

ONE TOUGH TURKEY! Turkey's Nurcan Taylan during her world record performance in weightlifting's 48kg snatch in Athens on August 14. Taylan lifted 97.5kg, which his double her bodyweight.

Turkey toasts terrific Taylan

AFP, Athens

Gold medal heroine Nurcan Taylan woke up Sunday full of Turkish delight in her new superstar and super-rich

Taylan became the first woman from Turkey to win an Olympic gold medal with victory in the 48kg division of women's weightlifting on Saturday.

In an awesome display, the 20year-old student lifted more than double her body weight and set new world records in the snatch and overall total to derail China's bid to repeat their Sydney Olympics feat of winning all four gold medals available to them.

China's Li Zhuo, the Asian champion, had been heavily touted for the

title but had to settle for a silver medal. Taylan was immediately rewarded with a 273,000 dollars bonus from sports authorities and received a congratulatory phone call from Turkish Prime Minister SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

LATEST

AFP, Athens

Udomporn Polsak wrote her name into the history books on Sunday when she became the first-ever Thai woman to strike Olympic gold as Asian athletes enjoyed another successful day at the

Udomporn took victory in the women's 53kg gold weightlifting competition on a day when Asian sports superpower China clinched their fifth gold of the Games courtesy of Xian Dongmei's victory in the women's 52kg judo event.

China's joy was cut short, however, when their basketball superstar Yao Ming threatened to give up SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

THE TALLY

Country China Japan Australia Italy Ukraine Russia USA Thailand Turkey Hungary France	G 5 3 2 2 1 1 1 0 0	\$ 1 1 1 1 0 3 3 0 0 1 1 1 1	B 1 0 3 0 1 1 1 1 0 0	Total 7 4 6 3 3 5 5 2 1 2 1 1 1
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(As of 9:30 pm BST)				

This one's for him

 $\textbf{REUTERS,} \, \textit{Athens} \,$



An emotional Ian Thorpe dedicated his Olympic gold medal to the friend who controversially gave up his spot to let him

Thorpe fought back tears as he paid tribute to his Australian teammate Craig Stevens who volunteered to step $down\,from\,the\,race\,for\,him.$

"I had a wonderful opportunity to swim this race because one of my best friends chose to give me this opportunity and I'm very grateful for that," Thorpe said. "I treasure this experience more

than winning the actual medal itself." Thorpe, 21, has not lost a 400 freestyle race in seven years but his chances of becoming just the second man in history to win the event at two

> slipped off the blocks and was disqualified for a false start at this year's Australian trials. He lost an appeal against his disqualification but was thrown a lifeline when Stevens, who had fin-

Olympics appeared sunk when he

ished second behind Grant Hackett at the trials, pulled out to concentrate on

Thorpe, whose new coach Tracey Menzies was also drawn into the saga after being blamed for the clumsy false start, said it was a relief for everyone that he was able to win in Athens.

"This has been a very emotional six months," said Thorpe, who now has four Olympic gold medals.

"I was probably swimming the race for other people besides myself and that's the first time I've done that. "It was worth it and I wouldn't

change anything but it probably wasn't the most efficient way of SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Games is hot

REUTERS, Athens



Olympic swimming was the hottest ticket in town on Saturday, and not just because of Michael Phelps and Ian

While those competing in one of the Games' glamour sports took the blazing Athens heat in their stride, it was a different story for the paying public and press as the mercury hit 37 degrees

Reporters at the open-air Aquatic Centre sheltered under umbrellas or crouched behind makeshift cardboard screens to guard against the glare, heads covered in towels to prevent the sweat dripping on to baking keyboards.

"You can only last for a couple of races and then you need to go and stand outside in the shade and wait for the breeze to kick in." said American visitor Leslie Lanne, watching sister Colleen help the US team to qualify for the 4x100 metres freestyle relay final.

"But I'm originally from Arizona and t gets a lot hotter there," she said.

At the cycling, officials handed out light blue Athens 2004 umbrellas in the veltering press seating area while ice cream vendors did a roaring trade.

"I was baked, and then I was fried," said Carol, a spectator from Dallas, after watching the beach volleyball on the coast.

The world's top athletes, with ice vests and a range of hi-tech materials to help them keep cool, expressed few Tennis players, used to the heat of

Australia and tournaments around the world, shrugged off the conditions: "We are all professional athletes, we will be okay," said British medal hope Tim Henman. "The heat did not affect me at all

because in Brazil we're used to competing more or less like it is here," said 400 metres individual medley swimmer Lucas Salatta. Andrew Mackay of the Cayman

Islands added: "We're from the Caribbean so we're used to this but it's definitely really hot here. The goal is just to stay in the shade and then get out there and race even

Bravest man in Greece

AFP, Athens

Iraq's Mohammed Ali is not the greatest, like his boxing namesake, but the weightlifter is among the bravest competitors at the Athens Games.

Ali encountered constant danger on

the mean streets of Sadr City, a lawless slum area of Baghdad, as he prepared mind and body for his Olympic moment on Sunday The 23-year-old student, who lives

with 13 brothers and sisters in his wartorn homeland, took part in the 'B' division of the men's 56kg category -and lapped up the occasion. "This is the best moment (of my

life)," said Ali, who finished ninth overall at last year's World Championships in

"It is more important to take part in an Olympics than a World Championships

"Because of security reasons there were problems getting around Sadr City (for training). But I am optimistic things will get better (in Iraq).'

Mehdi Army fighters regularly set up barriers of bricks and burning tyres in the Shiite slum of Sadr City and launch rocket-propelled grenades and mortars at US tanks Ali placed third in the 'B' division, a

prelude to the main competition later Sunday. He lifted a total of 255kg and said that his performance

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FLY AWAY WITH ME! US gymnast Carly Patterson is suspended in the air during a beam routine of the Artistic Gymnastics qualification at the Olympic Indoor Hall in Athens yesterday.

ATHENS STREET TALK



AFP. Athens

Ioannis Kokkodis was thrilled to become the first Greek swimmer to make a modern Olympic final, finishing sixth in the 400 metres medley won by US phenomenon Michael Phelps in world record time.

"I feel proud to be the first Greek in an Olympic final, in a race of this level," Kokkodis said. "The sixth place was a dream come true. I don't know if would $ever\,achieve\,a\,better\,result\,than\,this."$

Kokkodis was one of three Greek swimming finalists on Saturday's opening day of swimming. Spyridon Gianniotis finished seventh in the men's 400m free and Vasiliki Angelopoulou was eighth in the women's 400m individual medley.

BARDACH BRONZE PUTS ARGENTINA BACK IN SWIM

Georgina Bardach's bronze medal in the women's 400 metres medley was Argentina's first Olympic swimming medal since Jeanette Campbell won the women's 100m free in 1936.

"When I looked up and saw the clock, I said 'Oh my god, my father's going to have a heart attack," Bardach said after Saturday's final.

AUSSIE GYMNAST EYES BEIJING AFTER FALL Australian Philippe Rizzo, the 2001

world horizontal bar champion, saw his hopes of gold end on Saturday when he fell on his mainstay event in qualifying. But the Aussie veteran immediately

began pondering Beijing in 2008 and a "My warm-up routine was pretty bad and that kind of shook me up," he

"After the fall I knew it was over. But I'd

like to try for the next Olympics." KICK THE HABIT -- WITH AN

ASHTRAY Journalists are being urged to give up smoking at the Athens Olympics ironically with the help of 40,000 dispos-

able ashtrays being distributed to the media 'army' covering the Games.

The cone-shaped ashtrays, made of biodegradable paper, can be covered by a lid bearing the slogan "Think Clean and Green." UNEP says the chemicals in ciga-

rettes can pollute the environment and are commonly found in the stomachs of birds, sea turtles and other marine life.

"We certainly don't want to be seen as promoting smoking, but since we know it is not possible to stop all jour $nalists\,from\,lighting\,up, we\,would\,like\,to$ make sure they do so in a way that will be less detrimental to the environment," UNEP's Communications Director Eric

CYCLIST'S DAD HAS BRUSH WITH

OVER PAINT JOB

The father of British cyclist Nicola Cooke, a potential medallist in the Olympic Games women's road race, was arrested on Sunday after painting slogans on the course

Cooke senior, along with another Welshman, was picked up by police in the diplomatic area of the Greek capital as he was painting messages of support for his daughter.

Both were released after their identi-

US GYMNAST ACCUSES **IUDGE OF CHEATING**

American gymnast Blaine Wilson accused Japanese judge Sawao Kato and Olympic gymnastics technical director Adrian Stoica of cheating after lastminute notification of reduced credit for a favored US release move.

Wilson's comments will add spice to Monday's men's team final in which qualifying leaders Japan and the United States will try to

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



OLYMPIC SKIN! A Serbian woman getting herself painted in her country's colours before Serbia Montenegro's men's football match against Australia yesterday.

Ctg ready

CU CORRESPONDENT



Hosts Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club will eye a super six berth when the second phase of the fourth Nitol-Tata National Football League enters the last

leghere today.

The Chittagong black and whites are still without a victory but on home soil, they have an outside chance to win their remaining two matches and join Abahani and holders Muktijoddha Sangsad in the super six from Group A.

The local boys, on one point after three away matches, will be in action on the opening day of the fourth and the final leg against Najirpara Krira Chakra of Chandpur, who are also in contention for a place in the six-team finals with four points. Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra's fate

will also be decided in today's second match when the Dhaka Premier

Lara touches 10,000 mark

AFP, Manchester

West Indies captain Brian Lara became the fastest batsman to score 10,000 Test runs when he made seven against England in the third Test at Old Trafford here Sunday.

Left-hander Lara, only the fourth man to score 10,000 Test runs, reached the landmark in his 111th Test and 195th innings.

That was 13 matches guicker and 17 innings fewer than India great Sunil Gavaskar who had previously been the quickest Test batsman to SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

Bangladesh Air Force in Group I Both the matches will be telecast live by Bangladesh Television from the MA Aziz Stadium.

League runners-up take on lowly

"My boys will enjoy an advantage because they will play the last two matches at home. I'm hopeful about winning the next two matches. We will press hard to realise our dream of reaching the super six," said Chittagong Mohammedan manager

Mohammed Yusuf yesterday.

Najirpara, however, face a tough task as they are pitted against mighty Muktijoddha on the penultimate day. Manager of Najirpara Krira

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



BTV

Nitol-Tata National Football League Ctg Mohammedan vs Nazirpara Chandpur Live at 4:00 pm Athens Olympic Games Live at 8:30 pm **ESPN**

> Third Test. Day Five Live at 3:30 pm

English Premier Football League

Everton vs Arsenal

Repeat at 8:30 am

England vs West Indies

STAR Sports English Premier Football League Liverpool vs Tottenham Hotspur Repeat at 12:30 pm Sportsline

Live at 8:00 pm