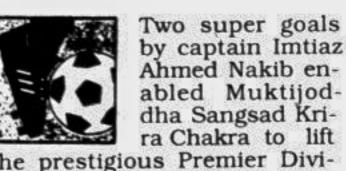


The players and officials of the victorious Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra who clinched the coveted Premier Division football league title defeating holders Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. -Star photo

Nakib's delightful double dumbfounds MSC

A new dawn for Muktijoddha

Hasan Masood



the prestigious Premier Division league title with a 2-0 win over defending champions Mo-hammedan Sporting Club in the last Super League match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. The tall marksman put his

side ahead in the seventh minute and increased the woes of the black and whites with another goal in the 90th minute to proclaim the coming of the all-reds as a new power-house to reckon with.

No sooner had the Indian referee blown the final whistle immediately after Nakib's second goal, Muktijoddha fans erupted into a crescendo, leaving Mohammedans in depths of despair. Mohammedans, went into the match on Wednesday looking for at least a draw to defend the title. By losing to Muk-

Super League

Against

tijoddha, Mohammedan's season all but ended ignominiously as they returned home empty-handed after having failed to win a single major tournament this season.

Muktijoddha, with 16 wins in 22 matches against two defeats and four draws, finished with 52 points, two points ahead of Mohammedan who finished runners-up with 15 wins, five draws and three defeats. Federation Cup champions Abahani secured the third spot with 43 points.

Mahanagari Cup holders. Muktijoddha, for whom it was a do-or-die affair as they were trailing the popular Motijheel outfit by a point, began the day's proceedings with the right

The first goal for the new champs came in the seventh minute following a long throw by defender Rajani from the left flank. Midfielder Iqbal made the first attempt but failed to connect the aerial ball which

went to his Nigerian team-mate Aliyu. The stout midfielder seeing Mohammedan's custodian set to receive his header. passed the ball to an unmarked Nakib who shot into the far corner of the net past the right

After conceding the early goal, Mohammedans came back into the match with a venom. A series of offensives helped them to dominate the rest of the first session and create two opportunities and earn three valuable corners. But all the inventiveness of their midfielders, Arman and Nigerian Ladi Baba, went in vain because of schlock

of helpless Ponir.

marksmanship.

In the 13th minute, there was none to avail a brilliant Ladi floater from the left flank. Forward Don must have spent a sleepless Wednesday night for his peccadillo in the 43rd minute. A power-packed grounder from Arman ricochetted from Muktijoddha custodian Aminul's hands and fortu-

itously fell in front of Don but blessed as he was, the MSC striker failed to keep his cool and sent all that mattered miles over the cross bar.

Undaunted by their first half lapses, Mohammedan kept Muktis contained in their home territory in the post-lemon period and produced a couple of more chances to equalise.

But lady-luck looked the other way as some brilliant defensive work by the Muktis kept their fort intact. Although the last quartet have their hundred percent, it was Rajani who stood out as thieir saviour. He was practically unbeatable in the air.

In the 69th minute, Alfaz's magnificent header from a Ranjan cross was sweetly saved by old guard Masood Rana from the goal-line. Bode Baba, the other Nigerian for Mohammedans, spoiled their last chance when his close-range right-footer missed the far post. letting out a hiss from a strong

