



A panoramic view of a portion of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium adorned with fans during the crunch India-Pakistan clash yesterday.

## ANOTHER IPL SEASON Wessels will decide later

CRICINFO, undated

Kepler Wessels, the coach of the Chennai Super Kings who helped guide the team to the final of the inaugural Indian Premier League (IPL), has said he has not yet decided on committing to another season with the franchise.

Wessels said the stress and intensity of the 45-day tournament, during which his team played 16 Twenty20 matches across India, had prompted second thoughts about a second stint.

"They [the franchise] are satisfied with what we accomplished in the series but I have asked for a month's grace before I decide on the next tournament," Wessels told Rapport, an Afrikaans weekend paper.

Wessels is in charge of the South African second-string team for the Emerging Players tournament in Australia in July, also featuring squads from India, Australia and New Zealand. South Africa, led by Ahmed Amla, have won the title the past two seasons.

### SA EMERGING PLAYERS

Ahmed Amla (captain), Yusuf Abdullah, Werner Coetzee, Henry Davids, CJ de Villiers, Dean Elgar, Imraan Khan, Wayne Parnell, Daryn Smith, Blake Snijman, Thandi Tshabalala, Lonwabo Tsotsobe, Vaughan van Jaarsveld.

## IPL salary cap to stay: Modi

CRICINFO, undated

Lalit Modi, the Indian Premier League (IPL) commissioner, has insisted the 5-million-dollar salary cap on franchisees will remain in place for at least the next two years. Modi said in a statement that the players are legally bound by their three-year contract with franchisees.

"The three-year contractual clause was made public to both the franchisees and players prior to the auction (on February 20 this year) and the player's participation," he said. "All the parties will abide by the terms and conditions laid down by the governing council and it is only up to the franchisee to trade players as and when the trading window opens next year."



## Did U Know?

Rigobert Song of Cameroon is the only player to have been red-carded in two different FIFA World Cups, against Brazil in 1994 and against Chile in 1998.

## Riquelme, Veron recalled

Football

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme and midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron have been recalled by Argentina for this month's World Cup qualifiers against Ecuador and Brazil.

Riquelme has not played for Argentina this year because of club commitments with Boca Juniors and was criticised for his performance last week when Boca were knocked out of the Libertadores Cup semifinals by Brazil's Fluminense.

But coach Alfio Basile told Argentine news agency Telam on Monday that Riquelme was still top choice in midfield and praised his partnership with striker Lionel Messi.

Former Lazio, Inter Milan, Manchester United and Chelsea midfielder Veron, 33, last played in the Copa America final against Brazil in July, when Argentina were

thumped 3-0.

Veron's recall is a reward for his consistently strong performances for Estudiantes, where he pulls the strings in midfield.

The two were among five locally-based players added to the squad which faced Mexico and United States in friendlies last week. Argentina hammered Mexico 4-1 and were held 0-0 by the U.S.

Basile also called up Boca Juniors midfielder Sebastian Battaglia, striker Rodrigo Palacio and River Plate goalkeeper Juan Pablo Carrizo.

Argentina host Ecuador on Sunday and visit Brazil in Belo Horizonte three days later, having lost their previous three meetings against their arch-rivals by three-goal margins.

Basile's team have taken nine points from their opening four games in the South American qualifying group and are second, one point behind Paraguay.

**SQUAD**  
Goalkeepers: Roberto

Abbondanzieri (Getafe), Oscar

Ustari (Getafe), Juan Pablo Carrizo

(River Plate)

Defenders: Gabriel Heinze (Real

Madrid), Fabricio Coloccini

(Deportivo Coruna), Pablo

Zabaleta (Espanol), Javier Zanetti

(Inter Milan), Nicolas Burdisso

(Inter Milan), Martin Demichelis

(Bayern Munich)

Midfielders: Fernando Gago (Real

Madrid), Maximiliano Rodriguez

(Atletico Madrid), Gonzalo

Rodriguez (Villarreal), Jonas

Gutierrez (Real Mallorca), Ever

Banega (Sevilla), Esteban

Cambiasso (Inter Milan), Jose Sosa

(Bayern Munich), Javier

Mascherano (Liverpool), Juan

Sebastian Veron (Estudiantes),

Juan Roman Riquelme (Boca

Juniors), Sebastian Battaglia (Boca

Juniors)

Forwards: Sergio Aguero (Atletico

Madrid), Lionel Messi (Barcelona),

Julio Cruz (Inter Milan), Lisandro

Lopez (Porto), Fernando

Cavenaghi (Girondins Bordeaux),

Rodrigo Palacio (Boca Juniors)

## All about

FROM PAGE 17

4-231, 5-269, 6-271, 7-322, 8-324.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gul	10	0	61	3
Tanvir	9.4	0	57	1
Riaz	9.2	0	86	2
Ifkhar	10	0	63	0
Afridi	10	0	52	2
Younis	1	0	2	0

Batter	O	M	R	W
Butt c Rohit b Kumar	9			
Akmal c Yusuf b Kumar	38			
Younis c Dhoni b Kumar	0			
Yousuf lbw b Kumar	11			
Misbahul c Dhoni b Ishant	24			
Malik c Raina b Chawla	53			
Afridi st Dhoni b Chawla	23			
Tanvir c b Chawla	6			
Gul c Ishant b Yuvraj	7			
Ifkhar not out	16			
Riaz lbw b Chawla	0			
Extras: (lb-3)	3			
Total: (All out in 35.4 overs)	190			
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-14, 3-26, 4-81, 5-94, 6-138, 7-156, 8-169, 9-180.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	9	1	53	4
Ishant	6	0	28	1
Pathan	6	0	38	0
Chawla	8.4	0	40	4
Yuvraj	4	0	17	1
YPathan	2	0	11	0

Result: India won by 140 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Virender

Sehwag.

Toss: India

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (SRI) and

Enamul Haque (BAN)

TV umpire: AFM Akhtaruddin

(BAN)

Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

Next match: India v Bangladesh

(Thursday)

## Villa vanquishes

FROM PAGE 17

half in confident fashion and

Castillas was called into action to

save Sergei Semak's header,

although the effort was straight at

the Real Madrid custodian.

Villa had the chance to com-

plete his hat-trick just before the

hour when the Russia defence

opened up in front of him, but his

low shot was saved by Akinfeev.

With Russia pushing forward as

they needed to, Spain were begin-

ning to find plenty of space on the

counter-attack and following one

breakaway, which resulted in a cor-

ner, Marcos Senna and then David

Silva both drew saves out of Akinfeev.

It was no surprise to see Spain

net a third goal with 15 minutes

remaining, and even less surprising

to see it scored by that man Villa.

A slick Spain move in midfield

resulted in the ball being fed to

Fabregas on the right and he im-

mediately picked out Villa in the

middle.

There was still work for Villa to

do, but he saw off the challenge of

Roman Shirokov before clinically

slotting low past Akinfeev and then

racing off to the Spain bench where

he celebrated with the substituted

Torres.

Russia had battled valiantly

throughout the match, and they

were rewarded for their

endeavours when Pavluchenko

thumped home a diving header

four minutes from time.

However, it was Spain who had

the final word when a breakaway led

by Villa resulted in Fabregas diving

to head home after Akinfeev had

parried Xavi's shot, making it 4-1.

## Bangalore want Jennings as coach?

CRICINFO, undated

Ray Jennings, the former coach of South Africa, has said he was approached by the Bangalore Royal Challengers franchise for the possibility of a coaching assignment in the second season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"I was in India by chance and attended one of the team's matches where I spoke to the guys [representatives of the team] and they showed some interest," Jennings told Rapport, an Afrikaans weekend paper.

have started it earlier. Why suddenly before the SAFF, where one should take the best possible team?

This lack of planning has sunk the national team and also the domestic scene, where no football has been played for last ten months.

With the SA Games coming to Dhaka next year and another SAFF in two years, the BFF has to start from zero where the national team exactly stand now. It's time to wake up.

## Cloud over T20 League

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Plans for a Twenty20 Champions League this autumn could already be in trouble because of the insistence of Lalit Modi, the Indian Premier League (IPL) commissioner, that no player with links to the rival Indian Cricket League (ICL) will be allowed to take part.

The chairman of several English counties have demanded clarification over the eligibility of such individuals. Cricinfo has been told by other reliable sources of an agreement under which ICL contracted players can take part.

"The situation is blurred," Surrey's chief executive, Paul Sheldon, told Cricinfo. "No one can fully explain it at the moment, so we are waiting for clarification. Until we have clarification we are going to play the best side that we can make sure we get to the finals and have that chance of going through to the Champions' League."

The two finalists of this season's domestic Twenty20 Cup will qualify for the Twenty20 Champions League. As things stand only three counties -- Essex, Middlesex and Somerset -- have no ICL players in their squads, although as many as five more may not field ICL players in their squads.

Originally, the IPL, backed by the Indian board, demanded that no ICL contracted players be allowed to take part in any cricket anywhere in the world. But while some boards fell into line, the ECB's tough approach vis-a-vis the counties gradually fell apart, largely through legal threats, and

by early May every ICL player who had signed with a county side was free to play.

Counties are increasingly concerned that if they do as Modi demands and omit ICL players then they risk being sued. If they don't, Modi will block them from taking part. "If they ban the counties, about 15 out of 18 will be ineligible," Tom Sears, Derbyshire's chief executive, told The Guardian. "I can't see the ECB agreeing to a tournament on those terms."

The ECB appears to be caught in the crossfire -- keen to cooperate with Modi and the IPL but under increasing pressure from the counties. On Sunday Giles Clarke, the ECB chairman, insisted that the counties were aware of the board's position that ICL players may be banned from participating in the final. They counter that the ECB has failed to offer clear guidance at any stage of the process.

The chairman also want clarification over Modi's statement that IPL contracts take precedence over any others in the case of a player who represents more than one side involved in the tournament. Again, that contradicts what Cricinfo has been told, and it seems that it could all come down to a power struggle and Modi seeks to increase the IPL's control.

While the issue will not arise until the autumn, counties need to know that the side they pick in matches which start this week will be the one they can turn out later in the year should they qualify.

The outcome will not only give the counties an idea of where they stand and what they need to do, it will clarify just how powerful Modi and the Indian board are in terms of the global game.

## Peter awaits tougher NZ

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

England coach Peter Moores expects New Zealand to be a far tougher proposition in the upcoming one-day series than they were in a lopsided Test campaign.

England cruised to a 2-0 Test series victory with an innings and nine run win, achieved with more than a day to spare, at Trent Bridge here Sunday -- a result that followed a 2-1 series win for Moores's men in New Zealand in March.

They also won both Twenty20 internationals on that tour, an encouraging sign for England ahead of Friday's one-off Twenty20 at Old Trafford.

But the five one-day internationals that follow should see the Black Caps at their best.

New Zealand beat England 3-1 in a one-day series on home soil in February and are ranked third in the world in the 50 over game.

Last year they reached the semifinals of the World Cup in the Caribbean after beating England in the pool phase.

And on their previous tour of England, four years ago, New Zealand won a triangular one-day series also featuring the West Indies.

"I think they'll come really hard at us in the one-dayers because they pride themselves on being a good one-day side," said Moores.

"They've played well away from home in the past and they'll really want to try to bounce back and it will be quite tough."

"As a one-day side we're still

finding out some roles and settling a bit as a team, so we've got plenty to concentrate on and we're going to have to play very well to win the one-day series."

All the members of England's one-day squad, except the Nottinghamshire trio of Stuart Broad, Ryan Sidebottom and Graeme Swann, whose team do not have a match, have been released to play for their counties in Wednesday's domestic Twenty20 Cup games as a warm-up for the Old Trafford fixture.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori, whose squad will be boosted by the inclusion of all-rounder Scott Styris, now a one-day specialist, also expects a marked improvement from the Black Caps in the limited overs format.

"We're a lot more confident in that form, maybe because it's shorter and we don't have to perform for very long periods," Vettori said.

But the left-arm spinner added: "We know we have to pick it up though, because England do have the momentum. Their squad doesn't change much and neither does ours."

New Zealand will prepare for the Twenty20 clash with a one-day warm-up game against Worcestershire at New Road on Wednesday.

Vettori's side could find themselves facing fast bowler Simon Jones, one of the stars of England's 2005 Ashes series win.

The former Glamorgan quick is currently on his way back from a succession of injuries and has taken 13 wickets in his last two County Championship matches.

However, it has become increasingly common for counties to rest their leading players for what are frequently regarded as 'meaningless' matches against touring teams.

## Pioneer League

SPORTS REPORTER

Sentu slammed a hat-trick to inspire KR Boys Samaj Kalyan Sangsad's 8-2 victory over Noor Sporting Club in a West Zone match of the Pioneer Football League at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Sentu scored three while Shish and Delwar netted twice each and Sagar scored the other for the winners. Anwar and Rajan reduced the arrears for Noor SC.

In North Zone, Dhaka Ekadash crushed Maghbar Sabuj Sangha 4-0 and Kala Chandpur Ekadash edged Siraj Smriti Sangsad by a solitary goal at the Mohakhali T&T ground.

Murpara Sporting Club defeated beat Arunoday Jubo Sangha 1-0 in Central Zone at the Basabo Tarun Sangha ground.

## Nat'l shooting on

SPORTS REPORTER

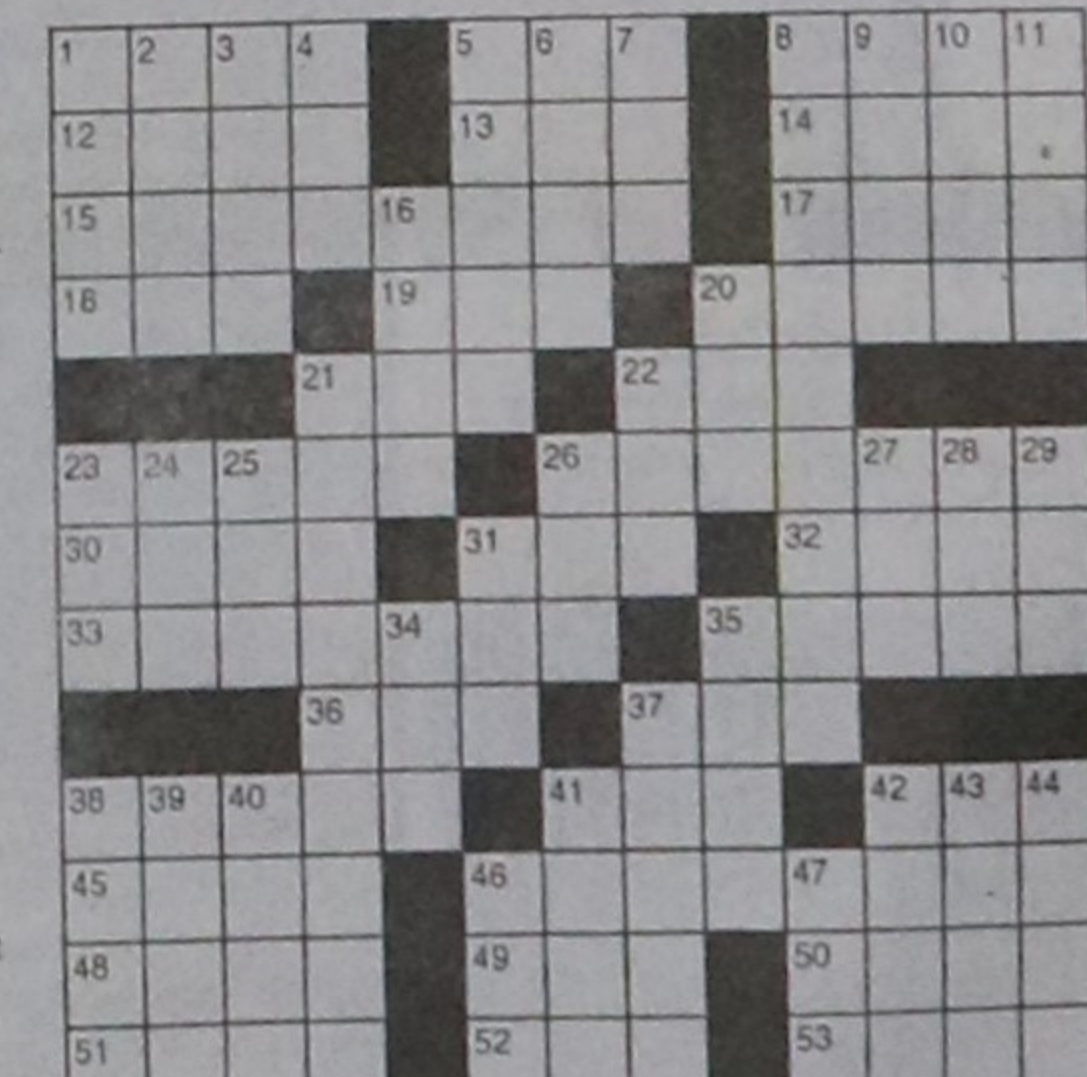
The 22nd National Shooting Championships began yesterday afternoon at the BKSP shooting range in Savar.

National Shooting Federation president Maj Gen Ashab Uddin inaugurated the meet where 190 competitors from 25 rifle clubs are taking part.

The championships will end on Saturday.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 Hair salon application	5 "Horse in striped pajamas"	25 Dickens pseudonym
1 Saw range	42 Ostrich's kin	6 Needle holder	26 Barbara Geddes
5 Buddhist sect	45 Continental coin	7 Run-down equine	27 On the -- vive
8 Grain storage structure	46 Brandon Routh role	8 Hollywood biggie	28 Spigoted dispenser
12 Crazy bird abbr.	48 Freshly-recent plan	9 Gulligan's home	29 Tolkien creature
13 Timetable	49 Relevent acronym	10 Trotsky or Urus	31 Small barrel
14 Second-hand	50 Word handle	11 Probability	34 Clear the tables
15 Medication	51 Authentic opus	16 Regrets	35 Hoop
17 Trudge	52 Dollar alphanal	20 Sigma follower	37 Calyx
18 Keatsian	53 "Beetle Bailey" dog	21 NFL climax	38 Mum somewhat
19 Swiss carillon		22 Weep	39 Melody
20 Adolescent years		23 British rule of India	40 Neighborhood
21 Vast expanse		24 Summer on the Seine	41 Mentor
22 Mercury or Saturn			42 Send forth
23 Pictorial poster			43 Rat's meal, in "The House That Jack Built"
26 Curt			44 Golden rule preposition
30 On			46 Try the tea
31 Crucial			47 Sigma preceptor
32 Pivot			
33 Immoral woman			
35 Do artwork			
36 Carpet			
37 Madam's counterpart			
38 Impales			



## CRYPTOQUIP

HB TDE UZCO YV ECTWXCUR  
RCHUGB EYLGK TYX VCX  
ZX VCORX. RY C RAYLXDK  
"XAD RAYD HLRX WY YT!"  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A SCHOOL LEADER,  
HAVING GOTTEN SOAP ALL OVER HIS BODY,  
WAS NOW A REALLY RINSABLE PRINCIPAL.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals O