

## Sanwo-Olu to grace grand finale



Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu (right); Chairman, Local Organising Committee (LOC), ITTF Challenge Plus Nigeria Open, Wahid Enitan Oshodi; ITTF Executive Vice President, Dr Alaa Meshref; President, African Table Tennis Federation (ATTF) and Director General, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Gafar Bolowotan during the ITTF team visit to the Governor on Tuesday August 6, 2019.

**L**AGOS State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, is expected to grace today's grand finale of the 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus Nigeria Open at the Molade Okoya-Thomas Hall of Teslim Balogun Stadium.

According to Executive Chairman, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Dr Kweku Tandoh, the sports-loving governor will attend the finale as he is committed to sports development in the state and Africa at large.

Dr. Tandoh said: "I can confirm to you that our sports-loving governor will be part of the grand

finale of Africa's elite table tennis tournament. This is another confirmation of his commitment at ensuring that Lagos becomes the sports hub of Africa.

"The annual Nigeria Open is growing every year and the presence of the Number One Citizen in Lagos is a confirmation of the interest of the governor in empowering youth through sports. The governor had earlier in the week received officials of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) in his office during which he also assured them of the state's commitment to Nigeria Open, which has

become a model for others in the world," Tandoh said.

In the last 10 days, Lagos had hosted major tournaments in the ITTF calendar starting with the African Club Championships and followed by the ITTF Africa Cup, climaxing with the 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus Nigeria Open.

Tandoh said hosting these tournaments was another sporting milestone for the state with over 200 players from 40 countries within and outside Africa visiting Lagos, stressing that it was another way to promote sports tourism.

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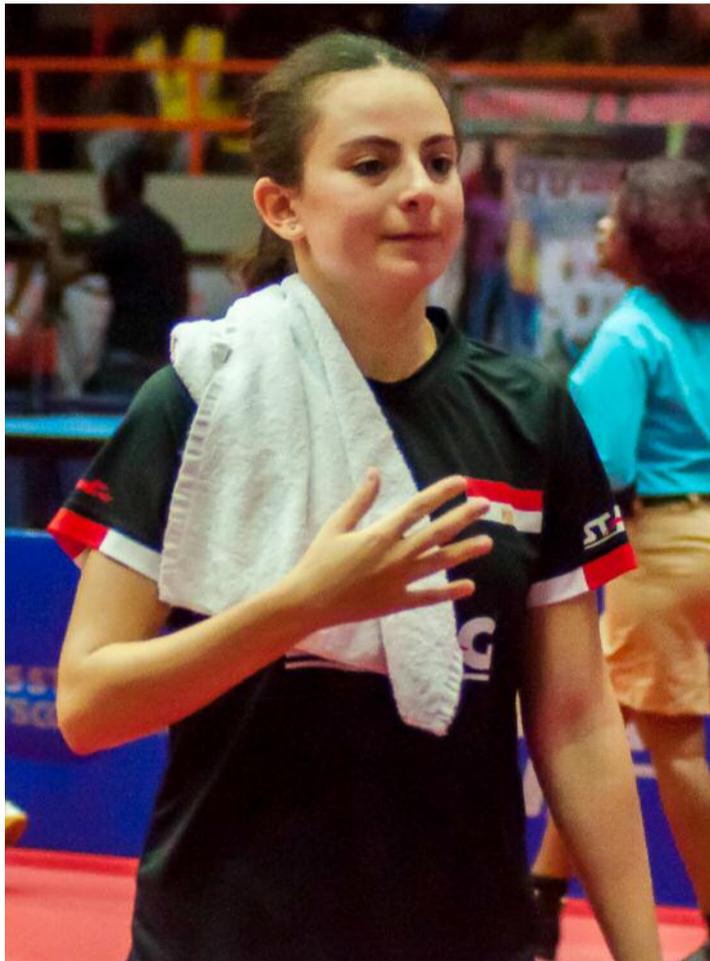


## Indian star, Sreeja, laps up 'sweet win' over Meshref

**I**NDIA'S Akula Sreeja recorded the biggest upset at the on-going 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus Nigeria Open on Saturday as she humbled Africa's table tennis queen, Dina Meshref of Egypt, 11-9, 11-6, 11-7, 11-9 to book her place in the quarterfinals.

The excitement of her shock win was all over the 21-year-old Indian star in her chat with the media. Sreeja said: "Winning my first match in the main draw gave me confidence against Meshref. I went into the match with a lot of optimism. Before the match I had watched a lot of her matches on Youtube and this really helped me to win the match."

"I am so excited beating the African champion. I was a bit nervous before the match and winning in such manner is still a surprise to me. I feel really good because she is a very good player. Playing with such a great player is an opportunity and quite an experience," she added.



A disappointed Meshref



An excited Indian star, Sreeja

### Medal Presentation



Managing Director, Delanyard Points Limited, Mr. Gbolahan Onibuje with the winner of the women's U-21 singles champion, Romania's Andreea Dragoman



Mrs Mercy Ubani of Cornerstone Insurance Plc with winner of the men's U-21, Romania's Cristian Pletea



Board Member of Nigeria Table Tennis Federation (NTTF), Dr. Adesoji Tayo with winner of mixed doubles, Germany's Kilian Ort and Yuan Wan



Pletea and runner's up in men's U-21, Iran's Amir Hossein Hodaei



Germany's Ort and Wan with runner's up in mixed doubles, Luxembourg's Eric Glod and Sarah De Nutte



Dragoman and runner's up in women's U-21, Belgium's Lisa Lung