PREMIER DIV ANNALS LEADING GOALSCORERS SUPER LEAGUE TABLE

Teams	M W D L GF	"GA" Pts	N. NO. THE	Name*	Goals
Mukti Sangsad	22 16 4 2 31	GA Pts 9 52 12 50	1973	Salauddin (AKC)	24
MSC	22 15 5 2 35	12 50	1974	Nilu (Dilkusha SC)	26
Abahani KC	22 16 4 2 31 22 15 5 2 35 22 12 7 3 25 22 6 6 10 17 22 5 5 12 18	12 43	1975	Nowsher (MSC)	21
Brothers Union	22 6 6 10 17	26 24	1976	Halim (PWD)	12
Farashgani SC	22 5 5 12 18	32 20	1977	Salauddin (AKC)	14
Hattrick: Amin Rana (AKC) against Farashganj SC (Feb 19,			1978	Enayet (MSC)	13
1998)	tuna (futo) against rarasiigarij	SC (FEB 19,	1979	Salauddin (AKC)	14
Leading goalscorers: 13 — Nakib (Muktijoddha), 12 — Alfaz (MSC), 11 — Amin Rana (AKC).			1980	Salauddin (AKC)	16
			1981	Mohsin (BU)	20
POAD	TO THE LEAGUE TITL	E.	1982	Salam (MSC)	27
SERVER GENERAL PERSON	TO THE LEAGUE IIIL	L	1983	Arif (BU)	9200
First Leg	2555 09 00 50p2cs		1984		14
Against	Arambagh KS	1-0	1985	Aslam (AKC)	17
The state of the s	Nakib		1986	Aslam (AKC)	18
;#t	Agrani Bank	2-0	1987	Aslam (AKC)	20
19	Rakib, Masud		1988-89	Aslam (AKC)	14
**	Farashganj SC	4-1	1989-90	Bijen Tahiri (MSC)	24
	Masood, Nakib,		1990-91	Aslam (AKC)	11
	Reaz, Aliyu			Not held	
*	YMC Fakirerpool	2-0	1991-92	Abdu Rahimov (MSC)	17
20	Nakib (2)		1993	Oleg Jivotnikov (MSC)	13
-	Brothers Union	1-0	1994	Andrei Kazakov (MSC)	11
	Aliyu	2020	1995	Nakib (Muktijoddha)	12
*	Rahmatganj MFS	1-2	1996	Nakib (Muktijoddha)	13
	Nakib	#3555	1997-98	Nakib (Muktijoddha)	13
344	Abahani KC	0-0		ROLL OF HONOUR	2
淨	Mohammedan SC	1-1		Champions	9000 SPECIAL STATE OF THE STATE
	Gaus	A.504.1	1973	BIDC	Runners-up
4	Victoria SC	2-0	1973	BILC	Mohammedan SC
2007 (Black 2010) (246 44 250 (Black 24 2		2-0			Abahani KC
Return Leg	Masood, Gaus		1974	Ababasi VO	Dhaka Wanderers
Against	Arambagh KS	2-1		Abahani KC	Dilkusha SC
350	Rakib, Aliyu	202	1975	Mohammedan SC	BJMC
*	Agrani Bank	1-0	1976	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
	Aliyu	50 15	1977	Abahani KC	Rahmatganj MFS
(2003)	Farashganj SC	2-1	1978	Mohammedan SC	Brothers Union
	Nakib (2)		1979	BJIC	Abahani KC
19 4 0.5	YMC Fakirerpool	1-0	1980	Mohammedan SC	BJIC
	Jewel		1981	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
2 ₩3	Brothers Union	0-0	\$3555555	21 8	BJIC
	Rahmatganj MFS	2-0	1982	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
	Rupu, Jewel	E-10-1A	1983	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
*	Abahani KC	0-0	1984	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
8.5%	Mohammedan SC	1-2	1985	Abahani KC	Brothers Union
	monument of	27 EX	1000	그 보기 보기 되었다. 이 사람이 이 사람이 되었다고 있다면 하는데	

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Mohammedan SC

Mohammedan SC

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Mohammedan SC

Muktijoddha Sangsad

Abahani KC

Abahani KC

Abahani KC

Abahani KC

not held



Nakib

Rakib

Rakib

Nakib

Nakib(2)

Victoria SC

Brothers Union

Nakib (2), Aliyu

Mohammedan SC

Farashganj SC

Abahani KC

Nakib, who scored both the goals to lift his side to their maiden Premier Division football league title. —Star photo

ten thousand MSC crowd. After surviving those close calls, Muktijoddha staged a late second-half rally. They doubled

Abahani KC

Abahani KC

Abahani KC

Abahani KC

Muktijoddha

Abahani KC

Mohammedan SC

Mohammedan SC

Mohammedan SC

Mohammedan SC

Referee: Gopinath Pyne (India).

SURJO TARUN-BAGAN SCOREBOARD

> **SURJO TARUN** N Younus c Saiful b Saikat Javed Omar c & b Enamul Jahid Razzak b Saikat S Saeed st. Selim b Enamul Mofizul c Selim b Saiful Ehsan not out Nuruzzaman not out Anis not out Extras: (lb-7, w-6)

Total: (for 6 wkts in 50 overs)

114; 4-170; 5-177; 6-182 Bowling Saiful Islam Zakir Hasan Saikat Masudur Rahman 10 Enamul Haq Sajjad Ahmed

Fall of wkts: 1-35; 2-66; 3-

KALABAGAN KC Sajjad b N Younus Harun c Nuruzzaman b Khokon Sher Alt c Shamsul b Javed Ishtiag not out Nahid not out

Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-24) Total: (for three wkts in 40.1 overs) 217 Fall of wkts: 1-59; 2-107; 3-

Anisur Rahman Khairuzzaman S Saeed Nadin Younus 30 Mofizul Islam 0 20 Khokon Shamsul Huda 6.1 27 Javed Omar

Result: Kalabagan won by 7

A plea

Sports Reporter Mohammed Abdul Latif, a former 'Mr East Pakistan, renowned bodybuilder and an individual of many talents is in a critical condition after suffering brain haemorrhage. At pre-

Latif, 80, hails from Kushtia and made his countrymen proud by becoming 'Mr East Pakistan' in 1953.

sent he is being treated at the

Modern Clinic in Gulshan.



M ABDUL LATIF An avid sportsman, he ex-

celled in swimming, kabadi, gymnastics and played top flight football for Ajmeer Gymkhana team of India. Apart from sports Abdul

Latif is also a film actor, radio artist, noted politician and a respected social figure of Kush-

A freedom fighter, Latif took part in the liberation war along with two of his sons.

The man who was a source of inspiration and happiness to so many is in desperate need of proper medical care that is becoming increasingly difficult to provide due to financial constraint. His near ones have sought support from concerned quarters in this regard.

Nigerians not impressed

LAGOS, Mar 11: Members of Nigeria's national soccer squad have rejected the government's offer of 6,000 dollars a player for each match played in the first round of the World Cup, a newspaper reported here Wednesday, reports AP.

The Nigerian players say they want 8,000 dollars each, the Lagos Punch newspaper said.

Player representatives have met several times with the country's military rulers to resolve this issue, which is expected to be reviewed after Nigeria play Germany in a friendly in late April.

Ivic being realistic

PARIS, Mar 11: Iran open their World Cup preparation campaign in France next week and coach Tomislav Ivic knows he faces an uphill task to get his players ready for an upset performance at the June 10-July 12 finals, reports AP.

"I know everybody in Iran thinks this team is able to win," Ivic said ahead of the training camp in Brittany, western France. In a group with Germany, Yugoslavia and the United States that won't be

The Croat coach, who was appointed Jan 15, said his first task was to find a pool of valuable replacement players, a key requirement in the month-long competition. He will test several during a game next Tuesday against French First Division club Guingamp, and March 20

The camp in France will allow him to work for the first time with German-based players Ali Daei and Karim Bagheri of Armenia Bielefeld and Khadadad Azizi, of Cologne, who should become the back-

lvic will again gather his in-ternationals in Tehran early next month to prepare for an April 20-22 tournament with Hungary, Georgia and Jamaica. The team leaves for Europe

mid-May and will play Inter Milan on the 23rd and travel to Zagreb for a game against Croatia June 3.

Big win for Kalabagan

Kalabagan Krira Chakra completed their Janakantha Premier Division cricket league campaign on an impressive note with a thumping seven-wicket defeat on Surjo Tarun Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The final Super league match of the two neighbouring Dhanmondi outfits petered into an anticlimactic finish when Kalabagan, chasing a moderated Surjo Tarun total of 216 for six in the stipulated 50 overs, rattled up the required 217 for the loss of three wickets and with more than nine overs The win, Kalabagan's 11th

from 16 matches, enabled the last-years' runners-up to finish at par with Brothers Union, who however played one match less. Brothers Union will take on Bangladesh Biman at the same venue today. And a win for Brothers will ensure the Gopibagh outfit to pip Kalabagan to the post as runners-up behind Abahani Krira Chakra. On the other hand a defeat for Brothers will enforce a mathematical analysis to decide which team will be the bridesSports Reporter

maid of Abahani. Back to the day's match, Kalabagan rode on the brilliance Pakistani recruit Sher Ali, who scored a dazzling 80 to set the stage for an emphatic victory for the new leviathans in the domestic cricket.



In his 87-ball vigil at the crease, Sher Ali hammered nine fours and a couple of tow-ering sixes to propel Kalabagan close to victory. Coming into bat at number three after opener Sajjad Ahmed (19) de-parted at 59, Sher Ali shared 48 runs for the second wicket with other opener Harun, who chipped in with a quick-fire 41

Sher Ali then added another

74 runs for the third wicket with Ishtiaq. But the tall righthander deprived of what would have been his second ton in the league when he was caught in the covers by Shamsul when he had gone to loft Surjo Tarun skipper Javed Omar over the in-field circle.

Ishtiaq with an unbeaten 38 then guided Kalabagan home without further damage.

Earlier, the Surjo Tarun total was revolved round a breezy 63 from Pakistani Saheed Saeed and some useful contribution from their top-order.

Saeed clubbed a quartet of fours and two huge sixes in the 69-ball knock before being dismissed by slow left-armer Enamul Haq.

Enam, who was out to prove cricket is funny game, finished with two for 25 runs in his 10 niggling overs, but not before conceding 12 runs in his final

For Surjo Tarun, who earned the reputation as a giant-slayer after the first round where they lost only four matches against seven wins, the disappointing defeat was their fifth in a row in the six-team Super league.

Barbados Test begins today

Windies do the two-step

Celebrated cricket commentator Tony Cozier writes for The Barbados Nation on the selection of the Caribbeans for the fifth Test against touring England. Star Sport satellite television network will provide the live coverage of the match from Barbados. The match is scheduled to start at 8.30 pm BST.



The West Indies' seemingly neverending search for dependable opening batsmen extended into previously abandoned territory

In choosing their 13 for the fifth Cable & Wireless Test against England, starting at Kensington Oval on Thursday, the selectors backtracked over six years to relocate a 36-yearold they, and their many predecessors, had overlooked after a solitary Test match.

In completely changing their top-of-the-order pair, they partnered the left-handed Clayton Lambert, whose one previous appearance was against



BRIAN LARA

England at London's Oval in 1991, with the strapping, hardhitting right-hander Philo Wallace, another player left in the wilderness for almost as long.

Wallace, 27, was first chosen for one-day internationals in 1992 but had to wait until last December for his debut Test against Pakistan at Rawalpindi. He made five and eight and was promptly dropped.

The selectors have lost patience with the combination of Sherwin Campbell and Stuart Williams, with whom they persevered for 14 consecutive Tests but who repaid their faith with a mere three stands of more than 50, and dropped them

Otherwise, they have made no alterations to the 13 they picked for the fourth Test in

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Georgetown which the West Indies won last week by 242 runs to secure a 2-1 lead in the series.

The change is as drastic, and rare, as the crisis that has undermined the West Indies since Gordon Greenidge made his exit in 1991 and ended his phenomenal association with Desmond Haynes that lasted 13 years and 89 Tests. We have to crawl through the

pages of history to the England series of 1935 to find an instance when both openers were dropped at the same time. Charlie Jones and Kenny Wishart went in first in Georgetown where they remained, while Ivan Barrow and Cyril Christiani took their places in Kingston.

There have been other cases of different openers from Test to Test but in none have both been dropped altogether.

In the Antigua Test four years ago, the match of Brian Lara's great record 375, Richie Richardson and Haynes gave way to Phil Simmons and the now rejected Williams but only through injury.

So the desperation is unprecedented in the modern era. but not completely surprising.

Quite simply, chairman Wes

Hall and his colleagues have been guided by present form which Campbell and Williams clearly lack and Lambert and Wallace just as clearly possess. This is no long-term solution to the problem. This is now-for-Campbell, a real battler with

an excellent Test record, was the only consistent batsman in the disastrous series in Pakistan as recently as last year. At the same age as his old Ellerslie School mate, Wallace, he is surely part of the future. For the moment, this uncer-

tain period, his highest score in 16 first class innings this season is 48 not out, has made him expendable. Williams' statistical creden-

tials are far less presentable and his vulnerability to the moving ball is evidenced by his four edged catches to the slips in six innings this series. But, with a dearth of contenders around, he will remain very much in the picture once form is the criterion.

Both might feel a little aggrieved that, having endured three rough pitches so far, they now miss out on what it bound to be a belter, especially since Campbell is at home. If nothing else, the Lambert-

Wallace combination should prove entertaining. They are both big men with

an inclination to use their power to do serious damage to a cricket ball. Neither is particularly orthodox; Lambert's stance, leading shoulder pointing towards midwicket and all his stumps exposed should get an X-rating on any coaching

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video, but they can both decimate an attack when going. Lambert has an imposing

first-class record (average of just under 50) and a particular liking for Kensington where he has scored hundreds for Guyana over the last two seasons. He got another against

Trinidad and Tobago in Guyana over the weekend just to settle the selectors' minds. Wallace has become more disciplined and selective in his

shot-making this season and

his last five scores have been 129, 87, 79 not out, 68 and 31 not out. There is some surprise that lan Bishop has been retained

among the four fast bowlers, all

of whom will likely play. Last season's bright, young hopes, Franklyn Rose and Mervyn Dillon, continue to be confined to watch from their sofas, not an encouraging sign for West Indies cricket. Again, it's now-for-now, especially since Bishop's level-headed batting gives a little substance

to the tail. The next selectorial dilemma comes on Thursday morning when they must decide



MICHAEL ATHERTON

who should bat at No. 6 --Jimmy Adams or Roland Holder. On Thursday's evidence, form should count most. which translates to Holder.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES (from): Brian Lara (captain), Philo Wallace. Clayton Lambert, Carl Hooper. Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Jimmy Adams, Roland Holder, David Williams, Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Nixon McLean and Dinanath Ramnarine.

ENGLAND (form): Mike Atherton, Alec Stewart, Nasser Hussain, Mark Butcher, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, Jack Russell, Angus Fraser, Dean Headley, Phil Tuffnel, Robert Croft and Andy Caddick.

29 30 31 25 | 26 | 27

CRYPTOQUIP EKF Z JNRTO Z ' G

HOGTWO XWHD DIHW IH IZQQKNF

ELZQQ KL IZE JHKX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A MIGHTY CONFUSED FARMER STARTED A RACE SAYING THUS: "READY! SET! HOE!" Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals H

33 Hackneyed ARIA TENNYSON 45 "An apple 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.

