

## ICC reassures Murali

## Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

International Cricket Council (ICC) general manager David Richardson insisted there would be "no witch-hunt" against Muttiah Muralitharan after he unveiled plans here Thursday to carry out research into slow bowlers' actions.

The research comes following renewed controversy over the unusual action of Sri Lanka off-spinner Muralitharan.

But Richardson insisted the sole aim was to help gather information for the ICC, which would then decide whether changes were needed to current regulations.

"We're not out here on a witch-hunt," former South Africa wicketkeeper Richardson told reporters at Edgbaston.

"Murali's a very complicated

case. It's not right that we should make laws that are specifically designed for him."

The research will start here Friday during the second Test between England and West Indies at Edgbaston and continue throughout September's Champions Trophy one-day tournament in England, featuring all the world's leading sides.

Results will be submitted to the ICC who could, in November at the earliest, announce changes to regulations as a result.

Murali, now the world's leading Test wicket-taker, alongside Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne with 527 dismissals, has twice been noballed for 'throwing' during his career.

He missed the recent tour of Australia, following comments from Australian Prime Minister John Howard that he was a chucker.

Muralitharan came under fresh

scrutiny because of the 'doosra', a delivery which spins away from right-handers instead of coming into them like a normal off-break.

He was warned he could be banned from international cricket for a year if he persisted with the delivery in its original form.

Although the Laws of Cricket allow no straightening of the arm at the moment of delivery, the ICC has said that is physically impossible.

Instead it has set tolerance limits that currently stand at five degrees for spinners, 7.5 for medium-pacers and 10 for pacemen.

Cameras filming at 250 frames per second will be installed at grounds during the Champions Trophy in a bid to create three-dimensional computer images of bowlers' actions.

Richardson added ICC were not looking at faster bowlers because they were happy with the current tolerance levels.

## Hoggard damages WI

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West Indies' plight was summed up by the fact that last man Harmison made a Test-best 31 not out of 18 balls only with one six and five fours.

Harmison struck four outserves from Jermaine Lawson and next ball lofted him for six with a superb on-drive.

He and fellow quick Hoggard shared an unbroken stand of 41 for the last wicket.

Flintoff's hundred had already steered England into the dominant position of 453 for six at lunch.

They resumed with Flintoff 119 not out and Giles 11 not out.

Flintoff, who had already struck three sixes, pulled a short-bound from spinner Sarwan over the ropes.

After Giles went for an on-drive four through mid-wicket off Sarwan took Flintoff to 145, his highest Test score surpassing the 142 he made against South Africa at Lord's last year.

Flintoff went 150 in superb style by advancing down the pitch and lofting Banks straight back over the bowler's head for his fifth six.

He had then faced 184 balls also including 17 fours.

Next ball Flintoff lofted another six and three balls later hoisted Banks over the fence again as 19 runs came off the wicket.

He had then faced 184 balls also including 17 fours.

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the second Test between England and West Indies at Edgbaston on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 313 for 5):

Trescothick c Lara b Bravo 105

Strauss c Jacobs b Lawson 24

Key c Lara b Collins 29

Vaughan c and b Bravo 12

Flintoff lbw b Bravo 167

Jones c Jacobs b Collymore 74

Giles c Chanderpaul b Bravo 24

Hoggard not out 15

Anderson Banks 2

Harmison not out 31

Extras: (lb-6, w-1, nb-15) 22

Total: (For 9 wkt in 5 overs) 134 overs) 566

Fall of wkt: 1-77, 2-125, 3-150, 4-210, 5-262, 6-432, 7-478, 8-522, 9-525.

Bowler O M R W

Collins 18 1 90 1

Collymore 30 6 126 2

Lawson 23 4 111 1

Bravo 24 6 76 4

Banks 27 3 108 1

Sarwan 12 0 49 0

WEST INDIES: First innings (Total: (For 2 wkt in 5 overs) 24

Fall of wkt: 1-5, 2-12, 3-13, 4-14, 5-15, 6-16, 7-17, 8-18, 9-19, 10-20, 11-21, 12-22, 13-23, 14-24, 15-25, 16-26, 17-27, 18-28, 19-29, 20-30, 21-31, 22-32, 23-33, 24-34, 25-35, 26-36, 27-37, 28-38, 29-39, 30-40, 31-41, 32-42, 33-43, 34-44, 35-45, 36-46, 37-47, 38-48, 39-49, 40-50, 41-51, 42-52, 43-53, 44-54, 45-55, 46-56, 47-57, 48-58, 49-59, 50-60, 51-61, 52-62, 53-63, 54-64, 55-65, 56-66, 57-67, 58-68, 59-69, 60-70, 61-71, 62-72, 63-73, 64-74, 65-75, 66-76, 67-77, 68-78, 69-79, 70-80, 71-81, 72-82, 73-83, 74-84, 75-85, 76-86, 77-87, 78-88, 79-89, 80-90, 81-91, 82-92, 83-93, 84-94, 85-95, 86-96, 87-97, 88-98, 89-99, 90-100, 91-101, 92-102, 93-103, 94-104, 95-105, 96-106, 97-107, 98-108, 99-109, 100-110, 101-120, 102-130, 103-140, 104-150, 105-160, 106-170, 107-180, 108-190, 109-200, 110-210, 120-220, 130-230, 140-240, 150-250, 160-260, 170-270, 180-280, 190-290, 200-300, 210-310, 220-320, 230-330, 240-340, 250-350, 260-360, 270-370, 280-380, 290-390, 300-400, 310-410, 320-420, 330-430, 340-440, 350-450, 360-460, 370-470, 380-480, 390-490, 400-500, 410-600, 420-700, 430-800, 440-900, 450-1000, 460-1100, 470-1200, 480-1300, 490-1400, 500-1500, 600-1600, 700-1700, 800-1800, 900-1900, 1000-2000, 1100-2100, 1200-2200, 1300-2300, 1400-2400, 1500-2500, 1600-2600, 1700-2700, 1800-2800, 1900-2900, 2000-3000, 2100-3100, 2200-3200, 2300-3300, 2400-3400, 2500-3500, 2600-3600, 2700-3700, 2800-3800, 2900-3900, 3000-4000, 3100-4100, 3200-4200, 3300-4300, 3400-4400, 3500-4500, 3600-4600, 3700-4700, 3800-4800, 3900-4900, 4000-5000, 4100-6000, 4200-7000, 4300-8000, 4400-9000, 4500-10000, 4600-11000, 4700-12000, 4800-13000, 4900-14000, 5000-15000, 6000-16000, 7000-17000, 8000-18000, 9000-19000, 10000-20000, 11000-21000, 12000-22000, 13000-23000, 14000-24000, 15000-25000, 16000-26000, 17000-27000, 18000-28000, 19000-29000, 20000-30000, 21000-31000, 22000-32000, 23000-33000, 24000-34000, 25000-35000, 26000-36000, 27000-37000, 28000-38000, 29000-39000, 30000-40000, 31000-41000, 32000-42000, 33000-43000, 34000-44000, 35000-45000, 36000-46000, 37000-47000, 38000-48000, 39000-49000, 40000-50000, 41000-60000, 42000-70000, 43000-80000, 44000-90000, 45000-100000, 46000-110000, 47000-120000, 48000-130000, 49000-140000, 50000-150000, 60000-160000, 70000-170000, 80000-180000, 90000-190000, 100000-200000, 110000-210000, 120000-220000, 130000-230000, 140000-240000, 150000-250000, 160000-260000, 170000-270000, 180000-280000, 190000-290000, 200000-300000, 210000-310000, 220000-320000, 230000-330000, 240000-340000, 250000-350000, 260000-360000, 270000-370000, 280000-380000, 290000-390000, 300000-400000, 310000-410000, 320000-420000, 330000-430000, 340000-440000, 350000-450000, 360000-460000, 370000-470000, 380000-480000, 390000-490000, 400000-500000, 410000-600000, 420000-700000, 430000-800000, 440000-900000, 450000-1000000, 460000-1100000, 470000-1200000, 480000-1300000, 490000-1400000, 500000-1500000, 600000-1600000, 700000-1700000, 800000-1800000, 900000-1900000, 1000000-2000000, 1100000-2100000, 1200000-2200000, 1300000-2300000, 1400000-2400000, 1500000-2500000, 1600000-2600000, 1700000-2700000, 1800000-2800000, 1900000-2900000, 2000000-3000000, 2100000-3100000, 2200000-3200000, 2300000-3300000, 2400000-3400000, 2500000-3500000, 2600000-3600000, 2700000-3700000, 2800000-3800000, 2900000-3900000, 3000000-4000000, 3100000-4100000, 3200000-4200000, 3300000-4300000, 3400000-4400000, 3500000-4500000, 3600000-4600000, 3700000-4700000, 3800000-4800000, 3900000-4900000, 4000000-5000000, 4100000-6000000, 4200000-7000000, 4300000-8000000, 4400000-9000000, 4500000-10000000, 4600000-11000000, 4700000-12000000, 4800000-13000000, 4900000-14000000, 5000000-15000000, 6000000-16000000, 7000000-17000000, 8000000-18000000, 9000000-19000000, 10000000-20000000, 11000000-21000000, 12000000-22000000, 13000000-23000000, 14000000-24000000, 15000000-25000000, 16000000-26000000, 17000000-27000000, 18000000-28000000, 19000000-29000000, 20000000-30000000, 21000000-31000000, 22000000-32000000, 23000000-33000000, 24000000-34000000, 25000000-35000000, 26000000-36000000, 27000000-37000000, 28000000-38000000, 29000000-39000000, 30000000-40000000, 31000000-41000000, 32000000-42000000, 33000000-43000000, 34000000-44000000, 35000000-45000000, 36000000-46000000, 37000000-47000000, 38000000-48000000, 39000000-49000000, 40000000-50000000, 41000000-60000000, 42000000-70000000, 43000000-80000000, 44000000-90000000, 45000000-100000000, 46000000-110000000, 47000000-120000000, 48000000-130000000, 49000000-140000000, 50000000-150000000, 60000000-160000000, 70000000-170000000, 80000000-180000000, 90000000-190000000, 100000000-200000000, 110000000-210000000, 120000000-220000000, 130000000-230000000, 140000000-240000000, 150000000-250000000, 160000000-260000000, 170000000-270000