

HRH Crown Prince hails McLaren's stunning 1-2 finish at dramatic British GP



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa (C) celebrates with the McLaren Team



Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain, was among those watching trackside as McLaren claimed a spectacular one-two finish at a rain-soaked and drama-filled British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

Royal Backing for a Historic Win

The Crown Prince, a long-time supporter of the team through Bahrain's investment in McLaren, congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and celebrated what HRH called an "outstanding performance."

The Crown Prince also wished the team continued success as they push for the Formula 1

World Championship title this season.

The win is another high point in a standout season for McLaren, who also took victory earlier this year at the Bahrain Grand Prix – a symbolic triumph at what the team calls its "second home race." That April win, led by Oscar Piastri and backed by a podium for Lando Norris, was McLaren's first ever victory at the Bahrain International Circuit.

Silverstone Delivers Chaos and Glory

And it was a performance worthy of royal applause. In changeable conditions that kept teams and drivers guessing, Lando Norris clinched his first British Grand Prix victory, with teammate Oscar Piastri following in second to give McLaren

their first 1-2 at Silverstone in over a decade.

"This is as good as it gets," Norris said after the race, visibly emotional as he described the victory as the realisation of a childhood dream. "The fans carried me through the last few laps. It was chaotic, stressful – but amazing."

The race was anything but straightforward. Piastri took the early lead after passing Max Verstappen as the track began to dry, but with rain returning mid-race, strategy became everything. A well-timed double stack for intermediate tyres saw both McLaren drivers stay in contention, though a slower pit stop cost Norris track position temporarily.

Piastri was later handed a 10-second penalty for a Safety Car infringement but managed

to fight back to second after a strong stint on medium tyres. Meanwhile, Norris regained the lead and held on through changing conditions and multiple Safety Car periods.

McLaren Team Principal Andrea Stella praised the entire squad: "We leave our home race with a 1-2 – a fantastic result and a great reward for the team's effort. Lando drove brilliantly, and Oscar showed real resilience."

Bahrain's Growing Footprint in F1

For Prince Salman, the result was not only a proud moment as a supporter of McLaren but also a testament to the Kingdom's deepening ties with the world of Formula 1 – a sport in which Bahrain continues to play a pivotal role, both on and off the track.

Djokovic survives De Minaur scare

Novak Djokovic recovers from a slow start to reach 16th Wimbledon quarter-final

● Djokovic wins 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

● Poor first set with 16 unforced errors

● De Minaur led 4-1 in fourth set

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic said it was "good to break the curse" in front of Roger Federer after recovering from a set down to beat Alex de Minaur and reach his 16th Wimbledon quarter-final yesterday.

Djokovic was lethargic and unusually tentative in the early stages of his last-16 match against the Australian 11th seed on Centre Court, but eventually found his rhythm to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

It keeps the seven-time champion on track for a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam title, which would be the crowning achievement of an astonishing career.

If he wins the crown on Sunday, the 38-year-old Serb would also draw level with Federer's record of eight men's titles at the All England Club.

Retired Swiss great Federer watched from the royal box as

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Roger Federer, seated in the Royal Box, watched as Djokovic nearly stumbled—then stormed back from 1-4 down in the fourth set to win five straight games and seal a dramatic victory

his long-time rival was given his toughest test of the tournament so far.

"It's probably the first time he's watching me and I've won the match," said Djokovic. "The last couple I lost, so good to break the curse. No, it's great, obviously, great to have Roger, a huge champion and someone that I admired and respected a lot. We shared the stage for so many years, and it's great to have him back

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NOVAK DJOKOVIC

The Serb committed 16 unforced errors, including four double faults in the opener.

Djokovic broke immediately at the start of the second set but then became bogged down in a game lasting nearly 19 minutes, which De Minaur won on his sixth break point.

Both players struggled to hold onto their serve in an at-

Novak Djokovic



tritional battle but Djokovic, pleading for support from the crowd, held his nerve to level the match, letting out a roar

as De Minaur went long.

The third set went with serve until the ninth game, when De Minaur skewed a forehand wide to concede the crucial break.

De Minaur found new inspiration in the fourth set, surging into a 4-1 lead but crumbled at the pivotal moment as Djokovic fought back, reeling off five games in a row to seal the win in three hours and 18 minutes.

"I'm still trying to process the whole match and what happened on the court," he said. "It wasn't a great start for me, it was a great start for him obviously.

"I was just very pleased to hang in tough in the right moments and win this one."

Djokovic's tally of 16 Wimbledon quarter-finals is second only to Federer's total of 18 in men's tennis.

He will play Italian 22nd seed Flavio Cobolli in the last eight, with a potential semi-final looming against world number one Jannik Sinner.

Allegri confirms Modric to join AC Milan

AFP | Milan

AC Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri said yesterday that Croatia captain Luka Modric will join the Italian club from Real Madrid after the Club World Cup.

Modric, who turns 40 in September, joined Madrid from Tottenham in 2012 and has been linked with a move to Italy since early June, after announcing he would leave the Spanish giants at the end of his contract.

Madrid play Paris Saint-Germain in the semi-finals of the Club World Cup on Wednesday. The final is on July 13.

"He'll arrive in August," Allegri said during his first press conference on his return as Milan boss.

"He's an extraordinary and important player, it would be useless to talk more about him."

Allegri is back at the helm at Milan having led them to the Serie A title in 2011 during his first spell in charge between 2010 and 2014.



Luka Modric