

NSC to increase training fund

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) will increase its training fund from next year to groom sportsmen across the country, it was confirmed after yesterday's budget meeting.

NSC chairman and Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed has directed to increase training fund to 10 per cent from the previous year's three.

"I have asked them to revise the training fund and increase it to 10 percent. There is no alternative to developing players without training," told General Moeen, who presided over the budget meeting of the NSC executive committee at the NSC.

The meeting approved a total of Tk 48.31-crore budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year where the training budget would be raised to Tk 8.9 crore from 2.6 crore.

Of the total budget, the government will allocate Tk 25.51 crore and the NSC will provide Tk 22.80 crore from its own resources.

"We are going to allocate funds at Upazila levels for the first time," Gen Moeen said adding that it

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PHOTO: STAR

A NEAR MISS: Barisal batsman Gazi Salahuddin hits one of his thirteen boundaries on the opening day of his side's four-day National League match against Chittagong at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday. The portly right-hander missed what could have been his second first-class century for six runs.

U-19 cricketers make it 2 all

SPORTS REPORTER

Sohrawardi Shuvo led from the front as the touring Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team levelled the one-day series against Pakistan Under-19s with a 13-run victory in the fourth game at Quaid-e-Azam Parkin Karachi yesterday.

Left-arm spinner Shuvo grabbed five wickets for 38 runs after Marshal Ayub's 88 to script the victory to make tomorrow's final encounter at the NBP Ground in Karachi a real finale.

Promising pacer Dollar Mahmud also made valuable contribution with four scalps as the home side were bowled out for 220 in reply to the visitors' 233 for 6 in stipulated 50 overs.

Another new ball bowler Rubel Hossain took the other wicket for 47 runs.

Earlier, Mahmudul Hassan scored 44 runs while Mithun Ali remained not out on 33 to give the tourists a respectable total.

It was a brilliant fightback by the junior Tigers as they made it 2-2 after going down by 144 runs and 79 runs in the first two matches. Bangladesh Under-19s revived their hopes by winning the third game by 24 runs.

3 seniors get 6 months

 Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Keeping last one year's performance in mind, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) revealed a 22-member contracted players' list till November 30 next year.

BCB's cricket operations committee headed by former national captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu took the decisions after being recommended by the Rafiqul Alam-led selection committee and it was learned that as an immediate past skipper, Bashar survived to keep his one-year deal despite his poor showing.

Dashing left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal advanced to the six-year contract from his rookie status while Tushar Imran, Forhad Reza, Mehrab Hossain, Enamul Haque and Nazmul Hossain remained in the six-month frame.

BCB reduced the time frame of some senior players only to give a message that one cannot ensure a maximum contract through their performance but the time reduction of the players will not weigh down their salary as the gradation was decided on the basis of the

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BCB announces NZ fixture

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) released the revised itinerary of the Tigers' tour to New Zealand in December and January.

Mohammad Ashraful's men will fly to New Zealand on December 12 to play three one-day internationals and two Tests besides a couple of build-up games.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has revised the fixture at the request of BCB to arrange limited-overs practice games instead of the three-day warm-up games as the Tigers will play the one-day series first.

Bangladesh will launch their campaign with a one-day warm-up match against Northern Districts on December 16 and on December 18 before playing the last practice match on December 21 against Auckland.

Bangladesh team, in their second visit to the Southern Hemisphere country after their maiden trip in 2001, will also play a

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SA to arrive on Feb 14

SPORTS REPORTER

South Africa will arrive in Dhaka on February 14 next year to play two Tests and three one-day series against the Tigers.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday disclosed the itinerary, which also includes a three-day warm-up match before the Test series and a one-day practice match before the three-match one-day series.

The off-spinner, who became Test cricket's most successful bowler in the first innings, got out Matt Prior and Ian Bell in the space of three deliveries with the second new ball to end England's spirited challenge.

The tourists, needing to bat out the final day for a draw after being set an improbable victory target of 350, were bowled out for 261 in the last hour of the match at the Asgiriya stadium.

Sri Lanka took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series going into the second Test, which opens at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo on Sunday.

boundaries in his 184-ball knock that spanned almost four hours.

He added 67 for the first wicket with Nafis Iqbal and then added 121 with Mahbubul Karim for the second. Karim slammed eleven boundaries on his way to 61.

A mini-collapse followed Karim's dismissal when Nazimuddin and Salahuddin fell within two overs but captain Ehsanul Haq batted with his typical solidity, staying not out on 56. He has tall-end Yasin Arifat for company when he comes out to bat today.

The hosts belted their way to 322-8 in the mandatory 90 overs of play with Gazi Salahuddin, Mahbubul Karim and captain Ehsanul Haq all hitting half-centuries.

In Bogra, Barisal fell in the face of fine swing bowling from Rajshahi paceman Alamgir Kabir, who took five wickets.

The visitors were 39-1 in reply to Barisal's paltry 182 all out.

Sylhet's big-hitter Ejaz Ahmed struck a robust 54 but his side still struggled to 223-7 against Dhaka at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

Rajshahi must have sensed rival Khulna's misery of losing so many big names, as they launched themselves on Barisal at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium.

Alamgir bowled both Hannan Sarkar and Shahriar Nafees in the space of eleven balls during his first spell. He returned to do the same to top-scorer Imran Ahmed, who

scored 43, in the 32nd over and then had Kamrul Islam and Talha Jubair in his last spell of the innings.

The 26-year-old paceman, who played three Tests for Bangladesh, ended with impressive figures of 5-52 from his 22 overs.

Saqain Sajib, who created three run-outs and took a catch, also helped Rajshahi's cause.

But it was not all plain sailing for the visitors who lost opener Rafiqul Islam at the fag end of the day. Jahanur, on 20, will come out to bat with last round's star Farhad Hossain when the match resumes today.

Rajshahi have four bonus points while Barisal have one.

DHAKA-SYLHET

Sharif removed Imtiaz Ahmed and Sadiqur Rahman at the end of 12 overs, after Dhaka were asked to bowl first by Sylhet captain Rajin Saleh.

Sylhet were 108-4 when they lost opener Golam Rahman 43. Six overs and four runs later, Rajin was caught by Dhaka captain Al Shahri off Mohammad Rafique.

But then it was the turn of Ejaz to add some fire into the batting. He

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Ctg, Rajshahi in control

SPORTS REPORTER

 ISPAHANI MIRAFORTE TEA
 9th National Cricket League

Khulna predictably struggled against Chittagong on the first day of

their seventh round National Cricket League match at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

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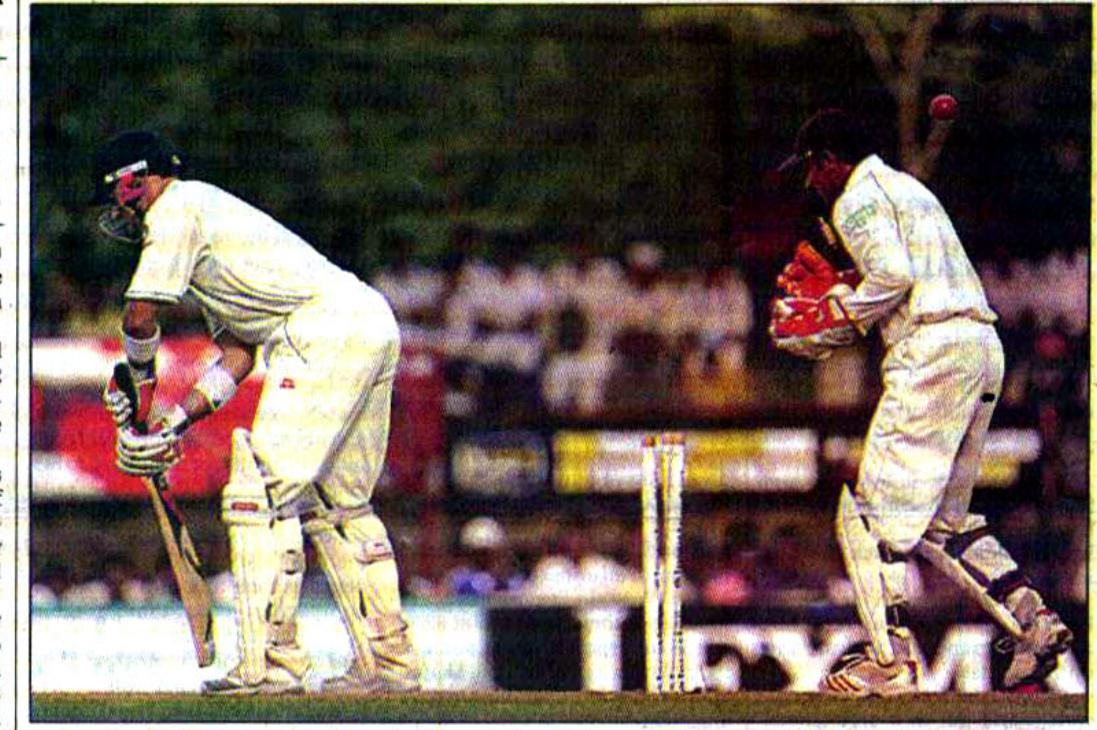


PHOTO: AFP

England fall to Murali Sri Lanka take 1-nil lead

 Cricket

AFP, Kandy

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Sri Lanka took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series going into the second Test, which opens at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo on Sunday.

England, who resumed the final day at 9-1 in their second knock, slumped to 90-5 in the morning session before Bell (74) launched a heroic rescue attempt in the company of the lower order batsmen.

He put on 49 for the sixth wicket with debutant Ravi Bopara (34) and a defiant 109 for the seventh with wicketkeeper Prior (63) that threatened to frustrate Sri Lanka's victory bid.

Muralidaran, kept wicketless for 31 overs, struck in his second over with the new ball when he floated a straight one to Prior, who missed the line and was bowled.

Two balls later in a new over, Muralidaran bowled Bell to effectively seal his side's victory. Bell's knock followed his 83 in the first innings.

Muralidaran claimed a third wicket when he earned a lucky leg before decision against Ryan Sidebottom from Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf with television replays showing a clear edge from the bat.

Fast bowler Lasith Malinga yorked Matthew Hoggard to signal Sri Lanka's thrilling victory in front of 7,000 spectators, including at least 3,000 travelling English supporters.

The seamer did the early damage as veteran left-armers Chaminda Vaas, playing his 100th Test, claimed the first three wickets of the innings and Dilhara Fernando chipped in with two.

Vaas, who dismissed opener Alastair Cook on Tuesday evening, put England on the back foot by removing captain Michael Vaughan in the morning's fourth over.

Vaughan groped for 25 balls to score five when he failed to take his bat out of harm's way and edged the out-swinger to wicket-keeper Prasanna Jayawardene.

In his next over, Vaas bowled nightwatchman James Anderson for 11 as England slipped to 27-3.

Kevin Pietersen showed no discomfort from a broken finger in

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Kirsten finally aboard

 Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Former South Africa batsman Gary Kirsten has signed a two-year deal to coach India, a top cricket board official said Wednesday.

"Kirsten has signed the contract, he will take over the new assignment on March one next year," board secretary Niranjan Shah told AFP.

The deal was sealed after all the issues relating to Kirsten's appointment were sorted out Tuesday, paving the way for the former opener to occupy the hot-seat, vacant since the exit of Australian Greg Chappell in April last year.

Shah said Kirsten will meet the players in Bangalore, venue for India's third and final Test against Pakistan on December 8-12.

"Kirsten will be spending a couple of days with the Indian team in Bangalore during the third Test against Pakistan," he said.

"He will be with the Indian team

in Australia as a consultant for a couple of weeks before taking over full-time in March when India host South Africa."

India are to leave for Australia on December