## India U20 women beat Uzbekistan 4-1

The India Ú20 women's national team convincingly defeated Uzbekistan 4-1 in their second friendly match at the Do'stlik Stadium here.

#### Friendly match

The two sides were tied 1-1 at half-

After holding the hosts to a 1-1 draw in the first friendly match, the Young Tigresses came back strongly, with Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam ((28', 85') netting two, and Sulanjana Raul (65'), and Neha (71') scoring one each. Shakhnoza Dekanbaeva (37') was the lone scorer for Uzbekistan on

Uzbekistan made four changes to their line-up, while India U20 coach Joakim Alexandersson made two. Juhi Singh replaced Nishima Kumari in defence, while Arina Devi Nameirakpam occupied the midfield instead of



Unlike the first friendly, the visitors took the lead this time, as Sibani coolly finished off a Neha cross with her foot in the 28th minute. The Young Ti-gresses' celebrations were only to last nine minutes, however, as Dekanbaeva equalised for the hosts before the half-time whistle.

India came out all guns blazing in the second half, and within 20 minutes of the restart, regained their lead. Sulanjana taking a couple of touches to control a long ball from Cindy Col-

ney, before finishing off the chance. They doubled their lead in the 71st

scorer to provider, feeding a through ball on the counter to Neha, who chipped Uzbekistan goalkeeper Ezoza Sevinova from outside the box.

The hosts seemed to have got some respite minutes later, when Cindy was sent off for a tackle. However, the Young Tigresses had just about enough time to drill one final nail into Uzbekistan, when substitute Bhumika Devi Khumukcham faked past two defenders, before setting up Sibani to finish it off at the bottom

India U20 Women: Monalisha Devi Moirangthem (GK), Remi Thokchom, Juhi Singh (Nishima Kumari 46') Cindy Remruatpuii Colney, Arina Devi Nameirakpam (Lhingdeikim 69'), Neha (Bhumika Devi Khumukcham 83'), Pooja (Khushbu Saroj 69'), Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam, Shubhangi Singh (C), Anju Chanu Kayenpaibam (Alina Chingakham 78'), Sulanjana Raul (Fragrancy

# Durand Cup to see prize money pool grow three times to Rs 3 Cr



Kolkata (UNI)

The 134th IndianOil Durand Cup Organizing Committee (DCOC) announced that the total cash prize money pool of this year's tournament will increase three times to Rs 3 Crore. The announcement was made during the trophy unveiling ceremony in Kolkata as the 'City of Joy' geared up to host Asia's oldest football tournament.

Along with the winners and runners up, teams reaching the semi-finals and quarterfinals along with three individual awards will also receive a share of the prize pool.

The three trophies of the Durand Cup were showcased here at AOI Vijay Durg in the presence of Aroop Biswas, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Power, Housing, Youth Services & Sports, Government of West Bengal who was the Chief Guest of the event. Also present were Rajesh Kumar Sinha IAS, Princi pal Secretary, Housing, Youth Services & Sports, Disaster Management & Civil Defence Department, Government of West Bengal, Lt Gen Mohit Malhotra AVSM, SM, Chief of Staff HQ Eastern Command and Chair man Durand Cup Organising Committee and Maj Gen Rajesh Arun Moghe VSM, General Óffi cer Commanding Bengal Sub Area and Vice-Chairman of Durand Cup Organising Commit-

#### Russell announces international cricket retirement



Andre Russell, who was included in the 16member West Indies squad against Australia, is set to hang up his boots from international cricket during the T20I series, starting from 20 July. He had missed being a part of the squad against England late last year, due to an injury.

The Jamaican who is a two-time world champion, having been a part of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup winning squads in 2012 and 2016, will play his last two international matches on 20 and 22 July at his homeground in Sabina Park. Russell was thankful to have represented the West Indies and expressed his pride in donning the maroon jersey for more than a decade.

"Words cannot explain what it meant. To represent the West Indies has been one of the proudest achievements in my life," he told Cricket West Indies. "When I was a kid, I did not expect to get to this level, but the more you start to play and get to love the sport, you realise what you can achieve.

"This inspired me to become better because I wanted to leave a mark in the maroon colours and become an inspiration to others.

The two-time World Champion expressed about finishing his career in front of the home crowd and hope to bid a memorable farewell to

#### Registrations start for 20th Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon

**New Delhi:** Registration process for the landmark 20th edition of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon has started from today onwards. This year's Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon will take place on October 12, 2025 and it will be flagged off from the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Since 2005, the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon (DHM) has broken barriers and transformed India from a spectator nation into a participative one. DHM has sparked a running revolution across North India, fuelling the rise of clubs, events, and a growing fitness culture. It provides platform for more than 800 Indian athletes, many of whom have competed internationally to win accolades globally. Former India Hockey great PR Sreejesh was present at the launch function, he expressed happiness that number of participants at the event is rising every year.

### Pro league a wakeup call for Indian team: Sreejesh

Former India Hockey great PR Sree-jesh feels that India's poor show at the Eu-ropean leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25 is a wakeup call ahead of Asia Cup in Au-

India finished eighth on the FIH Pro League 2024-25 points table after suffering seven successive losses in the European leg of the tour.

Speaking to the Press on the side-lines of the launch event of the 20th Vedanta Delhi Half marathon yesterday evening

"I think the team performed well, we created a lot of opportunities, we gave very good fight on the field but sometimes it happens, the result went against us but the result went against us. This result is a very good wake up call for us ahead of the Asia Cup, and other crucial tournaments like the World Cup and Asia



games next year."

The Asia Cup will be held in Rajgir, from August 27 to September 7, 2025. The Hockey World Cup will be jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands in August 14–30, 2026 while the Asian Games will be held from September 19 to Octo-

Athlete of the Year' in 2021 expressed happiness that more and more people are taking to running as a way to stay

Sreejesh, who won the 'World Games

"Every year more people are joining and running (in the Delhi Half Marathon) is becoming more popular, it's exiting, people should challenge themselves, get

The two time Olympic medallist who is now the Head Coach of India men's national U-21 team said that as a coach one of his main job is to ensure that the players learn how to handle pressure

"As a coach my job is to take the pressure off the players, I tell them that during the Junior World Cup 10 thousand odd people will be cheering and yelling at you, accept these things, being a coach sharing my playing experience with the players is very important" he said.

#### Neymar scores late as Santos beats Flamengo Rio de Janeiro (UNI)

Neymar struck late as Santos edged to a 1-0 home win over leaders Flamengo in Brazil's Serie A championship

on Wednesday.
The former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain forward broke the deadlock in the 84th minute, turning sublimely after receiving Guilherme's pass and firing into the far corner.

It was the 33-year-old's first goal of a Serie A campaign disrupted by injury, with only

"I want to play 90 minutes of every game," Neymar said after the match. "I want to be better physically but that takes time, both in terms of playing and training."

Neymar admitted he re-



mains some way off recapturing his best form, having suffered a series of leg muscle injuries since returning from a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee last Oc-

"My body is still adapting, getting used to everything said Neymar, who spent more than a year on the sidelines after sustaining the injury while playing for Brazil

against Uruguay.

"It's not easy to deal with the injury I had. I'm very happy to be able to contribute in every way, both attacking and defending. I'm not 100%, but I'm getting better all the time," he added.

Wednesday's result leaves Santos 13th in the 20-team standings with 14 points, 13 points behind Flamengo, which is ahead of secondplaced Cruzeiro on goal dif-

'Flamengo, in my opinion, is the best team in the league," Neymar said. "Tactically they are very good, they defend and attack very well. They have very high-quality play-

Dr Mandaviya conducts

'Khelo Bharat Conclave',

strategy for 2036 Olympics

New Delhi: The Union minis-

ter for youth affairs and sports,

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya today

outlined India's strategy to-

wards finishing among the top

10 nations in the 2036 Summer Olympics and Paralympics. Dr

Mandaviya today conducted

the 'Khelo Bharat Conclave',

where representatives of the

National Sports Federations,

Paralympic Committee of In-

dia(PCI), Indian Olympic As-

sociation(IOA), institutions,

top corporate houses and the

who's who of Indian sports administration took part in a

day-long brainstorming ses-

sion aimed at making India a global power by 2047. The in-teractive Conclave covered

several key pillars enshrined in

the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025

outlines India's medal

## West Indies T20I squad against Australia

Jewel Andrew & Jediah Blades named in



Jamaica (UNI)

Following the Test series which Australia won 3-0, West Indies have announced a 16-member squad for the five-match T20I series against Australia, starting July 20.

The squad features two newcomers, Jewel Andrew and Jediah Blades, who have earned their maiden T20I call-ups.

Jewel Andrew is a rising prospect who is a highly regarded batting prospect and wicketkeeper, who has impressed the selectors with his skill against the spinners. The 18-year old is highly regarded as the region's brightest prospects and will look to make his mark in the shortest format of the

Jediah Blades, a left-arm seamer who made his ODI debut in December 2024, impressed as a powerplay bowler and will now look to showcase his skills in T20Is.

Shai Hope will continue to lead the side, which also features experienced campaigners like Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, and Rovman Powell. Andre Russell, who is set to announce his retirement from international cricket, will be a part of the first two T20Is.

Head coach Darren Sammy em-

phasized the significance of the upcoming series as West Indies prepare for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka next year, aiming to build momentum with a strong performance, according to an ICC news.

"Our goals and strategic plans are aligned to winning the T20 World Cup in 2026. We have continuity in the squad from the previ-ous series and as a unit we will continue to fine tune our style and brand ahead of the World Cup, Sammy stated.

Reflecting on past performances, he added, "Our previous two T20 series at home we were on the wrong end of the results but starting against Australia, we want to regain our form at home as we build momentum into next year's World Cup with our exciting and dynamic group of players."

West Indies Squad for first two

T20Is against Australia: Shai Hope (C), Jewel Andrew, Jediah Blades, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarr Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis Gudakesh Motie, Rovman Powell, Andre Russell\*, Sherfane Rutherford, and Romario Shepherd.

#### Ponting puts forward Australia top order for Ashes Cameron Green, if he was

Despite a 3-0 Test series away Caribbean, Australia's batters did little to silence the critics who flagged the side's frailties earlier in the year, instead leaning on the side's irrepressible bowling attack.

Watching on as the likes of Mitchell Starc, Scott Boland and Josh Hazlewood dismantled the West Indies for just 27 in the final innings to cap off a barnstorming tour with the ball, the Australians only passed 300 once in the series, with the bulk of the runs made further down the order. Having kept a close eye

on the series, Ponting put forward the top three he believes will front up for the first Ashes Test and in

London (UNI)
Liverpool are in advanced talks to sign Eintracht Frankfurt striker Hugo Ekitike in a

deal worth more than

Multiple sources have indicated that Liv-

erpool aim to have the

transfer wrapped up by

this weekend.

ed to surpass it.

in £70m-plus deal



Australia's first stand of the new World

Test Championship cycle.

He also said he'd "back in" young opener Sam Konstas, who has been the subject of great debate among Australian cricket fans and media.

"The (batters) that

(batters) that "The they're talking about the last couple of weeks in particular, have been (Sam) Konstas and (Usman) Khawaja, and then there was some talk about

a long\_term No.3 three or Ponting began, in conversation with Sanjana Ganesan in the latest edition of The ICC Review.

"(Green's) second in-nings in the West Indies (in the last Test) might have just put some of that to bed. As tough as those conditions were to bat for as long as he did in trying conditions he might have silenced a few of those

"I think with where they're at, I think the Ashes line-up is going to be like it is right now. I think that's what they're going to be starting with, and you keep your fingers crossed and hope that those guys can get the job done at the start."

Ponting acknowledges

the spots are far from locked in, though with just Australia A series against Sri Lanka and four Sheffield Shield rounds before the pivotal series, there is limited opportunity for others to squeeze their way in.

'Nathan McSweeney, who started the Australian summer against India last year, he's made some runs in one of those (Sri Lanka A) games. Matt Renshaw has made a lot of runs in well in those games."

the white ball format as "I don't think there's going to be anyone else outside of the names that we've heard for the last

couple of years that will be spoken about again. Mc-Sweeney is the obvious one to go back to sooner rather than later.

#### Jonas Abrahamsen wins dramatic Stage 11 at Tour de France



Paris: Tadej Pogacar looked certain to lose time on Stage 11 at the Tour de France after a late crash, only for his

general classification rivals to sit up and allow him to catch up. A dramatic day at the Tour, won by Jonas Abrahamsen (Uno-X Mobility), saw Pogacar (UAE Team Emirates-XRG) suffer a huge scare, Mathieu van der Poel (Alpecin-Deceuninck) fall short in his bid to catch the leaders and "the rulebook ripped up" after a flurry of attacks while some big names had stopped for a comfort break.

As the stage was drawing to a close, Uno-X's general classification leader caught the front wheel of Tadej Pogacar, sending him skidding to the floor and separating him from the group of GC favourities.

### Italy into semis with dramatic win over Norway in UEFA Women's Euro

(sports policy).

Italy captain Cristiana Girelli scored a dramatic 90th-minute winner as they beat Norway to set up a potential Euro 2025 semi-final against reigning champions Eng-

After a dominant first-half performance, Girelli opened the scoring in the 50th minute before Norway captain Ada Hegerberg recovered from missing a penalty to level

However, with the game heading towards extra time, Ğirelli headed home Sofia Cantore's cross to send her side through to the last four for the first time since 1997, where they will face Sweden or England, who play their quarter-final on Thursday (20:00 BST), according to a BBC news. "It's a dream that becomes a reality," Girelli said after the game



on Wednesday. "It's amazing. "I felt something different, some thing special. I have seen in the eyes of my team-mates a special light. "I just believe to fight until the end and to believe until the end until the referee's whistle. If you have a flame you have to continue to live We suffered a lot but we fought until



Ekitike is open to joining the Premier League champions, who



Liverpool close in on Ekitike

sists ranking him within the top 6% among forwards for creating chances in Germany last season. Ekitike registered 117 shots on goal in the Bundesliga last term - more than any other player.

His expected goals figure of 21.6 was the league's second highest, according to a BBC news.

Liverpool have also shown a major interest in Newcastle striker Alexander Isak, but the Magpies are adamant the Swede is not for sale at any price.

Liverpool have signed midfield-er Florian Wirtz in a potential British record £116m deal this summer and paid £40m and £30m respectively for full-backs Milos Kerkez wand Jeremie Frimpong.