Lodhi chanpion with a match

to spare Sports Reporter

Pakistani International Master (IM) Mahmud Lodhi confirmed the title a round ahead of the finale when he drew his adjourned match with Kalimullah Khan Kalam of Bangladesh on the rest day of the tenth Dr Q M Hossain International Masters' chess tournament at the Purbani Hotel vesterday

Even if Lodhi loses his last match against Bangladeshi IM Reefat bin Sattar today, there would no change in the final outcome.

Lodhi garnered 8.5 points from ten matches, a point clear of Indian V Sharvanan who like Lodhi remains to be beaten.

Two more adjourned matches were held yesterday. Kalam who drew with Lodhi earlier pulled off a similar result in his another deferred tie, with Indian IM Shekhar Chandra Shahu.

Shahu also drew his second adjourned match, sharing honours of with Bangladeshi national champion Reefat bin Sattar.

Pakistan certain to skip CAB tourney

ISLAMABAD. Nov 3: Pakis tan will almost certainly not take part in a six-nation cricket tournament in India starting on Sunday following threats by Hindu militants to disrupt play a senior Pakistani official said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"We are very sorry we can't make it." Shahid Rafi, secretary of the Board of Cricket Control of Pakistan, said in a telephone interview.

He said a final decision on whether Pakistan would take part in the limited overs tour nament to celebrate the centenary of the Bengal Cricket Association had been left to the government, which had yet to give a favourable response.

"Unfortunately we have not heard from the government. Rafi said. "I am not in a position to confirm that we will take part and it is now getting very late."

India's anti-Muslim Shiv Sena group had said it would take action to prevent Pakistan playing in the tournament, due to begin on Sunday.

Shrv Sena forced the cancellation of a Pakistan tour last year after its activists dug up the pitch at Bombay's Wankhede Stadium.

Rafi said Indian officials had failed to dispel fears of disruption by the Shiv Sena to the satisfaction of Pakistan.

"We think we should always be allowed to play cricket in Ir dia," Rafi said."It lets in fresh air and cricketing ties must be str engthened, especially since we are co-hosts of the 1996 Wor Id Cup."

The Pakistan team is in Shar jah for the Champions Tropl ly tournament. They meet West Indies in the final on Friday :

Faridpur soccer

FARI DPUR, Nev 3: Abahani KC beat Luxmipur by 4-0 goals in the Rabbani football league played here at the local stadium, reports UNB.

Abaha at KC dominated the match and netted two gaols in the first half. Zhantu scored the first two goals while Bitu and Faiz netted one each during the breather.

Mohamn redan Sporting Club will face East End Club in to morrow's (Thursday) encounter at the same venue.

C'ganj soccer

CHAPAINA WABGANJ. Nov 3: Cosmos Club beat Baliadanga Anirban KC by 2-1 goals in the First Division football super league at the local stadium Tuesday, reports UNB.

Bari of Baliadanga netted the first goal in the ninth minute of the first half.

But Situ and Hasnat of Cosmos scored two goals in the second half to seal the victory.

Platini rejects Marseille's offer

MONTPELLIER, France, Nov 3: Former French national coach Michel Platini has turned down an offer to take over as chief executive of beleagured Olympique Marseille, reports

"It's true I was approached to take over on an interim basis but I have something tremendous to do and that is help organise the 1998 World Cup. said the former European player-of-the-year.

Platini, co-chairman of the World Cup organising committee, was here to look at Montpellier's bid to be one of the venues.

Marseille president larnard Taple was in Paris on 7 resday to meet league officials and accountants scrutinising the club's finances.

If he is unable to explain away some of the reported 200 to 400 million franc debts the club, which five months ago won the European Cup, could be relegated.



Zimbabwean batsman Alistair Campbell receives the man-of-the-match memento from State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain as recognition of his sedate, solid knock of 54 not out, the topscore of the first Gold Leaf one-day international between Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. - Star photo

Basics first, Mr Amarnath

Mohindar Amarnath is not a person to be befriended on an airplane flight. There is a lazy, languid.

laid-back attitude in everything he does on and off the field. The shulling, easy-going run up to the wicket whenever he bowled and the guiet calm with which he faced the severest of tests against some of the best pace bowlers of the world, fitted in perfectly with the image of a man not given to expressing his emotions freely.

In the field he appeared mentally absorbed with matters other than the game and yet he was never at a distance from it. In his movements, there is a grace that inspires reverence for a man who is the true pro, constantly thinking, brooding and calculating. The years have passed and

with it the tension of top draw cricket. Persuaded into taking up the job of cricket coach for the Bangladesh side, his ways have not changed. The local lads have been driven to the extremes of fitness exercises, discipline has been enforced sternly and he has refused to let diversions distract his attention. His attitude to the concept of stars and the press has been one of disdain. In the rare interview granted yesterday to Bangladesh Television and some members of the press, he gave nothing away. The questions remained unanswered on the whole and from living room to tea joints, the 'what ifs,' 'If onlys' and 'why didn'ts' passed in the general discourse that cricket fans usually have in their own personalised postmortems.

Amarnath had never promised miracles but somehow, through what filtered along the grapevine, there had developed enough expectations among spectators for a 12-15 tho usand gathering on the terraces of the Dhaka Stadium vesterday. One couldn't but feel sorry at their disappointment.

By Mahmudur Rahman This was the full Zimbabwean

Test side and Bangladesh had them on the ropes, only to slacken the grip and virtually lose a match that should have bee n won.

The conditions and circum-

starices conspired to open the

door's to what should have been a watershed in Bangladesh crick et history. The factors that led to Bangladesh slamming the door in the ir own faces are such as will be chewed on for many years. In four meetings with

able fut ure. It was the basics of the game that was under the scalpel ves-

Zimba bwe. Bangladesh have

never won. They are unlikely to

come this close in the foresee-



M AMARNATH

mances against non-descript sides of India or Shri Lanka on recent tours. For a welcome change, there was a purpose in the way the fielders moved around. They looked fit and they gave their best. The bowling, for long thought to be the Achilles' heel, acquitted itself passably, even without the bite of G M Nowsher. The heartbreak came in the batting and the way that Amarnath shuffled the batting order.

Faruque was the skipper let's not detract from his handling of the team on the field.

But surely, he could have hardly have imagined Jahangir Talukdar Dulu going out as the second-drop batsman. Amarnath was circumspect when asked to comment on this. "It was a ploy that didn't work. Agreed and accepted. But how does Mr Amarnath justify the total lack of application on the part of his batsmen. In using the word application, we take the word out of the Indo-Pak-Bangladesh setting and refer again to the basics.

Barring Faruque, not a single front-line batsman so much as tried to clear the inner ring. Sajjad Ahmed Shipon is touted by his wellwishers as a batsman with a future-which must be true. Yet we didn't see him defend or attack committedly. What we saw was a dazed voungster who allowed Stephen Peall a domination that led the others to revere him far more than deserved. Faruque's grammar was awry - driving at a flighted delivery without using his feet, Enamul Haq Moni played back, committing the same mistake as Andy Waller and Heath Streak and Shahnewaz Shahid looked distinctly unhappy merely at being at the crease. Indeed, if Amarnath's argument that reputations don't matter a fig is to be accepted, current form demanded that Aminul Islam Bulbul be in the side in front of a home crowd. And coming to the tradition of messages from the dressing room, couldn't the order to go for it have come a couple of overs earlier?

Zimbabwe skipper Andy Flower was gracious, even in victory. "They gifted us wickets, he said. What he didn't say, for obvious reasons, was that Bangladesh lacked the will to win, that killer instinct - and the courage. If a coach can't drill these basic values among the local lads we might as well stop wasting our time. Enough of experimentation. Mr Amarnath must understand it's not defeat itself, but the way we lost, that irked everyone.

Akram to miss Champions final

SHARJAH, Nov 3: Injury-hit Pakistan suffered a major blow Wednesday when skipper Wasim Akram was ruled out of Friday's Champions Trophy final against the West Indies due to a wrist fracture, reports AFP. Akram was struck on the

right index finger by Shri Lankan seamer Champaka Ramanayake while batting in Tuesday's match and had to be rushed to hospital. Pakistani manager Waqar

Hasan said Wednesday the injury could keep the all-rounder out of action for at least six

Akram joins his team's growing casualty list that includes four other top players - vice captain and bowling spearhead Wagar Younis, seamer Aaguib Javed, veteran batsman Javed Miandad and leg-spinner Abdul Qadir.

Aaquib has already flown home with a groin injury was replaced by all-rounder Aamer Hanif, who made his international debut in Pakistan's exciting two-wicket win on Tuesday.

The team management has also called upon seamer Amir Nazir to fly in before the final to stand by in case Younis or Qadir are unable to take the field.

