

Burglars made off with seven replicas of the golden World Cup trophy after breaking into FIFA's offices in South Africa, police said on Tuesday.

Security was a big concern for organisers of the event due to South Africa's frighteningly high rates of violent crime.

"We know there was a burglary at the FIFA offices. Seven replicas of the World Cup were stolen and several sweaters. Police are looking into it," national police chief



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DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 30, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net



PHOTO: AFP

Paraguay striker Oscar Cardozo takes a flight to the heavens after sending Japanese goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima (R) to the wrong way in the first penalty shootout of this World Cup's round of 16 match at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria yesterday. Coardozo completed a perfect five in Paraguay's 5-3 tiebreak win over Japan after the regulation 90 minutes and 30-minute extra-time ended in a goalless draw.

Paraguay prevail in penalties

AGENCIES, Pretoria

Paraguay beat Japan 5-3 on penalties following a 0-0 draw to reach the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time in their history on Tuesday.

Substitute Oscar Cardozo scored the decisive spot-kick at the Loftus Versfeld stadium after Japan's Yuichi Komano had smashed his penalty against the crossbar.

Paraguay, who became the fourth South American team in the last eight joining Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, will now meet Spain or Portugal.

"God was on our side. Now we want more," said Paraguay coach Gerardo Martino, who was in floods of tears at the end of the shootout.

"Thank god we got through, Paraguay have never gone so far," said striker Oscar Cardozo, who scored Paraguay's winning penalty.

"We are all very happy, me because I scored the penalty and got it in, thank God. It was a very difficult match because Japan too have very good players."

The shoot-out was needed after 90 minutes of regulation time and 30 minutes of extra time failed to separate the two teams in a tense affair of few chances.

Yoshito Okubo had an early chance for the Asian side but shot well wide while at the other end Edgar Benitez couldn't keep his header down from Roque Santa Cruz's inviting cross.

The game briefly

exploded into life on 21 minutes as Paraguay striker Lucas Barrios sneaked in behind the defence with a lovely little drag back but

then he prodded his shot straight at goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima.

Less than 60 seconds later Daisuke Matsui ran onto a

loose ball and tried his luck from distance only to see his curler crash against the Paraguay crossbar.

On 29 minutes

Manchester City striker Santa Cruz should have done better when the ball dropped to him 12 yards out, but he rushed his left foot volley and dragged the ball wide.

Japan star Keisuke Honda set his sights five minutes from the break but his left-foot effort from 20 yards drifted wide.

At the start of the second period Nestor Ortigoza opened up the Japanese defence to create a shooting opportunity but Yuto Nagatomo slid in to make a goal-saving block.

Yuji Nakazawa was next to dive in and stop a goalbound effort from Benitez as Paraguay started to turn the screw.

Cristian Riveros then met a Claudio Morel cross with a

firm header which went straight at Kawashima.

Five minutes into extra-time, Barrios's header from Morel's cross landed in Kawashima's arms before Nelson Valdez turned sharply on the edge of the box to create a half chance that Kawashima smothered.

At the other end Paraguay

captain and keeper Justo Villar palmed away a fizzing Honda freekick.

Japan had a late opportunity on the counter attack but after Shinji Ozakazi's backheel released Keiji Tamada the Nagoya Grampus Eight forward opted to cross instead of shoot and the chance went begging.

SCORE BOARD

PARAGUAY 0 (5) - 0 (3) JAPAN

Paraguay (4-3-2-1): Justo Villar, Carlos Bonet, Paulo Da Silva, Antolin Alcaraz, Claudio Morel, Néstor Ortigoza (Edgar Barreto 75), Roque Santa Cruz (Oscar Cardozo 94), Enrique Vera, Cristian Riveros, Edgar Benitez (Nelson Valdez 60), Lucas Barrios

Japan: (4-3-2-1): Eiji Kawashima, Yuto Nagatomo, Yuji Nakazawa, Tullio Tanaka, Yuichi Komano, Yuki Abe (Kengo Nakamura 81), Makoto Hasebe, Daisuke Matsui (Shinji Okazaki 65), Yasuhito Endo, Yoshito Okubo (Keiji Tamada 106), Keisuke Honda

Venue: Loftus Versfeld Stadium, Pretoria, South Africa

KEY STATS

Paraguay	Japan
Shots (on target)	15(6) 13(2)
Corners	6 5
Possession	61% 39%
Yellow Cards	1 4

TODAY'S POLL

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Action Packed Quarter Finals and the Heroes to be

By the time this writing will reach you, the quarter final listings will be complete. It may be Spain or Portugal and Japan or Paraguay joining Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Netherlands, Ghana and Uruguay. Every game is set to be a live wire but everybody is talking about two specific matches. Argentina is up against Germany and the Dutch taking on Brazil.

Both the Germans and Argentine frontline have showed their prowess in goal scoring. Messi weaved through the opposition. And when he is circled, Tevez and Higuain ran all over and put the ball in the net. On the other hand Klose seems to have the lady luck of goal with him scoring with every possible opportunity. Podolski is a menace, Ozeil is splitting the defenders apart and Phillip Lahm is marshalling his troops like a true leader.

Kaka seems to be lost in the wilderness. But don't count him out, as he is a class act. Fabiano, Robinho and Elano have underlined the true passion of soccer at its best, the Brazilian way. And the Dutch seems to be getting better every match highlighted by Arjen Robben's goal against Slovakia.

Predictions are hard to make for the two matches. But two teams will go out and the World Cup Football 2010 will lose some of its shine. As for Ghana and Uruguay, a place in the semi finals for either will bring them close to their dreams.

Paraguay striker Lucas Barrios (L) is under pressure from Japanese defender Yuji Nakazawa during their round of 16 match in Pretoria yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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