

What a day for Whatmore

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A day after Dav Whatmore arrived in Dhaka the famed coach wished that the Bangabandhu National Stadium be an ideal ground to start his training. And thanks to the State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman his desire was fulfilled immediately.

The new Bangladesh coach was visiting the all-purpose venue on Tuesday afternoon when he met the country's sports supremo quite by accident.

Rahman, who came to attend the prize-giving ceremony of the Standard Chartered Bank 21st National School Cricket Championship, assured Whatmore that

allotment of the BNS to cricket, which ends on May 31, would be extended until June 20 for the national team's camp.

Rahman also told reporters that the 400-metre track of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium would be shifted to the Army Stadium in Banani while the newly constructed football stadium in Kamapur would be handed over to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on July 15.

When Whatmore inquired with members of the ground committee about availability of green-top pitches in the city, they suggested that only wickets at the BNS could meet that requirement at the moment.

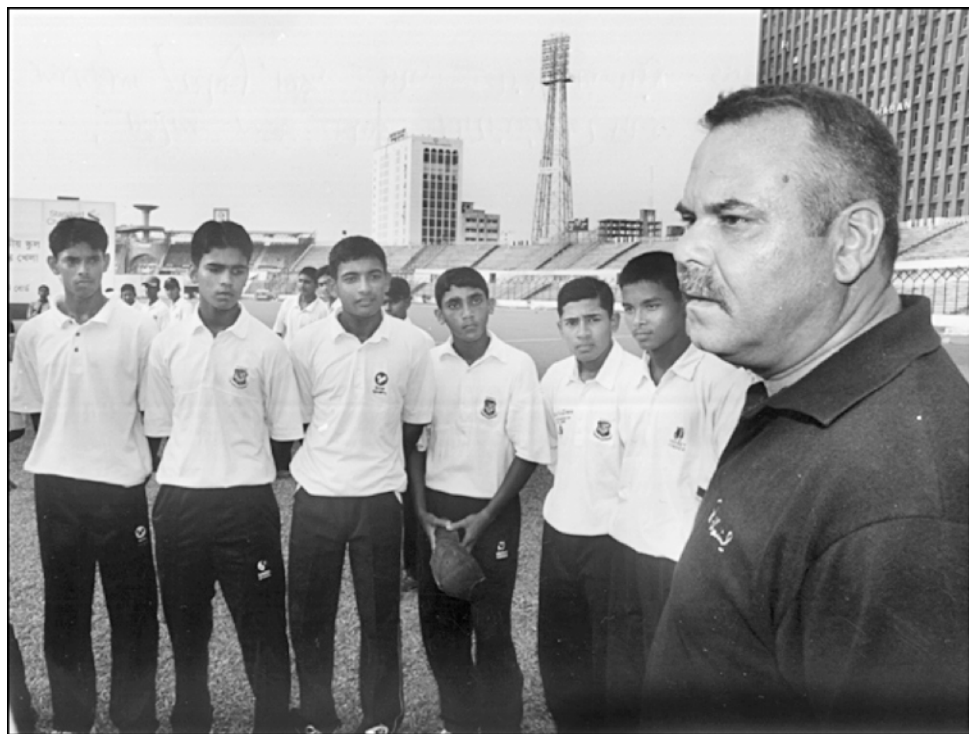
The 49-year-old former Sri Lanka coach was obviously thinking of conditions his boys would be facing in Australia. And he rightly

emphasised on preparing the pitches with a considerable amount of bounce.

"The pitches look good. But I have suggested making them faster and bouncier," said Whatmore adding that he would explain more during the scheduled press briefing today.

Whatmore arrived on Monday on a five-day visit to assess the conditions before his two-year tenure takes effect on June 1. The first task of the Sri Lankan-born Australian will be to prepare the whipping boys of international cricket for their maiden tour down under.

He was keen to see the facilities at the adjacent Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium where he could use the artificial turf to train the boys



BUSY WHATMORE: (L) New Bangladesh cricket coach Dav Whatmore talks to participating players after the school cricket final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. (R) He is accompanied by his wife Katherine while inspecting the cricket gym at the BNS.



PHOTO: STAR



Did U Know?

Kepler Wessels is the only cricketer who has represented two countries in one-day internationals. He played 54 matches for Australia and 55 for South Africa.



Nasser Hussain

(England Test captain)
"There is always a political side to being England captain, but the balance had switched too much. I had two months of trying to be a politician. Now I want to get back to being a cricketer."



ESPN

Football Focus
Repeat at 10:30 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Juventus vs Real Madrid
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 8:30 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

India want to go to Pakistan in September

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's cricket board has asked their government to allow the national team to play a one-day game in Pakistan in September, ending the freeze in bilateral matches between the two neighbours.

"Our proposal is to have a one-day match between India and Pakistan in Pakistan sometime in the third or fourth week of September, followed by a one-day match in India shortly thereafter," India's cricket chief, Jagmohan Dalmaiya, said in a letter to federal sports minister Vikram Verma.

The Indian government, which banned bilateral matches with Pakistan in 2000 because of tensions over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, had said last week that cricket ties would not be resumed.

Windies rewrite history

Cricket

REUTERS/INTERNET, St. John's

Record-breaking West Indies made the highest-ever fourth innings winning total to beat Australia by three wickets in the fourth and final Test yesterday and avoid an unprecedented home whitewash.

West Indies, set 418 to win and 3-0 down in the series, reached the historic target with an unbeaten eighth-wicket partnership of 46 from lower order batsmen Omari Banks and Vasbert Drakes.

Drakes sent the Recreation Ground into delirium when he cut a four down to backward point off costly leg-spinner Stuart MacGill for the winning runs.

Banks, who finished unbeaten on 47 in only his second Test, showed maturity beyond his 20 years, as he and Drakes overcame the early loss of Shivnarine Chanderpaul to knock off the 46 runs required for victory.

The triumph surpassed the previous record - India's 406 for four to beat West Indies in Port-of-Spain in 1976 - and handed captain Brian Lara his first success in his second stint as captain.

West Indies resumed the final day on 371 for six, needing 47 to win.

Cricinfo adds, after a fractious and utterly compelling final session on Monday, the atmosphere in the Recreation Ground was unrecognisable on the final morning. If the teams had been able to reach a conclusion on Day Four, West Indies would surely have won at a canter, but with a chastened and reinvigorated Brett Lee and Jason Gillespie charging in with a newish ball, there were no foregone conclusions on offer.

All of the Caribbean feared the worst when Chanderpaul, whose stunning strokeplay had put the Aussies to flight, lasted just one more Lee delivery. Coming round the wicket, Lee straightened one on off stump, and Chanderpaul nibbled a catch through to Adam Gilchrist. He was gone for a magnificent 104, but like Sarwan before him, he appeared to have left the job uncompleted.

There are worse men to have coming in at No. 9 than Drakes, however. He and Banks drew the sting of Australia's assault with a calmness that was in stark contrast to the chewed fingernails in the stands and dressing-rooms. Drakes was greeted by a ferocious

bouncer from Lee, then miscued an attempted hook off Gillespie into no-man's land behind the

wicket, but in the eighth over of the day he flicked Lee for a much-needed boundary, and West Indies

were up and running.

In the same over, Banks opened his account for the day, before finally connecting with one of his flowing cover drives, to beat a floundering Andy Bichel to the rope. With 27 still needed for victory, Steve Waugh recalled MacGill, who had been subjected to a drubbing on Monday evening. Immediately Banks flashed MacGill through the grasping hands of Matthew Hayden in the gully, and Justin Langer was unable to prevent another boundary.

Then MacGill lobbed one into the slot, and Drakes hooped it mightily over cow-corner for six, it was a decisive moment. In one blow, the crowd emerged from behind their metaphorical sofas, as the total passed 400 and the target ducked below 20 runs. Gillespie though wasn't finished, and nearly decapitated Drakes with another perfectly directed bouncer, but Drakes responded with a fortuitous inside-edge to the fine-leg boundary.

The teams took drinks with 11 runs still required, but when umpire Shepherd turned down MacGill's stone-dead lbw appeal against Drakes, Australia's last chance had gone. Banks slapped at a MacGill full-toss and edged down to fine-leg for four, and it was left to Drakes to seal the win, with a spanking cut through point. West Indies had achieved the impossible.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the fourth and final Test between the West Indies and Australia at the Recreation Ground on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 240 (J Langer 42, S Waugh 41, M Love 36; J Lawson 7-78)

WEST INDIES: First innings 240 (B Lara 68, D Smith 37; A Bichel 3-53, B Lee 3-71)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 417 (M Hayden 177, J Langer 111, S Waugh 45 not out; M Dillon 4-112)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 371-6)

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Gayle c Waugh b Lee | 19 |
| Smith c Gilchrist b Gillespie | 23 |
| Ganglbw b McGrath | 8 |
| Lara b MacGill | 60 |
| Sarwan c and b Lee | 105 |
| Chanderpaul c Gilchrist b Lee | 104 |
| Jacobs c Gilchrist b Lee | 0 |
| Banks not out | 47 |
| Drakes not out | 27 |

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PHOTO: INTERNET

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Shivnarine Chanderpaul of the West Indies celebrates after reaching three figures on the fourth day of the fourth and final Test against Australia at the Antigua Recreation Ground in St. John's on May 12.

TEN HIGHEST CHASES TO WIN

| 418-7 (set 418) | West Indies v Australia | Antigua | 2002/03 |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------|
| 406-4 (set 403) | India v West Indies | Port of Spain | 1975/76 |
| 404-3 (set 404) | Australia v England | Leeds | 1948 |
| 369-6 (set 369) | Australia v Pakistan | Hobart | 1999/00 |
| 362-7 (set 359) | Australia v West Indies | Georgetown | 1977/78 |
| 348-5 (set 345) | West Indies v New Zealand | Auckland | 1968/69 |
| 344-1 (set 342) | West Indies v England | Lord's | 1964 |
| 342-8 (set 339) | Australia v India | Perth | 1977/78 |
| 340-5 (set 335) | South Africa v Australia | Durban | 2001/02 |
| 336-5 (set 336) | Australia v South Africa | Durban | 1949/50 |

Lawson action questioned

Cricket

AFP, St. John's

Highly-rated West Indies paceman Jermaine Lawson has been reported to the sport's governing body the International Cricket Council (ICC) over his bowling action that was announced on Monday.

The 21-year-old was reported by match umpires David Shepherd and Srinivas Venkatraghavan after reviewing footage of his action taken on the first day of the fourth Test with Australia in Antigua where he rattled through the Aussie batting order taking 7-78.

ICC Match Referee, Mike Procter has since informed both the ICC and the player's team management of the decision, as per the ICC regulations governing the reporting process.

Lawson will not be suspended immediately but instead placed on stage one which entails him to work alongside specialist advisors

to be appointed by his home Board and a human movement specialist from an ICC specialist panel to review his bowling action during a six-week period.

However should after that



JERMAINE LAWSON

period he is reported again he goes on to stage two of the procedure which can lead to a ban of up

to a year or until the ICC's Bowling Review Group (BRG) is satisfied he has corrected his action.

Procter said Shepherd and Venkatraghavan reported Lawson after watching videotapes on Sunday, noting 12 deliveries which they believed required further analysis.

"Both umpires asked me to get some review footage on Lawson's bowling from the first innings - his spells before and the last spell in the Australian innings," Procter said on Monday.

"After reviewing the footage yesterday, the umpires have now reported the bowler to the ICC via myself.

"This issue now comes under the ICC's regulations dealing with this issue and during the next six weeks Lawson and the West Indian Cricket Board will have the opportunity to work on any areas of concern.

"Lawson will be able to continue playing during this six-week period."

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ICC dev manager due tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

International Cricket Council (ICC) global development manager Andrew Eade will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a three-day visit.

Eade is scheduled to discuss ways to increase the ICC's assistance towards the Bangladesh Cricket Board's development programme.

