

Gilchrist to be sent home

MANCHESTER, England, July 4: Australia's reserve wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist is being sent home from England after sustaining a knee injury, a tour spokesman said today, reports Reuters.

It was not immediately clear whether a replacement would be sent for.

Gilchrist has had little chance to make an impression on the tour, playing only one innings. But he played on the previous tour of South Africa as a specialist batsman and there had been suggestions that he might be brought into the Test team in that role if Michael Bevan failed again.

Bevan made only seven runs in the third Test on Thursday and has scored a total of only 43 in four Test innings.

Rivals renew rivalry

Sports Reporter



Arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra will lock horns in the final Green Delta First Division league engagement at the National Hockey Stadium this afternoon. The match will start at 4 pm.

Although the game is of academic interest since defending champions Mohammedans have already wrapped up the title race, the traditional foes will be looking to settle honours even still.

Mohammedans, who have not lost a single match in the league since March 21, 1989, will try their best to extend their unbeaten run to 76 today. However, the Motijheel outfit's



NIXON



MAMUN

results this season against the sky blues have been poor. Their first loss came in the semifinals of the International Invitational Club Cup tournament followed by defeat in April's Karnafuli Garden City Club Cup final. So, the black and whites have everything to play for. Mahfuzul Alam Nixon, the successful Mohammedan skipper echoed the same. Talking about the match, the handsome central defender who has scored 15 goals in the league so far, said that nothing was sweeter than beating their perennial enemies.

"With the help of four Pakistani stars, we have already won the championship. Now let's see if they can do it again."

While Nixon was upbeat, his Abahani counterpart Mamunur-Rashid expressed his guarded optimism about the Dhaka derby.

"We are aware that we have not even got the runners-up trophy this time. It boils down to pride," said the Abahani skipper. Both teams will be at full strength. Mohammedans have their Pakistani foursome — Shahbaz Ahmed, Tahir Zaman, Kamran Ashraf and Waheed Shahid. Four Indian international stars — Dhanraj Pillay, Mukesh Kumar, Mohammad Riaz and Sabu Varkey will play for Abahani.

Strangely the electronic media will remain silent spectators.

The tickets will go on sale from 12 in the noon.

Meanwhile, four former national stick-wielders — Jamal Haider and Chapal Mahmud of Mohammedan Sporting Club and Jumman Lusai and Jamil Parvez Lulu, will formally retire from the game after today's match.

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five-point lead over Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha who have one match in hand.

On the other hand eight defeat for Sonali Bank which kept them at the 12th place with their previous collection of 11 points.

F'GANJ FINISH SEVENTH

Earlier in the day's first match, Indian player Tajinder Singh scored a hattrick to propel Farashganj Sporting Club to a 5-0 victory over Police Athletes Club.

Tajinder Singh, one of the four Farashganj's Indian recruits, scored three goals in a row to mark the 23rd hattrick of the league while his compatriot Gurpreet Singh and local player Wise added one each for the winners.

Farashganj finished in the seventh place having raised their tally to 26 points. The old-Dhaka outfit have also confirmed a berth in the inaugural eight-team Premier league next year.

On the other hand, it was the 15th successive defeat for the policemen who have already confirmed their relegation to Second Division next season having a zero to their name.

'JK' passes away

KINGSTON, Jamaica, July 4: Former West Indies and Jamaican batsman John Kenneth Constantine Holt, who once scored 166 runs in an innings against England, has died at the age of 73, reports Reuters.

"JK" had been suffering from cancer for the past three years. He died on Wednesday.

Holt, a stylish batsman, scored 1,066 runs in 17 Test matches against England, Australia, Pakistan and India. His top score of 166 came when he opened in the second Test against England in 1954 — and innings acknowledged as one of the finest seen at Kensington Oval in Barbados.

"He was such a wonderful cricketer in every respect," his former Jamaican and West Indies colleague Allan Rae said.

"He played the game extremely well and attractively and he was a great help to younger players when he was officially the coach in Jamaica."

DCC honours cricketers

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif accorded a reception to the ICC Trophy champions national cricket team at Nagar Bhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

The Mayor honoured the players and the coach Gordon Greenidge and president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, with a golden "Key of Dhaka."

Welcoming the players Hanif said, "I will be happy to see boys playing in the World Cup cricket, cricket is a game of glorious uncertainty. I wish you meet the challenges like brave soldiers."

BHF announce players' list

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday announced the list of the players who will participate in the exhibition hockey match between the foreign and local players tomorrow. According to the list, both teams will have 16 players and a manager.

The foreigners' eleven will be led by former Pakistani captain Shahbaz Ahmed. Nurul Amin will act as manager.

Mohammedan skipper Mahfuzul Alam will lead the local eleven which will be managed by Khaza Rahmat Ullah.

The game will start at 4 pm. The rates of tickets are — Taka 10 for general gallery while Taka 50 for VIP enclosures.

TEAMS

FOREIGNERS ELEVEN:

Shahbaz Ahmed (captain), Tahir Zaman, Kamran Ashraf, Waheed Shahid, Dhanraj Pillay, Mukesh Kumar, Mohammad Riaz, Sabu Varkey, Ahmed Alam, Mahfuzul Alam, Saqlain, Gulam Ghaus, Parvinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Iqbal Singh, Mandep Singh and Bir Parinder Singh.

LOCAL ELEVEN:

Mahfuzul Alam Nixon (captain), Javed, Shameed, Mamun, Isa Miah, Tutul Kumar, Khurshid, Rabuddin, Mahboob, Haroon, Ashiquzzaman, Mohammad Sadek, Kamal, Ramij, Musa Mian, Rubel and Khokon.



Bangladesh cricket captain Akram Khan receives the key to the city from Mayor Mohammad Hanif during a reception accorded to the ICC Trophy champion team at a hotel yesterday.

—Star photo

Bridge Notes

By An Expert

Hands from Bermuda Bowl

Score: PAKISTAN 111 1/2 USA 180

♦2
V108
♦AKQ 10852
♦642

Board: 72
Dir: West
Vul: None

♦Q 987
♦Q 964
♦6
♦K 97

N
W E S
♦AK 1063
♦K 75
♦974
♦108

NORTH EAST SOUTH
Masood Levin Zia
Pass 29 Pass
Pass 39 All Pass

Open Room
WEST
Sodolar 2♦
Pass 4♦
Pass 4♦

MEECKSTROTH Fazli Rodwell
39 Dbl 3 NT
Pass Dbl Pass
Redbl All Pass

With the American lead at 68 IMPs the match seemed to be winding down toward a comfortable conclusion for the ACBL representatives, but it seems that every recent World Championship produces at least one incredibly important swing hand that centers on the opening lead. If Pakistan was indeed looking for a giant opportunity to get back in the match, this was the deal. Meekstroth-Rodwell's hyperactivity put them in the spotlight once more. They found themselves in a position where they could close 20 IMPs if Munir could guess the killing lead.

Open Room

The auction terminated at the par spot and there was no real indication of the dramatic situation that was evolving in the Closed Room. Sodolar started with a light Fannery 2♦ (12-17 HCP, four spades/five hearts) and Levin judged well to content himself with 29 after Masood elected to stay out of the bidding for one round. When Masood balanced with 39, Levin was able to show his maximum value with a second heart "raise". Masood in turn felt he was worth another bid and it didn't seem that Zia could have enough strength to make 3 NT a payable contract (how would Zia know to pass 3 NT even if Masood bid it). Expecting to buy some useful bids and places, Masood put his faith in his long suit and tried 4♦.

The ♦A or heart lead would have set 49, but Levin had a virtually automatic trump lead on the auction. This gave Masood a chance to pitch a heart on the second high spade, and after drawing trumps he was able to ruff his third club. Just making. Score: PAKISTAN (N-S)+130

Closed Room

Over Munir's 19, Meekstroth opted for a "gambling" 39. This asked his partner to bid 3 NT if he could stop hearts. By inference then, Meekstroth was supposed to have at least one side stopper outside his solid suit. Dfbl doubled to show values and then doubled 3 NT for penalties when Rodwell was pleased to oblige Meekstroth. When this came back to Meekstroth, he knew he'd been naughty in the bidding. Still, it would be cowardly to run, and he did have a suitable alternative available: the "doubt-showing" redouble. Well, Rodwell too had his doubts but he had no way to know which minor Meekstroth had, and his three small diamonds might well be opposite Q-X-X or the like. Besides, Munir was going to have to guess the opening lead under great pressure, and Rodwell felt that the unbid major might well hold a certain charm for him

Score: USA (N-S)+750

Net Score: USA+620 (12 IMPs)

Score Carried Forward:

PAKISTAN 111 1/2
USA 182

Ajax earn 5th place

Sports Reporter



Ajax Sporting Club

secured the fifth place in the Green Delta First Division league with a comfortable 3-1 victory

over Sonali Bank in their last match at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 3-0.

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On the other hand eight defeat for Sonali Bank which kept them at the 12th place with their previous collection of 11 points.

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