

### Abahani stars shine in E Bengal's win

**Sports Reporter**  
East Bengal Club, bolstered by three star Bangladesh footballers, swamped BN Railway 4-0 in the Calcutta Super Division league match yesterday at the East Bengal ground, according to AIR monitored in Dhaka.

Abahani's prized striker Rumi justified his recruitment with a brilliant goal in the second half. The spawework of that goal was done by his Dhaka club mate Sheikh Mohammed Aslam.

Aslam was also instrumental behind skipper Bikash Panji's goal.

The other two goals were scored by Krishnendu Roy and Kuljit Singh. This was Kuljit's third goal in three successive games.

The other Bangladeshi star in East Bengal colours Munna, playing in the midfield, impressed the crowd and the commentators with his superb ball play.

This was East Bengal's fifth victory in as many matches. East Bengal recorded all of their four previous victories by solitary-goal margins.

### Army aquatics on

The annual aquatic meet of the Bangladesh Army began at the BKSP swimming pool in Savar yesterday, according to an ISPR press release.

Savar Area Commander Major General Mohammad Abdul Matin declared the meet open.

Nine teams are taking part in the week-long meet.

Heats of the 200-metre backstroke, 50-metre freestyle, 100-metre breaststroke and the 4x100-metre freestyle relay were held on the opening day.

### Lucky woman

PERTH, June 27: A 44-year-old Western Australian woman is set to make football history as the first female referee in a World Cup event, reports AFP.

Marilyn Learmont, of Perth, has been chosen by the Australian Soccer Referees' Association to officiate in the inaugural women's World Cup finals in China in November.

It will be the first time a woman has done duty in an international competition under the auspices of the world body, FIFA.

Mrs. Learmont, whose husband Alex is also a referee, has been in charge of games in Western Australia for the past 13 years.

She has handled matches up to premier league level in her home state.

### Sk Russell soccer final today

**Sports Reporter**  
Sabuj Sangha and Shapta Dinga Club will clash in today's final match of the Sheikh Russell memorial football tournament at the Mohakhali Government Colony ground.

The match will kick-off at 4 pm.

Ex-national star Ashrafuddin Chhunu will be the chief guest. Badal Roy, Yusuf, Tutul and other renowned footballers are expected to be present as special guests.

# Gaby gunning for Graf

**WIMBLEDON, England, June 27:** Gabriela Sabatini is gunning for Steffi Graf again.

With the two seeded to meet in the Wimbledon final, Sabatini is aiming for a sixth straight victory over the top-seeded German.

Sabatini has turned the tables in recent months after Graf had won 20 of their first 24 encounters.

"I improved because I had to improve, not because of her," Sabatini said after winning her first-round match at Wimbledon Wednesday.

"Now I am playing much better against her. I have improved my game very much, that's why I won so many matches against her", said the Argentine, who also beat Graf in the U.S. Open final last year.

"Now I am better at the net and I serve better. I thought I had my game, but I needed so much to improve my confidence."

Sabatini has beaten Graf five straight times, starting with a victory last November in the Virginia Slims Championships in New York City.

Graf opened at Wimbledon with a comfortable 6-2, 6-2 victory over Belgian Sabine Applemans on Tuesday, while rain delays forced Sabatini to wait until Wednesday for her first match against Britain's Monique Javer.

Twice the players came on Centre Court and twice they



**SABATINI**—going hot against Steffi Graf. Sabatini has beaten Graf five straight times, starting with a victory last November in the Virginia Slims Championships in New York City.

# Rain plays foul at Wimbledon

**LONDON, June 27:** The Wimbledon tennis championships lost their first two seeds on Wednesday when Andrei Cherkasov and Helena Sukova bowed out, reports Reuter.

But the real winner of the day was rain which washed out all but 18 of the day's 100 scheduled first-round matches.

After a blank day on Monday because of rain and long interruptions on Tuesday, the 105th championships are now well behind schedule.

Organisers announced they were bringing forward the start time for the rest of the week in the hope of catching up.

Defending champion Stefan Edberg, second and third seeds Boris Becker and Ivan Lendl and number five Andre Agassi were among the long list of players sent home in the early evening without striking a ball.

But the sun came out long enough to women's second seed Gabriela Sabatini, the reigning U.S. Open champion, to beat Britain's Monique Javer and ninth seed Jennifer Capriati to get past fellow American Shaun Stafford.

Cherkasov, the 12th seed, had already looked in serious trouble on Tuesday when American Richey Reneberg took a 6-4, 6-3, 4-3 lead before rain stopped play for the day.

Coming back after a further delay of six and a half hours on Wednesday, the Soviet player had little more to contribute.

Though he held for 4-4 he

walked off again as rain continued to disrupt Wimbledon.

The match started 6-1, 2-2 hours late and Sabatini won it 6-4, 6-0 in 65 minutes.

"I am happy that I played finally," she said. "It was very hard to wait the whole day, and I didn't know if I was going to play or not."

"I had a lot of patience. I think that is one of weather."

She needed more patience on court.

"I found that I was afraid to move because it was a little slippery. I had problems coming to the net," Sabatini said.

England new boy Graeme Hick, dismissed without scoring in the second Test against West Indies, missed out again. He was bowled for nought by hotel worker Alan Dean.

Lancashire, who beat Worcestershire in last year's final, cruised to a five-wicket win over minor county Dorset.

In-form Pakistani fast bowler Wasim Akram took three for 40 as Dorset were bowled out for 147.

Neil Fairbrother then hit 68 to guide the holders home.

### Handball refs to go to Italy

**Sports Reporter**  
Bangladesh's three international handball referees — Asghar Ali Khan, Mustafizur Rahman and Shahnewaz Iqbal — have been invited to conduct matches of the 19th Coppa Interamania handball championship scheduled for July 5 to 12 at Teramo, Italy.

The three Bangladeshi referees will leave for Italy on July 2.

### Radford, Akram reap rich haul

**LONDON, June 27:** Former England medium-pace bowler Neal Radford took seven for 19 as Worcestershire crushed minor county Bedfordshire by eight wickets in the first round of the Natwest Trophy on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Radford's bowling gave him the fifth-best analysis in the history of the 60-overs-a-side competition and helped skittle Bedfordshire for only 66 on a rain-affected Bedford pitch.

Worcestershire knocked off the runs in the evening gloom in just 12.5 overs with prolific Australian Tom Moody thumping 42 not out off 42 balls.

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### Windies hit back

**OXFORD, England, June 27:** West Indies, bowled out for just 242 by the Combined Universities on the first day of their two-day match here on Wednesday, hit back to have the students starting the follow-on by the close, reports AFP.

The tourists lost only one wicket before lunch, but afterwards they slumped from 101 for one to 118 for six in only 10 overs.

However, fast bowler Hamish Anthony, passed over in favour of Ian Allen for the second Test, proved a point with the bat, blasting a rapid unbeaten half-century, including four sixes.

When the Combined Universities batted, they were soon in trouble, collapsing to 36 for four against Allen, Anthony, Malcolm Marshall and Courtney Walsh.

A fifth-wicket stand of 40 between Rob Turner and David Pfaff stopped the rot, but Turner had to retire hurt for 19 and the students finished on 82 for five.

### Press blamed for Graf's decline

**HAMBURG, June 27:** Peter Graf said Wednesday his daughter Steffi would still be the world's top tennis player if she had not been distracted by lurid newspaper coverage of his extra-marital affair with a topless model, reports Reuter.

"Without this whole story, Steffi would still be number one in the world," Graf told

# Billie Jean's fine returns

**LONDON, June 26:** Former champion Billie Jean King entertained the fans at a rain-soaked Wimbledon on Wednesday and suggested that the Centre Court should be roofed over, reports Reuter.

Her remark raised the biggest cheer of the day.

As the English summer struck again and the rain lashed down for the third successive day, damp and disconsolate tennis fans huddled under umbrellas and around the champagne stalls.

In the Royal Box on Centre Court, overlooking the scene of her record 20 titles, the 47-year-old American was interviewed as the covers were hauled on and then off again.

The first question was inevitably about the weather.

Asked whether she thought the court should be roofed, King was in no doubt what the organisers' priority should be.

"I probably think it's a good idea because we really need to take care of the fans first," she declared firmly.

The depleted band of spectators, seemingly determined to stay in their seats regardless of the weather, gave her the sort of cheer worthy of some of her greatest exploits of old.

Some of them still remembered the glory days.

"Does anybody here remember Billie Jean in 1961?" the interviewer hopefully inquired, recalling the year she won her first Wimbledon doubles title. A few hands went up.

"See that? Isn't it amazing how they keep coming back?" he said.

"But there's only three of

them...". she retorted.

For younger fans who know only of modern-day millionaires such as Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, King gave a re-

"The first thing I always do when I get to England is to have a cup of tea," she declared. "It just doesn't taste the same anywhere else and I can afford it these days."

"I have to get a loan from the younger players, though."

Money was not a problem for long in her career — in 1971 she became the first female athlete to earn more than 100,000 dollars in a single season of competition.

Jimmy Connors, the angry old man of tennis, was mentioned as the conversation turned to old age and retirement.

"Do you ever think watching him, that maybe you gave up too early?" the interviewer ventured. King was taken aback.

"Too early? — Hey, I quit when I was 39. Jimmy still has a year to go", she said to another burst of applause.

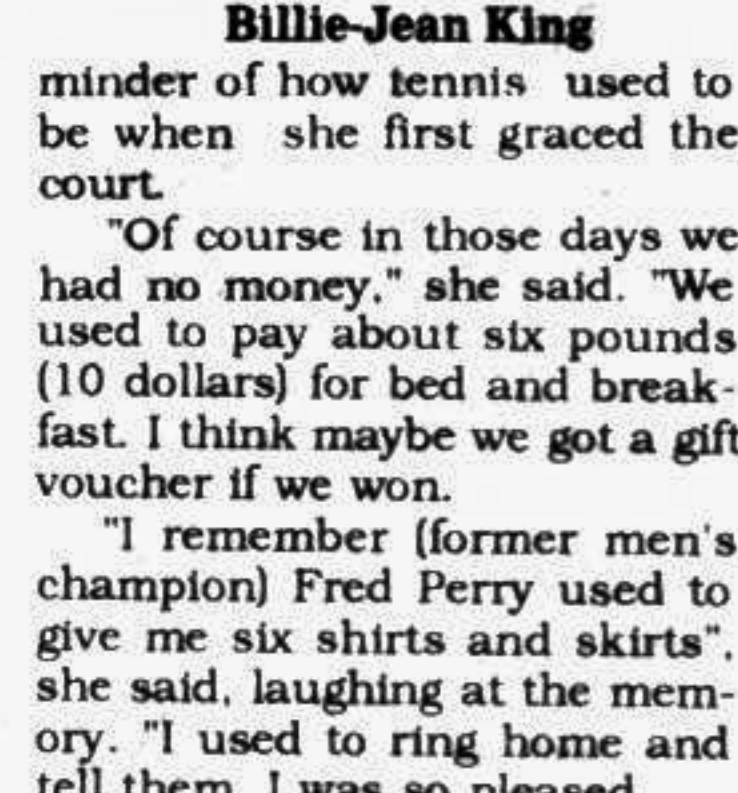
The only woman to win the US Open on four different surfaces, she won her last title here in 1979 in the women's doubles with Martina Navratilova — defending singles champion this year and a friend whom King now helps as a coach.

But Martina is not the main topic at Wimbledon at the moment — the role has been usurped so far by the steady drizzle.

King was not too concerned, however.

"I have not missed a year here in 30 years and I don't care whether it's raining or sunshine. It's always wonderful."

Amazingly, given the cost of tickets and the lack of tennis, some of the fans even seemed to agree with her.



**Billie Jean King** milder of how tennis used to be when she first graced the court.

# Tyson faces Ruddock tonight

**LAS VEGAS, June 27:** A very trim Mike Tyson answered critics who said bouts of partying have left him out of shape, while Donovan "Razor" Ruddock weighed a surprising 10 pounds (4.5 kg) more on Wednesday than he did when Tyson beat him last March, reports Reuter.

The thickly-muscled Tyson weighed 216 pounds (97.9 kg), and Ruddock came in at 238 pounds (107.9 kg), 10 pounds (4.5 kg) heavier for their rematch here on Friday night than he did three months ago against Tyson.

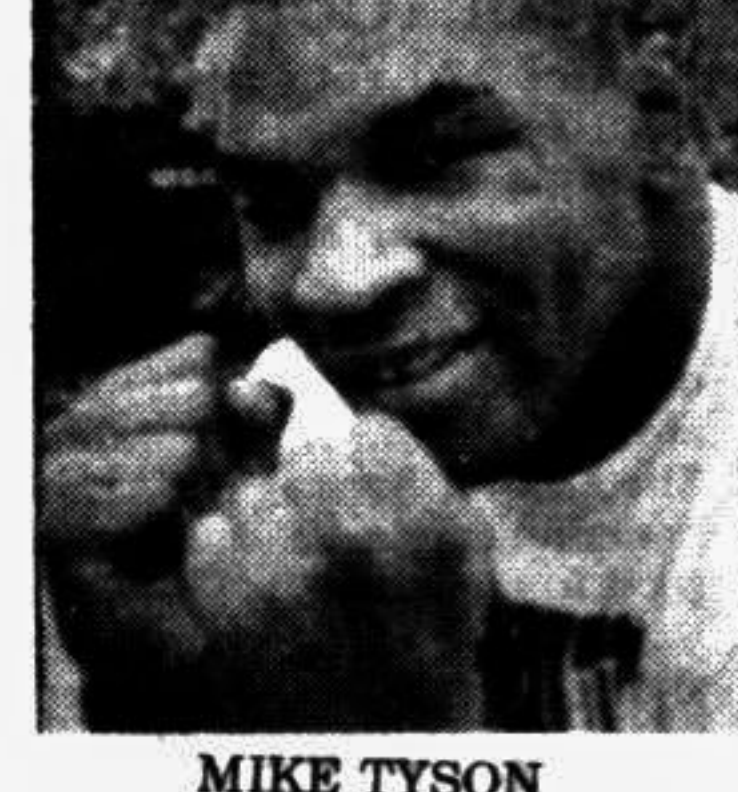
Recent press reports claiming Tyson had been drinking and partying while he was supposed to be training for the scheduled 12-round fight obviously have irritated the former undisputed heavy-weight champion.

Tyson, 25 on Sunday, gave the latest exhibition of his inabilities to control his impulses after he stepped off the scale following Ruddock's weigh-in.

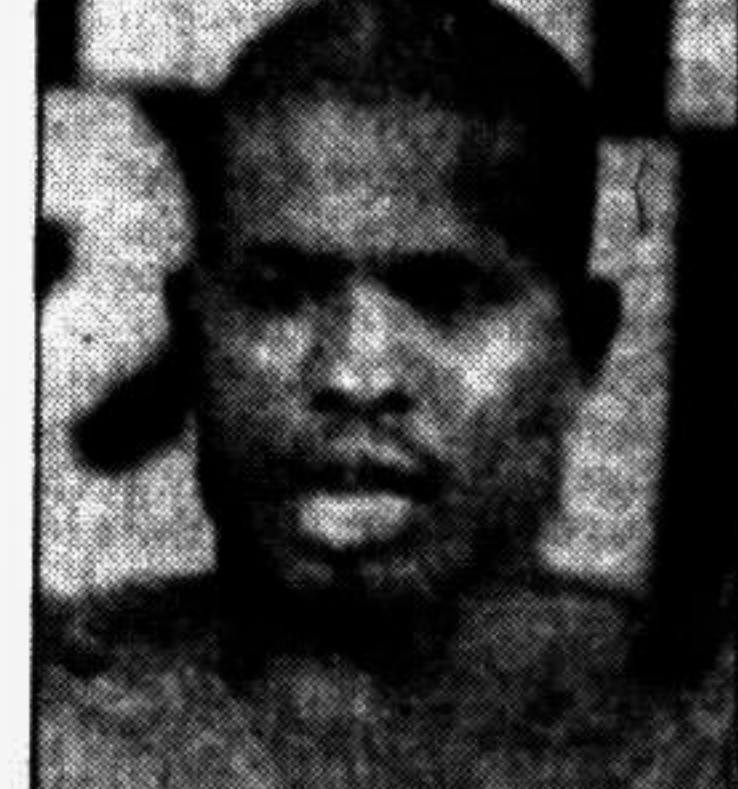
Wearing only a black bikini, Tyson put his tank top back on, walked in front of the scales on the crowded stage, grabbed his crotch and said sarcastically: "Yeah, I'm out of shape."

He made the gesture, which it appeared few of the audience of some 150 people noticed because of the crowd in front of the stage.

"He's an athlete and very proud of himself," Tyson's



**MIKE TYSON**



**DONOVAN RUDDOCK**

trainer, Richie Giachetti, said when asked about the crude gesture. "Anybody has feeling. He's a human being," said Giachetti, in response to whether Tyson had been reacting to the report that he was out of shape. "Everybody wants to write gossip."

"We told him that a rematch is just as important and you have to work harder," Giachetti said. "Sure he was happy (with his weight)."

### REAL SURPRISE

The real surprise of the morning was Ruddock's added weight.

Although it appears to be mostly muscle, it is curious why the Canadian would want to weigh more than he did last time when it did not seem that he lacked power, which the added weight figures to give him.

But the trade off is a possible reducing in speed. The last time Ruddock weighed this much was last August when he was very slow, despite knocking out Kimmuel Odom in Atlantic City.

Ruddock, 27, lost the last fight to Tyson when referee Richard Steele stopped it in the seventh round after Tyson had sent him reeling into the ropes. But Ruddock, now 25-2-1, appeared capable of continuing and the stoppage sparked a melee in the ring.

Ruddock said he has "been on a special diet and gaining natural weight. I think I came in a little bit too light for that fight (against Tyson)." Asked if he will fight differently this time, the Canadian said: "You've got to see a different Razor Ruddock. I don't want the same result."

Tyson, a 4-1/2 to 1 favourite to beat Ruddock, is the lightest since January 22, 1988 when he weighed 215-3/4 pounds (97.8 kg).

# Brazil to meet Portugal in final

**LISBON, June 27:** Portugal beat Australia by a solitary goal on Wednesday and meet Brazil in Sunday's final of the World Youth Soccer tournament, reports Reuter.

A stunning long-range shot by Rui Costa in the 44th minute was enough to give the defending champions the chance of repeating their win in Saudi Arabia two years ago when they won their first major soccer tournament.

Earlier Brazil, two times champions beat the Soviet Union 3-0 in the first semifinal clash in Guimarães.

A capacity 120,000 crowd, a record for a world youth championship game, saw the title-holders swarm into the attack from the start in Portuguese champions Benfica's new stadium.

The previous best attendance was 110,000 in Mexico when Brazil beat Argentina in the 1983 final.

Australia, rank outsiders when the tournament started and unbeaten in four earlier games, defended doggedly to beat off the waves of red-shirted attackers.

Portugal had only three clear scoring chances. Australia's goalkeeper Mark Bosnich rose to each occasion brilliantly, twice from the dangerous Gil and once from Luis Costa.

The goal when it came a minute before the break was stunning in its suddenness.

Rui Costa, lurking just outside the penalty area, saw a gap in the melee of defenders and blasted the ball just wide of Bosnich's groping fingers into the roof of the net.

A minute earlier Australia's David Seal, in his first foray into the Portuguese penalty area, failed to control an unruly ball and his shot was well wide.

Australia threw off their earlier defensive blanket and went on to the attack after the interval with several promising thrusts which panicked the Portuguese defence.

Midway through the second half Seal and Adam Poric forced Brassard to save spectacularly as Australia chased an equaliser.

With time running out for Australia and tempers fraying, play turned somewhat nasty. Seal and Portugal's Jorge Costa were booked for fouls in quick succession. Bradley Maloney having been shown the yellow card earlier.

Midfielder Marquinho opened the score in the 15th minute. His shot inside the penalty box crowned a series of short sharp passes involving

three Brazilians.

Four minutes later defender Emerson Castro put Brazil 2-0 up. He crept up to the Soviet defense unnoticed to collect a corner kick and strike home from close range.

The Soviet Union might have reduced the gap after 25 minutes, but striker Sergei Konovalev slipped with goalkeeper Roger Noronha already beaten.

Instead, Elber Souza put Brazil 3-0 up in the 33th minute. The striker shook off all defenders in a long run down the middle to collect a cross from his left and beat goalkeeper Alexander Pomazoun.

Two minutes before half time, Noronha saved well from a free-kick.

The other runners receive appearance money.

However, on June 18, in announcing the field for the meet, organizer Raymond Lorre said, "If Johnson does not do better than 10.17 over the next few meets, we may have to modify the contract."

Since returning to outdoor competition after a two-year suspension for steroid use, Johnson has run four 100 metres. He did 10.54, 10.69, 10.41. His latest and fastest race was June 23 in Finland. He has yet to win an outdoor race since returning.

With the race rapidly losing its lustre, the organizers are attempting to renegotiate the contract with a performance clause, according to the Italian



**STEFFI GRAF** the German news magazine Stern.

It was the first time he has spoken publicly about his affair with a topless model, who accused him of fathering her child.

Blood tests have concluded Peter Graf could not have been the father, but the story and its aftermath have been splashed across the front pages of Germany's tabloid newspapers for over a year, with plenty of pictures of the model wearing scanty underwear.

"A brief affair without much feeling. That was it," Graf said of his relationship with brunette Nicole Meissner.

After winning the Grand Slam in 1988 and three of the four Grand Slam tournaments in 1989, Graf suffered a sudden loss of form and lost the world number one ranking that she held longer than any other player.

Since winning the Australian Open in 1990, she has failed to win her last four Grand Slam tournaments. She won her opening match at Wimbledon on Tuesday.

"In training she is really playing the best tennis ever," Graf told Stern. "Her problem is competition, and she must have her head completely free."

# Johnson-Lewis race in doubt

**PARIS, June 27:** The Ben Johnson-Carl Lewis race scheduled for July 1 is uncertain because of a dispute over the contract, Italian sources close to Johnson said Wednesday, reports AP.

The 100-metre race at the BNP Grand Prix track meet in Villeneuve d'Ascq, near Lille, would be the first meeting between the two rivals since the 1988 Olympics.

Organizers of the meet, along with Canal Plus, a French pay-TV station signed Lewis and Johnson to a contract worth a reported 500,000 dollars.

Under the original terms of the contract, the winner would receive more than half the purse and the loser get the

rest. The other runners receive appearance money.

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# ACB s crammed programme

**SYDNEY, June 27:** Australia's cricket authorities have announced a crammed international programme for the 1991-92 season with a full Test tour by India, another visit from the West Indies and the World Cup early next year, reports Reuter.

World cup champions Australia will defend the one-day trophy against New Zealand, England, West Indies, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Zimbabwe, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said in a news release today.

But South Africa's inclusion, though unlikely, has not been ruled out with a decision on readmission to world cricket to be made at the International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting in London in July.

India would play a full five Tests in Australia for the first

time since 1977-78, according to ACB chief executive David Richards.

The West Indies will again play in the one-day World Series Cup Tournament against Australia and India as well as several tour matches, including first-class games against Western Australia and an Australian XI in Hobart.

The West Indies, who will be without master batsman Viv Richards for the first time in 16 years, also play one-day fixtures in Cairns, Bundaberg, Armidale, Lismore and a day-night match at Cararra on the Gold Coast.

India's last Australian tour was in 1985-86, but that season only three Tests were played.

The last time Australia and India battled at Test level was the famous tied Test at Madras in September 1986.

India is scheduled to arrive in Perth in Mid-November and will only have two first-class matches against Western Australia and New South Wales — before the first Test in Brisbane from November 29.

The one-day series starts in Perth on December 10 after the first Test against India but will break for the second and third Tests with the best-of-three finals scheduled to start on January 18.

After the fifth Test in Perth which starts on February 1, India will remain in Australia and play practice matches as a warm-up for the World Cup.

The West Indies will head home after the one-day series and then return for the World Cup.

The World Cup will open in Auckland and Perth on February 22 and run for a month until the final at Melbourne on March 26.

# Diego skips trial in Naples

**NAPLES, Italy, June 27:** Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona failed to appear on Wednesday at the start of his trial in Naples on drug charges and his lawyer said he had been kept away by ill-health, reports Reuter.

His lawyer handed judges a certificate from doctors in Buenos Aires that said Maradona, 30, was "in a state of stress".

But it added he was under-

going medical and psychological treatment and should be able to stand trial by the first half of October.

Maradona was questioned by an Italian public prosecutor on March 31 and flew home to Argentina on April 2, days before being banned from football for 15 months for using drugs.

Judge Ruggiero De Ruggiero postponed the start of the trial until July 2.

quest a further postponement" to allow Diego Maradona to finish the present phase of therapy and come to defend himself.

"This is also what Maradona wants and we hope the trial can be held in his presence", he told Reuters.

Two men, Felice Pizzo and Giuseppe Sgarato, who face the same drug charges as Maradona, appeared in court. Pizzo, in comments outside the courtroom, said the trial would expose as liars girls.