

# Hamilton zips to 85th career win

Dominant Lewis Hamilton wins Styrian GP from pole after Ferraris collide on first lap

● **Hamilton beats Bottas into second, Verstappen finishes third**

● **Leclerc apologises for hitting Ferrari teammate Vettel at start**

AFP | Spielberg

**L**ewis Hamilton secured his first win of the season and the 85th of his career with a perfectly-judged victory from pole position as Mercedes delivered a one-two finish in yesterday's Styrian Grand Prix.

The six-time world champion bounced back from a disappointing season-opening Austrian Grand Prix on the same Red Bull Ring circuit a week earlier with a consummate display.

His team-mate Valtteri Bottas, who won the curtain-raising race, finished 13.7 seconds adrift in second to deliver a solid Mercedes one-two, their first in Austria since 2015.

Max Verstappen was third for Red Bull, slowed by slight car damage in the final stages, ahead of his team-mate Alex Albon, who defended stoutly to finish fourth.

"It's great to be back up here and thanks to the team," said Hamilton.

"This feels like it has been a long time coming after a difficult weekend last time."

Bottas said he had enjoyed his battle with Verstappen.

"Starting fourth, this was damage limitation for me," he said.

"I tried, but we are just a bit



Winner Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton reacts on the podium after winning the Formula One Styrian Grand Prix

too slow," admitted Verstappen. Bottas leads the embryonic championship ahead of Hamilton with Lando Norris third.

Norris came home a remarkable fifth for McLaren after passing both Racing Points cars during a thrilling final lap, Sergio Perez taking sixth after starting from 17th on the grid, and Lance Stroll seventh.

Daniel Ricciardo was eighth for Renault, Carlos Sainz clocked fastest lap and finished ninth in the second McLaren and Daniil Kvyat 10th for Alpha Tauri.

## 'I've let team down'

Both Ferraris were eliminated after crashing together at Turn Three on the opening lap, Charles Leclerc apologising to four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, who is in his last season

with the team, for his ill-judged dive down the inside that resulted in a disaster for the Italian team.

"I am disappointed in myself. I'm sorry but being sorry is not enough," tweeted Leclerc.

"Seb hasn't got any faults today. I've let the team down after them working a whole week to bring the updates early. Too eager to gain those places in the first lap. I will learn from it."

Hamilton made a smooth start from his record 89th pole position, pulling clear of Verstappen and an aggressive Sainz.

There was early drama when the two Ferraris collided at Turn Three, Leclerc bouncing off the kerb as he attempted an over-ambitious move to pass Vettel and crashing into the rear of the German's car.

The four-time champion's

machine was badly damaged, the rear wing almost removed, and after limping to the pits he was forced to retire. Leclerc survived, but abandoned the contest soon after the resultant Safety Car had pulled in.

On resumption, Hamilton took control.

Having given a master-class in the wet on Saturday, this was, by comparison, a measured and strategic Sunday stroll.

The sport's only black race winner and champion showed no affects either from another muddled pre-race gesture by the drivers in support of F1's anti-racism stance in which he took a knee again, with at least 10 others, while four stood.

All wore 'End Racism' t-shirts.

Hamilton soon built a commanding lead ahead of Verstappen's Red Bull, the Briton reel-



**After two rounds of a season likely to run to 15 races, Bottas still leads the championship with 43 points, in front of Hamilton on 37 points**

ing off fastest laps at will while Mercedes team-mate Bottas closed in from third.

Verstappen was first to pit and rejoined behind the Finn, but ahead of team-mate Albon shortly before Esteban Ocon became the third retirement in his Renault.

Hamilton pitted from the lead after 28 laps, swapping his softs for a set of mediums, and was soon followed by Bottas, who returned 8.2 seconds adrift of Verstappen.

Behind the leaders, the fastest man on track was Perez, who had carved through the field after starting 17th.

With 15 laps remaining, he was fifth and hounding Albon for fourth.

By this time, Verstappen was hampered by a flapping front-wing footplate and Bottas had closed to within a second.

On lap 66, Bottas passed him on the back straight, but the Dutchman fought back and forced him to try again on lap 67 when, finally, he sealed his spot in an inevitable Mercedes one-two.

## Shaikh Khalid calls for organising Strongest Man at Home Competition



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa

TDT | Manama

**H**H Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Bahrain Olympic Committee President has instructed his media office to prepare for organising the Strongest Man at Home Competition on August 12, 2020. This contest comes as part of HH's initiatives for supporting the sports field in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

"We have instructed for holding this competition in line with the directives issued by the HRH-the-Crown-Prince-Led National Task Force for Combating the Coronavirus COVID-19. This contest goes side by the side to achieve the main target we have set out for organising the Strongest Bahraini Man Championship which proved to be a huge success thanks to its uniqueness. The main aim of both events is to support youth and sports and to provide a platform to allow our Bahraini youth to showcase their talents and meaningfully unleash their energies," HH Shaikh Khalid said, inviting everybody in the Kingdom to participate in the competition to make it a tremendous success.

## Alderweireld seals Tottenham victory over Arsenal

AFP | London

**T**oby Alderweireld gave Tottenham a late 2-1 win over Arsenal as Jose Mourinho's men climbed above their north London rivals, while Aston Villa boosted their Premier League survival hopes with a 2-0 victory against Crystal Palace yesterday.

Mourinho had endured a barrage of criticism as Tottenham slipped out of the race to qualify for the Champions League with just one win in three games.

But thanks to Alderweireld's winner with nine minutes left, Tottenham took the local bragging rights and got back in contention for a place in next season's Europa League.

Tottenham are eighth, two points above ninth placed Arsenal and two behind Sheffield United as they try to avoid missing out on European action for the first time since 2009-10.

In the first north London derby at the new Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Alexandre Lacazette put Arsenal ahead in the 16th minute with a stunning strike.

The French striker dispossessed Serge Aurier outside the Spurs area before unleashing



Heung-Min Son of Tottenham Hotspur scores the equaliser

an unstoppable effort inside the top near corner of the goal.

Arsenal's lead lasted just three minutes as Sead Kolasinac's sloppy pass gifted Son Heung-min the ball.

Son easily eluded David Luiz before chipping over onrushing keeper Emiliano Martinez.

It was the South Korean forward's 17th goal of the season and his first since the coronavirus hiatus.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang forced a fine save from Tottenham keeper Hugo Lloris in the second half, setting the stage for Alderweireld to win the game in the 82nd minute.

The Belgian defender rose above a cluster of Arsenal players to meet Son's corner and plant his header past Martinez.

At Villa Park, Dean Smith's side kicked off languishing seven points from safety, but Egypt winger Trezeguet scored twice to keep them in with a chance of avoiding relegation.

Villa's first win in 11 league games lifted them into 18th, within four points of fourth-from-bottom Watford with three games left.

Villa face Everton, Arsenal and West Ham in their last three matches as they battle to avoid an immediate return to the

**” Arsenal had 48 hours more rest than us. So it was hard, but our performance came from the heart and even at the end we had zero problems**

JOSE MOURINHO

Championship.

"We said to the players, 'It's like a semi-final today'. It was the first leg of the semi-final we needed to go and win and we have done that with a good performance," Smith said.

"We need to give ourselves a big chance. Watford and West Ham play each other next so they both can't take three points but we have to concentrate on ourselves and hopefully get a result at Everton."

Smith's men got an early stroke of luck when Palace defender Mamadou Sakho had a goal ruled out by VAR for handball.

Villa snatched the lead in first half stoppage-time when Conor Hourihane's free-kick picked out Trezeguet, who side-footed home at the far post.

## Griezmann may miss season finale due to thigh injury

AFP | Barcelona

**A**ntoine Griezmann looks set to miss the rest of the season after Barcelona said yesterday the France attacker had a thigh injury.

The World Cup winner went off at half-time of Saturday's 1-0 win over Valladolid after apparently asking to be subbed.

"He came off because he had a problem," Barcelona coach Quique Setien said Saturday. "It was him who asked for the change."

"Tests this morning have shown that first-team player Antoine Griez-

mann has a muscle injury in the quadriceps of his right leg," Barca said on their website.

"He is therefore not available for selection at the present time," a statement said of the

29-year-old who has scored 15 goals in 46 games this season.

It would appear Griez-

mann will miss Barcelona's final La Liga matches with Real Madrid needing five points from their final three games to win the title.

Barca also face a Champions League last-16 second leg on August 8 after drawing 1-1 at Napoli before the lockdown.

Antoine Griezmann

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