

Diya dedicates quarter-final passage to Misha Dawood

Contributed by Ali Ahsan
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Lahore, 29 July: Diya Football Club's head Sadia Sheikh has dedicated her team's 2-0 victory over 2005 National Womens Football Champion, Punjab and passage to quarter-final to unfortunate Misha Dawood who was aboard the ill-fated Airblue Flight 202 that crashed in the hills overlooking Islamabad on Wednesday morning. "It's difficult to think that Misha is no more with me and her colleagues. She was one of the strongest points in our game plan and strategy," said disappointed Sadia who also went to Jordanian capital of Amman four years ago as official of Pakistan Women Futsal team during Third Women Futsal Championship 2006.

A five minutes silence was observed before the start of the match between Diya FC Punjab Group-A tie at the Jinnah Stadium to pay tribute to Misha Dawood and same thing happened at Karachi later in the night when Karachi Energy faced Islamabad United in the second semi-final of Super Football League at Peoples Sports Complex, Karachi.

19 year-old Misha was flying out to the capital to join her team for 12-team sixth National Women Football Championship at Jinnah Stadium. Misha rose to prominence two years ago when she scored a hat-trick against Sindh Soccerites in the inaugural National Women Football Club Championship 2008 at Colony Sports Stadium, Malir Town.

Robina Irfan, the chairperson of the Pakistan Football Federation Women Wing said that she used to study in Karachi Grammar School and was a dedicated footballer. It was her desire to take Diya to the top of the podium in ongoing show in their fifth attempt in the showpiece event of PFF Women Wing.

Formed on 11 October 2003 through the efforts of Sadia Sheikh, Diya made debut in the 2006 edition and is the regular participants of the event as Sindh No.1 female soccer club. Misha was one of the promising stars. "She was a utility player who used to be fit in every corner of the pitch. Misha had a flair for this game and loved it very much. This tragedy has put us all in the most painful position," said Sadia and added that one can judge her passion for the game that she was studying abroad and yet she wanted to help her team win the championship."

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