Defending champions of the First Division football league Abahani Krira Chakra and runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club will represent the country in this year's Alian Club Cup and Cup Winners' Cup club-level soccer championships respectively.

This was decided at a meeting of the executive committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) with its chief Siddigur Rahman in the chair at the federation conference room last evening.

The meeting also approved training programmes for the coaches of the Ma-O-Moni under-14 football teams.

However, the meeting did not consider the issue regarding Bangladesh's participation in the qualifying meet for the 1994 World Cup soccer championship which surprised the observers to a great de-

IR in DU inter-deptt cricket final Sports Reporter

Department of International Relations moved into the final of the Dhaka University interdepartment cricket tournament by outplaying Department of Management by seven wickets in the second semifinal at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

International Relations will clash with defending champions Department of Finance and Banking in the final on the last day of this month.

Batting first Management could muster a paltry 118 losing six wickets in 30 overs with Selim Mushtaq topscor ing with an unbeaten 44 and Shahed Shams and Masud getting 21 each.

Nafis claimed five wickets conceding 32 runs for International Relations.

International Relations cruised past the opponents total making 119 for three wickets in 27.1 overs with Suman remaining unbeaten on 49 and Ali Ashraf and Mawla getting 21 and 20 respectively. Pappu took two wickets for

DU SOCCER

Meanwhile, Department of Islamic History and Culture qualified for the final of the inter department soccer' tournament by edging past Department of Political Science 2-1 at the university playground yesterday. Akhter and national de-

fender Kaiser Hamid scored one goal each for the winners while Anwar pulled one back for the losers.

Zakia emerges as new queen of chess Sports Reporter

Zakia Sultana of Narayangani emerged as the new queen of the national women's chess. Zakia clinched the title of

the 14th national women's chess championship by defeating former champion Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa 2-1 in the title-deciding active chess play-off held at the National Sports Council chess room vesterday.

The Bangladesh Chess Federation, organisers of the meet, had to stage the play-off matches since both Zakia and Nipa collected seven and a half points each at the completion of the nine-round robin league last Wednesday.

Last year's champion and Open in three years of coming the only International Women Master of the country Rani Hamid and runner-up Tanima Parveen secured the third and fourth places respectively.

Ten players of the country number three in the world participated in this year's nationals which began on January despite her 17th career loss to

ROLL OF HONOUR

Following is the roll-ofhonour of the national women's championship: 1979-84-Rant Hamid

1985-86-Yasmeen Begum 1987 - Not held

1988 -- Rani Hamid 1989 — Syeda Shabana Parveen

1990 - Rani Hamid 1992 — Rani Hamid

1991 — Tanima Parveen 1993 — Zakia Sultana



ZAKIA SULTANA

U-19 CHESS

Meanwhile, the 14th national junior under-19 chess championship got underway at the same venue yesterday.

BU return to winning ways

Sports Reporter

Eventually Brothers amassed 238 for four wickets. Majbee, Gem and Golla picked up one wicket each as the frantic Tarun skipper employed as many as eight

> the run spree, Tarun got off to the worst possible start in the face of a daunting task of getting 239

> bowlers to keep the tabs on



ATHAR ALI ... 82

for victory with Tito and Raj leaving early to make the score a sickly ten for two.

The resurgence began with the number four batsman, Indian Rajinder Singh, arriving at the wicket to team up with opener Nurul Hadi.

Rajinder managed two useful partnerships - 57 runs for the third-wicket with Hadi, who scored 22 and 87 runs for the fifth wicket with Rodrigo - to set up a thrilling finish. Shri Lankan Rodrigo left for 33 while trying to force the pace with Tarun in sight of victory in the 39th over.

Four runs later with the score on 204, Tarun hopes were blown out when Rajinder

was bowled trying to make room for a shot, six runs adrift of what would have been a

meritorious hundred. Tarun batting panicked under pressure and caved in as Brothers led by off-spinner Salahuddin tightened their hold on the match. From a very comfortable position of 200 for five in the 39th over Tarun slipped to be allout for 223 in 43.2 overs, four balls short of

their quota of 44 overs. Salahuddin was the most successful Brothers bowler claiming four wickets for 33 runs. Fernando took two for 42. Masum bagged two for 25 while Morshed picked up one

for 28. TODAY'S MATCHES Abahani vs Biman (Dhaka

Stadium PWD vs Victoria (DCS)

Rajshahi cricket

Friends Sporting Club recorded a massive 134-run victory against Cricket Clinic Club in the Rajshahi Bhorer Kagaj First Division cricket league at the Rajshahi Stadium yesterday, according to a message received in Dhaka.

Batting first Friends Club made 202 losing five wickets in 33 overs and later restricted Cricket Clinic for a paltry 68. .

Changpai cricket

Pragati Sangha trounced SS Sporting Club by ten wickets in the only match of the Changpai Cup cricket tournament yesterday, says a press release. Palash of Pragati Sangha was

adjudged the man-of-thematch.

Wasim Haider may play for Biman

Sports Reporter

Wasim Haider, one of the members of Pakistan's World Cup winning squad may play today for Biman in their im portant Navana league tie against Abahani Krira Chakra

A right handed allrounder who bowls medium pace and is capable of powerful hitting, was signed up earlier this year by Biman. Haider practised yesterday with the Biman play

Meanwhile, Raisuddin Ahmed, vice president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) was to leave Dhaka for London to attend the two day ICC meeting to finalise the venue for next World Cup cricket championship. Representatives of all the Test playing countries as well as the associate members of the ICC will attend the meeting.

No confidence motion against TCCB defeated

rebels failed on Wednesday to breach the bastions of that August body over the "Gower Affair," reports Reuter

Members of the Marylchone Cricket Club, still the most powerful voice in the game rejected a motion of 'no confidence" in England's selectors

a group of dissidents angered by the omission of England's leading run-scorer and most graceful of batsmen David Gower and the country's top wicketkeeper Jack Russell for the current tour of India.

About 1,200 of MCC's 17,500 members attended a special meeting and listened to nearly three hours of passionate debate which included some of the leading figures in the land.

A sizeable majority of those present - 715 to 412 - supported the motion but the postal votes swung it in favour of the establishment, although perhaps not as convincingly as the would have hoped

istered an exciting twowicket victory over Ideal High School and College in a match dominated by the bowlers in the qualifying meet for the Dhaka zonal championship of the 11th Nirman Schools cricket tournament at the Brothers Union ground yester-

could manage a modest 114 in 27.5 overs in the face of an incisive spell from Rahat, who took five wickets for 23 in seven overs. Only Hossain Jamal Tanveer (24) and Siddique (20) offered any resistance.

What seemed to be an easy target turned almost impossible when Baganbari batsmen walked in to bat. Shibly with figures of four wickets for 22 made life miserable for Baganbari High but they still made it, thanks to some wayward bowling and sloppy wicketkeeping. Extras provided some 30 runs. At the end the Baganbart score read 115 for eight in 29.3 overs.

Dhanmondi earn promotion

Sports Reporter

promotion to the Navana Premier Division league when they posted an impressive sixwicket victory - their fourth in as many outings - over Agrani Bank in the Milnars First Division super league tie at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

With 20 points from 12 matches Dhanmondi Club, who made it to the Milnars First Division only a year ago, join Wari Club in next year's Premier Division league. Wari play their last super league tie against City Club at the same venue on February 1. If they win Dhanmondi Club have to fight it out with them for the championship which won't have any significance beyond

academic interest. Batting first Agrani Bank made 164 for eight wickets in 43 overs with Azam topscoring with 32 runs and Nadim contributing 25, Extras yielded

Shri Lankan recruit, claimed two wickets for 33 to be the most effective bowler of his

In reply, the Dhanmondi batsmen breezed past the target making 166 for the loss of

Stadfum. Bangabir Sangsad climi-

Stadium yesterday.

