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GOLFER'S LIFE

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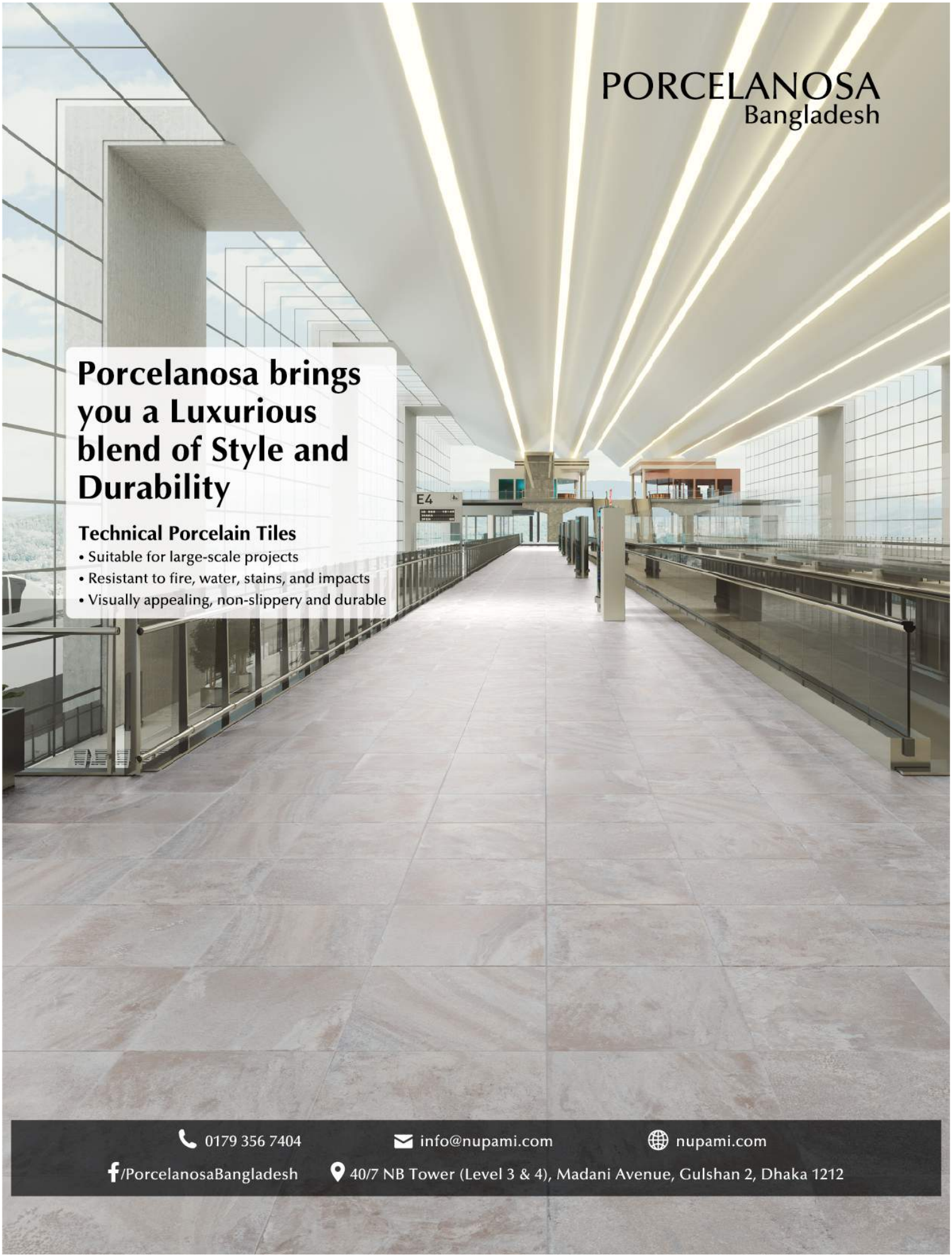
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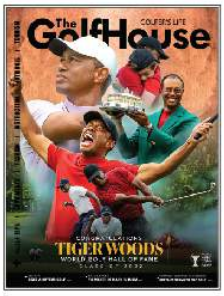
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The Mujib Borsho Chattogram open 2022 was held on this month and was participated by some of the most renowned players like Kshitij Naveed Kaul, Siddikur Rahman, Badal Hossain, Akbar Hossain, Sunit Chowrasia, Zamal Hossain Mollah and many more.

EDITOR'S CHOICE



India's Kshitij Naveed Kaul staved off the challenge from local golfers to clinch the title of the Mujib Borsho Chattogram Open 2022 at the Bhatiary Golf & Country Club in Chattogram.

Forward

Dear reader,

With Covid-19 slowly affecting less than before people are starting to finally able to breathe fresh. They are able to start to enjoy their favorite sports without any worry of getting attacked by the deadly virus.

The golfers are starting to go to the pit and enjoy their time on the course both practicing and also participating in tournaments. From amateurs to Professionals all are on their toes to start playing again.

The Mujib Borsho Chattogram open 2022 was held on this month and was participated by some of the most renowned players like Kshitij Naveed Kaul, Siddikur Rahman, Badal Hossain, Akbar Hossain, Sunit Chowrasia, Zamal Hossain Mollah and many more.

Tiger Woods, whose otherworldly powers and charm have inspired a generation of golfers has been inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

We hope that the golfers are more enthusiasts like they were before and also encourage new golfers to participate and become better players as the days go by.

Nazrul Hosen Ayon
Editor

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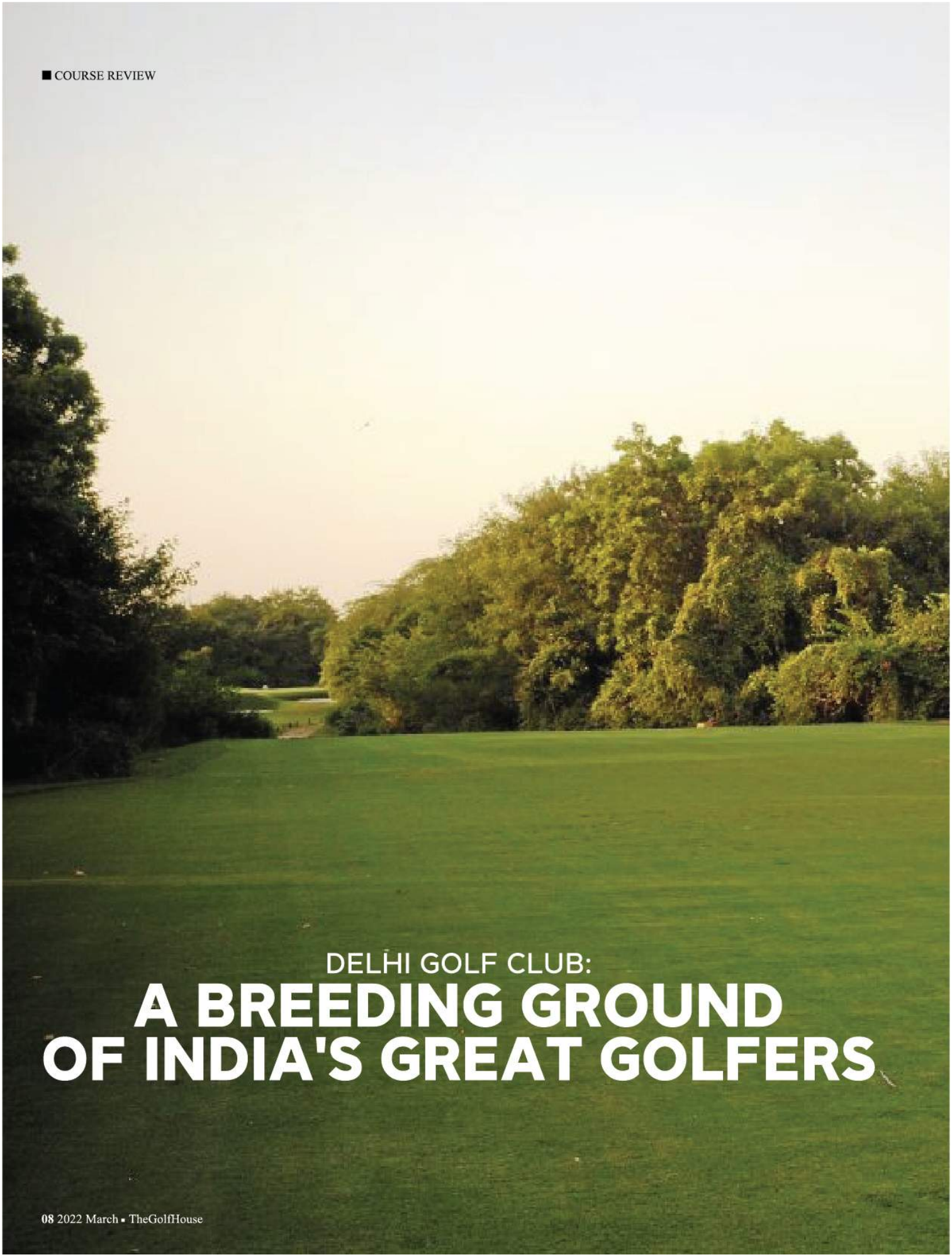
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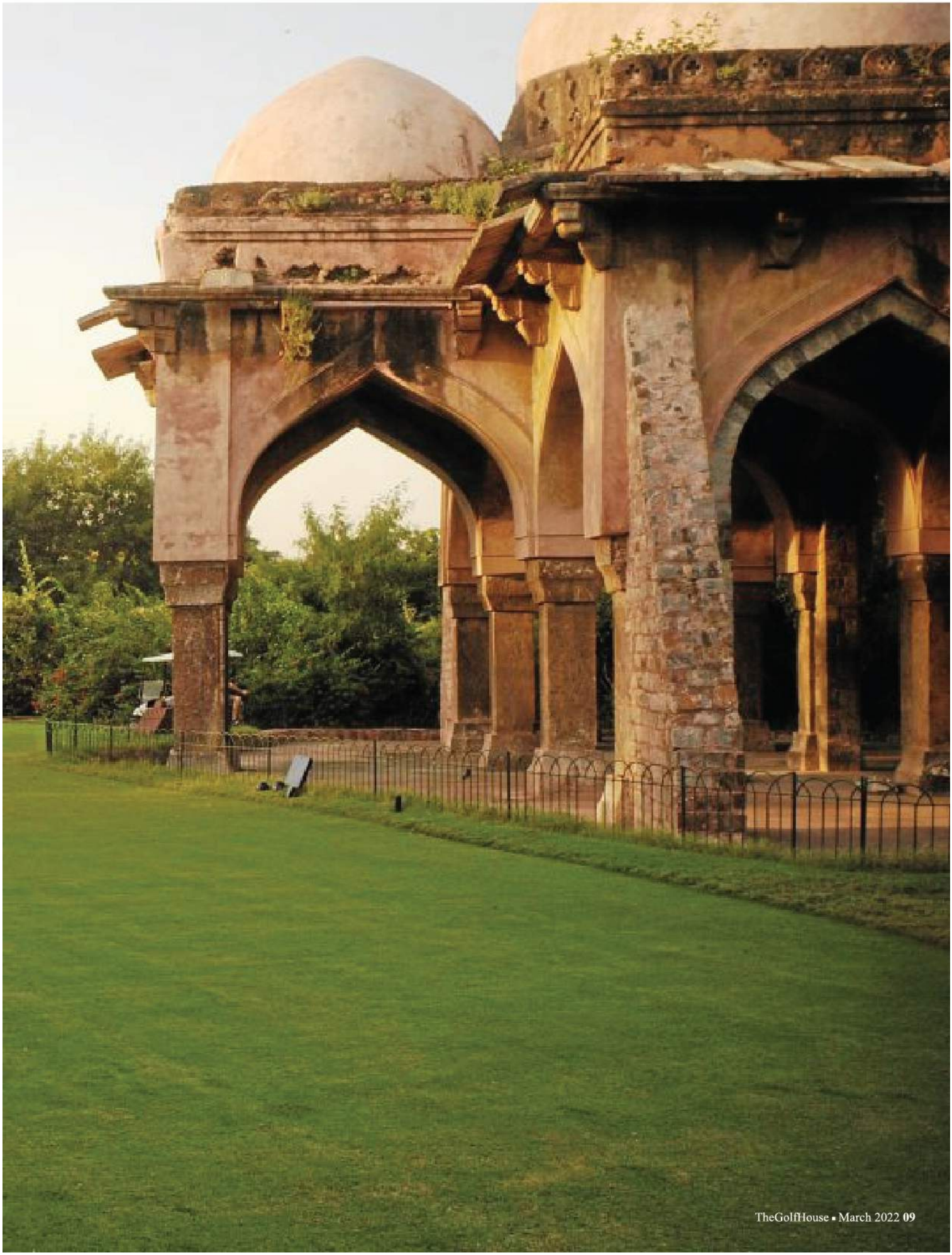
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DELHI GOLF CLUB:

