

Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

Taylor's toss madness

Captain Brendan Taylor on Sunday acknowledged that opting to bat first after winning the toss was a mistake as Zimbabwe slumped to a 10-wicket defeat at the hands of Pakistan. "Unfortunately I made a bad decision at the toss, we were totally outplayed today. I wanted to put them in to bat, what in god's name made me want to say we want to bat I don't know. I apologise to the boys for that. We are all desperate to get better, and hopefully we can put a good performance together soon," said Taylor.

—INTERNET



'Twinkle toes' stuns angry Williams

AP, New York

Even before she began berating the chair umpire, things were not going well for Serena Williams in the US Open final.

Her strokes were off-target. Her opponent, Sam Stosur, was playing better than ever. And Williams' deficit was growing more and more daunting.

In the end, Stosur's powerful shots and steadiness allowed her to beat Williams 6-2, 6-3 in a surprisingly lopsided upset for her first Grand Slam title. Stosur left the court as the US Open champion; Williams' night ended with her facing possible disciplinary action.

"I'm still kind of speechless. I can't actually believe I won this tournament," Stosur said later, the silver US Open trophy sitting a few feet away. "I guess to go out there and play the way I did is obviously just an unbelievable feeling, and you always hope and you want to be able to do that, but to actually do it, is unbelievable."

The ninth-seeded Stosur became the first Australian woman to win a major championship since Evonne Goolagong Cawley at Wimbledon in 1980. Stosur received a text from the former player that read: "Twinkletoes, you finally have got what you deserved."

The sentiment was echoed by Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who phoned Stosur to personally congratulate her after the triumph.

Only 2-9 in tournament finals before beating Williams, Stosur made the US Open the third consecutive Grand Slam tournament with a first-time women's major cham-

pion, after Li Na at the French Open, and Petra Kvitová at Wimbledon.

This was only the 27-year-old Stosur's third title at any tour-level event, and what a way to do it. She took advantage of Williams' so-so serving and finished with 12 unforced errors to Williams' 25.

Most of all, Stosur avoided being distracted by the bizarre events that unfolded in the second set's opening game. Asderaki ruled that Williams' mid-point cry of "Come on!" hindered Stosur's ability to complete that point and awarded it to Stosur, putting her ahead 1-0.

Williams went over to talk to Asderaki, saying, "I'm not giving her that game."

Spectators began jeering, delaying the start of the next game as both players waited for the noise to subside.

"It was probably the loudest I ever felt a crowd in my whole entire life. You're right in the middle of it. It was definitely a quite overwhelming feeling," Stosur said. "But once I hit that next ball in the court and started playing again, I felt settled. I guess it definitely could have been the big, pivotal point in the match."

The truth is, the outcome never really appeared to be in doubt.

Even Williams acknowledged as much.

"She was cracking 'em today," said Williams, whose five games matched her lowest total in 240 Grand Slam matches. "She definitely hit hard and just went for broke."

Stosur was playing in only her second major final she was the runner-up at the 2010

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CINDERELLA STORY: Australia's Samantha Stosur reacts with joy after pulling off a straight sets win over an overwhelming favourite Serena Williams of USA in the US Open women's final in New York on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Serena rant may prove costly

REUTERS, London



Already struggling in the shadows of a men's game enjoying a golden era, women's tennis faces a dilemma after another high-profile Serena Williams rant at officialdom.

For the second time in two years the American three-times champion blew a fuse at the U.S. Open, launching a tirade at chair umpire Eva Asderaki after being docked a point for yelling "Come on!" during a rally in the final against Australia's Samantha Stosur.

While the language was less agricultural than two years ago when Williams threatened bodily harm to a female line judge in the semi-final against Kim Clijsters on the same Arthur Ashe stadium, the menacing tone of her remarks could spell trouble for the 29-year-old.

Her 2009 rant, when she was docked a penalty point that effectively handed the match to Clijsters by default, led to her being whacked with an \$82,500 fine and being put on "probation" for two years by the ITF's grand slam committee with the threat that she could be suspended for any repeat performance.

"Any impact this code violation might have on Serena Williams' grand slam probation would require the incident being ruled a major event," a United States Tennis Association statement said.

"That determination will be made by the grand slam committee director."

The evidence, heard by viewers all over the world, was pretty damning.

After an initial blast at Asderaki following the decision to dock her a point to trail 1-0 in the second set, Williams went back to work with a vengeance at the next changeover after a brief revival during her surprise 6-2 6-3 defeat.

"If you ever see me walking down the hall, look the other way, because you're out of control," Williams said in her chair.

"You're totally out of control. You're a hater, unattractive inside. Who would do such a thing? And I never complain. Wow, what a loser."

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Law's chance to acclimatise

SPORTS REPORTER

Stuart Law wants to take the opportunity provided by the BCB Cup to enhance his local knowledge.

"That's the beauty of this tournament. I can watch some players who I haven't seen before," said the Tigers coach after the national team's easy 6-wicket win over GP-BCB National Cricket Academy at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Law also wanted to see how the current national players react in home conditions. "Also [look at] players who've been to Zimbabwe, see how they get on here. They really enjoy playing on home soil. I am looking forward to seeing what more talent is out there," he said.

After this tournament concludes on September 21, the Tigers are set to play a three-day, two one-day

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Tigers trounce cubs



SPORTS REPORTER

A 50-over game lasting only three hours isn't the best advertisement for a season opener, but that is what happened as the national side trounced the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy by six wickets in the opening game of the BCB Cup yesterday.

There were hardly any demons in the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium wicket as the youngest lot in the competition rolled over for just 75 runs in 20.4 overs. Bangladesh took only 19 overs, but lost four wickets in their pursuit of the measly target.

Rubel Hossain and Shafiu Islam had a field day, changing lengths at will and troubling the Academy top-order with their pace and bounce. Shafiu began the rot by cutting through Anamul Haque's defences in the third over before Rubel joined in, trapping No 3 Mominul Haque for a duck and the other opener Myshukur Rahman for 18.

Mushfiqur Rahim, leading the national team, took a splendid diving catch to remove Sabbir Rahman before the spinners took out the next four wickets. Sohrawardi Shuvo, fighting to retain his spot in the national team for the West Indies series, took three

wickets before Rubel ended the Academy innings in little over an hour.

Rubel ended up with a four-wicket haul from 7.4 overs, taking full advantage of the Academy batsmen's peculiar frailty against the short ball, even on a wicket that had the usual freshness of the early season.

Tamim took the opposition on but the left-hander's flashes were slightly out of sync as he missed more than he connected. Even then, five boundaries and a six in a 37-ball 36 was shaping up to a half-century but a terribly executed pull shot had him bowled by Alauddin Babu.

The all-rounder also took the wicket of Imrul Kayes who gave Tanvir a catch at slip. Later, the Tigers lost two more -- Shahriar Nafees and Shuvogoto Hom -- with the left-hander falling to a beauty from Sohag Gazi.

The off-spinner beat his divisional captain with a fine off-break. Alok Kapali however slammed a six and three fours in his run-a-ball 22 to take the Tigers to what turned out to be a facile win.

BRIEF SCORES

GP-BCB NCA: 75 all out in 20.4 overs (Tanvir 24 not out; Rubel 4-22, Shuvo 3-10, Shafiu 2-26).

BANGLADESH: 79-4 in 19 overs (Tamim 36, Kapali 22 not out; Alauddin 2-15).

Result: Bangladesh won by six wickets.



PHOTO: STAR

Tigers paceman Rubel Hossain clean bowls Al-Amin's stumps as GP-BCB National Cricket Academy are shot out for just 75 runs in the BCB Cup opener at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



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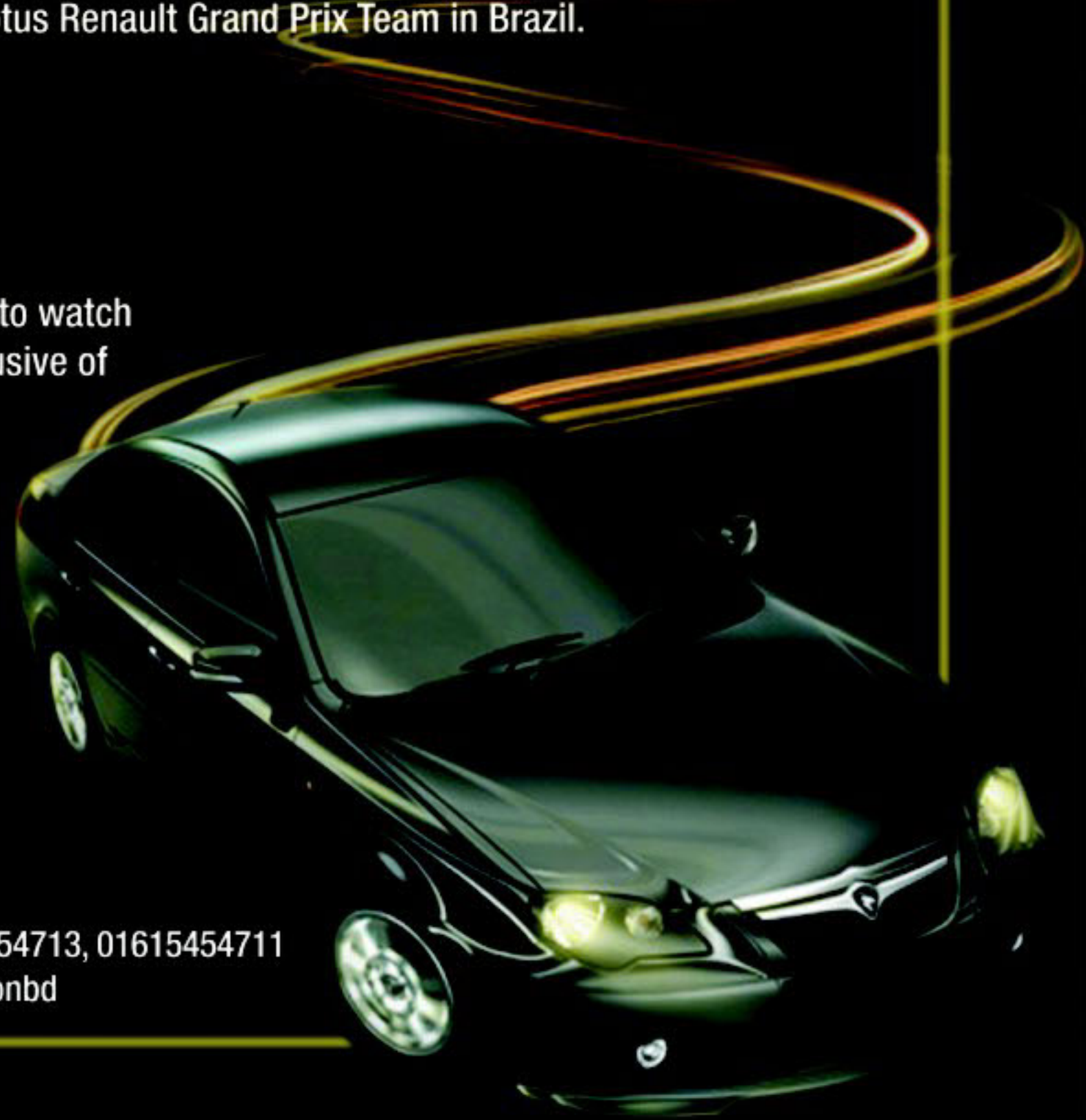
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