Star Sport

DHAKA THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

SPORTS TALK

Mike Atherton

(Former England cricket captain)

"It is difficult to escape the feeling that, once again, pace will prove a dominant factor."

On the South Africa tour prospects.

Boost sports

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Competition-122

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1. Which country won the SAF football gold?
   Bangladesh | India | Nepal
2. Who is the captain of Brazil?
   Cafu | Rivaldo | Ronaldo
3. How many teams will play in next year's Asia Cup cricket?
   4 | 5 | 6
4. Who won the men's 100 m in the Summer Athletics?
   Mahbub | Yasin | Ratan
5. Who lifted the Grand Slam Cup title?
   Rusedski | Agassi | Kafelnikov

Name .....

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Class ..... **Roll No.** .....

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POWERED WITH EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Amanuddin passes away

Amanuddin Chowdhury, an eminent sports organiser and former member of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), died of cancer in the United States yesterday. He was 65, reports BSS.

The body of the deceased will be brought to Bangladesh on Sunday and buried at his family graveyard at Subagazi under Comilla Sadar thana.

Chowdhury, a national sports award winner, leaves behind his wife, three sons and three daughters and a host of relatives.

He was an official of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and Comilla District Sports Association for two decades and played a pioneering role in producing a good number of footballers.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, BFF general secretary Harunur Rashid MP, expressed deep shock at the death of Amanuddin Chowdhury.

They prayed for peace of the departed soul.

Meanwhile, Mohammedan Sporting Club condoled the death of its former player and life member. The flag of the club will fly at half mast for next three days.

Blewett skips 4-day match

ADELAIDE, Nov 10: Australian opening batsman Greg Blewett has pulled out of the South Australian cricket team to face Pakistan in the four-day tour match starting here Friday, reports AFP.

Blewett, who scored 89 and 40 not out in Australia's first Test win against Pakistan in Brisbane, is suffering shin soreness and will rest in the lead up to next week's second Test in Hobart.

He has been replaced by 19-year-old batsman Daniel Harris, who has opened for Australia's under-19 side and is set to make his first-class debut.

Blewett and the Pakistan squad were due to arrive in Adelaide late Wednesday.

CCDM convenes divided clubs

Sports Reporter

With clubs divided over the issue, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury has asked his vice-president Tanveer Haider to resolve the current dispute emerging from the issue of cricketers transfer.

Tanveer, who is also the chairman of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), said yesterday that he has invited all the twelve Premier Club representatives at the BBC office today to discuss the demand of the Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB). The objective of the meeting is to attempt an early announcement of players' transfer.

The CWAB in a memorandum to the BCB on Tuesday threatened to refrain from taking part in any domestic event if the inter-club Premier Division transfer was not held by end-November.

The CCDM had earlier announced that cricketers' transfer would be held this month, but later shifted it to January next.

"I will meet the Premier Division club representatives today to discuss the matter. I will also talk to the cricketers," said Tanveer.

"If the clubs agree, we have no problem in holding the transfer this month," Tanveer added.

Most of the Premier Club representatives, however, told this reporter that they would not be able to get involved in the bourse this month.

"We were ready for the transfer in November. But when the board said that the league will be held in February we have changed our mind. Financially, it is not possible for us to get involved in the transfer in November and then wait for about four months for no good reason", said Jalal Younus, cricket secretary of Abahani Krira Chakra, yesterday.

Talking to the Daily Star last night, Jalal said there was no way Abahani could take part in the transfer this month, but added that they might give a second thought if a fresh date is fixed between November and January.

"My club is not in a position to enter the transfer market at this moment with the prospect of an expenditure in the region of Taka 30 to 40 lakh. But, if the players agree to the transfer free of cost, we have no problem", said Jalal.

Abahani's bitter foes Mohammedan Sporting hummed the same tune.

"We are not bound to comply with the players' demand. We have our own way of doing things to serve the best possible interest of the club. Although the executive committee will take a decision in this regard, but I can tell you Mohammedan is not at all ready to take part in the transfer this month", said Tanveer, who is also the additional general secretary of Mohammedan.

The office secretary of Brothers Union, Abid, appeared to be dead against the slightest change in the transfer date.

"We will not accept any change in the transfer date because we have already set our mind and talked with the donors accordingly. Besides, it will not be possible for us to realise money before the Eid festival", said Abid.

Surjo Tarun was on another track.

"We are ready to take part in the transfer at any time the CCDM announces", said Surjo Tarun's organising secretary Mamun.

Bangladesh Biman's coach Sadrul, who inspired the national flag career to lift the coveted Premier League title last year, said they have no reservation regarding the transfer.

"We will abide by the CCDM decision", said Sadrul, a former national cricketer.

Kalabagan Krira Chakra treasurer Hafizur Rahman said they were ready to take part in the transfer.

Stars to attend Marshall's funeral

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Nov 10 (AP/Internet): A galaxy of past cricket stars have said they plan to attend the funeral of West Indies fast bowling legend Malcolm Marshall in Barbados on Saturday.

Marshall, 41, died in his native Barbados Thursday from colon cancer. One of the greatest fast bowlers of all time, his death shocked and saddened the cricket world and fans who ranged from heads of state to labourers.

Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards, the two captains under whom Marshall played most of his 81 Tests between 1978 and 1991, will attend, local spokesman said. Lloyd resides in England. Richards is in Mumbai, India.

Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Joel Garner and Colin Croft, who formed the feared West Indies pace attack along with Marshall in the 1980s also will be there, spokesmen said.

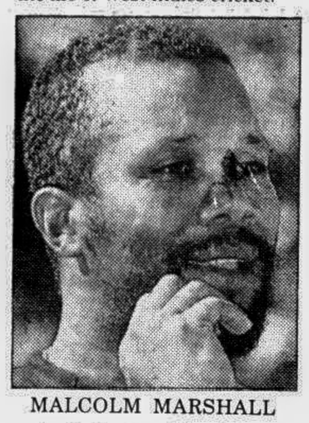
Former England batsman Robin Smith and Mark Nicholas, teammates with Marshall during his 14 seasons with the English county team Hampshire have both said they will fly from London for the occasion. Nicholas, now an international television commentator on the game, was Hampshire captain for most of Marshall's time there.

The funeral service will take place in Bridgetown at the 4,000-seat Sir Garfield Sobers Gymnasium, named after the Barbadian left-hander acknowledged as one of the finest all-round cricketers, Barbadian Deputy Prime Minister David Simmons announced Tuesday.

The Rev Wes Hall, himself a former West Indies fast bowling star, will conduct the service, Simmons said.

Tributes continue to pour in daily for Marshall. Both of Barbados' daily newspapers here announced they will publish special editions Thursday commemorating Marshall's career.

Prime Minister Owen Arthur last week said Marshall's death was the "most tragic moment in the life of West Indies cricket."



MALCOLM MARSHALL

In 81 Test matches between 1978 and 1991, Marshall took 376 wickets at an average of 20.94 runs per wicket that is lower than any of the other many outstanding West Indies bowlers. Until 37-year-old Jamaican Courtney Walsh surpassed his mark last year, he had been the leading West Indies wicket-taker in Tests.

Meanwhile, reports from Harare says, the South African cricket team will pay tribute to Marshall during the second Test against Zimbabwe, beginning on Thursday.

The South Africans may wear black armbands in his memory.

Klusener, who plays in his 22nd Test for South Africa against Zimbabwe, has dedicated his appearance in the match to the memory of Malcolm.

Klusener says Marshall taught him much about the game of cricket, and his (Marshall's) professional attitude to the game has had a big influence on his career.

Natal's Klusener, Shaun Pollock, Jonty Rhodes and coach Graham Ford benefitted from Marshall's experience when the West Indian spent four seasons playing and coaching in the province.

Campbell quits as Zimbabwe captain

HARARE, Nov 10 (Reuters/AP): Alistair Campbell resigned as captain of the Zimbabwe cricket team on Tuesday, two days before the start of the second Test against South Africa.

Campbell said he would be replaced by Andy Flower, from whom he took over the reins after the 1996 World Cup. Flower will skipper Zimbabwe until December 19, when their home series of three Tests and five one-day internationals against Sri Lanka ends.

Flower had agreed to act as captain, said Peter Chingoka, president of the Timbabew Cricket Urban.

"I haven't had a great time of it of late," Campbell said. "We haven't been playing well as a team and I haven't been playing well as an individual.

"I'm not contributing as I should do as a batsman, and I want to get back to scoring lots of runs."

Zimbabwe had their first away series win, over Pakistan last season, during Campbell's spell as captain. They also came within a whisker of the 1999 World Cup semifinals in England.

But a 10-wicket drubbing by Australia in a one-off Test, a 3-0 whitewash in the one-day international series against Steve Waugh's team, and an innings defeat by South Africa in the first Test of this series have tarnished memories of Campbell's success. His once formidable batting averages have slumped to 27 each innings.

Campbell defended the timing of his decision. "A lot of people might say I'm one victory or one big knock away from being okay, but I don't think so in this case. There are too many underlying issues that just can't be resolved in the space of one good innings or one victory.

Rovers Cup

Mohammedan eliminated

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club bowed out of the Rovers Cup football tournament after the league stage on conceding a 0-2 defeat to Salgaokar Club of Goa in Mumbai yesterday.

According to a telephonic message received here last night, Salgaokar scored a goal in each half.

Habib opened the account in the 21st minute while Nigerian Francis Oleyo added the other in the 50th minute.

However it could have been a bigger margin victory had they capitalised the penalty they earned in the first half. But Venkatesh's shot was brilliantly saved by Mohammedan custodian Ponir.

It was Mohammedan's second defeat in the first round. They lost their opening match to JCT (0-3) on November 6 while drew with Air India 3-3 on Monday.

Salgaokar Club emerged champion in the Group A, with JCT finishing second. Churchill Brothers and Mahindra and Mahindra from the other group moved into the semifinals.

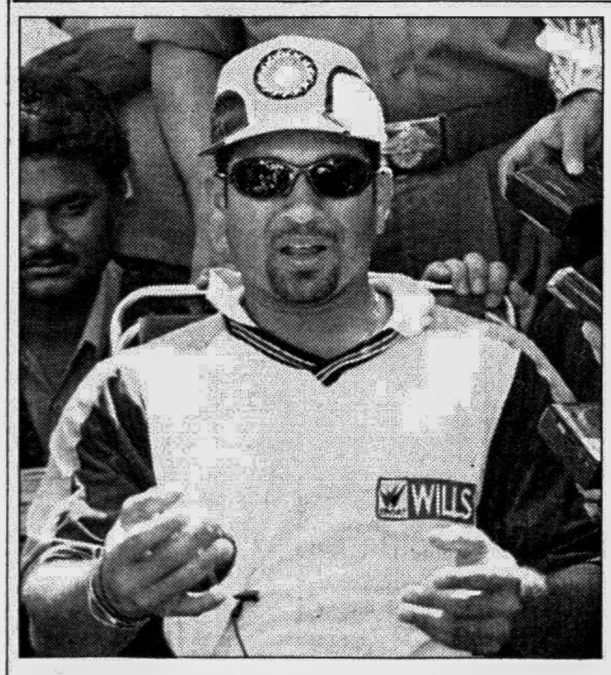
India-NZ third ODI today

Sports Reporter

India take on New Zealand in the third game of the five-match one-day international series at Gwalior today.

New Zealand won the first match at Rajkot on November 5 by 43 runs while the hosts drew level by thrashing the tourists in the next encounter at Hyderabad three days later by 174 runs.

Doordarshan National's coverage on the game will start at 10:30am BST.



India cricket captain Sachin Tendulkar talking to newsmen during a briefing at Gwalior's Roop Singh Stadium yesterday. — AFP photo

MCC arrive in January

Sports Reporter

A 17-member Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) team will arrive in the capital in the second week of January on a three-week tour of Bangladesh.

This will be the third tour by MCC, who earlier visited Bangladesh in 1977 and 1996.

According to a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official yesterday, the tour itinerary has not yet been finalised. He said that a proposed itinerary, which includes a four-day match, a three-day match and four to five limited over matches, has been sent to the MCC for their confirmation.

The board is also yet to decide how many selections they would field against the visitors.

BCB joint-secretary Mahmud Ul Haq said yesterday that matches will be held in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Mymensingh.

Asian hockey

Bangladesh taking part

Sports Reporter

A 21-member Bangladesh team will leave the city for Kuala Lumpur on November 16 to take part in the 12th Asian Hockey Championship.

The 10-nation meet was scheduled to be held in Pakistan but the venue was shifted because of the change of government there.

Bangladesh have been slated in Group B along with reigning champions South Korea, Pakistan, China and Sri Lanka.

The other group consists of India, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Japan and hosts Malaysia.

Bangladesh Hockey Federation is yet to receive the draw and the fixture of the championship.

Former national hockey star Hossain Imam Chowdhury Santa will coach the team while another former national player Kawsar Ali will act as his deputy. Sajed Adel has been named manager of the team.

Bangladesh squad: Russell Khan, Mohammad Javed, Mamunur Rashid, Ishtiaque Ahmed, Khurshid Alam (captain), Mahbubul Hasan, Shahidullah, Musa Miah, Isa Miah, Ashiquzzaman, Sk Ramij Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam, Ariful Haque, Shamim Reza, Ashiqur Rahman Chowdhury and Shamsuzzaman.

BCB nominates commissioners

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday named six match commissioners for the national cricket league.

Six divisions -- Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal and Khulna -- will take part in the league to be played on three-day match as well as home and away basis.

Former national cricketer and member of the three-member selection committee, Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad, has been appointed match commissioner for the opening match between hosts Dhaka and Khulna. The match will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on November 15,16 and 17.

Former national skipper, Shafiqul Haque Hira, will be the match commissioner in the Chittagong-Sylhet match to be held at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on November 16,17 and 18.

Former national captain and also a selector, Roquibul Hassan, will be in charge in the other first round match between Rajshahi and Barisal to be held at Rajshahi from November 16.

In the second round, Saad will go to Mymensingh for the Dhaka-Barisal match while Hira and Roquibul will remain in Chittagong and Rajshahi for the Chittagong-Khulna and the Rajshahi-Sylhet matches respectively. The second round matches will be held on November 21,22 and 23.

BFF picks officials

Sports Reporter

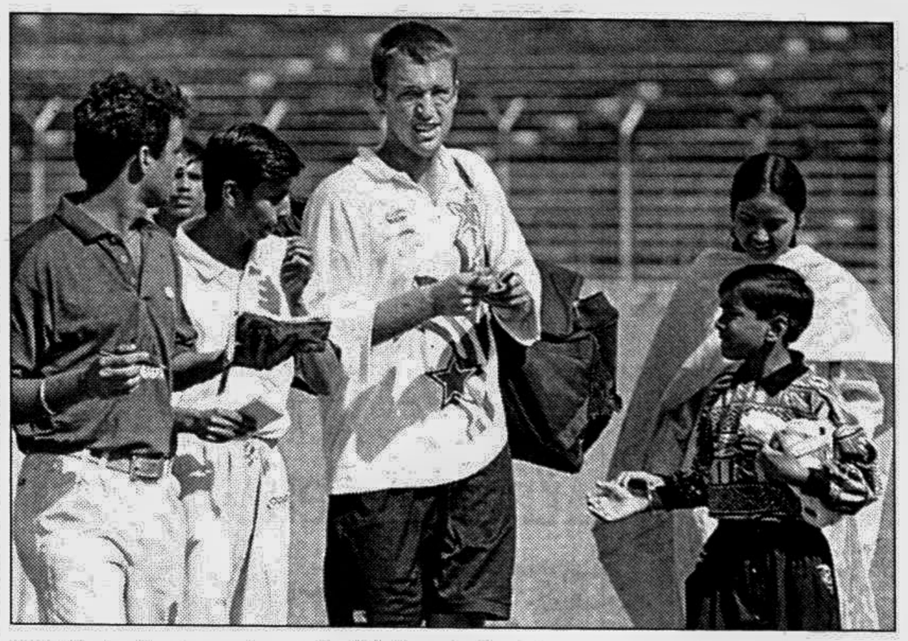
Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday named its executive committee member AKM Ferdous Islam as the manager of Bangladesh team for the 12th Asian Cup qualifiers.

The group three qualifiers are scheduled to be held in Dubai, UAE from November 20.

Another BFF member Abul Khair Chandan will act as assistant manager while Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir will travel with the team as a team official. Dr. Shafiquzzaman has been appointed as the team doctor while coach Samir Shakir is the other member of the five-man team of officials.

The federation is however yet to pick the 20-member team. Twenty-five booters are now in the camp at BKSP.

Bangladesh will face Uzbekistan in the inaugural match on November 20. They will meet hosts UAE in the next match on November 22. The other two matches against Sri Lanka and India are slated to be held on November 24 and 28.



New Zealand's star spinner Daniel Vettori (C) obliging autograph hunters during a practice session at the Roop Singh Stadium in Gwalior yesterday. New Zealand take on India in the third match of the five-game one-day series here today. — AFP photo

Harare Test starts today

Zulu aching for action

HARARE, Nov 10 (Internet report): All-rounder Lance Klusener is raring for some excitement when South Africa take on Zimbabwe in the second Test of the two-match home-and-away series in Harare, starting on Thursday. And he obviously wants to prove a point to those who have been saying his place in the Test team may be in jeopardy.

'Zulu' played the role of stock bowler in the first five-dayer in Bloemfontein two weeks ago, trying to plug up an end while Shaun Pollock, Jacques Kallis, Paul Adams and Allan Donald fired away at the other.

But with the injured Kallis forced out of the attack, Klusener is looking to play a more damaging role.

"Hopefully I can get out of that stock bowler, blocking up one end, boring stuff. But if that's what's needed, I'll do it.

"Hopefully this time I can do Jacques's job and Hansie can do mine... If you go on the attack it may cost you a few runs, but then again you may get a few wickets."

Klusener, who almost single-handedly sank India with his career-best eight for 64 in Calcutta in 1996, did not take a wicket in SA's victory by an innings and 13 runs in Bloemfontein.

Skipper Hansie Cronje, for that matter, did not send down a single delivery.

Pollock and Kallis were the main destroyers two weeks' ago with seven scalps each in the match, which means Cronje is likely to look to Klusener for wickets... especially if speed king Allan Donald fails to find his form in time.

'White Lightning', back from an ankle injury, took only one wicket in the first encounter.

But he admits he has been superstitious returning to the ground where he earned his career-best innings haul of eight for 71 in 1995.

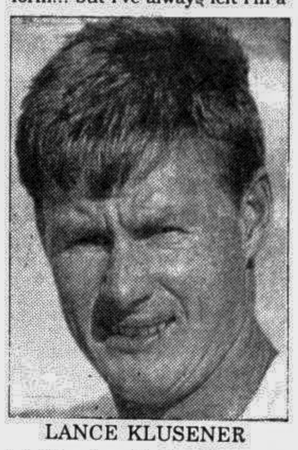
"I walked in the dressing-room and made sure I sat in the same spot I sat last time."

Donald is the country's leading Test wicket-taker with a total of 266... and he would love to become only the 14th bowler in the world to reach the 300-mark.

He describes his performance two weeks' ago as probably his worst in a Test. "In Bloemfontein I never felt anything like myself."

But 33-year-old Donald insists his looming achievement is not playing havoc with his mind.

"It (300 wickets) is not really there, I've had a little battle for form... but I've always felt I'm a bit of a slow starter. The more I've bowled the better I've bowled.



LANCE KLUSENER

"It's just a couple of technical things that are starting to come right. Every time I come back for a new spell, it's starting to get better. I must just keep on being patient because around the corner, a bag-full is waiting."

While South Africa have yet to reach the kind of form they were in during their record-breaking tour of New Zealand last season, Zimbabwe are not without their woes.

Injured key strike bowler Heath Streak will again be out of action. Former Natalian Neil Johnson, who bowled only two overs in Bloemfontein because of a groin strain, is a doubtful starter.

And to make matters worse, Alistair Campbell on Tuesday relinquished the captaincy... a move that may affect Zimbabwe's chances against South Africa, but one he hopes that will get the side out of their recent slump after heavy back-to-back defeats to Australia and South Africa.

Former skipper Andy Flower, who gave up the leadership after the 1996 World Cup, has taken over as caretaker captain.

"We haven't been playing so well as a team, I haven't been playing so well as an individual," Campbell said.

"I want to get back to that plain as a batter and score lots of runs. I can just concentrate on batting... that's my aim. It's a personal decision."

TEAMS

South Africa: Adam Bacher, Boeta Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Shaun Pollock (v/c), Mark Boucher, Allan Donald, Paul Adams. 12th-man: Nicky Boje.

Zimbabwe (from): Andy Flower (captain), Grant Flower, Murray Goodwin, Alistair Campbell, Neil Johnson, Trevor Gripper, Stuart Carlisle, Guy Whittall, Henry Olonga, Bryan Strang, Mpumelelo Mbangwa, Raymond Price, Everton Matambanadzo.

Butcher remains upbeat

CAPE TOWN, Nov 10 (Internet report): Mark Butcher will go back to the basics and trust his instincts in an attempt to rediscover his form and secure his place in England's line-up for the first Test.

The Surrey left-hander's performances in South Africa have failed to convince, scoring only 24 runs in four innings although he was the victim of a run out misunderstanding with Michael Atherton in the draw against a Combined Western Province/Griqualand XI in Cape Town.

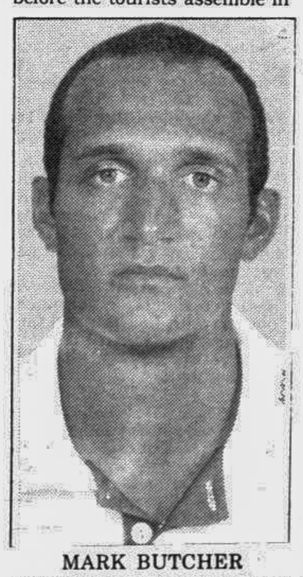
His disappointing form mirrors that of last winter in Australia, when he scored just nine runs in four completed innings in the build-up to the first Test, but responded with England's only century of the winter at Brisbane.

This time, he is determined not to become confused or diverted by too many opinions about what is going wrong and after consultations with father and former Surrey and England batsman Alan Butcher before he came away, he is more adamant than ever that a basic approach is the answer.

"Performances in cricket are usually to do with whether you are in the groove," he explained. "The idea is that you just keep hammering away, there is nothing really specific you can do other than the basic principles of batting like keeping your head still and not moving too much before the ball comes down.

"I've learnt that over analysing your game can be dangerous. I know players who have got themselves in such a state over what they are doing through different theories and ideas, but I try and keep things quite simple."

His first chance to impress will be this Friday when England take on a Combined Free State/Griqualand XI in Bloemfontein, the first of two remaining first class matches before the tourists assemble in Johannesburg for their first meeting with South Africa.



MARK BUTCHER

He has kept himself going through his barren run, which also includes 15 Test innings without a half century since that Brisbane hundred, by reminding himself of his spectacular form against South Africa just over a year ago.

During that 1998 series, Butcher firmly established himself as a Test opener by topping England's batting averages at 56.33, including a match-winning maiden century in the decisive Test at Headingley.

He said: "The last series against them was a particularly good one for me and that is always in the back of your mind. If you start having any doubts, you try and call upon past performances and remind yourself that you've played against these players in 1998 and played very well."

Rajshahi Div 1 soccer from Nov 25

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 10: The First Division football league will kick off at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium here on November 25 under the auspices of Rajshahi District Sports Association.

A total of 14 teams will split in to three groups for the first round of the league. Top two finishers from each group will qualify for the super league.

Following teams will take part in the league:

Group A: Abahani Krira Chakra, Diganta Prashari Sangha, Alif Lam Mim Club and Town Club.

Group B: Mohammedan Sporting Club, Allied Club, Tiger Sporting Club, Shiroil Colony Club and Upashahar Sporting Club.

Group C: Shiroil Sporting Club, Helenabad Colony Sporting Club, Rajshahi Krira O Sangskritik Sangha, Simla Sporting Club and Kadirganj Club.