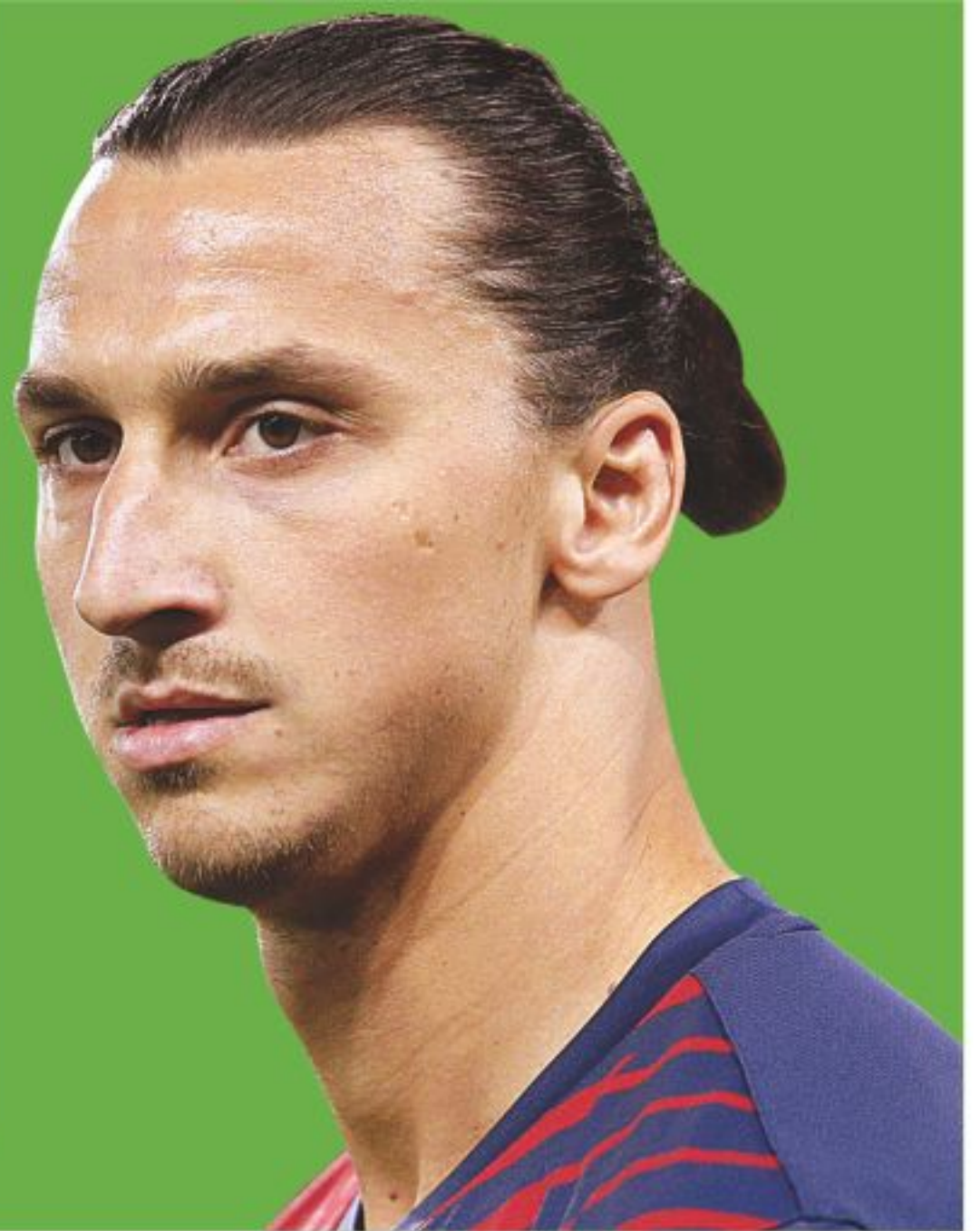
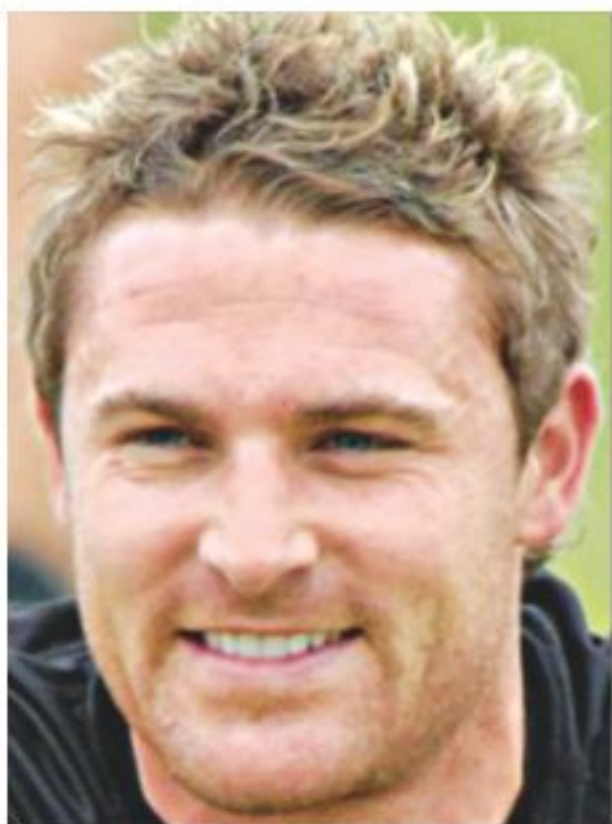


Ibra might buy five-star hotel

Since arriving in Paris in July, Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been living at Le Bristol, a pre-eminent five-star luxury hotel around 200 meters from the Champs-Elysees. PSG's box office signing currently drops 3,000 euros a day to stay in his suite. Zlatan has been looking for property in the French capital, but if he cannot find the right place, the Ligue 1 star is pretty nonchalant about the idea of buying a 188-room eighteenth-century five-star hotel instead. "We are looking for an apartment. But if we find don't anything, then



TIGERS		KIWIS
Played 22 Won 9		Played 53 Won 25
Played 6 Won 4	IN 2012	Played 8 Won 4
Played 1 Lost 1	HEAD TO HEAD	Played 1 Won 1



KEY PLAYERS

Shakib Al Hasan
Matches: 22
Runs: 328
50s: 1
Wickets: 27
Best bowling: 4-34
Bowling avg: 20.37

Brendon McCullum
Matches: 48
Runs: 1,443
Batting avg: 36.07
100s: 1
50s: 9
6s: 57

Shakib has been the lone warrior with both the bat and the ball for Bangladesh. He will have to get his KKR colleague out early in the game for the men in green to grab the early initiative

McCullum's dominance in the T20 format is clear from the fact that the next highest run-scorer in the squad, Martin Guptill, is more than 600 runs behind him

SURPRISE PACKAGE

NASIR HOSSAIN

The Bangladesh all-rounder has the highest batting average in the team in this format and raises his game at crucial moments. He is an integral part of the chances

KANE WILLIAMSON

He may have only played 9 T20 games, but the 22-year-old has an impressive strike rate of 122 with an average in excess of some of his more experienced batsmen in the team



Will Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim and his team live up to the weight of expectations in their opening World T20 fixture against New Zealand at the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy today?

Tigers intent on team effort

BISHWAJIT ROY from Kandy



The focus will be on champion all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan when Bangladesh play their first match in the ICC

World Twenty20 against New Zealand at the Pallekele International Stadium today.

While it is true that the team effort will be key for Bangladesh to realise their ambition of qualifying for the Super Eight stage, Shakib can be the crucial difference between the teams if he comes out with his signature all-round brilliance. The Magura lad has time and again proven his big-match temperament and he is well ahead of his other teammates in terms of T20 experience.

The player himself was however looking forward to see that everybody do their job properly and was not too bothered with the fact that the spinners are not going to get the expected assistance from the pitch.

"We have to make sure that we do the right things in the middle; then nothing will be impossible for us. We must play good cricket and execute the plans to win the match and we must win the game if we want to play in the Super Eight," said Shakib adding that there is

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no point thinking too much about the wicket; rather they have to maintain their good form.

Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim admitted that Shakib's impact on team performance is immense but he said that the team is now well-balanced enough to win the match and make 160 million people happy at home.

"He (Shakib) is our best cricketer. Probably in the last two years a couple of the guys have also put their hands up so he's quite free in his role and not under too much pressure to perform. Not just with bat and ball, he is always helping out on and off the field. His presence means a lot in our team," said Mushfiqur praising the world's number one all-rounder.

The spotlight will also be on Mashrafe Bin Mortaza as well as dashing left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal and the in-form Mohammad Ashraful but the 'Narail Express' also voiced his team's motto of team effort and believed that they must be disciplined in all three departments.

"We need to play as per our potential if we want to win the match. You can't say anything about T20 cricket because just one over can change the fate of a match," opined a confident Mashrafe.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

BCB to float fresh tender

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to float a fresh tender for its worldwide media rights after the failure of negotiations with local media conglomerate Virgo Media Limited.

The media company, which owns TV's Channel 9, was asked to raise its original bidding value, worth 6 million dollars, in order to match the offer made by Sporty Solutionz, an Indian consortium. The Indian company, which had offered a bid worth 15 million dollars last week, was declared ineligible as it had not provided a bank guarantee of 2.5 million dollar -- a key clause of the tender.

"Since Virgo Media couldn't match our proposal, the tender is no longer valid. They were given time till 18 September. We have now decided to go for a fresh tender," said BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus.

A total of four companies including Ten Sports and Sony had originally purchased the tender documents but Sporty Solutionz and Virgo Media Limited were the only companies who submitted their offers by the deadline.

The BCB had earlier floated the tender for TV rights for the period of November 1, 2012 to April 30, 2016 during which time Bangladesh are scheduled to play 18 Test matches, 46 one-day internationals and five Twenty20 internationals as per the International Cricket Council's Future Tours Programme.

Entertaining draw for Bangladesh

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team had to be satisfied with a tense 1-1 draw in their first international friendly match in a year against hosts Nepal at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu yesterday.

After the cancellation of the first of the two international friendly matches due to heavy rain on Tuesday, there was also concern of downpour for yesterday's game. But the rain God's stayed away and the match was held in front of some 5000 spectators in bright, sunny conditions.

Following Nepal's recent performance against the Bangladesh senior side and the Bangladesh U-22 side, Bangladesh were on the back foot against an improving Nepal, who even fielded a debutant U/14 player, Bimal Ghari Magar.

But Bangladesh got off to a sparkling start with striker Zahid Hasan Emily coming close to putting Bangladesh ahead in the very third minute of the game. The rest of the first half though, was an exercise in patience and none of the sides could press home their advantage and it was Bangladesh who took the lead late in the first-half with the only remarkable action of the half. According to sports portal, goalnepal.com, Nepal held the upper hand for most of the game but failed to find the Bangladesh net.

And Bangladesh made the hosts suffer in the 42nd minute, after Emily was fouled outside the box and winger Zahid Hossain exploited the chance with a fine free-kick.

Zahid, who was kept out of the SAFF Championship squad by Macedonian coach Nikola Ilievski, again came close to doubling the margin three minutes into the second half after beating the goalkeeper but he was

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8



Bangladesh midfielder Zahid Hossain (sporting number 7 jersey) weighs options as Nepalese booters form a wall during their international friendly football match at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu yesterday. Zahid scored from the set piece in a 1-1 drawn encounter.

PHOTO: COURTESY



SA-ZIM SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE				
Masakadza c Levi b A Morkel	6			
Sibanda b M Morkel	0			
Taylor c de Villiers b M Morkel	4			
Ervine c de Villiers b Kallis	37			
Matsikenyeri c Peterson b Kallis	11			
Chigumbura lbw b Kallis	0			
Cremer c de Villiers b Kallis	6			
Utseya c de Villiers b Steyn	5			
Price not out	7			
Jarvis not out	7			
Extras: (lb-3, w-5)	8			
Total: (For 8 wickets in 20 overs)	93			
Did not bat: Vitorito				
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 4-6, 3-16, 4-51, 5-51, 6-60, 7-75, 8-77				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	4	0	9	1
M Morkel	4	0	16	2
A Morkel	4	0	26	1
Botha	3	0	16	0
Peterson	1	0	8	0
Kallis	4	1	15	4

SOUTH AFRICA				
Levi not out	50			
Amla not out	32			
Extras: (b-3, lb-5, w-4)	12			
Total: (For no loss in 12.4 overs)	94			
Did not bat: de Villiers, Behardien, Botha, Duminy, Kallis, A Morkel, M Morkel, Peterson, Steyn				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Jarvis	3	0	20	0
Vitorito	2	0	21	0
Price	3	0	19	0
Utseya	2	0	13	0
Cremer	2	0	10	0
Matsikenyeri	0.4	0	3	0

Result: South Africa won by 10 wickets.

Kallis strangles Zimbabwe

AFP/REUTERS, Hambantota



Jacques Kallis recorded the best Twenty20 figures for his country to inspire South Africa to a convincing 10-wicket win over Zimbabwe in a Group C match at Hambantota on Thursday.

The 36-year-old all-rounder grabbed 4-15 and was well supported by Morne Morkel's 2-16 as Zimbabwe were kept down to 93-8 -- their second lowest total in all Twenty20 internationals -- after they were put into bat.

Openers Richard Levi then notched 50 not out and Hashim Amla an unbeaten 32 to knock off the low target in the 12.4 overs to cap a comfortable victory for one of the title favourites in this 12-team competition.

The defeat meant Zimbabwe becomes the first team to go out of the tournament after a one-sided match watched by just 1,000 fans in Mahinda Rajapaksa Stadium.

Levi hit six boundaries off 43 balls, while Amla hit three off his 33 deliveries.

Earlier Zimbabwe failed against a ruthless South African pace quartet, led by Kallis and Morne Morkel.

Craig Ervine top-scored with 37, and added 35 for the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

BREAKTHROUGH IN MEN'S SCALP CARE

ICC WORLD T20 TODAY'S MATCHES

MATCH	TIME	VENUE
Bangladesh v New Zealand	4:00pm	Pallekele
England v Afghanistan	8:00pm	Colombo

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