



FOOTBALL

Forlan expects short tenure as Uruguay boss



MONTEVIDEO: Former striker Diego Forlan has said that his spell as Uruguay's interim manager was unlikely to turn into a permanent role. The 47-year-old succeeds Marcelo Bielsa, who departed after the team's failure to reach the knockout stage of this year's FIFA World Cup. "This interim situation has come about. For me it's a real privilege to be there, alongside the best players we have in Uruguayan football," Forlan told reporters. "Being at the helm, leading the players and being able to contribute the experience one has is an enormous privilege."

FOOTBALL

Sevilla sign Scottish forward Robbie Ure to strengthen squad



MADRID: Top Spanish club Sevilla moved to strengthen their attack by signing Scottish striker Robbie Ure from Swedish club IK Sirius on Tuesday. Ure arrives at the Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium for a fee of 6.5 million euros (7.5 million U.S. dollars) after scoring 31 goals in 50 appearances for IK Sirius, with 15 of those coming in 15 games in 2026. "I think the chance to play for a very big club, a club that comes with a lot of pressure every game, to play in La Liga also is a great step for me and to take my career to the next level. I wanted to be in top-class environments, some of the best."

135th Durand Cup: NorthEast United sail into quarters with comfortable win over FC1

GUWAHATI

NorthEast United FC marched into the quarterfinals with a perfect record in the group stages after comfortably defeating FC1 3-1 in their final Group F fixture of the 135th Durand Cup at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Tuesday. Parthib Gogoi scored in each half, while Alaaeddine Ajaraie added NorthEast United's third goal. Mohammad Ilyas scored the consolation goal for FC1.

The Highlanders completed their group-stage campaign with three wins from three matches to finish as Group F winners. FC1, meanwhile, ended their debut Durand Cup campaign with three points from three matches.

NorthEast United FC head coach Juan Pedro Benali made 10 changes to his starting XI, with Spanish midfielder Antonio Moyano the only player retaining his place from the previous outing. Fellow Spaniards Etyan González Morales and Eneko Satrustegui Plano were also handed their first starts for the club. Meanwhile, FC1 head coach Khalid Qayoom made two changes to his lineup, bringing in midfielder Mousa Ahmed Querehehi and Ivorian defender Tetty Armando Yoko, both returning after suspensions in place of Kamran Hameed and Aafreen Bashir.

FC1 were awarded a penalty inside the opening seven minutes after NorthEast United defender Robin Yadav handled the ball from a corner kick inside the penalty area. Mousa Ahmed Querehehi stepped up to take the spot-kick but was denied by NorthEast debutant K. Mohanraj, who produced a fine low diving save to his left to keep the scores level.

NorthEast United FC punished FC1 almost immediately, taking the lead just two minutes later through a



well-worked move. Antonio Moyano picked out Jithin M.S., who had made a clever run between two defenders before delivering a low cross across the penalty area. Parthib Sunder Gogoi arrived unmarked at the back post and calmly slotted the ball into the net to give the Highlanders the lead.

FC1 enjoyed the majority of possession during the opening 25 minutes as NorthEast United FC opted against pressing high to regain the ball. The Jammu & Kashmir side also earned four corner kicks during this period, but their execution in the final third lacked the quality to test Mohanraj in the NorthEast goal.

With NorthEast United FC maintaining a disciplined mid-block and remaining compact in possession, FC1 struggled to build attacks through the centre of the pitch. The side from Jammu & Kashmir instead looked to exploit the spaces down the right flank and managed to create openings from wide areas, but their lack of numbers inside the box meant

they were unable to make the most of the crosses delivered by their wingers as the Highlanders took their one-goal advantage into the half-time break.

The home side doubled their advantage nine minutes after the restart, with Parthib Gogoi scoring his second of the day. Antonio Moyano delivered a dangerous free-kick into the area, and Eneko Satrustegui directed his header into a crowded area, where Parthib reacted quickly to bring the ball under control before producing a composed finish through a crowd of players and beyond the goalkeeper.

The Highlanders stepped up the intensity of their attacks, and moments later, substitute Lalrinzuala Lalbiaknia came close to adding another. Jithin M.S. delivered an inviting cross into the penalty area, but Lalrinzuala was unable to make the decisive connection, and the ball went out for a goal kick.

Lalrinzuala remained at the heart of the Highlanders' attacking moves,

forcing a save from FC1 goalkeeper Aftab Ashraf at the end of a swift counter-attack after being played through by fellow substitute Alaaeddine Ajaraie. Ajaraie then missed a glorious opportunity moments later, failing to find the empty net after Ashraf was unable to gather a cross cleanly. The FC1 goalkeeper made amends in the next attack, producing another save to deny Ajaraie's left-footed effort.

FC1 were unable to withstand the sustained pressure from the Highlanders as they added a third goal. Parthib Sunder Gogoi threaded a precise through ball into the path of Alaaeddine Ajaraie, who calmly chipped the ball over the onrushing goalkeeper to find the back of the net. The goal was Ajaraie's sixth of the tournament.

FC1 stunned NorthEast United FC with a goal seemingly out of nowhere in the 71st minute, capitalising on a momentary lapse in concentration from the Highlanders' defence. Mousa Ahmed Querehehi threaded a through ball into the path of Mohammad Ilyas, who had timed his run perfectly to stay onside. Expecting an offside flag, the NorthEast defence switched off, allowing Ilyas to control the ball before calmly slotting it through the goalkeeper's legs to pull one back for his side.

NorthEast continued to find openings in the opposition half, and with fresh legs introduced, they continued to create chances while maintaining control in midfield to deny FC1 from mounting any sort of comeback. Lalrinzuala and Ajaraie had chances to increase the scoreline but could not put the finishing touches. NorthEast United saw out the remainder of the match with relative ease to secure the victory, confirm their place in the quarter-finals and extend their winning streak in the Durand Cup.



Dhull's 76, Joon's unbeaten 83 power Central Delhi Kings to nine-wicket win over Tigers

NEW DELHI

Yash Dhull and Siddharth Joon produced a stunning batting display as Central Delhi Kings registered a comprehensive nine-wicket victory over New Delhi Tigers in the Delhi Premier League (DPL) 2026 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Tuesday. The rain-curtailed fixture was reduced to 18 overs per side, but Central Delhi Kings made light of the shortened contest, chasing down a target of 186 with nine wickets in hand and plenty of deliveries to spare.

Batting first, New Delhi Tigers posted a competitive 185/8 in their allotted 18 overs, led by captain Himmat Singh, who played an aggressive knock of 46 off just 21 balls. Keshav Dalal Singh provided valuable support with a steady 39 off 31 deliveries, while Manish Sehrawat added impetus towards the end with a quickfire 37 off 19 balls.

Despite the Tigers putting up a strong total, Central Delhi Kings kept the pressure on by

taking wickets at regular intervals. Gavnish Khurana was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with impressive figures of 3/36 from his four overs. Chasing 186, Central Delhi Kings came out with a clear attacking approach as captain Dhull and Joon gave their side a flying start. The opening pair put together a massive 126-run partnership to take the game away from the Tigers.

Dhull was at his destructive best, smashing 76 off just 28 balls. His explosive innings was studded with eight sixes and six fours as he took the Tigers' bowling attack apart and put the chase firmly on course.

After Dhull's dismissal, Joon continued the assault alongside Yugal Saini. The duo added another 50-run partnership to ensure there was no late twist in the contest. Joon remained unbeaten on a blistering 83 off just 34 balls, while Saini stayed unbeaten as Central Delhi Kings comfortably completed the chase to seal a dominant nine-wicket victory.

Cerundolo/Etcheverry shock top seeds Heliovaara/Patten for Montreal semis spot

MONTREAL

Francisco Cerundolo and Tomas Martin Etcheverry continued their impressive run at the Canadian Open in Montreal on Tuesday, when they stunned top seeds Harri Heliovaara and Henry Patten 6-3, 6-4 to reach the men's doubles semifinals.

Best known for their singles exploits, the Argentines have made a major impact on

the doubles court this week in Montreal. After defeating defending champions Julian Cash and Lloyd Glasspool in the opening round, Cerundolo and Etcheverry produced a clinical quarterfinal victory against the joint No. 1 players in the PIF ATP Doubles Rankings.

Heliovaara and Patten were chasing their sixth tour-level title of the season, having already lifted

trophies in Adelaide, Doha, Dubai, Madrid and at Wimbledon. Meanwhile, Theo Arribage and Albano Olivetti saved two match points to reach the quarterfinals on Sunday. The Frenchmen clawed past Yuki Bhambhani and Michael Venus 7-6(5), 5-7, 11-9, saving two match points at 7/9 in the Match Tie-break to set a quarterfinal clash with Daniil Medvedev and Fabian Marozsan.

Khelo India Youth Games 2026 to Be Held on a Grand Scale



- Preparations underway to conduct the games in December
- Take steps to develop infrastructure
- Competitions should reflect the spirit of sportsmanship
- Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed officials to conduct the Khelo India Youth Games 2026, which will be hosted by the Telangana government, on a prestigious and grand scale.

On Tuesday, the Chief Minister, along with Minister Vakhti Srihari, held a review meeting with senior officials at the Bodhi Pavilion in MCR HRD to discuss arrangements and preparations for the Khelo India Youth Games.

The Chief Minister directed officials to develop the necessary infrastructure for the national-level sporting event, which will see participation from various states across the country. He instructed them



to make arrangements to conduct the games in December. He also directed officials to assess the current condition of stadiums in Hyderabad and take steps to develop them on a permanent basis in accordance with the requirements of sporting competitions. He made it clear that the government was ready to provide the necessary funds for this purpose.

The Chief Minister said preparations should begin immediately to involve distinguished personalities, prominent sportspersons and film celebrities as

guests and participants in the opening and closing ceremonies.

He instructed officials to divide responsibilities and take charge of arrangements related to infrastructure, conduct of sporting events and facilities required for guests.

He also suggested involving Arjuna Award winners from Telangana, members of the Telangana Sports Hub Board, the Olympic Association, as well as national-level sports representatives in the event. He directed officials to start preparing plans in this regard immediately.

As competitions in 20 different sports are scheduled to be held as part of the Khelo India Youth Games, the Chief Minister directed officials to identify venues for each sporting discipline and make the necessary arrangements accordingly.

He emphasized that the games should be conducted in a manner that reflects the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Minister Vakhti Srihari, Government Advisor Ramakrishna Rao, SATG Chairman Sivasena Reddy, Sports Department Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, and SATG MD Sonibala Devi attended the review meeting.

'Process and approach stay the same': Shooter Maheshwari draws on Olympic lessons ahead of Asian Games

NEW DELHI

Maheshwari Chauhan, a leading Indian shotgun athlete who narrowly missed a medal at the Paris Olympics 2024, aims to apply her learnings to the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya. The 30-year-old is currently training at the Asian Games preparatory camp for trap and skeet shooters at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.

A total of 12 shooters, with six from the skeet team and six from the trap team, are participating in the camp, sanctioned by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), lasting until August 18.

SAI has offered financial support to the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) for organising the camp, which includes expenses such as boarding and lodging, travel, range



facilities, ammunition and consumables, coaching, and support staff.

Maheshwari and Anantjeet Singh Naruka secured fourth place in the mixed team skeet event in Paris, just one point shy of winning the bronze medal. Their achievement marked a historic milestone as they became the first Indian duo to reach the final of an Olympic skeet competition.

For Maheshwari, her experiences over the past two years have laid a foundation for her upcoming challenges. Speaking before the Asian Games, she mentioned that her approach stays consistent regardless of the competition's prominence.

"My actual expectation (from my debut Asian Games) is to really just be very present and enjoy myself. I think I'm going to just have the same approach to

any competition. The titles keep changing, and the process and the approach stay the same," she told SAI Media on the sidelines of the camp.

The Rajasthan shooter, also a Khelo India Athlete (KIA), mentioned that her experience in Paris has boosted her confidence and provided her with a more solid foundation for development.

"A debut Olympic Games can be a little strange, but I did really enjoy myself, and it's given me a great base to build on, and I think that's all I want to do going ahead: learn from that experience," she continued.

Reflecting on the 2024 moment, Maheshwari added, "It isn't something that you can forget. And it just stays with you. And then you're always a little more motivated and hungrier to push yourself more."

Jonty Rhodes, John Abraham unveil Rotterdam Dockers jersey ahead of inaugural ETPL

MUMBAI

Rotterdam Dockers on Tuesday unveiled their official jersey ahead of the inaugural European T20 Premier League (ETPL), with co-owners Jonty Rhodes and actor John Abraham attending the event in the city.

The jersey unveiling marked another milestone ahead of the launch of the ICC-sanctioned T20 franchise league, which will bring together players from Ireland, the Netherlands and Scotland alongside established in-

ternational stars. Rhodes, a former South Africa cricketer and co-owner of Rotterdam Dockers, said the franchise has an opportunity to play a key role in the development of cricket across Europe.

"Rotterdam is the gateway to Europe, and the Rotterdam Dockers have a unique opportunity to become a backbone for cricket in the region, much like the dockers who built the city," Rhodes said.

"Being part of the ETPL is exciting because it gives us a plat-



form to develop the young talent already present in Europe, particularly in the Netherlands, while helping take the game forward across the continent. We

want to compete for the trophy from day one, but our bigger ambition is to build something that can have a lasting impact on the growth of cricket in Eu-

rope," he added. Abraham, who is also a co-owner of the franchise, said the league could help expand the reach of cricket while creating opportunities for young players.

"Sport has always been a big part of my life, and being part of the European T20 Premier League gives us an opportunity to contribute to the growth of cricket in Europe, particularly by developing grassroots talent across the Netherlands, Ireland and Scotland," Abraham said.

"With the calibre of players in-

involved and the vision behind the league, I genuinely believe the ETPL can play a role in making cricket a truly global sport, and I'm incredibly excited to be part of this journey with Rotterdam Dockers," he added.

Rotterdam Dockers will begin their campaign against Amsterdam Flames in the opening match of the inaugural ETPL on August 26 in Voorburg.

The franchise is co-owned by Rhodes, Abraham and former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis, who will also lead the side.

The team has assembled a mix of international experience and Dutch talent as it prepares for its maiden campaign. The Rotterdam squad includes several established names from the global T20 circuit, including Heinrich Klaasen, Anrich Nortje, Logan van Beek and Roelof van der Merwe, alongside emerging Dutch cricketers. The inaugural ETPL season will run from August 26 to September 20, with matches scheduled to be played in Voorburg in the Netherlands and Dublin in Ireland.

