

England tour NZ early next year

AFP, London

England will play three Tests, five one-day internationals and two Twenty20 matches on their two-month tour of New Zealand in early 2008, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Tuesday.

England will arrive in New Zealand on January 28 and play the first of two one-day warm-up games five days later.

They will then face their hosts in seven limited-overs contests, starting with the Twenty20 games, over the following three weeks before preparing for the Test series.

England will play one two-day match and one three-day first-class game before the first Test at Hamilton on March 5. The tour will end on March 26 after further Tests in Wellington and Napier.

ITINERARY

- Jan 28, 2008: England arrive
Feb 02: One-day warm-up game v Canterbury, QE II Park, Christchurch
Feb 03: One-day warm-up game v Canterbury, QE II Park Christchurch
Feb 05: 1st Twenty20 International (floodlit), Lancaster Park, Christchurch
Feb 07: 2nd Twenty20 International (floodlit), Eden Park, Auckland
Feb 09: 1ST ODI (day/night), Westpac Stadium, Wellington
Feb 12: 2ND ODI (day/night), Seddon Park, Hamilton
Feb 15: 3RD ODI (day/night), Eden Park, Auckland
Feb 20: 4TH ODI, McLean Park, Napier
Feb 23: 5TH ODI (day/night), Lancaster Park, Christchurch
Feb 25-26: Practice match v Otago, University Oval, Dunedin
Feb 28-Mar 01: First-class match v Otago, University Oval, Dunedin
Mar 05-09: 1ST TEST, Seddon Park, Hamilton
Mar 13-17: 2ND TEST, Basin Reserve, Wellington
Mar 22-26: 3RD TEST, McLean Park, Napier

Indo-Pak ODI

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the future, "Manoj Badale, chairman of the British Asian Trust, said. "As yet we don't have a date for that but both boards recognise that their fans around the world have been excited about this and will find a way of making this game happen again."

Pakistan's first game of their two-match tour, against Scotland in Edinburgh on Sunday, was also abandoned because of rain without a ball being bowled.

"I'm disappointed, of course I am, but these things are an occupational hazard I'm afraid when you are involved with cricket in Scotland," said Cricket Scotland chief executive Roddy Smith. "We can't do anything about it."

Vaidisova

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"I'm happy with my performance, because I start playing not so good my first match and now I'm playing better than ever I played in this tournament," Kuznetsova said. "Really enjoy the game on grass. Now I start loving it, so it's good."

Play was twice delayed early in the match, each time for about 20 minutes. The third delay came when Mauresmo was about to serve for the second set, and lasted nearly an hour.

This year's tournament has been hampered by rain in seven of its first eight days.

Matches on Centre Court and Court number one started at 11 a.m. Tuesday -- two hours earlier than usual -- because of the backlog of matches.

On the men's side, 2003 French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the first time by beating Janko Tipsarevic in straight sets.

Argentina

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result on us because we made a very big effort and we also created a lot of opportunities, but we weren't able to take advantage of them."

Edgar Barreto put Paraguay ahead, 1-0, before Ricardo Clark tied it for the U.S. five minutes before halftime.

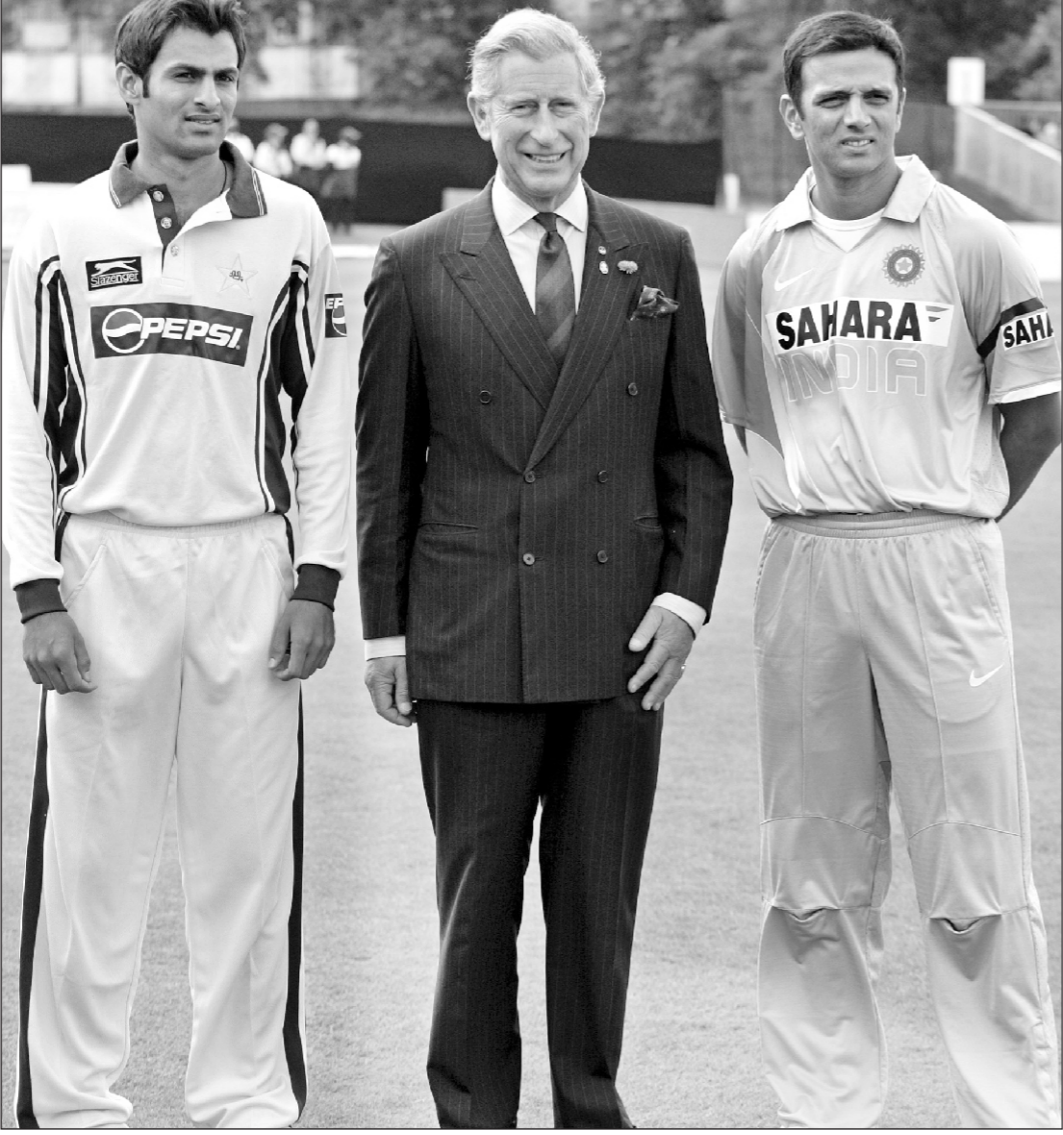
However, the South Americans' sustained pressure saw them claim a deserved victory through Oscar Cardozo before Salvador Cabanas sealed the win when he curled a long-range free-kick into the net in injury time.

Paraguay had two draws and two losses against the United States in the previous four meetings.

"We have to start thinking about correcting some mistakes in the defence," Paraguay coach Gerardo Martino said after watching his side improved to 2-0-0 in the tournament following a 5-0 demolition of Colombia last week.

"We suffered a lot when we lost the ball in an attack. When you take risks in the rivals' box, you always suffer in your own.

"We had the same amount of chances as the USA and the forwards showed their skills. Since I arrived we are trying to change the historic way of Paraguay in attacking, and that is leaving us with some headaches in the defence too."



India captain Rahul Dravid (R) and his Pakistan opposite number Shoaib Malik (L) pose with Prince Charles of Britain ahead of their Future Friendship Cup one-day international at Citylets Titwood cricket ground in Glasgow yesterday.

Sardesai no more

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA from Mumbai

Former Indian Test player Dilip Sardesai, who was considered one of the finest batsmen against spin bowling, died here on Monday night following multi-organ failure. He was 67.

Sardesai, who was admitted to Bombay Hospital late last month with chest infection, was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit on Sunday night after he developed complications.

Suffering from kidney problems for a long time, he had been on dialysis and had been in and out of hospital for long. Sardesai is survived by his wife, son and eminent television journalist Rajdeep Sardesai and a daughter who is based in the United States.

Born on August 8, 1940 at Margao, Goa, Dilip Narayan Sardesai made his Test debut against England at Kanpur in December 1961 and played his last Test against the same team in Delhi in December 1972.

During a career spanning 11 years, he played 30 Tests and scored 2,001 runs in 55 innings with an average of 39.23 helped by a double century and four centuries.

However, Sardesai is remembered most for his brilliant performance in the tour of the West Indies in 1970-71 when Sunil Gavaskar had made his Test debut, by hitting up a double ton and two centuries

that powered India to a first-ever series win in the Caribbean under the captaincy of Ajit Wadekar.

In that series, Sardesai finished with an aggregate of 642 runs in three Tests, second only to Gavaskar who had made 742 runs.

Ironically, Sardesai's selection for



DILIP SARDESAI

that tour of the West Indies at the fag end of his career came when he had at point appeared out of the reckoning. He continued to play Test cricket for just two more years.

Known for his immaculate footwork and a sound technique, he was the mainstay of Indian middle order batting in the 1970s and rescued India from tight spot on a number of occasions. He was on object lesson to aspiring cricketers trying to negoti-

ate spin bowlers.

Though predominantly a defensive batsman, Sardesai also showed his ability for attacking cricket when required and a fine example of this came when he scored one of India's fastest centuries against New Zealand in 1964-65.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Cricket Board President Sharad Pawar and a host of former players including Gavaskar who had played with him consoled the death.

Former off spinner S Venkataraghavan paid glowing tributes to Sardesai describing him as one of his best friends and recalling his "phenomenal" double century in the Kingston Test against the West Indies in 1970-71.

Another legendary off spinner Erapalli Prasanna termed Sardesai as his friend, philosopher and guide and said his performance in the West Indies was the trendsetter for India's series win in 1971.

Wadekar said Sardesai was a cricketer of "great value" and "he gave us confidence against the West Indies".

Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, former skipper, said he was shocked to hear the death of Sardesai.

Former wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer said he lost a genuine friend and recalled his fastest century against New Zealand.

Chittagong derby drawn

SPORTS REPORTER

The second Chittagong derby of the B. League ended in a 1-1 draw yesterday as the port city Abahani failed to take revenge against their local Mohammedan.

Nepalese striker Santosh Sahukhal put Chittagong Abahani ahead six minutes after the barren first half at the MA Aziz Stadium.

But Dipu, who slammed the match winner in Chittagong Mohammedan's 1-0 first-leg win against the local Abahani, bailed out his side with a 75th minute equaliser.

Mohammedan finished their 15th match with 19 points while Abahani remained second-from-bottom despite raising their collection to 12 points after 16 games.

BKSP keep fingers crossed

UNB, Dhaka

BKSP kept their hopes alive for a final berth in the 27th National Hockey Championship beating all-losers Mymensingh 4-1 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Savar sport institute secured seven points from four super league matches to stay in contention while Mymensingh ended their campaign without any point.

Syed Al Masum, Zahid Bin Talib, Shamsul Alam and Ajit Kumar scored one goal each for BKSP, who dominated the first half 3-0. Himel scored the consolation goal for Mymensingh.

In the day's other match, star-studded Dhaka shared points with Rajshahi in a 1-1 draw.

Sabbir put Rajshahi ahead in the 41st minute while national forward Russell Mahmud Jimmy restored parity for Dhaka in the 50th minute.

Dhaka increased their collection to seven points from three games while Rajshahi were eliminated after collecting four points as many games.

Dhaka play Faridpur, who are also on seven points in the last super league match today to decide the finalists.

Rahul fine

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responsibility in certain areas," said Dravid, keen to emphasise the importance of self-reliance, ahead of Tuesday's lone one-day international against Pakistan in Glasgow.

"But irrespective of whether there is a coach or not, the senior players do have to take responsibility.

"If we do get a coach, it doesn't mean the senior players suddenly become irrelevant. They are the ones at the end of the day who are the leaders in the team and they are the ones that should set the tempo.

"It's not only the captain, you've got to have four or five leaders in the team who are setting the example for the younger guys to follow," explained Dravid after Yuvraj Singh's unbeaten 61 saw India home with four balls to spare against the Proteas on Sunday.

"I think in this series you saw that."

The 34-year-old Dravid, a veteran of 109 Tests and 319 ODIs added: "We are well organised. We do have a fielding coach and a bowling coach. They've been looking after their departments really well.

"We do have a cricket manager in Mr Borde, who provides us with an overview and uses his experience to guide us."

Garcia leaves

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Liverpool's 2005 Champions League triumph, netting a stunning volley against Juventus and bundling in the controversial semifinal winner against Chelsea.

He scored another 11 goals in his second campaign on Merseyside, but missed the last half of this season after tearing the cruciate ligament in his right knee in a 6-3 League Cup defeat against Arsenal in January.

Garcia, who has won 18 caps for Spain, scored 30 goals in 121 first team games for Liverpool.

He is the fifth new player to join Atletico in the close season with the club also recruiting Uruguay striker Diego Forlan from Villarreal and midfielder Raul Garcia from Osasuna.

Roma accept

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He spent four years in Holland, during which time he helped Ajax reach the quarterfinals of the Champions league in the 2002-03 season.

A dead-ball specialist, Chivu joined Roma in the summer of 2003. The versatile Romanian helped Roma finish second in Serie A last season, as well as reach the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

Bell targets Ponting role

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Ian Bell is looking to follow the lead of Australia captain Ricky Ponting as he bids to make the England No 3 role his own.

Ponting, one of the world's best batsmen, has been a dominant figure batting at first wicket down, scoring over 9,000 runs in 110 Tests at an average of nearly 60 with 33 hundreds.

And the 32-year-old Tasmanian, who led Australia to victory in the 2007 World Cup in Barbados in April, after leading the team to the trophy in southern Africa four years earlier, has been a major force in the shorter form of the game as well.

Ponting has scored nearly 10,400 runs in 280 one-day internationals at 43.41 with 23 hundreds.

"For me, especially batting at three in one-day cricket, he's the best at the minute," Bell said of Ponting at Edgbaston here Tuesday.

"I think he definitely goes on, when he gets in he converts his scores into hundreds and that's

something I want to achieve, to turn all my fifties into hundreds," added Bell, speaking at his Warwickshire home ground where the second one-day international is due to take place on Wednesday.

"He certainly has a way of playing in one-day cricket. He doesn't go out and slog, he plays proper shots and doesn't always go at it from ball one.

"He's cool, he's calm and he plays a role where he's always in control. That's something I'd admire about him and like to bring into my game."

Bell, who has been shunted up and down the order during his England career, believes No 3 is his best position.

In that role he top-scored with 56 at Lord's in England's 79-run win during Sunday's first of three one-day internationals (ODIs) against the West Indies.

However, unlike Ponting, the 25-year-old Bell has yet to turn any of his 11 ODI fifties into hundreds.

"You want to be scoring one-day hundreds but some of the knocks I've played we've ended up winning the game and I've been 80 not out," said Bell, who has now played 45

ODIs. "I've backed myself to do it (score a hundred), it's just a matter of time.

"I think No 3 suits my game more than other positions but if England want me to bat in a different position, I'd be willing to do it."

He added: "Moorey (England coach Peter Moores) has told me not to see myself as a young cricketer any more but to see myself as a proper Test match cricketer. That's something I've got to work on mentally.

"At No 3, you've got to have people in there who are going to take responsibility, judge the conditions, and build a platform for the guys that we have around to get big scores."

Bell was controversially left out by Warwickshire for their FP Trophy semi-final defeat against Hampshire, which took place the day after last month's fourth Test win against the West Indies, despite being made available by England.

"It did hurt, I'm a Warwickshire lad," said Bell. "But that wasn't my decision. I've talked about it with the club and we've moved on."

Forever Blues

Football

AFP, London

Frank Lampard's agent insisted Monday that the Chelsea midfielder wants to stay at Stamford Bridge for the rest of his career.

The 28-year-old England midfielder is alleged to have turned down a contract extension that would have made him Chelsea's highest earner with wages of 131,000-pounds-a-week (264,000 dollars).

But his agent, Steve Kutner, is adamant that no talks have taken place with Chelsea because Lampard and the club's chief executive Peter Kenyon have not been free to set up a meeting since the end of last season.

Lampard has been linked with both Barcelona and Juventus in the last week but will join the rest of the

Chelsea squad for their tour of America next week.

Kutner said: "The three of us haven't had a chance to have talks. There has never been a time when the three of us have been free as

Frank has been on holiday and Peter has been away. But nothing has changed. Frank has always said he wants to stay at Chelsea for the rest of his career.

"He will join up with Chelsea's tour next week and will be as committed as ever. Nothing can get sorted out until he gets back, but there is no rush."

Chelsea are on the brink of selling defender Geremi to Newcastle for two million pounds but are also trying to persuade Dutch winger Arjen Robben to sign a long-term extension to his current contract.

Real Madrid continue to show interest in the Holland international but Robben, like Lampard, insists he wants to remain a Chelsea

player. Lampard's situation is unlikely to be sorted out until next month as, after their American tour, Chelsea have friendlies at Feyenoord, Rangers and Brondby.

Chelsea have signed three players on free transfers so far this summer -- Steve Sidwell, Tal Ben Haim and Claudio Pizarro -- but coach Jose Mourinho denies he has been told there is no money to spend.

Mourinho told Chelsea TV: "Nobody on the board said, 'Jose you have to only bring in players on a Bosman because we have no money to spend'."

"I think it is bad business if you only bring in players under the Bosman law and they are not good enough.

"If the only reason you are bringing them in is because they are free, they become expensive. The point is to bring in good players."

Moore wants to stay put

Cricket

AFP, London

Stand-in coach David Moore admitted Monday that he was keen to be involved with the West Indies set-up when the current tour of England and Ireland ends next week.

Moore was drafted into the role for the Test series and one-day clashes on a temporary basis after previously being assistant to former coach Bennett King.

The Australian could be retained for the Twenty20 World Championship in September if the Windies have not found a successor to King.

"Would I like to play a part in the future? It would be nice to be part of it. You can see some very good things ahead for West Indian cricket," he said.

"Of course, you look around world cricket and there are some really tremendous coaches around who are unemployed or not coaching for whatever reason.

"There are some really good coaches who could do a really good job for West Indies cricket. But I think I could do a reasonable job as well."

Moore was however keen to play down talk about his own future until the NatWest Series with England and

a trio of games in Ireland are completed.

"My position isn't really in question at the moment as regards to where I want to be. That's irrelevant. What is relevant is the next two games here in England and the next three games in Ireland and getting the players moving forward.

"I don't even worry about my position until you negotiate terms because the coach's desires are well down the order of what we want to achieve. I am not really worrying about that at all."

Moore added: "I've got my options open. I'm trained to do things and I can do other things if I don't do cricket coaching. I don't have to depend for my whole livelihood on cricket coaching. I've got plenty of things up my sleeve I can earn a buck from.

"But my passion is cricket and I love cricket coaching and I'd love to be involved with the West Indies -- but if it doesn't happen, so be it.

"There is no timetable. We spoke about me doing this tour and, if they haven't got anyone else in the meantime, to go to the Twenty20 World Championships in South Africa."

Durham pacesman and former West Indian bowler Otis Gibson has already expressed his desire to become the next coach.

The post has not yet been adver-

tised and the Windies have had eight different coaches since their former batsman Rohan Kanhai was the first to be given it on a first full-time basis.

Moore is looking for the Windies to bounce back from their 79-run defeat in the opening NatWest clash against England at Edgbaston on Wednesday.

"I think we under perform in the 50-over game and hopefully we can start improving," said Moore.

"We are a young group of players so we have got to learn and it is about gathering experience and also about gathering volume of practice and play.

"We have got to hit a lot more cricket balls in practice and in games and we have got to learn how to construct innings and watch good cricketers carefully and learn from them."

Schuster's Real

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Discussions could push back the expected arrival of the 47-year-old former German coach this week as Fabio Capello's successor.

It is also holding up the signature of Michael Laudrup as the new Getafe coach, Madrid reported.

The Dane reportedly arrived in Madrid last weekend with his family.

Report or obituary?

FROM PAGE 17

It was not possible to get reactions from assistant coach Sarwar Imran after the miserable batting performance as it was learnt that the authority reprimanded him following his harsh remarks after the first Test.

However, former Indian batsman turned commentator Sanjay Manjrekar believes that the authority should concentrate more on what he (Imran) actually said.

"Yes, I have read his comments. Many might have raised the flags against him but he told of what he felt. It would be wise to focus on his observations," said the former Test batsman while he was talking at the press box.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the second Test between

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo on Tuesday:

BANGLADESH: First innings Omar c P Jayawardene b Malinga 8 Nafees lbw b Malinga 0 Saleh c M Jayawardene b Muralidaran 21 Bashar c M Jayawardene b Malinga 5 Ashrafu c Warnapura b Malinga 0 Hossain b Fernando 6 Rahim c P Jayawardene b Muralidaran 9 Mashrafe c M Jayawardene b Fernando 0 Rafique c Vaas b Muralidaran 2 Sharif not out 4 Shahadat b Muralidaran 1 Extras: (lb-1, nb-4, w-1) 6 Total: (All out in 25.2 overs) 62 Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-14, 3-22, 4-22, 5-33, 6-45, 7-48, 8-51, 9-56

Bowler O M R W Vaas 5 1 6 0 Malinga 9 1 25 4 Fernando 6 1 16 2 Muralidaran 5.2 1 14 4 SRI LANKA: First innings VANDAR b Mashrafe 14 Wampura not out 79 Sangakkara not out 51 Extras: (lb-3, nb-7) 10 Total: (For 1 wkt in 45.3 overs) 154 Fall of wicket: 1-41 To bat: M Jayawardene, Silva, Dilshan, P Jayawardene, Vaas, Muralidaran, Malinga, Fernando

Bowler O M R W Mashrafe 12 1 31 1 Shahadat 9 1 34 0 Sharif 7.3 1 26 0 Rafique 14 1 48 0 Ashrafu 3 0 12 0 Toss: Sri Lanka. Umpires: Asad Rauf and Rudi Koertzen.

Emily does it again

FROM PAGE 17

forward won a penalty in the 37th minute following a clumsy challenge by Nigerian centre-back Amadou.

Nazrul made no mistake to send goalkeeper Mamun Khan the wrong way and send a powerful strike into the left corner for his second league goal.

Abahani took little time to regain lead as Emily showed signs of returning to his best during his ninth goal in the run with an intelligent run in the 49th minute.

As opposition custodian Mamun and captain Faisal waited for each other to intercept a through pass by Abul inside the box, the Abahani No. 10 noticed the chance, raced from behind to take the ball away from both before cutting the ball back into the net from a tight angle.

For the next 20 minutes, Abahani laid relentless assaults on the rival goal but failed to increase the mar-

gin on a water-soaked heavy pitch. Ibrahim screwed his chance over the bar from seven yards and forced a fine save by the keeper while

Parvez and Joy both shot into the side netting. The Dhaka giants, however, ran out of gas in the last quarter and Mohammed Ali almost brought the riversiders level from the top of the box only to be denied by Biplab's reflex.

Tipu came close to score in the dying minutes but the Abahani sub saw his low drive from an acute angle miss the far post for inches.

Yellow cards: Mikel, Pradip (Abahani) and Amadou (Farashganj)

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplab, Siraji, Pradip, Nazrul, Wali, Mikel (Parvez), Joy, Abul, Ujjal (Pranotosh), Ibrahim and Emily (Tipu). FARASHGANJ: Mamun, Liton, Mamun Mia, Faisal, Amadou, Khaled (Murad), Amirul, Arup (Rajib), Ali, Rony and Robin (Kutub). Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh.

TOP SCORERS

- 14 goals: Junior (Brothers)
13 goals: Paul (Mohammedan)
9 goals: Emily (Abahani)
8 goals: Emeka (Mohammedan)
7 goals: Robin (Farashganj)
6 goals: Alfaz (Muktijoddha), Nicodemus (Arambagh), Abraham (Ctg Abahani), Younes (Russel)
5 goals: Moni (Muktijoddha), Khokon (Ctg Abahani)
4 goals: Prashanta (Khulna Abahani), Ighir (Russel), Abul (Abahani)
3 goals: Mamun, Piku (Khulna Abahani), Ibrahim (Abahani), Brahim (Muktijoddha), Apu (Rahmatganj), Biketi, Iddi (Arambagh), Asif (Ctg Mohammedan), Francis (Rahmatganj)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 TV alien 39 Resumé 40 Dazzles 41 Divided skirt 42 Dead end 43 Access 44 Sorvino 45 King of Siam's friend 46 Deluge 47 Send forth 48 Authentic 49 "Of course" 50 Agents, for short 51 Blackbird 52 Install, as 53 carping 54 Heavy weight 55 Prop for Groucho 56 Aesthetic 57 excol- lence 58 Buck's mate 59 "La Cage -- Folies" 60 Bear hair 61 Trans- verse drain 62 Scent

