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Did U Know?

that when then Czechoslovakia reached the 1934 World Cup football final, their team consisted of 11 players from only two clubs - Sparta and Slavia. No other World Cup team so far had contained such a small club representation.

Hosts Italy however prevailed over their desperate opponents 2-1 at the PNF Stadium in Rome on June 10. The result however left a bitter taste outside Italy. There was little doubt that Italy won because they were the host nation, and local fanaticism had intimidated referees. FIFA also had doubts about fascist Benito Mussolini's use of the tournament for his own political ends. Nevertheless, the second World Cup tournament was a resounding financial success and established the competition as a major world sporting event.



Talk Turkey



Anna Kournikova
(Russian tennis star)

"I think all of you people, or most of the people forget that I'm 19 years old. And you could see, you know, that Jennifer Capriati, she won her first Grand Slam title when she is 24, so I think that I have another five years to work on it."

After she, who has never won a WTA title, was criticised for putting her image before her tennis.



What to Watch

- ESPN**
- West Indies vs Zimbabwe
 - Carlton tri-series
 - Live at 11:30 am
 - Crickets talk show
 - Boys & Sunny Masterclass
 - 9:30 pm
 - Western Union World Football
 - 7:30 am
 - Atlanta vs Udinese
 - Serie A
 - 12:30 am (Saturday)
- Star Sports**
- Crickets Magazine
 - Ganguly's Greatest
 - 11:00 pm
 - Asian Football Show
 - 8:30 pm

Sports Whizz Kid

Competition 143

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to: *Star Sports*

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

Feb 2, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Which is FIFA's top ranked country?	Brazil	Italy	Holland
2. How many Test hundreds has Steve Waugh scored?	24	25	26
3. What is the result of the South Africa-Sri Lanka ODI series?	5-1	6-0	4-2
4. Who is the lone double centurion in the National Cricket League?	Farhat	Javed Omar	Aminul
5. By which margin did Bangladesh go down to Bosnia in the Sahara Millennium Cup?	2-0	3-0	4-0

Name:

Class: Roll No.

School Address:

Phone: (if any)

Tri-series in Sharjah next week Bangladesh for quake victims

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will appear in a triangular one-day international series along with Asian giants India and Pakistan next week in Sharjah, UAE, to raise funds for the victims and distressed of India's recent earthquake.

The January 26 quake devastated the Indian state of Gujarat, with estimates of the final death toll ranging from 25,000 to 100,000.

The tournament will be held from February 8 to 11 under the auspices of Asian Cricket Foundation (ACF), informed Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Syed Ashraful Haq yesterday.

It will be a single league competition with teams with most points meeting in the final.

The unique decision was taken in an ACF's meeting in Lahore yesterday with former ICC presi-

dent and ACF chairman Jagmohan Dalmiya in the chair.

"We have agreed to participate in the series as it is for a noble cause despite a tight and tiring domestic schedule that only finished yesterday (Wednesday). This is also good for cricket as far as the relationship between India and Pakistan is concerned as both teams will play against each other," Ashraful said.

He also confirmed that a 14-member Bangladesh squad will be named by the Board either on February 3 or 4. Three officials - manager, coach and physio - will accompany the team.

Bangladesh skipper Naimur Rahman, who is scheduled to take part in the Test captains' meeting in Melbourne on February 12, might miss the series as he will fly off to Australia on February 9.

Ashraful said that the board was yet to decide whether to include Naimur in the team for the Sharjah trip or free him so that he can attend the captains' meeting.

The schedule would be re-

ceived by ACF on February 4 after receiving the official confirmation from all the three Boards.

"Pakistan and Bangladesh have already taken clearances from their respective governments. The Indian Board has sought permission from their government and hopefully they will get it since the event is being organised to help their people out," Ashraful, who is also an ACF official, added.

He also disclosed that ACF has already asked for bids from the television companies to sell the TV rights of the four-match tournament.

Meanwhile, BCB president Saaber Hossain Chowdhury told BSS yesterday that Dalmiya and Pakistan Cricket Board president Lt Gen Tahir Zia contacted him over telephone on Thursday and he had given his consent for the tournament.

"We feel proud to stand by the unfortunates of Gujrat's quake. BCB strongly supports such initiatives and will continue to do so in future," said Saaber.

Underarm revisited

Cricket

AP, Sydney

No single sporting incident has caused more divisive tension between Australians and New Zealanders than the infamous underarm ball episode.

Compounding the usual rivalry linked with local sporting derbies, a cricket series was at stake when Australia's Trevor Chappell bowled an underarm delivery at No 11 batsman Brian McKechnie on February 1, 1981, depriving the Kiwis of even the slightest chance of taking a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series.

At the time, outraged New Zealanders talked of scrapping long-lasting trans-Tasman political and diplomatic alliances.

The animosity has faded and Chappell has been forgiven, but not forgotten.

Here's how it played out:

New Zealand required six runs to tie a limited-overs match against Australia with one ball remaining and no wickets in hand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. At the crease was McKechnie, who had never hit a six - the highest scoring shot in cricket - in an international.

It was also the first time he'd played at the MCG - which is among the biggest cricket arenas in the world - and the pitch was slow, further limiting his chances of cracking a six.

Despite the odds, Australian

skipper Greg Chappell ordered younger brother, Trevor, to bowl the ball along the ground, making it impossible for McKechnie to club it over the boundary fence.

The delivery was legal, although it was rarely if ever used and was considered contrary to the spirit of cricket.

McKechnie watched dumbfounded as the ball skidded down the pitch at face-height and then, after playing a defensive block, he threw down his bat in protest.

Chasing 236 to win, the New Zealanders finished 229 for nine.

Members of the 52,000-plus crowd spilled onto the field, yelling abuse at the Chappell brothers, calling them cheats and throwing trash at their own national players.

Cricket authorities later banned the underarm delivery.

New Zealand's top politician Robert Muldoon expressed his outrage publicly, demanding an apology from his Australian counterpart, Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

The media in both nations was highly critical of Chappell's tactics.

McKechnie told Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper that it was the New Zealand public and politicians rather than the players who completely upset by the incident.

"By the time we left the dressing room an hour later, everybody was joking about it," he said. "I was taken up more by the politicians initially - and then by the public."

"I wish it never happened," added McKechnie, who never played another cricket international. "I've never held grudges... I just thought why should a good game of cricket finish like that - I couldn't fathom for years why Greg would do that."

Greg Chappell said he was under enormous pressure at the time and was probably unfit to lead the national cricket team.

He said the Australian team was playing to an impossible schedule, was physically and mentally exhausted and was not getting appropriate backup from the Australian Cricket Board.

With an arduous tour of India pending, he said his decision was inspired by a desire to get the series completed as early as possible and give his players a rest.

"If I had my time again, I wouldn't do it," Chappell said. "Unfortunately, I didn't have the luxury of a second guess at it."

Trevor Chappell, 48, said the incident had plagued him for 20 years.

"I thought it was a good idea at the time," he said. "I didn't have time to think about what the repercussions would be. I certainly didn't envisage it going on 20 years down the track."

Although Trevor, the youngest of the three Chappell brothers to represent Australia and the only one not to lead the national cricket team, said the infamy he got from the underarm ball was better than not being remembered at all.

'Euroleague' becoming reality?

Football

AFP, Cannes

Europe's minor leagues could face near extinction following confirmation here on Wednesday that a second-tier 'Euroleague' is a step closer to reality.

The Euroleague, also known as the Atlantic League, is a bid by the top clubs in some of the smaller European nations to leave their domestic leagues and play each other at weekends.

Speaking to delegates at the Football Expo conference in Cannes, Peter Fossen, director of Dutch club PSV Eindhoven insisted the Atlantic League was the only way forward for the top clubs in Holland, Scotland, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium.