"We are hopeful of getting assurance of substantial assistance from the ICC during his visit," said BCB advisor and cricket committee chairman Mahbulul Anam yesterday.

Nat'l youth hockey

BSS, Dhaka

Sylhet blanked Jhenidah 5-0 in the National Youth Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

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Three cheers for BKSP

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) completed a hat-trick of titles in the Standard Chartered Bank 21st National School Cricket Championship when they outplayed Kalindi High School by 87 runs in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

On the second day of the two-day match, Kalindi, chasing a BKSP total of 215 in 80 overs, were bundled out for 128 in 60.4 overs.

BKSP's left-arm paceman Sirajuddinulla, who scored 34 on Monday batting at number nine, was the wrecker-in-chief taking three wickets for 26 runs. He was later adjudged man-of-the-final.

Opening bowler Suhrawardy and spinner Tariqul took two

wickets each.

For Kalindi, one-down Asif top-scored with 47 while opener Rahmat made 28.

With yesterday's win, BKSP became the second team to win three consecutive championships in the national school cricket after Willes Little Flower who won in 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 seasons.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman later gave away prizes as the chief guest while new Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore was present on the occasion as special guest.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BKSP: 215 for 9 in 80 overs (Ruhul 59, Sirajuddinulla 34, Tariqul 28, Simon 26, Rahmat 3-26)

KALINDI HIGH SCHOOL: 128 all out in 60.4 overs (Asif 47, Rahmat 28, Sirajuddinulla 3-26, Tariqul 2-10, Suhrawardy 2-21)

Result: BKSP won by 87 runs.



PHOTO: STAR

Captain and coach of the BKSP team receive the trophy from State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman after the final of the Standard Chartered 21st National Cricket Championship yesterday. Dav Whatmore was the special guest.

Now comes Lankan win

Cricket

AFP, Dambulla

Romesh Kaluwitharana capitalised on his bowlers' efforts with a vital 48 on a difficult pitch to lead Sri Lanka to a five-wicket win over New Zealand in a triangular series match here Tuesday.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan (3-16) and fast bowler Prabhath Nissanka (2-11) helped Sri Lanka restrict New Zealand to 139 in a match reduced to 46-overs-a-side due to morning showers.

Kaluwitharana then ensured that his bowlers' splendid work did not go to waste as he smashed four boundaries to help his team win with 14 balls to spare on a seamer-friendly track.

He put on 68 for the opening wicket with Sanath Jayasuriya (33) to put his team on course for victory.

Pakistan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka each have so far posted one

win in two matches.

New Zealand fought back remarkably and made Sri Lanka struggle for runs in the closing overs as seamer Jacob Oram posed the main threat with a three-wicket burst. But his effort came too late to save his team.

Sri Lanka slipped from 116-2 to 120-5, but Tillakaratne Dilshan eased the pressure with four successive fours off fast bowler Daryl Tuffey.

Chaminda Vaas finished the match in fading light with the winning four off Scott Styris.

Sri Lankan skipper Marvan Atapattu won an important toss in overcast conditions and had no hesitation in putting the opposition in to bat.

His decision produced instant results as Nissanka exploited early dampness on the track to rock the New Zealand top order with two wickets.

"I think the toss was the turning point of the match. He won an important toss," said New Zealand

captain Stephen Fleming.

Muralitharan then saw to it that New Zealand did not recover from early setbacks as he kept the batsmen silent during his tight 8.1 overs.

Atapattu then promoted middle-order batsman Kaluwitharana to open the innings and his move again clicked as the opener emerged the top-scorer of the match.

"He (Kaluwitharana) played really well as batting was difficult on this pitch. We needed victory in this match," said Atapattu.

New Zealand were in a wicket-taking situation after having made a modest total but failed to get early breakthroughs in the absence of fast bowler Shane Bond, ruled out of the game because of a back strain.

Lou Vincent top-scored with 32 in a dismal New Zealand batting performance. Chris Harris and Oram each contributed 20, but their efforts failed to put their team in a strong position.

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