

## 'My duty to stay till the end'

At the turn of the century, Michael Bevan was rated as the best one-day batsman, a man so cool under pressure that all of Australia breathed easy even in the most difficult of situations. Now in Dhaka as the batting coach of the Chittagong Kings in the Bangladesh Premier League, Daily Star Sport's Mohammad Isam caught up with the man who thrived when the chips were down.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): Cricket fans in Bangladesh still remember your 185\* for World XI back in 2000...

Michael Bevan (MB): I remember quite a lot about that innings. It was one of the best innings of my career. We didn't arrive until the night before the game, 12 o'clock at night, and I remember I was en route to South Africa. We got to the ground next morning and we didn't really do a warm-up and before I knew it, we were chasing 320.

I came in with two wickets down in the first five overs. We needed seven an over, against some great bowlers too.

DSS: There have been other great knocks before and after that innings, for Australia. Which one is your most cherished?

MB: In the 1996 New Year's Day innings against West Indies where I scored a four off the last ball, we were six for 30. To come back from that made me feel good about the way I batted.

Two other matches stick to my mind: Against New Zealand in 2001, we needed to win that game to get into the final. I scored 101 after we slipped to 50 for six and we won that game. I had another similar situation in South Africa where we needed 290 and I got 90-odd.

Those types of innings were ones I'd remember most.

DSS: What was your motivation to stay till the end as you so often did?



*I haven't had a good chat with Tamim Iqbal ... I probably won't, it's his choice.*

MB: I am not really sure but I know that, as a person, I am quite reliable and dependable. So I felt it was my duty to be there at the end. I think the other reason was that my strategy was pretty good. I timed and paced chasing runs correctly. It gave me a chance to be there till the end.

DSS: Will it be difficult for Bangladeshi cricketers to adjust between Tests and T20s?

MB: It is changing pretty rapidly. Big Bash is very popular in Australia. BPL has just begun. There'll probably be more T20 tournaments pop-

ping up. How it is managed both by administration and players is interesting to see. I know in 5-10 years it will be different to what it is now. There's no reason why countries couldn't be good at all three.

DSS: What would be your message to Tamim Iqbal, someone who has had two good years and a bad one afterwards...

MB: Ultimately it's up to him. I have not had a good chat with Tamim. I think some players are more forthcoming than others. I probably won't, it is his choice. If he chooses to engage, I can get an idea of what he's looking to do in cricket.

DSS: Are you enjoying your stint with the Chittagong Kings so far?

MB: It has been enjoyable, challenging. See how some of the Bangladeshi players approach their game; how they practice. You get more of an idea about their situation, what it is they are trying to achieve. It has been exciting and challenging. I had reservations and concerns after speaking to some of the players as to whether the infrastructure enables the player to improve.

DSS: And what's next for Michael Bevan?

MB: I'd like to remain in coaching in some capacity. When I finished playing for Australia, I was with Tasmania as a player/coach. I played ICL and coaching in IPL. So I've had a number of years in this field, but I haven't been doing it full-time.

## RU clinch inter-uni T20 tourney

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) emerged champions of the Inter University T20 Cricket competition beating Islamic University (IU) by 54 runs in the final at the Rajshahi Central Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi put on 135 for eight in their 20 overs before skittling out the opposition for 81 runs. Himesh scored maximum 24 runs for RU while Mamun and Tanvir Ahmed of the same university got 3 wickets each in the final.

RU vice-chancellor Professor Abdus Sobhan distributed the trophy and crests among the players after the match.

The tournament started on February 7 with twelve public universities participating in the T20 format competition.

## Younis asks mates not to panic 2nd ODI today

APP, Abu Dhabi

Experienced batsman Younis Khan hopes Pakistan do not panic and try their best to bounce back against a resurgent England in the second day-night international on Wednesday.

England on Monday took the first of four one-day matches by a convincing 130-run margin after Pakistan were bowled out for just 130, with paceman Steven Finn taking a career-best 4-34.

Skipper Alastair Cook had hit his highest one-day score of 137 to guide England to a challenging 260-7, a target Younis said Pakistan should have achieved.

"I hope there is no panic," said Younis. "We should not panic because we have not batted badly in the last four five matches, so we need to try our best and put Monday's performance behind us."

Only left-armers

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tell the bowlers how to adjust properly," added Muralidaran.

He informed that his appearance in the BPL was at the request of a local organiser. "I didn't think I would play in this tournament so I didn't train much. The last time I bowled before this was on January 4 but it's good that I'm playing. I can prepare for the IPL," he said.

## Bangladesh

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of the Asian Football Federation. However, the venues of the qualifiers has not been finalised yet.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS** 1 Molecule 36 Always, in 58 Gender 20 Corned-beef 59 Deuce 37 Actress 38 Re planes 22 Milky stone 5 Part of H.R.H., sometimes 39 Cudgel 41 The yoke's on 23 She wanted to be alone 8 Taj Mahal 70 them 43 Peloponnesian War 25 Ball-bearing item 12 Building block 41 The 46-Across building 26 Raw rock 3 Shrek, e.g. 27 Chickpea 13 Hearty brew 4 Quagmire 29 Classic 14 Colorado 50 — 6 UN workers' R&B record label 15 Military post 51 Jon Arbuckle's 31 Listener 17 Killer whale 54 Ricolike cat 32 Court 18 Neighborhoods 55 Adam's 34 Intl. commerce org. 19 Chicken choices 56 Require 38 Conserve with oil 21 Urban pall 57 Laborer 40 Bad lighting? 24 Big bother 42 Sprite 43 Buy 44 Rid of rind 45 A long time 47 Antelope's playmate 48 Merriment 49 Vortex 52 Rd. 53 Reed or Asian

**Solution time:** 21 mins.

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## SL, India can't be separated

### Cricket

APP, Adelaide

India and Sri Lanka finished in a sensational tie in their tri-series one-day international at the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday.

India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni needed to hit four off the last ball by Lasith Malinga but he was denied and the Indian players scampered through for three runs to level the scores.

Both teams finished with 236 for nine from their 50 overs in a dramatic final after India needed nine runs to win off the final over.

It was the first ever tie between India and Sri Lanka in one-dayers.

Once again star India batsman Sachin Tendulkar failed to score his 100th international century and was dismissed for 15.

Earlier, Dinesh Chandimal topscored with 81 as Sri Lanka reached 236 for nine off 50 overs.

Chandimal, 22, hit six fours and a six off 91 balls before he was run out and Sri Lanka, who won the toss, set India just over 4.7 runs to win off to win.

Sri Lanka never got going on a batting pitch as they seek a victory to stay in contention for the best-of-three match finals series next month.

Dhoni, who steered India to a final-over victory against Australia at the same ground last Sunday, threatened to repeat that success but was thwarted as the Sri Lankans searched desperately for their first win of the tri-series.

The tie lifted India to the top of the tournament standings ahead of Australia, with Sri Lanka yet to win from their three games.

Dhoni finished unbeaten on 58 off 69 balls with one booming six and three fours, while opening batsman Gautam Gambhir was out in the 90s for a second consecutive innings after he was run out for 91.

India looked poised to nudge past the plucky Sri

Lankans in the final over but Ranganath Vinay Kumar was run out on the second-last ball by a direct throw at the non-striker's end.

Dhoni then faced a final ball shot for a winning boundary only for Sachithra Senanayake to cut off the ball and enable India enough time to take three and level the scores.

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Earlier Cook, whose

previous best of 119 came

against Sri Lanka at Lord's

last year, hit 14 boundaries

during a fluent 142-ball

innings and shaped well

against Pakistan's spin-

dominated attack.

**SCOREBOARD**

**SRILANKA**

Tharanga Dhanib Vinay

0

Dhoni.

## Finn finishes Pakistan

### Cricket

APP, Abu Dhabi

(five) and Asad Shafiq (nought) off successive balls in his second over.

He then had Younis Khan (15) in his fourth and Imran Farhat (ten) in his fifth to leave Pakistan tottering at 40-4.

Left-arm spinner Samit Patel then further shook Pakistan with the wickets of Misbah-ul Haq (14), Shoaib Malik (seven) and Shahid Afridi (28) to finish with 3-26. Graeme Swann, who took 2-19, had Umar Akmal (22) and Umar Gul (two).

Cook said setting a challenging total was important.

"It was really a good day for us," said the 27-year-old left-hander. "We put together a good total and then Finn and others bowled very well to make it tough for Pakistan."

Pakistan captain Misbah-ul Haq blamed poor batting.

"Batting has been a bit of concern for us. I think 261 was not a big target on this pitch and we have to show discipline in the remaining matches. Cook, I think led by example," said Misbah.

Pakistan looked all at sea

against Finn who used the

wind to move the ball.

The 22-year-old lanky paceman, who showed his frustration at being sidelined in the Tests, trapped Mohammad Hafeez

53, 6-68, 7-96, 8-109, 9-113

**Bowler** O M R W

Malinga 10 1 53 2

Kulasekara 10 0 39 1

Mathews 5 0 35 0

Perera 9 0 45 2

Herath 10 1 33 0

Senanayake 6 0 30 0

Total: (