

Lamine Yamal slams anti-Muslim chants during Spain vs Egypt match

NEW DELHI: Spanish teenager superstar Lamine Yamal, a practising Muslim, slammed Islamophobic and xenophobic chants during Tuesday's friendly against Egypt in Spain on Tuesday.

At the RCDE Stadium near Barcelona, the home ground of LaLiga club Espanyol, Spain supporters chanted "who doesn't jump is a Muslim" during the World Cup warm-up match which ended in a goalless draw.

"I am a Muslim—Alhamdulillah," Yamal's Instagram post, written in Spanish, started. "Yesterday at the stadium, the chant 'Whoever doesn't jump is a Muslim' could be heard. I know it was directed at the opposing team and wasn't meant as a personal attack against me; however, as a Muslim, it remains disrespectful and utterly intolerable."

Yamal added the use of religion to mock athletes is ignorant. "I understand that not all fans are like this, but to those who chant such things: using a religion as



a source of mockery on the pitch only exposes you as ignorant and racist individuals. Football is meant to be enjoyed and to inspire support—not to disrespect people for who they are or what they believe in. That said, thank you to everyone who came out to cheer us on. See you at the World Cup."

According to The Guard-

ian, the incidents began early as Egypt's national anthem was jeered and that "authorities at the RCDE Stadium appealed to fans more than once over the public announcement system to refrain from making offensive comments."

Spanish police launched an investigation on

Wednesday into the chants which also drew sharp criticism from Spain's football officials and the government, Reuters reported.

Justice Minister Felix Bolanos denounced the chants on social media platform X, reiterating the leftist government's stance against the rise of the far right, which it associates with growing racism and xenophobia.

"Racist insults and chants shame us as a society. The far right will not leave any space free of its hatred, and those who remain silent today are complicit," he wrote.

The incident highlighted concerns about racism in Spanish soccer, a recurring issue notably involving Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Vinicius Jr., who has been targeted in high-profile cases.

The stadium displayed messages on overhead screens, reminding fans that taking part in acts of racism and xenophobia was a crime, yet the chants continued.

Amelia Kerr hits 139-ball 179* as New Zealand pull off record chase to level series

NEW DELHI: It was the Amelia Kerr show at Basin Reserve on Wednesday as she played the sort of innings that would go into cricket folklore if it were played at a World Cup instead of a bilateral series, to completely hog the limelight in a match with three other knocks of note and a total of 696 runs in 99.4 overs. Amelia scored 179 not out in 139 balls. And as New Zealand crossed South Africa's 346 with two balls left, it became the highest successful chase in women's ODI history.

The result hardly seemed like when New Zealand, faced with a chase of 347, lost Suzie Bates in the fifth over, bowled by Ayabonga Khaka. Amelia settled in fast, but by the

midway stage, New Zealand were four down, Kayla Reyncke striking twice and Sune Luus once as Georgia Plimmer, Maddy Green and Brooke Halliday all fell without making a significant contribution.

Amelia finally found the partner she needed in Isabella Gaze, the wicketkeeper-batter at No. 6. Together, the two of them 120 runs in 82 balls, Amelia scoring 47 of those runs in 34 balls to Gaze's enterprising 68 in 48, studded with 11 fours.

By the time Gaze fell, becoming the first of two wickets in the game for Masabata Klaas, New Zealand had bounced right back and were in with a strong sniff. Amelia, by then on 113 off 97 balls, looked in the mood.

And then, with the lower-order batters for company, Amelia did what she had to: speed up. She scored a-run-a-ball 23 in a 40-run stand with Izzy Sharp, then 25 in 12 balls with her sister Jess, Rosemary Mair came and went, and then Amelia finished the job in the company of debutant Kayley Knight with two balls left. Amelia had reached her century - her fifth in ODIs, which includes a double-century - off 90 balls, and the 79 she scored after that came off just 49 more. Earlier, South Africa would have felt happy with their performance with the bat after New Zealand had won the toss and asked them to bat, having lost the first game batting first, though not out of choice.

FIFA World Cup: Coach stuck in UAE Iraq's route to football showpiece

IRAQ: Difficulties and struggles along the way tend to make achievements sweeter. Such was the case with the Iraqi team that made it to the FIFA World Cup after 40 years after beating Bolivia 2-1 in an intercontinental qualifier in Monterrey, Mexico.

The country has had a turbulent few decades, ravaged by war and sectarian violence. But the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, in which Iraq isn't directly involved, also cast a big shadow on their World Cup aspirations, and it was doubtful whether the team would even reach the venue for the all-important match. Team officials had even asked FIFA to postpone the qualifier, a request that was rejected.

Consider the situation: The war in the region forced a closure of Iraqi airspace

and the team had to travel by road to Jordan, reported to be a 20-hour journey.

From there, the team travelled to Lisbon, Portugal and from there to Monterrey. It needed pressure from Iraq's Australian head coach Graham Arnold to persuade FIFA to organise a chartered flight to get to Mexico.

The Aussie was stranded in Fujairah, on the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates, due to the war and only managed to meet his charges in Mexico.

Arnold, who took his home country to the last 16 of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, was with his wife in a hotel in Fujairah after a series of Iranian missiles hit nearby, according to Arabic newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat. The Australian was able to move to Dubai, but was unable to join the team for



several days. A scheduled training camp in Houston had to be cancelled.

"It's been very difficult being stranded, I'd rather not talk about it, I try to remove all of that from the players' brains because a lot of things are going on in the Middle East," the coach said before the match against Bolivia.

Visas were another problematic issue. Mexico doesn't have an embassy

in Iraq but its foreign affairs ministry facilitated the travel documents for the contingent from regional embassies in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

"I came from Europe directly to Monterrey, but for the rest of the players who play in the Iraqi local league, they had a long trip," Merchas Doski, who plays as a left-back for Czech club Viktoria Plzen, was quoted as saying.

Hershey applies AI across its supply chain operations

Artificial intelligence is moving beyond software and further into the physical side of business. Companies in food production and logistics are starting to use data systems to support day-to-day decisions, not long-term planning.

That change is visible in The Hershey Company's latest strategy update. At its Investor Day, the company said it plans to use AI in its operations, from sourcing analytics to plant automation and fulfillment, with a focus on how the business runs behind the scenes.

Hershey said it plans to apply AI to sourcing and fulfillment. This includes using data to guide how ingredients are bought and how products are distributed. In its Investor Day material, the company said it aims to build "a faster, smarter and more resilient supply chain powered by automation and AI-enabled decision making".

Supply chains in food and snack markets are under steady pressure: Costs can change quickly, demand can change by season, by market, or by product category, and retailers still expect goods to arrive on time

and in the right mix.

Hershey said its digital planning tools are meant to connect different parts of the business. The company said those systems are designed to reduce waste and improve inventory levels. It also said digital operational planning can connect data in the supply chain and help raise service levels.

Part of Hershey's update is its use of the phrase "AI-enabled decision-making." The company said its approach will link sourcing and delivery more closely and plans to use automated fulfilment systems for custom assortments and to improve speed to market.

This is a useful way to read strategy. A hard task is turning data into decisions that help operations move faster or with fewer mistakes.

This is where AI is starting to play a bigger role, according to Hershey's. The value comes from how operations are connected.

The changes also extend into manufacturing. Hershey said it will increase plant automation to improve manufacturing efficiency and use AI in more parts of its operat-

ing model. What is changing is how AI fits into those systems. Instead of sitting apart from production, it is being positioned as part of the process used to guide planning and support execution.

That may help companies improve planning and respond more quickly when conditions change. In a business where input costs and consumer demand can change often, even small gains in timing can matter.

Food and snack companies deal with constant swings in input costs and demand. Ingredients like cocoa and sugar are affected by weather, trade flows, and supply issues. Companies still have to keep factories running and products moving through retail channels.

Hershey's plan to use sourcing analytics is one example of how AI may be applied in that setting. By analysing supplier data and market trends, the company may improve how it buys raw materials and manages risk. The company also said it wants to better connect workers in its operations. That suggests the strategy is not only about automa-

tion. It is also about coordination in the business.

Hershey said it plans to "incorporate AI in every stage of its operations," including sourcing analytics and worker connectivity, as well as automated fulfilment and plant automation.

That makes the company a useful case study for a wider change in enterprise AI. Firms are moving away from narrow pilots and toward broader use in business functions. In that model, AI is treated as a part of supply and delivery systems.

CEO Kirk Tanner framed the plan around growth and execution, saying, "The strategy is clear. The team is ready. The next chapter of growth and leading performance starts now".

The kind of change is likely to spread as more companies look for ways to connect data with operational decisions. Hershey's strategy shows how AI is starting to take a larger role in industries built on physical goods. The technology may sit in the background, but its role in daily operations is becoming harder to ignore.



LG's Diary



Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLJGandK · 4h
Today I visited the vibrant border village of Makwal to review the progress of development works. Residents of border village are serving the nation every single day. That service must not be honoured only in words, but reflected clearly in the quality of life of every family.



Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLJGandK · 1h
Sharing my speech at a public event at the vibrant border village of Makwal in Jammu.



CM's Diary



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK · 5h
Chief Minister today informed the Legislative Assembly that Gulmarg's sanitation infrastructure is set for a major upgrade, with approval of a 2 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at a cost of ₹46.50 crore, slated for execution in 2026-27.

He further stated that the DPR for a Solid Waste Treatment Plant is currently under preparation, marking a comprehensive push towards sustainable waste management in the area.



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK · 4h
Chief Minister today informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government is strengthening training, registration, and regulatory frameworks to promote safe, high-quality, and responsible tourism across J&K.

He further apprised the House that licensing and registration of tourism stakeholders are already governed under the existing legal framework and, at present, there is no specific proposal under consideration for mandatory rating or certification of stakeholders.



Clinical Rajasthan United ease past Chanmari FC

JAIPUR: Two second half strikes from Naoba Meitei and Amadou Soukouna ensured Rajasthan United ease past Chanmari FC 2-0 and move temporarily to the top of the table in the Star Cement Indian Football League 2025-26 at the Vidhyadhar Nagar Stadium in Jaipur on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

The Desert Warriors moved to the top of the table for the time being with 11 points from six points while Chanmari FC remained in eighth place with five points from the same number of matches. Amadou Soukouna was adjudged the Player of the Match.

Chanmari FC head coach Dipankur Sharma made three changes to the starting XI in his first match in charge, bringing in foreign defenders Kyle Degelman and Marlon Angel in place of Malsawsanga Renthlei and F. Malsawmtluanga, while KC Malsawsanga replaced Joel Lalramengmawia

in attack. Meanwhile, Vikrant Sharma named an unchanged lineup for the home side.

The visitors showed greater attacking intent in the early stages, with KC Malsawsanga and Jota stretching the play using their pace down the flanks. At the other end, Rajasthan looked to build from the back with short passes, occasionally mixing it up with long balls aimed at Amadou Soukouna.

ECB consider new profit rules in light of Sussex financial woes

NEW DELHI: Sussex's financial woes have prompted the ECB to consider introducing football-style profit and sustainability rules governing counties' spending on player salaries.

Sussex will begin their County Championship season against Leicestershire on Friday on minus-12 points after they were placed in special measures by the ECB over the winter. That move was the result of Sussex Cricket Limited posting a £1.33 million operating loss for 2024-25, to which spiralling expenditure on players' wages was a significant contributing factor.

Paul Farbrace, Sussex's head coach, announced on Wednesday that he will step down at the end of the season, citing a desire to "give the club clarity". He had previously told his players that it is a case of "now or never" for their Championship ambitions with the club anticipating several departures after this summer as part of their cost-cutting measures.

Counties are already subject to an annual cap of £3.17 million (£3.52 million for the two London-based counties) on salaries for their men's squads, as well as a salary collar which provides a minimum spend. But Richard Gould, the ECB's chief executive, said that he is weighing up the possibility of introducing further regulations linking salary spend to profit.

"There are some learnings that come out

of it," Gould said at Lord's on Tuesday, when asked about Sussex's situation. "We're having discussions in the game about profit and sustainability rules at the moment."

"We already have a salary cap and a salary collar, but we need to make sure that clubs are spending the right amounts of cricket in relation to the income that's actually coming in. We think that those profit and sustainability rules will be a welcome addition to ensure that clubs don't trip up."

The regulations would be similar to those used by the Premier League when governing football clubs' expenditure on wages. The Premier League will replace existing profit and sustainability rules with a regulation called 'squad cost ratio' from next season, which will limit clubs' 'on-pitch' spending.

"We're just working that through at the moment," Gould said, when asked for further details. "We might be setting clubs the target of ensuring that they are making a small amount of profit per year over a two-to-three-year period, combined with maximum amounts of money that they can spend, which are already in play. But something like that we think would be a good addition."

The sale of stakes in the eight Hundred franchises last year has brought significant funds into county cricket over the past 12 months, though the ECB has told clubs that the money must be spent in a sustainable manner.

For the first time, ChatGPT has solved an unproven Math Problem in Geometry

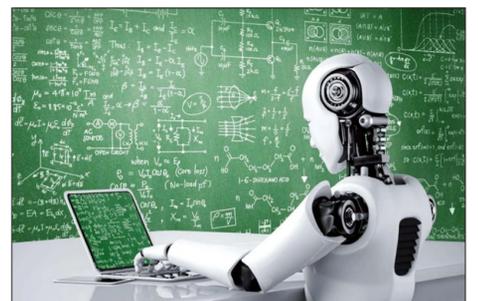
Researchers at VUB's Data Analytics Lab report that commercial language models can produce original mathematical proofs. In their study, the team shows that OpenAI's large language model ChatGPT-5.2 (Thinking) was able to solve a mathematical problem on its own.

The case focused on proving a 2024 conjecture proposed by mathematicians Ran and Teng. A conjecture is a statement believed to be true based on patterns or repeated results, but it has not yet been formally proven. Once a valid proof is established, the conjecture becomes a theorem.

According to the study, the final proof emerged from seven chat sessions with ChatGPT and four evolving versions of the argument. The model played a key role in exploring possible approaches, while human researchers ensured the reasoning was correct and logically complete.

The researchers found that ChatGPT-5.2 (Thinking) developed much of the proof's structure with limited human input. As they note, "With the Data Analytics Lab, we are one of the first to demonstrate that a commercially available LLM can independently develop original mathematical proofs."

"I had long suspected



that ChatGPT could help me prove unsolved mathematical problems," says Brecht Verbeke (postdoctoral researcher in the Data Analytics Lab VUB research group). "And yet I was surprised at how efficiently that worked out."

The team places this work within a broader approach they call vibe-proving, where language models help organize and explore complex theoretical ideas. They also raise the question of whether this method could advance as quickly as AI-assisted programming, known as vibe-coding, which has already progressed from simple tools to near-autonomous code generation. "We often hear how people think that the creativity of systems is fundamentally limited to reformulations of their training data," says VUB professor Vincent Ginis (Data Analytics Lab). "Glad we can dis-

pel that misconception with our work as well."

Despite the model's strong contribution, the researchers stress that human involvement remains essential for final verification and resolving any remaining gaps in the proof. The process also highlights where language models are most helpful and where challenges in validation still exist.

This work represents a significant step for AI in theoretical research. Beyond supporting coding or writing tasks, language models may now contribute to original mathematical discoveries when paired with careful human oversight. "Formulating candidate proofs can now be much faster, but the bottleneck then becomes human verification. That takes time. But language models will help us there too," concludes VUB professor Andres Algaba (Data Analytics Lab VUB).