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## **Another Commonwealth Games Gold in sight for PNG as Indian fails doping test**

The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) has revealed that Indian weightlifter who won the gold medal in the women's 53kg division at the Commonwealth Games last month has failed a doping test.

Sanjita Chanu Khumukcham, 24, was in the same category as Papua New Guinea's Dika Toua who settled with the silver medal while the bronze went to Rachel LeBlanc-Bazinet of Canada.

If Khumukcham is stripped of her medal, Toua and LeBlanc-Bazinet will be moved up in winning order with the gold going to PNG. Chamari Warnakulasuriya of Sri Lanka will come up from fourth place to take the bronze.

Khumukcham tested positive to a banned anabolic steroid, a substance responsible for boosting testosterone in the body for muscle mass growth and more strength.

The result of Khumukcham's doping test so far has landed her with a provisional suspension from the IWF however, there is no confirmation yet as to the full extent of penalties she will face.

While the athlete has the right to ask for her 'B' sample to be tested for a further confirmation, the IWF said she is provisionally suspended in view of a potential anti-doping rule violation based on the initial results.

Khumukcham's samples were taken in the US prior to the World Championships in November last year and returned positive for the banned substance in her 'A' sample.

Toua was in a similar position in 2014 during the Glasgow Commonwealth Games where she initially finished second with the silver but was promoted to gold after the Nigerian lifter also failed the doping test.

President of the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee, Sir John Dawanincura, who is also the President of the PNG Weightlifting Federation said this is an interesting development and we are paying close attention to it.

Sir John said despite the news from the IWF, the PNGOC and the PNGWF will wait for the official outcome.

“We understand that the full process has to be completed but if the outcome results in Dika being awarded the Gold medal from the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games then that would be a fantastic result for Team PNG and Dika Toua.

“We will respect those processes and wait to see what the final outcome will be,” Sir John said.

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