

## World chess meet on

GRONINGEN, Netherlands. Dec 9: The largest-ever field for a World Chess Championship begins battle Tuesday — but without two of the world's top players and the intense rivalry they always generate, reports AP.

**Garry Kasparov** and Vladimir Kramnik have refused to play in the 5 million dollars tournament organised by the International Chess Federation, or FIDE, in the northern Dutch city of Groningen.

"It is very hard to say this is a real world championship, when the two strongest players in the world are not playing," Dutch chess writer Gert Lichtenk said.

Kasparov, reigning world champion with the rival Professional Chess Association, has refused to play because of what he calls the "dirty money" in the huge prize fund.

The comment — which he has made repeatedly without elaboration — is apparently aimed at the Russian oil company Khatan, which put up the prize. Organisers say they have no reason to question Khatan's contribution.

But Anatoly Karpov, tournament organiser FIDE's world champ, has his own explanation for Kasparov's refusal to play.

Kasparov "does not take any risks with his ideas that he is the strongest chess player in the world. He wants to choose his opponent and to choose the right moment," Karpov said at a recent event in Singapore.

The barbed comment is a taste of the arch-rivalry that will be missing from the tournament because of Kasparov's absence.

Kramnik has snubbed the event because he says organisers made it too easy for Kasparov to defend the world title he won for the fifth time last year in Elista, Russia. Kasparov has been given automatic entry into the six-game final, to be played in Lausanne, Switzerland, starting Jan 2, and will not be playing in Groningen.

The decision guarantees Kasparov — currently ranked below Kramnik — a minimum prize of 768,000 dollars even before he shifts a single pawn. The eventual winner will pocket 1,370,000 dollars.

In Lausanne, Kasparov will play the winner of the knockout tournament in Groningen, which features '98 of the world's top Grand Masters.

## Henri knows the score

RABAT, Dec 9: Frenchman Henri Michel, who has coached Morocco into the World Cup finals, knows exactly what lies ahead for his largely inexperienced North African team, reports Reuters.

A 47-year-old veteran of 58 appearances for France, he played in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, and then coached the French squad to the gold medal in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Two years after that he was coach of the French team in the Mexico World Cup, taking his side to the semifinals. Then four years ago, he was in charge of the Cameroon squad at USA '94.

Michael was not too disappointed with the first round draw that placed Morocco with world champions Brazil, Scotland and Norway.

"It will be tough, but I am confident of our chances."

## Cyclists off to Pakistan

### Sports Reporter

A six-member Bangladeshi cycling team left the capital for Pakistan yesterday to take part in the Golden Jubilee international cycling competition to be held from December 12 to 25.

The members of the team which includes two officials are: Abdul Kuddus Babul, Zahid Chowdhury Sumon, Riad Mahmood Islam, Golam Kader Dipu, Saidur Rahman (coach) and Wahid Hossain (manager).

## Akram's dream comes true



KARACHI, Dec 9: In a devastating spell skipper Wasim Akram snapped up three wickets in just six balls as Pakistan beat the West Indies by 10 wickets in the third Test here today, tormenting the tourists with a 3-0 clean sweep, reports AFP.

Akram thus fulfilled his dream of taking a place in the history books, becoming only the third Pakistani captain to win all three Tests in a series.

The West Indian innings folded at 212, leaving Pakistan a mere 12 runs to win; Pakistan reached the target in five overs without losing a wicket.

For the West Indies it was their worst series result in 69 years, since losing 3-0 to England in 1928.

For Pakistan the victory was

their third whitewash of an opponent in Test series.

Imran Khan led Pakistan to a 3-0 win over Kim Hughes' Australian side in 1982-83 while Javed Miandad thrashed the Kiwis under Martin Crowe 3-0 in 1990-91.

Akram finished with 4 for 42, bagging seven wickets in the match but off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq won man-of-the-match award for 4 for 26 and a total of nine wickets.

"It's a sort of feeling that very rarely comes, beating the cavalier West Indians 3-0 but I owe a lot to my teammates who did their best in all departments to bring curtains on our golden jubilee season in a befitting manner," Wasim Akram said.

Pakistan celebrated its 50 years of independence in the season. They lost 1-0 to South Africa in the Test series and failed to qualify for the final of the quadrangular tournament.

The whitewash of the Caribbeans is the best performance ever by any Pakistan team against West Indies.

West Indian captain Walsh was yanked for another night while Mervyn Dillon was dropped lbw for 4.

Mohammad Wasim and Azhar Mahmood were sent to open Pakistan's second innings. Wasim was caught by Carl Hooper off Walsh but to the despair of the West Indian captain umpire Salim Badar called it a "no-ball".

Azhar, unbeaten on 13, hit Walsh for a boundary to achieve the target.

West Indies will play a five-match Test series against England early next year. They leave for Sharjah to take part in the four-nation tournament also involving Pakistan, India and England. Pacer Curly Ambrose, nursing a bad back will go back home.

Saqlain recorded his best match figures of 9-80. Wasim Younis finished with 2-31, taking his tally to 238, third highest wicket-taker for Pakistan after Imran Khan (362) and Wasim Akram (334).

Akram is only the second captain to achieve a whitewash against West Indies. A F P Chapman led England to a 3-0 whitewash against R K Nunes' Caribbeans in 1928.

Umpires: Cyril Mitchley

(South Africa) and Salim Badar (Pakistan)

TV Umpire: Riazuddin

ICC match referee: Raman C

Subba Row (England)

tasks ahead and feel that it's not the end of the world," Courtney Walsh said.

Resuming at 198 for 7, West Indies avoided the third innings defeat in a row but lost Franklyn Rose in the fourth over of the day. Rose tried to glance a leg-side delivery to lift their team.

### SCOREBOARD

Scorecards at close of play on the fourth day of the third cricket Test between Pakistan and the West Indies in Karachi Tuesdays:

**WEST INDIES:** First innings 216 (Sherwin Campbell 50, Brian Lara 36; Saqlain Mushtaq 5-54, Wasim Akram 3-76)

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 417 (Aamir Sohail 160, Ijaz Ahmed 151; Mervyn Dillon 5-111, Courtney Walsh 4-74)

**WEST INDIES:** Second innings (198/7 overnight)

Campbell c Inzamam b Waqar 5

S Williams lbw b Waqar 12

Lara c M Wasim b Saqlain 37

Hooper b Akram 106

Chanderpaul c Moin b Saqlain 16

Holder c Sohail b Saqlain 5

D Williams b Saqlain 2

Bishop not out 6

Rose c Moin b Akram 5

Walsh b Akram 0

Dillon lbw b Akram 4

Extras (b-7, lb-2, nb-5) 14

Total (all out in 52.4 overs) 212

Fall of wickets: 1-14; 2-19; 3-

140; 4-18; 5-186; 6-191; 7-193;

8-207; 9-208

**Bowling:** O M R W

Akram 16.4 7 42 4

Waqar 6 0 31 2

Mahmood 3 0 32 0

Mushtaq 8 0 72 0

Saqlain 19 9 26 4

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