Hamilton hunts down Verstappen

BUDAPEST, AUGUST 4

Formula One leader Lewis Hamilton hunted down Max Verstappen to win the Hungarian Grand Prix for a record-extending seventh time on Sunday and surge 62 points clear in the championship standings.

Dutch 21-year-old Verstappen, who had started from pole position for the first time, was runner-up after being reeled in and overtaken four laps from the end with his tyres worn to the limit. "That was definitely a tall order but I'm grateful we did it," said Hamilton of a strategy that left him with a gap of almost 20 seconds to close in the final 22 laps. "Man, that feels so good, guys."

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished third and more than a minute behind — an eternity in Formula One terms — as the top two waged their own private battle in the heat of the Hungaroring.

Hamilton, who also triumphed in Hungary last year and is heading inexorably towards a sixth title, now has 250 points, with teammate Valtteri Bottas on 188 and Verstappen closing in fast on 181. The win in the last race before the August break was Hamilton's eighth in 12 rounds this season and the 81st of his career — 10 short of seven-time champion Michael Schumacher's all-time record.

Bottas, starting on the front row, finished a forlorn eighth after a fight back from last place following an early stop to change a front wing damaged as he and Hamilton made light contact on the opening lap.

Hamilton, using fresher and faster medium tyres on a switched two-stop strategy after starting third, lapped all but the three cars behind him in a complete turnaround from his poor performance in Germany the previous weekend. — Reuters

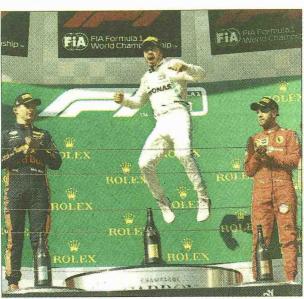## HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX

RESULT

1. Lewis Hamilton (Britain) Mercedes 1:35:03.796
2. Max Verstappen (Netherlands) Red Bull +17.796s
3. Sebastian Vettel (Germany) Ferrari +61.433s
4. Charles Leclerc (Monaco) Ferrari +65.250s
5. Carlos Sainz (Spain) McLaren +1 lap

DRIVER STANDINGS

DRIVER	PTS
Lewis Hamilton	250
Valtteri Bottas	188
Max Verstappen	181
Sebastian Vettel	156
Charles Leclerc	132

CONSTRUCTOR STANDINGS

CONSTRUCTOR	PTS
Mercedes	438
Ferrari	288

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton jumps with joy as runner-up Max Verstappen and second runner-up Sebastian Vettel applaud on the podium after the Hungarian Grand Prix. REUTERS