

# Bangladesh face Thailand today

From Afzal H Khan

**SEOUL, May 17:** The Bangladesh under-23 football team plays its first game against Thailand here tomorrow in the first leg of pre-Olympic qualifying soccer. The match kicks off at 4:50 pm (BST 1:50 pm) at the huge Chamshil Olympic Stadium, ninety minutes' drive from downtown Seoul.

Bangladesh is placed in a five-team cluster that includes South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Philippines. The Koreans are obvious bets to qualify from the group for next year's Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.

Our team reached Seoul yesterday with a complete different weather greeting than the mercury was below 14 degrees Celsius (the temperature we face during our winter).

Our players got a feel of the venue when they had an hour's light practice this afternoon at

the magnificent Olympic stadium.

The booters are fit and healthy and the team's morale is high but the Korean food it a bit of worry.

Manager A H Helal and coach Abdul Haktm played coy about naming the first eleven. Both seemed concerned at the quality of all three goalkeepers in the party. But War's Bijon seems to be the best choice over Lahul and Mohsin in tomorrow's encounter.

The manager's meeting was held this evening at the Tower Hotel where all five teams are lodged.

Bangladesh will play their second match against host South Korea on May 20, third match against Malaysia on May 22 and the first leg's final match against the Philippines on May 24.

Probable XI: Bijon, Moon, Jewel, Barun, M Rana, Shabbir, Zakir, Rony, Munna, Naqubit and Mamoon.

# Bangladesh to take part in Kalinga Cup

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh under-23 pre-Olympic squad are expected to take part in the Kalinga Cup football tournament to be held at Orissa from June 10 to 16.

Earlier on Thursday a team from Bangladesh was invited by the Orissa State Football Association (OSFA). The Bangladesh team will be placed directly in semifinals.

The OSFA will bear the travelling cost and local hospitality.

Leading teams of India including Mohun Bagan, Calcutta, India Titanium, Kerala Police, Karnataka XI are expected to take in the Kalinga Cup.

# Milan will bid for Games 2000

MILAN, Italy, May 16: Milan will make a bid to host the 2000 Olympics, the Mayor of Italy's business capital said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"The request will be made officially as soon as possible by the city council," Paolo Pillitteri told a news conference in the northern city.

Other declared bids for the games have come from Beijing, Berlin, Manchester and Sydney. The International Olympic Committee will make its decision on the host city in Monte Carlo in September 1993.

# Olympic officials arrive in SA

JOHANNESBURG, May 17: Senior Olympic officials flew into South Africa on Wednesday to work out the best way to spend two million dollars on upgrading the country's sporting infrastructure, ailing after decades of isolation, reports Reuter.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) pledged the cash in March as part of its bid to steer South Africa back into the world sporting community.

IOC Director Francois Carrard told an airport news conference his delegation would hold talks with the Interim National Olympic Committee of South Africa (INOCOSA), entrusted with the task of forging non-racial unity in sport.

"We are here to work out the needs of the country. We want to outline a programme of assistance," Carrard said.

Carrard declined to outline how the cash would be spent, but said that further details may be announced at the end of the delegation's two-day visit.

The aid package was announced during a break-through IOC visit in March after which South Africa was promised re-admission to the Olympics if apartheid laws were scrapped and the country's rival sporting movements formed a single, non-racial entity.

INOCOSA, headed by veteran anti-apartheid lobbyist Sam Ramsay, was formed to achieve the unity goal.

Ramsay said on Wednesday he was pleased to welcome the IOC back and was optimistic that INOCOSA was making good progress.

