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Star Sport

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Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the Stanley Cup is awarded after the North American ice hockey playoffs held at the end of the regular season in the National Hockey League (NHL). It was inaugurated in 1917 and named after Lord Stanley of Preston, former governor general of Canada.

Why am I telling you this when there is not a speck of ice in Bangladesh? Well, for one, professors are not necessarily always relevant. In fact, some of them are eternally out of context.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-106

Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Nov 13 '98, and draw shortly afterwards

1 How old is Mark Waugh?

32 33 34

2 How many ODIs has Jack Russell played?

38 39 40

3 Who is the new US soccer coach?

Robson Sampson Arena

4 Who are the ACC Trophy champions?

Bangladesh PNG Malaysia

5 8th SAF Games will be held in

Colombo Kathmandu Male

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS

SPORTS TALK

Geoff Boycott

(Popular television commentator)

"She was in rage, mad as hell. I did not know what to do. She slipped and banged her head. I never hit her."

While testifying in a French court recently on charges that he assaulted his former girlfriend.

China may bid for 2008 Games

BEIJING, Nov 6: China said Thursday it is studying whether to bid for the 2008 Olympic Games, despite having lost the 2000 Olympics to Sydney, reports AP.

"We are actively researching the possibility," said Wu Shaoyu, president of the Chinese Olympic Committee. "The moment there's a result, we'll let everyone know."

Wu said countries have until February 2000 to make up their minds.

"There's still time," Wu said at a news conference about China's participation at the Asian Games in Thailand next month.

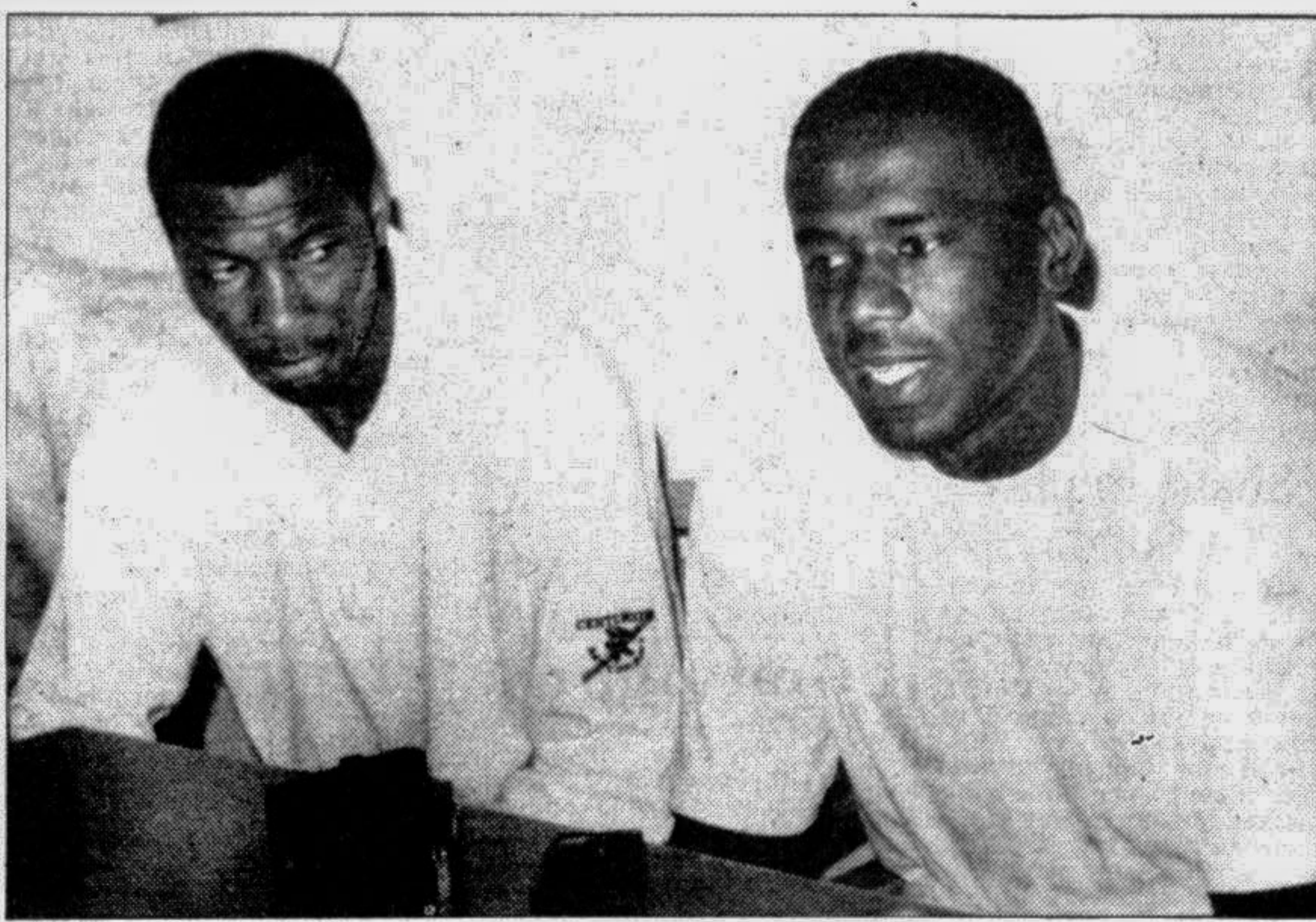
The Olympic Committee's research is being carried out at the prompting of the government, and a team has been established for the task, said the committee's press director, He Huijian.

The cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou in the south all hope to hold the games and are equipped to handle major sporting events, she said.

Pressed as to whether China would indeed bid, he said: "We are quite positive."

"The government supports our research," she said. "Of course we need the government's support and approval."

Beijing lost to Sydney by two votes in the selection for the 2000 Games host in 1993. China chose not to pursue the 2004 Olympics.



West Indies A skipper Ian Bishop (R) and coach Roger Harper at a press conference at their team hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Windies A's opener today

Sports Reporter

The first of the three-match limited-over series between West Indies A and Bangladesh national cricket team will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this afternoon.

The day-night 50-over-a-side affair will start at 2 pm. Bangladesh Betar will broadcast ball by ball commentary of the match live from the Bangabandhu Stadium.

The 15-member second string of West Indies, led by veteran fast bowler Ian Bishop, arrived in the capital last morning after a delayed 14-hour journey and had their net at the Bangabandhu Stadium last night.

The team looked pretty confident at the nets and skipper Ian Bishop, who is fighting with his carrier threatening injury to get back in the main Caribbean side, said he was eagerly looking forward to play in Bangladesh.

"This tour has been arranged so that they boys here can prove their worth in order to get selected for the main team. We all have the same mission with in this tour," said Bishop.

"We were happy that our senior team played well in the Willis International Cup here last week. That will definitely boost the morale of the boys,"

Bishop added Bishop apart, the team have four Test cricketers—Sherwin Campbell, Courtney Brown, Floyd Reifer and Rawl Lewi. Besides Reon King, Carl Tuckett and Adrian Griffith have played one day internationals for the Caribbeans. Former West Indies all-rounder Roger Harper is accompanying the team as coach. Famous fast bowler Jeol Garneri, who is the manager of the team, however did not arrive yesterday. He is in London for the ongoing negotiations between the rebel players and West Indies cricket officials.

About Bangladesh cricket, Bishop said he knew very little about the country other than its success in the ICC trophy.

"When asked whether the team morale has been affected for the sacking of Brian Lara and Carl Hooper from the West Indies team recently, coach Roger Harper, who will also act as the manager of the team till Garneri's arrival later, this week, said they were on journey and did not get much of time to discuss the matter.

"I think that should not affect anybody because they are here on a mission and that is to get chance in the West Indies main team as soon as possible.

Bangladesh skipper Aminul Islam vowed to play a positive game against the West Indies A team.

"They are a strong side but we want to beat them," said Aminul.

The second match of the series will be held at the Rajshahi Stadium on November 9 while the last match will be played the following day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Besides, a three-day match, billed for a November 12 start, will also be held between the two sides at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

TEAMS

Bangladesh: Aminul Islam (captain), Javed Omar, Belim Shahriar, Hossain, Faruque Ahmed, Al-Shahriar, Khaled Mahmud, Khaled Masood, Akram Khan, Hasibul Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Morshed Ali Khan, Anamul Haque, Hasanuzzaman, Fahim Muntasir Rahman, Mushfiqur Rahman and Harun-ur Rashid.

