

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

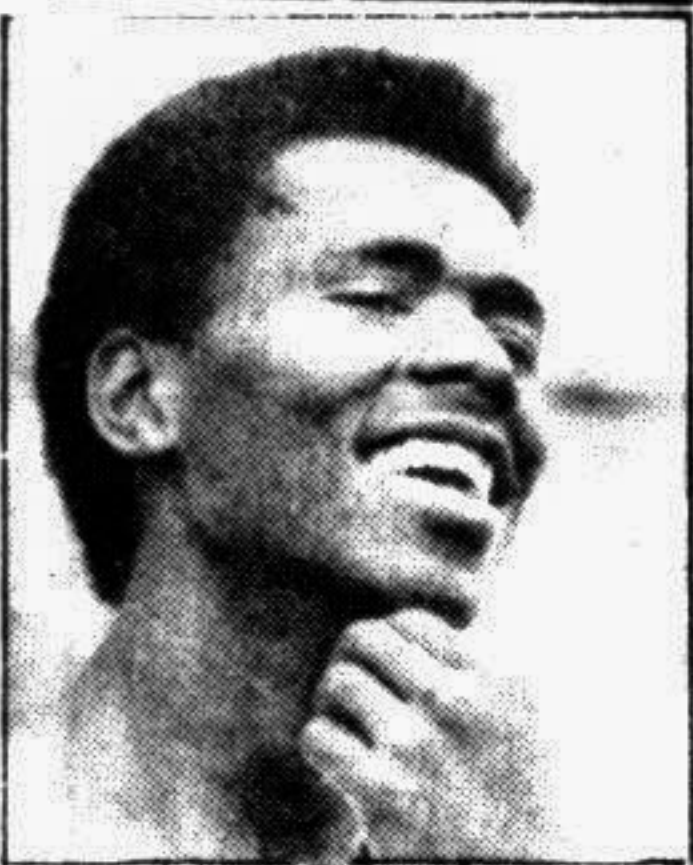
(The Professor does)

HAT the grand old man of cricket journalism, Neville Cardus's writings were often more interesting than the game itself. Here follows an example of an exquisitely-toned cardusian write-up.

The columns in the newspapers are becoming airy with cricket scores, which, in these days, seem like new grass growing out of scarred, blasted places. Long may they wave in the fresh air of summer!

I do not know whether boys nowadays turn to the papers for cricket scores as nervously as I did in the old days. I used to approach the stop press column gradually and by degrees, holding the paper a long way off from me. I was afraid to see any of my heroes having failed to make a decent pile.

SPORTS TALK



Ian Bishop

(West Indian fast bowler) "God has always been an important part of my life and I believe that once I stay within His will, He won't lead me where He cannot provide for me."

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

- 1. The Sports WHIZZ KID Competition is a property of The Daily Star. 2. The Competition is open only to school-going children. 3. Participants should send only Sports WHIZZ KID Competition Form printed in The Daily Star. No photo copies or any other duplication of the form shall be accepted. 4. Entries should be posted or hand-delivered to Sports WHIZZ KID competition, The Daily Star, House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205. 5. No other contact should be made with The Daily Star regarding the matter. 6. Results shall be published in The Daily Star the following Saturday after closing. 7. The first five correct entries drawn shall be declared as the Sports WHIZZ KIDS of the week. 8. Sports WHIZZ KIDS shall collect from The Daily Star prize books worth Tk. 200 on presenting an identification letter from their respective Heads of the school. 9. The decision of The Daily Star management shall be final and binding regarding any matter with respect to the Sports WHIZZ KID competition. 10. Winners should submit p/p photographs by Thursday after results. 11. Winners should collect their prizes from the sports section of The Daily Star on first Friday after results between 8-10 p.m.

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-17

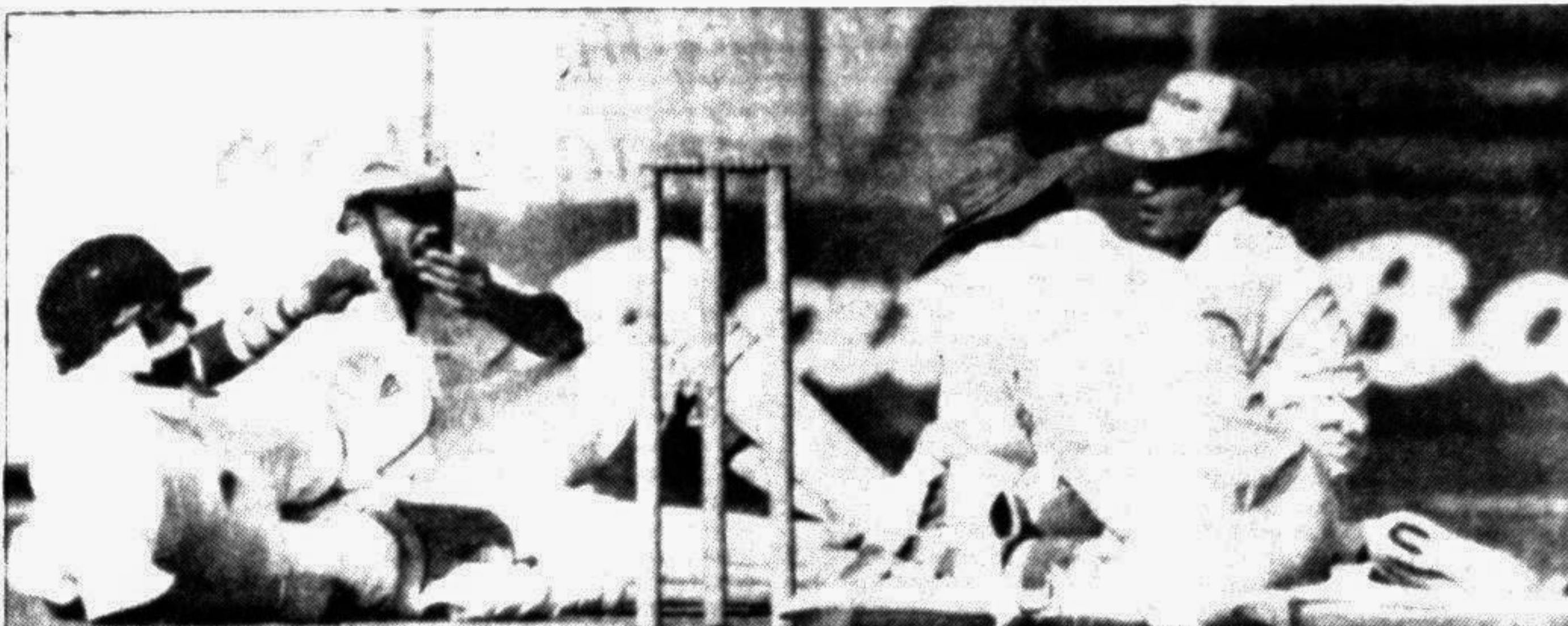
Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 p.m. Dec 15, 1995)

Table with 6 questions and multiple choice options. Question 1: Who is the highest run accumulator in Test cricket? Question 2: What is the official name of the sixth cricket World Cup? Question 3: Who is the current French Open singles (men's) champion? Question 4: Brazilian footballer Bebeto plays club football in? Question 5: The 1997 ICC Trophy cricket tournament will be held in Sharjah?

Name: Class: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

Woodies divorced

SYDNEY, Dec 8: The world's leading doubles pair of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde has been split for the first time in three years of Davis Cup competition, with Woodforde overlooked for Australia's February match against Taiwan, Australian Tennis officials said, reports Reuter.



Bangladesh Biman batsmen Shahnewaz Shaheed Shanu (L) and Ahmed Faiz Shaheen (2nd from R) chatting with Abahani wicketkeeper Khaled Masud Pilot (2nd from R) and Zahoor Elahi of Pakistan (R) when their second day's play of the two-day Bijoy Dibash cricket tournament semifinal was stopped following a controversial umpiring decision at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday afternoon.

An apology to the sport

Sports Reporter

If sportsmanship is the essence of all sports, then sports is not what prevailed at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Abahani Krira Chakra, in an unwanted incident, walked out of the field on the second day of their Bijoy Dibash cricket tournament semifinal against Bangladesh Biman in protest of a controversial umpiring decision yesterday leaving the future of both the match and tournament in a lurch.

The sorry saga started when former national cricketer and the umpire on the day Dipu Roy Chowdhury hurriedly adjudged well-set Biman batsman Shahnewaz Shahid Shanu out caught at cover by Raqib Hassan Bappi off the bowling of Pakistani left-arm spinner Arif Mahmood, although from the stands it seemed that Bappi had collected the ball off the ground.

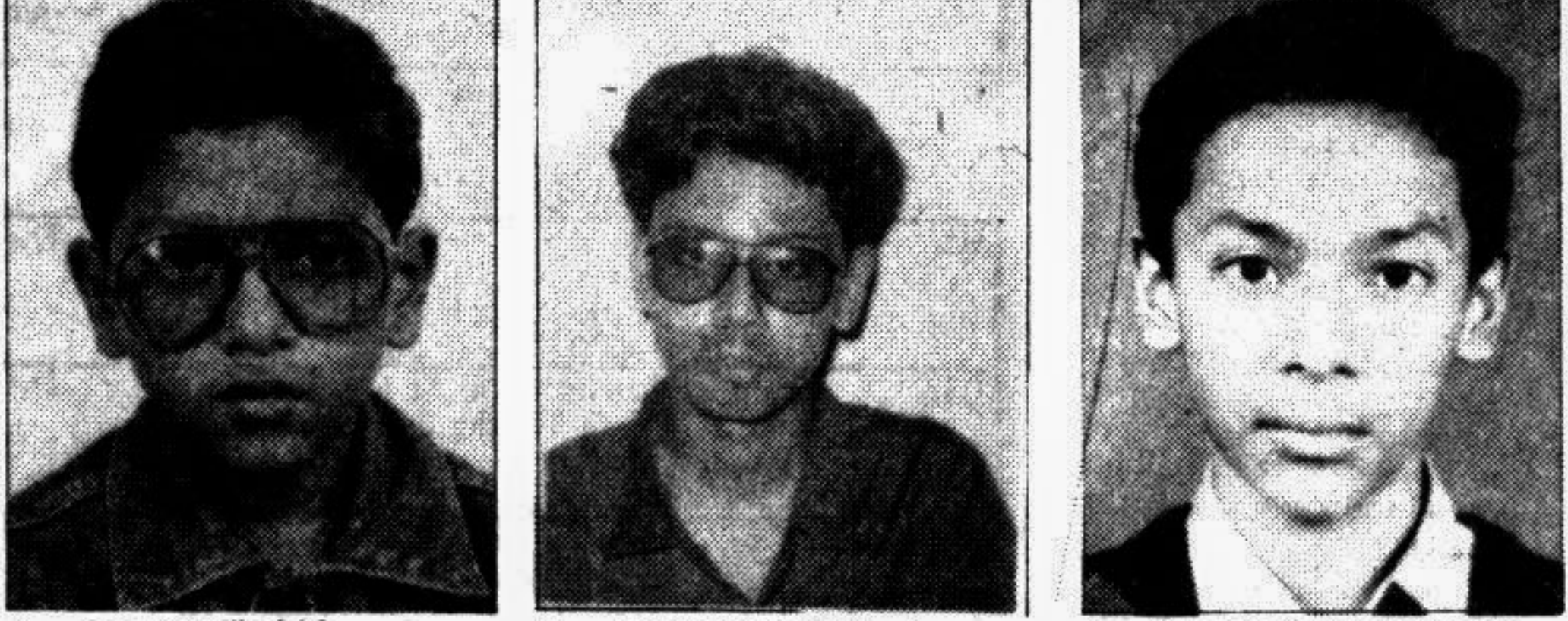
But after consulting with leg umpire Akhteruddin Shahin following Shanu's refusal to leave the wicket, Dipu revoked his decision and proclaimed Shanu not out. Biman at that moment was cruising at 130 for 4 from 43.1 overs in reply of Abahani's overnight total of 227 for 9 from the allotted 80 overs.

This sudden but visibly justified change in the umpire's decision provoked angry reactions from Abahani officials and supporters in the galleries, with some of the club officials storming into the ground and many a



A group of angry Abahani supporters brought out a procession yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium in protest of a controversial umpiring decision which compelled their team to abandon their Bijoy Dibash cricket tournament semifinal clash against Bangladesh Biman.

WHIZZ KID-15 winners



- 1. Rezwan Shahid BAF Shaheen School Dhaka. 2. Nirzhar Tahmidur Rouf PDB High School Ghorasal. 3. Iftakhar Hassan University Laboratory School Dhaka. 4. Shomit Ashfaquul Haque University Laboratory School Dhaka. 5. Zayed Khan Green Gems Int'l Dhanmondi.

WHIZZ KID-16 winners

- 1. Ellina Mahbuba Holy Cross Girls' High School, Dhaka. 2. Farzeen Saleh Green Herald Int'l Dhaka. 3. Summy Akhtar A K High School and College, Dhaka. 4. Rasha A G Church School Dhaka. 5. Samita Kaiser Green Gems Int'l Dhanmondi.

Niaz finishes second in Manila

Sports Reporter

Grand Master Niaz Mureshed became runnerup in the Far East Bank Open International chess tournament which concluded in the Filipino capital city of Manila yesterday.

According to a message received last night, Niaz, the first Grand Master of the subcontinent, secured nine points in the 11-round meet beating home player IM Guzman in the last round.

Filipino GM Ugene Torre emerged champion of the tourney after beating Bangladeshi IM Ziaur Rahman, in the last round. Tore earned 9.5 points while Zia earned 8 points.

IM Reefat-bin-Sattar, the remaining Bangladeshi participant, also earned 8 points. Russian GM Alexander Krasenkov, who played for Mohammedan Sporting Club along with Niaz in the first Division league last month in Dhaka, secured 8.5 points 27-player meet which included seven Grand Masters and 20 International Masters.

Mary Pierce of France and Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States are the two absentees among the top 10, the organisers said.

Seles in Tokyo

TOKYO, Dec 8: Monica Seles will make her appearance in Tokyo for the first time in 28 months, spearheading nine of the world's top 10 players at the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament starting January 30, reports AFP.

Pak visa deadline

ISLAMABAD, Dec 8: The government today announced a January 15 deadline for visa requests from Indians wishing to watch the next cricket World Cup matches in Pakistan, reports AFP.

Diego's plea upheld

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 8: Diego Maradona's request for probation for shooting at journalists with an air rifle was upheld by the appeal court here on Thursday, reports AFP.

With a first appeal still being considered by the Supreme Court of Argentina, an appeal court, after 20 days of deliberations, decided to grant the 35-year-old World Cup star's second request to consider probation.

It was on February 1 and 2 last year when Maradona fired at journalists outside his home in Buenos Aires, blaming harassment by the media.

WHIZZ KID-16 correct answers

- 1. Maradona is to football as Shahbaz is to Hockey. 2. Andre Agassi is sponsored by Nike. 3. Who was the man-of-the-match of the 16th Damal Summer cricket final? Ans: Mirza. 4. The 7th SAF Games will be held in Madras. 5. The mascot of New Zealand cricket is Kiwi.

Pak bats fail to blitz

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Dec 8: Honours were even after a valiant fight-back by New Zealand on the first day's play in the one-off Test against Pakistan here on Friday, report agencies. Thirteen wickets fell and 306 runs were scored in a fascinating day's play. New Zealand ended the day on 98 for three after dismissing Pakistan for 208. Stephen Fleming, 16, and Roger Twose, 11, were at the crease.

New Zealand's openers cautiously made their way to 48 before Bryan Young edged Ataur Rehman to wicket-keeper Rashid Latif for 16.

Fellow opener Craig Spearman was denied a half-century on his debut when Mushtaq Ahmed got revenge for being straight driven for six in his first over by the batsman.

He slipped a leg-break between bat and pad to hit off stump and ended Spearman's measured innings of 40. The celebrated pace duo of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis largely wasted the new ball, aiming more at the batsmen's heads than their stumps. Several half volleys were driven to the fence.

New Zealand earlier looked to have blown the advantage of winning the toss when they bowled badly on a good wicket and openers Aamir Sohail and Rameez Raja put on 135.

Sohail was on course to hit a century before lunch — the only other Pakistani to achieve that on the opening day of a Test was Majid Khan, against New Zealand at Karachi in 1976 — before treading on his wicket at 88.

Sohail was almost out in the same fashion on 29 when his left heel dislodged the off-ball while pulling a Morrison lifter. None of the New Zealanders noticed and the ball was replaced.

Raja scored 54, his 20th Test half-century before playing across the line at Cairns and being struck on the pad. Much of the credit for the recovery went to seamer Chris Cairns who finished with four for 51. Three of his wickets came in a 21-ball spell for a cost of only three runs.

He started the rot by removing Sohail and Raja before lunch, then sent Inzamam-ul-Haq packing shortly after the break. Salim Malik was out edging Dion Nash without scoring and a sadly out-of-form Basit Ali fell to a smart catch by wicketkeeper and captain Lee Germon just before the drinks break.

Ijaz Ahmed provided the only substance, reaching 30 with some bold strokes before hooking once too often and holing out at fine leg.

Wari waltz into semis

Sports Reporter

WARI CLUB: 257 for 9 in 50 overs (Mapatuna 85, Mukul 39; Talha 2/23). GULSHAN YOUTH: 132 in 42.4 overs (Zia 28, Sohail 27; Arif 3/35).

Wari Club cruised into the semifinals of the Shaheed Jewel-Mustaq Victory Day cricket tournament with a massive 125-run win over Gulshan Youth Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat in the morning, Wari Club piled up a huge 257 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs and booked their counterparts for a lowly 132 in 42.4 overs.

It was Sri Lankan all-rounder C Mapatuna who played the leading role in designing Gulshan's downfall. After hammering a blistering 85 off 86 balls, the highest individual knock of his team's innings, Mapatuna showed magic with the cherry too removing the last two Gulshan batsmen — Talha (5) and Sajal (2).

Wari, one of the oldest clubs of the capital, were in trouble early in the morning when they lost their three top order batsmen with the scoreboard at 41 in nine overs. But the situation improved when Mapatuna joined M Rahman Mukul at the crease.

The pair put on 74 runs before Mukul was out for 39. Mapatuna who figured in two brief stands of 56 and 35 with Hassan Zaman (29) and Obayedullah (9) was eventually out for 85 with Wari comfortably placed at 206 for six in 43.4 overs.

His brilliant knock contained five boundaries and a huge sixer. Another 51 runs came off the last 32 balls before Wari completed their quota of overs.

Munna (24 off 14 balls) and Nafiz Newaz (16 off 9 balls) were the other notable scorers. Gulshan bowler Mohammad Talha and Rubbu captured two wickets each conceding 23 and 45 runs respectively.

Chasing 258 to win, Gulshan began at a brisk pace with openers Rubbu and Redwan Hasan collecting 41 runs in 8.3 overs. But after Rubbu (19) was dismissed things began to go wrong as they lost three wickets cheaply in the next 7.3 overs for the addition of only 30 runs.

Sohail (27) and Zia (28) tried to put on an end to the Wari onslaught with their 41-run sixth wicket stand but that did not last long due to the Wari new-ball Ariful Islam, who in his second spell removed both of them in two successive overs.

After the departure of Sohail and Zia, which left Gulshan tottering on 126 for eight in 37 overs, the remaining tailenders could score only six runs before they were eventually skittled out for 132 with 7.2 overs to spare.

The winners will take on Victoria Sporting Club in the first semifinal of the eight-team tourney on December 14.

Gazza let off lightly

Sports Reporter

GLASGOW, Dec 8: England international Paul Gascoigne will not be prosecuted over an incident during a stormy game between his club Glasgow Rangers and Aberdeen, a legal official said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Midfielder Gascoigne and his teammate John Brown were suspended for one match by the Scottish Football Association (SFA) for bringing soccer into disrepute after an inquiry into clashes at the November 11 match at Ibrox Park, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a Cryptoquip section at the bottom with a grid and the clue: "Today's Cryptoquip clue: 5 equals F".