

Armstrong is a drug cheat

REUTERS, New York

Lance Armstrong and his team ran the most sophisticated doping programme in sport according to the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USDA) which released its report on the case against the US Postal cycling team on Wednesday.

USADA said it was sending the report, which was more than 1,000 pages long and contained the sworn testimony of 26 people, including 15 riders, to the International Cycling Union (UCI), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the World Triathlon Corporation (WTC), before making it available on its website.

"The evidence shows beyond any doubt that the US Postal Service Pro Cycling Team ran the most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen," USADA said in a statement.

"The evidence also includes direct documentary evidence including financial payments, emails, scientific data and laboratory test results that further prove the use, possession and distribution of performance enhancing drugs by Lance Armstrong and confirm the disappointing truth about the deceptive activities of the USPS Team, a team that received tens of millions of American taxpayer dollars in funding."

Armstrong has denied cheating and never failed a doping test but the seven-times Tour de France winner was banned for life by USADA in August after announcing he would not fight the charges.

BD women

FROM PAGE 16 expected to reach China by October 22. The group stages will be followed by a knockout round where the winners of group A face the runners-up of group B and vice-versa. The finals will take place on October 31.

PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Salma Khatun, Ayasha Rahman, Sharmin Akter Supta, Rumana Ahmed, Fargana Hoque Pinki, Jahana Alam, Lata Mondol, Nuzhat Tasnim Tumpa, Khadijatul Kubra, Ritu Moni, Sanjida Islam Moyna, Lily Rani, Tajia Akter, Tithi Rani Sarker, Panna Ghosh, Saila Sharmin, Champa Chakma, Tahin Tahera, Shamima Sultana, Tripti Mondol.

GROUPING

GROUP A: Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Thailand.

GROUP B: Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

FIXTURES

Oct 24: Pakistan v Thailand
Bangladesh v China
Oct 25: India v Thailand
Sri Lanka v Nepal
Oct 26: Bangladesh v Nepal
Thailand v Hong Kong
Oct 27: Sri Lanka v China
Pakistan v Hong Kong
Oct 28: Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
India v Pakistan
Oct 29: Nepal v China
India v Hong Kong
Oct 30: Semifinals: A-1 v B-2, A-2 v B-1

Local snippets

FROM PAGE 16 League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rayerbarz defeated East End Green Club 5-0 while PWD beat Dhaka Hockey Club 4-0.

Inter-Club Tennis

The First National Inter-Club Tennis Competition gets underway today at the National Tennis Complex in Rama with 20 to 22 expecting to take part in the inauguration meet.

A total of 17 clubs have already enlisted their names in the 32-draw completion and five more clubs are expected to enlist their names by tomorrow noon (Thursday), informed organizers at a press conference yesterday.

Jahid Ahsan Rasel, chairman of standing committee on youth and sports ministry, is expected to declare the tournament open as the chief guest.



World number two Serbian Novak Djokovic waves to the crowd after his second round win against Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Nishikori stopped

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

History-making Kei Nishikori was dumped out of the Shanghai Masters on Wednesday as Novak Djokovic cruised into the third round and defending champion Andy Murray was handed a walkover.

As the tournament came to life with the introduction of the big guns, America's Sam Querrey sent Nishikori tumbling 2-6, 6-1, 6-4 just days after his opponent became the first Japanese player to win the Japan Open.

Nishikori had treatment during the match on his right ankle, which he said had been bothering him since last week.

"I tried to play but he had a good serve," he said. "I broke him first in the third set but couldn't finish the match. It's disappointing but I was close to win with this injury. Nothing I can do," he said.

The 22-year-old Japanese romped into a 4-0 lead at the start of the match and sealed the opening set despite a medical timeout late in the set.

But a missed overhead early in the second set contributed to an early break for Querrey and the Japanese 14th seed lost his rhythm, showing his frustration as his rejuvenated opponent, ranked 22nd, levelled the match.

In the third set Nishikori secured an early break but Querrey won five straight games from 4-1 down to seal the match against the Japanese, at a career high of number 15 in the rankings after his weekend win over Canada's Milos Raonic, his first on the Tour since 2008.

Djokovic, who has a shot at regaining the world number one ranking if he wins the title and Federer loses before the quarterfinals, dismissed Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 6-2 in just 54 minutes.

Umpires suspended

FROM PAGE 16

allegation is a complete lie," Dissanayake said. "I have asked the board to have an inquiry at the earliest opportunity."

Dissanayake officiated at two warm-up matches during the World Twenty20 and has also been a reserve umpire at international games when India, Pakistan and other nations have toured Sri Lanka.

"I think the Indian channel implicated Sri Lankan umpires to discredit the image of Sri Lanka," he said. "I am confident I can clear my name."

Sri Lanka Cricket said they had scheduled a formal hearing on Thursday with the three local umpires.

India TV chairman Rajat Sharma has vowed that his channel would cooperate with the ICC by handing over its unedited tapes.

Three Pakistani cricketers were last year jailed in Britain after being found guilty of spot-fixing following a newspaper sting. Shah was among the umpires at the inaugural Bangladesh Premier League earlier this year, a local version of India's IPL Twenty20 tournament.

The competition was marred by corruption allegations and ended up with former Bangladeshi international Shariful Haque being indefinitely banned.

Emily back in the goals

FROM PAGE 16

minute with a close-range header and then Sony doubled the lead in the 14th minute with a volley from inside the box after being set up by Zahid. It was again Zahid who set up the Moroccan Aboukacem for a tap into an open net after just 25 minutes. By half-time, the lead stood at four, after Emily converted a spotkick just before the break.

After the resumption, Sheikh Russel seemingly adopted a soft approach to hold the ball in their midfield but did not hesitate to increase the margin. Sony Norde availing a through-pass from substitute Mithun Chowdhury sent the ball over the advancing goalkeeper to make it 5-0 in the 65th minute. By this time, all that was left was for Emily to complete formalities. And the national striker did so, finding his hat-trick with a clinical tap-in from another Zahid cut-back.

Elsewhere, in a Group D match, Team BJMC brightened their chances of qualifying for the quarterfinals with a 2-0 win over Feni Soccer Club under the floodlights with Omar Faruque Babu and Taklish Ahmed scoring one goal each for BJMC, who are on top of Group D with six points.

At the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium, Arambagh KS kept their Group D quarterfinal hopes alive after recording a 2-0 win over Khulna Abahani, who were eliminated after two successive losses.

Khokon and Liberian striker Benjamin Cooper struck one goal each for Arambagh, who must win against BJMC in their last match and hope that Feni Soccer lose to Khulna Abahani to progress to the last eight. Arambagh KS and Feni Soccer are level with three points each.

"Very pleased with my serving in Beijing and obviously the first match today," said the second seed, who lost just five of his service points. "So that's something that I've been working on, obviously."

"Relying on the serve in today's tennis is a big advantage. So I try to get as many free points as possible. Today that was the case. It helped me a lot to defeat my opponent."

US Open champion Andy Murray did not even have to take to the court as Germany's Florian Mayer withdrew with a rib injury.

"I'll practise again. I mean, you never know whether it's a good or a bad thing. I mean, you're obviously prepared to play the match," said Murray.

"Yeah, sometimes it happens when you get a walkover. You just need to make sure you do enough practice and stay sharp."

Also in second-round action, there were wins for fourth seed Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic, fifth-seeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and 13th seed Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland.

But among the seeds to fall were Raonic and France's Gilles Simon.

Top seed Roger Federer, playing his first tournament on the Tour since a quarterfinal defeat to Berdych at the US Open, was due to take on Taiwanese qualifier Lu Yen-hsun in an evening clash.

The Swiss world number one's build-up was clouded by a death threat from a blogger in China but the Internet user, in a fresh posting on the popular baidu.com site, said he had apologised. He remained at large.

A Shanghai police spokesman on Wednesday declined to comment on the case.

As the season draws towards to a close there are four places still up for grabs at next month's season-ending World Tour Finals in London. The top three have all qualified, along with the injured Rafael Nadal.

SA call in rookie Rory

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Uncapped all-rounder Rory Kleinveldt has been called up to the South Africa squad for the three-Test series in Australia. Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old Kleinveldt has played two Twenty20 internationals but has yet to make a Test appearance for South Africa.

SQUAD

Graeme Smith (captain), Hashim Amla, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir, Jacques Kallis, Rory Kleinveldt, Morne Morkel, Alviro Petersen, Robbie Peterson, Vernon Philander, Jacques Rudolph, Dale Steyn, Thami Tsolekile.

Levi's chance

FROM PAGE 16

Africa again failed to even reach the semi-finals after losing all three of their Super Eights matches, the report said.

In their explanation of his presence, the website noted: "Having replaced Graeme Smith in the squad, largely on the basis of (that 117 not out) ... Levi's lack of subtlety meant that, save for a facile 50 against Zimbabwe, he never threatened a repeat."

"Unable to rotate the strike effectively, Levi's default option - the hoick to the leg-side - proved embarrassingly ineffective."

Levi's Mumbai Indians play against the Highveld Lions in their opening encounter on Sunday.

Ex-Zimbabwe coach Curran passes away

AFP, Harare

The cricket world was Wednesday mourning the loss of former Zimbabwe all-rounder and coach Kevin Curran, who has died aged 53.

Curran, who played at county level with Gloucestershire and Northants in England in the 1980s and 1990s, collapsed while jogging in but the cause of death was not clear, Zimbabwe Cricket reported.

"We are still in shock, Kevin was the epitome of health and we've yet to make sense of this tragic loss," managing director Wilfred Mukondiwa said.

Curran played 324 first-class matches: and made 15,740 runs, taking 605 wickets.

He was a veteran of two World Cups for Zimbabwe -- prior to their being given Test status in 1992 -- and five times cleared 1,000 runs in a season in the English league.

He replaced Phil Simmons as Zimbabwe coach in 2005, retaining the post until 2007 before coaching Zimbabwean franchise Mashonaland Eagles.

The club's chief executive officer Vimbai Mapukute said: "I have yet to meet a man more passionate about cricket in this country."

"KC had put his heart and soul into developing our franchise and had great plans for our high performance gym and other facilities."

"His passing will leave a huge void at Mash Eagles and I feel that I have not only lost a key business ally but a friend as well."

Ottis's amazing feeling

CRICINFO, Port of Spain



ICC WORLD TWENTY20 SRI LANKA 2012

A delighted Ottis Gibson, the West Indies coach, said being able to call the team world champions was an "amazing feeling". Gibson, who took over as the coach in 2010, attributed the success to the hard work put in by their talented group of players who all came together with the belief that they could win the tournament.

"We had difficult periods [in the last two years], but we had signs of progress," Gibson said. "If you look at the talent that we have, specially in this format, the power of Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard and Marlon Samuels, the experience of Dwayne Bravo, the brilliance of Sunil Narine, the accuracy of Ravi Rampaul, the way the captain led, it was always the case of if we can harness all that talent and put it in the right direction."

West Indies have not been able to field their strongest side in the recent past because of various disputes but came into the tournament as one of the contenders and lived up to their promise by winning the World T20 title.

"It is an amazing thing when players come together for one cause. They all believed in the cause, they all believed that they could win the world cup when we left."

West Indies' win against Sri Lanka in the final gave them their first world title since 1979 and their first major trophy since 2004. Gibson said that there are lessons to be learnt from the long wait for a major trophy.

"Clive Lloyd led [the team] to wins in two World Cups and to the final of the third, [they were] great feats. Then for the suffering that has gone on since then and for the last 20 years, to be able to come and lift the trophy,

to stay the course, and to ride out the tough times, it is amazing. It shows that if all the talent in the region sticks together, there is more success like this round the corner."

The West Indies team has showed constant signs of progress under the leadership of Darren Sammy who's place in the team has always been questioned. Gibson, who has forged a solid partnership with the captain, reserved special praise for him.

"The captain is always going to be under pressure, so is the coach," he said. "Sammy stayed calm and true to himself with all the stuff going around and focused on cricket. He didn't get a chance to perform any great heroics, but he led the team very well. He led the team to victory."

"The team itself followed him, were happy to be led by him, they took directions from him. At the end of the day, it is not about one person, it is about 15 players and 9 management people who left home together to go and win the world cup."

However, Gibson was disappointed about not being able to celebrate the win back home with the fans as a number of players are playing in the Champions League T20 in South Africa. Although, he didn't get to spend much time with the players after the win, he advised them to reflect on the role they played in the win and emphasised that West Indies could be a stronger force if they stayed together as a team.

The focus will soon shift from T20s to Test cricket, the pinnacle of cricket according to Gibson, when West Indies tour Bangladesh to play two Tests in November.

"Test cricket is still the pinnacle for me. There were lot of players who didn't get an opportunity in this T20 World Cup, who are looking forward to playing in the two Test matches in Bangladesh."

Nadal can't set a date

Tennis

REUTERS, Madrid

Rafael Nadal has no timeline for his return to competitive tennis but on Tuesday the world number four did not completely rule out the possibility of returning from injury in time for next month's Davis Cup and ATP World Tour finals.

Nadal has not played since suffering a shock second-round Wimbledon defeat to Czech Lukas Rosol in June and has yet to return to the practise court, but the 26-year-old Spaniard left the door open for a comeback before the end of the season.

He conceded, however, that the chances of appearing at the ATP World Tour final in 26 days or helping Spain against the Czech Republic in the Nov. 16-18 Davis Cup final were remote.

"Impossible, no. But difficult, yes," Nadal said during a conference call to promote his participation in an exhibition match against Juan Martin del Potro in March.

"I want to go day-by-day, I go every day to the gym, the swimming pool to continue with my recovery. I am trying not to think that far."

The winner of 11 grand slam titles, including a record seven French Opens, Nadal missed the London Olympics and U.S. Open as he fights to undo some of the damage inflicted on his fragile knees from years of competing on hard courts.

Nadal spends his days in the gym, swimming and undergoing therapy treatments but, while he acknowledged feeling some improvements, he is not ready to hit the practise court.

"It has been very, very tough for me because I feel that my knee didn't improve in the right way... but the last couple of weeks the improvement in my knee is something that I can really feel," said Nadal. "That helps me to keep working hard doing every day what I

have do.

"I am working to try to comeback to practise on the tennis court in a not very long period of time."

Progress has been frustratingly slow but Nadal maintained he is not going to rush his return.

He has dealt with injuries several times throughout a career that has included a record 21 World Tour Masters titles and an Olympic gold medal but has entered uncharted territory with the length of his current layoff which has left him unsure what to expect or when he will be back to full fitness.

"That is something I will know when my I feel my knee completely without pain when I start to practise," said Nadal. "I didn't have in the past this long period of time outside of the tennis court, outside of the competition."

"I can imagine when I come back I will need time practise and practise more and more every day, maybe that will take one month and a half."

NCL now from

FROM PAGE 16

the franchisees and members of the different divisions will operate the teams. "These conditions will be elaborated after a meeting with the president (AHM Mustafa Kamal)," said Anam.

The scheduled day-night matches -- the first and the final match of the league -- are however in doubt, as the BCB still hasn't managed to acquire the special balls needed for day-night first-class cricket. "We have to play with cricketing balls that are internationally recognised. We are planning to get good quality balls from England before the beginning of the league," said Hafiz Joarder, member secretary of the BCB's tournament committee.

Each team will be allowed to field two overseas first-class cricketers per game.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 State leader (Abbr.)
4 Donkey
7 Talks on and on
11 First victim
13 Homer's interjection
14 Lecher's look
15 Had on
16 Make a mistake
17 Greek vowel
18 Skewered entree
20 Swerve
22 Namely (Abbr.)
24 Paid escort
28 Shameless hussy
32 Andrea (ill-fated ship)
33 Tiny particle
34 Fix the sound-track
36 — do-well
37 Horses' neck adornments

DOWN
1 Stare stupidly
2 Reed instrument
3 Predicate part
4 Summery quaff
5 Kind
6 Unspoken "I dunno"
7 Taking time off, GI-style
8 Past
9 Diner order, for short
10 The Red or the Black
12 "Get lost!"
19 Baby's mealtime garb

21 Disen-cumber
23 Londoners' last letter
25 Sandwich cookie
26 Stead
27 Rowing tools
28 Door-frame part
29 List-ending abbr.
30 Region
31 Light (Sp.)
35 Spelling contest
38 Biol. or bot.
40 Puncturing tool
42 Jack up
43 3-Down's counterpart
47 Actions at auctions
48 Bread spread
49 Tenant's expense
50 Macabre author
51 On in years
52 Trail behind
54 Trawler need

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	C	A	D	S	I	B	E	A	M
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B	Y	R	O	A	D	B	Y	G	O
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N	A	I	A	D	B	O	L	O	S

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CRYPTOQUIP

E K H V F Y O J N G F M D S F S O N M
I E N G E K M H V D B W J O Y O
N D H F Y N G J B H O J D F J O F H H K I O R
S K J O D N R O : G F H N W E - K J M N F .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: PURPLISH-RED FLOWERS GROWING IN AN ANCIENT CHINESE PHILOSOPHER'S GARDEN: CONFUCIUS' FUCHSIAS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals H