

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Nabin Sangha recorded a 22-run win against Millbaracks CC in the Second Division cricket league at the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS) yesterday.

Put into bat Nabin Sangha made 178 for two in the stipulated 40 overs.

Adil of Nabin Sangha top scored with an unbeaten 52 with a sixer and four boundaries.

His teammate Anis hit another unbeaten half century (50) with two fours while Shahbaz made 46.

Goutom and Dulu of Millbaracks bagged one wicket each for 21 and 25 respectively.

Chasing 179 for victory Millbaracks were all out for 156 in 38.5 overs. Nayan made 40 while Babu (Jr) scored 34 for the losers.

All of Nabin Sangha bagged three wickets for 29. Pallab got another two wickets for 27 runs.

Nat'l bridge

from Jan 22

National Duplicate Contract bridge tournament under the aegis of the Bangladesh Bridge Federation (BBF) will commence from January 22 at the Officers' club, says a BBF press release yesterday.

The four-man team event will be divided into qualifying and final rounds. The pair event will be played on 27-28 January.

The entry fee for the team and pair event is Tk 250 and Tk 100 respectively.

The deadline for submitting entries to the team event is January 15 while for the pair event it may be made at the venue half an hour before the commencement of the tournament.

Azharuddin retains captaincy

CALCUTTA, Jan 1: Mohammad Azharuddin has been retained as the captain of the Indian cricket team which would face the Sri Lankans in the forthcoming series scheduled to begin on January 11, reports PTI.

The national selectors were unanimous in retaining Azharuddin as the skipper following a telephonic conference among them, according to Jagmohan Dalmiya, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The decision of the selectors was conveyed to the board Secretary by Gundappa Viswanath, the chairman of the selection committee, he said here today.

Md Azharuddin and Ajit Wadekar, the manager of the team, will now be special invitees at the national selection committee meeting in Calcutta on January 6 to select the Indian team for the series, he added.

The Lankans would play three Test matches, an equal number of one-day internationals and two three-day matches during their one and a half month tour of the country.

Div II, III soccer

super leagues

begin tomorrow

The super league matches of the Metropolitan Second and Third Division football leagues begin on Monday simultaneously at the Hockey Stadium and the Mirpur National Stadium, reports UNB.

Muslim Institute will take on Avijatrik Malibagh in the inaugural match of the Second Division super league at 2 pm while former giants BJMC SC will face Lalbagh SC in the other game at 3.30 pm, both at the Hockey Stadium.

On the following day, Shantinagar Club will meet Police AC at 2 pm while Jurain Janata Club will play City Club at 3.30 pm at the same venue.

Eight seeded teams will take part in the 20-day super league for the Second Division league crown.

In the Third Division league, Sunrise Sporting Club will meet Govt Printing Press in the opening super league tie at 3 pm at the Mirpur National Stadium.

Other Third Division teams competing in the eight-team super league are: Maghbazar Krira Chakra, Maghbazar Kishalay, Ganderia Famous, Kadamtala Sangsad, Fire Service and Bashabo Tarun Sangha.

Meanwhile, the remaining relegation deciding play-off match of the Metropolitan Second Division football league between Rayer Bazar Club and Azad SC will be held today (Sunday) at 2.30 pm at the Hockey Stadium. The loser will go down to the Third Division league.

Badminton camp

A training camp for female badminton players, to be arranged by Bangladesh Women Sports Federation, will begin in the city on January 15, reports UNB.

Lalmatia put on the spot



Dhaka Wanderers Club played their last scheduled match of this year's Milnars First Division cricket league yesterday.

The winners have played all nine matches lotted for every outfit in this ten-team fray and their tally of points is now twelve.

Lalmatia on the other hand plunged into deeper crisis with yesterday's defeat with just four points in their kitty. Together with Public Works Department (PWD) who too have garnered

four points so far Lalmatia should be full fraught with relegation worries following the narrow defeat.

Both PWD and Lalmatia have a match at hand.

Yesterday Lalmatia's Indian captain Ahsis Malik won the toss and asked his counterpart Jahangir to make the first use of the wicket.

After a wonky start, two wickets going down within nine overs with just 22 runs on the board, Jahangir who came at number four struck roots to make things hum again for his side.

