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RAB nabs an Indian 'bookie'

SPORTS REPORTER

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) yesterday arrested a suspected Indian cricket bookie from the Benapole immigration check post.

According to Monir Hossain, the officer-in-charge of the check post, an embargo was imposed on the person three days before.

"One of our teams arrested the person while he attempted to go home. He is also a member of an international gold smuggling syndicate. He might have come to Bangladesh for betting in the ICC World T20," said Monir.

"He was arrested as soon as he deposited his passport," he added.

Law enforcement agencies took the arrestee away for interrogation last night.

The shortest format of the game has been a favourite among the bookies to host bets. Bookies were caught by law enforcement agencies during the Bangladesh Premier League as well.



Superstar Virat Kohli is lifted by Yuvraj Singh to celebrate India's victory over South Africa in the second semifinal of the ICC World Twenty20 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

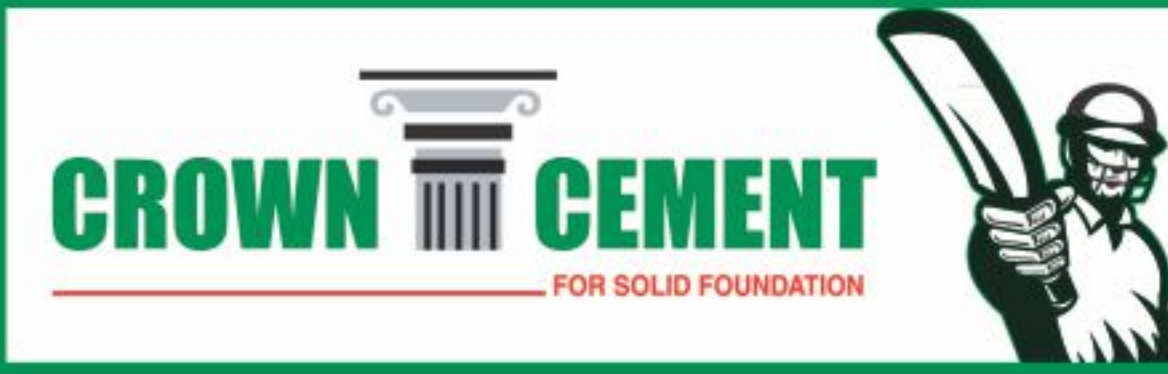
The chase doctor

SAKEB SUBHAN

Just when you think that he cannot yet again play the match defining innings and shepherd his side through a difficult chase and across the finish line, Virat Kohli proves you wrong. It is not hard to see that his every move is driven by a fierce will to win; when captain MS Dhoni patted the last ball of the 19th over -- with only one needed to overhaul South Africa's 172 -- back to the bowler, Kohli raised his arms quizzically as if he could not comprehend why anyone would waste an opportunity to win the match. That will to win, however, is grounded in an awareness and appreciation of cricket's cerebral requirements.

Kohli's achievement is all about the science of the chase. He has played the winning hand in chasing down 300-plus totals in ODIs with unprecedented regularity,

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and his blueprint for the chase is one that batsmen around the globe will do well to follow. His innings was a reminder that there is room for patience and calculation even in frenetic chases.

"I think cricket is played more in between the ears than with technique," he said. "I kept telling myself to stay on the wicket because I am good enough even when I was doing run-a-ball; till about 20 balls I didn't hit a boundary. So it's about staying patient and staying calm and not thinking about what would those in the dugout say or if I am playing too slowly. It's all about blocking those thoughts out which I think everybody learns with time. Once you start scoring runs you start believing in yourself more. That is something I try to do. I try to keep myself in that zone."

He credited the quick start openers Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane provided for his success. "We were ten runs an over after the first three. If we were six runs an over I could have gone for my shots and probably could have got out. But I think the way Rohit and Ajinkya batted, initially it set the platform perfectly for us, put the pressure back on South Africa and allowed me to play myself in and stick to my plans," Kohli said.

Key to India's success was that they handled South Africa pace powerhouse Dale Steyn with aplomb. "It's important to put pressure on a world class bowler like Dale. That's why the key is to score off the other bowlers so he doesn't have too many runs to defend and if you take six-seven runs off someone like Dale who comes to pick wickets then it's more frustrating for the opposition. So it's all about calculating which bowler to hit, which bowler to block and the plan was not to give him wickets and we eventually ended up scoring around 11 runs an over to him," Kohli said.

For South Africa, it was yet another semifinal exit in a global event and captain Faf du Plessis was left to rue some indiscipline in bowling -- namely nine wickets.

"Nine extra balls, it's not just the extra runs you give away but you also have to consider the runs they scored off those nine balls. So you're probably looking at a 15 to 20 run game swing just by bowling those nine extra balls. So if you are looking to win close games, if you are going to beat quality opposition like India you have to make sure that you really do well in those one percenters," said du Plessis.

Photo Of The Day

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SPORTS REPORTER

With a clinical display in the second semifinal England confirmed their place opposite archrivals Australia for the April 6 final of the Women's World Twenty20 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The nine-wicket win over South Africa showed why England and Australia are a cut above in the women's game as Sarah Taylor and skipper Charlotte Edwards capitalised on Anya Shrubsole's superb swing bowling to chase down a modest 101 with 19 balls to spare.

In humid and cloudy conditions, Taylor started confidently by hitting a four in the first over bowled by a bustling Shabnim Ismail while Edwards played out a maiden from the other end. From there the two batted comfortably, presenting a straight bat to the straight deliveries while choosing their moments to attack. There was the employment of the typically T20 scoop shot from Edwards in the third over bowled by Marizanne Kapp. The opening partnership realised a run-a-ball 67 before Edwards was caught and bowled by leg-spinner Sune Luus.

Heather Knight and Taylor, who finished unbeaten on 44 off 45 balls with three fours, then finished off the chase without fuss and took England to their third Women's World Twenty20 final.

Earlier, South Africa were reminded of the gulf of difference between the sides in the very first over after being asked to bat. Pacer Shrubsole, the highest wicket-taker in the tournament with the best average and economy rate, found the gloom overhead to her liking and with seam positioned perfectly swung the third ball in sharply to take the middle stump of opener Lizelle Lee. She repeated the dose exactly two overs later; this time the gap was between Trisha Chetty's bat and pad and the result the same.

Left-arm spinner Rebecca Grundy trapped

Yolandi van der Westhuizen in front to reduce South Africa to 14 for three in 3.4 overs. The English bowlers' discipline and skill made it seem for a while that South Africa would end their 20 overs for a score well below 100. Shrubsole finished her quota of four overs at a stretch for excellent figures of two for 12, a spell that included 17 dot balls. Opener Dane van Niekerk and skipper Mignon du Preez edged the score to 32 but in the first ball of the 10th over van Niekerk became the first of five run-outs inflicted by an efficient fielding unit.

Marizanne Kapp then suffered the same fate in the same over. A 22-run partnership between du Preez and Chloe Tryon ended when the former was caught off Grundy in the 14th over for a 32-ball 23. Tryon then took over, taking the attack to the English as wickets tumbled around her. With a 31-ball 40 which included three fours and two sixes, she carried the score to 99 when she was ninth out, bowled by medium-pacer Natalie Sciver in the 20th over. Three balls later the South African resistance ended when Moseline Daniels became the fifth run-out victim with the score on 101, a recovery of sorts but not nearly enough to challenge the English.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 101 all out in 19.5 overs (Tryon 40, Du Preez 23; Shrubsole 2-12, Grundy 2-22)

ENGLAND: 102 for 1 in 16.5 overs (Taylor 44 not out, Edwards 36; Luus 1-15)

Result: England won by nine wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Anya Shrubsole (England)

Anya keeps it simple

SPORTS REPORTER

The most impressive of aspect of the England Women's cricket team's nine-wicket thrashing of South Africa yesterday was their bowling, and the most impressive among their bowlers was pacer Anya Shrubsole, who set South Africa back from the first over with a peach of an inswinger that castled Lizelle Lee.

The player-of-the-match bowled her four overs at the top and with figures of two for 12 made sure that South Africa would not get to a competitive total.

"The conditions have been quite good. The ball has swung; probably to do with the humidity. But I think keeping it simple is what I have tried to do. Getting enough balls in the right areas and at the moment it's working for me," said Shrubsole after the match.

The win sets up their third Women's World Twenty20 final and on Sunday they will square off against rivals and fellow giants -- defending champions Australia. "We are two really evenly matched teams. As we have shown in past series against them -- we have played so much against each other -- there is nothing we don't know about each

other. There is not going to be any surprises, it is going to be who comes out and performs the best on the day," Anya added.

The England women's performance has been at odds with their male counterparts, who exited the tournament before the semifinal stage. "I can't speak for them. I just tried to bowl the ball as straight as possible. The pitches are maybe a little bit slower; I think bowling gun-barrel straight is the way to go," Anya explained her method for success in the subcontinent.

South Africa skipper Mignon du Preez was pleased to have made it to the semifinals, but thought that the five run-outs made the difference. "I think without those run-outs we could have gotten the extra 20 runs which might have been the difference in the end," du Preez said.

Having toured Bangladesh recently she is used to seeing 15,000-strong crowds at the cricket matches, and so was a little disappointed at the low turn-out for yesterday's match. "Maybe it's because its not one of the subcontinent sides playing in the finals or semifinals, but I do think it is absolutely amazing just to be a part of this and just to be on TV is something special for us and we enjoyed our time here."



England opener Sarah Taylor (L) celebrates their side's progress to the ICC Women's World Twenty20 final by beating South Africa in the second semifinal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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PARTNERS in crime

After the first Powerplay, South Africa were in a precarious 44 for 2, with both Quinton de Kock and Hashim Amla back to the pavilion. However, a 71-run stand between Faf du Plessis and JP Duminy not only revived the side, but built a platform for the lower-order

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SA-INDIA SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA	R	B	4s	6s
De Kock c Dhoni b Kumar	6	4	1	0
Amla b Ashwin	22	16	4	0
Du Plessis b Ashwin	58	41	5	2
Duminy not out	45	40	1	3
De Villiers c R Sharma				
b Ashwin	10	8	1	0
Miller not out	23	12	2	1
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-3, nb-1)	8			
Total: (For 4 wickets in 20 overs)	172			
To bat: A Morkel, Steyn, Hendricks, Tahir, Parnell.				
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-44, 3-115, 4-129.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	4	0	33	1
M Sharma	3	0	34	0
Ashwin	4	0	22	3
Jadeja	2	0	8	0
Raina	4	0	35	0
Mishra	3	0	36	0
INDIA	R	B	4s	6s
R Sharma c Du Plessis				
b Hendricks	24	13	4	1
Rahane c De Villiers				
b Parnell	32	30	2	1
Kohli not out	72	44	5	2
Yuvraj c De Villiers b Tahir	18	17	2	0
Raina c Du Plessis				
b Hendricks	21	10	3	1
Dhoni not out	0	1	0	0
Extras: (w-9)	9			
Total: (For 4 wickets in 19.1 overs)	176			
Did not bat: Ashwin, Jadeja, Mishra, Kumar, Sharma.				
Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-77, 3-133, 4-167.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Duminy	3	0	29	0
A Morkel	2	0	17	0
Steyn	3.1	0	36	0
Hendricks	4	0	31	2
Parnell	3	0	33	1
Tahir	4	0	30	1
Result: India won by 6 wickets.				
Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli.				