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| GENEVA – FIFA president Gianni Infantino will contninue in his post, world football’s governing body insisted on Sunday, as they blasted the launch of Swiss criminal proceedings against him.  “There was and is absolutely no reason to open any investigation because nothing remotely criminal has happened and there is nothing at all to suggest any form of **criminal wrongdoing**,” FIFA said in a media release.  “The FIFA president will continue to **fully assume his functions within FIFA** and fulfil his duties and will continue to cooperate with the authorities in Switzerland and around the world.”  Special prosecutor Stefan Keller started proceedings on Thursday as part of an investigation into suspected **collusion** between Infantino and Switzerland’s **attorney general** Michael Lauber, the country’s top prosecutor.  Lauber, who offered his **resignation** on July 24, was in charge of Switzerland’s probe into the **towering corruption scandal** that exploded **at the heart** of Zurich-based FIFA 2015.  But he was forced to recuse himself from the investigation in June 2019, following media revelations that he had held several undeclared meetings with Infantino during the probe.  Swiss authorities said Keller “reached the conclusion that… there are indications of criminal conduct” in relation to meetings between Infantino, Lauber and another officials, Rinaldo Arnold, in 2016 and 2017.  “This concerns abuse of public office, breach of official secrecy, assisting offenders and incitement to these acts,” the authorities said.  **Categorical denial**  FIFA hit back on Sunday, accusing Keller of having brought forward no legal grounds for his probe.  “Keller has presented no serious elements or legal basis for the opening of any investigation and lacks any detail as to the substance of the case.”  “FIFA and the FIFA president **categorically deny any implication or suggestion** that the FIFA president would ever have attempted to exert any form of improper influence” on Lauber.  FIFA said it was “not illegal anywhere in the world” to meet a prosecutor.  It said the meeting between Infantino and Lauber was “entirely logical” given that the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) was conducting investigations in more than 20 cases in FIFA-related matters.  The organization said such meetings or contacts were “routine” during an investigation.  It said the point of the meeting was to offer FIFA’s “full support” for the investigations, and Infantino attended in “good faith”.  “FIFA was trying to restore trust in the institution at that time,” it said, finding itself “in a **disastrous** situation and at risk of being designated a criminal organization by the US authorities”.  FIFA said that “in no way whatsoever” were the meetings secret, and they had been arranged by the OAG.  **‘No obligation’ to keep minutes**  FIFA claimed that meeting a prosecutor was “the best guarantee that any such meeting is legitimate”.  It also insisted there was “no obligation” on the FIFA president to keep minutes of such meetings.  Switzerland has pursued a number of cases since a **raid** on a luxury hotel in Zurich in May 2015 led to the **arrests** of a several FIFA executives and exposed and allegedly corrupt underbelly in world fooball.  In total, more than 20 FIFA proceedings have been opened in Switzerland over the past five years into **allegations** of corruption and vote-buying, and allegations over the awarding of television rights contracts. | **criminal wrongdoing:** sai phạm hình sự.  **fully assume his functions within FIFA:** đảm nhận đầy đủ chức năng của mình trong FIFA.  **Collusion:** thông đồng.  **attorney general:** bộ trưởng tư pháp.  **Resignation:** stating that one gives up an office/ từ chức.  **Towering:** very high.  **corruption scandal:** bê bối tham nhũng.  **at the heart:** tại trung tâm.  **categorically deny any implication or suggestion:** từ chối rõ ràng bất kỳ hàm ý hoặc đề nghị.  **Disastrous:** very unfortunate.  **Raid:** a sudden attack  **Arrests:** to catch and hold.  **Allegations:** an assertion made with little or no proof. |