Abahani play Fakirerpool today

Sports Reporter

Chakra take on Youngmen's Faki-

ay-off of the eleventh Federaion Cup football tournament at the Mirpur National Stadium. The kick-off is scheduled for 4:30 pm.

Last year's runners-up Abahani had a poor run in this year's tourney, losing two matches in succession - to Brothers Union in the robin cague group match and to arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in Wednesday's semifinal. They will be badly looking to win today's encounter against their relatively weaker opponents - their last fixture before they launch on their defence of the NBL Senior Division league title early next month.

For Abahani, it has been a very bad season so far, their sighly-rated players failing to perform when it mattered most. Their defence, led by the most expensive player in the country, may the whole subcontinent - Abdul Monem Munna — has been breached time and again by Brothers and Mohammedans. In fact, although they lost the semifi-

LONDON, Oct 18

English League

leaders Manch-

ester United will

know whether

they have the

potential to fulfil their title

aspirations after meeting

defending champions Arsenal

beaten in their first 11 League

games and desperate to clam

the crown they last won in

1967, would open up a 10-

point gap over Arsenal and

favourites.

and 16 goals.

reports AP.

establish them as firm

But after an indifferent start

to the season Arsenal have

struck an emphatic run of

form which has brought them

four successive League wins

Ferguson has described

Saturday's game at Old

SYDNEY, Oct 18

International sports are start-

ing to win the war against the

use of illegal drugs, a leading

testing expert said Thursday,

Steve Haynes, chief execu-

tive of the Australian Sports

Drug Agency, told the 25th

congress of the General

Assembly of International

Sports Federation (GAISF) that

positive drug tests had dipped

over the past two years while

the number of tests conducted

Australia would coordinate a

worldwide education campaign

Haynes said that next year,

"I believe for the first time

we are winning the struggle

against drugs," Haynes told the

1988.

International Olympic Commi-

ttee laboratories, 47,000 tests

were undertaken, 2.45 perc-

had increased dramatically.

against drug use in sports.

United manager Alex

Victory for United; un-

on Saturday, reports Reuter.

nal 5-4 on tie-breakers after a 1-1 stalemate in normal time against their traditional rivals, yet it must not be forgotten that Mohammedans could have eastly won by a wider margin inside regulation had their forwards not wasted several splendid scoring chances. The ease with which the Mohammedan forwards made repeated forays deep into the Abahani zone cast serious doubts on the form and strength of their defenders.

Coach Kazi Salahuddin, who is in charge of his old club this season, must be a very worried man following Abahani's performances over the past week. He cannot also be entirely satisfied with lies forwards, ci-

On the other hand, for Fakirerpool it has been their best Federation Cup result ever. Relative newcomers in the bit league, Fakirerpool had proved the form book wrong by making this year's semifinals at the expense of much more fancied Muktijoddha Sangsad. The freedom fighters were one of the semifinalists last year, along with champions Mohammedans, Abahani and Brothers Union.

Unlike the other three

match starting at 4:30 in the semifinalists this year, Fakirerpool are the only side to have reached this far from among the 20 teams which

took part in the knockout

qualifying rounds. The other

semifinalists all received byes

straight in to the quarter-final

robin league by virtue of having

Again, according to the

also reached last year's semis.

strengths on paper,

Fakirerpool will take the field

this afternoon as the obvious

underdogs - a situation that

should sit well upon the minds

of their young players who can

play without being under any

sort of pressure. This, again

vantage since they would have

everything to gain and nothing

to lose. Instead, a win would

do wonders to their prestige

and morale on the eve of the

Senior Division league pro-

The rates of tickets will

remain Taka 20 each for the

galleries and Tk 50 for the VIP

enclosure. Tickets go on sale

at the stadium counters from

Mohammedans Sporting will

meet Brothers Union in to-

morrow's (Sunday) final, the

Defending champions

Both sides have injury prob-

lems, with United beating to

gramme.

twelve noon.

could be to Fakirerpool's ad

Bangladesh Army in Durand Cup quarterfinals

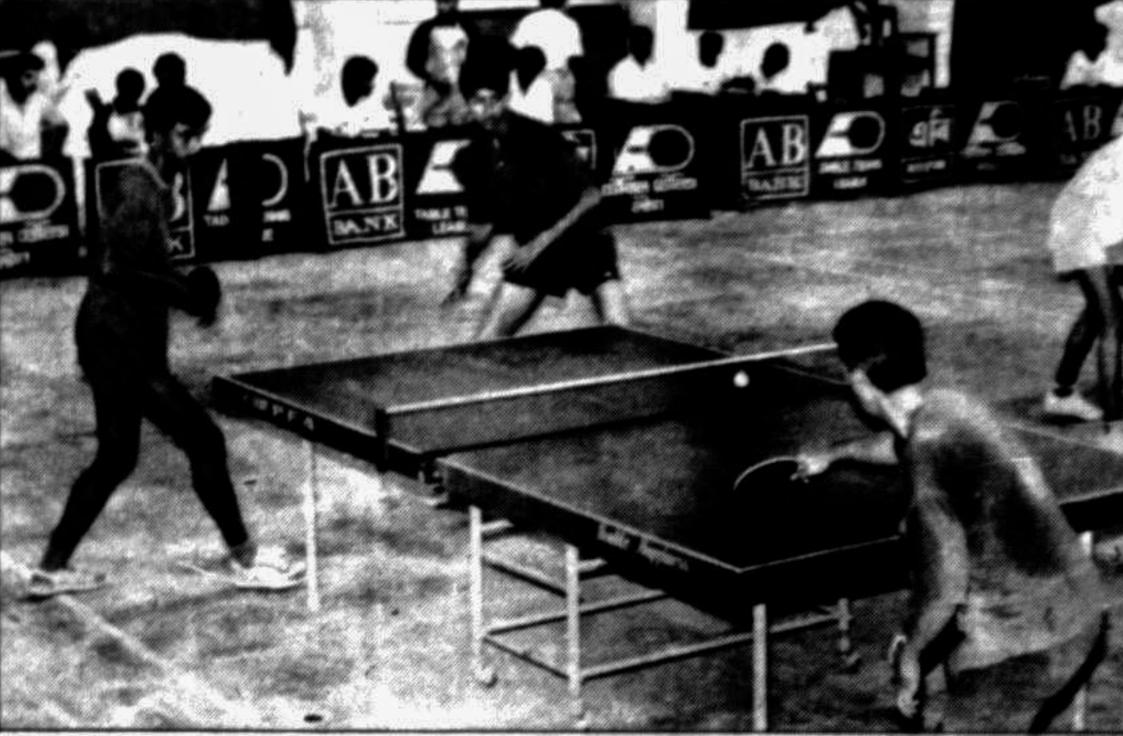
NEW DELHI, Oct 18: Bangladesh Army Eleven, the lone foreign team in the Durand Cup soccer tournament, today entered the quarterfinal league stage, edging out tenacious Sports Authority of India (SAI) 2-1 via the tiebreak, reports PTI.

The tie-break resolved a 105-minute deadlock, with striker Shadrul and defender Asghar converting spot-kicks for the winners, while Itocha Singh was the lone scorer for

Bangladesh Armymen now join East Bengal, Jagatjit Cotton Textiles and Border Security Force in Group 'A' of the quarterfinal league.

The tournament progresses into the quarterfinal league stage tomorrow with Mohammedan Sporting and Mahindras clashing in a Group 'B' tie.

Kerala's Titanium Eleven will meet Army Eleven tomorrow to decide the fate of a vacant Group 'B' quarterfinal league berth.



Action from yesterday's AB Bank metropolis table tennis league match between Victoria Sporting Club and Young Pegasus at the National Coaching Centre. Victoria were stretched -Star photo the distance before winning by 3-2 sets.

A packed day's programme

Sports Reporter

was a busy.

almost hectic day

in the AB Bank

metropolis table

tennis league

yesterday at the

National Coaching Centre with

as many as 24 teams in action

in a dozen fixtures on the day.

the 28-strong league saw ac-

tion in a programme that

started at ten in the morning

and lasted early into the

want to the full five sets - the

first in this year's league -

with nine others ending in the

familiar 3-0 scorelines. Two

other encounters lasted four

dubious distinction of being

the first team in the four days

since the start of the league

Oct 15 to take two sets of their

conquerors. Rubel of Pegasus

won both his singles matches.

against Shamim and Bright of

Victoria. Only a fine effort by

Aminur in the last reverse sin-

gles against Hasnu gave

Victoria a win in their very

first Group C outing. Pegasus

have one win and a loss from

opening singles from Kamrul

Bright of Victoria took the

their two outings.

Young Pegasus earned the

sets each.

But alas, only one match

Teams in all four groups of

Bangladesh Biman, a formidable contender for the league honours having several national stars in their ranks. also posted their second successive win when they beat another league debutante Kashaitully JS in straight sets

National champion Mussadequl Haq Rochi beat Kashattully's Nabt 21-14, 21-13 while former national number one Nasimul Hassan Kocht conceded a point more in beating Kashaitully's Abid 21-14, 21-14.

Yet another former champion in the Biman team, Saidul Haq Saadi, then partnered Kochi to overcome Kashaitully's Nabi and Saifur 21-17, 21-18.

Bangladesh Ansars handed Cynthia Sporting Club their second defeat in a row in a Group D encounter.

Ripon and Ibrahim won the opening singles 21-16, 21-16 and 21-14, 21-12 against Cynthia's Shakil and Rana respectively. Then Ripon and Munna settled the issue by beating Rana and Palash 21-12, 19-21 and 21-12.

Wari Club also registered their second win of the league in as many outings when they beat Dhaka Mariners Club in their Group D match. But Mariners earned a set by default when Wari's doubles pairing of Sohel and Mustafa conceded a walkover to Mariners' Rana and Benazir. It was the only solace for the

Brothers Union also went down to their second consecutive defeat, but gained the satisfaction of taking a set of their conquerors NMS in an afternoon encounter. Mahbub won both singles for NMS while Tuhin Jost 21-18, 18-21 and 15-21 to Brothers Union's Babu. But Tuhin played much better later on to beat Biru and Mamoon of Brothers 21-12.

their matches to date.

21-18 in the doubles in partnership with Sweet. In other matches yesterday Village Defence Party (VDP) beat Renaissance 3-0 in Group A match, Young Boys beat Ajax SC 3-0 in another Group A tie — second win for the Young Boys - while BTMC defeated Combined Sporting

3-0. Azimpur Young Stars maintained their winning spree in Group B beating Purbachal Parishad, Swamibagh TTS did likewise beating Pallima Sangshad, also by 3-0 sets. It was Pallima's first outing in the league.

Armanitola Juniors once again successfully emulated their seniors by recording their second straight win in Group C by outplaying Swamibagh Boys, for whom i was their second defeat in a

TODAY'S MATCHES

Armanitola Bangladesh Bank Club VDP vs Ajax SC Young Boys vs Paschim Jatrabari

Mariners who have lost both B Biman vs Kalpatasu Aborigines lobby to stop

SYDNEY, Oct 18:

day in a bid to have Sydney

reports Reuter. A five-member delegation from the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) handed a letter critical of the treatment of Aborigines in Australia to UN

annual congress.

group he would circulate the letter among the 75 sporting Association.

from bidding for the Games because of its "appalling" treatment of aborigines.

"The racial overtones that have disqualified South Africa

Shaheed Nabi, Rajarbagh Police Lines schools win

Sports Reporter Shaheed Nabi High School and Rajarbagh Police Lines High School recorded convincing victories in their respective matches of the fourth Bata Schools handball tournament organised by the Bangladesh Handball Federation yesterday at the Outer Stadtum handball

court. Shaheed Nabi School swamped Cosmic International School by 48-7 goals after leading 25-3 at the lemon

Artful Islam alone slammed 26 goals for Shaheed Nabi School followed by teammate Ganesh with 13 goals.

In the second match of the day Rajarbagh Police Lines School outplayed Baunia Ahmed Jalil High School by 26-16 goals.

Sohel and Ashiq with 12 and 5 goals respectively were the leading Rajarbagh scorers while Arafat with five goals was the top scorer for Baunia.

Pak tour of India in doubt

BOMBAY, Oct 18: The posed tour of Pakistan cricket team to India later this month has not yet been cleared by the union government of India, reports PII.

Disclosing this to reporters here today; the honorary treasurer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Mr Madhav Mantri, said the BCCI's honorary secretary. Mr C Nagraj, would leave for Delhi on Monday to meet officials in the Home and Human Resources ministries for getting the green signal.

Mr Nagraj has also deferred his visit to Sharjah where he is scheduled to attend the International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting on October 23, Mr Mantri said.

Becker wants to regain No 1 spot

MILAN, Oct 18 : Boris Becker, in an interview published Friday, rejected rumours that recent injuries would force him to retire and said he is bidding to regain the top ranking in world tennis, reports AP.

The 24-year-old German, who fell behind Stefan Edberg in the ATP lists, said a back injury and a pulled thing muscle forced him to stop for several

"But I am not on the brink of retirement," Becker said. *Such rumors are groundless. trained for one month after nursing injuries and already played in Tokyo. My next engagements will be Stockholm,

Paris and Frankfurt." "I was the No 1 player in the world and I want to regain the top place," he said in an interview with Italy's largest sports daily, Gazzetta dello

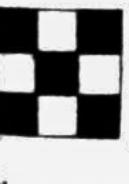
Sport of Milan. Becker was interviewed in Bolzano, where he played an exhibition against Italy's Paolo Cane earlier this week.

Becker won in straight sets, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4). Becker acknowledged the pressure of playing tennis but said he has

learned to live with it. "You can't win all the time. he said.

Fine start by Kasparov. draw with Soviet fellow-coun-

in 20



congress.

"In

TILBURG, Netherlands, Oct 18 World champion Garry Kasparov made a convincing start to the Interpolis Tilburg

Chess tournament on Thursday deseating Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman in 35 moves, reports Reuter. Playing the black pieces, the 28-year-old Soviet player

pushing forward his king side pawns and crowning his attack with a knight sacrifice in the heart of Timman's position. *Timman played rather timidly," said watching Dutch International Master Cornelius Van Wijgerden. *But it was a

used the King Indian defence,

very convincing victory for Britain's Nigel Short, a semifinalist in the search for the next challenger for Kasparov's world title, had a surprising loss with the white

pieces against the lowerranked Viswanathan Anand. The Indian Grandmaster chose the Scheveningen Variation of the Siclian defence, and the players at first

followed a well-known theoretical path, Van Wijgerden said. *Short overplayed his position, and lost a pawn," he said. Anand then swapped queens and his rooks penetrated Short's defence on the second rank. Short played on until move 59 before regaining. Traffin the end it was an easily lost game," Van Wijgerden

to Uln the other games the youthful Gata Kamsky of the US drew with veteran Soviet emigre Viktor Korchnoi, while Anatoly Karpov looked set for a

ent of which produced positive

"In 1990, 71,000 tests were made in 21 laboratories and only 1.31 percent of these were positive," he added.

llaynes said athletes were starting to realize they would be caught-if they used illegal

Xie wins Game 11

MANILA, Oct 18: Chinese challenger Xie Jun defeated Soviet champion Maya Chiburdanidze on Friday, taking a 6-5 lead after 11 games at the women's World Chess championship here today, reports AFP.

Chiburdanidze, playing black, used a dragon's variation of the Sicilian defence but she faltered on the 14th move and Xie managed to press the initiative into victory, beating the medical graduate from Georgia after 34 moves.

tryman Yevgeny Bareyev.

last until November 4.

The round-robin tourna-

ment is category 16, the

strongest on the chess calen-

dar, and offers prize money to-

talling 104,000 Guilders

(55,000 Dollars). Its 14 rounds

FIRST ROUND RESULTS

"Athletes throughout the world say that international anti-doping initiatives are starting to impact, and let's face it, they are the ones that really know," he said.

Anti-doping initiatives start impact

Haynes said random tests A were made on 2,656 athletes in 51 sports over the past year in Australia.

More than 300 GAISF delegates from 75 Olympic and non-Olympic sports are meeting through Sunday to discuss a number of topics, including criteria for the selection of host cities for the Olympic Games, qualification of competitors for the Olympics, drug control and the Olympic

Games programme. The delegates include 21 full IOC members and nine of the 10 GAISF council mem-

The only absentee is

Federation president Primo Nebiolo of Italy.

MSC chairman

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain attended the conference as the chief guest.

MP, retained the post of member- secretary in the governing bodyAbdul Monem and Sheikh

Maj Mannan new

State Minister for Textile M Mannan has been made chairman of the governing body of the Mohammedan Sporting Club for the year 1991-93, reports BSS.

He was made chairman of the nine-member governing body of the club in the biennial conference and election held at the Club premises on Friday.

Munirul Huq Chowdhury,

Sydney's Olympic bid



An Australian aboriginal group lobbied leading international sports officials to-

barred from hosting the Olympic Games in the year 2000,

Yong Kim, president of the General Association of Inter(GAISF) which is holding its Kim told the Sydney-based

national Sports Federations

bodies belonging to the The letter called on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to exclude Australia

are repeated in Australia.

side won the 1982 World Cup

after the defeat by Argentina in

last year's world Cup that

although a better side, Italy

lacked the conviction of the

Argentines in their own

Italian sports writers said

Gian Franco Zola said he learnt a great deal playing alongside

Vicini's exit sparks row over influx of foreign booters on home soil and their virtual greatest team. Sweden, Vicini finally sucball sederation line, did not Azeglio Vicini's elimination from next year's Brazilian defender Branco. cumbed to cries for his deparhave the charisma of his predecessor Enzo Bearzot whose



departure as the scapegoat for Italy's fall from soccer grace has sparked intense debate over

league clubs, reports Reuter. Under Vicini, Italy were semifinalists in the last European Championship and the 1990 World Cup.

But their failure to win soccer's most glamorous trophy

European Championship finals have brought demands for changes and intense soul searching about the state of the national game.

Italy's inability to repeat their World Cup-Winning performance of 1982 eight years later in Rome and a 2-1 defeat to part-timers Norway in June left the country reflecting on why the greatest league in the world could not produce the

who played in Portugal before joining Genoa last year, was in no doubt this week. "The best forwards in Italy

pear among the scorers every Sunday," he said. Vicini felt the national game suffered when the quota of foreign players per club was increased to three, and thought

are foreign. Their names ap-

was two. Others echoed their belief that when the league opened its doors to foreign stars in 1980 they robbed home grown talent of the chance to blos-

an acceptable limit on imports

"Our position has for a long time been against more forcigners," Italian players' union vice-President Leonardo Grosso said. "It means a lack of continuity for upcoming Italian players."

But another School of thought argues youngsters have gained valuable experience playing alongside such as Maradona and Ruud Qullit. Italian striker Gianluca

Vialli was top scorer in the league last season with 19 goals, but the next three were German Lother Matthaeus, Uruguayan Carlos Aguilera and Tomas Skuhravy, Czechoslovak.

Vialli leads the list again this season, but once more it is dominated by foreigners. After Italy were held to a 0-

0 draw in Moscow last weekend, leaving the Soviet Union needing fust one point in Cyprus to qualify ahead of them for next June's European Championship finals in

The 58 year-old trainer, whose side lost only seven times in 54 matches, had ejected repeated demands to quit the job he had held since August 1986.

When he stepped down, he accepted the blame for his side's failure but added: "You won't find any better players."

Vicini, a reserved man who always complied with the foot-

strengths.

in Spain.

Many Italian players reject the idea that the imported players are to blame. Napoli's Argentine star Diago Maradona. International Roberto Donadoni said players were bound to learn alongside stars like Gullit and Marco Van

at AC Milan. Sacchi has already indicated he would revolutionise Italy's tactics and style of play, mod-

Basten, his Dutch team mates

Germans underline strength



turning on their best soccer under pressure when they boosted their European Championship aspirations with Wednesday's 4-1 win over Wales, reports Reuter.

After losing 1-0 to the Welsh in Cardiff last June, the Germans needed two points from the Nuremberg Group Five Qualifier to keep alive any hopes of a ticket to next year's finals in Sweden.

Roared on by a capacity 46,000 crowd, they produced what coach Berti Vogts called their best performance since last year's World Cup triumph to move to within one point of the Welsh at the top of the Group with a game in hand.

"We played with a lot of fire."

The Germans, however,

"When the pressure is on we play better football," captain Lother Mattheaus said.

points from next month's difficult away game in Belgium and December's home match against group minnows Luxembourg to be absolutely sour of qualifying.

"The match against Wales was tough. But I expect the game in Belgium to be together," Matthaeus said. "But worried."

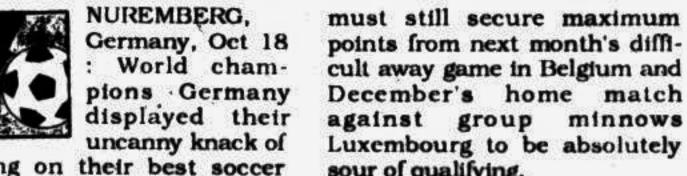
halftime.

Welsh hopes finally wilted after striker Dean Sanders was sent off early in the second

Wales, bidding to reach the

elling the national team on his former AC Milan side that won the European Cup in 1989

at home to Luxembourg on



if we can play the way we played for the first 70 minutes against the Welsh, I won't be The Germans struggled to

break down the defensive Welsh team for the first half an hour. But they suddenly moved in for the kill with three welltaken goals in a devastating 11-minute spell just before

finals of a major competition for the first time for 34 years, are almost certain to finish their campaign with a victory November 13. Then they will have to sit

Belgium a week later or against Luxemburg in Elverkusen just before Christmas. "We have one game left and

and wait to see whether

Germany slip up against

it's a big one," Welsh manager Terry Yorath said. "We must win and win by many goals." Yorath freely acknowledged

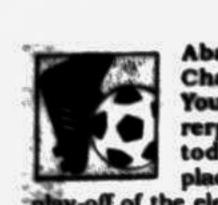
that his team had been outclassed by the Germans. But he took come pleasant memories away from Nuremberg. Press Club games

Children's festival and women sports competition were held at the Jatiya Press

Club premises yesterday mark-

ing the 37th founding an niversary of the Club. About 250 children took part in the run, recitation, solo acting, painting and dress-as-

you-like competitions in the festival. 100 women members participated in ludo' and pillow-passing competitions.



rerpool Club in today's thirddeciding

Trafford and their two previmatches against Tottenham and Liverpool as the critical testing period for

his side's ambitions. They won 2-1 at Tottenham and drew 0-0 at home to Liverpool, and in between progressed to the second round of the European Cup Winners'

Spain's Atletic Madrid and Arsenal meet Portuguese champions Benfica.

get England internationals Gary Pallister, Paul Parker and Neil Webb fit.

United face Arsenal in today's vital tie

Saturday's game is squeezed between this week's European Championship matches and next week's European club

times, in which United face The two clubs are reluctant to talk about the importance of the match for fear of building up the kind of tension which

led to an unsightly breawl in

the correspondening fixture

last season and ended in

Arsenal being docked two

points and United one.

eight games since injuring his hamstring in the England loss of Germany last month, is most doubtful, leaving England under-21 defender Lee Martin in

> line for a call-up. ential captain Brayan Robon, unexpectedly recalled to the England side this week, has not picked up any knocks in Wednesday 1-0 win against

Parker, who has missed England. mid-table, have another addi tion to their serious injury

They are also hoping influ-Turkey.

Arsenal, third in the table

three points behind Leeds, will

be without long-term casualty

Steve Bould and probably his

central defensive partner and

captain Tony Adams, who

missed England's game with a

groin strain.

first four games is expected to recover in time after straining and ankle during training with Liverpool, whose poor start to the season has left them in

crisis as they seek their first

league win in five games at

New striker lan Wright,

who has scored six goals in his

Chelsea. Goalkeeper Mike Hooper, who and just ousted Bruce Grobbelaar, needs surgery for a torn calf muscle and is ruled out for two months, joining long-term casualties Mark Wright, John Barnes and

Ronnie Whelan. Leeds, beaten only once all season, hope to seize on any slip-up by Manchester United when they travel to promoted Notts country, who have won only one of their last six League games.

> 19-21, 21-17, 21-7 to give his side the lead which was neutralised in the following singles when Rubel put Pegasus on par by beating Shamim of Victoria 21-10, 21-10. Shamim and Aminur again gave Victoria the lead by winning the doubles 21-11, 21-10 against Kamrul and Hasnu. Rubel once again restored parity for Pegasus beating Bright 21-10, 21-14, at which stage it

fell to Aminur to earn Victoria their victory. Defending champions Armanitola JS outclassed newcomers Paschim (West) Jatrabari by 3-0 sets, Maroof beating Maksudur Rahman of Jatrabari 21-6, 21-18, Pappoo beating Akbar 21-5, 21-15 and then Pappoo and Badal teaming up to clinch the issue by winning the doubles 21-14,

21-14 against Jatrabari's Maksud and Mahfuz. Armanitola JS have now won both their matches so far while for Jatrabari it was their second consecutive defeat in Group A.



the influx of foreign imports at



Participants in the lude competition for journalists spouses arranged yesterday in connection with the 37th founding anniversary of the Jatiya Press Club today, Oct 19.

- Star photo