

Guptill runs flow sweeps Kiwis past Bangladesh

Martin Guptill slams another century as New Zealand clinch series

AFP | Christchurch, New Zealand

Rejuvenated Martin Guptill wound back the clock with his second century in as many games as a clinical New Zealand clinched their one-day series against Bangladesh in Christchurch yesterday.

The long-serving opener, who had a disappointing recent series against India, rated his 118 as a more satisfying knock than the unbeaten 117 when he returned to form in the first match against Bangladesh.

"There was a lot of flow and rhythm in that one," he said after the Kiwis comfortably knocked off their 227-run target for the loss of two wickets and with 13.5 overs to spare.

"It felt like I got back to where I was a couple of years ago."

Guptill cut, drove and pulled the Bangladesh attack apart as New Zealand cruised to victory and went 2-0 up in the three-match series.

With the World Cup looming, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was pleased to see his side had taken lessons from the 4-1 drubbing inflicted by India.

"It was what we were wanting," he said.

"That was a really tough series and (the) guys got taught some harsh lessons and it's important you learn from those."

"Today and in the last game there were a couple of nice performances obviously led by Martin Guptill."

Against India's tight bowling, Guptill was restricted to a top score of 15.



Martin Guptill plays a shot

But against a less confining Bangladesh attack, he scored freely, with 14 fours and four sixes from the 88 deliveries he faced.

After rolling Bangladesh for 226, Guptill made a flying start in New Zealand's reply as they passed through 10 overs at 59 for one while Bangladesh were 32 for two at the same stage.

Mustafizur Rahman claimed the early wicket of Henry Nicholls for 14, leaving Kane Williamson to partner Guptill in a 143-run stand for the second wicket.

When Guptill went in similar fashion to Nicholls, caught on



Martin Guptill scored 118 runs off 88 balls

the boundary by Liton Das off Mustafizur Rahman in the 29th over, New Zealand were 188 for two.

Williamson and Ross Taylor then guided the home side to

the finish with Williamson not out 65 and Taylor on 21.

Slopping fielding

After Williamson won the toss and opted to bowl under cloudy skies, the Bangladesh top order again failed to fire.

They were in trouble at 93 for five after 21 overs before Mohammad Mithun and Sabbir Rahman provided some backbone for the innings, putting on 75 for the sixth wicket.

Mithun again played the anchor role, as he did with his hard-fought 62 in the first match.

In game two, he scored 57

Bangladesh	
T. Iqbal lbw Henry	5
L. Das c Ferguson b Boult	1
Sarkar c Taylor b Grandhomme	22
M. Rahim b Ferguson	24
M. Mithun b Astle	57
Mahmudullah b Astle	7
Rahman c Neesham Ferguson	43
M. Hasan c Nicholls b Neesham	16
M. Saifuddin b Ferguson	10
M. Mortaza c Boult b Neesham	13
Mustafizur Rahman not out	5
Extras: (lb 6, wd 17)	23
Total: (all out; 49.4 overs)	226
New Zealand	
M. Guptill c Das b Rahman	118
H. Nicholls c Das b Rahman	14
K. Williamson not out	65
R. Taylor not out	21
Extras: (b 1, wd 10)	11
Total: (for 2 wickets; 36.1 overs)	229

off 69 deliveries before he was bowled by Todd Astle, while Sabbir contributed 43 off 65.

New Zealand assisted the Bangladesh cause with 23 extras and some sloppy fielding while Rahman had fortune on his side when an edge off a Todd Astle delivery nicked the stumps but the bails stayed on.

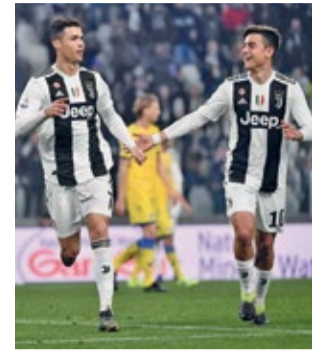
Colin de Grandhomme had an eventful first over that lasted 11 deliveries, included five wides and also produced the wicket of Soumya Sarkar who was caught by Ross Taylor for 22.

But Taylor dropped two catches in the following overs.

Ferguson finished as the most successful New Zealand bowler with three for 43.

The third and final ODI is in Dunedin next Wednesday, followed by three Test matches.

Juventus cruise before Atletico showdown



Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo (C) celebrates with Paulo Dybala after scoring

AFP | Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo set up Paulo Dybala to score early and added one himself with defender Leonardo Bonucci also on target as Juventus surged 14 points clear in Serie A on Friday with a 3-0 win over lowly Frosinone.

Coach Massimiliano Allegri was taking no chances, even against a side sitting second bottom of the table, ahead of next week's Champions League last 16, first-leg tie at Atletico Madrid.

Dybala returned to the front line alongside Ronaldo and Mario Mandzukic with key defenders Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini both back from injury.

"The team is growing in terms of fitness, it's a decisive moment for the season," said Allegri.

Juventus are building towards next week's game in Madrid and a top-of-the-table clash against Napoli in the San Paolo Stadium on March 3.

"We struggled a bit after the winter break but now we are ready to face this important moment of the season both in the championship and the Champions League," added Allegri.

Van Gerwen on top in Korean Cup



AGC Korean Cup winners with sponsor Kwang Bok Kim

TDI | Manama

The sixth outing of the Korean Cup, a competition with a distinctive flavour, was held at Awali Golf Club last Friday, 15th February, attracting nearly 100 players out onto the course.

Gerard Van Gerwen was most inspired, perhaps the weather conditions and lingering greenery reminding him of his Dutch home, achieving the winner's place on the podium with 40 Stableford points, chased by Rashid Al Haji (39) and Hamad Fares Al Qutami in third, losing on countback.

Captain Serwin Rampersad

took the helm as usual for the post-play formalities, starting with the award of a new initial handicap to recently joined member Chris Diciolla. He then advised that the sponsor, Kwang Bok Kim, had decided this was the last occasion of his sponsorship of the competition. However, this was quickly followed by the good news, as the competition would live on, sponsored by the Korean Society.

Prizes were presented by the Club Captain, assisted by Tournament Director Dave Loney and formalities ended with Kim and his wife Nam ringing

the bell.

Prize winners were as follows: 1st: Gerard Van Gerwen (40), 2nd: Rashid Al Haji (39), 3rd: Hamad Fares Al Qutami (39), 4th: Colin Drysdale (38), 5th: Abdulla Sultan Al Hakam (38), 6th: Abdulhadi Al Noaimi (38), 7th: Sun Kyu Kwak (38), 7th: James Shin (38), 9th: Rashid Musbah (38), 10th: Salah Al Shaer (37), Ali Al Kowari and Ali Musbah losing on countback. Also, side prizes were awarded to Sarah Hobday, Beth Robinson, Peter Rogers, Nasser Yacoub, Ebrahim Al Hashel and Abdulla Sultan Al Hakam.



Students compete during the Annual Sports Week of New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain. Notable events the races including 100mts, 200mts, 400mts, 800mts, relay, Shot-put, discuss throw, long jump, etc. Prize distribution was held at the conclusion of each event

Ahmed Akbar triumphs in BREEF showjumping

TDI | Manama

Ahmed Akbar was crowned as the champion of the Grand Prix event of Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) Showjumping Championship which was held at the Military

Sports Federation. The event took place under the patronage of Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, President of BREEF.

Akbar won the biggest prize of the day following an impressive run to the finish line, clocking in 51.09 seconds with four faults, leaving the second place

to Mayoof Al Rumaihi who was less than a second behind the winner, though with four faults too. Third place went to Saber Salman who made 16 faults.

In the fourth contest of the Championship which was for senior competitors, Fouad Al Rayyes won first, followed by Mayoof Al Rumaihi and Ahmed Isa Khalaf in second and third respectively.

Meanwhile, Mahdi Turani overcame fierce competition to win first in the fifth contest which was for senior competitors too, while Al Rumaihi won the third competition which was for amateur participants. The latter also dominated the junior competitions, winning both of them.



A participant in action during the showjumping championship