

Indo-Kiwi tie washed out

AFP, Madras
The limited-overs TVS Cup tri-series in India began on a wet note Thursday when heavy rain forced the opening match between New Zealand and the hosts to be abandoned.

Aussies are underdogs



AFP, New Delhi

Australia's one-day captain Ricky Ponting said Thursday his injury-hit side will start the tri-series against New Zealand and hosts India as underdogs, but warned against being taken lightly.

us, we know what it takes to win here and we're looking forward to our first game."

Australia may have lost all its key bowlers, but the batting remains formidable in the form of the record-breaking Matthew Hayden, Ponting, Adam Gilchrist, Damien Martyn and Andrew Symonds.

1-day soccer tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier Division champions Mohammedan Sporting Club take on arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in the first semifinal of the Clinic Plus Challenge Cup one-day football tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium tomorrow.

No rumours, all true



CRICINFO, Dhaka

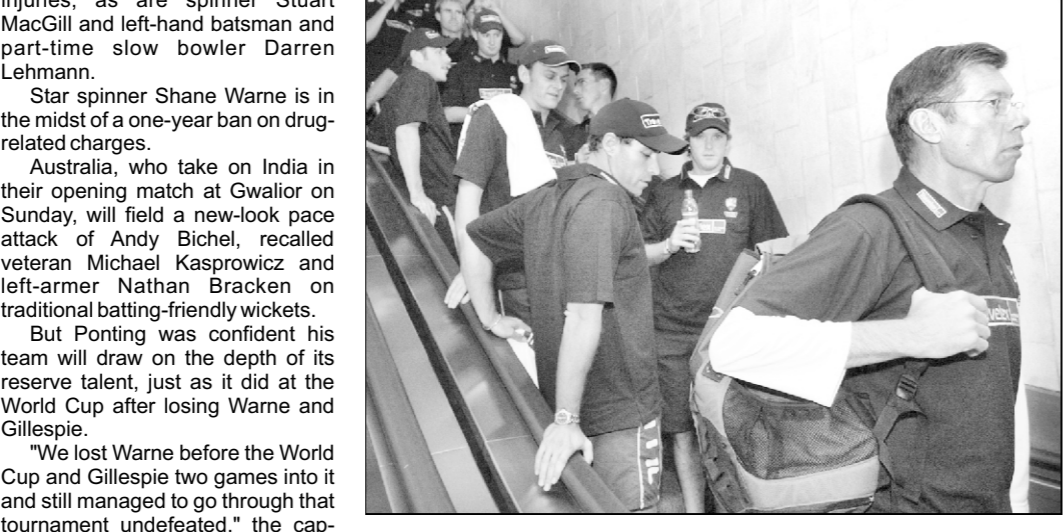
statistically staggering, but three wickets for three runs in three overs is impressive by anyone's standards.

The real contest, however, took place in the afternoon session. To watch Mohammad Rafique, 34, and Enamul Haque junior, 16 by some accounts, twirling away in unison, was to be reminded just how sparse the English spin-bowling cupboard has become.

Delta Life h'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Siddeshwari Women's College and Kuwait Moitri Hall of Dhaka University moved into the final of the 9th Delta Life Handball Championship beating their respective rivals in the semifinals at Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.



Star spinner Shane Warne is in the midst of a one-year ban on drug-related charges.

Australia, who take on India in their opening match at Gwalior on Sunday, will field a new-look pace attack of Andy Bichel, recalled veteran Michael Kasprovicz and left-armed Nathan Bracken on traditional batting-friendly wickets.

AB Bank TT

UNB, Dhaka

Abahani Krira Chakra, Biman (Red), Dhaka TT Club and Swamibagh Girls won their respective matches in the AB Bank Metropolitan Women's Table Tennis League at the NSC Wooden-floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Second Test starts today



AFP, Faisalabad

eight wicket victory in the first Test at Lahore.

"I think in many ways the defeat in Lahore, though disappointing, has given us a goal of fight back," said Smith, whose side faces a Pakistan side that will be missing Shoaib Akhtar.

Captain content

FROM PAGE 13

that are causing lot of trouble for the batsmen. So, we have to keep fighting tomorrow," said the Bangladesh captain.

PCB welcomes the move



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's cricket board welcomed an Indian government decision Wednesday to restore cricketing ties between the rival South Asian neighbours which have been broken since 1999.

ICC also praises India's initiative

The Indian government banned bilateral cricket matches with Pakistan after the 2000 Asia Cup due to political tensions over their dispute on the Himalayan state of Kashmir, but allowed the teams to play in multi-nation events like the World Cup.

People running own businesses

FROM PAGE 13
Here in Bangladesh, there is so much potential. You've got enormous interest among the population. There is the support of the government; you got the support of the private sector and you got a very big base of cricketers from which to choose the very best players.

now only a matter of time.
DSS: In English domestic cricket, you introduced the Twenty Twenty Cup this season. Has it been successful?

30 years age group, were not coming to watch the county matches and were more interested in watching club football.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

- CROSS 1 Honeycomb chamber
5 John Passos
8 Played Simon Says, maybe
12 "... again..."
13 Eddie's "Green Acres" co-star
14 Florentine farewell
15 Keyboard feature
17 Four-star review
18 Bullfighter
19 Expatriates
21 McCarty's title

- DOWN 1 Throw
2 Hockey legend
23 Meadow fans
3 Shake-spearan king
4 Velcro
5 "Eureka!"
45 Man's hat style
51 Scepter's loppers
52 African island
54 Billing fly
55 Supplement
6 Flipper?
9 Lounge of a sort
10 Roof feature
11 Serves
42 In a stupor
39 At the home of (Fr.)
48 Competent
49 Actor
50 Mine car
53 Alias (Abbr.)

CRYPTOQUIP grid with letters and numbers. Includes clues like 'Yesterday's Cryptiquip: THIS SCENTED POWDER COSTS FAR LESS THAN I FIGURED IT WOULD. I GUESS TALC IS CHEAP.'

Chelsea owe

FROM PAGE 16

leave Carlo Cudicini, who made a terrible mistake to gift Arsenal's Thierry Henry the winner on Saturday, no chance.

Neville makes Fergie's day

FROM PAGE 16

"One nil is always a dodgy result. You are never sure until the end. So we're relieved and satisfied.