

Dravid wants to go on

Cricket

AFP, Bombay

Rahul Dravid said Thursday he was keen on extending his brilliant run with the bat after becoming only the fourth player in the world to hit four centuries in successive Test innings.

"I want to make the most of my current form," said the 29-year-old prolific batsman, who made hundreds in his last three Test innings in England recently.

He slammed 100 to help India reach 457 against the West Indies on the second day of the opening Test at the Wankhede Stadium here.

Australian Jack Fingleton and South African Alan Melville are the other batsmen to have achieved the rare distinction of scoring four Test hundreds in successive innings.

West Indian Everton Weekes holds the world record of making five centuries in consecutive Test innings.

"I'm happy to get a hundred in these conditions (hot and humid) and hope to maintain my form," said Dravid, who retired because of cramps and dehydration after completing his fourth ton in a row in the closing session.

"I started to feel dehydrated before tea and when I drove to mid-

wicket I felt cramps all over my legs. I was not keen to go for the second run, but Parthiv (Patel) pushed me to go for it," said Dravid, who batted 350 minutes.

"At no stage after that did I feel like resuming my innings, but I think I should be able to field tomorrow."

The reliable middle-order batsman, nicknamed "The Wall" for his centuries in successive Test innings.



RAHUL DRAVID

solid batting, needed just two runs at tea to complete his 14th Test hundred in 65 matches.

He collapsed immediately after reaching the three-figure mark and was carried off the field.

Dravid's dream run began in an away four-Test series in England as he emerged the highest run-getter

with 602 in six innings.

He scored 115 against Nasser Hussain's Englishmen in the second Test at Trent Bridge and followed it up with 148 at Headingley and a career-best 217 at the Oval to average more than 100.

Dravid is different from other Indian batsmen in that he has scored runs in all conditions, having made nine centuries abroad and five at home.

His resolute batting under pressure in England was one of the reasons for India's fightback after losing the opening Test at Lord's.

India bounced back by winning the third Test at Headingley. The remaining two Tests were drawn as India shared the series 1-1.

Dravid's ability to produce big knocks consistently also helped him become the first batsman to complete 1,000 Test runs in a calendar year. Englishman Michael Vaughan and compatriot Sachin Tendulkar since then have joined him.

Dravid said he was happy he was able to place his team in a position where they could put pressure on the West Indies.

"We are now in a good position as we have already removed both of their openers," said Dravid.

The West Indies were 33-2 in reply at stumps, still requiring 225 runs more to avoid a follow-on.

Cricket makes way to Japan

AFP, Adelaide

Japan's Tetsuo Fuji is one of 14 cricketers from emerging cricket nations spending a fortnight working out at Australia's cricket academy here.

The Australian Cricket Board said on Friday that 14 players and two coaches from Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu would train at the academy from October 14 to 25 under academy senior coach Wayne Phillips.

Fuji captained his country at the Asian Cricket Council Trophy in Sharjah in 2000 where he dismissed two batsmen with consecutive balls, one bowling right-hand medium pace and the other with left-arm off-spin.

The visit is a joint initiative of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) East Asia-Pacific region development program and the ACB to promote and develop the game beyond its traditional boundaries.

The developmental cricketers will be shown through the academy's facilities and given advanced coaching and training programs by academy staff.

They will also sit for an introductory umpire course and visit local schools.

The academy is responsible for the development of current Australian Test cricketers, Shane Warne, Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist, Justin Langer and Brett Lee.



GREAT SHOT: India's Leander Paes (L) and his partner Mahesh Bhupathi show their delight after winning a key point during their doubles final yesterday.

M'singh soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Al-Helal AC defeated Sonali Atit 3-1 in the inaugural match of the Hosaf Metre First Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources A K M Mosharrar Hossain inaugurated the league as chief guest.

A total of 13 teams are taking part in the tournament.

Pakistan hit

FROM PAGE 13

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the second cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Friday.

PAKISTAN: First innings				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Nazir c Warne b McGrath	0	0	0	0
Umar b Lee	0	0	0	0
Razaq c Martyn b Warne	21	5	5	2
Yousif c Bichel b McGrath	5	2	2	2
Misbah c M Waugh b Bichel	2	0	0	0
Iqbal lbw b Warne	4	0	0	0
Latif not out	4	0	0	0
Saqain lbw b Warne	4	0	0	0
Akhtar c Gilchrist b Bichel	1	0	0	0
Waqaar lbw b Warne	0	0	0	0
Kaneria b Lee	8	0	0	0
Extras: (b-8, lb-2, nb-4)	14			
Total: (All out in 31.5 overs)	59			
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-1, 3-8, 4-23, 5-41, 6-46, 7-46, 8-49, 9-50				

AUSTRALIA: First innings				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Langer run out	37	4	10	2
Hayden not out	74	0	0	0
Ponting lbw b Kaneria	44	0	0	0
M Waugh lbw b Saqlain	2	0	0	0
S Waugh c sub (Farhat) b Saqlain	0	0	0	0
Martyn not out	19	0	0	0
Extras: (b-8, lb-5, nb-2)	15			
Total: (For 4 wks in 48 overs)	191			
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-145, 3-148, 4-148				

To bat: Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Glenn McGrath, Andrew Bichel

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Waqaar	3	0	14	0
Akhtar	6	0	29	0
Kaneria	18	1	76	1
Razaq	3	0	12	0
Saqain	18	2	47	2

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India).

As good as gold

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

AFP, Busan

Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi turned back the clock to the Grand Slam glory days of their now-broken partnership to win the Asian Games men's doubles title on Friday.

The top seeds from India eliminated South Korea's Lee Hyung-Taik and Chung Hee-Seok 6-2, 6-3 to claim the gold medal in a showing reminiscent of their 1999 status as the world's best doubles team.

"We played as good as we have ever played," Paes said. "That performance was a Grand Slam-type performance. This is a moment I will cherish for a long time."

Paes and Bhupathi won 24 ATP doubles crowns together, including the 1999 Wimbledon and 1999 and 2001 French Open titles. But

Bhupathi ditched Paes six months ago and partnered with Max Mirnyi of Belarus.

Mirnyi and Bhupathi won the US Open men's doubles crown last month while Paes was left without a regular partner since his last ATP pairing with Bhupathi, a title run in May at Majorca.

"It's like riding a bicycle," Paes said. "You never forget."

Bhupathi has dismissed the idea of reuniting with Paes, so the Asian reunion and India's Davis Cup ties are just a flashback. Even with strained relations, both men are devoted to playing for their country.

"Very much I wanted to see my flag up there," Paes said. "It was a proud moment. I got a little teary-eyed when the anthem was playing. You have got 1.2 billion people (in India) and there are five of us representing them."

Taiwan's Janet Lee and Lu Yen-Hsun denied India another gold medal by defeating Bhupathi and

Manisha Malhorta 4-6, 6-3, 9-7 in the mixed doubles final.

But Indonesia has a chance to come away with two tennis gold medals.

Top seeds Wynne Prakusya and Angelique Widjaja, who led Indonesia to the Asiad team gold medal, advanced to Saturday's women's doubles final with a 6-3, 3-6, 9-7 triumph over Japan's Saori Obata and Akiko Morigami.

Widjaja and Pakusya will play for their second Asiad golds in Saturday's title match against South Korea's Choi Young-Ja and Kim Mi-Ok, who ousted Japan's Miho Saeki and Yuka Yoshida 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

Paes won two gold medals and a bronze at the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games but missed the 1998 edition in Bangkok with an injury. He nearly missed out this time, revealing Friday that he twisted his ankle in a fall last week.

"I hurt my ankle in a fall in my first practice session and that put

everything into doubt," Paes said. "I'm very happy with a gold and a bronze considering the way my ankle was."

After being pushed into three sets in the semi-finals, Paes and Bhupathi answered the alarm with a dominating performance.

"We got a scare in the semi-final and that really woke us up," Paes said. "We knew we had to come out and put on a good show."

Paes is not sure he will be back to defend the crown at Doha, when he will be 33.

"Four years down the road is a long way off," Paes said. "At 29, I have every ounce of motivation I have I try to summon up to perform."

But Paes does intend to play for India at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

"I definitely want to be in Athens," he said. "Now I'm planning and preparing to be ready for the Olympics and that's only two years down the road."

Glory for China

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

AFP, Busan

Four-time champions South Korea claimed on Friday that two controversial decisions cost them the chance to win a fifth successive Asian Games women's hockey gold medal.

China clinched a 2-1 final victory but both their goals were hotly-contested by the home side who had held the title since Seoul in 1986.

Captain Chen Zhao Xia and Fu Bao Rong scored for China, while Kim Seong Eun found the mark for South Korea but the hosts argued with Japanese umpire Chieko Akiyama about the decision to award the second goal when Korean goalkeeper Park Yong-Sook had saved a feeble push from Fu Bao Rong.

The 43rd-minute goal was awarded because Sook had advanced as Fu took the stroke. The hosts contended that Fu had made an initial movement before her feeble push.

Korean coach Kim Sang Ryul said he felt cheated.

"That particular decision killed the match," he said.

The stroke itself came under

dramatic circumstances as a seemingly loose ball came back into play off the post. Chinese forward Li Shuang pounced on it but was obstructed by custodian Park.

That decision followed Korean anger about the penalty-corner in the 38th minute from which China opened the scoring.

The referee had awarded the penalty-corner for dangerous play when the Koreans sent a clearance from their defence had actually deflected off a Chinese forward's stick.

South Korea, 2-0 down midway into the second session, struggled to break into the circle but reduced the margin in the 66th minute through Kim Seong-Eun to make the dying minutes interesting.

China's South Korean coach Kim Changback said he had expected victory.

"We were the favourites for the title after our Champions Trophy win. We did suffer a loss at the hands of Japan in the preliminary league, but we were the best team in the competition," he said.

"I don't think any of the decisions were really bad ones. Sometimes

there are some close decisions which can be debated. But they don't necessarily make a difference to the final outcome.

"I thought there was no doubt about who was the better team. We dominated the game and the Korean team only put up some fight towards the end," said Kim.

China had beaten South Korea 2-0 in the preliminary league.

Earlier in the day, striker Sakae Morimoto scored once in each half as Japan beat India 2-0 to clinch the bronze.

The Indian forward-line once again failed to get its act together as the Commonwealth Games champions fell to their fourth successive defeat in the four-nation tournament.

It was Japan's second win over India in the tournament after a 3-2 verdict earlier in the league.

Japan kept their hold on the game after their first strike in the 29th minute and a diving effort by Morimoto off a cross from Akiko Kitada in the 44th completed the scoreline.

Eves' soccer N Korea Asia's best

AFP, Changwon

North Korea unseated defending champions China Friday to take the Asian Games women's football gold medal after a 4-0 drubbing of Vietnam in the round-robin finals.

The Koreans went undefeated in the six-team tournament winning all their matches except for a 0-0 tie with China, proving themselves to be the toughest team in the tournament and a major threat in next year's Asian Football Championships and women's World Cup.

Defending champions China have also gone undefeated so far here at the Busan Games, but two ties leaves it vying for a silver medal which will be decided in a later match Friday against South Korea.

"We are really happy with this, it's a great achievement for us," North Korean coach Ri Song-Gun said.



China's Fu Bao Rong (L) and South Korea's Yoo Hee-Joo fight for the ball in the final of the women's hockey competition.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 42 Festive
 1 Flag
 6 Ball caller
 12 Oriental
 13 "Rockford Files"
 14 Relay-race VIP
 15 Foudal
 16 Youngster
 17 — nitrate
 19 Sternward
 20 Jodie Foster
 22 Took a chair
 24 — out a living
 27 Spiritual discipline
 29 Eschew
 32 Fill box?
 35 Condo,
 36 Writer
 37 Cheerful remark?
 38 Beatle's adjective
 40 Santa's sackful

DOWN
 1 Refuse
 2 "Casa-blanca"
 3 Actor Milo
 4 "So that's your game, eh?"
 5 Excessively distrustful
 6 Homely
 7 Uses the USPS
 8 Lead-in to "med" or "colp"
 9 Collect
 10 Sand-bank
 11 Archaic adverb

12 Roscoe
18 Electric generator
21 Big Apple
23 Baseball bat wood
24 Casso-
25 Keyes or Griffey
26 Serving to enlighten
28 Dirigible pilot
30 Dream Team logo
31 Ultimate (degree)
33 Call — day
34 Bowl
39 Prove otherwise
41 Cabbage recipes
42 Raiment
43 Neighbor-hood
45 Polar explorer
47 Tent
48 Wee
49 Blue
51 Lab, e.g.
53 Book-keeper (Abbr.)

Solution time: 27 mins.

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 WEIT BARFLY
 RUNES ART RYE
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 ORA BING STANER
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 GRAY RODCAREW
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56							57			

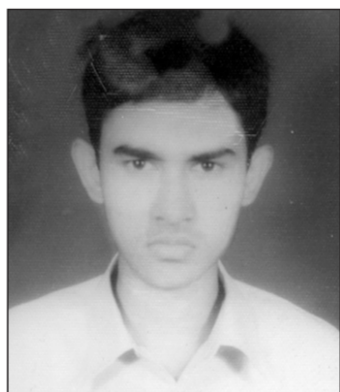
CRYPTOQUIP
 L S J F P N R B F C N X S J I N
 R J Q Q O R S J U - F Z E E Z P
 M Z L V Y N Y Z U I O H S S M X Z

M N C Z P " H B I B Q Z M H N M B M Z ?"
 Yesterday's Cryptoque: WHEN A SHEEP NEEDS A GOOD SHEARING, I WONDER IF IT HEADS FOR THE BAA-BAA SHOP.

Today's Cryptoque Clue: R equals F

The Cryptoque is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

WHIZZ KID- 180 winner



Masudur Rahman (Adarsha Biddya Niketon, Manikdi, Dhaka Cantt)

troubled them with his clever variations to finish with 4-51.

Barring Chanderpaul, none of the batsmen could apply himself against a disciplined Indian pace-spin attack after the tourists had resumed at 33-2.

The West Indies' woes began in overcast conditions when they lost two quick wickets in the morning and continued in the bright sunshine in the late afternoon.

India started with a double-spin attack and got a vital wicket in the eighth over.

Sarwan, a consistent run-getter, added just two to his overnight 20 before being trapped leg-before on the backfoot by Kumble with the one that kept a bit low.

Nightwatchman Mervyn Dillon survived against spin, but fell to pace after hitting a straight six off Kumble and one four in his 21.

Javagal Srinath, returning to Test cricket after announcing his retirement in June, bowled Dillon with a real cutter.

Hooper played a couple of attacking shots in the morning, pulling Zaheer for a four and then lofting Harbhajan over mid-wicket for another boundary before he fell playing one stroke too many.

SCOREBOARD
 Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between India and the West Indies at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday:

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Srinath	4	2	19	0
Zaheer	3	0	17	0
Bangar	6	1	20	0
Harbhajan	9	3	24	1
Kumble	4	2	2	0
Tendulkar	1	0	2	0

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka).

Zaheer too fast for WI

Nagamootoo 3-132)
WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 33-2)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gayle lbw b Zaheer	7			
W Hinds c sub (Das) b Harbhajan	1			
Sarwan lbw b Kumble	22			
Dillon b Srinath	21			
Chanderpaul c and b Kumble	54			
Hooper c Bangar b Zaheer	23			
R Hinds lbw b Zaheer	9			
Jacobs c Ganguly b Zaheer	0			
Nagamootoo c Harbhajan b Kumble	9			

Collins lbw b Kumble
 Cuffy not out
 Extras: (lb-5, nb-2)

Total: (All out in 74.5 overs)
 Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-27, 3-43, 4-59,