While Jahangir held one end up, other batsmen played freely to tote up a string of useful scores. The captain was finally

out for 51 made off 72 balls. Following Jahangir, Garry hit a breezy 31 off 24 balls with four boundaries while Sharif Babu made 27 from 36 balls.

Stumper Patwari Babu, opener Shafiq and Lipu were Wanderers' other notable run-getters with scores of 19, 17 and 14 respectively.

Shantu of Lalmatia took two wickets for 26 runs while left-arm spinner Atiq claimed another two for 42 runs.

Fahim, Ahsis and Arif bagged one wicket apiece among the six Lalmatia bowlers used on the day.

Chasing 197 for a win after Wanderers mustered 196 for nine from their quota of 45 overs, Lalmatia quickly ran into trouble losing two wickets for 24 runs.

Hopes of making a real match of it were roused when opener Arif found a durable partner in Biplab. The two added sixty runs for the third-wicket before Arif was run out for a sedate 38.

With the addition of four more runs with the total on 88 Biplab left for 31 and two wickets including that of skipper Ahsis who made 16, were lost rather quickly.

Wicketkeeper Biswajit then came to play a cameo innings. Throwing caution to the wind he made 41 off just 45 balls. He clobbered three fours and two sixes before holing out to Babu off Jahangir.

Unfortunately, there was no support for the hard-hitting batsman who almost single-handedly took Lalmatia to what would have been a very useful and commendable win.

The last three wickets fell in a heap with none of the trio making to the double figures leaving veteran Atiq undefeated on six. When the last wicket went down, Lalmatia were still adrift of Wanderers score by ten runs.

Bicknell breaks down

DURBAN, Jan 1: Injury plagued seamer Martin Bicknell broke down again on his first first-class match of the England A cricket tour of South Africa on Saturday and looks likely to be sent home early, reports Reuter.

Having suffered both knee and side strain injuries early in the tour, Bicknell broke down in his fourth over on the opening day of the four-day match against Natal at Kingsmead.

He left the field at the end of the over in obvious pain and team physiotherapist Wayne Morton said Bicknell was almost immobile and his chances of seeing out the tour were slim.

The 24-year-old Surrey seamer has played in only three one-day games during the A team's first month in South Africa.

The selectors had taken a gamble on including him in the tour squad following an operation for a knee injury which has prevented him playing any first-class cricket since August 1.

England A have won all eight of their matches on the tour so far.

Popov sets new world mark

HONG KONG, Jan 1: Alexandre Popov of Russia set a new world record of 47.83 seconds Saturday in the 100-metre freestyle event at the Epsom World Cup short-course swimming competition in Hong Kong, report AP.

The old record of 47.94 seconds was set by Brazilian Gustavo Borges on July 2, 1993.

Short-course records can be set only in 25-metre pools.

Finishing behind Popov was Lithuanian Raimundas Majulis, who finished in 48.57 seconds. Third was Russian Vladimir Pyshenko in 48.65.

Popov won the 50-metre and 100-metre freestyle events in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

About 140 swimmers are participating in the two-day competition at the Kowloon Park Swimming center. It is the first leg of the seven-venue 1994 World Cup.

Double for Indurain, Egerszegi

ROME, Jan 1: Spain's Miguel Indurain, three times Tour de France winner, and Hungarian swimming superstar Krisztina Egerszegi were named on Friday as the world's top sports performers for the second year running by Italy's Gazzetta Dello Sport, reports Reuter.

Indurain scored 688 points in a poll conducted among Gazzetta journalists. Cuban world and Olympic high jump champion Javier Sotomayor (487 points) was second with record-breaking Ukrainian pole vaulter Sergei Bubka (469) in third place.

Egerszegi polled 511 points to beat the 1990 winner, Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey (478) and Gail Devers of the United States (443).

This is the first time a woman has won the award two years running. The only man to have done so before Indurain was Carl Lewis.

Chemwoyo wins it in a bizarre way

SAO PAULO, Jan 1: Kenyan Simon Chemwoyo won his second straight San Silvestre Road Race here Friday, aided by a finishing-line mix-up that let him past Ethiopian Fita Bayesa in the final strides, reports AFP.

Bayesa had passed Chemwoyo in a sensational battle in the closing meters of the 15-kilometer race through the streets of Sao Paulo.

But both runners took a wrong turn, and had to retrace their final steps to the finish line, allowing Chemwoyo to grab the lead.

Despite the blunder he won in a course record 43 minutes and 20 seconds.

Bayesa was second in 43.21. However as Bayesa had looked certain to win before the error organizers awarded him a 7,000-dollar prize, equal to the winner's.

Kenyan William Sigel was third in 43.31 and Mexican Arturo Barrios fourth in 43.41.

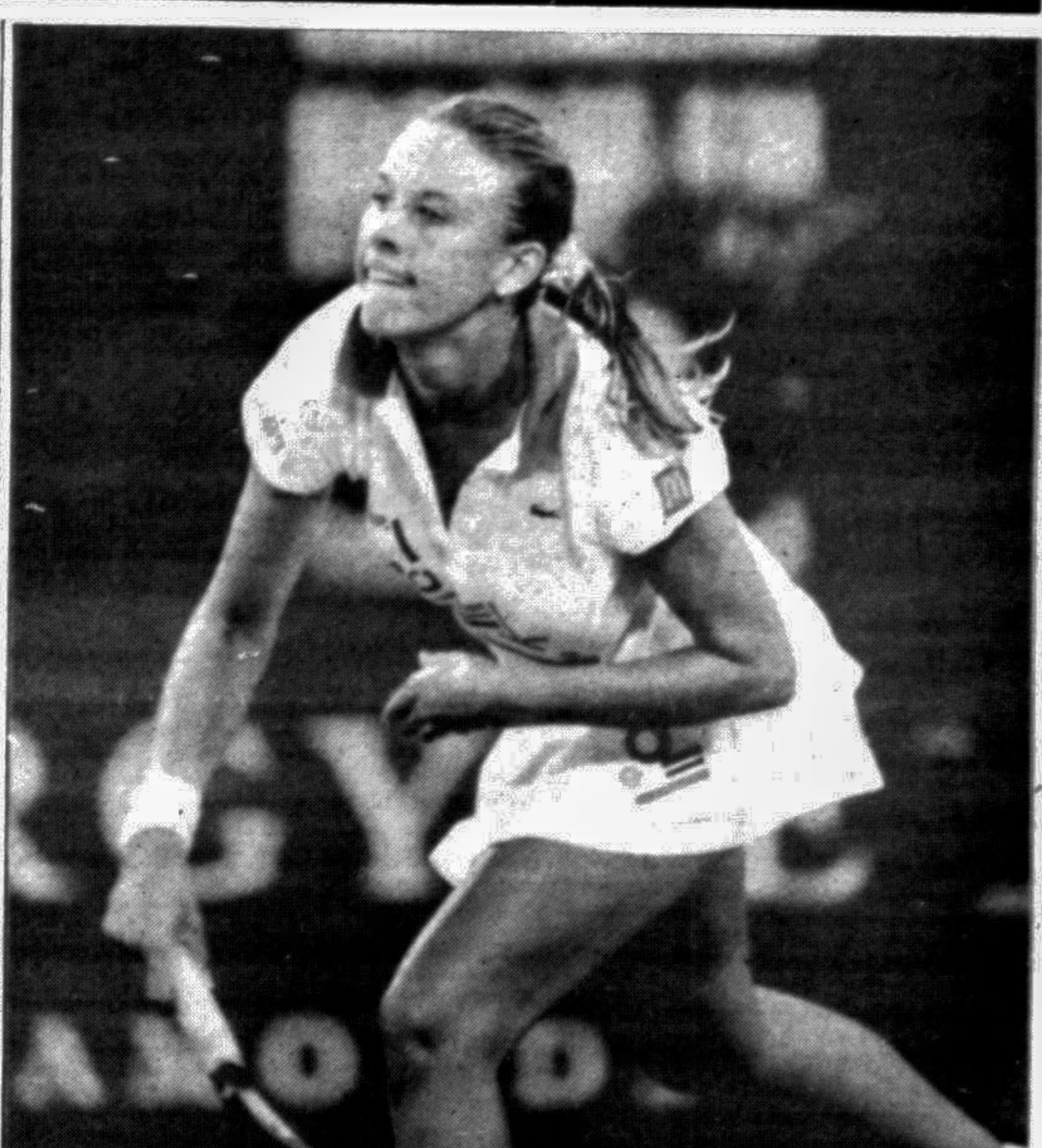
Hellen Kimayo gave Kenya a double by winning the women's race in a course record of 50.26.