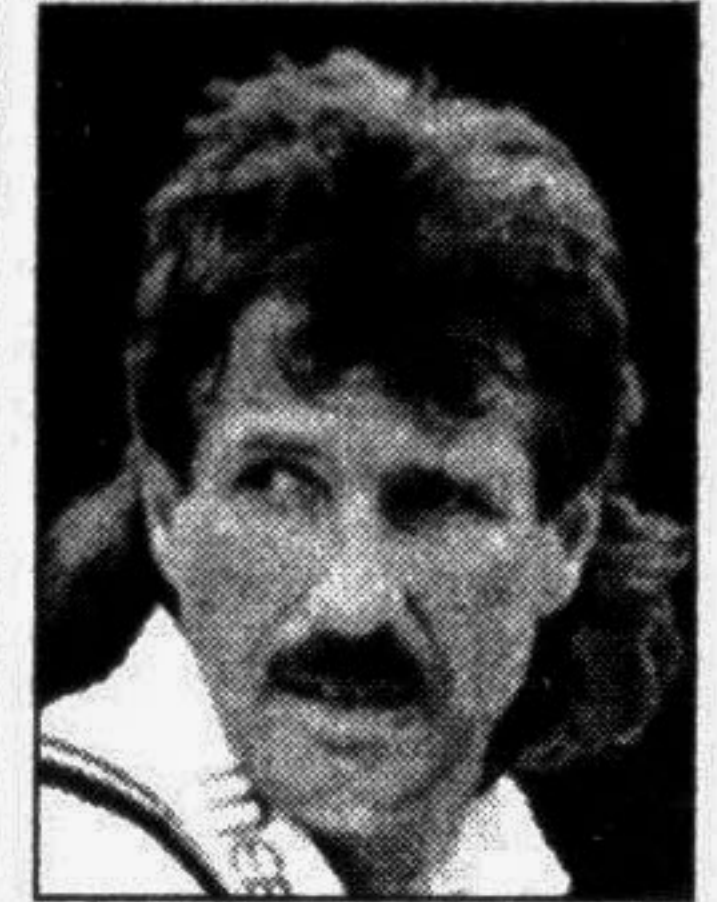
South Africa was expelled from the Olympic Movement in 1970 because of the government's apartheid policy and it last competed in the Games, with an all-white team, in Rome in 1960.

South African athletes are hoping that the IOC conditions for re-entry can be met in time for a Springbok team to compete in next year's Barcelona Olympics.

# England names team for one-dayers



LONDON, May 17: Zimbabwe-born batting prodigy Graeme Hick won his first call-up from England's cricket selectors, who also brought Ian Botham back to the international stage on Friday, reports Reuter.



IAN BOTHAM Hick, having qualified for his adopted country last month, was named in a squad of 13 for the forthcoming series

of three one-day limited overs matches against West Indies.

The Zimbabwean was chosen with Worcestershire teammate Botham, who is recalled after an absence of almost two years from the England team.

The one-day pace attack also surprisingly includes Derek Pringle, who has played spasmodically for England since 1982 without making a significant impact at either Test or limited overs level.

Hick, who celebrates his 25th birthday when the first of the games is played at Edgbaston, Birmingham, next Thursday, was a certain selection after his exploits over the last few seasons.

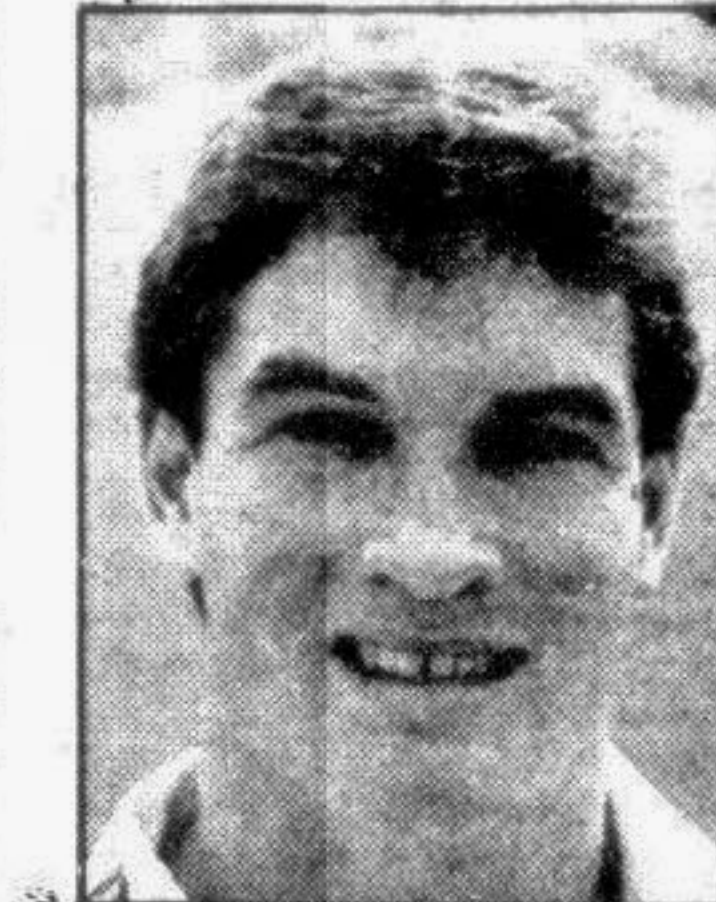
He underlined his immense potential by scoring consistently heavily for Worcestershire in county cricket during a seven-year period spent qualifying by residence for England. His native Zimbabwe do not play Test cricket.

Botham, now 35, last represented England in the fifth Test of the 1989 'home series

against Australia and was subsequently overlooked because of injury and moderate form.

However, a fine start to the 1991 season in which he struck a championship century against Lancashire and bowled effectively at brisk medium pace prompted his recall.

Botham is Test cricket's



GRAEME HICK Joint second highest wicket-taker with Indian Kapil Dev on 376 wickets and he has also hit 5,119 runs in his 97 Tests.

Also in an England one-day squad for the first time are Middlesex batsman Mark Ramprakash and Worcestershire left-arm spinner Richard Illingworth.

However, David Gower has been overlooked, while fellow England regulars Robin Smith and Angus Freaser have been given more time to recover from illness and injury.

Gloucestershire fast bowler David Lawrence, who has played one Test, makes his first appearance in England's limited overs squad. He is preferred to Devon Malcolm, who is likely to return for the five-Test series.

The second one-day match is at Old Trafford, Manchester, on May 25 and the third at Lord's on May 27.

Squad: Graham Gooch (captain), Michael Atherton, Ian Botham, Phillip DeFreitas, Neil Fairbrother, Graeme Hick, Richard Illingworth, Allan Lamb, David Lawrence, Chris Lewis, Derek Pringle, Mark Ramprakash, Jack Russell.

# Hick hauled off by bad weather

WORCESTER, England, May 17: The eagerly-awaited confrontation between England batting hope Graeme Hick and West Indies fast bowlers was cut short by bad weather on Thursday, but not before a few telling blows were struck, reports Reuter.

Three times the Zimbabwe-born batsman, now qualified for England, went to the crease after West Indies had declared at 409 for seven in

their match against Worcestershire.

Each time bad light and rain forced the players from the pitch and Hick faced only 29 balls as Worcester reached 36 for one before the bad weather forced an early close on the second-day of the three-day game.

But Hick's short, undefeated innings was still not lacking in drama.

His first ball from paceman Patrick Patterson was fairly

predictable, a delivery which rose off the pitch like a striking cobra towards Hick's heart but hit bat handle before squiring away to backward square-leg for a single.

Rain then interrupted and only six more balls were possible before the players were driven from the pitch a second time.

The third time they ventured forth, 22 more deliveries were bowled.

A bouncer from Patterson hit Hick on the shoulder, another from the equally lively Ian Allen was diverted past leg stump off the inside edge.

Then, after mainly defending on the back foot, Hick was at last able to go forward and earned a roar from the crowd for an off-drive for two.

Hick, widely expected to be named today in England's squad for the one-day internationals against West Indies beginning later this month, finished with four not out.

# Spurs bank on Gascoigne

LONDON, May 17: Clown, tragedian, rap signer, footballer. Or maybe, as the London review of books on the subject put it: "A tripartite monolith in the Mediterranean sun — a marvellous equivocal sight."

The Gazza publicity machine has rolled inexorably on this week as Paul Gascoigne and Tottenham Hotspur prepare for Saturday's F. A. Cup final against Nottingham Forest, reports Reuter.

The stakes for both Gascoigne and Tottenham could not be higher.

The most celebrated soccer player in England since Northern Ireland's flawed genius George Best carries an awesome responsibility on his broad shoulders.

If he produces the same breathtaking skill which saw Tottenham defeat Arsenal in the semifinals, the north London club are assured of European competition next season and some desperately needed hard cash.

But if Tottenham, staggering under the load of an estimated 18 million pounds sterling (31.4 million dollars) debt, fall to the talented young Forest side, Gascoigne will almost certainly be sold to an Italian club.

Gascoigne, the product of a working class background in the northern city of Newcastle, has generated acres of newspaper and amassed hundreds of thousands of pounds since his exploits at the World Cup in Italy last year.

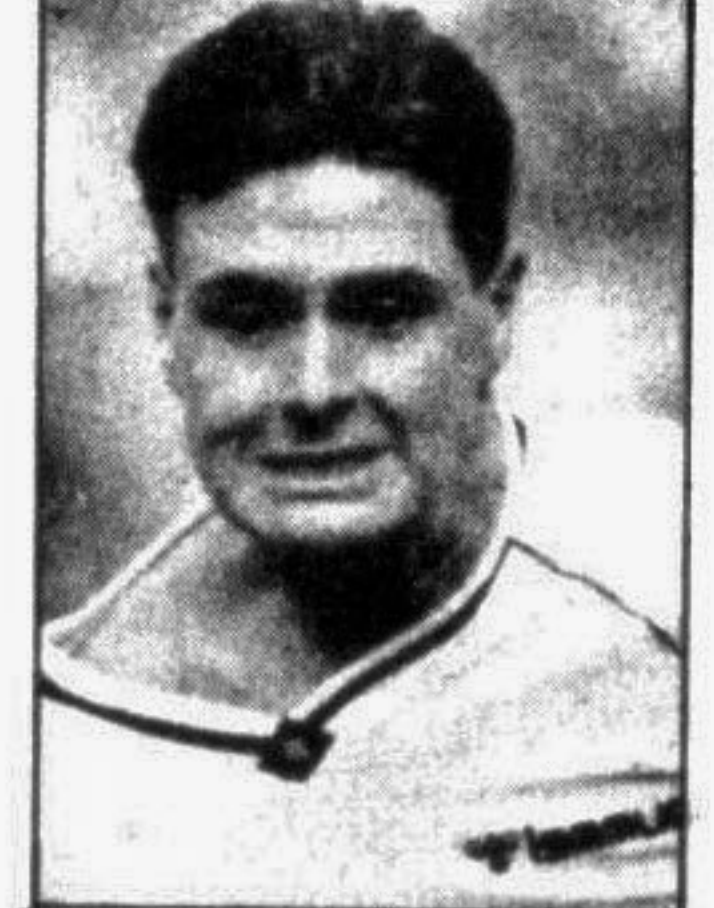
A compulsive showman on and off the pitch, he was memorably described by former England manager

Bobby Robson as being "As daft as a brush."

Robson, with his traditional English mistrust of the unorthodox told the burly midfielder that last year's friendly against Czechoslovakia was his last chance to ensure his place in the England squad.

Gascoigne, fired to almost frightening degree, responded by setting up three goals and scoring the fourth with a left-foot blast.

After a slow start in Italy



PAUL GASCOIGNE

England, with Gascoigne playing a leading part, began to play some of their most imaginative soccer for years, setting up a semifinal against West Germany.

It was in this game, lost by England on penalties, that Gascoigne made the leap from international footballer to national hero.

During an epic match, watched by England's biggest-ever television audience, Gascoigne cried no fewer than three times — once when he was booked for a foul which

would have ruled him out of the final, once before the penalty shoot-out and once at the end of the match.

The clown turned tragedian caught the imagination of British sports followers. Gazza-mani had arrived and a formidable one-man industry had begun.

"He has pop star status," his agent Len Lazarus told a British newspaper. "He's the first footballer that has a world superstar image like the heroes of individual sports — racing drivers, tennis players and so on."

During a burst of frenzied commercial activity Gascoigne has released an excruciating record which sank without trace, like most footballers' singing efforts.

A contract with a popular newspaper has proven more successful and the same paper further exploited his popularity by sending a Gascoigne look alike — dubbed a "Gazzalike" — to Rome.

The result, unabashedly billed as the biggest hoax of the century, was everything the originators could have hoped for with Bournemouth postman Mark Jones mobbed by autograph hunters and kissed by old ladies.

Rival British tabloids have been as busy, with the latest this week being a steamy story on Wednesday headlined "Gazza, a singalong and a blonde called Nicola."

The hype has all but obscured Gascoigne's huge natural talent.

Those who thought him overrated were silenced by two flashes of genius early in the F. A. Cup semifinal against Arsenal which pierced the

tightest defence in the English game.

The first was a 35-metre free kick struck with thunderous power which swerved past England goalkeeper David Seaman into the right hand corner of the net.

The second was an exchange with Paul Allan followed by a pass with the outside of his right foot which split the Arsenal defence and let England captain Gary Lineker in for the second Spurs goal.

The whole performance followed a recall to the Tottenham team barely a month after a double hernia operation.

Gascoigne is an unlikely looking athlete, heavily built to the point of overweight, with a severe haircut making him look like one of the later Roman emperors.

But he compensates for his lack of speed with a combination of strength, balance and determination which sees him ride the fiercest tackles and he can dip and swerve the ball through the air in the manner of the great Brazilians.

Most of all Gascoigne has a rare footballing brain, with the vision and imagination to pull off the audacious pass or to set off on a sudden solo run.

In these commercial days Gascoigne is unavailable for interviews unless he is paid a hefty sum of money and his frenetic round of off-field activity has barely slowed.

Saturday's match is one of the most eagerly-awaited finals ever between two teams committed to attacking football.

It is no exaggeration to say that Gascoigne's contribution could decide the destiny of the Cup.

# Bolger to the rescue

WELLINGTON, May 17: The New Zealand Government came to the rescue of its

section of the 1992 World Cup cricket tournament on Thursday by allowing sponsorship from a tobacco company, reports Reuter.

New Zealand bans sponsorship of sports events by tobacco firms but allows exemptions at the discretion of the Health Ministry.

The New Zealand part of the tournament, which is co-hosted by Australia, had looked to be in jeopardy earlier this week after arguments among politicians over the sponsorship laws.

But Prime Minister Jim Bolger said on Thursday: "Tobacco sponsorship will be permitted."

"I'm very relieved," New Zealand Cricket Chairman Peter McDermott said after Bolger's announcement. "The uncertainty is over and we can get on with it."

Bolger told a news conference if Parliament did not unanimously agree to allow the exemption he would introduce a special law.

Before Bolger's announcement, organisers of the tournament, which begins in February, had feared that they might be forced to switch all the matches to Australia.

# Foreman at microphone

LOS ANGELES, May 17: George Foreman returns to



GEORGE FOREMAN

boxing Saturday, but this time the former world heavyweight champion will be at ringside as a television boxing analyst, reports AP.

Foreman, who showed the world his comeback bid at age 42 was for real last month when he won 12 rounds with undisputed champion Evander Holyfield, has signed a four-year contract to work for the cable television network HBO.

