Trump asked Fifa chief to 'review' US red card

Reuters
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WASHINGTON: FIFA President Gianni Infantino defended world football's disciplinary process on Monday amid an international wave of criticism after US President Donald Trump praised FIFA's decision to suspend Folarin Balogun's World Cup red-card ban, and as the controversy spilled over into politics.

Infantino said FIFA's judicial bodies operated "independently and autonomously" and that he had told Trump the Balogun case was subject to a legal process.

His remarks came even as Trump described the decision to reinstate the US striker as "brilliant" after personally urging FIFA to review the case.

The affair has become the tournament's biggest controversy, drawing condemnation from European football body UEFA, which said FIFA had "crossed a red line", the Royal Belgian Football Association (RBFA), several national federations, senior coaches, officials and politicians.

Critics argued FIFA had undermined confidence in its own disciplinary system.

It also prompted the Belgians, who play the US later on Monday for a place in the quarter-finals, to challenge Balogun's eligibility for the match, but FIFA rejected their appeal. The player was sent off for a tackle during the US win over Bosnia and Herzegovina, a punishment that usually carries an automatic one-match ban.

"He (Balogun) didn't do anything wrong and he is our best player," Trump told reporters at the Oval Office on Monday. "When they take your best player and say 'You can't play' it's very unfair."

"I think they made a really brilliant decision," he said. "I asked for a review. If they would not allow a top player to play I think it (the World Cup) would have had a big stain. I related that feeling."

Trump also questioned the quality of refereeing by Brazil's Raphael Claus, who had sent Balogun off, saying he was "a little bit suspect if you check his past." He did not elaborate. Infantino later confirmed the call but said he told Trump that FIFA's judicial bodies operated independently.

"During our conversation I explained that there was a legal process involving FIFA's independent judicial bodies and that the case would be decided in due course by the competent bodies," Infantino said in a statement. "That is how FIFA's system works, and it is a principle that I will always uphold."

For UEFA, the decision to suspend the ban was wrong.

"We express our disbelief at such an unprecedented, incomprehensible and unjustifiable decision," UEFA said. "Yesterday's decision... crossed a red line. When the certainty of rules is no longer guaranteed by its guardians, the integrity of the game is at stake and the credibility of a competition is undermined."

The Royal Belgian Football Association challenged FIFA's decision to declare Balogun eligible to play on Monday, but FIFA rejected it.

"The FIFA Appeal Committee has rendered a request submitted by the Royal Belgian Football Association (RBFA) as inadmissible," FIFA said in a statement.

"The request was rendered inadmissible on the grounds that the RBFA is not a party to the proceedings and, as such, has no standing to appeal the decision."

The Brazilian FA (CBF) also joined the chorus of criticism, rejecting any suggestion regarding the quality of Claus' refereeing.

The high-profile criticism also echoed that from big names in the sport.

"This is our sport, not theirs," said former Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp, who is in talks to become the new Germany coach. "If Donald Trump and Gianni Infantino really sorted this out between themselves, it is madness; it calls everything into question. These two people, who know nothing about football, should have absolutely nothing to do with this."

Even former FIFA President Sepp Blatter, who stepped down in 2015 amid corruption allegations, joined the criticism.

"Red cards are not overturned by political phone calls. They are overturned by rules, evidence and independent bodies," he said. "If a US President intervenes with the FIFA President — and a player is suddenly cleared before a World Cup knockout match — the question is unavoidable: Quo vadis, FIFA? Football must never become a playground for political power."

When politics invaded the WC pitch

1934 THE HAND OF MUSSOLINI

Mussolini's Fascist regime exploited the finals Italy hosted, casting football as "the new Italian". He visited referees' rooms unannounced. Italy won, though the officiating drew suspicion. "This tournament was organised by Mussolini, not by FIFA," said FIFA president Jules Rimet.

1938 HITLER IN THE SIDE

In France, Mussolini faced Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler. Germany had annexed Austria that March, absorbing the talented "Wunderteam". It lost 4-2 to Switzerland in the first round. Italy prevailed again, in black shirts modelled on Mussolini's militia. On the final's eve, Mussolini told his team: "Win or die." They beat Hungary 4-2. "I conceded four goals, but saved their lives," said keeper Antal Szabo.

1962 GARRINCHA'S REPRIEVE

Brazil forward Garrincha was sent off in the semi-final against hosts Chile for kicking an opponent. Red cards carried no automatic suspensions then, and FIFA's disciplinary committee let him off with a warning after lobbying: Chile's president Jorge Alessandri backed a petition, and Peru's reportedly telephoned the referee. Garrincha played the final, which Brazil won 3-1 for a second straight title.

1978 JUNTAS IN ARMS?

Argentina hosted during the junta's "Dirty War". FIFA, run by Brazilian João Havelange, dismissed objections to the regime staging the event. Needing to beat Peru, also run by a dictator, by four goals to reach the final, the hosts won 6-0, prompting whispers of a deal between the two juntas. "Everything, even the air, is in favour of Argentina," Hungary coach Lajos Baroti said ahead of the cup. Argentina beat the Netherlands in the final.

1982 THE WHISTLEBLOWER

Trailing 3-1 to France in a group match, Kuwait stopped playing when Alain Giresse scored, claiming a whistle. Kuwaiti Olympic Committee president Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah walked onto the pitch and told Soviet referee Myroslav Stupar to cancel the goal. Stupar agreed, but France added a fourth near the end. The sheikh was shot dead by Iraqi troops during Iraq's 1990 invasion.

Apple brings back card payments for app store accounts

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NEW DELHI: After a gap of nearly five years, Apple has re-enabled credit and debit card payments for App Store purchases and subscriptions in India after complying with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) card tokenisation norms.

For now, Visa and Mastercard credit and debit cards can be added as a payment method to add funds to an Apple Account wallet, which can then be used to pay for app purchases and recurring subscriptions such as iCloud+. To be sure, direct App Store purchases using cards are still not supported and must be routed through the Apple Account wallet.

The rollout is being done in phases and is expected to reach all Apple accounts in the coming days. UPI-based top-ups continue to be available. Support for RuPay cards is expected in the coming weeks, according to people familiar with the matter.

Apple had discontinued card payments in India after the RBI tightened payment security and data localisation requirements. Under the tokenisation framework, merchants must replace actual card details with a unique encrypted token instead of storing card numbers or expiry details, making digital transactions more secure. The restored support means users can once again use cards to seamlessly fund App Store purchases and recurring subscriptions without relying solely on UPI or gift card balances.

FOR NOW, VISA AND MASTERCARD CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS CAN BE ADDED AS PAYMENT METHOD TO ADD FUNDS TO APPLE ACCOUNT WALLET

The move, however, does not signal the launch of Apple Pay in India. Apple Pay is the company's contactless payment service that allows users to make in-store and online purchases using their devices. Recurring subscriptions will continue to operate under the RBI's e-mandate framework. Users must authenticate the initial registration with a one-time password (OTP), while recurring payments within RBI-prescribed limits are processed automatically after banks issue advance transaction alerts.

Adding a card to an Apple Account also requires OTP-based authentication, and the saved card can be removed at any time.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

NIA-PAHALGAM

(BNS) and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. "NIA has also invoked the penal section against the accused for waging war against India and hatching a conspiracy from across the border in the charge sheet," the agency said.

The investigations, NIA said, are still continuing to unravel the complete conspiracy by Pakistan, which has been actively sponsoring terrorism on Indian soil from across the border.

In its first charge sheet filed in December, NIA named three Pakistani terrorists who shot the tourists at Baisaran, Faisal Jatt alias Suleman, Habeeb Tahir alias Jibran Bhai and Hamza Afghani (who were later killed during Operation Mahadev in July 2025), The Resistance Front (TRF) leader Sajid Saiffullah Jatt aka Langda, two locals, Bashir Ahmad Jothatd and his nephew Parvaiz Ahmad (arrested in June last year) and LeT/TRF.

NIA has concluded in its probe that the April 22, 2025 terror attack "involved religion-based targeted killings by the Pak-sponsored terrorists".

In its first charge sheet, reported in detail by HT on May 22, NIA stated that Sajid Saiffullah Jatt shared the co-ordinates of the Baisaran meadow with the attackers and that one of the terrorists involved was also part of a terror strike on the Srinagar-Leh highway in October 2024.

The first charge sheet also revealed that the three terrorists involved sat outside the Baisaran meadow and had lunch before launching their attack, and indulged in celebratory firing after it.

According to the first charge sheet , data retrieved from two phones recovered from the terrorists revealed "chats with Sajid Jatt giving directions to them ... and screen shots of Alpine Quest app showing co-ordinates of locations near Baisaran Park".

Both phones, NIA said, based on data from the Indian arm of the phone manufacturer Xiaomi, were sold in Pakistan.

NIA's first charge sheet says that the investigation "conclusively established that the Pahalgam (Baisaran) terror attack was planned, directed, and controlled from Pakistan".

The terror attack brought India and Pakistan at the brink of a full-scale war.

India launched Operation Sindoor in the early hours of May 7 and struck terror and military installations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) before the May 10 ceasefire.

THE FIRST CHARGE SHEET ALSO REVEALED THAT THE THREE TERRORISTS INVOLVED SAT OUTSIDE THE BAISARAN MEADOW AND HAD LUNCH BEFORE LAUNCHING THEIR ATTACK, AND INDULGED IN CELEBRATORY FIRING AFTER IT.

Prayers, celebrations mark Dalai Lama's 91st birthday

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SRINAGAR/DHARAMSHALA : Thousands of people joined Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama, to celebrate his 91st birthday in Leh on Monday even as people across the country and abroad greeted the spiritual leader.

Born on July 6, 1935, in the Taktser village in Tsongkha area of eastern Tibet in Domey province, and named in his childhood as Lhamo Dhondup, the 14th Dalai Lama was recognised as the reincarnation of his predecessor at the age of two.

He became the 14th reincarnation of the Dalai Lama in 1940. In accordance with ancient custom, His Holiness forfeited his name Lhamo Thondup and assumed a new name, Jamphel Ngawang Lobsang Yeshe Tenzin Gyatso.

In 1959, the Dalai Lama, then 23-year-old Tenzin Gyatso, fled to India with thousands of Tibetans following a failed uprising against Mao Zedong's Communist rule, which gained control of Tibet in 1950. He later arrived in Dharamshala in 1960.

People from across the country, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, greeted the Dalai Lama on his birthday. "Warm birthday greetings to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His message of peace and harmony has been a guiding force for people across the world. His moral and spiritual strength and his commitment to global good are commendable. Wishing him a long and healthy life," said PM Modi on X.

From early morning, people gathered at Shewatsal Teaching Ground in Leh to greet and celebrate the birthday of the Buddhist spiritual leader. He has been in Ladakh since June 28.

Tibetan Spiritual leader the 14th Dalai Lama during an event in Leh on Monday. WASEEM ANDRABI/HT

As the Dalai Lama arrived at the teaching ground, people and monks jostled to get a glimpse of the leader and receive blessings from him. As a mark of respect, musical tributes and happy birthday messages echoed in the air. The Dalai Lama appeared overwhelmed with people's response on his birthday. "Many years ago, Mao Zedong in China told me that religion is opium or poison. In reality, however, religion is not just simply a matter of worshipping gods or performing rituals but it is about transforming one's own mind," he said.

He acknowledged the presence of people apart from the Tibetans-in-exile who had gathered to offer prayers for his long life. "Today, even in China, there is growing interest in Buddhism as it is spreading. Likewise, in many parts of the world, people are drawn to the (Buddha's) teachings of love and compassion," he said.

Celebrations held in Dharamshala

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) and exiled Tibetans in Dharamshala celebrated the 91st birthday of the Dalai Lama at Tsuglagkhang temple at McLeodganj, where hundreds of Tibetans, including monks, nuns, school students, and supporters gathered.

