

Shami's hat-trick seals it for India in a sensational finish

Kohli and Jadhav hold the innings together with half-centuries; Nabi's valiant effort goes in vain for Afghanistan



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
SOUTHAMPTON

After high-scoring ventures, the World Cup seems to have taken a turn towards the relatively modest total and the attendant nervous chase when palms turn sweaty and throats get parched. The trend was evident at a sun-bathed Hampshire Bowl here on Saturday.

On a sluggish surface, India scored 224 for eight and bowled out Afghanistan for 213 in 49.5 overs. Fringed by the woods on one side, a golf course on the other, the sea of blue at the packed ground erupted in joy when India won by 11 runs.

Afghanistan needed a good start but openers Hazratullah Zazai and Gulbadin Naib were in a rush and the former lost his timber after doing an across-the-line hoick against Mohammed Shami, who replaced the injured Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the Indian eleven. Meanwhile, Naib, who clattered Hardik Pandya repeatedly to the mid-wicket fence, mis-cued a pull off the Indian all-rounder and Vijay Shankar waited for eternity and caught well.

Twin-blow

Afghanistan was 64 for two and briefly hope floated as Rahmat Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi displayed assurance. Just as the Indian fans turned anxious, Jasprit Bumrah inflicted a twin-blow in an eventful 29th over. Rahmat survived a massive shout for lbw but top-edged a pull off India's spearhead. Shahidi too fell immediately, popping a leading edge back to the bowler. Afghanistan at 106 for four and India was in with a sniff.

Mohammad Nabi (52, 55b, 4x4, 1x6), however, kept the flame alive, launching the odd hit — a mighty six off Bumrah, getting a successful review against an lbw appeal from Shami to enthrall the



Captain's knock: Virat Kohli played the most fluent innings of the match on a sluggish pitch. •AP

sprinkling of Afghans in the audience. Virat Kohli, M.S. Dhoni and the bowlers constantly discussed strategy and it boiled down to 16 from the last over bowled by Shami. Nabi struck a four, refused a single off the next, found the fielder on the ropes in the third and then Shami dismissed the last two to register a pulse-pounding hat-trick.

Adhesive web

Earlier, Kohli elected to bat on winning the toss and it was left to him (67, 63b, 5x4) and Kedar Jadhav (52, 68b, 3x4, 1x6) to hold the innings together while the rival spinners spun an adhesive web. Openers Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul had to cope with the slow art as off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman wheeled in the first over. In a while, Rohit played inside the line to a carrom ball from Mujeeb, and got castled in the fifth over.

Soon a turgid phase of consolidation followed as Rahul and Kohli buckled down for their 57-run second-wicket partnership. Rahul punched a four off Aftab Alam and the seamer also faced the scorching heat of Kohli's blade. Yet, largely, it was all about the watchful gaze until Rahul tried to be

impish and perished.

The opener uppishly reverse-swept off-spinner Nabi straight to the fielder at short third-man. Finally Shankar stepped in at number four, a slot the chairman of selectors M.S.K. Prasad promised in the run-up to the World Cup. Shankar adroitly played second fiddle to his captain as a 58-run third-wicket alliance took shape.

Naib pressed Rashid Khan into service from the 20th over and Kohli drilled the leg-spinner's first delivery for four past cover. Shankar too dished out the lofted shot but found a mixed bag in reviews. An appeal for lbw which was upheld got reversed but when another struck Shankar's pad, there

was no respite.

Kohli continued unharmed but, against the run of play, his uppish cut off Nabi proved fatal. It was left to Dhoni and Jadhav to revive India from 135 for four and the two preferred patience but were not averse to using the long-handle sporadically.

Jadhav slog-swept Rashid and Dhoni tucked into Naib. Still, the run rate stayed below five while the 57-run fifth-wicket partnership

evolved. In the slog, Dhoni got stumped off Rashid, Pandya failed but Jadhav, who once escaped being run out, hung in till he succumbed during the last over. India by then had mustered just about enough to stay alive in a humdinger.

Next assignment

INDIA: June 27 vs West Indies, Old Trafford, 3 p.m.

AFGHANISTAN: June 24 vs Bangladesh, Southampton, 3 p.m.



Kedar Jadhav. •AFP

We had belief in our fast bowlers, says Jadhav

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
SOUTHAMPTON

Kedar Jadhav had to bide his time for a long batting stint. Playing in the lower middle-order in a team that has batting riches atop the pole, means that Jadhav gets just a few overs to settle in and biff around the park.

But on Saturday in the World Cup game against Afghanistan here at the Hamp-

shire Bowl, the diminutive and stocky batsman walked in during the 31st over after Virat Kohli got dismissed. Jadhav scored a valuable 52, that hauled India past the 200-mark on a difficult pitch, and eventually the score proved difficult for the rival to chase.

"The wicket was on the slower side and the ball was turning, our actual plan was

to look for 250 to 260 but we fell short by 20 to 30 runs. We made up for it in the field and the bowlers did well.

"Obviously we had belief in our death-specialist bowlers, we had (Jasprit) Bumrah and (Mohammed Shami) and we knew we were just one wicket away," Jadhav told the media.

"We had belief in both our fast bowlers and we

know that one boundary will always go in the death over. It could either be a good shot or an edge," he added.

Conscious

Asked about his batting-approach, Jadhav said: "Our top-order is very good and we usually get very less time. But today we were conscious about getting

more balls and I came at six and we needed to assess and plan the innings. So it was important to face those extra deliveries upfront and plan the ideal score.

"The pitch played slightly slower in the first half. I try to learn a lot from how Dhoni-bhai bats, the wicket wasn't flat and we had to take time and they had quality spinners."

Naib doffs his hat to Nabi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SOUTHAMPTON

Gulbadin Naib lauded Mohammad Nabi, who almost got Afghanistan to the brink of a famous victory over India in the World Cup game at the Hampshire Bowl here on Saturday. Nabi may have failed to cross the finish line but his skipper backed his stupendous effort. "Nabi played really well but (Jasprit) Bumrah, the number one bowler, and (Mohammed) Shami bowled well. Nabi had a problem in his left leg but he did his job but that wasn't enough. Credit to the Indian team and we struggled against short of length balls," Naib told the media.

However, Naib felt that the thriller against India and even the one-sided game involving England, would breed some confidence within his men: "Yes, we will take some confidence. We are getting better day by day. Against England and India, the two favourites, we had our moments."

Naib stressed that the partnership between M.S. Dhoni and Kedar Jadhav was crucial: "Dhoni is a very ex-



Mohammad Nabi. •ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

perienced player, a legend. He and Jadhav had a good partnership and they took the game away from us. At one point we thought they will score 170 or 180."

Asked about the emotions surging through him, Naib paused a bit, there was a wistful look in his eyes and then he smiled and said: "At one time we thought we could win and we got emotional. India is my favourite team. (Virat) Kohli is my favourite player and we missed a chance to beat them."

Williamson rescues New Zealand once again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANCHESTER

Skipper Kane Williamson rescued New Zealand with a career-best 148, his second consecutive century, steering his side to a competitive 291 for eight against West Indies after first-over setbacks here on Saturday.

Williamson, who anchored his side's chase with an unbeaten 106 against South Africa in their previous match, yet again excelled under pressure as New Zealand was off to a disastrous start.

Negating a sluggish track and some testing initial fast bowling spells from the Windies, Williamson batted with aplomb and in the process raised his 13th ODI hundred which came off 154 balls with the help of 14 fours and a six.

Asked to bat, New Zealand was in for a shock when left-arm pacer Sheldon Cottrell (four for 56) sent back both the openers — Martin Guptill (0) and Colin Munro (0) — in the first over of the match.

West Indies' joy did not last long as Williamson and Ross Taylor (69 off 95 balls) dug deep to put up a 160-run



Thriving under pressure: Kane Williamson's career-best 148 steered the Kiwis to a competitive total against West Indies. •CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

partnership, which steadied the Kiwi ship.

Playing with extreme caution, Williamson and Taylor built the innings bit by bit.

Mostly playing in the 'V' region, the first signs of aggression came when Williamson cut Oshane Thomas for a four.

The team's 50 came in the

15th over with Taylor smashing a short one off Jason Holder. He later straight drove Thomas for a delicate boundary.

Pacing the innings nicely, both the batsmen completed half-centuries in the 24th over, bowled by Kemar Roach.

Chris Gayle's part-time off spin broke the partnership

West Indies in trouble

West Indies was 168 for seven after 30 overs, chasing a target of 292. Roach (2) and Brathwaite (16) were at the crease.

which was threatening to take the match away from the West Indies.

STAT SPHERE

1 Mujeeb is first spinner to get a wicket against India in this World Cup

The ones who have gone wicketless: Tahir, Shamsi, Maxwell, Zampa, Imad, Malik, Hafeez and Shadab

2 Shami second Indian bowler to take a hat-trick in the World Cup after Chetan Sharma (vs New Zealand, 1987) and this is the 10th instance in the quadrennial event

Hat-tricks in World Cup

- Chetan Sharma, 1987
- Saqlain, 1999
- Vaas, 2003
- Lee, 2003
- Malinga, 2007 (4 in 4)
- Roach, 2011
- Malinga, 2011
- Finn, 2015
- Duminy, 2015
- Shami, 2019

3 Number of consecutive half-centuries for Kohli in this WC

50 No. of wins India has recorded in the WC (in 79 games), the third team after Aus (67 in 90) and NZ (52 in 83) to reach the milestone.

INNINGS SCAN

IND	AFG
1 Maidens	3
15 Fours	15
1 Sixes	1
58 (3rd) Best stand	44 (2nd)
4.48 RR	4.27

PROGRESSION

IND	AFG
41/1	10 overs
86/2	20 overs
133/3	30 overs
175/4	40 overs
224/8	50 overs

TOP SHOWS

For	Batting	Bowling
India	Kohli 67 (63b, 5x4)	Shami 4/40 (9.5)
Afghanistan	Nabi 52 (55b, 4x4, 1x6)	Nabi 2/33 (9) Naib 2/51 (9)

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SCOREBOARD

INDIA
K.L. Rahul c Zazai b Nabi 30 (53b, 2x4), Rohit Sharma b Mujeeb 1 (10b), Virat Kohli c Rahmat b Nabi 67 (63b, 5x4), Vijay Shankar lbw b Rahmat 29 (41b, 2x4), M.S. Dhoni st Ikram b Rashid 28 (52b, 3x4), Kedar Jadhav c sub b Naib 52 (68b, 3x4, 1x6), Hardik Pandya c Ikram b Alam 7 (9b), Mohammed Shami b Naib 1 (2b), Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 1 (1b), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (w-7): 7; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 224.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-7 (Rohit, 4.2 overs), 2-64 (Rahul, 14.2), 3-122 (Shankar, 26.1), 4-135 (Kohli, 30.3), 5-192 (Dhoni, 44.3), 6-217 (Pandya, 48.4), 7-222 (Shami, 49.3), 8-223 (Jadhav, 49.5).

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING
Mujeeb 10-0-26-1, Aftab 7-1-54-1, Naib 9-0-51-2, Nabi 9-0-33-2, Rashid 10-0-38-1, Rahmat 5-0-22-1.

AFGHANISTAN
Hazratullah Zazai b Shami 10 (24b, 1x4), Gulbadin Naib c Vijay Shankar b Pandya 27 (42b, 2x4), Rahmat Shah c Chahal b Bumrah 36 (63b, 3x4), Hashmatullah Shahidi c & b Bumrah 21 (45b, 2x4), Asghar Afghan b Chahl 8 (19b), Mohammed Nabi c Pandya b Shami 52 (55b, 4x4, 1x6), Najibullah Zadran c Chahal b Pandya 21 (23b, 2x4), Rashid Khan st Dhoni b Chahal 14 (16b, 1x4), Ikram Alikhil (not out) 7 (10b), Aftab Alam b Shami 0 (1b), Mujeeb Ur Rahman b Shami 0 (1b); Extras (b-4, lb-4, w-9): 17; Total (in 49.5 overs): 213.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-20 (Zazai, 6.3 overs), 2-64 (Naib, 16.5), 3-106 (Rahmat, 28.4), 4-106 (Shahidi, 28.6), 5-130 (Afghan, 34.6), 6-166 (Zadran, 41.3), 7-190 (Rashid, 45.4), 8-213 (Nabi, 49.3), 9-213 (Alam, 49.4).

INDIA BOWLING
Shami 9.5-1-40-4, Bumrah 10-1-39-2, Chahal 10-0-36-2, Pandya 10-1-51-2, Kuldeep 10-0-39-0. **Toss:** India. **MoM:** Bumrah. **India won by 11 runs.**

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S. Africa, Pakistan strive to restore pride

Both teams in a must-win situation as Lord's hosts its first game of the tournament

WORLD CUP

SHAYAN ACHARYA
LONDON

A lot can change over the course of a week, and who knows it better than the Pakistan cricket team. Following an 89-run defeat to India at Manchester last Sunday, the team has drawn heavy criticism from fans and former cricketers.

The flurry of blessings and good wishes that the team received prior to the marquee World Cup fixture has now been replaced by calls for change in leadership and even petitions to disband the team!

It will be under much pressure that the team plays South Africa at Lord's on Sunday.

The is a must-win fixture for Pakistan. With three points from five games, it needs to win all its remaining games to qualify for the semifinals. And to do that, firstly, it has to fix its batting department.

Batting failure

After contrasting results in its first two games, Pakistan's



Time to perform: Despite the heavy criticism that the Pakistan team has been subjected to, the players seem to be in a happy mood during practice. •AFP

performance has dipped, mainly because of batting failure. Against Australia, the top batsmen flattered to deceive, as the team crashed to a 41-run defeat.

In Manchester last Sunday, an inconsistent Pakistan failed in all the three departments against a star-studded India. Now as Lord's hosts its

first game of the tournament, there are chances of the seasoned Shoaib Malik – who has been off-colour – being replaced with Harris Sohail.

On the other hand, South Africa too has been an under-performer. Following its narrow defeat against New Zealand at Edgbaston, the

Proteas' hopes of making it to the last-four stage is as good as over.

Huge letdown

Though its bowlers have troubled the opposition, batting has been a huge let down.

"When you look across the World Cups in the past, when the teams have won, their experienced players have performed. Our experienced players haven't stood up," South Africa coach, Ottis Gibson, said after the team's last outing against New Zealand.

And the weather is expected to play nice – partly sunny, partly cloudy, but no rain – as the two sides try to restore their pride at Lord's on Sunday.

THE FACE-OFF					
Pakistan vs South Africa					
LORDS					
HEAD-TO-HEAD					
	Matches	Pak	SA	Tied	NR
Overall	78	27	50	0	1
World Cup	4	1	3	0	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD) AND SELECT 1 (HD), 3 P.M.

Zimbabwe cricket body suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HARARE

Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) has been suspended with immediate effect by the Sports and Recreation Commission (SRC), the governing organisation of all registered sporting associations in the country.

ZC acting managing director Givemore Makoni has also been suspended, according to a press release on Friday.

The SRC move comes a week after it issued a directive that ZC's electoral process be suspended following alleged complaints about the nomination process and the violation of constitution, as well as "various other controversies".

India finishes third

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA

The Indian women's team claimed a historic first-ever international rugby 15s victory – a 21-9 win over Singapore – to finish third in the Asia women's (Division 1) championship here on Saturday.

The tournament is one of the qualifying rounds for the 2021 women's rugby World Cup to be held in New Zealand.

China won the event with a 68-0 victory over the Philippines.

Indian women secure Olympic qualifiers berth

Gurjit's brace fetches handsome victory over Chile

WSF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HIROSHIMA

Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur scored a brace as India secured its place in the final round of the Tokyo Olympic qualifiers by beating Chile 4-2 in the semifinals of the women's FIH Series Finals tournament here on Saturday.

The top two teams from the tournament have secured berths in the Olympic Qualifiers to be held later this year.

Gurjit (22nd, 37th minutes) struck twice, while Navneet Kaur (31st) and skipper Rani Rampal (57th) were the other scorers for India. Carolina Garcia (18th) and Manuela Urroz (43rd) scored the goals for Chile.

India will take on Japan in the summit clash on Sunday. Japan beat Russia 3-1 in a penalty shoot-out in the other semifinal after the teams were locked 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

World No. 9 India was in for a surprise three minutes into the second quarter when Carolina scored a field goal on a counterattack.

Stunned by the goal, the Indians went on the offensive and drew parity four minutes later when Gurjit converted a penalty corner. The teams went into the break locked 1-1.

A minute after change of ends, India took the lead through Navneet, who picked up the ball from just



Delighted! The Indian women's hockey team celebrates the victory over Chile. •COURTESY HOCKEY INDIA

outside the 25-yard circle, ran into the striking circle and slotted home with a powerful shot.

Six minutes later, India extended the lead through another penalty corner conversion by Gurjit.

Chile did not give up and earned two penalty corners in quick succession towards the dying stages of the third quarter but failed to capitalise on them.

In the 43rd minute, though, a poor clearance saw Chile regain possession and Urroz reduced the margin from a Denise Krimerman feed.

The fourth and final quar-

ter witnessed a good fight till the 57th minute when Rani

scored with a reverse hit off a pass from Lilima Minz.

Dedication

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HIROSHIMA

India women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal dedicated the win over Chile on Saturday to teammate Lalremsiami's father, who passed away on Friday.

Rani lauded the young striker for showing great courage in the face of adversity by staying with

the team instead of returning home after hearing about her father's death. "One of our teammates Lalremsiami lost her father yesterday so this victory is dedicated to her father. Hope he rests in peace. She did really good and we are so proud of her. She was with the team and didn't return home," Rani said.

Markram not focusing on captaincy

SPORTS REPORTER
LONDON

Aiden Markram is the only South African captain to win a World Cup – he led the under-19 side to victory in 2014. Markram is rightly considered the future leader for South Africa. But he refuses to pay too much attention to it.

"There's not been a lot of focus on it. I'm really just trying to keep my spot in the side, scoring loads of runs and saving as many as I can in the field," Markram said.

South Africa will look for a smooth transition as quite a few seniors are set to retire after the World Cup. Markram feels staying in an environment for long makes you ready for the top job.

"I think naturally once you're in an environment for a period of time, you do think with your leadership reign and how things could be better and what we have really done well and what's worked and what hasn't."

"I think that's just a natural thing," he said.

Sarfraz lashes out at former cricketers

SPORTS REPORTER
LONDON

After Pakistan's defeat to India last week, former cricketers slammed the team and its captain Sarfraz Ahmed. On Saturday, Sarfraz lashed out at them.

"If I say anything about them, it will become an issue, so I say nothing. They think we are no players. So, if we reply to them, they take offence. *Khuda ban ke TV pe baithe hain* (They appear on television, thinking they are gods)," Sarfraz said.

A couple of days ago, a video went viral on social media, where a fan body-shamed Sarfraz at a shopping centre. "You can say anything. Family and people at home see it and (then ask you.) Pakistani fans, we know are *jazbaati* (emotional) and their anger is justified! We feel more sorry than they do, we are more disappointed," the captain said.

Sarfraz also refuted claims of division in the team, saying: "There is no group *panti* in the team. If you win, nothing of the sort is said."



Sarfraz Ahmed. •AFP

The last one week has been tough for the Pakistan team and the captain admits that now the focus is solely on the game against South Africa.

"Definitely it is a tough thing for us. But after the match (against India), we gave two days of rest to the players. But for the three days, we are practising hard. So morale is very high for us," he said.

"The tournament is open now, so we have a chance. So we are focusing match by match. So hopefully we will win tomorrow's match," Sarfraz said.

Germany in last eight

After a hard-fought win over Nigeria

WOMEN'S WC

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
GRENOBLE (FRANCE)

Germany became the first team to secure a place in the last eight of the Women's World Cup football after Lea Schueller's late strike completed a hard-fought 3-0 win over Nigeria on Saturday.

VAR comes into play

The two-time world champion had VAR to thank for its first two goals in a physical encounter, before striker Schueller sealed the win eight minutes from time.

Martina Voss-Tecklenburg's side is yet to concede a goal in its four games so far. Captain Alexandra Popp gave Germany the lead on 20 minutes, nodding Lina Magull's in-swinging corner inside the far post.

Magull was involved again as Germany doubled

the lead minutes later. The midfielder was caught on the knee as Nigerian left-back Evelyn Nwaboku attempted to clear a loose ball in the area.

After reviewing the incident on the touchline, the referee awarded Germany a penalty, and striker Sara Daebritz made no mistake from 12 yards.

Three yellow cards were awarded in the second half as the Nigerians were unable to battle their way back into the game.

Schueller put paid to Nigeria's hopes in the 82nd minute, pouncing on a mistake from Halimat Ayinde and smashing the ball into the bottom corner.

Germany will face either Sweden or Canada, who play on Monday, in the quarter-final next weekend.

The result: Germany 3 (Popp 20, Daebritz 27-pen, Schueller 82) bt Nigeria 0.



Into the goal: Sara Daebritz of Germany made no mistake in converting a penalty. •ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

SUDOKU

		7		3		4	1	
		9				6		
	5			6	9			
		2	5		4			
7			2		1			6
		4			9	1		
		5	8				9	
		8				3		
2	4		3			5		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	4	1	6	8	5	7	3
8	7	1	3	9	5	6	2	4
6	5	3	4	2	7	8	1	9
4	3	2	9	5	6	1	8	7
9	8	7	2	3	1	4	6	5
1	6	5	8	7	4	3	9	2
7	4	9	6	8	3	2	5	1
3	2	6	5	1	9	7	4	8
5	1	8	7	4	2	9	3	6

Sanchez sends Chile into quarters

Ecuador left staring at an early elimination

COPA AMERICA

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
SALVADOR

Alexis Sanchez put a miserable club season with Manchester United behind him as he sent Chile into the Copa America quarterfinals with the winning goal in Friday's 2-1 win over Ecuador.

Jose Fuenzalida gave Chile an eighth-minute lead but Enner Valencia equalised for Ecuador from the spot.

Sanchez bagged the winner but Chile finished with 10 men after Gabriel Achilier's red card a minute from time.

The 30-year-old Sanchez started only nine Premier League matches, scoring just once, in an injury-interrupted season for the Red Devils in which he struggled to make an impact when he did play.

But he scored for the second game running in Salvador as Chile joined Colombia



Decisive: Alexis Sanchez put behind his below-par club season to once again prove crucial for Chile. •AFP

as the only teams to qualify for the knockout stages after their first two games.

Perfect six

Chile tops Group C with a perfect six points ahead of its clash with Uruguay at Rio's iconic Maracana on Monday.

Ecuador is left staring elimination in the face after a second straight defeat,

knowing it must beat Japan in Belo Horizonte on Monday to stand any chance of progressing. Ecuador was bossing possession but was toothless up front, while Sanchez and Eduardo Vargas provided far greater cut and thrust for Chile.

The result: Group C: Ecuador 1 (E. Valencia 26-pen) lost to Chile 2 (Fuenzalida 8, Sanchez 51).

Lewis Hamilton powers to pole

Beats teammate Bottas with a blistering late effort

FORMULA ONE

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LE CASTELLET (FRANCE)

Lewis Hamilton timed his best lap to perfection on Saturday when he took pole position ahead of Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas with a blistering late effort at the French Grand Prix.

The five-time world champion, who had struggled to match the Finn's pace in the previous two practice sessions, reeled off the fastest lap of one minute 28.319 seconds. Hamilton was 0.286s quicker than Bottas.

It was Hamilton's 86th pole and a record-increasing 63rd front-row lock-out for Mercedes.

It was a master-class from the dominant Silver Arrows team while its rivals laboured in pursuit, with Monegasque Charles Leclerc taking third for Ferrari ahead of Max Verstappen, fourth for Red Bull.

"It's not an easy track,"



Dominant: Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes reeled off the fastest lap of one minute 28.319 seconds. •AP

said Hamilton. "It's very technical and Valtteri has been very quick all weekend."

The starting grid:

First row: Hamilton (Mercedes); Bottas (Mercedes).
Second row: Leclerc (Ferrari); Verstappen (Red Bull).
Third row: Norris (McLaren); Sainz Jr. (McLaren).
Fourth row: Vettel (Ferrari); Ricciardo (Renault).

Fifth row: Gasly (Red Bull); Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo Racing).

Sixth row: Albon (Toro Rosso); Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo Racing).

Seventh row: Hulkenberg (Renault); Perez (Racing Point).

Eighth row: Magnussen (Haas); Grosjean (Haas).

Ninth row: Stroll (Racing Point); Russell (Williams).

10th row: Kubica (Williams); Kvyat (Toro Rosso).