

## Snapshots-2008-Sports

- ❖ Cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** has joined forces with **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** to get Indian children to wash their hands for better health and hygiene as part of the first-ever **Global Hand Washing Day** on **15 October**.
- ❖ Renault's **Fernando Alonso** stormed to his second win in a row at the **Japanese Grand Prix** in Fuji followed by **Robert Kubica** (BMW) and **Kimi Raikkonen** (Ferrari) in second and third positions respectively.
- ❖ **Sachin Tendulkar** broke Brian Lara's record (11,953 runs) for the most Test runs, earning one of cricket's most coveted honours in the second Test against Australia at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium at Mohali. During the course of his 247th innings in his 152nd match, Tendulkar also became the first batsman to score 12,000 Test runs. He was dismissed for 88, leaving his career total on 12,027 runs.
- ❖ The **world chess championship** match between champion **Viswanathan Anand** and challenger **Vladimir Kramnik** is underway in the Arts & Exhibition Hall at Bonn. The sponsor is **Evonik Industries** of Germany (2007 turnover ≈14.5 billion) which has interests ranging across chemicals, energy and real estate
- ❖ World champion **Viswanathan Anand** beat young challenger Norway's **Magnus Carlsen** 3-1 to win the 13th **Grenke leasing rapid world chess championship** at Mainz, Germany.
- ❖ **N. Srinivasan** and **Shashank Manohar** have been elected to the post of **Secretary** and **President** respectively of the **Board of Control for Cricket in India** for a three year term at the 79th Annual General body Meeting (AGM) of the BCCI, organised at Mumbai recently.
- ❖ Former India captain **Krishnamachari Srikkanth** was appointed **Chairman** of the **senior selection committee** for a year. Yashpal Sharma, Narendra Hirwani, Surendra Bhawe and Raja Venkatraman (Venkat) are the other appointees to the selection committee. Mumbai's **Abey Kuruvilla** was appointed **Chairman** of the **junior selection committee**. Former India women's team captain **Sandhya Agarwal** was appointed **Chairman** of the **Women's selection committee**.
- ❖ **Rest of India**, captained by **Anil Kumble** beat **Ranji Trophy champion Delhi**, which had **Virendra Sehwag** as skipper, by **187 runs** to win the **Irani Cup** in the match played at **Vadodara**.
- ❖ Former Australian wicketkeeper **Adam Gilchrist** will replace **V.V.S. Laxman** as captain of **Deccan Chargers** in the Indian Premier League, according to **Tim Wright**, chief executive of Deccan Chargers. Deccan Chargers have also appointed **Darren Lehmann** as **Head Coach**.
- ❖ Renault's Fernando Alonso has won the **Singapore Grand Prix**, the **first ever to be held under flood-lights**. The Spaniard won his first race since last year's Italian Grand Prix and the 20th of his career. **Williams' Nico Rosberg** was second while **Lewis Hamilton** was third.
- ❖ India's **Leander Paes** combined with Zimbabwe's **Cara Black** to beat Britain's Jamie Murray and American Liezel Huber in the **mixed doubles** final at the US Open.
- ❖ **Serena Williams** defeated second seed **Jelena Jankovic** 6-4, 7-5 in the women's **U.S. Open** final for her ninth career Grand Slam title and the World No. 1 ranking at **Flushing Meadows, Arthur Ashe Stadium**.

- ❖ Roger Federer overwhelmed Andy Murray 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 to win his fifth straight U.S. Open championship, and 13th Grand Slam title.
- ❖ **Saina Nehwal** became the first-ever Indian woman to win two Grand Prix singles titles when she won the **Yonex Chinese Taipei Grand Prix Gold** badminton championship in Taiwan recently.
- ❖ Spain's **Rafael Nadal** ended Roger Federer's five-year **Wimbledon** reign with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 9-7 win in the final at London. Nadal became the first Spaniard to win the title since Manuel Santana in 1966 in the longest ever men's singles final in the Open era, lasting four hours 47 minutes. Nadal also became the first man since Bjorg Borg in 1980 to win both the French Opens and Wimbledon in the same year. **Venus Williams** beat sister Serena to lift the women's crown.
- ❖ McLaren's English driver **Lewis Hamilton** won the **British Grand Prix** at Silverstone beating second-placed Nick Heidfeld in a BMW Sauber and the Honda of Brazilian Rubens Barrichello. Force India's Giancarlo Fisichella (Italy) and Adrian Sutil (Germany) were unable to complete the race.
- ❖ Poland's **Robert Kubica** seized his and BMW Saubers' first Formula One victory at the **Canadian Grand Prix** recently.
- ❖ It was a Ferrari one-two at the **French Grand Prix** at Magny Cours as Finnish drivers **Felipe Massa** and Kimi Raikkonen finished first and second respectively followed by Toyota's Italian driver Jarno Trulli in third position.
- ❖ The **pension of medal winners** in international competitions such as the Olympic and Asian Games has been doubled with effect from July 1, the Sports Ministry announced recently. As per the revised rates of pension, gold medallists at the Olympic Games will get Rs 10,000 in place of Rs 5,000 and gold medallists at the World Cup/World Championships in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines will draw Rs 8,000 instead of Rs 4,000 per month. Silver and bronze winners at the World Cup/World Championships, Olympic and Asian Games disciplines will get Rs 7,000 in place of Rs 3,500.
- ❖ Defending champion **Sri Lanka** defeated India by 100 runs in the final and retained the **STAR Asia Cup** at the National Stadium, Karachi. Batting first, Sri Lanka set a total of 273 in 50 overs. In response, the Indian innings folded at 173 runs in 39.3 overs.
- ❖ Former West Indies fast bowler **Michael Holding** has resigned from the International Cricket Council (ICC) in protest against its decision to convert the result of the forfeited 2006 Oval Test between England and Pakistan into a draw. The former fast bowler, who is a part of the ICC Cricket Committee, said Pakistan's refusal to take the field in that fateful match could not go unpunished.
- ❖ Former India captain **Saurav Ganguly** won the inaugural **Castrol Asian Cricketer of the Year** award for the year 2007 and also bagged the overall award for batting.
- ❖ **ESPN STAR Sports** (ESS) has bagged the exclusive broadcast rights to telecast FIFA's international football events, including the **2010 FIFA World Cup**, in the Indian subcontinent in a deal estimated at over \$40 million.
- ❖ Sri Lankan Captain **Mahela Jayawardene** emulated Sir Donald Bradman when he scored his ninth century at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC), Colombo in the first test against visitors India. Jayawardene has matched Sir Don's record for the **most number of hundreds at a Test venue**. Bradman's centuries at the Melbourne Cricket Ground came in 17 innings, 12 fewer than Jayawardene's 29.

- ❖ Former world record holder **Asafa Powell** edged his fellow Jamaican and the current world record-holder Usain Bolt by one-hundredth of a second, leading from start to finish in the 100 metres race, clocking 9.88 seconds at the DN Galan athletics meet at Stockholm, Sweden recently.
- ❖ **Zenit St Petersburg** of Russia won the **UEFA Cup football** tournament with a two-goal victory over Scottish club Rangers in Manchester.
- ❖ **K P S Gill's** 15-year tenure as the president of the Indian Hockey Federation came to an end with the Indian Olympic Association sacking him by suspending the federation and appointing an ad hoc committee chaired by Olympian **Aslam Sher Khan** in its place.
- ❖ World number one **Justine Henin**, the winner of seven Grand Slam titles, announced her retirement from professional tennis at the age of just 25. Henin became the first Belgian to win a Grand Slam title with her triumph at the French Open in 2003.
- ❖ Ferrari's **Felipe Massa** won the **Turkish Grand Prix** at Istanbul for the third year in a row followed by McLaren driver, Lewis Hamilton and fellow Ferrari driver and reigning world champion Kimi Raikkonen in second and third positions respectively.