



MANAMA: Drivers take the start of the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix at the Sakhir circuit in Manama yesterday. — AFP

MOTOR RACING

VETTEL HOLDS OFF LATE HAMILTON CHARGE TO WIN SAHRAIN GP

SAKHIR: Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel held off a tremendous late charge from Mercedes rival Lewis Hamilton to win the Bahrain Grand Prix yesterday and take the overall lead in the Formula One title race.

Hamilton was catching Vettel on every lap but ultimately ran out of time and finished about seven seconds behind.

Vettel and Hamilton were level with a win each heading into this race, but Vettel's second

victory of the season and 44th of his career puts him in command. Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas finished third after starting from pole position for the first time in his career. It was his 11th podium. Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen was fourth. Bottas made a clean start but Hamilton was beaten for pace by Vettel, who overtook him heading into the first corner.

Hamilton's hopes were also hit when he was given a five-second time penalty early into the

race for driving too slowly in the pit lane and holding up Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo, who was fifth. Earlier, Stoffel Vandoorne failed to start the Bahrain Grand Prix yesterday, a year on from his Formula One debut at the desert track, as engine woes continued to plague former champions McLaren. McLaren said the Belgian rookie, who had qualified 17th, had been ruled out by a power unit problem similar to those he suffered in Friday practice. McLaren are last in the standings,

without a point from two races and hampered by woeful reliability and a lack of power from their Honda engine.

Double world champion Fernando Alonso, who also had an engine failure in qualifying, started 15th but with little optimism.

Honda's motorsport head Yusuke Hasegawa said on Saturday that the Japanese manufacturer was not sure of the exact cause of the failures.

"It is something around the bearings, it was

sticking. It happened (three) times here, which is very unfortunate," he told reporters.

Alonso, asked about the driveability of the engine, was withering in response: "I don't care too much about the driveability if I can't finish a race or a lap in qualifying now."

Vandoorne finished 10th on his debut in Bahrain last year as a one-off replacement for Alonso, who had been ruled out by a big accident in the opening race in Australia.—Agencies

Baseball results/standings

LA Dodgers 8, Arizona 4; Seattle 5, Texas 0; Kansas City 3, LA Angels 2; Miami 5, NY Mets 4; Atlanta 4, San Diego 2; Cleveland 13, Detroit 6; Colorado 5, San Francisco 0; Houston 10, Oakland 6; Boston 2, Tampa Bay 1; Pittsburgh 8, Chicago Cubs 7; Minnesota 6, Chicago White Sox 0; Cincinnati 7, Milwaukee 5; Toronto 2, Baltimore 1; Philadelphia 4, Washington 2; NY Yankees 3, St. Louis 2.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	NY Mets	W	PCT	GB	
Baltimore	7	3	.700	-	Miami	6	5	.545
NY Yankees	7	4	.636	0.5	Washington	6	5	.545
Boston	6	5	.545	1.5	Atlanta	4	6	.400
Tampa Bay	6	6	.500	2	Philadelphia	4	7	.364
Toronto	2	9	.182	5.5	Central Division			
Central Division				Western Division				
Detroit	7	4	.636	-	Cincinnati	8	4	.667
Minnesota	7	4	.636	-	Chicago Cubs	6	5	.545
Chicago White Sox	5	5	.500	1.5	Milwaukee	6	6	.500
Cleveland	5	6	.455	2	Pittsburgh	5	6	.455
Kansas City	5	6	.455	2	St. Louis	3	8	.273
Western Division				Western Division				
Houston	8	4	.667	-	Colorado	8	5	.615
LA Angels	6	6	.500	2	Arizona	7	5	.583
Oakland	5	7	.417	3	LA Dodgers	7	5	.583
Texas	4	7	.364	3.5	San Diego	5	7	.417
Seattle	4	8	.333	4	San Francisco	5	8	.385



LOS ANGELES: Nick Ahmed #13 of the Arizona Diamondbacks hits an RBI single in the fourth inning during the MLB game against the Los Angeles Dodgers at Dodger Stadium on Saturday in Los Angeles, California. All players are wearing #42 in honor of Jackie Robinson Day. — AFP

BASEBALL

VERLANDER GIVES UP 9 RUNS AS TIGERS LOSE TO INDIANS

CLEVELAND: Jose Ramirez was 4 for 4 with a pair of three-run homers for Cleveland, and Detroit Tigers ace Justin Verlander matched a career high by allowing nine runs Saturday in a 13-6 loss to the Indians. Ramirez had a career-high six RBIs with home runs in the first off Verlander (1-1) and in the eighth against Anibal Sanchez. Verlander (1-1) gave up 11 hits in four-plus innings, including home runs by Carlos Santana and Lonnie Chisenhall. Santana had three of Cleveland's 19 hits and four RBIs, Corey Kluber (1-1) struck out eight in 6 1/3 innings, allowing six runs and eight hits.

MARINERS 5, RANGERS 0

James Paxton extended his season-opening scoreless streak to 21 innings and Taylor Motter hit a three-run homer as Seattle beat Texas. Paxton (2-0) threw eight innings of two-hit ball, walking one and striking out nine. He hasn't allowed a run yet in three starts this year, and his scoreless stretch is a team record to open a season. He's the 10th pitcher in the majors ever to start a year with three scoreless starts of at least six innings. Andrew Cashner (0-1) lost in his first start since signing with Texas as a free agent.

TWINS 6, WHITE SOX 0

Ervin Santana (3-0) pitched a one-hitter for the first complete-game victory by a pitcher in MLB this season, stopping Chicago's three-game winning streak. Santana's (3-0) struck out eight, walked one and retired his final 18 batters. Chicago had just two runners: Omar Narvaez singled with one out in the third and Avisail Garcia walked leading off the fourth. Jose Quintana (0-3) gave up hits to six of his first seven batters in a 39-pitch first inning, including Max Kepler's two-run triple.

ROCKIES 5, GIANTS 0

Tyler Chatwood (1-2) pitched 5 2/3 perfect innings before Chris Marrero's single and finished with a two-hitter for his first MLB shutout in Colorado's win over San Francisco. Nolan Arenado had three hits, including a home run off Matt Moore (1-2), who allowed five runs, 10 hits and three walks in 5 2/3 innings.

DOGERS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 4

Yasiel Puig hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and Los Angeles overcame a sloppy defensive game to beat Arizona. Alex Wood (1-0) pitched 3 1/3 scoreless innings of relief to earn the win and Kenley Jansen got the last four outs for his third save. Diamondbacks starter Patrick Corbin (1-

2) struggled in his six innings, giving up five runs - three earned - and nine hits with three walks.

YANKEES 3, CARDINALS 2

St. Louis ace Carlos Martinez (0-2) put on a historically uneven performance, walking a career-high eight while striking out 11 in 5 1/3 innings in the Cardinals' loss to New York. Martinez was the first pitcher since Randy Johnson in 1993 with at least eight walks and 11 strikeouts in a game. The Yankees won their sixth straight despite tying a team record by fanning 17 times. They got plenty of help from sloppy St. Louis, which at 3-8 is off to its worst start in 20 years and has the poorest record in the National League. CC Sabathia (2-0) took a shutout into the eighth.

BLUE JAYS 2, ORIOLES 1

Kendrys Morales homered off Tyler Wilson (1-1) leading off the bottom of the ninth, and Toronto (2-9) stopped a seven-game losing streak. Roberto Osuna (1-0) had allowed Jonathan Schoop's sacrifice fly in the top half.

REDS 7, BREWERS 5

Jesse Winker doubled home the go-ahead run in the sixth off Carlos Torres (0-1) with his first MLB hit, and Cincinnati overcame two more homers by Eric Thames and stopped Milwaukee's four-game winning streak. Reds left-hander Brandon Finnegan came out of the game after the first inning because of a strained muscle in the back of his left side. The Reds already have three starters on the disabled list. Raisel Iglesias (1-0) allowed one run in two innings as manager Bryan Price used five relievers after Finnegan's early departure. Michael Lorenzen walked a batter in the ninth while getting his first career save.

PIRATES 8, CUBS 7

Andrew McCutchen hit a go-ahead, three-run homer of Pedro Strop (0-1) in a five-run seventh as Pittsburgh topped Chicago. Pittsburgh has won two straight against the Cubs after going 4-14 against Chicago last season, including 1-8 at Wrigley Field. Francisco Cervelli and Starling Marte also homered for Pittsburgh. Chicago led 6-2 before Marte's solo drive in the sixth inning off starter Jake Arrieta. Trevor Williams (1-0) pitched a one-hit seventh.

RED SOX 2, RAYS 1

Chris Sale (1-1) struck out 12 over seven innings for his first victory with Boston, allowing one run and three hits. Sandy Leon's broken-bat, bases-

loaded ground out pushed across the tiebreaking run in the seventh. The Red Sox loaded the bases on two singles and a walk against Tommy Hunter (0-1). Mitch Moreland homered for Boston.

