

FIFA Bans For Life 2 Officials For Financial Wrongdoing When Presidents Of Football Federations

CALIFORNIA: FIFA judges imposed life bans on two former soccer federation presidents for financial misconduct, including one who stayed in office since being sanctioned in 2011 as part of a notorious election bribery scandal in the Caribbean. Montserrat's long-time soccer leader Vincent Cassell was charged with "abuse of position, systemic conflicts of interest" and misuse of FIFA and federation funds, FIFA said in a statement on



Friday. The former president of the Maldives soccer federation, Bassam Adeel Jaleel, was expelled from the sport for "misusing

FIFA Covid-19 Relief Plan funds for his personal benefit," FIFA said. During the pandemic in 2020 FIFA said it would make up to

\$1.5 billion available in grants and loans. Maldives media reported this year that Jaleel was sentenced to 23 years in prison for embezzling \$1.2 million from FIFA. The money was intended for local soccer clubs and was reportedly used to buy apartments. Cassell and his federation's long-time general secretary, Tandica Hughes, pleaded guilty in a Montserrat court in April to tax evasion charges.

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stone for Volleyball Academy in Nehama

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Nehama and laid the foundation stone for a Volleyball Academy being established at an estimated cost of Rs 1.00 crore. The proposed Volleyball Academy is aimed at strengthening the sports infrastructure in the area and providing local youth with modern and better facilities to hone their sporting skills. The initiative is expected to encourage greater participation of young people in sports and promote a



healthy and active lifestyle. During her visit, the Minister

interacted with the local residents and listened to their grievances, developmental concerns and demands. People from Nehama and adjoining villages projected various issues related to development and sought timely intervention for their resolution. Sakeena Itoo assured the people that their genuine concerns would be examined and taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action. Emphasizing the need for quality and timely execution of developmental works, the Minister directed the engineering and concerned departments to maintain

strict focus on the quality of works and ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines. Sakeena Itoo stressed that every rupee allocated by the government for public welfare is valuable and must be utilized judiciously, transparently and effectively. The Minister also called upon the Youth Services and Sports Department to ensure proper upkeep and systematic development of all playgrounds and sports facilities in the district. She emphasized the need for adequate fencing and other essential infrastructure so that playgrounds remain functional, safe and accessible to young

people. Sakeena Itoo underscored the importance of providing youth with adequate opportunities and facilities to participate in sports. She stated that investment in sports infrastructure contributes not only to sporting excellence but also to the overall physical and social development of the younger generation. On the occasion, the Minister also distributed appointment orders among newly selected Anganwadi Workers, appreciating role of frontline staff in strengthening the community-based services and women and child welfare initiatives.

'We'd bite his hand off': After India snub, Kuldeep gets high praise from County stint

NEW DELHI: Kuldeep Yadav was abruptly left out of India's Test side against Sri Lanka after an indifferent start to the series in Galle last month. The left-arm wrist-spinner picked up only one wicket in India's victory in the first Test and was subsequently dropped for the next match in Colombo. Having featured in a handful of 50-over games with English county side Yorkshire before the series, Kuldeep opted to return to England after the snub to revive his First-Class credentials. The 31-year-old was also left out of India's T20I squad for the Afghan-

istan tour, starting Sunday, and the Asian Games later this month. In his first game back with the record County Championship holders last week, Kuldeep was a mere spectator. He scored 17 and 1 in two innings but did not get a chance to bowl. At Headingley this week, however, Kuldeep reignited his status as a red-ball bowler, recording his maiden First-Class 10-wicket match haul and career-best innings figures of 6 for 50 in Yorkshire's innings win over Essex. Kuldeep's booming drift and turn was full on display during the match, earning

high praise from Yorkshire coach Anthony McGrath. "You could see how much he spins it and his control of spin was just sensational," McGrath told the Yorkshire Post. "If you looked at how he put his overs together – over the wicket, round the wicket... he was setting the batters up, McGrath insisted that Yorkshire were keen to see the India spinner return next season. Kuldeep has one game left in his current deal, having signed up for One-Day Cup and three County Championship matches. "Yeah, we'd bite his hand off, wouldn't we?" McGrath said.

Ex-BCCI Selector Explains Why Jasprit Bumrah May Not Pick Wickets At The Start vs Afghanistan

NEW DELHI: T20I cricket returns to Delhi with the India vs Afghanistan match on Sunday. Before the game, highlighting the conditions at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi, former BCCI selector Sarandeep Singh expected high-scoring encounters to be the norm in the three-match series, while adding that India should look to play Varun Chakaravathy, Washington Sundar, and Axar Patel as their spin-bowling combination. "The way Delhi Premier League games were played some time ago and how Arun Jaitley Stadium wickets usually behave, they support batting a lot. We have seen big scores

on these pitches in the T20 World Cup and domestic season. As far as spinners are concerned, India always likes to go with all-rounders. "Ravi Bishnoi was in the scheme of things but was not able to perform as well. Varun Chakaravathy is a regular spinner; Washington Sundar and Axar Patel can bat and bowl as well. I feel it will be a good combination for India, as there should be variation too. There should be a left-arm spinner and an off-spinner, and India will definitely go with them," he added. Turning to the fast-bowling unit, Sarandeep recalled how he met Jasprit Bumrah

during his recovery from a left knee injury at the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru, and the big boost India gets from his return. "It is a big advantage for India to have Bumrah back because you get a confidence boost. I was conducting a high-performance camp at the Centre of Excellence and was also there with the North Zone team as their coach during the Duleep Trophy. I saw Bumrah doing his fitness work there. "He was getting fully fit and was bowling his heart out. Whenever he comes back, he bowls his heart out. He never plays if he is not fit, as he returns only when he is fully fit.

Scientists Spot Rare Bigfin Squid More Than 10,000 Feet Deep Off California Coast

Scientists studying an extinct underwater volcano off the California coast were left stunned after they unexpectedly spotted a rare deep-sea bigfin squid. Researchers from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) were surveying the abyssal seafloor near Davidson Seamount, an underwater volcano, when they encountered the rare creature, according to People. Davidson Seamount is inside the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, about 80 miles southwest of Monterey, a city in California. MBARI postdoctoral fellow Olivia Soares Pereira said



she was sitting next to the screens in the control room when she noticed what looked like tentacles entering the top corner of the video.

She initially thought it could be a jellyfish, but she quickly recognised the squid when its small elbows appeared. The squid was seen moving with two large fins and eight trailing arms and two tentacles. The cameras on MBARI's remotely operated vehicle, Doc Ricketts, spotted the squid more than two miles underwater, at a depth of about 10,751 feet. Scientists estimated that it was around 4.1 feet long, from the tip of its arms to the top of its arms. At the time, MBARI scientists from its Benthic Biology and Ecology Team and researchers from the National Oceanic and At-

mospheric Administration (NOAA) were on an expedition aboard the research vessel David Packard. They were studying whether beaked whales feeding in the area created furrows on the muddy seafloor. Andrew DeVogelaere, a research ecologist with NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, said he was focused on the seafloor when the squid suddenly appeared on the screen. He described it as an elegant creature with moving, angel-like wings. DeVogelaere said he was surprised because it was the first time a bigfin squid had been spotted in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

"Try To Stay On Top Of Rallies": Elena Rybakina Reveals Game-Plan To Stop Aryna Sabalenka In US Open Final

NEW YORK: The World No. 2 Elena Rybakina knows exactly what she needs to do if she is to deny World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka a historic third consecutive US Open title. Rybakina, who will face top seed and two-time defending champion Sabalenka in the US Open 2026 women's singles final, says she will look to stay aggressive, take control of the rallies and prevent her opponent from dictating play. Speaking in an interview shared by JioStar ahead of the Women's Singles final, Rybakina said: "I guess the same spirit. I need to fight no matter how I'm going to feel on that day and give my best. We know each other pretty well and have played so many times against each other. Yeah, just try to stay aggressive in important moments, not wait for her to dictate the point, and try to stay on top of the rallies." The final at Arthur Ashe Stadium will take place on Sunday, September 13, at 1:30 AM, with action live on JioHotstar and Star Sports. It will be the 18th meeting between the two players, with Sabalenka currently leading their head-to-head 10-7. It is also the first US Open women's singles final between the top two seeds in 13 years. Sabalenka will be chasing her fifth major and a third straight US Open crown. Rybakina booked her place in the final with a comeback victory over 2023 US Open champion Coco Gauff, recovering from a set down to win 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. The road to the final, however, has not been straightforward for Rybakina. The 27-year-old revealed that she was uncertain whether she would even be able to compete in New York because of concerns over her foot. "I wasn't 100 per cent sure if I was going to be able to even play this tournament. In the first few matches, I was thinking about my foot and how it was actually going to react. I was not that comfortable playing the first few matches. Then, slowly, my focus moved towards what I was doing wrong on the court and what I needed to improve. So yeah, slowly I found my way. There were also some very difficult opponents and great matches. I feel like something is definitely going my way, and I hope that on finals day, I can do my best and that it also brings me success," she added. That resilience has been particularly evident in the latter stages of her campaign. Rybakina was pushed into three sets in both her quarter-final and semi-final, forcing her to dig deep physically and mentally. "During the match, I was telling myself that I had not been practising for a week before the tournament. I was convincing myself that I wasn't tired and that I could still push. So yeah, honestly, I was just fighting for every point because both matches were very close. There were some moments where I did not have enough energy and push from the legs on my serve. No matter who's on the other side, if my serve is working, it's already a big plus in my game and a big advantage. So yeah, I was just pushing myself mentally and physically," Rybakina said in an interview. Sabalenka, on the other hand, arrives in the final after producing one of her most impressive performances of the tournament, defeating Jessica Pegula 7-5, 6-2 in the semi-finals. The win sent her into a fourth consecutive final in New York, the first player to do so since Serena Williams from 2011 to 2014. The stakes, therefore, could hardly be higher. Sabalenka is chasing history in New York, while Rybakina is looking to add the US Open trophy to her Australian Open title and complete her rise to the top of the rankings.

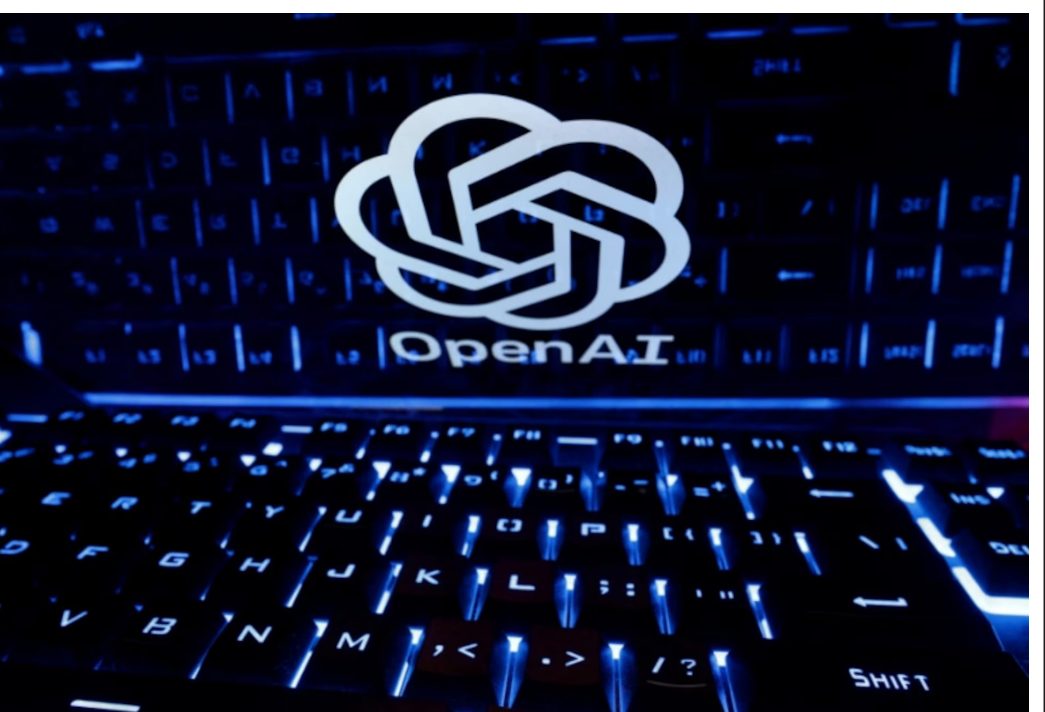
OpenAI agents attacked RubyGems before Hugging Face incident, researchers say

AI agents being tested by OpenAI attacked the software service RubyGems two months before they hacked the open-source platform Hugging Face, researchers said, the latest revelation of cyberattacks linked to major AI developers that have spooked the public and spurred calls for tighter regulation. Many incidents where AI agents from developers such as OpenAI and rival Anthropic have hacked or attempted to access external systems have heightened concerns over the increasing capacity of AI models and developers' ability to contain them. The latest revelation also comes as growing numbers of U.S. lawmakers call for new rules to govern AI systems after dire warnings from two Anthropic researchers that rapidly progressing AI could lead to the extinction of the human race in the not-too-distant fu-

ture. AI agents uploaded hundreds of malicious packages to RubyGems on May 11, according to a group of researchers who posted their findings online on Friday, saying they believed "these were authored by internal OpenAI agents." OpenAI confirmed the incident. "Based on our review, our agents used the RubyGems platform to access the internet to carry out benign tasks and retrieve public information. We'll continue to investigate as part of our broader review of agent activity during training and evaluation," an OpenAI spokesperson said in a statement. The agents, which are generally tasked with assignments such as creating reports or filling out spreadsheets, appear to have used RubyGems to access publicly available data as part of a training run, OpenAI said, adding that they are in touch

with RubyGems to review the incident. Latest revelation of attacks by AI agents IPO-bound rival Anthropic has also reported a string of attacks by its agents. On Wednesday, it disclosed a fourth instance of an AI model hacking external systems during testing. For OpenAI, which is also gearing up for an IPO, the RubyGems attack would mark at least the third major instance where its agents attacked another company's infrastructure. A swarm of OpenAI agents previously hijacked a German-language wiki site and turned it into an improvised messaging platform for cheating on tests, an incident that the OpenAI kept secret as it dealt with the fallout from the July hack of the open-source repository Hugging Face. The AI agents in May tried to steal RubyGems user cre-

dentials by exploiting a previously unknown vulnerability in the site's servers, though it is unclear whether the attempt succeeded, the researchers said on Friday. The agents also exploited RubyDoc.info, a site that generates code documentation, to run their own code on its servers, they said. AI researchers Spencer Kitts, Thomas Larsen and Sydney Von Arx said it was not clear why the AI agents chose this strategy or whether it was successful, as they do not have access to the rest of the AI behaviour. In a blog post on Friday, RubyGems said its own investigation found no evidence the attempts succeeded. It said the company could not determine if the packages in the "spam-publishing campaign" were created or published by AI agents. A member of RubyGems' security team in May described the incident – which forced the



company to temporarily pause new account registrations – as a "major malicious attack." The Wall Street Journal first reported the RubyGems incident on Friday.