

League deferred again

Sports Reporter

This year's twin Senior Division football league, earlier scheduled to resume today, will not begin today according to a press release issued by the league committee yesterday.

Postponed from July 20 onwards due to the poor condition of the Dhaka Stadium, the venue for the two league matches a day because of torrential monsoon showers, the league was scheduled for a restart today. But with rain-drops falling everywhere with unabated zeal authorities yesterday decided to wait for another three days.

Regency Club win CJKP Div II title

CHITTAGONG, July 23: Regency Club emerged champions of the CJKP Second Division football league beating Friends 4-1 in tie-breaker in the final encounter at the local stadium this afternoon, reports BNA.

The match ended one-all in the stipulated time.

Bashir bids 'bye

Sports Reporter

Bashir Ahmed, one of the few Bengali hockey players who really made his mark in the erstwhile East Pakistan, has announced his retirement as a hockey umpire.

The brilliant inside forward of the sixties, now playing the dual role of a banker and the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, informed the hockey federation of his decision yesterday.

The handsome BOA official, now embarking on a new career of an administrator as the football of the sixth SAF Games gets clearer and clearer, began his career as a first class hockey umpire way back in 1965. Having proved his worth as a competent supervisor in



Australian opening batsman Michael Slater prepares to face a Martin McCague (not in the picture) delivery during the first day of the fourth Ashes Test in Headingley, Leeds on Thursday. Slater played confidently to notch up a fine 67. — Star TV photo by T A Khan

Border, Waugh hit centuries as

Aussies take reins at Leeds



LEEDS, England, July 23: Allan Border and Steve Waugh squeezed the Ashes life out of England today as Australia achieved total batting domination in the fourth Test at Headingley, reports Reuter.

Left-hander Border scored an unbeaten 175 and Waugh hit 144 not out to lift Australia to 613 for four at the end of the second day, leaving England requiring a miracle to secure the win needed to stop the touring team retaining the Ashes.

Border and Waugh established the second-highest fifth-wicket partnership in Australian Test history, their unbroken stand worth 292 by the time a weary England team trooped off the field.

England, 2-0 down in the six-Test series, again paid the penalty for selecting an all-seam attack on a pitch markedly different in character from the traditional Headingley seamer's paradise.

Their lack of variety was exposed for the second consecutive day, only one wicket falling in three sessions.

David Boon, a century maker on the first day, was trapped lbw by Mark Ilett for 107 early on, but his colleagues quickly ensured his departure was a mere blip on the score-sheet.

Border's century was his 26th in Test matches and the 66th of his first-class career, a clear reminder the 37-year-old world record run-scorer is still hungry for more.

Waugh, who set the tone for the 1989 Ashes series with an

unbeaten 177 on the same ground, also showed no mercy as Australia rattled up the highest score conceded by England at Leeds.

The previous highest total was 601 for seven declared in that same 1989 Test, but Australia were still just short of the 632 for four declared they piled up at Lord's in the second Test last month.

England captain Graham Gooch, who will not remember his 40th birthday with much affection, was left to reflect that his side's brighter performance in the drawn third Test at Nottingham was a false dawn.

All four main seam bowlers conceded a century of runs and spearhead Martin McCague eventually left the field with a back strain.

England did not always enjoy the best of fortune, but only one clear chance came their way. Waugh, already with a century to his name, flashed at occasional bowler Graham Thorpe but Mike Atherton at slip could not cling on to a chest-high catch.

The home side had feared a depressing day when Australia resumed on 307 for three, but were given an unexpected boost when Boon departed.

The stocky Tasmanian had added only five to his overnight score when he missed an attempted flick through the leg-side and was trapped right in front. He batted for 315 minutes and hit 17 fours.

It was Ilett's third wicket of the innings, but the left-arm's joy was short-lived. Border and Waugh took the score to 393 for four at lunch and added another 99 in a shortened after-

noon session before rain forced an early tea.

The final session was, if anything, more one-sided as Border and Waugh began to chase one of Australia's most impregnable records.

They are now within 113 of the highest fifth-wicket stand in Test history, a stand of 405 between Don Bradman and Sid Barnes against England in Sydney in 1946/47.

By the close, Border was within 25 of his first double century in England, having batted for eight and a half hours and struck 24 fours.