Foreman's first assignment will be the rematch between Hector Macho Camacho and Greg Haugen in Reno, Nevada, on Saturday.

Despite his loss to Holyfield and his new job with HBO, Foreman has promised to continue boxing, hoping to gain a rematch with Holyfield, who appears ready to fight Mike Tyson as his next opponent.

# Kouros overtakes race favourites

CANBERRA, May 17: Defending champion Yiannis Kouros of Greece on Friday overtook the eight seeded runners in the Westfield Sydney-to-Melbourne — even though he is not officially competing, reports AP.

Kouros is making a solo run between the two Australian state capitals after being excluded from the 23-athlete event because of a dispute over appearance fees. He swept past the eight seeds within a day.

The first eight runners being used for the first time set off on the 1,028-kilometer (642 miles) on Wednesday morning.

Three further groups departed over the following 24 hours.

A total of 23 competitors, including three women, are chasing the 80,000 US dollars prize money. The overall winner and the handicap winner each will earn 23,400 US dollars.

Australian truck driver Robert Channels led the field at midday Friday after covering over 300 kilometers (188 miles).

Randi Bromka, a 39-year-old waitress from Aspen, Colorado, led the three women competitors after covering 260 kilometers (162.5 miles) off the maximum handicap. Bromka reported she was suffering from severe blisters on both feet.

Australian bereavement counsellor Maurice Taylor, meanwhile, is making himself feel at home by drinking tea served to him by his support crew — in a China cup on a saucer — on the run.

# SOCCER SCENARIO

## \$1.5 million deal for Zico

TOKYO, May 17: Brazilian Soccer star Zico is expected to sign a contract next week to play for a Japanese club, media reports said on Friday, reports Reuter.

"Contract negotiations are still underway and the contract money has not been fixed yet," said a spokesman for the club, Sumitomo Metal FC, which will play in the Second Division next season. But he said a news conference had already been arranged for Zico in Tokyo next Tuesday.

A Tokyo daily sports newspaper said the contract for the 38-year-old forward, who played for Brazil in the 1978, 1982 and 1986 World Cups, was worth an estimated 1.5 million dollars.

## Welcome boost for Forest

NOTTINGHAM, England, May 17: Nottingham Forest received a welcome boost before Saturday's FA Cup final when they were awarded the Professional Footballers' Association's fair play trophy on Thursday, reports AP.

Forest, who totalled only 45 disciplinary points this season, wrested the trophy from Liverpool, the holders since it was instituted three seasons ago.

PFA chairman Gordon Taylor said: "It reflects on Brian Clough's strict disciplinary code at Forest and also proves that good conduct on the field produces successful football that can take the honours."

## Yslavs shake off disappointment

BELGRADE, May 17: Yugoslavia shook off the disappointment of their recent defeat to Denmark to trounce the Faroe Islands 7-0 in a European Championship qualifier here on Thursday, reports AP.

The Yugoslavs, two ahead at half-time, ran riot in the second half with a brace of goals from Darko Pancev.

Ilija Najdoski and Robert Prosniecki struck in the first half and Pancev, Zoran Vultic, Zvonimir Boban and Davor Suker scored after the interval.

The win put them five points ahead of Denmark who have two games in hand.

## Wee hosts tea reception

SINGAPORE, May 17: President Wee Kim Wee Thursday hosted a tea reception for members of the Liverpool and Arsenal teams now in Singapore for a match today, reports AP.

Speaking at the reception, President Wee said Singaporeans were great fans of both the teams. The two English clubs play for the Calcutta Cup today.

Arsenal defeated South Korea's national team to win the Cup last year.

## Finland beat Malta

HELSINKI, May 17: Finland beat Malta 2-0 (halftime 0-0) in a European Soccer Championship Group Six qualifier on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Petri Jarvinen (51st minute), Jari Litmanen (88th).

# Prpic masters Muster

ROME, May 17: The Italian Open men's tennis tournament, already without all its star players through defeat or default, lost defending champion Thomas Muster on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The Austrian was beaten 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the third round by Yugoslavia's Goran Prpic after being a set and a service break up.

Muster, a hard-hitting clay court specialist, has yet to recover fully from a knee operation last March.

"The fact that I threw the match away shows I'm still not ready to play consistently," he said. "I need two or three more months to get it right."

# No cash involved: Ruddock's manager

NEW YORK, May 17: Donovan Ruddock's manager has denied claims the Canadian was paid to pull out of a rematch with Mike Tyson to allow "Iron Mike" a long-awaited world championship fight with Evander Holyfield, reports AP.

"He was not paid to step

aside so that Tyson could fight Holyfield," Murad Muhammad said on Thursday.

Muhammad was suspended for a year by the Nevada State Boxing Commission for an altercation following Ruddock's controversial fight with Tyson in March. Referee Richard Steele stopped the fight in the seventh round with Ruddock still on his feet.

With so many of the leading players out, Muster had emerged as a contender to repeat his triumph here last year.

Americans Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras have made early exits while Germany's Becker and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia withdrew through injury.

The unseeded Muster, ranked 34th in the world, started well against a sluggish Prpic.

But his stride was interrupted when Prpic switched tactics and started playing closer to the net midway through the second set.

In the final set he lost one service game on a double fault and another after missing an easy smash. Prpic, ranked 23 in the world but unseeded here, said he felt tired at first.

Prpic meets either sixth-seeded Jim Courier of the US or Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union, seeded 11, in the quarter-finals.

Ninth-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain was an easy third round winner once play finally started on Thursday after a three-hour delay for rain.

He overcame Wayne Ferreira of South Africa 6-2, 6-2 while Argentina's Horacio de La Pena beat Germany's Eric Jelen 7-6, 6-1. Jelen was the surprise victor over second-seeded Agassi on Tuesday.

"No cash involved, Donovan will not fight without his promoter," Muhammad explained.

Ruddock, due for a rematch with Tyson on June 28 in Las Vegas, was believed to have stepped aside for the promise of a fight with the winner.

Holyfield's camp have refused the opening bid by promoter Don King for what could be the richest purse fight.

# Lewis, Johnson to undergo drug testing

NEW DELHI, May 17: Sprinters Carl Lewis and Ben Johnson will be tested for banned substances before and after their 100 metres race on July 1, their first meeting since Johnson failed a dope test at the 1988 Olympics, Lewis's business manager said on Thursday, reports agencies.

"I have not seen the contract yet, and I do not know exactly what the procedures will be. But they (drug tests) will be in place," Lewis told the Houston Chronicle on Wednesday.

Lewis said he is confident the testing will be adequate.

"We will make sure of that," he said. "I don't think meet promoters want to deal with athletes who are on drugs."

"I never knew him well enough to have a real feeling for him," Lewis said.

The contract requests the athletes' respective federations to administer random drug tests to the athletes between May 15 and May 30. Lewis's manager, Joe Douglas, said in a telephone interview.

It also says both athletes

shall be tested after the race," Douglas said.

The July 1 race in Lille, France, will be the first in which Lewis and Johnson run against each other since the Olympic final in Seoul when Lewis won the gold medal and set a world record after his Canadian rival was stripped of the gold medal and a world record for testing positive for steroids.

In addition, Johnson was later suspended for two years.

Asked why the drug-testing clause was included, Douglas said: "I think it gives credibility to both athletes."

Both Lewis and Johnson have passed out-of-competition tests this year.

Lewis is scheduled to go on trial next week on a drunken driving charge. He was arrested on January 11 in Houston after police spotted his car at an intersection when it made a turn, struck a curb and blew out both right-side tires.

Lewis failed a sobriety test and was arrested. Another test at the police station showed Lewis' blood-alcohol content at 0.12. In Texas, the legal intoxication limit is 0.10.