

Lankans first to last eight

AFP, Pallekele

Tillakaratne Dilshan smashed 144 before taking 4-4 to help Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 139 runs and reach the World Cup quarterfinals on Thursday.

Together with fellow opener Upul Tharanga, who hit a career-best 133, Dilshan put on a new World Cup opening stand of 282 to guide Sri Lanka to an imposing 327-6 before a packed 30,000 crowd at Pallekele Stadium.

Zimbabwe made a fighting reply with Brendon Taylor (80) and Regis Chakabva (35) through a solid 116-run start before the innings fell apart, as they lost their last three wickets for just 63 runs.

Dilshan, who bettered his previous best of 4-29 against India in Dambulla in 2005, also became the 11th all-rounder, and the second Sri Lankan behind Sanath Jayasuriya, to score a hundred and take four wickets in an ODI.

The result meant Sri Lanka, with seven points from five matches in Group A, become the first side to enter the last eight.

New Zealand, with six points from four matches, Pakistan (six from four) and defending champions Australia (five from three) are virtually certain of filling the three other qualifying places

from the group.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

| | |
|--|-----|
| Tharanga c Chigumbura b Mpfu | 133 |
| Dilshan c Panyangara b Utseya | 144 |
| Prera c Chigumbura b Price | 9 |
| Jayawardene c Chakabva b Mpfu | 3 |
| Sangakkara not out | 11 |
| Mathews c Chigumbura b Mpfu | 0 |
| Silva c Panyangara b Mpfu | 4 |
| Samaraweera not out | 8 |
| Extras: (b-2, lb-3, nb-1, w-9) | 15 |
| Total: (For six wkts in 50 overs) | 327 |
| Did not bat: Kulasekara, Malinga, Muralidaran. | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-282, 2-289, 3-296, 4-300, 5-302, 6-308. | |

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|------------|----|---|----|---|
| Mpfu | 7 | 0 | 62 | 4 |
| Panyangara | 6 | 0 | 51 | 0 |
| Price | 9 | 1 | 46 | 1 |
| Chigumbura | 3 | 0 | 20 | 0 |
| Utseya | 10 | 0 | 50 | 1 |
| Cremer | 7 | 0 | 42 | 0 |
| Lamb | 8 | 0 | 51 | 0 |

ZIMBABWE

| | |
|---|-----|
| Taylor c Jayawardene b Mathews | 80 |
| Chakabva b Muralidaran | 35 |
| Taibu c Sangakkara b Mathews | 4 |
| Utseya st Sangakkara b Dilshan | 4 |
| Ervine lbw b Dilshan | 17 |
| Chigumbura c Prera b Muralidaran | 6 |
| Lamb c Jayawardene b Dilshan | 0 |
| Cremer not out | 14 |
| Price c Samaraweera b Perer | 11 |
| Panyangara lbw b Dilshan | 0 |
| Mpfu b Muralidaran | 1 |
| Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-12) | 16 |
| Total: (All out in 39 overs) | 188 |
| Fall of wickets: 1-116, 2-125, 3-132, 4-150, 5-156, 6-156, 7-165, 8-185, 9-185. | |

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|-------------|---|---|----|---|
| Malinga | 8 | 0 | 51 | 0 |
| Kulasekara | 8 | 0 | 33 | 0 |
| Perera | 6 | 0 | 33 | 1 |
| Muralidaran | 9 | 0 | 34 | 3 |
| Mathews | 5 | 0 | 29 | 2 |
| Dilshan | 3 | 0 | 4 | 4 |

Result: Sri Lanka won by 139 runs.
Man-of-the-match: T Dilshan.



STROLLING INTO RECORD BOOKS: Sri Lanka openers Tillakaratne Dilshan (R) and Upul Tharanga run between the wickets on their way to a massive 282-run stand against Zimbabwe in a World Cup Group A match at the Pallekele Stadium yesterday. It was the highest opening stand for the first wicket in World Cup and fourth highest partnership for any wicket in one-day internationals.

PHOTO: AFP



Dutch toughen India: Dhoni

AFP, New Delhi



2011

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said his team had a good workout against the Netherlands and the pressure they faced would stand them in good stead for tougher World Cup challenges ahead.

India laboured to a five-wicket win at New Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium after bowling the Dutch out cheaply for 189, virtually sealing their place in the quarterfinals.

Opener Virender Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar tore into the Dutch bowling, reaching 69 in the eighth over before Sehwag was the first to go, sparking a mini-collapse that reduced India to 99 for four.

But Dhoni said losing wickets meant batsmen lower down the order, including Yuvraj Singh (51 not out) had enjoyed crucial time in the middle ahead of matches against more powerful nations.

It was a almost a carbon copy of the win against Ireland, where India also found themselves in trouble at 100-4 in reply to a modest total of 207, with Yuvraj also hitting a half-century in that game.

"Any side you're playing, if you're 100-4 you are under a bit of pressure, especially if the wickets are slow and low and if you are expected to win easily, so that was a decent win for us," Dhoni said after Wednesday's victory against the Dutch.

"It's a good experience to have because you're all of a sudden in the quarterfinals or against a stronger side," he added.

"You don't want your middle order, your lower middle order, to get exposed. It's good that most of the batsmen have got a decent hit in the games they have played."

The skipper said the quick start when batting had been a bid to improve their run rate.

"When you're playing some of the so-called weaker sides in the world you try to get as many runs as possible with the new ball and when you're trying to do that your batsmen play aggressive shots and it's not all the time you'll be successful," he said.

Dhoni said it was important to take wickets with the new ball as a way of slowing the opposition but backed his bowlers to perform.

India have struggled to force early breakthroughs in their matches so far with the exception of the Ireland game, where paceman Zaheer Khan took two early wickets.

"I think we've got quite a few talented bowlers who can really swing the ball and even if there's no swing for them they can bowl a tight line and get the batsmen out."

And the skipper said off-spinner Harbhajan Singh would come into his own as the tournament progressed. So far he has taken just two wickets in four matches.

"I think as the tournament heats up in the coming few games you'll see a different Harbhajan Singh," adding that better opponents would bring out the best in him.

Borren a proud captain

AFP, New Delhi



2011

Proud skipper Peter Borren praised his "brave" team for their efforts against India, saying the Netherlands had put themselves in a winning position but

lacked the firepower to shock the hosts. The minnows silenced a big crowd in New Delhi on Wednesday when they had India struggling at 99 for four before the home side battled back to win by five wickets.

"It's been a roller-coaster day, been up and down, up and down and in the end I'm very proud of the guys and the effort that we made in defending what wasn't a really high score against a fantastic batting line-up," said Borren.

"We told everyone before this tournament started that we were going to try and make sure that we had chances to win in every game and I think to be honest we had a chance when India were 99-4 and it only takes a couple of good moments of cricket there and you're right on top," he added.

"We were brave to come back from where we were with the batting. We were brave to come back from where we were after [Virender] Sehwag and [Sachin] Tendulkar's onslaught," said Borren.

The skipper said his players had thrived

on the atmosphere in front of a passionate home crowd but had lacked the firepower to finish India off.

The Dutch started their tournament by giving Ashes winners England a real scare before eventually slipping to defeat and went down to heavy losses at the hands of the West Indies and South Africa.

The skipper said it was difficult to talk about progress due to inconsistency during the tournament, though the side had made major strides in recent years.

"To say we're progressing, getting better in every game this tournament, that's not quite right," he said.

"We're inconsistent. It's never easy. We don't get to play at this level very often."

But he added: "The last three years we've made real progress. We've got a full-time coach now, we've got guys who put a lot more time and effort into it."

"We play a lot more cricket, not against full members, which is a shame, but among the associates. There's a lot more cricket and I think we're progressing because of it."

Borren said with easier games to come against Bangladesh and fellow associate nation Ireland, he would back his team to take future chances and "get a win or two on the board."

SPORTS POLL

Who will be Bangladesh's highest run-scorer?

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Tamim Iqbal | 66.7% |
| Shakib Al Hasan | 14.2% |
| Mohammad Ashraful | 13.7% |
| Imrul Kayes | 5.4% |

TOTAL VOTES: 372

WEEKLY QUESTION

Which has been the most exciting team in this World Cup so far?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

Follow The Daily Star Sport on



www.twitter.com/dsport



ESPN

ICC Cricket World Cup
West Indies v Ireland
Live from 10:00am

BT/STAR Sports/STAR Cricket

ICC Cricket World Cup
Bangladesh v England
Live from 2:30pm



ICC Cricket World Cup Bangladesh v England

Time: 2:30pm

Venue: Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong

Bangladesh League

Brothers Union v Rahmatganj

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur

Niall's bats located

AFP, Mohali

Six bats belonging to Irish World Cup wicketkeeper Niall O'Brien, which went missing earlier this week, have been found among the Indian squad's luggage, a team spokesman said Thursday.

"Niall's bag containing six bats has been traced in the luggage of the Indian team," said Ireland media manager Barry Chambers.

The bag was mixed up with the Indian team's equipment after the two sides met in Bangalore on Sunday.

TO KNOW IT... YOU HAVE TO EAT IT !!

HOW MANY TIMES BANGLADESH PLAYED WORLD CUP TILL TO DATE?

Scratch and win attractive Bombay Cricket Cards. For answer... see tomorrow's newspaper. Yesterday's answer... 4 runs.

CHANGE THE GAME

THEY'VE CHANGED THE GAME WITH PEPSI

YOU CAN ALSO ROCK THIS ICC CWC 2011 BY WINNING AMAZING PRIZES!

Md. Shahinur Rahman
Final match ticket winner

Group match ticket winners

SMS the code under Pepsi pet bottle cap to 6969 to collect runs. MORE SMS MORE RUNS.

You can win

- LCD TVs
- Laptops
- Backpacks
- Digital Cameras
- Autographed Bats
- Jerseys
- A Player Card along with each purchase

Terms and Conditions:

- Regular Pepsi will also be available in the market without the offer
- This offer is only applicable for Pepsi PET bottles (Pepsi 250ml Go pack, 500ml, 1 liter and 2 liter)
- Promotional offer not applicable for Diet Pepsi
- Each code can only be sent once through SMS
- Consumers will have to submit the cap as a proof while receiving the prizes
- SMS charges applicable
- All decisions taken by Pepsi will be regarded as final at any stage of the program
- Persons associated with Transcom Beverages, Asiatic MCL and Asiatic Events are not eligible to take part in this promotion
- Participation in this promotion is completely voluntary
- Conditions apply

To know more call 01823-072590, 01823-072591, 01823-072592, 01823-072593 or just visit www.pepsichangethethegamebd.com

Win tickets to the World Cup with Emirates.

Book online at emirates.com/bd to any of our 100 destinations to win two tickets to the quarter finals, semi finals and final matches of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011.

Fly Emirates. Keep discovering.

Terms and conditions apply.

Official Partner of the ICC