



## Did U Know?

High security and police presence were in place for the Wimbledon 2008 Championship. There was a provision that every spectator might be searched before being admitted to the grounds. All of the 1,500 plus staff had to obtain a police clearance check.



## Michael Hussey

(Australia's middle-order batsman)  
"A Test series on Indian soil is considered tough. It's the toughest series, but it gives you immense satisfaction if you are able to win it."  
Told the press on the eve of upcoming four-Test series that starts on October 9.



**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm



**DAY'S EVENT**  
Citycell B. League  
Muktijoddha v Arambagh  
Time: 3:30pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## Bengal Tigers' awards today

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Bangladesh cricket team's fan club 'Bengal Tigers' will distribute the 'Aramex Bengal Tigers Cricketer of the Year' award for seasons 2006-07 and 2007-08 at a function at a local hotel today.  
The best cricketers from the last two seasons will be chosen by direct voting of Bengal Tigers members and some cricket personalities from a short list considering their performance in the international cricket.  
The award carries a crest and Tk 20,000 as prize money. There is also an award for the Best Woman.  
**SEE PAGE 18 COL 1**

## Kapil in the army now

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi**  
Kapil Dev, who scripted history by leading India to its only World Cup victory in 1983, began a new innings of a different kind on Wednesday night when he was commissioned in the country's Territorial Army as an honorary lieutenant colonel.  
Indian Army chief General Deepak Kapoor piped the badges of the rank on Kapil's shoulders formally commissioning into the Punjab regiment of the part-time citizens' army at a special ceremony here.  
"I'm today proud to wear an army uniform and at this age to serve the country in this uniform is a proud moment for me," said the 50-year-old 'Haryana Hurricane' as he saluted as perfectly as a professional army officer would.  
While Kapil will not take part in the rigorous training of the regular  
**SEE PAGE 18 COL 5**

## Brothers on top

**SPORTS REPORTER**



Michael Oniya's first-half strike put Brothers Union on top of the Citycell B. League table with a solitary goal win over Chittagong Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian striker Oniya, who had scored Brothers' equaliser in a 1-1 draw against Chittagong Mohammedan in the first round, drilled in a low drive into Nepalese goalkeeper Kiran's goal in the 34th minute to ensure the Gopibagh outfit's second consecutive victory.  
With seven points, the Oranges are guaranteed the top slot at the first break of the league for Eidul Fitr even if Sheikh Russel win tomorrow to come level.  
In an embarrassingly one-sided first half, Wasim Iqbal's side came close to open the scoring after eight minutes but Oniya's weak shot gave Kiran no trouble.  
Two minutes later, Zahid burst in from the right but the winger's powerful shot was gripped by Kiran in his second attempt.

The pressure continued but midfielder Shakil, who invaded the Chittagong defence from left, saw his superb pass wasted by the Brothers striking pair. Oniya and Tapu were both in a position to utilise the chance on top of the six-yard box but both fumbled before Tapu finally placed the ball wide.  
Having fluffed three opportunities inside the first 15 minutes, Brothers began to worry a bit over the visitors' record against the Dhaka heavyweights. But Chittagong Abahani, who were joint leaders after two rounds with four points following an away draw against Mohammedan and a home win against Muktijoddha, failed to hit back.  
Oniya once again spoiled a chance after hard work by Tapu and Zahid as the Nigerian's feeble effort against the lone keeper hit the sidebar on the half hour.  
Oniya finally separated the two sides four minutes later with his second league goal from a half chance. Taking a square pass from Tapu just outside the penalty box, the Nigerian striker fired a typical frail shot that ran through a forest of legs to stun Kiran.

The tourists' only real chance came a couple of minutes later when Ismail initiated a counter attack but Nepalese striker Santosh shot the ball inches wide of the near post from 20 yards.  
Brothers maintained the tempo after the break but the forwards, especially Oniya, could not impress. Tapu headed a Zahid corner off target on the hour while Oniya, who had only the rival goal to beat, was dispossessed by Abahani defender Mintu.  
Ariful's long ball put Oniya in a fine position with 15 minutes remaining but the Nigerian's overhead shot was palmed away by Kiran for a corner.  
Mithun tried to curl a shot ten minutes from time in the visitors' last-gasp effort to equalise but lobbed the ball straight to Shakil, who was not required to make any other save on the day at the Oranges' goal.  
"Everything looked fine and I'm happy about the performance. But the players were losing concentration near the goal, perhaps," said Brothers coach Wasim.  
"Why they could convert so easy  
**SEE PAGE 18 COL 5**



Brothers Union's Nigerian striker Michael Oniya shoots past Chittagong Abahani's Nepalese goalkeeper Kiran (L) while Nepalese defender Lok Bandhu (R) keeps the chase during yesterday's Citycell B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## 'Better Tigers are there'

**Cricket**

**INTERNET, undated**

Bangladesh has this month been hit by the departures of 13 players to join the ICL but John Bracewell, the New Zealand coach, did not expect that to weaken their side.  
"Their best players, five or six of them like (Mohammad) Ashraf, (Mashrafe) Mortaza, Tamim (Iqbal) are still there," Bracewell said. "The players that have gone are more around the fringes of the team or players who were getting toward the end of their careers."  
Brendon McCullum says it will be a major achievement for a changing New Zealand side if they can snare the world No. 2 ODI ranking during their tour of Bangladesh. New Zealand are

currently fourth on the ICC table but if they beat Bangladesh 3-0, they will jump both England and South Africa to sit behind only Australia.



JOHN BRACEWELL

"If we can do that, and we should, that would be quite incredible in my view for a team that has had so many changes recently," McCullum told the Press. "If we can play the brand of cricket we have of late we must have a reasonable shot at it."  
Part of the reason for New Zealand's recent success has been the decision for McCullum to open instead of playing the role of closer at No. 7. That full-time role started at the beginning of the 2007-08 season and since then McCullum has averaged 53.83 in ODIs.  
"For the first time I entered the season with some real clarity about how I wanted to play," he said. "I just wanted to play my natural style of game and do what I know works for me."  
"A lot of guys can be afraid to  
**SEE PAGE 18 COL 3**

## Nayeem wins it for Academy

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Captain Nayeem Islam struck an unbeaten half-century as the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy beat SLC Development XI by three wickets to clinch the three-match one-day series 2-1 at the NCC ground in Colombo yesterday.

The pugnacious right-hander, who was called up to the national preliminary squad for the upcoming series against New Zealand, struck 56 as the visitors reached 148 for seven in 46.3 overs, in reply to the hosts' 147 in 41.3 overs.

Apart from Nayeem, BKSP product Nasir Hossain chipped in with 22.  
Earlier, left-arm spinner Arifat Sunny captured three wickets for 22 runs while pacesman Ziaur Rahman, part-timer Nasir and left-arm seamer Sajidul Islam took two wickets apiece.

The series win comes after a one-wicket win in the opening one-day but the Academy side lost the second game on Tuesday by four wickets.

## Kumble facing sack?

**Cricket**

**INTERNET, undated**

Indian cricket is in a state of flux just 15 days before the first Test with the national selectors and captain unsure whether they will retain their roles beyond the weekend.

Test skipper Anil Kumble, 38 next month, is under growing pressure from supporters of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, 27, to step aside and allow the playboy wicket keeper to lead the team in all three forms of the game.

Dhoni has impressed some officials with his deeds in the Twenty20 and the 50-overs game, but others are wary of overburdening a man who had to sit out the entire mid-year Test series against Sri Lanka because of fatigue.

The leg-spinning Kumble is an astute, humble and skilful cricketer

who will have a major role to play in the battle for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The same attributes can't always be said of the sometimes moody Dhoni, who is treated more like a Bollywood star than sportsman.

Dhoni can also be a batting hurricane but he failed to flatten Australia last summer, scoring just 141 runs at 17.62 while Kumble, the third-highest wicket-taker in Test history, responded with 20 scalps in an epic series.

Dhoni would be put under enormous pressure if he was made Test skipper and, perhaps wisely, suggestions he take over immediately.

"I've never given too much thought to these things. There's no point," he said.

"I'm just happy to be playing the game, playing for the country and enjoying every moment."  
"The way I look at it, I never  
**SEE PAGE 18 COL 5**

## Real decimate Gijon

**AFP, Madrid**



Rafael van der Vaart endeared himself to the Real Madrid fans with a hat-trick as the champions crushed Sporting Gijon 7-1 on Wednesday to go second in the table.

Dutch midfielder van der Vaart, a 13 million-euro summer signing from SV Hamburg, netted twice in the first half before wrapping up his treble on 47 minutes.

Poor Sporting had been crushed 6-1 by Barcelona in their last match and Real went one better with skipper Raul grabbing brace and further goals from Gonzalo Higuain and Arjen Robben.  
Ironically Real rested key play-

ers - such as Sergio Ramos and Ruud van Nistelrooy - but were still far too good for pointless Sporting and the title holders now trail Villarreal by a point at the summit.

Barcelona are three points off the lead in fifth after Eidur Gudjohnsen scored an 80th minute winner to down Real Betis 3-2 as they notched their first home win this season.

Samuel Eto'o reached a landmark 100 goals in Barca colours with a brace to put Barca two goals up at the interval but Betis launched a sterling second half comeback to draw the scores level only for substitute Gudjohnsen to break their hearts with a late winner.

It was in stark contrast to the 6-1 crushing of Sporting Gijon at the weekend but the nervy victory helps push Barcelona up to third in the table.  
**SEE PAGE 18 COL 2**

"We had a dip at the beginning of the second half and we paid dearly," confessed Barca coach Pep Guardiola. "I must say that I am pleased how we played in the first half and also by our reaction when they made it 2-2."

Betis coach Paco Chaparro was furious that Betis were not awarded a late penalty but I don't want to talk about the referee," raged Chaparro.

Atletico Madrid are level on points with Real after a 2-1 derby win at Getafe.

French forward Florent Sinama Pongolle scored his fourth goal of the season to move to the top of the scoring charts but it was an 82nd minute own goal from David Cortes that condemned Getafe to their first defeat of the season.  
**SEE PAGE 18 COL 2**

## Ghana booter Chalecho dies in Dhaka

**SPORTS REPORTER**

A Ghana footballer who was staying at a residential hotel in the city's Fakirpool died yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Chalecho, 26, police said.

Sub-inspector Ziaur Rahman of Moutijeh police station said staffers of Moon Star Hotel rushed Chalecho to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after he fell sick at around 10:30am.

However, he doctors of the hospital declared him dead after he was taken there.

The reason of his death could not be ascertained immediately.

SI Ziaur said Chalecho was staying at the hotel as a boarder since September 13.

Local footballers confirmed that the Ghanaian was known as 'Salisu Mohamed', who played for Muktijoddha Sangsad in the 2002 National Football League and joined Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club next year for the Premier League.

Chalecho, an attacking midfielder, played in the Kolkata first division league last season and came to Dhaka as a freelance booter.

## Booters' camp from today

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The national football team's preparation for next month's Merdeka Cup begins today at BKSP under new coach Shafiqul Islam Manik.

The players have been asked to report to Manik this morning and they will leave for the Savar sport institute immediately afterwards for an eight-day camp.

The footballers who have engagements in the ongoing third round of the B. League today and tomorrow, will join the preliminary squad later.  
Out of the 30-member squad, Abahani midfielders Arif Khan Joy and Mehdi Hassan Ujjal have already withdrawn due to injury and  
**SEE PAGE 18 COL 4**



Australia captain Ricky Ponting gets into a tangle while facing a short ball in the Jaipur nets on Thursday.

## Too kind to Aussies!

**Cricket**

**AFP, Jaipur**

India's cricket chiefs are not pleased the touring Australians are being provided top-grade private training facilities at the start of their Test tour, a report said on Thursday.

"We won't get these kind of facilities if India went abroad. We would have got the bare minimum," the Cricketnext website quoted Indian cricket board official Ratnakar Shetty as saying.

"The RCA [Rajasthan Cricket Association] is being a little too obliging to the Australian team. They have done more than what a host country will do."

Ricky Ponting's men are in the midst of a week-long training schedule at the RCA's cricket academy in Jaipur before the official part of the tour begins on  
**SEE PAGE 18 COL 5**

October 2.  
The Australians, who were not due in India till September 29, arrived a week early to acclimatize following the postponement of the Champions Trophy one-day tournament in Pakistan due to security concerns.

Former India coach and ex-Australia captain Greg Chappell, who is closely associated with the Rajasthan academy, ensured that excellent facilities were provided for his compatriots ahead of the four-Test series.

Local officials are only too happy to obey Chappell's commands in his capacity as the touring team's assistant coach.

"Looking at Indian conditions, we have given Australia everything they wanted for practice," said RCA's chief pitch curator Taposh Chatterjee.

"We have prepared 10 wickets for the Australians."  
The different playing surfaces

include a few that take spin, others which help seam bowlers and the rest are easy-paced batting wickets so typical of South Asia.

RCA officials defended their unusual hospitality for the Australians.

"This is the first time a team has arrived a week ahead of schedule, so why not give them the best facilities," said RCA official Bimal Soni.

"We are fair players."  
The tourists will train in Jaipur until Sunday before flying to southern Hyderabad for a four-day match against the Indian board president's XI from October 2.

That will be the final warm-up for the Australians ahead of the first Test starting in Bangalore from October 9.

The remaining back-to-back Tests will be played in Mohali, New Delhi and Nagpur.