

SPORTS

sports

Griezmann trains with Barcelona

AFP | Barcelona

French striker Antoine Griezmann trained with his new Barcelona teammates for the first time following his controversial move from Atletico Madrid. “The first of two sessions scheduled for the day was completed by all available first team players, including the newest incorporations, Frenkie de Jong, Neto, and Antoine Griezmann,” the Catalan club reported.

Another French forward, Ousmane Dembele, and German goalkeeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen were both declared fit after recovering from injuries late last season. Ter Stegen had been suffering from soreness in his right knee while Dembele had problems with his right hamstring.

There was no sign of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez, Philippe Coutinho, Arthur and Arturo Vidal who are all still on vacation after taking part in the Copa America.

Griezmann was presented as a Barcelona player on Sunday night, after the Catalans paid the 28-year-old’s 120-million-euro (\$135 million) release clause.

Atletico described the amount as “insufficient”, complaining that Barcelona and Griezmann had negotiated the deal before the buy-out price dropped from 200 million euros at the start of July.

Van Aert sprints to stage 10 win

A split in peloton meant several contenders lost almost two minutes during stage 10 of Tour de France

● Crosswind sends Alaphilippe and Ineos clear on Tour

● Wout van Aert won a bunch sprint in Albi

● Pinot, Fuglsang, Urán and Porte lose time in crosswinds

AFP| Albi, France

Dutch rookie Wout van Aert won stage 10 of the Tour de France yesterday as Julian Alaphilippe extended his overall lead after a blistering late charge split the peloton.

Yellow jersey wearer Alaphilippe started the attack from 20km out and defending champion Geraint Thomas and his Ineos team joined in to leave at least five of their rivals trailing 1min 36 adrift at the finish in the red roofed south-eastern town of Albi on the banks of the Tarn river.

Richie Porte, Thibaut Pinot, Jakob Fuglsang, Rigoberto Uran and Mikel Landa all lost time after overall leader Alaphilippe launched a devastating surge as a sudden headwind split the peloton.

Alaphilippe, in top spot, leads



Wout van Aert celebrates after crossing the line

second placed Thomas by 1min 12sec, a second Ineos rider, Egan Bernal, is at 1min 16, and van Aert’s teammate Steven Kruijswijk is another 11sec off in fourth.

Ineos plan pays off

Ineos boss Dave Brailsford said the stage went exactly as he had planned it.

“We saw the weather and spoke about this in the pre-race briefing,” said the Briton who has plotted six Tour de France victories from the last seven.

His co-leader Thomas was exultant, if exhausted.

“That’s just great. It was just a positioning error from them and they lose a minute and a half. That’s how it goes,” said Thomas.

The 22-year-old Bernal takes the best young rider’s white jersey.

“It was wild, but that’s the Tour de France, every day is super-hard here and anything can happen. We are really happy to have gained some time,” said the slightly built Bernal, who proved

again here he can keep up with the burly riders who do well in crosswinds.

Nairo Quintana of Movistar was all smiles too, after finishing in the mini-peloton after an exhausting long-range dash.

“I was fortunate to be aware of what was happening, I feel lucky in a way, that’s racing,” said Quintana, whose co-captain Landa lost over 2 minutes.

Jumbo Visma’s Dutch stage winner van Aert claimed his first Tour de France victory beating top sprinters drained by the

high-speed run in.

On his debut Tour van Aert, who did well in the spring classics and won two stages on the Criterium du Dauphine after converting from cyclo-cross, is the latest break out star on an unpredictable 2019 Tour.

“That’s three stage wins for us so far,” said the 24-year-old multiple cyclo-cross world champion.

“It was great for me and Stevie (Kruijswijk),” said van Aert, who also said his win was down to perfect planning after he pipped Elia Viviani at the line.

“I came from the back with a really fast launch, I planned it that way because its the fastest way to finish and I was surprised to see they left a big gap for me to come through.

Slovak star Peter Sagan, the best paid rider in the peloton at 4 million euros (\$4.51 million) per season , won in Albi six years ago but finished sixth yesterday.

On a 217.5km run that embarked from the breathtaking vantage point of the citadel of Saint Flour, it was the crosswinds rather than the three hills that eventually blew the race open.

The Tour reached it’s halfway point ahead of the first rest day.

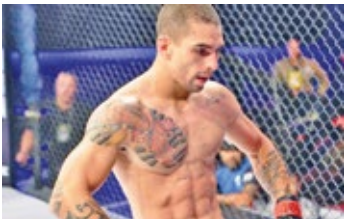
After Tuesday’s break, the second half of the race is packed with high- altitude racing.

London embraces Brave 24

TDT | Manama

In an implementation of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee BRAVE 24 will be held on July 25, 2019, in Copper Box Arena, London.

The event comes as part of BRAVE’s calendar for the year 2019 which was approved by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa in an effort to spread the MMA sport around the world. Chaired by Mr Mohammed Shahid, the High Organising Committee of the event has begun preparations by sketching a promotional plan for BRAVE 24.



Lucas Martins

“We are following HH Shaikh Khalid’s directives and instructions as we are eager to extend the reach of this sport and strengthen its worldwide presence,” he said. It’s worth citing that it’s the second time for BRAVE to take place in UK which played host to the 13th edition of the competition.

BRAVE 24 will feature Bahraini professional fighter Hussain Ayyad who will face

Mitchell Johnson, while the event will be headlined by a Featherweight world title fight that will see Bubba Jenkins (c) taking on Lucas Martins.

Jenkins made waves in his debut, dethroning former champion Elias Boudegzdam with a dominant decision victory in Abu Dhabi, and is excited to continue to help BRAVE expand its message throughout the world, with yet another country added to his passport in England. “I’m a Bad Man” has been vocal with his wishes to help MMA take over globally and is a perfect fit with HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa’s vision of uniting the world through mixed martial arts.

Bahrain to host international horserace

TDT | Manama

Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club’s Executive Director, Shaikh Salman bin Rashid Al Khalifa, announced that Bahrain will be officially organising its first-ever international horserace.

This high-profile event is scheduled to be held on November 22 at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club in Sakhir, with the participation of vari-

ous owners, trainers and horses from around the world.

The announcement came during Shaikh Salman bin Rashid’s media interviews on the sidelines of the prestigious Bahrain Trophy horserace, held at Newmarket, in the United Kingdom.

Shaikh Salman affirmed that hosting an international horserace for the very first time in Bahrain is considered an unprecedented achievement in

the history of Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club. It can be of great benefit to the sport and to the Kingdom as a whole, as it highlights the country’s excellent standing in this field.

He said that organising such an event is within the plans and goals of Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club’s High Committee, which aims to further contribute to the economic, tourism and sporting sectors in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

FIVB U21 Worlds cements Bahrain’s status as international sporting destination: Shaikh Khalid



Bahrain team players with staff after a training session

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa said that hosting the FIVB Volleyball Men’s U21 World Championship 2019 is in line with the BOC’s strategy to cement the Kingdom of Bahrain’s status as an international sporting destination.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports First Deputy Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President noted that staging major competitions of this level is a testament to the excellent organisational capabilities and warm hospitality of Bahrain, as well as its great reputation amongst the global sporting community.

HH Shaikh Khalid expressed his great confidence in the tournament’s Higher Organising Committee, under the leadership of Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) President Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, on delivering a successful and memorable tournament. He said that hosting this event also further strengthens Bahrain’s relationship with the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the sport’s governing body.

Meanwhile, Bahrain have finalised their team line-up ahead of the start of competition on Thursday at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The squad includes 14 players, all of whom are aged 20

years old or below, making Bahrain one of the youngest teams in the world championship.

Four of the players are just 18, including middle blocker Hassan Al Shakhori, opposite hitter Jassim Mohammed Turki, and liberos Hussain Sultan and Bader Nasser.

Opposite hitter Sayed Mohammed Alabar, middle blockers Jawher Fares and Mohammed Jassim Abdulla, setter Mohamed Haroona and outside hitters Hussain Ali Thamer and Hasan Alhaddad are all 19 years of age. The 20-year-olds on the team are setters Saif Yusuf Saif and Yousuf Saif along with opposite hitters Mahmood Ahmed Mohammed and Sayed Yusuf Jaffer.