

# Wins of existential import

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank and Lalmatia recorded important wins in the Milnars First Division cricket league yesterday. At the Pallabi Cricket Ground, Mirpur Lalmatia Club, struggling to avoid relegation, showed no mercy to a distressed Public Works Department (PWD) beating the office team by five wickets.

PWD who were demoted to Milnars league from Navana Premier last season yesterday could manage only 125 from 36.4 overs.

Lower order batsman Ullash topscored for them with a hefty 32 which featured five hits to the fence and a sixer.

He was followed by Arif who made 23.

Sajjad deposited 19, so did extras. Tail-ender Masum remained unbeaten on 15.

For Lalmatia skipper Ashis Malik, Shantu and Atiq figured prominently in the bowling. Shantu had the best bowling analysis claiming three for 24.

Malik too claimed three wickets but gave away 27 runs while veteran left-arm spinner Atiq took two for 19.

Needless 126 from 45 overs for an outright victory, Lalmatia were in a bit of soup when three of their top order batsmen were sent back by the PWD bowlers.

Ullash who batted bravely during the PWD innings did one better bagging two of the first three wickets that fell in the Lalmatia innings.

Wicketkeeper Titu and Hassan played two little useful knocks to put Lalmatia on the winning trail. Titu made 22 and Hassan 15.

Earlier, opener Saifur grafted a gritty 18 in the face of an inspired opening spell by the PWD opening bowlers Ullash and Taleb.

Biplab on 16 and Malik on nine remained unbeaten as

Lalmatia made 127 for five wickets in 37.4 overs.

Though his side went one step closer to relegation, now towards Second Division, Ullash completed a fine allround performance taking two for 16 among the PWD bowlers.

Taleb took one for 36 and experienced Fazlu one for 19.

The win leaves Lalmatia with their only second win from seven matches and with just four points in their kitty still hangs in balance.

PWD are at the pit with just two points from seven matches.

Agrani Bank beat City Club by four wickets in day's other match held at the eastern strip of the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium (DCS).

City were put in to bat first and were bowled out for 139 in 43.5 overs.

Munna was the highest scorer of the innings making

## SL tour itinerary



NEW DELHI, Dec 29: Sri Lanka will play three Test matches during their five-week cricket tour of India starting next month, it was announced here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The Sri Lankans will also contest three one-day internationals and two three-day matches on the tour from January 13 to February 20, Indian Cricket Board secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya said.

The islanders, who were in India in November to take part in the five-nation Hero Cup, return as replacements for Pakistan, who cancelled a scheduled tour of India citing security reasons.

The Test matches will be played in Lucknow, Bangalore and Ahmedabad. The one-day

internationals will be held in Rajkot, Hyderabad and Jalandhar.

The Sri Lankans begin the tour with a three-day match against the Indian Board President's XI at the Ferozeshah Kotla here from January 13.

Tour itinerary:  
January 13-15 V. Board President's Eleven, Delhi

**January 19-23 first Test, Lucknow**

**January 27-31 second Test, Bangalore**

February 3-5 V. Ranji Trophy champions Punjab, Nagpur

**February 9-13 third Test, Ahmedabad**

February 15 first one-dayer, Rajkot

February 18 second one-dayer, Hyderabad

February 20 third one-dayer, Jalandhar.

## Chelsea bring Newcastle down

'LONDON, Dec 29: Chelsea player-manager Glenn Hoddle watched his struggling side edge a 1-0 win over high-flying Newcastle in the English Premiership on Tuesday — then predicted they could escape a relegation dogfight, reports AFP.

The victory, courtesy of Mark Stein's second goal in successive days, was Chelsea's first in 12 games and their first in the league since September 25.

"That win has got to be the foundation of a run of good results," said the ex-England playmaker, who took his team to a hotel on Monday night after their dismal defeat at Southampton. "Now we can get ourselves out of trouble."

"We must make sure that we learn from the mistakes that we made after we beat Manchester United and Liverpool here."

"There was not a lot of difference between yesterday's performance and today's, but today we got ourselves in front and dug in deep."

"The commitment and character the team showed were superb. I thought we were worth more than a 1-0 win."

Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan, by contrast, was not happy and issued a warning to his side that he would not tolerate any more displays like Tuesdays."

"We didn't do enough to get a result, despite having a lot of

Self-belief is one quality Tottenham midfielder Micky Hazard is not short of. The 33-year-old rejected the chance to drop out of Spurs' side and ended up the hero of their 3-1 win at West Ham.

Hazard, who scored and dominated midfield, said: "I may be nearly 34, but I don't want to be treated any differently to anyone else at Tottenham. The manager mentioned the possibility of dropping, but I wasn't having that."

"I want to be in whether it is two games in a year or two

point off the lead. Although he's playing behind a rocky defense, if Keller had not been there, Millwall would have conceded a lot more."

If Millwall does not make it to the Premier League next season, it's pretty certain Keller will be on the move. Top clubs would be willing to pay up to £12 million for a player of his ability.

So how come Keller's impressive form in England doesn't get him a call up for the American team?

The reason: The United States already has two goalies back home, Tony Meola and Brad Friedel. Meola had an outstanding game when the United States beat England 2-0 in this year's US Cup and Friedel has been targeted by one English club, Nottingham Forest.

Keller, who was No. 2 to Meola at the 1990 World Cup in Italy, doesn't mind that he is challenging two others for the goalie's shirt at the World Cup. He believes he has an even chance of being No. 1.

"I have seen the team play a few times recently and I thought they looked rusty," he said. "They didn't look like they should have done. It's a slight drawback playing over here in England but it can also be an advantage."

"They know that I'm playing a game or even two in every week in a very competitive atmosphere."

Keller has two American

## USA will be the team to watch

LONDON, Dec 29: Kasey Keller believes next year's World Cup will give soccer fans the chance to see the US team at its best, reports AP.

Right now, the 24-year-old goalie says, the team is not performing so well because many of its top players are tied to European clubs and don't get a chance to join their American-based countrymen.

That includes John Harkes, who plays in England for Derby County, and Roy Wegerle, who lines up for Coventry.

And probably Keller, who plays for Millwall.

"We know we are good enough when the whole team is there," he said. "Right now, even when the team's together it isn't really together."

Keller said he was encouraged by the large crowds for US games, including 52,397 for an exhibition against Germany last week in Palo Alto, Calif. The Americans lost, 3-0.

"But everybody knows it's going to be a different-looking team when everybody's there for selection," Keller said. "That won't be until the end of the European season, around April or May."

"Around then people will be coming over here to see who's playing well and who's not playing well."

Keller is playing well. His club has moved to third in Division 1, just one

point off the lead. Although he's playing behind a rocky defense, if Keller had not been there, Millwall would have conceded a lot more."

If Millwall does not make it to the Premier League next season, it's pretty certain Keller will be on the move. Top clubs would be willing to pay up to £12 million for a player of his ability.

So how come Keller's impressive form in England doesn't get him a call up for the American team?

The reason: The United States already has two goalies back home, Tony Meola and Brad Friedel. Meola had an outstanding game when the United States beat England 2-0 in this year's US Cup and Friedel has been targeted by one English club, Nottingham Forest.

Keller, who was No. 2 to Meola at the 1990 World Cup in Italy, doesn't mind that he is challenging two others for the goalie's shirt at the World Cup. He believes he has an even chance of being No. 1.

"I have seen the team play a few times recently and I thought they looked rusty," he said. "They didn't look like they should have done. It's a slight drawback playing over here in England but it can also be an advantage."

"They know that I'm playing a game or even two in every week in a very competitive atmosphere."

Keller has two American

## Pakistan due next month

Sports Reporter

A 30. Skipper Wahid scored 27 while Tapu chipped in with 20. Nuruddin was bankers' best bowler taking three for 32.

Ripon and Atiq bagged two wickets apiece.

Chasing 140 for a win, Agrani Bank were deep into trouble when four wickets were gone for 40 but Nadim with an unbeaten 41 saved his side from going broke.

He got assistances from Atiq and Sohel who contributed 23 and 26 respectively and bankers collected 140 for six wickets in 42 overs to walk away with a four-wicket win.

The World Champions are expected to leave by January 25 for a tour of New Zealand.

**Saad, Siraj to accompany BCCB XI**

Sports Reporter

Former national cricketers Enayet Hossain Siraj and Tanjib Ahsan Saad have been called as the manager and the assistant manager of the BCCB Eleven which will be on a tour of Pakistan from January 1 to January 15, as a part of Bangladesh's preparation for the forthcoming ICC Trophy.

