

Kenya hire Rhodes

South African great Jonty Rhodes has accepted to work as a specialist consultant for the Kenya national team in their preparations for the World Cup, Kenyan cricket officials said on Friday.

The 41-year-old Rhodes, once regarded as the world's greatest fielder, will assist Kenyan national coach Eldine Baptiste during a proposed three-week training camp at the High Performance centre in Pretoria next month.

"He will use his expertise in batting and fielding, particularly in one day cricket, to hone the squad's skills in these areas," said Tom Sears, Cricket Kenya chief executive officer.

"Jonty has tremendous experience and is now one of the most innovative and highly sought after specialist coaches in World cricket so this is a real coup for Cricket Kenya," he added.

After his retirement in 2003, Rhodes worked as a fielding coach in the South African national cricket team before he joined the Indian Premier League side, Mumbai Lions as their fielding coach in March 2009.

Sears said Kenya was keen to get Rhodes involved in the team's final weeks of preparations for the 2011 world Cup in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Davydenko bites dust

REUTERS, Montpellier

Top seed Nikolay Davydenko slumped to a 3-6, 7-6, 7-6 defeat by Spain's Albert Montanes in the quarterfinals of the Open Sud de France on Friday.

Montanes will face Ivan Ljubicic for a place in the final after the Croatian fourth seed beat Finn Jarkko Nieminen 4-6, 6-3, 7-6.

The other semifinal will be an all-French meeting between second seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who beat compatriot Gilles Simon 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, and Gael Monfils, a 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 winner against American John Isner.

Russian Davydenko hit 15 aces in a two-hour and 20-minute tussle in southern France but Montanes stood firm on his service games after dropping the opening set, winning the two tiebreaks 7-3 and 7-4.

Davydenko, the world number 11, is still hoping to snatch one of the three remaining spots for the season-ending Masters.

Butt, Aamer

FROM PAGE 17 will not be heard during the current hearing.

The ICC code stipulates a minimum five year ban if charges of corruption are proved.

The commission is expected to announce a decision on the players' appeals on Sunday in a ruling that cannot be further challenged.

Salman's lawyer Gul Friday said he expected a fair hearing. "We are going for justice in their court," said Gul, who played six Tests for Pakistan between 1969-71.

"We can't pre-empt what decision they give, it's their discretion, but our case is very good. There is no strong evidence against Salman on the basis of which we can say that he should remain suspended."

Pakistan Cricket Board said the players will be readily available if their provisional suspension is lifted.

Fed Cup

FROM PAGE 17 The best custodian in the country gathered the ball out of the net and soon the final whistle was blown, to the euphoria of the Sky Blues faithful.

TEAMS ABAHANI: Ziaur Rahman, Mamun Miah, Samad Yussif, Ashraf Ahmed Lincoln, Mohiuddin Ibul Siraji (Amit Khan Shuvro), Pranotosh Kumar Das, Yusuf Aminu, Imtiaz Sultan Jitu (Habibur Rahman Shohag), Mehedi Hassan Uzzal (Arup Kumar Baidya), Awudu Ibrahim, Ntim Twum Frank.

SHEIKH JAMAL DHANMONDI CLUB: Aminul Haque, Rezaul Karim, Zahid Hasan Emily (Towhidul Alam Sabuj), Enamul Haque, Waly Faisal (Dragon Perisic), Nasirul Islam, Mintu Sheikh, Abdul Baten Kamol (Shakil Ahmed), Zahid Hossain, Atiqur Rahman Meshu, Mamunul Islam.

Recalling his introduction to playing the sport he said: "Dur-



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the wooden floor gymnasium at the Paltan Maidan yesterday. She also inaugurated the Handball Stadium nearby on the day.

United England down under

Cricket

AFP, Perth

England flew into Australia ahead of the upcoming Ashes series on Saturday, arriving quietly confident about ending a 24-year English drought on Australian soil, but expecting a tough battle.

Led by captain Andrew Strauss, they arrived in Perth, where they will play their opening three-day tour match against Western Australia, starting Friday at the WACA.

Strauss is aiming to become the first English captain to win the Ashes on Australian turf since 1986-87.

He expects a spirited performance from the home team, but believes his team is in much better nick than when it suffered a hugely embarrassing 5-0 whitewash on its last visit to Australian shores in 2006-07.

Strauss has been buoyed by the blend of solidarity and depth in his squad, as well as the absence of some all-time Australian greats who picked England apart four years ago.

Speaking shortly after stepping off the plane, a relaxed Strauss said his side was in good shape for the defence of the Ashes title they won in 2009.

"Our greatest strength is that we are a pretty tight unit and we don't rely on one or two players," he said.

"All 11 guys have been putting their hands

up and certainly in the crucial periods.

"We can't afford any passengers in our side and you need all 11 to be performing.

The sides first go head-to-head in Brisbane on November 25, with Australia looking to reverse a slump in form which has seen them lose three successive Tests and slip to fifth in the world rankings.

"It will come down to who hits the ground running best and plays the best cricket in the crucial periods," Strauss said, adding that "there is a relaxed excitement about the group."

"Now we have touched down on Australian soil everything is a bit more at the forefront of our minds about what lies ahead of us and what massive opportunities there are."

Where the Australian attack of Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne and company has dominated past Ashes series, Strauss said he believed the English attack was their trump card this time, capable of performing in all conditions.

"Our bowling unit has done well in England over the summer," he said.

"The challenges here will be very different. "What I like about our bowling unit is that they have complemented each other quite well."

"When it is turning Graeme Swann has been a great threat, when it is swinging Jimmy Anderson has been outstanding in the last 12 months and on wickets that have been a bit bouncy Steve Finn and Stuart Broad have done a good job.

2ND ODI TODAY SA in Smith, Kallis scare

AFP, Abu Dhabi

South African one-day and Test captain Graeme Smith is undergoing treatment after injuring his left hand, but escaped without a fracture, an official said Saturday.

The 29-year-old left-handed batsman was hit several times by Pakistani paceman Shoaib Akhtar during the first of five one-day internationals which South Africa comfortably won by eight wickets here on Friday.

"Smith's X-ray scans show that there are no new fractures to his left hand, only soft tissue swelling and boney contusion. The team physiotherapist will reassess his injury in the next day or two," team manager Mohammed Moosajee said in a statement.

Smith had to walk off the field after scoring 18. South Africa successfully chased a modest 204-run target to take a 1-0 lead in the series.

All-rounder Jacques Kallis, who was carried off the field because of severe cramping will also be monitored closely in the next 24 hours, the managers said.

Kallis, 34, had to be connected to an intravenous line after suffering from dehydration on the field.

He was recovering from a viral infection which triggered his initial bout of nausea and dizziness and this led to the severe dehydration and cramping, said the manager.

Kallis missed the Twenty20 series which South Africa won 2-0 on Wednesday.

The second match will be played here on Sunday. South Africa will also play two Tests -- one each in Dubai and Abu Dhabi -- during the series shifted to United Arab Emirates due to security fears.

Proteas take lead

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Paceman Lonwabo Tsotsobe took four wickets and Jacques Kallis hit an unbeaten fifty to help a disciplined South Africa down Pakistan by eight wickets in the first one-day match here on Friday.

Tsotsobe took a career-best 4-27 off his ten tight overs to trigger a middle-order collapse and helped South Africa dismiss Pakistan for 203 before Kallis (66 retired hurt) saw off the target with 9.3 overs to spare.

The modest target was never beyond South Africa's reach after Pakistan batsmen once again failed to take advantage of a good start on a flat Abu Dhabi Stadium, much to the disappointment of a 10,000 holiday crowd.

The 35-year-old Kallis, back after missing the limited over series against Zimbabwe at home and South Africa's 2-0 win in the Twenty20 series which finished here on Wednesday due to injury, was at his usual best.

He steadied the South African innings through a solid 77-run stand with AB de Villiers, who also hit an attractive 51, after Graeme Smith (18) retired due to a finger injury and Hashim Amla dismissed for a well-made 35.

Kallis, who hit five boundaries and a six off paceman Abdul Razaq, added another 41 runs with Jean-Paul Duminy (10 not out) to give South Africa a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

With just 16 needed for win Kallis suffered cramps and retired. The second match will be played here on Sunday.

Johan Botha praised South African bowlers. "At one point Pakistan was well set at 140-1 but the bowlers stuck to their task and got us nine wickets for 63 runs and that proved decisive," said Botha, who singled out man-of-the-match Tsotsobe.

Pakistan coach Waqar Younis was critical of his batsmen. "We had just one good partnership and then a middle order collapse, like we had in the

Twenty20s, so we need to lift our batting because South Africa will get tougher and tougher," said Waqar.

Earlier, 26-year-old Tsotsobe took 4-27 put brackets on Pakistan's innings who lost their last eight wickets for a mere 46 runs after winning the toss and deciding to bat.

Tsotsobe, who took five wickets in the two Twenty20 matches, rocked the Pakistan middle-order with a burst of three wickets off just nine balls during his second four-over spell.

Tsotsobe's effort backed by disciplined spin bowling by Johan Botha (2-40) derailed Pakistan after Mohammad Hafeez (68) and returning Younis Khan (54) put on 114 for the second wicket.

Tsotsobe removed opener Asad Shafiq (19) in the eighth over before Younis -- returning to the side after being cleared by Pakistan Cricket Board last month following a ban on discipline violation, joined Hafeez in a damage repair act.

Hafeez hit seven boundaries during his 84-ball sixth one-day fifty before cutting Botha straight into the hands of Charl Langeveldt. Four overs later, Younis was trapped leg-before by Botha.

Younis hit two boundaries during his 75-ball knock.

Tsotsobe's triple strike followed as he removed Misbahul Haq (14), Shahid Afridi (one) and Abdul Razaq (two) to complete Pakistan's slide on a similar pattern of Twenty20 matches in which they were restricted to 119 and 120-9.

Tsotsobe's previous best bowling figures were 4-50 against Australia on his one-day debut at Perth last year.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 203 all out in 49 overs (Hafeez 68, Younis 54, Shafiq 19, Misbah 14; Tsotsobe 4-27, Botha 2-40, Langeveldt 2-47)

SOUTH AFRICA: 207 for 2 in 39.3 (Kallis 66, De Villiers 51, Amla 35, Smith 18, Ingram 12; Ajmal 2-42)

Result: South Africa won by eight wickets. Man-of-the-match: Lonwabo Tsotsobe. Umpires: Asad Rauf and Rodney Tucker.

Elena calls it quits

Tennis

REUTERS, Doha

Elena Dementieva, who won gold at the 2008 Olympic Games, called time on her 12-year tennis career on Friday and said it felt like the "end of the world."

The 29-year-old Russian stunned the crowd at the WTA Championships by announcing her retirement from the middle of the court at the Khalifa Tennis Complex after losing her final group game to Francesca Schiavone.

Dementieva won 16 Tour titles and finished runner-up at the 2004 French and U.S. Opens, reaching a career-high of third in the world rankings in 2009 and earning more than \$14 million in prize-money.

As Kim Clijsters, Vera

Zvonareva and other competitors at the season-ending tournament stood side-by-side wiping away tears, Dementieva thanked her fans and paid tribute to her mother and coach Vera.

"I would like to thank all the people around the world for supporting me," Dementieva told the crowd. "I'm so emotional and it's so hard to say goodbye."

Her compatriot Zvonareva took the microphone and thanked Dementieva for her contribution to sport back home.

"Russia is proud of you," said Zvonareva. "You have done so much not only for Russian tennis but for sport in Russia. You have been an inspiration, a role model for kids growing up."

Dementieva, making her 10th appearance at the presti-

gious year-end competition, won two of the first three tournaments this season but struggled with a calf injury that saw her miss Wimbledon.

She suffered losses to Schiavone and world number one Caroline Wozniacki in the Maroon Group in Doha but gave a vintage performance to defeat Sam Stosur on Thursday, which made her decision to retire all the more surprising.

"Right now I feel like it's the end of the world because I really like to play," she told a media conference.

"I always wanted to leave this sport with a passion for it. I never wanted to wait until my ranking dropped and I'm not going to be able to go to the main draw."

Dementieva said she made the decision to retire at the start of the season and that at 29 she had to explore new avenues.

"I think I'm ready for the big change in my life," she said, adding that she would continue to study at university in Moscow.

"It's going to be a completely different life for me. Tennis has been such a big part of my life and always will be."

A proud competitor for Russia in the Fed Cup and at the Olympic Games, Dementieva said winning the gold medal in Beijing was the pinnacle of her career.

"I'm sure I'm going to remember myself as Olympic champion. That's the best thing that could ever happen in my career," she said. "That was the biggest goal and I'm so proud of that moment."



Russian tennis player Elena Dementieva holds a crest she was presented with after announcing her retirement following her loss to Italy's Francesca Schiavone in the WTA Championships in Doha on Friday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 "Married ... With Children" mom 4 Hot tubs 8 EPA concern 12 Swiss canton 13 Father (Fr.) 14 Superhero garment 15 Round Table address 16 Weak, as an excuse 17 La Scala show-stopper 18 In disorder 21 Wet wriggler 22 Mischievous tyke 23 Colorado skiers' mecca 26 Serengeti critter 27 Med. watchdog org. 30 Standard 31 Insect 32 Life stories, briefly 33 Seesaw quorum 34 Mid-May honoree 35 RenFest waitress 36 Lubricate 37 Feathery accessory 38 1980s sitcom about twins 45 Salingher heroine 46 Incursion 47 Sindbad's bird 48 Heidi's range 49 Raw rocks 50 "This tastes terrible!" 51 Medicine measure 52 Agile 53 Overly 54 Pismire 55 Piglet's parent 56 Expert 57 Wrigley merchandise 58 Half a sawbuck 59 Lass 60 Happy companion? 61 Bonfire residue 62 On a hunt for 63 Resell for a big profit 64 Shopping center 65 Mayberry moppet 66 Not just plump 67 Rain cats and dogs 68 Flightless bird 69 Solution time: 27 mins. APT ANA BEADY LOU LAP ISSUE ILL SUNYATSEN BAS OGEES ITRAO HAL KALE ULT PULLIN ATSEA SUEDE FRAUDS MET TYPE CPA ZANY PURLS TAO KEITHMOON EAU ERNIE ONO ACT AGNEW FEW MPH

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-68.

CRYPTOQUIP

J N K X N Q I Z N T Z S Z H X E N Q T Z E G E T S H G N U E S Z N H J D J K E G P H, J G E P G E Q S J K D I H G U: " U S H E K X E P Q D K N E U . " Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE PEOPLE LIVING ADJACENT TO ACTOR AND SINGER JIM MIGHT LOVE TO BE CALLED NABORS' NEIGHBORS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals H