Guptill shines in gloom

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

Arecord-setting 122 not out by New Zealand debutant Martin Guptill brightened an otherwise dismal day here Saturday as the fourth one-day international against the West Indies was washed out.

Guptill, starting in his specialist opening position after Jesse Ryder was dropped for disciplinary reasons, batted right through the innings as New Zealand made 275 for

Along the way he set the highest one-day international score by a New Zealander on debut, the second-highest maiden innings in the history said. of ODI cricket, behind West Indian Desmond Haynes 148 against Australia in 1978, and the highest unbeaten debut.

emotions," he said when time." reflecting in his achievement.

"I was a bit nervy getting that first run was a weight off my shoulders.'

He was also anxious when he took the long handle to Chris Gayle on 97 and brought up his century with a towering SIX.

"It was a spur of the moment thing, at first I thought I'd got under it too much but then it kept going."

But his heroics were not enough to snap the series deadlock as the match was abandoned with the West Indies 64 without loss chasing a revised target of 235 in 40 overs when rain sent the players off for a second and final time.

The first match in the series was also abandoned because of rain, the West Indies won a rain-shortened second match and the third match, won by New Zealand in Wellington last Wednesday, is the only game to go the full distance.

Weather permitting, the series will now be decided in the fifth and final match at Napier on Tuesday.

Guptill was originally selected for the New Zealand team when Jamie How, who had been struggling for form at number three, was dropped from the side after the third match.

But 22-year-old was then promoted to opener on the

who has a continuing battle eries as he and Guptill plunwith alcohol, was dropped from the side after a late-night drinking session.

most of the opportunity, Guptill showed no sign of firstmatch nerves from the time West Indies captain Chris Gayle won the toss and made New Zealand bat in conditions ripe for his battery of quick

He was dropped three times, batted at nearly a run a ball, faced 135 deliveries and struck eight boundaries and

"Martin's innings was one from the start. of the best I've seen in a long time," a delighted New

game and not look to accelerate at any stage, he played in a "I can't really describe the controlled manner the whole

innings ended, another debu- won the third ODI on and three sixes -- while tant Neil Broom was also Wednesday to level the series, Sewnarine Chattergoon was starring at the crease with two found that international left not out 17.

dered 59 off the final 35 balls.

But the West Indies suffered from wayward deliveries Determined to make the and some sloppy fielding in which the Guptill benefited from dropped catches on 16,

> from 26 extras including 11 wides and two no balls which gave them an additional 13 deliveries to score from.

Guptill opened the innings with the experienced Brendon McCullum but rather than play a support role he scored stump. as freely as his senior partner

They took the score through to 68 in the 15th over Zealand captain Daniel Vettori before the West Indies finally made a catch stick when "Just the composure of a McCullum flailed at a Lionel guy to come in for his first Baker outswinger and was caught behind by Denesh

The recalled Mathew Sinclair, one of four changes to When the New Zealand the New Zealand side which

eve of the match when Ryder, sixes in a rapid 24 off 17 deliv- cricket still does not agree with

He lasted two overs before being dismissed in similar fashion to McCullum as Baker and Ramdin repeated their double act.

Ross Taylor then set about righting the New Zealand New Zealand also profited innings, piling on 144 with Guptill for the third wicket.

But when they began to push the score in the final 10 overs, Taylor went to belt Fidel Edwards out of the park only to completely miss the ball which crashed into his off

Daniel Flynn came and went for a duck in the space of two balls, bringing Broom to the crease.

Baker was the most suc cessful and most economical of the West Indies bowlers, taking two for 29 off his 10 overs, although he also contributed five wides.

Gayle led the West Indies run charge, racing to 46 from 37 balls -- including four fours



Martin Guptill of New Zealand, top scored with 122 not out, raises his bat after reaching a century on debut during their fourth one-day international against West Indies at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

Gaddafi overhaul

stopped

AFP, Karachi

Renovations at Pakistan's main cricket stadium in Lahore ahead of the Champions Trophy set for September have been halted after massive irregularities were found, cricket authorities said Friday.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement that chairman Ijaz Butt had "taken serious note of the cost overrun of the construction work at Gaddafi Stadium," adding: "On his instructions, the work has been stopped."

The stadium is the PCB's headquarters and is to be renovated ahead of the Champions Trophy, which was cancelled last year due to security fears and has been rescheduled, subject to security clearance, for September-October 2009.

Butt accused the previous PCB line-up under exchairman Nasim Ashraf who resigned last August of awarding part of the renovations contract to a friend of a PCB officer and ordered an independent inquiry into the irregularities.

The PCB statement said the inquiry team would report back in two weeks.

Cricket authorities said the cost of the project had ballooned to a "staggering" 471 million rupees (6.28 million dollars), and the point of the inquiry was to ascertain the "actual cost."

The PCB said the contract to build the new VIP section at the stadium had been given to an architect who was a "close buddy" of Shafqat Naghmi, the former PCB chief operating officer.

"The design is faulty -huge columns have been constructed which have blocked spectators' view," the board said.

"Hospitality boxes have been ill-conceived and huge dining room areas have been left at the back of the boxes which have very little utility," it said.

The board called the project a "monumental disaster" and a "tribute to the management's ego and vision of grandeur." -

Patel could be the first

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Samit Patel could become the first contracted England player to compete in the Indian Premier League (IPL) after he was entered into February's player auction.

The Delhi Daredevils are keen on the 24-year-old Nottinghamshire player, who has an incremental central "I'm looking forward to

playing alongside and against the best players in the world," said Patel, who is on an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) increment contract over the summer.

If he takes part, Patel would miss the start of the English domestic season.

He would return in time for England's one-day internationals against the West Indies in late May. Notts director of cricket

Mick Newell told BBC Radio Nottingham that Patel could go with our blessing as it's a advantage of. great opportunity for him".

But his participation is still

ment being reached between his Notts and England team-Notts, the ECB and relevant mates Stuart Broad, Ryan

Dimitri Mascarenhas became the first England player to be signed by the Indian Premier League when he was recruited by Jaipur in March 2008. The Hampshire all-rounder,

who like Patel has 11 ODIs to his name, played for Rajasthan Royals but had no contract with England and needed only permission from his county.

Patel is not in the Test squad, so is not required by his country for the two Tests at home to West Indies in the first half of

The first IPL season was staged between 18 April and 1 June 2008 and the England players were the only international stars missing.

However, negotiations involving the ECB, the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the Professional Cricketers' Association have freed up a 15day window this year, from 10-25 April, for England players on full central contracts to take

Newell said Notts had already taken steps to steps to subject to contractual agree- replace Patel and, potentially,

Sidebottom and Graeme Swamm should they also be recruited by IPL franchises.

Brown and Jason Brown because we've known this was coming," he said.

"We've thought about our four-day team already and how that is going to line up in the absence of Samit and possibly other England players.

opportunity for Samit that we have to embrace, because it gives him a chance to enhance

Patel played a key role in England's one-day series win against South Africa in August 2008 and topped Nottinghamshire's County Championship batting averages as they just missed out on

recently.

CHENNAI OPEN

in final

AFP, Chennai

of Croatia advanced to the final of the 450,000-dollar ATP Chennai Open with a win over Marcel Granollers of Spain on Saturday.

Cilic won 6-4, 6-3 against and 250 points for the winner.

his first ATP tour final after his semi-final opponent, Rainer Schuettler of Germany, with drew with a wrist injury.

Kanoute

punished

AFP, Madrid

Sevilla's Malian international striker Frederic Kanoute has been fined for displaying a tshirt with the word "Palestine" during his side's 2-1 win over Deportivo La Coruna in the Spanish Cup.

The federation did not reveal the amount of the fine but Spanish media said it was between 2,000 and 3,000 euros (2,700 and 4,000 US dollars).

Kanoute lifted his jersey to show the t-shirt with the word written in various languages after he scored in the 39th minute of Wednesday's match in an act of support for Palestinians in Gaza where an Israeli military offensive has claimed at least 785 lives since it began on December 27.

"It was something that I felt that I should do. Everyone should feel a bit responsible when there is such a big injustice. I am 100 per cent responsible for what I did and I don't care about the sanction," he told private television Telecinco on Thursday.

Federation rules prevent players from displaying any sort of publicity or slogan during matches.

The federation said it was not penalizing the political nature of the message but the fact that the player had displayed a message in violation of the rules.

France-born Kanoute, a Sevilla player since a 2005 move from English Premiership side Tottenham, is a practising Muslim who has supported various humanitarian causes in the past.

In 2006 he set up a foundation to help orphans in Mali and the following year he reportedly spent around 500,000 euros (700,000 dollars) of his own money to save a privately owned mosque in Seville from being sold after a contract to use the premises by the local Muslim population had expired.

Aga Khan Gold Cup golf ends

SPORTS REPORTER

The Aga Khan Gold Cup golf tournament ended yesterday at the Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) in the city.

Earlier on Friday, Navy chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam teed off and formally inaugurated the competition.

Gen Md Shafiqul Islam, Aga Khan Council president Habib Hirji and vice-president Noorbanu Virji were also present on the occasion.

Shakib

FROM PAGE 17

while former champions DOHS signed up seven players including Sylhet's batting duo Imtiaz Hossain and Ejaz Ahmed.

Former national batsman Mehrab Hossain, wicketkeeper Imon Das, opener Arafat Chowdhury and pacer Mohammad Azim are among several players who put pen to paper for Partex. They also retained their foreign recruit Rashed Hanif, the veteran Pakistan all-rounder.

Young Pegasus, who barely remained in the top division after surviving last season, confirmed several young players while bringing back former club captain Maruf Newcomers CCS will have

the services of temperamental off-spinner Rezaul Islam from Mohammedan apart from Nazmul Hossain Milon, Monwar Hossain and legspinner Mohammad Shakil.

Today is the second day of the transfers and it is expected that Abahani, Gazi Tank and the rest of the top clubs will make their presence felt since the pool players have no game on the day in the Grameenphone Trination Cup.

Pietersen

FROM PAGE 17

bad. Pietersen has always sought to surround himself with success. After all, he went to England and moved to Hampshire for that reason, and chose Clive Rice, Warne and Ian Botham as his mentors. His ruthlessness sat beside the sense of destiny and insecurity often detected in these superficially daredevil types.

"Doubtless, he felt England were doomed to a long spell of mediocrity unless attitudes changed off the field. He might be right about that. Peter Moores was a hard-working fellow but lacked the spark needed to excel," he said.

Steve finds Kevin wrong

Cricket

AFP, London

Former Australian skipper Steve Waugh added his respected voice to the Ashes build-up on Friday by telling Kevin Pietersen he was wrong to relinquish the England captaincy.

three Tests before he spectacularly fell out with coach Peter Moores in a saga which plunged English cricket into crisis just six months before the team attempts to reclaim the Ashes.

born Pietersen had blundered in his high-profile resignation, Waugh said: "Yes, I think so.

"It didn't look like it was a terrible situation. It does take a while to work with someone. I mean you're not just going to come on board as a captain and work smoothly and fit in exactly the way he wants," said suffer. Kevin had to resign from Waugh speaking to the captaincy and Peter Moores www.laureus.com.

twelve months at least so there England one step further back is that certain period of time than they'd like to be."

where there's a bit of adjustment needed. You've got to get used to the way people operate.

"So I think they really didn't probably give each other enough of an opportunity to do that."

Pietersen, who wants to remain as part of the squad despite reports that his selfconfidence and singlemindedness had left the dress-Pietersen had overseen just ing room split, has been succeeded as skipper by opener Andrew Strauss.

Moores, sacked as coach, has been replaced on a temporary basis by former they'lljustgeton with the job." Zimbabwe batsman Andy Flower who will lead England Asked if the South African- on their forthcoming tour of the West Indies.

Waugh, the most successful international captain of all time having won 40 of his 53 Tests in charge between 1999 and 2004, insists that few people have emerged with much credit from the crisis.

"In the end both people has lost a coaching job, so no match cricket in England, so "There are probably six to one's a winner, and it really puts

Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at 9-146.

Stadium in Mirpur on Rainsford

the Sher-e-Bangla National

Waugh also believes that despite the controversy, Pietersen will not be coldshouldered when he returns to England duty to prepare for the squad's departure to the

Caribbean on January 21. "They're pretty hard-nosed and thick-skinned and they're used to a lot of these distractions around the team," he said.

"They'll get on with playing cricket and they'll embrace him as a great, great batsman, which he is and I think it will be pretty soon forgotten and

The Australian veteran also believes that Pietersen may even regain the captaincy in the future.

"We all move on and you know in time he may well get another opportunity because a lot of people thought he was very good at what he did," addedWaugh.

"He certainly gave spark to the job and he got a lot of people talking about Test there were certainly more things in his favour than against him."

10

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Result: Zimbabwe won by 38

Man-of-the-match: Elton

Umpires: Billy Doctrove

Match referee: Alan Hurst

Next match: Sri Lanka v

Prize money

increases at

Australian

Open

AFP, Sydney

Zimbabwe (Monday)

(WIS) and Nadir Shah (BAN)

Bowler

Utseva

runs.

(AUS)

Mupariwa 5

Dabengwa 10

Chigumbura.

Toss: Bangladesh

Tigers in shambles

Saturday:

ZIMBABWE

b Mashrafe

Masakadza c Shakib

FROM PAGE 17

We should have achieved this target. We had a bad day but now we have to look forward, he added.

Bangladesh captain however didn't rule out his side's chance to reach the final of the tournament.

"What everybody expected was that we were going to win the match against Zimbabwe but it has not happened. So, you can't say that it's impossible for us to go to the final despite the fact that we have to win a match against tough opponents," he hoped.

Everyone was however surprised by Ashraful reaction when he was asked about his captaincy. "I'm not alone rather everybody played bad cricket

in the match," he responded

when asked whether he felt that the time has come to quit the captaincy. His counterpart Prosper Utseya pointed out the three run-outs and the dismissal of

Shakib Al Hasan as the turning point of the match. "I think three run-outs made the difference and it could have been a different KGC vice-president Maj story if Shakib could have Ashraful c Sibanda b Utseya 18 batted through the innings,'

said Utseva.

But the young Zimbabwean skipper believes that the success came in their way because they followed the basic. And here lies the critical

question; when will the Tigers learn the basic? **SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard of the triangular

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Sibanda lbw b Shakib 15 Chigumbura 6 0 21 Matsikenyeri c Rokibul b Nayem Taibu c Mashrafe b Nayem 17 Williams lbw b Shakib Dabengwac&b Nayem Chigumbura run out Utseya c Mahbubul b Shakib 9 Price c Shakib b Mashrafe 17 Mupariwa not out Rainsford not out Extras: (lb-3, w-11) Total: (For nine wkts in 50 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-53, 3-88, 4-94, 5-94, 6-123, 7-155, 8-185, 9-204. Bowler Mashrafe Mahbubul Nazmul 0 24 0 Shakib Nayem Ashraful Mehrab BANGLADESH

Tamim run out Zunaed lbw b Utseya Mushfigur b Rainsford Shakib c Taibu b Chigumbura Rokibul b Dabengwa Mehrab st Taibu b Price Nayem run out Mashrafe run out

Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-6)

one-day series match between 4-33, 5-92, 6-95, 7-126, 8-138,

Total: (All out in 46.2 overs) 167

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-10, 3-32,

The singles winners of this month's Australian Open will each receive two million dollars (1.4 million US), Tennis Australia said Saturday. Tennis Australia said it has increased the overall prize money pool for the year's opening grand slam tournament by 1.14 million dollars to Mahbubul c Matsikenyeri 23.14 million dollars. b Price Nazmul not out

TA said all of the increase in the prize pool would go to the singles finalists, with the men's and women's runners-up each receiving one million dollars.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Participants of the Aga Khan Gold Cup Golf Tournament pose with chief guest Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam during the inaugural ceremony at the Kurmitola Golf Course yesterday.

By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Saturday's Cryptoquip: 1 RECENTLY READ A MOTTO THAT A LIGHTING STORE HAD BEEN

USING: "THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS BRIGHT." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals B

FNATLVPC ICYKPPFPF VY

46 South Amarican HCMDT LYXP VLP HNWMD 47 Crones aperture 50 Young fellow

Strauss skipper Flintoff, Harmison, Dimitri

FROM PAGE 17 Flower, the former Zimbabwe batsman, and Phil Neale,

backroom staff when the squad departs on January 21. "We have a backroom team with a proven track record," said Hugh Morris, the England cricket managing director.

England's team operations

manager, will lead the existing

"They will all work very closely with Andrew Strauss during this tour with the sole aim of securing success in the Test, ODI and T20 matches.' England squads for the

tour of the West Indies:

TEST SQUAD Andrew Strauss (captain), Tim Ambrose, James Anderson, Ian Bell, Stuart Broad, Paul Collingwood, Alastair Cook, Andrew Flintoff, Stephen Harmison, Monty Panesar, Kevin Pietersen, Matt Prior, Adil Rashid, Owais Shah, Ryan Sidebottom, Graeme Swann.

ONE-DAY SQUAD Strauss (captain), Anderson, Bell, Ravi Bopara, Broad,

Collingwood, Steven Davies,

Mascarenhas, Samit Patel, Pietersen, Prior, Shah, Sidebottom, Swann. TOURSCHEDULE Jan 25-27: St Kitts XI v England

Jan 29-31: West Indies A v England XI, Basseterre, St Kitts Feb 04-08: 1ST TEST Kingston, Jamaica Feb 13-17: 2ND TEST, North Sound, Antigua

XI, Basseterre, St Kitts

Feb 21-22; BCA President's XI v England XI, venue tbc Feb 26-Mar02: 3RD TEST Bridgetown, Barbados Mar 06-10: 4TH TEST, Port-of Spain, Trinidad Mar 14: WICB President's XI v

England XI, venue tbc Mar 15: ONLY T20, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad Mar 20: 1ST 0DI, Providence, Guyana Mar 22: 2ND ODI, Providence,

Guyana

Lucia

Mar 27: 3RD 0DI, Bridgetown, Barbados Mar 29: 4TH 0DI, Bridgetown, Barbados Apr 03: 5TH ODI, Gros Islet, St

"We've signed Alistair

"Ideally we want our best players playing but it's an

and hone his one-day skills.

the title last season. He was also part of the England side beaten in the 20million-dollar (12.4 million pound) Stanford Super Series Twenty20 match and played in all five matches of the abandoned one-day series in India

Cilic to meet Devvarman

World number 27 Marin Cilic

the 55th-ranked Granollers to set up Sunday's title clash against Indian wildcard Somdev Devvarman in a match worth 73,000 dollars Devvarman, 23, reached

World number 33 Schuettler said in a statement released by the organisers that he was not certain of playing in the season's first Grand Slam, the Australian Open, which starts in Melbourne on January 19.