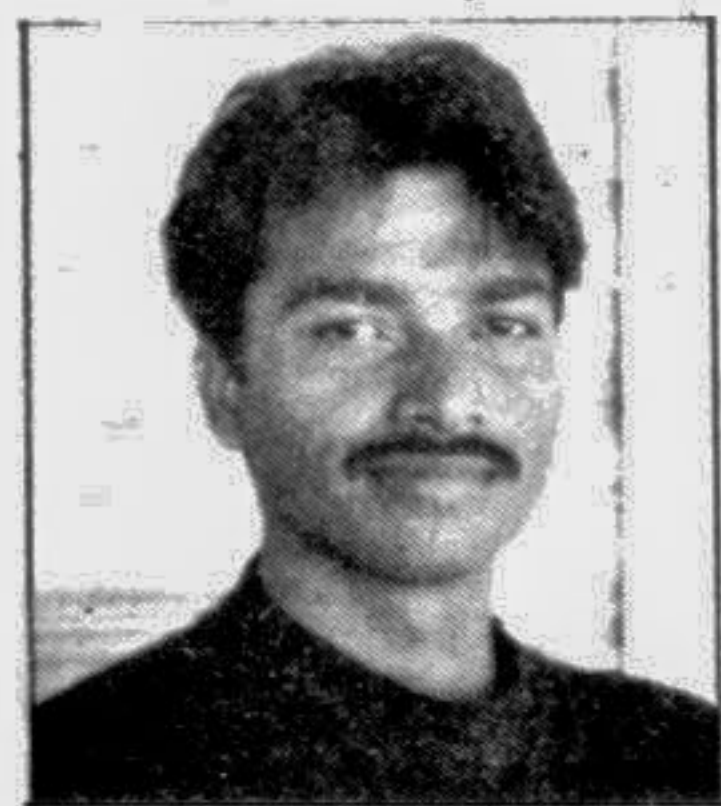


GMCC let Abahani off the hook

Sports Reporter

Harunur Rashid Liton gave his ex-club Abahani a real scare before lack of application and determination forced Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club to concede a 50-run victory to title-aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



FAROUQUE AHMED
Raman Lamba and Khaled Mahmud Sujon.

Lamba, after the rousing knock in the previous match, suffered a setback when a Zakir delivery found the edge of his bat and Nasu accepted the catch gleefully to send the former Indian Test batsman

back for five. Sujon gave Nasu his second catch for eleven and skipper Farouque Ahmed's service with the willow was badly heeded by his side and the young captain responded duly, ending a puzzling lean patch.

Farouque scored 64 in 85 balls with the help of five fours and two sixes, before being bowled by Saiful.

Akram Khan shored up with a handy 85 off 80 balls with the help nine fours and two sixes.

The burly batsman owed his life to the butter-fingered GMCC fielders more than once. Abahani were all out 45 overs for 201.

Sri Lankan all-rounder Duminda was the pick of the GMCC bowlers with figures of two for 35.

Rubel, the right-arm off spinner, was the other notable wicket taker with two for 3, apart from the left-arm spinner.

GMCC were given an ideal start by Liton and Sanwar with the former treating the Abahani bowlers with peregine disdain.

His one particular shot, a pull off Morshed for six, invited a nod of approval from the connoisseur. He sighted the short ball from the left-arm pace man early, timed, swivelled to send ball over midwicket boundary.

The stockily-built opener played seven superb boundaries in a 61-ball knock of 50 before courting disaster, trying to cut a straight ball from leg

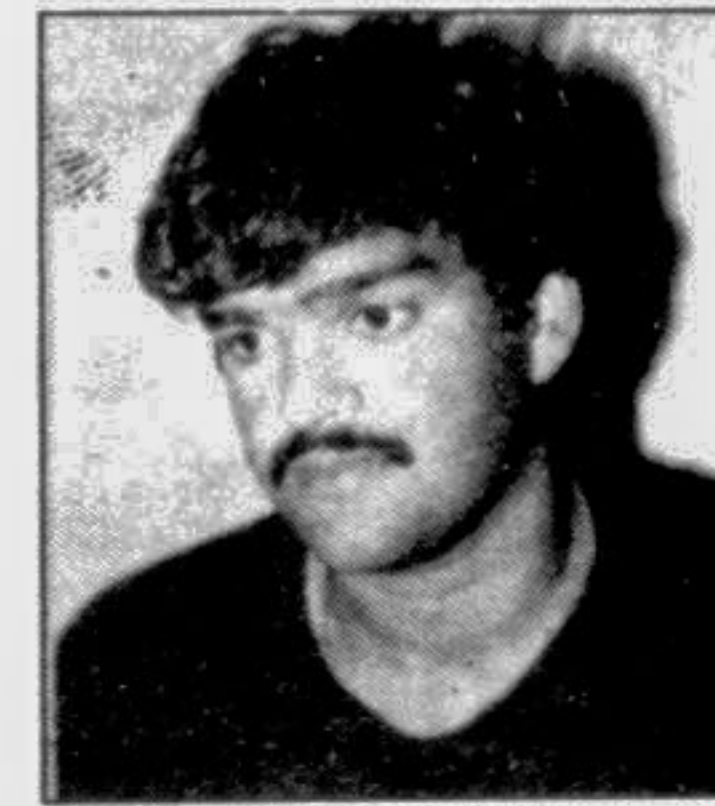
spinner Ashoka de Silva. Liton's exit at a time when GMCC were going great guns with the score on 77 in 17 overs heralded a collapse from which GMCC never recovered.

Gazi Ashraf Lipu played a poor stroke to be bowled by Lamba, who had earlier sent back opener Sanwar and Sri Lankan Sharat became the victim of controversial lbw decision by umpire A Bak.

Duminda hung around for some time before under-edging a cut off spinner Effic to Pappu behind the stumps.

The rest of the GMCC batting surrendered predictably to let Abahani off the hook.

Lamba made up for his fail-



AKRAM KHAN

ure with the bat to take three for 25.

Effic chimed in with three for 20.

Ashoka de Silva, who opened the floodgates for Abahani by bowling Liton, finished with two for 23.

SCOREBOARD

ABAHANI					
Sujan c Nasu b Sharat	11				
Raman Lamba c Nasu b Zakir	5				
Farouque b Saiful	64				
Akram c b Rubel	85				
Selim st Nasu b Duminda	14				
Ashoka De Silva run out	0				
Prince run out	2				
Morshed c Duminda b Rubel	0				
Pappu run out	1				
Asif not out	1				
Effic lbw Duminda	0				
Extras	18				
Total (all out in 45 overs)	201				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W	
Saiful	9	2	34	1	
Zakir	9	2	20	1	
Sharat	9	0	40	1	
Goala	7	0	30	0	
Duminda	6	1	35	2	
Rubel	5	0	39	2	
GMCC					
Liton b A D Silva	50				
Sanwar c Selim b Lamba	14				
Lipu b Lamba	4				
Duminda c Pappu b Effic	19				
Sharat lbw Lamba	1				
Pika c Sujan b Effic	13				
Saiful b Effic	5				
Nasu run out	2				
Zakir c Farouque b Selim	16				
Rubel c Selim b A D Silva	10				
Goala not out	4				
Extras	13				
Total (all out in 44.1 overs)	151				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W	
Prince	8	1	20	0	
Morshed	6	0	32	0	
Lamba	9	3	25	3	
Asif	2	0	16	0	
Silva	8.1	2	23	2	
Effic	9	2	20	3	
Selim	2	0	8	1	
Umpires	— A Aziz and A Bak				



Zakir (foreground) scored Abahani's winner in the friendly against BRTC at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

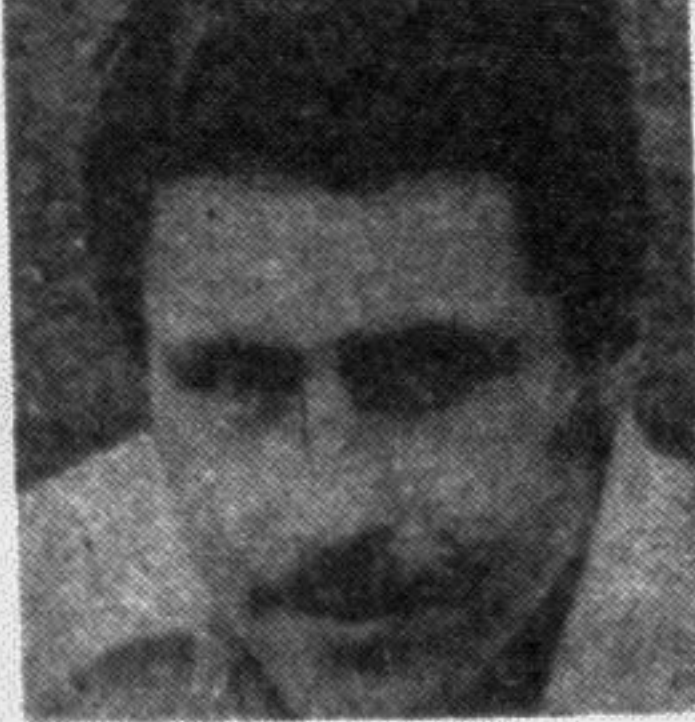
—Star photo

Graeme Wood quits

PERTH, Jan 8: Former Test opening batsman Graeme Wood confirmed Wednesday that he will quite first-class cricket immediately, reports AFP.

Wood, 35, said he had made the decision after being angered by his omission from the Western Australian Sheffield Shield side to play Tasmania in a game starting in Perth on Friday.

"This is the last straw," he



GRAEME WOOD

said, "I have been terribly disappointed with the way I have been treated in recent weeks, and I think it is best for myself and my family that I get out now."

Wood, a fearless left-hander who excelled against fast bowling, was initially chosen for Australia in the 1977-78 season.

He appeared in 59 Tests, scoring 3374 runs at an average of 31.83, including nine centuries.

He also played in 83 limited-overs internationals, making 2,219 runs at an average of 33.62. He struck three centuries.

Wood is Western Australia's

most prolific run-scorer. During his last game, against Victoria in Perth last month, he became the State's highest scorer in Shield ranks, with 6,952 runs at 46.65.

He also tops Western Australia's run-scoring in all first class games-7,958 at 46.53.

In a first class career spanning almost 5 years and 277 matches, Wood scored a grand total of 113,353 runs, including 35 centuries, at an average of 39.97.

He also had an outstanding captaincy record with Western Australia, leading the State to three successive Sheffield Shield triumphs from the 1988-89 season.

Richards says 'no' to Red Stripe Cup

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Jan 8: Former West Indies captain Viv Richards has ruled himself out of the forthcoming Red Stripe Cup, the first-class cricket championship in the Caribbean, reports Reuters.

The Leeward Islands will have to name a new captain for the Cup, starting on January 24, following the announcement that Richards is unavailable.

He was named captain of a Leeward Islands training squad last year but has since said publicly that he will not play in the Cup nor the Regional limited overs tournament beginning on January 20.

Richards, who retired from Test cricket after last year's tour of England, told a Barbados radio station on Sunday he would like to end his international career at the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in February and March.

England in control

NAPIER, Jan 8: Spinners Phil Tufnell and Graeme Hick put England in a strong position at stumps Wednesday, second day of its three-day cricket match against a New Zealand Country Districts XI, reports AP.

Hick and Tufnell snapped up three wickets late in the day to put England on course for its third straight tour victory.

The Country Districts team was 92 for four in its second innings at stumps, still 16 runs in arrears.

In a dramatic final 20 minutes, part-time bowler Hick initiated a top-order collapse when he had Michael Lamont caught in the covers by Mark Ramprakash for 30.

Nightwatchman Matthew Hart then arrived to face a torrid time from Tufnell. He fell leg before wicket on the second last ball of Tufnell's penultimate over.

That brought test batsman Ken Rutherford to the wicket, needing to last 10 minutes. He faced one ball, Tufnell's last of the over, and was bowled.

Tufnell was sitting on a hat-trick when he returned for his final over, but Bryan Young successfully defended.

Tufnell took two for eight from six overs while Hick and

Young, unbeaten on 45, will need to bat with responsibility Thursday to avoid defeat.

England began the day on 85 for one with Zimbabwe-born Hick on 25 and Robin Smith 14.

Smith added only one run to his overnight total but Hick and Alec Stewart (46) put on a 120-run partnership for the third wicket.

Hick was eventually out for 113 with the total on 233 after completing his 62nd first-class century.

His innings took 195 minutes, came from 159 balls and included 14 fours.

Wicket-keeper Jack Russell and all-rounder Dermott Reeve put on 78 for the eighth wicket with Russell making 57 and Reeve unbeaten on 42 when England was dismissed for 353 — a first innings lead of 108.

Scores: New Zealand Country Districts XI 245 and 92 for four (Bryan Young 45 not out; Phil Tufnell 2-8); England 353 (Graeme Hick 113, Jack Russell 57).

BSWA election

Sports Reporter

The biennial general meeting and elections of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) will be held at nine in the morning on January 24 at the National Sports Council conference room, says a press release.

Those interested in seeking election have been advised to obtain necessary forms from the BSWA office and complete their nomination formalities by January 16. Jan 20 is the last date for withdrawing candidature.

PWD humble Rupali Bank

Sports Reporter

PWD inflicted a crushing eight-wicket defeat upon Rupali Bank in yesterday's other match of

the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Batting first, Rupali Bank who now once again look set to face the ignominious prospect of being relegated to the Milnars league mustered a paltry 72 against an incisive PWD attack.

Mr Extras with 18 was the top scorer in the Rupali ledger.

However, Belayet Hossain Belal, the burly veteran, was the effectual top scorer with 16. Khokon with 10 was the other batsman to offer any resistance.

Jahangir Shah Badshah had an excellent haul of three for 11 among the PWD bowlers.

Ehsan with two for 14 and former national footballer Kazi Anwar with two for nine joined him in the annihilation act.

PWD reached the almost ludicrous target in 21 overs losing only two wickets.

After the early dismissals of Rownakul Islam Tutul and Shaheen the two Sri Lankan Hamin and Romesh Kalluwrithana took their side home remaining unbeaten at the kill with 16 and 32 respectively.

Prince with one for 14 and Hasnain with one for 16 were the lone wicket takers for Rupali.

SCOREBOARD

RUPALI BANK					
Prince c Ehsan b Joydev	9				
Dulu c Shaheen b Shabbir	1				
Jahangir run out	11				
Khokon c Badshah b Ehsan	10				
Nazif c Tutul b Anwar	1				
Belal c Tutul b Badshah	16				
Partha c Shamim b Ehsan	3				
Babu c Romesh b Badshah	0				
Billu c Shabbir b Anwar	0				
Plabon not out	3				
Hasnain c Hamin b Badshah	0				
Extras	18				
Total (all out in 38.3 overs)	72				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W	
Shabbir	6	0	13	1	
Joydev	6	2	13	1	
Shahen	6	1	7	0	
Ehsan	9	2	14	2	
Anwar	8	2	9	2	
Badshah	3.3	0	11	3	
PWD					
Tutul c Partha b Hasnain	3				
Hamin not out	16				
Shahen b Prince	10				
Romesh not out	32				
Extra	12				
Total (for two wickets in 21 overs)	73				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W	
Prince	5	0	14	1	
Hasnain	4	0	16	1	
Plabon	4	0	10	0	
Billu	3	0	11	0	

Udity outplay Wanderers in Milnars league

Sports Reporter

Udity Club recorded an overwhelming 102-run victory over Wanderers Club in the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Mirpur City Club ground yesterday.

Put into bat Udity ran up a good total of 185 for nine wickets in 43 overs.

Sajid showing promise to step into the shoes of his illustrious father, former skipper of the national cricket team, Roqibul Hassan notched up his second consecutive fifty with the help of four fours.

Rinku was the other notable scorer with 46, inclusive of two hits to the fence.

Halim Babu was the most successful Wanderers bowler with three for 26.

Chunnu supported him with the figures of two for 43.

In reply Wanderers were shot out for 83 with Al-Ahain top scoring with 18.

Shihail with 14 and Kiron with 10 were the only other batsmen to reach the double figure.

Imran was the wrecker-in-chief with figures of three for 25.

Montr was the other notable wicket taker with two for nine.

TODAY'S MATCH
Agrani vs Sadharan Bima K.D. (Mirpur City Club ground)

Partha	3	1	3	0
Dulu	1	0	10	0
Nazif	1	0	6	0
Babu	1	0	1	0

Umpires: Nil Ratan and M A Raza

TODAY'S MATCHES

Kalabagan vs Wari Club (Dhaka Stadium)

Biman vs Surja Tarun (DCS)

Afro-Asiad not before 1993

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: The

first Afro-Asian Games, which India was to have hosted last year, is now likely to take place only in 1993, reports Xinhua.

The 'Patriot' reported today Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Secretary-General

Randhir Singh told reporters here on Monday that the reason is not due to lack of sponsors, and a multi-national firm, which sponsors the world rugby championship, has come forward to bear the complete expenses of the Games, with a substantial amount coming to the IOA.

However, due to various reasons, the Games would not be able to be conducted this year, he said. But he did not elaborate.

Referring to the Barcelona Olympics, he asserted that India would not send more than a 35-member contingent for the Games.

World Series Triangulars: Retrospect and Prospect

A. M. Chowdhury

The Benson & Hedges world Series Triangular is half way through. The second half is due to resume today January 90.

In the first half seven matches were played in December and Australia, the favourites are leading the table with eight points from five matches. India have five points from five and the West Indies have collected only a solitary point from their four matches.

The Australians registered victories against the Windies in two matches and out of the three games against India, they lost the first and won the remaining two. The Indians tied their first match against the West Indies and won the other, against Australia the won the first encounter and lost the next two. The West Indies lost all their matches except their first against India from which they collected their only point.

It is obvious that Australia, so far, are the best team in the competition and their place in the finals is absolutely certain. At the moment India appear to be safe in second position and look poised to make it to the best-of-three final round against Australia. But cricket is a funny game and nothing can be ruled out. Who knows that the West Indians are not going to win all their four matches in the second half of the tournament? If they win one of their two matches against Australia and win both their matches against India they will be in the reckoning for the finals, provided India get beaten by the Aussies. All these are within the realms of possibility.

But from the run of the

matches in the tournament to date it appears fairly clear that the task ahead of the West Indians indeed an uphill one. Their performance in the four matches left a lot to be desired. Their batsmen have not really scored enough runs in any of the games. In their first match against India they failed to reach the modest target of 127 and tied the match, hav-



RICHARDSON...no runs

ing lost all the wickets for 126. The good work of the bowlers could not be upon. In their second match against Australia, the target was again not that big (only 174 in 50 overs), but again their batsmen failed and thanks to three run outs they fell short by nine runs. In their match, against India, the batsmen fared little better, chasing India's total of 262 they were all out for 252.

In the fourth match, against Australia, the Caribbean batsmen found the Australian total of 234 too big and could go up to only 183.

In the first two matches the West Indian bowlers did well

to restrict the Indians to 126 and the Australians to 173. But the batsmen could hardly measure up to the Indian and Australian attacks. Only Desmond Haynes lived up to his reputation with scores of 0,62, 89 and 9, averaging 40.

Their greatest disappointment has been their skipper Richie Richardson. He celebrated nomination as skipper at Sharjah with a tally of 272 at an average of 90.66; but he fared only since then, a tally of 21 in three matches in Pakistan and 30 in four matches in the present tournament.

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Following the first half of the World Series. Other upper-order batsmen—Aphilo Wallace, Carl Hooper, Brian Lara and Keith Arthurton—have not really flourished in the tournament so far. But one good thing about them is that they have managed to win all their matches in the intervening period and some of the batsmen—Carl Hooper and Keith Arthurton in particular are amongst the runs. They would very much hope for better and consistent performances from their batsmen.

Specially from their skipper, whose lean run is bound to end. A batsman of his quality and experience cannot be in the dumps for too long.

The four quick bowlers are as good as any other. Hooper and Arthurton are expected to offer effective support. I have a hunch the Caribbeans are not really going to take it lying low. They will be up and about and if they can match up their determination with their potential and promise, something spectacular may not be a daydream. But since the new team is in the process of rebuilding,

the task ahead of them may prove too big.

It was very commendable on the part of the Indians that they could snatch a point from the West India, despite being booked for 126. In their second match they beat the favourites convincingly by a margin of 107 runs. The Aussies were all out for 101 Ravi Shastri being the Wrecker with 5 for 15. However, they were beaten equally convincingly by the Aussies in the next two matches; David Boon, registering the only ton of the tournament so far, helped his side to surpass the Indian total of 175 for the loss of only two wickets in the second match.

India were outplayed in the third match, in which they could manage only 157 and Australia raced to victory losing four wickets, thanks to Allan Border's 76 and Dean Jones' unbeaten 63. The West Indies were 'Srikanth' in their second encounter with India, while the Australians were meted out the same treatment in their first encounter.

The Indian batting has not been consistent. In the two matches where Srikanth got into his stride and did what he usually does, for which Allan Border has coined the word 'Srikanth' the Indian totals went beyond 200 and proved to be winning totals.

India would only hope Srikanth does it every now and then and not once in a while.

After the just-concluded third Test match the Indians are expected to be in better shape, their morale rejuvenated and confidence retrieved. Ravi Shastri, after his double century and 4 for 45, is likely to be his real self in the forthcoming matches in the

role of a genuine all-rounder.

Sachin Tendulkar must have found his rhythm, hitting a superb century. The best of Sanjay Man