

Ghana beat Panama 1-0 in World Cup opener after injury-time winner

● Yirenkyi scores stoppage-time winner

● Match played under pouring rain

● Queiroz marks milestone appearance

AFP | Toronto

Ghana scored a dramatic 1-0 victory over Panama in their opening World Cup Group L clash in Toronto on Wednesday.

Caleb Yirenkyi bundled in the winning goal in the fifth minute of stoppage time, sending thousands of Ghanaians in Canada's largest city into a frenzy and settling an otherwise attritional battle.

Both sides largely struggled to generate chances in the first half after Panama striker Cecilio Waterma's second minute attempt was steered away by outstretched Ghana goalkeeper Lawrence Ati Zigi.



Ghana failed to register a shot on target in the entire first half but still found a dramatic winner in the fifth minute of stoppage time

The Black Stars didn't attempt a shot on goal through the first half.

The second half played out under steady rain at the Toronto Stadium but saw more sustained attacking play.

Cristian Martinez triggered a massive roar from the loud Panamanian contingent when he lashed a shot into the side-netting in the 60th minute.

But the match looked headed for a scoreless draw until Yiren-



Andres Andrade #16 of Panama and Caleb Yirenkyi #3 of Ghana compete for the ball

kyi put the Black Stars ahead. Ghana's veteran coach Carlos

Queiroz turned to his side's fans after the goal, urging them on in celebration. Queiroz only took charge of the Black Stars a cou-

5

consecutive World Cups have now featured Carlos Queiroz as a head coach, making him only the second manager to achieve the feat

ple of months before the start of the tournament.

Wednesday's fixture made him only the second coach to appear in five consecutive World Cups, after leading Portugal in 2010 and Iran in 2014, 2018 and 2022.

Loud boos rang out across the crowd of nearly 43,000 during a second-half hydration break under pouring rain.

Ghana triumphed despite being without Villarreal midfielder Thomas Partey, who is facing trial on rape charges in Britain. Canadian authorities denied him a World Cup visa, over the British case.

Bahrain invited to Thailand King's Cup



Bahrain national team players pose for a photo

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Football Association has received an official invitation from its Thai counterpart for the national team to participate in the 52nd King's Cup international friendly tournament, scheduled to be held in Thailand from November 9 to 17.

The four-team tournament will take place in the Thai capital, Bangkok, and will be contested in a knockout format featuring semi-finals and a final.

Bahrain's participation is expected to provide valuable preparation for the national side ahead of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup finals in Saudi Arabia.

High-energy badminton tournament wraps up

TDT | Manama

The monthly badminton tournament organized exclusively for the members of The Indian Club, Bahrain, concluded successfully on Wednesday, 17th June 2026, following three days of high-octane action. The tournament, which kicked off on 15th June 2026, witnessed an exceptional turnout of club members competing across multiple skill and age categories.

Enthusiastic crowds of fellow members, families, and friends gathered daily at the iconic club premises to cheer on the players, creating a vibrant community atmosphere.

The grand finale was followed by a prize distribution ceremony held last evening in the presence of The Indian Club Executive Committee and the organizing team.

Trophies were awarded to the winners and runners-up of each category.

The Indian Club Executive Committee and Club Officials



Results

Premier Doubles: Togi Mathew and Nadeem Nahaz clinched the title, while Mathew K. Cherian and Jisham Muhammed finished as runners-up.

Level 1 Doubles: Shankar Nair and Ameer Mohammed secured the win, with Jain NS and Shabeer Ahmed taking the runners-up spot.

Level 2 Doubles: Vipin TG and Jomet emerged as champions, defeating runners-up Akhil and Prasad.

Level 3 Doubles: Joy Winston and Shakeeb took the top honors, while Ajith Madathil and Santosh finished as runners-up.

Level 4 Doubles: George K. George and Abhinav Suresh won their category, with Joy G. Sasidharan and Bright Antony placing as runners-up.

expressed their sincere gratitude to all the sponsors, tournament officials, volunteers, and spectators for their vital support and contribution toward making the event a grand success.

Gregoire wins Swiss tour 2nd stage as Pogacar extends lead

AFP | Locarno

Frenchman Romain Gregoire won the second stage of the Tour of Switzerland yesterday as world champion Tadej Pogacar extended his overall lead.

It was a bittersweet result for Pogacar, whose girlfriend Urska Zigart was taken to hospital with a broken jaw after a bad crash in the women's race earlier in the day.

Gregoire outsprinted Spaniard Marcel Camprubi and Bart Lemmen of the Netherlands as a six-man group held off a charging Pogacar to come to

the line together.

But Pogacar, alongside Mathias Vacek, had escaped from his main rivals on the final climb in the last 10km of the 157km-long hilly stage, which started and finished in Locarno, to snare ever more precious seconds in the yellow jersey battle.

Vacek and Pogacar finished sixth and eighth on the day, just four seconds after Gregoire.

But that was 28 seconds ahead of the other overall contenders, meaning that four-time Tour de France champion

Pogacar now leads former Giro d'Italia winner Richard Carapaz of Ecuador by 2:50, with Italian Andrea Bagioli third at 3:07.

Czech Vacek moved up a place to fourth at 4:16.

After a frantic start, a 14-man breakaway eventually got away but they never managed to build up a maximum lead of 2min 45sec.

With two short punchy climbs in the final 17km, Pogacar's Team UAE Emirates decided to push the pace at that point and the breakaway's lead came tumbling down, as the

group itself broke up on the steep slopes of the 3.6km-long Fanghi climb.

Slovenian Pogacar led a greatly reduced peloton on the descent before the final 1.4km-long Via Consiglio Mezzano climb, where he cracked all his rivals except Vacek.

As they crested the Via Consiglio Mezzano climb, they were less than 30sec behind the six remaining breakaway leaders.

And although they pushed hard, they came up seconds short of contesting the stage win.



Groupama-FDJ's French rider Romain Gregoire celebrates as he crosses the finish line