

FORMULA ONE Brawn wants to keep Button

INTERNET, undated

Ross Brawn has rubbished speculation that Jenson Button has already 'agreed terms' to join McLaren next season and has confirmed that negotiations are continuing with the newly crowned F1 world champion.

Button has been locked in stalled negotiations for some weeks now with Brawn over his pay packet, two-thirds of which he voluntarily surrendered last winter in order to help the Brackley-based operation stay afloat in the wake of parent company Honda's sudden and shock withdrawal from top flight competition.

However, while it was reported on Tuesday that the 29-year-old could officially sign for McLaren by the end of the week, Brawn believes 'his' team can still agree a deal to keep the Englishman.

Indeed despite the buy-out by Mercedes on Monday -- prompting reports that German duo Nico Rosberg and Nick Heidfeld will drive for the squad in 2010, Ross insists that 'logically' Button would be unwise to jump ship.

"Negotiations (with Button) are continuing and the reports that he has already agreed terms with McLaren are not helpful. I would be amazed if that were the case," Brawn told British broadsheets newspaper. The Independent.

"His best future is with our team, where he has a good group around him, and there's no need to be said for that."

"The logical thing would be for him to stay with us, but of course logic doesn't always prevail."

Male TT team 10th in Asia

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh male table tennis team finished 10th amongst 21 teams in the 19th Asian Table Tennis Championship that is currently being held in the Lucknow, India. They lost to Iran and Thailand but beat Laos to move into the second round where they beat Nepal to advance to the next round. Bangladesh lost to Sri Lanka in the 9th and 10th place decider to finish on tenth. The women's team finished fifteenth among 21 teams.

Div I football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

In the opening match of the First Division Football League between A Sports Club and Kheladhula Sangha ended in a goalless draw at the Kurigram Stadium yesterday.

Twelve teams splitting into four groups are taking part in the league which will continue till December 13.

The teams are: A Sports Club, Kheladhula Sangha, Mitali Krir Sangha, Meglyen Club, Flamingo Club, Sonali Dharla Club, Rising Star Club, Juba Sangsad, Textile More Club, ESS Club, Nine Star Club and SMG Club.

Local MP Md. Jafor Ali inaugurated the meet as chief guest.



The Sampdoria team and 200 players walked 20 miles to a mountain sanctuary near Genoa in 1969 to thank the Madonna for helping them stave off relegation.



Rafael Benitez

(Liverpool manager)

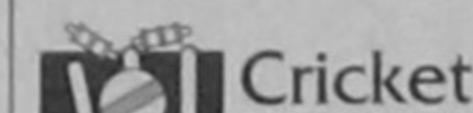
"I'm confident it will never happen. If it did, I'd resign." On Fernando Torres if he is sold without his consent.



PHOTO: INTERNET

West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan drives off the back foot on the first day of the four-day tour match against Queensland at Allan Border Field in Brisbane yesterday.

WI struggle sans Gayle



CRICINFO, undated

The West Indians received an immediate view of life without the captain Chris Gayle when both openers fell cheaply and they were dismissed for 271 against Queensland. Gayle flew out of Australia on Wednesday to be with his sick mother in Jamaica and shortly after he left Allan Border Field his side was in trouble at 2 for 10, relying on Ramnaresh Sarwan's 73 to boost an unconvincing total.

With Gayle in doubt for the first Test next week, the West Indians are looking for candidates at the top of the order and both Adrian Barath and Travis Dowlin did not make an impact on a muggy morning in Brisbane. Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Dwayne Bravo produced useful contributions as they adjusted to the conditions, but the order's inexperienced members struggled against a Queensland outfit carrying two opening bowlers on first-class debut.

The visiting attack was led by Ravi Rampaul and Kemar Roach, who gained a couple of appeals but no breakthroughs in the 10 overs before bad light intervened. Queensland finished the day at 0 for 43 with Ryan Broad on 25 and Nick Kruger, who was hit on the back by Roach in the last over, 17 not out.

Barath, who is the opener most likely to face Australia on November 26, spent 20 balls with our scoring and inside-edged Luke Feldman behind to follow the departure of his partner. Dowlin (2) did not offer a shot to Alister McDermott and was bowled in the third over after the visitors won the toss.

While the conditions offered swing and were uncomfortable for the batsmen in the early stages, the tourists will experience a large step up in intensity at the Gabba. The reliable pair of

Sarwan and Chanderpaul were largely untroubled as they put on 67 to steady the visitors, but Chanderpaul departed for 41 after top edging a pull to fine-leg off Nathan Reardon shortly before lunch.

Sarwan was comfortable taking his time and gained the most from the day, moving to 73 off 165 deliveries in a valuable tune-up. He drove purposefully against the pace of McDermott and also pulled him for a powerful boundary during his stand of 85 with Bravo. The side needed his input and he was reluctant to leave when given out to an edge behind that provided Feldman with his second wicket.

Bravo stayed for an eventful hour either side of lunch and raced to 49 from 53 balls thanks mainly to his attacking of the legspinner Daniel Doran. It was the sort of showing that makes him such an attractive limited-overs player, but he will be required to tone down if he holds his place at No. 5 during the Tests.

A long-hop was lifted into the Stuart Law Stand and in the next over he thrashed Doran for two sixes and drove him for a delightful four through mid-off. The captain Chris Simpson kept persevering with Doran and was rewarded with an edge at first slip.

