

PHOTO: AFP
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

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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 Eight."

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 Grooth, who earns his living as a cricket coach, led the way with 49 off 30 balls including a six and four fives.

"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

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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, Nayeem 2-32).

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

MCA hold

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very first over when Dollar Mahmud removed Rohan Bhowale 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 Shuvo took charge to taste the nerve of the visitors.

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH A: First innings 357 all out in 134 overs and second innings 170-9 (dec) in 65.5 overs (Kayes 24, Nafis 50, Imran 10, Rajin 19, Shuvo 43, extras 7; 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, Shuvo 3-29).
Result: Match drawn.

Taylor curbs upstarts

AFP, London



Twenty20 at the Oval here 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."

Brandon McCullum, captaining New Zealand in place of Daniel Vettori, who had a back injury, said the game had been a nerve-racking 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 man-

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 misused 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-pace Standen.

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-drive five against medium-pace Ryder but this time there was no fairytale finish.

Berlusconi vows lawsuit

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

One of the five photos published by El Pais 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," Topolaneck 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, Niccolò Ghedini, told AFP on Friday he was filing a suit against El Pais.

"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 Pais, 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 Pais 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.

Hurricane Gayle

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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 lofted him for six over square leg.

Fletcher though should have been out for 22 when he hit a steeping 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 out of the largest ground in England and two balls later he struck the fast bowler for another huge drive that hit the roof of the stand.

A Lee no-ball was smashed over extra-cover and then, even more ferociously, Gayle drove the next delivery down the ground for four.

Gayle then pulled Lee for six to end a fifth over where 27 runs were scored.

In all, Lee's four overs went for a hugely expensive 56 runs.

Ponting, without all-rounder Andrew Symonds, sent home after an alcohol-related

incident, turned to off-spinner David Hussey. But Gayle responded with two sixes, over long-off 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.

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

The 12 teams has been qualified for the final round as venue champions in the preliminary round. The teams are Narsingdi GRC SC, Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club, Sadar Upazila KS, Feni Soccer Club, Pabna Brothers Union Club, Rangpur Fantos SA, Dinajpur Football Academy, Jessore Shaheed Muktijoddha Moeen Smriti Sangsad, Jhenidah Peul Smriti Sangsad, Chittagong Mohammedan SC (Blues), Barguna Abahani KC and Narayanganj Shuktara Jubo 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, Moral Sangha of Nilphamari and Titas Club of Jhalakathi and fined Tk 25,000 each to give walkover.

One-member committee was formed to find out the facts after Patuakhali Boro Bari Club alleged that they were threatened to get them out from Bagura venue.

Paris is

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raking Kuznetsova backhand drive on the third.

The St Petersburg-born player, however, failed to cash in, dropping her serve for the second time in the next game.

That mattered little though as she struck again in the following game, staggering Safina by running round her backhand to hit an outright winner and then forcing the world No.1 into slapping a forehand into the net.

Kuznetsova held serve to open the second set and Safina was beginning to berate herself for allowing her smaller and less powerful rival for the crown to dominate most of their rallies.

Games went with serve until the sixth game when a sixth double fault gave Kuznetsova the edge and she broke for the fourth time in the match shortly after when Safina blasted a forehand wide and long.

Kuznetsova held serve to make it 5-2 and then her pressure on the Safina serve paid dividends again with a seventh double fault on match point.

It was all over in 74 minutes and was the eighth consecutive straight sets women's final at Roland Garros.

SOUTH AFRICA V SCOTLAND

Proteas want to start well

AFP, London



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 off the last ball of their semifinal against Australia, the tie taking the Aussies into the final.

And four years later, on home soil, South Africa's failure to correctly interpret the Duckworth-Lewis system saw them go out of the World Cup in the group stage during a rain-affected match against Sri Lanka.

South Africa staged the inaugural World Twenty20 in 2007 but did not reach the semifinals.

But 12 of their 15-man squad played in the recent Indian Premier League, that was moved to South Africa at short notice because of security concerns.

They beat both Pakistan and Sri Lanka convincingly in their warm-up matches and Smith said: "The confidence is good and we are excited about playing this tournament with the chance to go out and express ourselves."

"I think there is a lot more talent, flair and confidence among this team than ever before."

The Netherlands' shock win over hosts England on Friday ought to give fellow minnows Scotland hope that they too can cause an upset.

But there were few signs that such a shock was on the cards during Scotland's warm-up defeats by England and the Netherlands.

The Scots, captained by ex-England all-rounder Gavin Hamilton, opened their World Twenty20 campaign against New Zealand at the Oval on Saturday where rain reduced the match to a seven overs per side contest.

Colly rallies troops

AFP, London



England now have to beat Pakistan, finalists at the inaugural World Twenty20 in South Africa two years ago, if they are to avoid going out of this competition at the first round stage.

They had been well-placed at 102 for one against the Dutch but then lost several cheap wickets to finish on 162 for five.

But that 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

Collingwood.

Collingwood paid tribute to the way in which the Netherlands had upset the odds in scoring four sixes to England's none in finishing on 163 for six in reply to the hosts 162 for five.

"We thought we had enough runs on the board but they came out and played with plenty of freedom and belief," reflected Collingwood.

"The way they knocked the runs off was mightily impressive. We were beaten by the better side. Full credit to them."

"Their batting did surprise us. The way they went about their cricket was well planned. Every time we got a wicket we thought we were on top but every batsman that came out seemed to score boundaries from ball one."

England also appeared to pay for playing novice international leg-spinner Adil Rashid in preference to experienced off-spinner Graeme Swann in a match where they thought they could take, in the captain's words, "a gamble".

Collingwood tried to back-track on his remarks by adding: "We all know what Adil can do. It's a gamble on experience but not on the skills he has got."

More than satisfactory

CRICINFO, undated



With Daniel Vettori ruled out through injury and Jesse Ryder contending with the sudden death of his cousin this week, Brendon McCullum's men would have been forgiven for arriving at The Oval in a less than buoyant mood on Saturday. And when a persistent south London drizzle reduced the match to a seven-over-a-side affair, thus reducing New Zealand's avenues to capitalise on the their sizeable skill advantage, a second tournament upset in 18 hours seemed eminently possible.

Ryan Watson (27 from 10 balls) did little to dissuade from that notion by slamming 16 of the 18 runs to come from Iain O'Brien's first over. Navdeep Poonia (27 off 15) and Kyle Coetzer (33 off 15) then proceeded to fray New Zealand nerves further with a 50-run stand for the second wicket from just 22 deliveries that propelled Scotland to an imposing 89 for 4 from their allotment of overs.

A required run-rate of 12.72 for the outset would make most teams blanch, even in a seven-over contest, but New Zealand's limited overs side have proven themselves a redoubtable bunch over the years. McCullum commenced the pyrotechnics with a break-neck innings of 18

from seven deliveries before losing his wicket to Twenty20 cricket's most cardinal sin - run out off a free-hit - and Ryder (31 off 12) and Ross Taylor (21 off 10) completed the onslaught to guide New Zealand home with a full over to spare.

New Zealand undoubtedly benefited from the absence of three of Scotland's frontline seamers, and a fielding performance that bordered on the lamentable. But given the bear-trap that this match represented - Ian Butler admitted he was "as nervous as I've ever been in a cricket match at half time" - McCullum's team will be more than satisfied with the result.

"After watching last night's [England-Netherlands] game we were pretty apprehensive about what was possible from a smaller side," McCullum said. "The way they came out and batted was incredibly brave and incredibly free in terms of their mind. They put us under a huge amount of pressure. At half-time, the boys were pretty nervous. But we managed to show the skills we have with the bat."

Gavin Hamilton, meanwhile, was glowing in his assessment of Scotland's batting, though somewhat less chipper when discussing his side's performance in the field. A series of missed opportunities - none worse than Gordon Drummond's drop of Jacob Oram, which he proceeded to boot to the boundary - thwarted what might have been Scotland's best chance to snare a major scalp at the World Twenty20, and Hamilton was hardly impressed.

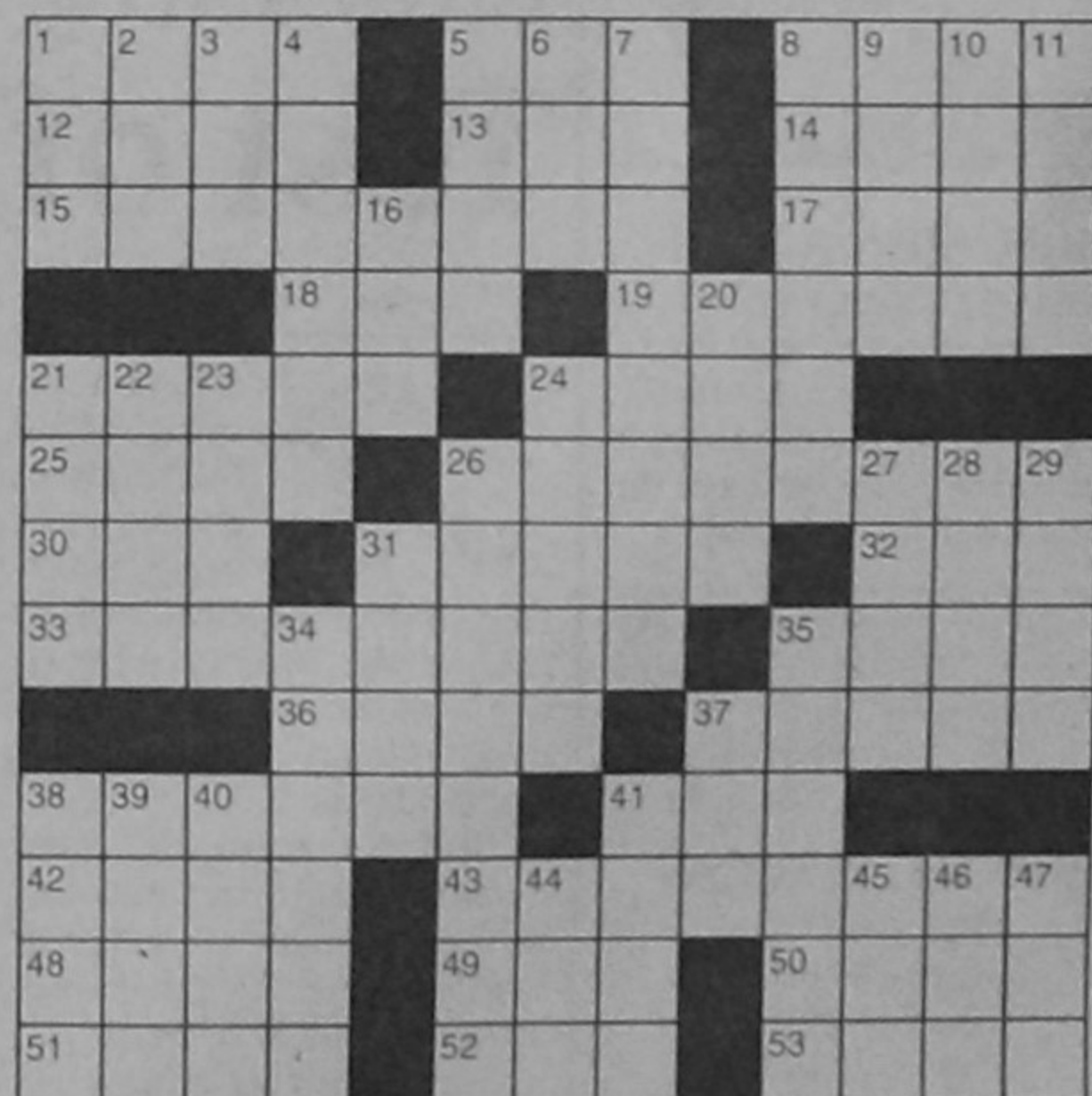
"We gave ourselves more than a good chance ... [and] half way through we were hot favourites to win it," he said. "We've prided ourselves on the way we've fielded recently and this was not good enough."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Did some weeding	1 Owns desert
5 Cudgel	2 Frequently
8 "National Treasure" actor	3 Mound stat
12 Roundish	4 Followed relentlessly
13 Inventor Whitney	5 Rosary component
14 Rainbow	6 Elev.
15 Just lie there	7 Included as a part of
17 Gridlock	8 Locust
18 Deity	9 Speedy
19 Within one's power	10 "You go, go!"
21 Xbox enthusiast	11 Being, to Brutus
24 Crow or crane	16 Neither mate
25 "Meta-morphoses" poet	20 Table scraps
26 Military headquarters	
30 Automaton, for short	
31 Leans to one side	
32 Singer DiFranco	
33 Cameo's opposite	

Solution time: 21 mins.

YES	REBUS	ASH
ALE	AGENT	LIE
MYANTON	TINSEL	ODE
FLOWER	ENTL	
AMID	DISPLA	
LIFE	PAS	SANE
BOORS	GUIT	DNA
	NANA	PRAYER
SHEBOP	PIG	
TEE	ONEFOURS	
EAR	PEARL	SUE
MRS	SAUTE	AGE



CRYPTOQUIP

R D Z K Q D Z Y X V - Q A R W K N

Y A T H X K P Z E Z K Q F X B B P H V A E Z J

W Q U E X B F Z , P A F T W N D Q U X P

W Q R A K J V X N N W K N V W N D Q U

Y E S T E R D A Y ' S C R Y P T O Q U I P : S U P P O S E A P I G I S

MAKING ITS WAY ACROSS THE STREET. WOULD YOU CLAIM YOU SAW A PORK IN THE ROAD?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: P equals Y