

## Formula One ace Leclerc extends contract with 'second family' Ferrari



Ferrari's Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc arrives ahead of a practice session for the 2026 Formula 1 Grand Prix du Canada at Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal (file photo)

AFP | Paris

Charles Leclerc has agreed a multi-year extension with his "second family" Ferrari days out from his home Monaco Grand Prix, the Formula One team announced yesterday.

The 28-year-old has been with Ferrari since 2019, winning eight Grand Prix -- his last victory was in 2024 -- with his highest finish in the world championship being runner-up to Max Verstappen in 2022.

"Scuderia Ferrari HP announces the renewal of its agreement with Charles Leclerc, who will continue to wear the team's colours for the coming seasons of the Formula 1 World Championship," read a Ferrari statement on their website.

Leclerc, who sits in third position in this year's title race, just three points ahead of team-mate Lewis Hamilton, said that he was ecstatic to continue his dream drive with Ferrari.

"It's the team I've loved and dreamt of being part of since I was a child, and after all these years it has become a second family," he said.

"Together we've shared incredible moments and some tougher ones, but I believe in this team more than ever, and I'm deeply grateful that

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CHARLES LECLERC

we will keep pushing side by side toward our shared goal of bringing the World Championship back to Maranello.

"Being a Ferrari driver is a dream, but it's also a responsibility I never take for granted."

Ferrari lauded their "second-most capped Formula 1 driver and (who) also ranks second for pole positions, behind only Michael Schumacher."

"This renewal feels like something very natural for us," said team principal Fred Vasseur.

"Over these seasons we have seen him grow, to become not only one of the strongest drivers in Formula 1, but also a person who is completely at one with the team and everything Ferrari represents.

"We appreciate his talent, we love his determination and the way he approaches every day with the people in the Scuderia, both on and off the track."

# Yavi takes on star-studded field in Rome 5,000m

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Olympic and former world champion Winfred Yavi is set to take on a world-class women's 5,000m field today at the Golden Gala Pietro Mennea in Rome, one of the standout meetings on the 2026 Wanda Diamond League circuit.

The race takes place at the iconic Stadio Olimpico and forms part of the fifth stop of the Diamond League season, a series that gathers the sport's top-ranked athletes competing across the globe for points that lead toward qualification for the season-ending final and the Diamond Trophy.

This year's Rome meeting once again underlines its status as one of athletics' most prestigious stages, featuring more than 40 Olympic and World gold medalists and over 80 global championship medalists.

Yavi, who primarily competes in the 3,000m steeplechase, steps up in distance for a rare 5,000m appearance, where she will line up against a deep and high-quality field of 23 athletes. Among the leading contenders are Italy's Nadia Battocletti, world number three over the



Winfred Yavi in training ahead of Diamond League race

distance, alongside a strong Ethiopian group including Medina Eisa, Aleshign Baweke, Fantaye Belayneh and Likina Amebaw, all ranked inside the world's top 10.

For the Bahraini star, this race represents her second appearance of the outdoor season. She opened her 2026 campaign at the Xiamen Diamond League meeting in China over a week

ago, producing a strong performance in the 3,000m steeplechase where she went sub-nine minutes to finish runner-up.

Today also marks her first 5,000m outing of the season. Yavi enters the race with a personal best of 14:41.99, which stands as the Bahraini national record, highlighting her ability to compete at a high level in the longer flat distance despite her primary focus remaining the steeplechase.

The Diamond League operates on a points-based system across its series of meetings, with athletes accumulating standings points to secure qualification for the final, where the prestigious Diamond Trophy is awarded to event winners at the end of the season.

While Yavi's long-term focus remains the barriers and water jumps, this race offers both a tactical test and a valuable opportunity to measure herself against one of the strongest distance fields assembled so far this season.

With elite competition assembled in Rome and form building early in the year, Yavi's performance will be closely watched as she continues her Diamond League campaign on the international stage.

## Israel detains Palestinian national football player

AFP | Ramallah



Rand Halawani

Israeli authorities yesterday extended the detention of a player on the Palestinian women's national football team after she was summoned for questioning in Jerusalem, Palestinian officials reported.

The Palestinian Football Association (PFA) denounced the prolonged detention of 20-year-old Rand Halawani, who was arrested on Tuesday evening.

In a statement, it said Halawani's arrest and that of a for-

governorate for Jerusalem, an Israeli court extended Halawani's detention until Friday.

Israel's military also arrested former national football player Natalie Abu Diyeh, a student at Birzeit University, as well as three other young Palestinian women in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday.

The military said in a statement that the four women were suspected of "promoting terrorist activities and additional terrorist-related activities."

Birzeit University denounced

the arrests as part of Israel's "systematic policies targeting Palestinian education and students' right to continue their academic journey."

Bishop Imad Haddad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, to which Natalie Abu Diyeh belonged, called for her release.

"We are deeply shocked and horrified by this news, as well as by the news that her family does not yet know where she has been taken," Haddad said in a statement on Tuesday.

Exclusive

# Royal Guard boxer Limbu set for SAS charity showdown

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahraini Royal Guard boxer Prakash Limbu is set to step into the ring tomorrow as part of the annual SAS Charity Boxing event, renewing a unique sporting link between the Royal Guard Special Forces (RGSF) and the British Special Air Service (SAS).

The event marks the second consecutive year that the Bahraini and British elite military units have come together for the charity showcase, continuing a relationship that extends beyond military cooperation and into the sporting arena.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Limbu's coach, English-

man Tony Davis, said the fighter is relishing the opportunity to represent the Royal Guard on a prestigious stage.

"As a dedicated boxer, Prakash takes immense pride in representing the Royal Guard," Davis said. "He is fully focused and eager to face a high-calibre opponent on such a prestigious stage, bringing his trademark 100 percent effort to the ring."

Limbu will compete in the 65kg division against the British Army's current number one-ranked boxer in the weight class, presenting one of the toughest tests of his career.

To prepare for the challenge, Davis revealed that training has been tailored specifically to the opponent's style.

"To prepare for his opponent's specific style, Prakash has been sparring with the exceptionally tall Abdullah Alabdullah, pushing him to adapt and sharpen his attacking strategy," he explained.

The annual event has become a notable fixture in military boxing circles and follows a long history of competitive meetings involving the Royal Guard and British military teams, including the Royal Rumble series and multiple British Army versus Royal Guard contests.

Davis, who has previously been involved with the event as both a coach and official, highlighted its wider significance beyond the action inside the ring.

"Having previously been involved with this event as both an Army coach and an official, I know firsthand how special it is," he said. "It plays a vital role in strengthening the bond between the Royal Guard and the SAS."

"When the final bell rings this Friday, everyone involved, from the boxers to the spectators, will be a winner for taking part in this incredible annual SAS Charity Boxing Event. Of course, seeing Prakash get his hand raised would make the night truly unforgettable."

Last year's event saw Hamza Zrire secure a memorable victory for the Royal Guard, and Limbu will now aim to continue that success when he enters the ring tomorrow.



Coach Davis accompanies boxer Prakash Limbu during his walkout at a local boxing event