The GolfHouse

GOLFER'S LIFE

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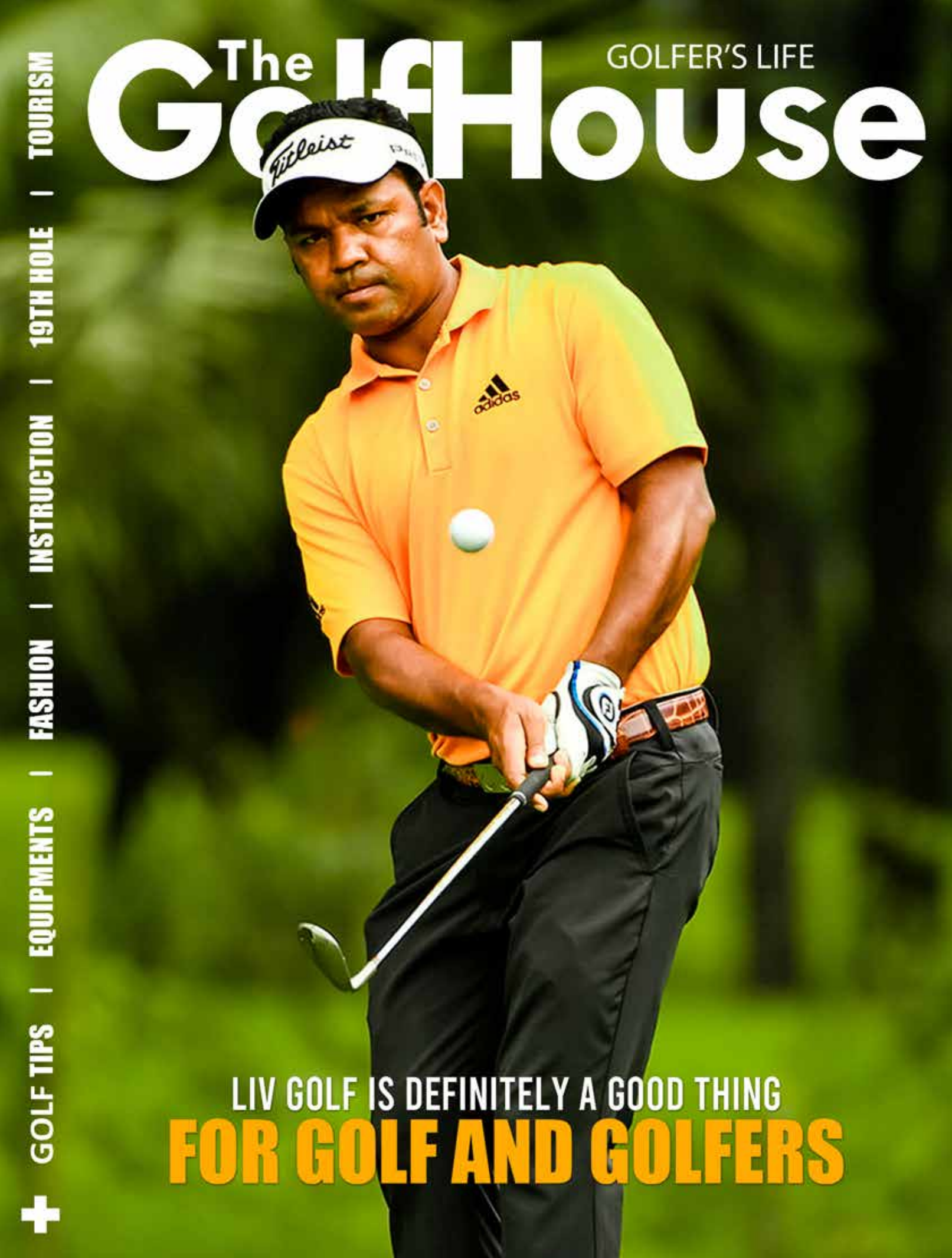

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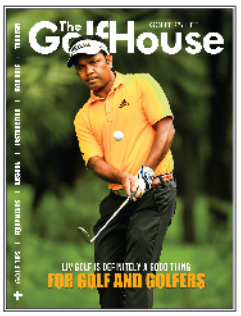

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Top golfers in the world are disavowing their allegiance to the establishment – the PGA Tour and DP World Tour – in face of the big bucks offered by LIV Golf.

EDITOR'S CHOICE



Bangladesh Golf Federation (BGF) was established in 1998 but is still crawling in the golf sector. Throughout these years, the country has found many professional golf players, but only one or two players could reach the international level.

Foreword

Dear readers,

As we all know by now, the golfing world is in the crosshairs of the LIV Golf, a Saudi Investment Fund backed golfing tour, that is shaking the game to its core.

Top golfers in the world are disavowing their allegiance to the establishment – the PGA Tour and DP World Tour – in face of the big bucks offered by LIV Golf.

Former US President Donald Trump, one of those divisive figures in the world of politics and golf, has urged the golfers to take the big bucks and dive into the LIV Golf bandwagon. Others, though, feel that the allegiance should not be broken merely by the lure of money.

It is a highly debated topic, but our take is what is good for the game and the golfers should not be suppressed. We believe professional golfers will anyhow choose what is best for them, from a career perspective as well as financial viewpoint.

We firmly believe that golfers are the life of golf and hence suppressing them or suspending them for joining one specific tour will only wedge divides in the golfing world.

We hope this chaos in golf is resolved and a point of understanding is met soon, so that golfers can focus on the game and not worry about suspension.

Till then let us observe the situation.

Nazrul Hosen Ayon
Editor

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GOLFER'S LIFE

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FAREWELL GOLF TOURNAMENT BY DDGA AND TGC

A farewell tournament organized by Dhaka Diplomatic Golf Association (DDGA) and The Tigers Golf Club (TGC) in Honour of Mr. Shekar N. Rajashekaran and MrsRajashekaran at Kurmitola Golf Club recently.

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An overall guideline

Bangladesh Golf Federation (BGF) was established in 1998 but is still crawling in the golf sector. Throughout these years, the country has found many professional golf players, but only one or two players could reach the international level. Although golf is not our local game, BGF is trying to build top-class players. Becoming a professional golfer is not a piece of cake, especially when it is not a local game.

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Smith makes name for himself in Australia

Smith's blistering second shot from 283 yards at the closing hole at that tournament nearly fell in for an albatross and marked the emergence of a talent worthy of the company of compatriots Adam Scott and Jason Day.

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McIlroy's wait for another major lingers

Rory McIlroy was left to wonder when he will end his wait to claim an elusive fifth major title after seeing the British Open slip from his grasp in a dramatic final round at St Andrews on Sunday.

CASCADES RESORT SOMABAY





Midway down Egypt's eastern coastline and bordering the shimmering Red Sea, Gary Player's first North African design opened for play in 1998. it covers a vast expanse of gently undulating desert, with the mountains to the west providing a fabulous backdrop. player is renowned for his specracular designs such as thracian Cliffs in bulgaria and the Links at Fancourt in South Africa and Somabay is no exception. The Cascades name comes from a number of lakes with waterfalls and fountains, in particular the one separating the 9th and 18th holes.

Wind is a regular companion at this exposed location, which perfectly mixes inland holes running through the dunes with a handful that border the sea. The 4th runs directly out to the beach while the fabulous par 3 that follows, and is pictured hera, is almost completely surruonded by sand. On the back nine, the 14th is another short hole played out towards the sea. The lucury hotel is very well appointed and even has a roof bar where you can look out for the area's sea eagles.



LIV GOLF IS DEFINITELY A GOOD THING FOR GOLF AND GOLFERS





Golf may not be the most popular sport in Bangladesh, but Siddikur Rahman is one of the most recognisable sporting personalities of the country. Once a ball-boy at the Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka, Siddikur is now the face of Bangladesh golf, having won two Asian Tour events apart from numerous other titles. The 38-year-old spends a busy time around the year and hence doesn't often get the opportunity to celebrate an occasion like Eid with his family and friends in the country. This time, though, Siddikur sted in Dhaka, enjoying a break while waiting for the next event.

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, Siddikur spoke to TheGolfHouse regarding his Eid memories from childhood, his upcoming assignments and the divisive new golf venture that is LIV Golf.

Q. Eid Mubarak. How is your Eid going?

A. Eid Mubarak. It's been going fine Mash'Allah.

Q. Where are you spending your Eid?

A. I'm spending this Eid in Dhaka after so many years. Usually we offer our Qurbani in our ancestral home and most of my family members– my mother, brothers, their wives and children -- have gone there already. We have a lot of relatives there. However, I had some important job here, so I stayed back. But it feels good to be in Bangladesh this Eid.

Q. What was the last time you celebrated an Eid-ul-Azha in Bangladesh?

A. I can't remember actually. I don't get to spend Eid at home most often these days as there are usually tournaments taking place at this time of the year. Lucky that there isn't any event going on right now.

Q. What's your plan for the Eid day?

A. First thing is going for the prayers in the morning. Then I'll video call my family and see how things are going there. Later, I'll go to my mother-in-law's place with my wife. My mother-in-law and sister-in-law are there. So we'll spend the day with them. I'll call up people from the Kurmitola Golf Club.

Q. What's the difference between Eid now and Eids when you were young?

A. It was a lot different back then. I used to work at the club (KGC). None of the people where we stayed in the cantonment area had the ability to sacrifice an animal back then. So we used to roam around





and see how things were going. Those who had the ability to perform the sacrifice, used to share meat with us and invite us for having meal with them. It was a lot different then from what it is now.

Eids in childhood were very different in general. Now I can't eat excessive meat or fatty items even if I want to in order to maintain fitness.

Q. So what are on your menu on Eid days?

A. The things that most people eat, like semai, khichuri, beef, mutton, chicken but obviously Eid cooking tastes a little different from regular ones. I eat all of these items, but not in an excessive amount.

Q. Do you have any favourite item?

A. I usually like meat a lot. I like semai, cooked in the morning on Eid days, with a lot of milk in it. Then of course, khichuri with beef bhuna. These items I like most.

Q. Who cooks these dishes the best?

A. I like my mother's cooking the most. My wife and my mother-in-law cook very well too.

Q. Let's hear about your golfing plans now



before we end this interview. What's next for you?
A. Well, currently the club is closed so a few days' rest for me. The last I played an event was in Korea last month. It wasn't that great, but not too bad either. I had a plan to go for a short training in the USA in the middle of this month, but suddenly I got an invite from the European Tour. It was a welcome surprise for me as I didn't play on the European Tour since the pandemic. The event will be held in England, it's called Cazoo Classic and I'm really excited to go there. I may play another event on the European Tour subsequently before returning to Asia for three tournaments early next month– one in Indonesia, one in Singapore and another one in Korea.
Q. The world of golf is currently divided into two blocs over LIV Golf bankrolled by Saudi Arabia. A lot of top players from the PGA Tour and the European Tour are opting for Liv Golf and being subsequently being suspended by those two golfing establishments. What is your take on the situation?
A. I don't understand the reasoning behind golfers being sanctioned by the tours over their involvement in LIV Golf. Every golfer should have the right to choose to play any tour, depending on his merit and will. Banning players for that is not the right thing to do. LIV Golf is offering huge amounts of money to golfers, so they obviously choose this tour over others and there is no wrong in that in my opinion. LIV Golf has so much financial might that other tours won't stand a chance in a fight with them. Asian Tour has been tremendously boosted by the association with LIV Golf. PGA Tour and European Tour, too, will benefit if they work hand in hand with LIV Golf. I believe if players are allowed to make their individual decisions, it will eventually benefit the game and the players. So I'm definitely in favour of LIV golf and any new venture in golf that benefits golfers.



FAREWELL GOLF TOURNAMENT BY DDGA AND TGC



A farewell tournament organized by Dhaka Diplomatic Golf Association (DDGA) and The Tigers Golf Club (TGC) in Honour of Mr. Shekar N. Rajashekaran and Mrs Rajashekaran at Kurmitola Golf Club recently.

Around 40 amateur golfers participated in this friendly tournament.

President of Tiger Golf Club Dhaka, HE Mustafa Osman Turan, Ambassador of the Turkish Embassy in Dhaka, Alternate President HE LEE Jang-keun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Dhaka, Manzur Qader, vice-president, and Peter Ko, Golf captain were present on the occasion along with others guests.

Tiger Golf Club started its journey in 2009. The members of this club are foreign expats, diplomats and local enthusiasts. DDGA AND TGC conduct tournaments regularly. They arrange farewell tournaments for those who depart the country. On average DDGA AND TGC organizing at least 2/3 three tournaments each quarter and they have a program for organising tournaments in different countries. Through this initiative diplomats and expats take home good memories of Bangladesh and Bangladesh golf.









DDGA & TGC

Galleries





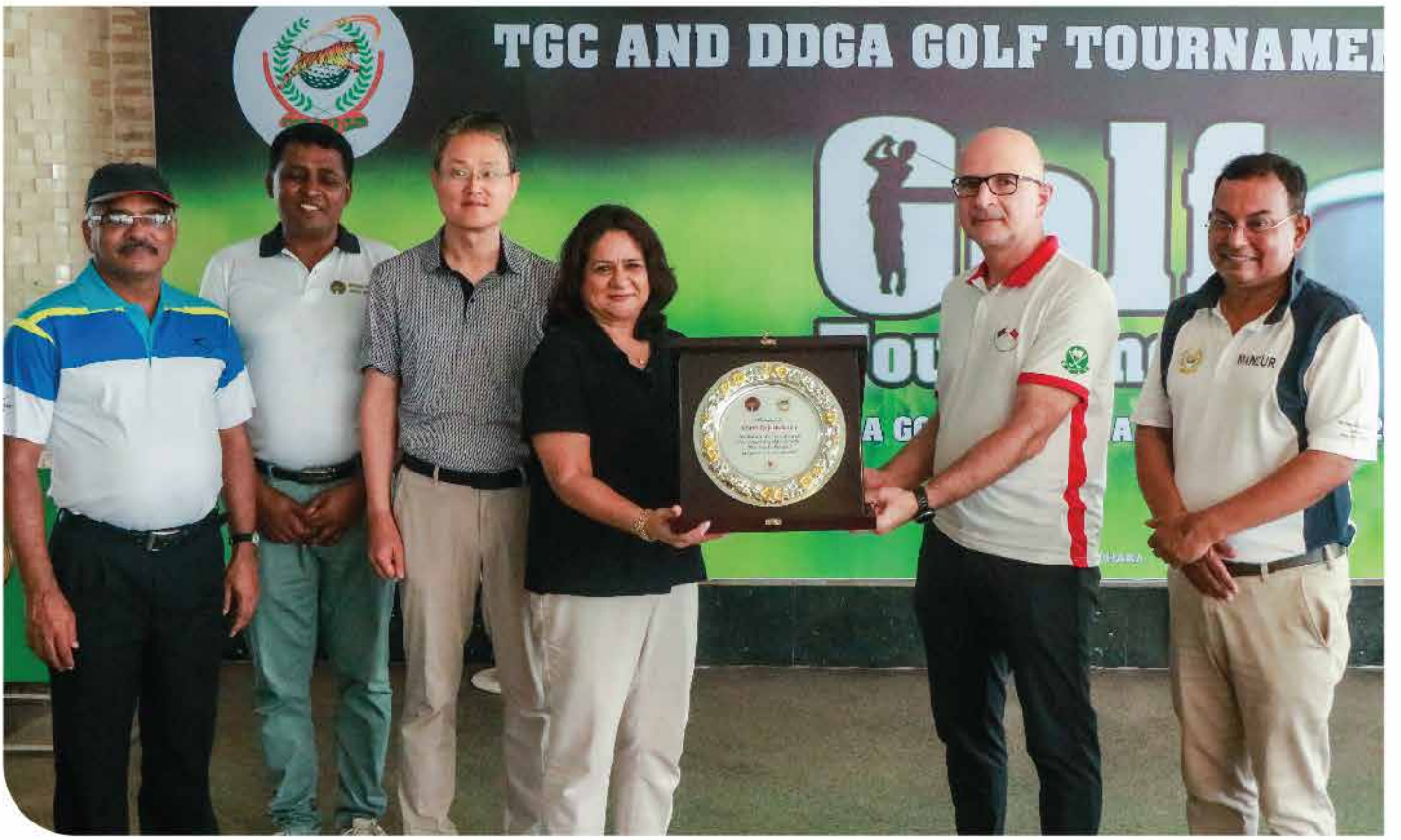









KURMITOLA GOLF CLUB DHAKA


TGC AND DDGA GOLF TOURNAME














MANZUR








TGC AND DDGA GOLF TOURNAMENT

TREE PLANTATION KICKS OFF AT KGC



Kurmitola Golf Club authorities recently launched a tree plantation campaign adhering to a recent instruction by the Bangladesh Golf Federation.

Bangladesh Army Logistics Area Commander Major General Md Zahirul Islam, also vice-president of Kurmitola Golf Club, inaugurated the campaign as chief guest of its launching ceremony, said an ISPR press statement.

Members of the Bangladesh Golf Federation and executive committee members of Kurmitola Golf Club were present on the occasion.

The press statement said the country is experiencing a rising trend in floods, droughts, earthquakes, lightning, and tidal surges. According to environmental scientists, these natural disasters can be greatly reduced by planting trees.



The statement continued that the government undertakes a tree planting programme every year with the aim of building a green Bangladesh. Maintaining that tradition, a three-month tree planting programme was announced, running from 5 June to 12 September this year.

Following the government announcement, Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, also president of both the Bangladesh Golf Federation and Kurmitola Golf Club, initiated a tree planting campaign at the Nirjhar area of Dhaka Cantonment on 16 June.

HOW TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL GOLF PLAYER IN BANGLADESH : AN OVERALL GUIDELINE

Bangladesh Golf Federation (BGF) was established in 1998 but is still crawling in the golf sector. Throughout these years, the country has found many professional golf players, but only one or two players could reach the international level. Although golf is not our local game, BGF is trying to build top-class players. Becoming a professional golfer is not a piece of cake, especially when it is not a local game.

Enough dedication and perseverance are highly essential to become a professional golf player. If you are looking for guideline to become a professional golf player in Bangladesh, read on to get familiar.

Understand the Golf Game

While we understand the most local or popular games easily, golf is different from these. Playing golf is tricky. Therefore, you will need to understand the broker hitting the club. As a newbie or a parent who wants to teach golf to their child, you can search on Google You Tube about understanding golf. After you get acquainted with it, you may proceed to the next step.

Unlike other countries, Bangladesh's perspective is different in a golf game. So , the first thing would be taking training courses.

Golf Training Course in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Golf Academy offers tuition courses for all types of golfers regardless of the experience. So , beginners , junior golfers, and regular players can get into the tuition according to their needs.

Following are some of the tuition offered by the Bangladesh Golf Academy

Basic Golf Foundation tuition

This will get you the overall idea about golf and provide the basic knowledge you need to get in the course. Besides, you can understand more about golf and its rules, which will ultimately enhance your knowledge of golf.

Intermediate Golf Tuition

The intermediate lesson will provide a detailed introduction to the game, which will cover the basic shots and techniques. This training is great for beginners as well as experienced golfers. However, the tuition may take 2-3 days to complete.

Advance Golf Training

Advanced tuition offers more intense understanding and techniques that can make you a professional golfer in Bangladesh. Advance tuition will definitely make you ready to start regular practice on the golf course. Skill development course.

If you are an amateur golfer and lack proper skills, this tuition course will help you a sharpen your skills. However, this lesson is beneficial for both new golfers and experienced golfers. Newbies can learn the skill while professionals can hone the skills.

Golf mental skill development workshop

Like physical skills, golfers need good golf mental skills, which require consistency and effort. So , the golf mental skill development workshop will boost your visualization and vision about your overall career and golf.

Junior Golf Lesson

This is only for the kids. Hence , if you are a







parent and want your kid to play golf, the junior golf course will come in handy. Although there is no age limit to start golf, it id always recommended to start golf from a very young age.

2 hours putting course

Putting is an important part of any golf game. As a new golfer, you may not have any practical experience in putting. The two-hour training course on putting will surely develop your putting skill. However, the professional player can also take this putting lesson to shape up their putting shot.

Yearly Course for under Privileged Children Golfers

It is a free golf training course for under-privilege children golfers. Since it is not a regular activity , it held once a year if there are any underprivileged children on the ground.

Yearly Golf Coaching for Junior Golfers

Bangladesh Golf Federation usually arranges a yearly golf coaching program for the junior golfers, which may charge less than the regular coaching lessons. These training courses will kick off one's golf career. However, regular practice is a key element to the pathway of a professional golfer.

Tips you may follow

Since golf needs tremendous patience and dedication, you can follow some tips to stay motivated.

-Start playing at child age or teenaged.

-Take golf lessons, which we have mentioned already.

- Practice consistently by making a routine.

-Become master on some skills such as full swing, putting, chip, bunker, etc.

-Put your best effort to master a skill.

- Practice with a golfing partner.

-Join the golf club. Bangladesh has 13 affiliated golf clubs all over the country, and can join the nearest one.

How to become a professional golf player?

Now that you have practiced enough and have all knowledge about golf, you are ready to hit the competition. However, you will not be eligible to compete at the pro level right away. Before starting a pro career, you will have to go through some amateur tournaments, which will surely give you a competitive advantage.

