



## Iran basketball player dies in car accident

Tehran Times Sports Desk

**TEHRAN** — Aidin Nikkhab-Bahrami, a member of Iran's national basketball team, was killed in a car accident Friday.

His body was laid to rest in Behesht Zahra Cemetery, southern Tehran, Saturday during a funeral ceremony attended by Physical Education Organization (PEO) President Mohammad Aliabadi.

## Iran summons 50 footballers for World Cup qualifiers

Tehran Times Sports Desk

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Football Federation (IFF) called up 50 players for the qualifying matches of the World Cup.

Mansour Ebrahimzadeh, a Sepahan coach, who was picked as an assistant of future manager, announced the 50-strong list as his first move.

Iran has yet to sign a trainer for its national side.

# Bulls new coach makes triumphant debut

**CHICAGO (AFP)** — Chicago reserve Ben Gordon scored 31 points and Luol Deng added 28 to spark the Bulls past Milwaukee 99-93 here Friday, making Jim Boylan a winner in his NBA debut as the club's new coach.

Gordon scored 12 points in the final five minutes while Deng produced half his total in the first quarter as the Bulls ended a three-game losing skid.

Boylan, an NBA assistant coach for 14 years, was named Thursday as an interim replacement for Scott Skiles, who was fired by the Bulls on Christmas Eve.

Gordon was benched from the starting five for the first time this season and replaced by Chris Duhon in the starting five for Chicago but Gordon lifted the Bulls when he left the bench.

**LIVERPOOL, England (AFP)** — Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez is set to recall Daniel Agger if Sami Hyypia fails to recover in time to feature at Manchester City today.

Denmark international Agger, who started the season in central defence alongside Jamie Carragher, has been sidelined since September with a foot problem.

But with veteran Hyypia struggling with an ankle injury sustained in the 2-1 win at Derby on Boxing Day, the 23-year-old could start at Eastlands.

Benitez said: "It will be difficult for Sami. He is working hard with the physios and we are waiting to see whether he will be available. We will have to wait and see."

"If Sami doesn't play then we can think about using Daniel. He is training and is very close now."

Gordon hit 9-of-10 free throws, including two with 1:40 remaining to give Chicago the lead for good at 93-91.

The Bucks lost the ball on a turnover on the next possession when the ball was ruled to have gone off a Milwaukee player, prompting Bucks coach Larry Krystkowiak to race onto the court.

Deng scored off a follow and Krystkowiak ran onto the court again, incurring two technical fouls and an ejection. Gordon sank two more free throws and the Bucks were undone.

Michael Redd scored 34 points to lead Milwaukee, losers in 13 of the past 17 starts.

Australian center Andrew Bogut scored 15 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for the Bucks while Chinese rookie Yi Jianlian scored 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds for Milwaukee.

## Agger set for Reds recall

Liverpool could go into today's match 12 points off the Premiership leaders.

Although they will have two games in hand over Sir Alex Ferguson's side, Benitez admits his side can afford no slip-ups.

He added: "It will be a really difficult game because they have a fantastic record at home."

"They have a manager with experience and good players who work really hard."

"As always though we have confidence. Our away form has been good this season and we are looking for that to continue today."

"It's important for us to just keep winning. Other teams around us have been dropping points and if we win



Ben Gordon (#7) of the Chicago Bulls puts up a shot against Maurice Williams (#25) and Andrew Bogut (#6) of the Milwaukee Bucks on December 28 at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois. The Bulls defeated the Bucks 103-99. (AFP/GettyImages/Jonathan Daniel)

in charge of England.

The Swede said: "Steven is one of the best players you can find. He has everything."

"He can defend. He can tackle incredibly well. He has vision, he is an extremely good passer. He can shoot, score goals and has the energy to get up and down the pitch."

"It is very difficult to say who is the best player in the country but Steven is certainly one of them — and has been for a long time now."

"As long as I was England manager, he was extremely important to me. He was important to England last year after I left and he will be very important in the future as well."

"Of course it will be difficult, we know that. It can't be easy to beat Liverpool. We will do our best and we will fight. Who knows what will happen after that."

## Benni's not for sale warns Hughes

**BLACKBURN, England (AFP)** — South African striker Benni McCarthy has been told he is not for sale despite being dropped by Blackburn manager Mark Hughes.

McCarthy spent Blackburn's last three matches on the substitutes bench after going nine games without a goal, sparking speculation he would be allowed to leave in the January transfer window.

But Hughes is adamant he won't listen to any offers for the former Porto star, who was Blackburn's top scorer with 24 goals in all competitions last season.

"There is no chance of that because the price I would get for Benni wouldn't allow me to replace him with a player of the same ability," Hughes said. "I would find it very difficult to justify letting him go under any circumstances."

Hughes is keen to keep McCarthy because he believes he will recapture last season's prolific form soon.

"Benni's had a spell where he's form was a bit inconsistent but he's still come in with a smile," Hughes said. "He's working hard but I've picked sides without him because I felt the players in form needed to play."

"Benni has been an outstanding player for us for 18 months. He's been lacking a bit of form but I just sense he is getting back to somewhere near where he needs to be and he's more likely to be involved."



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# Performance, Activities and Objectives of Literacy Movement Organization



### Directives of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei regarding the Literacy Movement

I thank on behalf of the Iranian nation. I doubt the illiteracy predicament would be uprooted in the country within a short period of time. The Literacy Movement Organization should keep on in earnest and instill the sense of hope and zest in its manpower. Literacy is a vital cultural matter of fact. I recommend you to follow up your activity and don't get discouraged. I also urge people — particularly the illiterate who are the target society of the Organization — to take this welcome opportunity for learning knowledge. I also call the governmental bodies for supporting the Literacy Movement Organization and appreciate your unsparing efforts.

### Objectives of the Literacy Movement Organization based on Enactment of Parliament

- 1- Educating the illiterate the reading, writing and calculating skills.
- 2- Promoting the Iranian and Islamic culture according to the objectives of the Literacy Movement Organization.

### Literacy approaches are itemized as:

- 1- Learning for reading
- 2- Reading for learning

In the first stage, the illiterate are taught to be able to read and write and in the next stage they utilize their reading skills towards increasing their knowledge for improving their quality of life. In other words, reading and writing is not construed as goals, but they are means for acquiring life skills and realizing self-sufficiency and independency cultures.

By virtue of the abovementioned issues and in order to attain the following targets, the Literacy Movement Organization has organized continuous education programs:

- 1- Heightening the level of knowledge and preventing from comeback to illiteracy
- 2- Culturally elevation of the literacy beginners
- 3- Increasing the knowledge of literacy beginners in different necessary fields

- 4- Improving the capabilities of literacy beginners for cooperation at development of the country and playing their individual and social roles decently
- 5- Promotion of writing culture among the target society

Shortly after the victory of Islamic Revolution in Iran, on Dec. 28, 1979, Imam Khamenei (RA) ordered for launching literacy campaign.

Part of the late Imam's message in this regard reads:

- Public education is as important as health and housing, rather, it is of more significance.

- It is incumbent upon all the literate to teach the illiterate across the country.

- I hope that the Iranian nation move for literacy and turn Iran as an all-school country.

Having issued the historic order of the late Imam, the Literacy Movement Organization started it activity in elementary and advanced levels benefiting from public forces.

During the years 1978-2006, not only the illiteracy growth has been stopped but the number of illiterate people in all the age groups has notably decreased. Based on statistics, the number of illiterate people reduced from 14.2 million in 1976 to 9.8 million in 2006 suggesting a 4.4-million reduction in the number of illiterate persons.

During the same period of time, the literacy balance between men and women in urban and rural regions has inclined towards women living in rural regions. In fact, the difference of literacy between women and men decreased from 23.4% in 1976 to 8.3%



in 2006 and during the same period, the difference of literacy population in urban and rural regions fell from 34.9% to 13.7%.

In line with realizing the motto of "Education for All" and with the aim of filling the gap of literacy among men and women and due to the welcome of women from being illiterate, over 85 percent of literacy programs has been allocated to women.

In addition to offering educational services to the illiterate and

beginners, the Literacy Movement Organization has taken the following measures for stabilizing the teachings and enriching the educational subject matters:

- 1- Publishing over 400 books containing easy-to-read subjects in social, morale and religious fields; establishing and equipping different general and specialized libraries as well as mobile libraries.
- 2- Production and distribution of educational packages containing subjects pertinent to the needs of target groups of literacy campaign as a multi-media educational model which has different educational functions.

### Summary of activities of Literacy Movement Organization

- The number of illiterate of over 6 years of age has been reduced from 14,200,000 in the year 1976 to 9,800,000 in 2006 and the illiterate rate has increased from 47.5% to 84.6% during the same period.

- Due to implementation of successful literacy programs, the Literacy Movement Organization has granted five plaques of honor and badges from UNESCO, ISISCO and UNISEF.

- 1- Receiving the Noma badge and diploma in 1991 for implementation of literacy campaign plan
- 2- Receiving the King C Junk plaque of honor in 1998 from UNESCO due to offering applied educations
- 3- Receiving the Malcolm Adise Shia plaque of honor in 1999 for offering remote educations
- 4- Receiving the Noma badge and diploma in 2000 for offering educational services to dropout girls as well as rural employed girls
- 5- Receiving plaque of honor and trophy from ISISCO in 2003 for implementation of family learning

### Do you know that in 2005:



- Some 771 million adult illiterate live in the world?
- Over 100 million children of the school age live worldwide?
- Over 70% of the illiterate live in Asia?
- Iran stands 87th in the world among 139 countries of the world in terms of the number of illiterate of 15 years old and up?
- The level of literacy in reading and writing in 90 countries of the world including Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria,



Colombia, Korea, India, Pakistan, Jordan, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Turkey is the same as the third grade of elementary school or the advanced level of literacy movement courses in Iran?

- By 2006, some 1.9 million personnel of the armed forces have received elementary educational services?

- Within 14 years (1988-2007) about 1,330,000 children of the school year have been covered by the literacy movement organization?

- By 2006, over 8 million absolute illiterate have participated in the elementary courses of the literacy movement organization and received their certificate?

- By 2006, over 2,526,000 persons have taken part in the Pursuant Groups program, 761,700 ones have been participated in the remote learning program and 193,900 ones have participated in the post-learning education program via multi-media?

- By 2006, some one million beginners have completed the fifth grade of their education successfully and are able to continue their education in the national education system?

- By 2006, 3210 local centers have been established for teaching the functions of literacy and linking the literacy with the life skills?

- So far, some 606,000 afghan residents and 32,000 Iraqi POWs have learned Persian language in literacy movement classes?

- By 2006, more than 87.5 percent of the illiterate of under-40 age group have been covered by literacy movement programs?

- Contrary to the opinion of some people who construe the literacy movement programs as "Learning the Aged", the Literacy Movement Organization has focused its activities on educating the young generation, so that

- The average age of the participants at the literacy classes is 29. In other words, 87.5 percent of participants are below 40 years of age.

- It has been planned that by the end of the current Iranian year 1386 (March 20, 2008), praise ceremonies are to be held in 5000 villages in which the literacy rate has reached 97 percent.