

Bahrain crush Hong Kong 43-15 in Asian handball clash

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TDT | Manama

Bahrain tore Hong Kong apart 43-15 yesterday, racing to their second win at the 19th Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship in Chuzhou, China.

Bahraini player Abather Yateem was named Player of the Match after helping his side sweep aside their rivals.

The young Bahrainis had the game all but won by half-time after storming into a 24-7 lead. They struck 19 times after the break while Hong Kong found the net only eight times.

The result gives Bahrain two wins from three group games. They beat Chinese Taipei 39-27 in their first match before going down 30-26 to Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain scored with 43 of their 57 shots, a hit rate of 75 pc. They also won the fast-break count 10-1 and scored 13 goals from six metres, against Hong



Action from the match

Kong's two.

Oman are next on Monday, followed by a meeting with hosts China on Wednesday. Both games begin at 1pm Bahrain time.

Thirteen sides are playing in

the championship, which ends on July 27. The top four from each group move into the quarter-finals, while the four semi-finalists book spots at the 2027 IHF Men's Junior World Championship in North Macedonia.



Action from the match

Antonelli secures sixth win of season in Belgium

Kimi Antonelli extends points cushion as teammate George Russell crashes out

● Leclerc finishes second for Ferrari

● Verstappen claims third place

● Hamilton fourth despite penalties

● Russell crashes on lap one

AFP | Spa-Francorchamps

Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli ended a three-race winless streak yesterday to extend his lead in the Formula One drivers' championship with a solid fighting victory for Mercedes in the Belgian Grand Prix.

The 19-year-old Mercedes driver came home 1.9 seconds ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc with four-time champion Max Verstappen finishing third for Red Bull.

Antonelli's teammate George Russell, who began the race in second place in the championship, just 25 points behind the Italian, crashed out of the race on the opening lap after tangling with Hamilton.

Hamilton was fourth for Ferrari after an incident-filled race in which he almost hit a mechanic during a pit-stop. The incident was referred to the stewards leaving the seven-time world champion with the possibility of a further penalty.

Isack Hadjar, who began at the back of the grid, did superbly to work his Red Bull up to sixth, just holding off reigning world champion Lando Norris, who started 13th, in the second McLaren.

Gabriel Bortoleto (Audi), Arvid Lindblad (Racing Bulls) and Franco Colapinto (Alpine) rounded out the top 10.

It was Antonelli's sixth win of the season and came from his sixth pole of the year, the first driver to win from pole in Belgium since 2021.

It lifts him to 204

points in the championship, 45 clear of Hamilton with Russell third on 154.

"It feels very nice to be back on the top step," said Antonelli. "We just have to keep performing, keep bringing the results and then we will see what will happen at the end of the year."

The race started in cool conditions under a grey sky with rain in the air as Antonelli made a good start to lead up to La Source, but he had no answer when Verstappen deployed his power pack to pass him through Eau Rouge.

The Dutchman was then immediately vulnerable to a counter-attack and both the Italian and Leclerc drafted past him into Les Combes where behind them Hamilton clashed with Russell.

'Racing incident'

The four-time champion continued in fifth, but Russell bounced off into retirement as a Safety Car (SC) was deployed.

Hamilton reported that he "had no front end" control as a result of a car ahead moving across him and the incident was investigated by the stewards who gave Hamilton a five-second penalty.

A downcast Russell, whose title bid had taken a heavy blow, said: "It was a racing incident, but

YOU KNOW WHAT

Lewis Hamilton endures a chaotic race that includes an opening-lap collision with teammate George Russell and a secondary steward investigation for accidentally striking a mechanic during a double-stack pit stop

it shouldn't have happened if I'd had the speed down the straight."

Racing resumed on lap five with Piastri fighting and resisting Hamilton before Verstappen swept past Leclerc for second. Piastri then chased Leclerc and they touched at Les Combes, where the Monegasque defended and the Australian lost a piece of front wing end plate.

The stewards investigated again, but took 'no further action' while Hamilton advanced and passed Piastri for fourth on lap nine as the race settled after a frantic start with Antonelli two seconds clear of Verstappen at the front ahead of both Ferraris.

Further Virtual Safety Cars (VSC) intervened and on lap 20, Ferrari went for a 'double-stack'. Leclerc went through cleanly but Hamilton, who had to serve his five-second penalty, made a messy exit touching a mechanic on exit.

The mechanic was reported to be fine but the stewards decided to investigate again for an unsafe release.

Faraj grinds out bronze for Bahrain in Kazakhstan

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Bahraini jiu-jitsu international Khalid Faraj won bronze in the under-94kg category at the Asian Jiu-Jitsu Championship, rounding off the national team's campaign in the Kazakh city of Almaty in front of large crowds and extensive media coverage.

The medal capped a grueling run for Faraj, who came through a series of tense, hard-fought bouts marked by fierce competitiveness and relentless technical and physical pressure.

This year's championship drew an unusually strong and wide-ranging field, with many of Asia's leading and most highly ranked competitors travelling from across the continent to represent their countries and challenge for gold, producing a standard of competition organisers described as exceptionally high.

Faraj prevailed through rigorous mental and physical



Khalid Faraj

preparation and sheer determination, showing tactical skill, adaptability and fighting spirit as he negotiated a demanding and decisive series of knockout rounds against formidable opponents who were themselves chasing a place on the podium.

The result confirmed his ability to compete with Asia's finest and cemented his standing among the sport's leading names.

Olympic champ Evenepoel wins Tour de France 15th stage

AFP | Plateau de Solaison

Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel beat race leader Tadej Pogacar in a sprint finish to take yesterday's 15th stage of the Tour de France, as former winner Jonas Vingegaard crashed out.

Evenepoel edged out the reigning champion at the end of the tough 11km-long climb to the finish. Mexican Isaac Del Toro was third, six seconds back.

After Vingegaard, who started the day in second, crashed out 20km from the finish, suffering what looked like a broken collarbone, Pogacar increased his lead in the overall standings to five minutes.

Evenepoel, a former winner of the Vuelta a Espana, claimed his third Tour stage victory and moved up to second overall.



Red Bull - BORA - hansgrohe team's Belgian rider Remco Evenepoel cycles to the finish line to win ahead of UAE Team Emirates - XRG's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar (R)

Del Toro climbed from seventh to third, and also snared the best young rider's white jersey from the shoulders of Paul Seixas.

The teenage French prodigy finished fourth, almost a minute behind the winner, with German Florian Lipowitz on his wheel.