



2018 FTBK Season 13 participants pose for a group photo before the start of the games.

Final venues set for 2020 Oly, Para IOC to appeal Russian 'doping cases' at CAS

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, May 3, (Agencies): The International Olympic Committee plans to appeal to Switzerland's supreme court against rulings which cleared some Russian athletes of doping sanctions from the Sochi Games. The Olympic body is "unsatisfied both by the decision and the motivation" of verdicts by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, IOC spokesman Mark Adams said on Thursday on the sidelines of an executive board meeting.

The Swiss Federal Tribunal — also based in Lausanne — can overturn CAS verdicts if legal process was abused, though appeals rarely succeed.

Days before the Pyeongchang Winter Games in February, two CAS judging panels upheld appeals of 28 Russian athletes against IOC sanctions that included Olympic life bans and being stripped of their Sochi results.

CAS said the IOC's investigations in those cases did not prove doping offences, while also stressing the 28 were not formally declared innocent of taking part in orchestrated cheating.

The verdicts irritated Olympic leaders who believed the sports court applied the burden of proof of a criminal case. Sports law in a civil court like CAS typically requires cases to be proven to the "comfortable satisfaction" of judges.

Meanwhile, Olympic medals will be reallocated within 12 months of the end of any legal procedure and athletes can choose their ceremony, the International Olympic Committee said on Wednesday.



Cha Hyo Sim of North Korea eyes the ball as she returns to Mariia Tailakova of Russia during their Round of 16 match North Korea vs Russia at the World Table Tennis Championships 2018 at Halmstad Arena in Halmstad, Sweden on May 2. (AFP)

Pingpong diplomacy

Koreas combine teams at worlds

HALMSTAD, Sweden, May 3, (AP): Pingpong diplomacy is uniting North and South Korea at the table tennis world championships.

The women's teams from the two countries, originally competing separately, decided Thursday to combine teams rather than play each other in the quarter-finals.

"When I informed the board of directors about this development, the unified team received a standing ovation from the delegates who showed their sign of support to this historic move," ITTF President Thomas Weikert said.

The move follows recent cross-border diplomacy by state leaders at home. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in promised last week to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula.

The combined Korean team at the table tennis tournament will next play Japan in the semifinals Friday.

"It's an important statement to promote peace between our countries through table tennis," the South Korean team said.

In March, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho made a surprise visit to Sweden to meet with Sweden's foreign minister, Margot Wallstrom. After three days of talks, they said they discussed the "opportunities and challenges for continued diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful solution" to the Korea's security dispute.

Organizers announced late Wednesday the final venue locations after getting approval from the International Olympic Committee. Organizers say they will use 43 venues. They are made up of 25 existing facilities, 10 temporary venues, and eight new venues that will be permanent.

Botswana, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia are the official candidates vying to host the 2022 Youth Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said Thursday.

The IOC wants an African country to host the 2022 event and will announce the future host on Oct 8-9 when it convenes in Buenos Aires.

"Four countries are interested: Botswana, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia", said IOC official Antoine Goetschy on Thursday. The next YOG will be held in Buenos Aires from Oct 6-18.

The two previous editions were held in Singapore, in 2010, and Nanjing (China) in 2014. The next edition will be held in Lausanne, in 2020.

The US House of Representatives plans to call top US Olympic and sporting officials to a May 23 hearing on sexual abuse amid reports that hundreds of American athletes have been victims of it.

The hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations subcommittee will include Susanne Lyons, acting chief executive officer of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and Kerry Perry, president and CEO of USA Gymnastics, and focus on whether the groups have adequate safeguards against abuse, a committee spokeswoman confirmed.

FTBK 'Season 13' Tenpin Bowling Tourney rolls off

K2E2 Thunders, IBL, D' Islanders top week 1 leaderboard

By Miguel Carlos
Special to the Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: With 15 participating teams headed by defending champion Lane Surferzz vying for the title, the 2018 FTBK Season 13 Tenpin Bowling Team Tournament rolled off at the Cozmo Entertainment Center in Salmiya. On the same day, the winners of the just concluded FTBK Season 12 Tournament were awarded their respective trophies, medals plaques and prizes as well.

Presenting the awards were FTBK Chairman Al Belarmino and FTBK Director for Internal Affairs Nenita Alinea. Meanwhile, the

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start of lane hostilities saw most of the teams struggling with the tournament's oiling pattern resulting in a rather low scoring opening week. Taking the early lead and the team of the week award was the K2E2 Thunders while defending champion Lane Surferzz kicked off their title retention bid with a walk in park win over Original Pin Killers.

Also emerging victorious in the first week of the elimination round were the Indian Bowling League (IBL), World Class, D' Islanders, Clash of Strikes and Mad Investment. The participating teams also includes DMDA Bowlers, NLB Corporation, Cozmo Salmiya, Al Qwassem All Stars, Siete Pares, Strikers X and Rock N Bowl.

Going through the results of the opening day match ups, a highly motivated K2E2 Thunders missed the final round of Season 12, were off to an auspicious start annihilating the off form Rock N Bowl in all four games of the match en-route to a lopsided 3,173-2,839 victory.

Bent on making up for their disappointing performance last season, the Thunders routed the opposition in game 1 of the 4-game series match 799-671. Raising the level of their pin busting in the next two games K2E2 built an insurmountable lead via convincing 808-686 and 811-780 victories.

With already in the bag, K2E2 bantered by Edwin latoja, Jess Farne, Kim Alinea, Joan latoja and Fredy Marzo completed a clean by taking the final game of the match 730-702. Bowling

'Rule change should include all events'

'Proud' Semenya back on track

DOHA, May 3, (AFP): Caster Semenya will bid to move the spotlight from new IAAF rules for female athletes who have high testosterone levels firmly back to the track as the Diamond League gets under way in Doha on Friday.

The South African, the double Olympic 800 metres champion, will race in the 1,500m in the opening of the IAAF's elite 14-meet competition. It will be her first outing since the rule changes were announced. Semenya has long come under scrutiny because of her powerful physique and deep voice related to hyperandrogenism, the medical condition which causes a person to produce high levels of male sex hormones.

The new rules introduced by track and field's governing body and which came into effect on November 1, 2018, will allow such athletes to compete only if they take medication to reduce naturally occurring levels of testosterone.

The rules, which the IAAF puts under the heading "Difference of Sexual Development" (DSD), cover races from 400m to the mile, including 400m, hurdles races, 800m, 1,500m, one-mile races and combined events over the same distances. Semenya hits the Diamond League in top form, having most recently claimed the 800m-1,500m double at the Commonwealth Games.

Either way, Semenya's trademark last-lap burst to the front of the



In this file photo, South Africa's Caster Semenya celebrates after winning the woman's 800m final at Carrara Stadium during the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia on April 13, 2018. (AP)

pack will be fully tested at the Qatar Sports Club by a field including five Kenyans and four Ethiopians sure to seek to hamper the South African with team tactics.

Mutaz Barshim will wave the flag for local athletes, the high jumper and Doha native kicking off his outdoor 2018 campaign on the back of his most successful season ever.

Meanwhile, Greek pole vaulter Katerina Stefanidi has suggested

the IAAF trim her taller rivals, arms and legs in their bid for equality, in a swipe at new rules on women testosterone for certain track events.

Track and field's governing body unveiled the rules, which come into effect on Nov 1, 2018, to counteract hyperandrogenism, the medical condition which causes women's

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to produce high levels of male sex hormones.

From then, affected athletes will only be able to compete if they take medication to reduce those levels.

Also:
JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's athletics federation said on Thursday (May 3) that it would challenge new rules governing female athletes, testosterone levels, which affect the nation Olympic champion Caster Semenya.

Athletics South Africa (ASA) said it would "challenge the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) on these new regulations as we have found them to be skewed." The new policy targets women who naturally produce unusually high levels of testosterone.

Athletes classified as "hyperandrogenous" will have to chemically lower their testosterone levels to 5 nanomoles per litre of blood to be eligible to run any international race of 400 metres up to the mile.

for the beleaguered Rock n Bowl Keglers in this outing were Liza Catapia, Romy Daus, Norie Sairat, Rod Llait and Romy Fermil.

The Indian pin breakers of IBL meanwhile also debuted on a winning note by turning back the NLB Corporation 3,166-3,073. Fresh from their season 12 final round stint, NLB grabbed the driver's seat by winning the opening game of the match 800-758 but IBL came right back to snatch the upper hand through their own 814-752 victory in game two.

With IBL ahead by just two marks 1,572-1,552, NLB Corporation headed by Rudy Zablan, Chit Mariano, Nasser, Chris Bulacja, Ric Marimla and Adnan Mousa was back on top as they cracked a close 763-737 win in game three. Led by Rudolph Castellino, Nadine Dias, Nikshita Shetty, Rani Skeik and Ulysses Menezes, IBL came back

in the final game armed to the teeth and went on to take the match after beating NLB in game four 832-758.

Defending tournament champion Lane Surferzz on the other hand started their title retention bid on the right track by posting an easy 3,014-2,756 win over FTBK newcomer Original Pin Killers. Even though undermanned in game one, Lane Surferzz nevertheless managed to eke out a 755-713 victory and with a complete lineup went on to take the next two games via 747-672 and 823-660 scores courtesy of Brian Fernandes, Colin Costa, Lloyd Fernandes and Aji Varghese. With Rashid Ali, Isaac Livingston Ahmad Fadil and Sajeera Siao-pao manning the lanes, Original Pin Killers eluded a clean sweep through a 711-664 win in game four.

In the other scheduled matches of the first week, D' Islanders brushed aside

Siete Pares 3,085-2,934 even as the two teams split the four game series match 2 games apiece. In booking the victory, D' Islanders inspired by the impressive pin sniping of Janet Shaikh clobbered Siete Pares in games two and four 802-705 and 839-747 that was made possible with the able support coming from Vernice Villariel, Danny Doctor, Rolly David and Bobby Carambas.

Siete Pares who won games one and three 728-697 and 754-722 was headed in this stint by Rami Mudaf, Faie Reyel, Nitz Alinea, Rico Galang, Manny Nazaire, Rita Vidana and Egay Cabillo. MAD Investment LLC also ended up in the winner's circle after taking down Cozmo Salmiya 3,072-2,633. In taking all four games on hand 818-619, 719-692, 767-729 and 743-593, MAD Investment banked on the combined efforts of Siddharth Nair, Hussain Adnan, Dorcas Sansone, Ricky Palaban and Mario Santos.

In the remaining matches of the week, World Class led by Bill Stiles, Lee Mills, Paul Wilson, Gina Ashley and Glenn Corbit edged out the DMDA Bowlers 3,013-2,938 while similarly Clash of Strikes headed by Mahmoud Dashti, hassan Karam Abdullah Al Ali and Yoon Ji Han nipped Strikers X 2,948-2,921. Al Qwassem All Stars who drew the bye slot garnered a total score of 2,897 pin falls.

For the Individual and Team High scores the current record holders are as follows: Individual High Game Men: Group 1 — Lee Mills 213, Men Group 2 — Siddhart Nair 226, Ladies — Janet Shaikh 234; High Average Men Group 1 — Lee Mills 187, Men Group 2 — Siddharth Nair 183, Ladies — Janet Shaikh 195; Team High Game-World Class 848 and Team High Series-IBL 3091.

The team standings after the opening week are as follows (read as rank, team name and total score): 1. K2E2 — 3,173, 2. Indian Bowling League — 3,166, 3. D' Islanders — 3,985, 4. NLB Corporation — 3,073, 5. MAD Investment LLC — 3,072, 6. Lane Surferzz — 3,014, 7. World Class — 3,013, 8. Clash of Strikes — 2,948, 9. DMDA Bowlers — 2,938, 10. Siete Pares — 2,934, 11. Strikers X — 2,921, 12. Al Qwassem All Stars — 2,897, 13. Rock N Bowl — 2,897, 14. Original Pin Killers — 2,756, 15. Cozmo Salmiya — 2,633.

'I have remained faithfully to my anti-doping convictions'

Kipro denies doping, hints of botched extortion

DOHA, May 3, (AFP): Kenyan track star Asbel Kiprop on Thursday "vehemently denied" doping, suggesting an out-of-competition sample he gave could have been contaminated by two anti-doping agents he suspects might have targeted him for extortion.

Unconfirmed media reports on Wednesday claimed the 28-year-old Kiprop, a three-time world 1500m champion and Olympic gold medalist, had tested positive for the endurance-boosting drug EPO (erythropoietin).

"I vehemently deny any doping. I have remained faithful to my anti-doping convictions and I will be the last person to commit such an atrocious sports like thing," he said in a 20-point, 1,200-word WhatsApp message.

Kiprop claims that on Nov 26, 2017, he was notified by an anti-doping agent whom he named as "Simon Karugu 'Mburu'" to be available for a doping test the following day, a procedure not in line with WADA doping control regulations.

'Mburu' was accompanied by fellow doping control officer Paul Scott, both known to Kiprop from previous



In this file photo, Nancy Kiprop of Kenya reacts as she crosses the finish line during the Vienna City Marathon in Vienna, Austria, on April 22, 2018. More than 41,000 athletes take part in the 35th Vienna City Marathon. (AFP)

sampleings, to take a urine sample.

The former, according to Kiprop, asked for an unspecified amount of

money, which the runner forwarded through his mobile phone via a money-transfer service, having left his sample

in the presence of the two agents.

"I did not at the time expect that the request for the money had anything to do with the sample," said Kiprop.

"At that time I did not see the money as inducement or bribe for anything. I gave it in good faith thinking they may have some need known to them. In retrospect, I now clearly see the money as having a relation with the sample collected on that date, and even the irregular advance notice I was given."

OLYMPICS

"I don't know if the amount I remitted could have been less than what was expected from me, and if it caused annoyance that may have resulted in the contamination of the sample."

"I remain perplexed on how my innocent sample could turn positive on the only time when money was extorted from me. It is not beyond my suspicion that my sample turned positive because I might have remitted less money than I was expected to remit."