

Aussies build vital lead

Australia battle in Perth to build lead of 175 over India

● Australia lead by 175 runs with 6 wickets remaining

● India were bowled out for 283 runs in their first innings

AFP | Perth

Australia's batsmen battled a deteriorating pitch in their bid to build a match-winning lead on the third day of the second Test in Perth yesterday.

The hosts led by 43 after both teams' first innings despite a superb Virat Kohli century, but found batting incredibly tough in their second innings.

At stumps, Australia were 132 for four, with Usman Khawaja on 41 and Tim Paine on eight, an overall lead of 175.

Although they still had six wickets in hand, opener Aaron Finch was taken to hospital for scans after retiring hurt with an injured right hand on 25.

The cracks in the pitch were starting to become a significant factor, with Finch's opening partner, Marcus Harris, also struck flush on the helmet by a rising delivery in making 20.

The Australians played and missed time and again as they battled to extend their lead, with Jasprit Bumrah (1-25) almost unplayable at times and well supported by India's three other pacemen as they maintained unrelenting pressure on the



Marcus Harris of Australia takes a tumble after being struck on the helmet by a ball from Jasprit Bumrah of India

batsmen.

Shaun Marsh (5) and Peter Handscomb (13) again fell cheaply, doing little to ease the pressure on their pair to retain their spots in the side.

Marsh played a poor shot to a short ball from Mohammed Shami (2-23) and was caught behind, while Handscomb's shaky defence was highlighted when he was trapped lbw by Ishant Sharma (1-33).

Easy as 123 for Kohli

The struggles of the Australian batsmen were a far cry from the command of Kohli as he anchored his team's first innings.

In reply to Australia's 326 after winning the toss and batting,

123
runs were scored by Virat Kohli for his 25th century

India were bowled out for 283 despite Kohli's 123.

Kohli reached his century with a classic straight drive off paceman Mitchell Starc, having been at the crease for 310 minutes and faced 214 balls.

Two overs later he produced the shot of the match when he lifted Josh Hazlewood over

third man for six.

In reaching triple figures, Kohli became the second-fastest player to reach 25 Test centuries in terms of innings with 127, behind only Don Bradman (68) and ahead of his countryman Tendulkar (130).

He also joined Tendulkar as the only Indian batsmen to have scored six Test centuries in Australia, and became the first Test centurion at the new venue.

The Indian captain's innings came to a controversial end when he was caught at second slip by a diving Handscomb from the bowling of Pat Cummins.

Kohli was given out by the on-field umpires but believed it had

Australia 1st innings 326 (M. Harris 70, T. Head 58; Sharma 4-41)	
2nd innings	
M. Harris b Bumrah	20
A. Finch retired hurt	25
U. Khawaja not out	41
S. Marsh c Pant b Shami	5
P. Handscomb lbw Sharma	13
T. Head c Sharma b Shami	19
T. Paine not out	8
Extras (lb1)	1
Total (four wickets, 48 overs)	132
India 1st innings (overnight 172-3)	
K. Rahul b Hazlewood	2
M. Vijay b Starc	0
C. Pujara c Paine b Starc	24
V. Kohli c Handscomb b Cummins	123
A. Rahane c Paine b Lyon	51
H. Vihari c Paine b Hazlewood	20
R. Pant c Starc b Lyon	36
M. Shami c Paine b Lyon	0
I. Sharma c and b Lyon	1
U. Yadav not out	4
J. Bumrah c Khawaja b Lyon	4
Extras (b4, lb7, nb2, w5)	18
Total (all out, 105.5 overs)	283

not carried.

However the decision stood after it was reviewed by third umpire Nigel Llong.

The Indians lost their last five wickets for just 35 runs to hand Australia a small but valuable lead.

Spinner Nathan Lyon was the best of the Australian bowlers, taking 5-67, while Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood both grabbed two wickets each.

India's day got off to a disappointing start with Ajinkya Rahane fell in the first over of the day to Lyon for 51, ending a 91-run stand with Kohli.

Smalling extends Man Utd contract to 2022

AFP | London

Manchester United tied down centre-back Chris Smalling to a new three-and-a-half-year contract on Saturday with an option to extend the deal for a further year.

"Manchester United is delighted to announce that Chris Smalling has signed a new contract that will keep him at the club until June 2022, with the option to extend for a further year," the club said in a statement.

"This is my ninth season with the club and I am delighted to be continuing my progression with this team," said Smalling.

Honda's Victory in sixth straight A-League win

AFP | Sydney

Keisuke Honda's Melbourne Victory kept the pressure on Perth Glory at the top of the A-League this weekend, stretching their winning streak to six games with a thrilling 4-2 triumph.

All the goals came in the first half of Friday's away win at Brisbane Roar that also featured two penalties and a red card.

Japan's Honda got on the scoresheet again with his fifth of the season to help his club -- the reigning champions -- move to 18 points from eight games, two behind Perth who remain unbeaten.

Belgium crowned hockey world champions

IANIS | Bhubaneswar, India

Olympic silver medallists Belgium clinched their maiden World Cup title after beating three-time champions Netherlands in sudden death after the shootout in the pulsating gold medal match at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar yesterday.

Belgium have now become the sixth nation to lift the World Cup.

After playing a goalless draw in regulation time, the tie headed for the shootout which also failed to yield a result as both sides were locked at 2-2 after the five shots.

In sudden death, Belgium's Florent van Aubel scored in his very first attempt to guide his side to the gold medal before Joreon Hertzberger of the Dutch side missed the chance and had to settle for the silver.

The tie started with both sides tightening their respective defence in the first quarter



Belgium's players celebrate with the world cup trophy

and neither were adventurous enough, like they are known to be, to attack at full strength.

The second quarter witnessed a similar style of play even though both sides would have loved to head to half time with a goal's advantage.

After the breather, both sides stepped on the gas in the third

quarter but the outcome hardly changed and the deadlock continued till the end of the final quarter, taking the contest to the shootout.

Earlier, Tom Craig scored thrice while Jeremy Hayward's brace helped Australia thrash England 8-1 in the bronze medal match.

Benzema gives Madrid win over Rayo amid more Bernabeu boos

Reuters | Madrid

Real Madrid got a 1-0 win over minnows Rayo Vallecano on Saturday, earning a third consecutive La Liga victory and rising to third in the table, but they again failed to sparkle and had to endure booing from their unhappy supporters.

Karim Benzema beat a poorly constructed Rayo offside trap to score the only goal of the game in the 13th minute and Toni Kroos came close to doubling Madrid's advantage later in the first half when he struck a post from outside the box.

The win put Santiago Solari's side up to third place in the standings on 29 points, one clear of fourth-placed Sevilla and two behind champions and leaders Barcelona, who visit Levante, and Atletico Madrid.

Madrid, who were also booed



Rayo Vallecano defender Emiliano Velazquez, left, vies with Real Madrid's Karim Benzema

off on Wednesday after losing 3-0 to CSKA Moscow, their worst-ever home defeat in European competition, continued to suffer defensively at the back.

They leaked plenty of chances to their neighbours, who are fighting relegation and have won only twice all season.

Rayo defender Emiliano Ve-

lazquez came close to equalising with a bullet header from a corner shortly after Benzema's goal.

Then, as the visitors laid siege to Madrid's goal in the closing stages, it took an impressive double save from Thibaut Courtois in stoppage time to prevent Rayo from grabbing a point.

Ronaldo penalty sees off Torino, Icardi gets Inter back winning

AFP | Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo scored from the spot as unbeaten Italian champions Juventus saw off city rivals Torino 1-0 to hammer home their domination in Serie A on Saturday.

Juventus travelled to the Sta-

dio Olimpico after their year-long unbeaten record away from home ended with a shock 2-1 Champions League defeat by Young Boys in Bern.

Ronaldo slotted in his 11th league goal this season, and 5,000th for Juventus in Serie A, after 70 minutes after Tori-

no goalkeeper Salvador Ichazo fouled Mario Mandzukic.

Juventus are now 11 points ahead of second-placed Napoli, with Inter Milan 14 points behind the leaders after captain Mauro Icardi scored from the spot in a 1-0 win over Udinese.

"It was a complicated game,

played on a difficult pitch against a tough opponent," said Ronaldo.

"We put in a good performance, played better than Torino, had more scoring opportunities and deserved the victory.

"The 5,000th goal? I'm happy, but the important thing was to help the team."

Torino's hopes of a rare 'Derby della Mole' victory took a knock when goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu hobbled off with a hip injury after 20 minutes, to be replaced by Ichazo.

And the match was decided by a poor backpass from Simone Zaza to Ichazo which resulted in

the Torino goalkeeper fouling the onrushing Mandzukic.

Ronaldo made no mistake from the spot, despite Ichazo getting his hand to the ball, with the pair locking horns afterwards with the Portuguese striker receiving a yellow card.