

Magical Monza for Toyota Gazoo Racing

Toyota crew of Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and Jose María Lopez in #7 GR010 Hybrid overcame challenges, strong Hypercar competition for first win of 2021

● 6 Hours of Monza marks midway point of 2021 season, with final three rounds set for Le Mans and then Bahrain's first-ever WEC double-header

● Toyota's win extended their lead in the manufacturers' World Championship and tightened the drivers' title fight between their two crews

AFP | London

Toyota Gazoo Racing extended its 100 per cent winning record with the new GR010 Hybrid Hypercar with a hard-earned victory in an enthralling 6 Hours of Monza, the third round of the 2021 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC).

The meeting marked the midway point of the current WEC campaign, which now heads to the 24 Hours of Le Mans next month before the final two



The Toyota Gazoo Racing #7 GR010 Hybrid Hypercar in action at Monza

races in Bahrain, set to be held on back-to-back weekends at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir.

Toyota's Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and Jose María Lopez in their #7 GR010 Hybrid overcame challenges and strong Hypercar competition to earn their first victory of 2021, beating the

#36 Alpine by 60.908secs after 204 laps to end their run of misfortune this season.

Teammates Sébastien Buemi, Kazuki Nakajima and Brendon Hartley saw their winning run come to an end due to technical issues on their #8 GR010 Hypercar. The Spa-Francorchamps

6 Hours and Portimao 8 Hours

victors finished 33rd overall.

With that result, Toyota ex-

tended their lead in the manufacturers' World Championship to 30 points over Alpine.

Meanwhile, the fight for the drivers' crown has tightened, with the #8 crew now leading by only six points from their #7

teammates, who are also the

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MIKE CONWAY

reigning world champions.

"It's great to get a win here in Monza because it's a great track and the fans were back as well," said Conway. "The car felt solid all weekend and, as the weekend went on, it just kept getting better."

"To come home with our first win of the season is great. It's a pity for the #8 car, they had a bruising day, but I'm really happy with the job we did on our car."

Kobayashi added: "We were strong all weekend, as we have been in the first two races of the season. Obviously we had bad luck up until now, and even today we had some problems, but still we managed to win."

"I think this weekend shows



The two WEC races in Bahrain will take place on October 30 and November 6. The first event will be over six hours, while the second will be an eight-hour race

we still need to work hard for Le Mans, because we can't have reliability problems there. I think the #7 car is really getting stronger and we are working well with the team, so I think we are going to have a big chance at Le Mans."

Following Le Mans, the two races at BIC will take place on October 30 and November 6. The first event will be over six hours followed by the second, an eight-hour race.

It is the first time ever that a WEC double-header will be held in Bahrain.

Bangladesh's Tamim defies pain to set up Zimbabwe ODI whitewash

AFP | Harare

Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal defied a knee injury to score 112 and set up a five-wicket victory and a 3-0 one-day international whitewash of Zimbabwe yesterday.

The hosts posted 298 in 49.3 overs and the visitors reached 302-5 with 12 balls to spare at an overcast Harare Sports Club.

Tamim missed the one-off Test against Zimbabwe earlier this month because of the injury, but played in all the ODI internationals, saying he could "manage" the pain.

After scoring 20 and being out for a duck in the first two matches, the skipper let loose at the third attempt, scoring at a rate of more than a run a ball to record his 14th ODI century.

He faced 97 balls in a 149-minute stand and struck eight fours and three sixes before becoming one of four Bangladeshis caught by wicketkeeper Regis Chakabva, off a Donald Tiripano delivery.

Tamim will miss three Twen-



Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal plays a shot

ty 20 internationals against Zimbabwe, starting on Thursday, and also home T20 series against Australia and New Zealand after being advised to rest for up to eight weeks.

He departed with the tourists on 204-3 and they seemed set for victory entering the final 10 overs, needing 51 runs from 60 balls with six wickets in hand.

An unbeaten sixth-wicket partnership between Nurul Hasan (45) and Afif Hossain

(26) assured Bangladesh's clean sweep.

Wesley Madhevere (2-45) and Tiripano (2-61) were the most successful home bowlers and Luke Jongwe (1-44) was the other wicket-taker.

Exceeded expectations

Put in to bat after Tamim won the toss, Zimbabwe exceeded the expectations of captain Brendan Taylor by posting their highest total of the series.

Taylor set his team a target



The three-match series was part of the World Cup Super League, a feeder tournament that determines which seven teams, along with hosts India, earn direct qualification to the 2023 World Cup

of 280 as they strove to prevent three consecutive losses having fallen by 155 runs and three wickets in the previous matches.

Opening batsman Chakabva laid the foundations with a brisk 84, including seven fours and a six, before being bowled by Taskin Ahmed when attempting

Pedrosa to make MotoGP return in Styria as KTM wildcard

AFP | London

Dani Pedrosa is coming out of retirement aged 35 to ride for KTM at next month's Styrian Grand Prix, the MotoGP team announced yesterday.

The Spaniard, who won three world titles in lower categories and competed for 13 seasons in MotoGP winning 31 races and finishing second overall three times, retired at the end of 2018.

He has been working as a development rider for KTM.

The Austrian team said Pedrosa would ride "an adapted development version of the KTM RC16 to gain further valuable data in Grand Prix conditions".

The KTM RC16 is the model being raced by KTM and its satellite team, Tech3, this season.

"It has been a long time since my last race and, of course, the mentality for a GP is very different to a test," said Pedrosa



Dani Pedrosa

on the KTM web site.

"My focus for the GP is to try to test the things we have on the bike in a race situation."

"It's difficult to talk about my expectations after being so long away from competition. It might all click into a racing mentality or it might not."

Pedrosa will race as a wild card entry, alongside KTM's two regular factory riders, Miguel Oliveira, who is seventh in the championship, and Brad Binder, who is 10th.

"It will be curious to see Dani in MotoGP again," said Mike Leitner, the KTM Race Manager.

Daredevil Chahar's heroics guide India to thrilling win over Sri Lanka

AFP | London

Deepak Chahar played one of the most memorable knocks to steer India to a thrilling win over Sri Lanka in the second ODI here at the R Premadasa Stadium yesterday.

Chahar (69*) smashed a gusty fifty and stitched an unbeaten 84-run stand with Bhuvneshwar Kumar (19*) to take India home after the visitors were reduced to 193/7 in the second ODI. India were down and almost out in their chase but Chahar made sure India get home in the final over.

India needed 16 runs to win in the last three overs and the duo ensured the visitors do not lose any wickets and then guided the Shikhar Dhawan-led side to win with five balls to spare. With this victory, India have



India's Deepak Chahar plays a shot

taken an unassailable 2-0 series lead.

Chasing 276, India got off to flying start but were soon put on the backfoot as opener Prithvi Shaw and Ishan Kishan departed in quick successions to reduce visitors at 39/2.

Skipper Shikhar Dhawan and Manish Pandey stitched a 26-run stand but Wanindu Hasaranga trapped the opening batsman in front of the stumps in the 12th over.

India breath on short partnerships as Suryakumar Yadav gave the visitors a glimmer of hope. However, the right-handed batsman departed after scoring his half-century as India got reduced to 160/6.

After losing Hardik and Krunal Pandya India were in a spot of bother before Deepak Chahar revived the visitors' innings.

Chahar slammed a magnificent fifty and took India close to the target along with vice-captain Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Chahar and Bhuvneshwar then did the honours as India sealed the series 2-0 with one match to go.

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