

Kathalbagan Div II champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Kathalbagan Green Crescent Club became Second Division champions when they beat Gopibagh Friends Association by five runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Despite both sides being promoted to next season's First Division, the match went down to the wire with Gopibagh being bowled out in the final over for 204 runs in their pursuit of Kathalbagan's 209 for 9 in 50 overs.

Opting to bat first, Kathalbagan ran into trouble with six wickets down for just 96 runs but Salehur Rahman (52*) and Shohag Hossain (40) added 91 for the seventh wicket to take their side to some respectability.

Gopibagh's Minto Alam was his side's sole shining light, scoring 64 off 83 balls but with some tight bowling from Rubel Mahmud (3-44), Kathalbagan took spot in the league tables.

Gourab 4-for pilots KU

SPORTS REPORTER

Gourab Hossain's opening burst helped Khulna University to a four-wicket victory over Bangladesh Police in the Public University & Services cricket tournament at the Jahangirnagar University ground yesterday.

The paceman picked up the first four wickets as Police were bowled out for 184 in 48.2 overs before Khulna University reached the target in just 39 overs.

Kazi Nazrul Islam University of Mymensingh (74 all out) slumped to their second defeat in as many matches when Chittagong University (189 all out) defeated them by 115 runs at the BKSP.

IPL to keep an extra hour

CRICINFO, undated

The Indian Cricket League's (IPL) technical committee has decided to add an extra hour, if necessary, to complete the remaining league games in case of rain during the latter stages of the tournament. The semifinals and final will have two extra hours but will not have reserve days.

The early stages of the tournament were affected by bad weather with two games being washed out and a few others being decided by the Duckworth-Lewis method.

The IPL technical committee also decided that a ball will be considered 'dead' if a batsman happens to hit the fly-camera which travels over the ground on cables suspended overhead.

ECB wants

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"We are studying their proposal because they are lot of ambiguities that need to be sorted out. Most importantly who will have the television rights to the series if we go to England because we would consider the tour as a home series," he said.

The official said as per terms for home series, the Dubai based Ten sports had the rights to broadcast the series but the ECB's broadcasting rights were with Sky television.

"This is a very important issue that needs to be sorted out between the broadcasters and the boards," the official said.

MCA arrive

FROM PAGE 17

Ranji Trophy for Maharashtra last season.

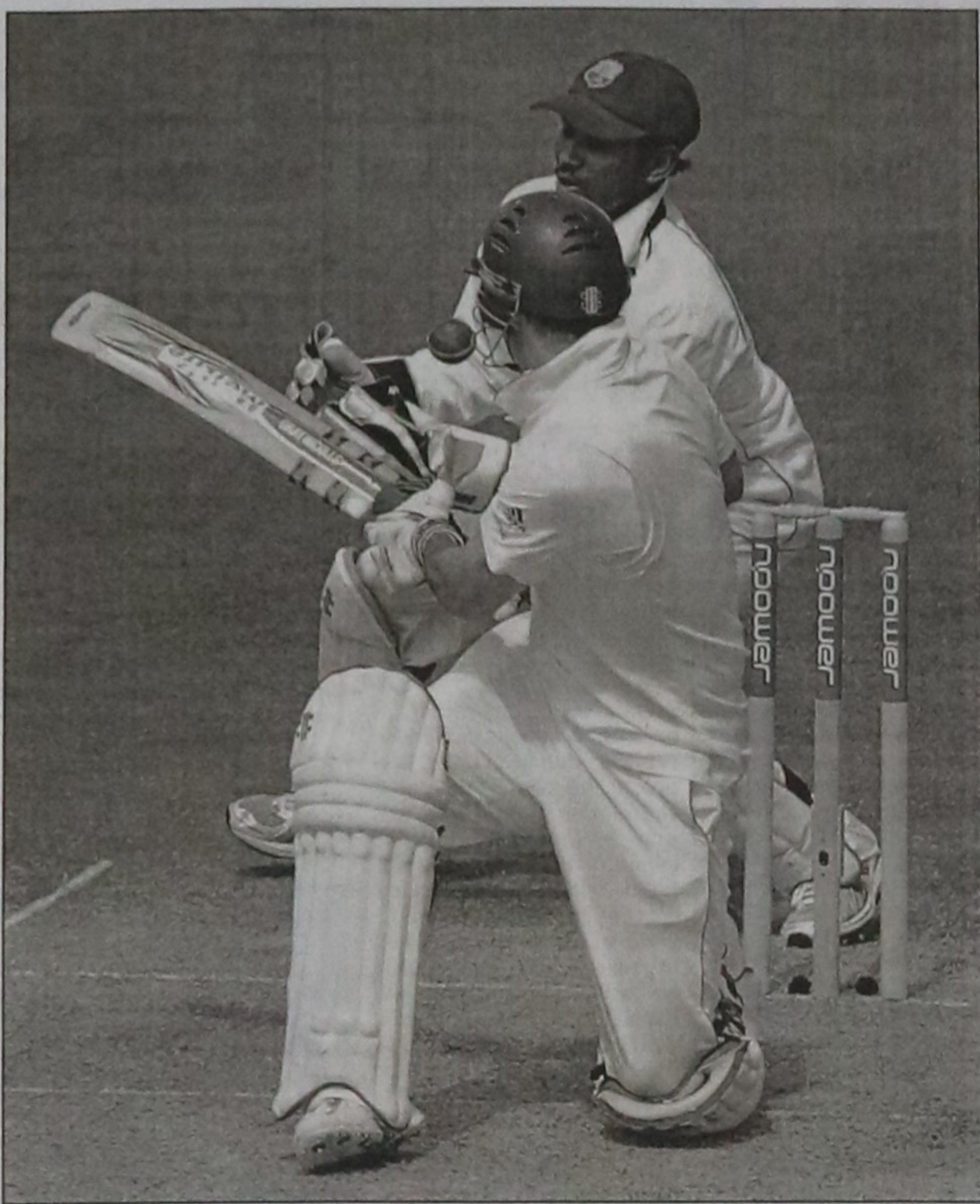
SQUAD

Harshad Khadiwale (captain), Kedar Jadhav, Ranjit Chauhan, Amey Shrikandhe, Ganesh Gaikwad, Azhar Ansari, Shrikant Mundhe, Rohit Muntani (wk), Kiran Adhavi, Aditya Dole, Samad Fallah, Sangram Attitkar, Rohan Bhosale, Ankit Bawne, Prayag Bhati, Digamber Wagmare, Ninad Chaudhary, Jitu Patel.



Did U Know?

The only professional British football club with a 'J' in its name is St. Johnstone FC.



England captain Andrew Strauss is about to be caught by West Indies wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin off the bowling of Caribbean captain Chris Gayle (not in picture) on the first day of the second Test at the Riverside in Chester-le-Street yesterday.

Twin ton-up England

Cricket

AFP, Chester-le-Street

Essex duo Alastair Cook and Ravi Bopara both made centuries as they batted England into a commanding position on the first day of the second and final Test against the West Indies Thursday.

England, at stumps at the Riverside, were 302 for two, with left-hander Cook 126 not out.

Bopara was bowled shortly before the close for 108 -- his third century in as many Test innings -- by seamer Lionel Baker, who made the new ball cut back in to the right-hander.

The 24-year-old pair shared a second-wicket stand of 213 following the morning loss of England captain Andrew Strauss, who won a good toss.

Despite being 282 for two when Bopara was out, England sent in nightwatchman James Anderson ahead of star batsman Kevin Pietersen.

Anderson survived some testing bouncers from Fidel Edwards before his flashing

square-cut boundary off Baker took England to 300, got through to the close unbeaten on four.

Bopara -- dropped on the way making to 104 in Barbados in February and missed again during his 143 in England's 10-wicket first Test win at Lord's last week -- was put down on 51 and 91, the latter a very tough chance.

But a day after West Indies captain Chris Gayle had made clear his preference for Twenty20 cricket, while Strauss said Test matches were still the pinnacle of the game, this was not the best advert for the five-day format.

A placid pitch meant conditions were too heavily loaded in favour of the batsmen, who could score runs without taking undue risks in front of a meagre crowd of some 5,000.

Only Jerome Taylor of the West Indies quicks was able to combat occasionally the sluggish surface by making the odd delivery hurry past the outside edge on a day when the pacemen were too often

off-target to build pressure.

The hosts were 184 for one at tea.

Left-hander Cook was 82 not out and Bopara 59 not out.

Cook completed his ninth Test hundred when he drove Suleiman Benn through mid-wicket for his 11th four in 209 balls.

Bopara went into the 90s by lofting tall left-arm spinner Benn straight for the day's only six.

Next ball a fierce drive, which was technically a caught and bowled chance, clipped Benn's fingers before speeding to the boundary for four.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second Test between England and the West Indies at the Riverside in Chester-le-Street on Thursday:

ENGLAND: First innings Strauss c Ramdin b Gayle 26 Cook not out 126 Bopara b Baker 108 Anderson not out 4 Extras: (b-9, lb-3, w-6, nb-20) 38 Total: (For 2 wks in 90 overs) 302

Fall of wickets: 1-69, 2-282 To bat: Pietersen, Collingwood, Prior, Broad, Bresnan, Swann, Onions

Bowler O M R W Taylor 14 1 42 0 Edwards 14 0 58 0 Baker 19 3 60 1 Gayle 12 2 28 1 Benn 22 6 78 0 Simmons 9 0 24 0

WEST INDIES: Gayle, Smith, Sarwan, Simmons, Chanderpaul, Nash, Ramdin, Taylor, Benn, Edwards, Baker Toss: England.

Umpires: Steve Davis and Asoka de Silva.

Ashgabat fell

FROM PAGE 17

four minutes from the end as Amanov added the final nail in the army coffin scoring with a speculative long-range shot.

Ashgabat head coach Grigoryants Boris was satisfied with his team's overall performance but remained rather calm and unexcited as he believed the high number of goals still doesn't confirm his team's berth in the final round.

"I am satisfied and happy with my team's performance but it is important that we keep the momentum going and continue to play well in the next match which is a crunch game for us. Although it was hot during the day but by the time the match started it was quite cool and it made the football enjoyable," said Boris after the match.

His Lankan counterpart Pathmanathan was quick to attribute the victory to the superiority of the Ashgabat team, which he believed, had all the abilities to outplay them and deserved the victory.

"All the Ashgabat players are significantly taller than my players so it was difficult to cope with their long legs and bigger frame. The first two goals were my goalkeeper's (Fernando) fault but the rest was just brilliant play by them," said Pathmanathan.

Ashgabat will face Abahani on Saturday at the same venue in the last match of the tournament.

India to play ODIs in WI

AFP, New Delhi

India will play four one-day matches in the Caribbean after the Twenty20 world championship in England next month, the Indian cricket board said on Thursday.

If India, the Twenty20 defending champions, make the knockout stages of the competition, they will fly direct from London to Jamaica for the one-day series, which is part of the International Cricket Council's Future Tours Programme.

The first two one-dayers will be held at Sabina Park, Kingston, on June 26 and 28 and the remaining two at Gros Islet, St Lucia on July 3 and 5.

ITINERARY

Jun 26: 1st ODI, Sabina Park, Kingston
Jun 28: 2nd ODI, Sabina Park, Kingston
Jul 3: 3rd ODI, Gros Islet, St Lucia
Jul 5: 4th ODI, Gros Islet, St Lucia

PCB on back foot with case

CRICINFO, undated

The Pakistan Cricket Board's decision to abstain from voting has left it on weak legal ground on the case of the ICC's decision to move the World Cup matches outside Pakistan, according to legal advice received by the ICC.

Jaz Butt, the PCB chairman, chose to stay away from voting during the ICC board meeting that decided on the issue in Dubai on April 17.

"The final vote during that meeting has been recorded as having been a unanimous one," ICC sources told Cricinfo. "This should work strongly in the ICC's favour. If the PCB had any objection at that point of time, they should have voted against the move instead of abstaining. Legally, as it is, they have a weak case."

Pakistan was stripped of hosting rights because of the "uncertain security situation" in the country, and David Morgan, the ICC president, called it a "regrettable decision" but one that was taken to "deliver a safe, secure and successful event."

Barclay new MCC head

CRICINFO, undated

The former Sussex captain John Barclay has been nominated as the next president of Marylebone Cricket Club. His appointment was made on Wednesday at Lord's during MCC's Annual General Meeting by Derek Underwood, the current president. His one-year term of office will begin on October 1, 2009.

Barclay made his first-class debut for Sussex against Glamorgan in 1972, aged only 16. He played county cricket until 1986, as a solid batsman and more than useful off-spinner, scoring 1,000 runs in a season on four consecutive occasions from 1976. His all-round credentials were to the fore in 1979 when he also took 52 wickets. Appointed captain of his county in 1981, he led Sussex to second position in the Championship. He also captained England Young Cricketers on their tour to the West Indies in 1972.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS										DOWN																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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'Spin looms large'

Cricket

AFP, London

Australia leg-spin great Shane Warne believes England could play two spinners in their quest to regain the Ashes.

England are at home to their oldest foes in a five-match Test series starting in July. Having won the Ashes on home soil in 2005, England were thrashed 5-0 in Australia in 2006/07.

But one area where they might have an edge on Australia is in spin bowling. Traditionally, England are reluctant to field more than one specialist slow bowler in their side when they are at home.

