



THIS IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! Britain's Kelly Holmes is ecstatic as she crosses the finish line of the women's 800m event at the Olympic Stadium on August 23. Favourite Maria Mutola (L) of Mozambique came fourth.

First U-19 ODI washed out

Talha shine in warm-up

SPORTS REPORTER

The first U-19 one-day international between Bangladesh and England was abandoned because of rain at Arundel in Sussex yesterday.

The two teams will now head for Hove for the remaining two matches of the series on August 26 and 27.

Bangladesh have lost the three-match Test series to the home side 2-0.

The junior Tigers had warmed up well for the limited overs series with an exciting one run win over Hampshire Academy squad on Monday thanks to some fiery bowling from pace duo Talha Jubair and Shahadat Hossain Rajib who shared nine wickets.

Bangladesh were in trouble at three for 11 after being sent in. But a partnership of 103 between Nafees Iqbal and Dhiman Ghosh steadied the innings. Dhiman was dismissed

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Holmes' golden joy

AFP, Athens



Britain's Kelly Holmes and Jeremy Wariner of the United States proved in devastating style on Monday that age is no barrier when it comes to securing places in the Olympic Games pantheon of champions.

Holmes, 34, triumphed in the 800 metres on the track where seven years ago she limped tearfully out of the world championships.

Meanwhile, 20-year-old Wariner won the 400m to succeed his hero and mentor Michael Johnson as champion.

Wariner may not, however, finish these Games as the youngest winner from the United States as Allyson Felix, just 18, eased home in her two heats of the women's 200m.

She then insisted that she and her teammates were under an obligation to rescue American sprinting which has been rocked by a series of doping

scandals.

Another youngster, Meseret Defar, also showed the way as the 20-year-old Ethiopian won the women's 5,000m title while older legs found it too tough with Edith Masai, 35, not even finishing.

Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan, a former world, European and world cross country champion also discovered that at the age of 34 her legs could no longer last the pace and she was lapped in a sad end to a stellar career.

Greece, still reeling from the Kostadinou Kenteris and Ekaterini Thanou scandal, at last had a day to remember as they collected their first title in the shape of 20km walker Athanasia Tsoumeleka.

Holmes though was the most emotional winner of the night as she overhauled training partner, and 2000 champion Maria Mutola, down the stretch to take the title.

She had to look at the screen twice before realising she had at last clinched a global title.

"I can't believe it, I am totally shocked," said Holmes, who won

bronze in the 800m in the 2000 Games.

"I've been through so many ups and downs in my career. I've always thought the Olympics were the biggest thing and I used to think about it while I ran round the village aged 12 and now here I am."

Wariner looked like a seasoned veteran rather a rookie.

But he adopted the same ducklike running style of Michael Johnson and took control on the final bend in the 400 metres to lead home a 1-2-3 for the US.

It was the first cleansweep of Olympic athletics medals since the Kenyan steeplechasers in 1992.

"Apart from being born, this is the greatest moment of my life," said Wariner.

"I don't feel emotional right now. It is probably going to hit me in a couple of days."

Felix was joined in the semi-finals by teammates Muna Lee and La Shauntea Moore, who replaced the banned Torri Edwards.

The teenager said she hoped to

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Videocon Cup Aussie-Pak final likely

REUTERS/AFP, Amsterdam

Pakistan are guaranteed a place in Saturday's Videocon Cup one-day triangular tournament final and Australia look set to join them after the world champions' match with India was abandoned on Monday.

The game in Amstelveen, Netherlands, was first reduced to 32-overs-per-side because of early rain but further showers fell two balls before the end of the innings with Australia on 175 for seven.

Michael Clarke top scored with 42 from 28 balls and Indian seamer Lakshmi Prasad Balaji took three wickets.

India lost by 66 runs to Pakistan in the first match and can now only reach the final if Ricky Ponting's side lose heavily to Pakistan in the final group game.

The tournament is a warm-up for the ICC Champions Trophy in England which starts on September 10.

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Bashar to have surgery down under

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to send Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar to Australia to have surgery on his injured right thumb.

Bashar, who will miss next month's ICC Champions Trophy in England, was recommended for the operation after Australian doctors examined medical reports sent by the Board.

"The Board has decided to send me to Australia for the operation but the date is yet to be decided. I'll need at least four to five weeks to recover that's why I want to go to Australia as early as possible," said the 31-year-old Bashar yesterday.

He said that Australian surgeon Greg Whely will perform the operation in Melbourne.

Bashar expects to recover before the hectic home series starting with New Zealand's tour of Bangladesh in October.

NFL final round on schedule

SPORTS REPORTER

The final phase of the 4th Nitol-Tata National Football League will start on schedule on August 27.

There were speculations that the

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Finally Marion

AFP, Athens



Marion Jones will emerge from the cocoon of the US team on Wednesday to finally make her debut in the Athens Olympics.

The appearance of Jones in the long jump qualifiers and the attempt by Australia's Jana Pittman to win gold in the 400 metres hurdles are the two highlights of the evening's action in the Olympic Stadium.

Few people could have predicted what has happened to Jones in the four years since she won three gold medals at the Sydney Games.

She split from disgraced shot putter husband CJ Hunter, lost her 100 metres title in the 2001 world championships, had a baby son with world 100 metres record holder Tim Montgomery and has been accused by Hunter of using steroids and other drugs.

Jones has never tested positive for drugs, yet is under investigation by the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

She failed to qualify to defend either her 100m or 200m Olympic title and ironically only made the team in what is considered her weakest event, the long jump.

Provided they both qualify for Friday's final, Tatyana Lebedeva of Russia will be hungry to beat Jones after finishing in just the bronze medal position in the triple jump on Monday.

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Lededeva has the longest jump in the world this year, 7.33 metres, to Jones' best of 7.11m.

On the track Pittman is hoping her surgically repaired knee will stand up to one more race.

Pittman thought her Olympic dream was over when she injured her knee warming up for her race at the Zurich Golden League meeting on August 6.

An operation was swiftly arranged and less than two weeks later the 21-year-old eased through

How could you Fazekas!

AFP, Athens

Hungarian discus thrower Robert Fazekas plunged the Olympic Games into another drugs crisis on Tuesday when he became the second gold medalist in three days to face losing his title for a doping offence.

The 29-year-old European champion and world championship silver medalist was caught trying to swap his urine sample after throwing 70.93 metres in Monday's final to secure victory, an IOC source told AFP.

The revelation came just one day after Russian women's shot put winner Irina Korzhanenko had her gold taken away and was thrown out of the games after testing positive for

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PHOTO: AFP

THAT SINKING FEELING: German women's football captain Birgit Prinz (R) and a teammate react after their loss in the Olympic Games semifinal against the USA in Heraklion on August 23.

The final script

Brazil, USA set up date

AFP, Athens



The United States are just one match away from farewelling their ageing football heroines with an Olympic gold medal after sco-ring a dramatic semi-final win over world champions Germany on Monday.

Standing in their way in the final will be Brazil, who beat Sweden 1-0 in the other semi-final thanks to a Pretinha goal in the 64th minute.

Thursday's final at Karaiskaki Stadium in Athens will be a replay of an ill-tempered clash in the group stages of the tournament, which the United States won 2-0.

On Monday at Heraklio Stadium in Crete, the US women upset the tournament favourites 2-1, but only after the match was forced into extra time when Isabell Bachor equalised for the

Germans two minutes into injury time.

Midfielder Kristine Lilly scored for the United States in the 33rd minute and the Americans looked to be comfortably in control until Bachor scored.

The United States appeared rattled in the first few minutes of extra time, especially when teenager Heather O'Reilly hit the post after beating German keeper Silke Rottenberg and facing an open goal from 15 yards.

But in the 99th minute the undisputed superstar of American and world women's football, Mia Hamm, stepped in to resolve matters, making an aggressive drive towards goal, then crossing sharply in and allowing O'Reilly to score.

"I am so proud to be on this team," Hamm, 32, said after the win.

"We are ready to win the gold medal, as a team we are really confident that we can make it."

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Japan tells Fischer to get out

AFP, Tokyo

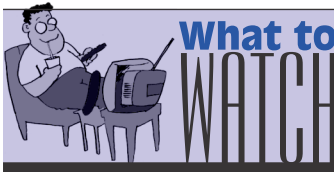
Japan's government rejected Tuesday an appeal against an order to deport former US chess champion Bobby Fischer, wanted in the United States, his supporters said as they launched new bids to stop his deportation.

The ad hoc Committee to Free Bobby Fischer announced the government had rejected an appeal in which he claimed protection as a political refugee and said he would be deported immediately.

"The Japanese justice ministry rejected Bobby Fischer's demand for protection as a political refugee saying that the charges outstanding against him in the United States are not political in nature," committee head John Bosnitch said in a statement.

Justice Minister (Daizo) Nozawa also formally rejected Bobby Fischer's appeal of the deportation order issued against him by the Immigration Bureau," he said.

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BTV

Athens Olympic Games

Highlights

Live at 8:30 pm

SET Max

Pakistan vs Australia

Videocon Cup

Live at 2:30 pm

ESPN

Sortscentre

Live at 8:30 pm

English Premier Football League

Arsenal vs Blackburn Rovers

Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

Sportsline

Live at 8:00 pm

TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs South Africa

Third ODI

Live at 2:30 pm



PHOTO: AFP

POETRY IN MOTION: Romania's gold medalist Catalina Ponor performs during the women's beam final, at the Olympic Indoor Hall in Athens on August 23.

THE TALLY				
Country	G	S	B	Ttl
United States	23	26	17	66
China	23	15	12	50
Japan	15	8	9	32
Australia	13	9	13	35
France	9	7	9	25
Germany	8	10	11	29
Italy	8	6	7	21
Romania	8	4	4	16
Ukraine	8	2	5	15
Great Britain	7	8	7	22
Russia	6	16	19	41
Korea	6	10	5	21
Greece	5	2	2	9
Hungary	4	4	2	10
Netherlands	3	6	8	17
Sweden	3	0	1	4
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Belarus	2	3	6	11
Poland	2	2	3	7
Slovakia	2	2	1	5
Bulgaria	2	1	5	8
Ethiopia	2	1	1	4
Georgia	2	1	0	3
Thailand	2	0	2	4
Chile	2	0	1	3
New Zealand	2	0	0	2
Norway	2	0	0	2
Spain	1	6	3	10
Canada	1	3	1	5

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