Beximco nat' youth cricket begins today

Sports Reporter

The qualifying round of the 13th Beximco national youth cricket championship begins today simultaneously at five different venues across the

Thirty-five teams in five groups will participate in the over-limit knock-out tourna-

All the group finals will be held on March 3.

The final round comprising the five group champions and the title holders Jessore, runners-up Rajshahi and Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan will be held from March 10 to 15 in Dhaka.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Comilla: Sunamganj vs Tangail Tangail ": Kishoreganj vs

Rajbari Jhenidah : Satkhira vs

Thakurgaon : Jhenidah vs Satkhira

Jhalokathi Thakurgaon: Gaibandha vs Kurigram

Orient SC win

Sports Reporter

Orient Sporting Club recorded an easy 35-run victory against Nirman XI in the Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday:

Sporting were all out for 149 in 33.1 overs, 1.5 overs short of the stipulated 35 overs. Rubel and Masum, the two

Sent in to bat Orient

openers scored 60 and 44 respectively. Azad claimed four for 20

and Asad bagged three for 15 for Nirman Xl. Nirman XI were shot out for 114 in 28.5 overs with Suman, Sajib and Nirman sco-

ring 23, 22 and 21 respec-Mintu claimed four wickets

conceding 29 runs for Orient Sporting.

Pioneer soccer results

Sports Reporter

Azimpur Kishore Sangha edged past Arambagh Krira Chakra (Jrs) by two goals to one in one of the three matches of the Janata Bank Pioneer league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Shibli Noman Idris and Rony Badal scored for Azimpur Kishore Sangha while Nazmul Badal putled one back for Arambagh Krira Chakra (Jrs).

Ek Jhak Paira deseated Kendrio Kishore Kafela by two goals to nil at the Bashabo

ground. Lokman and Jalal were the

Badshah Smriti Sangsad shared points with Rainbow Athletic Club in a goalless draw at the Outer Stadium in the other match of the day.

England's hapless cricketers face wrath of the press

LONDON, Feb 24: The wrath of the sporting press fell on England's hapless cricketers on Wednesday after the 3-0 series defeat by India, one of their worst ever humiliations, reports Reuter.

The tabloid Sun, leading the way with the headline Bombay l'otatoes' carries an unflattering picture of captain Graham Gooch's head in the shape of a

The picture revives memories of the same paper's treatment of England's defeat by Sweden in the European Soccer Championship last year when the Sun trumpeted Swedes 2 Turnips 1.

Both potato and turnip are terms of mild abuse in Britain. Gooch took full responsibility for the series debacle but stopped short of saying he would gutt, and he retains the backing of team manager Keith

fletcher. 13 of The Daily Star declares: Chip Gooch set to gutt" and The Daily Mirror agrees: "It's

goodnight Gooch." The Daily Mail concentrates

on chairman of selectors Ted Dexter, who said on Tuesday night he wanted to carry on.

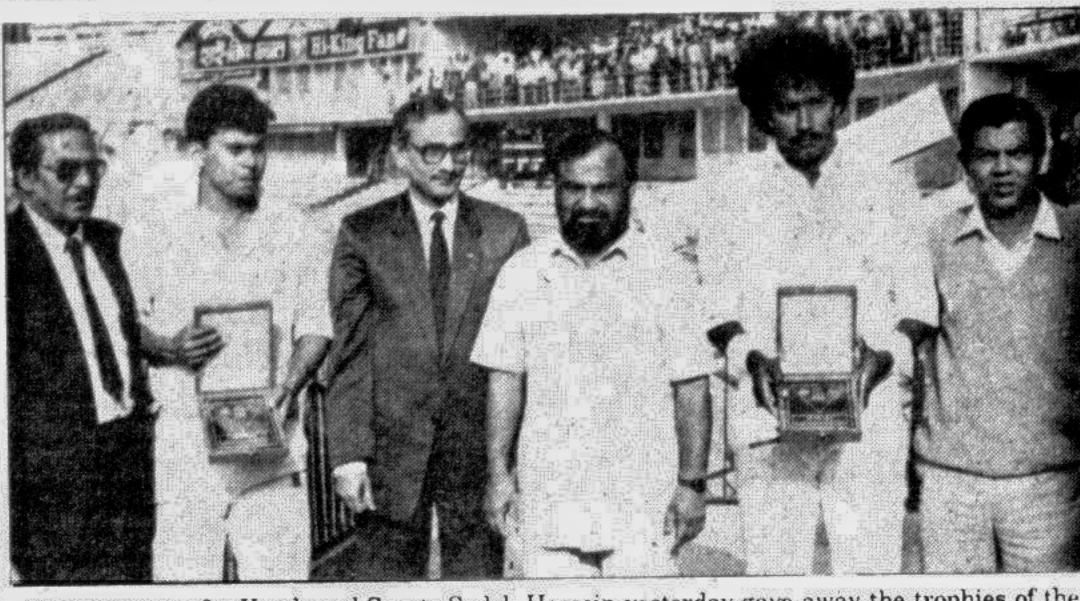
Defiant Dexter refuses to walk" is the headline, with the story below saying Dexter wants Gooch to remain in charge when Australia visit England later this year.

The Times ericket writer Alan Lee says: "England have been utterly unable to cope with a home side playing to strengths it had for too long forgotten it possessed."

The gulf between the two teams has been so vast that the losing captain must, properly, consider his position.

The Daily Telegraph's Christopher Martin-Jenkins says far more fundamental questions than that of the captaincy need be asked.

They include whether (English) county cricket's new format from next season will do anything to alter the fact that it has become a nursery for second-rate cricketers.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain yesterday gave away the trophies of the Biman single-wicket cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium. (From left to right): Raisuddin Ahmed, vice-president of the BCCB, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, the champion, Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, the Biman Managing Director, the chief guest, T L Fernando, the runner-up, and BSJA president Masud Ahmed Rumi.

Nannu lifts single-wkt title

Sports Reporter

Earlier in one of the semifi-Minhazul Abedin nals, Nannu beat Khaled Nannu gave an Mahmud Sujan of Abahani excellent demo-Krira Chakra. The skipper of nstration of his the national team batted first allround abilities to rattle 33. Sujan managed 30 to lift the first Biman single-wicket cricket in his turn.

Fernando had a trouble free entry into the final as his semifinal opponent Rahul gave him a walkover. The young Udity player left Dhaka for Nepal yesterday morning with the under-19 Bangladesh team to take part in an invitational tournament.

In the quarterfinals held earlier in the morning, Nannu beat Golam Nowsher Prince of Victoria Club by a solitary run. Prince managed 26 in reply to Nannu's 27.

Fernando blazed with the bat to inflict a 12-run defeat on Zahid in another quarter final tic. Fernando smashed 50 with seven fours and a sixer.

Zahid of Eskaton Sabuj

Sangha mustered 38 to concede descat by 12 runs.

Former national skipper Gazi Ashraf Lipu, who is leading Abahani this year in the Navana league, suffered an undistinguished descat at the hands of teammate Khaled Mahmud Sujan. Sujan had to score only one to throw Lipu out of the meet.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain gave away the prizes as chief guest. Apart from the crests the champion and the runner-up of the three-day meet - jointly held by the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) and Biman Bangladesh Airlines with the later paying the money - won the air ticket awards. Nannu, the champion, won a Dhaka-Singapore-Dhaka ticket while Fernando, the runner-up, won a Dhaka-Bangkok-Dhaka ticket.

Defiant Dexter refuses to quit

LONDON, Feb 24: England chairman of selecto rs Ted Dexter refused to bow to demands for his resignation here on Tuesday as

the clamour increased for his head after the humiliating Test whitewash by India, reports Sections of the British me-

tournament beating Shri

Lankan T L Fernando in the

final at the Dhaka Stadium

In the final of the three-day

meet Fernando batted first to

collect 32 from his stipulated

three overs. However, the dark

allrounder, who plays for

Brothers Union in the Navana

Premier Division cricket

league, was dismissed four

times during his tenure at the

wicket. The right hander with

kinky curls had five runs cut

per dismissal and his eventual

score showed up a paltry 12 in

captain, took 2.3 overs to

reach the victory target of 13.

Nannu, the Mohammedan

vesterday.

the end.

dia called for Dexter and skipper Graham Gooch to shoulder the blame for the 3-0 thrash-

But Dexter took no notice, saying "It's up to the people who appointed me in the first place. I've examined my conscience and I can't see that I've been lacking in diligence. If they want to move me on, that's up to them."

England's pathetic performance will be discussed by Dexters employers, the Test and County Cricket Board, at their next meeting on March 9 and 10.

But Dexter, who still has 12 months of his contract to run, is confident he can answer any questions that might be thrown at him.

"In this season we've been beaten not by a little, but by a country mile," he admitted. "That suggests we could have permed another 15 or 18 players and is wouldn't have made any difference.

"Everyone has tried their best, but the results in the Tests have been very disappointing. Man for man, in their conditions, India were better

"What we must remember is that just a few weeks ago India came back from South Africa a beaten side and with

all their supporters calling for

ways in their own country and we must do the same against Australia this summer."



TED DEXTER

face of three bad results, the Board wanted to turn everything on its head," he added.

cerned."

BOYCOTT'S VIEW

Geoff Boycott accused the team of showing a lack of commit-

the Tests has been England's inability to get the selection of the team right and

Lankan pair, also move into the

The local pair will play the

Thai-Lankan combination of

Rathchaniwan Pragitalikul and

Indonesian girls will clash with

Srana Sangakhara and

Anoushka Boralessa, the girls

from the emerald island, in

Taslima Khatoon Lucky and

Khaleda Fouzia Choiti 6-3, 6-1.

finals are likely to be held this

India will play Sangakhara of

Shri Lanka and Boralessa, an-

other Lankan, will face

Ractchaniwan Pragitatikul of

Thatland in the singles semifi-

Saathi and Yasmeen routed

Both the girls singles semi-

Nirupama Vaidyanathan of

the semifinals today.

Upckha Wijeratne while the

'It would be odd if, in the

"Graham would be the absolute natural choice for next summer as far as I'm con-

Faisal in boys' semis

Sports Reporter



The top-ranked local player Faisal Syed Huq moved into the hoys' singles semifinals of the seventh Bangladesh inter-

national juntor tennis champt-Faisal defeated Puthipong

Rauymanee of Thailand 6-2, 6-4 in the quarterfinals at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

meet, takes on Suhel Malhotra of india in the semifinals this

Djanuar Radjab of Indonesia and Genuan Gunawardene of Shri Lanka will clash in the other boys' singles semifinals also in the morning.

Rony of Bangladesh 6-3, 7-5 while Gunawardene registered a hand-carned 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) victory against Sheikh Motruddin Waliullah Zhilan in their respective quarterfinal

Thailand 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.

"They got back to winning

Gooch continues as captain for this year's home Ashes series against Australia

Former England opener

The major disappointment

They will play the Indonesian pair of Radjab Agung and Utomo Cipto, in today. Sohel Malhotra, teaming up with Chandragupta Syosa of Shri Lanka and Lasith Dissanayake and Previn Wass, a

semifinals

evening.

doubles semifinals. In the girls' doubles, Liza Andriyani and Vinca Rampen of Indonesia and the local pair of Saathi Sarker and Yasmeen Ahmed Urmi qualified for the

Faisal, seeded five in the

Rajjab beat Shamim Ahsan

encounters yesterday.

