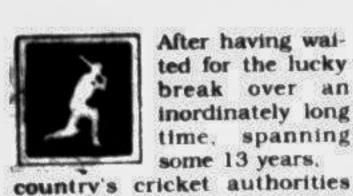
BCCB bids for next ICC Trophy

Sports Reporter



After having waited for the lucky break over an inordinately long time, spanning some 13 years.

have woken up to the necessity of having a go at the elusive ICC Trophy title from the home soil. Lying in a state of stupor and smarting under the shock of a premature ouster from the quarter-finals of the fifth ICC Trophy recently held in Kenya. Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has scrambled in the fray of bidders for the sixth version of the world championship of the 20 associate members of the ICC.

On Tuesday, BCCB faxed its bid to the headquarters of international cricket at Lord's. hoping the powers that be would prefer Bangladesh's appeal for staging the competition in 1997, to the stakes of Canada and Malaysia, both of whom officially expressed their intentions well ahead of the dilly-dallying local officials. The decision will be taken by the ICC on June 5.

While the deadline for bidding ends today, BCCB which has sought only verbal permis-

sion from the National Sports Council, the highest governing body for country's sports is yet to draft the prospectus which is expected to feature detailed information on infrastructure and other facilities.

Eight grounds in Dhaka in Nat'l v'ball final round

from Friday **Sports Reporter**

Six top finishers from their respective groups advanced the final round of the 17th national volleyball championship. winning their last group matches at the Kushtia Stadium yesterday.

The sestet of Dhaka. Khulna, Rajbari, Jessore, Narsingdi and Rangpur joins five direct qualifiers and hosts Khulna in the final round, scheduled to start on Friday.

The five seeded teams are: Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Rifles and Rajshahi University.

The 11th women's volleyball championship will also start on Friday at the same

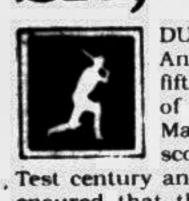
cluding BKSP's at Savar are expected to be tipped as possible venues along with two each from Chittagong and

Bangladesh as one BCCB official felt stands a better chance of winning the bid since neither Canada nor Malaysia have the kind of surfaces suited for one day cricket. While they are all matting wickets in Canada. Malaysian wickets are reportedly too grassy for the comfort of the batsmen, for whom the game is more often than not is fallaciously attributed to have

been created However, one does not know whether the hyped up expectation and excitement that centred round the last meet will be there or not. For the first time in its history, the exclusive tournament for the associate ICC members carried a super promotional stake.

Three top teams of the fifth ICC - champions UAE, Kenya and Holland have won the rights of playing in the cricket's next World Cup proper to be held in the subcontinent in 1996, a fact that led to a great rise in expectation among the cricket buffs of the country.

SA, Aussies share honours



An unbroken fifth wicket stand of 140 between Mark Waugh, who scored his fifth Test century and Allan Border ensured that the Australians escaped with a draw in the

final Test against South Africa on Tuesday, reports Reuter. The three-Test series was tied 1-1.

When Border joined Waugh at 157-4 half an hour before lunch the touring team were only four runs ahead. But in contrasting fashion

the pair thwarted all attempts to part them until the match was called off as a draw.

Waugh, who has rarely shown his best form in this series, played some delightful shots on either side of the wicket in his unbeaten 113.

He reached his hundred in 295 minutes off 195 balls with a gentle push through midwicket for two off Hansi Cronje. While Waugh stole the limelight with his dashing strokeplay, the gritty way in

WELLINGTON.

Mar 30: Legspin-

ner Anil Kumble

tied New Zeala-

nd's batsmen in

knots to help

which Border knuckled down to the unexciting task of blocking out one end was equally important.

After taking 24 minutes to get off the mark, he went on to score a dogged 42 in what could be his last Test innings.

The brightest batting of the day after Australia had resumed at 89-2, 64 behind, came from opener Michale

After racing from his overnight score of 56 to 95 he was rapped on the pad by Allan Donald. The ball appeared to be

above stump height and going down the legside but umpire Mahboob Shah sent him on his way with barely a moment's hesitation. South Africa's only other

success of the day came in the seventh over when nightwatchman Shane Warne was caught at slip off Donald for 12. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the fifth and final day of the third cricket Test between South Africa and Australia at

Kingsmead on Tuesday. AUSTRALIA: First innings 269 (S Waugh 64)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 422 (B McMillan 84, J Rhodes 78, A Hudson 65. D Richardson 59. S Warne 4-92) AUSTRALIA: Second in-

nings (overnight 89-2) Slater lbw b Donald Taylor lbw b De Villiers Boon c P Kirsten b Donald 12 Warne c McMillan b Donald 12 113 M Waugh not out Border not out Extras: (lb-6, w-1, nb-4) Total: (for four wickets)

Fall of wickets: 1-55; 2-81; 3-109; 4-157 Bowling: Donald 5 69 24 De Villiers 6 53 McMillan 28 12 56 Matthews

Cronje

Rhodes

G Kirsten

Result: Match drawn . First Test, Wanderers -

schedule for the participants. Seventy-nine cyclists from nine different teams are taking part in the competition which

Border won't say when

DURBAN, Mar 30: Allan Border still refused to be drawn on speculation of his imminent retirement after helping guide Australia to a draw in the third and final Test against South Africa on

"I think everyone's pretty

"I'm just disappointed the way the match went. It would have been nice to come off in different circumstances if this is the last game."

Test and captain for 93 of them, scored an unbeaten 42 in sharing a fifth-wicket partnership of 140 with Mark Waugh (113 not out) to stave off the possibility of defeat and ensure a 1-1 draw in the three-match series.

the year.

Pepsi Cup semis

Sports Reporter

rained out

The first semifinal of he Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship between holders Chittagong and fancied Sylhet fell through for the third consecutive day owing to heavy downpour, leaving the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board in a rather tricky situa-

With only 30 overs of the match, reduced from an 80overs-a-side affair to a 50-over one due to persistent intervention of inclement weather, being played over the span of three days, two of them being totally washed out, the BCCB officials might well be in doubt over whether the first semifinal can really be played in near future.

If rain stays out of the Dhaka Stadium today, Sylhet will resume their innings on 120 for five with the maximum option of playing 9.5 overs to round off the once-again-reduced 40-over quota. Otherwise, the BCCB officials will have no choice but to give the tie a fresh start.

Nat'l cycling off to a rainy start

Sports Reporter The 19th national cycling

competition got underway with only one event being decided on the rain-hit opening day at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. BJMC finished first in the

100KM men's road team time trial, clocking two hours, 36 minutes and 53 seconds while the other four events scheduled for the day were abandoned due to heavy downpour. The three-day meet, which

was inaugurated by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain, may face a premature end if inclement weather persists. The Bangladesh Cycling

Federation, permitted to use the Hockey Stadium for only three days, could be forced to call the championship off if such weather prevails. The other four events

billed for the opening day have been shifted to second day today, leaving a packed

for 22. will be concluded on Friday.

it'll be

Tuesday, reports Reuter.

aware that this could be the last one," the Australian captain said. "But I want to go away and make the decision in different circumstances than straight away after the game.

Border, playing his 156th

But it was an unsatisfying match for Border, easily the highest run scorer in Test cricket with 11,174 runs at an average of 50.56.

Border has already said he is not available for Australia's tour of Pakistan later this year but it seems evident he is considering the possibility of making his final bow with the tour by England at the end of

Ambrose becomes amercer again as England plunge

for a second run when none

was there to make it two

wickets down and when Smith

was bowled off-stump by the

second ball of Ambrose's sec-

ond over England were in des-

perate trouble at five for three.

ion, pushing limply at a widish

delivery from Ambrose who

then dismissed Stewart, the

only England batsman to reach

Hick fell in regulation fash-

From reverie into a nightmare

were better in every depart-

startled rabbits in car head-

lights. They were up against a

nuclear warhead in Ambrose,

bowler Michael Holding added:

"I have never seen a fast

bowler bowl as magnificently

mestic cricket to be restruc-

tured, and criticized selectors

for discarding former captain

David Gower and Allan Lamb in

favour of taking a young side to

"The biggest error was to

the Caribbean.

as Ambrose did on Tuesday."

they were fazed by hifh."

"England were caught like

Former West Indies Test

Wills called for English do-



PORT OF SPAIN. Ambrose picked up the ball. Trinidad, Mar 30: Atherton played back instead of forward and was England were trapped leg before and for the bowled out for third time in the series 46, their lowest England were nought for one. score this cen-Ramprakash rashly looked

tury, as they capitulated to West Indies in the third cricket Test on Wednesday. reports Reuter. England, destroyed by

Curtly Ambrose on Tuesday. just passed their lowest ever Test score of 45, made against Australia in 1986-7, after resuming the last day at 40 for eight. Five runs from all-rounder

Chris Lewis and one from Andy Caddick saved England from breaking their most miserable record. But they still eclipsed their

previous lowest score of 71, made against the West Indies in 1976 at Old Trafford. England, bowled out in just

19.1 overs, recorded the 14th lowest Test score of all time and lost by 147 runs.

Ambrose finished with six for 24 off 10 overs as the West Indies swept into an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-Test

Ambrose recorded match figures of 11 for 84 and picked up the man-of-the-match award.

He also collected 50,000 pounds (dollars 75,000) from a British sponsor for the first player in the series to collect 10 match wickets or score a double century.

England lasted only 26 balls on the final morning. Caddick clumsily lifted Courtney Walsh to Brian Lara at first slip after making his one run. England were 45-9 and

Lewis managed to survive an appeal for lbw before making another single to take them past the total registered against Australia in Sydney 107 vears ago. But Lewis, who had earlier

been felled by an Ambrose ball which struck his face mask, hooked Walsh to Winston Benjamin at deep backward square-leg to signal the end. It was England's 12th de-

feat in their last 14 Tests. On Tuesday, England's brief flirtation with hopes of victory disinte-grated as Ambrose shattered their second innings with an awesome spell of six It left England, set a win-

ning target of 194, reeling at 40 for eight and their dreams in tatters at the end of the fourth day of the third Test. England fell apart in the

space of 15 overs as the tall West Indian fast bowler ripped out Mike Atherton, Robin Smith, Graeme Hick, Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe and Jack Russell. Courtney Walsh added the

wicket of lan Salisbury while Mark Ramprakash was a run out victim. England had high hopes

when they took the field with West Indies struggling in their second innings on 143 for five and only 67 runs ahead. Their cause was not helped

when Hick, often regarded as one of the best slip fielders in the world, twice dropped comfortable chances off 19year-old Shivnarine Chanderpaul, West Indies' last recognised batsman.

Chanderpaul took full advantage, hitting 50 before he fell to an excellent catch by Angus Fraser off the bowling of Andrew Caddick who had by far his best Test bowling figures of six for 65. Chanderpaul was admirably

supported by Winston Benjamin who made 35 before becoming the only wicket to fall in the morning session. The entire afternoon's play

was lost because of ram and at the end of the day England must have been wishing the final session had been also. Instead the runs returned,

England wrapped up the West Indies innings. And Curtly



CURTLY AMBROSE ... man of-the-match

One run later it became 27 for six as Salisbury became Walsh's first victim, snicking a catch to Brian Lara at slip. But Ambrose was still not

finished and completed an amazing bowling spell by having Russell caught at slip and bowling England's first innings hero Thorpe with the last ball of the day. All the heart and all the

hope England had found in the previous three days had disappeared within the space of 90 minutes as Ambrose showed again why he is regarded as the greatest fast bowler in the world.

And England's fleeting hopes of turning the series around have once more turned into fears of a 5-0 thrashing.

Former England captain Bob Willis said: "England were totally outclassed. West Indies

them out here. It was a folly." England captain Michael Atherton, interviewed by

but got blown away on the fourth." "I rate Ambrose as the best fast bowler in the world. He gives you so few balls to hit. It is fairly obvious West Indies are

Gower for television, said: "We

competed well for three days

a superior side." West Indies captain Richie Richardson, aiming for a clean sweep, praised Ambrose, saying: "If it had not been for Curtly, we would not have been in this position now."

With two Tests remaining on fast wickets, in Barbados and Antigua, Atherton said: "I would like to get a result. Even a draw would be nice." SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the third cricket

The lowest league

10 years ago, reports Reuter.

26 New Zealand v England (Auckland) 1954-55

35 South Africa v England (Cape Town) 1898-99.

36 South Africa v Australia (Melbourne) 1931-32

42 New Zealand v Australia (Wellington) 1945-46

43 South Africa v England (Cape Town) 1888-89

45 South Africa v Australia (Melbourne) 1931-32

47 South Africa v England (Cape Town) 1888-89

Ambrose eulogised

30 South Africa v England (Edgbaston) 1924

36 Australia v England (Edgbaston) 1902

42 Australia v England (Sydney) 1887-88

44 Australia v England (The Oval) 1896

45 England v Australia (Sydney) 1886-87

47 New Zealand v England (Lord's) 1958

In West Indies: 103 at Kingston 1934-35

In England: 71 at Old Trafford 1976

PORT-OF SPAIN,

Trinidad, Mar 30:

Curtly Ambrose

was hailed as the

best fast bowler

in the world after

his devastating burst wrecked

England at the Queen's Park

Oval on Tuesday, reports AFP. Ambrose captured 6-22 in

47 balls to leave England in

tatters at 40-8, chasing 194

for victory and facing their

England team manager Kelth

Fletcher said: "I've seen some

high quality bowling in my

best bowler in the world.
"He bowled quick, consis-

tently, and at a very rapid pace

in the right area. He made us

Fletcher said some of

England's batting had con-

called Mark Ramprakash's run

out "a schoolboy error" - but

tests your technique, and ours

A jubilant West Indies cap-

tain Richie Richardson, who

had seen his side go from a

poor position to a winning one

"Someone of that quality

time, but Curtly Ambrose is the

Afterwards, a shell-shocked

lowest Test score ever.

play at every ball."

was tested tonight."

he added:

England's lowest totals against West Indies:

30 South Africa v England (Port Elizabeth) 1895-96

innings since Test cricket records began.

The 15 lowest Test innings to date:

42 India v England (Lord's) 1974

LONDON, Mar 30: England, currently struggling

at 40-8 against West Indies in Port of Spain,

need another six runs to overtake their lowest

total on record - 45 against Australia in Sydney

Thirteen sides have scored 45 or fewer in an

Wessels came under fire for slow batting after overhauling Australia's first innings total and then for his negative tactics when the visitors were effectively four for four in their second innings after wiping out a first innings deficit of 153 runs.

stars, including Barry Richards, called for a more positive and enterprising approach if South Africa are to be competitive at Test level.

"When don't they say anything like that?" Wessels said. "I think we played pretty well."

and lost the first tour game we

Africa were banned because of apartheid in 1970.

4-0 (1969-70) in two home series. Wessels said the current

dously since the tour of Shri Lanka last August. "The bowling has always

been good, but the batting has improved compared to last season. The depth in the batting is much better. It gives us more stability," Wessels said. This was one view Australian skipper Allan

Curtly's the best there is at the Fletcher admitted the day had seen morale in the England camp at rock bottom. "The dressing room's very

the worst dressing rooms I've been in for a long time," he But he issued a rallying cry when he added: "We have got

quiet this evening, it's one of

in the space of a day's play was

equally complimentary of his

"Curtfy is the greatest. We

Asked about how Ambrose,

who collected his eleventh

five-wicket haul in Tests,

compared with the greats of

the past, he added: "I don't be-

lieve in comparing players but

always call on him to do the

big jobs and he produces."

bowling spearhead.

