

Sport

Battle of giants today

Sports Reporter

In a never-ending outburst of emotional involvement the sports buffs in the country are going to split into two groups on yet another occasion when arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting lock horns in a crucial Lifebuoy Premier Division football league tie at the Dhaka Stadium today.



The Dhaka derby kicks-off at 6.30pm with Radio Bangladesh airing the running commentary from the big bowl while Bangladesh Television has opted to stay out of depriving millions from seeing their teams in action.

When the high-voltage drama expectedly kicks-off in front of a full-house crowd it will be the 39th league clash of the titans since the emergence of Abahani after independence.

In their previous 38 league engagements the record reveals an even distribution of 12 wins and 14 draw for each side.

For defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra, who

are currently holding the top slot alone with 19 points from their previous seven league engagements, the match is a vital one in the

sense that a win will enable them to move further ahead of the others.

While for a precariously placed Mohammedans, who have already lost seven points and has to be content with the fourth slot behind Fakirerpool, a win and only a return will give them a chance to return into the title race.

"In such a demanding situation we are thinking of nothing but a win," said Mohammedans coach Abu Yousuf during a light practice

session of the team at the Fazole Rabbi Hall ground yesterday afternoon.

You are going to roll in their Russian striker for the first time to strengthen their frontline.

Kazakov, the robust Russian, had earlier scored the highest number of 11 goals for the black and whites in last year's league.

Besides Kazakov, Mohammedans will also field their two Nigerians — the Baba duo — who scored one goal apiece in Mohammedans sensational 3-2 win over Muktiyoddha during their last league match.

On the other hand Abahani will miss their reliable defender Ali Monsur, who was injured in his side's previous match against Brothers Union.

Meanwhile, the organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) have fixed the rate of gallery tickets at Taka 20.

The tickets will be on sale from 2.30 pm and the enclosures will also be opened simultaneously.

Police beaten

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha had the better of Police Athletic Club by a lone goal in a match of Lifebuoy First Division football league played at the Dhaka Stadium on Sunday.

In the 77th minute, Md Sabbir Ahmed Polash made a solo run from mid-field and scored a brilliant goal after dodging past a couple of defenders and finally beating the on-rushing Police custodian Md Emran Hossain with a neat placing.

Police came by a chance to equalise almost immediately but substitute Emadul Alam headed from a Masud Rana lob straight into the safe lap of keeper Faiz.

TEAMS

SADHARAN BIMA KR: Faiz, Kamal, Ayub, Biplob, Ayub Zaber, Ershadul Huq, Anwar Hossain, Kasim, Tutul, Sakhawat, Polash.

POLICE AC: Emran Hossain, Rakhal Chandra, Ali Azam, Babar Ali, Haridas, Shanto, Bhowmik, Kamal, (Bulbul), Tara Miah, (Emadul Alam), Masud Rana, Mustofa Kamal.

Referee: Golam Mustafa

Munna the father

Sports Reporter

Abahani's inspirational skipper Monem Munna was supposed to be at the club tent yesterday. But he was not. He also did not take part in the last practice session before the sky blues' crucial league match against arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club, scheduled for a 6.30 pm start at the Dhaka Stadium today.

Instead, he was engaged with some more demanding paternal task when the moody national defender celebrated the first birthday of his daughter at his Narayanganj residence.

And, when this reporter stepped into his two-storied house at the Bandar, Munna was busy preparing the stage for Dalna's birthday party. She is the only child of the happy couple.

And may be its the best tonic of a player to prepare himself for the big occasion.

Lotus-Kamal cricket

Sports Reporter

Indira Road KC and Udayachal Club moved into the semifinals of the Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket league after eliminating their respective opponents at different city venues yesterday.

Indira Road KC edged past Siddeshwari SC by one wicket at the City Club ground.

Batting first, Siddeshwari compiled a modest 108 for three in the allotted 30 overs with Ashraf scoring the highest 44.

Titu and Sakib of Indira Road captured two wickets each.

In reply, Indira Road KC reached their target of 109 in 29.1 overs with one wicket to spare.

A superb spell of five for 26 from Shawon couldn't help Siddeshwari winning the match.

Sumon topscored with 31 for the winners.

Meanwhile, Udayachal Club recorded a comfortable five-wicket win over Ward No-4 CC at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Opting to Bat first, Ward No 4 CC were bundled out for a paltry 60 in 28.4 overs.

Ronju and Sajol ripped up the losers' batting line-up claiming three wickets apiece.

Set to score 61, Udayachal wiped off their required runs in 28.3 overs losing five wickets.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifebuoy Premier Division football league:

Brothers Union vs Rahmatganj MFS (4:30 pm Dhaka Stadium)

Abahani Krira Chakra vs Mohammedan Sporting Club (6:30 pm Dhaka Stadium)

Lifebuoy First Division football league:

Bangladesh Boys Club vs Victoria SC (5 pm Mirpur Stadium)

Pioneer Division football league:

Nakhalpara Jubo Kalyan vs Tejgaon Nabataranga (2:30 pm Banani ground)

Modhubagh Friends Club vs Diganta Majlish (4 pm Banani ground)

Rampura Natun Kuri vs Gazipur Eleven (2:30 pm Mohakhali T&T ground)

Chaitali Club vs Kamal Young Society (4 pm Mohakhali T&T ground)

Bikrampur Eleven vs Diba Sangad (2:30 pm Dhupkhola Metropolitan ground)

Railway Blues vs Monsoon SC (4 pm Dhupkhola Metropolitan ground)

Tenth Bata schools chess tournament (NSC chess room)

Lara fights a losing battle

Cork digs Windies' grave



MANCHESTER, England, July 30: England weathered a ferocious West Indies

Benjamin for a duck. Craig White was also caught in the slips for one

I Bishop c Crawley b Watkinson 9 K Benjamin c Knight b Fraser 15 C Ambrose not out 23

storm today to win the fourth Test by six wickets and square the six-Test series at two-all, reports Reuter.

Set only 94 runs to win, England appeared to be cruising comfortably at 39 without loss when captain Mike Atherton ran himself out needlessly for 22 attempting a second run to Ian Bishop.

A further three wickets then fell for only nine runs and Robin Smith was forced to leave the field when he sustained a nasty blow to his left cheekbone to leave England tottering at 48 for four.

But John Crawley and Jack Russell, both recalled to the England team for this crucial Test, both played calmly and sensibly to steer England to victory without further loss.

England's victory charge was set up by their irrepressible all-rounder Dominic Cork who followed his first innings half century with only the 22nd hat-trick in Test match history.

The blond paceman, who has now taken 20 wickets in his first three Tests, bowled captain Richie Richardson for 22 via pad and bet with the fourth ball of the day's opening over.

He then trapped Junior Murray and Carl Hooper lbw for first ball ducks to record England's first hat-trick since Peter Loader performed the feat against West Indies at Headingley in 1957.

West Indies, who had begun the day at 159 for three after trailing England by 221 on the first innings, eventually finished all out for 314, thanks to a wonderful 145 from Brian Lara.

Lara, who scored 87 in the first innings, showed the perfect blend of concentration and aggression with only the tailenders to keep him company.

He was eventually out after an innings lasting 281 minutes and 216 balls with 16 cleanly-struck boundaries.

After Atherton's dismissal, Bishop immediately struck when he had Nick Knight caught in the slips for 13, then Graham Thorpe, top scorer with 94 in the first innings, was caught off Kenny



DOMINIC CORK... man-of-the-match

and then Smith received the blow on his cheekbone, attempting to keep the ball down. He was taken to hospital for a precautionary X-ray.

A fascinating match took its final twist with the advent of Russell, who refused to be intimidated by some high-class pace bowling.

Russell ran swiftly between the wickets, carved the ball effectively off the back foot and took his total to 31 to add to his 35 run out in the first innings.

Dominic Cork was named man-of-the-match for the second time in his brief Test career.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the fourth Test between England and West Indies at Old Trafford today.

WEST INDIES: First innings 216 (B Lara 87; A Fraser 4-45, D Cork 4-86)

ENGLAND: First innings 437 (G Thorpe 94, D Cork 56 not out; C Walsh 4-92)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 159-3) S Campbell c 44 Russell b Watkinson 17 K Arthurton run out 14 b Lara c Knight b Fraser 15 J Adams c and b Watkinson 1 R Richardson b Cork 22 J Murray lbw b Cork 0 C Hooper lbw b Cork 0

C Walsh b Cork 16 Extras: (b-5, lb-9, nb-8) 314 Total: 314

Fall of wickets: 1-36; 2-93; 3-97; 4-161; 5-161; 6-161; 7-191; 8-234; 9-283

Bowling: O M R W Fraser 19 5 53 2 Cork 24 2 111 4 Emburey 20 5 49 0 White 6 0 23 0 Watkinson 23 4 64 3

ENGLAND: Second innings N Knight c sub b Bishop 13 M Atherton run out 22 J Crawley not out 15 G Thorpe c Ambrose b K Benjamin 0 R Smith retired hurt 1 C White c sub b Benjamin 1 J Russell not out 31 Extras: (lb-2, 2-1, nb-8) 114 Total: (for four wickets) 94

Fall of wickets: 1-39; 2-41; 3-45; 4-48

Bowling: O M R W Ambrose 5 1 16 0 Walsh 5 0 17 0 Bishop 12 6 18 1 Benjamin 9 1 29 2 Arthurton 2.5 1 5 0 Adams 2 0 7 0

Result: England won by six wickets.

First Test (Headingley): West Indies won by nine wickets.

Second Test (Lord's): England won by 72 runs. Third Test (Edgbaston): West Indies won by an innings and 64 runs.

Terry steers Hampshire

SOUTHAMPTON, England, July 30: Former England opener Paul Terry led the charge as Hampshire fought back in their second innings following on after they had been bowled out for 100 runs by Young Australia here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The tourists pace bowler Michael Kasprovic did most of the damage by taking five for 19 as Hampshire collapsed after a promising start.

From 71 for two, they lost their last eight wickets in only 15 overs.

This was in response to Young Australia's first innings 527 for seven in which Ricky Ponting made 87 and Adam Gilchrist 62 to add to the first-day centuries from Matthew Bayden and Stuart Law.

Cardigan Connor, Shaun Udal and young spinner Richard Dibben each took two wickets, but Hampshire dropped four catches as their attack wilted under the assault.

When Hampshire batted for the first time, only Terry (26) and John Stephenson (30) reached double figures with Kasprovic, who spent last season with Essex, leading the destruction.

Pace bowlers Mark Harrity and Jo Angel each took two wickets while Hampshire's captain Mark Nicholas, fighting a virus and batting at eight, was stumped off leg-spinner Peter McIntyre.

Hampshire followed on a mammoth 427 behind and soon lost young opening batsman Jason Lane.

He had scored five and the total was eight when he edged Angel to first slip, where Law clutched the catch.

But with a two-day defeat looming, Hampshire staged a recovery with Terry and Stephenson putting on an unbeaten 118 for the second wicket.

Terry reached his half-century from 87 balls with his 10th boundary and was 61 not out at the close.

Stephenson was unbeaten on 47 and Hampshire closed at 126 for one, still 301 behind with two days remaining.

Sino, ROK cagers set final clash

SHIZUOKA, Japan, July 30: Three-time defending champions China breezed past Taiwan 99-72 on Saturday to set up a final encounter against South Korea at the Asian Women's Basketball Championships, reports AFP.

The Chinese women, the silver medalists at the Barcelona Olympic Games, led 57-35 at half-time.

The Koreans, who defeated China and Japan to win the gold medal at the Hiroshima Asian Games last year, overwhelmed Kazakhstan 129-56, while Japan trounced Kirghistan 117-41.

China, South Korea and Japan finished the six nation round robin tournament with 4-1 win-loss records with China taking top spot thanks to a better point average among the three teams, South Korea second and Japan third.

China and South Korea clinched the place for the Atlanta Olympic Games next year, while Japan will take on Taiwan in a third-place playoff, vying for the last ticket to the United States.



A Farashganj defender tries to cut off the march of most deceptive Muktiyoddha Sangsad striker Mizan during yesterday's Lifebuoy Premier Division football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. Farashganj held the title aspirants 1-1. — Star photo

Farashganj stun Muktis

Sports Reporter

Farashganj Sporting Club sprinkled salt on Muktiyoddha Sangsad's wounds when they rallied late in the second half to erase a first half deficit. Fresh in the minds of Mukti players is a rude 2-3 defeat from an own goal by defender Moon in the last minute of their previous outing. Farashganj on Sunday was not any kinder.

In the only fixture of the Lifebuoy Premier football league at the Dhaka Stadium, Muktiyoddha for the second consecutive match saw their lead vanish into thin air and joy overtaken by agony.

