

Sports world pays homage to Diana

UNDATED, Sept 7: From the IOC meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, to the Notre Dame opener in South Bend, Indiana, sports paid their respects to Princess Diana on the day of her funeral, reports AP.

In some places there was a moment of silence Saturday, at others, athletes and officials also wore black ribbons or armbands.

The IOC this morning paid tribute to Lady Di, the Princess of Wales, and also to Mother Teresa for their humanitarian activities. IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said after the close of the IOC session that selected Athens as the host of the 2004 Olympic Games.

Princess Diana was the former sister-in-law and a British member of the IOC, called off her trip to the meeting.

Before the kickoff of the Notre Dame-Georgia Tech American football game, there was a moment of silence for Princess Diana and Mother Teresa, who died Friday.

In New York, British tennis star Greg Rusedski wore a black ribbon on his shirt in the US open semifinal against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman as a mark of respect to Princess Diana. He had worn it since he heard of her death in a road accident in Paris on Sunday.

At Monza, Italy, Formula One drivers in racing overalls paid respect to Diana, standing pensively in front of the pits for one minute shortly before the start of official qualifying for the Italian Grand Prix Saturday.

Two British drivers, reigning world champion Damon Hill and Johnny Herbert, wore black armbands during the race.

Two British gold medal-winning rowing crews, led by Olympic stars Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, wore black ribbons and bowed their heads on the podium at the World Championship at Chambery, France, when they heard the anthem played after they collected their medals. The British flag was held at half-mast.

All were somber during the playing of 'God Save the Queen' as the Union Jack went up the flag pole at half-mast, below the flags of the second and third placed teams.

"We want everyone at home to know how sympathetic we are and how much we have been thinking about it," said Elisabeth Henshilwood, a member of the winning women's team.

The Irish soccer team, many of whom were born in England of Irish parentage, wore black armbands during their 4-2 World Cup win over Iceland in Reykjavik.

Kabadi course

Sports Reporter

A nine-week long kabadi training course, organised by Bangladesh Kabadi Federation (BKF) for the Dhaka based school students, will begin at the kabadi court near Dhaka Stadium next Thursday.

The course will be held on every Thursday and Friday under the supervision of national coach Abdul Jalil.

The BKF yesterday named 42 school students to attend the course. The boys were selected by the training committee of the federation on Saturday based on their performance in the schools kabadi tournament last month.

The selected boys are: Mahfuz Alam, Abu Bakar Siddique and Azimuddin on Nawabpur Govt High School, Khairul, Abdul Razzak and Ataur Rahman on Ansar and VDP High School, Shariful Islam, Barkatullah and Mofazzal Hossain of AK High School, Ashish Kumar, Abul Hossain and Surul Miah of Dolaipara High School, Shafiqul Islam, Nazrul and Shafiqul Islam of Sharmun Textiles Mills Model High School, Delwar Hossain, Mobarak Hossain and Russell of Maniknagar Govt Primary School, Matru Rahman, Ali Kawsar, Mahmudul Hasan, Nur Nabi and Shahabuddin of BDR School and College, Din Islam, Tariqul Salam and Masumur Rahman of Razarbagh Police Lines High School, Jewel Rana, Shariful Islam, Mustafizur Rahman and Akbar Hossain of Shaheed Nabi High School, Noor Hossain and Hasan of Haider Ali School and College, Iftekharuddin, Imran and Rahmanul Islam of Motijheel Govt High School, Farhad, Bappi and Hannan of Millat High School, Didarul Haque and Faisal of Maniknagar model High School, Juder Alam of Tamiuddin High School and Abu Sultan of Bhashantek High School.

The latest to fall out of the clash of interests is Zimbabwean striker Peter Ndlovu, twice voted his country's star-of-the-year by a panel of sports writers and now a forward with the English team Coventry City.

Accusations of big-headedness and lack of patriotism are being heaped on 'the flying elephant' for his refusal to play in a World Cup match against Togo.

"He thinks he is a god," said a furious Vincent Pamire, vice-chairman of the Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA). "Peter showed us that he no longer has a heart for his country. He has let down us many times before, but this time we are stretched to the limit."

Ironically, Ndlovu was in Zimbabwe at the time, attending the annual youth tournament he founded in 1995 with the aim of developing soccer in the townships.

His presence in the country made Pamire even angrier. He says the association was led to believe the 24-year-old striker was committed to his British team. "When in fact he was hiding in Bulawayo, doing his own business."

"He should know that the nation comes first and his youth tournament comes later."

Although the match was of little importance since Zimbabwe had already been knocked out of the Cup, many fans say the striker should make it clear whether he gives priority to his career with Coventry and his own enterprises or whether he remains a commitment to Zimbabwe's national team.

Zimbabwean newspapers depict Ndlovu as an arrogant young man who deserted his country when it needed him. But there is another side to the story.

After he was omitted from the national squad for an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Ghana in July, his brother Madinda said that Peter could no longer play for Zimbabwe because ZIFA had "secretly" withdrawn insurance cover for him.

Said Madinda: "My brother has asked me to put the record straight. When he got injured during one of Zimbabwe's World Cup campaigns, he was shocked to discover that the insurance

Booters suffer setback

KATHMANDU, Sept 7: Bangladesh virtually went out of the race for first South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship after they suffered a 0-3 defeat against India in a vital Group B match at the Dasarath Stadium here today, reports UNB.

But they have a slim chance to reach the semifinals if India beat the Maldives 4-0.

Bangladeshi booters were in the driving seat for most of the match but India earned a comfortable victory in the end.

After struggling for 74 minutes, famed winger IM Vijayan scored twice in a span of three minutes and Bhaichang Bhutia netted the other.

After the 74th minute goal, Bangladesh lost their rhythm. Vijayan neat doubled the margin with a placing shot

from close range. Later, Vijayan was adjudged man-of-the-match by the local daily Gorkha Patra.

Indian wonder boy Bhutia headed the third goal two minutes before the final whistle.

Bangladesh started in an attacking mode and managed three close attempts during the

SAFF Championship '97

Kushtia DSA budget okayed

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 7: The annual general meeting of the local District Sports Association was held here on Saturday with Deputy Commissioner AFM Serajul Islam in the chair. The meeting unanimously passed the association's budget for the 1997-98 fiscal.

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BAF basketball

TANGAIL, Sept 7: BAF Base

Bashar defeated Air Headquarters Unit 83-69 in the inaugural match of the Bangladesh Air Force inter-base basketball championship which got underway at the BAF base Paharkanchanpur here today, says a press release.

In another game BAF base Matru Rahman beat the hosts 74-37.

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