

BCCSL angry at Holding

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's cricket board condemned on Friday former West Indian fast bowler Michael Holding for casting doubts over the island's ace spin bowler, Muttiah Muralitharan.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) said in a statement Holding's comments were "unwarranted" and "irresponsible" and clearly intended to cast doubts over Muralitharan's bowling action.

Holding was reported to have said that he agreed with comments made by the former Indian left arm spinner Bishen Singh Bedi that Muralitharan's action was illegal.

But Holding's comments could prove more important than those from other former international players because he heads the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) technical committee on illegal bowling actions.

Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 13

Taposh	17	3	39	0
Rezaul	38	13	59	4
Kapali	11	4	25	1
Imran	21	6	44	0
Rana	20	9	28	2
Perez	35	11	91	2
SYLHET: Second Innings				
Parvez b Mustadir				11
Mabud run out				18
Kapali lbw b Aminul jr				0
Mowla b Aminul jr				85
Hadi lbw b Mustadir				0
Rajin lbw b Mamun				42
Nasirul run out				7
Rezaul c & Mabub				11
Rana b Mabub				0
Taposh bw Aminul jr				0
Imran not out				1
Extras (b-4, nb-4, lb-2, w-2)				27
Total (For 69 overs)				202
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-61, 3-63, 4-71, 5-154, 6-181, 7-200, 8-200, 9-200				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Aminul jr	0	7	4	3
Mamun	13	4	34	1
Mustadir	20	10	32	2
Imran	24	4	46	0
Mabub	11.1	2	23	2
Result: Rajshahi won by an innings and 20 runs				

Barisal v Khulna

Venue: Barisal Stadium

Barisal: First Innings 177 all out in 59 overs (Nayeb 38, Karim 35, Al-Amin 5-27, Tushar 2-15, Rezaul 2-50)

Khulna: First Innings 177 all out in 90 overs (Asadullah 33, Raju 27, Salim 26, Sanwar 3-18, Moni 2-28, Anis 2-34)

Barisal: Second Innings (overnight 106 for no loss in 31 overs)

Imran & b Al-Amin

Shafayet lbw b Al-Amin

Shahin c Salim b Razzak

Sanwar not out

Sourav b Tushar

Kamal c Hasanuzzaman b Jamaluddin

Nayan c Al-Amin b Tushar

Abdul Asjalullah & Razzak

Moin not out

Extras (b-3, lb-10, nb-1, w-1)

Total: (For 7 wickets in 98 overs) 355

Bowler

O M R W

Al-Amin 20 1 95 2

Russel 6 1 25 0

Razzak 32 9 82 2

Hasanuzzaman 6 1 27 0

Tushar 12 1 50 2

Jamaluddin 21 3 66 1

Asadullah 1 0 7 0

Khulna: Second Innings

Purabubing

Mornal battting

Extras

Total: (For no loss in 21 overs) 53

Bowler

O M R W

Anis 6 0 16 0

Ashfaq 4 1 10 0

Saleh 6 3 10 0

Kamal 2 1 4 0

Moin 2 0 8 0

Sanwar 1 0 5 0



PHOTO COURTESY
CHOWDHURY

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M Harun-Ar-Rashid (4th from Right) poses with other dignitaries after teeing-off the American Cup Golf Tournament on Thursday. US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters was also present.

Tapan, Anika clinch crowns

Golf

SPORTS REPORTER

Tapan Chowdhury won the men's title in the American Cup Golf Tournament on Friday.

The prestigious two-day event at the lush green Kurmitola Golf Club course, attracted 347 golfers including 23 lady players. Anika Chowdhury clinched the ladies' crown.

President of the club Lt Gen M Harun-Ar-Rashid teed-off the participants and also gave away prizes among the winners on the final day.

Ambassador of the United States to Bangladesh Mary Ann Peters was present during the tee-off.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior Winner: Maj Gen Mustafa Kamal Uddin, **Junior Winner:** Salma Reza, **Best Gross:** Yakib Haji Jumat, **Ladies' Best Gross:** Jung Sook Jung, **Second Best Gross:** Arshi Haider, **Runner-up:** Hsu Chin Hua, **Second Runner-up:** Seraj Uddin Ahmed, **Front Nine Winner:** Sqn Ldr. Tejbir Singh, **Back Nine Winner:** Ludwig Velsink, **Nearest to Pin:** Col. Manzur Mashed, **Longest Drive:** MH Asif, **Nine Hole Winner:** Air Cdre Fakhrul Azam, **Nine Hole Runner-up:** Cdre Shah Mujtaba.

Brazil melt Iceland



REUTERS, Cuiaba, Brazil

Brazil hit six goals past a second-string Iceland team on Thursday and were then jeered off the field by a crowd which apparently felt the friendly international had been a waste of time.

Nineteen-year-old midfielder Kaka scored on his debut and defender Anderson Polga hit two goals for Brazil's experimental side in a 6-1 win.

But the biggest cheer came from a disillusioned crowd came when Iceland's amateurs -- whose team included students, a bank manager and a telephone technician -- grabbed a late consolation.

The match had been billed by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) as a World Cup warm-up and was officially a full international but critics claimed that, with both countries below strength, it added nothing to Brazil's preparations for Japan and South Korea.

A skeptical Brazilian media disparagingly dubbed the visitors the Penguin Team and claimed not even Iceland's first eleven would

have provided a stiff test for the four-times world champions.

Neither team was able to field their top foreign-based players because the game was not on a day allocated by FIFA for friendly internationals.

Critics, led by former World Cup captain Zico, pointed out that the CBF had failed to fix up a game for the last FIFA-approved day in February because it fell during the Brazilian carnival.

The match was further discredited because the CBF chose to use Brazilian referee Wagner Tardelli rather than a neutral official.

Anderson Polga gave Brazil a fourth minute lead and the game was hopelessly one-sided from then on, much to the anger of the crowd which began booing Brazil.

With Iceland barely able to get out of their own third of the field, Kleberson added a second in the 20th minute with a looping shot.

Iceland goalkeeper Arni Arason, one of three foreign-based players in his team, kept the score down with several excellent saves.

But the floodgates opened after half-time as Brazil made four substitutions.

Kaka fired home the third two minutes into the second half and

four minutes later midfielder Gilberto Silva scored the fourth with a long-range shot which swerved away from Arason into the top corner.

Brazil had managed 25 shots on goal before Iceland's first attempt in the 57th minute, a diving header from Haukur Ingi Gudnason which flew wide.

It was only a brief interlude and normal service was resumed when Edilson and Anderson Polga made it 6-0 before the 70th minute, while striker Washington twice hit the crossbar.

But Brazil let up and, amid a mixture of incredulity and delight, Iceland substitute Grettar Steinsson broke away in the 77th minute and scored with an angled shot.

Many fans had already left in disgust and by the final whistle, the 35,000 crowd had been reduced by more than half.

"The only use for this game is to see how the young players react when they get booted," said former Brazilian World Cup player Falcao.

Brazil's next World Cup warm-up is at home to Yugoslavia on March 27, when both teams are expected to be at full-strength.

Akram aims comeback

Cricket

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan's veteran fast bowler Wasim Akram, dropped from the team playing Sri Lanka for the Asian crown, is out to prove he still has more to give Pakistan cricket.

After 18 years as a top international cricketer he finds himself embroiled in yet another controversy, this time over his fitness and right to a place in the Pakistan team.

The 35-year-old star with more than 800 wickets to his name in international cricket left for Karachi on Thursday to prove to the national selectors and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that there is nothing wrong with his fitness.

The issue has become contentious since he was dropped from the Pakistan squad playing the Asian Test Championship final in Lahore against Sri Lanka.

His exclusion was as a surprise as he had been called to Sharjah last month for one-dayers against the West Indies having appeared to have recovered from a hamstring injury which saw him limp off the field in January's first Test against Bangladesh after bowling just 16 balls.

But he played just one match against the West Indies, adding fuel to speculation his days as a Pakistan player could be numbered.

However, chief selector Wasim Bari insists otherwise.

"It is wrong to say that we are dispensing with him. He is a world class bowler. He still figures very much in our future plans," Bari told Reuters.

"It is just that we are not certain about his fitness for a five-day game."

Pakistan skipper Waqar Younis also sided with his old comrade.

"Akram is not fully fit which is why he was not considered for this match. That is all, there is no other agenda behind dropping him for the final," Waqar said.

But things with Pakistani cricket, and Akram in particular, are never as simple as they may appear.

Akram says his fitness is not a problem, a point he aims to prove by playing for the national airlines side in the national one-day champion-

ship from Friday.

"I don't want to comment on anything right now. But all I can say is I am fit and will be back in the team," Akram told Reuters before flying to Karachi.

"I will play the national matches to confirm my fitness. I still have the desire to play for my country as I feel I can still contribute a lot as a senior player."



Inspector General of Police Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury (C) inaugurates the annual sports competition of Dhaka Metropolitan Police as the chief guest at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground in the city on Friday.

WEEKEND'S FIXTURES ACROSS EUROPE

Serie A

(14:00 GMT unless stated)
Saturday: Inter Milan v Juventus (19:30 GMT)

Sunday: Atalanta v Lecce, Bologna v AC Milan, Fiorentina v Udinese, Piacenza v Perugia, Torino v Chievo, Venezia v Brescia, Verona v Parma, Lazio v AS Roma (19:30 GMT)

Primera Liga

(Quarterfinals)

Saturday: Newcastle v Arsenal (17:30 GMT)

Sunday: Middlesbrough v Everton (13:00 GMT), Tottenham v Chelsea (16:00 GMT), West Brom v Fulham

English FA Cup

(Quarterfinals)

Saturday: Newcastle v Arsenal (17:30 GMT)

Sunday: Middlesbrough v Everton (13:00 GMT), Tottenham v Chelsea (16:00 GMT), West Brom v Fulham

Bundesliga

Saturday: Bayern Munich v 1860 Munich, Bayer Leverkusen v Energie Cottbus, St. Pauli v SC Freiburg, FC Nuremberg v Werder Bremen, VfL Wolfsburg v FC Cologne, Hansa Rostock v Kaiserslautern, Borussia Dortmund v Borussia Moenchengladbach

Sunday: Schalke 04 v VfB Stuttgart, Hertha