

I dream of becoming a professional football freestyler: Ummu Kulzoom



The performance videos of this Bharata Mata College student have become quite popular on social media

Deepa Soman

Kerala is known for its obsession with football and now youngsters here also seem to be taking up freestyle football performances seriously. Many can be seen attempting freestyle tricks on social media pages these days and among them, KA Ummu Kulzoom, a third-year B Com student of Bharata Mata College, has been making a mark with her smooth moves, which are also winning her numerous followers and views.

It's not been very long since the high-achieving youngster, who is known as kulzu-freestyle in the online world, began trying her hand at the sport. However, the 20-year-old has already been demonstrating many interesting tricks, from the basic 'Around the World' to difficult ones like 'Vee stall' that requires many hours of practice.

Kulzoom calls herself an amateur performer with big dreams, and says she always loved football. She recalls, 'At school level, I was a athlete who focused on running and jumps. But I grew up playing football with my dad, brother and sister, and we used to play every day. I had even attempted some trials to become a footballer, but I didn't get many opportunities in my childhood. My love for the game, however, wasn't affected by that.'

A die-hard fan of Paul Pogba and Son Heung-min, she chanced upon freestyle football online, on the profile of her friend Hadiya. "I was inspired by the videos that she often shares and wanted to try the moves. That's how I started. It took me almost two months to learn 'Around the World', which generally people pick up easily. But I didn't give up," says the youngster.

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Her family also wasn't too thrilled about her obsession, in the beginning, says Kulzoom. "There were questions like, 'Isn't education more important than pursuits like this?' and 'Where can it take you at the most?'. However, when they saw that I was serious about it and wasn't going to give up, they understood it means a lot to me. And once many started appreciating me, they too, joined in," says the freestyler, who practises her tricks every day for at least one hour.

Kulzoom says she wants to learn tricks like LATW (Lemmens Around The World) and AATW (Abbas Around The World) next. "They might even take around three hours of practice daily and even result in injuries. I dream of becoming a professional freestyler, so none of it matters. After graduation, I'm thinking of enrolling myself in a sports college or even go abroad to pursue better opportunities in my passion," says the determined youngster.

This is just the story. I hope work going.



Anupam Tripathi (centre) with Park Hae-soo (left) in a still from the show

Mihir Bhargava

From pursuing music and acting in plays in India, to doing small roles in South Korean television shows and films, actor Anupam Tripathi's career graph has been interesting. However, 2021 changed everything for him. The world went crazy over *Squid Game*, and Anupam's character of the Pakistani migrant worker Abdul

Ali received a thumbs-up from viewers. Still coming to terms with the popularity, Anupam says that the response was totally unexpected. "We knew we had created a good show. But the reception was phenomenal. Delhi-lad, who is now looking forward to more roles that let him show his potential.

In his journey from Delhi to Seoul, Anupam went from harbouring dreams of joining the National School of Drama (NSD), to pursuing performing arts at the Korea National University of Arts. What has kept him going is his passion for acting. "I was originally interest-

SO IN ENTERTAINMENT ACROSS INDIA ALSO BEGAN AROUND 9 PEOPLE DISCUSSING MY CHA REGAR

ed in music and watching learning class. Later, I joined an actor group by the late Anupam. He was a platform. He was a portmanteau. He was a multi-talented actor, and he was growing in time. He was also pursuing acting.

Fardeen Khan newcomer

Fardeen Khan

