

Samuels recalled

BRIDGETOWN, June 18: Jamaican opener Robert Samuels has been recalled to the West Indies squad for the second and final Test against Sri Lanka in Kingstown, St. Vincent, on Friday, reports Reuter.

Left-hander Samuels, overlooked for the recent series against India, replaces the injured Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who is being treated for muscle spasms in his neck after an injury during a domestic match.

West Indies won the first Test in Antigua on Sunday by six wickets within three days.

SQUAD

Courtney Walsh (captain), Sherwin Campbell, Stuart Williams, Brian Lara, Robert Samuels, Carl Hooper, Roland Holder, Floyd Reifer, Courtney Browne, Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose, Franklyn Rose, Mervyn Dillon.

Arsenal land Overmars

LONDON, June 18: Ajax Amsterdam winged Marc Overmars signed for Arsenal on Tuesday for a reported fee of five million pounds (8.2 million dollars) as Arsene Wenger, manager of the Premier League club, continued his buying spree ahead of next season, reports Reuter.

Overmars was paraded in front of the press at Highbury along with another new signing, 19-year-old Portuguese striker Luis Boamorte who cost a further 1.75 million pounds (2.9 million dollars).

Wenger has also recently signed Frenchmen Emmanuel Petit and Gilles Grimandi, both aged 26, as he attempts to build a younger side in Arsenal's challenge for honours in the forthcoming season.

Overmars, 24, who played 164 matches for Ajax over five years, scoring 43 goals, will become the second Dutch international at Arsenal, joining striker Dennis Bergkamp.

Tauziat in 2nd round

EASTBOURNE, England, June 18: France's Nathalie Tauziat ousted fifth seed Mary Jo Fernandez 7-6, 7-5 in the first round of the Eastbourne grass-court tournament on Tuesday to set up a second-round clash with birthday girl Venus Williams, reports Reuter.

Williams marked her 17th birthday with a 6-4, 6-4 demolition of world number 26 Chanda Rubin.

The teenager—resplendent in a shimmering silver outfit and with her white-beaded-hair rattling in the south coast sea breeze—needed just 80 minutes to dismiss her fellow American on Centre Court.

Rubin won their only other encounter earlier this year on the slow clay courts of Amelia Island 6-4, 6-0 but Williams—despite having played just three matches on grass—now considers herself a grass-court player and was determined to avenge the defeat.

Tauziat's grass-court game was simply too polished for hard-court specialist Fernandez and her constant forays to the net proved the difference as the 1995 champion here defeated the 1996 runner-up.

Earlier, sixth-seeded Romanian Irina Spirela laboured over beating Argentina's Ines Gorrochategui 6-0, 3-6, 6-4 while eighth seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, of the Netherlands, ousted grass-court veteran Czech Helena Sukova 6-3, 7-6.

American seventh seed Kimberly Po took a set and a half to wake up before she eventually saw off the challenge of Slovak Katarina Studenikova 0-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Today's action sees defending champion and world number two Monica Seles plays Naoko Sawamatsu and second seed Jana Novotna clashes with Jayuk Basuki.

WTA rankings

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, June 18 (Reuter): Leading women's tennis rankings as issued by the WTA Tour on Monday:

1. Hingis (SWT)
2. Seles (US)
3. Graf (GER)
4. Novotna (CZ)
5. Majoli (CRO)
6. Davenport (US)
7. Coetzer (RSA)
8. Huber (GER)
9. Vicario (SPA)
10. Pierce (FRA)
11. Martinez (SPA)
12. Fernandez (US)
13. Spirela (ROM)
14. Po (US)
15. McCarthy (NED)
16. Dragomir (ROM)
17. Paulus (AUS)
18. Habsudova (SLO)
19. Applnana (BEL)
20. Wiesner (AUS)

Dalmiya becomes ICC boss



LONDON, June 18: India's Jagmohan Dalmiya yesterday became the first Asian to head cricket's world governing body as he took over as the International Cricket Council (ICC) president at Lord's today, reports PTI.

Dalmiya, the BCCI secretary, who assumed the coveted post as the first ICC president then declared that a "new era in management of international cricket has commenced."

Dalmiya, who replaces Sir Clyde Walcott of West Indies, will concurrently hold the post of ICC president and chairman of the executive board for a three-year term.

Soon after taking over,

Dalmiya announced that he did not propose to shift the ICC headquarters from its famous venue. He however said he would have a president's secretariat at Calcutta.

The first meeting of the newly constituted executive board which besides the president and chief executive includes nine full playing members, three associate members and a chairman of committees and chairman of association would be held in Calcutta on December 8 and 9.

This would be the first ever meeting of the ICC board to be held outside England.

Dalmiya has said his election signalled the heralding in of a democratic spirit in the world governing body and pledged to aim at a "collective push" towards globalisation of cricket.

"We have been losing ground to sports like soccer and tennis and our new thrust would be to spread the pull of the game to more countries and bring the crowds back to the majestic Test cricket," Dalmiya told PTI soon after taking over as ICC president and chairman of the

executive board.

"My thrust would be towards spreading interest in the game to newer nations, undertaking review of the volume of cricket

by the outgoing chairman, Sir Clyde Walcott, would have two parts, one made up of former players including India's Sunil Gavaskar to deal with the playing aspect. The other would be made up by chief executives, who would lend their expertise on management issues.

The playing half of the committee is scheduled to meet on July 12 to decide further on improvement to standard playing conditions. Meanwhile the Duckworth/Lewis target score system will continue experimentally in several countries.

The management half would be headed by David Richards of Australia, who was re-elected ICC chief executive for the second five-year term. His present contract expired in 1998.

The newly constituted committee has accorded Bangladesh and Kenya 'first-class and one-day' status. Dalmiya said that progress of Bangladesh—to play against strong countries as part of an intensive programme—will be closely monitored and a further review on their demand for Test status made at the 1998 ICC annual conference.

The freshly constituted ICC also approved the new national grid panel of umpires and referees and brought in three umpires into the panel—Rudi Kortz (South Africa), Javed Akhtar (Pakistan) and V K Ramaswamy (India).

"My election as ICC president reflects a mood for bringing in more democratic spirit into it, with the thrust that all members are equal irrespective of the fact where the game was invented," Dalmiya said.

While agreeing that based at the Lord's, the game had adopted too much of a "snobbish and conservative approach" he said "Cricketting traditions had to be maintained. But we have to bring them in tune with changing time."

played, fair distribution of Test and other matches and above all taking steps to revive spectator interest," he added.

Announcing a complete revamping of the ICC structure by setting up a new cricket committee, an upgraded development committee and a new finance and marketing committee, Dalmiya also announced that a meeting of national captains would be held at the Lord's on July 11 to study their complaint about too much cricket.

Dalmiya, the first Asian to head ICC, said the newly reconstituted ICC board was looking at a proposal for holding a Test World Championship and had constituted a sub-committee to fix the parameters.

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