

## Man in a Bin Laden mask

AFP, Hong Kong

Cricket fans have expressed anger with the organisers of the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes after a Pakistan supporter was allowed to parade in front of the stands in an Osama bin Laden mask.

In a letter to the editor published in Tuesday's South China Morning Post reader Nick Sawyer, a Briton, denounced the failure of the stewards at last weekend's event to take action against the mask-wearing man.

"The fact that spectators can be stopped from entering the ground carrying a single apple ... and yet others were allowed in with bin Laden masks or T-shirts is outrageous," Sawyer wrote.

"And I know I'm not alone in saying that I will never attend the Hong Kong Sixes tournament again."

During Sunday's final between England and Pakistan, a Pakistan supporter wearing a Bin Laden mask and waving a Pakistani flag paraded in front of the stands where British and Australian supporters were seated.

Beer cans were thrown and insults exchanged with Pakistani fans before order was restored. Pakistan went on to win the match, organised by the Hong Kong Cricket Association.

Another Briton, Simon Brown, told the Post he found it disgraceful that the fan was allowed to wear the mask in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States and the October 12 bombing in Bali, Indonesia, which cost the lives of a number of Hong Kong residents.

Tournament director Clive Howard defended the decision not to remove the mask-wearing fan and said the match was almost over when it was brought to his attention. "I would find it difficult to justify removing this guy in the midst of 500 screaming Pakistani fans without (US President) George Bush behind me," he told the Post.

## No problem with Gilchrist's elbow

AFP, Brisbane

Australian vice-captain and wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist was on Tuesday passed fit for the Ashes series opener against England at the Gabba here on Thursday.

Gilchrist was discharged from a Brisbane hospital at midday after receiving treatment for an infected elbow.

Australian team physiotherapist Errol Alcott said he was satisfied Gilchrist was ready for the first Test after and he will train with the team on Wednesday morning.

## Pak batters

FROM PAGE 13  
SCOREBOARD

Close of play scoreboard on the first day of the three-day match between Pakistan and Zimbabwe A on Monday:

**PAKISTAN:** First innings  
Elahi c Vermuelin b Mahwire 49  
Taufeeq c Taibu b Sims 86  
Younis c Nkala b Macmillan 84  
Inzamam b Mahwire 63  
Youhana run out (Mahwire) 1  
Raza not out 32  
Afridi not out 21  
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-12, w-1) 16  
Total: (For 5 wks 90 overs) 352  
Fall of wickets: 1-127, 2-161, 3-272, 4-273, 5-312  
To bat: Kamran Akmal, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Mohammad Zahid

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mkala	15	8	34	0
Macmillan	18	5	76	1
Mahwire	20	4	62	2
Ervine	18	1	100	0
Whittall	4	2	2	0
Sims	15	3	75	1

## Lee-Bichel duel

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

The spotlight swung on to Brett Lee on Tuesday after fellow Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie proved he was ready for the opening Ashes Test with England at the Gabba.

Lee, who ranks with Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar as the quickest bowler in world cricket, has been pushed into a fight for the third and final fast bowling position with Andy Bichel.

Gillespie, who has taken 126 wickets in 34 Tests, successfully tested his suspect calf muscle in the nets here Tuesday and is now expected to share the new ball with spearhead Glenn McGrath.

Lee, who exploded into Test cricket with 42 wickets in his first seven Tests, only took five wickets in the recent three-Test series with Pakistan and his place in the team is under threat.

Bichel has only played eight Tests in six years and is knocking on the door to play on his home ground after impressing with eight wickets at 13.25 against Pakistan.

Chairman of selectors Trevor

Hohns gave no indication of whether Lee would play after watching Gillespie sail through his fitness test on Tuesday.

"We've got to decide on who will play and I'll have a chat to the captain (Steve Waugh) and go from there," Hohns said.



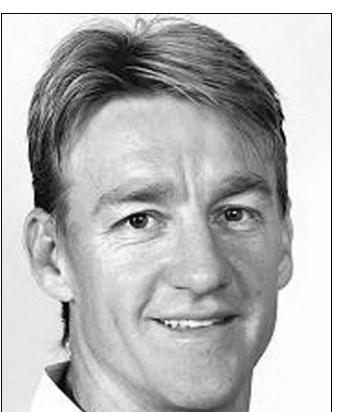
BRETT LEE

Gillespie and Gilchrist, who has been in hospital receiving treatment for an infected elbow, are expected to play against England.

Waugh has always been a strong supporter of Lee but the final decision rests with the selection panel,

which overlooked reputations by sacking 128-Test veteran Mark Waugh from Test cricket last week.

Lee, 26 on Friday, has lost his grip on his place in the team since returning from elbow surgery for the last Ashes series in England last year, taking 47 wickets from then up



ANDY BICHEL

until now at 38.55.

But Lee has his supporters with former Test paceman Merv Hughes saying this week that his intimidation factor was needed against England on the bouncy Australian wickets.

## Kiwis find no way out

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Snedden in turn wants to go around CPA and negotiate directly with players but he is running into New Zealand employment law which gives employees the right of collective negotiation.

Nichol said his side was rejecting the pay offer but was willing to resume domestic cricket if mediation talks started immediately.

He said they were unable to rely on financial information from the employer.

Nichol said the NZC offer may have breached New Zealand employment law on the right to collective bargaining.

"The offer constitutes a take-it-or-leave-it offer and threatens to undermine the association by approaching individual players," Nichol said.

Following that Snedden announced that NZC had disen-

gaged from negotiations.

He said the State Max competition, scheduled for November 16 and 17, and the Provincial A Competition, scheduled to begin on January 2, have been cancelled.

"Despite six months of negotiations with the CPA we have not made any progress on the key issues and the season is fast approaching," he said.

"We have acted so we can get on with the State domestic season and to ensure we can field a team for the National Bank Series versus India," Snedden said.

"Our final offer to the CPA was fair. It significantly increased remuneration and income security for both international and first-class domestic players."

"We have reached an impasse. The NZCPA offer today contained nothing new. The issues raised have been dealt with previously. It is

now time for us to move forward and get on with the cricket season."

Nichol later told Television New Zealand that for players now the issue was no longer about money.

"If it was about money guys would have sold out a long time ago, these guys are under extreme pressure at the moment," he said, saying the membership wanted representation at top level.

Snedden said there were "very tight financial limitations" available to NZC and the offer was "very very good".

He said NZC wanted to talk directly to the players who did not understand the position.

"We have been denied that opportunity, restricted from putting our case to the players," Snedden said. 0

## Neil, Steve and Andrew back for S Africa

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Batsman Neil McKenzie, veteran seamer Steve Elworthy and all-rounder Andrew Hall have been recalled to the South Africa squad for the first Test against Sri Lanka in Johannesburg.

McKenzie, out of favour since South Africa's 2-1 home series defeat by Australia in March, returns after a big century against the Sri Lankans for South Africa A at the expense of Martin van Jaarsveld.

"Neil has shown good form lately and his century in Kimberley for the A side was impressive," national convenor of selectors Omar Henry said on Tuesday.

Elworthy, 37, played the last of his two Tests against New Zealand in Wellington in March 1999, but has been a consistent performer in domestic cricket and widely considered unlucky not to have had more chances at international level.

Hall, named as one of South Africa's five players of the year last month, returns after featuring in the home series against the Australians.

The final team will be named on Friday, when the first of two Tests starts.

### SQUAD

Shaun Pollock (captain), Herschelle Gibbs, Graeme Smith, Gary Kirsten, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Ashwell Prince, Mark Boucher, Andrew Hall, Claude Henderson, Makhaya Ntini, Steve Elworthy, Mornantau Hayward.

## Rest of SA, SL draw 4-dayer

AFP, Lenasia

The Rest of South Africa and the touring Sri Lankan side drew their four-day match at the Lenasia Stadium on Monday.

The home side were bowled out five overs into the morning session on the fourth and final day for 392 for a first-innings lead of 56.

When the game ended 30 minutes before the scheduled close, the tourists had reached 265 for two in their second innings. The not-out batsmen were Kumar Sangakkara on 61 and captain Sanath Jayasuriya on 11.

Russel Arnold, after three dismal failures under his belt so far on tour with scores of one, 19 and four, struck 12 boundaries and two sixes for a 161-ball 98. He was caught behind after failing to connect with a drive and found the edge.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the fourth and final day of the match between the Rest of South Africa and Sri Lanka at the Lenasia Stadium on Monday:

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 336-5 declared (M Jayawardene 76, H Tillakaratne 79, H Fernando 57 not out)

**REST OF SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings (overnight 368-8)  
AAmla c De Silva b Perera 6  
Henderson lbw b Gamage 30  
Jacobs c Jayasuriya b Fernando 146  
HAmla lbw b Muralitharan 40  
Kent c Perera b Arnold 48  
Joubert b Muralitharan 11  
De Lange lbw b Muralitharan 5  
Van Wyk c De Silva b Perera 46  
Abraham c sub Mubarak b De Silva 15  
Kruger lbw b De Silva 11  
Kops not out 9

Extras: (p-5, b-9, lb-8, nb-1, w-2) 25  
Total: (All out in 98 overs) 392  
Fall of wicket: 1-15, 2-70, 3-229, 4-243, 5-268, 6-280, 7-308, 8-350, 9-378

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Perera	18	3	65	2
De Silva	19	3	62	2
Gamage	15	3	67	1
Fernando	13	2	34	1
Muralitharan	31	1	136	3
Arnold	2	0	6	1

**SRI LANKA:** Second innings  
Atapattu c van Wyk b Joubert 81  
Arnold c van Wyk b Kruger 98  
Sangakkara not out 61  
Jayasuriya not out 11  
Extras: (b-6, lb-5, nb-3) 14  
Total: (For 2 wks in 68 overs) 265  
Fall of wickets: 1-184, 2-196

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kruger	16	4	67	1
Abraham	5	0	10	0
Kops	12	2	42	0
Kent	6	2	14	0
De Lange	12	1	64	0
Henderson	3	0	25	0
Joubert	9	3	12	1
HAmla	5	1	20	0

**Result: Match drawn.**

## Arantxa's pledge

REUTERS, Maspalomas

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario has vowed to return for Spain in next year's Fed Cup after injury ruined her attempts to win the title for a sixth time in the 3-1 defeat by Slovakia.

The 30-year-old, who on Sunday became the first woman to play 100 Fed Cup matches, was severely hampered by a thigh strain as she was beaten 6-0, 6-2 by Janette Husarova to hand Slovakia the title for the first time in their history.

## Time for ODI

FROM PAGE 13

Mongia, Rahul Dravid, Venkatsai Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Javagal Srinath, Ashish Nehra, Sanjay Bangar, Ajit Agarkar, Jai Prakash Yadav.

**WEST INDIES** (from): Carl Hooper (captain), Shivnarine Chandernpaul, Pedro Collins, Corey Collmore, Cameron Cuffey, Mervyn Dillon, Vasbert Drakes, Darren Ganga, Chris Gayle, Ryan Hinds, Wavell Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Ricardo Powell, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan.



Slovakian team members pose with the trophy after winning the Fed Cup finals against Spain in Maspalomas November 3.

## Fed Cup Slovakia's

Tennis

REUTERS, Maspalomas

Slovakia won the Fed Cup for the first time in their history after Daniela Hantuchova and Janette Husarova won their singles matches to give them an unassailable 3-1 lead over favourites Spain.

In an epic battle lasting over three hours, Hantuchova outlasted Conchita Martinez 6-7, 7-5, 6-4 before Husarova overcame an injured Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 6-0, 6-2 to seal a famous victory over the five-times Fed Cup champions.

While Husarova's victory over Sanchez-Vicario clinched the Cup for Slovakia, Hantuchova's battling win over Martinez proved decisive.

The 19-year-old displayed her fighting spirit as she withstood the Martinez onslaught in the first two sets before carving her win in the decider after three hours and 21 minutes.

"It just meant so much to me," world number eight Hantuchova said.

"I gave everything I had out there and I wanted to win so much. "Even when I lost the first set I was really happy with the way I was

fighting and I would not give up. I am very proud."

In front of a partisan Spanish crowd, the first set contained six breaks of serve before Martinez took it in a dramatic tiebreak, winning it 10-8 on her fourth set point, having saved two of her own.

With the Spaniard, who was appearing in a record 10th Fed Cup final, cleverly mixing up her game, Hantuchova struggled to find her rhythm and was clearly rattled. The Slovak even received a time-delay warning in the latter stages of the opening set.

"I was very surprised about that, because I thought the umpire (Jorge Dias) had many chances to warn Conchita, who I thought was taking too long sometimes," said Hantuchova.

Both players traded breaks early on in the second set, and after Martinez was treated for stiff leg muscles, Hantuchova forced three set points to 5-4.

Martinez held serve from 0-40 to stay in the set but when Hantuchova forced another set point at 6-5, she was unable to retrieve a rasping forehand from the Slovakian and the match was level at one set apiece.

Hantuchova grabbed the momentum and stormed to a 3-0 lead in the deciding set as the 30-

year-old Martinez started to tire.

But the Spaniard was not in a mood to give up and broke Hantuchova when she served for the match at 5-3.

The respite, however, did not last long as Hantuchova hit two superb forehands to clinch victory in the next game after three hours and 21 minutes.

"I am very disappointed, I was so tired out there," 1994 Wimbledon champion Martinez said.

"Then at the end of the second set, she had all the momentum."

Martinez also cast doubt on whether she would be back to play for Spain in next year's competition. "I have no idea. All I know now is that I don't have to play tomorrow, and I am on holiday," she said.

Three-times French Open winner Sanchez-Vicario, who became the first woman to play 100 Fed Cup matches, struggled throughout her match with the thigh strain which forced her to miss her opening singles match against Hantuchova on Saturday.

Husarova was relentless as she took full advantage of her opponent's immobility and raised her arms in jubilation when she sealed the famous victory.

The final dead rubber doubles match was cancelled.

## Panova prevails

Tennis

AFP, Pattaya

Top seed Tatiana Panova cruised past US Open junior champion Maria Kirilenko Tuesday in an all-Russian first-round clash at the Volvo Open.

Panova took just 57 minutes to brush aside her 15-year-old compatriot 6-1, 6-0, but in the only other match involving a seeded player, German left-hander and number four seed Anca Barna was upset 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 by Russia's Anastasia Rodionova.

Kirilenko, who has received encouragement and financial assistance from former world number one Yevgeny Kafelnikov, began well by firing two aces and holding serve to love.

But her game crumbled as early as the long third game, during which

three double-faults led to her dropping her serve.

Kirilenko made too many unforced errors to enable her to offer more than token resistance, and double-faulted the final two points of the first set.

And although she led 40-0 on Panova's serve when down 0-2 in the second she claimed just one of the next 14 points.

"I was a little surprised how easy it was because it was hard to play against her," said Panova.

"She's Russian and that's always hard for me, and there was some pressure on me because she's an up and coming player. She's pretty good and has a good coach, she has money. She has everything that she needs to be a good player."

Despite being the top seed, Panova does not feel under any pressure to win in Pattaya. Staying in a five-star beach hotel at the end of a successful season is, for her, a

good way to finish the year whether she wins the title or not.

"I like this tournament. It's a good place and I get to relax here with my family. I'm not really thinking that I have to win the tournament. I've had a pretty good year so I'm fine," she said.

Rodionova got the better of an ill-tempered battle with Barna. The Russian constantly complained about line-calls, leading at one stage to Sandra Kleinova on an adjacent court yelling to her to "shut up".

Rodionova then demanded in vain for a linesman to be removed, and in the final set a frustrated Barna called up into the stands for Rodionova's sniggering fellow Russian players to be quiet.

Once she settled down and concentrated on her tennis, Rodionova began to take control as errors increasingly began to creep into Barna's baseline game.

## Another showdown?

Tennis

AFP, Los Angeles

Serena and Venus Williams, who met in three of this year's four Grand Slam finals, are poised to repeat the pattern in the season-ending WTA Tour Championships that start here on Wednesday.

Younger sister Serena -- winner at the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open -- will try to become the

first woman since Steffi Graf in 1995-96 to successfully defend her championships title.

Elder sister Venus, who reached a tour-best 11 finals this year and won seven, returns to the season finale for the first time since 1999 after missing 2000 with anemia and 2001 with a left wrist injury.

Jennifer Capriati is the third seed and the 26-year-old American seeks to improve upon a trio of quarter-final finishes in this elite event, open to the top 16 singles players on the WTA Tour and the top eight doubles

teams.

If the seeding stands up, Serena Williams would face Capriati in the semi-finals and Venus Williams would face fourth-seeded Belgian Justine Henin.

There are two rounds to get through before that, with second-seeded Venus facing a tricky opener on Wednesday night against Switzerland's Patty Schnyder.

Also slated to play Wednesday are good friends Monica Seles and Lindsay Davenport -- both former world No. 1s -- while Belgian Kim Clijsters take on Russian Elena Dementieva faces Henin.

Serena Williams is scheduled to open her defence on Thursday against Israel's Anna Smashnova. Capriati will take on Italian Silvia Farina Elia, Russian Anastasia Myskina plays Yugoslav Jelena Dokic and Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva faces Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova.

The draw was no gift for sixth-seeded Seles and Davenport. Seles hasn't played since the week after the US Open because of injuries, while Davenport has been playing often in order to qualify for this event, which has moved from Munich last year to just up the freeway from her Laguna Beach home.

Venus Williams last played on October 3, when she lost to Magdalena Maleeva in Moscow. Schnyder beat Davenport in three sets to win in Zurich last month.



Serena (L) and Venus Williams

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Hurdled  
6 Emulated  
Tara Lipinski  
12 Reservation  
13 In a frightening way  
14 Arm  
15 Put in a box  
16 Carolina county  
17 Catch sight of  
19 Fit to be tied  
20 Campus mil. program  
22 "Caught ya!"  
24 Not many  
27 Ornithologist's subject  
29 Saharan  
32 Major ISP  
35 Subway  
36 Zeno's classroom  
37 Actress Sheridan  
38 Accept applause  
40 Seagoing group

**DOWN**  
4 Ultra-modernist  
5 DNA study  
6 Leak slowly  
7 Home of many marathons  
8 Circle portion  
9 Coffee-and-rum recipe  
10 "Born Free"  
11 Went fondly  
12 Airline initials  
18 Sink the cue ball  
21 Kyoto cummerbund  
23 "2001" computer  
24 Adipose  
25 Down Under bird  
26 Tarzan: vines :: Spider-man: --  
28 Where? Whim's  
30 Tourist stopover  
31 Hideaway  
33 Old Olds  
34 Dundee denial  
39 Half a Washing-ton city  
41 Bottom of the list  
42 Command to Rover  
43 Cattle  
45 Young or Penn  
47 Detest  
48 Mid-month date  
49 "-- the fields we go"  
51 Prized possession  
53 Greet the villain

**SPIN** SPAM SOME  
LUNG VOYO WHOM  
AMUNDISEN AMOS  
PAIEANS TAR  
AMITTE BELLE HUDISON  
LITTLE BELL BOWIE  
LITLY GAY FLEX  
IRK GET PLOIN  
TASMAN BEN  
USE ANDEAN  
GIARD MIEPUCCT  
NAVY NELL ODE

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12						13				
14						15				
16				17	18			19		
			20	21			22	23		
24										