Gautam, Bhajji not in for 1st two ODIs

Cricket

AFP, Kolkata

Batsman Gautam Gambhir and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh were on Wednesday left out of India's squad for the first two one-day internationals against South Africa.

Gambhir was suffering from a groin injury and Harbhajan opted out due to personal reasons, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a press release.

Both players are taking part in the ongoing second Test against the Proteas in Kolkata. All-rounder Yusuf Pathan Amit Mishra.

earned a recall after his impressive performance in recent domestic games and uncapped off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin replaced Harbhajan.

The one-dayers will be played in Jaipur (February 21), Gwalior (February 24) and Ahmedabad (February 27).

SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Virat Kohli, Dinesh Karthik, Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Sudeep Tyagi, Praveen Kumar, Abhishek Nayar, Yusuf Pathan,

Wozniacki sent packing



AFP, Dubai

Shahar Peer increased the security dilemma surrounding her presence in the United Arab Emirates by producing a stunning 6-2, 7-5 win over the top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki to reach the quarterfinals of the Dubai Open.

The former Israeli soldier is the first woman athlete from her country to compete in the UAE and all three of her matches have been scheduled in the easier-to-protect outside courts.

But after victories over Yanina Wickmayer, the 13th seed, Virginie Razzano, last year's runner-up, and now Wozniacki, the world number three from Denmark, the pressure to take the risk of scheduling her on the centre court has increased.

With Hamas having alleged that a founder member of its organisation was assassinated last month, and fears of tit-for-tat reprisals, Peer has been operating with guards everywhere, separate changing facilities, cameras filming everyone coming in and out of the arena, and secret interviews at hidden locations

But once again she played with an icy intensity redolent of someone having a cause beyond herself and, apart from slightly wavering in the second set, she was more consistent, more tactically varied, and more calmly determined than the favourite. Peer broke at once and dominated the first set with her rhyth-

mic driving, tremendous court coverage and sudden dangerous changes of pace and direction, especially with her excellent backhand drive.



China's Li Na makes a return against Marion Bartoli of France during their WTA Dubai Tennis Championship on Wednesday.

A ton to cherish |

FROM PAGE 17 2 62 Southee 10 3 53

2 84 Tuffey 88 28.3 7 NEW ZEALAND: Second innings Watling run out

Ingram not out Extras: (lb-1) Total: (For 1 wkt in 5 overs)

To bat: Taylor, Guptill, Vettori, Southee, Martin. Fall of wickets: 1-2.

Bowler

Shahadat

Shafiul

Rooney

FROM PAGE 17

McCullum, Tuffey, Patel,

Nani was having one of his

more erratic days and

Ferguson replaced him with

Antonio Valencia halfway

through the second period, a

move that bore fruit within a

minute as the Ecuador flyer got

to the byline and crossed for

Rooney at the back post to flick

a floating header over Dida for

to hit Milan on the counter

and Rooney flashed a shot just

wide on 73 minutes but a

minute later he ran onto

Fletcher's dink into the box

past a static defence to head

late lapse allowed in Seedorf,

who had replaced Beckham,

to lift the crowd and give the

visitors a nervous last few

United were cruising until a

easily past Dida.

minutes.

United were now content

his 25th goal of the season.

McIntosh not out outright victory.

instances of deft touch, Shakib

in particular using the lap-

sweep and the scoop shot

productively. Jeetan Patel was

the primary victim of the

duo's assault, ending

wicketless in the innings after

having conceded 53 runs in 10

resistance soon after tea with

the second new ball, though

replays showed that Shakib's

under-edge bounced well

short of Brendon McCullum,

who claimed the catch

instantly. It was an unfortu-

nate end to a special innings

from Shakib, who had over-

seen Bangladesh's rescue-

operation only to fall in sight

of a well deserved maiden ton.

Mahmudullah however, was

not to be denied and, reached

the landmark soon after

Shakib's departure with a

Chris Martin broke the

FROM PAGE 17

Sunny routs Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 17 fours and five sixes during his

100-ball essay while captain Nafis Iqbal added 23 off 47 balls with three fours. At the Zahur Ahmed

Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong, pacer Robiul Islam continued to trouble Dhaka batsmen by taking three second innings wickets as Khulna were smelling

Robiul, who demolished Dhaka in the first innings with a five-for, claimed three wick- three. Rezwan (43) and Tushar ets and his new ball partner Imran (48) were the notable Dollar Mahmud took the other scorers on the day.

Tigers put up

wicket as Dhaka were reduced to 141 for four in chase of a mammoth target of 459 runs.

After dismissal of three quick wickets Marshal Ayub and Shuvagoto Chowdhury came up with half-centuries to salvage the complete blushes. Marshal score 57 while Shuvagoto remained not out on 52 along with Nadif Chowdhury (3).

Earlier, Khulna scored 325 in their second innings after resuming the day on 198 for

boundary to square leg. He

was eventually trapped in

front by Daniel Vettori for a

fantastic 115, while the rest of

the tail perished around him.

Bangladesh were all out for

408, their sixth highest total in

Test matches, but still 145 runs

adrift of New Zealand's first

batted out five overs of spir-

ited bowling from the

Bangladesh seamers, who

created enough pressure to

have BJ Watling brilliantly run

out by Shakib for 1. The hosts

are still well in control of the

test match, ending the day

effectively at 154 for 1, but

Bangladesh showed encour-

aging signs of fight, and will

hope for early wickets tomor-

row if they are to challenge a

New Zealand, who will hope

they have seen the best that

their opponents have to offer.

The New Zealanders then

innings score.

DHAKA V KHULNA

Faisal 2-19)

BRIEFSCORES

RAJSHAHI V CHITTAGONG

CHITTAGONG: First innings

198 and Second innings (over-

night 183-5) 250 all out in 61.1

overs (Salahuddin 25,

Mominul 34, Faisal 100, Sunny

18, Nafis 23, extras 7; Sajib 3-

RAJSHAHI: First innings 258

and Second innings 165 all out

in 55.3 overs (Zahurul 87,

Shuvo 17, Mashud 20, Forhad

11, extras 13; Sunny 6-47,

Result: Chittagong won by 25

61, Roy 3-59, Nasir 2-7)

KHULNA: First innings 244 and Second innings (overnight 198-3) 325 all out in 100.3 overs (Amit 68, Taposh 20, Mithun 62, Rezwan 43, Tushar 148, extras 30; Rony 3-82, Nazmul 3-58)

DHAKA: First innings 111 and Second innings 141 for four in 36 overs (Marshal 57, Shuvagoto 52 not out, extras 15; Robiul 3-36)

Renovation

FROM PAGE 17

meeting of the NSC yesterday with its chairman and sports minister Ahad Ali Sarker in chair.

The meeting was informed that the renovation and development work at the BNS would be approved soon after the re-evaluation of the ten-

The meeting also thanked all for the successful completion of the South Asian Games where hosts Bangladesh won a record 18 gold medals.

Rain disrupts India's

New Zealand v Bangladesh Only Test, Day Four

Live from 4:00am

SuperSport6

NEO Cricket

India v South Africa Second Test, Day Five Live from 9:45am **ESPN**

Sportscentre India Sports News Live at 8:30pm



National Cricket League (Four-Day Match, Day Four) Dhaka v Khulna Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong

FROM PAGE 17 Off-spinner Harbhajan "The guys have played the spinners well so far and there is no reason why we can't survive 90-odd overs. If we can just be positive and keep the

pressure on India, anything can happen." India declared their first innings on a mammoth 643-6, built on centuries by Virender Sehwag (165), Venkatsai Laxman (143 not out),

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (132 Kallis shaped up to defend not out) and Sachin Tendulkar (106).Smith and Petersen played with caution after resuming at the overnight total of 6-0, when Mishra was brought into

attack in the 13th over. Mishra struck off his first delivery, trapping Smith in front of the wicket to cap a miserable outing for the South African skipper in the series. Smith scored just 30 runs in three innings.

gave India the breakthrough in the post-lunch session when he got rid of first-innings centurion Petersen (21) in his second over after the break.

The debutant opener was foxed by a delivery that found the inside edge of his bat and popped up to short-leg where Subramaniam Badrinath took a head-high catch on second attempt.

against Mishra, but offered an outside edge to Mahendra Singh Dhoni behind the stumps. He shared 57 runs for the third wicket with Amla. The Test series will be

followed by three one-day internationals at Jaipur (February 21), Gwalior (February 24) and Ahmedabad (February 27).

SCOREBOARD

final Test between India and South Africa at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Wednesday: **SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 296 (Amla 114, Petersen 100; Zaheer 4-

fourth day of the second and

90, Harbhajan 3-64) INDIA: First innings 643-6 decl (Sehwag 165, Laxman 143 no, Dhoni 132 n o, Tendulkar 106; Morkel 2-115)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings Smith Ibw b Mishra Petersen c Badrinath b Harbhajan 21 Amla not out Kallis c Dhoni b Mishra Prince not out Extras: (nb-5) Total: (For three wkts in 35 overs)115

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-54, 3-111. R Zaheer 32 Harbhajan 31 36 15 Mishra Scoreboard at stumps on the Sehwag

MARATHON FIASCO Ratan, Yahia

SPORTS REPORTER

banned

The Bangladesh Athletic Federation (BAF) yesterday banned chief judge Jahirul Haque Ratan and measurement expert Mohammad Yahia for different periods following the marathon fiasco on the concluding day of the 11th South Asian Games.

Nepalese Rajendra Bahadur Bhandara won gold in the event on February 9 with a world record time. But later it could be known that the route the runners followed was seven kilometres short of the standard distance of 42.195km.

The executive committee of BAF took this decision.

Ratan has been slapped with a life ban from the federation while Yahia has been suspended for two years from all marathonrelated activities. Referee Moeen Uddin Ahmed was served a warning, said a press release of the BAF.

ACROSS

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8 Oodles

14 "Forget

15 Attack

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India reassures safety

AFP, New Delhi

India sought on Wednesday to reassure foreign teams that it would host a safe field hockey World Cup this month after a weekend bombing and alleged new threats raised fresh concerns over security.

FIELD HOCKEY WORLD CUP

"We have made elaborate arrangements for the entire World Cup hockey event," Delhi police spokesman Rajan Bhagat told AFP. "The arrangements are foolproof."

Home Secretary GK Pillai said late Tuesday that the government had put in place elaborate security measures to ensure an incident-free hockey tournament and Commonwealth Games in October in New Delhi.

"We are in close touch with security liaison officers of all countries that are coming here to participate," Pillai told reporters.

"So far, all of them have seen the preparations done by the Delhi Police and the MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs). They are quite satisfied."

New security concerns rose after last Saturday's bombing at a restaurant in the western city of Pune which killed 11 people, including an Italian woman and an Iranian man.

A previously unknown Islamist group that splintered from a larger Pakistan-based organisation claimed responsibility for the attack in a call to an Indian newspaper. The group, calling itself Lashkar-e-Taiba al-

between India and Pakistan, set for February The India and Pakistan teams are set to meet on the first day of the hockey tournament which runs from February 28-March 13.

Almi, linked the attack to upcoming peace talks

On Tuesday, the Hong Kong-based Asia Times Online news website said it had received a warning from Al-Qaeda-linked militant Ilyas Kashmiri about attacking sporting events in

The Pakistan-based extremist reportedly warned international competitors against going to the hockey World Cup, the Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket tournament that begins in March and the Commonwealth Games.

The report could not be verified by AFP, but the threat led New Zealand officials to delay the hockey team's departure for India until a security update had been received.

"While Hockey New Zealand still plans for the Black Sticks men's team to attend the Hockey World Cup in Delhi, it has decided to keep the team in Perth until further notice," Hockey New Zealand chief executive Hilary Poole said.

Australia and England said they still planned to attend unless advised otherwise by their governments.

"There should be no apprehension in anyone's mind about the safety and security of the stakeholders," another senior New Delhi police officer told AFP, adding that 100 snipers and a thousand paramilitary troops would be deployed.

Hockey India, which is organising the World Cup in New Delhi, said no team had threatened to pull out of the World Cup.

"As far as we know, all the 11 international teams are coming," said spokesman Anupam Ghulati. "There are no concerns at all." Any pull-out or disruption for India would

be major blow as it gears up to host the Commonwealth Games in October, the biggest event on Indian soil since the Asian Games in 1982 which organisers hope could open the way to an Olympics bid.

England's badminton team angered Indian sports officials by pulling out of the World Championship in August last year, saying security in the host city of Hyderabad was lax.

The event passed off without incident. In an interview to the Australian

Broadcasting Corporation, Australian field hockey coach Ric Charlesworth brushed aside the security concerns. "Having lived in India, there are all sorts of

nels," Charlesworth told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "Everyone is looking for a story. There is

always a story like that. I don't think we can distract ourselves with that."

Games losing **FROM PAGE 17**

people from all walks of life and people from all over the world a sharing of culture, habit, life style and it creates bondage of friendship and strengthens old friendships. But it is now increasingly professional. Here, some of the SAARC countries are yet to have a sports industry. Fair competition can only be done when participating teams have an equal footing.

To ensure this, the South Asian Council can ask the developed countries for their support. They may also create a forum for planning and executing ways and means to develop sports in the South Asian nations. The SAOC (South Asian Olympic Committee) now meets only to decide the next host country, discipline, events to be included and fixes the rate for per head expenditure, per athlete. No development plan is ever discussed. Besides, their HQ keeps shifting with the handing/taking over of the flag. So, no complexity is visible, only previous references are drawn to make decisions for the current issues. If we can establish the SAOC HQ permanently with dedicated professionals, a continuity of plan can be ensured and the HQ can play a

progressive role. The SA Games is also a festival where SAARC nationals meet to foster friendship. This also gives an exposure to athletes and lets them identify their position in the surround-

By Eugene Sheffer

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ing, which ultimately helps them to plan training programs for the next regional, international and Olympic meet. We, the SAARC countries should therefore come to an understanding to help each other, share experiences experts and support others with technologies to ensure raising each others' standards of athletics.

(The author is Director & CEO of the Bangladesh Olympic Association)

Shooters

FROM PAGE 17

the performance of shooters generally go down and our shooters are also in down form at the moment specially after the conclusion of the South Asian Games and we do not have any high expectation from them. We have taken this competition as a warm-up tournament of the Commonwealth Games to be held in the same shooting range in Delhi in October next," said NSF general secretary Ishtiaque Ahmed. Bangladesh will take part in

men's and women's 10m air rifles individual and team events, 3 position prone in both men's and women's and skeet events. Shooters are Sharmin

Akhter Ratna, Sadiya Sultana, Tripti Datta, Sabrina Sultana, Asif Hossain Khan, Abdullah Hel Baki, Shovon Chowdhury, Chandan Singh, Altamas Kabir, Iqbal Hossain and Nuruddin Selim.

threats every day and there are 80 news chan-

GP-BCB XI v

Bahrain

SPORTS REPORTER

GP-BCB-NCA Invitational XI beat touring Bahrain national cricket team by five wickets in the one-off exhibition match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The Bahrain team will leave today for Nepal to take part in the Pepsi ICC World Cricket

League Division 5. Batting first, Bahrain managed to score 145 before being all out in 40.1 overs. Opener Imran scored highest 58 runs that came off 60 balls. Imran hit seven boundaries and a six. The second highest 26 came from Asghar while Adil got 25. Imtiaz Hossain was the star for GP-BCB XI with the ball taking five wickets for 14 runs in 7

GP-BCB XI reached their target in 32 overs, thanks to 62 runs from Ariful Haque and 27 from Myshukur Rahman. Helal and Zaheer took two wickets each for Bahrain.

Focus

FROM PAGE 17

"Every team has prepared well before they came to Sri Lanka so we expect a tough game. We knew it would be tough even before Bangladesh beat

Tajikistan," said Aung. For the sake of records, Bangladesh won twice and drew once in eight matches

29 30 48 49 50 45 46 52 53 59

CRYPTOQUIP

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YAMMNYJUF LNA HPXP BN

FXEOPRL YPXJNAY RPBBPX,

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DISNEY FILM ABOUT A BRUTE AND THE LOOT HE STEALS FROM HIS

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals I

ENEMIES: "BOOTY AND THE BEAST."

they played against Myanmar.