<b>51</b> Links	<b>6</b> The third	<b>35</b> On the beach
<b>17</b> Part of UNLV	<b>52</b> — Major	<b>7</b> OK for dieters	<b>36</b> Trite
<b>18</b> At a snail's pace	<b>53</b> Show-room	<b>8</b> "Hazel" cartoonist	<b>39</b> Initial chip
<b>19</b> Will Ferrell movie	<b>54</b> Some tracks	<b>9</b> Between jobs	<b>40</b> "Piano Man" singer
<b>20</b> Let off steam	<b>55</b> Track event	<b>10</b> Con-temptible	<b>41</b> Dumb-ounds
<b>21</b> That girl		<b>11</b> Nuisance	<b>43</b> Basilica section
<b>23</b> Copper head?			<b>45</b> It takes the cake
<b>25</b> Convent leader			<b>46</b> Big rig
<b>32</b> Holy city?			<b>47</b> Stomped (on)
<b>33</b> Kohoutek, e.g.			<b>49</b> Bottom line
<b>34</b> Rhodondendron's kin			

Solution time: 27 mins.

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### CRYPTOQUIP

S O E Z W F W B E C U W Z S O T  
D H S K W , A D J D V G M M D V W  
W B M F D J W W V K D N D C U W C V E W  
K D O V S A W C W A K E F F F W E T G W V ?  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** MY WALL-COVERING  
BUSINESS HAS BEEN GETTING MUCH SLOWER.  
YOU MIGHT SAY PAPERING IS TAPERING.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O