

## Spanish press salutes Contador

AFP, Madrid

Spain's Alberto Contador, the 24-year-old surprise winner of the doping-scarred Tour de France, represents the hope of a "new cycling", Spanish media wrote Monday.

"Champion of hope" wrote sports daily AS on its front page below a photo of the cyclist wearing a red and yellow Spanish flag around his neck taken after he won the three-week race on Sunday.

"Contador was crowned in Paris as the symbol of the new cycling," it added.

The rider for the American Discovery Channel team was the first Spaniard to win the crown since the last of Miguel Indurain's five titles in 1995 and the ninth Spaniard to win cycling's biggest event since 1959.

"The triumph of the dream," wrote daily newspaper El Mundo.

"Alberto Contador wins a Tour de France that was plagued by scandals," the paper said, adding the Spaniard "is at the head of a new cycling that needs to get rid of these permanent cases of doping."

The 94th Tour de France was hit by four doping scandals, including one which led to the forcible exit of Danish race leader Michael Rasmussen, leaving Contador in front with four days left to race.

"Contador becomes a legend," wrote sports daily Marca, adding he "has become a new pearl of the worldwide platoon of riders after winning his first Tour de France."

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"I hope my victory will breathe fresh air to cycling," Contador said after the race in comments splashed on the headline of El País.

## ECB happy with security

AFP, Colombo

England's winter tours of Sri Lanka looked set to go ahead after local officials claimed Monday that a security assessment team sent by the tourists was satisfied with the arrangements.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) chairman Jayantha Dharmadasa said that John Carr, a top official of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), and security assessor Reg Dickson were both happy with the arrangements put in place.

"They visited all the venues, inspected all arrangements and were impressed by the level of security that will be made available," Dharmadasa told AFP.

Carr and Dickson have been visiting the cities of Galle, Kandy and Dambulla since Friday, in addition to inspecting the facilities at venues in the Sri Lankan capital.

There has not been any comment from the ECB team so far.

England are due to play five one-dayers in Sri Lanka between October 1 and 13 before returning in late November for three Test matches.

Dharmadasa said the British government's travel advisory, warning its nationals to take extreme caution when travelling to the island, was not a concern for the ECB.

## Vaughan keeps

FROM PAGE 17

ENGLAND: Second innings (over-night 43-0)

Strauss & Dhoni b Zaheer Khan 55

Cook lbw b Zaheer Khan 23

Vaughan not out 91

Pietersen lbw b RP Singh 19

Collingwood not out 13

Extras: (b-7, lb-6, w-4, nb-3) 20

Total: (For 3 wkt in 70 overs) 221

Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-130, 3-175.

To bat: Bell, Prior, Tremlett,

Sidebottom, Panesar, Anderson

Bowler O M R W

Zaheer Khan 18 6 47 2

Sreesanth 16 2 41 0

RP Singh 13 5 32 1

Kumble 15 0 62 0

Ganguly 4 0 12 0

Tendulkar 4 0 14 0

Toss: India

10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

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PHOTO: AFP  
Spaniard Alberto Contador of Discovery Channel team celebrates his Tour de France victory on the podium at the end of the 20th stage on Sunday.

## Laughable sledgers

### Cricket

INTERNET, undated

England's newest acquisition Allan Donald has come up with many novel ideas since taking over as England's bowling coach, and there is a certain amount of evidence to suggest that part of his strategy involves sitting the lads down in front of old video clips of the Leicestershire legend Gordon Parsons.

'Bullhead', as he was affectionately known on the county circuit in the 1980s, employed a run-up, which began in Derbyshire, and he arrived at the crease at roughly the same velocity as a man fired from a circus cannon.

So the intimidation factor took a bit of a nosedive when the ball came out of his hand like a piece of chardonnay confetti, but this never deterred Gordon when he got one past the bat.

"I'll bowl you a piano next time. Maybe you can play that," he would snarl, and nobody knows for sure how many of his career wickets were due to the batsman being unable to see the next ball through the tears of laughter.

None of the England bowlers on view at Trent Bridge is going to have a batsman reaching for an extra chest guard and a pair of incontinence pants, but they've certainly perfected the art of coming across as mean and moody, if not always magnificient.

James Anderson was in trouble earlier this summer for barging into a West Indian batsman, so much in this Test match that the

visitors had to be satisfied with a paltry first innings lead of 283. And it might have been considerably more had it not been for the assistance of umpire Simon Taufel's index finger.

Those of us who believe that Hawk Eye is an arbitrary computer graphic programmed by the occupants of the Bollinger tent, with as much claim to being a useful practical aid as the chocolate teapot, will not have had our campaign to have it pensioned off improved by Taufel's decision to give Sachin Tendulkar out lbw to Paul Collingwood.

It was such a hopeless piece of adjudication that the Cricinfo website very nearly went into meltdown as thousands of protesting emails flooded in.

One of them suggested that both Collingwood and his captain, Michael Vaughan, should be fined for "excessive appealing and dishonesty," adding: "but then again, this is how the British Empire was built. What, what."

Ganguly's almost as dodgy a catch-behind decision (Taufel again) did not evoke as fierce a website protest as Tendulkar's, as the former Indian skipper is not quite so highly regarded back in India. This doesn't bother Ganguly, as he has quite a high enough regard for him not to worry.

There would be no livelier contest in Test cricket, never mind this series, if Ganguly and Kevin Pietersen found themselves stranded on a desert island with only one full-length mirror between them.

However, no sooner had the words "I'll bowl you a piano" started to roll off Tendulkar's lips than they were frozen by the realisation that this kind of utterance sounds a bit silly when the spectators in the seats 10 rows back in front of the Larwood and Voce Stand are busy diving for cover.

England's in-your-face, tough guy approach has frightened India so much in this Test match that the

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"I learned a lot from these people, it was a good learning process for me and something I will keep forever in my life."

"We have brought happiness to one country, not one team, it's very important."

"It's more important that any achievement because we are talking about people, human beings, it's different, we are not talking about football."

Vieira dedicated the win to team physiotherapist Anwar Jassim, who was killed in a Baghdad bomb blast in the days before the Iraq team left on the Asian Cup campaign.

"Anwar was going to pick up his ticket and he was on his way to be with us and he died in a bomb," he said.

"He left a wife and four kids. I didn't know him but everybody liked him and this Cup, we offer to Anwar, our physio."

Vieira, who is set to step down after an intense two months as the Iraq coach, praised the immense inner strength of the Iraqis.

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