

Sport

A Uruguayan renaissance



Brothers Union skipper Pijush (not in picture) scores his side's only goal as Muktiyoddha defender Moon (L) and custodian Arun (far right) looks on during yesterday's Lifebuoy Premier Division football league clash at the Dhaka Stadium. Muktiyoddha prevailed 2-1. — Star photo

Kazakov to play for MSC

Sports Reporter
Russian striker Andre Kazakov, who was the highest scorer for Mohammedan Sporting Club last season, arrived in the capital yesterday to don the black and white jersey for the second successive year. The DMFA Cup and the



Andre Kazakov
Federation Cup champions, who are badly in need of a quality striker, are expected to sign the lanky and temperamental Russian with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) today. Mohammedans had earlier brought in two Nigerian booters and a coach but were disappointed by their sub-standard performances.

PWD taste first win

Sports Reporter
After a disappointing five-match Public Works Department (PWD) Sports Club ended the drought in style when they notched up their first win in the Lifebuoy First Division football league with a crushing 3-0 defeat on Sadharan Bima KS at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. PWD, who collected only one point from their previous five league engagements, with this win raised their tally to four from six league play-offs. For Sadharan Bima it was their first defeat in the league and remain stuck to their previous collection of nine points from six matches.

In a one-sided affair the floodgate of goals was opened up in the 43rd minute through Alam Babu, who latching on to a Bulbul floater stabbed the ball home from close. Ainal then doubled the margin with a low-drive from the edge of box eight minutes into the second half before Mustaq sealed the fate of the match with fierce right-footer in the 63rd minute. But PWD could have recorded the highest margin victory in the league had their striker Bulbul capitalised those easy sitters during the last part of the match. Bulbul, so far the highest individual scorer with four goals, failed to shoot into an open net fifteen minutes from the final whistle while five minutes later he was denied by the wood-work when his swerving low-drive rebounded off the far post. Yellow card: Parimal (PWD).

Yellow card: Parimal (PWD).

BAF's appeal turned down

LONDON, July 24: A request by the British Athletics Federation for an adjournment in Diane Modahl's appeal against a four-year drugs ban was turned down by the appeal panel here on Monday, reports AFP. However, the panel accepted new evidence put forward by the Modahl camp. The federation had asked for a delay so that their medical experts could consider

Muktis beat Brothers

Sports Reporter

Powered by two brilliant strikes from Imtiaz Ahmed Naquib Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra crossed a big hurdle in their bid for a maiden league title when the last year's runners-up defeated Brothers Union 2-1 in the lone Lifebuoy Premier football league engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

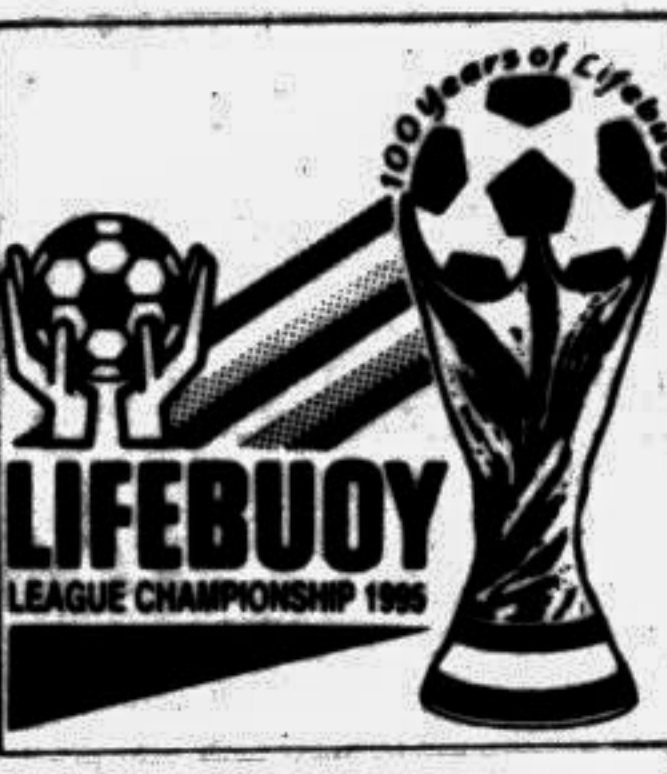
The crucial victory now left Muktiyoddha jointly sharing the top slot with defending champions Abahani Kriya Chakra, both collecting 16 points from their six league engagements. For Brothers Union, who pulled off a sensational 2-1 win over Mohammedan Sporting Club in their previous match, the defeat once again left them further adrift of the pack remaining stuck to their previous tally of nine on completion of their six league engagements.

