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Kobayashi replaces Glock for Brazil GP

LONDON: Japan's Kamui Kobayashi will make his Formula One race debut in Brazil next weekend after Toyota ruled out regular driver Timo Glock due to a back injury yesterday.
 Toyota said the 27-year-old German was also doubtful for the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on November 1.

Glock crashed heavily and gashed his leg in qualifying for the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka on October 3 after missing Friday practice due to a fever and heavy cold.
 Toyota said subsequent medical checks in Germany showed he had cracked a vertebra when he slammed head-on into a tyre wall.

"Obviously everyone in the team is very disappointed and feels for Timo; we wish him a very speedy recovery," said Toyota motorsport president John Howett in a statement.
 "Based on the initial diagnosis, we fully expected Timo to return in Brazil but unfortunately a different injury has been revealed which prevents that."

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ARGENTINA HIT BACK

■ Under pouring rain, Argentina's coach Maradona slides on the grass after his team clinched a thriller with a last-gasp goal

BUENOS AIRES: Diego Forlan and Martin Palermo scored last-gasp goals as Argentina, Uruguay and Ecuador switched places on a dramatic Saturday of South American qualifiers for the 2010 World Cup.
 Diego Maradona's Argentina, having beaten Peru 2-1 at home in torrential rain, go to Montevideo on Wednesday to defend an automatic berth in the South Africa finals against a Uruguay side that turned the tables on Ecuador.
 Ecuador had started the day in fourth place but their 2-1 home defeat by Uruguay left them sixth before Wednesday's visit to Chile, who took South America's third berth with a 4-2 victory in Colombia.
 Brazil, who were to play a dead rubber away to Bolivia later last night, and Paraguay, whose 2-1 away win over Venezuela put them level on points with Dunga's side at the top of the group, had already qualified.
 Maradona called veteran striker Martin Palermo a miracle man after his goal two minutes into stoppage time

SOUTH AMERICAN ZONE											
RESULTS				STANDINGS							
Argentina	2	Peru	1	Brazil*	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<i>(Higuain 47, Palermo 90+2) (Rengifo 90)</i>				Paraguay*	16	9	6	1	32	9	33
Colombia	2	Chile	4	Chile*	17	10	3	4	24	14	33
<i>(Vidal own goal 12, Moreno 63) (Ponce 34, Suazo 35, Valdivia 70, Orellana 78)</i>				Argentina	17	9	3	5	31	22	30
Ecuador	1	Uruguay	2	Uruguay	17	7	4	6	22	20	25
<i>(Valencia 68) (Suarez 69, Forlan 90+4)</i>				Ecuador	17	6	6	5	28	19	24
Venezuela	1	Paraguay	2	Venezuela	17	6	5	6	22	25	23
<i>(Rondon 86) (Cabanas 56 Cardozo 80)</i>				Colombia	17	6	3	8	23	29	21
Remaining matches on Wednesday				Bolivia	17	5	5	7	12	18	20
Uruguay v Argentina; Brazil v Venezuela;				Peru	17	2	4	11	10	34	10
Chile v Ecuador; Paraguay v Colombia;				Note: Top four teams qualify for the World Cup. Fifth-placed team enters a home-and-away playoff with the fourth-placed team from North, Central America and Caribbean zone.							
Peru v Bolivia											

gave Argentina victory on a sodden Monumental pitch.
 "I thought we were liquidated, but at that moment I forgot about Palermo," a relieved Maradona said of his desperation in the agonising minutes between Hernan Rengifo's last-minute equaliser for Peru and Palermo's winner.
 Forlan converted a penalty with the last kick of the game in Quito to give Uruguay their victory after recovering from a goal down but coach Oscar

Washington Tabarez was quick to tell his players the job was not yet done.
 "We're going to take things calmly and come out of our joy quickly to think about Argentina. We depend exclusively on a victory (on Wednesday)," Tabarez said.
 Uruguay must win to swap places with Argentina and qualify for their first finals since 2002, sending their cross-river neighbours into the playoff against the team that finishes fourth in the Concacaf

region. Ecuador, though, are not out of the running. Argentina (25 points) could even miss out altogether if Uruguay (24) and Ecuador (23) win on Wednesday.
 Goals by Paraguay's Salvador Cabanas and Oscar Cardozo buried Venezuela's hopes of reaching the finals for the first time. They are not out of it mathematically but the odds are extremely poor.
 "We must recognise that the Paraguayans are one of the best teams of the qualifiers," Venezuela's coach Cesar Farias told reporters.
 Chileans celebrated reaching the finals for the first time since 1998 with a team revived by the methodical coaching of Argentine Marcelo Bielsa, a foreign national hero.
 Bielsa, who can now dream of a better finals than 2002 when his Argentina side flopped as title favourites, showed his coaching nous with a timely substitution after half an hour in Medellin.
 Chile had fallen behind but Bielsa sent on the more attacking Jorge Valdivia for playmaker Matias Fernandez and Chile went 2-1 up within four minutes and did not look back, eliminating Colombia.

SPORT AT A GLANCE

■ Ronaldo ruled out of Malta clash

LISBON: Real Madrid striker Cristiano Ronaldo will not be fit to play in Portugal's final World Cup qualifier against Malta on Wednesday.
 Ronaldo had shaken off a twisted ankle to start Saturday's Group One clash against Hungary, but lasted just 27 minutes of the 3-0 victory at the capital's La Luz stadium.
 "After a latest clinical examination and the impossibility of recovering from the knock on his right ankle, Cristiano Ronaldo has been allowed to leave (the squad)," the federation said.
 Portugal lie second in their group and need only to beat Malta at home to be sure of a place in the play-offs.

■ Ballack doubtful

FRANKFURT, Germany: Germany captain Michael Ballack was yesterday rated as doubtful for his country's final World Cup qualifier against Finland after injuring his ankle in the victory against Russia.
 The Chelsea star twisted his right ankle during the first-half of Saturday's 1-0 win over Russia in Moscow which booked Germany's berth at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa next June.

■ Rookie lifts Indian Open

NEW DELHI: India's Chinasmwamy Muniyappa birdied the first play-off hole against South Korea's Lee Sung to win the \$1.25-million Indian Open Asian Tour event yesterday.
 The Asian Tour rookie dropped a two-shot lead after bogeying two of the last five holes for a two-under 70 while Lee (69) birdied the 18th hole to tie scores at 12-under 276.
 Muniyappa, who held a one shot overnight lead, held his nerve in the playoff on the par five 18th and sank a 10-foot birdie putt to seal victory.

■ Wanjiru triumphs

CHICAGO: Kenya's Olympic champion Sammy Wanjiru won the Chicago Marathon yesterday, topping the course record.
 The 22-year-old Wanjiru, who won the London marathon in April, completed Chicago's flat course on a chilly day under cloudy skies in 2:05:41.
 Second place went to Morocco's Abderrahim Goumri in 2:06:04 with Vincent Kipruto of Kenya third in 2:06:08.
 The women's race was won by Liliya Shobukhova of Russia in 2:25:55.

■ McGowan bags title

MADRID: England's Ross McGowan won his debut European Tour title at the Madrid Masters yesterday by three shots from Mikko Ilonen of Finland.
 McGowan followed up Saturday's remarkable third round of 60 with a 71 to finish with a 25-under par total of 263 and go second in the points race for the Ryder Cup.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki plan bid for Olympics

TOKYO: Japan's Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the only cities to suffer nuclear attacks, are considering a joint bid to host the 2020 Olympic Games.
 The Japanese cities, located more than 300 kilometres apart, say they want to give momentum to moves to abolish nuclear weapons.
 The agreement came after Tokyo failed in its bid for the 2016 Olympics and the surprise award of the Nobel

Peace Prize to US President Barack Obama for giving the world "hope for a better future" and striving for nuclear disarmament.
Solely
 "It is not something that should be left solely to President Obama or talks between governments," Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue told a news conference yesterday.

"Each one of us has a role to play in this and hosting the Olympics could be one of the roles for the cities that suffered nuclear attacks. We will look into the possibility of a bid."
 Officials said they had agreed to set up a committee to examine the viability of a bid for the 2020 Games hosted jointly by Hiroshima, Nagasaki and other supporting cities.
 Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba insisted that the distance between the

cities would not prove an obstacle to any bid.
 "It takes only 30 minutes or so to go from one city to the other by plane," he said.
 "They might be far apart geographically but in terms of travelling time, they're not that far away."
 Tokyo, the first Asian city to host an Olympics in 1964, recently lost out to Rio de Janeiro in the race to host the 2016 Games.



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