

IN MEMORY OF MAHMOUD

1960 - 2011



محمود خليفة علي
رئيس
اللجنة الكويتية لمكافحة المنشطات

Sporting Asia is the official newsletter of the Olympic Council of Asia, published quarterly.

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A DEVASTATING BLOW FOR THE OLYMPIC FAMILY

The Olympic Council of Asia's visit to Incheon, Korea, and to Nanjing, China, from November 15-19 had been a fruitful and rewarding mission.

In the presence of the OCA President, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, the OCA was extremely satisfied with the progress of preparations for the 17th Asian Games in 2014 and the 2nd Asian Youth Games in 2013.

So it was in good spirits and with a great deal of optimism and camaraderie that the staff and delegates headed for home at the end of the mission.

And then, all of a sudden, the world turned upside down.

Mahmoud Khalifah Ali, Manager of the OCA's Doping Control Department, had passed away in Kuwait after suffering a heart attack.

It would be an under-statement to describe the devastating news as a shock. It was a tragedy, totally unexpected, as Mahmoud had been a member of the OCA delegation in Korea earlier in the week. At 51, he was still so young and had so much more to give.

The Asian Games meeting had taken place in Incheon on Wednesday, November 16. The following day Mahmoud returned to Kuwait, arriving home on Friday morning. In the late evening of the same day he was admitted to hospital, having suffered a heart attack, and he passed away at 2am on Saturday, November 19.

The OCA began to inform staff, colleagues and friends around the world of the distressing news, and immediately the messages of condolences and tributes poured in from fellow experts in the medical and anti-doping field, from National Olympic Committees, from other sports organisations and from anyone who had known him or worked alongside him during his distinguished career in the Olympic movement.

Here, in this special edition of the OCA's official newsletter, Sporting Asia, we are paying tribute to Mahmoud and trying to provide a permanent and lasting legacy in his memory.

While mourning his premature passing, we also want to celebrate his life and his achievements, his character and his personality, because Mahmoud will always be remembered for his engaging smile, the twinkle in his eyes and his ability to charm and communicate so readily and so naturally.

This is what made him a special person – a colleague, a friend and a brother.

LIKE THE OLYMPIC FLAME, MAHMOUD'S SPIRIT WILL BURN BRIGHTLY IN OUR HEARTS

On behalf of the Olympic Council of Asia it is my solemn duty to pay our utmost respects to a dear friend and colleague who passed away so unexpectedly: Mahmoud Khalifah Ali.

I had been with Mahmoud in Incheon, Korea, for the 3rd OCA Coordination Committee meeting for the 17th Asian Games on Wednesday, November 16, and attended the official dinner with him in the evening.

As we moved on to Nanjing, China, for the next leg of the assignment, Mahmoud went home to Kuwait. We were still in Nanjing when we heard the news of his passing. Nobody could quite believe it – and still cannot.

Mahmoud was a dedicated worker and a great friend of the OCA. As Manager of the OCA's Doping Control Department and a member of the Anti-Doping Commission, he played a major role in the establishment of anti-doping policies and procedures throughout the continent.

It is thanks to Mahmoud that the anti-doping activities of the OCA are so professional, systematic and transparent. They are respected and admired by the global Olympic movement, and are second to none at the continental level.

Even though Mahmoud left us too early, the work he performed and the systems he established and developed will continue to benefit the OCA and the Asian sports family for many years to come. This will be his legacy.

Words cannot express our feelings towards his family over this cruel and tragic loss. All we can do is promise that the memory of Mahmoud will live on in the OCA and beyond. Like the Olympic flame, his spirit will continue to light up our lives and burn brightly in our hearts.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah

President, Olympic Council of Asia



MY MEMORY OF MAHMOUD

HUSAIN AL-MUSALLAM, Director General & Technical Director, OCA

Mahmoud was my classmate from elementary school through till high school. We had known each other since 1969.

We both joined the Oxford Aviation College in the United Kingdom for the Airline Pilot training course but Mahmoud dropped out halfway through and returned to Kuwait. He enrolled with Kuwait University for Bio-Chemistry, and quickly decided this was where his future lay.

He was a keen sportsman, enjoying swimming, squash, horse riding and scuba diving, and this combination of interests in sport and medicine led him naturally into the world of doping control. It was the perfect match, and the sports community in Kuwait and eventually around the entire Asian continent would benefit immensely from his expertise, knowledge and his devotion.

His first assignment came in 1999 when he was in



charge of the doping control programme of the 2nd FINA World Water Polo Championship in Kuwait, and from that point he became director of doping control for many multi-sports events and major championships.

Mahmoud became involved with OCA in 1999, and his experience and dedication led directly to OCA's own anti-doping rules in line with WADA rules.

Aviation's loss as Mahmoud the airline pilot proved to be a massive gain for OCA.

FULL NAME

Mahmoud Khalifah Hussain Ali

POSITION

Manager, Doping Control Department, OCA
Member, Anti-Doping Commission



NATIONALITY

Kuwaiti

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH

January 24, 1960. Kuwait. Age: 51.

MARITAL STATUS

Married to Zainab A M H Dashti with four daughters:

Shahd (21)

Kawther (19)

Yassmeen (18)

Nargess (14)

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science from the University of Kuwait, 1985

Diploma in Doping Control, 1999

MEMOS degree (Executive Masters in Sport Organisation Management) for the 2007-08 cycle.

CAREER AND EXPERIENCE

1985-1992: Medical biochemistry department, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital

1992-1998: Hematology department, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital

From 1999: Chief medical laboratory specialist in Farwainya Primary Healthcare Area

From 1999: Deputy Director, Kuwait Anti-Doping Committee

From 2000: Lecturer/trainer for Anti-Doping Control, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Kuwait

2003: Manager, Anti-Doping Department, Kuwait Olympic Committee

From 2004: Director General of National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) Kuwait

From 2005: OCA coordinator/observer for all five Regional Anti-Doping Organisations in Asia

From 2006: Director General of Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADO) for GCC and Yemen

2009-2011: Member, WADA Education Committee

2010: Member, WADA Independent Observer team, Vancouver Winter Olympics

From March 2011: Chairman, Kuwait Anti-Doping Committee

MEMBER, ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION, OCA, AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

15th Asian Games, Doha, 2006

2nd Asian Indoor Games, Macau, 2007

1st Asian Beach Games, Bali, 2008

1st Asian Youth Games, Singapore, 2009

1st Asian Martial Arts Games, Bangkok, 2009

3rd Asian Indoor Games, Hanoi, 2009

16th Asian Games, Guangzhou, 2010

2nd Asian Beach Games, Muscat, 2010

7th Asian Winter Games, Astana-Almaty, 2011





Mahmoud: the all-star teacher

MY MEMORY OF MAHMOUD

TAN SRI DR M. JEGATHESAN, Chairman, OCA Medical Committee and Anti Doping Commission



The untimely demise of our beloved colleague and comrade in arms, Mahmoud Khalifah Ali, leaves us in shock, disbelief and with a deep sense of loss and sadness. To all of us in the Medical and Anti Doping Commissions of the OCA, and to me personally, Mahmoud was not just a colleague but a friend and brother as well.

Ever since he took up the post in OCA headquarters as Manager of the Anti Doping Department, he has worked tirelessly to bring our organisation to the cutting edge of the battle against drug abuse in sport.

The eminence of the OCA in the global landscape of the anti doping fight in general and the deliverance of efficient and comprehensive programmes in the Asian Games series can largely be credited to his passion, enthusiasm and tireless campaign towards ensuring a level playing ground in sports in the continent.

The good standing of our programme with the WADA is another significant contribution he has made through his remarkable

networking capabilities and interpersonal skills. His role and contribution to the generation and development of the five Regional Anti Doping Organisations within Asia will leave a lasting legacy to the 45 member countries of the OCA. He touched the hearts of everyone he had to deal with by his quick understanding of people's needs, their fears and aspirations. Throughout his dealings, whilst firmly sticking to principles, he has exhibited tolerance and flexibility and always sought an amicable and acceptable solution to even the most tricky of situations.

In spite of his busy schedule he was well known for his generosity both of himself and his time and never hesitated to come to the side of a friend in need. Within the ambit of OCA's anti doping department, the Medical Committee and the Anti Doping Commission, he was always a great team player and put the needs of the institution and of others ahead of his personal interests. It is no wonder that he was universally loved by all.

His absence will create a huge void within the organisation and the movement and it will be difficult for us to cement the huge cracks that will be left by his passing. Our challenge will be to continue and build upon the legacy he has left us. That is what he would have wanted and that is what we shall endeavour to do. We shall not disappoint him.

Mahmoud, my dear colleague, friend and brother, we will miss you sorely. May your soul rest in peace.



Mahmoud shows his caring side as he pets a camel

MY MEMORY OF MAHMOUD

NAYAF SRAJ, Executive Secretary, OCA



The OCA staff members assigned for the recent mission to Incheon, Korea, and to Nanjing, China, had to report for boarding at 12:30pm on Monday, November 14, at Kuwait International Airport.

I came to the OCA office in the morning and planned to work until 11am, and then go home to change and pick up my hand luggage.