Waugh, who had to hold off the powerful claims of Damien Martyn for a place in the Australian middle order, had found the boundary 18 times from 262 balls faced.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of the second day of the third cricket Test between England and Australia at Headingley:

AUSTRALIA: First innings				
Slater b Ilett				67
Taylor lbw b Bicknell				27
Border lbw b Ilett				107
M Waugh b Ilett				52
Border not out				175
S Waugh not out				144
Extras: (b 8, lb 21, w 4, nb 8)				41
Total: (for four wickets)				613
Fall of wickets: 1-86; 2-110; 3-216; 4-321.				
Still to bat: Healy, Reiffel, Hughes, Warne, May				
Bowling:				
McCague	28	2	115	0
Ilett	45	9	145	3
Caddick	41	6	135	0
Bicknell	44	8	135	1
Gooch	16	5	40	0
Thorpe	6	1	14	0

Court orders Bernes' release



DOUAL, France, July 23: An appeal court ordered the release of Marseille Secretary General Jean-Pierre Bernes on Thursday, a day after he denied involvement in a soccer bribery scandal during a five-hour confrontation with his accusers, reports Reuter.

A jubilant Bernes, looking exhausted but defiant, punched the air in triumph and flashed "V" for victory signs as he left the courthouse before flying home to Marseille in a private plane.

"I feel very weak and I only have one wish, to get back to my family and the people of Marseille as quickly as possible," he told reporters on leaving prison in Lille and pleaded for journalists to respect his privacy.

Bernes's Lawyer Jean-Louis Pelletier said: "He is a broken man but he feels immense relief."

Marseille chairman Bernard Tapie said he was delighted at the release of his right-hand man, accused of having instigated the attempt to bribe Valenciennes players to lose a key league match in May, five days before Marseille won the European Cup.

Pelletier said Bernes broke down and wept on learning of his release at the courthouse and had to have medical treatment.

In custody since July 6 under investigation for corruption, he was freed on condition that he does not leave the country or

contact any of the other suspects and witnesses in the case. Bernes maintained his denial throughout a long confrontation on Wednesday with Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelite, who says Bernes told him to hand over a 250,000 franc (44,000 dollar) bribe, and three Valenciennes players who named him as the contact man who offered them the money.

The prosecutor in charge of the case, Eric de Montgolfier, said in a statement the show-down had taken the probe no further.

"The statements taken by the investigating magistrate do not show significant progress in the case, but it would be wrong to conclude that there has been a setback," he said.

He noted that Eydelite had confirmed in Bernes's presence his allegation that the Marseille official told him to hand over a bribe to Valenciennes players to fix a key May 20 league match. The prosecutor said Bernes

had reaffirmed forcefully his version of events, which was that then-Valenciennes trainer Boro Primmorac had approached Marseille to get a result that did not damage his club's hopes of avoiding relegation.

In the event, Marseille won the match 1-0 and Valenciennes were relegated to the Second Division.

"After the spectacular phase of the case, it is now up to the judge to put together and analyse not only the statements taken by the investigators but above all the evidence, not all of which has yet been exploited," De Montgolfier said.

"At this stage of the procedure it must be recalled that the truth does not necessarily reside in a confession, no matter where it comes from."

Justice sources said De Montgolfier was going on holiday and the investigation was likely to continue for several more weeks.

Lankans take no chance

COLOMBO, July 23: Sri Lanka have picked their regular limited overs side for the first of three one-day internationals against India at the Khetarama Stadium here Sunday, reports AFP.

Sri Lanka have replaced their top off-break bowlers, Jayananda Warnawera and Muttiah Muralidharan, with all-rounders Sanath Jayasuriya and Ruwan Kalpage for the one-day match.

Fast bowler Dulip Liyanage will also make way for nippy medium pacer Praodya Wickramasinghe.

Warnawera, Muralidharan and Liyanage were in the team that figured in the rain-affected first Test that was abandoned as a draw in central Kandy on Thursday.

Despite the absence of Warnawera and Muralidharan, Sri Lanka can depend on Jayasuriya, a useful left-arm spinner, and Kalpage, an off-break bowler who has performed well in one-day cricket.

Sri Lanka have also retained the 15-man first Test squad for the second Test which begins at the Sinhalese Sports Club grounds here on July 27.

The one-day team:
A Ranatunga (capt), R S Mahanama, UC Hathurusinghe, A P Gurusingha, P A de Silva, H P Tillekeratne, S T Jayasuriya, A de Silva, R S Kalpage, C P Ramanayake, P Wickramasinghe, 12th man: M Muralidharan.

2nd Test Squad:
A Ranatunga (cap), R S Mahanama, UC Hathurusinghe, A P Gurusingha, P A de Silva, H P Tillekeratne, S T Jayasuriya, K P J Warnawera, C P Ramanayake, D Liyanage, P Wijetunga, M Muralidharan, R S Kalpage.

Mushtaq leaves Kent in a fix

LONDON, July 23: Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed grabbed four wickets as Somerset ripped out Kent for a meagre 144 on the opening day of the four-day county championship match at Taunton on Thursday, reports Reuter.

But the day ended even as Kent struck back, reducing Somerset to 138 for eight by the close with only an unbeaten 72 from Richard Harden bringing them close to a first innings lead.

Kent lost their first three wickets with only eight runs on the board before a controlled 56 by Nigel Long and robust 30 from Matthew Fleming revived them.

Mushtaq ended with figures of four for 55.

Somerset were in similar trouble when they began their innings falling to 35 for five before a sixth-wicket stand of 78 between Harden and Graham Rose (36) enabled them to recover.

An early finish also looked in store at Derby as 19 wickets tumbled in the match between Derbyshire and Sussex.

Sussex shot Derbyshire out for 183 on a pitch giving the seamers help, with only skipper Kim Barnett showing any determined defiance as he carried his bat for 73.

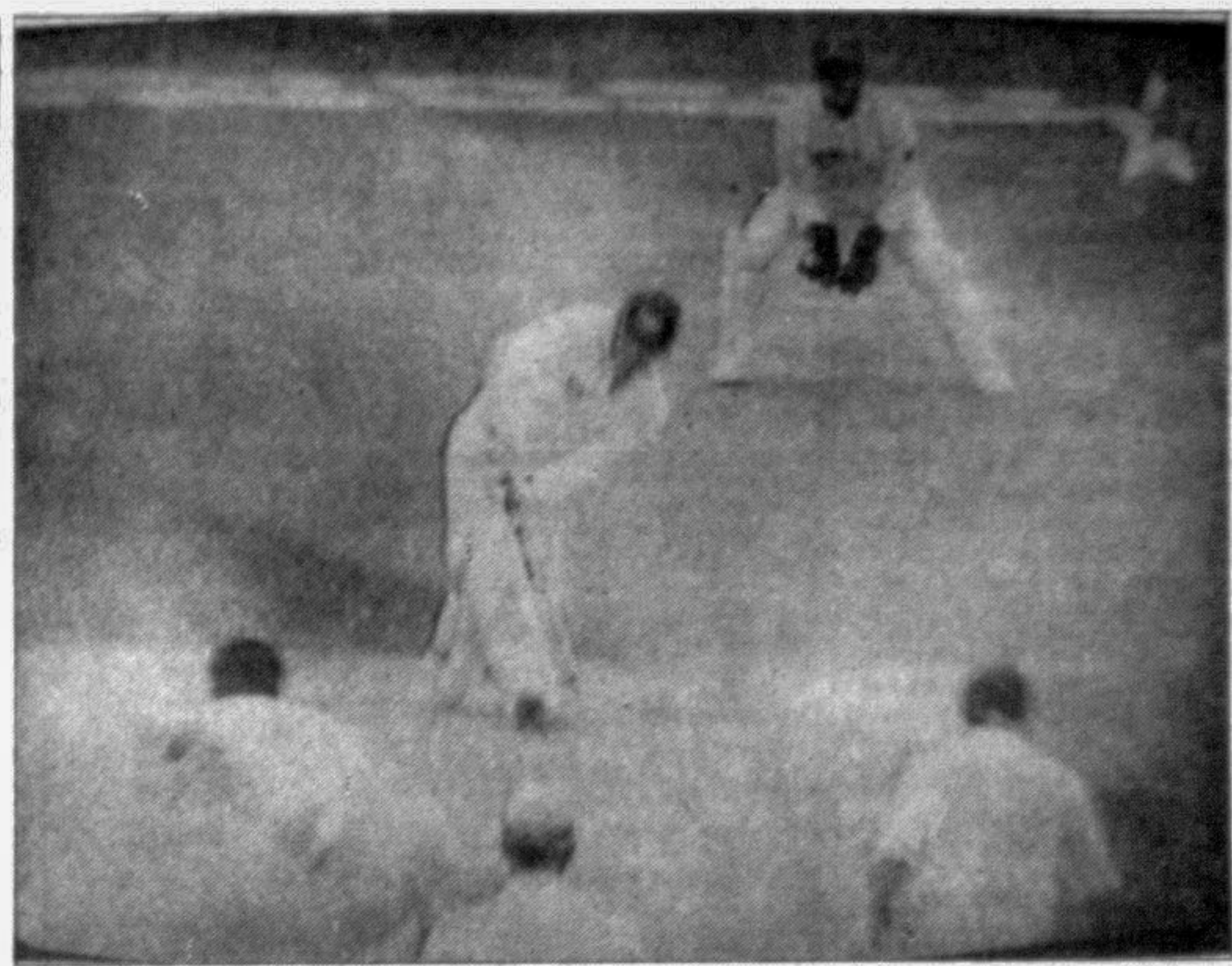
Derby's bowlers took revenge as the visitors stumbled to 187 for nine with Simon Base capturing five for 58.

Championship leaders Middlesex found Hampshire's ninth wicket pair Cardigan Connor (27) and Martin Thursfield (32) in stubborn mood at Lord's.

Mike Gatting's side were looking to begin their innings after reducing the visitors to 216 for eight, but the tallenders defied the home attack to end on 275 for eight.

Earlier, England reject David Gower dominated the attack, hitting 12 boundaries in 91 before falling to medium-pace Angus Fraser.

Worcestershire lost their last five wickets for 34 runs in slipping to 267 all out against Glamorgan at New Road. Damien D'Oliveira top-scored with 73 while young paceman Darren Thomas grabbed four for 84.



Vice captain Mark Taylor plays across the line to a Martin Bicknell in-sweeper during Australia's first innings of the fourth Ashes Test in Headingley. But the ball hit Taylor on the pad and he was given leg before for 27. — Star TV photo

Mexican juggernaut rolls on



MEXICO CITY, July 23: Mexico trounced Jamaica 6-1 in the semi-finals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Thursday to set up a tantalising showdown with the US national team in Sunday's final, reports Reuter.

Cheered on by a near-capacity crowd of more than 90,000 in the mighty Azteca Stadium, Mexico ran rings around their hapless visitors and were clearly out to repeat last week's 9-0 drubbing of Martinique and 8-0 slaughter of Canada.

Luis Miguel Salvador opened the floodgates in the ninth minute, banging home an awkward ball from close range by the right-hand post with the Jamaican defence split hopelessly open.

Octavio Mora made it two in

the 14th minute, combining neatly with Salvador on the edge of the goal area to slide the ball in from an acute angle.

Hector Wright pulled one back for Jamaica during a counter-attack in the 17th minute, powering through the Mexican defence to blast past keeper Jorge Campos from the edge of the penalty area.

But Salvador struck back twice within 20 minutes, heading in from close range in the 18th and snaffling a poor clearance by Barrington Gaynor in the 35th to complete his hat-trick.

He could have had four but telegraphed a weak, mis-hit penalty kick to the Jamaican keeper's left in the 43rd minute that Warren Barret had little difficulty saving.

Luis Roberto Alves, who bagged a record seven goals in the 9-0 demolition of

Martinique, showed Salvador how it is done with a well-placed penalty kick in the 50th minute that made it 5-1.

Six minutes later Ignacio Ambriz connected with a headed cross from the far post by Salvador to complete the rout.

Mexico, in festive mood, then brought on substitute goalkeeper Alejandro Garcia to allow eccentric number one keeper Campos to play as a forward for the rest of the match.

Campos kept the crowd amused with a series of runs up the right wing, and even hit the post with 10 minutes to go, but was not able to do any more damage to a ragged visiting side.

Mexico now face the United States in Sunday's final in the Arica, while Costa Rica and Jamaica will play for third and fourth place.

Lewis-Bruno bout on Oct 1



LONDON, July 23: The biggest and richest fight that Britain has ever staged is about to become a reality, reports AP.

Barring any last-minute hitches, Lennox Lewis will defend his WBC heavyweight title against fellow Briton Frank Bruno on Oct 1 at Cardiff Arms Park in Wales.

Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, confirmed details of the fight — dubbed, "history in the making" — at a news conference Thursday. Bruno's promoter, Mickey Duff, did not attend, saying he had his fighter well still studying the contract.

All sides, however, indicated the deal was virtually complete.

"There's nothing really substantial to be ironed out," said Dan Duva, Lewis's American promoter. "Mickey Duff just has to get together with Frank Bruno and his accountant to go over the fine points. This time, there is definitely going to be a fight."

Maloney said the bout will start at 1 am (0000 GMT) and be shown live in the United States on HBO, the first of a three-fight deal with the American cable network. It will also be broadcast live in Britain on Sky TV and aired throughout Europe and many other countries, he said.

Maloney projected the fight will generate 8-9 million pounds (£13.5 million) in revenue — including 3.5 million from US TV rights, 3 million from European rights and the same million dollars from the gate.

Maloney said the fight will be a "pay-per-view" event, the purse will be a British

record of 12 million to 13.5 million in revenue — including 3.5 million from US TV rights, 3 million from European rights and the same million dollars from the gate.

The fight has been on-again, off-again for months. It was called off only a few weeks ago in a dispute over how the purse would be split.

But both sides returned to the table after Lewis's scheduled defence against Tommy Morrison this fall was put off until next year. Duva said Morrison is now committed to meet the winner of the Lewis-Bruno fight in Las Vegas in March.

Both Lewis and Bruno have also been involved in talks with IBF and WBA champion Riddick Bowe. But Lewis vs Bruno has always been the most realistic fight.

While lacking in international appeal, it is the fight that British boxing fans have been longing for.

Lewis is the first British fighter of the century to hold a world heavyweight title, while Bruno is probably the most popular sports figure in the country.

"Two British heavyweights fighting for the world title will be making boxing history and men will want to take their children, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren to see it," Maloney said.

According to published reports, the purse will be a British

record of 12 million to 13.5 million in revenue — including 3.5 million from US TV rights, 3 million from European rights and the same million dollars from the gate.

Maloney said the venue was the main stumbling block, with the Bruno camp favoring Wembley Stadium but Lewis opting for Cardiff Arms Park. The Cardiff venue is the home of Welsh rugby and is also used by the Wales national soccer team.

Maloney said he hoped for a turnout of 40,000 fans, while Duff told him that 15,000 was more realistic.

Lennox said to me, "I've had all my fights in London, let's give this one to the people," Maloney said. "We felt we will probably get a better atmosphere in Cardiff. The facilities are some of the best I've seen and the stadium is one of the best in Britain."

Bruno said, "Frank Maloney thinks that by staging it in Wales, he will take the support of my fans away. But I have just as many supporters in Wales."

Lewis, 23-0, was awarded the WBC title last year after Bowe was stripped for failing to make his first defense against the British fighter. In his first defense, Lewis outpointed Tony Tucker in Las Vegas in May.

Bruno, 36-3, lost world title challenges to Tim Witherspoon in 1986 and Mike Tyson in 1989. In his most recent fight, he stopped Carl "The Truth" Williams in Birmingham in April.

Hungary hungry for more gold



BUDAPEST, July 23: Hungary's world-beating swimmers, deserted by their financial mentor after the Barcelona Olympics, have weathered a succession of crises and are looking forward to a golden spree at the forthcoming European Championships, reports Reuter.

The supreme Olympic exploits of Krisztina Egerszegi and Tamas Darnyi were fresh in the memory when Gyorgy Zemplenyi, who organised the team's cash backing, disappeared. Police say they want to question him in connection with 7.5 million dollars debts.

Flamboyant entrepreneur Zemplenyi, brought in after state funding of sport was cut by half, had promoted a privileged elite team, raising money to enable them to travel widely abroad for training camps in the sun and sponsorship to fund competition.

Norbert Rozsa, a protege Zemplenyi sued to describe as his step-son, was an out-standing product of the select squad, bursting on to the international scene in 1991 by winning the 100 metres breaststroke at the World Championships in Perth.

Installed as president of the Hungarian Swimming Federation (MUSZ) before last year's Barcelona Olympics,

Zemplenyi could bank in the achievements of his team.

Egerszegi, an Olympic champion at 14 at the 1988 Seoul Games, scooped three more golds, Darnyi retained his 200 and 400 metres individual medley crowns and Rozsa collected two silvers.

But Zemplenyi did not re; turn to Hungary after the Games and police are pursuing him to answer allegations that his business transactions had been mainly based on fraud.

Many creditors demanded their money from the MUSZ, although the federation itself said it was just one more victim and had no liquid assets.

More trouble was round the corner.

While the nation's leading swimmers were preparing in the Australian sunshine last December with experienced coaches Tamas Szechy and Laszlo Kiss, an opposition group back home attempted to form a rival federation.

The two groups battled for months for the support of Darnyi, Egerszegi and other top swimmers but shelved their differences in May when they agreed to a proposal by journalist and entrepreneur Tamas Oyarlas, deputy secretary general of the International Sports Press Association, that he become president of a reunified MUSZ.

"Since May we have managed to repay our outstanding debts, including our staff's wages," MUSZ general secretary Jozsef Ruzsa told Reuters.

"In the past two months we have persuaded companies to sponsor our federation again, so we were able to create a solid financial background for the sport. By early next year we want to be the richest sports federation in the country."

The swimmers appear to have weathered the upheavals as they prepare for the European Championship, beginning in Sheffield, England, next Thursday.

Egerszegi and Darnyi have resumed their winning ways and respectively collected 10 and five gold medals at the national championships in June.

Attila Czene, bronze medalist in the Olympic 200 metres individual medley, and backstrokeer Oliver Agh also performed well.

Rozsa, European 100 breaststroke champion, is far away in Australia where he has just received permanent residence status and plans to apply for Australian citizenship and compete at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics under his new flag.

The MUSZ has optimistically included his name in their final squad for Sheffield but it is unlikely in the extreme that he will change his mind and compete again for Hungary.



BASHIR AHMED

the domestic circle Bashir was given the onus of officiating international matches in 1986.

A versatile sportsman Bashir Ahmed played football in Senior Division football league also. However a serious leg injury in the late sixties caused the cessation of a glittering career although temporal graph of this phlegmatic figure as Senior Division hockey player continued upto 1976.

Abahani fans delighted

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Metropolitan unit of Abahani Samarthak Goshthi has welcomed the recently mooted concept of introducing neutral, foreign referees in the Star Premier Division football league. In a press release issued yesterday, the supporters of the reigning Senior Division football league champions expressed optimism that if carried out the move will go into the football history of the country as a watershed, ruling out all possibilities of controversy.

When Tapie loses temper, he really does

PARIS, July 23: Bernard Tapie, owner of the embattled champion soccer team Olympique Marseille, attacked a French TV crew and threw their camera in the Mediterranean, the network said Friday, reports AP.

The brash tycoon and ex-Cabinet Minister, on his yacht Thursday night with the team manager charged in a payoff scandal, boarded a skiff to confront the crew, the TV said.

"He got on our boat and threw our camera in the sea," said cameraman Georges Matterna, who witnessed the incident off Hyeres, on the French Riviera east of Toulon.

The government-owned station filed charges against Tapie of damaging equipment, and it sought damages.

The incident occurred just hours after Jean-Pierre Bernes, general manager of the European champions, was released from a prison in northern France but still faced bribery charges.

Bernes flew to Paris, where he met Tapie, and they flew together to Toulon, French TV reported.

First Bulgarian for J-League

SOFIA, July 23: CSKA Sofia defender Kiril Metkov has been transferred to Matsushita Gamba Osaka, becoming the first Bulgarian to join the Japanese professional soccer league, club spokesman Emil Danchev said on Thursday, reports Reuter.



Jacques Glassman (R) who revealed bribes contracts from Olympique Marseille arrives at the Valenciennes Justice Hall Wednesday for the first general confrontation with the Marseille general secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes, accused of being the main man behind the curtain in the bribery case. An appeal court on Thursday ordered Bernes' release. — AFP photo