

PRIME TIME

Friday — (all times are Kuwait local)

- 12:55 cricket ..... bein sports 13hd
- 14:20 water polo ..... bein sports 10hd
- 14:50 cycling ..... bein sports 7hd
- 15:30 swimming ..... bein sports 8hd
- 17:30 water polo ..... bein sports 9hd
- 18:00 soccer ..... bein sports 4hd
- 20:30 diving ..... bein sports 10hd
- 22:00 senegal vs algeria/soccer ... bein sports max 1hd

# Sports

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## Yates wins first Pyrenean Tour stage

Contenders stay quiet

**BAGNERES-DE-BIGORRE, France, July 18, (RTRS):** Simon Yates put a disappointing Giro d'Italia campaign behind him when he won the 12th stage of the Tour de France on Thursday, as the main title contenders stayed quiet in the first Pyrenean climbs of this year's race.

With an individual time trial scheduled for Friday, none of the top guns attacked, and 40 riders broke away from the peloton in the 209.5-km ride from Toulouse.

Australian Rohan Dennis abandoned the race on Thursday, with his Bahrain Merida team unable to explain the reasons of his withdrawal after he went off the radar for over an hour.

Vuelta champion Yates was arguably the strongest climber of the group and he also proved the fastest in a small-committee sprint to complete his set of grand tour stage wins after winning three times in the Giro d'Italia and twice at the Vuelta a Espana.

France's Julian Alaphilippe retained the overall leader's yellow jersey with a 1:12-minute advantage over defending champion Geraint Thomas.

Tim Wellens, part of the breakaway,

**Tour de France beIN SPORTS 7 HD**  
14:50 local

consolidated his lead in the mountains classification by reaching the top of the Col de Peyresourde (13km at 7%) first.

Yates, Austrian Gregor Muehlberger and Spain's Pello Bilbao were alone in front at the top of the last ascent of the day, the Hourquette d'Ancizan (10km at 7.5%), and they stayed ahead in the final descent into Bagneres-de-Bigorre.

Yates took the final bend first and, with only 100 metres left, held a decisive advantage in a three-man sprint with Bilbao finishing second and Muehlberger third.

In contrast to his twin brother and Mitchelton-Scott team mate Adam, Yates has no ambitions in the general classification this year after finishing eighth in the Giro after starting the Italian race targeting the overall victory.

"I wasn't very confident in beating them. I didn't know how fast these two riders were but my sports director told me to take the last corner in first position and I'm glad it worked out well," the 26-year-old Yates told reporters.

"To have won a stage at all three Grand Tours makes me very proud. This was probably a unique opportunity for me to achieve it this year.

"My main goal is to help Adam in the mountains and we thought that

### Froome 'awarded' 2011 Vuelta crown

AIGLE, Switzerland, July 18, (RTRS): Eight years on, Chris Froome has been crowned winner of the 2011 Vuelta a Espana after Spain's Juan Jose Cobo was stripped of the title following a doping violation.

The now retired Cobo was found to have "abnormalities" in his biological passport between 2009 and 2011, prompting the International Cycling Union (UCI) to hand him a three-year suspension last month.

The 38-year-old did not appeal the decision before the Court of Arbitration for Sport within the stipulated 30 days, allowing the UCI to award Froome his seventh Grand Tour title. The retrospective update made Froome Britain's first Grand Tour winner, stripping that honour from Bradley Wiggins, who won the 2012 Tour de France.

"The Vuelta in 2011 was in many ways my breakthrough race, so this red jersey is special for me," Team Ineos rider Froome said in a statement released by the British outfit. "It's extra special too, because — even though it's eight years on — it was Britain's first Grand Tour win. The Vuelta is a race I love and I've always felt a great connection with it and the Spanish fans."

Team Ineos welcomed the UCI's decision saying it "underscores their commitment to clean cycling."

Cobo's disqualification moved Wiggins up to second in the 2011 Vuelta while Dutch rider Bauke Mollema completed the revised podium. In a statement, the UCI added that it had also disqualified Cobo's results at the 2009 Road World Championships as well as the Vuelta that year, where he finished 10th.

Froome is not competing in the ongoing Tour de France as the 34-year-old recovers from a horror crash at the Critérium du Dauphine on June 12 that left him with multiple fractures.

wouldn't be needed today, that's why I took the breakaway. After (team mate) Daryl Impey's win the other day, we're having a fantastic Tour and hopefully it will continue."

The spotlight will switch back to the overall contenders for Friday's 13th stage, when Thomas will look to gain more time over his main rivals in the 27.2-km time trial in Pau.

Adam Yates will be one of the riders to watch after he flew off the radar in the opening block of racing.

He lies seventh overall, 1:47 behind Alaphilippe, and his sports director Matt White believes the climber can limit the damage in the time trial.

"Ending up within 30 seconds of Thomas would be a good result I think," White said.



Britain's Simon Yates celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the twelfth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 209.5 kilometers (130 miles) with start in Toulouse and finish in Bagneres-de-Bigorre, France on July 18. (AP)

Infantino rejects Blatter's criticism of African cleanup

## CAF President Ahmad sacks deputy as purge continues

CAIRO, July 18, (Agencies): Confederation of African Football (CAF) President Ahmad Ahmad fired his deputy Amaju Pinnick on Thursday just as global governing body FIFA was releasing details of a road map to put the crisis-hit organisation back on its feet.

Ahmad, who is being investigated by FIFA's ethics committee for alleged corruption, sacked Pinnick, the president of the Nigerian Football Federation, at a hastily-assembled meeting of the CAF executive committee.

"I've changed my cabinet," Ahmad told a news conference.

Pinnick released a statement saying his term was up and he agreed with the CAF president not to renew it.

But senior CAF sources told Reuters: "Pinnick was standing up to Ahmad and taking him on in many issues and Ahmad felt it right to get rid of him."

Ahmad appointed Constant Omari of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Pinnick's place as first vice president, which means that if Ahmad is removed as CAF president once FIFA has completed its probe, one of his supporters will step up to replace him at the helm of African football.

Morocco's Fouzi Lekjaa will be the second vice president and Danny Jordaan of South Africa the third vice president.

The appointment of the vice presidents is the prerogative of the CAF president. They are not elected posts.

Ahmad has in the space of three months fired his general secretary, who

reported him to FIFA, his finance director and now senior deputy.

FIFA will next month take over the running of CAF in what is seen as a compromise agreement with Gianni Infantino, the president of world soccer's ruling body, for Ahmad to stay in power.

Ahmad was detained by French police in June and questioned over a sportswear deal between CAF and a French company in which the African body is said to have paid exorbitant prices for equipment it could have got much cheaper directly from the manufacturers.

FIFA is sending its Senegalese secretary general Fatma Samoura on a nine-month secondment from August to overhaul CAF in accordance with an 11-point plan that includes possible changes to the format of competitions, a review of refereeing and a task force to improve stadium security.

He will also oversee a review of CAF's judicial bodies, full transparency of money flows and implementation of good governance principles.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino promised unwavering support for the scandal-ridden and dysfunctional Afri-

can soccer confederation on Thursday as he deflected criticism by Sepp Blatter and others that FIFA was exceeding its authority by overseeing a cleanup operation to stem the embarrassment.

Speaking to African delegates at their meeting in Cairo, Infantino said he had "to laugh" in the face of Blatter's criticism that FIFA was engaging in modern-day "colonialism" by sending secretary general Fatma Samoura

from Senegal, so African herself.

Blatter said FIFA's involvement also flouted its own rules. National associations are members of FIFA but continental bodies like CAF are not. FIFA managed to work past opposition to the move by some within CAF's executive committee to agree on a road-map for reform.

Infantino was "puzzled" by the criticism, he said.

Instead, Infantino framed the issue — hugely embarrassing for soccer's largest continental confederation and the FIFA vice president who leads it — as just another challenge for the world soccer family to overcome. Infantino attempted to present a more positive picture.

He said CAF's current predicament wasn't as bad as the FIFA corruption scandal of 2015, which led to the downfall of some of the most powerful men in world soccer, including Blatter, and brought Infantino to power.

"We turned the boat (around)," Infantino said. "We intend to do the same for Africa and for CAF."

That belies the reality that it's another stark failure by soccer leadership and a leader whom Infantino backed.

### SOCCER

to oversee a six-month forensic audit and administrative reform of the Confederation of African Football.

"I have heard about colonization, that FIFA is colonizing Africa again," Infantino said, a clear reference to the statement released by former FIFA boss Blatter to the BBC this week. "What does it mean, colonialization? I don't know. It's not part of my vocabulary. But I know what it means to work, to team up. ... We all suffer when we see what is going on here (at CAF)."

Samoura, Infantino pointed out, is



Belgium's Greg Van Avermaet (center), rides on a sidewalk during the twelfth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 209.5 kilometers (130 miles) with start in Toulouse and finish in Bagneres-de-Bigorre, France on July 18. (AP)



Borussia Dortmund's Mats Hummels, (left), challenges Seattle Sounders' Joelin Jones during the second half of a friendly soccer match on July 17, in Seattle. Dortmund won 3-1. (AP)

### Tour de France Results/Standings

#### Results

1. S. Yates Mitchelton-Scott 4:57:53
2. P. Bilbao Astana Pro Team +0:00
3. G. Muehlberger Bora-Hansgrohe +0:00
4. T. Benoot Lotto-Soudal +1:28
5. F. Felline Trek-Segafredo +1:28
6. M. Trentin Mitchelton-Scott +1:28
7. O. Naesen AG2R La Mondiale +1:28
8. R. A. Costa UAE Team Emirates +1:28
9. S. Clarke EF Education First +1:28
10. J. Stuyven Trek-Segafredo +1:28
11. G. Van Avermaet CCC Team +1:28
12. D. Teuns Bahrain Merida Pro CT +1:28
13. S. Pauwels CCC Team +1:28
14. M. Frank AG2R La Mondiale +1:28
15. N. Roche Team Sunweb +1:28
16. M. Schachmann Bora-Hansgrohe +1:28
17. T. Gallopin AG2R La Mondiale +1:28
18. M. Valgren Team Dimension Data +1:33
19. O. I. Erviti Movistar Team +5:13
20. A. Bettiol EF Education First +5:13

#### Overall Standings

1. J. Alaphilippe Deceuninck Quick-Step 52:26:09
2. G. Thomas Team Ineos +1:12
3. E. A. Bernal Team Ineos +1:16
4. S. Kruijswijk Team Jumbo-Visma +1:27
5. E. Buchmann Bora-Hansgrohe +1:45
6. E. Mas Deceuninck Quick-Step +1:46
7. A. Yates Mitchelton-Scott +1:47
8. N. Quintana Movistar Team +2:04
9. D. Martin UAE Team Emirates +2:09
10. T. Pinot Groupama-FDJ +2:33
11. P. Konrad Bora-Hansgrohe +2:46
12. R. Uran EF Education First +3:18
13. A. Valverde Movistar Team +3:18
14. R. Bardet AG2R La Mondiale +3:20
15. J. Fuglsang Astana Pro Team +3:22
16. W. Barguil Team Arkea Samsic +3:26
17. R. Kreuziger Team Dimension Data +3:28
18. X. Meurisse Wanty-Groupe Gobert +3:42
19. R. Porte Trek-Segafredo +3:59
20. M. Landa Movistar Team +4:15