

TODAY'S GOLD RUSH

- TRIATHLON**
Mixed Relay
12:00 pm
- SHOOTING**
25m Rapid Fire Pistol (Men's)
1:30 pm
- ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS**
Men's Parallel Bars
3:45 pm
Women's Balance Beam
4:38 pm
Men's Horizontal Bar
5:33 pm
Women's Floor Exercise
6:23 pm
Men's Kayak Cross
9:00 pm
- ATHLETICS**
Men's Pole Vault
11:00 pm
Women's 5000m
1:15 am (Tuesday)
Women's 800m
1:47 am (Tuesday)
- CYCLING TRACK**
11:46 pm
- 3V3 BASKETBALL**
Women: 2:00 am (Tuesday)
- 3V3 BASKETBALL**
Men: 2:30 am (Tuesday)



Yesterday was a great day for Caribbean people as they saw two of their athletes bring in glory for their nations in the Paris Olympics. Just 10 minutes after Julien Alfred stunned American world champion Sha'Carri Richardson to win the women's 100 metres final and claim Saint Lucia's first-ever Olympic medal, [bottom middle] Thea LaFond made history for Dominica by winning gold in the triple jump to earn the country's first-ever Olympic medal. Jamaica's Shanieka Ricketts took silver and American Jasmine Moore claimed bronze in the triple jump event.

PHOTO: REUTERS



France eye Olympic men's football final

Morocco fancy chances against Spain

AFP, LYON

Thierry Henry's France have their sights set on a place in the gold medal match in the Olympic men's football as they face Egypt in the semifinals on Monday, while Spain take on an impressive Morocco in the other last four game.

France are dreaming of a second men's football gold – 40 years after their first – on home soil and will be overwhelming favourites against the Egyptians in Lyon.

Henry's team have not conceded a goal on their way to the semis, having eased through the group stage with three wins from three before edging out two-time Olympic champions Argentina 1-0 on Friday.

"I call my players the crazy guys, in a good way," said Henry, an all-time France great who won the World Cup and a European Championship as a player.

"I have had the opportunity to play in a lot of competitions. I am not saying I haven't enjoyed what I have done, but the Olympics are different."

Meanwhile, the winner of men's football gold will come from outside Latin America for the first time since 2000, and there is the possibility of an all North African final.

Morocco have been outstanding in reaching the semis, topping their group ahead of Argentina and hammering the United States 4-0.

They may fancy their chances in Marseille against Spain, who are hoping to follow their senior national team's triumph at Euro 2024 by winning football gold for the second time, 32 years on from victory at the Barcelona Games.

McIntosh makes Canadian history

REUTERS, Paris

Summer McIntosh became the first Canadian athlete to take three golds from a single Olympics when she won the 200 metres individual medley at the Paris Games on Saturday.

The 17-year-old swimmer did it in an Olympic record time of two minutes 06.56 seconds, taking down the 2016 record of 2:06.58 set by Hungary's K a t i n k a Hosszu, to complete a medley double after winning the 400 last Monday.



Kate Douglass of the United States won the silver and Australian Kaylee McKeown was awarded the bronze after U.S. swimmer Alex Walsh, the 2021 silver medalist, was disqualified for an illegal turn at the end of the backstroke leg.

McIntosh now has four medals from Paris after also winning the 200 butterfly on Thursday and taking silver in the 400 freestyle on the opening Saturday.

"It's pretty surreal," she said. "I'm just so proud of myself for how I've been able to recover and manage these events, because it is a lot."

AFP, Paris

Julien Alfred and Thea LaFond led their two tiny Caribbean island nations to first-ever Olympic medals when they won golds in the women's 100m and triple jump at the Paris Games on Saturday.

In the 100m, St. Lucia's Alfred upstaged the much-hyped American world champion Sha'Carri Richardson, storming to a gun-to-tape victory in 10.72sec.

"It means a lot to my country. I'm sure they're celebrating right now," said Alfred.

It was a stunning success in pouring rain at the Stade de France, aided by world champion Richardson's terrible start and the withdrawal before the final of the injured Jamaican veteran Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce.

Richardson did fight back to claim silver in 10.87sec, but Fraser-Pryce missed out completely on her bid to become the first Olympian to medal in the same athletics event in five consecutive Games dating back to her gold in Beijing in 2008.

In any case, the evening belonged to 23-year-old Alfred, overcome with joy after realising she had bagged St. Lucia their first-ever medal of any colour at an Olympics.

"Growing up I used to be on the field struggling with no shoes running barefoot, running in my school uniform, running all over the place," said Alfred.

Alfred leads double Caribbean delight



"I'm really hoping this gold medal will also help the youth and help St Lucia build a new stadium and really help the sport grow." In a remarkable turn of events, there was – just 10 minutes later – another gold for a second island nation in the West Indies which also began competing at the Games in 1996.

LaFond sailed out to a national record of 15.02 metres on her second effort in the triple jump. The world indoor champion held her nerve as Jamaica's Shanieka Ricketts went out to 14.87m to claim silver.

"It is absolutely beyond my wildest

dreams," said LaFond. "The rain was kind of in my favour, it came down as soon as I was done with that second jump – thank you God for working with me!"

LaFond added: "Here we are, Olympic champ. Dominica's first medal, it's gold. Indoor was the first medal, it was gold. What a year, what a life, oh my God, wow!"

