

# Indians make it look so easy

Sports Reporter

The first SAARC cricket tournament retained the course charted from Day One as India registered a massive nine-wicket victory against arch-rivals Pakistan at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

A mid-innings collapse triggered by the Indian spinners saw Pakistan end up with a rather dismal total of 195 and the experienced Indian batsmen saw their side home and dry with nearly five overs and nine wickets to spare.

As has been the trend so far, Maninder Singh asked Pakistan to make first use of the wicket after having won the toss in the morning. The new wicket with very little grass looked full of runs and the Pakistani opening duo of Shahid Anwar and Basit Ali gave their side a bright start.

Indian newball pair of the Test experienced Salil Ankola and Ashish Winston Zaidi made little impact on the batsmen as Basit Ali in particular drove, pulled and flicked the bowlers all around. The introduction of Ajeet Kulkarni, perhaps the tallest player of the competition, did not help things for the Indians. None of the Indian seamers got any appreciable movement in the air although the ball seemed around a bit in the initial overs. Zaidi, who had been to Dhaka with the under-19 Indian team in 1989 appeared the quickest off the wicket of the three Indian pacemen but he was erratic.

The opening pair put on 55 runs for the first wicket in 10.1 overs when Maninder started a double spin attack — off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan from the Paltan end and Maninder himself from the pavilion end.

Meanwhile, Shahid Anwar, the taller and more sedate of the two openers, had left leg before to Ankola while attempting an unnecessary across-the-line stroke. Then Basit, the hard-hitting, stocky batsman tried a cut against a ball from Rajesh Chauhan that went straight for a change and kept pretty close to the wicket. He managed a tinkle and Nayan Mongia who toured England with the Indian Test team in 1990 as the second wicketkeeper, gloved him without any fuss to make Pakistan 74 for two wickets.

Zahid Fazal, a highly rated one-drop batsman who fell from grace after Pakistan's World Cup victory in last March, opened his account with an elegant wristy flick past deep backward fence but was beaten in the air by a held-back delivery from Chauhan to be bowled neck and crop for 11.

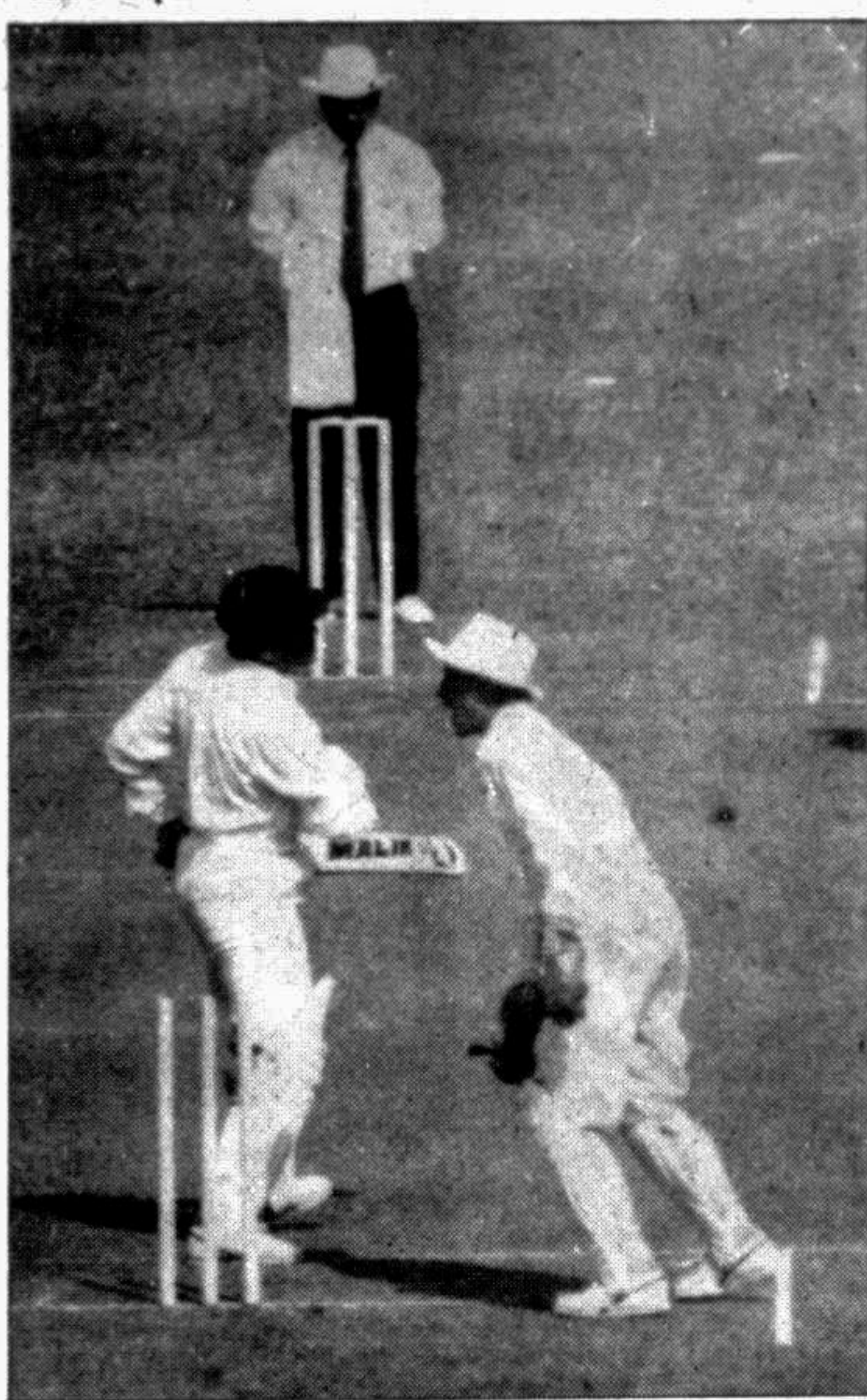
Both Maninder and Chauhan were bowling beautifully, keeping the Pakistani batsmen guessing all the time with clever variation of pace, spin and flight. Maninder, who has won 34 Test caps so far, spun a web around Saeed Azad and Aamir Hanif. His armers and the faster ones that at times squatted off the wicket made life miserable for the young Pakistani batsmen and a rather frustrated Azad committed hara kiri by attempting another extravagant cut off a simple off-break from Chauhan only to see his balls dislodged.

Aamir Hanif came and went, leg before to a Maninder delivery that probably came with the arm and skipper Moin Khan's rescue act was cut short by a slightly dubious run out decision with the batsman on 23. Indian wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia whipped the balls off from a throw from the deep with Moin Khan scrambling home for the second run.

Aamir Hanif was the lone ranger around with wickets falling at an alarmingly regular

frequency. He hit Ankola with the tide over midwicket for a beautiful pick-up off the hip for a sixer. A bad mix-up between him and Raj Hans resulted in Hanif's departure with both

to the quicker bowlers gradually made their presence felt with handsome, authoritative strokes in front of the wicket. Sidhu, the other Sikh in the Indian team apart from skip-



Aamir Hanif survives a close stumping call in the crucial SAARC cricket tie between Pakistan and India at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Aamir Hanif was eventually run out for 37. — Star photo

per Maninder was particularly pleasing, playing between the V. The lean Sikh with a blue turban made amends for the reported shortage of runs in domestic cricket with a

chanceless unbeaten innings characterised with powerful drives, rapacious cuts and deft deflections to the leg side. Together with Surinder Bhavne, the other opener, Sidhu grinded the Pakistani attack

Moin's elder brother



Nadeem Khan was bowled by Sharma for nine. Tanvir Mehdi hoisted the Indian test player to be caught on the long-off boundary by Zaidi for a blob and last man Maqsood Rana scooped one to Maninder at midwicket for two.

Maninder, the delicate Sikh with a red turban, was the pick of the Indian bowlers with figures of one for 17 from his quota of nine overs which included two maidens.

Rajesh Chauhan was the man behind Pakistan's total of 195 all out from 44.2 overs with figures of three for 25 from nine overs.

Ajay Sharma also bagged three wickets for 28 runs from 7.2 overs.

India started cautiously with Tanvir Mehdi and Maqsood Rana turning in a fiery spell from the pavilion and Paltan end respectively. Tanver, who was with the Pakistan team that toured England last summer, appeared to be the quickest of all the pacemen in this tournament but the Indian openers took their time to settle down and with the pitch offering little or no assistance

crease. Vinod Kambl, the dark, Afro-haired left-hander, looked a bit cramped initially with his high backlift but found little resistance in his way to try and find his bearings.

