

## NAT'L SHOOTING C'SHIPS Chikungunya fears force deferral

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF) deferred the National Shooting Championships by at least six weeks due to fears of chikungunya, a viral disease, spreading among participants at the venue. This comes after a few national shooters including South Asian Games gold and silver medalists Shakil Ahmed and Shovon Chowdhury contracted the ailment.

Over 300 shooters and officials were meant to be present at the tournament, beginning from July 22 at the National Shooting Complex adjacent to Begunbari Lake, but the decision was made last week following a chikungunya outbreak in the capital.

"Some officials and national shooters including Shakil, Shovon and Mehdi suffered from chikungunya fever during the national training camp though we are not sure whether they were affected at the shooting complex or outside. Besides them, some other Army shooters have also been suffering from fever," said BSSF CEO Mustaq Wais yesterday.

"That is why we didn't want to take any risks by holding the championships this time around as some 300 to 320 shooters and officials across the country were supposed to take part and some of them were supposed to stay at the shooting complex dormitory. Considering all this, we postponed the championships," Mustaq explained.

Mustaq also added that they were mulling the idea of holding the championships after Eid-ul-Azha in September.

## FARAAZ CHALLENGE CUP Big win for East West

SPORTS REPORTER

East West University notched up a massive 5-0 win over Prime University in their Walton Inter-University Football Tournament match, which was held in the capital yesterday.

Muhit bagged a hatrick to help East West ease to victory in one of the day's five fixtures of the 20-team tournament, where the champions will receive the Faraaz Challenge Cup.

In the day's other matches, Southern University blanked International University Bangladesh 3-0, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh beat Bangladesh Textile University 2-0 while South East University played out a 2-2 draw against Gono University and Daffodil University drew 2-2 with Sher-E-Bangla Agricultural University.

## Door open for new Ibra deal

AFP, Los Angeles

Zlatan Ibrahimovic will be given the chance to resurrect his Manchester United career as he battles back from a serious knee injury, manager Jose Mourinho confirmed on Friday.

Swedish star Ibrahimovic was United's top-scorer last season, bagging 28 goals in all competitions.

However, the 35-year-old's future was cast into doubt after he suffered a double cruciate ligament injury in April, cutting short a successful first season.

The injury prompted United to shelve plans to exercise an option to give Zlatan a second season with the club, with the player officially released last month.



Spain's Garbine Muguruza celebrates with the Venus Rosewater Dish trophy after beating Venus Williams of USA in the women's singles final in Wimbledon yesterday.

PHOTO:  
AFP

## Muguruza stuns Venus Wins maiden Wimbledon title in style

AFP, London



Garbine Muguruza stormed to her first Wimbledon title and shattered Venus Williams' history bid with a majestic 7-5, 6-0 victory in Saturday's final.

Muguruza overwhelmed Williams with a supreme display of power hitting in 77 minutes on Centre Court to become only the second Spanish woman to win Wimbledon.

Watched from the Royal Box by King Juan Carlos of Spain, the 23-year-old finally got her hands on the Venus Rosewater Dish two years after losing to the American's sister Serena in her maiden Wimbledon final.

Fittingly, it was Muguruza's current coach Conchita Martinez who was the first woman to raise the Spanish flag at Wimbledon in 1994 when she defeated Martina Navratilova.

"The first set was tough. We both had a lot of chances. I'm glad I took mine," Muguruza said.

"Two years ago I lost in the final against Serena and she told me I would win one day. Here I am. Finally!"

Venezuela-born Muguruza's second Grand Slam title, following her French Open triumph last year, denied Williams, 37, in her attempt to become the oldest Wimbledon champion in the Open era.

Back in the Wimbledon final after an eight-year absence, Williams had hoped to

clinch a sixth All England Club title, nine years after she last lifted the trophy.

Instead, she paid the price for a surprisingly nerve-ridden display that condemned her to a second Grand Slam disappointment this year following her Australian Open final loss against Serena.

"Congratulations Garbine. I know how hard you work," Williams said.

"I tried my best to do the things Serena does, but I think there will be other opportunities."

Since winning her maiden Grand Slam title in Paris, Muguruza had endured something of a sophomore slump as her ranking dropped out of the top 10.

But she has rediscovered her mojo on grass and will climb to fifth when the new rankings are confirmed next week.

Remarkably, of her four tour-level titles, two are now Grand Slams.

With persistent drizzle blanketing the All England Club, Williams and Muguruza were competing in the first Wimbledon final to begin under the roof, watched by a sell-out crowd including Hollywood actress Hilary Swank.

Twenty years ago, Venus admitted she was a bundle of nerves when she made a losing Wimbledon debut against Magdalena Gryzbowska and, in her ninth All England Club final, once again there was anxiety coursing through her error-strewn display.

## Federer on verge of immortality

AFP, London

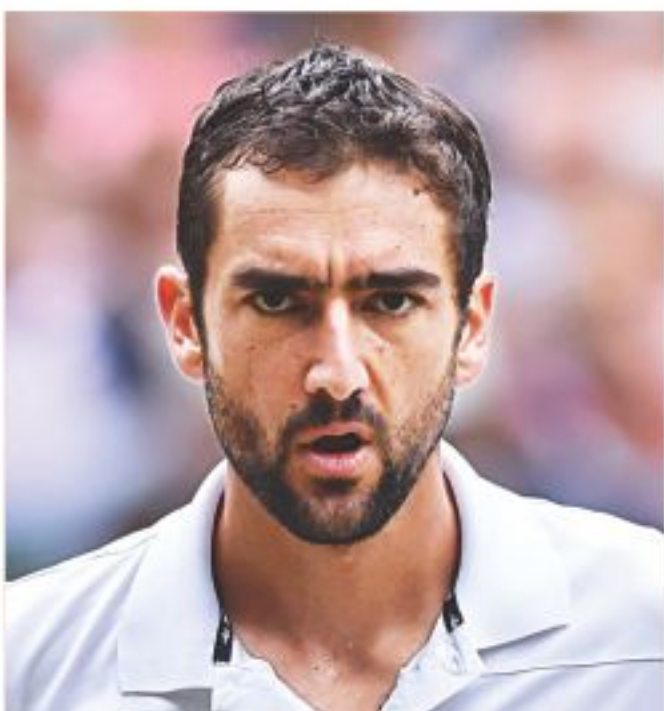


Five years after his last Wimbledon triumph, Roger Federer can capture a record eighth All England Club title Sunday and become the tournament's oldest men's champion of the modern era.

With his 36th birthday fast approaching, the evergreen Swiss



ROGER FEDERER



MARIN CILIC

Marin Cilic will also give him a 19th career Grand Slam title and second in three majors this year after sweeping to a fifth Australian Open in January following a six-month absence.

"I was hoping to be in good shape when the grass court season came around," said Federer who, for good measure, also pocketed back-to-back Masters at Indian Wells and Miami as well as a ninth Halle grass court crown.

"The first three, four months were just like a dream really. So this is something I was working towards, you know, Wimbledon, to be in good shape. I'm happy it's paying off here now."

Federer admits his form in 2017 has surprised even himself after he shut down his 2016 season to rest a knee injury in the aftermath of his brutal five-set semifinal loss at Wimbledon to Milos Raonic.

He has 30 wins and just two losses this year and he has reached his 11th Wimbledon final without dropping a set.

Sunday's match will be his 102nd at the tournament and his 29th final at the majors.

"It makes me really happy, making history here at Wimbledon. It's a big deal. I love this tournament," said Federer, who has been tied with Pete Sampras on seven Wimbledon titles since beating Andy Murray in the 2012 final.

"All my dreams came true here as a player. To have another chance to go for number eight now, be kind of so close now at this stage, is a great feeling.

"Yeah, unbelievably excited. I hope I can play one more good match. 11 finals here, all these records, it's great. I'm so close now."

While 'Big Four' rivals Murray,

Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal failed to even make the semifinals, Federer has been reborn.

He came into Wimbledon having radically pruned his playing schedule, skipping the entire clay court season.

Wimbledon is just his seventh event of the year; 28-year-old Cilic is in his 15th.

Federer, revelling in the spotlight of having played all his

record over Cilic, the 2014 US Open champion who has made his first Wimbledon final at the 11th attempt.

However, Cilic's game is made for grass and 12 months ago he led Federer by two sets to love and held three match points in an epic quarterfinal which the Swiss superstar eventually claimed.

When Cilic won his only Slam in New York three years ago, he demolished Federer in straight sets in the semifinals.

"I don't want to say it's more relaxed going into it because I have a good head-to-head record against Marin, even though the matches were extremely close," said Federer.

"But it's not like we've played against each other 30 times. You feel like you have to reinvent the wheel.

"It's more straightforward, in my opinion. I think that's nice in some ways. It's a nice change, but it doesn't make things easier."

Cilic is only the second Croatian man to reach the Wimbledon final after Goran Ivanisevic, his former coach, who swept to a memorable title victory in 2001.

A win on Sunday would also make him the first Wimbledon champion outside of Federer, Murray, Djokovic and Nadal since Lleyton Hewitt triumphed in 2002.

FED-FACTS
Federer shares the record for most Wimbledon titles won with Pete Sampras. They both have seven.
Out of Federer's last ten Wimbledon finals, he has lost only three.
In seven previous encounters with Federer, Cilic has won only once.
Federer has won 24 out of the 26 matches played this year, while Cilic has won 23 out of 36.

matches on Centre Court, has hardly been troubled on his way to the final.

He has lost serve just four times and spent four and a half hours less on court than Cilic.

Federer also boasts a 6-1 career

## Chelsea sign Bakayoko

AFP, London



Chelsea completed the signing of French international midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko from Monaco, the Premier League champions announced on Saturday.

The 22-year-old joined Antonio Conte's Chelsea on a five-year contract for a reported fee of up to £39.7 million (\$51.98m, 45.3m euros) after helping the principality side win the Ligue 1 title last season.

"I am very happy to be here and to join this great team," Bakayoko said in a statement on the Chelsea website.

"I have grown up watching Chelsea. Signing was the natural thing for me because it is a club I loved very much in my childhood.

"I am now looking forward to evolving under this fantastic coach and alongside so many great team-mates."

Chelsea may have to do without their new recruit at the start of the season though, as Bakayoko is expected to be out of action for at least six weeks after having keyhole surgery on his knee at the end of last term.

Bakayoko was one of the stars of Leonardo Jardim's youthful Monaco outfit that surprisingly beat Paris Saint-Germain to the French title in May, while also reaching the Champions League semi-finals.

The completion of the deal is a boost for Chelsea manager Conte, after he missed out on former Everton striker Romelu Lukaku to Manchester United.

There had been speculation United might try and stymie the bid for Bakayoko just as they did with Lukaku, as they broke the record for a deal between British clubs of £75m to prise him away from Goodison Park on Monday.

However, Bakayoko, whom Monaco will make a tidy profit on having signed him from Rennes for £7m in 2014, had always made it clear that Chelsea was his preferred destination.

"Tiemoue was outstanding as Monaco emerged as one of Europe's best sides last season and we are delighted to welcome him to Chelsea," said the Blues' technical director Michael Emenalo.

"Despite his young age he already has plenty of experience as a French title winner, and having competed in the latter stages of the Champions League, we believe he will add considerable quality to our squad."

Bakayoko made his international debut in a friendly defeat by Spain in March, and will team up with compatriot N'Golo Kante in the Chelsea midfield.

His arrival also paves the way for the possible departure from Stamford Bridge of Serbian Nemanja Matic.

However, Chelsea are not keen to sell him to the original suitors Manchester United, as relations between the two rivals have cooled considerably since the Lukaku affair.

Bakayoko is Chelsea's third major signing of the close season so far, following the arrivals of goalkeeper Willy Caballero from Manchester City and German centre-back Antonio Rudiger from Roma.



The Bangladesh U-23 team geared up at the Al Thumama Stadium in Qatar yesterday for the upcoming AFC U-23 Championship in Palestine. Having arrived in Qatar on Wednesday to play a practice match, the team have been given three days to train before leaving for the tournament tomorrow.

PHOTO: AFP