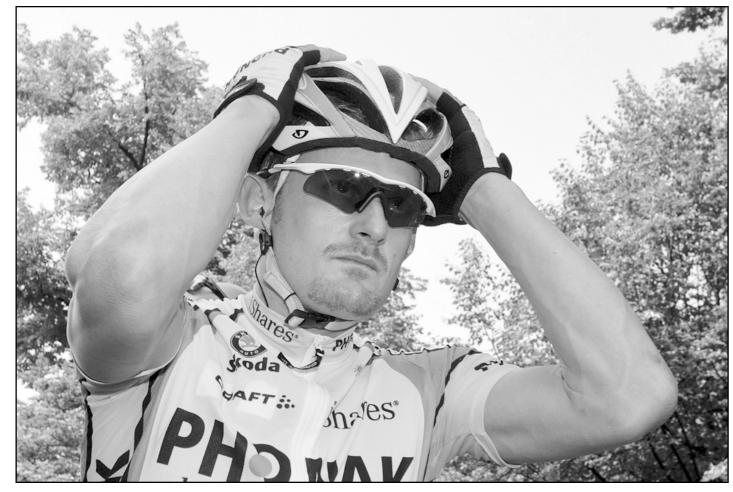
# SPÖRT



## Landis pleads innocence

Cycling

**INTERNET**, undated

America's Tour de France winner Floyd Landis insisted on Thursday he was not a drugs-cheat despite failing a dope test which threatens to see him stripped of his title and sacked from his team.

"No, c'mon man," Landis told Sports Illustrated website SI.com

when asked if he did it. The 30-year-old tested positive for testosterone, his Phonak team said. They also insisted that he would be sacked if the B sample

confirmed the result. Landis, the third American to win the race, could also become the first champion in the history of the Tour de France to be stripped of

He said he "can't be hopeful" that the B sample would clear him.

"I'm a realist," he said. "I wouldn't hold it against somebody if they don't believe me

The news that Landis had tested positive sent shockwaves through cycling, a sport which has fought a long battle to kick out the cheats and to clear its tarnished

Lelangue told AFP he still had faith in Landis but would be obliged to apply the team's ethics code.

We are surprised by the result but we will apply the procedure of the ethics code that we have signed," he said.

definitely do my best to return in

time for The Oval (where the series

likes to sit out and watch," insisted

Akhtar, who could only look on

enviously as England's spearhead

"I'm not one of those guys who

finale begins on August 17).

Phonak team boss John

"If the result from the B sample confirms the first result, there will

The Swiss-based team said in a statement that it was notified by the International Cycling Union (UCI) on Wednesday of "an unusual level Testosterone/Epitestosteron ratio in the test made on Floyd Landis after stage 17 of the Tour de

That was the stage that saw Landis claim victory after a staggering 130km solo breakaway -- a day after he had collapsed on the 16th stage and had tumbled down to 11th place overall, 8:08mins behind Spaniard Oscar Pereiro.

The Spaniard, who finished second overall, will be promoted to champion if Landis is kicked out.

"I would prefer to keep second place and that the first dope test wasn't confirmed," admitted the Caisse d'Epargne-Iles Baleares

Tour de France organisers said they were stunned by the news and a statement said: "If the B sample test confirms the first result, anger and sadness will dominate the feelings of all of those who had been filled with enthusiasm for the Tour de France of 2006."

The news came as mystery surrounded the whereabouts of the American champion after he withdrew from two races in the Netherlands and Denmark the day after UCI announced a rider on the Tour had failed a doping test.

"He (Akhtar) looked well in the

nets but, since he has not played

for the last five months, we want a

gradual comeback and we don't

want to rush him. I don't think he

has any chance of playing in the

Leeds Test."

The ANP Dutch news agency said Landis pulled out of a race in

Chaam on Wednesday on medical advice but his reason for not appearing was not confirmed by race organisers.

Landis also pulled out of Thursday's Grand Prix Jyske Bank race, the Danish organisers said in

Landis did win the Stiphout criterium in the Netherlands on Tuesday night.

This year's Tour was rocked by a drugs scandal on the eve of the race which saw nine riders, including pre-race favourites Jan Ullrich and Ivan Basso, barred after they were implicated in a Spanish blood-doping ring.

It was the latest in a series of high-profile drugs controversies to tarnish cycling over the past decade, with the Tour de France being particularly hard hit.

The 1988 Tour de France champion Pedro Delgado tested positive but was never punished because the substance, probenecide, found in his urine was not prohibited at the time although it was on the Olympic list of banned substances.

Apart from Ullrich, the 1997 champion currently under suspicion, the 1998 winner Marco Pantani of Italy was thrown out of the 1999 Tour of Italy the day before the final stage because of a high hematrocrite level in his blood, a pointer to the performanceenhancing drug erythropoietine

(EPO). Though seven-time winner Lance Armstrong has never officially failed a doping test, reports

ing in the first Test against India at

in the home Test series against

England, taking 17 wickets as

Pakistan won a three-match

Last year he had a leading role

Karachi in February.

encounter 2-0.

said that there was a positive result for blood-booster EPO during his 1999 victory

Armstrong has continually

denied doping. The T-Mobile team, who suspended star rider Ullrich and team nate Oscar Sevilla on the eve of the race after they were linked to Spain's doping scandal, said

controls needed to be stiffened. "If the B sample confirms the result, it will be a new blow for cvcling," said team spokesman Christian Frommert.

"But something positive could come out of this. Everyone will know that a profound and radical change is necessary. Controls have to be improved to stop spectators thinking: 'They are taking

Landis's compatriot Greg LeMond, a triple Tour de France winner, said he was stunned by the

"I'm devastated and extremely disappointed," LeMond told AFP. "I can't imagine the disappointment for Floyd and his family.

really did believe Floyd was clean. "The problem is the sport is corrupt and it corrupts everybody. I still believe it was one of the cleanest Tours ever. But is it 100-percent

"You will always find riders who transgress the laws. I really did believe Floyd was not among them, that he was clean. Hopefully he will be able to step up and tell

#### Liza crowned

FROM PAGE 17

In the other sixth round games, Zakia Sultana beat Sharmin Sultana Shirin, Shamiha Sharmin Shimmi beat Champa Akter and Fariana Hossain Annei beat Ishrat Jahan. Mahmuda Haque Khatun Moni.

contracted to Milan until 2011 and has confirmed his wish to continue honouring his Rossoneri agreement.

But Calderon's letter may not end the issue as Real Madrid sporting director Predrag Mijatovic still considers Kaka as his transfer primary target this summer.

#### Dhaka, Navy

FROM PAGE 17

At the Dhaka Army Stadium, Kamaluddin scored two goals and Jahangir Alam netted one to help Navv earn a convincing victory. Ashim scored the lone goal for Bangladesh

At the Tangail Stadium (Brahmaputra Zone), Gazipur moved into the zonal final with a 3-0 victory over Netrakona. Ashraful Quader Manju, Mohammad Golap Hossain and Narayan Pal shared the goals for

At the Habiganj Stadium (Surma Zone), Moulavibazar edged past Narasingdi 4-3 in tiebreaker after the stipulated time ended goalless.

At the Pirojpur Stadium (Meghna Zone), Khulna rode on Pranatosh's lone goal to beat Bagerhat for booking a place into the zonal semifinal. At the Gaibandha Stadium (Tista

venue), Rangpur outclassed Panchagarh 8-0 to reach the zonal At the Bandarban Stadium

(Karnaphuli Zone), Bandarban overbowered Khagrachhari 7-0 to climb up to the zonal semifinal. Mohammad Mamun struck a hattrick for the win-At the Joypurhat Stadium (Zamuna

Zone), Rajshahi stepped into the zonal semifinal beating Naogaon 7-6 goals in

At the Dhaka Army Stadium, Bangladesh Army outplayed BangladeshAirForceby6-0 goals with Tutul scoring a hattrick for the winners.

#### Sultan is a liar

FROM PAGE 17

activities but also explained how a vested group has used the federation as a platform to showcase themselves and tour abroad thus misusing the moneys.

"I hear it quite often that they join BFF to ensure foreign trips and it is their ultimate target. What a frustrating fact it is for our football. But to me football is a love, a passion. I joined the federation after the Prime Minster asked me to serve it for the better interest of the game but the liar told the press that he brought me into the federation." he said.

"It is a shame for me that I was a member of this committee who even lack the basic capability of arranging money for a permanent coach. You know, I was nearly begging for money to fulfil the foreign aid demands and my 25-year long reputation backed me up and we were somehow able to manage it," he said adding that he will pay the remaining money of the Argentine coach, Diego Cruciani.

Salahuddin concluded his long speech with a demand, where he shouted for an independent inquiry committee to locate whether the BFF president had sabotaged Bangladesh n the SAF Championship.

"I am not sure but I have a doubt weather he sabotaged the team in the competition, especially before the final match to try to get at me. I think we can only find the truth if we make an inquiry committee," he demanded.

#### AC Milan FROM PAGE 20

only found out they would be playing in the competition earlier this month after Juventus and Fiorentina were thrown out of the competition as a result of the Italy's match-fixing verdicts, will play either Bulgarian outfit Levski Sofia or Sioni Bolnisi of

German club Hamburg face Spain's Osasuna in one of the ties of the round, while Dutch side Ajax, one of the competition's most successful clubs, travel to either FC Copenhagen or Mypa for their first

288, 5-304, 6-321, 7-357 To bat: M Hoggard, S Harmison, M Panesar

**Bowler** 78 Sami Umar Gul 77 17 Razzad 62 28 Kaneria Afridi

## Six-star Steve upbeat

#### Cricket

AFP, Manchester

Stephen Harmison reckoned there should "only be one winner' in the ongoing second Test against Pakistan after he'd put England in a commanding position with a fine display of fast bowling.

Harmison's six for 19 in just 13 overs saw Pakistan bundled out for a mere 119 on the first day here at Old Trafford, England seizing the initiative in this four-match series after the drawn first Test at Lord's.

At stumps England were 168 for two, a lead of 49, with Alastair Cook 65 not out and Kevin Pietersen 38 not out after Harmison had exploited a hard, bouncy pitch at Old Trafford following Pakistan captain Inzamamul-Haq's decision to bat first on winning the toss. And the England spearhead was

particularly proud to have given captain Andrew Strauss the kind of performance he felt his skipper was entitled to after some mediocre efforts during the 5-0 one-day series thrashing by Sri Lanka, where he was coming back from a shin injury.

"If we get another day like today (Thursday), there should only be one winner," Durham quick Harmison said after a Pakistan collapse that saw the tourists bowled out inside 39

Strauss, leading the team in the absence of injured all-rounder Andrew Flintoff and crocked Asheswinning captain Michael Vaughan, was widely criticised for delaying a declaration until after an hour's play on the final day at Lord's.

"Straussy was looking for his senior bowlers to perform for him," Harmison explained. "I didn't let him down during the one-dayers because gave him everything I had, I just vasn't good enough.

"I feel as though I gave him everything I had at Lord's but I'm pleased for him today because everything I had was good enough. "And that's what he needed, he

needed somebody to stand up for him after he got harshly criticised after Lord's." Harmison's figures were his best in Test cricket since he took a stun-

ning seven for 12 against the West Indies two years ago at Jamaica's Sabina Park. "There was more rhythm at Sabina Park but today my action was solid compared to last week. You

could count on one hand how many balls went down legside. I think I had an idea where it was going this time. the 27-year-old added. "I feel as though I came here with

more miles in my legs and a bit of a spring in my step.

standable because I hadn't spent a day in the field since I left India. "I worked very hard with Kevin Shine (England's bowling coach) in the two days prior to this Test match

and everything has gone brilliant because I've got six for 19. "I've been waiting eight months for

Harmison was well-supported by left-arm spinner Monty Panesar who achieved both sharp turn and control on his way to a fine haul of three for 21

Pakistan vice-captain Younis Khan, who top-scored with 44 in an nnings where Mohammad Yousuf's 38 was the only other notable score, said the pitch had played its part in Harmison's success.

"Harmison bowled well but in the first session it was a little bit dodgy with a lot of uneven bounce," said Younis, whose side were without their three leading fast bowlers - Shoaib Aktar, Mohammad Asif and Rana Naved-ul Hasan

"He utilised the cracks very well." But Younis insisted the match was far from over.

because of injury.

"We have four more days. England have to bat last and if we leave them 200 to win it will be very difficult for them.'

## **SL plunder Proteas**

second Test which starts at the Sara stadium here on August 4.

Stand-in captain Ashwell Prince rotated his five specialist bowlers in hot and humid conditions and even brought on part-timers Jacques Rudolph and himself, but few deliveries beat the broad bats of Sangakkara and Javawardene. Sangakkara reached his cen-

he lofted Nicky Boje for two runs, the ball narrowly eluding a diving Rudolph near the mid-wicket

Jayawardena, 99 at lunch,

tury 30 minutes before lunch when

ball after resumption, pulling Steyn to the fine-leg fence for his 14th boundary.

Sangakkara raced to 203 by

lofting Rudolph for his 27th bound-

ary and Jayawardena moved to

205 with a six over long-on against the same bowler **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and South

ground in Colombo on Friday. **SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 169 (A.B. de Villiers 65, Fernando 4-48,

Africa at the Sinhalese Sports Club

SRI LANKA: First innings (overniaht 128-2)

Tharanga c Boucher b Stevn Jayasuriya Ibw b Steyn Sangakkara not out Jayawardene not out Extras: (b-8, lb-4, w-2, nb-7) 21 Total: (For 2 wkts in 112 overs) 485

311 OI WICKELS. 1-0, 2-14				
owler	0	M	R	W
tini	18	3	56	C
teyn	19	1	98	2
el	16	0	80	C
all	17	1	69	C
oje	35	3	131	C
udolph	5	0	32	(
rince	2	0	7	C

### Roddick defies pain



AFP, Los Angeles

Andy Roddick defied injury to book his quarterfinal berth here Thursday, but the top-seeded American admitted his pursuit of his first title in nine months was in jeopardy. "I hit a passing shot, and I

sprained my left side," said Roddick, who was hurt while leading 3-1 in the third set of his fellow American Scott Oudsema. "It was pretty intense," added Roddick, who said he would

decide on Friday if he was able to take the court for his quarterfinal clash with eighth-seeded Russian Dmitry Tursunov. "I had some ice. I'm going to

have ice and treatment tonight," he said

Despite a first set littered with unforced errors, 11 of his 21 aces allowed Roddick to force the

for his 20-year-old opponent, who was playing just his third ATP match. Under the eyes of his new

coach Jimmy Connors, Roddick

controlled the third set, breaking to lead 3-1 before disaster struck. Tournament doctor George

Fareed said the injury was a "left ower back strain" With the US Open approach-

ing in August he won't be taking any chances with his health. "I'm not going to take any title came at Lyon last October.

quarterfinal ticket earlier Thursday with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over 18-year-old US wildcard Sam Querrey. "There are some things I could have done better today,"

Tursunov had punched his

Tursunov who reached his fifth quarterfinal of the year. "A few years ago I would have gotten down on myself but now I do the things that I need to do win those types of matches.

win will need to be serving well. "A big part of my win today

was experience," he added. "I went for my shots when I needed to and then sat back and let him make the errors when I did not need to go for it." Seventh-seeded Slovakian

quarterfinals with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Lars Burgsmuller. Hrbaty broke the German's serve five times to reach his first quarterfinal since he made it to

Dominik Hrbaty reached the

the semi-finals in Adelaide in He will face fourth-seeded American Robby Ginepri, who utilized a service break in the final game to overcome 18 aces

for a 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 6-4 victory. Hrbaty won their only previous meeting at Nottingham in

by Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen

"It's going to be a match with a lot of consistency, a lot of shotmaking and he's not going to give an inch," said Ginepri, who lost to Roddick in the semifinals at



Andy Roddick bends over after suffering a lower back strain during the third set against Scott Oudsema in the Countrywide Classic in California on