

Water-loss worries India

PTI, St. Kitts

Indian cricketers are going through a urine test before every match on the present Caribbean tour, an exercise which is intended to ensure that they do not suffer cramps or other injuries because of dehydration.

The sample tests are intended to check the fluid level of cricketers as the hot and humid conditions of the West Indies are a major concern for the touring Indians.

Indian team physio John Gloster said the wear and tear of muscles because of lack of fluids was always a risk.

"When you lose fluid the muscles can snap and lead to minor injuries. That's what we are trying to protect the players against," Gloster said.

Every cricketer submits himself to a urine test through a device called refractometre. It is then evaluated if a cricketer is properly hydrated or if the electrolyte content in the sample is absurdly high.

"Every cricketer is different. Some tend to lose salt in their body more than the water and we have made an evaluation of each player separately," he said.

Somebody like Rahul Dravid, who has a history of suffering cramps because of lack of fluids used to take salt tablets previously.

Now because of exact nature of test, he is being hydrated with specific products available in the market.

Full-strength Pak side for friendlies

AFP, Karachi

Inzamamul Haq will lead a Test-strength Pakistan eleven against an Asian team for two exhibition matches in Saudi Arabia in an effort to promote the game there, organisers said on Tuesday.

The matches will be played at Al-Ahli Stadium in Jeddah on artificial turf.

The matches are supported by the Saudi Cricket Centre, formed by expatriates from Pakistan and India, it is hoping Asia's top cricketers will convince the government and locals that interest in the sport is growing in the kingdom.

Pakistan's team is essentially the first Test eleven, with stars like Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Abdul Razzaq and Mohammad Sami all set to play.

Four Sri Lankans and four Bangladeshis join five Indians to form the Rest of Asia XI, which will be led by Indian Test batsman Venkatsai Laxman.

The team also includes fallen India star Ajay Jadede, who has served a five-year ban imposed for match-fixing in 2000.

SQUADS

PAKISTAN XI: Inzamamul Haq (captain), Imran Farhat, Salman Butt, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Abdul Razzaq, Kamran Akmal, Arshad Khan, Mohammad Sami, Umar Gul, Danish Kaneria.

ASIAN XI: Venkatsai Laxman (c), Gautam Gambhir, Ajay Jadede, Shahadat Hossain, Venkatpathy Raju, Vaseem Jaffer, Shahriar Nafees, Roshan Mahanama, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Kumar Dharmasena, Dilhara Fernando, Mohammad Rafique, Aftab Ahmed.

Boycott fears for Vaughan

BBC ONLINE, undated

Geoff Boycott has expressed fears for Michael Vaughan's future because of the England captain's struggle to recover from recurring knee problems.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney insists Vaughan is progressing even though no comeback date has been set.

Ex-England batsman Boycott said in his BBC Sport column: "You can put as much spin on it as you want -- it's worrying."

"It must be a worry because while you expect selectors to be upbeat and say he'll be all right, time's getting on."

Boycott says the history of problems Vaughan has had and the slow pace of his recovery suggests there is reason for concern.

The Yorkshire star broke down early in England's first warm-up match on their tour of India in February.

"He hasn't completed a game since the tour of Pakistan, which is getting on for five or six months now," Boycott explained.

"If you're a fast bowler banging your foot down you'd expect to have a bit of knee trouble later on in life, a bit of arthritis or something," said the England great.

High-profile footballers such as Alan Shearer, Henrik Larsson and Patrik Berger have turned to Colorado surgeon Dr Richard Steadman for help with knee injuries and Boycott is surprised Vaughan has not done the same.



PHOTO: STAR

The draw of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Round 1 had a full house at the Rangpur Town Hall Auditorium on Tuesday.

'Defeat was shattering'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Yuvraj Singh has admitted that losing the second one-dayer at Jamaica, by a one-run margin, had been a "shattering" experience.

He asserted that the defeat hadn't come about because of India "under-estimating" West Indies, and felt that "nobody were favourites" for the third one-dayer at St. Kitts.

"We were not that surprised," he said when asked about West Indies' fightback.

"We knew the wicket was slow and it was tough to bat on it. You

can't lose early wickets when you're chasing and we lost some. But I thought we could still win if I stayed till the end.

"I've done it in the past. We don't want to under-estimate anyone, especially a team that has Chris Gayle and Lara. We know we need to play to our best."

Considering the rate at which Yuvraj has been reeling off gems -- three hundreds and six fifties in the last seven months -- the only person who could tell you the quality of the last innings was probably himself.

"Had we won the game, I would have rated it as my best. It was a slow wicket and I was batting with the tail. To pull it off from that stage

would have been incredible for me. Now you can say it was one of my best innings."

In the 44 games prior to the Sri Lanka home series in October, he had a mere five fifties and a hundred. There have been several reasons for Yuvraj transformation. "I'm getting a chance to bat higher up the order so that gives me more time. I've been playing international cricket for five years now and have always wanted to take my game to a certain level.

"I'm beginning to do that and I need to go on from here. There are many reasons for it -- reading books, talking to Greg (Chappell) about the mental side of my batting, support from family."

Shareef Ali takes the TV

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Mahfuz Anam thanked The Daily Star's readers of Rangpur for taking keen interest in the World Cup quiz competition and making the first round draw a grand success.

"I am happy to interact with the people of Rangpur. This is an ideal occasion for me to come here and meet you all," said The Daily Star editor.

He also urged the locals to read The Daily Star more.

Abdur Rouf Manik, chairman of Rangpur Pourashava, professor Rezaul Haque, advocate Sarwarul Alam, former Mohammedan footballer AKM Nazmul Haque were also present on the occasion.

Abdur Rouf thanked The Daily Star for organising the draw in Rangpur and appreciated the newspaper's role.

Rumi Hossain, Managing Director of sponsors Rangs Industries Limited, was also present as special guest in the colourful function conducted by the newspaper's circulation manager Abu Masud Bulbul.

"World Cup football creates enormous interest among fans in Bangladesh. I wish everyone watch all the matches on television and preferably on Toshiba or Rangs," quipped Rumi Hossain in his brief speech.

The Daily Star hosted a reception for its valued readers and the elites of the town later in the evening.

Winners of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Round 1:

- FIRST PRIZE:** MM Shareef Ali Road No 9/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
- SECOND PRIZE:** Tanvir Bashir Road-8/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
- THIRD PRIZE:** SM Alamghir 6-A/2-19, Mirpur, Dhaka
- FOURTH PRIZES:** Munawwar Bin Abdul Aziz

- 126 RK Mission Road, Dhaka Rafiur Rahman C/52, South Banasri Goran, Dhaka Sumaiya Hoq Jinjira, Keraniganj, Dhaka Mihir Barai 142/3 Monipuripara, Dhaka Md. Ashfaqur Rahman C/52, South Banasri, Dhaka Syed Raihan Kabir House-3, Road-13, Block-K, Bari dhara, Dhaka Md. Liton 1-B/1-21, Mirpur-1, Dhaka Polash Stanly Gomes DMC-300, South Kafur, Dhaka Md. Reazul Hoq Jinjira, Keraniganj, Dhaka Md. Akif Bin Halim 3/Avoydaslane, Tikatully, Dhaka

- FIFTH PRIZES:** Harun-or-Rashid College Para, Deviganj, Panchgarh Imtiaz Rahman RK Mission Road, Dhaka Shelly Apur Nibas Nasirabad, Chittagong Md. Ashfaqur Rahman C/52, South Banasri, Dhaka S M Alamghir 6-A/2-19, Mirpur, Dhaka Miss Shanu Chandania Para, Domar, Nilphamari Md. Mizanur Rahman 2/5, Nowab Habibullah Road, Shahabagh, Dhaka Mihir Barai 142/3 Monipuripara, Dhaka Amirul Islam 119/B, Fazul Haque Hall, Bangladesh Agriculture University Sunil Goloer Monipuripara, Dhaka Zoeb Ali 29/1 Purana Paltan, Dhaka Mahiyar-Binte-Alam 6-A/2-19, Mirpur, Dhaka Seulee G-98, Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka Rafiur Rahman C/59, South Banasri, Dhaka

- Quazi Mushfiqur Rahman 87, Dania, Rasulpur, Dhaka Tasneem-Binte-Alam 6-A/2-19, Mirpur, Dhaka Sadia Afrin Tamanna 52 Chowdhurypara, Hazipara, Dhaka Nazrul Islam House- 126, Road-1, Purboshalban, Rangpur SMA lamghir 6-A/2-19, Mirpur, Dhaka Md. Rafiqul Islam Crescent Home, Shah Ali Bagh, Mirpur, Dhaka

CORRECT ANSWERS

- How many teams will make their World Cup debut in Germany? Ans: 8
- Which team finished third in the 2002 World Cup? Ans: Turkey
- Who won the golden boot in the 1998 World Cup? Ans: Suiker
- How many goals did Maradona score in the 1986 World Cup final? Ans: 0
- Who is this player: Ans: Ballack

Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 17 Stadium, Fatullah Stadium, Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium and Jagannath Hall ground. The semifinals are billed for May 31 and the final will be held on June 3. **GROUP A:** Comilla, Tangail and Khulna. **GROUP B:** BKSP, Chittagong and Narayanganj. **GROUP C:** Sylhet, Chandpur and Barisal. **GROUP D:** Rajshahi, Bagerhat and Gaibandha.

Johan Cruyff: The King without

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appointed the leading favourites for the title by the world press.

It was the unveiling of total football, a style of play epitomised by Cruyff himself. Although he was fielded as centre forward he wandered all over the pitch, popping up wherever he could do most damage to the opponent. The other players adapted themselves flexibly around his movements regularly switching positions, so that the tactical roles in the team were always filled but not always by the same person. This was a revolutionary concept, and it took the world by storm.

So did Oranje and Cruyff. In the second round the Master himself got involved in the scoring, and netted his first two goals in Holland's 4-0 thrashing of Argentina, arguably their best game in the tournament. The match against East Germany was a more subdued affair, won 2-0, and in the last of the second round group games Holland met Brazil in what was for all practical purposes a semi-final. After a rough-and-tumble contest Holland walked off 2-0 winners. Cruyff scored Oranje's second goal, and it is remembered

as one of his best ever in international play. It came in the 65th minute, when he met a centre from Krol with a flying volley which wrongfooted Leao and crashed into the left side of the goal.

Cruyff's brilliance was again on display in the final, which started spectacularly. Cruyff kicked off, and Holland passed the ball around. After having gone through 14 players, all of them Oranje, it came back to Cruyff who started a rush, slipped past Vogts, and was mowed down by Hoeness inside the box. Neeskens scored from the resulting penalty kick before a single German player had had occasion to touch the ball. The Dutch failed to press their advantage however, and allowed the Germans back into the game. The home team equalised through a penalty kick, and were ahead two minutes before half-time through Gerd Mueller. In the second half the Dutch failed to overcome the barrier that was Josef "Sepp" Maier, and so they lost the title. Cruyff's player of the tournament award was scant consolation.

During the World Cup in Germany, Cruyff had already announced that he would not play

in the next World Cup in Argentina, mainly because he didn't want to be away from his family for so long. That and a series of disagreements with the national federation brought a premature end to his international career.

However, at club level Cruyff excelled. Between 1971 and 1973, he won the European Cup three times in a row with Ajax Amsterdam. In 1973 he moved to Spain with Barcelona, collecting the league title in his first season. He announced his retirement in 1978, only to resurface in May 1979 in the US Professional League. He played for two seasons in the US and then less than a dozen matches for Spanish second division side Levante before returning to Ajax Amsterdam in the summer of 1981. In 1983 he moved to arch-rivals Feyenoord Rotterdam, enjoying one final taste of glory as a player as his new team did the domestic double. In his mid-30s, Cruyff was amazingly playing some of the best football of his life and was voted Dutch Footballer of the Year in 1983 and 1984. The best Dutch player of all time hung up his boots once and for all in 1984.

Coria pulls out of French Open

AFP, Paris

Argentina's 2004 French Open finalist Guillermo Coria withdrew from this year's tournament because of a right elbow injury, organisers announced on Monday.

Coria has been in something of a freefall this year, failing regularly on his favoured claycourt surface and has tumbled to 22 in the world rankings.

Austrian Oliver Marach will replace Coria in the tournament.

The organisers also rounded off their wild card invitations by handing ones to Frenchman Olivier Patience and former top 10 women's star Alicia Molik of Australia.

Molik's compatriot Nathan Healey also received one while Frenchman Jean-Christophe Faurel and compatriot Yulia Fedossova were other beneficiaries.

Molik, aged 24, was as high as number eight in the world but has tumbled to 489th.

She has not played for several months because of an internal ear problem which has caused her visual and balance problems.

Aravinda bats for Lasith & Sanath

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former Sri Lanka star Aravinda de Silva says paceman Lasith Malinga and opener Sanath Jayasuriya should both play in the second Test against England.

"I hope there is now enough confidence to play a more balanced side," he said.

"Perhaps Malinga and Jayasuriya coming in could help. My theory would be to play the best possible side."

Malinga was overlooked for the first Test as Sri Lanka sought bowlers who could bat while Jayasuriya arrived in the country after the Lord's draw.

De Silva, in England for media work, has also spent time with the Sri Lanka camp.

He told the Daily Telegraph: "The boys did a wonderful job to dig themselves out of a no-win situation at Lord's."

"It will give them that much more confidence to go out and make this series a really good contest."

"I think the fact that they were written off before the series started, and that they had a young side which came through a tough Test, looks good for the future."

The selection of Malinga, who took 5-79 against Sussex, appears more straightforward.

After that game, Moody said: "We have to try something different after what happened at Lord's, and Malinga and Zoysa are under consideration."

Tough ride

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In between, however, he coached defending World Cup champion France in the 2002 World Cup, where the defending champion was eliminated in the first round without scoring a goal.

Tunisia's attack centers around Brazilian-born striker Francieleudo Santos, the speedy striker who has an impressive 18 goals in 28 appearances.

The Carthage Eagles may not be favored to advance ahead of Spain and Ukraine, but that can't erase the memories of 1978, when Tunisia became the first African team to win a match at the World Cup by beating Mexico 3-1.

Cameroon later became the first from the region to reach the quarterfinals, getting to the last eight in 1990 after beating defending champion Argentina in the opening match.

In 2002, Senegal mirrored that feat by upsetting France in the opening match and reaching the quarterfinals by beating Sweden in the second round with a golden goal.

Goncalves may not be expecting the same to happen for Angola in Germany, but he will be hoping to make the people back home proud.

"We need to play as well as possible to dignify the name of Angolans and Africans," Goncalves said. "Our struggle in Africa is to have as many nations competing at the World Cup. So those who are playing need to be playing as well as possible to make this a reality."

Time to kill

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abuse by rival fans while playing for Standard Liege in Belgium.

"With the World Cup, I'm not anticipating it, but there's so much of it in league play. Hopefully this (World Cup) will be a different atmosphere. I appreciate the measures FIFA's taking, all that is good externally, but it's not going to do much internally -- you can't change the mindset of people."

Manchester United goalkeeper Tim Howard said the sport's governors needed to have a zero tolerance policy on racism.

"They are doing a decent job but they've got to hit teams and countries where it hurts the most -- no fans at games and monetary fines. We can only speak out against it as players."

Midfielder Landon Donovan added: "(Racism) is just wrong. Players shouldn't be going to the World Cup worried about that, it should be a month to celebrate.

Federer best again

Tennis

AFP, Barcelona

Swiss tennis superstar Roger Federer was named Laureus World sportsman of the year for the second straight year here on Monday with the women's honour going to Croatian skier Janica Kostelic.

The 24-year-old Federer won the vote of the 42 Laureus Academy members ahead of other nominees such as another two-time winner US golfer Tiger Woods, Spanish F1 World Champion Fernando Alonso, Brazilian footballer Ronaldinho and seven-times Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong.

The 23-year-old Kostelic edged out Britain's world marathon champion Paula Radcliffe, Russian pole-vaulter queen Yelena Isinbayeva, Swedish heptathlete Carolina Kluff and Belgian tennis player Kim Clijsters.

There were awards also for

Martina Hingis who took the Laureus Comeback of the Year recompense, Spanish tyro Rafael Nadal who was named Newcomer of the Year and the French Formula One Constructors Champions Renault who won Team of the Year.

Federer was present in Barcelona to accept his reward flying in from Paris where he is preparing for next week's French Open.

"It's a very proud moment for me and a very emotional moment. Winning it for a second time in a row is something special," he said paying tribute to Woods and Michael Schumacher the only other two times winners of the award.

The world No.1 has won the last three Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon, the US Open last year and this year's Australian Open.

A win in the final at Roland Garros on June 11 will make him the first man since Australian legend Rod Laver in the 1960's to hold all four Grand Slam titles at the same time.

He also won nine other tournaments in 2005 and continued in similar fashion this year by winning back-to-back Masters titles at Indian Wells and Miami before losing a five-set marathon to Nadal in Rome earlier this month.

Kostelic became the first woman to win four Alpine skiing gold medals after her victory in the women's combined event at February's Winter Olympics in Turin.

Once again she had to overcome injury and illness to triumph having been forced to pull out of the Olympic downhill because she was unwell.

Top driver Fernando Alonso at 24 became the youngest-ever world champion as the French-based team ended the long winning run of Ferrari and Michael Schumacher.

There was also a Lifetime Achievement Award for Dutch football legend Johan Cruyff.

Tendulkar ruled out

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar has been ruled out of the upcoming Test series in the West Indies after failing to recover from shoulder surgery.

Tendulkar informed the Board of Control for Cricket in India on Tuesday that he should not be considered for next month's four-Test series in the Caribbean as he was not fit.

"We have been trying hard. Andrew Leipus (former Indian team physio) has been with me all the time. There is still weakness in my arm and I am not ready to compete at international level," said Tendulkar.

The master batsman, who underwent shoulder surgery in March, missed seven one-dayers at home against England last month and opted out of the ongoing five-match one-day series in the West Indies.

Tendulkar did not undergo a fitness test scheduled for Tuesday, a day before the Test team is named.

When asked when he would be back in action, he said: "I don't know. I leave it to doctors to guide me in right direction."

Tendulkar was due to leave for England on Tuesday night to meet his surgeon Andrew Wallace.

"I am sure the doctor is in touch with the Indian cricket board," said Tendulkar, the most prolific batsman in contemporary cricket with a world record 35 Test and 39 one-day centuries.

Leipus, who is supervising Tendulkar's fitness programme in the absence of current physio John Gloster who is in the West Indies, said it was important to prevent further damage to the shoulder.

"We cannot keep training. Rest is also important for his complete recovery," said Leipus.

"We don't want to do further damage to his shoulder. We are looking at the bigger picture in order to prolong his career."

Meanwhile, opening batsman Wasim Jaffer is available for selec-

tion after recovering from a shin injury.

India play the first Test at Antigua on June 2.

Toni unsure of Fiorentina stay

AFP, Rome

Italy's top scorer Luca Toni said he was not certain to stay at Fiorentina next season unless certain things were resolved at the club.

A possible annulling of Toni's contract, which runs till June 30 2009, could allow Inter Milan the chance to snap up the 29-year-old who scored 31 goals last season.

"I recently spoke with the president (Diego Della Valle)," said Toni on Tuesday at Coverciano where the Italian World Cup squad are training.

"And there are some small problems that need to be resolved. I expect to see him again and, if he believes in me, he has to prove it."

From beyond the boundary

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So Hamid Ghomnam leans against the fence with his two daughters, 10 and 12, and watches the team run through its drills. A security officer tried to hustle away the women -- along with their husbands, boy-friends and fathers -- claiming even the parking lot side of the fence is off limits. But the crowd stood firm.

Fingers clenched around the rustling fence, which bulged and swayed under their weight.

"I am ashamed to have my daughters out here in the parking lot looking in," said Ghomnam, 49. "But it makes me proud to show them women standing up against this very stupid rule."

A short way down the fence, Sima Babri called a friend to give a full description of the training. A Winnie the Pooh bauble dangled from her cell phone. She wore the springtime uniform of trendy, 20-

something women across Tehran: denim jeans rolled high up on a calf, a form-fitting cotton tunic and a colorful headscarf that covered less hair than was blowing free.

"I'm here because I love the team," said Babri, 21. "But I'm also making a personal stand. We cannot just always back down."

Now, however, even Babri's clothes could be in jeopardy. A vaguely worded proposal is working its way through the Iranian parliament that would encourage traditional Iranian and Islamic-style clothing. It has stoked worries that Ahmadinejad's government could be planning to roll back the increasingly liberal dress codes that have been in place since the late 1990s.

Women have been allowed into Tehran's stadium to watch soccer before.

Five years ago, a group of Irish women was permitted to attend a

World Cup qualifier between Iran and Ireland. In March, a group of about 40 Iranian women tried to enter the stadium for a World Cup warm-up match with Costa Rica. Authorities at first blocked them and then promised to allow them into a reserved section. Instead, however, the women were put on a bus and driven around the city until the match ended.

During Monday's training session, two women managed to beat the system. Sabo Tehrani and her daughter arrived hours before security and found a spot inside the stadium compound along a wall near the stands.

Outside the fence, the women chanted: "We will be inside someday."

A few men in the stands answered: "Sisters, don't give up!"

BITS AND BOBS



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Reina's different honeymoon

REUTERS, Madrid

Spain goalkeeper Pepe Reina has admitted there has been