She beat the previous mark of 54 minutes, set by Mexican Maria de Carmen Diaz in 1992.

In the early stages of the race, a group of five runners broke away from the field.

The lead changed several times, from Kimayo to Brazilian Carmen de Oliveira to Portugal's Albertina Dias and Mexico's Diaz.

Mexican Maria Isabel Juarez Capilla and Peru's Marilu Salazar also briefly held the lead before Kimayo made her move in the final two kilometers.



Australia's Nicole Provis completes a smash during her 7-6, 6-1 win over Sweden's Catherine Lindqvist in the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday. Australia won 2-1 and will play France in the quarter-finals.

Aussies shake off gremlins

PERTH, Jan 1: Wally Masur and Nicole Provis overcame a sluggish start to the new year before guiding Australia to a 2-1 win over Sweden at the Hopman Cup mixed team tournament today, reports Reuter.

Masur suffered an embarrassing straight-sets defeat in the singles to the shaven-headed Mikael Pernfors just 24 hours after dismissing his opponent as "35 years old and bald as a badger."

Provis also struggled in the first set of her match against semi-retired Catarina Lindqvist, but the Australian pair then dominated the decisive doubles rubber, winning 6-3, 7-5.

The home nation now play France in the quarter-finals of

the 12-team event, having Masur a repeat of his US Open semifinal encounter with Cedric Pioline.

Masur conceded he would have to lift his game significantly to reverse his defeat by Pioline in New York. "I didn't feel I was playing well enough to win today," he said after losing 6-4, 6-4. "Pernfors is very awkward guy and the trajectory of his shots worried me."

The Swede, actually aged 30, claimed he had shaved his hair off because his hairdresser had been absent on holiday.

He also feels his stark appearance is a good motivational tool for his attempted rise back up the world rankings in the early months of 1994 and started well enough against the world number 21.

Producing some improbable looping returns, he frequently

caught Masur flat-footed and served well enough to give his opponent no easy route back into the 88-minute match.

"I managed to set him back on his heels with my forehand and he made more mistakes than I did," Pernfors said.

Lindqvist was playing her first tournament since the 1992 US Open and admitted she began to tire in the second set of her match against the erratic Provis. The Australian won 7-6, 6-1.

Lindqvist and Pernfors, a scratch doubles pairing, were only a vague threat to the Australians in the doubles, although they did momentarily pull back to 5-5 in the second set.

The players generally gave more favourable reports on the new magnetic line-calling system, without suggesting it was 100 per cent accurate. Critics also believe it would be too expensive to install at every tournament worldwide.

France want Pioline back

PARIS, Jan 1: France's top tennis player Cedric Pioline was named among his country's 1994 Davis Cup squad on Friday after being axed this year in a row over his excessive demands, reports Reuter.

Team captain Georges Goven said in a statement he had selected Pioline in a squad of 10 players earmarked for next year's competition.

France face Hungary in their world group first round tie from March 25-27.

Pioline was thrown out of the squad in June after asking for his personal adviser and physiotherapist to accompany him and saying that their players were not allowed to watch his training sessions.

But the French Tennis Federation said on Friday it accepted that, for 1994, each player would be able to train as he is used to.

Apart from Pioline, who reached the US Open final and 10th place in the world rankings this year, other players in France's squad include Guy Forget, who slipped to 159th in the world because of a knee injury, and Arnaud Boetsch, currently 20th.

France, Davis Cup winners in 1991, suffered a surprise home defeat by India in the 1993 quarter-finals.

Satellite tennis

AHMEDABAD, Jan 1: The second-leg of the international Satellite tennis tournament will be held here from January 3 to 8, according to the president of Gujarat State Tennis Association, A Prasad, reports PTI.

About 120 players from all over the world including 18 from India will take part in the tournament, which will be conducted by the Ahmedabad Government Employees' Tennis Association. Prasad told newsmen here yesterday.

There will be qualifying rounds and the main draw will comprise 32 players with the rest being eliminated in the qualifying rounds, he said.

In all, three Satellite tournaments will be played in India, he said. The first leg had been played in Bombay from December 27 and the third-leg will be held in New Delhi for the second week of January.

After the three legs of the Satellite tournament are over, a masters tournament will be held in Chandigarh.

Batsmen beware!



SYDNEY, Jan 1: Fast bowlers Curtly Ambrose and Wasim Akram may be in for a bumper new year with the news that Test cricket's ruling body will be asked to relax restrictions on the use of bouncers, reports AFP.

South African and Australian cricket administrators wanted to scrap the rule that limited a bowler to one bouncer per batsman per over, the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper reported today.

They would take their case to the International Cricket Council at its meeting in London in July, attended by the eight Test-playing nations.

Australia and South Africa were expected to favour a maximum of two bouncers per batsman per over, the Herald said.

The move follows talks which took place during the current Test series between the two countries. They drew the first Test and begin the

second in Sydney on Sunday.

The rule change would almost certainly receive the backing of Pakistan and the West Indies whose teams rely heavily on pace attacks.

West Indies speedster Ambrose and Pakistan's Akram, like all fast bowlers, have been disadvantaged under Law 42.8 which was introduced in 1991 as a three-year experiment.

The rule, whereby a second short-pitched delivery at the same batsman in an over can be signalled a no-ball by the umpire, curtails the use of a key pace-bowling weapon.

The rule was drafted in response to the tactic of using a succession of pace bowlers to batter opponents into submission. Batsmen sometimes faced as many as four bouncers, aimed at the chest or head, in a six-ball over, reducing the opportunity for short making.

The tactic was favoured particularly by the West Indies who enjoyed great success in the 1980s by employing a quartet of aggressive fast bowlers, including Ambrose.

McMillan may return today



SYDNEY, Jan 1: Allrounder Brian McMillan came through a session in the nets today and looks certain to play for South Africa in their second cricket Test against Australia which starts here Sunday, reports AFP.

McMillan has been sidelined since injuring his knee during a tour match against Victoria in Melbourne last month and he is likely to replace either opener Gary Kirsten or Daryll Cullinan from the Sydney lineup.

McMillan bowled at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) nets for an hour today and South African selectors may use him as a specialist batsman even if he is deemed unfit to bowl.

Should Kirsten drop out, captain Kepler Wessels, with a long-standing knee injury himself, would move up the batting order to open the innings with Andrew Hudson.

Cullinan, who dropped three catches and was out for a first ball duck in last week's drawn Melbourne Test, is also under the microscope.

South Africa have yet to win

a Test in Sydney in six visits, having lost four and drawn two.

South Africa will have to cope with a hard brown batting strip which is likely to favour Australia's spinners, Shane Warne and Tim May.

The South Africans played

Australia are expected to call up local paceman Glenn McGrath for Paul Reiffel in the only change to the Melbourne lineup.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Michael Slater, Mark Taylor, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Allan Border (captain), Damien Martyn, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Craig McDermott, Tim May, Glenn McGrath.

SOUTH AFRICA: Kepler Wessels (captain), Andrew Hudson, Hansie Cronje, Daryll Cullinan, Gary Kirsten, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson, Craig Matthews, Pat Symcox, Fanie de Villiers, Allan Donald.

Office cricket league from Jan 27

Sports Reporter

The first-ever Office cricket league will begin from January 27 in Dhaka, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release yesterday.

Thirteen teams, divided into two groups, will play in the league.

The participating teams are: Bangladesh Paper Mills Ltd, Rupali Bank, IFIC Bank, National University, National Press Club, BCS Audit and Accounts Association, Bangladesh Biman, Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd, Techvalley Computer Ltd, Grindlays Bank, Europa Travels Ltd, RV Group of Industries and The Acme Laboratories Ltd.

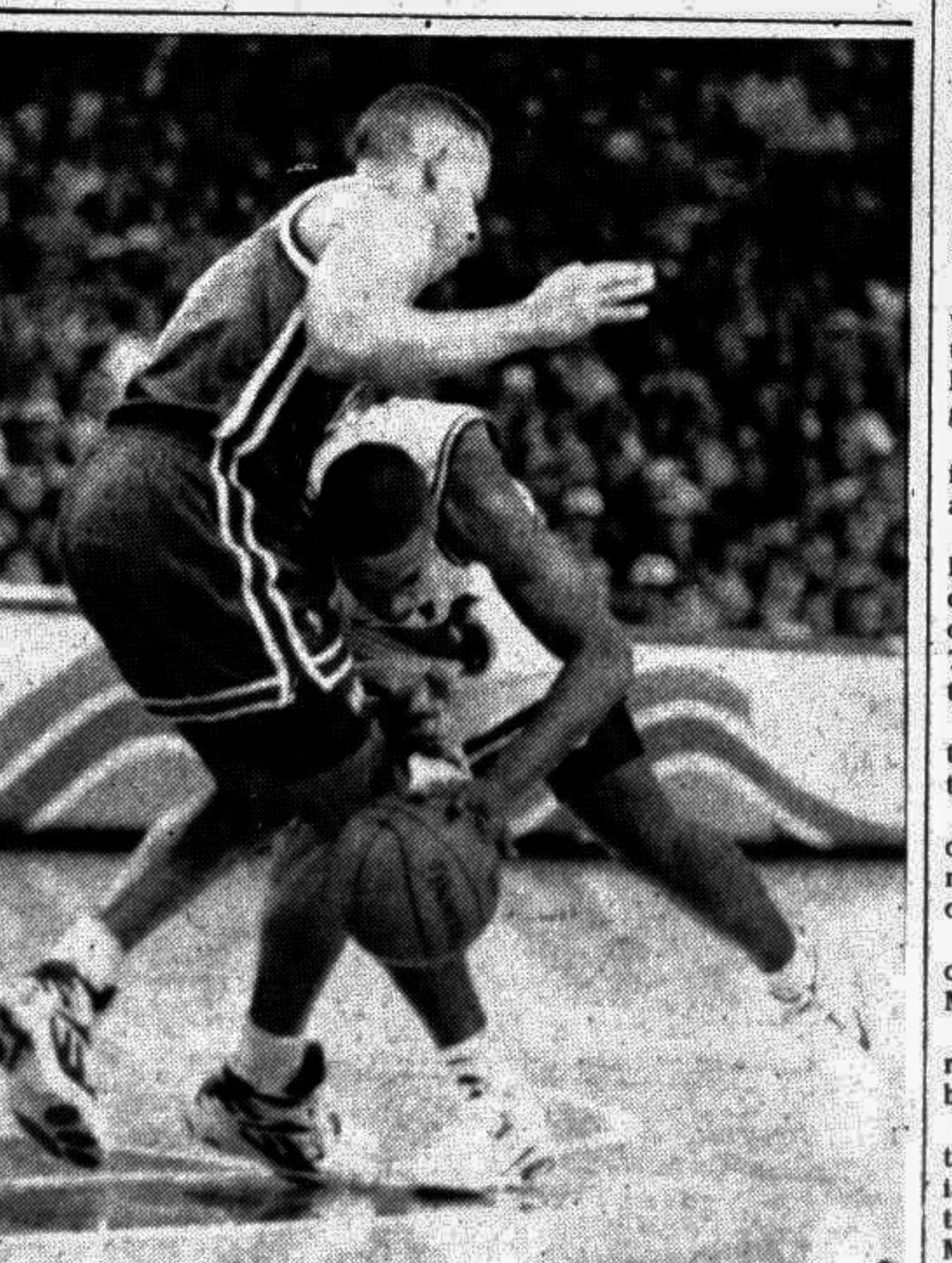
B McMillan

the spinners well in the rain-marred Melbourne Test, but with extra bounce and turn expected on the Sydney wicket, Warne and May will be a different proposition.

"Without question, I think the wicket will turn," Australian skipper Allan Border said here today.

"How much it turns and how much bounce we get is the important thing."

"It's no good having turn if you don't get bounce and I think this one will have a little bit more bounce."



Chicago Bulls guard B J Armstrong (R) tries to weave past New Jersey Nets player David Wesley (L) during the second quarter of their NBL match in Chicago recently. The Bulls won 94-86.