



The players and officials of the victorious Muktiyoddha 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 Muktiyoddha

Hasan Masood

Two super goals by captain Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib enabled Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra to lift the prestigious Premier Division league title with a 2-0 win over defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club in the last Super League match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Muktiyoddha, 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.

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

He 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 of helpless Ponir.

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, Muktiyoddha 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-

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

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PREMIER DIV ANNALS

SUPER LEAGUE TABLE							
Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Mukti Sangsad	22	16	4	2	31	9	52
MSC	22	15	5	2	35	12	50
Abahani KC	22	12	7	3	25	12	43
Brothers Union	22	6	6	10	17	26	24
Farashganj SC	22	5	5	12	18	32	20

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Goals
Salauddin (AKC)	24
Nitu (Dilkusha SC)	26
Nowsher (MSC)	21
Halim (PWD)	12
Salauddin (AKC)	14
Enayet (MSC)	13
Salauddin (AKC)	14
Salauddin (AKC)	16
Mohsin (BU)	20
Salam (MSC)	27
Arif (BU)	27
Aslam (AKC)	17
Aslam (AKC)	18
Aslam (AKC)	20
Aslam (AKC)	14
Bijen Tahiri (MSC)	24
Aslam (AKC)	11

ROAD TO THE LEAGUE TITLE

First Leg	Against	Score
1998	Arambagh KS	1-0
1998	Nakib	2-0
1998	Agrani Bank	2-0
1998	Rakib, Masud	2-0
1998	Farashganj SC	4-1
1998	Masood, Nakib	4-1
1998	Reaz, Aliyu	2-0
1998	YMC Fakirerpool	2-0
1998	Nakib (2)	2-0
1998	Brothers Union	1-0
1998	Aliyu	1-0
1998	Rahmatganj MFS	1-2
1998	Nakib	1-2
1998	Abahani KC	0-0
1998	Mohammedan SC	1-1
1998	Gaus	2-0
1998	Victoria SC	2-0
1998	Masood, Gaus	2-0
1998	Arambagh KS	2-1
1998	Rakib, Aliyu	2-1
1998	Agrani Bank	1-0
1998	Aliyu	1-0
1998	Farashganj SC	2-1
1998	Nakib (2)	2-1
1998	YMC Fakirerpool	1-0
1998	Jewel	1-0
1998	Brothers Union	0-0
1998	Rahmatganj MFS	2-0
1998	Rupa, Jewel	2-0
1998	Abahani KC	0-0
1998	Mohammedan SC	1-2
1998	Nakib	1-2
1998	Victoria SC	1-0
1998	Rakib	1-0
1998	Brothers Union	3-1
1998	Nakib (2), Aliyu	3-1
1998	Farashganj SC	1-0
1998	Rakib	1-0
1998	Abahani KC	1-0
1998	Nakib	1-0
1998	Mohammedan SC	2-0
1998	Nakib(2)	2-0

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1973	BIDC	Mohammedan SC
1974	Abahani KC	Abahani KC
1975	Mohammedan SC	Dhaka Wanderers
1976	Mohammedan SC	Dilkusha SC
1977	Abahani KC	BJMC
1978	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1979	BJIC	Rahmatganj MFS
1980	Mohammedan SC	Brothers Union
1981	Abahani KC	Abahani KC
1982	Mohammedan SC	Mohammedan SC
1983	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1984	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1985	Abahani KC	Brothers Union
1986	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1987	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1988-89	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1989-90	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1990-91	not held	Mohammedan SC
1991-92	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1993	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1994	Abahani KC	Muktiyoddha
1995	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1996	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1997-98	Muktiyoddha Sangsad	Mohammedan SC



Muktiyoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik (R) congratulates his captain Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, who scored both the goals to lift his side to their maiden Premier Division football league title.

ten thousand MSC crowd. After surviving those close calls, Muktiyoddha staged a late second-half rally. They doubled the margin when a Nakib salvo found the frame from Hasan-Al-Mamun's low cross from the right.

Nakib, with yesterday's two goals, not only became the highest scorer with 13 goals, but retained the distinction for the third consecutive season.

Muktiyoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik (R) congratulates his captain Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, who scored both the goals to lift his side to their maiden Premier Division football league title. —Star photo

SURJO TARUN-BAGAN SCOREBOARD

SURJO TARUN			
Player	Wkts	Runs	Rate
N Younus c Saiful b Saikat	24	24	1.0
Javed Omar c b Enamul	25	25	1.0
Jahid Razzak b Saikat	26	26	1.0
S Saied st. Selim b Enamul	25	25	1.0
Mofizul c Selim b Saiful	23	23	1.0
Ehsan not out	2	2	1.0
Nuruzzaman not out	23	23	1.0
Anis not out	12	12	1.0
Extras: (lb-7, w-6)	13	13	1.0
Total: (for 6 wks in 50 overs)	216	216	1.0
Fall of wkts: 1-35; 2-66; 3-114; 4-170; 5-177; 6-182			

BOWLING			
Player	O	M	R
Saiful Islam	10	0	46
Zakir Hasan	7	0	43
Saikat	10	1	27
Masudur Rahman	10	1	45
Enamul Haq	10	3	25
Sajjad Ahmed	3	0	23

KALABAGAN KC			
Player	Wkts	Runs	Rate
Sajjad b N Younus	19	19	1.0
Harun c Nuruzzaman b Khokon	41	41	1.0
Sher Ali c Shamsul b Javed	80	80	1.0
Ishtiaq not out	38	38	1.0
Nahid not out	12	12	1.0
Extras: (lb-1, lb-2, w-24)	27	27	1.0
Total: (for three wks in 40.1 overs)	217	217	1.0
Fall of wkts: 1-59; 2-107; 3-181			

BOWLING			
Player	O	M	R
Anisur Rahman	4	0	32
Khaluzzaman	4	0	19
S Saied	3	0	14
Nadin Younus	8	0	30
Mofizul Islam	4	0	20
Khokon	6	0	44
Shamsul Huda	6.1	0	27
Javed Omar	5	0	28

Result: Kalabagan won by 7 wickets.

