

## 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 a lot 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 amongst 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, Mitrali Krija Sangha, Meghien 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.



## Did U Know?

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.



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

Cricket

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 without 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-haul 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.

## Roddick pulls out of Masters

AFP, Londres

America's Wimbledon finalist Andy Roddick withdrew from the season ending ATP Masters tournament on Tuesday with him explaining that he had not recovered from a knee injury.

The 27-year-old has been suffering from the knee ailment since the Shanghai Masters in late October.

He will be replaced in the eight-man draw by Sweden's Robin Soderling while Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga is first reserve for the tournament which begins on Sunday.

The draw for the two groups is on Wednesday.

## Shantoo

FROM PAGE 17  
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.

## 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, denying 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).

## Younus targets Test return

INTERNET, undated

Younus Khan has dismissed suggestions he is being undermined by opting out of Pakistan's tour to New Zealand and is determined to make a Test return in 2010.

The Pakistan Cricket Board named Mohammad Yousuf as captain immediately after Younus informed chairman Ijaz Butt of his decision not to take part in the three-Test tour, which began with a warm-up match against a New Zealand Invitation XI this week.

Younis accompanied Butt at Headingley on Tuesday evening as Pakistan's Test series with Australia in England next summer was launched and the 31-year-old has resolved to return to Leeds in the Pakistan side, saying: "This is my wish to lead my country in Yorkshire."

First Younus plans to recuperate from an arduous few months, which had seen his leadership called into question.

However, the veteran of 63 Tests could first return to the Pakistan team for the January Test series in Australia.

"The last couple of months I'm everywhere," he added.

"I need some time for myself and to build myself again."

## SA seek to break jinx

Cricket

AFP, 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.

The injury situation was so bad that bowling coach Ottis Gibson had to go on as a substitute fielder.

Most of the injuries were said by coach Andy Flower to be short-term but Durham fast bowler Liam Plunkett was called up as cover after three bowlers, James Anderson, Stuart Broad and Graeme Swann, were ruled out of the Potchefstroom match together with all-rounder Paul Collingwood and batsman Alastair Cook.

Broad's shoulder injury, which he suffered in the first match of the tour 12 days ago, is the biggest concern for the England camp.

Despite the spate of injuries, England have shown encouraging form in the early stages of the tour, apart from taking an 84-run beating in the second Twenty20 international in Centurion last Sunday.

Captain and opening batsman Andrew Strauss, who did not play in the 20-overs games,

has been in outstanding form, with scores of 72, 117 not out and 65 in his three innings on tour.

Jonathan Trott and Eoin Morgan have also shown early form, while Kevin Pietersen has had two innings to work some of the cobwebs out of his system since undergoing heel surgery which caused him to miss some of England's home international season.

South Africa were ranked number one in one-day internationals ahead of their failure in the Champions Trophy, which has caused a revamp of what had been a settled team.

Veterans Herschelle Gibbs and Makhaya Ntini have been dropped from the squad, while the addition of Ryan McLaren and Charl Langeveldt has added strength to the team's seam bowling.

All-rounder Jacques Kallis is set to open the batting, with young guns AB de Villiers and JP Duminy set to fill the crucial three and four batting positions.

Left-arm fast bowler Wayne Parnell, who missed South Africa's recent matches against Zimbabwe as well as the Twenty20 internationals against England, has recovered from an ankle injury but is not expected to play until he has spent more time bowling.

### SQUADS

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Graeme Smith (captain), Hashim Amla, Johan Botha, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Jacques Kallis, Charl Langeveldt, Ryan McLaren, Albie Morkel, Wayne Parnell, Alviro Petersen, Dale Steyn, Lonwabo Tsotsobe, Roelof van der Merwe.

**ENGLAND:** Andrew Strauss (captain), James Anderson, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Paul Collingwood, Alastair Cook, Joe Denly, Sajid Mahmood, Eoin Morgan, Graham Onions, Kevin Pietersen, Liam Plunkett, Matt Prior, Adil Rashid, Graeme Swann, Jonathan Trott, Luke Wright.

## Kallis wants to keep going

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Allrounders the world over are either fighting frequent injuries or giving up one form of the game to prolong their careers in another, but not Jacques Kallis. He's remained remarkably durable over a 14-year career, performing consistently with bat and ball, and has no intention of giving up a format, or forgoing his bowling, to extend his career.

"As I sit here at the moment, I'm still fit enough to keep going and I enjoy all three formats," Kallis said. "I enjoy both batting and bowling. Certainly in Test cricket, if I spend a day in the field without bowling, it feels like it's two days. For me to give up bowling would be tough, and I'll only do that if my body tells me to. The day I wake up and it gets too much, (and) I'm not really enjoying it, I'll stop."

Kallis has scored over 10,000 runs and has taken more than 200 wickets in both Tests and ODIs but his career, which has remained largely injury-free, has been the exception during a time when genuine allrounders are becoming a rarity. Andrew Flintoff's spate of injuries forced him to give up Test cricket in order to prolong his limited-overs careers, and New Zealand's Jacob Oram has often said that he could be forced to give up bowling in order to avoid sitting injured on the sidelines.

"With the amount of cricket that is played around the world, it's tough," Kallis said. "I've been fortunate in my career, I haven't been injured too often, but the life of an allrounder is pretty tough. It is tough on the body and that's probably why there are not so many top allrounders still playing all three formats."

Kallis recently received high praise from Kevin Pietersen, who called the allrounder the "greatest cricketer ever".

"It's a great compliment, especially coming from a player like him," Kallis said. "But you've got to look at the stats -- sure, the runs might be

there and the wickets might be there, but we're playing a lot more cricket these days than the guys in yesteryears. I'm sure that if they'd played the amount of cricket that we play today, they would have achieved what modern-day cricketers achieve as well."

A side-strain prevented Kallis from bowling during the second Twenty20 international against England on Sunday but he is expected to be fully fit for the first ODI in Johannesburg on Friday.

## Magura to Worcester

FROM PAGE 18

With the latest success, Shakib was excited as he has followed county cricket from the very beginning of his career and the main reason was that his most beloved cricketers played in the competition.

"I am delighted to be joining Worcestershire in 2010. I followed county cricket as a young player growing up and the opportunity to fulfil one of my ambitions by playing as an overseas player in England is one that excites me greatly. I was a fan of the Pakistan cricket team and most of the Pakistan greats like Wasim Akram played county cricket," he said adding that his agent started the negotiation during ICC Twenty20 World Cup in England.

Shakib also said that his joining the county cricket league has opened a window for the Bangladeshi cricketers.

"I consider it a huge honour to be the first Bangladeshi overseas player in county cricket and can't wait to give my all for the club on the field. I

believe it's opened a window for our cricketers. Now I have to prove myself to give them the impression that our cricketers are capable of playing this kind of tournament," he observed.

"Particularly as an all-rounder I am thrilled and inspired to be joining the team once graced by Ian Botham, Imran Khan and Kapil Dev. It is a matter of great pride for me to be associated with a club that has an overwhelming history and has been home to so many legendary cricketers. For the devoted fans of Worcestershire I hope to bring joy and success and I eagerly look forward to my time at the county," he promised.

The obvious question was what's next?

"I don't know because I have never set any target but I would be happy if I could achieve the 40 average both in one-day and Test."

If this is to be Shakib Al Hasan's summer, then long may it continue.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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### CRYPTOQUIP

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Z U D X M S D U Q S A F R E U C C S Q Z .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT IS THE FLAT RECEPTACLE BY WHICH A WAITER TRANSPORTS CORNED BEEF DISHES? A HASH TRAY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals R