



Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league match between Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Fakirpool Youngmen's Club at the Hockey Stadium. The match ended in a one-all draw.

— Star photo

## Ambrose amers Derbyshire

LONDON, Sept 12: Six-wicket Curly Ambrose returned his best English country figures for three years on Saturday to lift Northamptonshire into second place in the championship behind winners Middlesex, reports Reuter.

England's selectors, who name their squad on Wednesday for the Caribbean tour early next year, were given a timely reminder by the West Indian fast bowler of what lies ahead.

Ambrose took six for 49 to give Northants victory by an innings and 46 runs at Derby.

Derbyshire had no answer and once Ambrose had reduced them to 57 for five any hopes they had of scoring 241 to make Northants bat again had vanished.

Derby were all out for 195 as Northants recorded their first away victory in the championship this year. The four-day game ended a day early.

Ambrose's fellow West Indian paceman Courtney Walsh was also among the wickets against Nottinghamshire at Bristol.

Notts, 117 for one as they chased Gloucestershire's 277 for nine declared, slid to 153 for five as Walsh bagged four wickets in five overs after lunch.

But the visitors weathered the storm and recovered to 251 for eight before skipper Tim Robinson declared 26 behind. Gloucestershire were 59 for two at stumps, a lead of 85.

At Lord's, England's Mark Ramprakash made a patient, unbeaten 117 as new champions Middlesex reached 328 for seven off Lancashire.

## Asian men's v'ball results

BANGKOK, Sept 12: Asian Games champions China downed Qatar in straight sets 15-6, 15-7, 15-4 in their Group D first round match in the 7th Asian men's volleyball championship today, reports AFP.

In the other Group D match, in Nakhon Ratchasima 260 kilometres (160 miles) northeast of here, Australia beat Bangladesh 15-4, 15-4, 15-9, 15-11, while Japan downed Iran 15-3, 15-2, 15-8.

In Group C, India edged Taiwan by three sets to two, 3-15, 15-6, 8-15, 15-7, 15-4.

## TT course now from Sept 28

An 11-day Olympic solidarity course on table tennis, organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF), will begin on September 28, three days later than the earlier schedule, reports UNB.

The course, organised in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) and International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), was earlier scheduled to start on September 25.

British coach Tony Teff, nominated by ITTF, is due to arrive in the capital on September 27, to conduct the course to be participated by 25 representatives from across the country.

## Prize giving ceremony

The prize-giving ceremony of the second annual chess competition of the Dhaka Deaf Sports Association will be held on September 14, at 5.30 pm at the National Deaf Association auditorium.

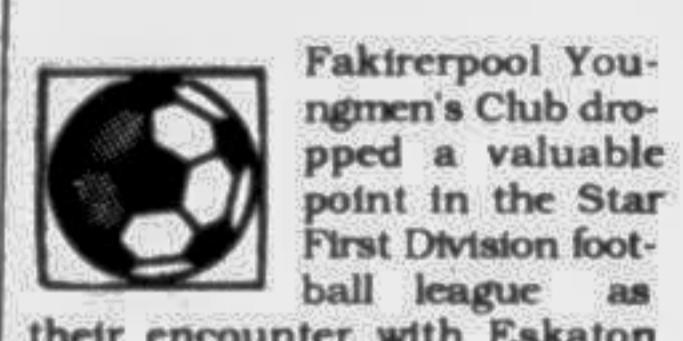
State Minister for Shipping Harun al-Rashid will be the chief guest.

## Madrasa meet commences

RAJSHAHI, Sept 12: The three-day school and madrasa summer football, handball and swimming competition, organised by the School and Madrasa Sports Association, began at Rajshahi Physical Education College today, reports BSS.

Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi M Aminul Islam inaugurated the competition.

## Fakirpool stay on top



Fakirpool Youngmen's Club dropped a valuable point in the Star First Division football league as their encounter with Eskaton Sabuj Sangha ended in a one-all draw at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Despite the draw, Fakirpool YC maintained their sole lead in the league table with 19 points from 14 matches while Eskaton Sabuj Sangha improved their chances of avoiding relegation by 13 points from 14 outings.

The league leaders led the first half 1-0.

Mehdi Masud put Fakirpool ahead in the 36th minute of the first half by a nice chip over onrushing Nizam, the Eskaton custodian, after receiving a pass from Aslam Babu (1-0).

Dabloo, playing as substitute for Wakil, scored the equaliser in the 22nd minute of the second half from a spot kick (1-1).

Eskaton got the penalty

when Ibrahim of Fakirpool handled the ball in the danger zone while tackling Rinku.

Mehdi of Fakirpool spoiled

two good chances — in the 13th minute of first half and the fifth minute of the second. On both occasions, he failed to drive the ball home from vantage position.

Mizan and Rinku of Eskaton SS and Ibrahim of Fakirpool were cautioned with the yellow card.

### TEAMS

**FAKIRPOOL YC:** Kawser, Ibrahim, Masum, Hassan Mamun (Sohel) (Shahid), Lokman, Gobinda, Mukter, Asif, Askar, Mehdi and Arif Mamun.

**ESKATON SABUJ SONGHA:** Nizam, Wakil (Dabloo), Rafique, Ruhul, Mizan, Litu, Mokhles (Archil), Asad, Rinku, Watana and Kushit (Don).

Referee: R Alam.

In the Star Premier Division league, Agrani Bank Club shared points with Wari Club as the league table from the second half of a spot kick (1-1).

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### TEAMS

**AGRANI BANK:** Totum, Bishu, Shahnoor, Kala, Raj, Shamsu (Mangol), Bakhtiar, Badal (Qbal), Jahangir, Munna and Akther.

**WARI CLUB:** Tony, Mansur, Partha, Ripon (Chanchal), Haran, Yusuf, Sharik, Babu, Bazlu, Straj and Makbul.

Referee: Nazir Hossain.

Sadharan Bima KS will take on East End Club in the First Division tie at the Hockey Stadium while Victoria SC will face PWD SC in the Premier Division at the Dhaka Stadium today.

## Magical run of Ma's girls



BEIJING, Sept 12: Known at home as the "Ma Family Army," China's women runners waged a war over the weekend to smash world records in the 1,500 and 3,000 metres and underscore their emergence as a new dynasty in the world athletics power, reports AFP.

Ma, who has set up a rigid training programme with 18 women disciplines in China's northeastern Liaoning province, angrily denied the allegations at a press conference Saturday.

"China firmly bans the use of steroids. The 'Ma Family Army' has never used steroids. We rely on our own talents," he said.

"Whenever we what to pull off another world record, we will just do it," he said, with his usual bravado.

Flanked by his top stars, Ma attributed the success to team work, a rigid training programme involving frequent stints at high altitude and concoctions of Chinese food, including a "caterpillar fungus" tonic, dog stew and jujube paste.

The coach had said after Wang's stellar 10,000m performance — which destroyed the old record by 47 seconds — that his runners were tired and that world records in the 1,500m and the 3,000m were unlikely.

But after President Jiang Zemin extended his congratulations over Wang's run, he said,

Running in the same heat, newly crowned 3,000 metre world champion Qu Yunxia, who broke the world record in the 1,500 metres final Saturday, came in a close second with a time of 8:12.27.

Both athletes, holding a huge Chinese national flag between them, embarked on a victory lap after the race at the Games Village.

Ma Liyan came in third in 8:19.78.

Zhang Linli and Zhang Lirong also beat the old 3,000m mark in a separate heat, clocking 8:22.07 and 8:22.44 respectively, the final was to be run Monday.

In a dizzying five days that saw records fall like ninepins, Qu shattered the oldest standing record in women's athletics on Saturday, taking two seconds off the 1,500m record, also set by Kazankina in 1980, with a time of 3:50.64.

Wang finished behind Qu in a time that also bettered Kazankina's record.

The sudden emergence of China's women runners as a new dynasty has left the world

gasping, with athletes and coaches suggesting it would have been highly unlikely without the use of performance enhancing drugs. No one on the Chinese team has ever tested positive for drugs.

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