But off-spinner Graeme Swann, who has proved particularly effective against left-handers, has made a spectacular start to his Test career -- with 33 wickets in his first six matches.

Left-armers Monty Panesar, who has troubled Australia in the past, is also available and the first Test of this year's Ashes due to be played at Cardiff, a pitch which has a reputation for taking turn.

"Now that Graeme Swann has established himself in the team and Monty Panesar is waiting in the wings, I think there's a real possibility that England will take on Australia with two spinners in their side," Warne wrote in his column in Thursday's edition of The Times.

Commenting on the progress of Swann, 30, who played alongside Panesar at Northamptonshire before moving to

Nottinghamshire, former Hampshire captain Warne said: "For Swann, it looks as though the penny may finally have dropped. Now it seems as though his attitude has changed and he's realised that playing for England may be quite important after all."

"Swann has the added advantage that he turns the ball away from left-handers, and Australia will be bringing a few of those in their top order for the Ashes," Warne, the first bowler to take 700 Test wickets, added.

"From the way he's done against the West Indies' lefties, it seems as though he enjoys bowling at them and people such as Phillip Hughes, Simon Katich and Mike Hussey will be key wickets for England to take. Australia's batsmen have struggled against off-spin before."

Australia's spin plans were, according to Warne, not so clear-cut.

"They've yet to decide where to go with their spin options, whether to pick a specialist such as Nathan Hauritz, the off-spinner, or Bryce McGain, the leg-spinner, or whether they hope to get by with the part-time spin options offered by Katich, Michael Clarke and Marcus North."

Hughes, playing for Middlesex, has made a sensational start to his county career by scoring hundreds in his first three first-class matches in England -- the first Australian to achieve this feat.

"No doubt England's coaches will be looking at footage of Hughes's Test matches against South Africa, as well as studying his performances for Middlesex," Warne said.

"I could save them the trouble and say that there are no obvious weaknesses for them to find. Most important of all, he seems to be as mentally tough as they come."

Mani blames India, ICC

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ehsan Mani, former ICC president, believes Pakistan was manoeuvred out of its hosting rights for the 2011 World Cup by a split within the Asian bloc, led by India, and an inert ICC approach to examine viable solutions. Pakistan, said Mani, was thus left with no choice but to begin legal proceedings against the decision.

Mani, who served as president from 2003-06, is acting as an advisor to the PCB in the dispute and is widely thought to be man who prompted the move to initiate legal action. He has told the PCB, however, to keep "back-channel communications" with the ICC open throughout the dispute.

"I'm afraid so and I'm very sorry to say it," Mani told

Cricinfo, when asked whether India had manipulated the situation to its advantage in order to squeeze Pakistan out of the tournament. "This was a time when India should have come forward, shown leadership and said 'It's all four of us as hosts, or none of us.'"

"Asia got worried they would lose the 2011 World Cup altogether and decided to dump Pakistan. It is the first time in my 20 years association that I have seen Asia split this way. It speaks volumes of the PCB's PR per-

haps," Mani said. Mani also took aim at the ICC, saying it had not shown enough initiative in searching for a solution to Pakistan's plight. "The ICC should have looked at the security situation as a whole, they should have at least met with Pakistan before-

hand. When I was president, there was a lot of pressure to suspend Zimbabwe. I refused, until I had met them personally.

I did and eventually they asked to be suspended themselves."

"There was no pre-meeting dialogue with the PCB here and ICC should have taken the lead in that. Pakistan is a problem, so let's talk to them. I said to the ICC you should have thought of alternative solutions. They said the PCB had not put any such proposal forward but the ICC should have been examining these things."

"Many things were wrong. The ICC should have done an assessment of all four countries and gotten governments involved. Also, if Pakistan gets the Champions Trophy hosting fee even if that event was taken away, why does the same logic not apply for the World Cup?"

Acknowledging that the relationship between the ICC and the PCB are "not good," Mani said Pakistan was left with no other option. "They were between a rock and a hard place. They were marginalised, losing the hosting money -- what was their choice? Roll over quietly, or make some noise? Pakistan feel they were misled at the meeting and had no idea this was going to happen. One should have been upfront about it."

Rajasthan

FROM PAGE 17 a 61-run stand for the third wicket off just six overs.

Quiney top-scored with a 40-ball 51 for his maiden half-century of the tournament, while Jadeja scored 42 off 32 balls.

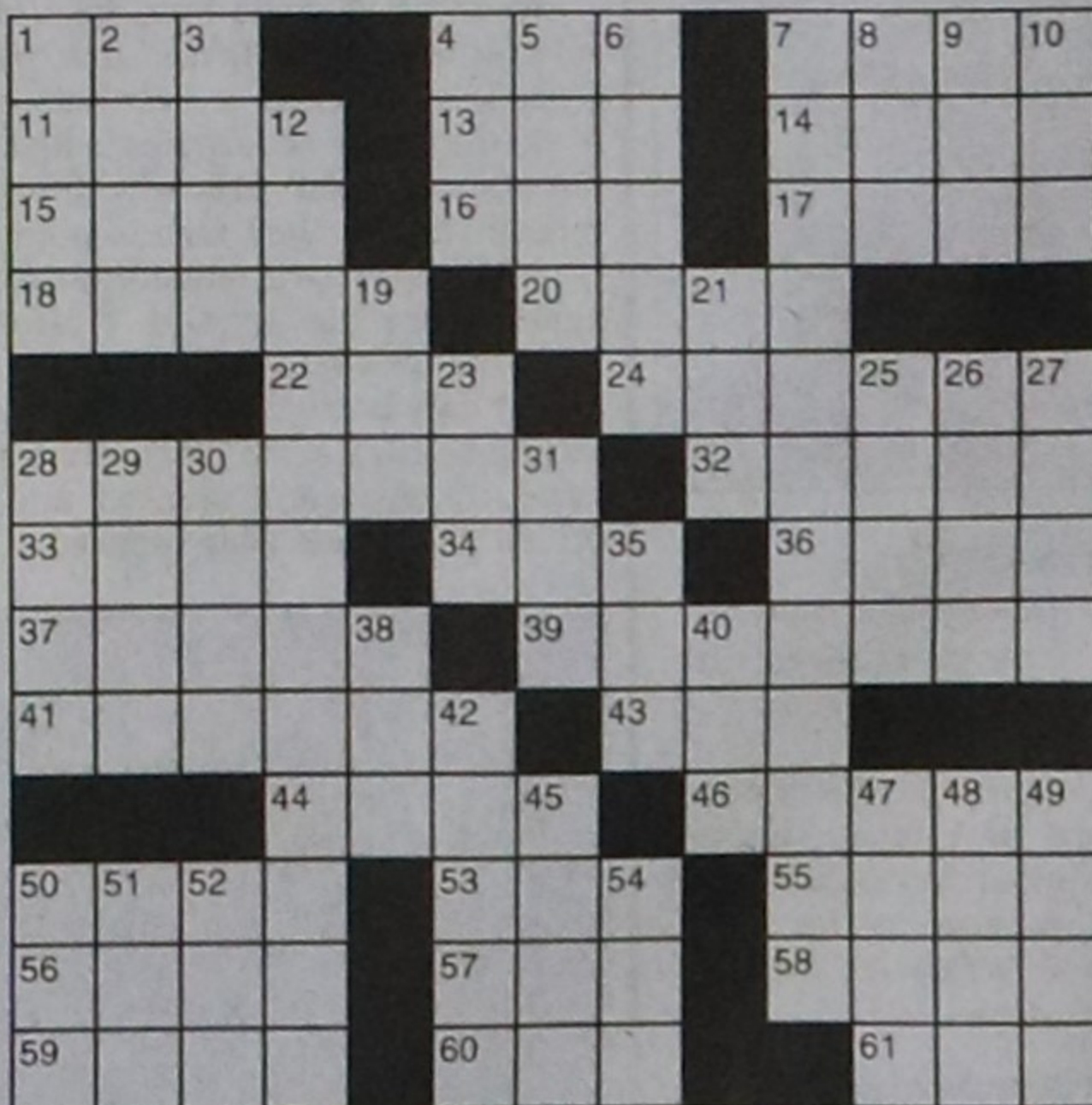
SCALES IN BRIEF CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 129 all out in 19.4 overs (Hayden 60, Dhoni 18, Raina 13; Kumble 2-12, Kallis 2-18, Vinay 2-30)

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 132 for 8 in 19.4 overs (Taylor 46, Kohli 38, Praveen 12; Oram 2-12, Morkel 2-13)

Result: Royal Challengers Bangalore won by 2 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Ross Taylor.

Man-of-the-match: Shane Warne.



CRYPTOQUIP

UQU LDK GICO FGI BQOJ QA
FGI NICPG NDLH HDAB
NDKBGF C PCO JDF CAU PCJIIU
QF OGDAUC 'H GDAUCH?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: MOVIE ABOUT TORNADO VICTIMS WHO HAD THE TOPS OF THEIR HOUSES BLOWN OFF: "ROOFLESS PEOPLE"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals D