

Hamilton will sign new Mercedes deal 'in coming weeks'



Lewis Hamilton
AFP | Monaco

Lewis Hamilton on Thursday denied all reports that he has been approached by Ferrari and said he was set to re-sign with Mercedes "in the coming weeks".

The seven-time world champion's current contract expires this year.

He has been in discussions with Mercedes boss Toto Wolff for several months, but recently passed the task of completing what may be his final contract in Formula One to his personal management team.

"I think, naturally, when you are in contract negotiations there is always going to be speculation," Hamilton, 38, told a news conference at the Monaco Grand Prix.

"But, unless you hear it from me, that's all it is. There is a certain individual in this room that has written at least one of them - I don't know, but maybe with last weekend being cancelled, they just got bored.

Manama advance to championship series

Defending champions topple bitter rivals Al Ahli in decisive third game of Golden Square semi-finals

● **Manama take control with dominant fourth quarter, outsourcing Ahli 32-19**

● **Sir'Dominic Pointer scores 24 to lead six Manama players in double figures**

TDT | Manama

Manama powered into the championship series last night of the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

The defending champions secured their place following a come-from-behind 97-85 victory over bitter rivals Al Ahli in the third and decisive game of their best-of-three Golden Square semi-final series, played at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

Trailing by one, 65-66, heading into the final canto, Manama



Manama's Hasan Nowrooz looks to make a pass as he is guarded closely by Al Ahli's Hesham Sarhan during their game last night

used a dominant fourth quarter performance where they outscored Ahli 32-19 to take control of the game and eventually close

out the win. Manama led by as many as 13 points on the way to the final whistle.

Manama now move on to the

finals where they have a repeat match-up against Muharraq in the best-of-five championship series.

Game one is scheduled to take place on June 2, followed by game two on June 5. The schedule of the rest of the series will be released by the Bahrain Basketball Association in due course.

Manama and Muharraq also faced off in last season's title series, held over just three games, with Muharraq taking the opener and Manama winning the next two.

The two teams are also set to face off in the final of this season's Khalifa bin Salman Cup basketball tournament. That will be played on Monday at the same venue.

In last night's rubber match, Manama took a 28-20 lead at the end of the first quarter after Sir'Dominic Pointer made a lay-up with 21 seconds to go. Ahli were able to cut the deficit in the second period and Dakari Johnson brought them to within three, 40-43, with a basket prior

to the half-time buzzer.

Ahli then powered ahead at the end of the third period. After Taylor Rochestie tied the game at 60-apiece with three minutes remaining, baskets from Subah Hussain and Johnson gave them a slim 66-63 edge, but Travin Thibodeaux was able to make it just a one-point lead.

In the fourth, Manama began to pull away. They went on an 8-1 run capped by a Pointer dunk to make it 79-72, and later back-to-back triples from Mustafa Hussain and Ahmed Salman gave them their biggest advantage, 92-79, with just two minutes to go.

Ahli could not recover, and four pressure-packed free-throws from Pointer pegged the final score.

Pointer led six Manama players in double figures with 24 points and 11 rebounds, while Ahmed Aldurazi finished with 19, including four three-pointers. Salman, Thibodeaux and Mohammed Ameer each finished with 14, while Hussain had 12.

BRAVE CF becomes most global organization in MMA with event to be hosted in France

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's own BRAVE Combat Federation will become the most global organization in mixed martial arts, having announced its debut show in France, which will take place on September 7, in Nantes. A special press conference at the H Arena, home of one of the biggest handball teams in Europe, was the launching pad for BRAVE CF in France.

With the debut of BRAVE Combat Federation in France, the sporting jewel of the Kingdom of Bahrain is now the owner of the largest market share in Europe for MMA, hosting 21 events in 12 countries in total.

Since June 2018, no other organization has visited more European countries than BRAVE CF as well as the organization



BRAVE CF also holds the largest market share in Asia and Africa, while also being widely recognized as being the biggest sports media property in the Middle East

holding events in more countries than the top Europe-based organizations in the same period.

BRAVE CF also holds the largest market share in Asia and

29

countries will have hosted BRAVE CF, surpassing the UFC, which has been hosted in 28 nations

Africa, while also being widely recognized as being the biggest sports media property in the Middle East.

The announcement of BRAVE CF's debut in France also means that the Bahraini organization now holds the record of most internationally hosted promotion in mixed martial arts.

With France, BRAVE CF will have been hosted by 29 coun-

tries, surpassing the UFC, which has been hosted in 28 nations, becoming the undisputed leader of nations visited around the globe in the sport.

BRAVE Combat Federation is the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world, and owns the biggest development project in mixed martial arts, having empowered hundreds of athletes globally while giving them a global platform that allowed many of them to become international superstars.

BRAVE CF is a broadcasting giant, with worldwide deals that encompass 160+ countries and 800 million households, as well as providing fans hundreds of hours of premium content on its own OTT platform, BRAVE TV, the first of its kind for a sports enterprise in the Middle East.

Verstappen plays down importance of Monaco win



Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen (R) and teammate Sergio Perez celebrate on the podium after Miami Grand Prix (file photo)

AFP | Monaco

Max Verstappen shrugged off the prestige of the Monaco Grand Prix yesterday and said he lamented engine suppliers Honda's decision to switch from his Red Bull team to Aston Martin in 2026.

The defending double world champion and early leader of this year's title race, told reporters that the Monaco Grand Prix was the most challenging race of the season, but no more valuable than any others.

"For us, yes, it is the most difficult to win, probably," he explained. "And especially if you have a setback in qualifying, but we will see."

"I want to win, of course, but you don't get any more points here because it is Monaco. So, you do what you can and then

"I want to win, of course, but you don't get any more points here because it is Monaco. So, you do what you can and then you pack up and get ready for the next one"

MAX VERSTAPPEN

you pack up and get ready for the next one."

After three wins in the opening five races this year, the Dutchman leads his Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez, last year's Monaco winner, by 14 points ahead of Sunday's 80th running of the classic Mediterranean street circuit contest.

Slot commits to Feyenoord as Spurs' manager search goes on

AFP | London

Arne Slot has committed to staying at Feyenoord, ruling himself out of contention for the vacant Tottenham manager's job.

The Dutchman had reportedly become a leading contender to replace Antonio Conte at Spurs after leading the Rotterdam club to the Eredivisie title.



Arne Slot

Talks between Slot's management and Feyenoord took place this week and the 44-year-old is

set to stay at De Kuip.

"I have heard a lot about the interest of other clubs in me," Slot told Algemeen Dagblad.

"I am grateful for the appreciation, but my wish is to stay with Feyenoord and continue to build on the foundation that has been laid there over the past two seasons."

"There are no transfer talks going on and there have not

been any and yesterday's discussion was only about a possible extension.

"All conversations with Feyenoord are only focused on that. I look forward to the new season at Feyenoord."

Slot is the latest manager to be ruled out of the running for the vacant head coach role at Spurs, who have had a miserable season.