

'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 Bangladesh 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.

Gayle blitz

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sixes exploded off his blade. The charge, however was over when Gayle was bowled by Azhar Mahmood when he attempted one slog too many, leaving Barisal an improbable 46 to win off the last fifteen deliveries.

Earlier, a whirlwind, unbeaten 47-ball 77 from Mahmood carried Dhaka Gladiators to the mammoth total of 208 for five. The innings was given early impetus by Imran Nazir who hit three fours and five sixes in his 35-ball 58. Then it was Mahmood, who hit eight boundaries and three sixes, and Kieron Pollard with a 15-ball 36 with five sixes who took the game away from Barisal. Mashrafe was the pick of the Dhaka bowlers with 20 for 2 from his quota.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Dhaka Gladiators: 208 for 5 (Nazir 58, Mahmood 77 not out, Pollard 36; Arafat 2-30, Kabir 2-31)

Barisal Burners: 187 for 5 (Gayle 116, Mithun 38 not out; Mashrafe 2-20, Mahmood 2-42)

Result: Dhaka Gladiators win by 21 runs

Man-of-the-match: Azhar Mahmood

Fawad blinder

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his 48-ball 72 while Pakistan all-rounder Abdul Razzaq was the other notable scorer with a 21-ball 30 that saw two sixes and a boundary.

Kapali claimed three wickets but he was most expensive giving away 27 runs in two overs.

In reply, Kamran Akmal (56 off 41 balls) and Imrul Kayes (22 off 13 balls) made a confident start but the innings lacked fire in the middle as skipper Peter Trego played 34 balls to make 37 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI: 171-8 in 20 overs (Samuels 72, Mushfiqur 33, Razzaq 30; Tanvir 2-31, Trego 2-33, Kapali 3-27)

SYLHET: 155-4 in 20 overs (Akmal 56, Kayes 22, Trego 37, Kapali 14, Tanvir 12 not out)

RESULT: Duronto Rajshahi won by 16 runs.

Local Snippets

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Salaudin Rubel and Humain Kabir getting on the scoresheet.

In the second match, Bangladesh Police thrashed Prantic KC 3-0. Kabirul Islam, Kamrul Hasan scored one goal each while third one was an own goal.

Waugh doesn't like choosing Ponting

Cricket

CRICINFO, Sydney

Steve Waugh, the former Australia captain and a member of the Argus review panel, has questioned the selection circumstances around Ricky Ponting's appointment as stand-in for Michael Clarke in Friday's triangular series ODI at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Pointing to David Warner's place as the ODI vice-captain, Waugh wondered why the opening batsman had not been elevated to captaincy for the match, while Clarke recovers from a hamstring strain.

"Ricky will do it blindfolded, but the future is probably Dave Warner so I'm surprised they didn't go to Warner and go to the future," Waugh said in Sydney on Tuesday. "It's only a temporary thing, you put Dave Warner in there as vice-captain ... I assume they think he is leadership material. If he's vice-captain why can't the captain the side as well? Maybe they think Dave's not quite ready but why is he vice-captain? It doesn't make sense to me."

Waugh also queried the status of Brad Haddin, who was ostensibly rested for the start of the series but remains out of the side while Matthew Wade gets comfortable as the team's limited-overs gloveman. Part of the Argus review's directives were to enhance communication and clarity between the selectors and the players, and Waugh appeared doubtful if that could currently be the case.

"I was surprised when they said [Haddin] was rested. He basically said he was dropped," Waugh said. "There's mixed messages there. If he's rested, why doesn't he come back in and be the captain? He's the vice-captain of the Test side, so there was the opportunity for maybe Brad to captain the one-day team. But obviously, he's having an enforced rest. I'm not sure what it is but it's a bit confusing and it would be good for someone to clear it up."

For his part, Haddin seems resigned to the fact that he is now the first-choice wicketkeeper for Test matches only, and has geared his training patterns to playing out the Sheffield Shield season for New South Wales before heading to the Caribbean as the gloveman for three Tests.

"I'm still out of the one-day team and I can see no reason for that to change," Haddin told Sky Sports Radio. "I'm pretty comfortable where it's at, all my training over the last week or so has been to make sure I'm ready for the four-day cricket and the Test matches in the West Indies. I can't be sitting around waiting for my phone to ring to play one-day cricket again, my job now is to make sure I'm up and running and where I need to be for the Test series."

Haddin was also supportive of Wade's continued retention as the ODI 'keeper, a position the Victorian has filled with some aplomb, particularly with his punchy batting at the top of the order.

"The bits I've seen he's made a pretty good transition into the one-day team, he's playing with a bit of energy and from what I've seen, I see no reason why you should move him," Haddin said, before reiterating his confidence that he remained the Test wicketkeeper of choice. "I can see no reason why that [staying Test 'keeper] should change. We had a successful Test summer, apart from our little hiccup against New Zealand in Hobart, so I can see no reason why that should change."

SQUAD

Michael Clarke (captain), Ricky Ponting (captain for Friday's ODI), David Warner (vice-captain), Dan Christian, Xavier Doherty, Peter Forrest, Ben Hilfenhaus, David Hussey, Michael Hussey, Brett Lee, Mitchell Marsh, Clint McKay, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade.

Zim end empty-handed

Cricket

AFP, Hamilton

New Zealand secured a dramatic five-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the final Twenty20 international Tuesday to condemn the visitors to a winless tour.

Kane Williamson (20) scored 14 runs in the final over to seal the win with just two balls to spare after half centuries from openers James Franklin (60) and Rob Nicol (56).

The result capped a dismal tour for Zimbabwe, who proved competitive in two T20 matches but were outclassed by New Zealand in a one-off Test and three one-day internationals.

The tourists saved their best performance for the final match, choosing to bat after winning the toss and scoring 200 for two,

their best ever T20 score, at Hamilton's Seddon Park.

Determined to finally break the shackles, opener Hamilton Masakadza (62) and captain Brendan Taylor (75) anchored the innings but fell just short after Williamson, in only his third T20 international, steered the Black Caps home.

"Obviously it's bitterly disappointing but I think our boys can hold our heads high," Taylor said.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE: 200 for 2 (Masakadza 62, Matsikenyeri 32, Taylor 75 not out, Chigumbura 29 not out)

NEW ZEALAND: 202 for 5 (Nicol 56, Franklin 60, B McCullum 38, Williamson 20 not out; Jarvis 2-35)

Result: New Zealand won by 5 wickets and clinched the 2-match series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: James Franklin.

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. Himel 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

AFP, 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

FROM PAGE 16
of the Asian Football Federation. However, the venues of the qualifiers has not been finalised yet.

SL, India can't be separated

Cricket

AFP, 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 finale after India needed nine runs to win off the final over.

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.

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 top scored 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 an over 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.

Kumar Sangakkara scored just 31 off 56 balls with two fours before he was caught off a leading edge at mid-on from spinner Ravi Ashwin in the 20th over.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Dhoni b Vinay

0

Dilshan c Dhoni b Pathan

Sangakkara c Gambhir b Ashwin

31

Chandimal run out (Sharma)

81

Jayawardene lbw b Vinay

43

Mathews run out (Dhoni)

17

Perera c Kohli b Ashwin

5

Kulasekara c Gambhir b Vinay

12

Senanayake not out

22

Malinga run out (Raina)

0

Herath not out

1

Extras: (lb-3, w-5)

8

Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)

236

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-28, 3-79, 4-173, 5-

178, 6-184, 7-210, 8-232, 9-235

Bowler

O

M

R

W

Vinay

10

1

46

3

Pathan

9

0

38

1

Yadav

9

0

51

0

Ashwin

10

1

30

2

Jadeja

10

0

58

0

Sharma

2

0

10

0

INDIA

Gambhir run out (Kulasekara)

91

Tendulkar c Sangakkara b Kulasekara

15

Pathan

15

Kohli lbw b Perera

15

Sharma run out (Jayawardene)

15

Raina c Sangakkara b Malinga

8

Dhoni not out

58

Jadeja c Jayawardene b Perera

3

Ashwin c Senanayake b Malinga

14

Pathan run out (Mathews)

8

Vinay run out (Mathews)

1

Yadav not out

0

Extras: (lb-1, w-6, nb-1)

8

Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)

236

Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-61, 3-94, 4-118, 5-

178, 6-184, 7-212, 8-223, 9-233

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

Result: Match tied.

Man-of-the-match: Mahendra Singh

Dhoni.

Finn finishes Pakistan

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Paceman Steven Finn took a career-best 4-34 and Alastair Cook hit his highest score to help England beat Pakistan in a 130-run win in the first day-night international here on Monday.

Finn, reduced to serving the drinks during England's 3-0 defeat in the preceding Test series, destroyed Pakistan's batting with four early wickets off 29 balls to dismiss them for 130 in 35 overs after Cook's 137 helped his team to 260-7.

The win gives England a 1-0 win