

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

T SPORTS
SAFF U-19 Women's
Championship
Bangladesh vs Bhutan
Live from 03:00 pm
La Liga

BCL(Day-2)
BCB South Zone vs Islami Bank
East Zone, SKS

Walton Central Zone vs BCB North
Zone, ZACS
SAFF U-19 Women's

Cadiz vs Granada
Live from 02:00 am (Tuesday)
T SPORTS & SONY SIX
Pakistan vs West Indies
1st T20
Live from 07:00 pm

Championship
Bangladesh vs Bhutan, Kamalapur
India vs Sri Lanka, Kamalapur

Verstappen ends Hamilton reign

AFP, ABU DHABI

 Max Verstappen became the first Dutchman ever to win the Formula One world championship title when he won a dramatic season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday.

The Red Bull driver took advantage of a second safety car to overtake seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton on the final lap after Nicholas Latifi crashed.

Verstappen and Hamilton, who went into the race level on points, went wheel to wheel to the chequered flag with the Dutchman edging the race.

A championship for the ages, played out over 22 spell-binding acts, boiled down to the final lap of the final race.

Until then, Hamilton had been coasting, his eighth world title seemingly in the bag, prompting Red Bull team principal Christian Horner to say: "We need a miracle."

It came in the unlikely shape of Latifi, who crashed his Williams,

with Verstappen promptly pitting for fresh tyres.

When racing resumed for the 58th and closing lap Verstappen barged past Hamilton to take the chequered flag, sparking joy on the Red Bull pitwall and fury at Mercedes.

"It's insane," Verstappen said after the race. "The guys at my team, at Honda, I love them so much. Finally, a bit of luck for me."

Verstappen and Hamilton had approached the winner-takes-all denouement in the desert level on points, for the first time since 1974 when Emerson Fittipaldi and Clay Regazzoni were neck and neck going into the final race.

Fittingly the title protagonists filled the front row, Verstappen on pole after his majestic flying lap in qualifying. But Hamilton got off to a blinding start, beating Verstappen to the first bend.

The Dutch driver lunged to reclaim the lead on Turn Seven, forcing his arch-rival off the track. The Briton rejoined in front, but

the race stewards controversially decided no investigation was necessary, sparking fury among the Red Bull team chiefs.

"We're a little bit shocked," said Horner. "That is incredible, what are they doing here?" Verstappen complained over the team radio.

After a dozen laps Hamilton, on medium tyres, had pulled over five seconds clear of Verstappen, struggling for pace on softs.

The Dutchman was pulled in to switch to hard tyres on lap 14, rejoining in fifth.

Mercedes, with the luxury now of copying Red Bull's strategy, then boxed Hamilton for a lightning pit stop.

He came back also on hards in second, behind Sergio Perez, with the Ferrari of Carlos Sainz ahead of Verstappen, who soon had the Spaniard's measure.

Perez then showed himself the ultimate teammate, frustrating Hamilton's numerous attempts to overtake, allowing Verstappen to cut the gap.

Hamilton finally hit the front, with Perez ceding his place to Verstappen.

"Checo is a legend," said an appreciative Verstappen on team radio.

At midway, with night falling, Kimi Raikkonen's race ended, the 2007 world champion emerging from his Alfa Romeo and into retirement after a record 249 races.

Back on the track the gap between the leaders was four seconds, and growing lap by lap as the Mercedes' speed superiority came into play.

A virtual safety car on lap 36 saw Verstappen pit for a fresh set of shoes on his Red Bull.

"Bit of a risk to leave me out?" Hamilton, 17 seconds clear, asked his team, the champion worried about becoming a sitting duck on his older tyres.

But just when it looked like Hamilton would emerge victorious, this magical season still had one last trick up its sleeve, leaving a 24-year-old Belgian-born Dutchman to be crowned a worthy world champion.



Narrative shifting for Rangnick?

STAR SPORT DESK

 After a week of fawning, Manchester United manager Ralph Rangnick found himself on the other side of the mercurial Premier League narrative in his eighth day on the job.

An identical result to the 1-0 win against Crystal Palace in his opening game -- a result that garnered intense praise, especially because the Red Devils had kept a clean sheet at Old Trafford for the first time in 15 games -- did not prove to be enough in his second league assignment against Norwich City.

In that win against Palace, before which the German manager had just one training session, the team showed that they were capable of pressing as a cohesive unit, playing the ball quickly and incisively in the final third and most importantly, the opposition failed to threaten or wrestle any kind of control.

On Saturday, Norwich were denied a win only by the brilliance of David de Gea, the oft-maligned Spanish shot-stopper who pulled out two incredible saves to deny Teemo Pukki and Ozan Kabak.

It was a scene reminiscent of days under Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, a game that could have gone either way tilted in United's favour by individual

heroics and a fortunate penalty.

In the pouring rain, technical excellence had to make some concessions in an encounter de Gea described as "proper English football". In fact, Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester City had won their encounters that same day by virtue of winning goals coming from penalties.

Still, it was not a game devoid of chances. From the visitors' end, Telles hit the crossbar from a deflected free-kick and Ronaldo, after dispatching an emphatic penalty, missed a sitter from tap-in range trying to dig out an awkward pass with his trailing foot.

Rangnick credited Norwich, but also called his players out for 'poor body language'.

"Norwich didn't play like a bottom team," the 63-year-old said. "The body language, the intensity, the aggressiveness, especially in our offensive department -- I don't only mean the strikers but also the two No 10s -- didn't play on the same intensity level as we did against Crystal Palace. But that also had to do with the way Norwich played."

The result proved enough for opposing fans to label the performance 'Gegen-depressing', but for a troubled side that have now climbed up to fifth in the table only eight days into a complete overhaul, a win is a win and a clean sheet another welcome addition.



'An opportunity to learn from world-class players'

SPORTS REPORTER

 Bangladesh wrapped up their preparation for the Asian Champions Trophy with a 3-1 defeat against Pakistan at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rakibul Hasan scored the opening goal for Bangladesh before Abu Bakar, Rana Wahid and Mubashir Ali scored for the joint-defending champions. The match was shorter than official matches and was played in more of a practice mood than anything else.

Bangladesh had conceded a 4-1 defeat against Japan in their first practice match two days ago. The host nation will begin their campaign on December 15 against three-time champions India, a day after the five-team tournament gets underway.

Gobinathan Krishnamurthy, the Malaysian coach of the national team, was realistic about the chances of Bangladesh team, bottom of ranking among the five teams.

"The team was out of action for 14 months and I just got to work with them for only 10 days. Furthermore, the other teams here are way ahead

of us. So it will be very difficult for us," the coach said ahead of the final practice match.

"We have some new players in the squad. It will be a learning experience for them for future tournaments. What I can say is that they will give their best in the tournament," said the Malaysian.

Ashraful Islam, the team's captain, saw this tournament as an opportunity to learn and improve.

"We have got nothing to lose, but a lot to learn from this tournament. There will be world class players playing, so we will try to learn from them and do our best to impress," said Ashraful.



Salah spoils Gerrard's Liverpool return

AFP, Liverpool

 Mohamed Salah scored the only goal as Liverpool spoiled Steven Gerrard's return to Anfield as Aston Villa manager as the Reds, Manchester City, Chelsea and Manchester United all needed penalties to win on Saturday.

City edged 10-man Wolves 1-0 thanks to Raheem Sterling's controversial winner. Chelsea required two Jorginho spot-kicks to see off Leeds 3-2 and Cristiano Ronaldo made sure United did not slip up with a 1-0 win at bottom-of-the-table Norwich.

Gerrard was given a subdued reception at Anfield as the former Liverpool captain faced his old side for the first time in his playing or

half appeals for a Liverpool penalty. However, Gerrard's men did not escape for a third time when Tyrone Mings pulled down Salah inside the box 25 minutes from time.

Salah smashed home his 21st goal in 22 games this season to ensure Liverpool remain just one

point behind City at the top of the table.

"The first 75 minutes was incredible football," said Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp. "We played in the spaces we wanted to play but we did not finish the situations which is tricky."