Opener Andrew Hudson was not out for 35 and Hansie Cronje, who took the place of the injured Wessels in the batting order, was on three.

Mahindra Amarnath will accompany the team as coach.

The selected cricketers are Faruque Ahmed (captain), Akram Khan (Vice-Captain), Athar Ali Khan, Jahangir Alam, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Minhaazul Abedin Nannu, Selim Shahed, Enamul Huq Moni, G M Nawaz, Prince, Al-Shahriar Rakon, Nasir Ahmed Nasu, Habibul Bashar Suman, Anisur Rahman Anis, Nurul Abedin Nobel, Mizanur Rahman Babul, Shahnewaz Shaheed Shauhan and Sajid Hassan.

**US tennis coach due Jan 2**

Sports Reporter

Veteran US tennis coach James Pyle will arrive in Dhaka on a month-long visit on January 2 to train the country's budding youngsters.

The training programme will begin from January 3 at the National Tennis Complex.

Interested players have been requested to contact the Federation or their respective district sports clubs.

**Div II cricket**

Sports Reporter

Kathalagan Green Crescent Club beat Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha by a solitary run in an exciting match of the Second Division cricket league at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Kathalagan batted first and scored 179 runs for the loss of seven wickets in the stipulated 40 overs.

South Africa lost the wicket of Gary Kirsten in the two hours they had to bat in the drizzle and gloom of late Wednesday after Australia had declared after a staggered 495 minutes at the crease over three and two-third days.

"I think it's going to be good for the guys to play the Aussie spinners (Shane Warne and Tim May). I think we can get some constructive batting out there."

South Africa's batsmen Mark Taylor hooks a ball during his innings of 170 against South Africa in the first Test in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP photo

Martin Crowe to score centuries against seven Test cricket nations.

Graceful Mark Waugh looked set for his sixth Test century before he was trapped lbw by seamer Craig Matthews for 84 knocked off 144 balls.

Waugh and Taylor also put on a record 169 runs for the fourth-wicket against South Africa, eclipsing the 168 set in 1952-53 by Neil Harvey and Keith Miller in Sydney.

Matthews, who also picked up the prized wicket of Test cricket's greatest run-getter Allan Border for two, finished with 3-18 off 24 overs while Symcox finished with 2-49 off 16.5 overs.

There was scant reward for spearhead Allan Donald, who had two catches dropped off his bowling and a controversial lbw decision on Taylor off his second ball turned down, finished

with 1-108 off 30 overs.

Darryl Cullinan, fielding at second slip, had the ignominy of dropping three catches in the innings, two off Donald and the other off Matthews.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the first cricket Test be-

## Sport

## Bad knee proves Wessels' bane

## Taylor carves a niche in history

MELBOURNE, Dec 29: A decision will be made on Thursday whether Kepler Wessels will be fit to lead South Africa in next week's second cricket Test against Australia after he left the field with recurring knee trouble on the penultimate day of the first Test here on Wednesday.

Reports AFP.

Wessels came off during the mid-session after straining his right knee and didn't bat at first wicket down in South Africa's innings.

At the close on the fourth day in the rain-sodden opening Test, South Africa were 59 for one in reply to Australia's 342 for seven declared.

Opener Andrew Hudson was not out for 35 and Hansie Cronje, who took the place of the injured Wessels in the batting order, was on three.

Thirty six year old Wessels has a history of knee trouble and the ailment flared again on Wednesday.

"I don't think he'll need surgery, but we are going to try to get him fit for the second Test ... I would prefer he didn't take any further part in this Test," said South African team coach Mike Procter on Wednesday night.

"He twisted the knee at the odd time and it just got worse. It's not a very good knee, so we wanted to take all the precautions we could."

"We will have a verdict tomorrow morning on what we plan to do, but obviously the second Test is vital, and he may have to have a cortisone injection (to play), we're not sure," said Procter.

On the upside Procter said Brian McMillan, quickly recovering from a knee injury suffered in the tour game here against Victoria, could be a batting option.

"He hasn't done that much. He's bowled indoors, but it (his knee) is getting stronger day by day and we would like him to be fit for the second Test, but we don't want him to come back too quick and jeopardise his recovery," said Procter.

Procter said he was looking for batting practice for his team, in what is almost certainly shaping as an inevitable draw after playing just over 10 hours cricket in four days.

"I think it's going