



Thanou included in Greek team for Beijing

ATHENS, (Reuters) - Sprinter Katerina Thanou was named on Monday in the Greek team for the Beijing Olympics opening next week setting up a potential confrontation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The IOC has warned Thanou that she would face a disciplinary review to examine her eligibility for the Games if she was named in the squad.

Thanou, the 2000 Olympic 100 metres silver medallist, and fellow sprinter Costas Kenteris were banned for two years after missing a drugs test on the eve of the 2004 Athens Games.

On Monday the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) officially entered Thanou as Greece's 100 metres representative in Beijing.

"This is the final list that we have sent to organisers," an HOC official said. "Katerina is on it."

Thanou, 33, has said she wants to race in Beijing.

The HOC said it could not exclude her as she was eligible to compete since December, 2006, when her ban ended and had achieved the qualifying time for her event legitimately.

Her lawyer has said the IOC needs to provide "a compelling justification" for re-opening the case.

The IOC said in 2004 that as the two athletes had surrendered their accreditations voluntarily when withdrawing from the Athens Games, their case was closed but the body retained the right to review their eligibility for future Games.

The team of 156 is Greece's second-largest Olympic squad after the 2004 Games. In Athens 436 Greek athletes competed and 146 in Sydney.

Cost of living in Athens on the rise

Athens is the 25th most expensive city in the world, ranking alongside Amsterdam and Sao Paulo, according to the results of a survey of 143 cities assessed by international human resources consulting firm Mercer. Athens climbed up from 29th place last year to its current ranking. The most expensive city to live in is Moscow. Below are the top 10 cities in the report. The report was based on several factors including: rent prices, the costs of basic goods and services (public transport etc).

Greek ship surfaces 2,500 years after sinking

Gela, Sicily - An ancient Greek ship returned to surface Monday some 2,500 years after it sank in the Mediterranean Sea and two decades after its wreck was discovered by divers off Sicily.

Ship sirens wailed and Italian culture officials and other onlookers applauded as a crane lifted from the waters what remains of the 21-metre-long wooden vessel, the ANSA news agency reported.

The ship's 11-metre-long keel and part of the stern, both of which were preserved as the vessel lay buried for 25 centuries under clay below the sea floor, are to be transported to the

Sicilian port of Gela.

There archeologists will place the wreckage in tanks filled with protective chemicals before transferring it to a laboratory in Portsmouth, Britain where part of the ship's prow, recovered in 2004 is stored.

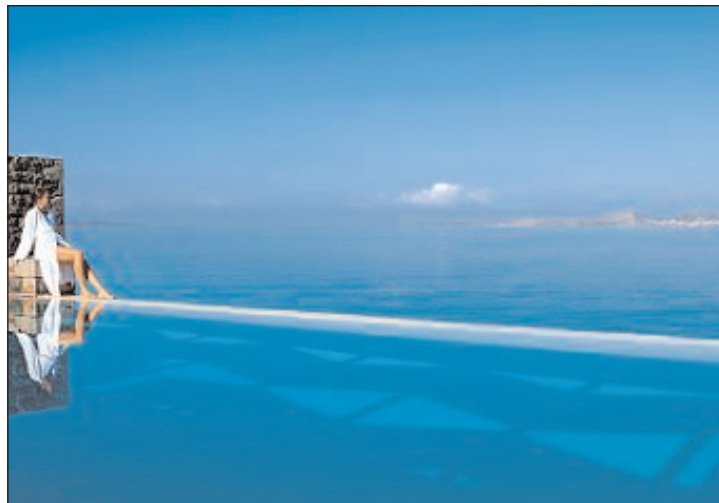
The ship, manufactured using a technique involving natural-rope bindings, was a merchant vessel believed to have sunk in a storm, while sailing from Sicily, then a Greek colony, back to Greece around 500 BC.

A small part of its haul of traditional Ancient Greek vases as well as two rare examples of askoi - a type of ancient Greek pottery vessel used to pour small quantities of liquids such as oil - decorated with red figures, were



retrieved after divers discovered the wreck in 1988.

Culture officials intend to construct a museum in Gela to store the wreckage as well as some of the artifacts recovered.



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Cruise ships collide in Greek port of Piraeus; no injuries

ATHENS, Greece: Two cruise ships with hundreds of people on board collided in Greece's main port of Piraeus Monday causing damage but no injuries, the Merchant Marine Ministry said.

The Malta-flagged Zenith, carrying 1,819 passengers and 619 crew, hit the Greek-flagged Aegean Pearl as the Zenith attempted to tie up in the port. The Aegean Pearl was carrying 504 passengers and 349 crew members, the ministry said. Nobody was injured but port authorities were not allowing them to sail until the damage to both ships was assessed, the ministry said. It said passengers remained on board as the ships were not in any danger. The Aegean Pearl had been scheduled to depart Piraeus Monday morning for a cruise stopping at Mykonos, Kusadasi in Turkey and then continuing to the Greek islands of Patmos, Crete and Santorini. The Zenith had arrived in Piraeus after setting off from Venice, Italy, and stopping in Croatia and the Greek islands of Rhodes, Mykonos and Santorini.