Mizan found the goal for Mukti when he neatly pushed a Nakib cross behind custodian Bijoy. Mizan was deprived of his second goal when his right-footer shook the cross-piece early in the second half.

Also in the post-lemon period Mamun Joarder managed to put a sinner wide end later saw his curling corner kick fisted away by a lunging Bijoy.

Surviving some close calls, Farashganj found an opening in the 84th minute.

Ratan Kumar Chowdhury floated one from the right over Mukti keeper Arun and

substitute Mujibur Rahman Ritu headed home with ease.

Muktiyoddha have a game remaining against Abahani in the first leg of the league and have collected 17 points. Mukti's disappointment is compounded by the fact that Farashganj have only four points to their credit.

Yellow card: Md Riazuddin (Farashganj)

TEAMS

MUKTIYODDHA SANGSAD KC: Arun, Barun (Emadul), Moon, Kingshuk, Masud Rana, Mamun Joarder (Babu), Titu (Rumi), Zakir, Rakib, Naquib and Mizan.

FARASHGANJ SC: Bijoy, Nazrul, Sufian, Santosh (Chena Mong), Sagar, Selim, Liakat, Monir (Munna), Ratan, Alamgir (Ritu) and Riaz.

Referee: R Alam.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Manikdi Provatl Sangha recorded a facile 3-0 win over Modhubagh Friends Club in one of the eight Pioneer Division football league engagements at the Banani ground yesterday.

Asaduzzaman was the prime scorer with two goals while Kamrul netted the other one for the winners.

The results of the remaining matches are:

Venue: Banani ground Tejgaon Nabataranga -2 (Kazim, Jaisan)

Venue: Mohakhali T&T ground Diganta Majlish -0

Venue: Gazipur Eleven -2 (Monirul, Hadiul)

Venue: Kamal Young Society -0, Chaitali Club -0

Venue: Badda Jagarani (Junior) -0

Venue: Mirpur Outer Stadium MSPCC -1 (Shamim)

Venue: Golden Future -1 (Alam)

Venue: Nabadoy -1 (Masum)

