

Norris leads McLaren 1-2 in Austria

Norris secures his third win of the year and first in Austria, trimming Piastri's championship lead

- McLaren secure first Austria win since 2001
- Verstappen crashes out on opening lap
- Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton finish third and fourth

AFP | Spielberg bei Knittelfeld

Lando Norris resisted vigorous attacks from team-mate Oscar Piastri to claim a masterful McLaren 1-2 in yesterday's Austrian Grand Prix.

In torrid heat at the Red Bull Ring, the 25-year-old Briton came home 2.695 seconds clear of the 24-year-old Australian to trim his lead in the title race by 15 points

It was Norris's first win in Austria, his third win this year and the seventh of his career.

It was McLaren's first win in Austria since David Coulthard triumphed in 2001.

The McLaren pair battled throughout the race to provide thrilling racing for the packed crowd and put behind them their collision in Canada two weeks earlier.

Charles Leclerc was third ahead of his Ferrari team-mate seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, their best result of the year, with George Russell



McLaren's British driver Lando Norris (front L) competes to win ahead of McLaren's Australian driver Oscar Piastri (front R)

finishing fifth for Mercedes.

"It was a tough race," said Norris.

"Pushing the whole way through... tricky, hot, tiring, but the perfect result for us as a team, a 1-2 again. We had a great battle, that's for sure."

For Piastri, it was equally demanding.

"Intense!" he said.

'Hard work'

"I hope it was good watching because from inside the car it was hard work. Yeah, I tried my absolute best."

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This was McLaren's first victory at the Red Bull Ring in 24 years, with their last Austrian GP win coming courtesy of David Coulthard in 2001

Liam Lawson came in a career-best sixth for RB on a desultory day for the senior Red Bull team after four-time champion Max Verstappen retired on the opening lap after being hit by Mercedes' teenage rookie Kimi Antonelli. He is now 61 points behind Piastri.

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso was seventh ahead of Gabriel Bortoleto and his Sauber team-mate Nico Hulkenberg, the future Audi outfit showing their huge potential, with Esteban Ocon finishing

Lando Norris celebrates on the podium

10th for Haas.

After a frantic prelude, during which Carlos Sainz's Williams failed to leave the grid and then caught fire in the pit lane, the race was delayed for 10 minutes - before delivering immediate drama at the second attempt.

Norris made a clean start while, behind him, Piastri passed Leclerc on the outside of Turn One before Antonelli locked up and lost control at Turn Three and hit Verstappen's Red Bull.

A safety car was deployed as both drivers retired on lap one ending, for the defending champion a run of 31 races in the points.

"I got hit," said the Dutchman on team radio.

The teenage rookie apologised. "I locked the rear. Sorry about that," he told Mercedes.

The race resumed after a two-minute slowdown and Norris was forced immediately to defend as Piastri, looking sharp, attacked as also did Russell on Hamilton for fourth. Both were thwarted by defensive driving.

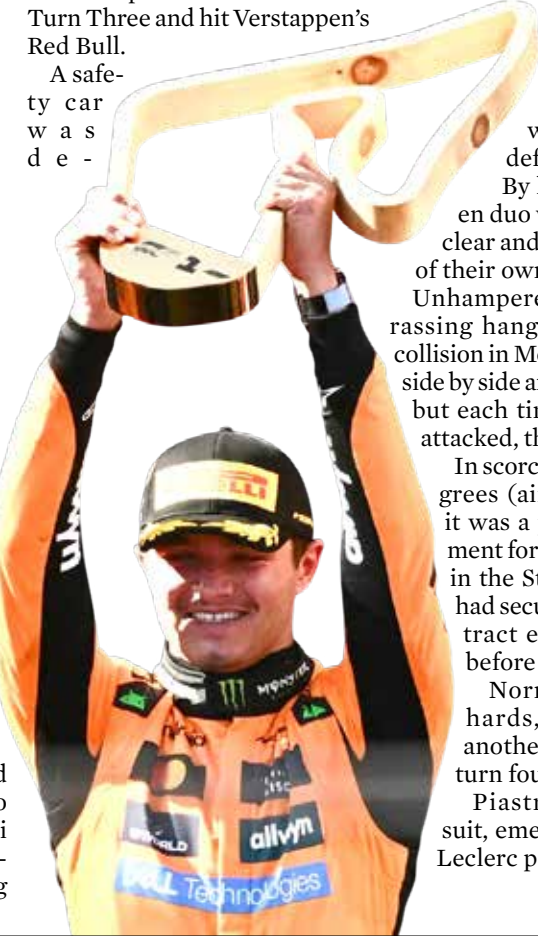
By lap 12, the McLaren duo were four seconds clear and delivering a show of their own.

Unhampered by any embarrassing hangovers from their collision in Montreal, they raced side by side and wheel to wheel, but each time the Australian attacked, the Briton hung on.

In scorching heat of 32 degrees (air) and 55 (track), it was a perfect advertisement for the historic venue in the Styrian Alps which had secured a 16-year contract extension to 2041 before the race.

Norris pitted, taking hards, after surviving another Piastri lunge, at turn four, on lap 20.

Piastri then followed suit, emerging fourth until Leclerc pitted.



Brilliant Bangladesh hit seven past Bahrain

Shamsunnahar, Khatun star as Bangladesh rout Bahrain in 2026 Asian Cup qualifiers

- Bangladesh score five in first half
- Bahrain's campaign off-track early
- Bahrain face Turkmenistan on Wednesday

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bangladesh made a statement of intent in their opening AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifying match, battering Bahrain 7-0 at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar yesterday. Five first-half goals sealed an emphatic win for Peter Butler's side and left Bahrain with serious work to do if they are to keep their hopes alive of reaching Australia 2026.

Bangladesh Make Early Statement

The match began at a frenetic pace, and it was Bangladesh who imposed

their will from the outset. Just ten minutes in, Shamsunnahar broke behind a static Bahraini defense, showed composure to go one-on-one with goalkeeper Khulood Saleh Adam, and chipped in the opener.

Six minutes later, Ritu Porna Chakma doubled the lead with a sensational strike from just inside the box after receiving a pinpoint diagonal pass. The Bahrain goalkeeper had no chance.

Before the half-hour mark, the tone was set. Bangladesh's energy overwhelmed Bahrain's scattered backline.

Bahrain Struggle, Bangladesh Capitalise

Bahrain entered the match looking for their first-ever Women's Asian Cup qualification, but their lack of preparation and coordination was glaring. A chaotic sequence in the 40th minute led to Bangladesh's third, as Kohati Kisku took advantage of defensive indecision to tap in from



Rawan Al Ali taking on Porna Chakma

close range.

Bahrain players appealed for a foul in the build-up, but the referee waved away the protests, summing up their frustration.

Two more goals before the break hammered home Bangladesh's dominance. Tohura Khatun's clever chip made it 4-0, with Khulood getting fingertips on the ball but unable to keep it

out. Just moments later, Khatun was again at the center of the action, slotting home Bangladesh's fifth after a swift counterattack down the flank, with Shamsunnahar providing the assist.

Bangladesh seal it

The sixth goal came in the 60th minute and was credited as an own goal by Rawan Alali.

Bangladesh delivered a beautiful and dangerous cross, stretching out a leg to tip the ball towards the far post. Rawan Alali failed to clear the ball ahead of it, and with a miscued effort, the ball scraped in off her as the final touch.

Bangladesh's seventh goal was a beautiful finish by Munki. She fake-shotted Rawan Alali,

sending her the wrong way, then wrongfooted the goalkeeper before calmly placing the ball into the corner.

Nightmare Start for Bahrain

For Mohammed Adnan's Bahrain side, the match was a harsh reminder of the gap in match readiness.

Bahrain now face an uphill climb in Group C, with matches against Turkmenistan and hosts Myanmar still to come. With only the group winner advancing to next year's tournament, there is little margin for error.

Bangladesh Send A Message

For Bangladesh, these three points were a show of maturity and ruthlessness. Shamsunnahar and Khatun were instrumental in the attacking third, while Rupna Chakma remained largely untested in goal.

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This is Bahrain's heaviest-ever defeat in an official AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifier