

No point in WADA looking into Salazar athletes-USADA's Tygart

US says countries can't be allowed to 'steal' Olympic medals

KATOWICE, Poland, Nov 6, (RTRS): The election of a new president of the World Anti-Doping Agency should give it the strength to stop countries stealing Olympic medals, the US anti-doping chief said on Wednesday in remarks aimed at Russian state-sponsored doping.

Speaking at WADA's World Conference on Doping in Sport, Travis Tygart, a strong critic of WADA's handling of a Russian doping scandal, said the Tokyo 2020 Games would be the fifth Olympics where doping was the main issue instead of athletes' performances.

WADA is set to elect Polish sports and tourism minister Witold Banka on Thursday to succeed president Craig Reddie on Jan 1.

The London 2012 Games saw scores of positive doping tests years after the event with many medals stripped, most of them from Russians athletes.

Russian track and field athletes were banned from the Rio 2016 Olympics for doping, while Russia's 2014 Sochi winter Games were tarnished by the country's elaborate doping scheme to help their own athletes win more medals.

At the 2018 winter Olympics the entire Russian team competed as independents as a result of the doping affair.

"We can do more and we must do more," Tygart, the head of the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), told the conference. "We cannot allow one country to steal medals."

"We must have a strong and independent WADA and not a weak service provider some have enjoyed in the last few years," he said.

The Russian sports ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Russia's anti-doping agency RUSADA was suspended after a 2015 WADA report that found vast evidence of state-sponsored doping in Russian athletics. The country has since struggled to restore its international credibility in sport.

RUSADA's suspension was lifted in September 2018 amid strong criticism

as WADA gradually obtained access to key Russian athletes' data from the Russian lab.

But in September WADA again opened compliance proceedings after finding "inconsistencies" in the vast bank of historical testing data finally handed over in January.

That means RUSADA is again at risk of being non-compliant and thus putting Russia's participation at the Tokyo Olympics next year at risk.

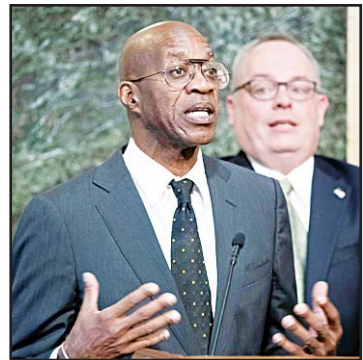
"Tokyo 2020 will be the fifth Games

OLYMPICS

where state doping and not the athletes are the issue," Tygart said. "When the microphones are on, we all express our support." "But clean athletes want to know what happens when the mikes are gone. Are we still on their team? We can do better."

In separate comments to TASS news agency that were not related to Tygart's remarks, Russian Sports Minister Pavel Kolobkov said that athletes should be punished for anti-doping violations, no matter where they are from.

"If someone violates anti-doping rules, then of course this person should



In this Oct 31, 2018 file photo, Edwin Moses speaks at a news conference during a White House event aimed at reforming the World Anti-Doping Agency in Washington. (AP)

be punished," Kolobkov said. "This rule should be applied to any athlete from any country."

Plans by the World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) to look into athletes who trained under banned coach Alberto Salazar will have no result as the US Anti-doping Agency has already done that, USADA chief Travis Tygart said on Wednesday.

WADA chief Craig Reddie said this week the anti-doping body would begin its investigation on the athletes who are part of the Nike Oregon Project (NOP).

Salazar, who counts Britain's Olympic and world champion Mo Farah among the top distance runners he has coached, was last month banned for four years by USADA for doping violations.

However, USADA did not sanction any of his athletes after finding no evidence of any wrongdoing by them.

"That was the first thing to come out of WADA after the USADA decision. I don't know why they said that. It was surprising," Tygart told Reuters on the sidelines of a world conference on doping in sport organised by WADA.

He said he had asked WADA to operate as observers in this case.

"What they (WADA) would have learned is that we left no stone unturned (in relation to any athletes)," he said. "Several athletes have asked us what it (WADA decision) means for them."

"I could not possibly say why WADA said that."

Tygart has had an uneasy relationship with WADA in recent years and has remained critical of the body's handling of a major Russian doping scandal.

American Salazar, who was a celebrated distance runner, winning three consecutive New York City marathons starting in 1980, has vowed to appeal his ban.

Nike has since shut down the famed program, with its stable of elite competitors who added to the company's authority in the world of distance running, calling it a "distraction" for its athletes.



A player in action during the WBT-PBA 13th Kuwait International Open 2019.

2019 World Bowling Tour Finals kicks off

WBT-PBA 13th Kuwait Int'l Open concludes

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The WBT-PBA 13th Kuwait International Open, which concluded yesterday (Wednesday), witnessed 16 bowlers battling for the title. It ended with the 2018 World Cup winner and 2012 youth world cup winner from Australia Sam Cooley in first place, followed by Icelandic Amar Jonsson in the second place, Michael Mak from Hong Kong in third, Thomas Larsen from Denmark

in fourth, Stuart Williams from England in fifth, Nick Pate from the USA in sixth, Danielle McEwan from the USA in seventh, Kuwait's Mustafa Al-Mousawi in eighth and Brad Miller from the USA in ninth position.

The 10th to 16th positions were taken by Tony Jones from the USA, Mitch Hope from Canada, Martin Larsen from Sweden, Dominic Barrett from England, Ildemaro Ruiz from

Venezuela, Liz Johnson from the USA and Osku Pelemaa from Finland.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Bowling Center in Salmiya will today witness the 2019 World Bowling Tour (WBT) Finals, with the participation of 12 world champions and top ranked bowlers of both genders from various parts of the world. The total prizes to be won is US \$32,500 of which the top winner will walk away with USD 12,500.

This distinguished event was held just days after the completion of the 25th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championship and the just concluded the WBT-PBA 13th Kuwait International Open that had the eyes of the bowling world fixated on Kuwait since October 20 through three successive bowling events.

For the first time in the history of the World Bowling Tour (WBT) series, one male and one female athlete from each of the three zones - Asian, European and Pan American - have been invited to take part in the WBT Finals alongside the top three male and female athletes from the 2019 WBT Rankings list.



A player poses for a photo

Tiafoe loses

MILAN, Nov 6, (AP): Top-seeded Alex de Minaur of Australia beat Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in their opening match at the Next Gen Finals in Milan.

De Minaur won eight of the last nine games against the Spaniard to prevail 4-2, 3-4 (5), 4-1, 4-1 at the round-robin event, which features a unique five-set format where each set is first to four games.

The 20-year-old De Minaur

TENNIS

was runner-up last season at the year-end event for the best under-21 players.

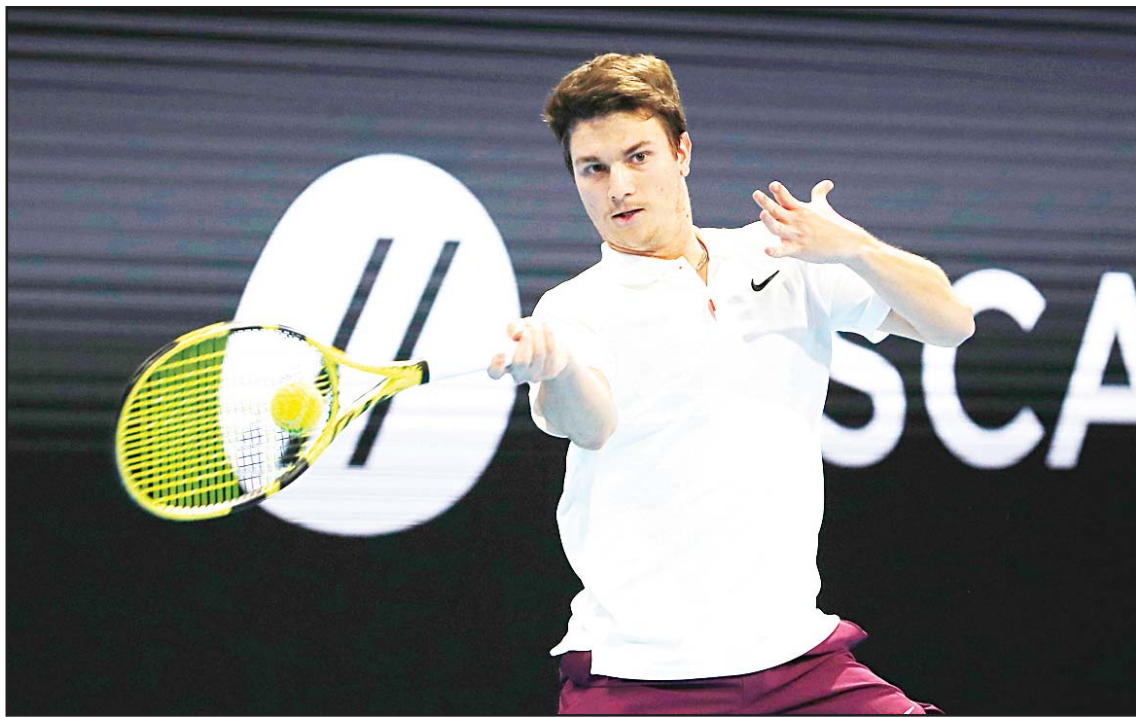
Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia won the other Group A match, beating Norwegian Casper Ruud 4-3 (5), 4-3 (5), 4-2.

In Group B, 18-year-old Italian Jannik Sinner delighted his home crowd by upsetting second-seeded Frances Tiafoe of the United States 3-4 (4), 4-2, 4-2, 4-2.

It was the first win for an Italian at the event, which is in its third year.

Also, Mikael Ymer of Sweden beat Frenchman Ugo Humbert 4-3 (2), 1-4, 4-2, 4-1.

De Minaur defeats Fokina at Next Gen Finals opener



Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia returns the ball to Casper Ruud of Norway during the ATP Next Gen tennis tournament final in Milan, Italy on Nov 5. (AP)

Double Olympic champion Adams retires

LONDON, Nov 6, (RTRS): Britain's Nicola Adams, the first female boxer to win an Olympic gold medal, has announced her retirement from the sport at the age of 37 due to concerns about her eyesight.

In an open letter to the Yorkshire Evening Post on Wednesday, Adams, who won gold at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics, said she was proud of what she had achieved but added that boxing had taken a toll on her health.

"I've been advised that any further impact to my eye would most likely lead to irreparable damage and perma-

nent vision loss," said Adams, who won the vacant WBO flyweight title in July.

"I'm immensely honoured to have represented our country - to win double Olympic gold medals and then the WBO championship belt is a dream come true ... But it's not without taking its toll on my body.

"Hanging up my gloves was always going to hard, but I have never felt luckier and I'm so immensely proud of how far the sport has come."

Adams ends her professional career with an unbeaten record of five wins and one draw.

Mujrayat from Nashma Stable wins 1,400-meter race for junior horses

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: The horse Mujrayat from Nashma Stable came first in the 1,400-meter race for junior horses, ending the race in 4:28:1 minutes. In second place was the horse Ghaladdah from Kaifan Stable ridden by Yusef Muhammad, and the horse Fuad from Al-Jufaidan Stable ridden by Wahabi in third.

Head of Kuwait Equestrian Club Sheikh Dari Al-Fahd and Sheikh Sabah Fahd Al-Nasser presented the awards to the winners and congratulated them.

Leader and Trainer in Nashma Sta-

ble Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali Al-Hamoud expressed his happiness over the horse Mujrayat's victory in the race especially since the horse joined the stable just one week ago.

In the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Club's inauguration race of 1,600 meters for all categories of horses, the horse Tawfiq from De'ia Stable ridden by Ali came first within 2:44:1 minutes, followed by horse Medbaj owned by Muhammad Uwaed Al-Hamad and horse Al-Ansar from Al-Osaimi Stable in second and third places respectively.



Photo from the event

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