

**THE BIGGEST STORY**

Spain shed their tag of big-time underachievers in the world stage with their maiden triumph in Africa's first World Cup in July. One of the highlights of the tournament was young German striker Thomas Muller, who sunk Argentina and England with two stellar performances to win the Golden Boot award.



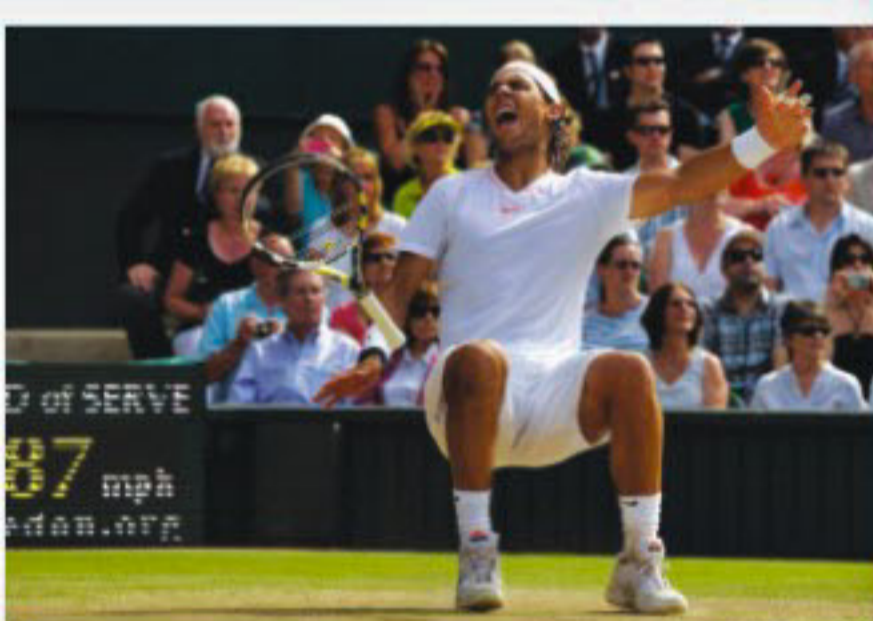
**BREAKING THE 200 BARRIER**

Cricket followers had their fantasy fulfilled on February 24 when the greatest batsman ever reached the highest ODI score, 200 runs. Sachin Tendulkar picked one of the better bowling attacks, South Africa's, to reach the milestone. That was not all as the Indian legend struck seven Test centuries including the 50th of his career.



**REACHING NEW HEIGHTS**

World No 1 Rafael Nadal dominated the world of tennis, winning the French Open, US Open and Wimbledon. The US Open win in September completed his career Grand Slam and he followed Andre Agassi to be the second man to win a Golden Slam.



**A SPECIAL TREBLE**

Jose Mourinho won the treble with Inter Milan, after their Champions League success against Bayern Munich in May. The Special One masterminded the fall of Barcelona in the semifinals to lay claim for the best football manager of this generation.



**THE BIGGEST SCANDAL**

News of the World's sting on match-fixer Mazhar Majeed in July revealed the biggest scandal of the sporting year. Mohammad Aamer, Mohammad Asif and Salman Butt were on his payroll and as the video exposed, Aamer listened to every word of Majeed by bowling a huge no-ball during the Lord's Test match.



**THE GUANGZHOU PARTY**

China again threw a sporting party of enormous proportions by hosting the Asian Games in Guangzhou. For the first time in history, the ceremony was not held inside a stadium; instead, it was held along the Pearl River. (Top) Huang Shanshan, a Chinese rhythmic gymnast, dances her way to a gold medal.

**CREATING HISTORY**

Sebastian Vettel of Germany became the youngest ever Formula One world champion breaking the previous record of Lewis Hamilton. Vettel raced his Red Bull team to the constructors title with some excellent wins throughout the season. He ran past all the others in the Malaysian, European, Japanese, Brazilian and Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