The Kashag (cabinet) of CTA, in its statement on Dalai Lama's birthday, raised concerns over the intensified efforts by Chinese government to assimilate non-Chinese nationalities under its rule into singular Chinese national identity.

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, requested governments and parliaments across the world, the relevant sections of the United Nations, to legally review the so-called Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress of the People's Republic of China with urgency.

{ STRATEGIC SIGNALLING }

China conducts rare submarine-launched ballistic missile test, sparks regional alarm

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BANGKOK: China's navy test-launched a long-range ballistic missile Monday from one of its nuclear-powered submarines in the South Pacific, a rare act that drew protests and concern from countries in the region.

The missile carried a dummy warhead, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. China last conducted a missile test in the Pacific two years ago, firing an intercontinental ballistic missile with a dummy warhead, the first since 1980.

The 2024 launch mirrored the testing the United States conducts for its own ballistic missile fleet, which experts viewed as an assertion of China's growing superpower status.

Monday's launch, at 12:01 p.m. local time, was part of routine annual training, complied with international law and practice and was not directed against any country or target, according to a short statement from Xinhua, which was reposted by the Ministry of Defense.

Beijing's militarization has drawn concerns, and Australia, Japan and New Zealand criticized the launch.

The New Zealand government said it was informed hours beforehand and noted that the missile was fired into the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone.

The zone was established by the 1986 Treaty of Rarotonga, which prohibits nuclear weapons throughout the region. China ratified the protocols in 1987, pledging not to test nuclear weapons within the zone or threaten to use them against signatories with territory in the region. "It appears that despite our long-standing concerns about this type of activity, China carried out the test within hours of informing us," Foreign Minister Winston Peters told The AP in a statement.

The missile's launch

The launch took place the same day Australia and Fiji signed a new mutual defense treaty meant to counter Chinese influence in the Pacific. "Australia has been clear with China that we regard this as destabilizing to the region," Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong told reporters in Fiji in response to the test.

Japan's Defense Ministry in a statement expressed concern about China's increasing military activity and urged Beijing to "rethink" its missile testing so that the projectiles would not fly over Japan or pose other security risks. "China's military activities, combined with its lack of transparency, have become a grave concern for Japan and the international society," Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said in Japan, citing Beijing's military activities around Japan and its increased military spending.

Beijing brushed off the criticism. "We hope that the relevant countries will avoid overinterpretation," a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson said.

The concern is a result of a lack of clear information, said Drew Thompson, senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore: "China's military modernization and buildup have occurred without concurrent increases in openness and transparency, resulting in uncertainty about China's intentions." Lyle Morris, a senior fellow at Asia Society Policy Institute's Center for China Analysis, said the launch was the first publicly acknowledged test with a dummy warhead from a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine of the Chinese navy to travel this far into the Pacific.

Morris said it is noteworthy that the information available shows Japan, New Zealand and Australia received notifications in advance, but not the US. China maintains a "no first use" of nuclear weapons policy, but is also actively pursuing nuclear technology and weaponry as part of its long-term strategy to modernize the People's Liberation Army. China has a fleet of six ballistic-missile submarines and 59 nuclear-powered attack submarines, according to the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a Washington-based think tank. In its latest report to Congress on China's military capabilities, released in late 2025, the Pentagon said China had an estimated stockpile of around 600 nuclear warheads in 2024, adding that the PLA remains on track to field more than 1,000 nuclear warheads by 2030.

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दिनांक : 06.07.2026
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दिनांक : 06.07.2026
ई-निविदा सूचना
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) की ओर से कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-29 के निकासखण्ड किलपुर किरीबी में मल्टीपरपज सीड स्टोर एण्ड टेक्नोलाजी डिसेमिनेशन सेन्टर (किसान कल्याण केन्द्र) के निर्माण कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत रू0 87.52 लाख हेतु वीएलएम मैसर्स के पंजीकृत फर्मों से पंजीकृत टेण्डरर्स से दिनांक 07.08.2026 के अपरान्ह 4:00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 10.07.2026 से दिनांक 07.08.2026 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e procurement वेबसाइट https:// etender.up.nic.in से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 08.08.2026 को 16:30 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट 29, वीएलएम मैसर्स, खण्ड जल निगम (नगरीय), 1/51, विकास खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ में खोली जायेगी। उक्त कार्य हेतु आमंत्रित निविदाओं से विस्तृत विवरण ई-निविदा से संबंधित https:// etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध रहेगा। निविदाओं से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण सी0, एम0 डी0/एन0, लखनऊ तथा जिला (नगरीय) की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org/ www.upjn.org एवं e procurement पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) https:// etender.up.nic.in पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदाकारों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट पर समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
"सेंट्रल" YOU SINCE 1911

Regional Office: New Mandi Farukkhabad Road, Etawah

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

[Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, The Symbolic/Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Central Bank of India, will be sold on **"As is where is basis", "As is what is basis", "What ever there is basis" and no recourse basis"** for recovery of dues to Central Bank of India from below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor/ Mortgagor. The Reserve Price (RP) and Earnest Money (EMD) is displayed against the details of property. The E-Auction will be conducted through the banks approved service provider : website of E-auction agency **https://baanknet.com**. For detailed terms & conditions of the sale, Please refer to the **website - https://baanknet.com**

Date of E-Auction : 24.07.2026 & Time- 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (with unlimited extension of 5 minutes)
Bid Submission Last Date - 23.07.2026 & Time- upto 4:00 pm

Name & Address of the Borrower / Mortgagor and Guarantor	Description of Immovable Property & Owner	Total Recovery Amount	Date & Time of Sale	Reserve Price (RP)/ Earnest Money (EMD)/ Bid Price
Branch: Farrukhabad Branch, Mob. No.: 8303713669				
Borrower: M/s Ashra Embrodri through Proprietor Mr. Jeesanuddin S/o Kamruddin (Borrower) and Mr. Jeesanuddin S/o Kamruddin, Address- H- No. 150, Ward No. 19, Khairati Khan, Distt- Farukkhabad-209625	Equitable Mortgage of all that part and parcel of Residential Property in the name of Mr. Jeeshanuddin S/o Kamruddin, situated at Mohalla-Garhi Abdul Mazeed Khan, Near Badi wali Maszid, Nala Machharatta Road, Pargana-Pahada, Tehsil-Farukkhabad Sadar, Distt-Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh. **Total area -58.97 Sq. Mt., Bounded as under :- East-** Rasta 3.04 meter, **West-**Remaining part of Mrs Rafeekan Begum, **North-** Gali 2.5 meter wide, **South-** House of Mr Munshi Kadir	**Rs. 7,76,080.06** + subsequent applicable interest & expenses there upon less recovery thereafter if any	**24.07.2026** from 10.00 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.	**Rs. 9.91 lakh Lakh (RP)** **Rs. 1.00 lakh Lakh (EMD)** **Rs. 10,000/- (Bid Increase Amount)**

1. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised officer, there are no encumbrances on the property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims/right/dues affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid.
2. A foresaid property shall not be sold below reserve price as mentioned above.
3. Bidders should register on website: **https://baanknet.com** and upload KYC documents and after verification of KYC documents by the service provider, EMD to be deposited in Global EMD wallet through NEFT (after generation of Challan from: **https://baanknet.com**) till **23.07.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**
4. For further details contact Central Bank of India Authorized Officer, **Mob.: 7390932121**. For Inspection of the property kindly contact branch manager.
5. Successful bidder would be required to bear all the necessary expenses like stamp duty, registration, tax liability etc. for registration/transfer of secured assets.
6. The Terms and conditions shall be strictly as per the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, Rules 2002 & Bank's Policy.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date : 07.07.2026 **Place : Etawah** **Authorized Officer : Central Bank of India**

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