

## 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 Dharmodi 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.

Goutam 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

## Sports Reporter

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 Metropolis 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 Kishaloy, Ganderia Famous, Kadamtala Sangsad, Fire Service and Bashabo Tarun Sangha.

Meanwhile, the remaining relegation deciding play-off match of the Metropolis 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

## Sports Reporter

Dhaka Wanderers Club played their last scheduled match of this year's Milnars First Division cricket league at the eastern strip of the Dharmodi 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.

Goutam 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.

The winners have played all nine matches allotted 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 Ashim 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.

Fahim, Ashim 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 Biplob. 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 Biplob left for 31 and two wickets including that of skipper Ashim 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.

## Batsmen beware!

## Sports Reporter

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

## McMillan may return today

## Sports Reporter

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 Daryl 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.

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