

TEN Sports  
US Open  
Women's Doubles Final & Men's Semifinals  
Live from 10:00pm  
TEN Cricket  
Zimbabwe v Pakistan  
First Test, Day 5

Live from 2:00pm  
Sony Six  
Int'l Friendly  
Brazil v Australia  
Live from 1:15am (Sunday)

## PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE CCDM reveals two weeks' fixtures

SPORTS REPORTER

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) on Friday released partial fixtures for the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League, starting from September 10.

Initially the fixtures have been announced for first two rounds and the matches will take place at four different venues -- BKSP in Savar, Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi and Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Considering the current rainy weather condition, the CCDM has kept a reserve day in the fixtures.

## First ODI washed out

AFP, Leeds

The first one-day international between England and Australia in Leeds was washed out on Friday, as heavy and persistent rain flooded the ground and ruined any chance of play. Umpires Aleem Dar and Richard Illingworth had little option but to abandon hopes of any play taking place after inspecting the waterlogged outfield for a third time at 1.30 pm (1130 GMT).

Drenched groundstaff tried in vain to soak up and sweep away puddles which had grown larger by the hour on the grass and the large Headingley covers. But the relentless down-pour gave them little respite and chance of beating the odds, leaving those few fans inside the ground -- and many hundreds in the surrounding bars -- frustrated and soon heading for home.

Supporters will receive a full refund for a complete wash-out and the two teams will now have to wait until Old Trafford, Manchester, on Sunday to resume cricketing combat in the second of the ODIs.



Brazil star Neymar practises free-kicks during a training session in Brasilia on Thursday ahead of their tonight's friendly match against Australia.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Thompson plays down Neymar dig

REUTERS

Australia's Archie Thompson has made light of his comment that Brazilian Neymar, who recently moved to Barcelona for \$74 million, was overrated, putting the remark down to jetlag or mistranslation.

The Soccerroos take on the 2014 World Cup hosts in a friendly in Brasilia on Saturday and Thompson lived up pre-match exchanges by saying he thought Neymar was overrated and his teammate Oscar was a better player.

Forward Neymar responded to the Melbourne Victory striker in a news conference with the withering question: "What's his name?", according to Brazilian media reports.

"It was the jetlag or the Brazilian reporter didn't understand my Portuguese," New Zealand-born Thompson quipped in a Tweet from Brasilia on Thursday.

Thompson has scored 28 goals in 53 internationals, a tally inflated by the world record 13 he scored when Australia beat American Samoa 31-0 in World Cup qualifying in 2001.

## Mata happy at Chelsea

REUTERS, London



Although crowd favourite Juan Mata has featured in only one of Chelsea's four games this season, the Spain midfielder said on Thursday he was happy at the London club and his future was at Stamford Bridge.

Mata was voted Chelsea's player of the year for the last two seasons but his omission from the team against Manchester United and Hull City in the Premier League and for last week's Super Cup defeat by Bayern Munich prompted claims he was out of favour with coach Jose Mourinho.

"I think it's normal in every transfer window that there are lots of rumours but I'm happy here," the former Valencia playmaker told Chelsea TV on Thursday.

"It's been a very, very good two seasons for me here, maybe the best of my career,

and what I want this season is the same.

"I'm looking forward to achieving as many trophies as we did the last two seasons and hopefully this is going to be a good season for us again," said Mata, referring to the 2012 Champions League and FA Cup triumphs and last season's Europa League win.

Mourinho has said repeatedly that Chelsea's number 10 is not for sale and now the Spaniard is over the thigh strain that troubled him in pre-season, Mata is raring to go.

"My only aim is to play here, grow as a player and do as good a season as the last two which were amazing for me," said the 25-year-old who was left out of the Spain squad for the World Cup qualifier against Finland on Friday and next Wednesday's friendly versus Chile.

"These two seasons have flown by... but to me this is good because when you are enjoying things and you are happy, time goes quicker.



Milan forward Kaka (R) takes part in training at the team's Milanello training centre in Carnago on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Siddikur in bad shape

SPORTS REPORTER

Country's ace golfer Siddikur Rahman was set to miss the cut line of the Omega European Masters at Crans Montana as he was going four-over-par 44 at the 10th hole out of 18 in the second round in Switzerland yesterday.

On Thursday, Siddikur scored a one-over-par 72 in the first round and needed much improved performance to stay in the field, but he played four bogies at the fourth, seventh, eighth and 10th holes when this report was filed last night. Siddikur had also missed the cut line in the last edition of the competition.

## 'Casillas axed for easing tension'

REUTERS, Madrid



Iker Casillas lost his place in Real Madrid's team under Jose Mourinho because he helped calm the waters between the Spanish internationals at his club and at Barcelona, according to national coach Vicente del Bosque.

Several matches between the two clubs during the combative Mourinho's stint in Spain were marred by brawling, accusations of refereeing bias and play-acting although more recent meetings have been less controversial.

"It's true that in difficult moments for the national team, when the Real-Barca matches got a little strange, he (Casillas) ... helped the team to move on and continue

winning things like the (2012) European Championship," Del Bosque told radio station Onda Cero.

"This did not go down well and perhaps had a detrimental effect also on Iker," added the former Real coach. "He was a key figure in fostering harmony in the national team."

The tension reached a low point in August 2011 when Mourinho, who returned three months ago for a second spell at Chelsea, jabbed a finger in the eye of Barca assistant coach Tito Vilanova as fighting erupted during a Spanish Super Cup game.

Casillas, the Real and Spain captain, sought to ease the tension by meeting Xavi and Puyol, and Del Bosque suggested this had contributed to Mourinho's decision last season to replace his skipper with Diego Lopez.

## Minhaz champ

SPORTS REPORTER

IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar with 9.5 points emerged unbeaten champion in the Bishal Trade and Rupahali Sarees 39th National B Chess Championship which concluded at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed became runner-up with 9 points. He was followed by IM Abu Sufian Shakil (3rd), FM Aminul Islam (4th), FM Debaraj Chatterjee (5th), FM Mohammad Javed (6th), FM Mehdi Hasan Parag (7th), Shafiq Ahmed (8th), Jamal Uddin (9th) and Mohammad Hafizul Islam Chapal (10th).

All of them also qualified for the National A Championship.

## Real slash net debt

AFP, Madrid

Days after splashing over 90 million euros (\$118.5 million, £75.9 million) for the services of Gareth Bale, Real Madrid have announced a rise in profits and a 27.4 per cent reduction in their net debt in their accounts for the 2012/13 season.

The Spanish giants saw their income continue to grow as revenue rose to 520.9 million euros, up 1.3 per cent on last year's record breaking total that saw a football club earn more than 500 million euros for the first time ever.

Net profit also grew a staggering 52.4 per cent from 24.2 to 36.9 million euros as costs were stabilised during a relatively quiet time in the transfer market last year when Luka Modric was their only major purchase.

And that profit allowed for a significant reduction in the net debt from 124.7 to 90.6 million euros.

Those figures don't even include a lucrative new shirt sponsorship deal with Fly Emirates worth 29 million euros a year which came into effect at the beginning of the current season.

On top of the capture of Bale, Real spent just short of 70 million euros on the young Spanish duo of Isco and Asier Illarramendi earlier in the transfer window.

## Younis puts Pak on top

AFP, Harare



Younis Khan hit a double century as Pakistan wrested control on the fourth day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club on Friday.

Younis hit 200 not out to enable Pakistan to declare on 419 for nine, setting Zimbabwe an unlikely 342 to win.

Zimbabwe were 13 for one at the close, losing opening batsman Tina Mawoyo in the last over of the day, leg before wicket to Saeed Ajmal.

Off-spinner Ajmal, who took seven for 95 in the first innings, will be the main threat to the Zimbabwe batsmen on the last day on a deteriorating pitch.

It was a monumental performance by Younis, who batted for 10 hours 12 minutes and faced 404 balls, knowing for much of his innings that his side would be in danger of defeat if he was dismissed.

Pakistan were in deep trouble at 23 for three early in his innings. He shared a century partnership with captain Misbah-ul-Haq on Thursday but the tourists were still vulnerable when Asad Shafiq was bowled in the first over on Friday, with Pakistan only 91

ahead with five wickets remaining.

Another century stand, with wicketkeeper Adnan Akmal, who made a career-best 64, steered Pakistan towards safety. An unbroken last wicket partnership of 88 with Rahat Ali (35 not out) took the game away from a tiring Zimbabwe team.

Patience was the hallmark of Younis' innings until he cut loose in the last wicket stand, adding his last 51 runs in quick time.

Misbah delayed the declaration, first signalling two more overs as Younis neared a double century, then indicating a further over when Younis was on 194 when the allotted two were complete. Younis hit off-spinner Prosper Utseya to reach the landmark and the declaration was immediate.

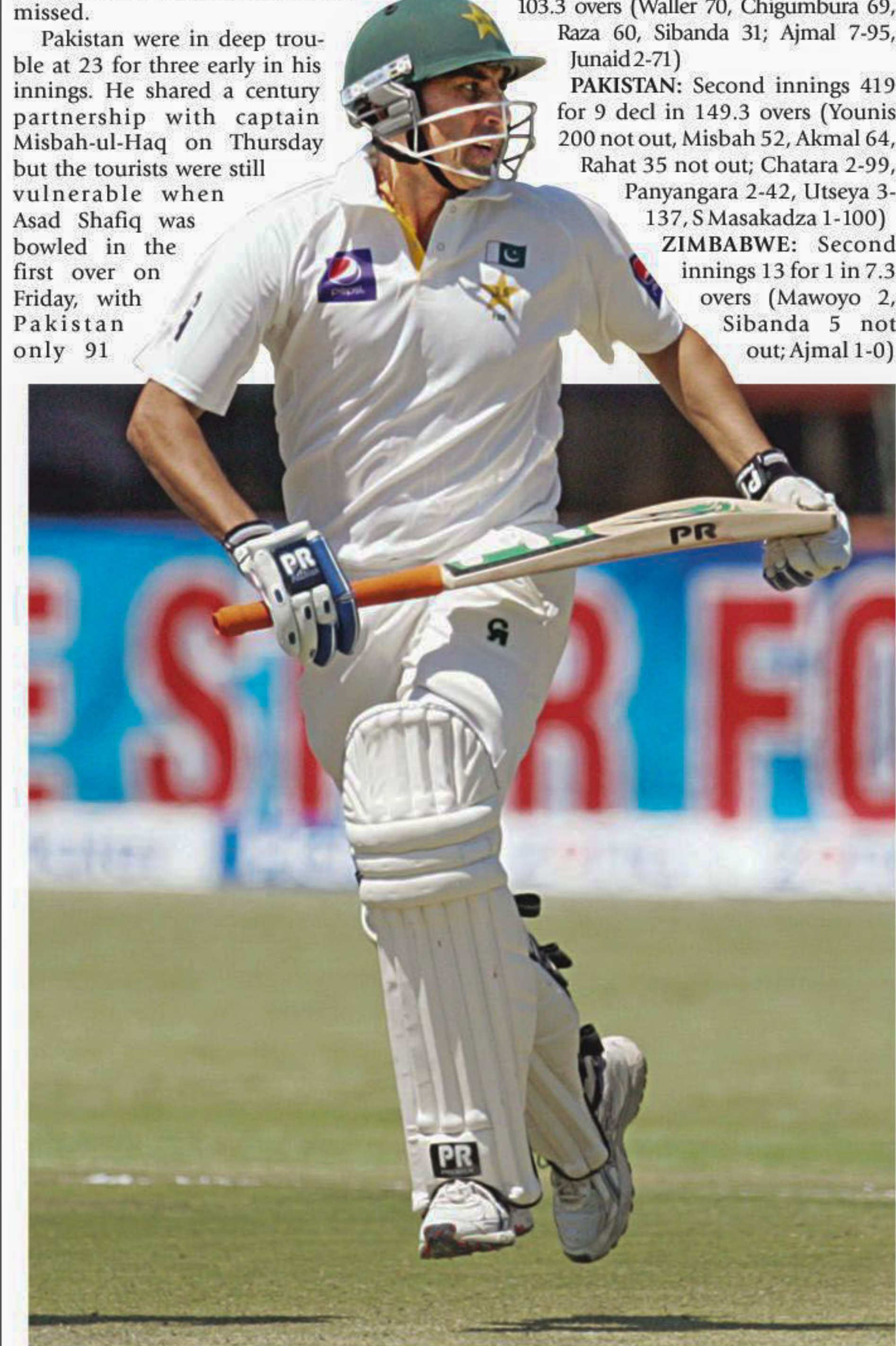
### SCORES IN BRIEF

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 249 all out in 90.1 overs (Azhar 78, Misbah 53, Ajmal 49; Chatara 3-64, Panyangara 3-71, S Masakadza 2-40, Utseya 2-55)

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings 327 all out in 103.3 overs (Waller 70, Chigumbura 69, Raza 60, Sibanda 31; Ajmal 7-95, Junaid 2-71)

**PAKISTAN:** Second innings 419 for 9 decl in 149.3 overs (Younis 200 not out, Misbah 52, Akmal 64, Rahat 35 not out; Chatara 2-99, Panyangara 2-42, Utseya 3-137, S Masakadza 1-100)

**ZIMBABWE:** Second innings 13 for 1 in 7.3 overs (Mawoyo 2, Sibanda 5 not out; Ajmal 1-0)



Pakistan batsman Younis Khan takes a run on his way to an undefeated 200 during the fourth day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP