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Luzern, in spite of having retained its B-League status, went into voluntary liquidation. The situation for the very high profile S.C. Bern, the Capital's status symbol as far as the sporting scene is concerned, finds itself in dire financial straits. At the time of writing, the latest news have not yet come to hand, but if the Club can not raise at least Sfr.1.5 million in cash, by the middle of May, it will not be issued with the all encompassing competition license for the next season! The players, presently still under contract, will then be able to seek transfers and sign-on with another employer. Today, tradition counts for naught. In a highly emotive totally Media controlled sporting world, money, and only money rules the roost!!

Heinz Leuenberger

The latest Ice Hockey news from Switzerland are that the A - World championship has been concluded in Switzerland (Hallenstadion) and that Switzerland, by losing against Czech Republic has finished on 4th place, missing out on the bronze medal. Sweden has become the World Champion for the 7th time running.

Editor-Helvetia.

New Asylum procedures in Switzerland,

The Government is pressing ahead with efforts to tighten asylum procedures. Since January this year the number of asylum seekers has risen sharply and the Cabinet has now called on Parliament to pass emergency legislation in an effort to stem the tide. The new measures would mean that people who enter Switzerland illegally, or who can't produce valid identity papers may not be allowed to apply for asylum. This means a person who has entered Switzerland illegally would have to provide evidence of their persecution themselves. This is a reversal of the "burden of proof", which will be difficult to enforce. The Bern based newspaper "Der Bund" thinks that it would have a psychological effect, as the threatening of sanctions has in the past once before led to a sharp rise in the arrivals with identity papers. The measures should also have a psychological effect in Switzerland itself, as the Government is under pressure from conservative Parties to deploy the army on the borders, but by presenting these measures it can turn round and say "the army is the last resort"!!

Believe it or not.....

From next year there will be fines for Swiss trains running late. A senior official at the Swiss federal railway SBB told the Sonntags-Zeitung newspaper that the measure was aimed at forcing trains to be on time. He said fines would also be imposed on construction companies working on the rail network who delayed trains. The federal institute of technology in Zürich is developing the new fine-system. Last year over 20 % of trains were over a minute late....!

LANGUAGE SCHOOLS - SWISS PROMOTION FOR STUDIES IN NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

Using its motto, "travel educates", an innovative travel agency in Fislisbach, Switzerland, has recently opened a new department in its own travel house, creating four new jobs. This department has been entirely designated to consulting clients interested in language schools in New Zealand and Australia, under the expert management of Carmen Böckli. Included is an information service containing a library with guide books, maps, and video information. The new language school brochure, "English Downunder", features 14 language schools situated throughout Australia and New Zealand. It contains extensive advice for the sound preparation of language school studies in these countries, including courses for the over 50s and teachers. Regular seminars are held in the Oceania Travel House in Switzerland, where participants can gain much useful information about how to plan a successful stay. More details are available from the Ozeania Reisehaus. (This information could be helpful for any friends or relations in Switzerland. See advertisement in this edition for all contact details.)

Certificates and Diplomas

The most important certificates and diplomas in English are:

FCE - Cambridge First Cert. (comprehensive written/oral knowledge).

CAE - Cert. in Advanced English (higher qualification for business focus on practical/communicative skill)

CPE - Cert. in Proficiency in English (high level comprehensive knowledge as University admission test).

CEIBT - Cambridge Cert. in English for International Business and Trade (efficient, correct English use for business and trade).

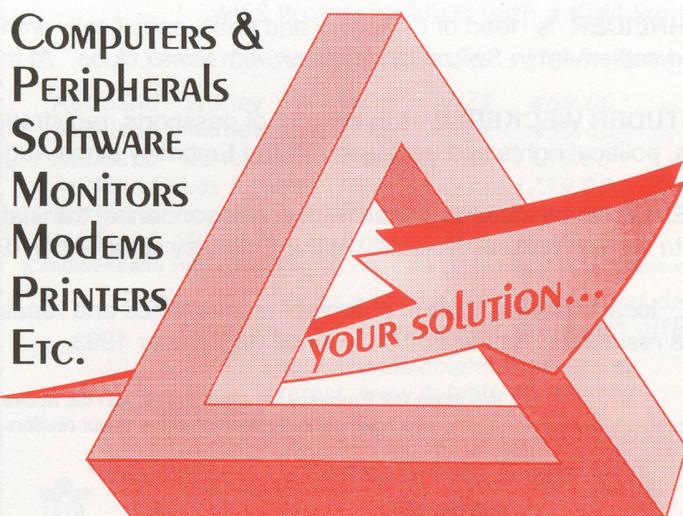
LCCI - London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (focus on business and trade)

TOEFL - North American test for admission in US and Canadian Universities.

ELTS - English Language Testing System (equal to Australian TOEFL).

TOEIC - Test of English for International Communication - knowledge required by international companies.

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