

Warner unveils Sydney swansong plan

AFP, London

Under-pressure Australia batter David Warner said Saturday he wanted to finish his Test career next year with a farewell match in his hometown of Sydney.

Warner was speaking in Beckenham, near London, where Australia are preparing ahead of next week's World Test Championship final against India, when he unveiled his plan to bow out of Test cricket against Pakistan at the Sydney Cricket Ground in January.

Warner, 36, added he still hoped to keep playing white-ball cricket for Australia until the 2024 T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the United States.

"You've got to score runs. I've always said the (2024) World Cup would probably be my final game," Warner told reporters.

"I probably owe it to myself and my family -- if I can score runs here and continue to play back in Australia...If I can get

Manchester City captain Ilkay Gundogan scored the fastest goal in FA Cup final history on Saturday, slamming the ball past Manchester United's David de Gea with a sublime volley from outside the box with just 13 seconds on the clock. Gundogan smashed in another volley, this time a left-footed one, in the second half after Manchester United had gone level through a Bruno Fernandes penalty. With a 2-1 victory on the night at Wembley, Pep Guardiola's City confirmed the second part of a potential rare treble.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Eng include Tongue for first two Ashes Tests

AFP, London

Josh Tongue's promising Test debut has seen the Worcestershire fast bowler included in an unchanged England squad announced Saturday for the first two matches of the upcoming Ashes series.

Tongue was a late call-up to England's squad for this week's one-off Test with Ireland due to injury concerns over James Anderson (groin) and Ollie Robinson (ankle), although both pacemen are expected to be fit to face Australia at Edgbaston on June 16.

Tongue has impressed at Lord's and topped speeds of 91 mph in his opening spell against Ireland before taking his maiden wicket in Tests to help England to a 10-wicket victory on Saturday. The 25-year-old spent 15 months injured with a nerve problem in his shoulder.

He is now in contention for the first two Tests of a five-match Ashes campaign alongside fellow seamers Anderson, Stuart Broad, Matthew Potts, Robinson, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood.



Hathurusingha's presence to fast-track preparations

SPORTS REPORTER

After a two-day break, Bangladesh's cricketers are all set to resume their official training camp in Mirpur today, where they will be joined by head coach Chandika Hathurusingha.

Although a 26-member preliminary squad had already started training under newly-appointed assistant coach Nic Pothas, the preparation for the upcoming one-off Test against Afghanistan is expected to speed up under Hathurusingha, who returned to Dhaka yesterday following a break.

All the other members of the Tigers' coaching staff had already joined the camp,



In the absence of skipper Shakib Al Hasan due to a finger injury, it will be interesting to see Bangladesh's approach in the longest format against the likes of Rashid Khan and Co.

But according to Bangladesh Cricket Board director Akram Khan, the hosts should not worry about the threat from Rashid, especially in Tests, and instead focus on utilising home advantage in their favour.

"Rashid Khan is definitely a good bowler and does well, especially in the T20 format. But he does not have exceptional performances in Tests and ODIs because batters don't need to take chances and look for runs against him like they do in T20s. We have played against him in the past and if our batters remain a bit cautious, I don't think there will be such difficulties," Akram told the media yesterday.

Rashid was the chief destroyer when Alghnaistan thrashed Bangladesh by 224 runs in the Chattogram Test in 2019. The leggie accounted for 11 wickets.

However, the former Bangladesh captain reminded that it would be unwise to take Afghanistan lightly, especially in light of their recent form in Sri Lanka. He also added that the one-off Test would be a good opportunity for Bangladesh to avenge the defeat in Chattogram.

"The only Test that we lost against them... I think we were doing well until we had a bad hour or so, which changed the course of the game and eventually led to us losing the Test. I think this is an opportunity for us to take revenge. We are doing well as a team, especially our fast bowlers have been doing well recently so I hope we can win this game," he said.

through this (WTC final and subsequent five-Test Ashes campaign in England) and make the Pakistan series I will definitely finish up then."

Warner added he had suffered no major damage after being stuck in the practice nets on the same left elbow he fractured during Australia's tour of India earlier this year, an injury that meant he missed the final Two Tests.

He underwent treatment by a physiotherapist on Thursday but expects to be fit for Wednesday's start of the WTC final at the Oval.

"It was sore, it got me right on the same point but from a different angle," said Warner.

"It went numb and I had to get it strapped, but it's fine now -- a little bit sore, but lucky it didn't hit me on top."

Warner has been a mainstay of the Australia team since making his debut against New Zealand in 2011.

But the left-handed opener approaches the WTC final and ensuing Ashes with one century in his past 32 innings and a mediocre record in England.

Rashid Khan is definitely a good bowler and does well, especially in the T20 format. But he does not have exceptional performances in Tests and ODIs because batters don't need to take chances and look for runs against him like they do in T20s.

BCB DIRECTOR, AKRAM KHAN

Nadal all but out for the season

AFP, Madrid

Rafael Nadal's keyhole surgery on his injured hip was "positive" but he will require a five-month recovery period before playing again, his spokesman said Saturday.

The 22-time Grand Slam title winner, who celebrated his 37th birthday on Saturday, could in theory be back in time for the Davis Cup finals in November.

However, it is likely he will sit out the rest of the season before resuming in 2024 which he has already said will be the last year of his career.

"The surgery was positive," said his spokesman of the procedure which was carried out in Barcelona.

"The normal recovery process is estimated at five months," Nadal said last month that the hip injury had not healed as well as he had hoped and therefore he was taking more time out of the sport.

The Spaniard missed the ongoing French Open, which he has won 14 times, for the first time since 2004. He will also sit out Wimbledon, where he is a two-time champion, next month.

Nadal had hoped the injury he suffered in a second round loss to Mackenzie McDonald at the Australian Open in January would heal in six weeks. While he recovers, old rival Novak Djokovic has the chance to break out of the tie for 22 majors by winning a third French Open.

On Friday, Djokovic reached the last 16 in Paris for the 14th successive year and will face Juan Pablo Virillas, the 94th-ranked Peruvian, on Sunday for a place in the quarterfinals.



Barcelona's Fridolina Rolfö celebrates scoring the decisive goal as Barca Femeni clinched the Women's Champions League title with a 3-2 comeback victory against Wolfsburg at the PSV Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Morsalin makes 30-man cut

SPORTS REPORTER

Young midfielder Sheikh Morsalin was the only uncapped player in the 30-member Bangladesh team after five members of the 35-member preliminary squad was trimmed ahead of the training camp for the upcoming SAFF Championship.

The Bashundhara Kings midfielder caught attention last season while playing on loan at Mohammedan. He didn't get much game time this season for the Kings but scored a goal in a recent match and then set up two goals in Kings' 2-1 win over Mohammedan on Friday. Morsalin is a late draft in, along with Mohammedan forward Sazzad Hossain, the two replacing Kings' injured duo of Saad Uddin and Matin Mia.

The squad is, however, expected to be further trimmed to 23 members before the team departs for Cambodia on June 10 for a FIFA friendly against the Southeast Asian nation on June 15. The team will then fly to Bengaluru the following day for the eight-team SAFF Championship, which kicks off on June 21.

The five players who were omitted from the camp include Kings defender Yeasin Arafat, Sheikh Russel midfielder Hemanta Biswash, Sheikh Jamal midfielder Abu Shaeid, Mohammedan defender Murad Hasan and Abahani midfielder Mahadi Hasan Royel.



Swiatek dishes out double bagel to Wang

REUTERS, Paris

Defending champion Iga Swiatek continued her imperious march towards a third French Open title in four years with a 6-0, 6-0 humiliation of Wang Xinyu on Saturday to reach the fourth round.

The world number one swept her Chinese opponent aside in 51 minutes with a potential quarterfinal clash against Coco Gauff, who she demolished in last year's final, looming.

Gauff ended the run of fellow teenager Mirra Andreeva with a 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-1 victory, recovering from a tough start against the 16-year-old Russian.

But Andreeva's lack of experience against a player three years older than her eventually showed as she quickly lost her composure along with the second and third sets. Should they get through the next round against unseeded opponents, Gauff and Swiatek will play a re-match of last year's final in which the American, seeded sixth this year, fell victim to the huge pressure on her shoulders and the metronomic game of the Pole.

Swiatek was in dazzling form on Saturday, dishing out a double bagel to Wang - the fourth time she has won a set 6-0 in the first three rounds.

"I am happy. It was a very strong performance from me and I was happy I was disciplined and took care of everything," said Swiatek, who has lost only eight games since the start of the tournament.

Swiatek's path to the final was made easier earlier Saturday by the withdrawal of Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, a possible last-four opponent, due to illness.