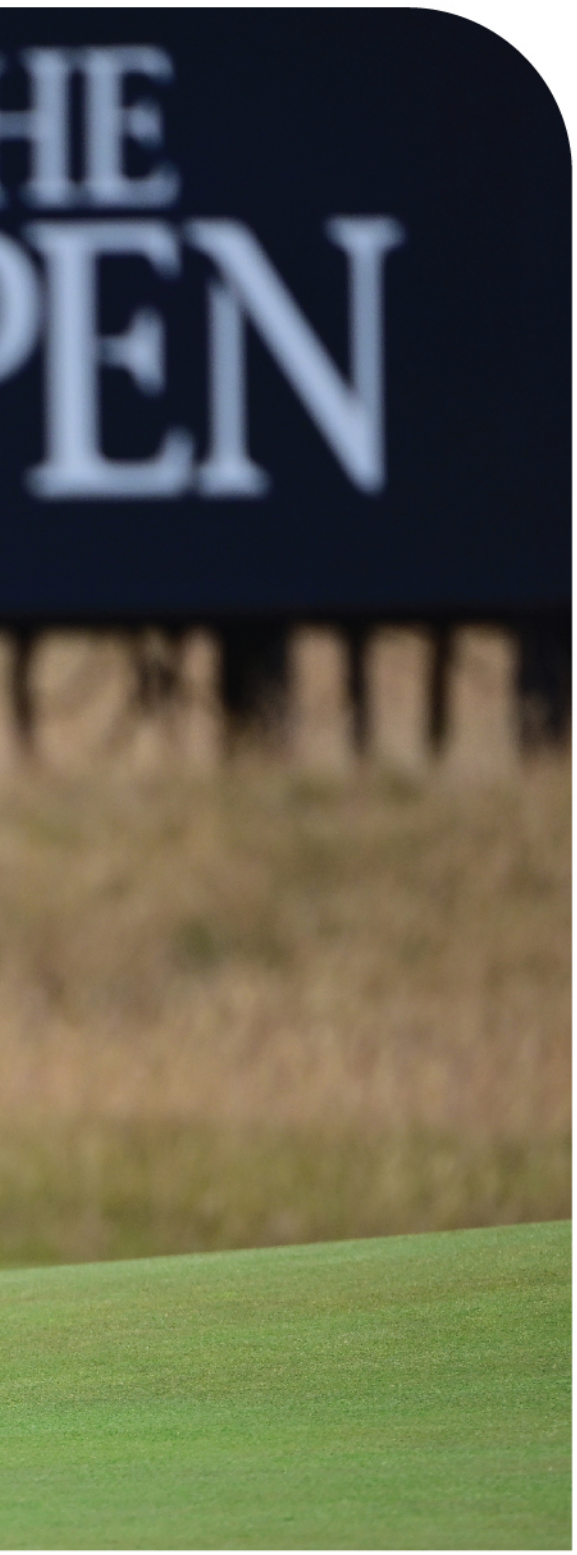
After playing in some amateur tournaments, you are ready to enlist in professional golf. Although you may not invited initially, you will need to keep patience until you get a call from any professional tournaments.

Conclusion

Golf is an elite class game, but it is fun once you get familiar with all the terms. Therefore, the guideline we have mentioned here will provide a ray to make yourself ready to become a professional golf player. However, it is a lengthy process, and that is why many people lost interest during the time. Whoever can keep their dedication along with endurance as a top priority, they will surely land on a good career. So, practice , focus, and dedication, the combination o fthes three will lesd someone to become a professional golfer.



SMITH MAKES NAME FOR HIMSELF IN AUSTRALIA





The name Cameron Smith has long resonated in sports-mad Australia but more for the achievements of a retired rugby league star than the prodigious golfing talent that tore up the back nine on the way to British Open glory.

That may be set to change after Smith's stunning one-stroke triumph at St Andrews, where the 28-year-old became the first Australian to hoist the Claret Jug since Greg Norman in 1993. Read full story

His namesake, the former Melbourne Storm, Queensland and Australia champion, may now have to become used to seeing his name bracketed with rugby league in media reports, a fate that often befell "Cameron Smith, the golfer".

Australian golf fans have long known Smith's quality and followed him closely since he finished joint fourth at the 2015 U.S. Open at Chambers Bay, won by another then-21-year-old by the name of Jordan Speith.

Smith's blistering second shot from 283 yards at the closing hole at that tournament nearly fell in for an albatross and marked the emergence of a talent worthy of the company of compatriots Adam Scott and Jason Day.

It certainly opened doors, with the top-five finish securing U.S. Tour membership for the rest of the year and an invitation to the next Masters.

With vast space for courses and a track record of producing major champions, Australia has rarely wanted for golfing talent.

But until Sunday, the biggest names had endured only frustration at the majors since Day's PGA Championship win in 2015.

Smith suffered his own heartbreak this year at the Masters where his final-day chase of eventual winner Scottie Scheffler ended abruptly when his tee-shot at the 12th splashed into Rae's Creek and led to a triple-bogey.

A collective groan rang out from the nation's newspapers the following day but on Monday, Smith was hailed as a master putter by local media which carried glowing tributes from tour rivals.

"He's tough, and he's owned his game. He's learned how to play golf very well, very quickly," said Scott.

Smith's only disappointment at St Andrews was to not have family watching green-side, a regret his father Des now shares after deciding against the long trip from Brisbane.

"There were plenty of tears, it probably got to the point where I couldn't talk any more," Des Smith told Fox Sports of a phone call he shared with his son at the clubhouse.

"It's all tiny little steps, he's gone from one stage to another and he's always excelled every time he's stepped up to another stage so I always thought he was going to win a major."

Smith's breakthrough makes the mullet-haired golfer hot property and will surely boost his value for organisers of the breakaway LIV series.

Smith bristled when asked if he was on the verge of joining LIV but did not deny reports he might be among a slew of top players about to jump ship from the U.S. Tour.

A number of Australian media pundits have criticised LIV as a 'sportswashing' vehicle for Saudi Arabian human rights abuses and claimed Smith's idol Greg Norman has damaged his legacy for spearheading it.

Having only just fulfilled his major dream and earned a nation's thanks, Smith's next career move will be closely watched, with a decision to join the Norman-backed tour unlikely to generate universal acclaim.

THE ROAD TO THE 150TH OPEN

How the game has grown from humble beginning



1860

The first open championship tool place at Prestwick, where willie Park Snr came out on top in a field of just eight. No prize money was on offer.

1873

St Andrews hosted the first open not to be contested a Prestwick. Tom Kidd was champion and the first player to be presented with the Claret Jug.

1890

Amateur John Ball Jnr was the first English-man to win The Open in its 30th staging. It was the first step in The Open becoming a national, and latterly international, event.

1892

Future Golf Monthly editor Harold Hilton won the first Open held at Muirfield and first contested over 72 holes. Previously it had been 36 holes played in a single day.

1894

Royal St George's hosted the first Open Championship to be held outside Scotland.

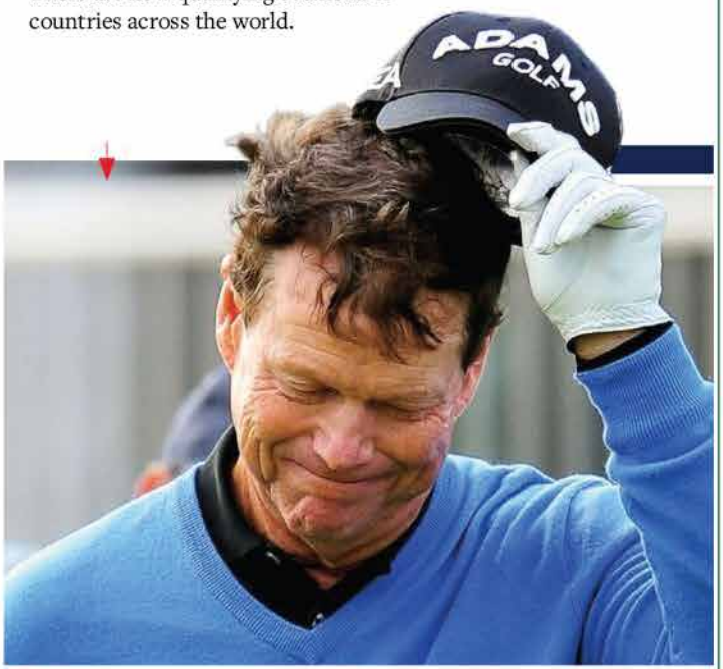
1993

The prize fund reached $ 1,000,000 for the first time. Greg Norman won at Sandwich and pocketed $100,000.



2004

International Final Qualifying was launched. There are now qualifying events in 11 countries across the world.



1974

The smaller 1.62" diameter British ball was no longer allowed in The Ioen from that point, all competitors have used the modern 1.68" ball.

1955

The Open was televised in the BBC for the first time. In 1969, the Championship was shown in colour for the first time.

2009

Tom Watson lost a play -off at Turnberry to join Harry Vardon on a record six Open titles. At 59, he would have been the oldest winner of a Major.

2019

Royal Portrush welcomed the first ticket only Open Championship. It was sold out and Irish eyes were smiling when Shane Lowry secured a home win.





1955

The Open was televised on the BBC for the first time. In 1969, the Championship was shown in colour for the first time.

1922

Walter Hagen was the first American born player to win The Open, just nine years after John McDermott was the first American born golfer to compete in the championship.

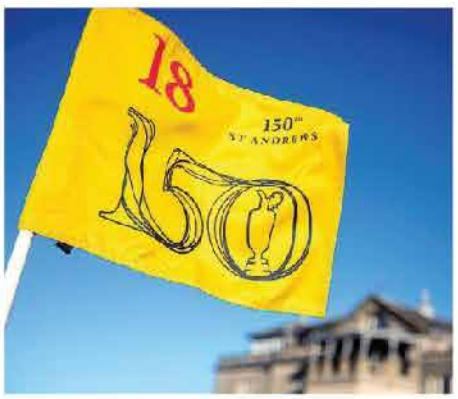


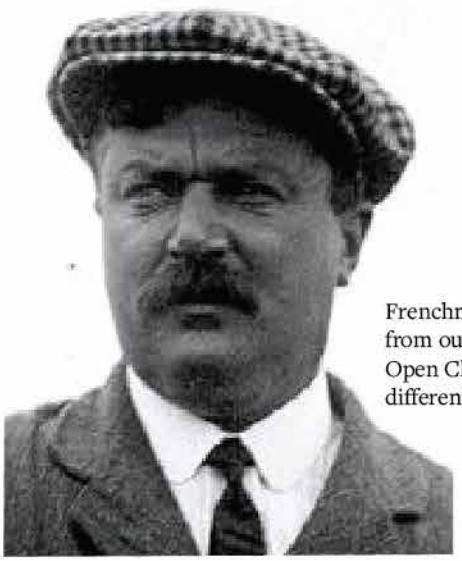
1946

The Open Championship prize fund topped $1.000 for the first time. This year it will be some 10,000 times that figure.

2021

Some 1.3 million applications from around the world go in for 290,000 tickets for the 150th Ioen at St Andrews. The Championship has come along way.





1907

Frenchman Arnaud Massy was the first golfer from outside the British lsles to win The Open Championship. Now golfers from 15 different countries have claimed victory.

FEARSOME FOURSOME



Fergus bisset selects a quartet of testing holes on the old Course that could be pivotal in the 150th open championship

The old Course at St Andrews is like no other on the Open rata, nor any other in the world for that matter. With vast double greens, extraordinary bunkering and crossover fairways, it poses a unique strategic challenge. On first inspection, many fine players over the years have been confused, even irritated, by the unusual layout. The grat amateur Bobby Jones walked off the course in frustration during the 1921 Open Championship. But Jones, like all others who invest a little more in the old Course, came to understand the subtleties and nuances of a layout that is a living and breathing embodiment of golfing history. To win at St Andrews, players must recognise and embrace the idiosyncrasies, adapt and show patience. St Andrews demands an exceptional golfing brain and that's why winners here include Nicklaus, Ballesteros, Faldo and Woods. The finish at St Andrews is known to all golf fans the iconic Road Hole and the seemingly straightforward 18th played back into town but there are other potentially pivotal holes out on the links that prospective champion must navigate successfully. Here, we pick out four holes that could prove singnigicant in deciding the outcome of the 150th open championship.





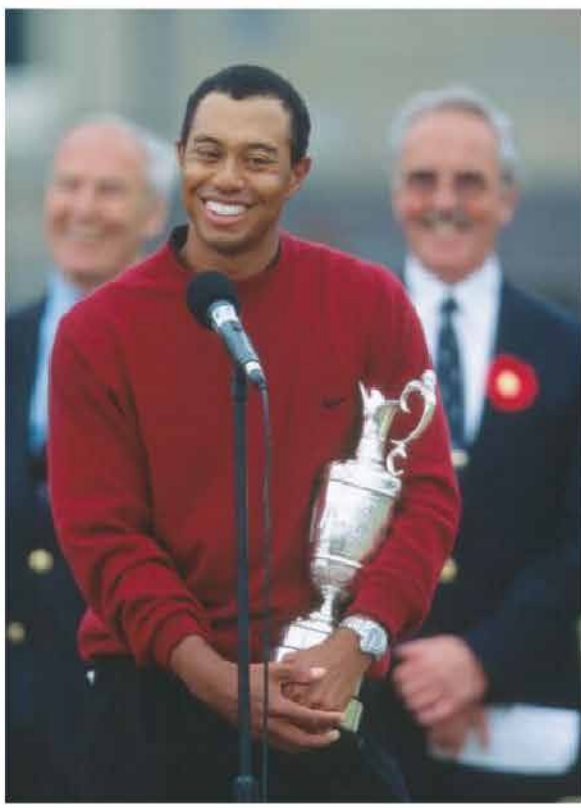
4 TH HOLE

Ginger Beer par 4, 480 yards

After the famous Road Hole 17 th, Ginger Beer normally ranks as either the second or third toughest on the course: it was join second hardest in 2015 at 4.24 for the week. If may not appear it at first glance, but this long par 4 is something of a risk/ reward hole. From the tee, the bold play is to aim down the narrow chute on the right side with a view to opening the green for the approach. But trouble waits just a little further right in the shape of bunkers short and gorse long. Anything flared out to that side could be a problem. The safe play then, as is the general theme around the old course, is to hit the wide section of fairway shared with the 15 th. This is what most of the field will do. But it isn't an easy shot. To carry the raised section of rough needs a blow o fsome 270 yards and there are bunkers to avoid too far left 'Sutherland' in the fairway and the massive 'Cottage' for a ball running on too far. From the left, the approach must carry a large mound short of the green that can cause some unfortunate bounces if a ball hits one of its slopes. It also makes it difficult to get a full sight of green an pin. There's also a challenging bunker set in the front left of the green to steer clear of. The putting surface is heavily sloping and the ball can easily run away from the cup, depending on two putt and even short range putts can be severely sloping.

KEY MOMENT

Tiger Woods was four clear of David Duval coming into this hole in the 2000 championship Duval having cut the deficit with two early birdies. Woods needed to reassert this authority. Firing in a great shot to this testing hole, he rolled in a 20 foot left- to right putt to regain a five shot advantage. He wasn't seriously challenged again and won by eight.



Woods made a timely birdie on the 4th in 2000's final round



12 TH Hole

'Heathery (in)'-par 4, 348 yards

On the card this looks an innocuous hole, even for amateur golfers. But its subtleties epitomise the perplexing challenge presented by the old Course. It's the shortest par 4 on the course, but in both 2010 and 2015 it averaged over par for the week. This is a hole that even great links specialist Tom Watson admitted to never quite getting to grips with. The longer hitters can reach the green, but an errant driver could find trouble in the gorse both left and right (see Paul Casey's downfall in 2010). There's also a cavernous bunker in the heart to the fairway just 19 yards short of the front edge of the green. It's easy for the pros to bound right up into the face of that one. For shorter hitters, or if the wind is against, the choice may be to lay up, but this is perhaps a harder shot than going for the green. Two sets of bunkers at 210 and 250 yards out are unseen from the tee, making them very easy to fall foul of if a player is trying to leave their favourite 100 yard wedge distance into the green. It's a tee shot that can lead to indecision and that often means a poor result. But a drive that's rifled down the left side of the fairway can scamper up on to the putting surface, leaving a chance for birdie and even eagle. As with any green at St Andrews, though, two putts is by no means a given. And this is a particularly challenging surface shallow and with a narrow, raised promontory across it. The pin generally sits on this raised section, so anything short or just long or right will leave a tricky put up and onto the ledge. It's a birdie chance, but also a potential banana skin.



KEY MOMENT

Paul Casey was still in with a chance of winning the 2010 open championship when he stood on the 12 th tee, just fourr behind. But going for the green, he pulled his tee shot left into the gorse and racked up a triple bogey seven. Louis ooshuizen made birdie and went on to win with ease.



13 TH Hole

'Hole o' crss (in)' par-4, 465 yard

The 13th is a very hard start to a very hard final six. It always ranks as one of the toughest holes on the course it averaged 4.31 in 2010 an then 4.18 2015, fewer birdies were recorded on this hole than the notorious 17th. Generally played into the breeze, the tee shot is a real puzzle. It's very hard to see where to hit to and that's because there's more than one option. The key hazards are the left of the fairway. Find them and it's a blast out only. Down to the right of them, the fairway is narrow and runs out to a steep bank that can make the second difficult if a ball ends at its base. Some players will opt to go over and left of the Coffins from the tee, but this will opt to likely mean a blind approach over a gorse covered mound. The second shot is played over a stretch of dead ground to a huge double green shared with the 5th. Anything coming up just short could find a testing , rough filled swale. A punishing bunker waits right, together with a large run off area, and playing long will leave a mammoth, testing putt back. In the final round of 2005, Juse Maria Olazabal caught a flier from the rough left of the 6th fairway and found himself putting back from 67 yards away. Getting this hole right requires a well executed strategy. Playing for position to the right side from the tee and then to the left of the flag on the approach is the ideal one two combination. A par here is always hard fought and welcome. Many a round has started to unravel on the 13th.

KEY MOMENT

In 2005, the 13th was playing a real brute and into the wind in the final round. Tiger was leading the way, with Monty and olazabal his closest pursuers. Both the Scot and the Spaniard dropped crucial shots at the 13th, while Tiger kept it very solid fairway, green and two putts. It set him up to cruise in for a second win at St Andrews. Mont's challenge began to unravel on the 13th in 2015



16 TH Hole

'corner of the Dyke' par 4, 418 yard

This holes is a slicer's nightmare, with out of bounds tight all down the right hand side. It's not overly long, but it consistently ranks as one of the hardest holes on the course it played to a field average if 4.24 in 2015 (joint second hardest with the 4th). The choices are pretty obvious from the tee- take on the narrow strip of fairway between the 'Principal's Nose' bunker and the OOB line or play safe, either short of the sand or over into the rough on the left side. Jack Nicklaus always aimed to be in the rough over and beyond Principal's Nose. It's safe and leaves a short shot, albeit from an uncertain lie and with a difficult angle of approach. If players opt for an iron off the tee, they'll have a longer shot in over sand, with OOB still a threat. Play the aggressive line and the bunkers could come into play, not only Principal's Nose but also 'Deacon Sime', which lurks just beyond. Avoid those and stay in bounds and a relatively simple wedge shot awaits, but it's easier said than done. Up at the green, 'Wig' bunker protects the middle front of the surface and significant swales guard short and right. Coming up just shy will leave a testing putt up a fairly steep slope onto the plateau of the green. It may not have the fame of the hole that follows, but the fear factor is almost as great down the 16th. Get it right and it could be a crucial birdie see Jack in '78.



KEY MOMENT

In 1978, Jack Nicklasus trailed New Zealand's Simon Owen by one on the 16th, but the Golden Bear played in close and holed for a superb birdie. Owen made five and Nicklaus went on to win by two his second victory at St Andrews.



THE MAGIC NUMB3R



GARRETT JOHNSTON SPEAKS TO NICK FALDO ABOUT HIS THREE OPEN WINS AND WHO COULD CONTEND AT ST ANDREWS THIS YEAR

WHAT DID THE WIN MEAN TO YOU?

It was a culmination of all that rebuild. It didn't all happen for me in my career in five minutes.I came out on tour in 1976, got to European No.l in 1983 and then I went through the rebuild through 1985-86.I came out in the spring of 1987 a different golfer and that's ll years on from turning professional. Then I finally got my Major. That was my dream as a kid, to win The Open. That's what got me started. That's what you said as a kid. Then it's funny that I ended up with a five-footer for The Open laughs. All of those lunchtimes at Welwyn Garden City hitting putts and saying "this putt to win The Open and suddenly Ive got a real one. Luckily it went in.

N1978, YOU FINISHED T7 AT YOUR FIRST ST ANDREWS OPEN. HOW WAS THAT EXPERIENCE?

It was just amazing. I loved it from the word go. Some people say, "What the heck is this place?" but l kind of got it and enjoyed it straight away. I only finished four shots back of Jack in 1978. That was when l told myself l can win the open one day; that gave me the belief. When you give yourself the belief that yes, this doable, it becomes a genuine goal. I knew l could handle that. Obviously it took nine more years until it happened. Everything gets so accentuated at St Andrews. If you miss a shot on a normal golf course, it finishes 30 feet from the hole; there, it finds a way to finish 30 yards.

from the hole, it really does. So you have to dccept that you have to be reaily good at putting from 20 and 30 yards cway. Youll get a couple of 100-Tooters the week of an open and you cant get wound up about them. You have to find a way to get it inside Six feet and knock that one in. You need a good eye to find the true line on those greens because theyre hundreds of years old.



HOW DID YOU DEAL WITH THE PRESSURE OF YOUR FIRST OPEN WIN AT MUIRFIELD IN 1987?

That was a situation where I was really focused. We had a cifficult day- it as a foggy day. pea soup. had four layers of cashmere on and the bll was flying nowhere. Absolutely nowhere. So you had to calculate all that as well. That was a situation wherel sensed I had the chance to win and I was staying in my moment- Tony Jacklin called it being in your cocoon, now we call it being in the zone. You tell yourself: "This is my little world and Im stillin this.' You realise the pressure youre under and you know that one great shot will win it and one bad shot will cost you. Sol told myself: Just keep it going, keep delivering good shot after good shot That's all tried to do.



"I WAS COMFORTABLE PLAYING THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP. I LOVED THE INTENSITY OF IT"

THE 1990 OPEN WIN AT ST ANDREWS, IT SEEMED YOU WERE A MAN ON A MISSION...

Well, I went there on a mission. I had a newer caddie in Fanny Sunesson. We had won The Masters earlier in 1990 and I finished one shot back at the US Open. Thon Iroaly went to St Andrews on a mission and O T hor wins ni nice, the course was just difficult enough and my iron shots were gredat.I hit lots of really good iron shots that weck and the mission was to go out and shoot 67 overy day.I set that as a goal, as a number, and then came up l8 with a five-shot ledd Inat meant could actually really enjoy it, look around and soak up that whole feeling.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT WINNING AT MUIRFIELD IN 1992?

I found out what it felt like to blow it. I got to the knife's edge and kept frittering shots away just by silly mistakes. I three-putted 13.I blocked a 1- iron on 14 into the bunker. I kept going back to the bag and telling Fanny: " I' m alright, I'm just screwing up. But I'm alright." I just kept making mistakes. Then I managed to give Myself a good talking to from the 14th green to the 15th toe. it's funny. I said: Forget everything, it gone, it really is history. It doesn't matter. It's almost like it hasn't even happened. You've now got four holes to play, you better play the best golf of your life. And just about did. The 5, 4 and 3-irons I hit on l5, l6 and I7 were the three best iron shots of my career. So managed to finish two-under-par for the last four and snuck in. If not, I would have known what it's like to blow a Major. I've lost Majors, but wasn't scarred by the losses fortunately. But that one I would have been.

WHAT PLAYERS HAVE A CHANCE TO PLAY WELL AT ST ANDREWS?

We have a very interesting thing now with how far they're hitting it. Poor old St Andrews really is at the mercy of these longer hitters. You could start taking it to ridiculous levels if the conditions were right- you Went out With some helping wind, and came in with some helping wind. It would not Surprise me if someone had a go at the 1st hole. If you can land it 320 or 330 on a rock- hard fairway, the next bounce would be 360 or 370. Even if you hit it in the burn, you'd only be 25 feet from the flag, so you just drop it there and go. I can remember how close they came at the 2nd Iast time. You can definitely drive the 3rd. On 6 you could get so close that you could putt it. Anything from nine to 12 greens you could get really close to in one. If somebody got the right wind, helping everywhere, then something crazy could happen at St Andrews. Somebody could shoot 60 or 59. The only protection is the wind, really firm greens and maybe some very tight hole locations. I don't think we want some really crazy scoring on such a gem of a course.

A STRATEGIC TEST

All the slopes, angles into the greens and so many ridges and rolls make the Old Course one of the most strategic layouts in the game. When those greens get firm, which they should be, and you're in the breeze, you've got to calculate all that. It's going to land here, bounce to there and run to somewhere else. Amazingly, coming down that 7th green, even with a wedge it can be 25 yards that it runs out. So you land it in a spot and feed it in. It's amazing. there's nothing like that in golf. You can land 25 yards short on any golf course and it's well and truly missing the green, isn't it? You're also playing on ground that can be rock hard, and dust comes up. All of those things are great. So you've got to be a great bal-striker to play a links course. I liked doing all of those calculations. Just because it's 170 yards people think they have to grab a certain club, but when you're downwind and landing on the downslope, that could mean a variety of things. Your landing spot could now very easily only be 150 if you're downwind. Then you think that's a wedge, but if you mishit your wedge then the entire shot doesn't happen. So you have to hit the right shot and execute.

WHAT FOND MEMORIES DO YOU HAVE OF THE OPEN OUTSIDE YOUR WINS?

Well all of them from the early days. Tom Watsons win. I was in the grandstand in 1975 when Watson holed that putt to tie on the 72nd hole at Carnoustie. Was sitting right there and it was coming right at me. Things like that were amazing. I sat on the rang back in the day when literally you could Sit on the ground behind him as he was hitting a bunch of 1-irons, so I'll never forget moments like that. Then l played decently at Troon when he won again. I knew I was comfortable playing The Open Championship. that was the cool thing. I loved the intensity of it, it made me play better and I had lots of good finishes before Started winning.



SO WHO WOULD YOU EXPECT TO CONTEND FOR THE TITLE?

It's the bombers and good drivers. But there are some who are sneaky long, who hit it low and it runs Out there, I Jon Rahm, like his chances. The guy who gets it on the ground and runs it -you can run it 60,80,100 yards on some holes. Guys who can drive it well, they1 just drive it and then bump and run it on to the greens. You can putt it from 60 yards off the green at St Andrews on a couple of holes. When it plays a littie cold and windy there, every hole you feel the wind into your face, so it plays pretty tough. There's the 320 club with DJ and Rory. They'll just hit drives and all the scrambling will be right in front of them, it really will. I think there are a lot of guys who can do that.



MCILROY'S WAIT FOR ANOTHER MAJOR LINGERS



Rory McIlroy was left to wonder when he will end his wait to claim an elusive fifth major title after seeing the British Open slip from his grasp in a dramatic final round at St Andrews on Sunday.

The Northern Irishman had been in a share of the lead overnight alongside Norway's Viktor Hovland and reached the turn in his fourth round in front on his own by a margin of two strokes.

A first major since 2014 seemed a certainty at that point and he went on to post a bogey-free 70 to finish on 18 under par for the week.

However, it was ultimately in vain as Cameron Smith surged away with a 64 to take the Claret Jug on 20-under.

"At the end of the day, it's not life or death. I'll have other chances to win the Open Championship and other chances to win majors," McIlroy insisted.

"It's one that I feel like I let slip away, but there will be other opportunities."

While Smith went on a remarkable run of five straight birdies from the 10th on Sunday, McIlroy saw a series of birdie putts come up agonisingly short or just miss.

He ended up having to settle for third place after also seeing Cameron Young climb above him to finish as the runner-up and take half a million dollars more in prize money.

"I'll rue a few missed putts that slid by. But it's been a good week overall," McIlroy insisted.

"I can't be too despondent because of how this year has gone. I'm playing some of the best golf I've played in a long time. So it's just a matter of keeping knocking on the door, and eventually one will open."

The 33-year-old had arrived in St Andrews as the favourite, in part because of his status but also because of his superb form this year.

McIlroy was the runner-up behind Scottie Scheffler in the Masters in April, came eighth at the PGA Championship at Southern Hills in May, and then tied fifth at last month's US Open.

He also won the Canadian Open just before heading to Brookline.

There is a strong case to say that McIlroy has been the most consistent player anywhere this year, even if he fell just short in the majors.

"I've just got to keep putting myself in position, keep putting myself in there. And whenever you put yourself in that shining light, you're going to have to deal with setbacks and deal with failures," he said after coming off the Old Course on Sunday.

"Today is one of those times. But I just have to dust myself off and come again and keep working hard and keep believing."

He appeared unstoppable in the early years of his career, when he romped to victory in the US Open in 2011, cruised to victory in the PGA Championship the following year and then won the British Open at Hoylake in 2014 before adding another PGA title a few weeks later.

Incredibly, his major drought since then is going to extend into a ninth year, although he has now had nine top-five finishes in majors in the intervening period.

"I've been close and I keep knocking on the door. I can't get too down on myself because the game is there. It's just a matter of staying patient," he said.

There is sure to be an adrenaline comedown after this week, and with the major season now over for 2022, McIlroy plans a short break before the FedEx Cup playoffs next month, starting with the St Jude Championship in Memphis, Tennessee.

"I've got three weeks off. I'm not going to play again until the first playoff event in Memphis," he said.

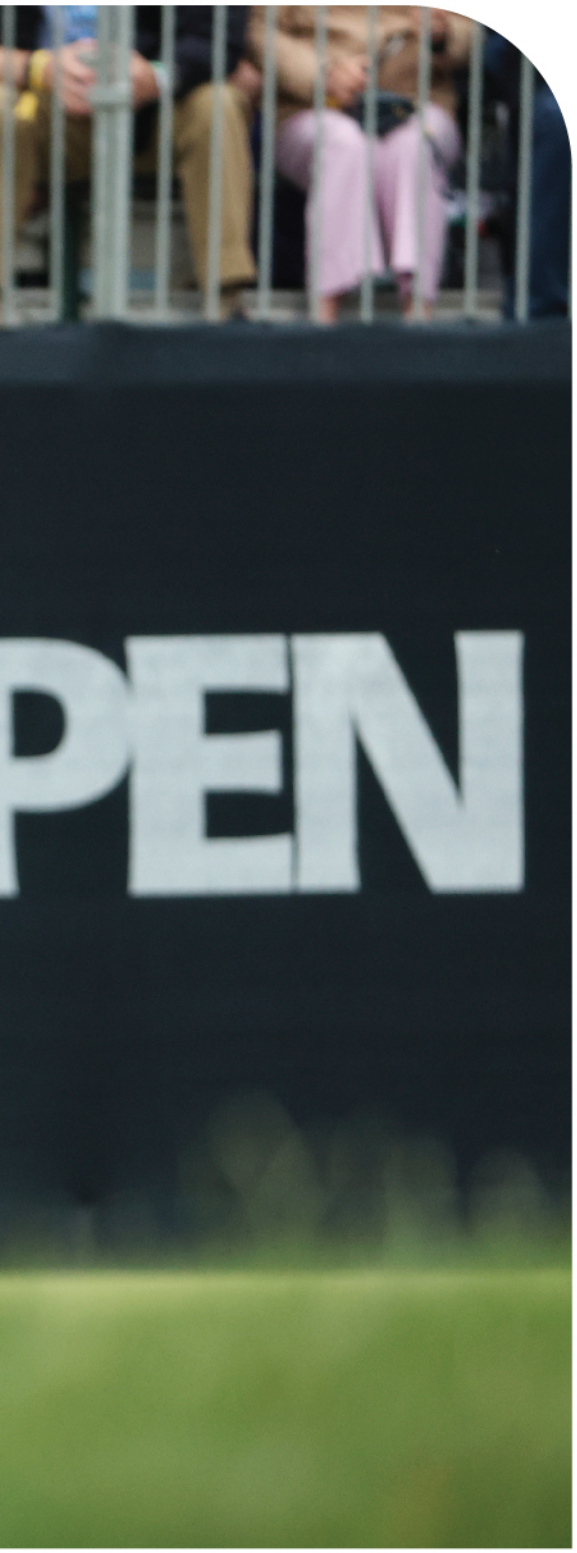
"I've got a bit of time to rest and recover and try to take the positives, learn from the negatives, and move on.

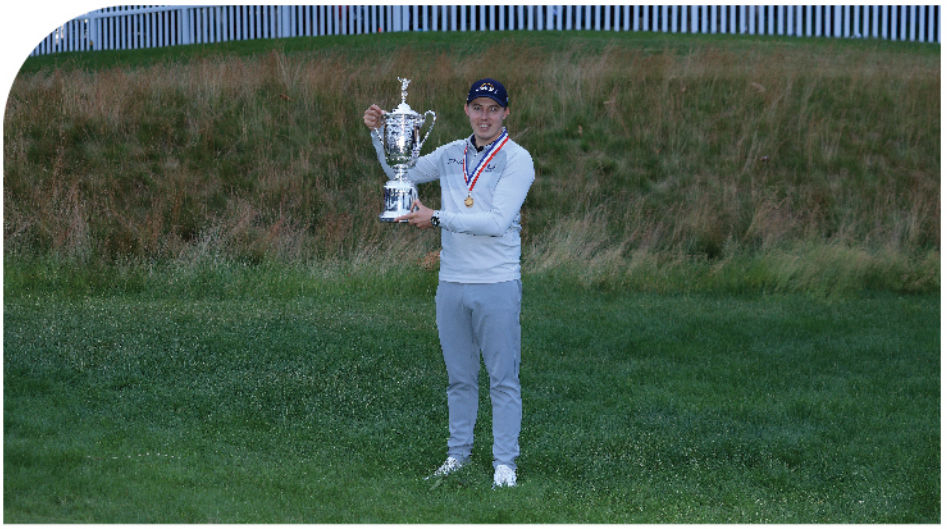
"It's one of the best seasons I've had in a long time. I want to finish the season off well.

"There's still some golf to play. Major season is over unfortunately, but I still feel like there's a little bit to play for."



SCRAPPY FITZPATRICK HITS THE SHOT OF HIS LIFE





Scrappy English underdog Matt Fitzpatrick, hardened in steel town Sheffield, endured epic pressure and hit the shot of his life when it mattered most to win the US Open.

The 27-year-old blasted a stunning 9-iron from a left fairway bunker onto the 18th green and two-putted for par from 18 feet to capture his first major title.

"It's one of the best shots I ever hit. There's no doubt about it," he said. "That probably is such a huge shot in the moment.

"If I'm honest, I look back to my three approaches into 15, 16, and 17 as all really good shots -- 18 was kind of just a bit of hit and hope.

"It just all happened so fast. It was like just kind of natural ability took over... it was amazing.

"The feeling is out of this world. It's stuff you dream of as a kid. To achieve it, I can retire a happy man tomorrow."

Fitzpatrick credits his upbringing with developing the work ethic and discipline that paid off with a dream come true at The Country Club, where he had won the 2013 US Amateur.

"It's a steel town, but I love Sheffield. It's great. It's where I'm from. It's where my football team's from. It's where all my best pals are from," Fitzpatrick said.

"I feel like I'm the same deal. Not expected to do well, not expected to succeed. I've won a major today.

"I feel like I certainly work hard for it, and that's kind of where I've grown up from is that's the mentality of everyone around there. It's certainly like underdog mentality and you work for what you get."

For the past two years, part of that effort has been a fitness training program that has him hitting longer off the tee.

"Since I've been hard on it from the start this year, I've noticed an even bigger jump without really feeling like I'm going after it," Fitzpatrick said.

"For me hitting driver and pitching it on the green, I didn't actually expect that this morning. That was kind of a real good indication of where I've got to."

Fitzpatrick's caddie, Billy Foster, is finally the bagman for a major champion after 40 years carrying clubs for such stars as Seve Ballesteros, Lee Westwood, Thomas Bjorn and Darren Clarke.

"It means the world to Billy," said Fitzpatrick. "It's unbelievable. I know it's something he's wanted for a long, long time. To do it today is incredible.

"We ended up working together. I was kind of in between caddies. He just split up with Lee, and just happened to work out.

"It's so funny. He kept telling me the first time on the job, I'll just do 25 weeks and maybe get a fill-in for the others. I think he's had about two weeks off in four years."

It was Foster who recognized the improvements in Fitzpatrick's game and his knowledge of The Country Club could come together into a breakthrough major triumph.

"Billy had been saying for a while, the time will come," Fitzpatrick said. "'You're playing so well. Just keep doing what you're doing. It will come. It will happen.'

"I put myself in position after two rounds and then played well yesterday. I just really believed this could be the time. Because of my success here before, it just felt like this was the time.

"It all just fell into place that this was the place it was going to happen."

Fitzpatrick says that it takes six major wins to be a legend.

"I've got a bit of a way to go, but it's a good start," he said. "I've just got to keep doing what I'm doing and hopefully more will come.

"I'm delighted with one so far."

THE REVIEW WITH ADRIAN LOGUE
SEVE THE MOVIE (2014)

Only a few years after the untimely death of Seve Ballesteros the man, came SeveThe Movie (2014). It is an unusual hybrid affair – a documentary biopic that oscillates between two timelines showing archival footage of Seve's public career intertwined with a dramatic recreation of his formative years.



Even with a two-hour runtime this ambitious format falls a little short of allowing adequate space for either the dramatic arc of Seve's childhood or the documentary reflections on his professional achievements.

The documentary segments focus on Seve's milestone achievements major triumphs and Ryder Cup contributions, but significant time is also given to his impact on professional golf as the effortlessly charismatic "matador of the links" as described by Peter Alliss.

While we're shown the fully formed heroic swagger of Seve in his superstar prime, the film also takes us back to a dramatic recreation of his early life in Pedreña, Spain. It plays all the hits and venerated themes we know of his childhood backstory – there's Seve getting his start as a caddy, playing beach golf witha makeshift 3-iron and stealing his way onto the golf course at night.

We see the emergence of his natural talent with the support and encouragement of his parents, brothers and mentors such as influential club member Dr Santiago Ortiz de laTorre. He gradually gains acceptance among the members of Real Golf de Pedreña and emerges as a promising local hero who might forge an unlikely path to fame via professional golf.

The format works best when we're shown young Seve learning his audacious recovery skills intercut with archival footage showcasing his mastery of that skill in the celebrated moments of his career from car park birdies to Ryder Cup chip-ins.

IS IT A GOLF MOVIE?

Seve is very much a golf movie and is made to be broadly appealing to all golfers while also being a vehicle through which a more general audience (particularly in Spain) might discover golf and Seve.





It should be noted that the dramatic recreations are presented in Spanish and the MGM+ stream, through which many people will see this film, doesn't include English subtitles which is mildly frustrating but not such an obstacle that the events of the film aren't self-evident.

BUT DOTHEY "GET GOLF"?

Young Seve is played by 15-year Spaniard José Luis Gutiérrez – a keen golfer with a four handicap, who heard about the part being cast and went along with another friend for a bit of a laugh.

Something about his enthusiastic personality resonated with the filmmakers who anointed him for the role despite never being cast as anything more than a "bit-part in the corner" of a school play.

A less bright and precocious teen might have withdrawn from the burden of portraying such a legendary figure, but Gutiérrez takes to it with the enthusiasm of an energetic scamp scuttling across the hills and beaches of Pedreña with a convincing familiarity.

The movie is directed by Englishman John-Paul Davidson known mostly for documentary work in television and film. Davidson's economy of storytelling is on display particularly in the documentary sections where a tangible sense of Seve's influence is conveyed through a selection of clips that fondly recall his many triumphs.

These historical events are expertly framed in the context of his impact on the game as a personality and superstar, who lifted European golf into prominence through an era clearly dominated by American excellence.

Golf Australia magazine's architecture editor Mike Clayton is fond of saying the other players "adored" Seve and this is evident in the heartfelt voiceovers from many of Seve's peers including Ben Crenshaw, Gary Player and Nick Faldo.

Much of the dramatic recreation was filmed at Seve's childhood home along the Cantabrian coast in northern Spain and Real Golf de Pedreña – the club where Seve learned the game. It's a hilly parkland layout on a small peninsula overlooking the Bay of Santander designed by Harry Colt in 1928 and has hosted multiple Spanish Opens.

Seve's son, Javier, describes Real Golf de Pedreña as his favourite course in the world and the cinematography by John Pardue portrays the course and surrounding countryside with a cinematic warmth that led director Davidson to comment "Getting to know this area, I can understand why Seve found it so hard to leave."

SHOULDYOUWATCH IT?

This is not a warts and all recount of Seve's life, it could in fact be accused of being selective and sycophantic, at times even cloyingly reverential. It is a somewhat adulatory celebration of the life a sincere young man who shone with determination and through hard work and genius overcame humble beginnings and class based obstacles to become – for a time – the greatest golfer in the world.

In so doing it no doubt passes over many of the more complicated aspects of Seve's life.



Perhaps if it was a mini-series or multi part documentary there would have been time to explore the more varied arcs of Seve's journey, but the constraints of this film required the filmmakers to make some choices that were entirely appropriate for what they had set out to achieve – a homage to a fascinating figure.

As the final act of the film focuses more on archival footage, you might wonder why you didn't appreciate Seve more while he was alive and especially as an active player.There is a wistful sense of some elusive goal not quite achieved – so many lost years slowly fading away ... by the end your eyes will be as misty as a sunrise over Pedreña beach.



WAYS NEW TECH WILL IMPROVE YOUR CONSISTENCY



BETTER GOLF ISN'T ALL ABOUT HITTING IT FURTHER, WHICH IS WHY THE TECHNOLOGY IN CALLAWAY'S 2022 RANGE FOCUSES MORE ON ALL ROUND CONSISTENCY THAN DISTANCE ALONE

Technology in golf equipment is advancing almost faster than we can keep up with. Just as our phones are getting smaller and more powerful, so too is our golf gear hitting new technological heights when it comes to helping us play better. In the grand history of the game, it's not that long ago that woods were made of actual wood and you could literally hit it ' out of the screws'. Fast forward to2022 and artificial intelligence (A.I.) is now increasingly influencing and improving club design and manufacturing. While much time is spent chasing distance through technological advances, not enough is perhaps spent talking about how new technology can help you be more consistent. We all have days when everything is going well, but perhaps not as often as we would like. In this article, we look at seven ways in which Callaway's new technology can help you play your best golf more often.



MORE FAIRWAYS

Hitting more fairways is one of the best ways to set your scores on a downward trend as iron play is much easier from the short grass. While we all chase that bit of extra distance, consistency is perhaps more likely to flourish of we start hitting more fairways, as this leads to easier approaches. The new technology in drivers that helps golgers achieve greater accuracy off the tee comes in many forms, one of the most popular being the saving and redistribution of club head weight. The new Tungsten Speed Cartridge in Callaway's Rogue ST driveer range increases speed on off centre hits and procides more forgiveness through high MOI. Having high MoI in the club head means it is less prone to twisting at impact. This means that even when you miss the centre of the face, your shots should veer drastically off line. For those who tend to slice the ball off the tee, the Rogue ST Max D driver uses a draw bias design to straighten up the ball flight and make it easier to find more fairways. This model uses internal and external draw biases to help correct the slice shape, but the Rogue

ST range of drivers has a model to help all types of golfer find more fairways.

EASIER LAUNCH

Launching the ball well with their driver is one of the biggest challenges some golfers face. It's a hard part of the game to get right, but launching the ball consistently with the driver will inspire more confidence at address and lead to more consistent results. New technology in drivers can help here, with the latest iteration of Callaway's Flash Face one of the best examples of new technology helping with consistent launch. The face in the Rogue SST range of drivers has been painstakingly rested by Callaway's artificial intelligence to provide the perfect launch, spin and speed characteristics for each different model. The faces throughout the Rogue ST range have variable thickness to maximise performance and launch. The Tungsten Speed cartridge used in all the Rogue ST drivers is also a key contributor to easier launch. In the Rpgue ST Max head the forgiving in the range the weight is 26g to keep the centre of gravity as low and far back as possible. The slightly lighter 23g Tungsten Speed Cartridge in the Rogue ST Max LS keeps that weight low and back, but to a lesser extent for golfers who still want lower spinST range of drivers has a model to help all types of golfer find more fairways.

BETTER RESULTS ON POOR STRIKES

New technology in drivers means that even our poorer strikes can turn out better than we might expect when we really need them to. Only the pros find the centre of the face repeatedly, so we need all the help we can get when we explore the extremities of our driver and fairway wood faces!



As already mentioned, strategic weight placement in the head, along with higher MOIs, now allows Callaway drivers and fairway woods to perform better than we might be expecting on some of our iffier swings. But Callaway has also directed its A.I. department to find a driver face that reduces spin by around 100rpm across the face. Callaway has been using A.I. for a number of years now, but its use in the creation of the Rogue ST drivers and fairway woods represents a further step forward. Toe and heel strikes will still struggle to get anywhere near a centre strike, but compared with older drivers, this new technology means you'll be significantly less punished when your swing goes awry on the tee.

CONSISTENT DISTANCES

It would be remiss not to discuss how new techology in woods has impacted on distance. While chading distance won't always lead to more consistency in your game, new technology has given golfers the ability to achieve more consistent distance at the top end of the bag. We've already mentioned how technology in the new Callaway Rogue ST range of drivers and woods has paved the way to better performance on off centre strikes than ever before, but what about when you do find the middle of the face? Using artificial intelligence in the creation of the new Rogue ST range, Callaway has been able to refine its Jailbreak Speed Frame and this technology is benefiting irons, too.





Callaway has cleverly used its A.I. development technology so you can trust your distances when approaching greens a key factor for those seeking greater consistency .

MORE GREENS

One of the most satisfying feelings in golf is hitting a green in regulation.The more greens you hit, the easier the more confident about how far their irons will travel. Consistent yardages will lead to more greens being hit.



BETTER FLIGHTED IRONS

While this isn't a part of the game that higher handicappers tend to think about much, modern technology has allowed all types of ball striker to achieve better flight, control and consistency in all of their irons. The A.I. designed face on the Rogue ST Pro iron is engineered for a higher and more consistent launch. This gives golfers even more stopping power to hold more greens right through the bag. The ST Pro features a compact, workable head shape, but Callaway's latest technology provides golfers of all levels with aesthetically pleasing club heads that offer plenty of playability, workability and consistency.

MORE REFINED WEDGE STRIKES

Major technology gains in the world of wedges have also made pitching and chipping much easier. The short game is an area where plenty of mid to high handicappers can quickly and easily save a few strokes, and recent technological developments in wedges have allowed for greater consistency where it matters most.

The Jaws MD5 wedges in the new Callaway range offer a Full Toe design in which the grooves extend all the way across the clubface. With grooves covering the entire face, you won't lose as much spin or launch on those really poor strikes as you would expect from a more conventional wedge face. The offset groove in groove technology that is used throughout the entire Mack Daddy 5 range then allows for even more spin and control on pitches and chips and, depending on which grind you select, even more consistent turf interaction, too.

"THE NEW TECHNOLOGY IN CALLAWAY DRIVERS MEANS EVEN POORER STRIKES CAN TURN OUT BETTER THAN EXPECTED"

7 CLUBS TO ACHIEVEBLASTOFF

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF VIABLE OPTIONS FOR GOLF'S NEW "IT" CLUB

Harvey Penick once said that in golf your strengths and weaknesses will always be there, but if you can improve your weaknesses, you will improve your game.

The legendary instructor was stressing the need to practice parts of the game in need, but his advice applies to putting the right equipment in your bag, too.

The range of 7-woodoptions available today seven shown here makes this easier.

There is a 7-wood to fit every type of golfer: from compact heads made for better players to larger and shallower ones to help get the ball in the air.

Skilled players with fast swing speeds will likely hit a 7-wood just as far as the equiv alent hybrid—only higher. Golfers who swing 90 miles per hour or less should hit the 7-wood farther.

Why? Fairway woods tend to create more ball spin than hybrids. This helps produce more carry, especially for the slowest swing speeds. In other words, its' a good bet to improve your weakness.



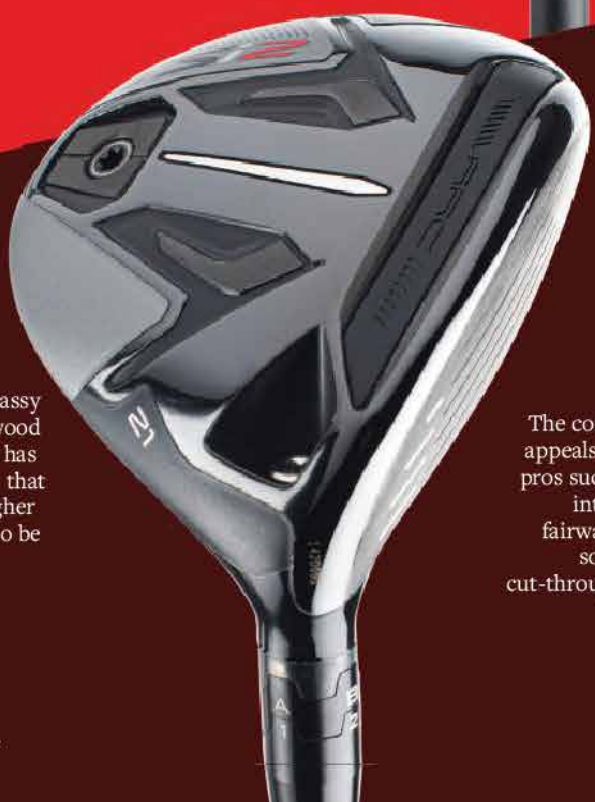
CALLAWAY ROGUE ST MAX HEAVENWOOD

The 20-degree model with a 4-wood-length shaft is designed to minimize excessive spin. Bars behind the face stiffen the body, allowing for more face flex.



TAYLORMADE STEALTH

The compact 21- degree clubhead appeals to better players and tour pros such as Dustin Johnson. Turf interaction is paramount for a fairway wood, and the V-shaped sole provides help here. The cut-through sole slot also delivers a nice distance boost.



TITLEIST TS12

Modern technology in a classy looking head: The TSi2 7-wood checks in at 21 degrees but has a 16- way adjust able hosel that allows loft to be moved higher or lower and the lie angle to be adjusted flatter or more upright.



CLEVELAND LAUNCHER XL HALO

The large, non-adjustable 21-degree head combines with a low-profile face to deliver a low center of gravity that makes launching shots high a breeze.



COBRA LTDX

Cobra offers a 22.5-degree club in its LTDx and LTDx Max models. The difference: The LTDx is more forgiving with a weight chip in the rear, and the Max pushes weight toward the heel to help mitigate a slice. Cobra's hallmark sole rails help the club glide through the turf.



PXG 0311 XF GEN5

This adjustable 22-dergree model gets its speed from a high strength maraging steel alloy face insert, and the squared off face offers more hiting area.



PING G425 MAX

This 20.5-degree model can be adjusted plus or minus 1.5 degrees. The rear tungsten weight provides stability on off-center strikes and assists with launch. Want even more height? Try the 9-wood.

An edible gol

by Paul Jansen

Golf courses big and small - cover a substantial amount of land. Most of our modern 18-hole golf courses are routed over more than 185 acres of land. Even some of the world's most unique, fun and charming golf courses like Nuwara Eliya, Kingston Heath and Utrecht De Pan- cover at least 100 acres. To put that into perspective, Wikipedia defines an acre as "..a unit of area containing 4,840 square yards which is approximately the same size as 1 football (soccer) pitch or 16 tennis courts". From this, you get a good idea of how big these golf courses are, and an appreciation of the amount of work the golf superintendent (and team) has to manage from day to day.

Golf courses are becoming much more sustainable places of Work; some of this is because of a reduction in high maintenance areas (like far rough) that would have in the pastreceived a significant level of input and

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route new holes to take advantage of anexisting crop(s), OR regenerate a lost system back into existence? Having an edible crop on a golf course is not a new phenomenon, as got to experience recently when spentnearly a month in Southern Asia touring some of the region's most unique, sustainable and edible golf courses.

The new Shangri La Hambantota golf course near the city of Hambantota, on the southern tip of Sri Lanka, is routed on approximately 100 acres of coastal terrain. The visitor's arrival draws their eye to the thousands of coconut trees that dot landscape and frame many of the golf holes. In this instance the coconut trees give the golf course an identity at least formany of the holes. Recently, Peter Haarhof (Golf Superintendent) and Romain-Pourveer (Director of Golf) Cameup with the novel idea of growing pineapples Sri Lankas'national fruit in some of the rough





2021 LAND ROVER DEFENDER

With the original Land Rover Defender being in production for over 67 years, it was about time that Land Rover released a new version of one of the most fun to drive 4x4 on the planet. While it is undeniable that the Land Rover did receive several facelifts and minor refreshments throughout the decades, and in fact, the 2019 Defender was completely different in terms of specs when compared to the first version but the main steel built chassis of the 4x4 still remained more or less the same. Finally in 2019, Land Rover announced a completely new Land Rover Defender at the Geneva Motorshow to have a fresh start for the upcoming new decade.



The new Land Rover Defender, at first glance, wasn't the most appealing 4x4 to me and it surely wasn't one of those cars which made me go like "Oh dear! I wish I could get one of those." The design looked rather different from the other 4x4s or SUVs Land Rover offers today. In fact, it seemed completely out of place (especially from the


DYNAMIC




DEFENDER
LAND ROVER

front) when kept beside an old Defender in pictures too. Now two years later, after seeing the Defender in person, my opinions have changed quite a bit... dramatically to be honest.

The 'Utility' part was always the main focus when designing the Defender to be a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV). The old Defender was built like a war-ready machine which could literally go over any type of terrain one could really think of and there was really no other match for that one in terms of real world performance. Spoiler alert: The new Defender, despite having a significantly more ergonomic design, is even better and still remains to be one of the toughest 4x4s one can buy off a dealership today!

Visuals

As I've said before, at first glance, the Defender might look completely different when parked beside the previous one. The new Defender is a lot more curvier, it's wider and also bulkier from just every side. However, it still retains the retro design language of the original Defender.

The square headlight unit with the actual round headlights in the center and the 'D E F E N D E R' logo in the front are still there. At the sides, the new Defender still comes with extended fender flares and the iconic alpine glasses like the original one but the rim size has been upgraded to 18 inch alloys for the passenger variant and steelies for the commercial hard top variant. The rear of the new Defender is probably what has the most reminiscence of the original Defender. The spare wheel attached to the trunk door will still be there while the rear led tail lights, despite being squared off for visuals (looks marvelous to be honest!), are still in the very same position as the original Defender.

The new Defender has lost most of the tough and rugged aurora of the past model quite a lot. Although it still looks like the 'utility vehicle' which Land Rover intended it to look and perform like (more on that 'perform' part coming up). The Defender is bold and humongous like its predecessor and will surely stand out to be a head turner when driven around.

Performance

The Defenders were never about 0-100km/h figures or top speeds like the Mercedes G Wagons and the Lamborghini Urus of today. What mattered most was how the 4x4 performed after leaving the asphalt and concrete. The new Defender might let the purists down for not





having the 'ladder frame' chassis the predecessor was famous for but the switch to the monocoque construction is logical for the car in 2021. The Defender has always been one of the least passenger friendly 4x4s out there and sliding around has always been a common sight inside Defenders. However, times have changed and Land Rover had to make compromises to ensure that the new Defender appeals to both the mass consumer market as well as the purists. That being said, the new Defender still has one of the most rigidly built chassis for any car available in the current market and is actually more rigid than the older one while actually being more comfortable for both the driver and the passengers when taken off road!

Sitting on a set of air suspensions like every other Land Rover these days, the 2021 Defender's independent suspensions has a travel distance of a whooping 500mm and can be paired with an optional rear mechanical differential. Besides, the 4x4 can be raised up to an additional 145mm from the stock ride height increasing the total ground clearance to a staggering 291mm. Won't be surprised if Fast and Furious uses a new Defender to recreate the last scene of the original movie from 2001!

Interior

For 2021, the new Defender has finally evolved to look like just any other luxury SUVs available in the market. Big infotainment screen taking up the center of the dash, a secondary heads up display behind the steering wheel and proper soft touch material everywhere on the inside. The seats are electric and made of genuine leather while also having the option to heat up. The rear seats are just as roomy as the front seats with no bulge at the center for the rear differential and an amazing headroom as well as decent legroom. Other features include 360 camera, wireless charging, USB port, an actual 3 pin plug at the trunk, rear view monitor and an electrically operated towing hook at the rear with a load capacity rating of 3.5 tons which can come in handy when going off-road.

However, despite Land Rover's appreciable effort at trying to impress the regular car buyers with the fancy interior dress up to look premium, the British manufacturer also covered the dashboard with steel bits and humongous rivets to remind people that the Defenders means work! Besides, the floor of the Defender comes with plastic as standard as well. Makes sense, given that the plastic floor will make it easier to get rid of the mud and dirt that will enter the car with every off road session. What amazes me is how well Land Rover has managed to integrate both the luxury touches as well as the different bits and pieces to make the 4x4 look structural at the same time!

Verdict

The Defender has always been the number one choice as the ultimate utility car or an off-roader for many adventure seekers both in Bangladesh as well as worldwide. The new Defender surpasses the older one on literally every aspect both as a luxury car as well as a proper 4x4. In my opinion, the new Defender provides a complete package as being both a heartless off roader as well as a well rounded premium SUV which can be driven on roads too.

Specs (**Separate**)
- **Raw Crawl off roading mode**
- **28 degree break over angle**
- **Hill descent control**
- **38 degree approach angle**
- **40 degree departure angle**
- **900cm wading capacity**







HERBAL TEA BEFORE TEE OFF



ALTHOUGH WE HAVE GROWN UP TO THE MELODIOUS JINGLES OF FAMOUS LOCAL BLACK TEA BRANDS, NOW PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ARE LOOKING INTO THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF DRINKING HERBAL TEA.

TEA IS NO STRANGER TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY. IN FACT, YOU CAN FIND TEA ARRANGEMENTS TWICE OR THRICE A DAY ON A BANGLADESHI HOUSEHOLD'S TABLE - BE IT A WAKEUP ALARM FOR THE MORNING HOURS, AN ENERGY BOOSTER FOR POST LUNCH HOURS OR THE PERFECT COMPANY FOR EVENING SNACKS.

Soothing black and classic milk tea have been the go-to beverages for most people. But interestingly, there has recently been a change in the collective palette when it comes to tea. Although we have grown up to the melodious jingles of famous local black tea brands, now people of all ages are looking into the health benefits of drinking herbal tea.

Herbal tea is an infusion or a blend of various leaves, fruits, flowers or the roots of edible, non-tea plants with black, green or white tea as a base. A wide assortment of different infusions are available these days at local stores or super shops.

1. Kazi&Kazi Tea

Kazi and Kazi Tea estate, also known as K&K produces a variety of organic tea blends for both local and foreign markets at affordable prices. K&K's Green Tea is gentle on the palate, so it's a good choice for beginners who might feel intimidated by the bitterness of organic tea. It has a refreshing and grassy taste, with a pleasant aroma and a light bitter undertone.

The 'fan favourite' flavour from K&K is the Jasmine Green Tea. With its beautiful lemon-green packaging, the Jasmine Green Tea is very light, soothing and fragrant, with a hint of sweetness.

Another light herbal tea would be K&K's Green Lemongrass Tea, which gives off a beautiful and calming lemongrass aroma.' Add a dash of lemon juice, take it without sugar, and you have yourself the perfect late noon tea.If you like to drink tea right after a rich meal, look no further than these two flavours mentioned above.

You can also consider K&K's newest addition, the Green Mint Tea, which comes in a very fancy packaging and carries an earthy undertone with a touch of mint.

The myriad flavours of K&K Tea is available in packs of 40 tea bags, If you're thinking about how to try out all the different flavours and not go broke at the same time, get yourself the K&K Medley Pack.

2. TulsiPati

TulsiPati dons an alluring art in its packaging and offers a delightful assortment of Herbal teas. Aside from its signature Green Tea, TulsiPati supplies a unique blend of Lemon Ginger Tea, serving you an overwhelming fragrance of lemon with the slight spiciness of ginger. This tea is sweet, light and comfortable to the palate.

But if you like to stick to the original strong





and earthy flavours of ginger, TulsiPati Tea & Ginger will provide you with that refreshing spiciness. Another must-have from this brand would be its carefully curated Masala flavour, which is enriched with the aroma of cinnamon, cardamom, bay leaves and star anise.

Lastly, staying true to the brand's name, you can enjoy the special earthy notes of a mixture of herbs in the Tulsi Natural and DiaTulsi Teas. All of the mentioned flavours can be found in a package of 30 sachets.

3. Halda Valley

Halda Valley aims to bring the finest, richest and most authentic flavours of Chinese herbal teas. The brand's Dragon Well Green Tea is served as loose leaves in sachets and appears to contain hand pressed flattened leaves of a rich emerald green colour. After dipping a sachet in moderately hot, but not boiling water, you will find a cup of soft yellowish shaded tea with the occasional golden hue. The tea is delicate and smooth with its grassy, vegetal sweetness and notes of nuts.

Halda Valley's Silver Needle White Tea is the only white tea produced by a local tea estate, and is regarded as a very rare and precious tea. The fine young leaves that would later produce the golden-apricot coloured tea is harvested with the utmost care. It has a strong aroma of grass, flowers and blossoms, while its taste ranges from woody, airy, and smooth traces. The full bodied sweetness and delicate flavours are highly enjoyable.

For a soulful and soothing experience with their exclusive tea menu, you can also consider visiting the aesthetically pleasing Halda Valley Tea Lounge in Gulshan Avenue.

4. Tetley

Bored of the plain taste of Green Tea? Fear not, you can now explore some interesting Green tea infusions, thanks to Tetley! The brand is not limited to the Original Green tea, but also two exclusive blends of it, namely – Green tea with Lemon & Honey, and Green Tea with Masala. Apart from the Green teas, Tetley also offers a comforting Lemon & Honey Tea that speaks loudly of the zesty lemon balm and raw sweetness from honey. The brand's Masala Tea can also be a good addition to your tea cabinet.

FEARED, LOVED, WORSHIPPED:

THE ENIGMA OF THE SUNDARBANS TIGER













The Sundarbans, with all her magical ambience and rich biodiversity, never fails to nourish your weary senses and soul. She never disappoints you. Every time you visit there, she keeps more surprises for you at every corner you go.

This was the sixth time in as many years when we, a group of wildlife photographers and nature enthusiasts, visited the forest, a Unesco Natural Heritage site, last November. Well, we had to. We couldn't resist her charm. The beauty of nature there – the unique landscape of the world's largest mangrove forest, the incredible wildlife, the silent canals, lifestyle of locals -- drew us towards her.

We started our tour from Mongla, Khulna, on November 10, last year. As planned, we boarded the tour operator's boat from there after a hectic 11-hour bus journey from Dhaka. Our first destination was Kokilmoni in the Sarankhola range of the forest. Our nerves took some time to settle down. Our brains had to struggle to realize that the next few days would be different from the urban, mechanical life that we live.

On the first day, we went to bed early to catch the sunrise to feel the forest, which literally wakes up with the Sun. You have to engage all your senses to feel the beauty, serenity and vibe of the forest.

As the first beam of the Sun pierced the fearsome darkness, illuminating the foggy landscape, we saw the transformation of the forest. The dark vines turned into glittering canals, the frightening silence became a chorus of life.

It was breathtaking. But that wasn't the highlight of that morning!















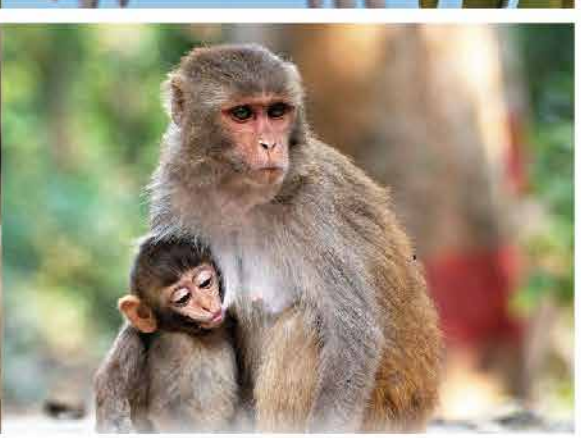

While cruising along the Pasur River, at around 7:15 am, something caught our attention from a distance. A large animal was crossing the river. As we drew nearer, it became apparent what the animal was.

The king of the Sundarbans looked clearly tired and we decided not to go close to it for its safety. Our guide and boat captain both agreed that it was highly unusual even for a full-grown tiger to cross a 600-700 meters wide river. We took as many photos as we could without disturbing the royal beast.

Now, few months after the encounter, I can't but think myself extremely lucky. One of our groupmates, TouhidParvezBiplob, visited the Sundarbans for 26 times, without any luck!

According to the last census in 2019, only 114 Bengal tigers are in the 6017 square kilometers area of the Sundarbans in Bangladesh part.

For the next 3 days, luck stayed with us as we visited a number of spots and saw a plenty of wildlife at their natural habitat. We spotted all 7 species of kingfishers living in the forest, among which 5 species- Ruddy Kingfisher, Brown-winged Kingfisher, Black-capped Kingfisher, White-collared Kingfisher and Blue-eared Kingfisher - are rare.

Colours of the sunbirds and minivets would simply blow your mind away.

The wader birds (Whimbrel, Eurasian Curlew, different Sandpipers, Common Green Shank, Red Shank etc), Lesser Adjutant, White-bellied Sea Eagle and many others would always catch your attention by their endless activities.

We saw Spotted Deer everywhere. The sight of otters hunting fish or spotting an Irrawaddy dolphin near your boat might make your day. You would be amazed if you closely observe the activities of a mudskipper, a small aquatic creature. The different colours of crabs were simply astonishing.

But the surprises kept coming! We spotted even a rarer species than the Bengal tiger before we concluded our tour on November 14.

According to a 2020 study, there exist only 100-300 of this critically endangered aquatic bird in the entire world. The Sundarbans is still a breeding ground for them.

However, deforestation and global warming are damaging the Sundarbans. To protect this unique ecosystem as well as the natural shield that saves us from cyclones and tidal waves, we need to act fast.

Though the Sundarbans can be accessed through various points, the popular starting points are Khulna and Mongla. Many tour operators run different package tours which starts from 6000 taka to 25000 taka per person for a standard 2 Nights 3 days all-inclusive tour. Most tours usually take you to Kochikhali Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotka beach, Jamtola Beach, Herbaria Mangrove Trail, Hiron Point, Dublar Char, Trikona Island, Dimer Char, Koromjol wildlife centre and few other places. We loved the food our tour operator provided us during the tour.

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