in the boys' doubles, Bangladeshi pair of Paisal and Zhilan made the semifinals beating Puthipong Rauymance and Jirarpong Rajanavasce of

Dexter will insist that

to bat better, to show a better appreciation of how to play spin and to show more commitment," he said. "They got the selection

wrong at Calcutta. We played four scamers when it was crying out for spin-

"They haven't fought hard enough and they haven't applied themselves well enough. certainly in the first two Tests. They should have saved that match in Calcutta. We should have had more fire in our belly. more passion." Ex-England fast bowler

Fred Truman criticised the selectors for leaving the experienced David Gower and Allan Lamb out of the tour party. "We have to try and pick

the best side, which we haven't done for many years,' he said. "Why haven't we got Gower in the side, why haven't we got Allan Lamb and why didn't we bring a specialist wicketkeeper. "We have a gaping hole in

the side because lan Botham has gone. People say Chris Lewis will take his place and I always say, 'what, on the bus to the ground ?" But former England team manager Mickey Stewart de-

fended the selectors, saying "The side was picked to play the itincrary that was on.

'David (Gower) wouldn't have got into the one-day side, which would have left him only three days to get ready for the Test series."

THE TABLOIDS

Another AFP reports said: England skipper Graham Gooch and chairman of selectors Ted Dexter were blamed on Tuesday by sections of the British press for their 3-0 Test humiliation by India.

Even before their third Test defeat was completed, the Tabloids were demanding the resignations of two of the most powerful men in English cricket.

"Get out," roared the back page of the biggest-selling daily. The Sun. Gooch must quil now."

"Captain Calamity," blasted the Daily Mail. Tour misery could cost Gooch the chance to lead England against Australia.

"Simply the worst," blared the Daily Express, while Today warned 'No excuses, Fletch, and the Daily Star demanded Never Again. The London Evening Standard carried two pages on

England's crushing defeat by

an innings and 15 runs, bear-

ing the headlines "we're just not good enough and this is your fault, Gooch." Today reported that Dexter would face a grilling from county chairmen at Lord's on March 9 at the quarterly

meeting of the Test and

County Cricket Board. "I'm sure he will be given a hostile reception," said Derbyshire chief executive Bob Lark. "There are a lot of unhappy England cricket followers and the England Committee have some explaining to

Ali in Beijing

BEIJING, Feb 24: Muhammad Ali is known, as "the greatest" the world over; and Beijing proved Wednesday it's no exception to the rule,

reports AP. A small tornado of Chinese hotel workers, reporters and boxing fans whirled around Ali at a news conference to promote Saturday's "Brawl at the Wall," China's first professional boxing bouts since 1949.

"When I tell you stand back. stand BACK," said a member of Ali's entourage, unsuccessfully trying to hold off a group of Chinese with T-shirts for Ali to-

I stayed after work to see Muhammad Ali," said Yang Jie, a men's room attendant a t the New Century Hotel. "The best fighters of all are Alt and Bruce Lce" - the late American movie actor and martial arts

"I'm going to save this for the hotel archive," said hotel salesman Paul Yang, waving a signed boxing programme.

Ali, his head trembling slightly form Parkinson's syndrome, patiently posed for dozens of pictures and signed scores of programmes, shirts and even Chinese 10-yuan notes, which are worth dlrs

"I don't like China," said the champ, toying briefly with his audience. "I love China."

He smiled devilishly when heavyweight Mike Hunter did an imitation of Ali's former fast-talking style. "I came a champ, I'll leave a

champ, I was born a champ,"

chanted Hunter, the US Boxing Association heavyweight titleholder, who fights Kevin Ford on Saturday. Professional boxing ended in China when the Communist Party took power in 1949, and amateur boxing was banned

after 1957. Chinese boxing of-

ficials credit Ali with helping revive the sport when he met with China's senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, in 1979. Ali has visited several times since. The featured bouts in the "Brawl at the Well" match former World Boxing Association heavyweight champion Mike Weaver against Bert Cooper and light heavyweight

zation champion, Leconzer "In 1985, I had the chance to spar with Ali," said Zhang Lide, a Chinese trainer who learned his skills at the Beifing YMCA before 1949. "It was my greatest enjoyment."

