

Super Max 8 cricket in Dhaka

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is likely to introduce a tournament on the lines of the Australian Super Max Eight to scout budding talents. BCB president and Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury told BSS yesterday.

He said, "I am thinking to introduce such tournaments at thana level, in which the cricketers, other than those playing in the Premier, First, Second and Third Division, would be eligible to play." The tournament may start next year.

As a model case, the planned 25-over-a side tournament would be held among the 15 thanas of Dhaka on a knock-out basis, the BCB president said, adding that it would attract cricketers at the grassroots level.

The thanas are: Cantonment, Demra, Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Kotwali, Labagh, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Motijheel, Palabari, Ramna, Sabujbag, Sutrapur, Tejgaon and Uttara.

Saber said a proposal for the programme would be discussed in the next board meeting on August 20.

The BCB president said we are working to set up six regional development centres at Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Mymensingh.

Six regional development officers would be recruited soon, he said, adding that the regional centres would be equipped with indoor training facilities so that training camps could be run throughout the year.

Tri-series cricket

England beat world champs

Sports Reporter
England defeated world champions Sri Lanka by 36 runs in second match of the Emirates Trophy one-day triangular series at Lord's yesterday.

The world champions chasing a modest 248 to win, were never comfortable against an accurate English seam attack and were dismissed for 211 in 49.3 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the one-day triangular series cricket match between England and Sri Lanka at Lord's on Sunday:

ENGLAND				
Knight c Atapattu b Wickramasinghe				17
Brown c Atapattu b Wickramasinghe				12
Stewart b Jayasuriya				51
Hick run out (Atapattu)				86
Hussain b Dharmasena				39
A Hollis c Jayasuriya				3
Croft c Kaluwitharana b Perera				3
Austin b Jayasuriya				8
Martin run out (Kaluwitharana)				3
Googh not out				1
Mullally b Perera				1
Extras: (lb 10, w 12, nb 1)				23
Total: (all out in 49.3 overs)				247
Fall of wickets: 1-14; 2-56; 3-132; 4-223; 5-224; 6-228; 7-233; 8-241; 9-244.				
Bowler				
Wickramasinghe	7	1	34	2
Perera	9.3	0	48	2
Hathurusinghe	3	0	23	0
Dharmasena	10	0	54	1
Muralitharan	10	0	42	0
Jayasuriya	10	0	36	3

(Incomplete)

Nat'l v'ball

Bangladesh Army made a good start in the 20th men's national volleyball championship beating Chittagong DSA 15-3, 15-2, 15-0 at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the other matches of the day, Bangladesh Navy beat Rangpur DSE 15-3, 15-5, 15-4; Bangladesh Rifles defeated Khulna DSA 15-2, 15-1, 15-6 and Dhaka DSA beat Rajshahi DSA 15-12, 15-10, 15-4.

Four matches of the 14th women's national volleyball championship were also decided.

Pabna DSA beat Kushtia DSA 15-9, 15-1, 15-2; Rajbari DSA defeated Bholia DSA 15-0, 15-2, 15-2; BJMC beat Tangail DSA 15-4, 15-0, 15-3 and Bangladesh Ansar beat Dinajpur DSA 15-6, 15-1, 15-6.

Seven matches — four men's and three women's — will be held today.

Barthez injured

MONACO, Aug 16: Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, a key member of France's World Cup winning side, could miss the blues' first game since their victory over Brazil in the World Cup final, reports AFP.

France are scheduled to face Austria in a friendly match on August 18 and Barthez is a doubtful starter after being injured in a French league match on Saturday night.

Barthez left the field late in the second half of Monaco's 4-1 win over promoted Sochaux with a pulled muscle in his upper left thigh.

Monaco coach Jean Tigana said it was unlikely Barthez would be able to join the national squad for the match against Austria.



Noor-e-Salam of Sadharan Bima (L) takes a tumble as Abahani forward Shamsuzzaman Khokon (R) sways past him during yesterday's Jiban Bima Club Cup hockey match at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium. Abahani won the match 2-1. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Abahani's hard-fought win before semis

All over in 18 minutes

Sports Reporter

Holders Abahani limped into the semi-final of the Jiban Bima Club Cup hockey tournament when they came from behind to post a hard fought 2-1 win over a spirited Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha in one of the two first round group C matches played at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday afternoon.

In an eye-sore of an affair, skipper Mamun and forward Khokon struck one each for the sky blues while Ali Zubayer scored the lone goal for the insurance men who enjoyed a three-minute 1-0 lead against their powerful opponents.

With yesterday's marginal victory, Abahani completed their first round campaign with an all-win record ahead of their yesterday's counterparts who finished second in the group with two wins against a defeat. The Dhanmondi boys will take on favourites Usha Krira Chakra in the first semi-final tomorrow at 4 pm.

Abahani, who won their previous two matches against Ansars and Railway with an identical 7-0 margin, had a tough time yesterday. They lacked good thinking in the midfield and the forwards played a horrible game.

Things turned much worse when Bima went ahead through a counter-attack in the 13th minute. It was Abahani custodian Asir who should be blamed for the goal as he wrongly gave away the ball to Bima forward Bachchu while clearing the attack. Bachchu then passed the ball to Zubayer who blasted the board with a power-packed hit.

Defender Mamun restored the parity three minutes later when he converted one of the 14 short corners they earned in the match.

Inspired by the equaliser, Khokon sealed the insurance men's fate with a brilliant field goal after being nicely fed by Rubel in the 18th minute. After three goals were scored

in five minutes, the match turned out to be a boring affair till the end with none of the sides able to play anything entertaining.

ANSARS-RAILWAY DRAW

Earlier, in the day's first match, Dhaka Ansars and Bangladesh Railway shared points with a safe 1-1 draw. Babul Miah put Ansars ahead through a field goal in the fifth minute while Moinuddin levelled the match for Railway with another field goal eight minutes later.

With the draw, both teams who have lost their previous two matches, finished their group campaign with a point each to their credit.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sonali Bank v Victoria SC (2:45 pm)
Martiner Young's Club v Ajax SC (4:30 pm)

PCB picks Sohail, Miandad

KARACHI, Aug 16: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) appointed opener Aamir Sohail today to captain the team for the Sahara Cup and home series against Australia and Zimbabwe, reports Reuters.

The decision was taken by the executive council, the higher tier of the board, which also appointed Test veteran Javed Miandad as a coach.

Sohail replaces Rashid Latif and Miandad takes over from Haroon Rashid with both outgoing officials said to be paying the price for the team's dismal performance in South Africa and Zimbabwe earlier this year.

"The decision has been taken in the best interest of the team. The board was unanimous that Sohail and Miandad make the best possible combination in the present circumstances," PCB chairman Khalid Mahmood said.

Initially the two have been assigned the jobs until the series against Zimbabwe but the board would like them to continue until the World Cup to be staged in England in June 1999, Mahmood said.

