

BKSP unbeaten champions

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP deservedly clinched the Western Union National Youth (U-18) Football Championship title when they brushed aside Tangail 4-0 in the final yesterday.

The Savar sport institute, unbeaten champions, led the first half 2-0 at the Sathkira Stadium.

Sabbir Mahmud, who scored a hattrick, opened the account on the half hour and doubled the lead one minute before the breather. Man-of-the-match Sabbir completed his treble in the 70th minute while Towhidul Islam sealed the victory a minute later.

BKSP, who dominated the whole show, also bagged two more individual awards with Alamgir Kabir Rana being adjudged the player of the tournament and Sabbir finishing the top scorer with 13 goals.

Akram rules out permanent Pak coaching role

PTI, Karachi

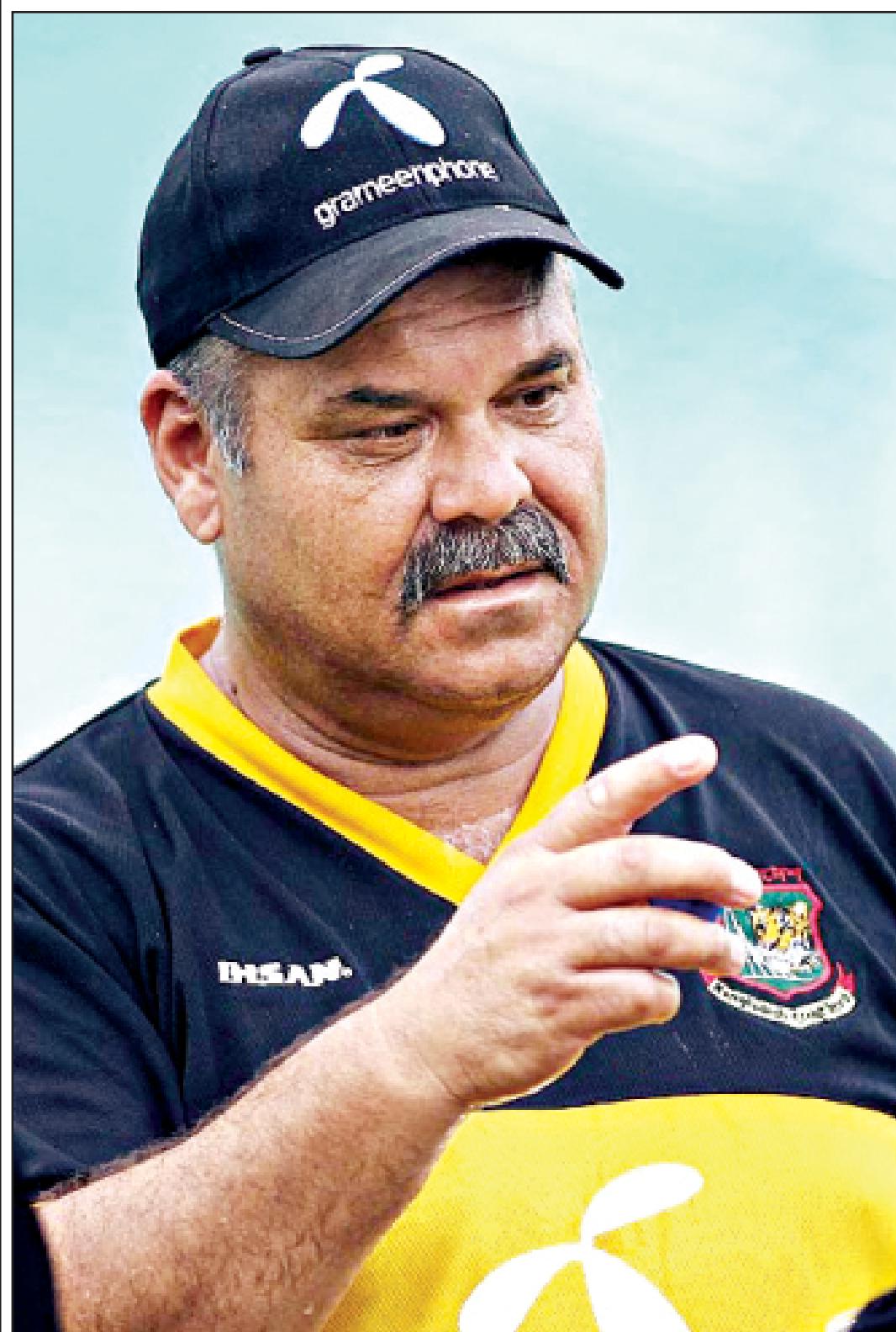
Pakistan's former captain and bowling great Wasim Akram has ruled out a permanent coaching role with the national team, saying his other international commitments did not allow him the luxury of a long-term job.