Incidentally it was Brothers' first defeat in the league. They had earlier drew with Agrani Bank, Arambagh and Farashganj and won against Wari and Mohammedan Sporting Club. For Muktiyoddha it was their fifth win in the league, who after a lacklustre showing against the top guns last year, finally picked up a morale-boosting victory last night.

The new-look Muktiyoddha, who roped in almost all the national booters in a hectic players' transfer last season, miserably failed to win a single league match against Mohammedans, Abahani and Brothers Union and eventually finished behind Abahani Kriya Chakra. But yesterday evening Muktiyoddha showed signs of extreme confidence in every department and took the lead in the eighth minute from their first positive attack.

Mizan, the lanky Mukti forward after receiving a high ball on the right flank galloped down the line before releasing a perfect cross to Naquib, who headed the ball home leaving the Brothers'

custodian Kawsar at the wrong end. But their joy was short-lived as Brothers Union defender Pijush Nandi neutralised the score two minutes later with a thunderous right-footer from outside the box that deflected into the far corner of the post hitting



Masud Rana. An airborne Naquib then toll the bell rather prematurely in the 20th minute with another spectacular header off a Mamun Joarder cross from the right. It was Naquib's fourth goal in the league to jointly share the highest individual scorers' list with teammate Mizan.

On the other hand Brother Union, who fielded the same eleven, looked dangerous in the second half but sorely missed the service of Bernard. The robust Nigerian recruit of the Gopibagh outfit, who along with compatriot Nike Lulu played the sheet anchor role in his side's victory against Mohammedans, had left the pitch sustaining an injury following a clash with a Muktiyoddha defender

STANDINGS

Team	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Muktiyoddha Sangsad	6	5	1	0	13	3	16
Abahani KC	6	5	1	0	9	0	16
Mohammedan SC	6	3	2	1	6	2	11
Brothers Union	6	2	3	1	7	3	9
Youngmen's Club	6	2	3	1	6	3	9
Arambagh KS	6	0	4	2	2	5	4
Agrani Bank	6	1	1	4	3	9	4
Farashganj SC	6	0	3	3	0	4	3
Rahmatganj MFS	6	0	3	3	3	10	3
Wari Club	6	0	3	3	2	9	3

Top scorers: 5 goals — Naquib (Muktiyoddha); 4 goals — Mizan (Muktiyoddha); 3 goals — Mamun Joarder (Muktiyoddha) and Don (Brothers Union).

Colin finds a scapegoat

ROTHERHAM, England, 24: Colin Jackson Sunday blamed the British Athletic Federation for destroying his chances of defending the world 110-metres hurdles title in Sweden next month, reports AP. Jackson, who pulled out of Britain's team with an abductor muscle injury, maintained he would have been on the starting line in Gothenburg had he not been "pressured" into proving his fitness. The world record holder

called a press conference to talk for the first time on the row which culminated in his withdrawal from the August 4-13 world titles. He pulled out after the heats of the 100-metres at the national championships with the injury in Birmingham last weekend, but won a hurdles event in Italy the following day.

On the Monday, when the British team was announced for Gothenburg, Jackson was told he had seven days to prove his fitness to be included. After a testing training session, he pulled out last Friday. "I don't blame the BAF for being injured, but I blame them for putting pressure on me to prove my fitness," the Welshman, 28, said. "I needed time to calm down and get myself right. If there hadn't been this pressure, I feel I would be going to Gothenburg. I could have won the gold medal again. "My big mistake was not speaking to someone from the federation in Birmingham. But I was not prepared for what I had to take. Jackson visits his doctor in Germany Monday.



Action from yesterday's Lifebuoy First Division football league encounter between PWD SC and Sadharan Bima KS at the Dhaka Stadium. PWD won 3-0. — Star photo

Lotus-Kamal cricket results

Sports Reporter

Indira Road KC and Peererbagh KC emerged as Group A and Group D champions respectively after winning their matches in the Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket league at the different city venues yesterday.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, Indira Road KC were comfortable victors by eight wickets over Adarsha Kishore Sangha.

Batting first Adarsha Kishore made 64 for eight in the allotted 15 overs (rain-reduced), with Faruk hitting 26.

Indira Road's Ruhul Amin captured three for eight. In reply, Indira Road easily reached their target of 63 in just 12.5 overs. Masud top-scored with 25 for the winners.

Peererbagh KC thrashed Rakhtim Sangha by eight wickets at the City Club ground.

Put in to bat, Rakhtim were skittled out for a paltry 58 in 23.2 overs. Apurbah bowled magnificently for Peererbagh to claim three wickets giving away only five runs off his four overs.

