Greece set to make debut at Hopman Cup

AFP, *Perth*

Greece will make their debut at this summer's Hopman Cup tennis mixed teams event at Burswood Dome here from December 29, organisers announced Friday.

Vasilis Mazarakis and Eleni Danilidou will clash with Italy's Davide Sanguinetti and Francesca Schaivone at the start of the tournament to decide who fills the last of the eight places in the main draw.

Mazarakis, 21, made a mark the last time he played in Perth, beating British Davis Cup squad member Jamie Delgado in the final of the Australian Unity Western Australian Open in March.

Carl, Brian give

FROM PAGE 13

Club Ground in Colombo Saturday:

WEST INDIES: First innings

Gayle b P'kumara	41
Ganga c Hewage b P'kumara	0
Sarwan c Daniel b R'kumara	7
Lara c Vandort b P'kumara	43
Hooper c J'wardene b P'kumara	117
Samuels lbw b Chandana	54
Jacobs c J'wardene b Dilhara	20
McGarrell not out	34
Dillon not out	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-2, nb-13)	18
Total: (For 7 wkts)	334

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-50, 3-53, 4-182, 5-279, 6-279, 7-329

To bat: R King, M Black

Bowler	O	M	R	W
P'kumara	17	0	85	4
Dilhara	10	1	62	1
R'kumara	19	2	56	1
S'weera	19	3	67	0
Chandana	15	1	61	1

SRI LANKA A: Hashan Tillakaratne, Gerald Daniel, Pradeep Hewage, Michael Vandort, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Thilan Samaraweera, Prasanna Jayawardene, Upul Chandana, Gayan Ramyakumara, Danushka Dilhara, Ravindra Pushpakumara.

Twin tons

FROM PAGE 13

when he hit a tired-looking pull shot off Shoaib Akhtar to Afridi for 84.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the Champions' Trophy one-day international between Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Friday:

SRI LANKA: 272 for 9 (M Jayawardena 84, A Gunawardena 57, S Jayasuriya 36; S Akhtar 3-45, W Younis 2-51)

PAKISTAN

Afridi c Sangakkara b Vaas	11
Latif c Nissanka b Dharmasena	113
Youhana b Buddhika	11
Inzamam not out	118
Younis not out	7
Extras: (lb-4, w-7, nb-5)	16
Total: (For 3 wkts in 49.2 overs)	276

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-41, 3-260

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	10	0	40	1
Nissanka	9	0	71	0
Buddhika	10	0	35	1
Arnold	9	0	57	0
Dharmasena	9	0	44	1
Jayasuriya	2.2	0	25	0

Result: Pakistan won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Naveed Latif.

Another Sachin

FROM PAGE 13

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-43, 3-51, 4-68

To bat: D Dasgupta, A Kumble, A Nehra, Z Khan, J Srinath

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	13	4	47	1
Hayward	18	4	64	2
Kallis	13	3	54	1
Ntini	6	0	53	0
Klusener	3	0	20	0
Boje	3	1	11	0

SOUTH AFRICA: Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Boeta Dippenaar, Lance Klusener, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Nicky Boje, Makhaya Ntini, Nantie Hayward.

Two good news for Kiwis

Cricket

REUTERS, *Brisbane*

New Zealand's morale before the Test series against Australia improved on Saturday with Chris Cairns taking five wickets against Queensland and spinner Daniel Vettori indicating he would be fit for the first Test.

Pace bowler Cairns, who has lacked rhythm with the ball following his return from a serious knee injury, took five for 71 from 22 overs in Brisbane to help dismiss Queensland for 347. Australia Test opener Matthew Hayden made 97.

New Zealand were 53 for three in reply, an overall lead of 150, at the close after the third and penultimate day of the touring side's final warm-up match.

The first game in the three-Test series against Australia starts in Brisbane on Thursday.

Vettori, stretchered off with a torn ankle ligament against an Australian Capital Territory Invitational side on October 21 and flown home to New Zealand, launched his comeback on Friday with four wickets for a New Zealand academy side against the State Auckland Aces in Christchurch.

He rejoined the team in Brisbane on Saturday and said he was confident of making the first Test.

"There is a little bit of uncertainty in my head but I'm confident about getting through the bowling," Vettori said.

"It's the other things I have to be nervous about and the true test will be a full day in the field.

"But I would love to play and I'm reasonably confident."

The 22-year-old Vettori, only just back from a year out of Test cricket with back problems, has taken 106 wickets in 31 Tests and has a good record against Australia, taking 20 wickets at an average of 26.40.

A New Zealand team spokesman said Vettori's progress would be monitored daily.

Nathan Astle, who made 223 in New Zealand's 444 for nine declared on Friday before suffering a groin strain, did not field on Saturday but an Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) radio report said team officials were confident the 30-year-old would be fit to play in the first Test.

ABC Radio also reported Vettori looked tentative during some fitness drills on the ground during a break in play on Saturday.

Mathew Sinclair, on 17, and Craig McMillan, on 20, will be looking for quick runs when play resumes on Sunday at the Gabba ground after sharing an unbeaten fourth-wicket partnership of 44.

New Zealand were nine for three after Andrew Bichel (two for 14) and Michael Kasprowicz removed Mark Richardson, Matthew Bell and captain Stephen Fleming cheaply.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the third day of the four-day tour match between Queensland and New Zealand Saturday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 444 for 9 declared (N Astle 223, S Fleming 69, C Cairns 39; M Johnson 2-64, A Bichel 2-65, A Symonds 2-87)

QUEENSLAND: First innings (overnight 140-1)

Hayden c Bell b Martin	97
Maher st Parore b Sulzberger	47
Love c Parore b Cairns	39
Perren c McMillan b Cairns	34
Symonds c sub (Vincent) b O'Connor	48
Law c Sulzberger b Cairns	36
Seccombe c Parore b Cairns	1
Bichel run out	14
Noffke lbw McMillan	13
Kasprowicz c Fleming b Cairns	0
Johnson not out	6
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-4)	12
Total: (All out)	347

Fall of wickets: 1-64, 2-162, 3-191, 4-271, 5-271, 6-286, 7-312, 8-339, 9-339

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cairns	22	5	71	5
O'Connor	27	11	43	1
Martin	22	5	66	1
Sulzberger	33	4	122	1
McMillan	6.3	0	37	1

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

Richardson c Seccombe b Kasprowicz	0
Bell lbw Bichel	4
Sinclair not out	17
Fleming c Seccombe b Bichel	0
McMillan not out	20
Extras: (lb-2, nb-10)	12
Total: (For 3 wkts)	53

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-9, 3-9

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kasprowicz	6	1	9	1
Bichel	6	2	14	2
Noffke	4	2	11	0
Johnson	3	1	17	0
Law	1	1	0	0

Waugh means business

South Africa the final frontier

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, *Sydney*

Australia captain Steve Waugh, fresh from proving his fitness following months of injury problems, says the series against South Africa starting next month will decide which team can call itself the world's best.

"Playing South Africa is obviously our biggest challenge," Waugh said after playing in a club game following calf muscle problems.

The 36-year-old, determined to lead his side against New Zealand prior to the arrival of the South Africans, made 84 for Sydney club side Bankstown against competition leaders Fairfield-Liverpool on Saturday in his first competitive match since the Ashes series ended in August. Waugh batted for 163 minutes.

He showed no lingering effects of the torn calf muscle which dogged him at the end of the Ashes campaign in England as he struck 12 boundaries in his 113-ball innings.

Waugh said the wicket was very flat and good for batting. He gave himself an "eight or nine" out of 10 and said he felt he didn't do a lot wrong.

"The first hour or so, I was just trying to get a bit of match practice," said Waugh.

"I've been in the nets but obviously haven't played for a while, so it was nice to spend some time in the middle.

STEVE WAUGH

"After that, I thought I hit the ball pretty well, so I couldn't really be much happier."

Quoted in The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper, Waugh said of South Africa: "If we can beat them over the course of the next six Tests, home and away, people will definitely say we are the number one side."

Australia are ranked first in the world just ahead of South Africa but Waugh added: "At the moment the South Africans probably think their side is number one and we think we are number one.

"The jury is still out."

Australia first have to deal with New Zealand in a three-Test series starting in Brisbane on November 8 but Waugh said his side would not be complacent.

They then host South Africa for three Tests in December and January, before a return series in February and March.

Waugh said the South Africans, led by all-rounder Shaun Pollock, were an extremely disciplined side and that Pollock ranked alongside Australia fast bowler Glenn McGrath as an outstanding, world-class player.

"If you are going to beat them, you are not going to beat them convincingly," Waugh said.

"You'll have to wear them down. They play a tough brand of cricket and don't give much away. It's a big series in that regard and we are looking forward to it."

Australia's world record winning streak of 16 matches came to an end in their 2-1 series loss in India in March but Waugh's team got back on course with a 4-1 win in England, Australia's seventh successive Ashes series triumph.

Taj TV to get SL's broadcast rights

AFP, *Colombo*

Sri Lanka's cricket control board Saturday announced it would award international radio and television broadcast rights to Taj Television of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) said it would enter into an agreement with Taj Television giving them broadcast rights for a period of three years.

Details of the deal were not immediately announced, but BCCSL officials said it was replacing a December agreement with WSG-Nimbus that collapsed a month later.

Security

FROM PAGE 13

tour. They did have some genuine concerns but were satisfied after the discussions. They have seen for themselves whether India is a safe place," Dalmiya added.

He said the Indian board told the officials that the tour had been cleared by the government and the English team had nothing to worry about.

"In India, security is provided by the government, unlike in some other countries where private security arrangements are made," he said. "I told them that the government clearance is the last word as far as the Indian board is concerned."

The English cricket team, which will arrive in India on November 14, will play three Tests at Mohali, Ahmedabad and Bangalore. They will then return home for Christmas before coming back to India mid-January for a series of five one-day internationals.

Captain

FROM PAGE 13

Test Championship game at Multan, Naimur continued to set attacking fields despite his insipid bowling resources. Experts felt that he would have been better off trying to restrain the run-flow rather than destroying the confidence of his bowlers through futile aggressive ploys.

Naimur's relationship with the media has also contributed to the dive in his popularity.

His selection as captain was hailed by the local sports scribes who appreciated the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)'s decision to appoint a gutsy individual who could be a long-term prospect. But the honeymoon was short-lived.

Naimur's indifferent attitude towards the press, his reluctance to open up on captaincy and team related issues and few instances of intolerance when criticised, prompted many to brand him as an egocentric individual.

Despite all this, the Board has kept faith in him until Bangladesh's forthcoming home series against Zimbabwe. And this could be Naimur's best and last chance to prove his distracters wrong.

He needs to establish a connection with the other players and try to bring out the best in them. He has to earn the respect of his charges and should show that he is prepared to listen. But more than anything, he has to do something on the field to convince everybody, that he belongs at this level.

Any slip for Naimur at this critical juncture of his career, and the call for his head is sure to surface in no time.

Capriati falters

Tennis

AFP, *Munich*

As with the men last year, when Gustavo Kuerten edged out Marat Safin, so with the women - unless Kim Clijsters can do world number one Jennifer Capriati a massive favour.

PHOTO: INTERNET

American Jennifer Capriati reacts after losing a point against French Sandrine Testud at the WTA Tour Championships on November 2.

Capriati had to endure a feverish end to the season Friday as she fought off illness during her defeat in three sets to Sandrine Testud of France in the quarterfinals of the WTA Tour Championships here.

A winners cheque of 750,000 dollars awaits the winner on Sunday - but Capriati was looking for a coronation rather than another contribution to her bank account.

Instead, Testud's 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 triumph over her American opponent in almost two hours at the Olympiahalle, repeating a win at Filderstadt three weeks ago, has all but snatched the world number one crown from Capriati's grasp.

Lindsay Davenport will pick it up for the second time in three years, despite not winning a major title this year to date, should she beat Belgium's up and coming star Clijsters in their semi on Saturday.

Davenport looked to have Clijsters' measure at the Australian Open and Wimbledon but the teen beat her at Stanford and the gangling American faces a tense tussle before she can close in on a fourth straight indoor title.

The 29-year-old Testud proved here what students of sporting, as well as political, history will readily appreciate - that the assassin rarely wears the crown.

But having ended a run of three straight opening round losses at the event Testud now gets a moneyspinning shot at a place in the final with a match Saturday against seventh seed Serena Williams.

Williams, flourishing in the absence of elder sister Venus, who according to Davenport is the "real" number one, earlier beat Justine Henin of Belgium, seeded fourth, 6-3, 7-6, Henin bearing almost as many signs of fatigue as Capriati.

Testud perhaps deserved her day in the spotlight as she accepted a Capriati request to move their match back a day while the American battled a throat infection which allowed her to show only occasional glimpses of the form which landed her the Australian and French Open crowns earlier this year.

Capriati said had the occasion been a less important one she might have chosen to give the competition a miss.

"It was hard for me to concentrate because I felt light-headed out there.

On the prospect of Davenport taking the year-end honours, which her rival readily admits would be undeserved, Capriati was sanguine.

Capriati, who became the ninth woman to hold the number one ranking on October 15 when previous incumbent Martina Hingis suffered an ankle injury in Filderstadt, began as if her mind was elsewhere, serving two double faults to lose the opening game before Testud broke her again for a 4-1 lead.

The second set brought a Capriati improvement but the 25-year-old New Yorker missed two chances to break in the opening game of the second set as both women contrived to serve up some terrific stroke play and some pulsating long rallies.

Five straight breaks left Capriati 4-3 ahead and she served out to level the contest with a backhand winner.

Duel in the desert

FROM PAGE 13

The organisers, pleased with a full house on Friday for the first time in the tournament, hope the stands will fill up again even though Sunday is a working day in the region.

PROBABLE TEAMS

PAKISTAN: Waqar Younis (captain), Saeed Anwar, Younis Khan, Shahid Afridi, Inzamamul Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Naveed Latif, Abdur Razzaq, Azhar Mahmood, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar.

SRI LANKA: Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardena, Russel Arnold, Avishka Gunawardena, Chaminda Vaas, Dulip Liyanage, Charitha Buddhika, Kumar Dharmasena, Muthiah Muralitharan.

Either Haas or Grosjean

Tennis

AFP, *Paris*

Germany's Tommy Haas and Sebastien Grosjean of France go head-to-head here on Saturday with the final qualifying place in the end-of-season 3.7-million-dollar Masters Cup at stake.

Haas, the seventh seed, came from a set down to beat Sweden's number 15 seed Thomas Johansson 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 in his quarterfinal on Friday while Grosjean, the sixth seed, easily disposed of Hicham Arazi's feeble challenge to win 6-2, 6-2 in just 71 minutes against the outclassed Moroccan.

Just one place remains in the eight-man Masters Cup to be held in Sydney later in November - and only Haas and Grosjean are still left in the hunt.

However, the German has more Champions Race points than his French rival which means that Grosjean will now have to beat Haas in Saturday's semifinal and then win Sunday's final if he is to qualify for Sydney.

"I am not really thinking about Sydney," said Grosjean.

"It is important for me that I am playing in front of my own public. I really want to win here - but not because of Sydney. I want to win because the tournament is in Paris."

Haas is the man in form having won the Masters title in Stuttgart as well as the Vienna tournament this autumn, and is on a streak of having lost just three of his last 27 matches.

Saturday's other semifinal in the 2.95-million-dollar event here will be between Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the fourth seed, and Sweden's Andreas Vinciguerra.

Olympic champion and double Grand Slam winner Kafelnikov looked in impressive form as he swept aside Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-3 while Vinciguerra won a dramatic 2-6, 7-6, 7-6 quarterfinal against Dutchman Sjeng Schalken, the man who knocked out world number one Gustavo Kuerten in the third round.

Kafelnikov, who collected his 24th career title in Moscow in October, has reached four Masters finals but has never won - losing to Andrei Medvedev in Hamburg in 1994, Thomas Enqvist in Paris in 1996, Richard Krajicek in the 1998 final in Stuttgart and then to Thomas Johansson in Montreal in 1999.

"When I lost to Medvedev, he was the best clay court player in the world. I always had trouble with Enqvist. I was never beating Johansson, but since that match I am 5-0 against him while Krajicek was beating everyone, including Sampras," said the fourth-seeded Russian who won Olympic gold in Sydney last year to add to his French and Australian Open crowns of 1996 and 1999 respectively.

Vinciguerra, the 20-year-old from Malmo, had faced defeat at one stage as Schalken took the first set 6-2 and served for the match leading 5-2 in the second.

But Vinciguerra mounted an astonishing fightback to level the match in the tie-break before almost throwing it all away. He raced into a 5-0 lead in the final set and held two match points at 5-3 to win the contest.

However, those points were squandered and he needed four more in the tie-break before he eventually calmed his nerves to clinch victory after more than two hours on court.

Tattooed by mistake!

Cricket

BBC, *Sydney*

First he equalled the world record for the number of Test dismissals in the 90s, then lost his Test place, and now Michael Slater may have tattooed himself with the wrong number.

The New South Wales opener has always been one to wear his heart on his sleeve, but he took patriotic pride a bit too far on Thursday.

Believing himself to be the 356th player to represent Australia, he had the number tattooed on his body.

Just for good measure, he then ordered the personalised numberplate MS356 for his new red Ferrari.

But if watching Justin Langer, his replacement for the final Ashes Test last summer, score a hundred at the Oval was not bad enough, Slater has now been told that he may in fact be Australia's 357th Test player.

The real 356 is, apparently, Brendon Julian.

The pair made their Test debuts together in 1993 and Slater had assumed that because he had batted above Julian, he would be listed first.

But the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said that in cases when two more cricketers make their debuts together, their numbers, which are now included on baggy green caps, are determined alphabetically.

"Most people would assume you would do it alphabetically," said ACB statistician Ross Dundas.

And the ACB website -- baggygreen.com.au -- lists Julian ahead of Slater on the official list of Test caps.

England fans might not be the most sympathetic to Slater's plight having seen him survive a run-out decision in Sydney three winters' ago.

MICHAEL SLATER

He survived only because the proper technology was available to the third umpire and because the bowler, Peter Such, had accidentally obscured the camera.

Slater was on 35 at the time and he went on to score 123 out of a second-innings total of 183, the second highest percentage of runs scored in a completed innings in Test history. England lost the Test by 98 runs.

But then good fortune also seems to have a played its part Slater's career. Indeed, he is lucky even to have a Test career.

As one of the first pupils of the Australian Cricket Academy, he was involved in a cycling accident with a car that left him with hip and back injuries. It took him more than a year to recover fully.

He has also avoided a repeat of the mystery illness, which left him panting for breath over dinner and resulted in a trip to hospital in 1999.

A compulsive stroke-player, Slater often gives the appearance of using all his lives at once.

He was dropped no fewer than four times in one innings against Pakistan, before swiping a full toss to midwicket on 97.

That was one of nine occasions, the latest of them last January against the West Indies, when he has been dismissed in the 90s in Test cricket. Only Steve Waugh has suffered a similar fate.

Whatever his future holds -- and increasingly he is to be found in television commentary boxes -- Slater is still talking a good game.

"I'm not the only guy that's been left out of the side," he pointed out.

"And you know what, I'll come back bigger and better. My career statistics until now tell a story, you can't deny that."

Perhaps, but after his latest mishap it could be that Slater has used up the last of his cricketing lives.

If so he is destined to remain at 74 Tests, 5,312 runs and an average of 42.83.

Unless he wishes to cook those figures too.

Rajshahi soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Seroil Colony Club and Alide Club won their respective matches of the Rajshahi First Division Football League at local stadium yesterday.

In the first match, Seroil defeated Helenabad Colony Club 3-1.

The winners led the first half 1-0.

In the other match of the day, Alide Club beat Kajirganj Sporting Club 3-2.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

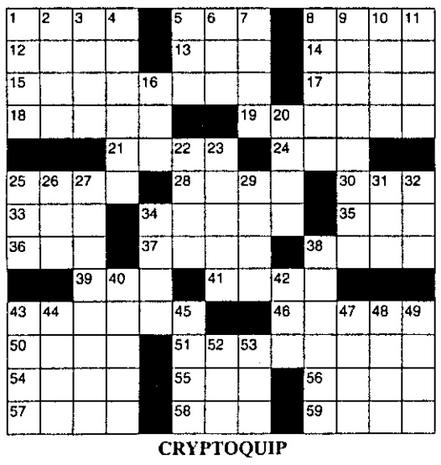
1 Hanks role
5 L-1011, e.g.
8 Touched down
12 Vicinity
13 Tramcar cargo
14 Got up
15 Near-break-down condition
17 Actress Gershon
18 Roofing material
19 Has faith in
21 Dumbo's "wings"
24 Slippery one
25 Tuesday at the movies?
28 "— lineman for the county ..."
30 Candle tally
33 Past
34 Freud contemporary
35 Postal Creed word
36 Get adorned in
37 Whatever's left
38 Greek cheese
39 Idaho, the — State
41 Largest of the Seven
43 Passes along
46 Elegance
50 Rainbow
51 Gambler's muse?
54 Lose rigidity
55 Indivisible
56 "Dies —"
57 Dogfight battlers
58 Take the trophy
59 Ointment

DOWN

1 Guys' companions
2 Caspian Sea feeder
3 Arizona city
4 Touched lightly
5 One of Marilyn's husbands
6 Work unit
7 Criterion
8 Debate
9 Daily Planet staffer
10 "— It Romantic?"
11 Earl Grey's kin?
16 Meadow
20 Bring up
22 Carnival attraction
23 Tangy topping
25 Bankroll
26 Prima donna's problem
27 "— the king!"
29 Shea squad
31 Understood
32 Baseball stat.
34 Multitude
38 Drill sarge's command
40 Assuages
42 Unfriendly
43 Latvia's capital
44 Singer Clapton
45 Adagio
47 Emanation
48 Cicatrix
49 Timetable, slangily
52 Blackbird
53 Thieves' hangout

Solution time: 27 mins.

L	A	B	S		T	I	E		C	A	S	A
O	B	O	E		O	R	G		O	V	A	L
S	C	A	L	A	W	A	G		G	I	V	E
			D	I	N		R	I	N	S	E	S
V	A	L	O	R		C	O	L	A			
A	R	A	M		R	O	L	L	C	A	L	L
M	I	D		F	O	U	L	S		T	O	O
P	A	Y	R	O	L	L	S		F	O	R	T
			A	U	L	D		J	A	M	E	S
D	E	N	I	R	O		G	U	M			
A	X	I	S		V	I	R	G	I	N	I	A
D	A	L	I		E	R	A		S	E	M	I
A	M	E	N		R	E	D		H	E	A	D



CRYPTOQUIP

K B A Z L Q T M Z Z M E U U B W M X I S X M X H Z M M Y P M H M Q E A U M X . S Q L U W T S K Q L H S P M I M E X E O T E Y O M.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHITEWATER RAFTERS ARE PRETTY EASILY PLEASED. THEY GLADLY GO WITH THE FLOW.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals S

The Cryptoquip 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.