

BUDGET 2007-08 Less money for sports

UNB, Dhaka

An allocation of Tk 170,96,78,000 has been made for the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the national budget for fiscal 2007-08 announced yesterday.

The amount is Tk 47.64 crore less than the previous year's (2006-07) revised budget of Tk 218,61,14,000.

Of the allocation, Tk 114,53,78,000 crore for non-development expenditure while the remaining Tk 56,43,00,000 crore for development expenditure.

The allocation for the Ministry of Youth and Sports has been made with the following objectives: to turn the youth community into an efficient workforce and involve them in the national development activities; to implement programmes for self-employment of unemployed youth; to prepare and implement programmes and projects for the development of sports in the country; and to arrange and participate in national and international games.

The proposed function and activities in sports include further

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Mali acting ICC chief

AFP, Manchester

Ray Mali has been appointed acting president of the International Cricket Council (ICC) following the death last month of fellow South African Percy Sonn, the global governing body announced in a statement from its Dubai headquarters on Thursday.

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Did U Know?

India withdrew from the 1950 World Cup because FIFA refused to let their team play barefoot.



Wasim Akram (Pakistan cricket legend)

"I think the culture in Pakistan and India is such where the players feel at ease with a foreign coach, so I feel that a foreigner can help in a better way."

What to WATCH

ESPN
Afro-Asia Cup
Twenty20 Match
Asia XI v Africa XI
Live from 7:55 pm
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 11:00 pm
STAR Sports
French Open
Men's & Women's Singles
Quarterfinals
Live from 4:00 pm

DAY'S
EVENT
B.League
Ctg Mohammedan v Abahani (4:00 pm)
Venue: M A Aziz Stadium, Chittagong
Farashganj v Khulna Abahani (4:30 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



Muktijoddha centre-back Chansah (2nd from R) clears the ball before Mohammedan midfielder Enamul (C) gets to it during their B.League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

An eventful draw



SPORTS REPORTER

Ten-man Mohammedan were held by Muktijoddha to a 1-1 draw in yesterday's action-packed B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Even playing with one man down for the last 15 minutes following Nigerian striker Emeka's send-off decision, the black and whites dominated the show and should consider themselves unfortunate not to leave the ground with maximum points.

The Dhaka derby, which began after a drizzle, was contrasting to the drab first leg match that Muktijoddha won 1-0. And they looked like heading for a similar

course when Moroccan midfielder Brahim put the Reds ahead after 13 minutes against run of play.

Mohammedan secured one valuable point when Nigerian midfielder Divine slotted a late equaliser from a rebound on Emeka's freekick.

After 12 matches, both Mohammedan and Muktijoddha came level with Abahani on 22 points but the latter have a match in hand.

On a slippery pitch, defensive error almost cost Muktijoddha the lead in the fifth minute when Enamul found open space at the right flank. But his square pass was timely cleared by Hassan Al Mamun from the goalmouth before the rival strikers could get near it.

There was an appeal for penalty when Muktijoddha's half-fit goalkeeper Titimur brought Divine down but referee Tayeb Hassan awarded a reverse decision, calling Paul's earlier tackle on Titimur a foul.

Mohammedan kept the momen-

tum but Mamun, who returned to the side after missing one match, proved his worth when the national rightback dispossessed rival skipper Paul inside the box.

A pathetic piece of defending during a Muktijoddha counter attack, however, allowed Brahim to pick up the ball near the halfway line, dash down the middle without any challenge and score from the top of the box with a left-footed chip into Himmel's near post.

Matiur Munna should have given the Reds a 2-0 cushion four minutes later but the experienced playmaker, singled out by a genius through pass from Moni, delayed his shot inside the box only to see Odafe snatch the ball recovering from behind.

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Tigers sweat it out



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team returned to action after 11 days at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

After their thumping defeat at the hands of India late last month, the Tigers gathered to prepare for their upcoming tour to Sri Lanka.

Newly-appointed captain of Bangladesh Mohammad Ashraful, opener Tamim Iqbal and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzaq all missed the first day of practice as they only arrived on Wednesday evening from Bangalore where they played for Asia XI in the Afro-Asia Cup Twenty20 International. But they

took part in a gym session later yesterday evening with the rest of the team.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Mohammad Rafique are still in India as they are playing for the ODI team of the Afro-Asia Cup. On the other hand, left-handed all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was absent as he was attending his brother's wedding ceremony.

But the morning session was all about fitness as the Tigers were restricted to the indoors due to wet conditions in the ground. Later in the afternoon, the Tigers took part in fielding drills and a speed endurance session.

The five-hour long session also introduced all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad to his new

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FRESHER: Tigers newcomer Mahmudullah Riyad (C) sprints during the first practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday for their upcoming Sri Lanka tour.

WI keep Eng in check



AFP, Manchester

Corey Collymore led a West Indies fightback in the third Test against England at Old Trafford here Thursday.

At tea on the first day, England had stumbled to 167 for five having been 112 for one at lunch.

Fast bowler Collymore rocked England early in the session with a spell of two wickets for nine runs on his way to figures of two for 21 in 13 overs. Ian Bell was 16 not out and Matthew Prior one not out.

England resumed with Alastair Cook unbeaten on and captain Michael Vaughan 40 not out.

But Vaughan had added just one to his score when he was bowled by a full-length Corey Collymore delivery that nipped back and beat his drive, England 117 for two.

It was a much-needed wicket for West Indies, being captained in a

Test for the first time by Darren Ganga after Ramaresh Sarwan sustained a tour-ending shoulder injury while fielding during England's innings and 283 run second Test win at Headingly - West Indies' heaviest Test innings loss.

Vaughan faced 99 balls with six fours, sharing a stand of 104 with Cook.

He walked back into modest applause having received a mixed reception when he came out to bat following his newspaper criticisms of injured local hero Andrew Flintoff for his pedalo escapade at the World Cup, which saw the all-rounder and five other England players disciplined for late-night drinking.

Flintoff, currently sidelined following a third operation on his left ankle in as many years last week, was seen Thursday in the England dressing room on his Lancashire home ground.

Vaughan's exit brought in Kevin

PCB still for Whatmore

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan's cricket authorities have again focused their attention on Australian Dav Whatmore after he failed to get the coach's job with the Indian team.

Pakistan is searching for a new coach after the sudden death of Bob Woolmer during the World Cup.

"We have always been interested in Whatmore but he had not responded positively to our initial inquiries. After this new development we will make a fresh approach," a Pakistan Cricket Board official told PTI.

The PCB had advertised the post of national team coach and 13 people had applied for it by the deadline on May 15.

"The problem is that none of the people who have applied can be described as high-profile coaches. We have mostly young coaches operating at the lower level," a source said.

He said this was the reason why Pakistan was still keen on Whatmore who has excellent coaching credentials having led Sri Lanka to the 1996 World Cup and other notable victories.

In his four years with the Bangladesh team, Whatmore had also turned them into a team which can't be taken for granted.

Pakistan had earlier approached Whatmore but he had made it clear that he was more interested in a job in India.

But the Indian board said

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One for posterity



CRICINFO, undated

Shaun Pollock knew he'd have to bat really well, given that he'd decided not to bowl in this tournament and that this African side was without some star batsmen, but this was something else: a maiden hundred in the first of three Afro-Asia matches played in humid Indian conditions, on a lively un-pitched pitch against quality bowling.

Mention Shaun Pollock and one word comes to mind: relentless. He's been running in with the ball for the past decade - though the pace has gone down some - and has proved to be a reliable hitter before. He took it a significant notch higher this time: it was a classy, nerveless innings under pressure.

What was most remarkable about Pollock's hundred was that it was so beautifully simple. In these slam-bang-thank-you-ma'am times, he played good old-fashioned cricket. There was nothing fancy about his batting, no scoops or shuffles, just orthodox shots from an orthodox batsman.

"Up the order, we already have good options, and No. 7 is my normal batting position," a relaxed Pollock said after the match. "Today we had (Justin) Kemp and (Mark) Boucher, but unfortunately they didn't quite get in. Personally, it was nice to play up the order."

The game appeared to be all over when he walked in at 31 for 5 but he had other ideas. The second ball he faced from Mohammad Asif he drove with textbook precision through the covers. Great shot but how long could this last, many were tempted to ask. Mashrafe Mortaza came on and Pollock took him for three fours. Now it seemed like the proverbial hit-out when all is lost. However, Pollock had other intentions. Partners came and went but he batted on with a fluidity that put most of his team-mates to shame and that too on a lively surface with plenty of bounce, one Pollock termed "the new face of Indian cricket".



South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock is delighted upon reaching his maiden ODI century during the first match between Asia XI and Africa XI in the Afro-Asia Cup at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore on Wednesday.

Guardian exposes audio

AFP, London

The newspaper England captain Michael Vaughan accused of misquoting him placed an audio excerpt of its interview with Vaughan on the Internet Thursday, contradicting the cricketer's assertion that his remarks about a teammate were blown out of proportion.

Although Vaughan insisted that he, rather than all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, had played a major role in the team's failure to reach the World Cup semi-finals, The Guardian had quoted him as saying that an incident involving "Freddie" Flintoff's drinking exploits had damaged team morale.

He was quoted as saying, "You have to be honest: the 'Fredalo' incident did affect the team. It did affect morale," referring to Flintoff being found on a pedalo, or paddleboat, at 4 am in the morning after their opening group match defeat against New Zealand in St Lucia.

Vaughan had insisted on Wednesday that he never used the word "Fredalo," as he wouldn't want to single out an individual for an incident which saw six players in all disciplined for late-night drinking, though an audio file on The Guardian's website seemed to prove otherwise.

In it, the England batsman is heard to say: "We had a great preparation week and then unfortunately incidents happened which did affect the team. You've got to be

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