SPORI

Peer moves into last 4

AFP, Dubai

Shahar Peer, the first Israeli woman ever to compete in the United Arab Emirates, further increased the security headaches by continuing her inspired run of success to a fourth victory and a semifinal place in the Dubai Open on Thursday.

Peer extended her careerbest sequence to a victory over Li Na, the world number ten from China, who retired while trailing 5-7, 0-3, increasing the possibility that the Israeli will now be scheduled on to the centre court for the first time.

That might afford less protection for Peer than the secluded, tree-lined, limited access outside court on which she has so far played.

And with the political fallout from last month's Dubai assassination, and the finger being pointed at Israeli agents, the temptation will be not to take this risk.

At the same time, with Venus Williams a favourite to win her quarterfinal against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the same half, there will be pressure for new plans to be considered.

About 5,000 people have bought centre court tickets for semi-finals day expecting to see one of the world's leading players - and Williams, the five times former Wimbledon champion, is the only big name left in the tournament.

Maria cruises into quarters

AFP, Memphis

Top-seeded Russian Maria Sharapova cruised into the quarterfinals of the WTA Tour event here Wednesday, crushing American Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-1, 6-1.

The Russian remained on course for a clash with secondseeded American Melanie Oudin, who beat compatriot Lilia Osterloh 6-2, 6-1.

Oudin needed just 61 minutes to win through, despite having won her opener late on Tuesday.

"I didn't have much time to

recover from my first match, but my recovery was good. I got to sleep in this morning and I felt good out there today," Oudin said.

In the ATP tournament, top-seeded American Andy Roddick had a tougher time but snapped a three-match losing streak to fellow American James Blake with a 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 first-round vic-

We have to

FROM PAGE 17

have contributed," McIntosh said.

McIntosh had a strange day, being involved in three run outs, the last of which claimed his own wicket. "You think it might come back to you when you have been involved in all three. But I think it's just part of the game and it's unfortunate that it seemed to happen today. I don't know if you can directly blame anyone for it. They were all pretty good calls and they were all good, direct hit throws as well." McIntosh said.

Porto pip

FROM PAGE 20

Saturday.

Fabianski kept the score down with a save from Hulk but Arsenal continued to look unsettled at the back and will pray that Fabianski recovers morale in time for the Premier League visit of Sunderland on

There was no gentle return for Campbell, who was exposed as early as the second minute, but having been sold short by a loose pass from Bacary Sagna he responded brilliantly to thwart Falcao with

an outstretched right leg. Hulk flashed a shot wide of Fabianski's right-hand post barely a minute later, while Campbell was perhaps fortunate to avoid punishment for a strong bodycheck on the advancing Hulk just inside the

Arsenal box. Disaster first struck for the visitors in the 11th minute, when Varela broke into space down the right before flinging a low cross towards goal that Fabianski, who had edged

forward, weakly fumbled over his own line. Arsenal, though, were quick to react and drew level eight minutes later, Campbell heading home from close range

after Rosicky had turned a deep corner back across goal.

Porto goalkeeper Helton was twice called upon before half-time, pushing away a drive from Rosicky and then athletically touching a Nicklas Bendtner header over the bar, while Fabianski repelled Micael's long-range effort at the other end.



Israel's Shahar Peer celebrates after winning the first set against China's Li Na in their Dubai Open quarterfinals match yesterday.

Tigers call in trouble

FROM PAGE 17

opener was scintillating through the off side, stroking four consecutive boundaries in a Tim Southee over. Once again however, he was unable to kick on for the long haul, and holed out to mid on after hitting five fours and a six in a 30-run cameo. Zunaed Siddiqui followed

soon after, bizarrely bowled by Chris Martin when the ball struck the glove to loop over the clueless batsman, onto the stumps. That had the visitors wobbling at 58 for 2, and the dismissals of Aftab Ahmed, Mohammed Ashraful and Imrul Kayes in quick succession left the hosts with little to do on the final day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the only Test between New Zealand and Bangladesh at Seddon Park in Hamilton on Thursday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 553 for 7 decl (Ingram 42, Taylor 40, Guptill 189, McCullum 185; Rubel 5-166) BANGLADESH: First innings 408 (Tamim 68, Shakib 87, Mahmudullah 115; Martin 3-116, Tuffey2-84, Vettori 3-88) NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 9-1) Watling run out McIntosh run out

Ingram run out Taylor c Imrul b Mahmudullah Guptill not out Vettori c Ashraful b Mahmudullah 13 McCullum not out Extras: (b-5, lb-2, w-6, nb-3) Total: (For 5 wickets decl in 71 overs)

Did not bat: Tuffey, Patel, Southee, Martin. Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-52, 3-124.4-196.5-227

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Shakib not out Mushfigur not out Extras: (lb-1) Total: (For 5 wkts in 30 overs) To bat: Mahmudullah, Shahadat, Shafiul, Rubel. Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-51, 3-

72, 4-78, 5 Bowler	0	M	R	1
Martin	7	1	22	27700
Southee	2	0	19	1
Vettori	10	4	23	
Tuffey	5	3	6	
Patel	6	2	17	

IPL shortens timeouts

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has tweaked the timeout system it introduced last season, with each team now able to call for a two-and-ahalf minute break once any time during each innings. It is a more flexible system than in the previous year, when there was a seven-and-a-half minute break at the end of the 10th over of an innings.

"The timeout will allow teams to confer amongst themselves at crucial time in the game as needed," Lalit Modi, the IPL commissioner, said on his Twitter feed. "It will help them re-strategise."

The previous timeout system had come in for criticism from several quarters, including Sachin Tendulkar, who said it hampered the momentum of a team in a Twenty20 match.

On a day when Rajasthan Royals captain Shane Warne raised concerns about playing in the IPL this year during to security threats, Modi emphasised that the tournament's organisers are working hard on ensuring players' safety. "Security is always our top-most priority," he said.

India exact revenge

Aftab run out

Ashraful lbw b Vettori

FROM PAGE 17

lobbed to Sharma at mid-off. Left-handed Prince made

23 after scores of zero and one in the previous two innings of the series. Leg-spinner Amit Mishra,

who left the field briefly for treatment on a sore right shoulder, returned to trap AB de Villiers leg-before for three with a googly just before lunch.

South Africa, who went to lunch at 164-5, slipped to 180-7 as Harbhajan claimed both Jean-Paul Duminy and Dale Steyn leg-before soon after play resumed.

Meanwhile, the Indian cricket board said in a statement that Zaheer would not feature in the one-day series against the Proteas starting on Sunday.

South African captain Graeme Smith will also miss the one-dayers due to a frac-

tured finger and all-rounder Jacques Kallis will lead the tourists in his absence, the team management said.

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

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the second and final Test between India and South Africa at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Thursday: SOUTH AFRICA: First

innings 296 (Amla 114, Petersen 100; Zaheer 4-90, Harbhajan 3-64) INDIA: First innings 643-6 decl (Sehwag 165, Laxman

143 n o, Dhoni 132 n o, Tendulkar 106; Morkel 2-115) 20 Petersen c Badrinath b Harbhajan 21

123 Amla not out

Kallis c Dhoni b Mishra Prince c Sharma b Harbhajan De Villiers Ibw b Mishra Duminy lbw b Harbhajan Steyn lbw b Harbhajan Parnell c Harbhajan b Sharma Harris c sub (Karthik) b Sharma Morkel lbw b Harbhajan Extras: (b-6, lb-5, nb-18, w-1) Total: (All out in 131.3 overs) 290

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-54, 3-111, 4-158, 5-164, 6-172, 7 180, 8-250, 9-264, 10-289. Bowler O M R W Zaheer 32 0 Harbhajan 59 23 Sharma 5 84 Mishra 78 12 10 20 Sehwag 2 Tendulkar 5

Result: India won by an innings and 57 runs and two-

Man-of-the-series: Hashim Amla.

Just a year to go

FROM PAGE 17

India captain Dhoni, looking ahead at the mega event, said: "The ICC Cricket World Cup is the most important and prestigious event on the cricket calendar. With billions watching and following, and the stakes very high, it is any cricketer's dream to play in it and I'm no different.

"The fact that the event will

of our motivating factors." Sangakkara, who was a

reached the final in 2007 in the West Indies, said: "Playing in a World Cup in your home coun-

conditions being as they are, especially with the home support, we will enjoy many born. advantages.

"However, the key to our success will be the amount of hard work, passion and proper preparation we put in to bringing back the World Cup and fulfil not only our dreams, but the dreams of all Sri

Shakib also reflected how Bangladesh's performances in the 1999 World Cup in England attracted the youngsters to the sport. "The 1999 World Cup had stirred the imagination of

the whole nation which watched the Tigers taking the

back to the match against Pakistan which we won. Boys like me turned to the bat and ball instead of kicking football and a cricket generation was

"In 2007 we took the world by storm when we reached the Super Eights and knocked over India and South Africa along the way. Now every young kid in Bangladesh aspires to become a cricketer. A solid campaign next year for us would mean a fresh cricket revolution."

Four-time world champions Australia will once again be the side to beat as it aims to Cup matches without a loss.

CRICINFO, undated

one-dayers

AFP, Kolkata

South Africa's captain Graeme Smith will miss the one-day series against India due to a finger injury, an official said on Thursday.

All-rounder Jacques Kallis will lead the tourists in the three-match series starting in Jaipur on Sunday, South African media manager Michael Owen-Smith told reporters.

"Doctors have advised Smith rest for 10 days to recover from the fracture in his left little finger," Owen-Smith said, adding that in-form Test batsman Hashim Amla will join the one-day squad.

Smith suffered the injury before the ongoing second Test at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, but opted to play in the match. Wicketkeeper Mark Boucher,

who missed the Test due to back spasms, is expected to be fit for the opening one-dayer, Owen-Smith said.

Khulna

FROM PAGE 17

Rahman of Khulna city corporation, Assist engineer Manik Hossain of LGED, Sub divisional engineer Md. Shahin Mian of PWD division-1 office and General Secretary of KDSA Kazi Shamim Ahsan were present.

It was unanimously resolved in that meeting that the 50-year old stadium building and its galleries needs reconstruction and renovation to save it from collapsing and thus risking lives of the people as it is no more fit for use due to its dilapidated condition.

Built in 1958, Khulna stadium had its first renovation works in 1978 with the allocation of Taka 15 lakh.

No more fund has been allocated by any government since then for its overall development. As a result, now the galleries

have become absolutely unfit to carry the weight of about 10,000 spectators at a time. "Galleries were initially

constructed without any plan and using any materials to make them solid. As a result, all the galleries have already developed big cracks. We and our predecessors wrote several letters to the concerned ministry and departments of the government fervently requesting them to look into this matter and do the needful for its development as required.

"But none has so far taken little interest about this sensitive matter," said the General Secretary of KDSA.

We have demanded an allocation of Taka 8 crore 75 lakh for construction of new galleries and Taka one crore and 66 lakh for the stadium building.

Our official letters in this regard requesting allocation of this fund are now gathering dust in the concerned ministry, he said.

Khulna take

FROM PAGE 17 Rajshahi on the third day in the opening encounter. **BRIEFSCORES**

DHAKAVKHULNA KHULNA: First innings 244 and Second innings 325. DHAKA: First innings 111 and

Second innings (overnight 141-4) 229 all out in 65.1 overs (Marshal 57, Shuvagoto 67, Sharif 30, extras 22; Robiul 5-62, Dollar 3-52). Result: Khulna won by 229 runs.

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Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Harbhajan Singh, whose five-for won India a tense game against South Africa, has said their hunger to retain the No. 1 ranking motivated them in their spirited comeback in Kolkata after an innings-defeat in the first Test in Nagpur.

"We wanted to be at the top of the table; we know we have the players to keep being No 1," Harbhajan said after the game. "We are very happy and it's fantastic to win the way we did. The heart was pumping in the end."

Harbhajan, who has a tremendous record at the Eden Gardens with 46 wickets in seven Tests at 21.76, kept picking wickets at crucial moments for India amid a determined South African resistance led by Hashim Amla's heroic, unbeaten 127. His effort was significant, for India were without Zaheer Khan, who pulled his muscle to be ruled out of the Test as well as the subsequent ODI series.

"This was probably a better wicket than Nagpur. We played fantastic cricket, the way we bowled on the first day and the way we batted. Today we just bowled with three bowlers but have done the job," Harbhajan said. "Eden has been special to me. I don't know what it but I have done well here always." Hashim Amla, adjudged both man of the

match and of the series, ended up unbeaten on 123. "I am feeling tired," he said after the game. "I am very disappointed in losing this game. We could have saved it; there wasn't anything unplayable in the wicket." Amla's vigil -- he batted for more than six

hours -- ended when Morkel was out after a lastwicket stand lasting more than 20 overs. "Morne and I were just having some fun out there. He played really well and so did Parnell earlier. Fortunately, Morne and Parnell are decent batsmen and took lots of pressure of me."

Amla ended the series with 490 runs, and one dismissal, and was the most influential batsman on either team. "I am being just grateful that I have had a good tour," he said. "I now have the one-dayers to look forward to."

Symonds at ease

CRICINFO, undated



Andrew Symonds feels more comfortable with the security situation in India than he did whenever he toured South Africa and the recent terrorist threats against the Indian

Premier League (IPL) have not changed his travel plans. Symonds, who was part of Deccan Chargers' Twenty20 win last year, intends to join his teammates in Hyderabad for the tournament next month despite the safety fears. "India is one of those countries I have never

felt intimidated in," he said. "Even when the crowd starts getting a little bit uppity. I have always felt like I could get shot or stabbed more in South Africa. I have never felt that in India." While many of the Australians involved in the

IPL are waiting on the security assessment of

Cricket Australia and the Australian Cricketers' Association, Symonds' participation is not currently in doubt. "At this stage I will be going as planned," he said. Symonds, who gets US\$1.35m for each IPL season, was racially targeted by Indian fans in a couple of ODIs there in 2007, but his time in the Twenty20 competition has led him to call the country a "home away from home". He remem-

bered fondly the reception Deccan received on

the streets of Hyderabad after they won the

second version of the IPL. That tournament was

held in South Africa due to security fears and

Symonds was a happy participant. Greg Chappell, the former India coach, said he also never felt threatened in the country and was concerned that terrorist organisations were

targeting sports events. "I think it would be a

shame if we were pushed into a position where we were cowed by these sorts of people," he said. "By and large they [the players] are going to be okay."

Symonds, 34, confirmed he would not be seeking another contract in first-class cricket but wants to continue playing Twenty20 for Queensland. After battling for runs in Australia's domestic Twenty20 tournament this summer, he has linked up with Ashleigh Byron, his mentor as a teenager. He was targeted by the short-ball in the Big Bash and was dismissed in ugly fashion a couple of times, showing he was missing the regular, high-level training he had previously received while registering 26 Tests, 198 ODIs and 14Twenty20internationals.

Less than a year after his sacking from the Australian side for another drinking misdemeanour, Symonds had only one regret about his dramatic slide. "I'm not bitter about it all," he said. "It was just a tough environment for me to live in -- the way that I liked to enjoy myself.

"If I had my time again, I had to sign an agreement to go back into that side and play in that side [after being suspended in 2008-09]. I would never have signed that. It's probably the one regret I do have. The times I played I did enjoy it. It just got to that point where at some point it was going to boil over and it did. I'm happy with that now, it's been dealt with and life goes on."

Symonds was speaking after becoming the 13th Queensland player to be inducted into the state's 100 first-class game club and his parents Ken and Barbara were in the audience. "I never broke the law, Mum, or did anything real bad," he said after telling them he loved them. "I'm not proud of some of the things I did but I'm very proud of some of the things I have done."



Bangladesh's South Asian Games gold medal winning golfer Dulal Hossain (C) poses with col (retd) SM Shawkat Ali, CEO of Kurmitola Golf Club, major Anis-Ul-Islam, Executive Officer of Kurmitola Golf Club, Kazi Shahid Ahmed, the chairman of Gemcon Group, during a tea party in his honour at Gemcon Group's corporate office premises recently.

40 See steam Test series drawn 1-1. SOUTH AFRICA: Second 9 Debtor's 21-Across Man-of-the-match: Hashim innings (overnight 115-3) letters 41 Pandora Amla. Smith lbw b Mishra 12 Art-class set them model, free

be staged in the Asian subcontinent excites me further as the facilities, passion, enthusiasm and cricketing environment here are second to none. This will also be an excellent opportunity for Team India to play in the sport's pinnacle event in front of our die-hard supporters who have always backed us and have been one

member of the side that

try is a wonderful experience for any cricketer and leading your country is a lifetime honour. "With subcontinental

Lankans.'

world stage for the first time. "I was fascinated by the game and my mind kept going

stretch their record of 29 World

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