Calcutta Test begins today

Eden's ambience worries Fletcher who was promoted from a net CALCUTTA, Jan bowler to the first-choice 28: England manager Keith Flespinner of four, also stayed in

tcher, a veteran cricket campaig Fast bowler Paul Taylor felt weak after bowling and batting ner in India, has

warned his team of the Eden

Gardens' "cauldron" ahead of

bowler starts his run, then a

deathly hush when he delivers.

and if it strikes you on the pad

or suchlike - the roof comes

place. People can freeze in the

16 and five in his first Test at

Eden Gardens in 1972/3, re-

turned as captain nine years

later to make 69 and 60 not

match starts on Friday is will

India, their morale battered by

defeat in South Africa, put

Or will they play safe and

The indications are that

It is a policy that could well

look for a draw in the hope

they can sneak the three-test

series later in the campaign?

they will, against expectations,

be rewarded as England are

suddenly as vulnerable as a

rickshaw-man on Calcutta's

bowler, has been ruled out

with a torn groin muscle and a

the latest two victims, captain

Graham Gooch and leg-spinner

lan Salisbury, could not be

joints ache and every time I

cough I get a pain in my

chest," said Gooch, who

missed net practice. Salisbury,

stage the 1995 World Cup

cricket in the face of a lone

rival offer by England, reports

Jagmohan Dalmiya, convener

(JBC) representing India,

Pakistan and Shri Lanka.

England starting Friday.

cide who hosts the Cup.

to other Indian cricket offi-

could use the veto powers as

founding members of the ICC

to block the joint bid to ensure

England gets a fourth chance

He warned against the ex

ercise of the veto right. "If the

veto power is used then it will

result in a stalemate and it will

Dalmiya was the brain be-

hind pulling the World Cup out

of England in 1987 after it had

have a far-reaching impact.

at staging the tournament.

On all counts we should be

Dalmiya hopeful but

CALCUTTA, Jan

28: India are kee-

support for the

flu virus is sweeping the team.

Philip DeFreitas, a key

Morale remains high but

"I don't feel too good. My

congested streets.

more crucial.

England to the sword?

be bold.

The big question when the

Fletcher, who was out for

off, said Fletcher.

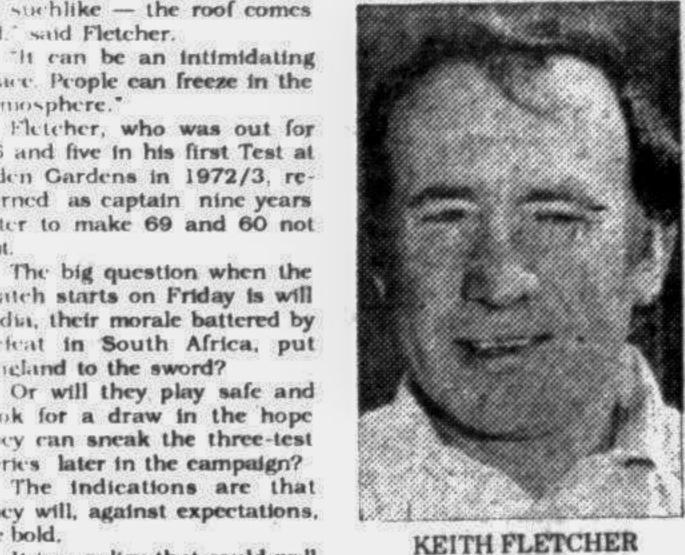
atmosphere."

"There is a total din as the

the first Test, reports Reuter.

in the nets on Wednesday. John Emburey and Devon Malcolm are still feeling the after-effects of their illness.

But Gooch seems determined to make his 100th Test appearance.



"The Test ... is not just another match. But the fact that it is my 100th will not affect the way I-approach my game," said, the 39-year-old opening

In the 26 Tests in which he has led the side, Gooch has hit nine centuries and 12 fifties, averaging 66.31. Ilis 333 in the 1990 Lord's Test is the highest by an English batsman against India.

He also made the most run in a series against India when he compiled 752 in three Tests at an average of 125.3 in

Ajay Jadeja, who played for India in South Africa carlier this month, gave praise to Salisbury after he led the India Under-25s against the tourists

at the weekend. He also rated Devon Malcolm, England's spearhead,

as quick as Allan Donald, the man who detonated India's batting in South Africa. The CAB has laid a new pitch, which appears to be .

spin-friendly, because it is nearly 10 years since any Test at the Eden Gardens has produced a result. The last three Test matches ended in draws "I don't think it will be a bad pitch but the ball might tend to keep low and possibly

England manager Keith Fletcher. With that in mind it is no surprise that the Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin is considering playing as many

it will turn and seam a bit from

the edges of the cracks," said

as three spinners. England, Gooch and Mike Gatting apart, have looked sus-

ceptible to turn throughout the It will be Azharuddin's biggest - and possibly his last - Test as captain. The only home Test he has been in

charge for was a 1990 defeat of

Shri Lanka at Chandigarh, his only win in 17 Tests. Reappointed initially for just this Test, he said: "We are going to be positive. There is no point in hanging out there

for a draw." But statistics seem to favour England Of the 78 Tests played be-

tween the two countries, England has won 31, India 11 while 36 have been drawn. On Indian soil, 40 Tests have been played of which England have won 10, lost 9 and drawn 22. On Thursday, the Cricket

Association of Bengal reported it has sold out tickets in the 95,452-seat stadium, and news reports say at least 90,000 fans are expected to attend the first day. The official world record

for Test attendance is the 1936-37 Australia-England match at the Mclhourne Cricket Ground which was watched by 350,534 people in five days with the average daily attendance being 70,000.

"The cricket lovers of Calcutta are all set to break further records in their devoted pursuit of the game,"

For the first time in 26 years, the CAB will open the daily ticket sales counters at the stadium. The practice was abandoned during the 1966-67 West Indies Test series after frustrated fans who could not get tickets set fire to the stadium, forcing the great allrounder, Sir Garfield Sobers, to flee for his life. Since then lotteries were held to decide who could buy tickets.

on winning the toss, despite the possibility of dew being on the wicket alter the early morning start.

TEAMS

Chouhan, Venkat Raju, Anil Kumble.

Tufnell, Devon Malcolm, Neil

Benjamin has had injury would claim the trophy if they



deciding cricket Test at the WACA Ground, reports AP.

Tim May, one of the stars of Australia's demoralizing onerun loss at Adelaide earlier this week, will have to prove his fitness on Friday after being hit on the right forefinger while batting in Adelaide,

May is having trouble gripping the ball and his latest injury setback could alter Australia's thoughts of playing two spin bowlers. The West Indies will likely

need a replacement for fast bowler Kenneth Benjamin, who could not train Thursday because of a damaged left

Juvenile soccer Bangabir Sangsad and

Diamond Sporting Club will play in the final of the Jadukar Samad memorial juvenile soccer championship on February 2 at the Dhaka Hockey

nated Dhaka Football Training Centre by five goals to one while Diamond Sporting Club beat United Boys Club by three goals to one in the two semifinals held at the Outer

problems throughout the five-Test series and one-day competition. Patrick Patterson is likely to return to the West Indies side in his place, team officials said May made a triumphant re

turn to Test cricket in Adelaide with a five-wicket haul, then held the Australian batting together in a ninthwicket partnership with fellow bowler Craig McDermott. Meanwhile, Australia have

preparation for Saturday's first day of the fifth Test. The two sides are tied at I

I after the Australians missed the opportunity to claim the Frank Worrell Trophy for the

never lost a Test in three appearances in Perth, Australian vice-captain Mark Taylor said the 14-man squad had focused on the last Test of the 1991 series in the Caribbean as part of their preparation here.

The WACA track offers extra bounce for bowlers but is a haven for stroke players. Taylor said the Australians continued their solid form. Everyone says that Perth is going to be their wicket but we

can play well here," Taylor

said Thursday. "Looking back to the West Indies series in 1991, Antigua was supposed to be their wicket because it was quick and a hit bouncy but we played very well. I really don't think the wicket will favour any one.

Khalid Skah eyes 3,000m mark

RABAT, Jan 28: Moroccan athletics hero Khalid Skah is aiming to set a new 3,000m indoor world record next month, reports AFP.

Skah, the Olympic 10,000m gold medalist in Barcelona and double world cross-country champion, told AFP "I'm going to the Berlin indoor meeting on February 5 for the 3,000m." "And from there I'm going

to Ghent in Belgium, where

I'm going to try and break Moses Kiptanui's world record on February 10." The Kenyan set his mark of 7 min 37.31 sec in February

last year at Seville. Skah, who has been training

feel on top form at the moment. I'm really pleased with the way I've been preparing for these meetings and I'm determined to put in some great performances.

soccer meets Sports Reporter

A gallant knock of 94 by Indian Rajinder Singh went in vain when Surja Tarun let Brothers Union off the hook in the Navana Premier Division cricket

league tie at the Dhaka

Stadium yesterday. Former league champions and this year's runners-up of the Damal Summer cricket champtonship, Brothers Union staved off what would have been their third defeat this season when they struggled to return to winning ways with an exciting 15-run win against

> Surfa Tarun Club in the day's only Navana encounter. Put into bat Brothers, aided by two big knocks from Nurul Abedin Nobel and Athar Ali rat tled up 238 from the possible 44 overs. Chasing a victory target of 239 at a rate 5.43 runs per over Tarun later order

works of Rajinder to be all out for 223. · Brothers opening pair gave their side a fine start putting on 61 for the first wicket before Zahid Razzak Masum was bowled by Javed Omar Belim Golla for 29.

batsmen gummed up the

Suman left early but 139run partnership for the third wicket between Nobel and Athar took Brothers to a seemingly unassailable position. Nobel hit a fine 90 made off 114 balls with the help of four fours and a sixer before Majbee, Tarun's pacer, bowled him in the rush overs.

Athar hit a solid 82 off just 76 balls, which included eight sparkling boundaries and three mighty sixes. Athar's was the last Brothers wicket to fall, with the total on 234.

the status quo in women's

tennis wall straight sets wins

against Arantxa Sanchez

Vicario and Gabriela Sabatini

before downing Sanchez

THE PERSON NAMED IN

MONICA SELES

Vicario 7-5, 6-4, but Scles was

back in the locker room inside

and hour after a 6-1, 6-2

thrashing of the Argentine

The German world number

two, the oldest player in the

last four at the age of 23, has

an extra incentive to beat Seles

regain the number one slot

from her great rival by winning

'Seles, though, has still to

lose a match at the Australian

to Melbourne and is still hot

favourite to complete a hat-

Sanchez Vicario's only con-

solation is that she rises to

rankings, ahead of Sabatini,

Graf, sporting a "Save the

Rhing" T-shirt, said of the fi-

nal: "It's a great opportunity to

play against the best woman in

the world. I'm very excited

nothing special, when it was

important I played well but

there were a few times when I

didn't play aggressive enough,

said Graf, who lost her number

one ranking to Seles in March

met was at Wimbledon last

June when the Yugoslav,

knocked off her stride by

grunting controversies and

Timman wins

Game 11

SAN LORENZO DE EL

ESCORIAL, Spain, Jan 28:

Dutch underdog Jan Timman

kept his world championship

hopes alive on Wednesday by

defeating British contender

Nigel Short in the 11th game

of their eliminator chess

Short, playing black, re-

signed in a hopeless position

on the 85th move after nearly

eight hours of play over two

match, reports Reuter.

The last time Graf and Seles

"I played sort of okay today,

If she manages it, Graf can

third seed.

in Saturday's final.

in Tokyo next week.

Graf in 20 matches.

trick of titles

about it."

1991.

Graf was the most stretched

today, reports Reuter.

Seles, Graf in Aussie Open final

rain breaks, lost 6-2, 6-1. MELBOURNE, It has been a rare blip on an Jan 28: Steffi Graf otherwise prodigious record and Monica Scles which already includes seven face yet another Grand Slam titles, but Seles personal battle in this year's Australian Open final after preserving

> used to it," Seles said. Of their nine previous matches, Graf leads 6-3.

below par.

Spain's Sanchez Vicario ac-

everything would have been different," Sanchez Vicario said. "I was a little bit unlucky because I hit good shots but she came back with good winners."

Sanchez Vicario's three

wins over Graf have all been in

finals last year. with a sharp downturn in

quarter final against Jennifer Capriati. But Sanchez Vicario failed to convert two break points for a 5-2 lead which even at such

ously wasteful. So it proved as Graf came roaring back, holding off a late Spanish revival to wrap up victory in exactly one hour and

Even Seles cannot boast Graf's record of reaching the final without dropping a set but the manner of Sabatini's demise was ample proof that the set Seles dropped to France's Julie Halard has been more of a mental help than

Seles feigned equal unconranking would affect her.

is not something I worked for

played down the significance of another clash with Graf. "To me it doesn't matter ... I am playing the same people so many times a year I am just

Sabatini suggested she may have been suffering from a virus and complained of feeling

"I am not feeling very well. I think I have a virus because I just feel very weak and very tired." She also predicted a Seles win in the final. "I would say Monica scems more prepared ... The way she is playing she is going to be very tough to

tually led 4-2 in the first set after winning four games on the trot, but could not make it "If I had won the first set

Grand Slam events, most recently in the US Open quarter-The Spaniard's form in the first set suggested a possible repeat, coinciding as it did

Graf's game compared to her

an early stage seemed danger-

hindrance. cern when asked how the potential loss of her number one

"It is a fun thing to be but it

or wanted to achieve. It is not the biggest thing in my life. I just want to be happy and healthy that's about all." "Up to now here I have played some good solid tennis

but I haven't played anything incredible." Saturday will be Scles' eighth successive Grand Slam final, closing on the record of 13 set by Graf between 1987



STEFFI GRAF worked out that if she maintains her level of success, she will have earned over US dollar 20 million in prize money alone by the turn of the century, given a five per cent in-

crease in purses each year.

MEN'S SEMIS TODAY There was no men's singles play scheduled for Thursday. The men's semifinals will be played Friday with defending champion Jim Courier of

the United States facing No 14 Michael Stich of Germany. - Two-time champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden will face No 3 Pete Sampras of the United States in the other semi.

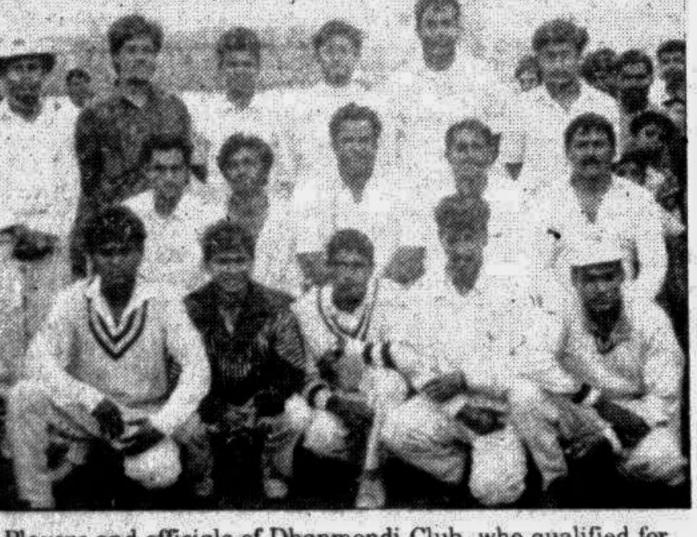
According to IBM/ATP Tour

statistics, Courier, Edberg and Sampras all have the chance to be ranked No 1 in the world a the end of the tournament. Couries will retain the top ranking if he wins, or if he

loses to Edberg in the final. Edberg will regain No only if he beats Stich in the fi-Sampras will leapfrog to No 1 if he wins the title or if he

Stich goes on to win the title. The tournament offers prize money of .*dlrs 4.82 million. The women's final is Saturday and the men's final on Sunday.

loses in the semis or final and



Players and officials of Dhanmondi Club, who qualified for the Navana Premier Division cricket league next year, at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

LONDON, Jan 28: The MCC

by 6,135 votes to 4,600.

