

CHESS

RB honours meritorious Simutowe

MONICA MAYUNI reports:

PRESIDENT Banda honoured one of Zambia's greatest performers, Amon Simutowe, with the President's insignia for meritorious achievement.

The President bestowed the achievement on Simutowe yesterday during the Independence Day investiture ceremony that was held at the

Lusaka Showgrounds.

Simutowe, the only grandmaster in sub-Saharan Africa and the continent's only black grandmaster, was honoured for his prowess in chess, the game he has played with passion since his childhood.

The 27-year-old chess prodigy was, however, not present to receive the award

because he is at school in the United States.

Simutowe's chess journey started in 1994 when he was only 12 years old when he won the Under-21 national championship, two years after joining the sport.

He won the national championship the following year before competing in the Africa Junior Championship where he finished fifth.

In 1996, he retained both the national championship and junior national championship, sealing his place in an intricate sport.

He then earned his place in African junior chess when he won the African Junior Chess Championship in 1998 and retained the title the following year when he won all the games and earned himself two international master norms.

The soft-spoken Simutowe would later compete at the World Junior Championship where he was second in 2000, the British Championship and the Olympiads.

The 'Zambezi Shark', as he was fondly called because of his aggressive style of play, moved to the US in 2002 to study economics. He embarked on the third and final grandmaster norm in 2006.

He managed to earn the norm in 2007 during the Euwe Stimulus tournament in the Netherlands and thus became Africa's newest GM.

He is only the third black GM in the world.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Kanyanta faces Ramadan

ZAMBIA'S Kennedy Kanyanta will face Tanzanian Ramadan Mkundi in the Africa Boxing Union (ABU) bantamweight title fight set for November 28 at Lusaka's Mulungushi International Conference Centre.

ABU president Houcine Houchi confirmed the development in an interview from France yesterday and added that ring officials to handle the fight will be appointed this week.

"I would like to inform you that Kennedy Kanyanta will challenge the Tanzanian boxer on November 28. Officials to handle this fight will be appointed any day next week," Houchi said.

Houchi offered Kanyanta a chance to fight for the ABU title after putting up an impressive performance against national bantamweight champion Moses Musonda at Lusaka's Nationalist Stadium last Saturday.

90 fans off to Zim

ABOUT 90 Zambian soccer fans yesterday left for Zimbabwe to cheer the national team during the Cosafa Castle Cup.

Zambia Voluntary Soccer Fans Association patron Peter Makembo said yesterday that his contingent would support the Chipolopolo starting with today's quarter-final clash against Namibia.

Makembo said the fans want to give Herve Renard maximum support so that he can succeed as national coach.

He said he is confident that with the 13th player - fans - Zambia would go all the way to the final and lift the trophy.

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