

Chen takes strong lead, Hanyu third

Pairs crown taken by Sui, Han

TOKYO, March 21, (RTRS): Defending world champion Nathan Chen took a commanding lead in the men's short programme at the World Championships on Thursday with a dynamic skate, while home favourite and Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu came in third.

Chen, 19 and juggling training with courses at Yale University, produced a series of clean, crisp quad jumps in his playful and energetic routine that brought a rousing reaction from the audience at Japan's Saitama Super Arena.

"I felt great going up in the air, in the air, felt great and coming down," said Chen, a three-time US champion who took 107.40 points for a season-best score, outstripping compatriot Jason Brown by more than 10 points.

"At the same time I am really happy with how I skated today. It's not a reflection of any other skaters, but I'm just happy with the way I skated."

Brown, 24, was a surprise second with a fluid, clean performance that bucked current trends in men's skating by not including even one quad jump.

"It feels amazing," said Brown, who switched coaches this season to join Hanyu and Russian skater Evgenia Medvedeva under Canadian Brian Orser and whose eyes widened when his score, 96.81, came up.

"For my free skating I have the same goals that I had before, I just want to give it a try and I would like to put out another personal best."

Japanese idol Hanyu, who returned to the ice after a four-month break from competition due to an ankle injury,

performed a compelling but flawed skate that saw him double his planned quad Salchow.

"I couldn't concentrate. After I missed my first jump, my mind went blind. I guess I was a bit rushed for the first jump," the 24-year-old said.

Hanyu staged a comeback for the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics after another ankle injury that kept him from practicing jumps until just before the Games, and fans are hoping for a similar miracle this time.

"I have a lot of experience in this type of environment despite not competing for the last few months, and I am not happy about the fact I couldn't perform at my best for the short programme. What I can do from here is to fix my mistakes and rest well," he said.

FIGURE SKATING

Earlier on Thursday, China's Olympic silver medallists Sui Wenjing and Han Cong took the pairs skating crown after a breathtaking free skate.

Despite a season blighted by injury, the 2017 world champions skated a lyrical, moving programme for a season's best 155.60 (234.84 combined), drawing a packed crowd to its feet with their clean jumps and gorgeous lifts.

"This has been a difficult year for us, we've had injuries and other issues," said Sui, who laughed as Han pumped his fists at the end of the routine.

"But our coaches and team gave us support that we were able to turn into strength."

Russians filled out the rest of the podium with second place going to Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov after a regal but mistake-marred programme that included the latter putting his hand to the ice in the wake of their Triple toe loop.

The World Championships continue at the arena north of Tokyo until March 23.



Russia's Natalia Zabiiko and Alexander Enbert (right), compatriots Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov (left), and China's Sui Wending and Han Cong, display their bronze, silver and gold medals respectively for the pairs free skate during the ISU World Figure Skating Championships at Saitama Super Arena in Saitama, north of Tokyo on March 21. (AP)

Fan group urges UEFA to curb Champs League ticket hikes

FIFA bans ex-Ecuadorean FA head for life

GENEVA, March 21. (Agencies): World soccer body FIFA fined former Ecuadorean Football Association president Luis Chiriboga a million Swiss francs (\$1.01 million) and banned him from football for life on Thursday after finding him guilty of taking bribes.

Chiriboga, a former member of the CONMEBOL Executive Committee and a former FIFA standing committee member, was handed a 10-year jail sentence in Ecuador in 2016 for corruption.

The 72-year-old ran his country's soccer federation for 18 years but was put under house arrest in late 2015.

SOCCER

He was one of about 40 soccer bosses, mainly Latin Americans, implicated in US-led investigations that rocked the world soccer body. FIFA has since, under the leadership of President Gianni Infantino, stepped up its effort to root out corruption and unethical conduct.

FIFA said their investigation into Chiriboga related to "schemes in which he received bribes in exchange for his role in awarding contracts to companies for the media and marketing rights to various football tournaments."

The tournaments included the Copa America and Copa Libertadores.

After Barcelona and Manchester United raised prices for their Cham-

DBO trounce KIH to go top

KUWAIT CITY, March 21: Don Bosco Oratory trounced KIH by 5-0 margin to go top of the league points table at the Kuwait Independents Hockey tournament.

The match started on equal footing, with KIH being denied on two occasions with the ball hitting the goal post. DBO took the lead, with a blinder by Sherwin, through a well-taken short corner in the 2nd quarter. Thereafter, DBO ran through the KIH defense at will. DBO forward line and midfield combined well and made several forays into the opposition 'D'. Abdulla scored 2 goals for DBO and the other two goals came from the stick of Mahmoud and Zizo thus stamping their authority over KIH.

In the earlier matches, Mum-

baikars scraped past International Red 2-1 and KOC Green drew their match with Kuwait Hockey Kings (KHK), 1-1.

Mumbaikars went into the lead with a well-taken goal by Abdulla Shahid. Mario Fernandes leveled the score for International Red. In the final quarter, Abdulla increased his tally to put the match in Mumbaikars' favour.

Hassan and Sarfaraz scored a goal for KHK and KOC Green respectively to have the match tied.

Matches scheduled for March 22, 2019:

Kuwait Independents Hockey vs Mumbaikars

KOC Green vs Don Bosco Oratory

KOC Blue vs International Red

pions League quarter-final matches, UEFA was urged on Thursday to enforce stricter ticketing rules by a group representing European soccer fans.

Football Supporters Europe criticized "exorbitant pricing" in rises imposed on visiting fans by two of the world's wealthiest clubs.

After Barcelona set prices at 118 euros (\$134) for visiting Man United fans, the English club retaliated with an equivalent 102 pound price for away fans at Old Trafford.

Man United said 27 pounds (\$35)

from each ticket sold to Barcelona fans will subsidize tickets at Camp Nou for its own fans "again being subjected to increased/excessive prices."

"Yet again, this is proof that the current regulations for UEFA competitions are not sufficient," the fan group said in a statement, claiming Barcelona and Porto were problem clubs.

English clubs have long complained to UEFA about opposing clubs, typically in Spain, raising prices for their traveling fans.

Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo was fined 20,000 euros (\$22,712) by UEFA for a gesture he made while celebrating in their Champions League victory over Atletico Madrid last week, European soccer's governing body said on Thursday.

Ronaldo escaped a ban and will, therefore, be free to face Ajax Amsterdam in the quarter-finals, with the first leg to be played in The Netherlands on April 10.

Former Netherlands, Saudi Arabia and Australia coach Bert van Marwijk has been appointed to succeed Alberto Zaccheroni in charge of the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE FA announced the appointment of the 66-year-old late on Wednesday, seven weeks after Italian Zaccheroni departed when the hosts were knocked out of the Asian Cup by Qatar in the semifinals.

Santos coach Jorge Sampaoli has given his pay back to the Brazilian club until his players get paid.

The Argentine says the club should pay every worker on the same day.

Brazilian media say Santos has not paid its players since the beginning of February. Club executives pledged to solve the problem in early March, but that did not happen.

Sampaoli, a former coach of Argentina's national team, also criticized the club's executives.



Nathan Chen from the US performs his men's short program routine during the ISU World Figure Skating Championships at Saitama Super Arena in Saitama, north of Tokyo on March 21. (AP)

CLASSIFIEDS

What ever you need!



To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 1838281 Ext.: 175 Fax: 24911307 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For Sale

Audi R8 Coupe

Brand New - Audi R8 Coupe V10 5.2 RWS S Tronic. Model 2018 Colour: Daytona Grey For Sale in Dubai.



Please call or What's App on 00971 54 4418685

NAME CHANGE

I, MANGILATHEL MOOSA HOLDER OF INDIAN PASSPORT No: N7014018 ISSUED AT KUWAIT ON 09-03-2016 HERE BY DECLAIR THAT, MY GIVEN NAME IS MOOSA AND SUR NAME IS MANGILATHEL

22-24-25

You want to Sell your used car?

TODAY you have the opportunity to reach more than 80,000 daily readers for your ADVERTISEMENT



Please call: 1838281 Ext.: 175 or Fax: 24911307 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

You want to rent your house?



TODAY you have the opportunity to reach more than 80,000 daily readers for your ADVERTISEMENT

ARAB TIMES

To Advertise in this page please call: 24816326/7 or Fax: 24833628 or e-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com www.arabtimesonline.com

classified coupon

CONDITIONS:

- Advertisements will be accepted only on this coupon.
- All Advertisements must be written clearly and are subject to editing according to Arab Times format. No alternations or cancellation will be made after publications.
- Advertisements must not exceed 25 words including name and telephone.
- Advertisements of personal nature involving business transactions, apartments for rent, nursery class and matrimonial advertisements will not be accepted in this coupon.

3 insertions only for KD 5

SECTION HEADING: _____

ADVERTISER'S NAME, ADDRESS & TEL: (Not to be published)

Coupons with payment must be handed over to:

ARAB TIMES ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT