

Pujara rescues India

Gutsy Pujara ton keeps India in fight after another tepid batting display

● **Cheteshwar Pujara scored his 16th Test hundred as he waged a lone battle for India on the opening day of the Adelaide Test vs Australia**

● **Ashwin added 62 runs for the seventh wicket with Pujara before falling to Cummins**

AFP | Adelaide, Australia

Cheteshwar Pujara scored a gritty 123 in punishing conditions to claw India back into the opening Test in Adelaide yesterday after Australia seized early control with some blistering bowling.

Nathan Lyon, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc all grabbed two wickets each as temperatures topped 36 Celsius (96.8 Fahrenheit) and the tourists wilted to 250-9 at stumps on day one.

The experienced Pujara faced 246 balls in his gutsy knock -- passing 5,000 Test runs for his 16th Test century -- as the wickets tumbled around him, including superstar captain Virat Kohli for three.

At the end of a day characterised by poor shot selection, Pujara went for a quick single on the second last ball and was removed in a brilliant run-out by a diving Cummins.

Batting after Kohli won the toss, the visitors crumbled in a disastrous morning session under a pace barrage before digging in later in the day with Pujara and Ravi Ashwin (25 off 76 balls) staging a fightback as the bowlers tired.



Indian cricketer Khaleel Ahmed (2R) celebrates with teammates after dismissing West Indies cricketer Shai Hope (not pictured)

In their first home Test since the ball-tampering scandal in March, Australia took four wickets before lunch with the batsmen guilty of playing at deliveries they would have been better off leaving alone.

Australian bowling coach David Saker said it was a premeditated plan for the quicks to pitch it up and lure India's batsmen into false shots.

"We got the wickets the way we thought we might get the wickets," he told the Seven Network.



In the course of his innings, Cheteshwar Pujara reached 5000 Test runs

Khawaja stuns Kohli

Opener KL Rahul, who has been struggling for runs, flopped again, caught by Aaron Finch at third slip off Hazlewood for two.

Veteran Murali Vijay, in the side after young gun Prithvi Shaw suffered ankle ligament damage, didn't last much longer, caught behind by skipper Tim Paine off Starc for 11.

In marched Kohli to a huge roar from the crowd, but Usman Khawaja at gully spectacularly caught him off a Cum-

India first innings	
M. Vijay c Paine b Starc	11
KL. Rahul c Finch b Hazlewood	2
C. Pujara run out (Cummins)	123
V. Kohli c Khawaja b Cummins	3
A. Rahane c Handscomb b Hazlewood	13
R. Sharma c Harris b Lyon	37
R. Pant c Paine b Lyon	25
R. Ashwin c Handscomb b Cummins	25
I. Sharma b Starc	4
M. Shami not out	6
Extras (lb1)	1
Total (9 wickets, 87.5 overs)	250
To bat: Jasprit Bumrah	
Fall of wickets: 1-3 (Rahul), 2-15 (Vijay), 3-19 (Kohli), 4-41 (Rahane), 5-86 (Sharma), 6-127 (Pant), 7-189 (Ashwin), 8-210 (Sharma), 9-250 (Pujara)	
Bowling: Starc 19-4-63-2, Hazlewood 19.5-3-52-2, Cummins 19-3-49-2, Lyon 28-2-83-2, Head 2-1-2-0	
Australia: Marcus Harris, Aaron Finch, Usman Khawaja, Shaun Marsh, Travis Head, Peter Handscomb, Tim Paine (capt), Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Starc	

mins delivery as he attempted a drive, out after facing only 16 balls.

It was stunning one-handed take by Khawaja, whose preparations were upset by the shock arrest of his brother this week for allegedly framing a love-rival with a fake terror plot.

The dismissal of Kohli, who has scored five centuries in his two previous Test tours of Australia and rates Adelaide his favourite overseas ground, sparked wild celebrations.

Vice captain Ajinkya Rahane and Pujara worked to steady the ship.

But after returning from a break, Hazlewood enticed Rahane into a drive and he edged to Handscomb in the slips for 13.

Williamson, Nicholls put Kiwis in control

AFP | Galle, Sri Lanka

Record-breaking Yasir Shah had to share the day's honours with New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson yesterday as the third and final Test heads towards a gripping final day in Abu Dhabi.

The early part of the morning belonged to Yasir who collected the one wicket he needed to become the fastest man to reach 200 wickets in Test cricket.

The rest of the day, however, belonged to Williamson who played a masterly innings, and was 139 not out as the Kiwis reached 272-4 by the close.

Williamson had great support from Henry Nicholls who made 90 not out during an unbroken fifth wicket partnership of 212 that has given New Zealand a lead of 198 with six wickets remaining.

With the series tied at 1-1, the final day of this last Test promises to be fascinating with both sides capable of winning.

The day began in high anticipation with New Zealand re-



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson plays a shot

suming at 26-2 and Yasir taking the ball to bowl the third over.

He needed just one wicket to break a record set 82 years ago by the great Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett who had needed 36 Tests to reach the milestone of 200 Test wickets.

When Yasir trapped night-watchman Will Somerville leg before for four with his 13th delivery of the day, he reached the 200-wicket mark in just his 33rd Test.

"Ever since I knew this record it became my dream to take fastest 200 wickets and it came true today," said Yasir, who still

hopes Pakistan can pull off a win.

"The wicket is slow but it is turning from the patches. We want to bowl them and try to go for the chase. That is what we are going to try as there is still one full day left in the match."

Pakistan had hopes of an emphatic win once Shaheen Shah Afridi had Ross Taylor caught hooking for 22 with the total at 60-4.

But they were undone by Williamson's masterclass and an innings from Nicholls that grew in confidence but, like his partner, enjoyed a touch of luck.

New Zealand 1st innings 274 (K. Williamson 89, BJ Watling 77 not out; Bilal Asif 5-65, Yasir Shah 3-75)	
Pakistan 1st innings 348 (Azhar Ali 134, Asad Shafiq 104; W. Somerville 4-75)	
New Zealand 2nd innings (overnight 26-2)	
J. Raval lbw b Shaheen	0
T. Latham c Sohail b Yasir	10
K. Williamson not out	139
W. Somerville lbw b Yasir	4
R. Taylor c Asif b Shaheen	22
H. Nicholls not out	90
Extras: (b5, lb 1, nb 1)	7
Total: (for four wkts; 104 overs)	272

Real Madrid complete 10-1 aggregate thrashing of Melilla

Reuters | Madrid

Real Madrid trounced third division side Melilla 6-1 in a Copa del Rey round of 32 second leg yesterday, completing a 10-1 aggregate scoreline to ease into the last 16 of the competition.

Madrid went into halftime with a three-goal lead after Marco Asensio scored twice in three minutes and debutant Javi Sanchez also got on the scoresheet late in the half.

Spain midfielder Isco extended the advantage three minutes into the second half, scoring for the first time since September in his first start under new coach Santiago Solari, while Brazilian Vinicus Jr. hit goal number five.

Solari had made 10 changes from the team that beat Valencia 2-0 in La Liga on Saturday but was still able to field

10

changes were made from the team that beat Valencia 2-0 in La Liga on Saturday

four Spain internationals and three-time Champions League winning goalkeeper Keylor Navas.

Melilla, a tiny Spanish autonomous enclave in north Africa, managed to give their travelling supporters something to celebrate when striker Yacine Qasmi smashed a penalty beyond Navas in the 81st minute.

Isco restored Madrid's five-goal advantage with his second goal of the game.



Isco of Real Madrid (22) celebrates after scoring his team's fourth goal with team mates

200

Test wickets were taken by Pakistan's Yasir Shah becoming the fastest player to achieve the record