Younis has played just one match in the tournament so far after being struck by cramp in the game against the West Indies last Friday.

Wagar Hasan said both Younis and Miandad, down with a sore back, have a 50-50 chance of playing on Friday. But Qadir, making a come-

back after two years, is a doubtful starter after aggravating a niggling ankle injury against the Shri Lankans on Tuesday.

Qadir limped off the field while bowling his eighth over but came to bat with a runner and struck a crucial six in the 49th over to take Pakistan to victory.

Cesar sidelined

TURIN, Italy, Nov 3: Julio Cesar, the key Brazilian Defender of Italian league leader Juventus of Turin, will be sidelined for about one month after suffering a bone bruise in an UEFA Cup match, club doctors reported Wednesday, reports

Cesar, 30, formerly of Guarani, was injured during the first half of Tuesday night's match against Norway's Kongsvinger. The player was in tears as he was carried out on a stretcher. The Brazilian injured his

right leg, which he had broken during a league game in Naples one year ago. "It's a serious loss at a cru-

cial time, of the season. Julio Cesar is a key player for our defence," coach Giovanni Prapattoni said. Juventus, the defending

UEFA Cup champions, qualified for the third round of the tournament following a 2-0 victory against the Norwegians. In Sunday's league action

Juventus plays Parma, which trails la Juve by a single point overall in the standings.

Windies, Pakistan final tomorrow

Simmons sizzles Lankans up



SHARJAH, Nov 3: West Indies warmed up for Friday's Champions Trophy final agai nst Pakistan with

a crushing eight-wicket victory over Shri Lanka in the last league encounter here Wedn esday, reports AFP. Off-spinner Roger Harper grabbed three wickets and

seamer Kenneth Benjamin two as Shri Lanka were restricted to 182 for nine after electing to bat first. Inform Phil Simmons cracked an unbeaten 90 as the West Indies coasted home com-

before a handful of spectators at the Sharjah cricket ground. West Indies ended the league engagements level with Pakistan's tally of three wins from four matches.

fortably with 11.2 overs to spare

Shri Lanka, who came here with a growing one-day reputation after a 2-1 win over India and a 1-1 draw against South Africa earlier in the season, lost all four matches.

Ruwan Kalpage's defiant 30 was Shri Lanka's top score as the batting faltered against the steady West Indian attack.

The Lankans were down to

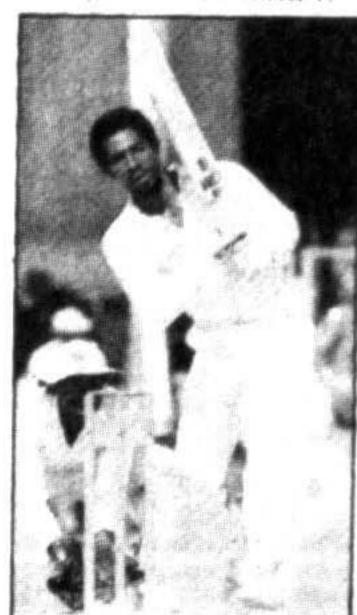
132 for seven at one stage, but Kalpage and Dulip Liyanage (14) added 35 valuable runs for the eighth-wicket to boost the

Shri Lanka had an early success when Desmond Haynes, leading the West Indies in place of the rested Richie Richardson, was bowled by Pramodaya Wickramasinghe with the fourth ball of the in-Simmons guided West Indies

home, adding 86 for the second wicket with Brian Lara (42) and

an undefeated 96 for the third with Carl Hooper (47 not out).

adjudged man-of-the-match. management decided to skip the final and leave for India on Thursday to prepare for the



SIMMONS ... man-of-match

Shri Lanka meet hosts India in Kanpur in the opening match of the 21-day tournament that also features West Indies, South Africa and Zimbabwe. SCOREBOARD

Champions Trophy one-day in-Wednesday.

SHRI LANKA: Mahanama c Murray

Simmons with scores of 92 and 84 in earlier matches, was

The worried Shri Lankan five nation limited-overs series starting there on November 7.



Scoreboard of the ternational match between West Indies and Shri Lanka here

b Simmons

b Walsh Jayasurtya e Murray b

W Benjamin De Silva c and b Harper Tillekaratne e Waish b Hooper Ranatunga c Haynes b Kaluwirthana c Holder b Harper Kalpage c W Benjamin b K Benjamin Liyanage c Harper b K Benjamin. Ramanayake not out Wickramasinghe not out Extras: (lb-9, nb-2, w-2) Total (9 wkts, 50 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-16. 2-50.

Somaraweera e Hooper

Bowling:	0	M	R	W
Walsh	10	2	34	
K Benjamin	8	0	30	2
Simmons	4	0	19	
W Benjamin	8	0	32	
Harper	10	1	31	:
Hooper	10	0	27	

Simmons not out Hooper not out Extras (nb-4) Total (2 wkts, 38.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-87 Did not bat: Holder, Adams. Harper, W Benjamin, K Benj-

amin. Murray.	Wals	h.		
Bowling:	0	M	R	w
Wickramasin-			100	
ghe	8	1	37	1
Ramanayake	7	0	33	0
Llyanage	5	0	30	0
Kalpage	7.4	1	32	1
Jayasuriya	10	0	48	0
Tillekaratne	1	0	3	0

Result: West Indies won by eight wickets Man-of-the-match: Phil

Simmons

A great opportunity lost By A M Chowdhury

Getting 141 in 38 overs at an asking rate of 3.71 was not a difficult task, and definitely not beyond the ability of the Bangladesh batsmen against a bowling attack. which by any count, cannot be

considered vicious. Still our boys fell short by 9 runs: the margin could only be narrowed down thanks to the valiant efforts of Akram Khan and Minhajul Abedin Nannoo. It was a great disappointment for a fairly large crowd at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Our bowlers kept a good line and length and, backed up by some excellent fielding. Zimbabwe were restricted to a moderate total of *114 for 4 when rain interrupted the game after 33.2 overs. On resumption the match was rescheduled for a 38 overs-a-side. Zimbabwe's hopes of getting a big total did not materialise. They added another 24 off the remaining 28 balls, losing in the process another three wickets. Enamul Haq Moni's figures of three for 19 in six overs epitomised the

efforts of our boys. Alistair Campbell, who was adjudged the man-of-the-match, kept cool all along and his undefeated 54 proved to be precious.

Coming in to bat, our boys clearly showed a lack of application and determination Athar. Faruque or Enamul Haq could not but blame themselves for their dismissals. Athar went for a lofted shot towards midwicket going across to the off. Faruque and Enamul Haq were dismissed going for wild drives without coming in line of the deliveries. Both attempted the shot too early in their innings.

But the harakiri was committed by a sudden change in the batting order.

Jahangir Talukder Dulu and Enamul Haq were promoted in the order and on what considerations the former was put in at No. 4 is beyond any reasonable comprehension. Thirty-five for two was not really a situation which demanded such a move. There was nothing to panic about at that point of time. The way Akram and Minhaj started their innings. trying to settle down by pushing and prodding and getting singles, clearly showed that they had the ability to rescue the innings. One fails to understand how Jahangir Dulu, who has the tendency of hitting everything across the line, could be preferred to Akram and Minhaj,

even if it is conceded that some rescue work was necessary at 35 for two. Jahangir Dulu, in the recent tour matches, may have flourished with the willow. which is definitely not his trade: but at best he can be considered to do something in a do-ordie situation. Let us hope the think-tank of the team goes about their job in a more rational vein in future. When you have a long line up of genuine batsmen, there

cannot be any reason for such a desperate a move. Of course, am ready to concede that if Jahangir Alam Dulu had succeeded in easing up the situation by his unorthodox 'bull in the china shop' style of batting, everyone would have acclaimed the play. But one must also concede that such moves click only rarely, and the situation yesterday definitely did not warrant such a move.

No praise can be too high for Akram and Minhaj for the way they went about their task. Had they done a similar sort of job. or even half as good, coming in earlier, it would have been difficult to lose the match.

Stephen Peall, the off-spinner who ran havoc, had nothing extraordinary about his bowling. He kept a steady line and could manage some turn from the rather slow wicket. But was he unplayable? Application and coolness on the part of our batsmen could have easily allowed them to see him through without trying to hit him out of attack.

A victory in this match would have meant a lot for our cricket. One and all in the stadium thought that a great opportunity was lost. The rain, right at the moment when Zimbabwe were about to launch their onslaught, gave Bangladesh a great opportunity. But how recklessly did we squander that opportunity, one

has to see it to believe.

Let us hope our boys will

make an all out effort to retrieve

the situation in the next game.

Let our batsmen take a leaf out of Alistair Campbell's book, who hit only one four in his un beaten 54 and kept the innings SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first oneday international between Zimbabwe and Bangladesh in Dhaka Stadium on Wednesday: ZIMBABWE:

Andy Flower c Nasir b Dulu Grant Flower c Athar Ali b Salahuddin 29 Alistair Campbell not out David Houghton c Akram b Athar Ali Andy Waller b Mont Mark Dekker run out Heath Streak b Moni Dave Brain b Moni Stephen Peall not out Extras: (b-1 lb-8 wb-4) Total: (38 overs) 140 Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-54, 3-90, 4-92, 5-121, 6-126, 7-128 Bowling: Saiful Islam Dulu

Salahuddin Athar Ali Moni 0 BANGLADESH: Athar Ali c Andy Waller b Streak Shipon c & b S Peall Faruque Ahmed b S Peall Dulu c Campbell b Grant Flower Shanu Grant Flower Moni S Peall Nannu not out Akram Khan b John Rennie Saiful Islam b John Rennie Nasir not out Extras: (lb-6 wb-5 nb-1) Total: (38 overs, 8 wkts) Fall of wickets 1-24, 2-35, 3-

48, 4-57, 5-58, 6-58, 7-121 8-127. Bowling: Dave Brain Heath Streak Stephen Peall 10 Ali Shah Grant Flower Mark Dekker John Rennie 2 Man-of-the-match: Alistair Campbell (Zimbabwe)

nine runs. Tottenham fined

Result: Zimbabwe won by

LONDON, Nov 3: The English Football Association fined Tottenham a record 25,000 pounds (dlrs 37,500) Wednesday for breaking its rules when they hired Osvaldo Ardiles from West Bromwich Albion, reports AP.

West Bromwich said Ardiles had verbally agreed a new contract to stay at Albion for another term before Tottenham. which had just fired Terry Venables, made a move to hire the Argentinean as manager in June.

Ardiles had just led West Bromwich to promotion to division one and the central English club have said they plan to sue him for up to 1 million pounds (dlrs-1.5 million) for breach of contract. At an hourlong hearing, an FA Disciplinary Committee found Tottenham guilty of misconduct and imposed a fine which is a record for this type of offence. Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar said the club would consider an appeal.

Gooch finally hits out



Graham Gooch blasted English cricket players as being to soft to

compete at the top on Tuesday, reports AFP. Gooch, who admitted his final "disastrous" series as skipper against the victorious Australian tourists this summer became unbearable, said: "The overall standard of our cricket

competitive enough, or mentally tough enough." England lost 4-1 in the summer series against Allan Border's touring side, Gooch quitting after going 3-0 down and handing over to Mike

is not good enough. Our players

are not hard enough, or

Atherton. Gooch, writing in a foreword to the Benson and Hedges cricket yearbook, revealed: "Although my own form had not suffered, the pressure of having to do well every time I went to the crease was becoming unbearable. It was certainly time for a change of captain.

"The last few weeks were depressing - and not just because we were losing.

"Winning is not the be-all and end-all but not all our players seemed aware of what is necessary to achieve success. To put it bluntly, I got fed up telling people what to do."

Gooch added England

should not read too much in

their consolation win in the final Ashes encounter against Australia. "Champagne flowed after England's victory at the Oval.

and deservedly so. "But this euphoria at the end of the summer could not disguise the fact that 1993 was a disastrous year for England's international cricketers.

"It must be of concern to

English cricket that years like 1993 are likely to become a common occurrence unless certain problems are confronted." Gooch argued the country

set-up was largely to blame for England's faillures, saying. "Only four couritries have won the championship since Essex took their first title in 1979.

"May be one way of introducing more competitiveness in the English first class game would be to have a two division county championship. That might seem a radical step but these are

desperate times. "We are going to have to be fully professional in our attitude and performance if we are to stop the rot."

Greatbatch hopes to

play in 1st Test LAUNCESTON, Australia, Nov 3: New Zealand opening batsman Mark Greatbatch hopes to make his comeback after a three-week absence with a broken finger in the first Test against Australia in Perth, starting on Nov. 12, reports AP.

Greatbatch broke his left index finger two weeks ago in a match against Western Australian and the injury has responded slowly to treatment. ruling Greatbatch out of a fourday match against Tasmania

starting Thursday. He broke the same finger playing against Pakistan last January.

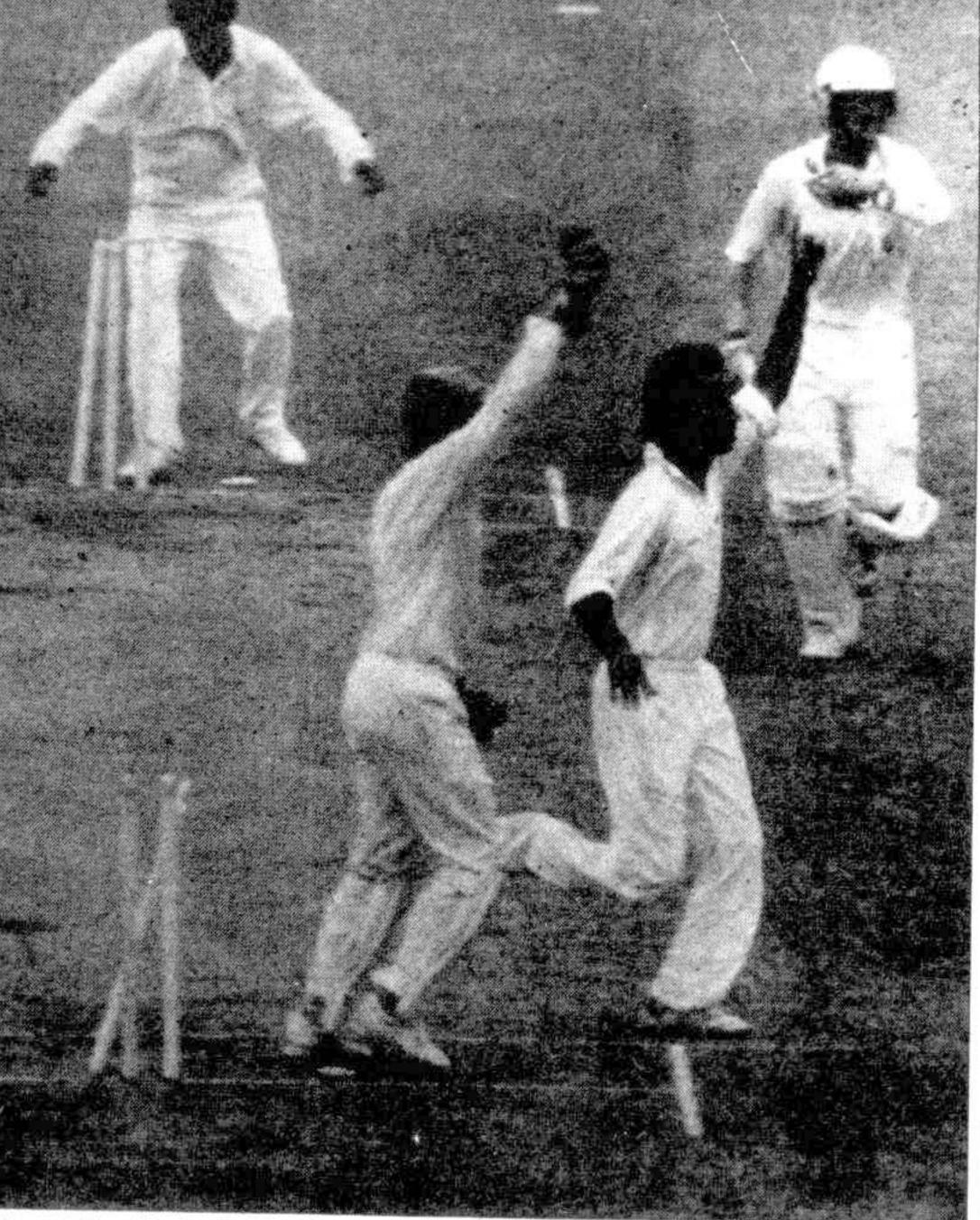
Left-hander Greatbatch pra-

cticed in the nets Wednesday

morning and then ruled himself out of contention until next week. "He had some throwdowns this morning and there was a lot of pain and discomfort." New Zealand coach Geoff Howarth

"Now he has an extra seven days, by which time the finger should be completely healed, so we're hoping he'll be fit for selection for the first Test."

If Greatbatch is selected for the first Test - as seems likely - he will go into the match without having played for 22



Enamul Huq Moni and wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu plead in unison for Bangladesh's cause in no uncertain terms during yesterday's Gold Leaf one day international at the Dhaka Stadium. - Star photo