ASTROS 10, ATHLETICS 6

George Springer hit a two-run homer in the eighth as Houston rallied from a 5-0 deficit. Sean Manaea and Ryan Dull combined to pitch six hitless innings for Oakland. Carlos Correa left after being hit by a pitch on his right hand in the ninth, and Astros said an X-ray was negative. Will Harris (1-0) struck out two in a scoreless seventh, and Santiago Casilla (0-1) was the loser.

PHILLIES 4, NATIONALS 2

Cesar Hernandez hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer off Joe Blanton (0-2) in the eighth to lead Philadelphia past Washington. Jeremy Hellickson (2-0) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings. Hector Neris pitched a perfect eighth, and Joaquin Benoit a 1-2-3 ninth for his first save since signing with the Phillies as a free agent during the offseason.

MARLINS 5, METS 4

Christian Yelich and Giancarlo Stanton hit back-to-back homers against Fernando Salas (0-1) to cap a three-run eighth as Miami rallied from a 4-2 deficit. Justin Bour and Marcell Ozuna hit consecutive homers for Miami in the second off Jacob deGrom, who tied a career high with 13 strikeouts in seven innings. Asdrubal Cabrera hit a solo homer in the eighth against Junichi Tazawa (1-0) to put the Mets ahead 4-2. A.J. Ramos pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

BRAVES 4, PADRES 2

R.A. Dickey got a victory in his first appearance in Atlanta's SunTrust Park, giving up seven hits and striking out six against San Diego. Atlanta has won three straight following a five-game losing streak, including the first two games at its new ballpark. Dickey (1-1) allowed consecutive home runs in the second to Hunter Renfroe and Austin Hedges. The 42-year-old knuckleballer was pitching in his third Atlanta ballpark.

ROYALS 3, ANGELS 2

Mike Moustakas' fifth home run this season, a drive off off Jose Alvarez (0-1), broke an eighth-inning tie. Ben Revere had knotted the score in the seventh with a two-out RBI single against Joaquin Soria (1-0). Kelvin Herrera pitched a perfect ninth for his second save. —AP

TAIWAN'S TAI BEATS MARIN TO WIN SINGAPORE OPEN

SINGAPORE: Tai Tzu Ying cemented her status as the world's top female shuttler as she beat reigning Olympic champion and world number two Carolina Marin in straight games at the Singapore Open yesterday. World number one Tai took just 38 minutes to seal a clinical 21-15, 21-15 victory at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

It was Tai's fifth consecutive Super Series title and her second victory over Marin in less than two weeks, having already tri-

dictated the pace and saw out the game comfortably.

Tai said she was pleased with her performance but unfazed by her Super Series streak. "I know I wouldn't be able to beat Marin easily, so I was very patient when playing with her. I felt that I played quite well today," she told reporters.

"I think everyone around me is more concerned about these five titles. But for me, I just want to play well in every tournament." It was Tai's first title in the city-state and she did not drop a game all tournament. In the men's singles title, India's B. Sai Praneeth beat compatriot Srikanth Kidambi 17-21, 21-17, 21-12 for the first Super Series title of his career.

Praneeth, the world number 30, said he was pegged back by a slow start but refused to give up. "When I got my strokes going good and I got some rhythm, I thought 'OK, the game is still on.'"

"This is the best feeling: I had been waiting for a long, long time," he added. In the opening mixed doubles match, China's Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong beat Thailand's Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai 19-21, 21-16, 21-11. There was double joy for Denmark as they claimed both the men's and women's doubles. Christinna Pedersen and Kamilla Rytter Juhl beat Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi of Japan 21-18, 14-21, 21-15, while Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen beat Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen of China 21-13, 21-14.

The tournament saw its fair share of upsets early on, with defending men's and women's singles champions Sony Dwi Kuncoro of Indonesia and Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand dumped out on Wednesday.

Kuncoro succumbed to South Korea's Lee Dong-Keun while world number eight Ratchanok was beaten by Japan's Sayaka Sato. Olympic bronze medallist Viktor Axelsen of Denmark was shown the door on the same day, falling in three sets to Hong Kong's Vincent Wong. — AFP



SINGAPORE: Sai Praneeth of India poses after beating compatriot Srikanth Kidambi to win the men's singles finals of the Singapore Open badminton tournament in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

umphed at the Malaysian Open final.

The usually unflappable Marin had no answers to Tai's excellent defensive work and quick smashes as the diminutive 22-year-old edged ahead at 13-10 and eventually took the first game.

The Spaniard still failed to find her rhythm in the second, as a composed Tai



SINGAPORE: Winner Tai Tzu-Ying of Taiwan (R) poses on the podium with second-placed Carolina Marin of Spain after their women's singles final of the Singapore Open badminton tournament in Singapore yesterday. — AFP