



New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor hoists one over the leg-side during his match-winning knock of 21 against Scotland during their World Twenty20 match at the Oval in London yesterday.

Holland go

FROM PAGE 17

at this moment. "I said to the boys in the dressing room we are going to do it today, play hard, play your shots, we have got nothing to lose."

He added: "It's a massive boost for Dutch cricket, we are looking to qualify for the Super Eights."

England were well-placed at 102 for one thanks to openers Luke Wright (71) and Ravi Bopara (46) before their innings petered away.

But what really did for them was the Dutch batting with the Netherlands scoring four sixes to the home side's none and running far more aggressively between the wickets.

Man-of-the-match Tom de Groot, who earns his living as a cricket coach, led the way with 49 off 30 balls including a six and six fours.

"This is a dream," he said. "To be out there today in front of a full house was amazing. I was in the zone. We went out there to play brave cricket and make England sweat a bit."

England had lost star batsman Kevin Pietersen shortly before the start with a recurrence of his Achilles injury.

But that was no excuse for the way in which a succession of batsmen gave their wickets away.

The Dutch were also helped by England's decision to give novice leg-spinner Adil Rashid, surprisingly chosen ahead of the more experienced off-spinner Graeme Swann, his full quota of four overs which cost 36 runs.

The wet conditions did him no favours but England captain Paul Collingwood insisted the team on the field should have beaten the Dutch.

"That's pretty hard to take," Collingwood said. "The Netherlands thoroughly deserved their victory."

Yuvraj, Pragyan

FROM PAGE 17

Ireland on Wednesday at the same venue.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 180-5 in 20 overs (Gambhir 50, Sharma 36, Dhoni 26, Yuvraj 41, Raina 10, extras 5; Rubel 1-49, Shahadat 1-31, Shakib 1-24, Nayyem 2-32).

BANGLADESH: 155-8 in 20 overs (Tamim 15, Zunaid 41, Ashraful 11, Shakib 8, Riyad 8, Rokibul 16, Mashrafe 11, Mushfiqur 10 not out, Nayyem 28, extras 6; Zaheer 1-26, Yusuf 1-26, Shamsa 2-34, Ojha 4-21) Result: India won by 25 runs. Man-of-the-match: Pragyan Ojha (India)

MCA hold

FROM PAGE 17

very first over when Dollar Mahmud removed Rohan Bhowal for duck.

Skipper Harshad Khadiwale (37) and Sangram Attikar (26) however repaired the early damage by associating 52 runs in the second wicket stand but Enamul and Shuvu took charge to taste the nerve of the visitors.

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH A: First innings 357 all out in 134 overs and second innings 170-7 (dec) in 65.5 overs (Kayed 24, Nafis 50, Imran 10, Rajin 19, Shuvu 13, Ganesh 3-44, Kiran 6-66)

MCA: First innings 299 all out in 116.2 overs and second innings 103-7 in 42 overs (Harshad 37, Sangram 26, Rohit 11 not out, extras 2; Dollar 1-23, Enamul 3-39, Shuvu 3-29) Result: Match drawn.

Taylor curbs upstarts

FROM PAGE 17



Ross Taylor's unbeaten 21 saw New Zealand to a seven-wicket win over outsiders Scotland in their opening Group D match in the ICC World Twenty20 at the Oval on Saturday.

In a match reduced by rain to just seven overs per side, Scotland made an impressive 89 for four thanks to rapid innings from Kyle Coetzer (33) and Ryan Watson and Navdeep Poonia, who both made 27.

But in the end their bowling could not quite match their batting with the Kiwis getting home with an over to spare.

That meant they avoided the embarrassment suffered by hosts England, beaten by the Netherlands in Friday's tournament opener at Lord's, of losing to a minor cricket nation.

"If somebody had said to me this morning I would feel this bad about not beating New Zealand, I would have probably snapped their hand off," Scotland captain Gavin Hamilton told reporters.

"The first half we performed out of our skin. The batters got it 100 percent right but we've been guilty of not getting all three disciplines. We've prided ourselves on our fielding but today just simply wasn't good enough."

"It's a bitter disappointment because we gave ourselves more than a chance at half-way we were hot favourites."

Brendon McCullum, captaining New Zealand in place of Daniel Vettori, who had a back injury, said the game had been a nerve-wracking experience.

"After watching last night's game we were pretty apprehensive about what was possible from a spirited Scottish side."

"The way they came out and batted was incredibly brave and they certainly put us under a huge amount of pressure and at half-time we were incredibly nervous. But we managed

aged to show the skills we've got with the bat."

New Zealand seamer Ian Butler, who led the attack with three wickets for 19 runs in his two overs, added: "That was probably the most nervous I've been in any cricket game at half-time, it's not something you want to think about."

Explaining left-arm spinner Vettori's absence, McCullum said: "Dan slipped over in training yesterday (Friday) and injured his shoulder. He had an injection this morning but still felt a bit of pain."

"Hopefully, he'll be right for that game against a very good South Africa side (on Tuesday at Lord's)."

McCullum began the pursuit of the 90 New Zealand needed by striking four fours from Calum McLeod as 19 runs in all came off the first over.

Jesse Ryder continued the assault by launching Craig Wright for two huge sixes. But after a run of four successive boundaries, the left-hander holed out to McLeod off Wright.

Then 51 for one became 59 for two when McCullum was run out for 18 after a huge mix-up with Taylor.

Jacob Oram was given a reprieve when Gordon Drummond dropped a miscued effort and knocked the ball on four. But next delivery the giant all-rounder holed out off Watson whose lone over cost just four runs.

That left New Zealand 68 for three.

New Zealand got the target down to 22 off 12 balls but got them in just one over from medium-pacer Stander.

Scotland made a blistering start with the bat.

They plundered 18 runs off the first over with Zimbabwe born and South Africa raised Watson striking four fours off Iain O'Brien.

But he eventually holed out off Butler's first ball to Taylor in the covers.

New batsman Coetzer kept the tempo high with a superb off-driven six against medium-pacer Ryder but this time there was no fairytale finish.

Berlusconi vows lawsuit

FROM PAGE 20

right to a private life must have greater protection when important guests are present," Berlusconi said.

One of the five photos published by El País shows the 72-year-old media mogul surrounded by several unidentified women -- in their clothes -- in the garden of his majestic villa in Sardinia.

Another shot features two women in string bikinis sunbathing topless, while another photo shows a naked man standing next to a woman laying next to a swimming pool. All the faces except Berlusconi's were blurred out.

"It's me in the photograph. But it has been modified. The picture is not authentic," Topolanek was quoted as saying by the Czech news website Aktualne.cz before casting his ballot in the European elections.

"Besides, I insist there is nothing wrong or compromising in the picture. It was a

private holiday in closed premises, not outside on a beach," he said, calling the snapshot an "insolent interference in my privacy."

The publication of the pictures came two days after Berlusconi was placed under investigation for allegedly misusing his official plane to fly personal guests, including a flamenco dancer and a well-known singer, to his villa.

Berlusconi's lawyer, Niccolo Ghedini, told AFP on Friday he was filing a suit against El País.

"Prosecutors in Rome ruled that these photos were taken illegally, they are the result of an offence and cannot be sold. Anyone who buys them is also guilty of a misdemeanour," he said.

Juan Cruz, an assistant director at El País, said the newspaper was not aware of any legal action and defended the decision to publish the pictures as "in the public interest."

An Italian watchdog

charged with protecting privacy rights reminded local media that it was illegal to use images of people inside their homes without their consent and that the photos in El País did not meet those rules.

Berlusconi, who is hosting the Group of Eight summit next month, has lashed out at the foreign media's coverage of him in recent days.

He has taken his anger out on Rupert Murdoch after the rival media mogul's London newspaper The Times wrote an editorial entitled "The Clown's Mask Slips," in which it said Berlusconi "must answer allegations of womanising."

A Berlusconi family newspaper, Il Giornale, denounced the foreign media on Friday in an article titled "Starlettes and lies: how they insult Italy."

Berlusconi is under pressure to explain his relationship with the 18-year-old, which also features in the row with his second wife, Veronica Lario, who has filed for divorce.

incident, turned to off-spinner David Hussey. But Gayle responded with two sixes, over long and extra-cover, in four balls.

Fletcher then flat-batted Johnson to the mid-wicket boundary only to fall next ball to end a 32-ball innings featuring a six and seven fours.

West Indies were in sight of victory, and Gayle his hundred, when the captain holed out to Watson off Lee.

Australia slumped to 15 for three before David Warner's 63 helped them to 169 for seven.

Watson chipped the third ball of the innings to Ramnaresh Sarwan at mid-off and, after a couple of wides, Taylor had Ponting lbw hitting across the line.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 169 for 7 in 20 overs (Warner 63, M Hussey 28 not out, D Hussey 27, Haddin 24; Bravo 2-31, Taylor 2-33, Edwards 2-34)

WEST INDIES: 172 for 3 in 15.5 overs (Gayle 88, Fletcher 53; Johnson 2-36)

Result: West Indies won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Chris Gayle.

Hurricane Gayle

FROM PAGE 17

Fletcher was also in good touch.

He drove left-arm quick Mitchell Johnson for four straight back over the bowler's head and next ball hoisted him for six over square leg.

Fletcher though should have been out for 22 when he hit a steaming skyer off Johnson but the normally reliable Michael Hussey, at mid-on, misjudged the chance and the ball dropped over his head.

Gayle then brought up the West Indies' fifty with a majestic six off Lee that soared to 169 for seven.

Watson chipped the third ball of the innings to Ramnaresh Sarwan at mid-off and, after a couple of wides, Taylor had Ponting lbw hitting across the line.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 169 for 7 in 20 overs (Warner 63, M Hussey 28 not out, D Hussey 27, Haddin 24; Bravo 2-31, Taylor 2-33, Edwards 2-34)

WEST INDIES: 172 for 3 in 15.5 overs (Gayle 88, Fletcher 53; Johnson 2-36)

Result: West Indies won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Chris Gayle.

Club Cup football

SPORTS REPORTER

The final round of the Bashundhara Champions Club Cup will be held at two venues.

The opening match at the Jessoro venue will kick off from June 12 and the match will start at Cox's Bazar venue from June 13.

The 12 teams have been qualified for the final round as venue champions in the preliminary round. The teams are Narsingdi GRC SC, Fakirpool Youngmen's Club, Sadar Upazila KS, Feni Soccer Club, Pabna Brothers Union Club, Rangpur Fantes SA, Dinajpur Football Academy, Jessoro Shaheen Mukti Joddha Moeen Smriti Sangsad, Jhenidah Peul Smriti Sangsad, Chittagong Mohammedan SC (Blues), Barguna Abahani KC and Narayanganj Shuktara Juba Sangha.

The draw for the final round will be held today at the conference room of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

Meanwhile, GRC Sporting Club have been awarded the zonal crown after the tournament committee found champions Lawai SC and Real Bengal Club involved in match-fixing in the group final match in Habiganj.

Based on the reports from the match referee and the BFF official of the venue, it has been proved that Lawai SC participated in match-fixing against Real Bengal Club in a bid to improve their goal average and the tournament committee meeting on Friday decided to scrap their title and award it to GRC SC, "said a BFF statement on Saturday.

Interestingly the tournament committee did not take any action against the teams who played although they came hard on the teams who gave walk-over in different venues.

One year ban imposed on Telinagar New Sporting Club of Brahmanbaria, Mora Sangha of Nilphamari and Titas Club of Jhalakathi and fined Tk 25,000 each to give walkover.

But still ought to have been enough. However, some wayward bowling and fine Dutch batting - they scored four sixes to England's none - allied to poor fielding saw the Netherlands win off the last ball when they scrambled a two after fast bowler Stuart Broad missed with a shy at the stumps.

"The boys are very disappointed but we have to bounce back, it's as simple as that," said

SOUTH AFRICA V SCOTLAND

Proteas want to start well

AFP, London

South Africa begin their quest to win the ICC World Twenty20 title against Scotland at the Oval on Sunday determined to shed their reputation as one-day 'chokers'.

The Proteas have recently enjoyed some memorable Test triumphs, winning series in both England and Australia.

But since South Africa's re-admission in 1991 they have not reached the final of a major one-day tournament.

"We have had a wonderful past 12 months, which has included winning away test series in both England and Australia and winning home-and-away one-day international series against Australia to gain top spot in the world rankings," said South Africa captain Graeme Smith.

"One of the boxes we still want to tick is to win a major International Cricket Council Championship."

But that will require the Proteas to end their run of self-inflicted wounds. At the 1999 World Cup fast bowler Allan Donald was run out of the last ball of their semifinal against Australia, the last taking the Aussies into the final.

Colly rallies troops

AFP, London

England captain Paul Collingwood insisted his side were "still in the tournament" after their stunning four-wicket loss to minnows the Netherlands in Friday's ICC World Twenty20 opener here at Lord's.