Officials: Badrul Huda (manager), Gordon Greenidge (coach) and Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury (assistant coach).

West Indies A: Ian Bishop (captain), Reon King, Carl Tuckett, Rawl Lewis, Pedro Collins, Sherwin Campbell, Richard Smith, Floyd Reifer, Wayne Philip, Neil McGarrell, Adrian Griffith, Wavell Hind, Keith Semple, Courtney Brown and Ramnaresh Sarwan.

Officials: Roger Harper (coach) and R Rogers (trainer/physio).

Lehmann leads the way

KARACHI, Nov 6: Left-hander Darren Lehmann scored a sparkling maiden century as Australia crushed Pakistan by 86 runs in the first one-day international cricket match here today, reports AFP.

Australia posted an imposing record total of 324-8 in their allotted 50 overs and then reduced Pakistan to 238.

The 28-year-old South Australian Lehmann shared a 157-run fifth-wicket stand in just 89 minutes and 138 balls to lift the tourists from 113-4. Michael Bevan made 83.

The two southpaws delighted a capacity crowd of 35,000 at the National Stadium. Both first settled their innings with quick singles and punished the loose deliveries.

Yousuf Yohanna top-scored for Pakistan with 92.

Lehmann's 103 was studded with eight boundaries and lasted 101 balls, pacing his innings after reaching a cautious 40.

Bevan's 83 came off 77 balls spiced with seven hits to the

ropes. Pakistan without experienced Saad Anwar, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Salim Malik needed to score at 6.5 runs per over, but they were never on course, losing opener Salim Elahi on the second ball of their innings.

Strike bowler Glenn McGrath forced Elahi into a stroke and the edge was well taken by Mark Waugh in the slip.

Captain Aamir Sohail was caught in the slip by Mark Waugh off Damien Fleming after scoring just five. Pakistan lost Shahid Afridi at 19. He was caught and bowled by McGrath.

Ijaz Ahmed shaped well before falling to McGrath for 22. Azam Khan fell for three as Pakistan lost half of its side for 41.

Yohanna and Moin Khan added 35 for the sixth wicket before Moin was bowled by Brendon Julian for 16.

Yohanna shared two useful partnerships of 53 with Wasim Akram and 92 with tallender Shoaib Akhtar but the asking rate was always beyond Pakistan's reach.

Yohanna's 92 came off 110

balls with nine fours and a six.

Earlier Pakistan took the field with three pacers and two spinners. Australia included all-rounder Julian and left-arm spinner Brad Young in their squad.

Australia, put in by Pakistan, scored a rapid 52 in the ninth over when Mark Waugh was run out from a brilliant throw by Elahi. He made 11.

Australia lost two more wickets before reaching 100 in the 18th over. Ricky Ponting was caught by Afridi off pacesman Akhtar.

Australia's previous best total against Pakistan in a one-day international was 300-5 at Brisbane in 1999-90.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Australia and Pakistan on Friday.

AUSTRALIA				
Gilchrist c Azam b Akhtar	45			
M Waugh run out	11			
Ponting c Afridi b Akhtar	16			
Lehmann c Sohail b Arshad	103			
S Waugh c Afridi b Arshad	10			
Bevan c Sohail b Arshad	83			
Martyn c and b Akram	13			
Julian b Akhtar	9			
Young not out	9			
Extras: (b-4, lb-7, nb-5, w-10)	26			
Total (for eight wickets in 50 overs)	324			
Fall of wickets: 1-52; 2-78; 3-83; 4-113; 5-270; 6-304; 7-307				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Wasim Akram	10	0	48	1
Kabir Khan	7	0	59	0
Shoaib Akhtar	9	2	44	3
Shahid Afridi	9	0	63	0
Arshad Khan	10	0	70	3
Aamir Sohail	5	0	29	0
Did not bat: D Fleming, G McGrath.				
PAKISTAN				
Elahi c M Waugh b McGrath	0			
Afridi c and b McGrath	6			
Sohail c M Waugh b Fleming	5			
Ijaz c Young b McGrath	22			
Yohanna c Bevan b Julian	92			
Azam c Gilchrist b Fleming	3			
Moin b Julian	16			
Akram c and b Bevan	28			
Shoaib run out	26			
Arshad not out	8			
Kabir c McGrath b S Waugh	5			
Extras: (lb-5, nb-5; w-7)	17			
Total all out in 47.2 overs	238			
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-7; 3-19; 4-38; 5-41; 6-76; 7-129; 8-221; 9-224.				
Bowler:	O	M	R	W
McGrath	8	1	35	3
Fleming	8	0	32	2
Young	10	0	66	0
Julian	10	2	31	2
Bevan	8	0	47	1
S Waugh	3.2	0	22	1

Result: Australia won by 86 runs.

Player of the match: Darren Lehmann.



Adam Gilchrist, the Australian opener edges one towards the slips during the first one-day international against Pakistan in Karachi yesterday. — AFP photo

ABC Championship Bangladesh whitewashed

From Masood Akhter Mobaraki

Calcutta, Nov 6: Bangladesh suffered a heavy 21-57 point defeat to Kuwait in their inaugural group C match of the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) Championship at the Netajee Indoor Stadium here today.

The winners led the first half by 33-10 points.

In their next two matches of the four-team group, Bangladesh will play Japan today and the Philippines tomorrow.

A total of 15 teams, split into four groups for the first round, are taking part in the meet which was inaugurated by HAR Kidwai, the Governor of the West Bengal on Thursday.

Top two teams from each group will qualify for the quarter-finals.

The following 15 countries including holders China are taking part in the championship:

Group A: China, Iran, Hong Kong and Lebanon.
Group B: Qatar, Malaysia, Pakistan and India.
Group C: Japan, Philippines, Bangladesh and Kuwait.
Group D: Korea, Chinese Taipei and Kazakhstan.

Age-gr swimming BKSP increase gold haul

BKSP clinched 10 gold medals on the second day to lead the medals table of Keya Cosmetics 18th national age-group Swimming championship at Mirpur National Swimming Complex yesterday, reports APB.

BKSP have bagged 20 golds in two days. Ansars closely followed the leaders with 17 golds.

In all, 27 events were finalised and 24 new records set on the day.

Kamala Akhter of Bangladesh Ansars maintained her domination in the pool capturing two more golds to raise her individual tally at five golds and one silver.

The three-day meet will conclude today.

Div II soccer

Prantik KC and Mohakhali XI posted victories in the Metropolitan Second Division football league yesterday, reports APB.

Prantik outplayed Abhijatrik Malibagh 4-1 after leading the first half 2-1.

Jewel and Anwar netted one each in the first half while Babu and Monir struck in the second session.

Tagar scored a consolation goal for Malibagh in the first half.

Mohakhali defeated Eskaton Sabuj Sangha 2-0.

Anif and Hashem found the net once each in the first half for the winners.

Champions' Trophy Holland humble Australia

LAHORE, Nov 6: Holland routed Australia 4-1 in their last league match of the 20th Champions' Trophy men's field hockey tournament Friday, reports AP.

The Australian defeat gives Pakistan a chance to qualify for Sunday's final against Holland. To qualify Pakistan have to beat Germany by at least one goal in their last league match to be played later Friday.

Holland have clinched the lead in points with 12 points and are now the favourites to become tournament champions. Australia finished with eight points. Australia would qualify for the final only if Pakistan lose to Germany or the game ends a draw.

Australia needed at least a draw against Holland to guarantee it a place in the final.

England include Alec, Michael

ADELAIDE, Nov 6: England have recalled captain Alec Stewart and Michael Atherton for their four-day cricket match against South Australia starting on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Both missed England's drawn match against Western Australia at the start of the week but have been brought back for this weekend's game at Adelaide Oval.

England have also retained opener Crock Butcher even though he was injured while batting against Western Australia.

Butcher did not bat in England's second innings after receiving 10 stitches to his face when he was hit by a bouncer in the first innings.

TEAMS

ENGLAND: Alec Stewart (captain), Nasser Hussain, Mark Butcher, Michael Atherton, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, Dominic Cork, Alex Tudor, Dean Headley, Angus Fraser, Peter Such.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Greg Blewett (captain), Tim Nielsen, Nathan Adcock, Ewan Arnold, Andrew Crook, Brian Davies, Andrew Eide, Martin Faulk, Jason Gillespie, Mark Harriott, Ben Johnson, Geoff Parker.



