

Local

Ultimate frisbee, global team sport garnering young people's interest

Free-spirited alternative to traditional organized sports



AMMAN: A group photo of teammates participating in the Middle East and North Africa Ultimate Frisbee Championship held recently in Jordan. — KUNA photos



Sultan Al-Sultan



Lujain Al-Mullah

AMMAN: Ultimate frisbee is a wide-spread international team sport that attracts many young men and women across the world in pickup games. Being a non-contact and self-refereed team game played by players with a flying disc, ultimate was developed by a group of students in the United States in 1968. Although ultimate resembles many traditional sports like rugby in its athletic requirements, it is unlike most sports due to its focus on self-officiating. The popularity of the sport has spread quickly, taking hold as a free-spirited alternative to traditional organized sports. In recent years, college ultimate has attracted a greater number of traditional athletes, raising the level of competition and athleticism.

The player with the disc is called the thrower. The thrower may not run with the disc, but must instead move the disc by passing to teammates in any direction. Game rules state that points are scored by passing the disc to a teammate in the opposing end zone, while players must not take steps while holding the disc.

In Kuwait, a team consisting of play-

ers Sultan Al-Sultan and Lujain Al-Mullah took part in the Middle East and North Africa Ultimate Frisbee Championship held recently in Jordan. Speaking on this maiden participation, Sultan said the game began to spread in Kuwait in 2017 thanks to social media campaigns and through youth occasions. Groups of young people involving males



Game began to spread in Kuwait in 2017

and females were initially interested in practicing this sport in spare times on beaches and pitches, and now there are at least a hundred players forming three teams who have occasional friendly competitions, he said. Sultan pointed out it was the first time for a Kuwaiti sports team to partake in the recent ultimate

frisbee event in Jordan. He stressed that players wishing to join his groups should be 18 years and above and have high fitness as well as physical flexibility as basic requirements.

Echoing Sultan's views, Lujain Al-Mullah said that she has been praising ultimate frisbee for nearly three and a half years. She added that she and her teammates only began to play this sport in an earnest manner a year following the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. She regretted that most people believe that ultimate frisbee is an individual game that can only be practiced by children and youth on beaches and at parks.

Mullah elaborated that the World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) is the international sports federation responsible for world governance of flying disc (Frisbee) sports, including Ultimate, Beach Ultimate, Disc Golf, Freestyle, Guts, and Individual Events. WFDF is a federation of 103 member associations, which represent flying disc sports and their athletes in more than 100 countries. WFDF is an International Federation recognized by the



A picture taken during Kuwait's participation in the Middle East and North Africa Ultimate Frisbee Championship held recently in Jordan.

International Olympic Committee (IOC).

On the basic rules of the sport, she said two teams of seven players compete on a playing field about the same length as a football field, but narrower. At each end of the playing field there is an end zone. Each team defends one end zone. They score a goal if one of their players catches the disc in the opposite

end zone. On the latest 12-team competition held in Jordan, she said the Kuwaiti team came seventh by winning three games and losing three others, but won the Spirit of the Game Award, she said. A team from Dubai won the third version of the sports event, which attracted as many as 300 male and female players. — KUNA

stc official sponsor of KFA championships for eighth straight year

KUWAIT: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the continuation of its strategic partnership with the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) and its soccer tournaments in the 2021-2022 season for the eighth consecutive year.

The signing ceremony of the official sponsorship took place at stc's Headquarters at Olympia Tower and was held in the presence of Sheikh Ahmed Youssef Al-Sabah, President of KFA, and engineer Maziad Alharbi, CEO of stc, as well as executives joining from both parties. The sponsorship of the upcoming season includes the Kuwait Premier League, the Division One league, the Super Cup, and the Amir and Crown Prince Cups may God bless and protect them, coupled with stc's active participation in promoting and achieving another successful season.

On this occasion, Sheikh Ahmed commented, "Once again, we would like to welcome the Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, one of the leading companies in Kuwait and the region, as the official sponsor of the Kuwait Football Association championships for the eighth consecutive year. We are confident that continuing this strategic partnership will help support the local sports scene by fos-



KUWAIT: Sheikh Ahmed Youssef Al-Sabah, President of KFA (left), and engineer Maziad Alharbi, CEO of stc shake hands after signing the agreement.

tering a healthy competitive spirit amongst all the Kuwaiti football clubs."

He added, "We highly value the support, assistance, and capabilities that stc brings to the table, aiding us in presenting a professional platform to host championships that reflect the caliber and quality of our sports activities while instilling good sportsmanship."

Sheikh Ahmed also pointed out that the stc Premier League brings together Kuwait's 15 football clubs to compete amongst themselves for the championship title. Through the league, the points scheme will determine the clubs that remain in the league and the clubs that will participate in the second-tier division league based on their performance.

On his part, Alharbi commented, "We look for-

ward to witnessing more friendly competition in the 2021-2022 season, and are keen to support both sports and the Kuwaiti youth. Following a difficult period due to the onset of the pandemic, we are confident that the teams will continue to perform outstandingly and compete to their best abilities to qualify for the winning titles."

Alharbi said, "stc affirms its continuous support towards the Kuwaiti community through various initiatives and activities. This vision stems from the Company's strategic approach to empower the younger generation and back entrepreneurs in their quest to introduce world changing ideas, hence stc's role in offering an array of pioneering solutions to members of the community and businesses alike."

Alharbi concluded, "By implementing our strategy to enable digital transformation in Kuwait, we have been able to position stc as a leading company within the field of innovative technology. Moving forward, we will continue to focus on seamlessly providing our valued customers with access to a wide range of innovative services and digital solutions that suit their diverse lifestyle needs."

With regards to sponsoring the activities of the Kuwait Football Association, Alharbi expressed that stc was keen to participate and sponsor the upcoming season due to the positive impact the championship generates to both individuals and the community. This sponsorship comes as a continuation of stc's collaboration with the KFA, which was initiated in 2013. He expressed that through the highly experienced team at stc, the Company will ensure that the stc Premier League maintains its glorified reputation in the local sports scene, side by side with the KFA.

Civil society's role in combating corruption

By Khaled Al-Mutawa

Civil society organizations are known as one of the most important factors in supporting political progress and promoting democratic and preventive concept of contemporary societies due to their scoop of work which focuses on two main development components which are the individuals and society.

The State of Kuwait has given this organization a great attention and value in consistency with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which recommended pointedly the involvement of civil society in the efforts of preventing corruption starting from raising awareness of corruption and prevention methodology through promoting transparency in decision-making, encouraging participation of people in decision-making. Moreover, undertaking public information activities that contribute the intolerance of corruption, and finally respecting, promoting and protecting the freedom to seek, receive and disseminate information.

Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) is a neutral, independent authority established following the enactment of law number 2 of the year 2016 and was set up in response to the requirements of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Nazaha has founded an administrative unit within its organizational structure that has a clear yet explicit job tasks which enforces the cooperation and partnership with civil society through supporting, following-up and fulfilling the initiatives submitted by them in coordination with various government bodies. Also, this unit's duty is promoting complementarity between public sector and civil society efforts to encourage integrity, combating corruption, and supporting government bodies in their inspection role.

Thereafter a mechanism for communication and participatory governance was framed according to the Kuwait's integrity and anti-corruption strategy initiatives (2019-2024) to promote cooperation with the civil society through supporting both activities and initiatives that combat and prevent corruption.

Examples of this cooperation are the insertion of a curriculum about corruption offences in the Kuwaiti Penal Code in the Faculty of Law department, organizing awareness summer clubs, reviewing initiatives that aims in monitoring government institutions, reviewing a periodic report issued by civil society, and organizing a numerous workshops, seminars and awareness-raising campaigns.

Civil society is a fundamental yet complementary partner in the process of fighting corruption and promoting integrity and transparency.

- Khaled Al-Mutawa is a Senior Media Professional at the Awareness and Education Department at Kuwait Anticorruption Authority (Nazaha)



Khaled Al-Mutawa

Arrests made during Shamlan harbor crackdown

KUWAIT: Police made several arrests during a crackdown against people violating fishing rules and environment-protection regulations at the Shamlan harbor in Sharq yesterday. Interior Ministry personnel carried out the unscheduled campaign in cooperation with the Environment Public Authority, Kuwait Ports Authority, Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, the Ministry of Commerce and Kuwait Fire Force, the Relations and Security Information Department said in a statement to the press. The ministry did not specify how many people were arrested during the campaign. It added that they were referred to the proper authorities for further action.

Drug overdose

Detectives solved the mystery behind a woman's death after her body was found in an open area in Ahmadi. The case was closed after two persons with a record of drug-related crimes confessed that they left her body when she died from a drug overdose. Al-Anbaa Arabic newspaper reported yesterday. Detectives had identified one of the suspects after checking the woman's phone record and arrested him in Qadsiya. The man said during investigations that the woman was with him and another man as they were abusing drugs in an apartment in Ahmadi, when they discovered that she had a drug overdose and died. They put her in a pickup truck and



KUWAIT: Officers are seen during a crackdown at the Shamlan harbor yesterday. — Interior Ministry photo

left her in an open area then ran away, the man reportedly told police, adding that they did so to avoid being accused of murder. The two men were sent to the proper authorities for further action.

Runaway maids

A man was sent to the administrative deportation department after he allegedly used his job as a delivery man to harbor runaway domestic helpers after convincing them to leave their sponsors' houses. Al-Anbaa reported yesterday. A police source said detectives received several complaints of housemaids escaping and found a link between their escape and delivery man. Further investigations revealed that the man worked with fake domestic helper offices that encourage helpers to escape from their sponsors' houses and work per day or hour, the source said. The man confessed to his crime following his arrest, said the source, adding that three runaway maids were also arrested during the operation while the fake offices are being raided.

Kuwait condemns Houthi militia breaking-in of US embassy in Sanaa

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry yesterday voiced Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of Houthi militia's storming of the US Embassy in Sanaa and capturing of a number of its employees. In a statement, the ministry said this internationally criminalized act is a flagrant breach of international norms, international law, the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1968 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, which prohibit the storming of diplomatic property and grants immunity to diplomatic missions and buildings. The ministry underlined that the State of Kuwait totally backs the US, while calling on Houthi militia to observe international law rules by withdrawing from the embassy building immediately and setting free its detained local staffers. —KUNA



وزارة الخارجية
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KUWAIT