

SERIES SALAD

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port city. But they were struck by a major power-failure that gripped the nation right at the start of play. The power surge tripped 21 out of 23 national sub-stations. The impact of the loss of power was felt at the venue itself as all air-coolers failed to go on.

However, power supply was restored at the venue three hours after the outage thanks to an alternative source.

"It is a national outage. But we restored power supply partially through the Kaptai station to make sure the Test match went on uninterrupted," said Rafiqul Alam, deputy general manager of power grid company of Bangladesh (PGCB) in Chittagong.

BOOMING TICKET SALES
Ticket sales were disappointing only the previous day. But amazingly it picked up on Wednesday as cricket fans rushed towards the second Test venue of the country from all parts of the port city.

The pavilion, the Western and Eastern galleries were packed to capacity as the second Test against England moved to lunch on the opening day.

"The crowd's response has been amazing and we are very happy," said a smiling Jahangir, who operates one of the ticket booths at the stadium. But Jahangir and his colleagues spent a lazy day on Tuesday because there were hardly any advance ticket sales.

The change of heart of the knowledgeable Chittagonians was mainly due to the good weather that has transformed the busy city.

Thai PM wants

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He said he was interested in buying Fulham and, although he had not made a decision, finding the money would not be a problem.

"I will invite businesspeople and the public to join the purchase. The price isn't a problem. It will cost a few pennies."

MU multiply

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midway through the second period. Second round giantkillers Blackpool failed to worry visiting Crystal Palace, with the home side suffering after keeper Phillip Barnes was red-carded for deliberate handball just 15 minutes. After that the gulf in class between divisions told for Steve Kember's men with two goals from Andrew Johnson and a penalty for Dougie Freedman setting up a 3-1 victory ahead of Keith Southern's consolation.



PHOTO: AP

Australia's Nathan Bracken (L) celebrates the dismissal of New Zealand's Chris Nevin (not in picture) with captain Ricky Ponting during their TVS Cup match in Faridabad yesterday.

Mahmud defends

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The skipper found some swing and bowled a very tight line (18-8-29-1) but Mushfiq didn't make an impact.

Still, Mahmud hoped that the bowlers would continue restricting the runs like they did in the final session and put pressure on the tourists from the start of the second day.

"We allowed them something like 49 runs in the last 28 overs of the day. If we can maintain the same consistency tomorrow, I am hopeful of limiting the England score," said Mahmud adding that he didn't expect batting to get too difficult on this track as the game wore on.

England's unlikely hero on the day was all-rounder Rikki Clarke who led the recovery with his first Test half-

century after the tourists had slumped to 134 for four.

Clarke was fined half his match fee after using abusive language against Bangladesh's Mushfiq during the first Test in Dhaka but said he had put it behind him.

"As far as I am concerned, that is gone. There was obviously a lesson learnt. But I'm now focusing on playing cricket for England," said Clarke. The Surrey cricketer was very impressed with the pitch at Chittagong and said he felt more at home on it.

"It is similar to English wickets. It's a true pitch with a consistent bounce. It doesn't get skiddy and low like Dhaka," said Clarke.

BD-ENG SCOREBOARD

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Matthew Hoggard

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza	16	4	39	2
Mushfiqur Rahman	9	1	38	0
Khaled Mahmud	18	8	29	1
Mohammad Rafique	27	11	44	1
Enamul Haque jr.	14	0	66	0
Alok Kapali	4	0	12	0
Rajin Saleh	2	1	1	0

BANGLADESH: Javed Omar, Rajin Saleh, Hannan Sarker, Mushfiqur Rahman, Habibul Bashar, Alok Kapali, Mohammad Rafique, Khaled Mashud, Khaled Mahmud, Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, Enamul Haque jr.
Toss: Bangladesh.
Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and Ashoka de Silva (Sri Lanka).

Aussie part-timers do in the Kiwis



REUTERS, Faridabad

Back-up pace bowlers Brad Williams and Nathan Bracken skittled New Zealand for 97 before Australia raced to an eight-wicket win in their one-day TVS Cup triangular match on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old Williams captured a career-best four for 22 and left-arm Bracken three for 25 as the New Zealanders, who opted to bat in swinging conditions, were dismissed in 33.4 overs for their fifth lowest one-day international total.

Matthew Hayden then made a run-a-ball unbeaten half-century, sealing the win on his 32nd birthday with a leg-side drive for four in the 17th over.

Adam Gilchrist hit five fours and a mid-wicket six off 18 balls as he made 29.

New Zealand's highest contribution came from extras.

"It was a very good toss to lose. I was actually going to bat - we might have lost," Australia captain Ricky Ponting said with a smile.

"I expected the ball to swing a bit. Nathan is a swinger of the ball and Brad swings it too."

Williams and Bracken made light of lack of experience - having played just 20 games between them - with lively pace and fine control as the ball swung for the first hour.

By then the match was as good as over. The pair, filling in for the injured Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie, Brett Lee and Michael Kasprovicz, reduced New Zealand to 21 for five in nine overs.

Craig McMillan (24) and Chris Harris stemmed the rot with a 52-run sixth-wicket stand before seamer Ian Harvey trapped left-hander Harris lbw to make it six for 73.	NEW ZEALAND				
Harvey claimed two wickets for nine runs from eight overs and Andy Bichel took the other wicket in excellent support roles.	Nevin lbw b Bracken				0
The world champions once again revealed their spirit and depth of ability, having lost by 37 runs to India on Sunday. It was their fourth straight win over the New Zealanders.	Fleming c Gilchrist b Bracken				2
Only three Kiwi batsmen reached double figures.	Vincent c Bichel b Williams				0
Bracken struck with the second delivery of the morning by trapping opener Chris Nevin lbw for nought with a delivery which straightened after pitching.	Styris c Ponting b Williams				7
He then forced an uncertain Stephen Fleming, who made 39 in three innings in the drawn two-Test series, to edge a seaming delivery to wicketkeeper Gilchrist.	McMillan lbw b Bichel				24
Williams made it 11 for three next over when a frustrated Lou Vincent skied an attempt slog to short mid-off for a 11-ball duck.	Oram c Gilchrist b Bracken				0
The Western Australia bowler then forced Scott Styris to edge a drive to Ricky Ponting at second slip for seven and Bracken had all-rounder Jacob Oram caught behind.	Harris lbw b Harvey				14
Bracken's figures read 4.4-2-7-3 at that stage.	McCullum c Martyn b Williams				5
Williams, whose previous one-day best was two for 22, took the last wicket, Paul Hitchcock caught at slip.	Vettori lbw b Harvey				0
SCOREBOARD	Hitchcock c Hayden b Williams				10
Full scoreboard of the TVS Cup one-day triangular series match between New Zealand and Australia on Wednesday:	Tuffey not out				3
	Extras: (lb-12, nb-2, w-18)				32
	Total: (All out in 33.4 overs)				97
	Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-11, 3-11, 4-20, 5-21, 6-73, 7-77, 8-80, 9-80				
	Bowler	O	M	R	W
	Bracken	9	2	25	3
	Williams	9.4	1	22	4
	Bichel	7	0	29	1
	Harvey	8	2	9	2