Before going home I disbursed the “per diem” allowances to all the HQ delegates, except for Mahmoud. He had packed his bags and come to the office at around 10:45am, intending to leave for the airport directly from the office.

When he arrived at the office I had already packed the cash bag, but the “per diem” receipt I had printed out for Mahmoud was still lying in my office. I picked up the receipt voucher and approached him: “Dear, if you don’t mind could you please sign this voucher. I will hand you the money on the aircraft.”

With his own special smile and a sparkle in his eyes, he signed the voucher and told me:

“Habeebi, even if you don’t pay me, I will not bother you.”

For one reason or another I never got round to giving him the money on the flight to Incheon, or when we were in Incheon together for the Coordination Committee meeting. Considering we are colleagues and brothers this was not a big deal, and I planned to give him the “per diem” when I got back into the office in Kuwait on Monday, November 21.

But...but I could not do this as he had departed beforehand. Now his words “Habeebi, even if you don’t pay me, I will not bother you” give me a lot of pain. Yes, he is not bothering me but my heart is very heavy.

My wife and children were also much acquainted with him. My family came to Muscat for the last few days of the 2nd Asian Beach Games last December, and one night, while we were having dinner, our four-year-old daughter Najidah was trying to dance to some Arabic music. Seeing this, our beloved Mahmoud went up to her, clapped his hands and said some nice, encouraging words.

At the OCA HQ his office is next door to mine, and he never goes to his office without shaking my hand.

His memory will last for ever. May the Almighty shower His blessings on his departed soul.

REMEMBERING THE HAPPY TIMES SPENT



The playful Mahmoud has replaced his moustache with a white beard!



Mahmoud the professional explains a point



Mahmoud in more relaxed attire



Mahmoud at work during a seminar

WITH A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE



Mahmoud greets the OCA President during the 2nd Asian Beach Games at Muscat in December 2010.



Enjoying the 2nd Asian Beach Games, Muscat 2010.



Mahmoud the educator



In Amman, Jordan, June 16-18, 2011



Mahmoud holds up the torch for the 7th Asian Winter Games 2011 in Kazakhstan



Mahmoud attends 1st GCC Games "Bahrain 11" in October 2011



Mahmoud in Vancouver for the 2010 Winter Olympics

MY MEMORY OF MAHMOUD

AMER EL ALAMI, Manager, IT Department, OCA



On November 15, 2011, a few of us from OCA were travelling from Gimpo Airport to the Sheraton Hotel in Incheon, Korea. One colleague told a funny story about two old men, over 80 years old, describing their illnesses and other physical weaknesses. At that time Mahmoud commented: "Oh God, I hope I will not reach that age!"

Those words remain fresh in my memory, because just five days later Mahmoud was no longer with us.

We were together in Incheon from November 15-17 and he refused to join us for the next leg of the journey to Nanjing,

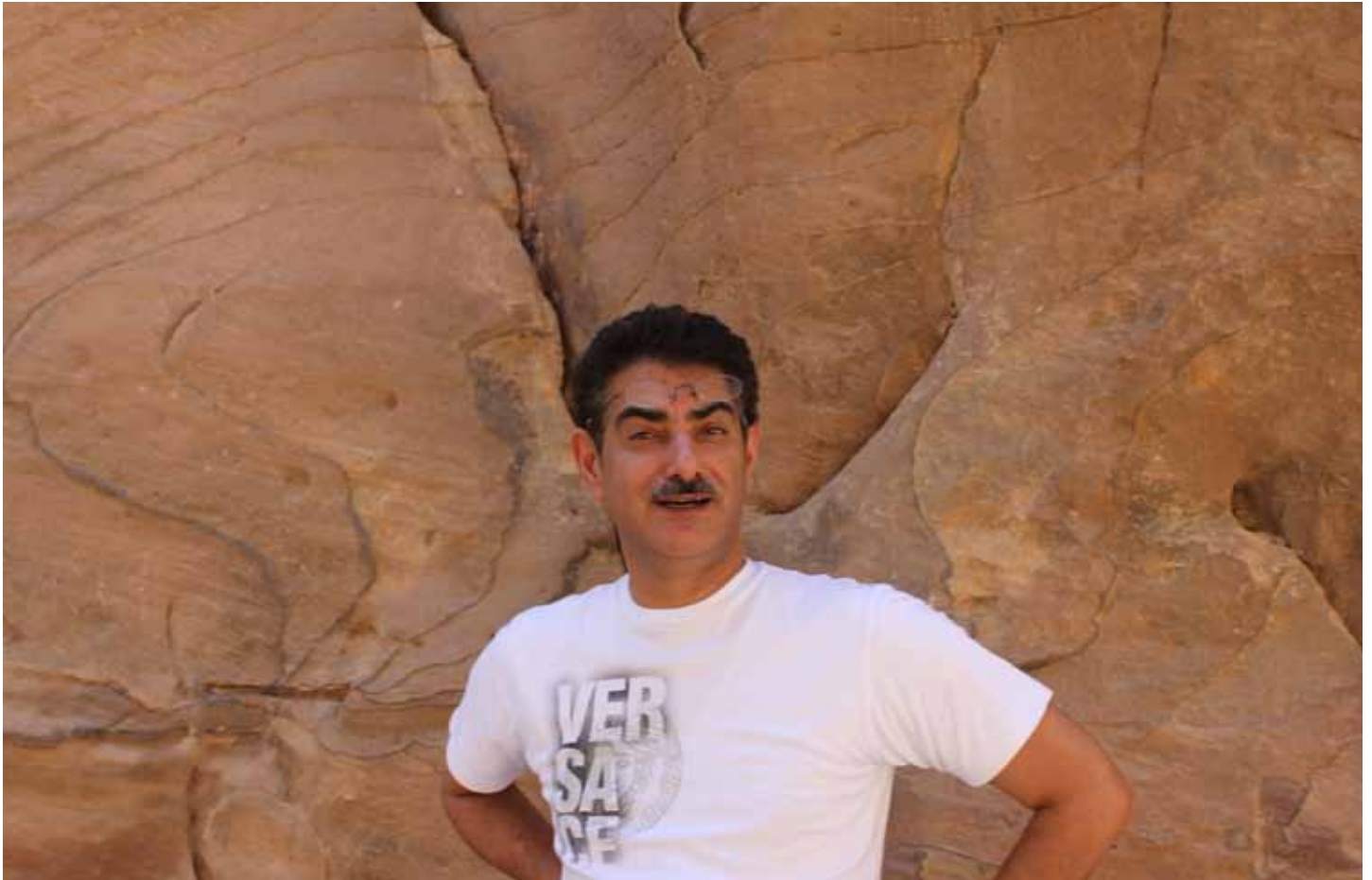
saying he wished to spend the weekend of Friday and Saturday (November 18-19) with his family back home in Kuwait. So he left Incheon around midnight of Thursday and arrived in Kuwait on the morning of the 18th, Friday.

It is very unfortunate that he could not spend the day of November 19 with his family, after all.

He was such a wonderful colleague. He made hundreds of friends wherever he travelled on OCA missions. He was so serious, sensitive and attentive to his duty, especially when a positive doping case appeared. At social activities he was a friend, entertainer and character.

Forever I will miss his "good morning GALAB (my heart)" greeting in the office. I will never forget my great brother and colleague.

I pray to the Almighty to give enough courage to his spouse and daughters to bear this irreparable loss.



Mahmoud finds time for a bit of sight-seeing

MY MEMORY OF MAHMOUD

VAHID KARDANY, OCA Technical Department.

I met Mahmoud for the first time a few years ago when I was working for OCA as a volunteer. To be honest, Mahmoud was one of the reasons that I liked the work environment.

Mahmoud was such a genuine, caring, honest and extremely smart guy. Most people, including me and Reza, when we needed advice the first person we would go to would be Mahmoud.

I remember nearly a year ago we started a foundation for OCA staff in Kuwait thanks to his suggestion. For any occasion, such as a birthday or buying a new car, the foundation would organise a small party for the group.



He was the financial support behind the scenes. No one probably up to this date knew that their birthday cake and so on were bought by Mahmoud.

My point from this short story is that, besides his extremely busy schedule, still he remembered everyone and wanted to see people happy and jolly.

He was the king of socialising when it came to taking care of people in the Games or here in Kuwait, regardless of his workload or his fatigue, and what he has done for the Olympic movement in Asia is exceptional. His achievements will need much effort to be continued.

A vast educational background, a great family atmosphere, generosity, happiness and respect made Mahmoud a memorable guy who won't be forgotten for ever.

Every Thursday night when he was in Kuwait he would be with his mother. He used to say 'Thursday night is my mum's night. I won't miss that if I am in Kuwait.' God bless him.

Remembering Mahmoud

Tributes from around the world

Randhir Singh, Secretary General, Olympic Council of Asia: I was shocked to learn about the sudden passing away of Dr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. I would like to convey my heartfelt condolences on this sad occasion. The Olympic Council of Asia has lost a very nice human being and a dedicated professional. He will be missed deeply among the OCA family. May the Almighty God grant peace to the departed soul and courage to all the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

Zhang Jilong, Chairman, OCA Sports Committee: I am deeply shocked and saddened to hear about the demise of Mr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali, which means we have lost a former colleague and our true friend in the OCA family forever. Mr. Mahmoud Ali was such a kind, gentle soul and would do anything to help someone in need. As Manager of the Doping Control Department he made a big contribution to Asian sport in his own way. His demise is a big loss, not only to his family but also the OCA. May God bless his family during this time and always.



David Howman, Director General, and Rob Koehler, Director, Education & Program Development, WADA: On behalf of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) we would like to express our sincere condolences for the passing of our friend Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. Since 2003 Mahmoud has been an active advocate of doping-free sport and is credited for the strong relationship between WADA and OCA. His leadership had a direct influence in the development of anti-doping programs in Asia. His commitment and desire to see clean sport was showcased through his involvement in the development of five Regional Anti-Doping Organizations involving 36 countries in Asia as well as the work carried out for the OCA. Mahmoud was a true friend of WADA and will be missed dearly by his friends at the Agency and by the global anti-doping community. To celebrate his life a moment of silence will be respected at the WADA Foundation Board Meeting.

Dr. Santiparb Tejavanija, Advisor to President of OCA: I was really shocked to hear the sad news of the sudden demise of my good friend, Mr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. He always dedicated himself to the development of Anti-Doping in our Asian Olympic Movement. Please kindly convey my deepest condolences to his beloved family members and we all pray for his departed soul to lay in peace forever.

General Souhail Khoury, OCA Executive Board: I have learnt with great despair the passing away of our good friend, Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. Mahmoud enjoyed a pleasant personality and conducted his department in an efficient and professional manner. We will surely all miss him. Please accept my condolences and transmit my sentiments to His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, President OCA, and to his family and to the extended OCA family.

Abdulla Al Mulla, OCA Coordination Committee member, Director of Doha 2006 Protocol Department: With reference to the sad and very shocking news, I am very sorry to hear about Mr. Mahmoud's sudden death and would like to express my deepest and heartfelt sympathies to all of you at the OCA and his family in this most difficult of times. This is a great loss for us as Mr. Mahmoud was a highly valuable and respected member of OCA and had the warmest character. He was a brother and a great friend to all of us. May the god help his family and give the loved ones strength to overcome this situation.

Taha Sulaiman Al-Kishry, Asia Swimming Federation Director General: I was deeply saddened and shocked to hear the sudden news of brother Mahmoud passing away. While words are not sufficient consolation for the bereaved family and OCA friends, I request that my heartfelt condolences be conveyed to them. For the many years I have known him, he has always been the generous, engaging and deeply humane being you can only appreciate having as a friend and colleague. He was a great person. I would like to share the grief and sorrow of his family and express to them that many of us, including my family, will miss him a great deal. May this sharing of their sorrow help them overcome their loss. May he rest in peace.

Olivier Niamkey, Olympic Solidarity, Asia Manager: This morning all Mon Repos has one person in mind. As you know, Mahmoud was more than a colleague but a real friend and brother. He completed the MEMOS with some of us and travelled across Asia with others, and we were all shocked to learn that he left us so prematurely. This is undoubtedly a huge loss for OCA and, on behalf of our Director Pere Miro and the whole Olympic Solidarity and NOC Relations Department, we would like to present to you our sincere condolences. We all join the OCA family in this difficult and sad time. May his sole rest in peace and Mahmoud will remain in our memories.



Remembering Mahmoud

Tributes from around the world

Dr. Waqar Ahmad, Deputy Director General, Rehabilitation & Treatment, Pakistan Sports Board; Chairman, Anti-Doping Organization of Pakistan: It was really shocking to hear about the sudden demise of our colleague Mahmoud Ali. It is indeed a great loss to all of us and the Anti-Doping Community. Mr. Mahmoud was a pleasant and accommodating personality. We are deeply saddened that we will not have him with us anymore. I convey my sincerest condolence to all the anti-doping community as well as his family on my behalf and on behalf of the Anti-Doping Organization of Pakistan. May God rest his soul in eternal peace!

Michel & Wafa Aboul-Zelof (acquaintances of Mahmoud): Both my wife and I were shocked after hearing the sad news of losing such a fine Gentleman as Mahmoud. We met him back in China for a few hours but he left us with so much positive attitude, and unforgettable friendly advice that we carried with us while staying in Macau. Please convey our deepest condolences to both his family and to his OCA family. May our Lord bless his soul.

Dr. Lotfali Pourkazemi, President of Sports Medicine Federation of Iran, Secretary General of Iran-NADO: I was shocked and saddened to hear the sad news on the death of Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. I am deeply sorry. Please accept my deepest sympathy.

Wei Jizhong, Honorary Life Vice President, OCA: I am very sad to be informed that Mahmoud passed away. We cannot forget him in our heart. He had a radiant and shining personality. He was a hard-working staff member who established the OCA's Anti-Doping Department, and this benefited the future development. May god bless eternal peace to him.

Charles Lo Keng Chio, President, Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China, Chairman, OCA Media Committee: It was with deep sorrow and consternation to learn about the loss of our friend, Dr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. Dr. Mahmoud made a valuable contribution to the development of doping control in Asia. His dedication has had a profound effect in the field of his chosen profession. It was my honour to have had the opportunity to meet him. For this unfortunate occurrence, I, on behalf of the Board of the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China express with the deepest regret and our heartfelt sympathies to all of you at the OCA and his family.



Rita Subowo, IOC Member, President, Indonesian Olympic Committee, Member, OCA Executive Board: We are truly shocked to hear the terrible news of the untimely demise of Mr Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. We share your great sadness in losing a very active participant of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) for the Asian continent. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. May he rest in peace.

Bahram Afsharzadeh, Secretary General, NOC of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chairman, OCA Information and Statistics Committee: We are tremendously lamented to have heard of the demise of a noble sports figure and a sincere colleague of ours, Mr Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. On this very sorrowful occasion, please convey my heartfelt messages of condolences to all my colleagues in OCA as well as his bereaved family members. May his soul rest in peace and eternity and God Almighty shower his soul with His best blessings.

Bakhodir Khusankhodjaev KH, Head of International Relations Department, Olympic Solidarity Course Director, NOC Uzbekistan, MEMOS XIII: Please accept our deep condolences over the loss of our dearest friend and beloved colleague Mahmoud Ali. He shared his life with each of us and enjoyed each minute with his friends and colleagues as though we were the closest members of his family. This is a big loss for the Asian sports family because Mahmoud made a huge contribution toward the development of anti-doping in the Asian continent – and he really succeeded. On behalf of the Uzbekistan sports society, please send our deepest condolences to his family.



Dr. Jaffer Al-Muthaffer, OCA, International Relations: Words cannot explain my pain and heart break from your loss. You were a great example for all of us. Yes, you were an example of a dear brother and a polite human being in your work and behaviour. And a model witness to moral values. We miss your continuous smile in OCA. You have embraced your destiny...and you remain in our minds and our hearts. I will never forget the days we spent together in all the competitions and Games. It changed my life. My dear brother Mahmoud, I am unable to write more about you as the words are not enough. I cannot say anything else apart from "We are from God and will return to God".

Sulaiman Qabazard, Kuwait Diving Team, Head Coach: He is my spiritual guidance during my good and bad days. Every time I see him I feel the positive energy from him which makes our gathering more enjoyable. I still really feel his good spirit around me. Miss you.

Moses Okafor, Sports Coordinator, OCA: There is a saying that "good guys finish first" - and this is most certainly true of Mahmoud, or "DOC" as we called him affectionately. He touched everyone with his caring personality that could not go unnoticed every time you met him. Even now the news of his demise feels like a bad rumour that will soon pass, and I could see him walk right through the door and hear him say "Salam" as he would normally do, standing and holding the door, with a smile on his face. But as the days go by it is gradually sinking in that this is for real. I think everyone should have a friend and colleague like you, Mahmoud. You are so much fun to be with and you are such a good person. You crack me up with laughter and touch my heart with your kindness. You have a wonderful ability to know when to offer advice and when to sit in support. You are one of a kind. I am really fortunate to have met you. Good guys finish first...you have lived a good life and your memory will forever remain in our hearts.

Remembering Mahmoud

Tributes from around the world

Eng. Habib Macki, IOC member, OCA Executive Board member, Vice Chairman, Oman Olympic Committee: It is with extreme sadness that I learned about the sad and untimely death of Mr Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. I take this sad moment to convey my sympathy and condolences on this irreparable loss. The deceased will always be remembered for his valuable contribution and significant role in putting in place and developing of solid traditions of anti-doping activity in Asia. 'To Allah we belong, and to Him we shall return.'

Hilal Ali Al Sinani, Secretary General, Oman Olympic Committee: It is with deepest sympathy that, on behalf of Oman Olympic Committee, I convey to Your Excellency our condolences on the sad demise of a prominent figure of OCA, Mr Mahmoud Khalifah Ali.

The professional input contributed by the deceased towards setting up the OCA's doping control department and his effective role in this important activity will always remain as an admirable memory of how outstandingly he dedicated himself to the cause of sports and will also be proudly remembered by his colleagues in OCA and elsewhere in Asia. 'To Allah we belong, and to Him we shall return.'

Nasser Nassiri, Vice President, World Association of Kickboxing Organisations (IF), President, WAKO Asian Continental Division:

We are saddened to hear the tragic news of the demise of Mr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. Please transmit the condolences of myself, of WAKO and of WAKO's Asian members to the family of Mr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali and to the OCA family. I personally used every possible opportunity to learn as much as I could from Mr. Mahmoud, who was always available for sharing with us his knowledge and experiences in the particular field of Anti-Doping. We share this tragic time with his family and friends to whom I am sending our sincere thoughts and prayers. The Asian sport family will miss forever Mr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali.

Mongolia NOC: Mongolia NOC is deeply saddened by the sudden demise of a great man, a great guy, a great friend of us all: Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. His sense of humour, flavoured with his engaging smile, and most importantly his full dedication to his job, wide knowledge and friendship, will be eternally in our hearts!

From: Dr. D. Zagdsuren (NOC President), Mr. Oto (Secretary-General), Mr. Ts Damdin (Vice President), Ms. P. Tungalag (Sports and Games Division), Mr. N. Tsogtsaikhan (CEO of MGL NADO), Mr. Ch. Nasanbat (Coordinator of NOC Medical Commission & Chief Medical Doctor for National Teams) on behalf of Mongolia NOC, Mongolian Sports Medicine Federation, Mongolian National Anti Doping Center and the Mongolian Olympic Family.

H.E. Shahed Reza, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait, Member, OCA International Relations Committee: The sudden passing away of Mr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali is not only shocking but a great loss, not only to his family but the whole Asian sports family. He was a very humble man, loved by all.

Vath Chamroeun, Secretary General, NOC Cambodia: It is with a great sense of regret I received the message concerning the passing away of Dr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. I wish, on behalf of the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia, to express our sincere condolences to his family, the OCA and Olympic family at large. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

H.E. Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Secretary General, Qatar Olympic Committee: It is with deep sadness that we heard about the loss of Mr Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. The Qatar Olympic Committee expresses its sincere and heartfelt condolences to Mr Mahmoud's family, colleagues and friends at the Olympic Council of Asia.

Dr. Mohammad Reza Sharif: We all lost a brother, an expert colleague and a very devoted man for OCA. I will never forget when I met him he had a vision for anti-doping in Asia in 2004 - and he actually proved that anything hard is not impossible if there is devotion. I can understand how much his absence is painful for his daughters and respectful spouse because I observed his warm attitude to his family, to be a kind dad and husband and, in fact, he was. I ask God the best for his soul. I ask God to give tolerance to his family and all of us as well.

Makoto Ueki, Ph. D, Member, OCA Anti-Doping Committee: May I express my deepest grief for the loss of Mr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. He was the medical director and the outstanding leader of OCA in Kuwait. He visited most Asian countries and has made important contributions to the development of fair play in sport. His death is not only a loss for the OCA, but is also a loss of a friend who should be respected by medical and anti-doping societies in the world. With a moment of silence.

Kutubuddin Ahmed, Secretary General, Bangladesh Olympic Association: The President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, General Md Abdul Mubeen, ndc,psc, and all the members of Bangladesh Olympic Association are expressing their deepest condolence at the sad demise of Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. We remember his active contribution to the SARADO. We all are praying for the salvation of his departed soul. May Almighty ALLAH grant his family members to bear the shock.



Timur Dossymbetov and Natalya Sipovich, NOC of the Republic of Kazakhstan: We pay tribute to Mr. Mahmoud for his immense contribution to the promotion of sport and its values. We pay tribute to Mr. Mahmoud for his support when the NOC of Kazakhstan participated in the Asian Games and Asian Winter Games. He visited our country repeatedly as our friend and as Chairman of the OCA Anti-Doping Commission, and helped to make all the necessary steps in our preparation and hosting of the Asian Winter Games. Mr. Mahmoud will be for us an example of the devoted and fair service to Sports and Olympism.

Remembering Mahmoud

Tributes from around the world

Dato' Sieh Kok Chi, Honorary Secretary, Olympic Council of Malaysia: It is with deep sadness and shock that I received the sad news of the sudden demise of Mr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali (51). I had the opportunity to have close contacts with Mr. Mahmoud and found him to be very friendly, very hard-working and considerate. He assisted many NOCs in the area of doping control. Please convey my condolences and those of the Olympic Council of Malaysia to the family.

Dhruba Bahadur Pradhan, President, NOC Nepal: The NOC Nepal family received the news with a heavy heart the passing away of our dear colleague and friend Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. We recall his visit to Nepal to support our efforts to establish and further the Medical & Anti-Doping Organizations of the OCA for our region and his gentleness to help us understand the need to further establish ourselves to battle against drug abuse in sport. It is during these moments which have won him the hearts of his peers by exhibiting the passion and enthusiasm he had in raising the standards within us and the organization we work for in establishing a Medical Committee and Anti Doping Commission. We are deeply saddened to bid adieu to our dear friend Mahmoud and pray so that his soul would rest in peace and we send courage to all his family and loved ones during these difficult times.

Dr. Patrick Goh, MBBS, MSS (Sports Med), Chairman, Anti-Doping Singapore, Board Member, SEARADO: It is with great shock and sadness that we in Singapore's anti-doping fraternity learned of Mahmoud's sudden demise. I have personally known him for the last four to five years through our work in anti-doping. He was consistently assisting us in South-East Asia as we were setting up our regional anti-doping organisation, over the years he became to us much more than just the office he represented, but a friend and a mentor as well. He was a true gentleman, always sincere and humble in helping us in our efforts to fight doping in the region. He was generous with his ideas and willingly shared his experience and knowledge to benefit us. I consider him to be a personal friend. Personally, and on behalf of Anti-Doping Singapore, we would like to offer our deepest condolences to you. His passing is a great loss to the world of clean sport and his legacy will not be forgotten. He will certainly be missed by many.



Aliya Alisheva, Kyrgyz NADO and NOC of Kyrgyzstan Republic: We are deeply saddened by the news of Dr. Mahmoud's untimely death. He was a man of great insight and personality, and his death is a great loss for all of us. A good and great man dedicated to others and always with plenty of enthusiasm and joy to communicate to others. He will be very much missed. May Allah be merciful for his soul!



Andrey Kryukov, Member, OCA Rules Committee, Secretary General, Kazakhstan Swimming Federation: The shocking news grieved me to the innermost of my heart. Mahmoud is my brother. His sudden loss is impossible to accept. With his passing we are losing a part of our lives which nobody will ever be able to replace. He was a brave man, never scared to tell the truth, and who was always an absolutely honest person. It will be difficult to live on without him. Mahmoud was a remarkably kind person. I know perfectly well how he made an effort to help out people who were around him, regardless of their status in society and position. I know that he was a good family man, and his loss has produced an enormous sorrow and trial for his family. Farewell worthy Doctor. You will always be around us.

Manuel Gonzalez and Alfonso Sanchez, OCA IT auditors: We are deeply moved by the sudden passing away of Mahmoud. Our deepest condolence to his family and all the OCA family for the great loss of our friend Mahmoud.

Kwon Kyung Sang, Secretary General, Incheon Asian games Organizing Committee: On behalf of the Incheon Asian Games Organizing Committee I would like to convey my deepest condolences to all members of the OCA who are mourning the sudden demise of Mr. Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. Everyone at IAGOC is saddened and shocked by the tragic news as his presence in Incheon only a few days ago is still vivid in our memory. We, IAGOC, pay tribute to his dedication and efforts to clean sport which had greatly benefited the whole Asian sports world moving towards clean sport. Our hearts and prayers go out to his bereaved family members. With heartfelt sympathy.

Kazuhiro Hayashi, WADA, Tokyo: I am very, very sorry to hear of Mahmoud's passing. Still now I am lost for words and cannot accept his passing. I have been depending on him since I came to my WADA Tokyo office and we have travelled, worked and enjoyed many happy times together. I cannot forget his kindness and consideration to everybody, anytime, anywhere. I cannot possibly put my sincere gratitude into words.

Leslie Buchanan, Anti-Doping Director, International Triathlon Union: Please give my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mahmoud Khalifah Ali. I sat on the WADA Education Committee with Mahmoud. He always brought an intelligent and friendly voice to the discussions. He will be missed.

Mahmoud Khalifah Ali – A Special OCA Tribute



Mahmoud, Rob Koehler and Abdulhadi Mohammad, OCA Public Relations, attend a GCC and Yemen RADO meeting

A Tribute To My Brother Mahmoud

Today is a day to remember a tragic fall
Of someone that was fond to us all.
A life taken far too early
There must have been a reason, surely.

While hearts will carry a heavy beat
May his laughter and kindness remain so sweet.
Because today is a celebration of an amazing man
That was always willing to lend a helping hand.

He touched the hearts of many
And his love was plenty.
His love for his family was shared with us all
Of which he was always proud to stand tall.

A man that was relentless in his mission
And would never stop until it came to fruition.
He would want us to continue the task at hand
And never make our lives bland.

We will never say farewell to you
This is a promise we can make come true.
You will always be around us
As we celebrate your strength and trust.

A community you have, to continue this mission
To celebrate your ambition.
For every time we gather here or there
We will celebrate your life with love and a tear.

Rob Koehler, Director Education & Program Development, WADA.
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