

Sports

# Ducati's Bagnaia holds off title chasing Quartararo in San Marino

## Bastianini finishes third after producing race's standout performance

MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy: Ducati's Francesco Bagnaia won his home San Marino MotoGP with a dominant display from pole at Misano yesterday. The Italian, who celebrated his debut win in the premier category last weekend in Aragon, came under intense pressure from championship leader Fabio Quartararo in the closing laps. But he had enough left in the tank to hold off Yamaha's French rider.

Despite missing out on adding to his five wins this term Quartararo, 22, still had plenty to smile about. With four races left his lead remains a solid one at 48 points over Bagnaia whose red-hot form is ensuring there is nothing at all professional about Quartararo's attempt to become the first ever French MotoGP world champion. Defending champion Joan Mir is 67 points adrift in third.

"When I saw Fabio lost time in the early laps coming at me over the last 10 laps it was really hard, but I got it everything," said Bagnaia. "I found it difficult enough to get my first MotoGP win and now I've won two in a row, I'm so happy." Quartararo said: "It was so hard, I lost time in the early laps. I was pushing at my limit. I wanted the win."

Joining this pair on his first ever podium was

Enea Bastianini who arguably produced the stand-out performance of this 14th round of the campaign. Starting 12th on the grid he stormed through the field with some serious lap times to take third for Ducati's satellite Avintia stable.

Bagnaia, seeking to follow up last weekend's breakthrough win in the premier class, jumped off from a pole position acquired in style 24 hours earlier with a track record. His Ducati teammate Jack Miller followed him through turn one.

Quartararo was in a battle for third with Jorge Martin until Martin's Ducati satellite bike went from underneath him. With Bagnaia looking bulletproof up front Miller lost chunks of time going wide on turn 13 with over half the race completed.

Quartararo seized second spot away from Miller shortly after, the gap under three seconds and 14 laps to go. At the 10 laps to go marker Quartararo had chiseled away at Bagnaia's lead to under two seconds.

Quartararo had said on the grid at the start "I feel good today" and he would need to be at his best as he set about hunting down his Sunday afternoon prey kitted out in Ducati red. The stage was set for a thrilling final five laps of the famous Misano circuit with Bagnaia prevailing.



MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy: Race winner Ducati Italian rider Francesco Bagnaia celebrates after winning the San Marino MotoGP Grand Prix at the Misano World Circuit Marco-Simoncelli yesterday in Misano Adriatico, Italy. —AFP

The 23,000 fans in attendance may have been disappointed to witness motorcycling legend Valentino Rossi's slow march to retirement contin-

ue with another lowly finish in 17th. But they couldn't quibble over the heavily Italian-flavored result. —AFP



### Rossi with lowly finish in 17th

## Black Caps in Dubai after abandoning Pakistan tour

DUBAI: The New Zealand cricket team arrived in Dubai early yesterday after fleeing Pakistan but officials refused to give details of the security threat that forced them to abruptly cancel their tour. While some information had been shared with the Pakistan Cricket Board, "specific details could not, and will not, be disclosed - privately or publicly", New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White said.

Upcoming scheduled tours by England, Australia and the West Indies are now in jeopardy. "The BLACKCAPS have arrived in Dubai after leaving Islamabad on a charter flight last night," New Zealand Cricket said in a statement. "The contingent of 34 players and support staff are now settling into their Dubai hotel and undergoing their 24-hour period of self-isolation." White said he appreciated what a "terribly difficult time" it was for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), but added New Zealand had no choice but to abandon their visit.

"What I can say is that we were advised this was a specific and credible threat against the team," White said. "We had several conversations with New Zealand government officials before making the decision and it was after informing the PCB of our position that we understand a telephone discussion was conducted between the respective Prime Ministers. Unfortunately, given the advice we'd received, there was no way we could stay in the country." White said New Zealand remained comfortable with its initial decision to tour Pakistan, based on comprehensive assessments of the security situation, and the risk-mitigation measures promised. "Everything changed on Friday," he said. "The advice changed, the threat level changed and, as a consequence, we took the only responsible course of action possible."

The New Zealand players and staff were taken in bullet-proof buses from their Islamabad hotel to the airport where they boarded the charter flight to Dubai. Players not involved in next month's Twenty20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates will return to New Zealand as soon as flights and quarantine facilities can be arranged. —AFP



AMMAN: Kuwait and Jordan in action during the Asian Women's Handball Championship in Amman, Jordan. —KUNA

## Kuwait lose to Jordan in Asian women's handball

AMMAN: Jordan beat Kuwait 28-11 on Saturday at the Asian Women's Handball Championship, currently held in Amman, Jordan. Along with Jordan, the Kuwaiti team are competing in a group that includes

Japan, Syria, Palestine, and Iran. The top five finalists in the tournament, which ends on September 25, qualify to the world championship which takes place in Spain in December 2021. —KUNA

## Chicago pitcher Wright suspended for plunking Ohtani

LOS ANGELES: Major League Baseball slapped Chicago White Sox pitcher Mike Wright with a three-game suspension on Saturday for "intentionally" throwing at Japan's Shohei Ohtani a few nights prior. White Sox manager Tony La Russa was also hit with a one-game ban for arguing Wright's ejection.

Wright was thrown out of the contest on Thursday with two out in the ninth inning of a 9-3 White Sox loss for hitting the Los Angeles Angels two-way star Ohtani in the calf with a fastball. Ohtani was not seriously hurt and was awarded a walk by the umpire.

Ohtani, who has been battling a sore arm and some hitting woes, is expected to return to the pitching mound on Sunday against the Oakland A's. He missed his scheduled pitching start Friday, and manager Joe Maddon has considered shutting the Japanese star down for the season on the mound. But Ohtani threw 30 pitches on Friday, and the Angels decided he isn't done yet.

Ohtani has pitched 115 1/3 innings this season while also playing almost every day as the Angels' designated hitter. He has struggled at the plate in the second half of the season, batting .200 with just seven homers in 44 games heading into Friday's contest.

This season, Ohtani also emerged as the best pitcher in the Angels' starting rotation, with a dominant fastball and a stellar command of an array of breaking pitches. In 21 starts, he has a 3.36 ERA, 136 strikeouts and a 9-2 record. In August, he had thrust himself into the American League Most Valuable Player conversation, notching his 40th home run of the season on August 18. —AFP

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**NOTICE**  
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Mr. Royston Rahul Carmelo, son of Mr. Ranes Carmelo, resident of Christa Kripa, Kurkal Subhasnagar, Udipi, Karnataka-574105 and Ms. Priscilla Mary Castillo, daughter of Mr. Percival Castillo, resident of 17, Bedia Danga Masjid Bari Bye Lane, Kasba, Kolkata, West Bengal-700039 both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email ([cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in](mailto:cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in)) / letters / telephonic calls (00965-22550171, 00965-22533125).

*K. S. Rathore*  
(K.S Rathore) First Secretary (CA) and Marriage Officer, Embassy of India, Kuwait

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