

# Hami wins dramatic German GP

Lewis Hamilton won from 14th on the grid, taking advantage of an error from Sebastian Vettel, who crashed out

AFP | Hockenheim, Germany

Lewis Hamilton regained the lead in the world drivers' championship on Sunday when he claimed one of the most memorable victories of his career by winning a rain-hit German Grand Prix for Mercedes after starting from 14th on the grid.

The defending four-time champion took full advantage of a heavy downpour during which title rival and fellow-four-time champion Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari crashed out of contention to produce a master-class of technical and tactical racing in treacherous conditions.

His team-mate Valtteri Bottas came home second, 4.5 seconds behind the Englishman, ahead of fellow-Finn Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari to deliver Mercedes' first one-two finish at a German Grand Prix.

It was Hamilton's fourth win this year and the 66th of his ca-

reer, the triumph lifting him to the top of the drivers' title race and putting Mercedes back on top of the constructors' championship – no wonder Mercedes chairman Dieter Zetsche embraced him.

"Get in there, Lewis," said Mercedes on team radio. "Miracles do happen mate." Hamilton said: "What an amazing job by you guys. Love conquers all."

"That was highly unlikely, but you've got to believe," Hamilton added. "I said a long prayer before the start...I kept pushing, kept believing and I manifested my dream. So, thanks to God."

Dutchman Max Verstappen finished fourth for Red Bull ahead of German Nico Hulkenberg of Renault, Romain Grosjean of Haas, Sergio Perez and his Force India team-mate Esteban Ocon.

Marcus Ericsson was ninth for Sauber and New Zealander Brendon Hartley 10th for Toro Rosso.



Lewis Hamilton won the German Grand Prix after starting in 14th

## Hamilton's victory under threat

AFP | Hockenheim, Germany

Lewis Hamilton's spectacular victory was under threat Sunday when he was summoned to the stewards for an aborted pit stop during the safety car period of the German Grand Prix.

The stewards summoned him to investigate a possible breach of the Interna-

tional Motoring Federation (FIA) Sporting Code when he crossed a line between the pit entry lane and the race circuit.

Hamilton chose to stay out on his ultra-soft tyres during the safety car period that followed Vettel's accident, swerving away from pitting and crossing a patch of grass to re-join the straight.

## Rainclouds looming

The race began in sweltering conditions with an air temperature of 27 degrees Celsius, or 80 Fahrenheit, and the track at 43 with humidity at 50 per cent and

rainclouds looming all around.

Vettel made a clean start from his 55th pole position and resisted Bottas as Raikkonen fought off Verstappen, but most attention was on Hamilton.

The Englishman was swiftly

“It's obviously very difficult from that position and highly unlikely but you've got to believe. I did a long prayer before the race. I wanted to stay collected, stay calm and the team did such a great job today. When it rained, I knew I would have a good position. You never knew what was going to happen after the safety car

LEWIS HAMILTON

up to 12th from 14th and then reeled off a series of measured passes to climb to sixth by lap 11, when he passed Hulkenberg.

At the front, Vettel was content to stay 3.8 seconds clear of the chasing Bottas before Raikkonen was first to pit, on lap 15, switching to softs and rejoining fourth.

Ricciardo, who had started at the back of the grid, climbed as high as sixth before engine failure on lap 29 ended his race.

A series of pit stops saw the lead pass from Vettel to Bottas to Verstappen and finally to Raikkonen, at which point Vettel was second.

With dark clouds swirling around, Mercedes told Hamilton they were extending his first

stint "as much as we can."

Vettel, trapped behind Raikkonen, complained to his team.

"This is just silly – I'm losing time and destroying my tyres," he told Ferrari. "I'm losing everything I got in the first stint."

Eventually, the team asked the Finn to allow Vettel to retake the lead.

Ultra-soft

Hamilton, finally, pitted for ultra-soft tyres on lap 43 – Mercedes guessing that the rain would not be too heavy – and rejoined in fifth.

"You'll have the best chance on this tyre, you've got the best rubber," they told Hamilton.

When the patchy rain started it created mayhem, Vettel losing part of his front wing after hitting a kerb, but hanging on in the lead ahead of Raikkonen.

Hamilton then reported heavier rain as Bottas passed his fellow-Finn for second.

After 52 laps, Vettel crashed, sliding straight into the barriers.

A safety car came out and while his rivals pitted for fresh tyres, Hamilton inherited lead, albeit with tyres 10 laps old.

When racing resumed on lap 57, Bottas attacking his Mercedes team-mate, but Hamilton held on.

On lap 60, Hamilton posted a near-phenomenal lap in 1:15.7, nine-tenths quicker than Bottas.

"Valtteri, it's James, please hold position, I'm sorry," Mercedes strategist James Vowles told Bottas. "Copy, James," he replied.

# Sri Lanka close in on whitewash of South Africa

AFP | Colombo

Sri Lanka closed in on a series whitewash against South Africa yesterday, with the visitors five down and with a mountain to climb after the third day of the second Test.

By stumps, spinners had ripped their way through the Proteas batsmen yet again to leave them reeling on 139 for 5 in pursuit of an impossible-looking 490 victory target in Colombo.

Against batsmen who clearly decided that attack was the best form of defence, off-spinner Akila Dananjaya and left-arm spinner Rangana Herath took two wickets apiece, and off-spinner Dilruwan Perera dismissed Dean Elgar.

The wickets fell despite a comedy of repeated errors from Sri Lanka, who dropped two catches, wasted both their reviews -- on successive balls -- and could have had Elgar out twice beforehand had Perera not overstepped.

He was reprieved on six when Perera bowled him, and later on 23 when caught behind. On the second occasion, he had even gone right back into the dressing room before being recalled to the middle.

"I was quite happy with that. That's never happened in my career," Elgar said afterwards.

But Perera finally got his



Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews (R) plays a shot as South Africa's Quinton de Kock watches

## BRIEF SCORE

**South Africa** 139 for 5 (de Bruyn 45\*, Bavuma 14\*) and 124 trail **Sri Lanka** 338 and 275 for 5 dec (Karunaratne 85, Maharaj 3-154) by 351 runs

man for 37, leaving South Africa 80 for two, from which they quickly slipped to 113 for five as Hashim Amla went for six, Faf du Plessis for seven and Keshav Maharaj first ball.

Amla had his off stump levelled by a straightening Herath delivery. Du Plessis was the

first victim in Dananjaya's late double strike, when a ball he had inside-edged on to his pad popped up for a catch to slip.

By stumps, number-three batsman Theunis de Bruyn, who survived two very close lbw shouts early in his innings, was 45 not out, with a chance of recording his team's first half-century of the series.

Temba Bavuma, who came to the crease with Dananjaya on a hat-trick, remained 14 not out.

But the South Africans are still staring down the barrel of their first series defeat by Sri Lanka since 2006, when they also suffered a whitewash -- the last time the Proteas faced such a humiliation anywhere.

# Zaman sets records as Pakistan thrash Zimbabwe for ODI sweep

AFP | Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Captain Sarfraz Ahmed hailed "a great team effort" as Pakistan completed a series whitewash over Zimbabwe with a 131-run win in the fifth and final match on Sunday.

On another record setting day in Bulawayo for the visitors, Fakhar Zaman became the fastest player in history to reach 1,000 career runs in one-day international cricket as Pakistan amassed 364 for 4.

"It was a great team effort to win 5-0 against Zimbabwe," said Ahmed. "Everyone wanted to bat...but at the same time it's really good to see young players performing like this, like Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq have been doing, which is good for the team."

Ahmed looked ahead to the six-team Asia Cup in Abu Dhabi and Dubai in September.

"We learned lots of things here, and hopefully we'll take that to the Asia Cup," he said. "We definitely need some rest now, so we'll go home for a bit before returning to training to prepare for the Asia Cup."

## BRIEF SCORE

**Pakistan** 364 for 4 (Imam 110, Babar 106\*, Fakhar 85) beat **Zimbabwe** 233 for 4 (Murray 47, Moor 44, Nawaz 2-47) by 131 runs



Pakistan's batsman Imam-ul-Haq plays a shot

Zaman and opening partner ul-Haq were in the runs once again, the pair adding their fourth century stand of the series.

They had reached 168 in the 25th over when Zaman was caught behind for 85.

While he missed out on what would have been his third hundred of the series, he set a string of records.

Zaman passed 1,000 ODI runs in just his 18th innings, breaking the record of 21 innings held by five players, including Viv Richards and team-mate Babar Azam.

He claimed the record for most runs by a Pakistan batsman in a five-match bilateral series with 515, passing Salman Butt's total against Bangladesh in 2008. Only Virat Kohli, who

**1,000**

Fakhar Zaman became the fastest player in history to reach 1,000 career runs in one-day international cricket

hit 558 for India in South Africa last winter, has scored more.

Zaman also broke the record for most runs between dismissals in ODIs, with 455, passing the 405 set by another Pakistani, Mohammad Yousuf, also against Zimbabwe, in 2002-3.

"I really enjoyed my time in Zimbabwe," said Zaman, who was named Player of the Series.