THE NEGOTIATORS: Ali Bacher (L), managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), and West Indies team manager Clive Lloyd on arrival at Heathrow Airport in London yesterday. The two are hoping to bring an end to the players' revolt led by Brian Lara. — Internet photo

Lloyd, Bacher off to London Fingers crossed for a solution

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Nov 6: Trying to solve the worst crisis in Caribbean cricket in 20 years, West Indian and South African cricket officials went to London in an attempt to mediate a pay dispute with dissident West Indies players, reports AP.

The disagreement is threatening to wipe out the West Indies' three-month South African tour, which is scheduled to begin with a one-day international on Tuesday.

The West Indies Cricket Board's decision on Wednesday to dismiss Brian Lara and Carl Hooper, the captain and vice captain, sparked public outcries for the board to either resign or be fired.

Besides outraged fans calling radio talk shows, the Guardian newspaper of Trinidad, where Lara is from, called for the Caribbean Community chairman, Prime Minister Kenneth Anthony of St. Lucia, to "intervene and mediate in this sordid affair."

Anthony, who was visiting Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday, said Caribbean leaders have decided to leave the two sides to "sought the matter out" but that Prime Minister Keith Mitchell of Grenada, a former captain of the Windward Islands cricket team, would "work with the board and players to arrive at a speedy resolution."

"What has resulted so far is a bit unfortunate and I hope it can be resolved in the near future," Lara said Thursday. "The main thing is that the West Indies tour to South Africa should be on. The people want the tour to be on and hopefully something positive will come out of it."

"I am not a member of the West Indies cricket team at the moment but I would love to be there. My life is playing cricket, when it is possible you could be

there and you are not there because of circumstances, as is the case, it is very unfortunate."

Only seven of the 16 players selected for the team have flown to South Africa, and on Thursday they said they wanted to leave.

"The situation is very serious. The players are keen to return to London this evening," said Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa.

The other nine players are in London, including Lara, Hooper and former captain Courtney Walsh. After its emergency meeting Wednesday, the WICB said the players in London who decided to continue with the tour would be fined between 5 and 10 per cent of their tour fees, which range up to about 60,000 dollars for Lara.

"Players in London and in South Africa are in solidarity and are standing firm on the issues," the West Indian Players' Association said in its first public comment Thursday.

Secretary Roland Holder said the issue "is not about fees" but about the rights of players and the need for the board to recognise the association as a bargaining agent for the players.

Holder, who spoke at the association's news office in Barbados, said the board would not accept that Lara and Hooper had traveled to London as representatives of their union.

That view was shared by the National Union of Government and Federated Workers in Trinidad and Tobago, which charged that "Brian Lara, as a union representative, was sacked for going to London to negotiate terms and conditions of employment for his members."

Many predicted the players would abandon the tour.

"I think there is every likelihood now that the players will stand behind Lara and Hooper.

in which case it would lead to a total strike of all top players and you are back to virtually the Packer affair," said Peter Short of Barbados, the WICB's immediate past chairman.

He referred to the last major revolt, in 1978, when then islanders snubbed the national team and contracted with Australian magnate Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket.

Clive Lloyd, the manager of this year's team that is to tour South Africa, captained the renegade team and led the pay revolt 20 years ago.

When it was resolved, the West Indians negotiated substantially better contracts with the board and began a 15-year winning streak that earned it a reputation as the best team in the world.

Today, the West Indians are ranked in the top three.

Lloyd, Bacher and West Indies Cricket Board member Joel Garner were to fly to London Thursday night to try to negotiate with the players, the South African and West Indian cricket boards announced in a joint statement.

But there was no sign Thursday of the board relenting in what some consider a personal vendetta against Lara, a record-holding but controversial batsman who has walked out in the West Indies twice in the past.

"Regardless of what happens, there will be no compromise on this. Lara and Hooper will not be going," Guayana Cricket Board chairman and WICB member Chetram Singh said.

Alloy Lequay, president of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board of Control, suggested the dispute might go all the way to the courts — and that the players might win. He recalled that the English cricketers took their board to court in a pay dispute some years ago and won.

Much at stake beyond the boundary

LONDON, Nov 6 (Reuters): The West Indies cricket tour was intended to be the final, public absorption for post-apartheid South Africa.