

Indian journo robbed

SPORTS REPORTER

An Indian cricket journalist had his valuables snatched when he was returning to the hotel after covering the Bangladesh-Pakistan Asia Cup opener at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Sunday night.

Siddarth Ravindran, a reporter of ESPNcricinfo, was on a rickshaw when two men in a bike snatched away his bag, which contained a laptop, digital camera, travel documents and 3,000 rupees.

After hearing of the incident, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officers informed the Officer-in-Charge of Mirpur police station and they rushed to the Mirpur-1 hotel.

"We sincerely regret the incident, which has happened for the first time," said BCB media manager Rabeed Imam. "We will help the police investigate the matter and will provide Siddarth with any help herequiresat the moment."

Acting CEO of BCB Nizamuddin Chowdhury has also contacted the Indian High Commission to help the reporter with the travel documents.

Baugh in for Ramdin for three ODIs

AFP, Bridgetown

Carlton Baugh was called up by the West Indies on Sunday to replace the injured Denesh Ramdin for the first three matches of their one-day series against Australia.

Ramdin suffered a fractured right thumb while batting on Saturday in the second West Indies warm-up match at the 3Ws Oval and will now return to Trinidad to start rehabilitation.

SQUAD

Darren Sammy (captain), Carlton Baugh, Tino Best, Devendra Bishoo, Darren Bravo, Dwayne Bravo, Johnson Charles, Sunil Narine, Kieron Pollard, Kieran Powell, Kumar Roach, Andre Russell, Marlon Samuels.

Misbah

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Commonwealth Bank series.

David Boon was the match-referee for Pakistan's game against Bangladesh and ruled that Pakistan were too slow in completing their overs, after taking delays into consideration. Pakistan fell behind the rate despite just 18.1 of the 48.1 overs being bowled by fast bowlers, and will have to be careful over the next 12 months to avoid losing their captain for a match.

Smoke

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He also threatened that Bangladesh will not tour Pakistan if the ICC fail to maintain standard practice regarding the issue of sanctioning neutral match officials. Kamal rubbished the ICC Chief Executives' Committee's (CEC) recommendation to the ICC Board; that granting of the special dispensation of non-neutral match officials to participate in the matches would be justified.

ICC dismisses fixing claims



AFP, Dubai

The International Cricket Council on Monday dismissed a claim in a British newspaper that Indian bookmakers were fixing the results of English county games and overseas fixtures.

The chief executive of the sport's world governing body, Haroon Lorgat, described a report in Britain's Sunday Times that it was probing last year's World Cup semifinal between India and Pakistan as "baseless and misleading".

"The ICC has no reason or evidence to require an investigation into this match," he said in an emailed statement to media.

"It is indeed sad for spurious claims to be made which only serve to cause doubt on the semifinal of one of the most successful ICC Cricket World Cups ever."

The weekly claimed on Sunday that it had uncovered evidence that tens of thousands

of pounds (dollars) was on offer to players to throw part or all of international matches, including the crunch semifinal between the bitter South Asian rivals.

India won the match and went on to beat Sri Lanka in the final.

One New Delhi-based bookmaker was quoted as saying that English county cricket was a "good new market" because matches were low-profile. Money was on offer to batsmen to score slowly and bowlers to concede runs in a set pattern, the report said.

The allegations came just weeks after former Essex bowler Mervyn Westfield became the first English cricketer to be jailed for corruption, after admitting accepting money to fix a match against Durham in September 2009.

Last year, Pakistan players Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer were also jailed in Britain for their role in a separate "spot-fixing" scandal concerning a 2010 Test match against England.

2 out of 16 will pass

World T20 qualifiers start in UAE today



REUTERS, Dubai

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Haroon Lorgat has called the ICC World Twenty20 qualifier that begins in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday "the biggest development event in cricket history".

It is not an empty boast as 16 teams from cricket's second and third tiers will play 71 matches at five venues over 12 days, with two places at stake in September's main event in Sri Lanka.

The UAE tournament follows on from 12 qualifying events to reach this stage that took place in locations including Ghana, Slovenia, Nepal and Florida.