Big win for Kalabagan

Sports Reporter

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 Dhamondi outfits petered into an anticlimactic finish when Kalabagan, chasing a moderate 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 to spare.

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 the venue will ensure the Gopibagh outfit to pip Kalabagan to the post as runners-up behind Abahani Krira Chakra.

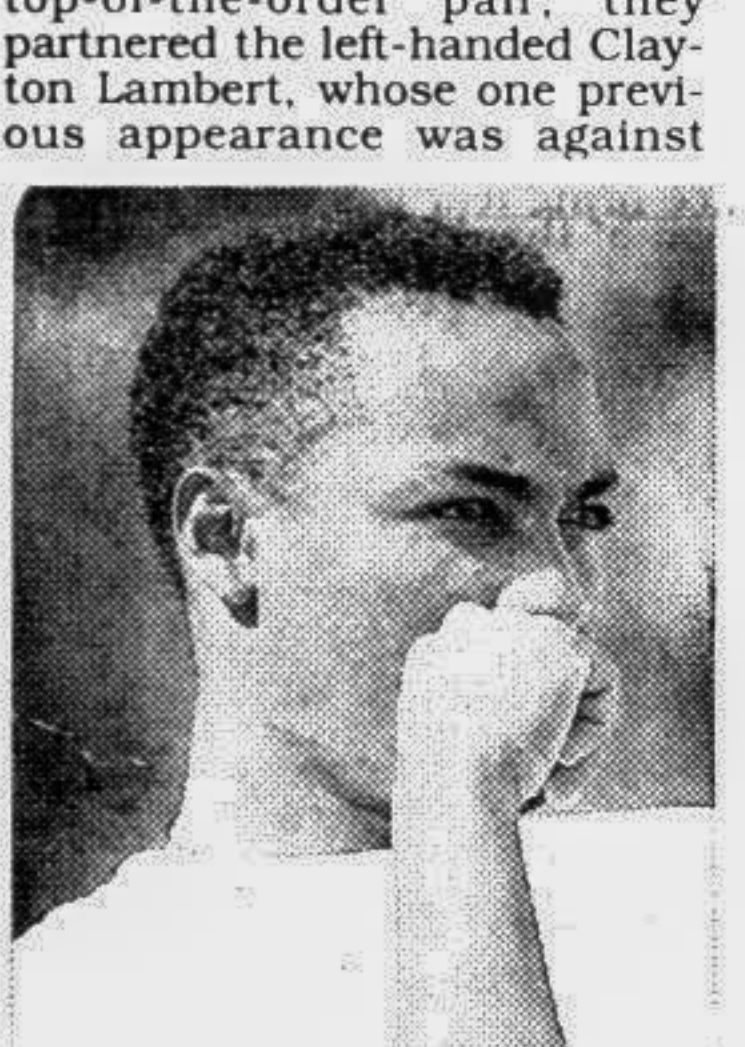
Barbados Test begins today

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.

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.

video, but they can both dictate 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.



THE WEST INDIES' seemingly never-ending search for dependable opening batsmen extended into previously abandoned territory Thursday.

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-year-old they, and their many predecessors, had overlooked after a solitary Test match.

There is some surprise that Ian 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.

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 present he is being treated at the Modern Clinic in Gulshan.

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Nigerians not impressed

Sports Reporter

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.

Ivic being realistic

Sports Reporter

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.

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Today's Cryptiquip clue: I equals H

The Cryptiquip 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.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Fairy-tale villain	value	56 Ophthalmology subject	10 Jail follower
5 In-line skater's protection	39 Lab rat's challenge	DOWN	11 Noted hosteler
9 Ruin the surface	42 Teeter-lotter	1 "Wunner-lu" band-leader	20 Isolation cry uncle
12 Satan's specialty	44 Entree in the cake	2 It takes 34	24 Words to live by
13 California town	48 "When We Were Kings" figure	3 Director	25 Sellaek or Seaver
14 New Haven student	49 Celtics coach M.L.	4 Prepared with spinach	26 Raw rock
15 Letter-man's rival	50 Pedestal occupant	5 Hair ointment	27 Grow
16 "You Bet Your Life" host	51 "Tiki" still unpaid	6 Admitting a draft	29 Predetermine
17 Natalie's dad	53 Church area	7 More iniquitous	30 Seine season
18 Wood knot	54 Potential puffin	8 Pack quantity?	31 — Plains, Ill.
19 Deluge	55 Cookware?	9 Carte	35 Canada's capital

Solution time: 27 mins.

YIP FEAR LIMBO
ALA ARNO ACTIO
KING CRIB DOWN
D O E S P O I N T S
LEEDS HERO
ELMS QUEENBEE
ELI SURLY ALS
JACKPOTS GRIP
JERRY CRAZY
BILL KEEN
MILL TIGOT KAY
BELT COWS IKE

39 Put together

40 Slept like

41 Heart-strings sound

43 Small songbird

45 "An apple

46 Inlet

47 Bulling bravos

49 Flatfoot

Yesterday's answer

37 — asset

CRYPTOQUIP

Z G J N R T O L R E K F Z
X W H D E Z N H O G T W O
I Z Q K N F D I H W I H D K E
E L Z Q Q K L I Z E J H K X
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: A MIGHTY CONFUSED FARMER STARTED A RACE SAYING THUS: "READY! SET! HO!"