

# Hamilton edges past Verstappen for 81st title

**Budapest:** Lewis Hamilton overtook Max Verstappen near the end of the Hungarian GP to earn his 81st F1 race victory and extend his championship lead.

The Mercedes driver is now only 10 wins behind seven-time F1 champion Michael Schumacher's record of 91.

Mercedes made a strategic gamble with about 20 laps to go to bring Hamilton in for a second tyre change, while Red Bull decided to keep Verstappen out on track in the hope he could defend on a difficult track for overtaking. It proved a Mercedes masterstroke.

The much quicker tyres helped Hamilton swallow up Verstappen's 20-second lead and he finally got past the Red Bull on lap 67 of 70, having failed to overtake him several times earlier in the race.

Verstappen held his lead from pole position under pressure from Hamilton and his Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas heading into Turn 1. But it was Hamilton who ended on top to clinch a record-extending seventh career win in Hungary.

**Agencies**



Hamilton (R) gestures at Verstappen after Hungarian GP win on Sunday **REUTERS**

## CHEQUERED FLAG

- Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes) 1hr 35min 03.796sec,
- Max Verstappen** (Red Bull) 17.796sec,
- Sebastian Vettel** (Ferrari) 1:01.433,
- Charles Leclerc** (Ferrari) 1:05.250,
- Carlos Sainz Jr** (McLaren) 1 lap,
- Pierre Gasly** (Red Bull) 1 lap,
- Kimi Raikkonen** (Alfa Romeo Racing) 1 lap,
- Valtteri Bottas** (Mercedes) 1 lap,
- Lando Norris** (McLaren) 1 lap,
- Alexander Albon** (Toro Rosso) 1 lap

**Drivers' standings:** ① Lewis Hamilton 250 pts, ② Valtteri Bottas 188, ③ Max Verstappen 181, ④ Sebastian Vettel 156, ⑤ Charles Leclerc 132

**Constructors' standings:** ① Mercedes 438 pts, ② Ferrari 288, ③ Red Bull 244, ④ McLaren 82, ⑤ Toro Rosso 43