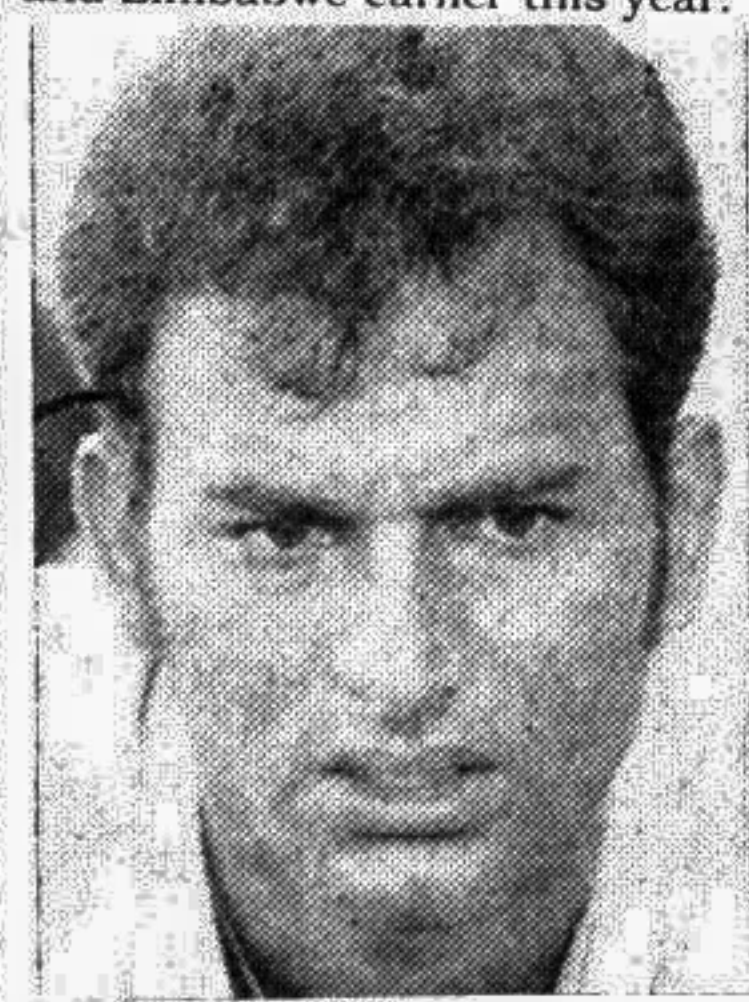
Sohail becomes the ninth Pakistan captain in this decade. This year he led the team to victory at Durban (South Africa), replacing an injured Latif, in the one-all drawn series.

Previously, the left-hander was skipper in the World Cup quarter-final against arch rivals India and later led his country to victory in Singapore over world champions Sri Lanka and India.

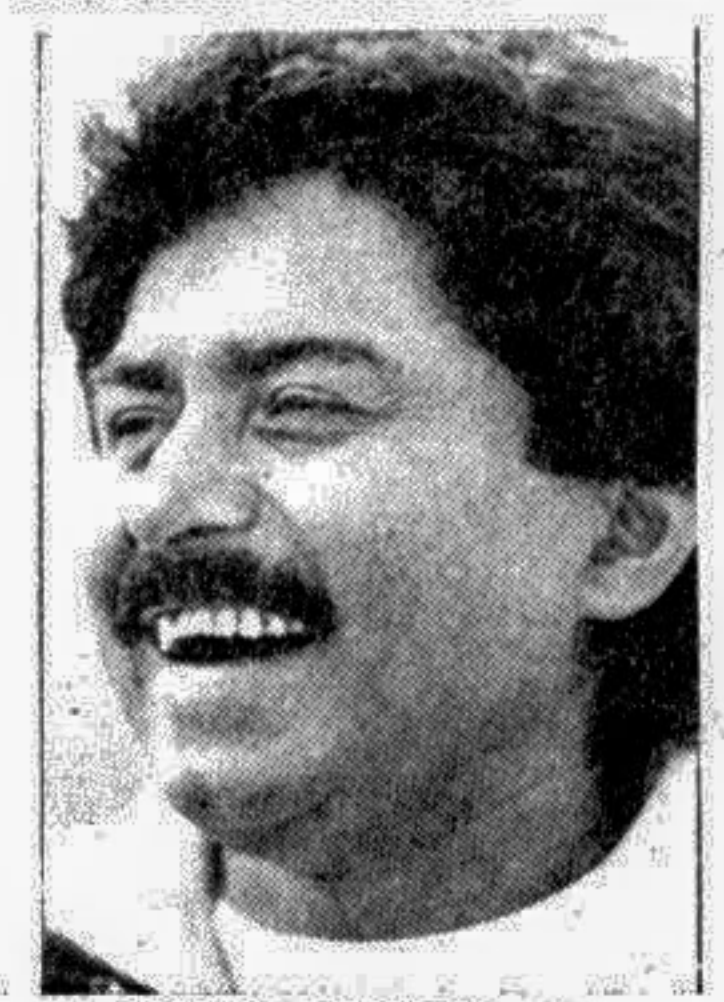
But Sohail has a history of controversy behind him, including his verbal confrontation with PCB chief executive Majid Khan that ended in a one-month ban last year.

The ban was extended to three months including a cash fine of 50,000 rupees when he accused his own teammates of betting and match-fixing in a newspaper interview.

Miandad retired after playing in a record sixth World Cup in 1996. His last Test was in 1993-94 against Zimbabwe but he still remains highest scorer



AAMIR SOHAIL



JAVED MIANDAD

Azhar XI lead 2-0

DOHA, Aug 16: Azhar XI beat Rashid Latif XI by 16 runs in the truncated second tie to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the Coca-Cola Cup three-match exhibition limited-over cricket series here last night, reports PTI.

Chasing a target of 198 runs off 40 overs, Rashid Latif XI could notch up only 181 for eight.

Earlier opting to bat, Azhar XI put on 197 for six.

Azhar XI won the opening tie by 14 runs on Friday at Dubai.

WI squad for S Africa tour

Star Sport Monitor

Trinidadian Darren Ganga was a surprise inclusion in the 16-man West Indies squad announced yesterday by the West Indies Cricket Board on Control (WICBC) to tour South Africa in November.

The 19-year-old right-handed batsman is the only new face in an experienced side which will be led by Brian Lara.

Players: BC Lara, JC Adams, CEL Ambrose, S Chandernaul, M Dillon, D Ganga, CL Hooper, RD Jacobs, CB Lambert, NAM McLean, JR Murray, D Ramnarine, FA Rose, PA Wallace, CA Walsh, SC Williams.

Cricketers' camp from today

The residential training camp of the national cricketers for the 16th Commonwealth Games and the ACC Trophy begins today at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) in Savar, reports UNB.

The 16th Commonwealth Games will be held in Malaysia from September 1-21 while the ACC Trophy will begin in Nepal on October 3.

Of the initially called up 39 cricketers, four failed to report as per schedule yesterday. They are Aminul Islam Bulbul, Tanveer Khan, Mohammad Rafique and Mofizur Rahman Munna.

Vice-captain Bulbul, who recently got married, will join later.

Sixteen cricketers, now undergoing training at the Commonwealth Bank Academy in Adelaide will also take part in their return.

Usha sees red Coach Ehtesham given the sack

Sports Reporter

Usha Krira Chakra, one of the leading hockey club of the country, has sacked their coach Ehtesham Sultan as he was not loyal to his club.

According to Rehanul Karim Bablu, the general secretary of the club, the club took the decision after learning that Ehte-



sham, coach of the national team taking part in the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia next month, as a member of the selection committee failed to select his club's best player Mohammad Sadeq in the Kuala Lumpur bound 14-man squad which announced on August 8.

Abdur Razzak alias Sonu Miah is likely to take over the charge of Usha.

Women's second Ashes Test drawn

HARROGATE, England, Aug 16: The second women's Ashes cricket Test between England and Australia ended in a draw Friday, reports AP.

The Harrogate pitch conceded 999 runs in under four days but provided the bowlers with little reward, with just 16 wickets falling in 12 sessions of play.

The best-of-three series will now be decided in the final Test after the first two matches have ended in a draw.

Australia won the toss and batted first Tuesday, declaring at 306 for three before England replied with 326 for eight to take a slight first innings lead.

The visitors racked up 303 for five in the third innings before declaring Friday, giving England a target of 283 to win in 45 overs.

However, the captains agreed to call stumps early when England reached 64 without loss and there was no chance of a result.

England opener Jan Brittin, who scored a century in the drawn first Test at Guilford, top scored in the match with 167.

Storm over Sadeq's exclusion continues

BHF Selection Committee should be scratched

Hasan Masood

The exclusion of Mohammad Sadeq, the most informed centre forward of present time hockey in the country, from the Malaysia-bound 16th Commonwealth Games squad has raised a big question about the very credibility of the selection committee of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation. It has also put a finger on the intention of BHF as to what they are trying to do with this game after 27 years of our independence.

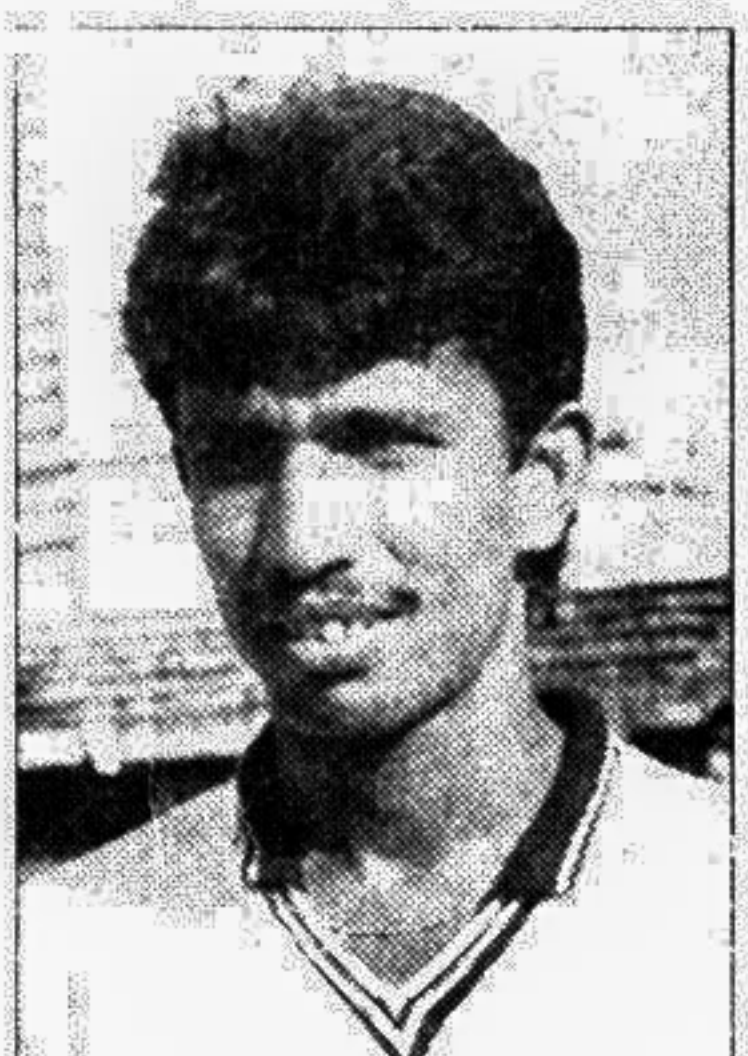
If anyone cares to go around the Moulana Bhasani Stadium and asks anybody, who has any interest in hockey, he will soon know that Sadeq is the best possible hockey player available in the country now. And about his record in the international arena, ask any journalist who witnessed the Bangladesh-Pakistan seventh SAF Games encounter in Madras two years back. That match is considered till date Bangladesh's best performance in international hockey and none but Sadeq played the pivotal role in the match in which Bangladesh lost marginally 2-3.

The present seven-man selection committee, which has been constituted according to the law of the previous adhoc committees although the present elected federation has taken over the charges four months ago, is so composed that not all the members can enjoy equal sovereignty. Six of the seven members are from the BHF executive committee.

The committee is headed surprisingly by the federation president himself and his general secretary is the member-secretary of the committee. Both were holding the same posts in the previous adhoc committee. Perhaps to keep more control over the selection

committee's operation, one of the BHF vice-presidents and three other executive committee members are in the selection committee. The national coach, whoever it may be, is the seventh member.

Although four of the six committee members from the BHF executive committee have credible knowledge about the game as they have played some hockey at international level, they can not possibly go beyond petty interests because 'they' are under the domain of the federation, not independent of it as they should be. The recent selection for the Commonwealth Games is a proof in the pudding that these four hockey pickers either personally do not like



SADEQ

Sadeq or they have not seen his recent performance, nor are they aware of it.

Two members of the selection committee, including the chairman, have no known previous hockey performance or experience.

The coach being the only

non-federation member in the selection committee exposes the motive of the federation. Influential members of the BHF executive committee have simply squeezed themselves under the banner of the selection committee so that the can exercise their authority to choose covertly a side according to their own choice. Now how can a coach select his own team when he has six other members in the selection committee who will not go against the interest of the federation? Or who may simply remove him as the coach of the national team, and thereby from the selection committee?

The national coach Ehtesham Sultan, till being sacked yesterday, was ironically also the coach of Usha Krira Chakra, where Sadeq plays his club hockey. Sadeq was the highest goal scorer in the recently-concluded Office League. He is also the leading scorer in the ongoing Jiban Bima Club Cup with eight goals in three matches with two successive hat tricks.

Sadeq's exclusion can be termed a compromise by Ehtesham who could not advocate for his club's best player for selection into the national team. He can neither leave his national duty which is the most lucrative place for a hockey coach, nor can he afford to annoy his 'bosses'.

For how long will such compromises continue? And how long will BHF continue to compel coaches to do so? And at what cost?

The NSC needs to look immediately into the composition of BHF's selection committee and urge them to take urgent measures to abolish it, and appoint such persons into the committee who can work independently for the good of hockey, and sports, in this country.

National schools' hockey from today

It's all happening at BKSP

Sports Reporter

In a new twist to the world of advertisement, Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP), a government functionary, has become sponsors of a national championship by providing food and lodging to the teams.

The BKSP third national school hockey championship, organised by Bangladesh Hockey Federation, begins at the BKSP in Zirani, Savar this afternoon.

Twenty-two schools will be split into five groups for the first round. According to the utterly ridiculous fixture of the tournament, three group winners will qualify for the semi-finals automatically while the winners of group A and D will meet in a play-off to decide the other semi-finalists.

When asked about the aberration in the fixture at a press conference at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday, the tournament secretary Sira-

jul Islam said that the fixture, which absurdly features the first semi-final on August 29 even before six first round matches, has been made to avoid congestion at the BKSP which will provide boarding and messing facilities to all the 22 teams.

BHF president Air Vice Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed, general secretary Shamsul Bari and tournament committee chairman Mirza Farid Ahmed Milu were present at the briefing.

The following schools are taking part in the 16-day long competition:

Group A: Narayanganj High School, Chittagong Collegiate School, Comilla Hossaj Miah High School and Dinajpur Zila School.

Group B: Armanitola Govt High School, Comilla Yousuf Pilot School, Keraniganj Orsent Textiles Mills School and Manikganj Model High School.

Group C: Ahmed Bawari Academy, Comilla Devidard High School, Chuadanga MA Bari School and Jessore Muslim Academy.

Group D: Nabakumar Institution, Mymensingh Zila School, Faridpur Moulazuddin High School, Barisal Nuria School and Rangpur Sabuj Sena School.

Group E: Rajshahi Kasba High School, MDC Model Institute, Sylhet Police Lines High School, Chittagong Municipal High School and BRSP.

Liverpool owe Owen one

Star Sport Monitor

England's teenage World Cup sensation Michael Owen opened his English Premiership account in dramatic style — a goal in the 72nd minute — to give Liverpool a 2-1 victory against Southampton at Anfield yesterday.

The Saints took the lead in 37th minute through Ostenstad but the Reds hit back instantly thanks to former German international Karl-Heinz Riddle.

Hooijdonk won't play for Forest

NOTTINGHAM, England, Aug 16 (AFP/Internet): Contract rebel Pierre Van Hooijdonk will not play for English Premiership new boys Nottingham Forest again, Forest manager Dave Bassett said Sunday.

The unsettled Dutch striker has been on a one-man strike after accusing Forest of lacking ambition by failing to reinforce their squad with major signings over the summer.

Bassett has tried to talk to the former Celtic star, but his efforts have fallen on deaf ears and he says he is now resigned to losing the player who shared 52 league goals with Kevin Campbell in last season's push for promotion.

Dutchman van Hooijdonk, who only moved to England from Celtic for 4.5 million pounds (7.5 million dollars) 17 months ago, is still on Forest's books but Bassett admitted: "I'm convinced Pierre won't play for us again, so I'm not even contemplating that he might."

"He's adamant about it. The door was ajar but I think he's now shut it."

"We have a price that we think he's worth. One or two clubs are showing a little bit of interest but there's been no real development yet."

Clive on umpires

BARBADOS, Aug 16 (Internet): West Indies manager Clive Lloyd is calling for the best umpires to be used for Test matches and not necessarily umpires from every Test-playing country.

Speaking on Friday on the television programme Wake Up, Caribbean, Lloyd said it was important to have the best in the business officiating so as to eliminate any wranglings by players.

"It's important that we do that (have the best officials in charge) so we won't have anybody saying: 'We had the worse part of the decisions,'" the former West Indies captain told host Julian Rogers.

Lloyd was speaking in light of recent problems in England, where South African players felt cheated by decisions which went in the home team's favour. England won the tough five-match series 2-1.

The International Cricket Council rule is that two officials from the nine countries form part of the international pool, from which a neutral umpire joins a home umpire for Test matches.

"He noted the game should be grooming younger umpires as the job is becoming more and more demanding."

"When you retire from cricket, you retire because your legs go and your eyes go but then fellows become umpires," said Lloyd who celebrates his 54th birthday in two weeks.

"With umpiring, I don't think your eyes get better as you

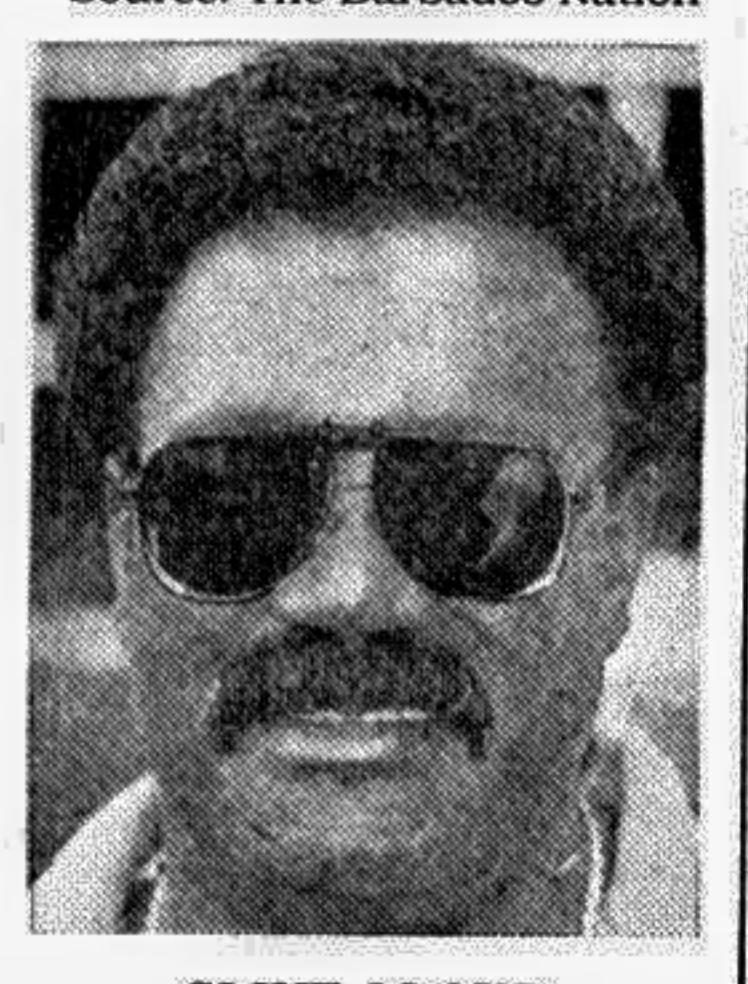
get older. They have to start thinking of getting younger umpires and recruiting the best instead of two from each country."

Lloyd also noted that the captains should get in on the act of grading the umpires. He mentioned that at their annual meeting he would promote or demote an umpire based on his performance.

The former left-hander, who scored over 7500 runs in his 110 Tests, also touched on the West Indies' upcoming tour of South Africa.

Having watched the opponents in England recently, Lloyd said: "They are a very good outfit. They've got two of the best fast bowlers in the world, but I think it should be a very good series for us."

—Source: The Barbados Nation



CLIVE LLOYD