Richardson said.

moment."

to pick ourselves up, and we tributed to the collapse - he. have got to keep working. There are people worse off than us. "Michael Atherton and I have got to pick the players up, and that's not impossible.

play for pride."

We have got to do it because

there are two Tests to play

after this and we have got to

Test between West Indies and England at Queen's Park Oval. **WEST INDIES:** First innings 252 (R Richardson 63, A Fraser 4-49)

ENGLAND: First innings 328 (G Thorpe 86, C Ambrose

5-60)

WEST INDIES: Second in-

nings Haynes b Lewis Richardson c and b Caddick Lara c Salisbury b Caddick Arthurton c Stewart b Caddick Adams c Russel b Salisbury Chanderpaul c Fraser b Caddick 50 Murry c Russell b Caddick W Benjamin c Fraser b Lewis Ambrose b Caddick K Benjamin not out Walsh lbw b Lewis Extras: (b-8, lb-13, nb-12) Total:

Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-37; 3-51; 4-131; 5-143; 6-167; 7-227: 8-247: 9-267 Bowling: 71 Fraser

65 Caddick Lewis Salisbury **ENGLAND:** Second innings (overnight 40-8) 18

Atherton lbw b Ambrose Stewart b Ambrose Ramprakash run out Smith b Ambrose Hick c Murray b Ambrose Thorpe b Ambrose Salisbury c Lara b Walsh Russel c Sub b Ambrose Lewis c W Benjamin b Waish Caddick c Lara b Walsh Fraser not out Extras: (lb-6, nb-1) Total: Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-1; 3-

5: 4-21; 5-26; 6-27; 7-37; 8-40: 9-45. Bowling: 24 Ambrose 16

Result: West Indies beat

England by 147 runs First Test: Kingston. Jamaica — West Indies won by eight wickets. Second Test: Georgetown,

Guyana -West Indies won by

an innings and 44 runs. Fourth Test: Barbados -**April 8-13** Fifth Test: Antigua — April

16-21. Wessels too

conservative DURBAN, South Africa, Mar

30: Skipper Kepler Wessels was widely criticised for his conservative approach in South Africa's final Test against Australia this week, reports The three-match series

ended in a one-all tie, the same score as the series in Australia in December.

Former Springbok Test

"When we went to Australia

were publicly written off. I am happy with two wins in six Tests, although we had to share it," Wessels said. The recent series contrasted with the results of the

last meeting, before South

After sharing the 1963-64 series in Australia 1-1, South African won 3-1 (1966-67) and

team has improved tremen-

Border shared. "Their bowling is good as going around, as far as consistence. South Africa are a very

tough side in every aspect," Border said. They have batting up to number eight, which is a very handy line up." Border said South Africa

should do well in England during that upcoming visit, but felt the team might struggle if it encountered pitches suiting spin bowling.

Costa fires Benfica home LISBON, Mar 30: Midfielder

Rui Costa celebrated his 22nd birthday with the winning goal as Benfica beat Parma 2-1 if the first leg of their European Cup Winners Cup semifinal on Tuesday, reports Reuter Benfica striker Isaias Soares

opened the scoring after a perfect pass by Costa which put him alone at the edge of box and he hammered the ball into the net

the run-rate and lost wickets as they battled to catch up eventually finishing on 243 for Azharuddin

India to a 12-run victory in the

third one-day cricket interna-

On a wicket that produced

snearly 500 runs. Kumble

succeeded in pinning the New

Zealanders down and earned

the man-of-the-match award

255, New Zealand fell behind

Chasing an Indian target of

with figures of five for 33.

tional today, reports Reuter.

the helm CALCUTTA, Mar 30: Mohammed Azharuddin has been retained the captain of the Indian cricket' team for the six-nation Australasia Cup in Sharjah next month, reports

stays at

The hon secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Jagmohan Dalmiya said members of the selection committee, most of whom are now in Bombay watching the Ranji Trophy final, had a telephonic conference with the chairman of the committee, GR Vishwanath and were unanimous in their decision to retain Azharuddin

as skipper. This was conveyed to Dalmiya over telephone by Vishwanath this morning. The other members of the squad were expected to be announced tomorrow.

Army b'ball

The Anti-Aircraft Artillery as well as the Bogra, Rangpur and Comilla Area teams won their respective robin league matches in the Army basketball championships at the Mirpur Cantonment yesterday. an ISPR press release said, reports BSS. The Anti-Aircraft Artillery

Rangpur Area defeated Savar Area 63-60 and Comilla Area overpowered Jessore Area 51-48 points. Earlier on Tuesday Chittagong Area beat the Jessore Area 62-50 and the Anti-Aircraft Artillery trounced the

Dhaka Engineers 85-47.

outplayed the Dhaka Signals

83-33, Bogra Area beat

Mymensingh area 63-29.

India surge ahead of Kiwis India's lead was built on a free-scoring opening partnership between Sachin Tendulkar and Ajay Jadeja, who put on 105 at a breezy five Tendulkar, who hit nine



KUMBLE .- man-of-the-match fours in his 63, was adjudged lbw to Gavin Larsen in a controversial umpiring decision. while the more sedate Jadeja went on to make 56 before be-

ing bowled by Morrison. Navjot Sidhu scored 71 not out, including a huge six, and Mohammad captain Azharuddin chimed in with some big hitting late in the in-New Zealand started badly

when Bryan Young was bowled by Javagal Srinath for two in the fourth over. Chris Harris and Blair Hartland added 60 together, but the home side sank to 76 for four after Kumble dislodged both batsmen and Fleming was run out

Parore put on 85 for the sixth wicket and lifted the scoring rate to set up hopes of a New Zealand victory.

Nayan Mongia and bowling Parore. . Srinath, who took three for 31. The New Zealanders have a chance to square the series in

church on Saturday.

the final match in Christ-

Scoreboard from the third one-day international between Basin Reserve today. INDIA

Tendulkar Ibw b Larsen Sidhu not out Kambli e Pringle b Nash Azharuddin b Morrison Kapil Dev c Thomson b Pringle

Mongia not out Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-6) Total: Ifor five wickets in 50 oversl 255 Fall of wickets: 1-105; 2-154; 3-199; 4-237; 5-248.

South Africa won by 169 runs

Australia won by nine wickets

Series tied 1-1

Second Test, Cape Town —

Pringle 0 39 Thomson 55 0 Nash 0 30 Harris **NEW ZEALAND** Harris c Jadeja b Kumble Young b Srinath Hartland st Mongia b Kumble 2 Rutherford c Kapil Dev B Srinath 35 Fleming run out Thomson st Mongia b Kumble Parore b Kumble

Pringle not out Morrison not out Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-4, nb-1) Total:(for nine wickets, 50 overs)

3-70; 4-76; 5-131; 6-216; 7-221; 8-231; 9-232 Bowling: Kapil Dev Srinath 3 31 0 55 10 Ankola Kumble 0 33 0 30 Chauhan

0 12

Did not bat: A Kumble, R Chauhan, J Srinath, S Ankola. OMRW Bowling: 10 0 57 Morrison 33 Larsen 0 36

Larsen b Srinath Nash c Kapil Dev b Kumble

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-65;

Jadeia Tendulkar 2

Result: India won by 12 India lead four-match series 2-1.

for two. Shane Thomson and Adam

But Kumble struck again, having Thomson stumped by He was well supported by

SCOREBOARD

India and New Zealand at the Jadeja b Morrison

AIRBORNE: New Zealand's Chris Harris stretches to take a spectacular but vain one handed catch off his own bowling during the third one-day international between New Zealand and - AFP photo India in Wellington yesterday. India won by 12 runs.