Contador suspended

Blames positive test on contaminated meat

Cycling

AFP, Pinto

Three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador of Spain, who was suspended Thursday after failing a dope test, blamed the positive result on contaminated meat, in an emotional protest

of his innocence. The International Cycling Union (UCI) earlier Thursday announced said that the cycling superstar had been provisionally suspended after a minute trace of clenbuterol, a banned substance, was detected in a urine sample taken from the

Spaniard on July 21. "It's a case of food contamination to which I was the victim," Contador, who appeared tense and at times on the verge of tears, told a news conference in a hotel in his hometown of Pinto, outside Madrid.

Contador, who won his third yellow jersey at the end of July's three-week epic, said he ingested the tiny amount of clenbuterol in meat that had

eaten both the day before and the day of the control. He said the meat came from Spain, but did not say specifically where it was bought. Contador said he was the only

one to have been tested among

the riders who ate the meat. The 27-year-old, one of only a handful of riders to have won the Tour de France, Giro d'Italia and Tour of Spain, said the UCI informed him of the positive test on August 24, and two days later he spoke "at length" with the UCI medical team "about how it all happened".

front of me that it was a case of food contamination," he said. "This is a genuine mistake,

"The UCI itself affirmed in

it's sad that a sport such as this is involved in things like this. "I think that this will be

resolved in a clear way, with the truth up front." The UCI "understands that is a special case, which has to be examined. The rider said he was "sad

and disappointed, but with my head held high." "I have been through this for Three-time Tour de France champion Alberto Contador grimaces

a month a half, without sleep- during a press conference in Pinto yesterday.

Women's

SPORTS REPORTER

nat'l cricket

Khulna and Rajshahi secured

comfortable wins against

their respective rivals in the

Women's National Cricket

League at the Sylhet

Divisional Stadium yesterday.

wicket victory over Dhaka in

the rain-curtailed match.

Khulna posted a ten-

Dhaka managed only 19

runs without any loss in the

allotted 5 overs while Khulna

reached the target in 3.4 overs

also without the loss of any

In the other match,

Panna Ghosh hit 36 off 35

balls with six boundaries and

Farjana Haq contributed

unbeaten 35 off 23 balls that

contained four boundaries as

Rajshahi scored 130 for 8 in

Rajshahi secured a 62-run

victory over Chittagong.

wicket.

ing." He said he had not even told his own family "because I prefer that they don't suffer and I that I alone suffer."

A banned substance which can be used to help lose weight and help breathing, clenbuterol is also known to boost performance by helping to increase strength.

Contador said the tiny amount detected in his body "is completely insignificant" in terms of helping his performance in the Tour.

He said the UCI is in talks with the World Anti Doping Agency "to see if the system can be revised."

The UCI said clenbuterol was detected in a urine sample taken from the Spaniard on July 21, during the second rest day in Pau at the foot of the French Pyrenees and four days before he won his third Tour de France title.

But world cycling's ruling body said that only a "very small concentration" of the drug had been found and that the case warranted "further scientific investigation" because the Cologne laboratory that detected the substance is known to be

able to detect the tiniest traces of drugs. "The concentration found by the

laboratory was estimated at 50 picograms which is 400 times less than what the antidoping laboratories accredited by WADA (World Anti Doping Agency) must be able to detect," the UCI said, adding that testing of a second "B" sample taken at the same time confirmed the result.

There are a trillion picograms in a gram.

The day after the July test, Contador took a huge step towards an overall win by finishing in the same time as main rival Andy Schleck of Luxembourg at the summit of the Col du Tourmalet.

At the penultimate stage time trial on July 24 he secured victory with a 39second lead on Schleck.

Although a banned substance, positive tests for clenbuterol have resulted in different outcomes for athletes in the past.

It has been shown in the past that trace elements of the drug found in the human body can be attributed to food contamination. If it is found in larger

> deliberate doping. Chinese rider Fuyu Li, who races with Lance Armstrong's RadioShack team, was also

amounts it usually points to

provisionally suspended after testing positive for clenbuterol in April. He was later given support by a Dutch anti-doping expert, Douwe de Boer, who said the amount found in his body points "clearly in the direction

such a low dose would not help his performance. Tour de France organisers said they had learned about the adverse analytical finding through the UCI's statement on Thursday morning, but could take no action on the

of a contamination" and that

race champion as yet. A statement from race owners ASO (Amaury Sports Organisation) said: "The UCI has indicated that further scientific investigation, with the support of the World Anti Doping Agency, is needed.

"No action can be taken until this process has been completed."



PHOTO: COURTESY

In response, the ECB said

they and "the England players

who played at the Brit Oval

warmly welcome this with-

drawal and now regard the

continue as the ICC Pakistan

shadowed by 'spot-fixing'

Test captain, together with fast

bowlers Mohammad Aamer

and Mohammad Asif, was

banned by the ICC after allega-

tions made by Britain's News of

the World (NoW) tabloid that

they'd been involved in a plot

to bowl deliberate no-balls

during last month's Test

against England at Lord's as

become the subject of a

Haroon Lorgat, who criticised

Ijaz Butt for going public with

his comments, said earlier

Wednesday that Salman Butt

had exercised his right of

appeals from either Aamer

Enayet, Shapla

The ICC has yet to receive

appeal.

or Asif.

Scotland Yard investigation.

The claims have since

ICC chief executive

part of a betting scam.

They added Clarke would

Pakistan's tour was over-

Salman Butt, the Pakistan

matter closed".

allegations.

task team chairman.

Abahani players pose with the trophy after winning the United Oil Women's Handball League at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

WOMEN'S HANDBALL Abahani

champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani lifted the United Oil Women's Handball League title with a 26-13 win over Azad Sporting Club at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

This was the Dhanmond giant's first-ever triumph in women's handball. In their last match of the league, Abahani led the first half 14-5. Azad Sporting eventually

became runners-up. In the day's other game

Arambagh beat Dhaka Mariners Youngs Club 18-10. State Minister for Youth

and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar was present on the occasion and distributed prizes among the winners.

China to play **HK Sixes**

AFP, Hong Kong

China are to appear at the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes in November as they plot their rise to international prominence, organisers of the annual tournament announced on Wednesday. The mainland's Asian

Games squad will play an exhibition match against a Hong Kong development team, to be screened live and broadcast worldwide. "We are really excited at the

opportunity of appearing at the Hong Kong Sixes," said China's Pakistani coach Rashid Khan. "This will be a huge experi-

ence for the guys and one which should help them as they prepare for the Asian Games in November."

Khan, who has been at the helm of developing the mainland's team for the past two years, said he was hopeful that China would one day be able to take full part in the Hong Kong Sixes.

Australia, England, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, New Zealand and Hong Kong vie for total prize money of 150,000 dollars in the November 6-7 contest at Kowloon Cricket Club.

Butt apologetic to work hard with the relevant intended to question the authorities to eradicate it."

Cricket

AFP, London

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ijaz Butt said Wednesday he was withdrawing comments alleging England players had 'thrown' this month's third one-day international at The Oval. Butt had claimed England

players were paid "enormous amounts of money" to lose The Oval match in a series the hosts ultimately won 3-2.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) threatened legal action in response unless Butt "unreservedly" apologised for remarks he said at the time were merely a case of him repeating something he'd heard from bookmakers. And after a meeting with

ECB counterpart Giles Clarke here on Wednesday, England got the apology they wanted for what Butt said was a "misunderstanding", with the ECB now declaring the matter "closed".

Butt, in a joint ECB/PCB statement, said: "I wish personally and on behalf of the Pakistan Cricket Board to withdraw the comments I made concerning the England and Wales Cricket Board and each of the England players who played in the one-day international at The Oval on Friday 17 September.

"It is regrettable that there was a misunderstanding arising from my comments, he added.

"I would like to make it quite clear that in the statements tolerance policy to corruption which I made that I never in the game and will continue

"I was in MRF with Rubel

[Hossain], so I know him. I

know they have some quality

fast bowlers and they will

definitely give us a run for

about the Bangladesh team;

they have been to New

Zealand for the last couple of

years, last year actually and I

have followed them," he said.

"I have got a little bit of idea

FROM PAGE 17

their money.

Text opens door

behaviour and integrity of the England players nor the ECB nor to suggest that any of them were involved in any corrupt practices or in a conspiracy against Pakistan cricket.

"In particular, I wish to make it clear that I have never seen any evidence of any wrong doing by any England player or the ECB at any time. "I deeply and sincerely

regret that my statements have been interpreted to cast doubt upon the good names of the England players and the ECB and hope that this public withdrawal will draw a line under the matter." Butt's comments were

viewed as a snub to the ECB and in particular Clarke, chairman of the International Cricket Council's Pakistan task team. England had 'helped out'

Pakistan by agreeing to stage their 'home' series against Australia in England shortly before matches against their own teams. International cricket in

following an armed attack on Sri Lanka's team bus in Lahore last year. "The ECB and its chairman have been and continue to be a friend of and hugely sup-

Pakistan came to a standstill

Butt's statement added. "I am very grateful for their efforts in that regard and for their hospitality this

portive of Pakistan cricket,"

summer. "We at the PCB, like all other cricket governing bod-

resident Shane Bond is a role

model but Bennett has no

"I am just trying to bowl for

myself, to be honest. Bondy is

a great bowler, I can go half

way to him I will be happy but

that's out of my mind and I try

to be myself," he said, adding

that his strength is the bounce

he can generate owing to his

considerable height.

fast bowler's shoes

ies, are committed to a zero

in badminton semifinals

SPORTS REPORTER

Enayet, Raees, Javed and Porosh moved into the men's semifinals of the Advocate Abdur Rab Smriti Summer Open (Ranking) badminton tournament at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpuryesterday.

fascination in filling the great Knit Concern's Enayet fought hard against Lal Chand of the same team, as he went a set down to come back and win 21-23, 21-10, 21-4.

Raees crushed Hannan 21-15, 21-12 and Javed beat Saif

21-12, 21-18. In the ladies' singles event,

Shapla and Elina of Knit

Concern moved into the semifinals as well.

His fellow Canterbury CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Biplob Ram won the boys' the girls' under-14s.

"I think she has a lot of

When she was asked about her semi-final match, "I really tried to take the Azarenka said: "I'm going to points. I didn't wait for a pres- play one of the best players in the world. I'm really excited, because it's going to be my first semi-finals in Tokyo."

Nazmul in as unofficial backup

been called into the national team camp as a precautionary measure after Rubel Hossain was struggling with a pulled muscle.

"Rubel bowled with full strength today. We called Nazmul unofficially as a precautionary measure," said

He also informed that wicketkeeper batsman

right shoulder during practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur few days back.

SPORTS REPORTER

Ramna yesterday.

Engineers Club, beat Nordic Club's Alamgir Hossain 6-1, 6-4. In the women's singles,

Sharda Alam fought hard to beat Sathi Sarkar 6-1, 2-6, 6-3. The pair, representing the NTC, also won the doubles title.

under-16 tournament, Moumita Jannat became champion in the girls' under-16s, Delwar Hossain won the boys' under-14 title and Mourin won

tition, Nur Alam and Fabia Lamisa won the boys and girls competition respectively.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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PRODUCE SWEAT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S CAPITAL, IS THAT CALLED PERTH-PIRATION? Today's Cryptoquip clue: C equals B

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN PEOPLE

tri-colour.

In reply, Chittagong finished their 20-over quota at Panna Ghosh, who was later adjudged best player, claimed three wickets conceding only 12 runs in 4 overs.

their stipulated 20 overs.

Delhi welcomes Queen's Baton

PTI, New Delhi

The beleagured Organising Committee (OC) chairman, Suresh Kalmadi, almost had a fall, as the Queen's Baton was received by Lieutenan Governor of Delhi Tejender Khanna and Chief Minister of Delhi Shiela Dikshit in a chaotic and reverberating atmo-

sphere here on Thursday. Just after the function while making his way to the dining hall amid the flurry of guests, mediapersons and volunteers, Kalmadi's shoes got stuck under carpet but securitymen prevented him from falling down.

The function began at the OC headquarters with Games mascot 'Shera' welcoming the guests. Then Dronacharya awardee Satpal Singh handed the baton to Dixit and Khanna with Kalmadi by their side. With maestro A R

Rahman's CWG theme song 'Jiyo Utho Badho Jiyo' blasting from the thousand watts JVL speakers, Kalmadi placed the Baton on the dais as volunteers cheered on, waving the

before and know the conditions well."

FROM PAGE 17

error by the Italian.

Tennis

ment on Thursday.

Fifth seed Francesca Schiavone

took over three hours to beat

Kaia Kanepi of Estonia in the

quarterfinals at the Pan Pacific

The French Open cham-

pion, ranked eighth in the

world, had to come back from

a service break down in the

first two sets before scoring a

7-5, 4-6, 7-5 victory over

Top seed Caroline

Kanepi, the world number 25.

Wozniacki of Denmark pro-

gressed after Agnieszka

Radwanska of Poland aban-

doned the match at 5-0, while

eighth seed Victoria Azarenka

of Belarus made quick work of

American qualifier Coco

Schiavone, going down 1-3

in the first set, had to save two

set points at 4-5 in the 10th

game before winning three

games in a row to take the set

when Kanepi hit a backhand

behind in the second set, but

pulled off a timely break in the

ninth game, only to see Kanepi

break back in the following

game thanks to a backhand

breaks three times in the final

set to tie at 5-5, before Kanepi

Harbhajan

The two women traded

The Italian, 30, again fell

Vandeweghe, 6-2, 6-1.

into the net.

Open women's tennis tourna-

AFP, Tokyo

Australia last toured India for a Test series in 2008, losing two of the four matches.

SQUADS

INDIA (from): Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Suresh Raina, Harbhajan Singh, Amit Mishra, Pragyan Ojha, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Cheteshwar Pujara, Murali

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Doug Bollinger, Peter George, Nathan Hauritz, Ben Hilfenhaus, Phillip Hughes, Michael Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Simon Katich, Marcus North, Tim Paine, Steven Smith, Shane Watson, Mitchell Starc, James Pattinson.

Transfers **FROM PAGE 17**

Schiavone in semis

committed a double fault on an

advantage point for Schiavone

in the following game to go

match taking a commanding

40-15 lead before forcing

Kanepi to hit her forehand

ent. I thought if I want to win it,

I have to go to the net, to be

aggressive, because she

played so good," said

had to work a little bit more

will face each other in the

about my performance today.

I feel like I played some great

tennis. Of course, I'm a little

bit sad that she (Radwanska)

got a foot problem, but hope-

Azarenka, she added: "Victo-

ria is another great player. She

is a player that hits the ball

strongly and she is playing

well. I think this (fast) surface

really suits her game. It's

minutes to fend off the chal-

lenge from the 18-year-old

played her in an exhibition.

She is up and coming. She has

Azarenka needed only 67

"I knew her a little bit. I

gonna be a tough match."

As for the match against

fully she will be back soon."

semi-finals on Friday.

"To make the difference, I

Wozniacki and Azarenka

Wozniacki said: "I'm happy

Schiavone served out the

down 5-6.

into the net.

Schiavone.

than she did."

number of stars such as Emily,

American.

Aminul, Wali, Mamunul, Ariful to Sheikh Jamal and later lost Arman Aziz, Sharif, Nasir and Saikat to Muktijoddha. All these players are just a

step away from officially coming under the clubs umbrella as they have to put pen to paper at the BFF headquarters. According to sources,

Mamun Mia is the only player who could create a bit of a problem as Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra has claimed that Mamun has taken money in advance from them although the player himself claims to be in Abahani's books and has already won the Bordoloi Trophy with the Dhanmondi giants.

Tomorrow could see some of the bigger clubs coming with all their players and finishing the formalities but that too, is a forgone conclusion.

much motivation," said the 21-year-old Azarenka.

potential. She has big weapons and I think she can be a very good player."

nothing to lose, so she has

SPORTS REPORTER

Pacer Nazmul Hossain has

chief selector Rafiqul Alam.

Mushfigur was now fully fit. Mushfiqur had injured his

Amal, Sharda win titles

Top seed Amal Ray won the men's crown in the Shahjalal Islami Bank Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Complex (NTC) in Amal, who was playing for

In the mini-tennis compe-