

# Inter willing to cash in on Taremi

## Sports Desk

Mahdi Taremi's time at Inter Milan could come to a premature end as the Serie A giant is reportedly willing to sell the Iranian striker during the summer transfer window to make room for further recruitment under new head coach Cristian Chivu.

Taremi, 32, joined the Nerazzurri as a free agent from Porto last summer on a two-year contract – with the option of a 12-month extension – in what was widely regarded as bargain for Inter.

However, having scored 91 goals in 182 appearances for Porto, Taremi was hardly a success in his first season at Inter as his contribution was limited to three goals – two of which came from the spot – and nine assists in 43 outings in all competitions.

With Argentine skipper Lautaro Martínez and Frenchman Marcus Thuram being the first-choice strikers under former manager Simone Inzaghi, Taremi managed only seven starts in Serie A, finding the net once with a penalty in

a 4-0 win at Lecce in January. There was further blow for the Iranian when he was stranded in his home country during the 12-day war with Israel and ruled out of the on-going FIFA Club World Cup in the United States, missing the chance to impress the new Romanian head coach.

Inter signed 21-year-old French forward Ange-Yoan Bonny, who worked with Chivu at Parma last season, on Saturday, which means Taremi could struggle even more for game time, should he stay with the Nerazzurri for the upcoming campaign.

According to Italian journalist Simone Togna, Inter is open to a permanent move for Taremi, though his €10-million price tag could limit the suitors for the Iran international. Italian sports newspaper Corriere dello Sport reported on Monday that Premier League clubs Fulham and Nottingham Forest, as well as Turkish top-flight side Besiktas, are weighing up a move for the Iranian striker, who is to join up with his Inter teammates for the start of the pre-season on July 26.w



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## Portuguese Sa Pinto to be unveiled as new Esteghlal coach

### Sports Desk

Portuguese manager Ricardo Sa Pinto will be unveiled as the new head coach of Persian Gulf Pro League club Esteghlal today in Tehran.

Sa Pinto, 52, who reached agreement on a season-long deal with the Blues in late June, arrived in the Iranian capital on Tuesday ahead of signing the contract and the club's preseason. This will be a second a spell at Esteghlal for the

Portuguese following the 2022/23 season.

He led the club to 23 wins and eight draws in 36 matches as Esteghlal finished third in the Iranian league before suffering a 2-1 defeat against archival Persepolis in the domestic cup final.

Sa Pinto left Esteghlal for APOEL Nicosia and lifted the Cypriot First Division trophy before joining Raja Casablanca the following season.

Sa Pinto, who had been without a job since parting

ways with the Moroccan club last December, takes over from interim coach Mojtaba Jabbari.

The former Esteghlal midfielder steered the Blues to the Hazfi Cup title, thanks to a 1-0 extra time victory over Malavan in May.

The cup glory came as a relief after a dreadful campaign for the Blues, who had six managers on the bench throughout last season and settled for a nine-place finish in the 16-team league table.

Esteghlal, which will be

part of the AFC Champions League Two next season, has made four summer signings in Tractor center-back Aref Aqasi, Shams Azar midfielder Esmaeil Qolizadeh, Malavan defender Saman Fallah, and teenage midfielder Amir-Mohammad Razzaqinia from Golgozar Sirjan.

The Blues are also in advanced talks with Uzbekistan international defender Rustamjon Aahurmatov, who is set to join from Rubin Kazan, and Kayserispor midfielder Ali Karimi.

## Newcastle agree £55m fee for Forest winger Elanga

**BBC**-Newcastle United have agreed a £55m fee with Nottingham Forest for Sweden winger Anthony Elanga.

Sources have told BBC Sport the deal could be completed this week.

Newcastle are seeking to strengthen their attacking options as they

prepare for their return to the Champions League following a fifth-placed Premier League finish last season.

The 23-year-old scored six goals and produced 11 assists for Nuno Espirito Santo's side during their successful 2024-25 Premier League season.

Newcastle have yet to pay a fee for a player this summer, with 18-year-old Spanish winger Antonio Cordero the only new arrival on a free transfer from Malaga. Forest are believed to have paid £15m to sign Elanga from Manchester United on a five-year-deal in 2023.

He had arrived at Old Trafford at the age of 12 and made 55 appearances before moving to the City Ground.

Newcastle's pursuit of Elanga underlines just how far his stock has risen after a stellar campaign with Forest.

His statistical profile paints the picture of a player not just improving, but excelling in some of the most important attacking metrics.

The radar chart below, provided by Opta via FBref, shows Elanga ranking in the top percentiles among Premier League attacking midfielders and wingers across multiple categories.

Being in the 80th percentile for goal-creating actions means he outperforms 80% of similar players in that key attacking measure.



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## Djokovic breaks Federer 'curse' in battling win at Wimbledon

**BBC**-Novak Djokovic was relieved to "break the curse" of playing in front of former rival Roger Federer as he battled back to overcome an inspired Alex de Minaur and reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals.

With men's record eight-time winner Federer watching on from the Royal Box, Serbia's Djokovic lost an error-strewn opener and had to fight back from 4-1 down in the fourth set to win 1-6 6-4 6-4 6-4.

But, after enduring an un-

comfortable three hours and 18 minutes on Centre Court against Australian 11th seed De Minaur, the 38-year-old is now within three wins of another piece of history.

Seven-time champion Djokovic said of playing in front of Federer: "This is probably the first time he is watching me and I have won the match!"

"The last couple of times I lost, so it's good to break the curse. "Roger is a huge champion and someone I admired and

respected a lot.

"We shared the stage for many years and it is great to have him back at his most successful and favourite tournament."

In addition to chasing Federer's Wimbledon record, Djokovic is attempting to win a standalone record 25th Grand Slam title.

He will face Italian 22nd seed Flavio Cobolli for a semi-final place, with world number one Jannik Sinner potentially waiting in the last four.



Novak Djokovic is seen in action against Alex de Minaur at Wimbledon in London, Britain, on July 7, 2025.

REUTERS