



**PURI:** An man showcase his artwork as India and Pakistan cricket teams prepare for their World Twenty20 match in Kolkata, India today. Pakistan is yet to win against India at any World Cup or World Twenty20. — AP

## LOVE - NOT WAR AS INDIA, PAKISTAN RESUME RIVALRY

**KOLKATA:** It's one of the world's fiercest sporting rivalries and previous showdowns have taken place while the countries have been at war, or used as an icebreaker between frosty leaders. But when India and Pakistan face off in cricket's World Twenty20, love will be in the air amid a determination to ensure today's game soothes rather than stokes tensions. While there's no shortage of patriotic fervor, a recent Facebook craze has seen thousands of fans posting profile pictures framed by the sporting emblems of their rivals.

After being garlanded on his arrival in Kolkata, Pakistani captain Shahid Afridi has spoken of the "love" he receives from Indian fans. The leading classical singer

Shafqat Amanat Ali is set to serenade a packed house at Edens Gardens with Pakistan's national anthem, before Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan belts out the rival Indian number. Tensions have prevented the two sides from playing each other in Tests for more than a decade, and the match is only happening because the World T20 is an International Cricket Council tournament.

Although there had been signs of a thaw, an attack on an Indian army base in January dashed hopes the countries' leaders would watch the match together, as they did at the 2011 World Cup. Afridi's message was that his team is delighted to be back in India. "We have always enjoyed

playing in India and have been loved by Indian crowds more than crowds back home in Pakistan," he said. "Cricket has always brought people together and I think politics should be kept away from cricket."

### 'Whole lot of fun'

After a row over security, Saturday's match was switched from Dharamsala to Kolkata, the capital of India before the sub-continent's 1947 partition that led to Pakistan's creation. Eden Gardens is one of the world's biggest grounds, even after a recent refit which reduced capacity to 66,000. Despite the cauldron-like atmosphere, its fans have a reputation for showing appreciation to opposing players.

Subrata Nag, a college student, said the home crowd wanted an Indian victory but would be gracious in defeat. "Eden Gardens has a history of supporting the team which performs better. We want India to win, but we will support Pakistan team if it plays well," Nag said. Kolkata's police chief has promised maximum security for the visitors. But Pakistani bowling legend Wasim Akram, a popular figure in India as a commentator on a Hindi television channel, said there was no reason to believe the rivalry would be anything but sporting. "It's a whole lot of fun. I think not just the teams but the supporters of the two countries do enjoy the clash wholeheartedly," Akram said. — AFP

## NEW ZEALAND HANG TOUGH TO EDGE OUT AUSTRALIA MCCLENAGHAN MAN-OF-THE-MATCH

**DHARAMSALA:** New Zealand held their nerve to edge out Australia by eight runs in a tense World Twenty20 Group Two match yesterday and move closer to a place in the semi-finals. On a high after beating hosts India in their opening game, New Zealand posted a modest 142-8 before defending the total with disciplined bowling and tight fielding against their trans-Tasman rivals. Australia came into the tournament with an embarrassment of top-order riches and decided to open with Usman

Khawaja and Shane Watson.

The decision meant no place for Aaron Finch, who was captain of the side barely six weeks ago and is the top-ranked batsman in this format of the game. Khawaja (38) added 44 runs with Watson (13) before Australia suffered a collapse to slump to 66-4 at the halfway mark of their innings. Glenn Maxwell (22) and Mitchell Marsh (24) tried their best but Australia kept losing wickets at regular intervals and needed 19 runs off the final over sent down by

Corey Anderson. Anderson dismissed James Faulkner with the first ball to dash Australia's slender hopes of a narrow win as New Zealand rose to the top of the group table.

"I thought around 150 was about par," Australia captain Steve Smith rued. "Obviously their spinners bowled extremely well in the middle and we didn't respond well. "We lost wickets in clumps which you can't do in T20 cricket...we just did not get any partnership." Mitchell McClenaghan justified his selection at the cost of off-spinner Nathan McCullum, claiming figures of 3-17. Spin duo of Mitchell Santner (2-30) and Ish Sodhi (1-14) also troubled Australia. "Our spinners were fantastic and brought us back to the game," McClenaghan said after collecting the man-of-the-match award. "It's nice to show some teams that we can play in these conditions...but there are two more games and in this format, we still got to win two more games to get through," he added.

Earlier, Martin Guptill (39) gave New Zealand a flying start in a 61-run opening stand with skipper Kane Williamson (24) who decided to bat first on a dry track at the picturesque stadium in the north Indian hill station. Guptill greeted Aston Agar by hitting his first two balls out of the ground and a third six off the final ball of the over ensured the left-arm spinner was swiftly removed from the attack. Maxwell proved why he is such an asset for the side, taking a catch in the deep to send back the dangerous Guptill, dismissing Williamson with his second delivery and sending back Anderson in his next over. The 27-year-old remained in the thick of things, taking another catch to dismiss Luke Ronchi and firing in a bullet throw to run out Mitchell Santner. Grant Elliott struck a quickfire 27 down the order but New Zealand managed only 84 runs in the last 14 overs. — Reuters

### SCOREBOARD

**DHARAMSALA, India:** Scoreboard of the World Twenty20 match between New Zealand and Australia in Dharamsala yesterday:

New Zealand:		Australia:	
M. Guptill c Maxwell b Faulkner	39	U. Khawaja run out	38
K. Williamson c Agar b Maxwell	24	S. Watson c Williamson b McClenaghan	13
C. Munro c Faulkner b Marsh	23	S. Smith st Ronchi b Santner	6
C. Anderson c Agar b Maxwell	3	D. Warner c Guptill b Santner	6
R. Taylor c Marsh b Watson	11	G. Maxwell c Williamson b Sodhi	22
G. Elliott run out	27	M. Marsh c Milne b McClenaghan	24
L. Ronchi c Maxwell b Faulkner	6	A. Agar c Taylor b McClenaghan	9
M. Santner run out	1	J. Faulkner c Guptill b Anderson	2
A. Milne not out	2	N. Coulter-Nile b Anderson	1
Extras (b4, w2)	6	P. Nevill not out	7
Total (for 8 wickets, 20 overs)	142	A. Zampa not out	2
Did not bat: M. McClenaghan, I. Sodhi		Extras (lb2, w2)	4
<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-61 (Guptill), 2-66 (Williamson), 3-76 (Anderson), 4-97 (Munro), 5-117 (Taylor), 6-133 (Ronchi), 7-140 (Santner), 8-142 (Elliott)		Total (for 9 wickets, 20 overs)	134
<b>Bowling:</b> Coulter-Nile 4-0-33-0, Watson 4-0-22-1 (w1), Agar 1-0-18-0, Faulkner 3-0-18-2, Zampa 1-0-3-0, Maxwell 3-0-18-2, Marsh 4-0-26-1 (w1)		<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-44 (Watson), 2-51 (Smith), 3-62 (Khawaja), 4-66 (Warner), 5-100 (Maxwell), 6-121 (Marsh), 7-123 (Agar), 8-124 (Faulkner), 9-132 (Coulter-Nile)	
		<b>Bowling:</b> Anderson 4-0-29-2, Milne 2-0-22-0 (w2), Elliott 2-0-17-0, McClenaghan 3-0-17-3, Santner 4-0-30-2, Williamson 1-0-3-0, Sodhi 4-0-14-1	