

NZ-Pak first ODI today

AGENCIES, Auckland

The first of five one day cricket internationals between Pakistan and New Zealand was Saturday abandoned without a ball being bowled due to heavy rain.

The match has been rescheduled for its reserve day. It will now be played as a day game, commencing at 10.30am (local time) Sunday.

A sodden Eden Park outfield and no immediate prospect of an improvement in the weather saw the umpires officially abandon the day's play shortly after the scheduled 2.00pm (local time) start.

After a week of high temperatures and extreme humidity in Auckland rain finally hit late Friday night. Although light, it continued virtually unabated throughout the night and into yesterday.

An Auckland weather forecast predicting patchy overnight rain and more showers on Sunday dampened the prospects for an uninterrupted days play. However, the sand-based Eden Park outfield traditionally dries very well and a strong southwesterly breeze has been forecast.

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Mukti Sangha defeated Alide Cricket Club by two wickets in the Rajshahi First Division Cricket League at the Rajshahi Stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss, Alide batted first and made 128 for all in 45.2 overs.

In reply, Mukti Sangha reached the target of 129 runs for eight in 42 overs.

NSW stymied by Tubb

REUTERS, Sydney

Number 11 batsman Shannon Tubb smashed 42 off 40 balls as Tasmania forced a draw with New South Wales in their four-day Sheffield Shield cricket match on Saturday.

Resuming at 33-0, still 129 runs shy of making NSW bat again, Tasmania recovered from 243-9 to be 306 all out, setting NSW the impossible task of making 146 to win off nine overs.

Tasmania had batted first on Wednesday, making 369 led by captain Jamie Cox's 160, before opener Greg Mail (176) and Australian one-day specialist Michael Bevan (119) helped NSW take two first innings points with the big total of 530.

The game ended early on Saturday evening with NSW 18-1 off four overs.

Tasmania had been on the ropes before David Saker (20 not out) and Tubb, who hit seven boundaries, added 63 in 41 minutes for the 10th wicket.

Leg-break bowler Stuart MacGill, a dominant figure in Australia's test series against West Indies last month, took 5-125 off 40 overs for NSW.

English

FROM PAGE 13

night 174/2)

Atherton b Fernando	85
Trescothick c P Kumara b B Tilak	38
Hussain c Fernando b P Kumara	7
Thorpe c and b B Tilak	57
Stewart b Bandara	40
Vaughan c T Ratne b P Kumara	12
White not out	85
Giles c B Tilak b Bandara	17
Croft not out	30
Extras: (b-11, lb-10, nb-26)	47
Total: (For 7 wks in 160 overs) 418	
Fall of wickets: 1-68, 2-93, 3-191, 4-226, 5-247, 6-310, 7-342	
To bat: A Caddick, M Hoggard	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Perera	17	1	76	0
Fernando	14	1	59	1
B Tilak	51	11	117	2
P Kumara	31	7	69	2
Bandara	47	21	76	2

Nepal open

FROM PAGE 13

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-18; 3-60; 4-71; 5-85; 6-92; 7-97; 8-98; 9-111

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pramod	6	0	33	0
Manjit	5	0	26	2
Erfan	9	3	15	1
Lakpa	9	3	21	1
Shakti	8.2	2	22	3
Monik	4	1	5	2

NEPAL

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Monik run out	43			
Kaneska b Vargese	14			
Prem b Nishant	20			
Dipish not out	32			
Shakti b Rahman	2			
Bashant c Hamza b Rahman	0			
Lakpa not out	5			
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-12)	15			
Total: (for 5 wks in 36.2 overs) 131				
Fall of wickets: 1-60; 2-86; 3-90; 4-101; 5-119				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harmeet	6	1	14	0
Ajesh	4	0	17	0
Talib	7	0	16	0
Vargese	9	2	20	1
Rahman	7.2	1	31	2
Nishant	8	0	36	1

Result: Nepal won by 5 wickets

Man-of-the-match: Monik (Nepal)



Australian TSV 1860 Munich's Martin Stranz (L) takes control the ball while Eintracht Frankfurt's Horst Heldt (R) follows him during their Bundesliga fixture in Munich on February 16.

Japan goes into overdrive



REUTERS, Tokyo

Japanese organisers of the 2002 World Cup will print an extra two million domestic postal ticket application forms after being overwhelmed by demand, according to the Kyodo news agency.

Ticket sales had an inauspicious kick-off on Thursday when internet applications in host nations Japan and South Korea were delayed and fans complained about their slim chance of seeing a

live game. Applications for around three million of the tickets opened internationally at 0001 GMT - 9:01 a.m. in Japan -- with world soccer body FIFA aiming to sell many of them over the internet for the first time.

But shortly before the planned start, FIFA said Web glitches meant that fans in Korea and Japan would be left to rely on paper application forms -- available at post offices and local government offices -- for at least two or three days.

Japanese organisers decided on Friday to distribute the additional two million forms to 25,000 post offices and official World Cup shops nationwide to satisfy the demands of soccer fans who have been unable to apply for tickets over the Internet, Kyodo said. Tickets will available to the public on March 5.

On Thursday, nearly three million forms were snapped up just hours after hitting post office and official World Cup shop counters.

For the moment, fans can only apply for tickets in the hope of emerging as a lucky winner in a random draw later in the year. In Japan, World Cup organisers ex-

pect to receive around five million applications for the 630,000 tickets available.

Of those, however, only around 220,000 will be available for general applications by residents of Japan.

In South Korea, a recent poll found as many as nine million fans wanted tickets.

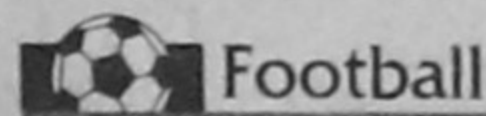
Thursday's teething problems were not the first to hit preparations for the 2002 World Cup. Japan recently angered Korean organisers with plans to print "Japan" before "Korea" on official documents, including ticket applications for the finals, although it now appears to have backed down.

Korea was written before Japan on the cover of application forms available in Japan on Thursday.

Korean organisers said FIFA had agreed to allow Japan to host the final game, but named the event the Korea/Japan World Cup as compensation for South Korea.

The World Cup finals, to be played from May 31 to June 30, 2002, will span 20 cities in the two countries, posing a logistics challenge that has already mobilised team officials hunting for an edge in training grounds, hotels and transport.

Nearer the truth



REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil's politicians believe they are getting to the bottom of a fake passport scandal which threatens chaos in Europe and is damaging the credibility of the world's most illustrious soccer nation.

Brazilians are at the epicentre of a murky affair in which players obtain counterfeit

European Union passports to help earn lucrative moves to European clubs. Up to 1,000 people, eager to get around restrictions on non-EU players, could be implicated.

"Lamentably, the use of false documents in the transfer of Brazilian players is not the exception, but the rule," said Aldo Rebelo, president of a commission of inquiry into the scandal.

The net of suspicion has even entangled former internationals Edinho and Careca who both played in the 1986 World Cup team and are now agents.

Corinthians striker Edu was the first case to come to light. His 9 million dollars (6.2 million pounds) transfer to premier league club Arsenal fell through last year after he was turned back at London's Heathrow airport carrying a counterfeit Portuguese passport.

Since then, other Brazilians have been caught in the act with at least two - Warley and Jorginho Paulista - sent home.

The most prominent case involved St Etienne striker Alex, who has been suspended in France for holding a forged Portuguese passport. His club was docked six league points.

On Tuesday Alex, charged in France with possession of a counterfeit passport, was interrogated by the commission in Brasilia and told politicians his club was to blame.

The player said he originally entered France with a Brazilian passport. But at the end of last season, Alex said he was "induced" by the club to obtain a false EU passport, which he said was supplied by ex-World Cup defender Edinho.

"It's obvious that the player is involved, but the affair is centred on the clubs," said Congressman Jurandir Juarez. Edinho is almost certain to be questioned by the commission whose investigations could last several more weeks.

Leagues in Europe have different rules governing the eligibility of non-EU players. Some countries demand work permits, other limit the number of non-EU players each club is allowed to employ or play at one time.

On Thursday, Alfonso Martins Costa Filho, a prominent soccer agent, implicated Portuguese civil

servants in the affair.

He told how two officials, who he said worked for "the immigration service or the police in Portugal", provided fake passports for two young players, Jeda and Dede, to complete a move to Italian club Vicenza.

Martins said he obtained the documents on behalf of Careca, who was acting as agent for the two players but he did not realise at the time that the passports were counterfeit.

The issue has underlined that Brazilians will do almost anything to play abroad and escape generally low wages and the exhausting fixture list of their homeland.

More than 600 Brazilian players moved abroad in 1999 to more than 60 nations. Destinations included Russia, China, Senegal, Indonesia, Finland and Iceland.



Swedes (from L-R) Stefan Selakovik, Mattias Jonson and Tobias Linderoth celebrate with the Kings Cup after the final against China in Bangkok yesterday. Sweden won 3-0.

Bundesliga Frankfurt forced to share

REUTERS, Munich

Eintracht Frankfurt threw away a 2-0 lead over TSV 1860 Munich on Friday and had to settle for a 2-2 Bundesliga draw.

Chen Yang put Frankfurt ahead in the 22nd minute and Pavel Kryszalowicz doubled the tally from a great pass by his Chinese teammate in the 59th minute.

But Martin Max narrowed the gap with his sixth goal of the season in the 72nd minute and former Germany international Thomas Haessler equalised from the penalty spot after a handball nine minutes later.

India to name team Tuesday

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's selectors have put off by a day the announcement of the squad for the first cricket Test against Australia starting in Bombay on February 27.

The selectors, who were to have met on Monday in the central Indian city of Nagpur, will name the side the next day in Bombay. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jaywant Lale told this news agency.

The change was to enable skipper Saurav Ganguly and John Wright, the Indian team's New Zealand coach, join the selection meeting after a camp for the probables in Madras ends on Sunday, he said.

Good news for cricketers

AFP, Johannesburg

A South African inventor has produced a cricket box fitted with coil springs which he tested by repeatedly hitting himself in the groin with a bat, the Saturday Star reported.

Lester Allison, a 35-year-old gym teacher, is currently raising capital to start full-scale production, the newspaper said.

"The box significantly lessens the impact on the groin area if a player is hit by a cricket ball," it said.

"The resourceful inventor also promises players a better fit and increased mobility running between the wickets."

During testing, it said, measurements were made of 100 students' genitals.

"It seems that size does matter when it comes to cricket boxes."

No final word on Giles

INTERNET, undated

Ashley Giles managed to bat for an hour on Saturday afternoon, and appeared to suffer no ill effects from his injured Achilles, but the official word from the England camp remained cautious.

Despite the fact that Giles was able to set off for sharp singles, the physio, Dean Conway, believes that the injury stems from his bowling run up and, therefore, England's senior spinner remains a doubt for Thursday's opening Test in Galle.

Sweden win Kings Cup

REUTERS, Bangkok

Results of Saturday's final and third-place play-off in the 32nd King's Cup soccer tournament.

Final: Sweden 3 China 0

Scorers: Mattias Jonson 4, Tobias Linderoth 11, Stefan Selakovik 19. Halftime: 3-0

Third place play-off: Thailand 2 Qatar 0

Scorers: Kiatsuk Senamuang 17, 55. Halftime: 1-0

Nel gets S Africa call

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Andre Nel, a fast bowler who ignited a controversy when he felled South Africa's all-time leading wicket-taker Allan Donald with a bouncer recently, was included Saturday in South Africa's squad for a five-Test tour of the West Indies.

Nel, 23, is the only uncapped player in the 15-man party which departs for the West Indies on February 28.

It will be South Africa's first full tour of the West Indies. On their only previous visit to the Caribbean they lost a one-off Test by 52 runs in Barbados in April 1992. South Africa's first Test after being readmitted to international cricket in 1991.

South Africa won all five Tests when West Indies toured South Africa in 1998/99.

Nel was at the centre of a controversy when he struck Donald with a bouncer in a provincial match in Benoni on February 4.

Donald, playing for Free State, alleged that Ray Jennings, the coach of Nel's Easterns team, had

put a "price on my head" as an incentive for Easterns bowlers to try to hit him on the helmet.

Donald had to go to hospital for a brain scan after the incident and Jennings was summoned to a disciplinary hearing which will be held next week.

Donald later phoned Nel to say he held no grudge against the fast bowler personally.

Adams, 24, has played in 30 Tests and taken 94 wickets. Selection convenor Rushdi Magret said Adams was the ideal back-up bowler for Boje.

Nel was picked primarily as back-up to Donald.

Roger Telemachus, who has played in one-day internationals but not in Tests, will join the team to strengthen the pace bowling reserves in time for the third Test in Barbados which starts March 29. Before then he will continue to play in South Africa's domestic four-day competition which ends March 25.

One-day specialist Jonty Rhodes and uncapped all-rounder Justin Ontong, 21, will join the team for a seven-match limited overs international series which follows the Test matches. They will replace Daryll Cullinan and Adams.

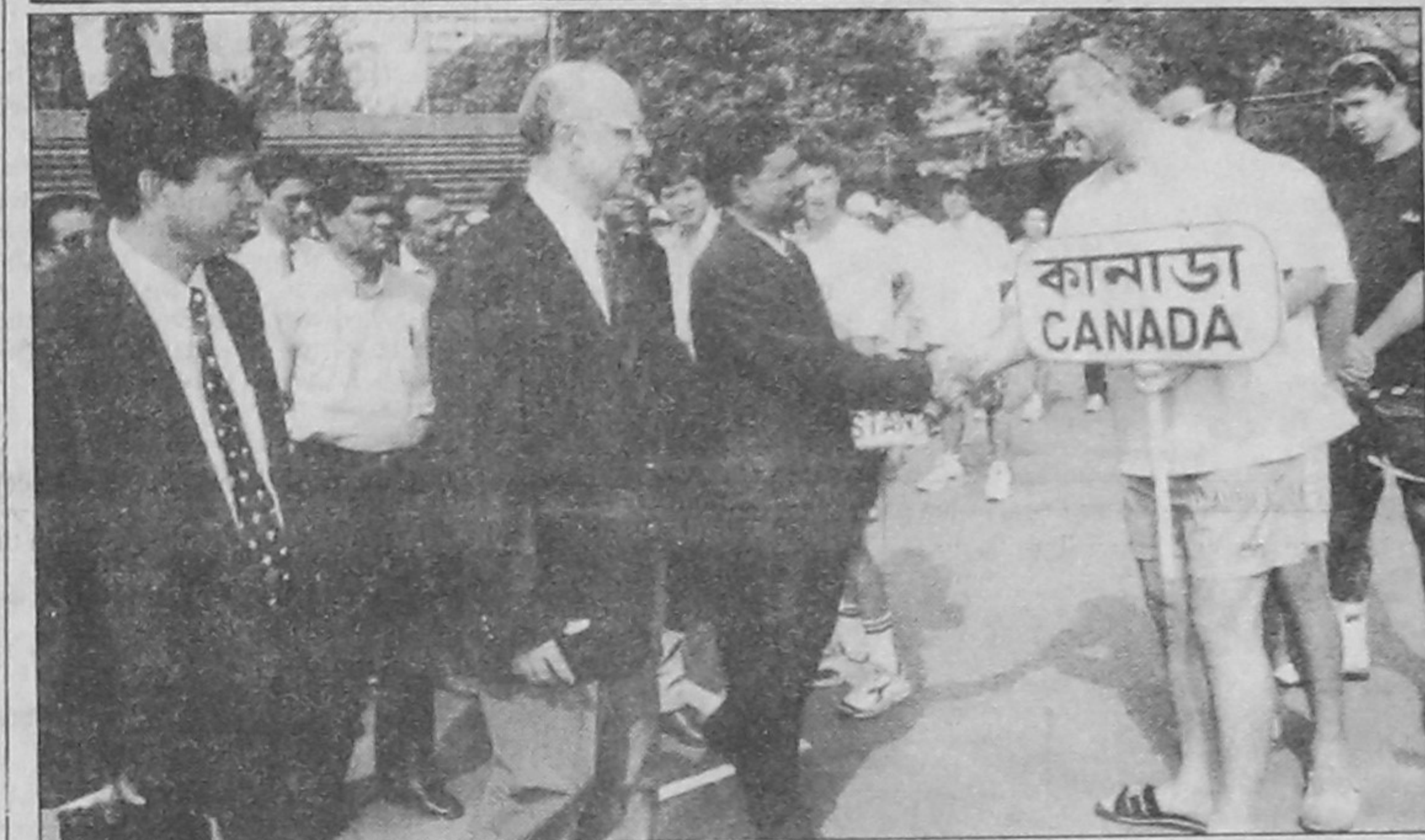
SQUADS

TEST SQUAD: Shaun Pollock (captain), Mark Boucher (vice-captain), Paul Adams, Nicky Boje, Daryll Cullinan, Boeta Dippenaar, Allan Donald, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Justin Kemp, Gary Kirsten, Lance Klusener, Neil McKenzie, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini plus Roger Telemachus to join tour after March 25.

ONE-DAY SQUAD: Pollock, Boucher, Boje, Dippenaar, Donald, Gibbs, Kallis, Kemp, Kirsten, Klusener, McKenzie, Nel, Ntini, Justin Ontong, Jonty Rhodes, Telemachus.

ITINERARY

Mar 4-6:	3-dayer	Guyana
Mar 9-13:	First Test	Guyana
Mar 17-21:	Second Test	Trinidad
Mar 24-26:	3-dayer	Barbados
Mar 29-Apr 2:	Third Test	Barbados
Apr 6-10:	Fourth Test	Antigua
Apr 14-16:	3-dayer	Jamaica
Apr 19-23:	Fifth Test	Jamaica
Apr 25:	1-dayer	Jamaica
Apr 28:	First ODI	Antigua
May 2:	Second ODI	Antigua
May 5:	Third ODI	Grenada
May 6:	Fourth ODI	Grenada
May 9:	Fifth ODI	Barbados
May 12:	Sixth ODI	Trinidad
May 16:	Seventh ODI	St Vincent



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader being introduced to the participants of the week-long Fifth Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championships at the National Tennis Complex at Ramna yesterday.

Growing in confidence

Cricket

REUTERS, Nagpur

Australian pace bowler Michael Kasprowicz shone as a batsman in his team's opening tour match against an India A side on Saturday and said the performance had boosted his confidence for the challenges ahead.

The 29-year-old swing bowler, who was sidelined for most of the season due to injury, top-scored with 92 -- his highest first-class score -- to lift Australia on the first day of their three-day game.

"I was a little uncertain coming into this match," he told reporters after revising his team's batting fortunes in the central Indian city.

"I've just come back from injury and was wondering if I would

come good. It's great to see I'm ready for the challenges of this tough tour."

Kasprowicz, in and out of the Australian side in the last two years, was a late inclusion for the India tour after fast bowler Brett Lee was sidelined with an elbow injury.

Having played just one first-class game for Queensland this season after recovering from shoulder surgery, Kasprowicz came in to bat with his team reeling at 133 for seven.

But he transformed the innings during a 155-run eighth wicket stand with pace partner Jason Gillespie which pulled his side up to 291 all out.

Afterwards, Kasprowicz was modest about his effort: "I'll call this a tough batting track. I got

lucky," he said.

"I have been working really hard, going back and sticking to my routine. I feel I'm fitter, stronger mentally and more experienced than I was on my last trip here. Hopefully, I'll do well for the team throughout the series," he said.

Three years ago Kasprowicz captured five for 28 in the home side's second innings to help Australia win the third Test in their 2-1 series loss to India.

He said bowling in India was tough because the ball did not swing much.

"But it is all the more rewarding to get wickets in these conditions because it is such a challenge. I adapt to conditions fairly quickly, and today was a big step in that direction."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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