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## Did U Know?

Michael Johnson, the American track and field legend, won five Olympic gold medals. He was the first man to win both the 200m and 400m races at the same Olympics, accomplishing the feat at the 1996 Olympics.



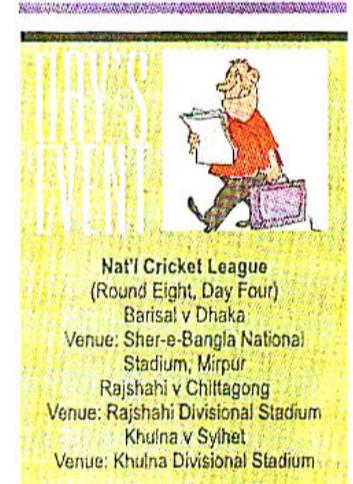
## Yuvraj Singh

(India's star batsman)  
"He has been a very good captain with plenty of experience. His first win as Test captain must be very special to him. He is very aggressive and hungry for success."

On Anil Kumble.



ESPN  
Sportscentre India  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30pm



## Trio to receive BCCI awards

PTI, Mumbai

Champion batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid, ace leg spinner Anil Kumble and former Test captain Nari Contractor will be felicitated here Monday for their playing feats at the Cricket Board's annual awards function.

Contractor will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, carrying a cheque for Rs 15 lakh, the CK Nayudu Trophy and a citation. Tendulkar is to receive two awards while Dravid and Kumble one each, a BCCI release said Sunday.

Tendulkar will get the Polly Umrigar Award for outstanding performance in international matches in the 2006-07 season, carrying Rs five lakh prize and a trophy, as well as a special trophy for reaching personal milestones of 11,000 and 15,000 runs in Tests and ODIs.

Dravid will receive a special trophy for completing 10,000 runs in ODIs while Kumble will be felicitated and awarded a trophy for being appointed as the captain of the Indian Test team and for completing 550 wickets in Tests.

Young Karnataka batsman Robin Uthappa and lanky Bengal pacer Ranadeb Bose would each get Rs one lakh and the Madhavrao Scindia Award for scoring the highest number of runs and taking the highest number of wickets respectively in the 2006-07 domestic season.

Mumbai Cricket Association will receive a trophy for the overall best performance in the 2006-07 domestic season while woman cricketer Jhulan Goswami will receive a cheque for Rs one lakh and a trophy for becoming the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2007.

## Tigers' tame start

### Cricket

TIGERCRICKET.COM, Hamilton

seamers from the beginning and Tamim helped himself to a couple of flicked fours while Siddiqui cleared the infield whenever the ball was pitched up. The Knights' new ball bowlers Tim Southee and Brent Arnel struggled with line in the beginning but Tamim (12) gifted the home side a breakthrough when he slashed at an away ball and was caught behind (27-1 in 8.0 overs).

Siddiqui continued to play confidently but saw number three Tushar Imran (8) taken down the leg side with 64 on the board.

Captain Mohammad Ashraf then

put on 57 with Siddiqui before he

was gone for a fluent 30. The Tigers

captain went hard at a Southee

delivery and was given out after a

prolonged appeal.

There were no demons in the

wicket and the batsmen faced little

difficulty in negotiating the occa-

sional movement and zip. But the

Tigers lost crucial wickets at the

wrong moments. Shakib Al Hasan

(6) was unfortunate as his full-

blooded sweep stuck in the hands of

short mid wicket Bradley Watling

and Atab Ahmed (12) edged to the

'keeper when he flashed outside off.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

From 121-2 Bangladesh slumped to 143-5 in 37th over. Siddiqui reached his half-century with a cracking off drive for four and then hit the first six of the Bangladesh innings but when he needed to go on he holed out at mid off having made 73 of 114 balls.

Farhad Reza and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza ensured that the Tigers passed 200. Mortaza (25) clouted a six and three fours while Reza made a run-a-ball 27 as Bangladesh finished with 222-8.

The Knights were off to a solid start as Mortaza and Rasel were guilty of bowing a touch short. By the time the spinners came in the batsmen were already set.

Left-handed opener Nick Horsley pulled and cut his way to 92 and Marshall remained not out on 55 in a convincing win. Ground fielding was good from the Bangladesh team but the bowlers need more

adjusting to do in their next warm-up on Tuesday if they want to come

back strong.

"I was pleased with the way we batted initially. The goal was to not lose wickets and we achieved that. However we lost our way in the



BAD NEWS: Zunaed Siddiqui (L) signals to the dressing room as left-arm seamer Syed Rasel cringes in pain after dislocating his shoulder during Bangladesh's first warm-up game against Northern Districts at Seddon Park in Hamilton on Sunday.

## Advantage Khulna

### SPORTS REPORTER



ISPAHANI  
NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE

date their position against Barisal.

**KHULNA-SYLHET**

Left-handed opener Kayes, who began the day on 87, extended his overnight score to 138 while Nahidul Haque and Sahagir Hossain chipped in with half centuries as Khulna piled up 421 after resuming on 193-1.

The home team, well placed with a handsome 121-run first-innings lead, then reduced Sylhet to 39-2 in their second innings at stumps.

Leaders Rajshahi, meanwhile, made a bold start in their second essay but the home side were still facing a daunting task to manage an outright win. A straight win, however, would not be enough for Rajshahi to stay atop as only a draw at Khulna can ensure it.

At the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, captain Al Shahriar missed his first century of the competition for eight runs but his efforts helped Dhaka consolidi-

Haque's five-wicket haul.

Sahagir smashed ten boundaries in his 54 off 113 balls.

**RAJSHAHI-CHITTAGONG**

Rajshahi thrived on an unbeaten century stand for the second wicket between Shakil Halder and Farhad Hossain to better their first innings total but still, they needed 267 runs on the final day to win the match at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium.

Shakil was batting on 57 with one-down Farhad accompanying him on 52 before balls were drawn.

Earlier, the hosts produced more-than-hundred-percent effort to wrap up Chittagong's second innings quickly with even veteran wicket-keeper Khaled Mashud bowling one over.

The visitors managed 301 after resuming the day on 113-3 to put a challenging target of 382 for Rajshahi.

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PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM

Khulna opener Imrul Kayes is all set to play a square cut during his swashbuckling 138 against Sylhet on the third day of their National Cricket League match at the Shaheed Bishreshtha Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

## Malik faces Khan threat

### Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

is actively keen on it. Though Nasir Ashraf, chairman of the board, has publicly said it is too late to still smarting, perhaps, from Younis's earlier refusal -- Younis is now understood to have support from quarters within the board, as well as from key players within the team.

The support is understandable, says one official. "His performances while captain, in particular the fact that his batting has been largely unaffected by leadership and that he is a certain starter in any Test side, weigh heavily in his favour." By contrast, Malik's continuing inability to convince people of his Test credentials, more than even than concerns about his leadership or attitude, do him no favours.

One official, broadly sympathetic to Malik as captain, even

admitted "he makes the middle order by default, because there is no competition, no other real candidate. The captaincy is officially not available to Younis, but in Pakistan you can never say." As an endorsement for continuity, it is hardly convincing.

And there is also reason to believe that the selectors, if put in a dilemma by the credentials of a better-performing middle-order candidate, would not hesitate to drop Malik from the Test side.

The issue is further complicated by what more than one tour official privately admits to be "some friction" between Malik and Younis. The rift is thought to have emanated from certain selectorial decisions, including the decision

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SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

## Selectors mull on Rasel's spot

### SPORTS REPORTER

A replacement for left-arm seamer Syed Rasel, who was injured in Tigers' opening warm-up game against Northern Knights, is expected to be announced later today.

23-year-old Rasel displaced his collarbone after landing hard trying to field a ball. He was immediately taken for an x-ray, which confirmed dislocation. Rasel will have a check-up with an orthopedic surgeon to further assess the injury today.

Among the nine in the standby list, three will be considered to replace Rasel.

Barisal's left-arm seamer Sajidul Islam, among the two fast bowlers in the list, is ahead with his table-topping 38-wicket haul in this season's National Cricket League four-day competition as it will have a like-for-like replacement with his left-armers' angle.

Khulna and Bangladesh under-19 tearaway Dollar Mahmud has taken a hattrick in one of his two appearances for his divisional side

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## Tendulkar & De Silva my favourites'

PTI, Colombo

Sri Lankan veteran Sanath Jayasuriya has rated Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar and compatriot Aravinda de Silva as his favourite batsmen.

"Aravinda de Silva and Sachin Tendulkar are my favourite batsmen," Jayasuriya, who retired from Test cricket during the Test series against England, said in an interview.

The devastating batsman rated Australian Glenn McGrath as the most difficult bowler to play against.

Jayasuriya, who has decided to continue playing One-dayers, has completed 10,000 runs in the shorter version of the game.

Recalling his rise towards stardom, Jayasuriya said, "It has been a terrific journey. I am not someone who was born with a silver spoon in my mouth. So I learnt everything the hard way."

The Australian must pick Shaun Tait. I'm telling you, the Indians will be scared of him. They're not comfortable with pace at all," Akhtar told the Sunday Telegraph.

Tait, whose action was questioned by the visiting New Zealand team in the ongoing Chappell-Hadlee

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

## Jaffer knows his job

### Cricket

REUTERS, Mumbai

Opener Wasim Jaffer is hoping that India's top-order batsmen can emulate those on the last tour of Australia by giving the visitors a solid foundation to build big scores.

Considered one of the better players of fast bowling in the team, the 29-year-old may be on his first tour of Australia but expectations are high that he will be a success in the four-Test series beginning on Dec. 26.

"In 2003-04, the openers really played well... gave tremendous starts which made it easier for the middle-order," Jaffer told Reuters.

Explosive Virender Sehwag and

the resolute Akash Chopra shared

in two century stands and two fifty

partnerships as India drew a

remarkable series one-all after

going 1-0 up in Adelaide.

"There is a lot of responsibility on the top-order, especially the openers. If they (middle-order) get exposed to the new ball it can get difficult," said Jaffer, who recorded the second double hundred of his Test career in the recent series against Pakistan.

"But if we get through the new ball it makes it easier for all the batting to come," added the Mumbai batsman, who has performed consistently well since he was recalled to the side in March last year.

Meanwhile, matting mainstay Rahul Dravid has not been able to convert starts since quitting the captaincy in September.

"Rahul is too good a player to be out of form for long. He had a decent series against Pakistan... looked solid," said Jaffer who averages 51.18 this calendar year, scoring 819 runs from nine Tests with

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

## Aussies' moral victory

### Second ODI washed out

### Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia claimed a moral victory in the second one-dayer against New Zealand on Sunday after the tourists slumped to a top-order collapse before the match was abandoned because of rain.

Fast bowler Brett Lee said losing three wickets for just 12 runs would have inflicted "mental scars" on New Zealand, who lost the first Chappell-Hadlee Trophy match in Adelaide by seven wickets.

"We can take a bit out of this game. Even though there was only a few overs bowled, we put a few mental scars into them," Lee said.

"Early on our intensity was

the three-match series will now go to Hobart on Thursday, with Australia seeking to take back the trophy won convincingly by New Zealand in February.

The tourists were in trouble at 30 for three from six overs when rain halted play, and officials eventually called the game off in the early evening.