Sujon remained not out on 17 as his team raced to their required 59 in 12 overs.

In another match of the day, Ehsan Youth Club beat Young Star CC (Kajal) by six wickets.

Sent into bat, Young Star CC were bundled out for a poor 73 in 22.5 overs. Partha of Ehsan Youth took three for 14. Set to score 74, Ehsan Youth Club reached their target in 17.5 overs losing four wickets.

Pioneer soccer

A superb hat-trick by Masud-powered Diba Sangsad to a 4-0 victory over Abakash Tarun Sangha in the Metropolitan Pioneer football league at the Gandaria Dhupkhola ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Khairul netted the other goal for the winners. At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Azimpur Heroes Club defeated Golam Mostafa Lane Kishore Sangha 4-1. Mohammed Ali netted two. Arif and Monir one each for the winners while Kamrul scored a consolation goal for the losers.

The day's other match between Kalindi KC and Labagh KC ended in a goal-less draw at the same venue. Tullio appeared to control

MONTEVIDEO, July 24: Uruguay, who failed to qualify for the last World Cup and whose domestic soccer is in dire financial straits, admitted Sunday's Copa America win was badly needed, reports Reuter. "This is a triumph that Uruguay has needed for a long time," coach Hector Nunez said, after the victory over world champions Brazil in the final, secured 5-3 in a penalty shoot-out after the teams were tied at 1-1 at full-time. Once at the forefront of international soccer, Uruguay have seen their fortunes spiral downwards, the Copa America was looked on as a lifeline for them. Uruguayan clubs, who once dominated South American competitions, are now routinely thumped by sides from other countries and the country's best players move abroad as soon as they get the chance. Nunez said his team had won playing "football which is technically and tactically sound" and without resorting to the unsavoury tactics that have been associated with Uruguayan soccer in the past. Masterminded by veteran midfielder Enzo Francescoli, Uruguay played with typical tenacity and were solid and determined throughout the competition but never pretty. They managed the triumph without star striker Ruben Sosa, who was kept mostly on the substitutes' bench after an unhappy season in Italy. Striker Daniel Fonseca played only half the final and missed the semi-final altogether because of injury. Striker Marcelo Otero, one of the few players still based in his home country,

was the revelation. Brazil coach Mario Zagalo said home-backing had played a key part for Uruguay. "We were beaten by a team playing in their own stadium and in front of their own people," he said. "We're good losers," said Mario Zagalo, who added that his team wasted good opportunities to win the game in regulation time. "But all credit to Uruguay who played a tough game." Zagalo said his young team did not miss star strikers Bebeto and Romario and that he had taken comfort from a string of impressive performances. "It's a good team which has a really great future," he said, adding that his next goal was to win the 1996 soccer tournament in the Olympic Games. Of the game itself, Nunez said: "In the first half we weren't good in defence. We were slow. But we have beaten a team of top players and it is an important win even if it was on penalties." For world champions Brazil, the result marked yet another failure to win the Copa America outside their own country. The Brazilians have managed only four Copa America titles, all of them at home. Brazil striker Tullio, the only player to miss in the shoot-out, said simply: "I hit the ball hard but the goalkeeper went the right way and saved it. "In the second half, it appeared the Uruguayans were playing for penalties." Goalkeeper Tafari, hero of previous penalty shoot-outs against Argentina in the quarter-final and against Italy in last year's World Cup final, said: "You can't always win on penalties. This time god didn't want Brazil to be champions." Coach Zagalo, who had claimed before the game that Brazil would silence the Centenario Stadium, said his main aim was the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Whining in wine

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 24: The beer and wine that had been set aside for celebrations instead was used to drown out sadness.

Brazil's faithful slumped Sunday after watching their world champions fall to Uruguay on penalties 5-3 in the Copa America final. Excuses, rationalisations, justifications and hopes poured out, reports AP. The other team has to win sometimes," said Rio fan Ricardo Cesar Sampaio, who watched the game like many on a restaurant's giant television screen. "We'll come out on top in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the 1998 World Cup in France." Hoping to avenge their loss in the 1950 World Cup final to Uruguay at famed Maracana Stadium before an estimated 200,000, many claimed Brazil was robbed of another title when Edmundo had a second-half goal disallowed for being offside. "He wasn't offside," TV Globo commentator Galvao Bueno said while looking at the tape of the controversial play. "But that's the way the ball bounced in this tournament."

Streets emptied more than 90 minutes before the title game began. Fireworks and the sound of horns announced Brazil's 30th-minute goal. In the country where soccer has the status of a state religion, the theme here was "we'll get 'em next time."

Soccer in the doldrums

MONTEVIDEO, July 24: Uruguay may have been delighted at their Copa America triumph but few other people were happy with a competition which suffered several blows to its credibility, reports Reuter. Argentina cried robbery after they were bundled out of the competition following a hugely controversial refereeing decision. The final on Sunday was played on a pitch which might have been considered an insult to amateur soccer players, let alone South America's top ball-playing artists. Empty stadiums provided an often melancholic atmosphere at many games. The historic Centenario Stadium, venue for the first World Cup final in 1930, had been intended as the show-piece of the tournament. But the part of the stadium most seen on television pictures beamed around the world — the pitch — was not something for organisers to be proud of. Brazil were clearly hindered by it in the final while even the hosts, who have a more physical style, were unhappy. "It's like a swamp that eats up your legs," said Uruguay defender Eber Moas. Argentina were even less amused with the goal that Brazil striker Tullio scored against them in the 80th minute of their quarterfinal to salvage a 2-2 draw for the world champions. Tullio appeared to control

the ball with his hand but referee Alberto Tejada waved play on and Brazil went on to win on penalties. "It was robbery," said Argentina coach Daniel Passarella. Striker Abel Balbo said: "That incident will damage the prestige of the tournament in Europe." The United States, who surpassed most people's expectations by finishing fourth, were also upset at the referees. "They are incredibly arrogant," said striker Eric Wynalda. "They say things like 'go home, gringo.'" Others complained about a ruling which dispensed with bans for players accumulating two yellow cards. Instead, their teams were fined for each card received. Critics said the policy let offenders off the hook. Most countries brought full-strength squads to the Copa America, a sharp contrast to 1993 in Ecuador when the tournament appeared to serve merely as a warm-up for the World Cup qualifiers which followed. This time the only major absentee was Chile's Ivan Zamorano, who said he wanted a rest after a tough European season with Real Madrid. Yet many of the stars who came found themselves playing in empty stadiums. Local commentators blamed inflated ticket prices — the cheapest seats cost 30 dollars — for the poor turnout. Not even the host nation could fill the terraces.

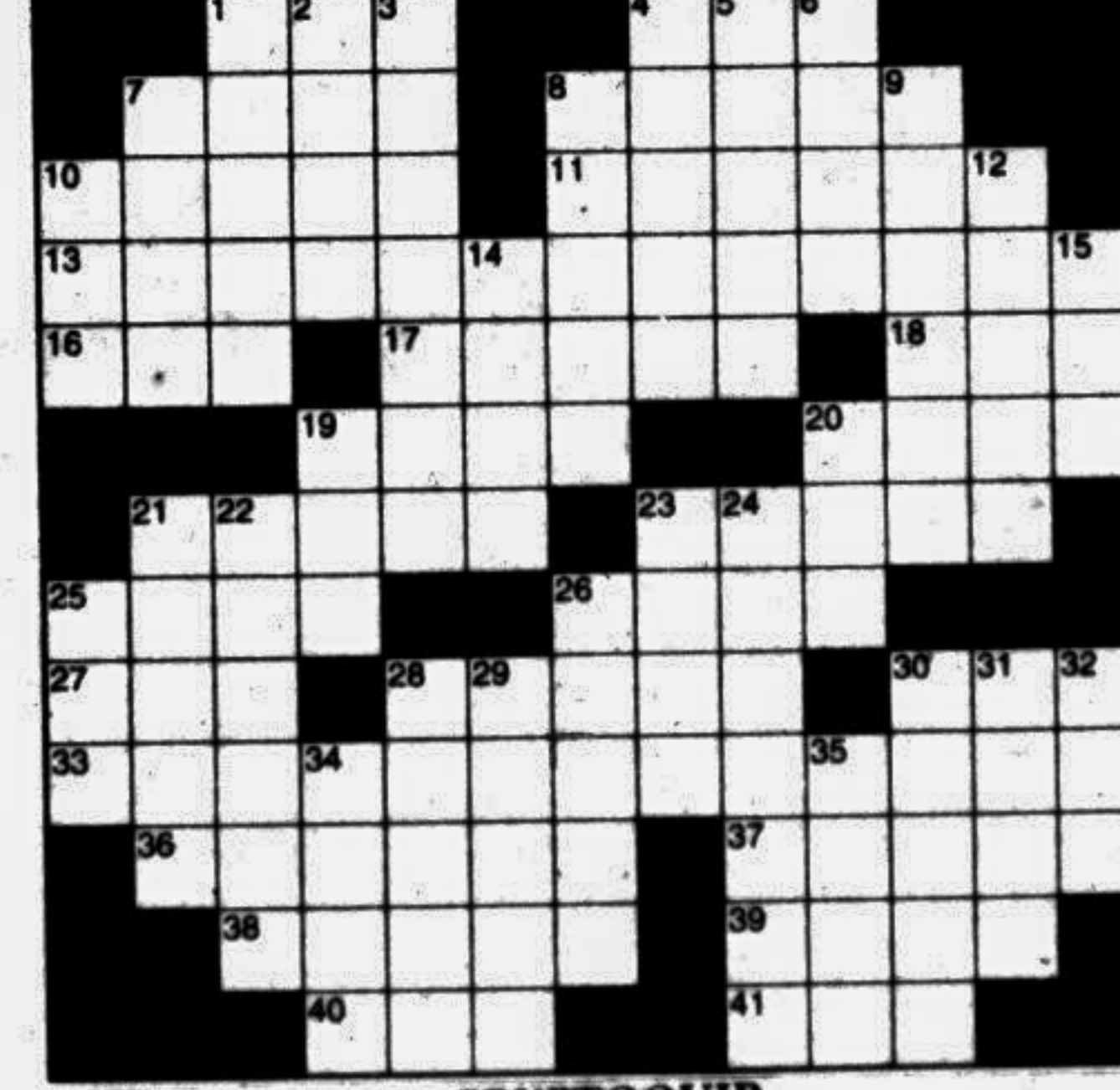
Uruguay's semifinal with Colombia was played before just 28,000 fans in the 75,000-capacity Centenario stadium. "Football is about the public taking part and having a good time, about producing a huge spectacle," said disappointed Ecuador coach Francisco Maturana during the first round. "The fans are an integral part of the spectacle. "But television often determines when a game is played, even if the conditions are adverse for the players." Yet the fans who could not afford to go to watch the games in person could not see them on television either. Television companies were banned from beaming games to the area in which they were being played, which prevented the entire population of Montevideo — home to two-thirds of the country's people — from seeing Uruguay's matches. The television companies retaliated by trying to keep advertising hoardings out of the picture. This angered the South American Football Confederation (CSF), who announced that the final could be played in another country if the full pitch did not appear on the screen. That drastic action was not taken but critics wondered how many other decisions could be suddenly changed by the CSF, who have confidently announced the venue of every Copa America until 2011.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Tabloid
 - 4 One of the Stooges
 - 7 Lugosi of filmdom
 - 8 Coronet
 - 10 Ovine remark
 - 11 Put one's foot down
 - 13 Jug of Gatorade?
 - 16 Classified items?
 - 17 Cripples
 - 18 Small, low island
 - 19 Kitten's toy, often
 - 20 Contemptible
 - 21 Photographer Arbus
 - 23 Panorama
 - 25 Nursery shade
 - 26 "Wiseguy" star Ken
 - 27 Follower: suffix
 - 28 One place to be on the hot
- DOWN
- 2 Jal follower
 - 3 Railroad crossing guard
 - 4 Tiny portion
 - 5 Potters' ovens
 - 6 Lexicographer
 - 7 Partridge
 - 8 Ran, as dye
 - 9 Type of basketball shot
 - 9 Depth charge
 - 10 Lingerie purchase
 - 12 Rib
 - 14 Token, often
 - 15 Catcher's place?
 - 19 Run up the phone bill
 - 20 — canto
 - 21 45s, e.g.
 - 22 Preludes
 - 23 Squealed to the cops
 - 24 Frenzied
 - 25 Greek consonants
 - 26 Yangtze city
 - 28 Intense look
 - 29 Eamed an Obie, maybe
 - 30 Hunting
 - 31 The Bee—
 - 32 Hockey legend
 - 34 Blue dye source
 - 35 Stromboli spillover

Solution time: 22 mins.

B	I	B	S	M	A	P	T	H	E	A
I	N	E	E	A	W	L	O	U	R	S
A	N	A	X	J	A	Y	N	O	R	T
S	O	U	T	H	E	Y	A	L	L	E
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B	E	A	N	S	H	A	R	D	I	N
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P	H	O	T	O	M	A	E	W	E	S
E	A	S	T	O	O	D	E	L	I	A
E	L	L	E	B	O	A	L	I	N	G
P	O	O	R	I	S	M	L	E	S	S



CRYPTOQUIP
MSDU ARPSWUDPQ BWX
RQRNRGU CWQ TGVVRA
"SDVD NWTDP QSD
IVRID" MGP BXGHDA
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HANDSOME SINGLE FARMER GREATLY PREFERRED TO PLAY THE FIELD.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals M
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.