Venue: Sunlight SC -0

Venue: Dhupkhola Metropolitan ground

Venue: Islampur Uttaran -0

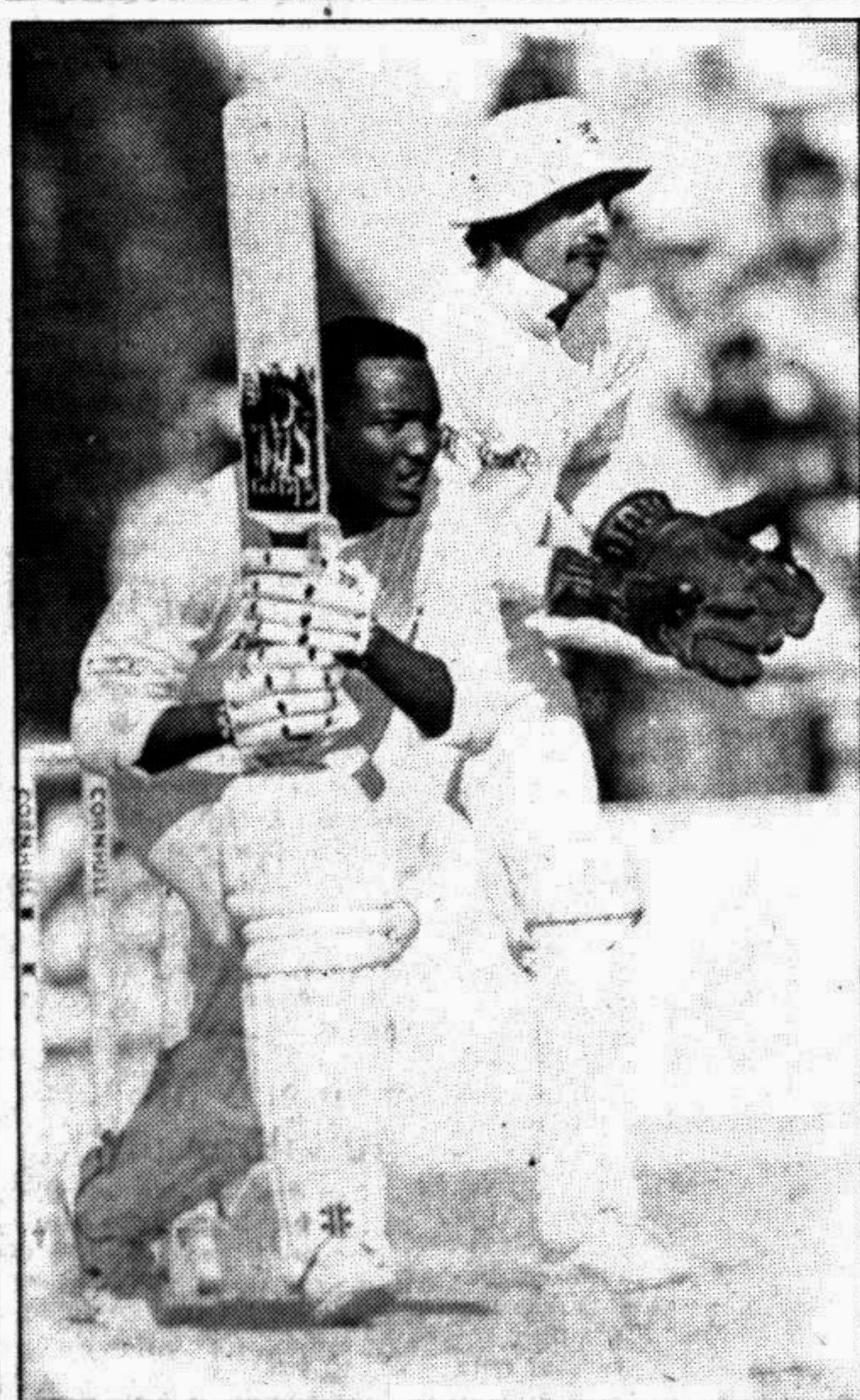
Venue: Abokash Tarun -0

Venue: Jagannath College ground

Venue: Nababpur SC -2 (Anwar -2)

Venue: Paradagar KC -2 (Jamal, Zahidul)

Venue: Nababpur SC -2 (Anwar -2)



World record-holder Brian Lara drives England's veteran spinner John Emburey during his brilliant knock of 145 in the West Indies' second innings on the third day of the fourth Test match at Old Trafford on July 29. — AFP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Lotion add-in, 5 Rain-de-lay need, 9 Follow relentlessly, 12 Saucy wench, 13 Jai follower, 14 Uneasy, 15 Settings go on them, 17 Witness, 18 Tied, 19 Nevada resort lake, 21 Syrup source, 24 Porter's 'Let's -', 25 Fusses, 26 There are more than 8 letters here, 30 Cambridge sch., 31 Carnival attractions, 32 Twisted, 33 Olym-pians, e.g., 35 Bump into, 36 Potter's, 37 'America's Most Wanted' host, 38 Territory of India, 40 Depressed, 42 Cool, today, 43 Napkin, 46 Put to work, 49 Genealogy chart, 50 Hoodlum, 51 Mai de - , 52 Stitched, 53 Ogled, 1 Electric guitar need: abbr., 2 Abner's, 3 - shoe-string, 4 Tops, 5 Do circus work, 6 Green-span of the Federal Reserve Board, 7 Mail eater of rhyme, 8 Tools for duels, 9 Terry-cloth item, 10 Bread spread, 11 Exultation, 16 Leading lady, 20 Melody, 21 One of the Three Bears, 22 Mine access, 23 Burn preventive, 24 Conks out, 26 Yogi had a hand in it, 27 Estival quaff, 28 Raw rocks, 29 Story, 31 Withstands, 34 -di-dah, 35 Horse-manship, 37 1914-18 event, for short, 38 Percus-sion item, 39 Relaxation, 40 One of the Barrymores, 41 36 Across, e.g., 44 Prior to, 45 Item in Santa's bag, 46 Place-kicker's pride, 47 Here, appropriately.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-53 indicating starting positions for letters.

CRYPTOQUIP ZYVVYLC QHVVH ZHN DPAARDLDZPW DOHR DGVARDGL: "VOR DOHR QPDV CH HL." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR ASTRONOMY CLASS AT THE NUDIST CAMP LOOKED AT THE LITTLE SKINNY DIPPER. Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals M The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.