

Watling double and Santner triple torment Eng

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOUNT MAUNGANUI, NOVEMBER 24

ENGLAND WAS jolted awake by a sharp earthquake Sunday and stayed off-balance as unshakable wicketkeeper BJ Watling batted 11 hours for a double century which gave New Zealand control of the first cricket test at the end of the fourth day.

The 5.9 magnitude tremor struck 30 miles off the coast of Mount Maunganui, sending England players scrambling from the beds at 5.30am on a day which didn't get any better for the touring team. Watling became the first New Zealand wicketkeeper to score a test double century and batted longer than any Kiwi gloveman before him. Allrounder Mitchell Santner added a maiden century and the pair shared a record 261-run seventh wicket partnership which allowed New Zealand to declare after tea at 615-9, 262 ahead on the first innings.

Tremors at Mount Maunganui

Santner then took three wicket as England went to stumps at 53-3, 207 runs behind. First Watling took a catch from Santner's bowling to dismiss Dom Sibley for 12, then Rory Burns (31) was caught by Colin de Grandhomme from Santner's bowling. Finally, and from the last ball of the day, Tom Latham dived forward from short mid-wicket to catch nightwatchman Jack Leach (0), leaving Santner with 3-6 from 8.4 overs.

Santner, known as Flatline to his teammates for his lack of emotion, described the day as "not bad".

"We got a good score there," he said. "We put a lot of hard work in with the bat. "It was good to get the hundred but it was great the way BJ batted as well to get his double hundred and build a lead and it was nice to take a few wickets at the end."

For the second day in a row, England endured a punishing day in the field as Watling and Santner built New Zealand's formidable advantage. Their partnership, New Zealand's highest for the seventh wicket against all nations, saw England go without a wicket for almost a full day — 83.2 overs — and tested the tourists' powers of endurance.

Watling batted throughout the third day in partnerships of 70 for the fifth wicket with Henry Nicholls (41) and 119 for the fifth wicket with de Grandhomme (65), then with Santner before stumps Saturday. Santner survived a barrage of bouncers in that last period of play on the third day, finishing with vivid welts as he took balls from Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer on the body.

The first session Sunday was still a hard grind for Watling and Santner; they added only 58 runs and just 19 in the first hour but from then on punished the England attack as New Zealand's hold on the match became tighter. Santner reached his century in 322 minutes from 252 balls and was finally out for 126 after having batted for only seven minutes fewer than six hours. He hit out late in the second session and finished with 11 fours and five sixes.

Watling continued to bat the clock around, solid and immovable on a day which had begun with an unsettling shake. New Zealand captain Kane Williamson delayed a declaration longer than seemed necessary and Watling was finally out for 205, having batted 11 hours and seven minutes.

He eclipsed his own five-year-old record for the longest innings by a New Zealand wicketkeeper and his previous highest test score of 142. New Zealand's declaration came about 10 minutes later and with the best part of four sessions remaining in the match. How the pitch at the Bay Oval will deteriorate on the last day remains a mystery as the stadium is hosting a Test match for the first time.

BRIEF SCORES: England 353 and 55/3 (Denly 7) trail **New Zealand** 615/9 declared (Watling 205, Santner 126, de Grandhomme 65, Williamson 51) by 207 runs.



SELL-OUT CROWD

A crowd of 42,217 watched an exhibition match between Roger Federer and Alexander Zverev at Plaza de Toros Mexico — the world's largest bullring — in Mexico City. Reuters

- Broadcaster ESPN claimed a new world record for attendance at a tennis match, with 42,517 people watching Germany's Alexander Zverev go down 6-3, 4-6, 2-6 to Roger Federer in an exhibition match in Mexico City.
- This smashed a decade-old record of 35,681 at an exhibition game between Clijsters and Serena. The biggest court for an official match is the Arthur Ashe at Flushing Meadows, home of the US Open, which can seat around 23,000.
- Even before Saturday's match, Roger Federer had announced his intention to set a new world record for attendance when he meets Rafael Nadal in an exhibition match in South Africa in February.
- That duel will be staged at Cape Town Stadium, which has a capacity of 55,000. It will also have the draw of a preceding doubles match in which Federer will partner Bill Gates and Nadal will play with South African comedian Trevor Noah.

Gift of Gabba: 31 years & counting

Babar & Rizwan delay the inevitable, but Aussies prevail over Pak and extend unbeaten run at their fortress

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRISBANE, NOVEMBER 24

NATHAN LYON removed century-make Babar Azam and Josh Hazlewood picked up three late wickets as Australia wrapped up a victory by an innings and 5 runs with more than a day to spare in the series-opening Test against Pakistan.

Pakistan resumed Sunday on 64-3, needing at least 340 to make Australia bat again. After a day of resistance, the last four wickets fell rapidly with Mitchell Starc finishing off Pakistan for 335 with the last wicket of tailender Imran Khan. Azam's resilient 104 and Mohammad Rizwan's 95 had given the visitors hope of avoiding an innings defeat until the late burst of wickets.

Pakistan was reeling at 25-3 late Saturday before Azam went to the crease. He shared stands of 68 with Shan Masood (42) and 132 with Rizwan to post his second test century.

Rizwan then continued in a 79-run partnership with Yasir Shah (42) to get within a shot of his maiden test century before he slapped a Hazlewood (4-63) short ball directly to Lyon at deep point.

Yasir notched his highest test score before getting a leading edge in Hazlewood's first over with the second new ball to make the total 324-8.

The pacemen finished it off to ensure the home team didn't need to pad up a second time at the Gabba, where the Australians haven't lost a test since 1988.

Australia's pacemen combined for 18 of the 20 wickets, while an inexperienced Pakistan fast bowling group — including 16-year-old Naseem Shah and 19-year-old Shaheen Afridi — struggled to get their lengths right on the bouncy pitch.



Babar Azam scored his second Test hundred, but couldn't rescue Pakistan.

31 Australia have not lost a Test match at the Gabba in 31 years. They last lost at this venue to Viv Richards' rampant West Indies in 1988.

That allowed the top three of David Warner (154), recalled opener Joe Burns (97) and Marnus Labuschagne (185) to combine for 436 of Australia's 580 runs, giving the hosts a 340-run first-innings advantage.

"Really happy with the top three in this game," Australia captain Tim Paine said. "One innings doesn't make a summer, but really happy with the positive signs."

"I think we've nussed out a pretty good group at the moment — a group that can still get a lot better as well." The second

Let's start the next summer in Brisbane: Paine challenges Kohli

Brisbane: India's Test tour Down Under is one year away but Australia captain Tim Paine on Sunday took a dig at his counterpart Virat Kohli, saying they will seek his "permission" to start the Test series in Brisbane and may even play a day-night match "if he is in good mood".

India had refused to play a day-night Test against Australia last year in Adelaide while Kohli's men on Sunday wrapped up a pink ball match against Bangladesh inside seven sessions in Kolkata. The Gabba has long been the venue where Australia start their home Test series but it was abandoned for the four-match series against India last year as the matches were held at traditional venues of Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth.

India will tour Australia for a four-match Test series from November 2020 to January 2021. "Yeah, well, we will be certainly trying. We will have to run that by Virat (Kohli). We will get an answer from him at some stage I'm sure. That's where we like to start our summer and it has been for a long long time except for last summer," Paine said when asked if Australia would want to start the Border-Gavaskar series at Brisbane.

"As I said we'll ask Virat and see if we can get his permission to play here and maybe even get a Pink-ball Test if he's in a good mood. So we'll wait and see," he added. **PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

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Test, a day-night pink ball game, starts Friday in Adelaide. Azam's defiant century gave Pakistan's batting lineup the resilience it lacked in the first innings on day 1, when he was dismissed for one and the visitors were bowled out for 240. He resumed on 20 on day four and converted his undisputed talent from the limited-overs games, where he averages 50-plus, into the long format. His only previous century in 21 Tests was against New Zealand, although he narrowly missed out in the win over Australia at Abu Dhabi in October last year when he was out for 99 in the second innings.

The 25-year-old righthander looked equally comfortable hitting boundaries off the front and back foot. He raised his half

century with a boundary behind point off Starc (3-73) and, after surviving a strong appeal for LBW to Hazlewood on 75, stroked a classic cover drive off Pat Cummins to reach triple figures. He also survived a shout for LBW against Cummins on 100 before eventually being dismissed trying to glide off-spinner Lyon to third man and feathering a catch to wicketkeeper Tim Paine.

His partnership with Rizwan was crucial after Pakistan lost two wickets in seven balls during the morning session.

BRIEF SCORES: Pakistan: 240 (Shafiq 76, Starc 4-52) and 335 (Azam 104, Rizwan 95, Hazlewood 4-63) lost to **Australia** 580 (Labuschagne 185, Warner 154, Burns 97, Wade 60, Yasir 4/205) by an innings and five runs.

SYED MUSHTAQ

Rahul's class propels Karnataka past Punjab

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NOVEMBER 24

DURING HIS brief reunion with the national side for the T20Is against Bangladesh, after being dropped from the Test squad post the West Indies series, KL Rahul tweeted: "Happy Place." The happiness reflected in the third T20I in Nagpur, where he crunched a fluent half-century, only for the effort to be overshadowed by Deepak Chahar's feat, the first hat-trick by an Indian as well as the best figures by any bowler in this format.

The innings, though coming against a modest attack and in batting-friendly conditions, reminded that Rahul was in a happy place, batting-wise, and wasn't woe-stricken as he had been for most of this year in Tests. He was calm, measured and methodical, like when he first burst onto the international scene, as a batsman equipped to deal with the challenges at the highest level.

While the road back to the highest level is difficult — now that his close friend Mayank Agarwal and Rohit Sharma have more or less sealed the opening slots — Rahul is keeping himself in the loop, filing frequent reminders of his quality across formats. After influencing Karnataka's trophy-clinching Vijay Hazare campaign, wherein he amassed 598 runs at 66.44, he has begun well in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, his tally after five games reading 225 runs at 75. He belted his best score of the tournament yet, an unbeaten 84 off 48 deliveries, punctuated with four sixes and eight boundaries, helping Karnataka hunt down Punjab's 163 with two overs to spare.

Against the new-ball pairing of Sandeep Sharma and Siddharth Kaul, Rahul began in a blaze of boundaries. In two overs, they raced to 33, in which his partner Devdutt Padikkal's contribution was merely two.

In his T20 template these days, he starts off with a flurry of boundaries before decelerating, followed by another short boundary — burst. He was especially severe on Kaul, who was smeared for three sixes and a boundary in the first over — a hook, pull and a trademark lofted-drive over cover. Kaul eventually ended up with hideous figures of 46/0 in three overs. On a slightly dry surface, Rahul knew he had to score heavily against the pacers — Sandeep too wasn't spared, as the generally thrifty bowler's three

overs bled 26 runs. The spinners were dealt with more caution, especially the impressive left-arm spinner Harpreet Singh Brar. But then to show his spin-proficiency, Rahul hit him inside-out over cover. Rahul and Manish Pandey stitched a 60-run alliance for third wicket.

With Pandey going after the bowling, Rahul chose restraint. When Pandey perished for 33, Rahul returned to his boundary-picking mood and guided Karnataka home. They are runaway toppers — 12 points from three Super League games. Rahul's biggest test — and the outlet for a longer reunion with the national side — would be this Ranji season, but in limited-overs legs of the domestic season, he has done his chances no harm.

BRIEF SCORES: Punjab 163/6 (Mandeep Singh 76, Gurkeerat Singh 44; Ronit More 4-27) lost to **Karnataka** 167/3 (KL Rahul 84 not out, Manish Pandey 33; Mayank Markande 1-33) by seven wickets.

OTHER RESULTS: At **Surat, Jharkhand:** 170/4 (Kumar Deobrat 58, Sumit Kumar 28 not out; Shubham Ranjane 2-17) lost to **Mumbai** 171/5 (Prithvi Shaw 64, Shivam Dube 23; Sonu Singh 2-34) by five wickets.

Haryana 181/6 (Himashu Rana 59, Shivam Chauhan 47, Simarjeet Singh 2-43, Nitish Rana 1-13) beat **Delhi** 151/8 (Nitish Rana 37, Rishabh Pant 28; Yuzvendra Chahal 3-27) by 30 runs.

Maharashtra 165/2 (Azim Kazi 48 not out, Rituraj Gaikwad 47, Kedar Jadhav 47; Swapnil Singh 1-19) beat **Baroda** 98 all out (Kedar Devdhar 27; Satyajit Bachhav 2-5, Samad Fallah 2-12) by 67 runs.

[SPORTS BAR]

Rayudu wants Azhar to 'clean up' HCA

Ambati Rayudu on Sunday hit back at former India captain and HCA president Mohammed Azharuddin for calling him a "frustrated cricketer" and asked him to "clean up" Hyderabad cricket. "Hi @azharflicks let's not make it personal. da issue is bigger dan us. We both knw wats goin on in hca. u hav a god given opportunity to clean up hyd cricket. i strongly urge u 2 isolate urselvf from da seasoned crooks. u wil b savin generations of future cricketers. #cleanuphydcricket," Rayudu tweeted. He had pulled out of the Ranji Trophy attacking HCA and urged Telangana Minister for Industry and Municipal Administration KT Rama Rao to look into the "rampant corruption".

ATK, Odisha play out goalless draw

ATK and Odisha FC played out a goal-less draw in an Indian Super League clash here on Sunday. Both sides had numerous chances to break the deadlock but a goal eluded them. The result saw ATK maintain their top spot in the table with 10 points from five games while Odisha are now fifth with five points from as many matches. The game got off to an energetic start with ATK looking to go forward quickly. However, Odisha slowly started to put ATK's defence under pressure and had two chances to take the lead after 15 minutes.



Jon Rahm with the Race to Dubai and DP World Tour Championship trophies.

Rahm wins two titles on finish No.1 in Europe

Spain's Jon Rahm claimed the Race to Dubai title on Sunday after he held off fellow contender Tommy Fleetwood to secure a one-shot victory at the season-ending DP World Tour Championship. Rahm opened up a six-shot advantage after seven holes at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai before Fleetwood made a late charge, finishing with a final round 65 to set the clubhouse target at 18-under. Needing a birdie at the final hole to beat Fleetwood's mark, Rahm produced a sublime bunker shot to within three feet before rolling home to secure the Harry Vardon Trophy. The 25-year-old Rahm became the second Spaniard after the late Seve Ballesteros to win the European Tour's season-long Race to Dubai crown or its predecessor, the Order of Merit. Fleetwood holed long putts on the 15th and 17th before a spectacular chip on the last moved him alongside Rahm, who scripted a remarkable finish of his own to lift his sixth European Tour title. Rahm takes home \$3 million for his win in Dubai as well as a \$2 million bonus for topping the 2019 money list.

Anand falters while Carlsen is supreme

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand failed to utilise most of his opportunities in the final game as he finished joint sixth while Magnus Carlsen stamped his authority in the rapid chess to win by a huge margin in the Tata Steel Rapid and Blitz chess tournament in Kolkata on Sunday. Anand, who struggled in the last game of the second day against Anish Giri of Holland, did not quite re-work his energy and lost to Carlsen in the first game of the third day and then made a draw with compatriot Vidit Gujrathi. In the final rapid game, the die was cast and Anand was clearly much better against another compatriot P Harikrishna. But the game again pattered out to a draw, leaving Anand with a joint sixth-place finish in the rapid section of the strongest tournament on Indian soil.



Higuain brace helps Juventus beat Atalanta

Gonzalo Higuain scored twice as Juventus came from behind to win at Atalanta 3-1 in Serie A on Saturday. League leaders Juventus maintained their one-point advantage over Inter Milan, who won at Torino 3-0. Robin Gosens opened the scoring for Atalanta early in the second half but Higuain netted twice in eight minutes and set up Paulo Dybala in stoppage time. Juventus were without Cristiano Ronaldo, having left the forward at home so he's fully fit on Tuesday for the Champions League match against Atletico Madrid. There was controversy around Higuain's second as there appeared to be a handball from teammate Juan Cuadrado in the buildup. Atalanta players were furious and called for an on-field review but the video assistant referee deemed it unnecessary.