"Every time I step on the track is an honour, bearing the flag is an honour, being Dominican is an honour. Representing a country with only 70,000 people and being out here and getting their first medal, a gold, is an honour."

Tigers' preparation plans for Pak Tests remain uncertain

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's preparations for the upcoming two-match Test series in Pakistan has taken a hit with practice schedules having to be postponed due to the ongoing unrest in the country.

The team for the Pakistan series is yet to be announced but a probable contingent of players were set to begin skill training under head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and other coaching staff on Sunday. But practice had to be cancelled due to the ongoing unrest.

The government yesterday imposed a curfew for an indefinite period, leading to uncertainty over practice schedules. "Everything depends on the situation in terms of practice sessions taking place. If the situation does not permit, practice won't take place," a BCB source told The Daily Star. Bangladesh are scheduled to depart for Pakistan on August 17 with the first Test in Rawalpindi slated to begin on August 21 and the second Test in Karachi scheduled to start on August 30.

On Saturday, a scheduled physical assessment test of the players at the Bangabandhu National Stadium had to be cancelled due to poor weather. However, the Tigers did take part in strength and conditioning tests at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium the same day.

Bangladesh 'A' team are also slated to leave for Pakistan on August 6 to play two four-day games and three one-day matches. Many national team stars have been named in the 15-member squad for the first four-day match, slated to begin on August 10.

BCB sources have informed that the board is still sticking to their initial schedule regarding a team's departure but everything will depend on the circumstances at the time.

Biles looks to join 'great' Ledecky

REUTERS, PARIS

Simone Biles could join an elite club of greatest female Olympians as she goes for titles eight and nine in the balance beam and floor exercise finals on the last day of artistic gymnastics competition at the Paris Games on Monday.

The American phenom, who won team, all-around and vault golds in Paris, is the favourite on floor but not a shoe-in on beam, the apparatus where a mere centimetre of misjudgment can separate a medallist from last place.

If Biles wins both beam and floor, her nine Olympic golds will tie her with U.S. swimmer Katie Ledecky and Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina for the most ever won by a female athlete.

Her beam challengers, teammate Sunisa Lee and Zhou Yaqin of China, are two of only three women who so far this year have performed a more difficult routine than Biles. Biles won beam bronze in the last two Olympics, including in Tokyo. She enjoys a difficulty advantage on the floor exercise with her signature tumbling, including a stratospheric double backflip with three twists, meaning the true race on the apparatus will most likely be for silver and bronze.

LEDECKY CONFIRMS GREATNESS

Already rated one of swimming's all-time greats coming into the Paris Olympics, Katie Ledecky made

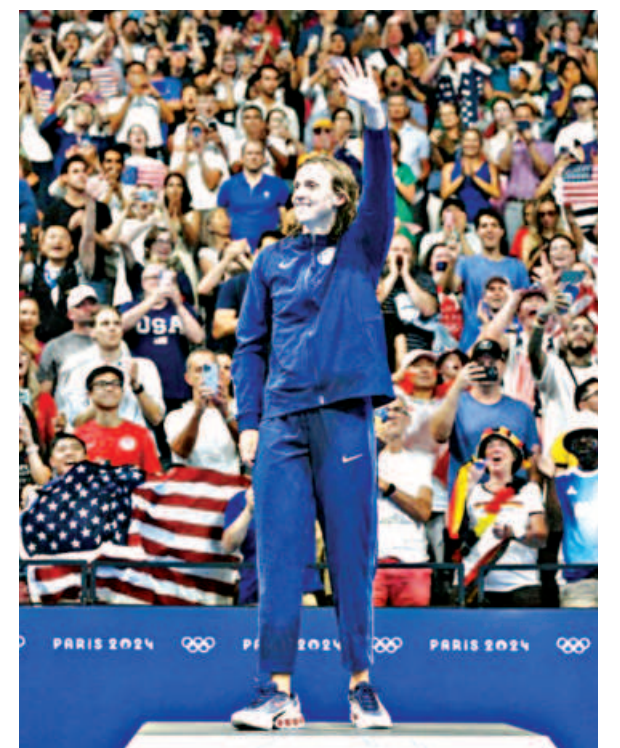
it official yesterday by storming to victory in her signature event, the 800 metres freestyle to end her work in the French capital in grand style with record-equalling ninth gold.

"I knew I just had to focus on the races, don't focus on times, just focus on getting the job done," said Ledecky, whose Paris haul also included gold in the 1,500, silver in the 4x200 freestyle relay and bronze in the 400m free.

In sharp contrast to Ledecky's runaway win in the 1,500m, the 800m freestyle was a thriller from start to finish, with Ariarne Titmus matching her stroke-for-stroke for almost the entire distance.

But with the American setting a relentless, grinding pace her great Australian rival would never get her nose in front, settling for silver, with Ledecky getting to the wall first in a time of 8 minutes, 11.04 seconds. It marked the fourth consecutive Games Ledecky has won the 800m free, and she joins compatriot Michael Phelps as the only swimmers to win gold in four different Olympics. "Given that Michael's the only one that's ever done that, I think that just shows how difficult that is," said Ledecky. "Especially in the 800. It's just a lot of miles."

The 800m was the final event on Ledecky's Paris card and she returns home having added two golds, a silver and a bronze, bringing her Olympic stockpile to 14 medals in all – with more possible.



American swimmer Katie Ledecky celebrates on the podium after winning her ninth career Olympic gold, finishing first in the 800m freestyle in Paris on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS