

Bhaji robbed

Thieves broke into India cricketer Harbhajan Singh's car while he had stopped by at a popular cafe near Karnal town Monday evening and took away his laptop and other belongings, police said.

The thieves broke the window panes of Harbhajan's Ford Endeavour SUV on the busy National Highway No. 1 near Karnal town in Haryana, 130 km from state capital Chandigarh, police said.

Thieves are said to have taken away his laptop, passport and a bag containing credit cards and other documents.

The incident took place around 6pm Monday outside Cafe Coffee Day outlet at Madhuban.



CANDIDATE FOR ICC VICE-PRESIDENCY

Grandies incline towards Saber

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

With exactly two weeks left for cricket authorities in Bangladesh and Pakistan to reach a consensus on which board will select the ICC (International Cricket Council) vice-president candidate for 2012, the nod of approval from some of the game's bigwigs in this country gave former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury a slight advantage.

For the potential choice from Bangladesh, the names of the current Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal and the former chief are being bandied about and while many among former national captains and distinguished organisers didn't directly name their favourites, some did and the consensus leaned towards the man who was instrumental in gaining the Test status.

It is understood from various sources that it will be Bangladesh who will be asked to take their pick since the first such decision between the two boards was taken by Pakistan in 2003 and, according to many, now is Bangladesh's turn if that was a gentleman's agreement.

Regardless of the agreement, it is quite clearly going to be the biggest organisational and diplomatic achievement for Bangladesh in the sports arena.

Former captain Shafiqul Haque said that his choice would definitely be Saber.

"My personal choice would be Saber. I have worked with him and have seen that he has tremendous vision. Everybody knows what he has done to get the Test status. He's a high profile individual and has garnered respect in the highest places," he said.

Former BCB vice-president Raisuddin Ahmed, who deemed it necessary that the country's interest is taken care of whoever the man is in the hot seat, didn't name Saber but it was quite apparent when he described the sort of person required in such an

esteemed position.

"The post has to be utilised to our advantage whenever possible. It will help us build image, something that doesn't come from other sports. The issue of India not hosting us could be solved if there's proper representation. The FTP is an issue, we should get more Tests and tours. The man who will be our candidate has to put up the right argument.

"I will not name anyone but it is obvious that it has to be someone who has served internationally for quite some time. He has to have flair and exuberance so that he can uphold Bangladesh's prestige in the international community," said Raisuddin.

Syed Ashraful Huq, the former BCB general secretary and currently the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) CEO, has put the potential candidacy at a different level, though, like most others contacted by The Daily Star Sport, stopped short of putting up his favourite.

"This is the biggest thing anybody can think of. We neither do well on the field, nor do we have a substantial commercial value so it is a huge honour. I feel great about it," said Ashraful. "I think anybody can be a candidate but from my position as the ACC CEO, it wouldn't be right for me to comment."

KZ Islam, also a former BCB president and the father of school cricket in the country, said that while both Saber and Kamal are men of cricket his choice would be the serving BCB chief. "It has to be Kamal. He has been with cricket for a long time. We went to Nairobi together many years ago and I know him since then," he said.

Former national captain Roquibul Hassan said that he was delighted with the opportunity coming Bangladesh's way. "Naturally I am excited and very happy. Somebody will be in charge and he will deliver internationally," he said.

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PHOTO: STAR

IT'S A HOLIDAY: Pakistan's Saeed Ajmal stretches during a short training session at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PCB boss due tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan Cricket Board president Zaka Ashraf is due to arrive in the capital tomorrow.

The new chief's visit will be the last leg of talks regarding the ICC vice-president issue where both Bangladesh Cricket Board and the PCB will decide who will put up a candidate for the post. The ICC executive board at its meeting in October had asked the BCB and PCB to nominate a vice-presidency for the 2012-14 term. The nomination has to be confirmed by December 31 as the ICC will discuss it in January and make the appointment effective from June.

Ashraf, who will arrive

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INTER-CLUB TRANSFERS FROM TODAY

Surjo Tarun unlikely for Shakib, Tamim

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The two-day inter-club players' transfer of Dhaka Premier League will kick off today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with the main talking point surrounding the fate of Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal whose move to a new club is still hanging in the balance.

The duo who played for Mohammedan Sporting Club last season were tipped to make a move to Surjo Tarun as the former MSC cricket committee chairman Lutfar Rahman Badal was headed towards Dhanmondi after falling out at the Motijheel-based giants.

However, the star duo's destination was

as yet unconfirmed till late yesterday when it was learned from a source close to Surjo Tarun that the club's top brass wasn't in agreement with Badal over a petty matter, causing the deal to fall through. This in turn resulted in a few other clubs eager to lap up the two stars and the several other players in Badal's coterie. Officials at the Surjo Tarun declined to comment on the likely composition of their squad as they too are still in the dark.

Regardless of all this, MSC won't get the services of their captain and vice-captain from last season and have since moved to confirm Imrul Kayes and Naeem Islam as their major acquisitions.

The picture is much more stable for defending champions Abahani who are set to retain several of their players including

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Dhaka Metro storm back

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Metropolis rode on four half-centuries for a second innings revival against Sylhet on the third day of their National Cricket League second phase game at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Trailing by 134 runs after the first innings, Dhaka Metro got a sound start from the makeshift pairing of Arman Hossain and Mohammad Forkan who added 68 before Asif Ahmed and Shamsur Rahman took over.

The third wicket pair added 155 runs in 35.1 overs, taking their side into the lead quite smoothly. Asif scored 82 from 119 balls with the help of eleven boundaries while Shamsur missed a

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Rubel not cleared yet

SPORTS REPORTER

Paceman Rubel Hossain's shoulder injury suffered while fielding on the third day of the first Test match has not been cleared by the Tigers' medical staff.

"I haven't been told by the team management about Rubel but his injury isn't too serious but also, he can't take it lightly," said BCB physician Monirul Amin.

He also informed that Imrul Kayes's groin strain is on the mend while Naeem Islam is suffering from sinusitis after a bout fever.

Ilievski seeking home comfort

SPORTS REPORTER

Under fire coach Nikola Ilievski is planning for a monthlong vacation to native Macedonia. The 57-year old coach who oversaw Bangladesh's first round exit from the SAFF Championship recently, has asked for a leave of up to January 10 to Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday. He also submitted the report on the team's failure at the championship.

However, the coach has already lived up his vacation and plane fair as part his one-year deal with BFF. National Team Management Committee chairman Badal Roy said: "The coach is entitled to a month's vacation and plane fair which has already been consumed. Now he can not ask for leave

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PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

LEARN IT FROM PAPA: Tigers batsman Nazimuddin teaches his 17-month-old son Ifazuddin how to bat at his home in Chittagong's Alkoron area yesterday. The right-hander's 78 was the only bright spot in the dismal defeat to Pakistan in the first Test.

BCCI scraps Nimbus deal?

Cricket

CRICINFO, New Delhi

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has terminated its contract with Nimbus Communications, the rights holders for cricket in India, ESPNcricinfo understands from reports.

The contract, which was to run till 2014, had recently run into issues regarding payments.

"They have defaulted," Indian Premier League chairman Rajiv Shukla, who is also a BCCI vice-president, told PTL. "They have not made the 50 per cent advance payment for both the England and the West Indies series and the board had no choice but to terminate the deal."

The decision is believed to have been taken at the BCCI's working committee meeting in New Delhi on Monday but there was no

customary post-meeting media release till midnight. However, the story received widespread media coverage through the day but Nimbus's Harish Thawani, when contacted by ESPNcricinfo, said: "We have no official word from BCCI regarding the rumour in a section of the media hence will not be issuing any statement today."

On October 14, broadcast of the one-day international between India and England in Hyderabad began only after three overs had already been bowled, as a result of a dispute over the payment of a bank guarantee from Neo Sports, Nimbus's channel, to Prasar Bharati, the government agency responsible for uplinking live telecasts out of India.

More recently, Nimbus had reportedly asked the BCCI for an extension on their payment deadline. The board turned down the request and decided to scrap their deal instead.

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