

Yuvraj back in reckoning

BBC ONLINE, undated

India batsman Yuvraj Singh and veteran spin bowler Anil Kumble have been recalled for the final two one-day matches against West Indies.

Yuvraj is fit again after missing the whole of the South Africa tour with a torn ligament in his left knee.

Kumble, 36, joins fellow spinners Harbhajan Singh and Ramesh Powar in the squad, with all-rounder Joginder Sharma and seamer Rudra Pratap Singh left out.

All-rounder Irfan Pathan will join the squad for the last match in Baroda.

Dalmiya takes BCCI to court

PTI, Kolkata

Former Indian cricket board president Jagmohan Dalmiya today challenged his expulsion for life from the BCCI in a civil suit in the Calcutta High Court.

Dalmiya, who had to resign from the president's post of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) as a result, filed the suit against the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), its President Sharad Pawar, Secretary Niranjan Shah, Shashank Manohar, Chirayu Amin and N Srinivasan.

Dalmiya claimed in his petition that the reasons given for his expulsion, on charges of misappropriation of funds related to the 1996 World Cup, were totally false, fabricated and made with a pre-determined biased motive.

The former Board president also challenged the legality and validity of Clause 38(V) of the BCCI Rules that provided for removal of the expelled person from the affiliated units of the Board.

He claimed that Clause 38, which was amended in September 2000, has not been registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Act under which the Indian Cricket Board is registered and as such not legally tenable.

Amateurish

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The top coaches of the country have already welcomed the professional system because they think it will see start of a new practice among teams by giving the coaches full freedom.

"The coach decides the line-up but I don't see any harm in consulting the officials. It's done for the better of the club because I believe in the understanding among the whole management," Nurul told a press conference.

He, however, denied allegations that any middleman had influenced team selection in the past.

"The coach only discussed with me, so there is no chance of any other official intervening," he added.

In the last season, coach Abu Yusuf was reportedly barred from picking up his team due to relentless pressure from Russell officials.

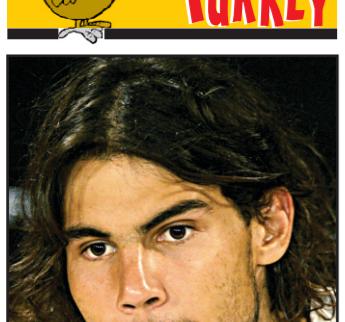
Coach Wajed Gazi, who led Russell to finish runners-up in their Premiership debut, said that he has never faced such pressure.

"I hope it will not happen this time," the veteran said.



Did U Know?

The Australian Open tournament has been played at six different venues since 1905 - Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and New Zealand.



Rafael Nadal

(Spanish tennis player)

"If I am playing bad, you can go home and say 'disappointing'. But today I just say, well, I can't do more. It's my best."

After being beaten in the quarterfinal by Chilean Fernando Gonzalez at the Australian Open on Wednesday,

Regrettably, the opinion at the halfway point in the season is a good omen.

Ten of the last 12 Spanish champions have been on top after the

first half of the season, and

Barcelona themselves were ahead at this stage of the last two seasons.

Few would also argue that

Barcelona deserve to be at the top

despite only rarely producing the

sparkling football that was a feature

of their last campaign.

Barca remain unbeaten at home

and their only two defeats so far

have come in difficult derby clashes

away at Espanyol and Real Madrid.

The Catalan club have a chance

to increase their advantage at the

weekend as they play host to

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while Sevilla and Real Madrid have

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