He and Sidhu wrapped things up for India in 40.4 overs with Sidhu remaining unbeaten on 95, made off 116 balls, five short of what would have been a most deserving century. He struck ten powerful fours and an effortless sixer over long-on off Raj Hans to level the score.

Kambl was unbeaten on 46 with the help of four boundaries, off 58 balls.

Sidhu won the man-of-the-match award, a crest and a cash award of Taka 5,000 for his superb knock.

Reaction from the opposing camps over yesterday's umpiring was starkly contrasting.

The Indian manager and the captain were all praise for the Bangladeshi men in white.

However, Shafiq Ahmed, the Pakistani coach with the experience of nine Tests, was highly critical of umpiring. "I would not say it was partial, but it was very poor," sang out Shafiq.

The trainer culled the pitch as the villain, saying it gave the bowlers an unfair advantage in the morning and later turned out to be a sleeping beauty. "The toss was the most vital factor. The Indians would have been in a soup like us had they batted first."

"Anyway, they bowled well, particularly the spinners Maninder and Chauhan. Later Sidhu batted very professionally to snuff out any outside chance we had," paused Shafiq.

## SCOREBOARD

**PAKISTAN:**  
Shahid Anwar lbw 20  
Basit Ali c Mongia b Chauhan 42  
Zahid Fazal b Chauhan 11  
Saeed Azad b Chauhan 12  
Aamir Hanif run out 37  
Moin Khan run out 23  
Raj Hans not out 18  
Nadeem Khan b Ajay Sharma 9  
Tanvir Mehdi c Zaidi b A Sharma 0  
Maqsood Rana c M Singh b A Sharma 2  
Extras: (b 2, lb 12, w 4, nb 2) 20  
Total: (all out in 44.2 overs) 195

Fall of wickets: 1/55; 2/74; 3/87; 4/104; 5/105; 6/147; 7/168; 8/187; 9/187; 10/195.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
S Ankola 8 0 47 1  
A W Zaidi 6 0 36 0  
A Kuruvilla 4 1 15 0  
S Ganguly 1 0 13 0  
M Singh 9 2 17 1  
R Chauhan 9 0 25 3  
A Sharma 7.2 0 28 3

**INDIA:**  
Surendra Bhavne lbw S Anwar 42  
Navjot Singh Sidhu not out 95  
Vinod Kambl not out 46  
Extras: (b 4, lb 4, w 7, nb 1) 16  
Total: (for one in 40.4 overs) 199

Fall of wickets: 1/100.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
M Rana 9 0 43 0  
T Mehdi 8 2 28 0  
A Hanif 3 0 19 0  
Raj Hans 8.4 0 52 0  
N Khan 9 0 31 0  
S Anwar 3 0 18 1

**Result:** India won by nine wickets.

**Man-of-the-match:** Navjot Singh Sidhu (India).

**Nat'l gymnastics**

Sports Reporter

The three-day national gymnastics championships will be held from December 19 to 21 at the National Sports Council gymnasium during the fifth Bangladesh Games.

Services teams and DSAs affiliated with the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation will be eligible to participate.

Interesting teams have been asked to contact the federation office by December 15.

**Stage set for thrilling finish**

Sports Reporter

Biman and Ansars.

In case Biman and Brothers are tied on points, that is Biman manage only a 2.5-1.5 margin, even then Biman will retain the championship since they outplayed Brothers 3-1 in their encounter held last week.

Biman defeated Mahakhali Pradip Sangha 3.5-0.5 yesterday. Would-be international Master of the country Ziaur Rahman, IM Zillur Rahman Champak and national champion Reefat bin-Satter of Biman won their respective matches against Farid, Tito and Pallab of Pradip Sangha while Biman's FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman shared a point with Altaf of Pradip Sangha.

The Brothers quartet comprising the Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi, Zaul Kader Tuhi, Amir Hossain and Sheikh Anwar easily trounced Noor-e-Alam Khan Chess Sangad 4-0.

Ansars, who now have 38.5

points, defeated Chalandika Kira Chakra 3-1 yesterday.

Former national champion FIDE Master Jamilur Rahman and Almas of Ansars drew with Mintu and Khaled respectively while Khandaker Kayes Hasan and Kalimullah Kalam earned full points for Ansars.

Dhaka University, who followed Ansars with 33 points, beat Farashganj Sporting Club 3-1.

Hanif, Ruhul and Shabbir of the university side beat Siman, Reaz and Shams respectively while Nikkon lost to Shaheen of Farashganj.

Pony Electronics, who have 32.5 points, defeated Konica Cultural Organisation by 3.5 points to 0.5.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation and Tilak Chess Club beat Parjat Chess Club and Protibha Chess Organisation respectively in the other matches of the day.

BTMC now have 32 points. Today's matches start at three in the afternoon.

## Vital tie for hosts, Pakistan today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will play Pakistan today in a vital encounter of the four-nation SAARC cricket tournament.

If Bangladesh beat Pakistan today — A feat which would be a watershed in the cricketing history of this country — the hosts will be in the final unless, of course the Sri Lankans upset the form book by beating both India and Pakistan, who have to win today's match to stay in the reckoning.

Bangladesh skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu apprised The Daily Star that there may be some changes in the line-up with opening batsman Nurul Abedin Nobel slightly indisposed.

Pakistani skipper Moin Khan, however, will name his team in the morning just before the match. However, there is a chance that Pakistan may play three pacemen — Tanvir Mehdi, Maqsood Rana and Kabir Khan, the lately arrived left-arm paceman.

The match, which starts at 9.30 will be played on the wicket used on the first day. India's S K Bansal and Bangladesh's Ataul Huq Mullick will be the two umpires.

## Gate receipts

Meanwhile, gate receipts of Taka one lakh one thousand and seven hundred was realised from the first match of the SAARC tournament between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Ticket sales for yesterday's match was quite satisfactory although the exact amount could not be ascertained because of the weekly holiday.

## Aussie press praises Row's ruling

SYDNEY, Dec 4: Australia's usually partisan press today welcomed the stiff line imposed on cricket captain Allan Border for dissent in the dramatic drawn first Test against the West Indies, reports Reuters.

"The cricket community has made it clear that bad behaviour will no longer be tolerated," said the Australian, said Australia's national daily.

The 2,000 (US 1,260) fine on the veteran cricketer, levied by International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Raman Subba Row, was the heaviest on any player since the code-of-conduct was introduced a year ago.

"Steve Randall and Terry Prue, Australia's most experienced umpires, have set rigid standards early in the season and should be admired for upholding the ICC code-of-conduct," the newspaper said.

Border, and pace bowler Merv Hughes, who was fined a 400 dollar (US 275), appealed vigorously for leg before wicket decisions as West Indian tail-enders Ian Bishop and Courtney Walsh held out in Brisbane on Tuesday's tense fifth and final day.

Subba Row said in his statement after a meeting with the umpires that he expected all players to adhere to proper standards of behaviour in cricket.

"To be so severe on a national icon as publicly popular as captain Allan Border, the longest serving player in the game with 134 Tests, is a clear message to all players that no-one is above the game," the Australian said.

Newspapers also praised the calm leadership of new West Indies captain Richie Richardson and drew comparisons with his more prickly predecessor Viv Richards.

**WA 113 for 2**

MELBOURNE, Dec 4: Western Australia were 113 for two at close of play on Friday on the first rain-interrupted day of their four-day Sheffield Shield match against Victoria, reports Reuters.

## World champs win WSC opener



PERTH, Dec 4: World champions Pakistan opened the World Series triangular cricket tournament with a five-wicket victory over the West Indies at the WACA ground on Friday, reports Reuters.

The Pakistani win, achieved with four balls to spare, was clouded, however by an injury to opening batsman Aamir Sohail, who strained a thigh muscle and could miss half the series.

Outstanding bowling from pace pair Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram plus leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed helped Pakistan restrict the West Indies to 197 for nine from their 50 overs.

Brian Lara top-scored with 59, exactly the same figure as opposition skipper Javed Miandad who steered Pakistan to 199 for five in the final over.

Akram won the man-of-the-match award following his brilliant figures of four for 46 off nine overs with an unbeaten 21 as he and Miandad picked off the winning runs.

But the Pakistanis were left counting the casualties, with only 13 of the 15-man squad currently available for action.

Apart from Aamir, frontline pace bowler Aaqib Javed is already on the injured list after developing a stress fracture in his back in a practice match six days ago.

Pakistan tour manager Colonel Naushad Ali said it was unclear if Aaqib would be available for the team's next World Series match against Australia in Hobart on Thursday.

Aamir, meanwhile, said the team's medical staff were concerned about his ability to recover in time for Pakistan's three remaining World Series matches before the competition goes into a month-long recess later this month.

"The doctor told me the thigh could be better tomorrow or it could take as long as 14 days," said Aamir.

"We won't know just how bad it is until a couple of days from now but I think I'll miss the next game."

Pakistan's enforced break starts when West Indies and Australia go into preparations for the second Test on December 18.



AKRAM... man-of-match

Aamir, who had also been earmarked to be a part of the Pakistan's bowling attack during the series, strained the thigh while attempting to run out Carl Hooper in the 27th over of the West Indian innings.

Hooper also hurt a calf muscle while taking the run and had to bat the final stages of his innings with a runner. He was fit enough to bowl in Pakistan's innings.

Aamir, too, had a runner when he opened the batting

but was dismissed in the second over of the innings for only two.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening World Series one-day game between West Indies and Pakistan at the WACA ground here Friday:

**WEST INDIES:**  
D L Haynes c Rashid b Wakis 1  
P V Simmons c Rashid 6  
b Akram 6  
R B Richardson c Akram 23  
b Aamir 23  
B C Lara c sub (Anjum) 59  
b Mushtaq 59  
C L Hooper c Inzamamul Haq 24  
b Mushtaq 24  
K L T Arthurton b Rashid 9  
b Akram 9  
J Murray b Waqar 22  
I R Bishop c Rashid b Akram 6  
C E L Ambrose not out 15  
A C Cummins c Javed 0  
b Akram 0  
W K M Benjamin not out 13  
Extras: (b 4, lb 3, w 8, nb 4) 19  
Total: (9 wickets in 50 overs) 197

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-12; 3-64; 4-119; 5-138; 6-140; 7-153; 8-176; 9-177.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
Wasim Akram 9 1 46 4  
Waqar Younis 7 2 26 2  
Ataur Rehman 10 0 29 0  
Aamir Sohail 8 0 36 1  
Mushtaq Ahmed 10 1 22 2  
Asif Mujtaba 6 0 31 0

**PAKISTAN:**  
Aamir Sohail c Haynes 2  
b Bishop 2  
Rameez Raja c Murray 34  
b Benjamin 34  
Salim Malik c Murray 35  
b Benjamin 35  
Javed Miandad not out 59  
Inzamamul Haq c Lara b Hooper 28  
Asif Mujtaba run out 3  
Wasim Akram not out 21  
Extras: (lb 4, w 3, nb 10) 17  
Total: (for five wickets) 199

Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-62; 3-102; 4-157; 5-163.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
Ambrose 9.2 2 30 0  
Bishop 10 1 34 1  
Cummins 10 0 41 0  
Benjamin 10 0 46 2  
Hooper 10 0 44 1

**Result:** Pakistan won by five wickets.

## Rainy respite for the Kiwis



COLOMBO, Dec 4: The first one-day international between New Zealand and Sri Lanka was abandoned as a "no-decision" at the Khetarama Stadium here today following a heavy downpour that made the grounds unfit for play, reports AFP.

Umpires declared a "no-decision" after deciding to call off the day-night match following a final inspection 50 minutes before the scheduled close.

Shri Lanka, chasing a victory target of 167 in 50 overs, were 41 for 2 in the 11th over when rain halted play. Earlier, New Zealand made 166 for 9 in their allotted 50 overs.

The second one-day international between the two sides is scheduled to be played here on December 12. New Zealand clash with Sri Lanka in the second Test beginning Sunday.

Earlier, Sri Lankan spinner Ruwan Kalpage and medium-pace Asanka Gurusinha returned the best one-day figures of their careers, helping restrict New Zealand to 166 for nine off 50 overs.

Kalpage bowled a tantalising spell to finish with three for 29, beating his previous best of two for 33, also against New Zealand, in the 1992 World Cup in Hamilton.

Gurusinha proved an ideal foil, capturing two wickets for 25 to beat his previous best of two for 67 against England in the World Cup match in Australia this year.

Backed up by smart fielding and catching, the two bowlers, along with Pramodya Wickremasinghe, kept the New Zealand batsmen on a tight leash.

AP adds: After being put into bat, New Zealand failed to come to terms with a slow pitch and lost wickets at regular intervals against a steady medium-pace and spin attack. They recovered largely through a 60-run stand for the fourth wicket between vice captain Andrew Jones and in-form batsman Ken Rutherford, before collapsing once again.