"The feeling is growing that the big clubs in the smaller leagues can no longer guarantee their places in the Champions League or compete with the richer clubs any longer," Fossen said.

"We cannot sit still. We have to do something. The problem with smaller clubs comes with matches at the weekend. They do not generate enough money or interest."

"Our fans want to see us playing the likes of Manchester United. Not only are the best players moving away from the smaller countries but the next best players are leaving as well."

"We want to stay within a UEFA framework and believe we can make the new league work. However, the response from UEFA so far has been negative."

"UEFA has listened to the problem and say they understand it but they do not seem ready to want to listen to our solution."

But the spectre of a breakaway super league by Europe's top clubs has receded.

PSV are one of the group of G14 'super clubs', which includes Manchester United and Liverpool,

and Fossen insists a breakaway super league is not on their agenda.

"I met G14's general manager Thomas Kurth, and he said it's absolutely sure that the English and Germans will never leave their national leagues because they are of such great value to the clubs," he said.

Fossen wants the Champions League to be open to just clubs from the 'big five' of Italy, Spain, England, Germany and France along with the most successful clubs in a Euroleague.

The clubs who want to be involved in the Euroleague are: Celtic, Rangers (Scotland), Ajax, PSV, Feyenoord (Holland), Benfica, Sporting Lisbon (Portugal), Anderlecht, Bruges (Belgium), Gothenburg, AIK Stockholm (Sweden), Brondby and FC Copenhagen (Denmark).

Fossen said the Euroleague would make competitions such as the Scottish Premier League more competitive, as Celtic and Rangers would no longer be there to dominate it.

However, there would still be opportunities for promotion and relegation to and from the Euroleague.

He added: "The new league would fill a place between the domestic leagues and the Champions League, with promotion and relegation."

"It is now make or break. We are very optimistic there is a way forward, otherwise the very unsatisfactory status quo can only continue and get worse for players, fans and the clubs."

The Euroleague clubs have had little joy from UEFA in the past. If European football's governing body wish to maintain their position they may be forced to make changes to the Champions League and UEFA Cup.

One idea would see the Champions League slimmed down to

just one league round rather than two, and the UEFA Cup adopting the same format rather than just being a straight knock-out tournament.

Nat'l schools cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Motijheel Colony High recorded a massive 144-run victory over Shishu Shikha Primary School in the Standard Chartered Grindlays 19th National Schools Cricket Championship here yesterday.

Batting first, Motijheel Colony made 263 for eight in stipulated 35 overs and in reply, Shishu Shikha were all out for 119 runs in 31.1 overs.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Jatrabari PAB High Defeated West Dhamondi YHS by 52 runs.

Jatrabari scored fighting 252 for eight in fixed 35 overs while West Dhamondi, in reply, were all out for 200 with three overs to spare.

At the Dhamondi Club ground, Shaheed Lt Selim Shikhalaya beat Asaduzzaman Ideal High by five wickets.

The winners scored 137 for five in 23.4 overs in reply to the losers' 136 for all in 34.5 overs.

Monipur High School earned a comfortable 79-run win over MDC Model Institute at City Club ground.

Monipur High managed 265 for seven in stipulated 35 overs while MDC Model were all out for 186 with three overs to spare.

In another match, University Laboratory School & College beat Janatbagh High School by six wickets.

Batting first, Janatbagh scored 126 runs for six wickets in fixed 35 overs and University Laboratory, in reply, made 130 runs for four wickets in 20 overs.

ACC finalises Test C'ship schedule

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

The Asian Cricket Council finance wing has finalised a schedule for the Second Asian Test Championship which is to be played between September this year to January 2002.

ACC secretary Zakir Hussain Syed said on Thursday.

The matches will be played in Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka, but a venue for Pakistan-India match was yet to be decided, Syed said.

The final of the championship will again be held in Dhaka.

Pakistan had won the first championship in 1999, beating Sri Lanka in the final.

'Hold elections under care-taker government'

SPORTS REPORTER

Some prominent sports personalities of the country have called for elections in different sports federations to be held under the next care-taker government.

In a press release, fifteen officials and players expressed their apprehension at the activities of two forums that are allegedly planning to manipulate the results of the polls which will be held over this month and March.

The press release was signed by: Zakaria Pintu, Protap Shankar Hazra, Mahmudur Rahman Momin, ASM Faruk, Bashir Ahmed, Wing Cdr (Retd) Mohiuddin Ahmed, Kamrun Nahar Dana, Kabir Ahmed, Shamim Kabir, Jahangir Shah Badshah, Md Siddiqur Rahman, Khwaja Farid Ahmed, Zahurul Haque Zahir, Golam Qudus Chowdhury and Niaz Morshed.

Babu hasn't joined yet

SPORTS REPORTER

Ali Ahsan Babu did not join Bangladesh Cricket Board as its general manager yesterday, the last date given to him by the Board, BCB general secretary Syed Ashraful Haq confirmed this.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone last night, Ashraful said that Babu, who was appointed as GM by the Board last June, was previously supposed to join the Board on September 1 last year.

But Babu, who is an official of Bangladesh Biman, failed to do so till yesterday.

"He (Babu) has sent a letter to the Board saying he is yet to get the clearance from Biman and therefore unable to start his new duty," Ashraful said.

When asked what would the Board do now, Ashraful failed to give any clear idea saying the matter would again be discussed in Board's next meeting. No date has been set for the meeting as yet. The BCB had earlier decided in its January 27 meeting that if Babu failed to join by February 1, 2001 they would look for a new GM.

Dhaka based U-17 Asia Cup?

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

All the matches of the Second Under-17 Asia Cup cricket tournament, which is scheduled for a February 15 start, might be held in Dhaka and areas adjacent to the capital as the organisers failed to confirm suitable venues in other corners of the country.

Originally, the first round matches, where ten teams will be split into two groups, were planned to be staged at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP), Khulna and Jessore.

But in a latest development, the organisers have omitted Khulna Stadium where the Prime Minister is scheduled to hold a meeting on February 14, a day before the tournament begins. It was also learned that the PM's helicopter might be landing very near to the cricket pitch.

That left the BCB with only Jessore's Shamsul Huda Stadium as a venue apart from BKSP. As BKSP will host the matches of one group

in two grounds, the BCB needs at least two other venues to conduct the matches of the other group.

"One ground is not enough to hold ten matches of a group in five days. So, we have been forced to accommodate both groups in Dhaka and BKSP," said event manager and BCB joint-secretary Mahmud Ul-Haq yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mahmud said they needed two grounds separating them within an hour's distance to hold matches of one particular group as he has to finish the first round matches in five days from February 15 to 20 with a break on February 18.

"The most important pre-condition given by Asian Cricket Council is that all the ten teams have to be present in Dhaka on February 18 for the official dinner. So even if we take one group outside Dhaka, they have to be brought back for a day in between which will create more administration problems," said Mahmud adding that they were strongly considering to hold all the matches in Dhaka and BKSP.

"I have one last option in Rajshahi. I will meet Zafar Imam tonight and discuss whether we can have two good grounds ready in Rajshahi. If that attempt fails we will have no other option left but to hold the entire tournament in Dhaka," he said.

"One group might play in at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and the Jagannath Hall grounds while the other group would be based in BKSP. We also have Jahangirnagar University ground as a likely option," Mahmud revealed.

He also confirmed that everything would be finalised by today as the board is under constant pressure from the ACC to reveal the fixture as soon as possible.

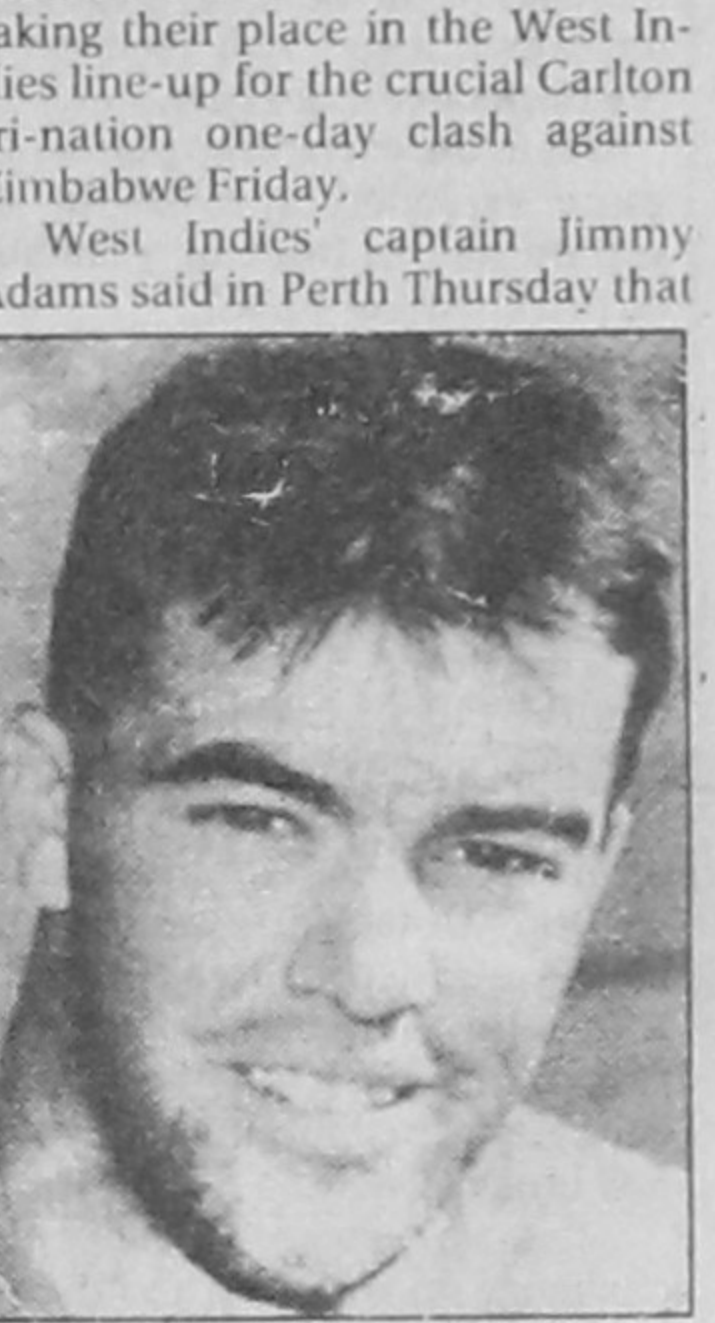
Hosts Bangladesh have already been pencilled in Group A along with Pakistan, Nepal, Kuwait and Singapore. Group B comprises of Sri Lanka, India, Oman, UAE and Maldives.

GramenPhone has been confirmed as the title sponsors of the tournament.

'Mini-final' for WI, Zim

Cricket

AFP, Perth



HEATH STREAK

Marlon Black and Mahendra Nagamootoo face fitness tests before taking their place in the West Indies line-up for the crucial Carlton tri-nation one-day clash against Zimbabwe Friday.

West Indies' captain Jimmy Adams said in Perth Thursday that draw one-day games and there will be a result. Whoever wins, goes on - we are very aware of that.

Zimbabwe skipper Heath Streak said his side was also aware of the game's importance: "We also have to win to stay in contention, so it is a big game for us - definitely a sort of final before the finals."

"We are encouraged by our batting performance against Australia in Hobart Tuesday," he said in reference to Zimbabwe making 279 for six despite losing by six wickets.

"So far we have not put all three departments (batting, bowling and fielding) together in the one game. When we can get all three departments going, I feel sure we can give opponents a real run for their money."

Adams said he believed the West Indies would have an advantage over Zimbabwe because the Caribbean players had already played two matches, including a Test, on the bouncy WACA wicket this season.

Streak however downplayed the issue and said he felt his players would be able to cope.

"We have played here before. Obviously it is a bit different from other pitches - there is a bit more bounce and pace. The guys are professional players, and I hope they can make the adjustment pretty quickly."

Despite the West Indies' 5-0 hammering by Australia in the Test series, Adams was keen to emphasize that the tour had not been a complete disaster.

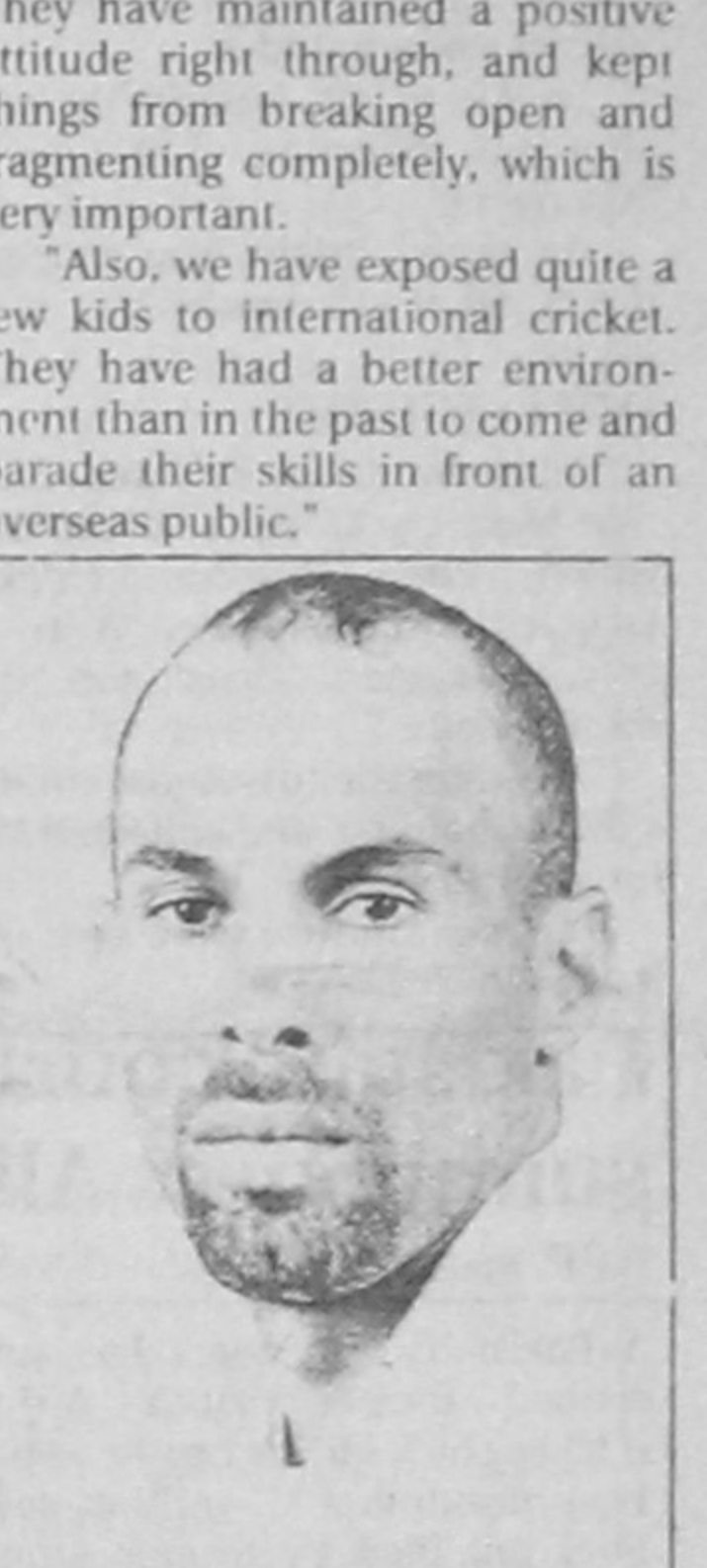
"One of the most important things we have managed to do is to keep the team together," he said.

"We have been on tours before when things have not gone well, and things have got a little bit fragmented."

"I am not taking full credit (for keeping the team together). A lot of the credit goes to the management team (tour manager Ricky

Skerritt and coach Roger Harper). They have maintained a positive attitude right through, and kept things from breaking open and fragmenting completely, which is very important."

"Also, we have exposed quite a few kids to international cricket. They have had a better environment than in the past to come and parade their skills in front of an overseas public."



JIMMY ADAMS

Both sides will finalise their line-ups Friday.

TEAMS

WEST INDIES (from): Jimmy Adams (captain), Marlon Black, Shervin Campbell, Cameron Cuffey, Daren Ganga, Wavell Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Sylvester Joseph, Brian Lara, Nixon McLean, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Ricardo Powell, Marlon Samuels, Colin Stuart, Laurie Williams.

ZIMBABWE (from): Heath Streak (captain), Alistair Campbell, Stuart Carlisle, Andrew Flower, Grant Flower, Travis Friend, Angus Mackay, Trevor Madondo, Douglas Marillier, Brian Murphy, Muleki Nkala, Vijay Rennie, Bryan Strang, Dirk Viljoen, Guy Whittall.

Umpires: Darrell Hair, Simon Taufel.

Academy of St George's University opens in May

Cricket

REUTERS, Undated

A new cricket academy for young players, directed by former West Indies manager Dr Rudie Webster, will open in Grenada in May with the aim of reviving Caribbean cricket.

"There is no real difference in the quality of players in Australia and West Indies up to the age of 16," said Webster, known affectionately as the 'Witchdoctor', at the launch of the Cricket Academy of St George's University on Monday.

But after that the Australians forge ahead because their cricket is stronger and better organised at the grassroots level and their development programmes are superior," he added.

Webster hopes to close the gap on the Australians, who beat the West Indies 5-0 in the recent Test series, using his philosophy entitled "The Four Cornerstones of Winning Cricket".

"Good fitness, sound technique, sensible tactics and strategy, and good mental skills. Those four factors are all very important and are interconnected and interdependent," he said.

Webster, who managed the

West Indies in the late 1970s and was associated with top level cricket in the region throughout its heyday, said the success of the past was based on his four principles.

"Its success was not due to talent alone or good luck, as so many people believe," he said.

"The team was very talented but it was also mentally tough, extremely disciplined, and highly motivated. It was fanatical about its fitness and aggressive tactics and handled pressure particularly well."

"Once leaders in those four areas, we are now lagging far behind the pack. The rest of the world has not just caught up with us, they have charged ahead," he added.

Webster will personally supervise the 12-week programme for the region's best young players.

"Our primary aim is to develop their cricket and further their education," he said.

"One of our most important priorities will be to teach them the value of self-discipline, self acceptance, and a good work ethic."

Webster will also seek help from the Caribbean's sporting superpower, Cuba.

"One of its baseball coaches will teach some of the fielding techniques and fitness methods used in Cuban baseball. A second Cuban, a doctor in sports medicine will help our players to sharpen their eyesight and concentration," he said.

Meanwhile, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) are pushing for the game to be once more taught in primary schools around the Caribbean.

Chief executive Gregory Shillingford told a press conference in Grenada the board had been talking to education officials about re-introducing cricket into schools' curricula, especially primary schools.

Shillingford said WICB president Pat Rousseau had been emphasising the need to concentrate on programmes for eight to 15-year-olds.

He added: "We are presently talking with the ECB (England Cricket Board) who have just launched a programme in the United Kingdom to be able to provide us with technical assistance for developing a curriculum initiative involving cricket in the schools."