

Broad fires England to verge of first Test win over New Zealand

Stuart Broad runs riot through the night to leave New Zealand in tatters

● **England on course for tenth win in 11 Tests after another remarkable day at Bay Oval**

AFP | Mount Maunganui

Stuart Broad razed New Zealand's top order with a destructive opening spell yesterday to put England on the verge of winning the first Test at Mount Maunganui.

Broad claimed four wickets under lights -- all clean bowled -- to reduce the Black Caps' second innings to 63-5 at stumps on day three, with hopes of reaching their winning target of 394 all but extinguished.

England have two full days to claim the remaining five wickets at the Bay Oval and go one-up



England's Stuart Broad (L) bowls New Zealand's Tom Blundell

in the two-match series -- completing a 10th win in their last 11 Tests in the process.

In a match largely dominated by aggressive batting, Broad got

the pink ball to zip sideways to devastating effect, removing arguably New Zealand's four best batsmen to take 4-21 off 10 unrelenting overs.



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STUART BROAD

Openers Devon Conway (2) and Tom Latham (15) both had their off-stumps disturbed while a scoreless Kane Williamson couldn't defend his middle stump.

Ollie Robinson had Henry Nicholls (7) caught behind be-



fore first-innings centurion Tom Blundell was also cleaned out by Broad, for one.

The 36-year-old Broad ad-

109

sixes have been struck by England captain Ben Stokes overtake his coach Brendon McCullum as the outright record holder for the most sixes in Test cricket

mitted conditions were set up perfectly.

"It's just a different pitch to bowl on in the lights," he said.

"You go into a rhythm of not over-complicating, not thinking too much.

"I was looking to bowl the same ball, whoever I was bowling against and getting a wicket early just settles me.

"Once I got Conway, I felt like it could be my day."

Al Nasser all set for Arab clubs volleyball

● **Bahrain representatives depart for Cairo with 16-player squad**

● **Nasser sign national team star Ali Ebrahim from Al Najma for event**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Al Nasser have finalised their 16-player line-up that will be flying the Kingdom's flag in the 38th Arab Clubs Volleyball Championship for Men.

The tournament is scheduled to take place in Cairo, with 12 teams taking part from across the region.

Nasser have been drawn in a tough Group D for the preliminary round. They are alongside Kazma SC of Kuwait and Egyptian sides Al Mina and Al Ahly SC.

Nasser's squad are spear-headed by team captain Younes



Al Nasser's delegation at the airport prior to their departure

Abdulkarim, and the roster includes Ebrahim Mohammed, Mohammed Jassim, Jassim Hamza, Ahmed Issa, Jassim Al Turki, Ali Sultan, Mohammed Mirza, Hussain Al Haiki, Hussain Al Jashi, Mohammed Omar, Yousef Khaled, Hussain Mohammed, Mohammed Jafar, Yousef Mohammed Tahir and Ali Ebrahim, who Nasser signed from Al Najma for the tournament.

The club's delegation departed last night for the tournament. Nasser have been preparing for the championship over the past few weeks under the supervision of Brazilian head coach Sergio Luis Cunha.

Group A in the tournament features Al Ahly Tripoli of Libya, Masafi Alshemal of Iraq, Al Ahli SC of Qatar and Al Sadaqa VC of Palestine. Group B com-

prises Baniyas VC of the UAE, Kuwait SC of Kuwait, Al Wakrah SC of Qatar and Asswehly SC of Libya. Group C is composed of Kibel of Yemen, Al Seeb of Oman, Zamalek SC of Egypt and Alquaata of Palestine.

Aside from their Arab clubs bid, Nasser are also set to compete in the Golden Square semi-finals of the 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

Axar hits 74 but Australia race ahead after Lyon five-for



India's Axar Patel plays a shot
AFP | New Delhi

Axar Patel hammered a counter-attacking 74 yesterday to help India close the gap on Australia's total after Nathan Lyon bagged five wickets on an intense day two of the second Test.

India were all out for 262 after a key 114-run eighth-wicket fightback by Axar and Ravichandran Ashwin, leaving the tourists a lead of one run in New Delhi.

Australia raced to 61 for one at stumps after Ravindra Jadeja dismissed Usman Khawaja for six after a reverse sweep flew straight to leg slip.

Travis Head, on 39, and Marcus Labuschagne, on 16, were batting at the close of play with Australia leading by 62 runs in their second innings.

Number eight Axar stood out for India with his second successive Test half-century as he took on the opposition bowlers with nine fours and three sixes.

Ashwin played the anchor in his 37 before he fell to Pat Cummins, who struck with the second new ball to get the batsman caught at square leg by Matt Renshaw, a concussion substitute for David Warner.

Cummins took a stunner at



mid on to end Axar's brave knock off Todd Murphy and fellow spinner Matthew Kuhnemann ended the Indian innings in the final session.

Lyon led Australia's charge with four wickets to rattle India in the morning and then claimed his 22nd Test five-for in an afternoon session that saw a controversial dismissal of Virat Kohli on 44.

Kohli was given out lbw by the on-field umpire off debutant Kuhnemann and a review declared it too close to judge whether the ball hit the bat or pad first, before tracking suggested it was hitting leg stump.

Arsenal revive title bid with last-gasp 4-2 win at Villa

Reuters | London

Arsenal reinvigorated their push for a first Premier League title in two decades and retook top spot yesterday with a thrilling 4-2 win at Aston Villa thanks to two late goals.

With a high-quality attacking game going into added time at 2-2, Arsenal midfielder Jorginho saw a looping shot come off the bar and bounce off the head of Villa's Argentina World Cup-winning goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez for a cruel own goal.

Minutes later, with the final whistle about to go and Villa



Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli celebrates scoring their fourth goal with Fabio Vieira

piling forward - Martinez included - Arsenal broke forward

again for Gabriel Martinelli to stroke into an empty net for the Londoners' fourth in front of their delirious fans.

It was Arsenal's first win in four Premier League games and followed a dispiriting midweek loss at home to Manchester City who had pared back an eight-point gap from a month ago.

"From this game, we took an unbelievable lesson for all of us. We just need to believe until the very end that we can achieve everything," said Oleksandr Zinchenko, who had made it 2-2 with his first ever Premier League goal earlier in the game.