

Dalmiya retains

FROM PAGE 17
return. I've always said that there is a lot of cricket left in him." Dalmiya also talked about the fact that West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee did not want him to contest, but he did so at the insistence of his colleagues.
"The Chief Minister had wanted me not to contest this election, but my companions insisted that I fight it. So, I decided to contest."
Dalmiya, with Bhattacharjee-backed candidate Kolkata Police Commissioner Prasun Mukherjee at his side, said "We will work together from tomorrow. There is no enmity between me and Prasun."
Mukherjee, in turn said, "It was a close contest, but a gentlemanly and a friendly fight. It was a fair election. Nobody had anything to complain about. I would have enjoyed winning, but, nonetheless I accept the result."
He said, "Dalmiya is an old hand at cricket administration. Cricket has won. I'm new to the game. But I'll be back next time."

More inside leaks from Wright

PTI, Christchurch
A high-voltage behind the scenes drama was sparked off in the Indian dressing room by Rahul Dravid's abrupt declaration in the Multan Test which left Sachin Tendulkar stranded only six runs short of a double century, the then coach John Wright has revealed.
Tendulkar, batting on 194 in the first Test against arch-rivals Pakistan, left no one in doubt that "he felt let down", Wright says in his just-published book 'Indian Summers', disclosing for the first time the tense moments the Indian camp went through although publicly every effort had been made at that time to play down the controversy.
Acknowledging that the team management had a "hot potato on our hands", the former New Zealand captain says he spent a sleepless night whereas captain Sourav Ganguly, who missed the Test because of an injury, was worried that the issue would snowball and end up dividing the team.
Wright says no one could be blamed in particular for the situation which could have been avoided had he himself been able to convince Dravid to declare earlier.
"Midway through the final session, Dravid declared, as you do when you're 675 for 5. What Indian captains don't tend to do, however, is declare when Sachin Tendulkar is on 194 not out," Wright writes in the book.
"The matter became a full-fledged sensation when Tendulkar told a press conference he was disappointed not to get his double century." Wright says had he been the captain, he would have declared a lot earlier, allowing Pakistan to face about 25 overs and with Tendulkar on about 170.
But the former New Zealand captain also points out that Tendulkar needed to "move on" after tea when things got slow.

Monty has merit: Bob

BBC ONLINE, undated
Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer says England spinner Monty Panesar is destined for greatness after seeing him take 8-93 in the second Test at Old Trafford.
Panesar took 5-72 as England wrapped up victory with two days to spare, including the prized wickets of Mohammad Yousuf and Inzamamul Haq.
"He's a fine bowler and is going to be a great bowler. He's a really good find for England," Woolmer told BBC Sport.
"If the wicket helps him he looks like he's going to bowl sides out."
Woolmer was particularly impressed with left-arm spinner Panesar's ability to beat the bat without the help of a "doosra".
Many leading finger spinners, such as Muttiah Muralidaran and Harbhajan Singh, have felt the need to develop the controversial delivery.
The "doosra" spins the opposite way from conventionally spun balls but can lead to problems with the legality of the action.
"He's got this lovely looping flight and his change of pace is very good," added Woolmer, who played in the same Test side as Derek Underwood, arguably England's last great spin bowler.
"He beats people on both sides of the bat without a 'doosra', he's got a very good arm ball and bowls at a very good pace so people find it difficult to come down the pitch to him."
"He bowled beautifully in the second innings and this will give him terrific encouragement."
"England will want to play him at Headingley [in the third Test starting on Friday] because he gets wickets."



PHOTO: AFP
Jagmohan Dalmiya (L), former chief of the ICC and BCCI, escorts Prasun Mukherjee, the other contestant, after winning the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB) annual election in Kolkata on Sunday. Dalmiya retained the post of president of Cricket Association of Bengal with a narrow victory.

Geraint gets the axe

AFP, Manchester
England wicket-keeper Geraint Jones was dropped Monday and replaced by longstanding rival Chris Read for the third Test against Pakistan starting at Headingley on Friday.
Jones, who took over from Read after the Nottinghamshire gloveman was himself axed for the final Test against West Indies in Antigua two years ago, had played 31 consecutive Test matches and was known to be a firm favourite of coach Duncan Fletcher. But a run of just one fifty in his last 15 Test innings was too much for the selectors, who initially opted for the Kent gloveman over Read on account of his superior batting, to ignore and they have decided to give Jones a spell on the sidelines.
Jones sustained a right ring finger injury while batting during England's innings and 120 run second Test victory at Old Trafford.
But David Graveney, England's chairman of selectors, made it clear that Jones had been dropped on form alone.
"We have taken this decision regardless of the injury to Geraint's finger," he said.
"The key factor for the selectors was his form with the bat and we believe he will benefit from having a break from international cricket and spending more time in the middle with his county."
Ironically the decision to drop Jones came at a time when his wicket-keeping, often criticised, was improving.
But his run of low scores has coincided with a fine burst of batting form for Read, who scored a hundred for England against Pakistan earlier this season and on Sunday smashed 72 off 55 balls in a one-day Pro 40 match for Nottinghamshire against Northamptonshire.
"Chris was selected in the England Development Squad earlier this summer and he has also performed well for the A team against Pakistan," Graveney added.
Read, who in 11 Tests has averaged a meagre 15.30, said he always knew his batting would have to improve if he was to regain his Test place.
"I felt that I kept well in the West Indies two years ago, but I knew that if I was going to get back in the Test side I would have to work on my batting because I hadn't scored enough runs," he said.
"So I made a conscious effort to look at my batting and analyse where I can improve," Read added.
"Things have gone well for me and I feel I have reaped the rewards by scoring well in both first class and one-day cricket over the last couple of seasons."
Jones, who scored his only Test century at Headingley against New

Zealand two years ago, admitted: "It's a blow to lose my place, but the selectors have explained the reasons why and I will be working extremely hard to win it back."
"I have been very pleased with my wicket-keeping this summer, but I am also conscious of the fact that I am in the side as a batsman as well as a keeper."
"It's up to me to go back to Kent, and as soon as my finger has recovered, I need to score plenty of runs and put myself back in the frame for the Ashes this (northern hemisphere) winter."
In another change to the Old Trafford squad, where England's win inside three days put them 1-0 up in the four-match series after the drawn opener at Lord's, uncapped off-spinning all-rounder Jamie Dairymple was omitted.
And pace bowler Liam Plunkett was still recovering from the side strain that forced him out of the second Test.
Gloucestershire seamer Jon Lewis, who didn't play in Manchester, was retained in a 12-man squad.
SQUAD
Marcus Trescothick, Andrew Strauss (capt), Alastair Cook, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Ian Bell, Chris Read (wkt), Sajid Mahmood, Matthew Hoggard, Stephen Harmison, Monty Panesar, Jon Lewis.

Haas fights to clinch title

AP, Los Angeles
Tommy Haas' 10 tour victories don't include any Grand Slams, something the 28-year-old German hopes to change as heads toward next month's U.S. Open on a roll.
Haas won his third title of the year and second Los Angeles championship in three years Sunday with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory over Dmitry Tursunov in the Countrywide Classic.
"I'll try to keep this going the next couple of weeks," Haas said. "It's not going to get any easier, but I feel like if I can stay healthy, stay in shape and keep playing tough matches, I'm heading the right way going into the U.S. Open."
The Open begins on Aug. 28.
Haas bounced back from a first-set loss to keep the pressure on Tursunov, who was playing in his

first tour final.
The 23-year-old Russian won the first set with powerful, accurate groundstrokes, but his game began unraveling in the 12th game of the second.
A forehand long, a carom off his racket frame, and another forehand into the net by Tursunov helped Haas break his serve and tie the match at a set apiece.
"Maybe he was thinking about being close to winning his first title. I know it was his first final," Haas said. "So I was just trying to hold my serve and wait for my opportunities, which is what I did."
Haas broke Tursunov's serve again in the second game of the third set, then held serve the rest of the way to add the 2006 Los Angeles championship to the one he won here in 2004.
"After I won the second set, I felt like I had the momentum and I held a quick, easy (serve) in the first game, then broke him right away to go up 2-love," Haas said.
"He might have lost his composure and started thinking, so I just tried to focus on playing my game."
Tursunov, who has a wry sense of humour, took the loss in stride.
"He gets three trophies and I get one; I'm not coming back next year," Tursunov joked.
He downplayed the fact that it was his first final, grinning and saying, "I suppose I could have told myself, 'If I win, I get more prize money -- and more phone numbers.'"
"He served well and I couldn't put any pressure on his serve. I'm happy I was playing well. I don't feel like I messed anything up," he said.
Haas, who won events at Delray Beach, Fla., and Memphis last February, came into the Los Angeles tournament at No. 21 in the ATP rankings and was the sixth seed. Tursunov, who reached his highest career ranking at No. 31 last month and was No. 33 coming into the event, was seeded eighth.



PHOTO: AFP
Tommy Haas of Germany sends down a backhand return against Dmitry Tursunov of Russia during the final of the Countrywide Classic on Sunday at the Los Angeles Tennis Center in California.

Duncan still trusts Ashley

AFP, Manchester
England coach Duncan Fletcher has told Monty Panesar he must develop the other areas of his game before he can be assured of being the team's premier spinner.
Ashley Giles' lengthy absence because of a hip injury has given Northamptonshire left-arter Panesar a chance to show what he can do in international cricket.
So far the 24-year-old, the first Sikh to play for England, has made an encouraging start to his Test career with 25 wickets in his first eight matches including a superb match-winning return of five for 72 in the side's crushing innings and 120 run victory over Pakistan in the second Test.
Panesar's return at Old Trafford on Saturday, where England won inside three days to go 1-0 up in the four-match series, was especially impressive as he dismissed five of Pakistan's top six including the 'big three' of captain Inzamamul Haq, Younis Khan and Mohammad Yousuf - all noted players of spin.
His attacking style has led many to suggest that Panesar should retain his place even if the more defensively-minded Giles, a valuable member of England's Ashes-winning team last year, regains full fitness.
But Fletcher said Panesar had to improve his batting and fielding, the latter a particular concern, to secure his place in the England team.
"I think Monty is a very good bowler, but we have to produce 11 players who can produce two of the departments efficiently, whoever is playing for England," said Fletcher.
"I still have slight reservations about his batting and his fielding, but he's an outstanding bowler and doing a job for us because there's no-one else at the moment who can fulfil that role."
"He needs to work hard at it because if you work hard at your fielding you can really improve that a great deal. It's not easy to turn you into a No. 6 batter, but I just think you need to work at those two areas."
"We'll also have to look at the balance of the side. It was a good wicket for Monty to bowl on and he bowled damn well on it, but we've got to make sure in the future we get wickets that help our bowlers like that."

AFP, Stanford
Kim Clijsters' favourite time of the tennis year always begins with hardcourts and West Coast breezes.
And this special season also usually starts with a title in the Northern California tournament that's becoming her home away from Belgium.
Clijsters won her fourth Bank of the West Classic title in six years Sunday, effortlessly beating Patty Schnyder 6-4, 6-2 to stay unbeaten in this event since 2002.
The hardcourt specialist got off to another sterling start in the five events leading up to the U.S. Open, where she won her first Grand Slam title last fall. The well-heeled crowd at the tournament on Stanford's campus cheered loudly for its local favourite during a 52-minute match - her short Test of the week.
Clijsters won the tournament in 2001 and 2003, missed the event with an injury one year later, and then repeated her title last year, beating Venus Williams.
"It feels so familiar every time I come back here," said Clijsters, who never faced a break point against Schnyder. "It feels so comfortable. I stay in the same hotel. ... I like the intimate stadium, and from the first time I played here, I had that good feeling. It's only become better over the years."

Yes, Stanford loves Clijsters, and she loves it right back. She has won this tournament more times than anyone except Martina Navratilova, who has six titles in the San Francisco Bay Area's long-running WTA event.
In the final, Clijsters overwhelmed her Swiss opponent with sharp serves, and then ran her ragged with back-and-forth groundstrokes to win her 32nd career title and her second this season, following a victory in Warsaw in May.
If Clijsters makes good on her vow to retire after next season, she'll be sorely missed at the Taube Family Tennis Center. In addition to appearing in promotional events, she also was spotted tooling around Palo Alto on a Vespa scooter with Sebastian Bourdais, the French Champ Car driver who won his second straight San Jose Grand Prix on Sunday.
"I'm playing so far from home, and still see and recognize a lot of people in the stands that support me," Clijsters said. "That hardly ever happens."
Clijsters, the world No. 2, advanced only to the semifinals in all three Grand Slam events this season, losing to fellow Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne at the French Open and Wimbledon.
She hopes to have a better shot in New York after excelling in the U.S. Open Series. Both Clijsters and Schnyder will play next week in San Diego -- and Clijsters already can feel her momentum building.
"My attitude is completely different when I start the clay-court season: Let's get it over with," said Clijsters, who took home the \$95,500 winner's share of the \$600,000 purse.
"I'm just so happy when I see the green grass at Wimbledon. That's the halfway line through to the hardcourt season. Movement-wise, I just feel a lot more comfortable out on these kinds of courts than any other surface."

Malaysia, S'pore
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players in the world," Sutherland said.
The tournament would be Australia's first international series since it toured Bangladesh in April.
It would be the first step in what will be a huge season for Australia, including the Champions Trophy, the home Ashes series against England and the World Cup in the Caribbean, starting in March.

Shah rejects

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At the weekend, Indian media published what they said were excerpts from the book, drawing howls of protest from former selectors, and the cricket board was also dismissive of the comments.
"This has no relevance because all selection decisions are taken by a committee," board secretary Niranjan Shah told Reuters on Monday.
"We've found this (the selection process) is the best way to go about it because we are a big country."
He also said Wright should have resigned immediately if he had problems with Gavaskar's appointment.
"It is too late and it has no meaning," Shah said. "If you felt it hurt your ego, you should have left then."

Dutch triumphs

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"Although we have not won games in this tournament, we have improved the intensity with which we play and we have gained confidence in our game and in ourselves, and I have confidence in this team," said Sergio Vigil, Argentina's coach.
Asif Bajwa predicted a semifinal place for Pakistan in September's World Cup.
"I am sure the boys have the potential to come into the last four in the World Cup," Bajwa said.

UEFA clamps

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their next match behind closed doors.
The governing body underlined that additional sanctions were also available, including stadium closures, deduction of points or outright disqualification.
"Any form of extremist ideological propaganda is banned before, during and after matches," it added.
The changes to UEFA's disciplinary regulations for 2006-2007 also try to clamp down on attempts by players to mislead referees into making an incorrect decision, including "simulation".
The laws now spell out a two-match suspension, which can be increased, instead of simply raising the possibility of a ban on top of a yellow card.

Toilets on fire!

Football
REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Rioting Gremio supporters set fire to portable toilets, twice forcing their team's match away to arch-rivals Internacional to be interrupted on Sunday.
Play was halted as a thick plume of black smoke rose over the Beira-Rio stadium in Porto Alegre and firemen fought the blaze behind one of the goals.
The trouble broke out at halftime when the visiting Gremio fans threw around half a dozen plastic portable

toilets into the moat which separates the field from the crowd and set them alight.
Television pictures showed policemen using fire extinguishers attempting to put out the blaze as play was stopped.
Although the game was re-started, the situation got worse as the smoke blew over the stadium and the referee ordered another stoppage shortly afterwards.
This time, the fire brigade arrived and brought the blaze under control despite being pelted with objects by the Gremio fans.
Gremio supporters continued dancing and celebrating on the

terraces even as the smoke blew over them.
As the fire was put out, police fired teargas at the fans and brought the situation under control.
There was also trouble before the match as Gremio fans broke down part of a fence and invaded the area reserved for Internacional supporters.
Television pictures showed rival fans punching and kicking each other before truncheon-wielding riot police chased the Gremio fans back into their section.
The match itself ended in a drab goalless draw in which the teams shared 50 fouls.

Clijsters wins at 'home'

Tennis
AP, Stanford
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PHOTO: AFP
Kim Clijsters of Belgium celebrates after winning the Bank of the West Classic tennis tournament at Stanford University in California on Sunday.

Mahela hails the magician

FROM PAGE 20
Kumar Sangakkara (287) for the third wicket.
The batting feast came after South Africa were dismissed for 169, their lowest total against Sri Lanka, on the opening day.
It was the 17th time Muralidaran had claimed 10 or more wickets in a match. He also has 54 hauls of five wickets or more in an innings.
Muralidaran, 34, now has 645 wickets in 107 Tests, second in the all-time list behind Australian Shane Warne's record tally of 685 in 140 matches.
Jayawardene said his team gained enormously from the recent tour of England where they fought back to draw the Test series 1-1 and blanked the hosts 5-0 in the one-dayers.
"That tour gave us the confidence to play better," he said. "We had to

make sure we did not go off the boil and needed to stick to our game plan."
"We were very positive in everything we did here. It was a great achievement by the whole team."
South African captain Ashwell Prince, standing in for the injured Graeme Smith, said the low score in the first innings let his team down.
"We had our backs against the wall from the first day," said Prince, the first black cricketer to lead his country.
"In hindsight I would still have batted first on winning the toss even though the wicket got easier on the second and third days."
"As I told the boys, there were too many soft dismissals that caused our downfall and it was always going to be a struggle from there."
"But the guys showed great courage in what were not easy conditions."

We batted quite well the second time, which is a great positive to take from the match. We will be better prepared for the second Test."
South African coach Mickey Arthur said touring Sri Lanka was the second most difficult job in cricket after playing in Australia.
"Those are the two toughest tours in the game," he said. "Sri Lanka is such a tough opponent at home."
Veteran Shaun Pollock for the second Test starting at the Sara stadium on Friday will reinforce the tourists, already missing the injured duo of Smith and all-rounder Jacques Kallis.
Pollock, South Africa's leading wicket-taker with 394 Test wickets, missed the first Test following the birth of his second daughter.

Murali puts the final touch

FROM PAGE 17
beaten in flight by left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya and patted back an easy return catch.
Muralidaran clean-bowled Andre Nel and Dale Steyn in the space of 11 deliveries before Lasith Malinga yanked last man Makhaya Ntini to secure victory for his team.
English umpire Mark Benson sat out the final day's play due to a stomach bug and Asoka de Silva of Sri Lanka, the third umpire, took the field with Billy Bowden of New Zealand.
Sri Lanka had piled up 756-5 declared in their first innings with captain Mahela Jayawardene making the fourth highest Test score of 374 after sharing a world record partnership of 624 with Kumar Sangakkara (287).
The batting feast came after South Africa were dismissed for their lowest total against Sri Lanka on the opening day.
SCOREBOARD
Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and South Africa at the Sinhalese Sports Club on Monday:

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|-------------|------|----|-----|---|
| Malinga | 16.2 | 0 | 85 | 1 |
| Maharoor | 15 | 3 | 48 | 0 |
| Fernando | 24 | 6 | 69 | 2 |
| Muralidaran | 64 | 11 | 131 | 6 |
| Dilshan | 4 | 1 | 10 | 0 |

Jayasuriya 34 8 76 1
Result: Sri Lanka won by an innings and 153 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Mahela Jayawardene.
Second and final Test at Sara Stadium from August 4.
Donadoni
FROM PAGE 20
When questioned on Francesco Totti's possible retirement from international football, the Coach said he planned to speak to the Roma striker after his return from the holiday.
"I need to have a quiet chat with him, to understand his motivations and see if there are any chances of him changing his mind."
Donadoni is well aware of the challenge he will face, but agreed with his predecessor Marcello Lippi, stating: "Italy must behave like a big side in the coming European Championship, never forgetting to keep the humble attitude that allowed us to win in Germany."