

monday — (all times are Kuwait local)

07:30 basilashvili vs mayer/tennis bein sports 9hd
 08:23 arsenal vs psg/soccer bein sports 11hd
 09:00 wta nanchang china/tennis bein sports 13hd
 10:30 barcelona vs hotspur/soccer bein sports 4hd
 12:00 thailand vs iran/futsal bein sports 7hd
 13:30 man city vs liverpool/soccer bein sports 4hd
 16:15 stuttgart vs eibar/soccer bein sports 5hd
 17:02 england vs india/cricket bein sports 13hd

Sports

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Thomas fulfils dream with Tour title

Kristoff wins final stage

PARIS, July 29, (AFP): Britain's Geraint Thomas fulfilled his childhood dream by winning the Tour de France Sunday after the 21st and final stage won by Norway's Alexander Kristoff.

Thomas, of Team Sky, finished the race in Paris with a near two-minute lead on Dutch rival Tom Dumoulin (Sunweb) to secure his first yellow jersey, with teammate and four-time and defending champion Chris Froome finishing third at 2:24.

"It's still not sinking in, it's incredible," said Thomas, looking gaunt and tired after three weeks



Norway's Alexander Kristoff celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 21st and last stage of the 105th edition of the Tour de France cycling race between Houilles and Paris Champs-Elysees on July 29. (AFP)

of "suffering day-to-day" on the 105th edition.

The 32-year-old Welshman, the third Briton to win the race after Froome and Bradley Wiggins, secured Team Sky's sixth victory in the race from the past seven editions.

"Big respect to Froomey," he said. "It could have been awkward, there could have been tension ... he's a great champion and I've always had respect for you."

"The dream was always to participate, and that dream came true 11 years ago. Now, up here, being in the yellow jersey in front of all of you (the crowd) is just ... wow."

Thomas, known for having a beer while watching his favourite sport of rugby, was quick to grab a Welsh flag before he jumped on to the top step of the podium before listening to a rendition of God Save the Queen — the British national anthem.

"I started cycling because of this race. I remember running home from school to watch it," said Thomas, who paid a heartfelt tribute to his wife Sara, who was emotional as she stood on the sidelines.

"The amount of support I've got ... ah, my wife. Big thanks to Sara. She's

CYCLING

been with me through thick and thin." Thomas, who won back-to-back stages in the Alps before sealing victory with a third-place finish in the penultimate stage time trial on Saturday, took a 1min 51sec lead over Dumoulin into the 21st stage from Houilles to the French capital.

The final stage is usually a festive affair, and Thomas was seen celebrating with fellow Sky teammates early in the stage as he soaked up becoming the first Welsh yellow jersey winner.

It took several laps of the inner-city circuit around the Champs Elysees for



Tour de France 2018 winner Great Britain's Geraint Thomas (center), celebrates his overall leader yellow jersey on the podium flanked by Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo (left), after the 21st and last stage of the 105th edition of the Tour de France cycling race between Houilles and Paris Champs-Elysees, on July 29. (AFP)

the race to kick into action.

And after a six-man breakaway was reeled in late on, the sprinters' teams upped the pace to chase down a last-ditch attempt by Belgian champion Yves Lampaert, of Quick-Step.

Lampaert was caught with only 220 metres remaining, and from there

UAE team sprinter Kristoff came off the wheel in front of him to surge to the line and hold off Germany's John Degenkolb and Frenchman Arnaud Demare.

Thomas rolled over the line seconds later, smiling and joking with teammate, training partner and close friend Froome.

Slovakian sprint king Peter Sagan failed to get in contention for the final sprint days after suffering injuries in a spectacular crash in the Pyrenees.

But the Bora rider consoled him-

self with three stage wins as well as winning his sixth green jersey for the points competition, equalling the record of Germany's Erik Zabel.

"I'm very happy. I suffered a lot in the last three days, but I'm very proud to take my sixth green jersey," said Sagan.

Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe had already secured the polka dot jersey for the King of the Mountains competition, a prize which came with two impressive stage wins, in the Alps then the Pyrenees.

"We're on the most beautiful avenue in the world. I've got this jersey and two stage wins," said Alaphilippe.

"The race is over, but it's not sinking in."

France saw yellow jersey hope and former two-time podium finisher Romain Bardet, of AG2R, disappointed with a sixth place finish at nearly seven minutes behind.

But his teammate Pierre Latour boosted their campaign by winning the white jersey for the best-placed rider aged under 25.

Final Tour de France Results/Standings

PARIS, July 29, (RTRS): Results from Stage 21, Tour de France on Sunday.

1. Alexander Kristoff (NOR) UAE Team Emirates 2:46:36; 2. John Degenkolb (GER) Trek — Segafredo; 3. Arnaud Démare (FRA) Groupama — FDJ; 4. Edvald Boasson Hagen (NOR) Team Dimension Data; 5. Romain Bardet (FRA) AG2R La Mondiale; 6. Maximiliano Richeze (ARG) Quick-Step Floors; 7. Sonny Colbrelli (ITA) Bahrain — Merida; 8. Peter Sagan (SVK) BORA — hansgrohe; 9. Andrea Pasqualon (ITA) Wanty — Groupe Gobert; 10. Jasper De Buyst (BEL) Lotto — Soudal; 11. Timothy Dupont (BEL) Wanty — Groupe Gobert; 12. Thomas Boudat (FRA) Direct Energie; 13. Sep Vanmarcke (BEL) Team EF Education First 14. Magnus Cort (DEN) Astana Pro Team; 15. Oliver Naesen (BEL) AG2R La Mondiale; 16. Daniele Bennati (ITA) Movistar Team; 17. Nikias Arndt (GER) Team Sunweb; 18. Edward

Theuns (BEL) Team Sunweb; 19. Mathew Hayman (AUS) Mitchelton — Scott; 20. Timo Roosen (NED) Team LottoNL — Jumbo.

Overall leaders

1. Geraint Thomas (GBR) Team Sky 83:17:13; 2. Tom Dumoulin (NED) Team Sunweb +1:51; 3. Chris Froome (GBR) Team Sky +2:24; 4. Primož Roglic (SLO) Team LottoNL — Jumbo +3:22; 5. Steven Kruijswijk (NED) Team LottoNL — Jumbo +6:08; 6. Romain Bardet (FRA) AG2R La Mondiale +6:57; 7. Mikel Landa (ESP) Movistar Team +7:37; 8. Daniel Martin (IRL) UAE Team Emirates +9:05; 9. Ilnur Zakarin (RUS) Team Katusha — Alpecin +12:37; 10. Nairo Quintana (COL) Movistar Team +14:18.

Points leaders

1. Peter Sagan (SVK) BORA — hansgrohe 477; 2. Alexander Kristoff (NOR) UAE Team Emirates 246; 3. Arnaud Dé-

mare (FRA) Groupama — FDJ 203; 4. John Degenkolb (GER) Trek — Segafredo 178; 5. Julian Alaphilippe (FRA) Quick-Step Floors 143; 6. Greg Van Avermaet (BEL) BMC Racing Team 134; 7. Andrea Pasqualon (ITA) Wanty — Groupe Gobert 115; 8. Geraint Thomas (GBR) Team Sky 110; 9. Sonny Colbrelli (ITA) Bahrain — Merida 104; 10. Daniel Martin (IRL) UAE Team Emirates 98; 11. Christophe Laporte (FRA) Cofidis, Solutions Crédits 82; 12. Alejandro Valverde (ESP) Movistar Team; 13. Thomas Boudat (FRA) Direct Energie 81; 14. Rafal Majka (POL) BORA — hansgrohe 78; 15. Tom Dumoulin (NED) Team Sunweb 75; 16. Edvald Boasson Hagen (NOR) Team Dimension Data 73; 17. Primož Roglic (SLO) Team LottoNL — Jumbo 71; 18. Thomas De Gendt (BEL) Lotto — Soudal; 19. Lilian Calmejsane (FRA) Direct Energie 69; 20. Yves Lampaert (BEL) Quick-Step Floors.

Hungarian GP Results/Standings

BUDAPEST, July 29, (AFP): Hungarian Grand Prix results on Sunday.

1. Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes) 1hr 37:16.427; 2. Sebastian Vettel (GER/Ferrari) at 17:123; 3. Kimi Raikkonen (FIN/Ferrari) 20:101; 4. Daniel Ricciardo (AUS/Red Bull-Renault) 46:419; 5. Valtteri Bottas (FIN/Mercedes) 50:000; 6. Pierre Gasly (FRA/Toro Rosso-Honda) 1:13.273; 7. Kevin Magnussen (DEN/Haas-Ferrari) one lap; 8. Fernando Alonso (ESP/McLaren-Renault) one lap; 9. Carlos Sainz Jr (ESP/Renault) one lap; 10. Romain Grosjean (FRA/Haas-Ferrari) one lap; 11. Brendon Hartley (NZL/Toro Rosso-Honda) one lap; 12. Nico Hulkenberg (GER/Re-

nault) one lap; 13. Esteban Ocon (FRA/Force India-Mercedes) one lap; 14. Sergio Perez (MEX/Force India-Mercedes) one lap; 15. Marcus Ericsson (SWE/Sauber-Ferrari) two laps; 16. Sergey Sirotkin (RUS/Williams-Mercedes) two laps; 17. Lance Stroll (CAN/Williams-Mercedes) two laps.

Did not finish: Charles Leclerc (MON/Sauber-Ferrari); Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull-Renault); Stoffel Vandoorne (BEL/McLaren-Renault).

Standings

1. Lewis Hamilton (GBR) 213 pts; 2. Sebastian Vettel (GER) 189; 3. Kimi Raikkonen (FIN) 146; 4. Valtteri Bottas (FIN) 132; 5. Daniel Ricciardo (AUS) 118; 6. Max

Verstappen (NED) 105; 7. Nico Hulkenberg (GER) 52; 8. Kevin Magnussen (DEN) 45; 9. Fernando Alonso (ESP) 44; 10. Sergio Perez (MEX) 30; 11. Carlos Sainz Jr (ESP) 30; 12. Esteban Ocon (FRA) 29; 13. Pierre Gasly (FRA) 26; 14. Romain Grosjean (FRA) 21; 15. Charles Leclerc (MON) 13; 16. Stoffel Vandoorne (BEL) 8; 17. Marcus Ericsson (SWE) 5; 18. Lance Stroll (CAN) 4; 19. Brendon Hartley (NZL) 2.

Constructors

1. Mercedes 345 pts; 2. Ferrari 335; 3. Red Bull 223; 4. Renault 82; 5. Haas 66; 6. Force India 59; 7. McLaren-Renault 52; 8. Toro Rosso-Honda 28; 9. Sauber 18; 10. Williams 4.

Mercedes miss out on 1-2 as Vettel, Kimi overtake Bottas

Hamilton wins Hungarian GP to extend lead

BUDAPEST, July 29, (AFP): Lewis Hamilton strengthened his push for a fifth world title by increasing his championship lead to 24 points on Sunday as he claimed a convincing victory for Mercedes in the Hungarian Grand Prix.

The defending world champion came home 17.123 seconds ahead of title rival and fellow four-time champion Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari after the German had survived a collision with Valtteri Bottas, in the second Mercedes.

That came on lap 65, of the 70, when Vettel finally passed Bottas, the Finn's right front wing touching his rear left tyre under braking, wrecking Mercedes' hopes of a one-two finish.

Kimi Raikkonen finished third, his fifth podium finish in a row, in the second Ferrari ahead of Daniel Ricciardo who surged from 12th on the

MOTOR RACING

grid to fourth for Red Bull ahead of Bottas, who finished fifth after a late pit stop.

It was Hamilton's record sixth win in Hungary, his fifth this season and the 67th of his career.

"We came here knowing that the Ferrari would be really quick this weekend," said Hamilton. "But to come out with these points, we'll definitely take as a bonus. What a beautiful day and a great crowd — and a great job from the team."

Hamilton now has 213 points to Vettel's 189 after the 12th of 21

races this year and before the championship takes a European summer break.

Frenchman Pierre Gasly came home sixth for Toro Rosso ahead of Kevin Magnussen of Haas, Fernando Alonso of McLaren, on his 37th birthday, fellow-Spaniard Carlos Sainz of Toro Rosso and Romain Grosjean in the second Haas.

"P2 is not what we really wanted, but the maximum we could get today," said Vettel.

The race, preceded by a minute's silence for former Ferrari boss Sergio Marchionne, began in sweltering conditions with a track temperature of 57 degrees Celsius and air at 34.

After Saturday's rain-lashed qualifying, the teams had a free choice of

tyres, which saw Ferrari split their strategy — Vettel, like Sainz, choosing softs, while Raikkonen and the rest started on ultra-softs.

The Mercedes men made perfect getaways, Hamilton streaking clear and Bottas staying close to resist attacks as Vettel swept inside into third.

Verstappen, who had moved up to fifth, made an early exit, his Renault engine grumbling into retirement on lap six.

After one lap under Virtual Safety Car (VSC) conditions, Hamilton resumed his charge. He was 4.5 seconds clear of Bottas by lap 10 and 5.7 by lap 14 when Raikkonen pitted, followed immediately by Bottas, both switching to softs.

This left Vettel in pursuit of Ham-

ilton, but despite some swift laps, he remained seven seconds adrift of Hamilton before the champion pitted after 25 laps. He rejoined second between the German and Bottas.

In clear air, Vettel pushed to extend his lead to more than 12 seconds by lap 36, with Bottas further adrift and, in turn, ahead of Raikkonen by just 1.2 seconds.

Held by traffic and still on his original worn softs, Vettel began to struggle and his lead tumbled to 9.5sec by lap 39 when he pitted. A slow stop cost him two seconds and he emerged third behind Bottas.

Raikkonen had pitted a lap earlier, falling to fifth behind Ricciardo, who had yet to stop. For Ferrari, it was not an encouraging position given their raw speed advantage in practice. The Australian pitted, finally, after 44 laps, switching to ultras.

By lap 45, Hamilton led Bottas by 10 seconds with Vettel a further three seconds adrift and making little impact, despite fresher tyres.

On lap 51, Stoffel Vandoorne slowed and retired from an encouraging ninth at Turn One. A VSC was deployed. On resumption, Vettel closed to within a second of Bottas, but despite tyres that were 24 laps younger, he was unable to find a pass as Raikkonen closed in.

For Hamilton, it was a dream scenario and, with 10 laps to go, he was 18 seconds clear of the unyielding Bottas, who had both Ferraris bottled up behind him, within a second, until Vettel lunged by with five laps to go.



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton crosses the finish line to win the Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix at the Hungaroring circuit in Mogyorod near Budapest, Hungary on July 29. (AFP)

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Editor-in-Chief

AHMED AL JARALLAH

Editorial Office:

Airport Road, Shuwaikh

P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144

Fax: 24818267

E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com

Advertising: Tel: 55633481

Fax: 24911307

E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

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