The motion was brought by

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter Baganbari High School reg-

Sent in to bat the Ideal boys

Dhanmondi Club carned

36 runs to the Bank total. Raj Kumara, Dhanmondi

four wickets with one over to Raj Kumara, having had a nice time with the ball earlier, flashed with the willow knocking 46 with five fours. Biplob, the opener and Samiur Rahman Sami, the burly for

unconquered. Al Amin was the most successful Bank bowler claiming two wickets for 36.

mer national cricketer scored

22 each; the latter remained

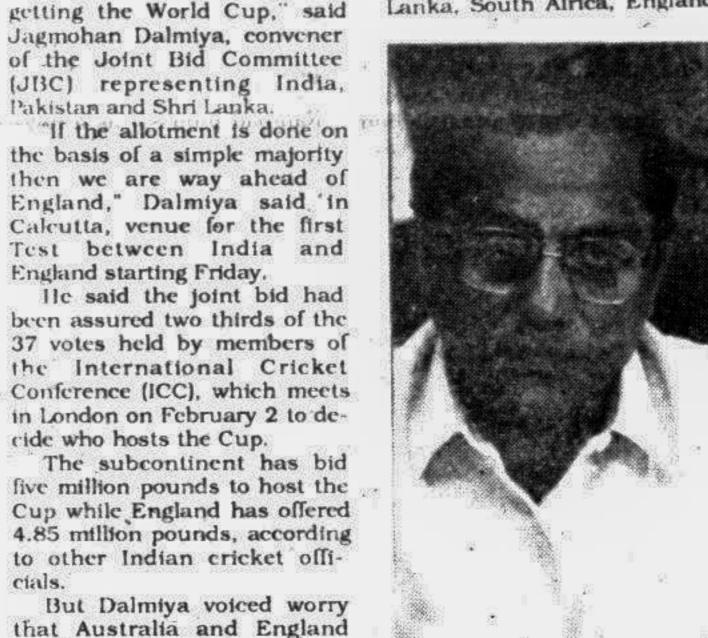
st ged the 1987 edition. ping their fingers india will send a threecrossed despite member team led by claiming majority Madhavrao Scindia, president of the Board of Control for subcontinent's joint bid to

tive Cup tournament since

19 5. India and Pakistan

February 2 meeting. According to the ICC constitution, the nine Test playing nations - India, Pakistan, Shri Lanka, South Africa, England,

Cricket in India (BCCI) to the



JAGMOHAN DALMIYA Australia, New Zealand, West Indics and Zimbabwe - have two votes each. The 19 associate members have one each.

The venues of the two previous Cups - Pakistan and India in 1987 and Australia and New Zealand in 1991 were decided by a simple majority and India want the same procedure to be followed again.

Fairbrother, John Emburey.

turned the clock back almost two years as part of their

The West Indians have

On the 1991 tour, Australia were expected to be beaten easily on a fast wicket in the last Test at Antigua, but the visitors responded well to win by 157 runs, claiming the

said The Hindu newspaper.

Both sides will look to bat

INDIA: Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Navjot Sidhu, Woorkeri Raman, Vinod Kambli, Sachin Tendulkar, Ajay Sharma, Praveen Amre, Kiran More, Kapil Dev, Manoj Prabhakar, Javagal Srinath, Rajesh

ENGLAND: Graham Gooch (captain), Michael Atherton, Alec Stewart, Robin Smith, Mike Gatting, Graeme Hick, Chris Lewis, Ian Salisbury, Paul Taylor, Paul Jarvis, Philip

played host to three consecu-Injury troubles WI, Aussie camps

PERTII, Jan 28: Australia and the West Indies each had injury concerns Thursday, two days before the start of the fifth and

first time since 1975-76.

match comfortably with a day

in the Atlas Mountains, said: "I