Brendan Nash was playing against his old state and had moved to 11 when he clipped Nathan Rimmington, his old flatmate, to McDermott at square leg. The dismissal left the West Indians at a wobbly 5 for 192 and the situation became worse with Sarwan's exit.

Narsingh Deonarine improved the score during a bright 22 and the captain Denesh Ramdin added 20 before nicking to the wicketkeeper Chris Hartley. The innings ended with Rampaul giving Hartley his fourth catch as Doran finished with 3 for 107 off 23 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF
Queensland 0 for 43 trail West Indians 271 (Sarwan 73, Doran 3-107) by 228 runs.

Mahela batters

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"There is ample time left in the game. If we can get a good lead tomorrow, it will give the bowlers a good opportunity to have a go at the Indians."

The Indian bowlers toiled in vain under the hot sun as the barren pitch offered no assistance to either the fast bowlers or the spinners.

The spinners proved the most expensive with Harbhajan Singh going for 1-151 in 39 overs and Amit Sharma returning wicketless at the cost of 152 runs from 43 overs.

Jayawardene and Thilan Samaraweera, who resumed at the overnight score of 275-3, put on 138 for the fourth wicket to build on their 102 and Tilkarakatte Dilshan's century on the second day.

Samaraweera was dismissed for 70, but all-rounder Angelo Mathews helped Jayawardene add 43 for the fifth wicket before falling to a controversial decision in the last over before lunch.

Mathews, who made 17, was declared caught at forward short-leg by Australian umpire Daryl Harper even as replays showed the ball from Harbhajan bounce off the batsman's pad.

India, however, failed to gain another wicket in the last two sessions as the two unrelenting Jayawardene overcame defensive tactics by the hosts to pile up the runs.

Sri Lanka are playing three Tests, two Twenty20 matches and five one-day internationals on the seven-week tour.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between India and Sri Lanka at

Roddick pulls out of Masters

AFP, London

the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday:

INDIA: First innings 426 (David 177, Yuvraj 68, Dhoni 110; Welegedara 4-87, Muralidaran 3-97)

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 275-3)

Dilshan c Dravid b Zaheer 112

Paranavitaan c Dhoni b Sharma 35

Sangakkara c Tendulkar b Zaheer 31

M Jayawardene not out 204

Samaraweera c Yuvraj b Sharma 70

Mathews c Gambhir b Harbhajan 17

P Jayawardene not out 84

Extras: (b-5, lb-13, w-3, nb-17) 38

Total: (For 5 wkts in 160 overs) 591

To bat: Welegedara 1, Muralidaran, Prasad, Herath.

Fall of wickets: 1-74, 2-189, 3-194, 4-332, 5-375.

Bowler O M R W

Zaheer 30 4 93 2

Sharma 28 0 108 2

Harbhajan 39 3 151 1

Mishra 43 6 152 0

Yuvraj 13 1 49 0

Tendulkar 7 0 20 0

Common area on how to possess the ball throughout the game while Zahid Hasan Emily said that the coach wants more shots from them on target.

"The departure of any coach leaves a void among the players and we are not beyond it, but we are professional players and we have to go forward and take charge."

"Now we are not thinking of the coach and our concentration is on how to bring better result at home and all are serious about it," said Emily.

The 32-member squad is going to be reduced to either 23 or 25 members in a couple of days and Shantoo said that he has no external pressure on him to select the squad.

16 new events

FROM PAGE 17

though the events have been increased," said a press release adding that the number of events' entries would also be unchanged for the individual disciplines.

The meeting also decided to hold the Chef de Mission in December.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker inaugurated the meeting as a chief guest while Zahid Ahsan Rasel, chairman on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Youth and Sports, Kutubuddin Ahmed, youth and sports secretary Mahbub Ahmed were among others present.

No rebranding of Lord's

AFP, London

The owners of Lord's denied Wednesday that they were considering selling the naming rights to the famous cricket ground.

The chief executive of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), Keith Bradshaw, said there was "no way" they would rebrand the home of cricket as part of a multi-million-pound redevelopment.

"I just want to reassure people that there's no way we would rename Lord's," Bradshaw told BBC radio, during a report in The Times newspaper.

"It's the home of cricket, the hallowed turf. It's not an option at all."

"It's something that we wouldn't consider, and in fact I even have a real problem even considering renaming the stands within the ground that are now dedicated to famous cricketers."

"It's not on the agenda, it's not on the cards and there's no way we'll be going down that path."

The Times reported that the ground in northwest London could be turned into a super-stadium and its naming rights sold to a sponsor as part of a 400-million-pound redevelopment.

The revamp is designed to increase seating by about 7,500 and create an underground cricket academy, a brasserie and a bigger museum, it said.

The redevelopment, the biggest in the 195-year history of the ground, would be funded partly by selling luxury flats around its periphery for up to 1.2 million pounds (1.3 million euros, 2.0 million dollars).

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SA seek to break jinx



APP, Johannesburg

South Africa will seek to end a five-match losing streak when they meet England in the first one-day international at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday.

South Africa were beaten 4-0 by England, with one match abandoned, in a one-day series in England last year. When the two sides met again in the Champions Trophy in Centurion in September, England's 21-run win meant the hosts failed to reach the knockout stage.

England have injury concerns going into the start of the five-match series but despite being down to 11 fit men they pulled off a morale-boosting win over a strong South Africa A team in Potchefstroom on Wednesday.