

Sourav's wife a Pune fan

PTI, Shillong

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly's wife Dona will be among the thousands of cricket crazy Kolkatans who will root for Pune Warriors India when they take on Kolkata Knight Riders at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on May 19.

Asked which team she would support now that her husband has joined Pune Warriors, Dona was forthright in his admission. "I will be among many fans in Kolkata who will be supporting Pune Warriors."

After being ignored at the auctions earlier this year, Ganguly was picked up as a replacement of Ashish Nehra after Pune Warriors lost six games on trot.

"I run a dance school and my students are performing in various cultural programmes but does that mean I stop performing."

'Gayle left us shell-shocked'

PTI, Bangalore

Blown away by Chris Gayle's brutal 49-ball hundred, Kings XI Punjab skipper Adam Gilchrist said the West Indian's knock left his team "shell-shocked" during their 85-run loss to Royal Challengers Bangalore in an Indian Premier League match here.

Gilchrist described Gayle's match-winning innings of 107 Friday night as "a phenomenal knock".

"That was a phenomenal knock. The wicket was doing a bit and he did not get bat on ball for 85 runs. Then he took the game away from us. We were shell-shocked actually," Gilchrist said after KKIP lost by 85 runs.

Gayle hit a record nine sixes and 10 fours in his knock and Gilchrist said his side were thinking of chasing more than 230 when the West Indian was going great guns.

C'paul back in WI fold

AFP, St. John's

Reports of Shivnarine Chanderpaul's demise appear to have been exaggerated after he was named Saturday in a 15-strong West Indies squad to prepare for first Test against Pakistan.

The durable left-handed batsman has been engaged in a war of words with the West Indies Cricket Board over the last two weeks following his omission from the preceding five-match one-day international series.

SQUAD

Carlton Baugh Jr, Devendra Bishoo, Kraigg Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Fidel Edwards, Brendan Nash, Ravi Rampaul, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell, Darren Sammy, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Lendl Simmons, Devon Smith.

SA badminton

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ABC will bear all the expenses of those camps while Bangladesh will pay the accommodation and transportation fees for the local participants.

The camps will be held at the Shaheed Sohravardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur. The first camp will be conducted by Malaysian coach Saimon EESP.

Comilla

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reached 161 runs in just 19.3 overs after Chapainawabganj laboured to 157 all out in 48.2 overs.

Tipu took four wickets for Comilla as well.

Away in Jessore, Mymensingh's 241-8 was eclipsed by Rangpur as they reached the target in 47.3 overs.

Pappu made 75 while Nasir struck 72. Rony also chipped in with 54.



Mumbai Indians openers Sachin Tendulkar (L) and Aiden Blizard (R) discuss battle plans during their scintillating opening stand against the Delhi Daredevils at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Captain, coach on collision course?



PTI, Karachi

Captain Shahid Afridi will meet Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt on his return from the West Indies to outline the problems he is facing while working with national team's head coach Waqar Younis.

The differences between the two have spilled out into the open and reports say their working relationship on the West Indies tour at one stage got so bad that Afridi even refused to play the last two matches.

According to a newspaper Afridi had developed problems with Waqar even during the World Cup and had also been reluctant to go to the West Indies for the one-day series.

Afridi had initially asked the PCB to not consider him for the West Indies tour because of personal reasons but later changed his mind.

The flamboyant all-rounder also didn't leave with the team from Lahore and joined them a day later after departing from Karachi. The official reason given was that he had forgotten his passport at home and wanted to meet his ailing father before leaving for the West Indies.

The newspaper has reported that it was Afridi's father who convinced him to go to the

West Indies after the World Cup.

"His father told him he must not leave the team like this after such a big event and he needs to continue his good work with the team," a source said.

Sources say Afridi will meet Butt after he returns home to outline his concerns about working with Waqar.

Butt when contacted said that he had also read about the problems in the West Indies in the media.

"When Afridi returns I will talk to him to find out if this is all true," he said.

Sources say the major point of contention between Afridi and Waqar is the latter's growing authority in selection matters.

"Afridi on the West Indies wanted to give the new players ample chances in the series and insisted they were not on tour for a joyride but Waqar kept on resisting and playing the tried and tested players. Waqar's insistence on resting Asad Shafiq in the fifth match after he had scored runs in the earlier games also didn't please Afridi at all," one source said.

"Afridi wanted to try out new pacer, Sadaf Hussain. Even during the World Cup he was not happy that pace bowler Junaid Khan didn't get to play a single match in the tournament."

Short skirt rule could be gone

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A new rule that orders female badminton players to wear short skirts could be scrapped after objections from China, Indonesia and Scandanavian countries, a Malaysian official said Saturday.

Women playing in the sport's top tournaments are compelled to wear skirts or dresses, even if they are worn over the top of shorts or trousers. But wearing shorts and trousers alone is banned.

The Kuala Lumpur-based Badminton World Federation (BWF) on Wednesday said it would go ahead from June 1 with the regulation on skirts, which was earlier deferred after an outcry from players and officials.

"There is a possibility a rule change can take place," S. Selvam, the federation's Super Series marketing manager told AFP, noting that objections started in China, Indonesia and India but now included Denmark and Sweden.

Those who object to the rule can urge the BWF council to abort the decision at the organisation's annual general meeting on May 28 in China, he said.

BWF deputy president Paisan Rangsitkitho denied women are being exploited but said the sport had to "differentiate the women's game", insisting that the skirts did not have to be short.

Ballesteros no more



AFP, Madrid

Spanish golf legend Severiano Ballesteros, one of golf's all-time greats who lifted five majors and turned a new generation on to the sport, died yesterday aged 54.

"Seve Ballesteros died at 2:10 am, surrounded by his family, in his home in Pedrena" in northwestern Spain, following "respiratory failure," his family said in a statement.

Ballesteros was a charismatic figure who led the European challenge to the decades-long supremacy of the United States.

From the mid-1970s to the 1990s, "Seve" was one of the sport's most celebrated personalities, collecting 87 career titles before retiring in 2007 with back problems. Known for his flamboyant and imaginative style of play, he famously won one of his three British Open titles by playing a shot from a temporary parking lot.

The news cast a pall over the Spanish Open under way in Barcelona, with second-placed Pablo Larrazabal saying Friday: "His fight these last years has been an inspiration for us all... He

was really spectacular, never giving up, hitting his driver and chasing the ball into the hole from everywhere."

The European Tour's official website said Jose Maria Olazabal and Miguel Angel Jimenez, contemporaries of Ballesteros, were in tears over the news.



SEVERIANO BALLESTEROS

Ballesteros was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour after losing consciousness at Madrid airport on October 6, 2008.

He underwent four operations to remove the tumour and reduce swelling in his skull, as well as chemotherapy. He called his battle against the tumour the "hardest challenge of my life".

"During my career I was one of the best at getting around obstacles on golf courses. Now I want to be the best at confronting the most

difficult match of my life with all my strength," he said when he revealed his illness.

Ballesteros announced his presence as a teenager in 1976 when he finished second at the British Open, just two years after turning pro aged 16.

Topping the European Tour Order of Merit that year -- he would go on to do so on another five occasions -- was a measure of compensation for being the runner-up after leading at the midway point.

In 1979, aged 21, he became the youngest winner of the British Open.

A year later, he was the first European to make the breakthrough at the Augusta Masters, opening the floodgates for the likes of Bernhard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Nick Faldo, Ian Woosnam and his Spanish compatriot Jose Maria Olazabal.

That first of two Masters titles made him, at 23, the youngest winner before a 21-year-old Tiger Woods broke his record in 1997.

Ballesteros was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1999, where he joined the likes of Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer.

Golf Digest magazine in 2000 ranked him as the greatest golfer Europe has produced.

Sk Russel earn full points

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Shariful Islam.

Shariful was providing excellent balls from the right and it paid off in the 35th minute when Chizoba found the back of the net tapping in a diagonal shot from Shariful to take the Black and Whites in front.

Mohammedan should have been two goals up early in the second-half when Farashganj keeper Sujon Chowdhury left his goal unmarked trying to make a clearance, but the ball reached straight to Sayedul Haque whose chipped effort missed the target by some distance. At the other end, Amadi Moses produced a brilliant save off

Mohammedan keeper Al Hassan for a corner.

As the game was drawing towards the end, Congolese striker Zunapio brought Farashganj back in it with a 78th minute goal. Vashani's throw-in was headed by Kalou Johnson into the path of Zunapio and the Congolese beat the keeper on the far post.

The match turned into an exhibition of missed opportunities at both ends which was summed up by one glaring miss five minutes from time. A miscued clearance from Moses found Amani with an easy finish, but his header went skywards leaving both teams sharing the honours.



PHOTO: STAR

Mukti Sangha players pose for a victory photo following their win in the final of the Inter-district Club Cup over Yamin Krira Chakra at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Miandad can be an option

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permissible swagger, being the best batsman in Pakistan cricket history but has all the time in the world for batsmen who are willing to iron out weaknesses.

After the 2011 World Cup, he was in the running to be a batting consultant to the Pakistan side but it was vetoed by team management because it was felt he won't be the right guy for the job. He does have a few limitations and it lies in his overeagerness, a major difficulty for great players who turn into coaches. He could be expected to do what former Tigers coach Mohsin Kamal was

infamous for: stand in the players' balcony and literally give ball-by-ball instructions to his batsmen from there.

After Pakistan had conceded a Test to India early on the fifth day during the epic 2003-04 series, Miandad brought out the team for a net session that lasted a few hours.

If his enthusiasm could be restrained and the BCB are ready to think far and wide, this addition could give the Tigers an edge.

He would be the biggest cricketer in the shed, a tag that is very much a necessity for being the head coach of these Tigers.

Selectors asked to be proactive

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headed.

Manzur said that the selectors have to make sure that they watch matches at every level to hunt for future talents.

"We have to make sure that they give enough focus on the domestic and age-group cricket besides the national team and that's why we ensured specific job description and detail their duties in the terms and references," said Manzur.

Akram also expressed his satisfaction over the discussion with the CEO and said that they

are looking forward to do something for improvement of Bangladesh cricket. "We were happy with the discussion. Actually we don't have any specific demand because board is very positive. What was specially mentioned in the discussion was that we have to give more focus on age-level cricket and that we must coordinate with the junior selection committee," said Akram.

"We expressed our desire to make sure that one selector will accompany the team during the tour because we believe it will help Bangladesh cricket," he added.

Kolkata win in rain

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other. Yusuf Pathan, who didn't allow any release, took the pace off the ball and had Suresh Raina caught at midwicket. Rahul Bhatia also permitted no let-up and after nine overs, Chennai had not scored a single boundary.

The first one came in the 10th over, off Pathan, when Badrinath had had enough. He smacked it low and flat over long-on. Michael Hussey had stayed with Badrinath through the tough patch but his labour ended in the next over when he was offered a short ball by L Balaji and smacked it straight to Eoin Morgan at midwicket.

Albie Morkel was promoted to number five and gave himself some time to get in and the Kolkata bowlers maintained the stranglehold. After eight balls, he had the opportunity to sink his teeth into Jaidev Unadkat, who was only brought on in the 15th over. The pace bowler seemed to misread the pitch and bowled too quick and was dispatched for back

to back fours before he pulled it back with some slower balls. Morkel was dropped in the same over, by Lee, trying to launch Unadkat over the leg-side.

While Morkel was attempting to hit big shots and even appeared to get an edge in Lee's final over but was not given out, Badrinath was sculpting his half-century. He became more comfortable after he had got in and picked the balls to hit well. Morkel had more of the strike in the last two overs and all but one of his swings failed to get to the boundary.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 114 for four in 20 overs (Badrinath 54, Morkel 30 not out; Abdulla 1-15)

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 61 for two in 10 overs (Kallis 21 not out, Tiwary 15 not out; Ashwin 2-12)

Result: Kolkata Knight Riders won by 10 runs on Duckworth-Lewis method.
Man-of-the-match: Iqbal Abdulla.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Recipe meas.
5 Con game
9 "Wham!"
12 Brewery products
13 Albacore
14 Mimic
15 Ambulance
17 Scarlet
18 Hello, in Haifa
19 Coin toss
21 KC's state
22 Tine
24 Boston —
27 1989 GM debut
28 Burr-Hamilton contest
31 Actress Gardner
32 Conger, for one
33 Exist
34 Imperfection
36 Rd.
37 "— Breckinridge"

DOWN

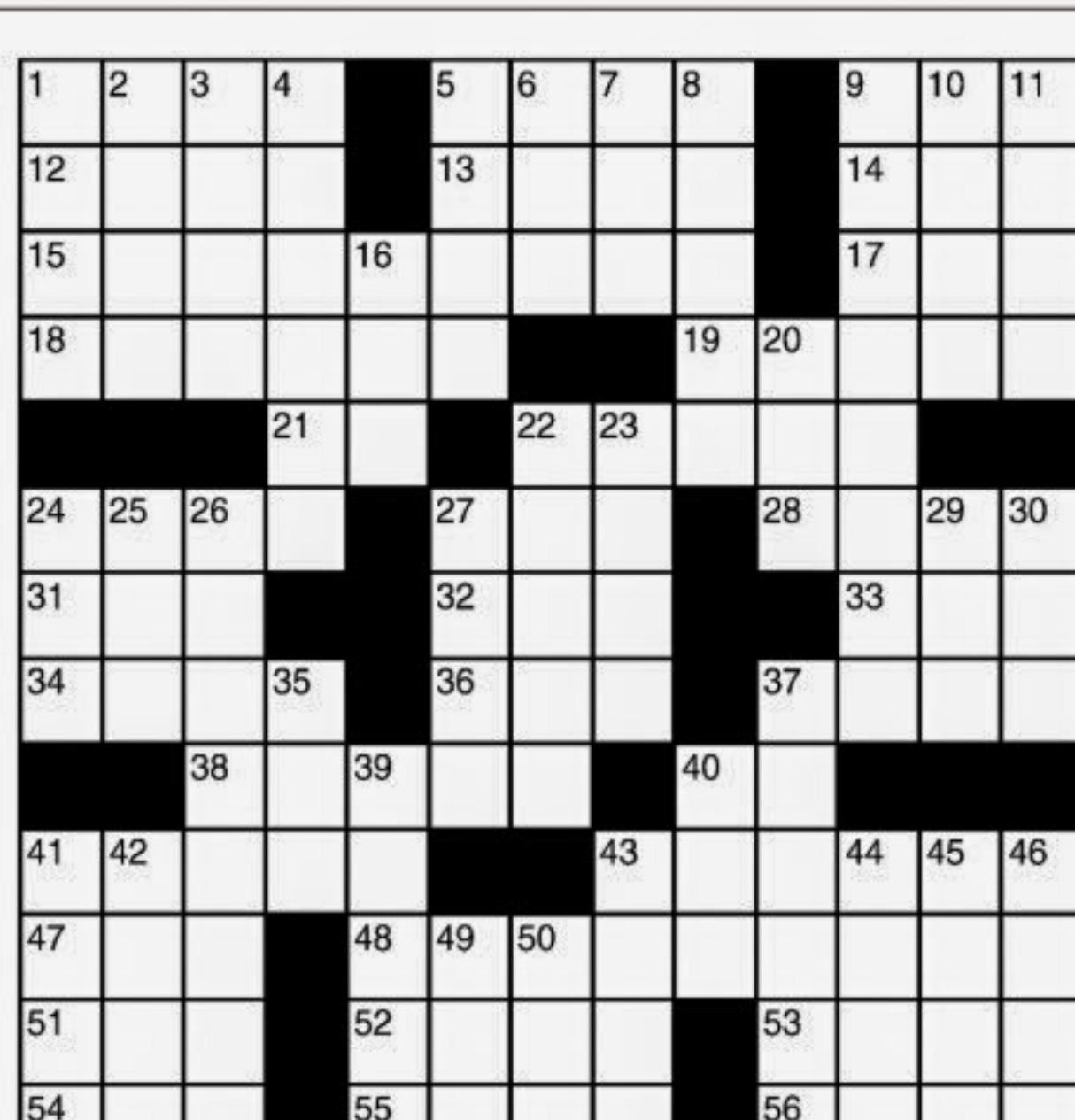
38 Cognizant
40 Italian river
41 Man of morals?
43 Half-hour telecast, often
47 Monokini's lack
48 Type of baggy pants
51 Inventor Whitney
52 Falsehoods
53 Great Lake
54 Benicio —
55 Energy units
56 Remainder
Solution time: 25 mins.

DOWN

1 Reveille's opposite
2 Mediocre
3 Antitoxins
4 Book after Job
5 Goblet part
6 What a cow chews
7 Blackbird
8 Overly virile
9 South American country
10 Newspaper page
11 Marries
16 Cattle call?

DOWN

20 Conclusion
22 Grievance
23 Portrayal
24 Man-handle
25 Eggs
26 Soar behind a motorboat
27 Equipment
29 Bobble the ball
30 Grazing area
35 Pair
37 "Psycho" figure
39 Mac maker
40 Snapshot
41 Not up yet
42 — Stanley Gardner
43 Back talk
44 Remedy
45 Singer Redding
46 Encounter
49 Melody
50 Bylaw, for short



CRYPTOQUIP

L'S DSHYAXDW LC U HYUCV
HPA WTBLCF PDW - BAYAPDW
BUKR. XAT SLFRV KUX L'MD
SUWD MDPSLYLAC WAYYUPK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A COWBOY LETS OUT A YELL ON A HAWAIIAN ISLAND, I SUPPOSE IT COULD BE AN OAHU WAHOO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals M