

Sports

Australia dominate Pakistan with bat and ball in first Test

At stumps Pakistan in big trouble on 64 for three

BRISBANE: Australia look certain to take a 1-0 lead in their series against Pakistan after dominating with both bat and ball on day three of the first Test in Brisbane yesterday. Big centuries by Marnus Labuschagne (185) and David Warner (154) helped Australia to a first innings total of 580 in reply to Pakistan's 240.

At stumps Pakistan were in big trouble on 64 for three, still needing 276 runs to make Australia bat again. Shan Masood was not out 27 and Babar Azam was 20 at the close. Pakistan bowling coach Waqar Younis said later that with such an inexperienced attack at their disposal, it was only natural that there would be tough times.

"Naseem (Shah) is only 16 remember and even Shaheen (Afridi) is only 19, so of course they are going to learn a lot from this tour," he said. "We've got to

give them time and hope they learn, and in a year or so they'll be a force."

Mitchell Starc did the early damage when Pakistan began their second innings, trapping captain Azhar Ali leg before for five. He then enticed Haris Sohail to waft at a ball well outside off stump, only to get a thick edge to Australian wicketkeeper Tim Paine.

Asad Shafiq was next to fall, edging Pat Cummins to second slip where Steve Smith took a comfortable catch. Labuschagne had earlier scored a magnificent maiden Test century in front of his home crowd at the Gabba.

The 25-year-old scored four 50s in the recent Ashes series but had been unable to convert any of those until his near chanceless innings yesterday. "On (97) I was thinking 'stay patient, stay calm' but I thought if the ball was up I'd have a crack," he said of the thick edge that flew through a vacant third slip area for a boundary.

"You always think as a kid how you are going to celebrate a hundred — that was nothing like I thought. "My emotions took over, it was very exciting — a dream come true." Earlier, teenage pace sensation Naseem claimed his first Test wicket when he had Warner caught behind for 154.

Warner only added three runs to his overnight score of 151 when he became the 16-year-old's first scalp. Naseem, whose pace has been impressive during this Test, eventually claimed Warner when the nuggety opener was unable to avoid a short pitched ball and edged it to wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan, to leave the Australians 351 for two.

But that was the last hurrah from Naseem, who appeared to be injured and only bowled four overs in the day, with Waqar conceding he had been rested yesterday to protect his young body. The Pakistanis' hearts must have sunk when they saw Smith striding to the crease to replace Warner. But after hitting a



BRISBANE: Australia's batsman Marnus Labuschagne waves as he walks back to the pavilion after his dismissal on 185 runs on day three of the first Test cricket match between Pakistan and Australia at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday. —AFP

boundary off Yasir Shah, the leg-spinner then clean bowled Smith, the seventh time in six Test matches that Yasir has dismissed the Australian number four.

Labuschagne and Matthew Wade shared in a 110-run partnership before Wade was well caught by Rizwan for 60 off Sohail. Sohail and Rizwan then

combined to have Travis Head caught down the leg side for 24.

The Pakistan bowlers toiled hard throughout the day and were rewarded when they took the last five Australian wickets for 35 runs, with Yasir (4-205) and Shaheen Afridi (2-96) the pick. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on day three of the first Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday:

Pakistan 1st innings 240	
Australia 1st innings (580)	
Pakistan 2nd innings	
Shan Masood not out	27
Azhar Ali lbw Starc	5
Haris Sohail c Paine b Starc	8
Asad Shafiq c Smith b Cummins	0
Babar Azam not out	20
Extras (lb3, nb1)	4
Total (for 3 wickets: 17 overs)	64
Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Azhar), 2-25 (Sohail), 3-25 (Shafiq)	
To bat: Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan, Yasir Shah, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Imran Khan	
Bowling: Starc 4-0-25-2 (Inb), Cummins 5-1-16-1, Hazlewood 6-1-16-1, Lyon 2-1-4-0.	

N Zealand hero struggles to explain success

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: A gritty BJ Watling, New Zealand's go-to man when the chips are down, produced an unbeaten 119 to put the Black Caps ahead of England in the first innings of the opening Test yesterday.

After rescuing his country as he has done many times in the past, Watling was at a loss to explain his ability to produce his best when New Zealand are in trouble.

"It just kind of happens" he offered at stumps on day three in Mount Maunganui, after guiding the Kiwis to 394 for six to lead England by 41.

He toiled under a blazing sun for

almost seven hours to notch his eighth Test century and pull New Zealand up from a precarious 197 for five.

"I love scoring hundreds for New Zealand and I really enjoyed that one," he said.

"I know I didn't want to field today... so that was driving me."

"I think I'm very limited and try and play to how I know best works for me."

Much of Watling's innings-saving mission was in partnership with Colin de Grandhomme in a 119-run stand for the sixth wicket and followed by an unbroken 78 with Mitchell Santner, who was 31 not out at stumps.

When de Grandhomme joined Watling after the dismissal of Henry Nicholls for 41 before lunch, New Zealand's top five were out and they were still 156 runs behind England's 353.

The tourists were feeling they were

heading for a comfortable first innings lead, but Watling patiently chipped away at the deficit.

De Grandhomme, meanwhile, characteristically punished anything loose — with a six and seven fours as he raced to 65.

Stokes was surprisingly kept out of the attack through the onslaught until the first ball after tea, when he had instant success.

De Grandhomme slashed at a wide delivery which Dom Sibley grasped one-handed in the gully, and the New Zealand all-rounder returned immediately to the dressing room.

Watling, carrying on with Mitchell Santner as his partner, levelled the scores turning Sam Curran to the fine-leg boundary and then put New Zealand ahead with a single through square leg.

Despite fears from both sides the previous day that the Bay Oval pitch

would start to deteriorate during its debut Test, the surface offered little support for the fast bowlers, although Somerset spinner Jack Leach was able to extract some turn.

Watling has been involved in three of the six best New Zealand partnerships for the sixth-wicket.

He scored 124 when partnering Brendon McCullum in a 352-run stand — then a sixth-wicket world record — to save a Test against India in 2014.

The following year he broke that record in a 365-run effort with Kane Williamson against Sri Lanka, and a few months later scored a century at Leeds in a famous win against England.

Against Sri Lanka in August, New Zealand won the second Test to square the series when Watling scored an unbeaten 105 in a 113-run sixth-wicket stand with de Grandhomme. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of day three in the first Test between New Zealand and England at Mount Maunganui yesterday:

England 1st innings 353 (B. Stokes 91, J. Denly 74, R. Burns 52; Southee 4-88, Wagner 3-90)	
New Zealand 1st innings (overnight 144-4)	
J. Raval c Denly b Leach	19
T. Latham lbw Curran	8
K. Williamson c Stokes b Curran	51
R. Taylor c Pope b Stokes	25
H. Nicholls lbw Root	41
B. Watling not out	119
C. de Grandhomme c Sibley b Stokes	65
M. Santner not out	31
Extras: (b22, lb4, w7, nb2)	35
Total: (six wickets, 141 overs)	394
Fall of wickets: 1-18 (Latham), 2-72 (Raval), 3-106 (Taylor), 4-127 (Williamson), 5-197 (Nicholls), 6-316 (de Grandhomme)	
To bat: T. Southee, N. Wagner, T. Boult	
Bowling: Broad 25-10-45-0, Archer 30-8-84-0 (5w, Inb), Curran 23-6-74-2, Leach 37-6-97-1, Stokes 16-4-37-2 (w2, Inb), Root 10-2-31-1.	

Karam and Sons Company shooting cup tournament

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sport Club will organize the Mustafa Karam and Sons Company Shooting Cup tournament at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex on Thursday, November 28 and will conclude on Saturday, November 30 with the participation of shooters from the club and National Guard, who will compete in the Olympic trap and skeet for men and women as well as juniors.

Secretary General of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi said the Mustafa Karam Cup tournament is always on the KSSC agenda and is organized annually and always enjoys strong competition between all participating shooters.

Al-Osaimi, on behalf of the chairman and board members, thanked Mustafa Karam Company for its support and contribution to the sport of shooting.

He commended the moral and material support of the company to the shooters when they make achievements in the name of Kuwait, he also urged the shooters to exert their extreme efforts to be their motive to represent their country Kuwait in the best way possible. Registration for participation in the tournament will continue until Tuesday, November 26, while the closing ceremony will be on Saturday, November 30 at 5:30 pm.



Obaid Al-Osaimi

Rampant India on brink of big win in day-night Test

KOLKATA: A sparkling century by Virat Kohli and Ishant Sharma's four wickets put India on the cusp of a big win over Bangladesh on the second day of their maiden day-night Test yesterday.

The tourists were 152 for six at stumps in their second innings, still needing 89 runs to avoid an innings defeat in India's pink ball Test debut in Kolkata. Kohli made 136 as India, who lead the two-match series 1-0, declared their innings on 347 for nine and then Ishant rattled the Bangladesh batting.

Ishant struck early to leave Bangladesh tottering at 13 for four before Mushfiqur Rahim made an unbeaten 59 to take the five-day match to day three. Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah, who retired hurt on 39 with what seemed a hamstring strain, put on 69 runs for the fifth wicket to offer

some resistance against a persistent Indian pace attack.

Mushfiqur stayed on to complete his second half-century of the series with concussion substitute Taijul Hasan losing his wicket for 11 to paceman Umesh Yadav and umpires called for end of play.

Mushfiqur survived two leg before wicket decisions that went against him but he successfully reviewed both the calls in his favour. Ishant trapped Shadman Islam lbw for nought and then claimed skipper Mominul Haque for a second zero in the same match.

The pace spearhead, who claimed five wickets in the first innings, bowled at a lively pace as one of his rising deliveries hit Mohammad Mithun on the helmet but the batsman went on to complete his innings.

Bangladesh were forced to take two concussion substitutes in Mehidy Hasan and Taijul for Liton Das and Nayeem Hasan who were hit on the helmet by Shami on day one.

Earlier Kohli aced the pink ball Test as he completed his 27th century before falling to a stunning catch by Taijul. Left-arm spinner Taijul made it count with a wicket of Ajinkya Rahane for 51 and then took a diving catch at fine leg to send back



KOLKATA: India's Ajinkya Rahane (front) plays a shot during the second day of the second Test cricket match of a two-match series between India and Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens cricket stadium in Kolkata yesterday. —AFP

Kohli off paceman Ebadat Hossain. India lost a few quick wickets, but Wriddhiman Saha and Shami knocked a few boundaries and a six by the last man in pulverised the Bangladesh bowlers.

Pacemen Al-Amin Hossain and Ebadat took three wickets each. Kohli stood out

with his prolific scoring as he put on crucial partnerships including a 99-run stand with overnight partner Rahane.

The star batsman smashed fast bowler Abu Jayed for four straight boundaries in one over before finishing with 18 fours in his 194-ball stay. —AFP

Kim leads LPGA Tour Championship

MIAMI: Kim Sei-young produced a superb final hole birdie to maintain her two-shot lead at the halfway stage of the LPGA Tour Championship in Florida on Friday. The 26-year-old from Seoul fired a 175-yard six-iron to three feet on the 18th hole at Tiburon Golf Club and then drained a simple putt for a five-under-par 67, leaving her at 12 under for the tournament.

Kim, who had shot a seven-under-par 65 to lead by two strokes after Thursday's first round, is chasing her third win of 2019 at this week's LPGA Tour season finale. After reaching the turn at two under for the round on Friday, Kim suffered a wobble on the 10th when she posted her first bogey of the tournament.

However she recovered well to make birdies in three of her next four holes, before finishing with a flourish

on the 18th. Kim's birdie finish means she has a two-shot buffer heading into the final two rounds as she chases the \$1.5 million winner's cheque, the richest prize in women's golf.

Kim admitted the lucrative purse has raised the pressure for the tournament. "It definitely feels like US Open or British Open," she said. "It feels like a major tournament. But I try not to put myself under any extra pressure."

That relaxed approach will hold the key to her weekend, she added. "Just focus shot by shot and relax and enjoy, have fun on the course," she said. Germany's Caroline Masson heads the pursuit of Kim after posting a six-under-par 66 that left her at 10 under after 36 holes.

Masson played flawlessly in a bogey-free round that saw her vault up the leaderboard after making three birdies over the final five holes. Canadian Brooke Henderson and Nelly Korda of the United States were a shot back on nine under, three off the lead.

Henderson recovered brilliantly after a potentially

disastrous double-bogey seven on the par-five first, reaching the turn at level par after birdies on the fourth and sixth holes. Henderson then picked up five more birdies in six holes on the back nine to card a five-under-par 67.

"Not the start I wanted for sure, but I was able to get it back to even after the first nine holes and that was really important," Henderson said. "I kind of started to get things rolling a little bit...I just seemed to be making a lot of birdies, which is always a lot of fun."

Australia's Su Oh, is alone in fifth place on eight under after a roller coaster round which included seven birdies and two bogeys for a five-under-par 67. Three players — China's Liu Yu, Jessica Korda and Lexi Thompson — are tied for sixth on seven under, five off the lead.

World number one Ko Jin-young's hopes of mounting a challenge appear to have faded however after she could only manage a three-under-par 69. Ko heads into the weekend on four under for the tournament, eight strokes off the pace. —AFP