

Donald Tigers' new pace bowling coach

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have taken onboard former South African paceman Allan Donald as the new pace bowling coach.

Cricket Operations chairman Jalal Yunus confirmed the news to The Daily Star on Friday evening.

Donald has been contracted till the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia.

"He has been contracted till the T20I World Cup in Australia," Jalal informed reporters.

Later the South African expressed his elation at being appointed as Bangladesh's pace bowling



coach, through a video message, posted by BCB.

"A very special day for me just to announce that I'll be joining the Bangladesh cricket team right from the start of the South Africa series, leading up to the T20 World Cup that will take place in Australia. I'm looking forward to working with the young and talented bunch of Bangladesh fast bowlers. I'm really looking forward to joining them before the first ODI against the Proteas," Donald said.

Bangladesh have been without a pace bowling coach since the New Zealand series after Ottis Gibson did not renew his contract with BCB.

Donald, who took 330 Test wickets during a career that spanned from 1992 to 2002, was nicknamed the 'White Lightning' during his playing days for his fierce pace and aggressive bowling.

His last coaching stint was for ITEC Knights, a first division domestic team in South Africa.

Bangladesh are scheduled to tour South Africa for three ODIs and two Tests with the opening fixture scheduled for March 18. It was learnt that Donald will begin his tenure with the Tigers from South Africa.



Goodbye, LEGEND

Will miss you Warnie. There was never a dull moment with you around, on or off the field.... Gone too young!

India great Sachin Tendulkar

I literally don't know how to sum up this situation. My friend is gone!! We have lost one of the Greatest Sportsmen of all time!

West Indies legend Brian Lara

I'm shocked and shattered. Simply can't believe I'm hearing this. Very very sad day for our cricket community. The biggest superstar of my generation gone.

Former Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis

I cannot process the passing of this great of our sport and also a person I got to know off the field. RIP #goat (greatest of all time). Greatest to turn the cricket ball.

India batsman Virat Kohli

Australian Legend. @ rajasthan-royals Legend. Was an honour to know you and work with you. This man is a LEGEND.

England all rounder Ben Stokes

A legend departs. Shane Warne, one of the greatest bowlers to have played the game.

Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim Iqbal

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

IN TESTS

Matches **145**

Wickets **708**

BBM **12/128**

5W **37**

10W **10**

Runs scored **3154**

HS **99**

IN ODIS

Matches **194**

Wickets **293**

BBM **5/33**

5W **01**

10W **00**

Runs scored **1018**

HS **55**

was enormous.

The bowler became as well known for a colourful life away from cricket as he was for his exploits on the field.

Both he and Australia team-mate Mark Waugh were lined for accepting money from a bookmaker and Warne was suspended for 12 months after failing a drugs test on the eve of the 2003 World Cup in South Africa, having taken a diuretic.

The first bowler to take 700 Test wickets with an assortment of leg-breaks, googlies, flippers and his own "zooters", Warne retired from Australia duty following a 5-0 series win at home to arch-rivals England during the 2006/07 Ashes.

In addition to his international exploits, Warne also enjoyed a successful career with his Australian state side Victoria.

And while his private life effectively ruled him out of captaining Australia, for all his acknowledged tactical acumen, Warne did skipper English county Hampshire, where he helped nurture gifted England batsman Kevin Pietersen.

Warne continued to star on the Twenty20 franchise circuit, starring for Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League and his home town Melbourne Stars in Australia's Big Bash League before retiring from playing altogether.

He subsequently became a highly regarded television commentator and pundit, renowned for his forthright opinions, who also did some team coaching and worked individually with current-day leg-spinners.

Warne was divorced from wife Simone, with whom he had three children. He also had high-profile relationship with British actress Liz Hurley.

A great shot at welding motto

SPORTS REPORTER

A T20I series win beckons for Bangladesh as they face Afghanistan today in the second and final T20I in Mirpur, after winning the first match on Thursday. Bangladesh have never managed the feat against Afghanistan.

In 2018, they lost the T20I series at Dehradun 3-0 as the Tigers lagged behind in terms of finding winning mentality in tight situations in the format. They fared much better at home during a 2019 tri-nation series involving Zimbabwe, winning one and losing one against Afghanistan on their way to the final before sharing the series after the final in Mirpur was washed out.

This series presents opportunities for the Tigers to find their motto going forward in the format. The team's balance will depend upon whether the management will go towards a new way of playing in the format and since not many T20Is are on offer ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia, the think tank will like to test the side's capabilities ahead of the mega event, scheduled for October-November this year.

One of the big issues had been the problems at the top during the Powerplay, where Bangladesh have lost wickets regularly without taking advantage of the field settings. It would be interesting to see whether both Mohammad Naim and Munim Shahriar open again. The performance and the overall approach of the batting lineup, however, disappointed in the first T20I at Mirpur. It was only Liton Das's 44-ball 60 that helped Bangladesh to a challenging total.

Liton's ability to read the Afghan spinners out of the hand allowed him to score runs freely but the rest of the batters' roles were mired in confusion. The lower-middle order came into bat at a time when no one was set at the crease and there were too few deliveries to get in and accelerate.

Mushfiqur Rahim is likely to feature after he was declared fit to play yesterday, having sat out the first T20I due to an injury. The news would come as a relief to the Tigers as Mushfiqur, who is set to appear in his 100th T20I, has the ability to catch the tempo in the middle-overs early.

Spin coach Rangana Herath came for a press conference following

optional practice yesterday. Asked if he was happy that the bowling side of things had more clarity, he opined that batters will find their feet with more matches under their belt.

"In regards to selection, I believe when players are given more opportunities to play, they get more confidence. In terms of bowling unit, they are getting more opportunities. If batters get the same opportunity, they will deliver their best," Herath said, but Yasir Ali, who is coming to terms with international setup and covering ground, may well have to make way for Mushfiqur in the second T20I.

"This is a two-match series. If we want to win the series, we need to win the next game. I don't think we're resting anybody and will be going with our best eleven," Herath said.



West Indies win riveting opener

AFP, MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Host nation New Zealand lost the opening match of the Women's Cricket World Cup in dramatic fashion Friday when the West Indies claimed three wickets in the final over. New Zealand finished three runs short of the West Indies' total of 259 as Hayley Matthews' 119 powered the Caribbean women to a shock victory at Mount Maunganui's Bay Oval.

Kiwi captain Sophie Devine responded with a defiant 108 but Deandra Dottin took 2-2 in the final over and helped run out rookie Fran Jonas to claim a last-gasp win. The West Indies finished with 259-9, making a blistering start of 10 runs an over before the New Zealand attack pegged them back with a steady stream of wickets.

Matthews also took 2-41 with the ball in a player-of-the-match performance. Chedean Nation chipped in with 36 runs and captain Stafanie Taylor made 30, while Tahuhu was the best of the Kiwi bowlers with three for 57.

The Daily Star (DS): What's your observation on Bangladesh team in this tour?

Stuart Law (SL): Look, they played well to win the ODI series and there is no taking away from that. The first game, you know, we didn't execute. Not taking anything away from the two youngsters Mehedi Miraz and Afif Hossain, as they both played beautifully and showed maturity beyond their years. When I was here over ten years back, you know, the quality of depth wasn't there as much but there were some quality players. But coming back in, I see a lot of professionalism here now and the way they play for each other is amazing.

DS: Obviously, you've seen the likes of Shakib, Tamim and Mushfiqur during your tenure but can you name some of the youngsters who impressed you this time around?

SL: I like Shoriful Islam, the big tall left-arm seamer. He bowls at good pace and

he swings the ball and he's got a good plan and he relentlessly bowled well at his line and length. Taskin Ahmed also, as when I saw him he was very young and he seems bigger, stronger and fitter now. Bangladesh cricket has always been reliant on left-arm spin but those two fast bowlers, six feet tall, who bowls over 140 kmph and it's great. You have the likes of Mustafizur with his tricks and I'm sure there are few others who could come in through as well. Liton Das wasn't around much when I was there and he just looks like a very easy on the eye batsman. Not only is he contributing but he is contributing consistently, which is what you ask from a player.



DS: What will be your suggestion for Bangladesh to improve in the Test and T20I format?

SL: I think the skill level is there. Probably, the only skill they need to work on is the ability to play under pressure and you only get that by playing international or competitive cricket. So, the more matches they play, they get to understand how to play that format. I remember being here, we didn't play a lot of cricket, as we played limited games throughout the year. And one thing that I wanted was to play more.

DS: Bangladesh will be playing the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year. Any suggestions for the Tigers for doing

well in Down Under? Bangladesh are still searching for those big hitters in this format.

SL: You still got to work on what you have. At the start of T20 cricket, people thought that the spinners might get smacked hard by the batters, but it's been the most effective way to control the run rates and take wickets in the Big Bash. I think there's an opportunity for Bangladesh to utilise spin and when it comes to batting, you got to post over 160 on the board consistently. To do that, it's not easy hitting the fastest bowlers over the head or through mid-wicket. I think for me, the batters need to use their brain and find ways to negotiate the extra pace and bounce on the surface.

DS: Any plans to return to Bangladesh?

SL: To be honest, it's been a pleasure working with Afghanistan in the short stint. I don't know what comes next and who knows what the future brings.