The previous ICC World Twenty20 qualifier in 2010 involved eight teams playing 17 matches over five days at two venues, while last year's ICC Cricket World Cup, won by India, featured 49 matches and was spread over 43 days and 13 venues in three countries -- Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

For the first time, a cricket tournament involving teams outside the world's top 10 will have global television coverage.

The ICC has reached agreements with its official broadcasters in Asia, Africa and the Americas to show six matches over the final three days at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Those matches will also be streamed live on the internet, as will 14 other matches over seven days.

The tournament lacks the abundance of big names that Sri Lanka's main event will

contain but there is still a sprinkling of quality on show.

Ireland will have vice-captain Kevin O'Brien, who last year scored the fastest hundred in the history of the 50-over World Cup, reaching three figures from 50 balls en route to a 63-ball 113 that helped his side to a famous win over England in Bangalore.

Ireland are the pre-tournament favourites, having reached the past two ICC World Twenty20s, in England in 2009 and the West Indies in 2010.

Their main rivals are expected to be Afghanistan, who beat them in the final of the qualifying event two years ago, Canada, the Netherlands and Scotland. The Netherlands beat 2009 hosts England in the opening match but are without leading all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate this time.

Papua New Guinea are boosted by the inclusion of Geraint Jones, the former England wicketkeeper and part of the Ashes-winning team in 2005, who has opted to play for the country of his birth.

Former Australia one-day international batsman Michael di Venuto, now playing for English county side Durham, is lining up for Italy, qualifying because he has an Italian passport.

The sides are divided into two groups of eight with group A featuring Afghanistan, the Netherlands, Canada, Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Denmark and Nepal. Group B is made up of Ireland, Kenya, Scotland, Namibia, Uganda, Oman, Italy and the U.S.

The final is on March 24 and admission to all matches is free.

Indoor C'ships conclude



REUTERS, Istanbul

There were twists, turns and a back flip at the World Indoor Championships on Sunday but no world records, despite pole vault winner Yelena Isinbayeva's best efforts.

Four-time champion Meseret Defar lost her 3,000 metres title to Kenyan Hellen Obiri and American hurdler Aries Merritt pulled off a surprise victory over China's Liu Xiang as the US dominated proceedings to finish top of the medal table with 10 golds for their best showing at the three-day championships.

Bernard Lagat gained some revenge for his defeat in last year's world outdoors 5,000 final by beating Mo Farah in the men's 3,000.

Briton Farah, one of the host nation's best hopes for gold in this year's London Olympics, finished fourth and was then promoted to bronze after Kenya's Edwin Soi was disqualified for obstruction only to have the medal taken away again on appeal.

Two jumps -- clearances at 4.70 metres and 4.80 -- were enough to secure the title for Isinbayeva as she asserted her superiority in the pole vault to claim a fourth world indoor title.

Phelps ends strongly

AFP, Columbus

Michael Phelps clocked the second-fastest 100m freestyle time in the world this year Sunday to cap a productive three days at USA Swimming's Columbus Grand Prix.

Phelps added the 100m free gold to the 200m free and 200m butterfly titles he claimed on Friday and Saturday with a time of 48.49.

Only Australia's James Magnusson, with a time of 48.05 in January, has swum faster so far in a season geared toward the London Olympics that start in July.

"I wanted to swim a good 100 and see where we were," Phelps said.



PHOTO: AFP

Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic drops to the ground after losing against Christina McHale in the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells in California on Sunday.

Patel targets Test place

AFP, Colombo

Samit Patel said Monday he was hopeful his all-round talents would help him win a Test cap for England during the upcoming series against Sri Lanka.

The 27-year-old Nottinghamshire player will vie with Ravi Bopara for the batting spot left vacant after the exclusion of Eoin Morgan for the two-Test series starting on March 26.

Patel, a left-arm spinner and right-hand batsman who has played 25 one-dayers and eight Twenty20 internationals for England, hoped to prove his Test credentials in the two warm-up matches in Colombo.

"I am looking forward to getting a spot on the Test team," Patel told reporters in Colombo. "It's a massive opportunity and I will push my case in the warm-up games."

"One of my goals is to play Test cricket. I've always wanted to do that. I want to play all formats for England."

"It's easy to get here, the toughest bit is staying in the squad and staying in the team."

"I'm ready to come in and bat where I'm asked to bat, and do the job with the ball. I'm comfortable with the role I've been set."

Patel conceded beating Sri Lanka in their own backyard was a challenge for England, the number one Test side in the world, who were stunned 3-0 by Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates recently.

"Beating Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka is a massive challenge," he said. "Having said that, staying on top of the Test ranking and hanging onto it for another year is also challenging."

Federer, Nadal sail



AFP, Indian Wells

Former winners Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal breezed through with straight-set wins Sunday as a flu bug wreaked havoc on the men's and women's draws at the Indian Wells tournament.

Reigning Wimbledon champion and WTA Player of the Year Petra Kvitova was knocked out early when 19-year-old American Christina McHale fought back to beat the Czech in three sets.

But the biggest problem eating into the draw Sunday was a stomach virus that has forced at least eight players to withdraw or retire within the last two days, including men's 14th seed Gael Monfils and women's ninth seed Vera Zvonareva.

Third seed Federer defeated wild card Denis Kudla 6-4, 6-1 in a second round night match on centre court.

The Swiss master said he was also feeling a bit sick, but not as bad as his family members and not enough to be thrown off his game.

Federer hammered eight aces and won 79 percent of his first serve points in the 57 minute contest.

Federer, who won Indian Wells three straight years from 2004-2006, advances to the third round where he will face hard-serving Canadian Milos Raonic, who beat Carlos Berlocq in straight sets 6-4, 6-2.

It will be the first career meeting between the former world number one Federer and Raonic who has already won two singles titles on the tour this year.

Tamim was actually thanking

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more shots. Tamim had by then settled down. In the six overs he batted with Shakib Al Hasan, he creamed 22 runs during which he also reached his fifty.

"I want to play like myself. There are times in every player's career where he has to adjust, take time. As you know I didn't spend too much time at the crease in the last series but now that's in the past. As they say, 'Time will heal everything'," said the Chittagonian who made his first ODI half-century in seven

Nadal, a two-time Indian Wells champ, routed Leonardo Mayer 6-1, 6-3.

It marked the Spaniard's first match since losing to world number one Novak Djokovic in a monumental five hour, 53 minute final at the Australian Open.

Nadal advanced to the third round, where he will face fellow Spaniard Marcel Granollers, who beat Tommy Haas of Germany 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

The left-handed Nadal hit one ace, posted two double faults and won four of six break point chances.

Ninth seed Juan Martin del Potro defeated Australia's Marinko Matosevic 7-5, 6-2 in their second round match.

Sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga advanced to the third round when Michael Llodra pulled out of their all-French clash with a knee injury. Tsonga was ahead 4-1 in the first set when Llodra packed it in.

On the women's side, McHale rallied to upset Czech Kvitova in three sets 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

McHale finished the match by winning her service game to nothing, with a backhand slice winner sealing the victory.

Top seed Victoria Azarenka defeated two-time grand slam winner Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-1, 6-2, extending her season-long winning streak to 19-0.

World number one Azarenka advanced to the fourth round where she will face Julia Goerges who beat Anabel Medina Garrigues of Spain 6-3, 6-4.

Azarenka faced Goerges three times in 2011, winning two semi-finals encounters at Madrid and Luxembourg.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVING BOXED
EXTRAORDINARILY WELL, I BELIEVE THE
TORTOISE SHOULD WIN THE HEAVYWEIGHT
TURTLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals R

Directorate General of Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd
E-Mail: info@dgdp.gov.bd

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/(enlisted firm in Purchase Section-4) for supply of the following item for Bangladesh Army:

Serial	Nomenclature	Date of selling	Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.	
		From	To			
1.	Sec V6, V6/NIV, Binocular with accessories Quantity -100 numbers	14-03-12	03-04-12	04-04-12	Foreign	06.06.0000.218.07.1376.12

2. Tender schedule with detail specifications & conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable) during office hour between 0800 to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderer (if present).

ISPR/Misc/2012/3128
GD-1088

Major
For Director General