Akram, who is in Lahore these days conducting a specialised coaching camp for fast bowlers said he does not have the stamina to sustain interest for the role of a bowling coach with the Pakistan team.

"I think I am better off doing stints like I am doing now. I would like to pass on my experience to the younger bowlers and they are plenty of good prospects in this camp as well," he said.

Speculations have been rife that the Pakistan Cricket Board might offer Akram a permanent coaching position with the national team ever since he conducted the three weeks camp on the invitation of the board.

Akram has stayed away from getting directly involved in Pakistan cricket since retiring in



DAV WHATMORE

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Leaving on a high

When Dav Whatmore leaves Dhaka on Friday it will mark the end of his almost four-year assignment as Bangladesh coach. The peaceful departure of the Sri Lankan-born Australian is unique in many ways. He is not only leaving with an enviable tag as the 'most successful coach' of a team whose very existence at the top level was in serious question when he took over in June 2003, he is also the first among the six foreign coaches who parts with dignity and pride after the sorry and painful departures of Indian Mohinder Amarnath, West Indies great Gordon Greenidge, South African Eddie Barlow, Australian Trevor Chappell and Pakistani Mohsin Kamal. The favourite phrase of the 53-year-old along the troubled and long journey was 'improvement of performance graph'. And true to his words, he is leaving Bangladesh on strong footing from where they can only go up. The biggest strength of a man with a conspicuous moustache was his ability to protect his boys when the chips were really down. He is perhaps the only coach of international repute who never raised his finger against a particular player publicly for his failure. Not quite animated when it comes to encountering the press, Dav was chirpy enough to give *The Daily Star Sport's* Bishwajit Roy a full-length interview at his Gulshan residence Tuesday afternoon. Following are the parting shots of a man who is leaving behind a high standard for his successors to follow:

Daily Star Sport (DSS): When you took over the mantle of coaching in Bangladesh, you must have outlined a number of goals for yourself. How much of those goals do you think you have achieved?

Dav Whatmore: There are macro and micro goals. Essentially it all boils down to the team winning. I was employed in 2003 to get this team firing up. I guess the main goal was winning. If you quantify the wins before I came and when I am leaving, it looks in my favour. The team is in better shape than in 2003.

DSS: When you came here you said that you are looking forward to improvement by terms of winning. It has happened in ODIs but not in Tests. How do you see that?

DW: I am not sure if I had said that it's measured in terms of wins or losses. I think it is pretty unfair to measure success in terms of wins and losses in the case of the Bangladesh team. As I have said, the one-day game has gone on to a pretty good state of affairs. There have been some encouraging performances in the longer version from time to time. We have once, went close against good sides but that's not enough.

DSS: When you started we saw a lot of enthusiasm in you but many think you gradually started just to go with the motion, especially in the middle of your tenure. Why was that?

DW: It's a matter of opinion (laughs). We don't have to agree

with your opinion. I haven't lost any drive in my four years. I have always looked forward to competition. The team have had fluctuations at times when they were not performing. To say that I have slackened off would be incorrect.

DSS: Were you frustrated when you lost game after game?

DW: There are plenty of games we lost. If I wasn't frustrated or angry, then I wouldn't be doing my job.

DSS: Your concentration level looked distracted ever since you have been connected with the India job. Do you agree?

DW: No, that's absolute rubbish.

DSS: What in your opinion is the biggest factor hampering the development of Bangladesh cricket?

DW: The question should be that what could be done to progress cricket in Bangladesh. That's the

way I would prefer to look at it, as I would like to look in a positive mode than anything else. Quicker, we can make the domestic cricket, with that I mean four-day cricket, more lucrative and stronger.

DSS: You have worked with two generations of players -- Mahmuds, Rafiques and Bashars -- and then moved on to the young brigade of Ashraful, Aftab, (Shahriar) Nafees, Shakib,

there just to bat and not get out. They see a ball and they hit it. The younger guys are out there to get runs.

DSS: You have worked under Sri Lankan and Bangladesh boards. How different are they in handling a coach or other things?

DW: Cricket boards are there to administer the game. They are both employers and they go on well with foreign coaches. I have no complaints. They are quite similar. They do their best to administer the game in the domestic scene and they give us support.

DSS: You also worked as a selector during your time here. How much opinion did you have in picking a side that suited you?

DW: Oh I'm asking how many wins did I have (in the selection)? (laughs). I am part of a group of people who have a big responsibility to pick squads and teams for Bangladesh cricket. There's an opportunity to voice your opinion, sometimes very strongly and be heard. It is difficult to make specific comments other than to say that we have had the same selection committee for four years. It's good to have some continuity in that regard. But along the way I have had some losses. But whatever it is, it was a committee decision.

DSS: You are no longer associated with the Tigers. What would your

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Minnows come alive



SPORTS REPORTER

Francoise Masson won the first French Open women's title in 1897.



Peter Moores

(England cricket coach)
"I know Allan pretty well, he's been known as a guy who worked very hard at his game. He's got fantastic experience both in one-day international and Test. So for us to have a look at him, and him to have a look at us, and see if it fits, makes sense."

After former South Africa fast bowler Allan Donald was contracted to assist England's fast bowlers on a short-term consultancy basis.



a national under-23 booter -- and Nigerian midfielder Francis, who appeared in a few matches for the black and whites.

Farashganj also signed two Africa-based footballers while Arambagh went for two local boys.

However, title contenders Abahani and Mukti Joddha were still in dilemma over fresh signings.

Third-placed Abahani released Mariano Sanchez and Hernan Parodi on conclusion of the first leg while their fellow Argentine Mariano Caporale also left home to sort out family affairs.

The central defender, arguably the best import in domestic football in a decade, has yet to confirm his return to Dhaka.

The sky-blues were sweating over his availability while their former players, Cameroonian Ndeme and Marshall, have not confirmed their arrivals despite completing all necessary works including getting visas.

The strongest team on paper, Abahani struggled throughout the season in lack of a quality striker and the club management believes

that another Cameroonian, Soleiman Nchohaut, would solve the problem.

The striker, who plays in Tunisia, has joined training and the officials were happy to see his skill and condition.

"It's difficult to say anything after today's practice but he (Soleiman) is tall and has good headwork apart from the ability to rush. But finishing is the most important thing. We have to wait to see how he performs in a match," told Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu yesterday.

"Ndeme and Marshall have been in constant touch but we have failed to contact them for the last 24 hours. If they are not available, we have another player in the pipeline, an African who plays in India. We are also expecting the confirmation from Caporale before tomorrow's deadline," the ex-national midfielader added.

Meanwhile, fourth-placed Mukti Joddha, who have only two foreigners, confirmed roping in midfielader Jony from Chittagong Abahani on loan.

Stephan Harmison wrapped up the innings when he bowled Jerome Taylor for nought after Dwayne Bravo, who top-scored with 52, had holed out against left-arm spinner Monty Panesar.

West Indies captain Ramaresh Sarwan was still unable to bat after sustaining a shoulder injury fielding on Friday and that meant the match was over with the tourists' nine wickets down.

England were held up by a sixth-wicket stand of 63 between Runako Morton (25) and Bravo.

But that ended shortly before tea when Morton top-edged a hook off a short, straight ball from Harmison and was caught by wicket-keeper Matthew Prior.

Bravo, undaunted, hooked England's quickest bowler for four

overs.

Bravo followed that up with a six over long-off.

West Indies, 31 for three at lunch, declined to 47 for four when Sidebottom, 29, who began his career at Headingly with Yorkshire before moving to Nottinghamshire three years ago, had Sylvester Hodge for one.

Sidebottom, only playing because Matthew Hoggard was injured, saw Devon Smith become

the first ball to be taken by a stump.

Lone warm-up for India in Australia

AFP, Mumbai

India will have to make do with just one warm-up match on their gruelling year-end tour of Australia after the cricket board Tuesday ruled out any extra games.

And they will have to do that after only one warm-up game against state side Victoria before the first Test at Melbourne from December 26.

Skipper Rahul Dravid had urged the board to look into the possibility of having more than one practice match to help the team acclimate.

"There's no chance of adding any extra games. The players may want more but where is the time?" Board of Control for Cricket in India secretary Niranjan Shah told

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PHOTO: AFP
England pacer Ryan Sidebottom (R) celebrates with a stump after taking eight wickets against West Indies to give his team an innings victory in the second Test at Headingley on Monday.

Eng inflict WI record defeat



APP, Leeds

England inflicted West Indies' worst Test defeat of all time, breaking a 50-year-old record, as they won the second Test by an innings and 283 runs to go 1-0 up in the four-match series with more than a day to spare at Headingley here Monday.

West Indies, 137 for six at tea on the fourth day, lasted just 25 balls after the resumption, losing their last three wickets on 141 after being made to follow-on.

This loss surpassed their innnings and 237-run reverse against England at The Oval in 1957.

Left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom, in his first Test since making his debut six years ago, was the star of England's attack with match figures of eight for 86 from 27 overs.

England's victory had been set up by man-of-the-match Kevin

a hamstring injury and, most recently a broken finger, insisted he felt all right before paying tribute to Sidebottom.

"He bowled beautifully, swinging the ball and bowling at a fair pace," Vaughan also told Sky Sports.

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