Mike Sedillo against the cu-

rrent World Boxing Organi-

Clinton has to wait a while

WASHINGTON, Feb 24: Lack of money has stopped construction of President Clinton's White House jogging track in the starting blocks,

reports AP. The administration halted the dirs 30,000 project until private contributions are raised to pay for it, Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said Tuesday.

Workers had peeled cement from a four-foot-(1.20-metre) wide section of the circular South Lawn driveway when reporters inquired about the work last week. Clinton said he had approved a track on the condition that tax money not be used to build it.

Ben not selected for 60 metres

OTTAWA, Feb 24: Ben Johnson, who came within a fraction of a second of a world indoor record in the 50 metres earlier this month, was left off Canada's team for the World Indoor Championships in Toronto on March 12-14, reports AP.

Athletics Canada announced Tuesday that Bruny Surin and Derrick Sutherland would represent the country in the 60 metres in the meet at the SkyDome.

Surin set a Canadian record of 6.45 seconds in the 60 two weeks ago in Lieven, France. Sutherland qualified for the team with a time of 6.67 seconds at last weekend's Canadian championships in Winnipcg. Manttoba.

Johnson recently appeared to have found his former form after returning to competition two years ago following a ban for steroid use. On Feb 7, he missed the world mark in the 50 by 0.04 seconds with a time of 5.65 seconds. Three days later, Johnson

Ghent, Belgium. He went to Winnipeg for the Canadian championships, but was unable to compete. BCCB u-19 off

to Nepal A 16-member Bangladesh Cricket Control Board under-19 team led by Shartfuddoula Ibne-Shahid Shaikat left the city yesterday for Kathmandu to participate in the silver jubilec tournament in Birganj.

Osman Khan are accompanying the squad as manager and assistant manager respectively. Bangladesh, placed directly in the quarterfinals, will begin

their campaign tomorrow.



Boxing legend Mohammad Ali, flanked by Chinese officials, listens to questions during a press conference in Beijing yesterday. Ali is in Beijing on the occasion of the first -AFP photo professional boxing bout in the People's Republic of China.

Aussies-Kiwi first Test begins today

Border will hold centre stage

Richard Hadlee.

one-off Test by a New Zealand

team spearheaded by Sir

New Zealand have been re-

building, and although they

have recently lost away to Shri

Lanka, their narrow 33-run

Since Hadlees' retirement.

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zea-land, Feb 24: Allan Border's likely passage into cricket history in the Test between Australia and New Zealand starting here on

Thursday might overshadow what is likely to be a very tight contest, reports Reuter. Border needs just 50 runs to overtake Sunil Gavaskar's

total of 10,122 to become the

biggest scorer in Test cricket. With an average of 52.09 over 138 Tests, the stocky left-hander should by the law of averages pass the mark in Australia's first innings.

Border is much more likely to be interested in securing a win than writing himself into the record books. "I would rather just get it out of the road. I'm not striving for in. It's not consuming me,"

However, the unassuming

"I've got three Tests here and another six in England. If I don't get the 50 runs I need then I won't deserve it." He and Australia have sev-

he said in a recent interview.

cral things to prove.

Australia are smarting from a 2-1 defeat at the hands of the West Indies after going into the last two matches with a 1-Border's own batting, where

But he may relish a revisit to Lancaster Park - last time he played a Test here in 1986 he scored a century in each

Australia have a point to prove against New Zcaland as In their last visit here in

when they were bowled out for 93 in the last innings when they needed just 127. he made his first pair in his "We're smarting a wec bit from Pakistan," said New career, contributed to the de-Zealand coach Warren Lees.

They're probably smarting a lot from the West Indies." Crowe has been in commanding form, smashing 163 off the Australian attack in their first tour match, and it may be his batting which sepa-

ALLAN BORDER

200 and it was probably the

absence of captain Martin

Crowe which cost them victory

been out of form. Australia's pacemen Craig

McDermott and Merv Hughes backed by Paul Reiffel will relish the pitch, which the groundsman has said will give bounce and movement in the first couple of days.

But New Zealand will also

loss to Pakistan earlier this, be keen to win the toss and year suggested the process is nearing completion. put Australia in to give their pace attack the chance to win The bowling attack twice dismissed Pakistan for under the match.

Coach Lees said New Zealand are likely to play only five batsmen and will include talented all-rounder Chris Cairns in place of Chris Harris at number six.

That will pose a question

over the depth of our batting."

Lees admitted. "But our proven experience and performance is in batting and it doesn't hurt to put a wee bit of pressure Australia will be thankful

that Boon has recovered sufficiently from a bruised heel and been cleared to play. None of the other batsmen was reliable against the West

Indies and questions must

hang over the future career of

some batsmen, Steve Waugh in

TEAMS NEW ZEALAND: Mark Greatbatch, John Wright, Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe (captain). Ken Rutherford, Chris Harris, Adam Parore, Chris Cairns. Dipak Patel, Darriny Morrison, Murphy Su'a, Michael Owens fonc to be

omitted). AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor, Justin Langer, David Boon, Steve Waugh, Allan Border (captain), Mark Waugh, Damien Martyn, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Merv Hughes, Craig McDermott, Tim May, Shane Warne (two to be omitted).

Australia's David Boon, have 1990, they were beaten in a Lodhi back in the lead

rates two teams where most

other batsmen, apart from

Sports Reporter

blunders in the 18th and 25th

moves, to push his young op-

ponent up by two pawns.

Mahmud Ahmed Khan Lodhi recaptured his position at the top of the points table despite dra wing with English GM Daniel King at the end of the fifth round of the Grandmasters' chess tournament at Purbani

hotel yesterday. Lodhi, who had to appear in the arena twice in a day, opened with d4. King, who played with black pieces, adopted the Nimzo Indian de-

The Pakistani International Master, who had a pawn up. settled for a draw after 63 moves. The draw took Lodhi's collection to four points from five matches following his win against India's Arun Vaidya in Tucsday's adjourned match procrastinated into yesterday.

National champion Fide Master Reefat bin-Sattar won his match against compatriot IM Zillur Rahman Champak in another match of the day to raise his collection to three. Playing with white pieces, Recfat started with e4 in a

game of the French defence

Champak, who succumbed af-

ter 54 moves, made crucial

M A LODHI drew with GM Niaz Murshed in a match that lasted only nine moves. The skinny Zia opened with c4 in a game of the English opening.

Varghese Koshi of India

drew with IM Arun Vaidya, his

bald compatriot. The tall

Koshi, who played with white,

opened with his customary g3 and accepted a draw after 35 Dibyendu Barua, the Indian Grandmaster, was yet to be out of jettatura as he suffered an-

Fide Master Ziaur Rahman other defeat, this time to compatriot Neeraj Mishra. liarua, who played with white pieces, surrendered after 42 moves due to time pressure. Mishra opted for a Sicilian defence of the Taimanov variation which later transformed into the Maroczy bind. Mishra has two points while Dibyendu

languishes on one.

player of this meet, was in an advantageous position and is likely to wrap up the match Linares GM chess

The match between GM

David Norwood, Tuesday's

leader in the points table, and

fellow Englishman GM Julian

Hodgson, was adjourned

Hodgson, the highest rated

gets underway LINARES, Spain, Feb 24: The first round of the Linares Grandmaster chess tournament on Tuesday produced three decisive games and only

one draw, reports Reuter.



Players and officials of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board under-19 team which left for Kathmandu to take part in the silver jubilee meet in Birganj yesterday.