









Nesterenko breaks **US** supremacy



Carolina Kluft and Yulia Nest-erenko were crowned Olym-pic champions in the heptathlon and 100 metres here on Saturday but

their moments of glory received very different receptions

Kluft, the 21-year-old golden girl of the sport since the drugs allegations surfaced against 2000 Olympic 100m champion Marion Jones, received a rapturous reception after securing her

However, Nesterenko's outstanding victory in the blue riband event for women -- breaking America's hold on the title dating back to 1984 -- was

received in silence, as she was not a contender prior to the Olympics and was barely known having been not in the top 100 fastest in the world last year.

While they celebrated the greatest moments in their careers, former greats were heading towards the exit door for good.

Ato Boldon announced he would not be back to an arena where he has won four minor medals after bowing out in the first round of the 100m at a stadium where he won the world 200m

Frankie Fredericks, owner of four Olympic silver medals, exited in the second round of the men's 100m.

While he will run in the 200m there

Olympic heptathlon title

Merlene Ottey and Gail Devers too failed to trouble the younger generation in the 100m, though 44-year-old Ottey was just edged out of the final. Nesterenko found herself in the

unusual position of an Olympic 100m champion of having to defend herself. The 25-year-old rejected the idea

that she was an unlikely winner. "I have been working hard and training for this for six months. I didn't come from nowhhere," said Nesterenko, who took bronze in the 60m at the world indoors earlier this

Nesterenko had been the dominant force in the heats but in the final had to

fight hard to overcome 20-year-old is little chance of seeing him next year at the World Championships and even Laurvn Williams, the less of Britain's Denise Lewis compet-SEE PAGE 14 COL 6 ing there after a dreadful defence of her

AND THE NEW QUEEN IS ...: Yuliya Nesterenko of Belarus (2nd from L) crossing the finish line ahead of (L-R) Debbie Ferguson of the Bahamas, Sherone Simpson of Jamaica, and Lauryn Williams of the USA in the women's 100m final at the Olympic Stadium in Athens on August 22.

From gold to shame

Russian woman shot-putter Irina Korzhanenko, who won Olympic gold here has failed a drugs test, the president of the International Olympic Committee's medical commission Arne Ljungqvist said here Sunday.

"Yes, she failed a drugs test. I think it was steroids, but that will be $announced\,later\,after\,an\,IOC\,executive$ board meeting," he said.

Korzhanenko won the gold medal two days before the full athletics programme got underway in a competition north of Athens at Olympia, the birthplace of the Games.

She had previously been found guilty of doping and was stripped of the 1999 World Indoor title for her

Korzhanenko would have gone into the record books as the first woman champion at the site of the ancient Games, as well as the first athletics champion of this particular edition of

the modern Games Women were forbidden from participating in the ancient Games, on pain of death, although there are several stories of women competing

LATEST

AFP, Athens

Jia Zhanbo of China won the men's 50m rifle three positions shooting gold medal at the Olympics on Sunday.

The silver went to Michael Anti of the United States and the bronze to Christian Planer of Austria.



Athens Olympic Games Live at 8:30 pm **SET Max**

Australia vs India Videocon Cup Live at 2:30 pm **ESPN**

Sortscentre Live at 8:30 pm **STAR Sports**

English Premier Football League Southampton vs Blackburn Rovers Repeat at 12:00 pm

Tigers reel under shock

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

It was not just another day for the national cricketers when they joined yesterday morning's training at the Army Stadium.

Saturday afternoon's dreadful grenade attack on an Awami League rally that had killed 19 people and wounded hundreds, was on the back of every player's mind and understandably, the mood at practice was sombre.

The net session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium was cancelled after the light physical work out at the Army Stadium. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) also postponed a scheduled official photo shoot due to lack of security at the BNS.

The cricketers, who are preparing for the ICC Champions Trophy in England ber of them expressed their concerns about the future of the country. But those who spoke requested anonymity while they touched on the issue citing their limitations because of the players' code of conduct.

"In this era of professionalism there is no way to compromise with duty but it was still very difficult for us to concentrate on training at a moment when the whole nation is trying to recover from the shock," said a senior cricketer.

Another player said that

Bangladesh's image had suffered globally and it could be matter of embarrassment when they go to "Already we are only known for the

be added to that negative impression." Almost everyone was finding it difficult to believe that something so sinister and barbaric could take place right at the heart of the capital.

floods. Now this shameful incident will

"I could not sleep last night after ghastly scenes of Saturday and a num-sion. I have only seen such scenes in Sri Lanka and India on TV and thought how could people live under those circumstances. Now it's happening right at our doorsteps." said another upset crick-

Today's final net practice at the BNS has also been cancelled and the Tigers will only have a gym session before a

The Bangladesh team is scheduled to fly for England on August 26 to play four practice matches against Scotland and Ireland before their Champions Trophy assignment against South Africa and the West Indies.

Meanwhile, skipper Habibul Bashar's participation in the tournament was still uncertain. Bashar, who is nursing an injured right thumb, will know his fate after doctors in Australia

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Advantage AKC, Mukti and BU

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Muktijoddha Sangsad and challengers Abahani and Brothers Union will begin on equal footing when the final leg of the Fourth Nitol-Tata National Football League comes to

Abahani take on Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra in the opening match of the super six on August 27 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur where all the final phase games including the September 9 final will be played.

According to the new format, the three top finishers from Group A will play the other three qualifiers from Group B in the six-team finals. Each side will carry points earned against their fellow qualifiers from the same

After the end of the four leg first phase that concluded in Chittagong on Saturday, Muktijoddha, Ahahani and Brothers will launch their campaigns with four points each in the their bags, oints more than fellow title con tenders Mohamme-dan Sporting Club and three points clear from new leviathans Sheikh Russel.

The other team, Chittagong Mohammedan, will however start from

Four top finishers will play the semifinals billed for September 6 and 7. The top-of-the-table side takes on the fourth finisher while the second and third-placed teams will feature in the other semifinal.

Meanwhile, in case teams finishing equal on point then goal SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

Dancing Queen

AFP, Athens



likes to party. And at the Olympic Games on Saturday, Carolina Kluft confirmed

She is blonde, she

is Swedish and she

athlete in the world. Kluft's victory in the heptathlon also made her one of the few stars of athletics whose fame transcends the sport.

At the age of 21, the ebullient Swede has taken this gruelling sevendiscipline event to a level not reached

since the early 1990s when the queen of the event, Jackie Joyner-Kersee, retired from the sport with two Olympic heptathlon titles to her name.

Kluft has gone from winning world

junior titles in 2000 and 2002 to dominating the senior event in an incredibly short space of time -- normally athletes require several years just to adapt to the higher demands of making that step up. Her score of 6,952 points was her

second best ever but left her well short of Joyner-Kersee's 16-year-old world

But Kluft is a young woman governed by far more than the dry statistics of athletics.

"I don't think about the world record at all. I've got many goals, not just in athletics," Kluft said after her victory.

"My life is much more than athletics and I have got a lot more gold medals to get in my private life, but I am going to eep some of those secret." As the Swede crossed the line in the

event-ending 800 metres after dominating the two days, the quick-thinking stadium organisers ensured she was serenaded in the stadium by Abba's

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8



BULL'S EYE! Carolina Kluft aims the javelin during the women's heptathlon in Athens on August 21. The Swede won

Zoysa sinks Proteas

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Fast bowler Nuwan Zovsa ripped through South Africa's top-order to guide Sri Lanka to a comfortable 37-run win in the second one-dayer at the Premdasa Stadium here on Sunday. The left-arm seamer took a career-

best 5-26 as South Africa crumbled for 176, while chasing a modest target of 214, to go 2-0 down in the five-match

Zoysa more than made up for a lacklustre performance from Sri Lanka's batsmen as he picked up the first five wickets of the innings to improve on his previous best effort of 4-28 against New Zealand at Wellington in

The 26-year-old, whose figures were

the best by a Sri Lankan against South

Africa in one-dayers, claimed the prized scalps of captain Graeme Smith and allrounder Jacques Kallis to put the tourists in trouble Zovsa's first victim was opener Herschelle Gibbs, bowled playing

across the line. Left-hander Nicky Boje

fell a little later as he tried to clear the in-

field but was caught at point. Smith was bowled off an insideedge, while Kallis was trapped legbefore before Jacques Rudolph edged



MR. CONSISTENT: Sri Lanka's cricketer Kumar Sangakkara whacks the ball during the second one day international at the R. Premdasa stadium in Colombo yesterday.

The Phelps story



In the end, the elusive seventh gold medal didn't seem to matter. Michael

Phelps needed

only six gold medals to stamp his authority on the Athens Olympic swimming competition, eight medals overall to grab a share of Games his-

Only one other man, Soviet gymnast Aleksander Dityatin in the boycott year of 1980, has won eight medals at one Games.

The most for any swimmer was seven, by Matt Biondi and Mark Spitz. Spitz, of course, made all seven of his gold at Munich in 1972. Two thirdplaces in his first three races put paid to

any idea that Phelps would match - or surnass - that feat. But his performance in Athens will

great achievements 'They're apples and oranges,' Phelps' coach Bob Bowman said of the relative achievements of Phelps and

remain one of Olympic swimming's

"I don't think you can take anything away from seven gold medals. It's the standard, top of the line.

"But achieving eight medals, particularly in a format with semifinals and the sort of added workload that goes with that, and winning four individual events is very special."

Phelps, 19, swam 17 times in seven days, Spitz, who swam semifinals only in his 100m events, swam -- and won --13 races in Munich.

The difficulty of Phelps's task was underscored on the sixth day of com-

petition, when his evening session included a victory in the 200m individual medley in an Olympic record time. with the victory ceremony followed by the semi-finals in the 100m butterfly -in which he posted another Olympic

"I can't even make you understand how hard that is," Bowman said. But US men's head coach Eddie

Reese was impressed not just with Phelps' physical stamina, but with his mental focus. "The level of competition now is

fierce," Reese said.

"For Phelps to qualify for six individual events at our trials -- that can't be done and he did it.

"This (the Games) is much more emotionally draining than the trials.' SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

	Country	G	s	В	Total
	United States		17	12	49
	China	20	13	10	43
	Japan	12	5	5	22
	Australia	11	8	11	30
	Germany	10	9	11	30
	Russia	7	13	14	34
	Italy	7	6	6	19
	France	6	8	7	21
	Ukraine	6	2	5	13
	South Korea	5	10	5	20
	Great Britain	5	7	7	19
	Romania	5	0	2	7
	Netherlands	3	6	8	17
	Greece	3	1	3	7
	Turkey	3	0	1	4
	Belarus	2	3	5	10
	Hungary	2	3	1	6
	Poland	2	2	3	7
	Slovakia	2	2	1	5
	Georgia	2	1	0	3
	Thailand	2	0	2	4
	New Zealand	2	0	0	2

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

an outswinger to wicket-SEE PAGE 14 COL 4 Live at 10:30 pm