Only four Kiwi batsmen reached double figures with Rutherford top scoring with 36. He fell to an outstanding outfield catch by Dulip Liyanage at the square-leg fence.

All-rounder Chris Harris faced 53 balls for his 32 runs and remained unbeaten. The slow outfield didn't help the New Zealanders and only three boundaries were struck in addition to a swept six by Jones in his 24 runs.

Shri Lanka, despite dropping makeshift opener Adam Parore (20) twice in the early stages of the Kiwi innings, managed to restrict them largely through some brilliant fielding, which accounted for two run-outs.

Off spinner Ruwan Kalpage called to the Sri Lanka team for the one-dayer bowled brilliantly to pick up three for 29 in his 10 overs, while medium-pace Pramodya Wickremasinghe who replaced an injured Champake Ramanayake and Asanka Gurusinha, also took two wickets apiece.

G Bradburn b Kalpage 6  
D Nash run out 9  
M Su'a lbw b Gurusinha 1  
C Pringle not out 3  
Extras: (lb 8, w-13) 21  
Total: (nine wickets, innings closed) 166

Fall of wickets: 1-23; 2-37; 3-39; 4-99; 5-108; 6-124; 7-136; 8-148; 9-155.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
P Wickremasinghe 10 0 39 2  
Liyanage 6 0 24 0  
Hathurusinghe 10 2 20 0  
Anurastr 5 0 21 0  
Kalpage 10 0 29 3  
Gurusinha 9 1 25 2

(Incomplete)

**NZ bowler injured**

COLOMBO, Dec 4: New Zealand bowler Michael Owens was hospitalized with a deep cut on the jaw Friday when he was hit by a cricket ball during a warm up session in Colombo Friday, reports AP.

Owens may have a hair line fracture as well after he took the blow on the left side of the face, said the team's physician, Mark Plummer.

It was not immediately known who hit the ball.

Owens was not included in the New Zealand team's playing 11 for the one-day match against Sri Lanka.

**January 27 D-Day for Dexter & co**

LONDON, Dec 4: The next stage in the ritual humiliation of England's cricket selectors over their commission of David Gower from the winter tour of India has been set for January 27, reports AFP.

That is when the special general meeting of the MCC will take place to discuss a motion of no-confidence in the selectors.

The England team leaves for India at the end of this month. Gower is expected to be involved as a broadcaster.

## N'ganj Club tennis begins

Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 4: A ten-day long tennis tournament in celebration of the centenary of Narayanganj Club was inaugurated at the club pavilion this morning by State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism MA Mannan.

The tournament, being sponsored by Paradise Cables Industries, is being participated by 140 players including men, boys under-14 years of age and a dozen ladies representing Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Mymensingh, Banderban, Chittagong, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Natore, the Dhaka Tennis Complex and the capital.

Matches will be held simultaneously at the Narayanganj Club courts and the National Tennis Complex courts, Ramna in the capital.

On the opening day 19 men's singles qualifying matches, five men's doubles qualifying ties and another 19 boys' under-14 qualifying fixtures were completed. Besides, seven matches of the men's singles main draw were also decided today.



The 1992 First Division chess league is set for a dramatic finish when defending champions Bangladesh Biman take on last year's runners-up Bangladesh Ansars this afternoon in the 14th and final round encounter at the NSC chess room.

Biman, who now have 42 out of a possible 52 points from 13 matches, must beat Ansars at least by a margin of three points to one to remain champions.

However, the task would become easier for Biman if fancied Brothers Union fail to record a 4-0 victory over lowly Protibha Chess Organisation in their last outing today.

Brothers, who have collected 40.5 points, will have to trounce Protibha by the maximum possible margin of 4-0 and then wait for the result of the crucial match between

Biman and Ansars.

In case Biman and Brothers are tied on points, that is Biman manage only a 2.5-1.5 margin, even then Biman will retain the championship since they outplayed Brothers 3-1 in their encounter held last week.

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Surinder Bhavne, the Indian XI opener, sweeps Nadim Khan during yesterday's SAARC cricket tournament encounter against the Pakistan XI at the Dhaka Stadium. Moin Khan, the Pak skipper, is behind the stumps. Bhavne notched up 42 before being trapped lbw by Shahid Anwar, the only wicket to fall in India's innings. India won by nine wickets. — Star photo