A BREEDING GROUND OF INDIA'S GREAT GOLFERS





Golf in India and the Delhi Golf Club go hand in hand. The first-ever international professional event to be staged in India was at the tree-lined challenging course back in 1964, when the Indian Open was introduced onto what was then loosely called the Asian Golf Circuit.

Since then, a plethora of Indian golfers, spanning a few generations have had success there and some even more than once.

Yet, when The DGC Open presented by Mastercard is played there in the last week of March, it will be an old favourite with the promise of a new experience.

The inaugural event will be the first tournament to be held on the new layout there designed by the legendary Gary Player.
It is no secret that every sponsor wants their tournament at the Delhi Golf Club, which is also called the 'Lungs of Delhi' because of its location in the heart of the Indian capital, New Delhi.

Since 1964 no other club in India has hosted as many international events as the Delhi Golf Club. It is also the favourite of most Indian players despite the challenges of narrow fairways and the bushes, which gobble up stray shots, and the bunkers, which can be very penal.

"The DGC", as it is fondly called, has fetched Jyoti Randhawa, now 49 years old, four wins; Anirban Lahiri, second in last week's The Players Championship, also has won four times; while SSP Chawrasia has triumphed there on three occasions.

Chawrasia says: "There is something very comforting about DGC. It is a big challenge and I love it. I have done it in the past (in 2008, 2014 and 2016) and would love to add more trophies from the DGC."

After one of his many wins at the Club, Randhawa had said: "I have great memories of this course and every time I get here, I



keep that in mind and it helps. I guess I have won a few times, so I know what the course is."

Four-time Asian Tour winner Shiv Kapur says: "I have spent more time there than anywhere else except my home and at times even more than at home. In recent times after the new Gary Player layout was inaugurated, I have played time and again with my buddies, Gaurav Ghei, Chiragh Kumar and Arjun Singh, who also have great memories of what is our home course. So, naturally I am looking forward to The DGC Open presented by Mastercard."

Kapur and Chiragh Kumar, who call the Club their home course, Rashid Khan, who was a product of the junior programme there, veteran Mukesh Kumar, who won his first and only Asian Tour title at the Club, and Khalin Joshi, who broke through with a win at the Club at the Panasonic Open India in 2018 all call it their favourite course.

Before them, veteran and experienced stars like Ali Sher, Gaurav Ghei, Vijay Kumar, Arjun Atwal, Digvijay Singh and others, too, have had international wins at the Club.

The erstwhile course is a huge favourite for all, but not everyone has had success.

While Randhawa and Chawrasia would like more, two other superstars, Jeev Milkha Singh, India's best-known golfer, and Gaganjeet Bhullar, the most successful Indian on the Asian Tour with nine wins, are still in search of their first-ever wins there.

"Maybe the new layout will bring me success," said Bhullar, who played the new design when it was opened in mid-2020. "I did get a taste of the new course at a charity event. But now it is match time."



BADAL EAGE TO MAKE HIS MARK IN INDIA



BADAL HOSSAIN HAS TURNED A CORNER IN HIS CAREER. THE 31-YEQAR-OLD GOLFER FROM THE SAVAR GOLF CLUB HAS BEEN PERFORMING CONSISTENTLY SINCE LAST SEASON. HE WON A FEW BPGA EVENTS LAST YEAR AND FINISHED THIRD IN THE MUJIB BORSHO CHATTOGRAM OPEN EARLIER THIS MONTH. NOW PLAYING IN THE DGC OPEN IN NEW DELHI, THE GOLFER WANTS TO MAKE HIS MARK IN THE INDIAN CIRCUIT. HERE ARE SOME OF THE EXCERPTS OF THE CONVERSATION THEGOLFHOUSE HAD WITH HIM OVER PHONE ON THE EVE OF THE DGC OPEN.



How are your preparations going on for the DGC Open in New Delhi?
Not so good. In fact, I had pretty good training on the first day and was rearing to go out there to play for the first time at the Delhi Golf Club, but I caught a cold yesterday. I have temperature and did not train at all today. So, I'm resting today and hoping to start when the tee off takes place early tomorrow morning.

What if you aren't able to take part at all?
I'll lose 70 dollars of entry fee in that case.
How did you catch the cold?
The weather is very hot. So, I think training under high temperature has done me in.

How excited were you to play here?
I was very excited. I was supposed to play here in the Asian Tour/PGTI event in 2020 but the pandemic didn't give me the chance. It's a historic venue where Siddikur Rahman and Zamal Mollah has played before. I'm looking forward to playing here if health permits.

You will play alongside Siddikur and Zamal. Have you got any advice from them regarding this course?
Zamal is my roommate. So, you can understand we exchange a lot of ideas. I had message exchanged with Siddikur last night. He said he wasn't feeling that well, but he would be coming today and will get to the course straight away without any practice.





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You have been playing regularly in the PGTI these days. How well are you doing?
I'm doing well. I have played two events this year – Mujib Borsho Chattogram Open where I finished third and the Tata Steel PGTI Players Championship, where I made the cut. I played in 10 out of 19 events last season. I made cut in five of those and finished in top-10 in one of those events. Those five cuts earned me the PGTI Card for 2022 season.

So you are doing quite well in India. Are you looking forward to a good year?
Yes, I'm looking forward to keeping my card for the next year too. Staying inside the top 60 will ensure card, but I'll be looking to end within the top 20. If I can do that I will be able to participate in the big-money European Tour event, that will take place in India in 2023. That is a tri-sanctioned event of Asian Tour, European Tour and PGTI.

You finished third in the Chattogram Open. Siddikur finished second, but it was an unfancied Indian who won the title. We all expected that a Bangladeshi golfer would win this event, which was the first international event in Bangladesh in three years.
You can't really guess who will win a title in a specific event. Delhi has so many professional players, but each time the international events in Delhi are won by outsiders. The one who will play well on the week will win. The one who will do well in chipping, putting, hitting will win.

Why didn't any of our own play do well on the week?
Well, you have to be realistic. You can't expect us to win after playing only a handful of local events. How many BPGA events have we played since the start of the pandemic? And how many events have the Indian players played in this time? We don't get even 10 BPGA events while Indian players play around 20 to 25 PGTI events a year. PGTI is now a very good circuit and it is as difficult for me as the Asian Tour.

You saw Kshitij Naveed Kaul, the young guy who won the Chattogram Open. How impressive was he?
He looked like a very good golfer. He has had training from the USA. He will go a long way and will be one of the best golfers of India.

So you will be playing in India regularly. How would you afford this?
I'm thankful to Mr Imrul of Exclusive Group for offering me a sponsorship. He is sponsoring me for seven PGTI events, which will allow me around Tk 30,000 for each of those events.

So what is your plan for next year?
I'm planning to concentrate on the PGTI and also try for the Asian Tour. I know Asian Tour is a lot more expensive than the PGTI, but I will try to grab the chances that I get.



ZAMAL CRUISES TO VICTORY AT 4TH NAHAR AGRO GOLF









Zamal Hossain Mollah cruised to the title of the 4th Nahar Agro Professional Golf Tournament, which was held ahead of the Mujib Borsho Chattogram Open, at the Bhatiary Golf & Country Club in Chattogram.
Zamal, the BPGA Order of Merit leader, was trailing Khandaker Rahat Tahsin Parash after the first round. However, the 37-year-old golfer excelled ahead of everyone in the field with an exceptional performance in the next three rounds finishing at 16-under-par, winning the tournament with a 12-shot lead.
Md Badal of Savar Golf Club and Md Akbar of Mainamati Golf Club finished tied second at 4-under-par. Md Shamim of BGCC finished as the leading amateur in the event.
Air Vice Marshal Md Zahidur Rahman, GUP, nswc, psc, Air Officer Commanding, AOC BAF Base Zahurul Haque, handed over the trophies and cheques to the winners as the chief guest at the prize giving ceremony. Md Rakibur Rahman, Managing Director of Nahar Agro, was present as the special guest of the ceremony.
Lt Col Khandaker Abdul Wahed (retd), President, Bangladesh Professional Golfers Association, thanked the sponsors of the event. Maj Md Mahmudur Rahman Chowdhury (retd), Joint Secretary, BPGA remained present during the event.

PRO GOLF





KSHITIJ BREAKS LOCAL HEARTS



India's Kshitij Naveed Kaul staved off the challenge from local golfers to clinch the title of the Mujib Borsho Chattogram Open 2022 at the Bhatiary Golf & Country Club in Chattogram.

The 21-year-old golfer from Delhi cruised to a six-shot win after a solid final round display of four-under 68 at the at the Bhatiary Golf & Country Club.

Kaul (71-63-67-68), going into the final round leading by five shots, drove home the advantage scoring eight birdies at the cost of two bogeys and a double-bogey in round four to total 19-under 269 at the INR 50 lakh event and register his third triumph on the PGTI.

Kshitij collected a prize money cheque worth Rs. 8,08,250 that lifted him from 10th to first position in the TATA Steel PGTI Order of Merit.

Bangladesh's leading star Siddikur Rahman (71-66-69-69), who was overnight tied second, finished as runner-up at 13-under 275 after his last round of 69.

Kshitij, who won his last PGTI event in November 2021, had an eventful front-nine as he made five birdies but dropped a bogey and a double-bogey. Kshitij's front-nine featured two long conversions, two excellent bunker shots and a fantastic approach shot that landed within inches of the flag. He had nine one-putts on the front-nine.









With his commanding lead still intact, Kaul closed out the match with a steady back-nine sinking three birdies against a lone bogey. He ended up with the day's best score of 68 and birdies on all the four par-5 holes.

Kshitij, who turned pro in 2018 and was the best performing rookie that season, said, "I was just focused on repeating what I did over the last two days. I managed to execute my plans well on the final day. All aspects of my game came together this week, especially my short-game. Before the start of the round, I had a feeling that I would putt really well today and that's what I did with just 23 putts in the day.

"I was confident from the start of the week and felt I could win. It's been great to win two titles in such a short span of time. I've had a terrific start to the year and would like to make it count from here on," added Kaul, who had posted a top-5 finish on the PGTI a week earlier.

Two-time Asian Tour winner Siddikur had an eagle-two on the ninth along with four birdies and three bogeys during his fourth round of 69. However, he was unable to mount a challenge for the lead on the final day.

Bangladesh's Badal Hossain (71-67-70-69), the only other player besides Kshitij and Siddikur to shoot four sub-par rounds in the ebent, fired a 69 in the fourth round to move up three spots to tied third at 11-under 277.

Akbar Hossain (67-66-73-71), another Bangladeshi golfer who was tied for second after the penultimate round, dropped one spot to tied third after his 71 in round four.

Sunit Chowrasia was the second Indian to finish inside the top-5 as he claimed fifth place at 10-under 278.

Bangladesh's Zamal Hossain Mollah took sixth place at nine-under 279.

India's Chiragh Kumar, who was tied second after round three along with Siddikur and Akbar, ended the week in seventh place at eight-under 280.



GOLF FOR GOOD



DP World, the leading provider of smart supply chain solutions and title partner of the newly named DP World Tour, has created a unique shipping container that will collect and redistribute used golf balls during the 2022 DP World Tour season, giving them a second life.

Travelling through DP World's global logistics infrastructure and network, the container will visit six DP World Tour events. Fans will be invited to donate used and unwanted golf balls, which will be redistributed to organisations that are championing golf from the grassroots up, to help grow the game globally.

By launching this campaign, DP World will not only support the development of grassroots golf but will also shine a light on how the increasing popularity of the game and the pandemic-induced supply chain challenges have impacted the sport industry.

The container, which is made from a repurposed 20-foot shipping container, can house as many as 200,000 golf balls and will weigh approximately 12 tonnes when full.

Its first stop is within the fan village at this week's Slync.io Dubai Desert Classic, the iconic event that has been elevated to the DP World Tour's signature Rolex Series of tournaments for the first time in 2022, and which takes place at the Emirates Golf Club from January 27th-30th.

Throughout the rest of the season, spectators, fans, players and other partners of the DP World Tour will be invited to visit the container and donate unwanted balls at other select DP World Tour events, including the BMW PGA Championship and the



season-ending DP World Tour Championship.
DP World will deploy real-time tracking technology to the container, allowing fans of the sport to follow its journey between tournaments, whether it's travelling by rail, road, or sea, demonstrating the central role that the company's world-leading logistics and supply chain capabilities play in the world of golf.

Daniel van Otterdijk, Chief Communications Officer DP World said:
"Global supply chain disruptions triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic will continue to impact the import of sports and leisure equipment into the Middle East, including golf equipment. With our passion to support golf's global ecosystem, combined with our world-leading logistics and supply chain solutions, DP World is perfectly positioned to alleviate this pressure and meet the rising popularity of golf. We're therefore delighted to be launching this unique container here at the Slync.io Dubai Desert Classic and to support golf from the grassroots up.

Guy Kinnings, Deputy CEO and Chief Commercial Officer of the DP World Tour said: "Our partnership with DP World has gone from strength to strength over the past 11 years, with DP World becoming the new title partner of the European Tour group's main Tour from this season. We are delighted to see our partner use the might of its global logistics infrastructure to support the growing demand and popularity of the game of golf worldwide, and we also thank DP World Tour official partner Callaway for supporting this important initiative."



TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR ASIAN GOLF GREAT KYI HLA HAN

Kyi Hla Han, one of the biggest figures in Asian golf both as a player and an official, has passed away recently.

The 61-year-old former Asian Tour number one and executive chairman died in Singapore due to complications arising from cancer treatment.

"Asian golf has lost one of its greatest players, its greatest personalities and its greatest leaders," Cho Minn Thant, commissioner and chief executive of the Asian Tour said in a statement. "We will forever remember Kyi Hla."

Kyi Hla Han, who represented Myanmar in five World Cups and was pivotal in the growth of Asian golf after his retirement from competition in 2004, was described in the statement as "one of the most iconic figures in Asian golf".

Tributes began to come in from Asia and beyond with former European Ryder Cup captain Thomas Bjorn tweeting: "This is real sad news. Kyi Hla, I will miss your friendly ways and our great discussions. Gone way too soon. Rest in peace my friend."

Kyi Hla Han turned professional in 1980 and blazed a 25-year playing career that saw him win 12 times.

Among his most notable wins were in the 1994 Singapore Open and the Volvo China



Open in 1999, the year he also claimed the Asian Tour Order of Merit title.
After retiring as a player, he became the tour's executive chairman in 2006, the first Asian to assume the position which he held for more than 10 years.
"On a personal note, Kyi Hla was a mentor to many of us within the management of the Asian Tour and was a massive influence in many of our lives and careers," Cho said.
"He always put the Asian Tour and its members first and was ultra-passionate about seeing Asian golf rise up on to the world stage."
The Asia Tour said it will create a Kyi Hla Han Future Champion Award in his honour to help the development of junior golfers in the region.
"Early reaction to the news from around the world has been overwhelming," said Asian Tour board member and golf broadcaster Dom Boulet, a close friend.
"Small in stature but with a big game and a bigger heart, he was the best, most loyal, supportive and generous friend a man could ever ask for. His eternal optimism and laughter is a loss to us all."



GARY PLAYER BACKS LAHIRI TO WIN INDIA'S FIRST MAJOR

Golf legend Gary Player on Tuesday said Anirban Lahiri has it in him to become the first Indian to win a major after the 34-year-old finished second in the recent Players Championship in Florida.

Lahiri became the toast of India last week when he battled rain delays and strong winds to finish second at 12 under, just one stroke behind Australia's Cameron Smith at the PGA Tour event.

"If Lahiri can finish second in the Players Tournament, then he can definitely win a major, no question," the nine-time major winner from South Africa told reporters ahead of this week's Asian Tour DGC Open in New Delhi.

"And what a happy day that would be for me to see a person from India win a major, and it's coming. Because there is (a good) standard of play, you have got good golf courses, good climate, it can happen."

Lahiri, who had European Tour victories in 2015 at the Malaysian and Indian Opens, entered the championship ranked 322 in the world and has now moved inside the top 100. He is ranked 89.

Lahiri had a payday of $2.18 million, the highest ever for an Indian athlete, according to local media.

"We must do everything possible to develop



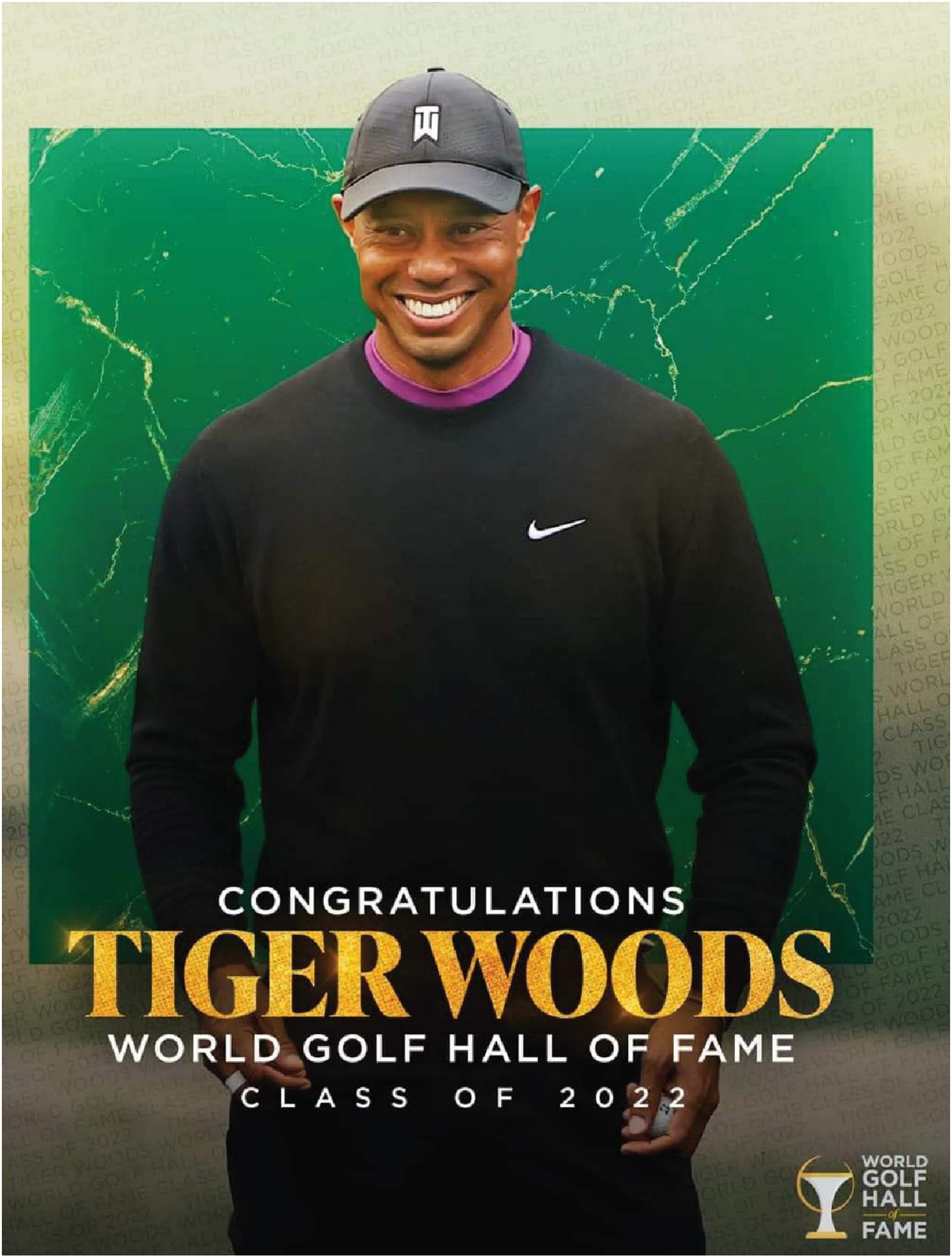


junior golf girls and boys to produce a champion for India. It will get enormous publicity like (Sachin) Tendulkar did for cricket," said Player, 86.

Cricketing great Tendulkar had his own praise for Lahiri's performance.

"You've made India proud, @anirbangolf! It was a close fight and these are the moments that'll take you to the next level. Congratulations on finishing as the runner-up," Tendulkar tweeted.

Lahiri's tie for fifth place at the PGA Championship 2015 at Whistling Straits in Kohler, Wisconsin, had been the previous best result for an Indian at a major.


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TIGER WOODS IN HIS HALL OF FAME SPEECH

WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

DELL Technologies MATCH PLAY

1999
beat NICK FALDO, 4&3
beat BOB TWAY, 1-UP
beat STEWART CINK, 2&1

2000
beat MICHAEL CAMPBELL, 5&4
beat RETIEF GOOSEN, 1-UP
beat SHIGEKI MARUYAMA, 4&3
beat PAUL LAWRIE, 1-UP
beat DAVIS LOVE III, 3&2

2003
beat CARL PETTERSSON, 2&1
beat K.J. CHOI, 5&3
beat STEPHEN LEANEY, 7&6
beat SCOTT HOCH, 5&4
beat ADAM SCOTT, 19 HOLES
beat DAVID TOMS, 2&1

2004
beat JOHN ROLLINS, 1-UP
beat TREVOR IMMELMAN, 5&4
beat FREDERIK JACOBSON, 5&4
beat PADRAIG HARRINGTON, 2&1
beat STEPHEN LEANEY, 2&1
beat DAVIS LOVE III, 3&2

2005
beat NICK PRICE, 4&3

2006
beat STEPHEN AMES, 9&8
beat ROBERT ALLENBY, 1-

2007
beat J.J. HENRY, 3&2
beat TIM CLARK, 5&4

2008
beat J.B. HOLMES, 1-UP
beat ARRON OBERHOLSER, 3&
beat AARON BADDELEY, 20 HOL
beat K.J. CHOI, 3&2
beat HENRIK STENSON, 2-UP
beat STEWART CINK, 8&7

2009
beat BRENDAN JONES, 3&2

2012
beat GONZALO FERNANDEZ-CASTANO, 1

2019
beat AARON WISE, 3&1
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USGA



THANKFUL WOODS ENTERS HALL OF FAME: 'I DIDN'T GET HERE ALONE'

Tiger Woods, who inspired a generation of players with his otherworldly talent, charisma and staggering success, took his place among the game's greats on Wednesday as he was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

During a ceremony at PGA Tour headquarters in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, Woods delivered a speech about his career and those who helped him along the way after his 14-year-old daughter Sam introduced him for induction.

Woods, 46, got emotional as he recounted the time his parents took out a second mortgage on their house - one that he would later pay off - so that he, at the age of 14, could compete on the American Junior Golf Association circuit.

"You have to understand I got to this position because of my upbringing, having two unbelievable parents," said Woods. "I know that golf is an individual sport, we do things on our own a lot, for hours on end, but in my case I didn't get here alone.

"I have unbelievable parents, mentors and friends who ... supported me in the toughest of times, darkest of times and celebrated the highest of times."

A handful of fellow PGA Tour players who are all competing in The Players Championship starting on Thursday were in attendance, including Justin Thomas and Jordan Spieth.

Ever since Woods appeared on television's Mike Douglas Show at the age of two displaying his raw putting skills alongside Bob Hope, he has been expected to produce the remarkable.

The American, whose career is on hold as he recovers from serious leg injuries suffered in a February 2021 car crash, exceeded the hype and has ultimately become one of the world's most celebrated sports figures.

After a successful junior, college and amateur golf career, Woods turned profes



sional in 1996 and won in only his fifth PGA Tour start, redefining a game that had never been dominated by a Black golfer, and raised the bar on golfers' athleticism.

"Playing at some of these golf courses I was not allowed in the clubhouses where all the other juniors were, the color of my skin dictated that, and as I got older that drove me even more," said Woods.

Woods was a ratings hit the moment he burst onto the scene as a professional and as the sport's popularity grew, so did the prize money paid out at PGA Tour events.

He has won 93 worldwide events, including a record-tying 82 on the PGA Tour, and his 15 major championships trails only the 18 won by Jack Nicklaus.

Woods is also the only modern pro to win all four major golf titles in succession, taking the U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship in 2000 and the Masters in 2001, a feat that became known a the Tiger Slam.

He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom following his 2019 Masters victory which came after years of surgeries and personal problems that convinced many the best golfer of his generation was finished.

"What drove me was the passion to play the game of golf. I was never going to be denied to play. I love it," said Woods.

"One of the things Dad instilled in me, he grew up in the same era of Charlie Sifford where you had to be twice as good to be given half the chance."

Woods was inducted alongside 11-time LPGA winner Susie Maxwell Berning, former PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem and the late Marion Hollins, who broke barriers as one of the few female developers of golf courses in the sport's history.

TIGER WOODS: 25 YEARS A PRO

Where do we start? At the beginning, of course. Aug. 29, 1996. Hello, world. Goodbye, competitive equilibrium. The day Tiger Woods became a professional golfer is the day our intrinsically grounded game lost its gravitational pull. Twenty-five years ago, a skinny young man of mixed race embarked on a quest that would shatter all preconceived notions and demolish the most outrageous expectations.

His father compared him to the messiah. Veteran tour pros snickered, bemused by the avalanche of hype. "You'll learn," ABC analyst Curtis Strange told Woods in a one-on-one interview right before Tiger's first pro start. It was a response triggered by the kid's proclamation that "second sucks and third is even worse," a cocky call to arms delivered to a national television audience with neither a smile nor regret.

Woods wasted no time exerting his superiority on a sport that had lacked a truly dominant player for an entire generation. He performed like Jack Nicklaus and became as popular as Arnold Palmer, although his public image was clobbered like a piñata more than once along the way. Tiger's massive mainstream appeal is the sole reason PGA Tour purses began soaring deep into the stratosphere the day he began driving the bus — from $101 million in total prize money in his rookie season to $292 million in 2008. That's a 9.8 percent increase per year, as opposed to an average growth of 3.4 percent from 1990-96. With Woods behind the wheel, his fellow competitors earned a staggering $1.6 billion in additional income during those 12 years. Michael Jordan didn't come close to changing the NBA the way Eldrick Almighty impacted pro golf. Only Babe Ruth dominated his game to a comparable degree for such a lengthy period of time.

In the South, they call that tall cotton. Everywhere else, they call it pretty bleeping amazing. Tiger Woods is one of the three of four greatest sportsmen who ever lived, as the following list of his 25 most extraordinary accomplishments may attest.

Tiger Woods's 25 Most Incredible Career Accomplishments

25. Made his television debut on the Mike Douglas Show at age 2. With Bob Hope and Jimmy Stewart as witnesses, Tiger the toddler hustled onto the set in red shorts and a crooked ballcap, assumed a textbook stance, then whacked a dead-solid perfect mini driver straight into the TV horizon. Strong evidence that natural talent comes courtesy of the Man Upstairs.

24. Compiled an 11–1 career record in playoffs, which includes unforgettable triumphs at the 2000 PGA Championship and 2008 U.S. Open. A box of three-day-old French crullers goes to anyone who can identify the lone spoiler.

23. Continuously held the No. 1 spot in the Official World Golf Ranking for more than five years on two separate occasions. Tiger spent 683 weeks atop the OWGR. Greg Norman is second at 331.

22. Made it through the entire 2000 British Open without hitting his ball into a bunker. Seeing how there are 112 sandy hazards at St. Andrews, many of them blind, that's like driving around Manhattan for 30 years without sustaining a fender bender. Not for nothing, Woods beat Ernie Els and Thomas Bjorn by eight.

21. Won the 1996 Pac-10 championship by 14 strokes, breaking the course record at Big Canyon CC by five shots with a 61 in his opening round. Woods had lunch, then went back out and fired a 65. Second sucks.

20. Won 11 of 26 collegiate tournaments he entered at Stanford, a victory percentage of 42.3 percent. That wasn't nearly as strenuous as being called Urkel, the nickname given to Tiger by teammate Notah Begay.

19. Appeared on the cover of the New York Post for 20 consecutive days at the end of 2009, passing the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks for the longest such streak in the tabloid's history. It was a story with legs, so to speak, as Tiger's rampant infidelity cost him his marriage but sold lots of newspapers.

18. Rallied from seven strokes down with nine holes to play to beat Matt Gogel at the 2000 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Former Major League Baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, a member of Woods's foursome as Jim Furyk's amateur partner, would call it "the most dumbfounding thing I've ever seen in sports," although it wasn't even Tiger's best performance at Pebble that year.

17. Won the 2006 British Open despite not hitting his driver on a single hole over the final three rounds. Woods had used it just once on Thursday, then geared down on the dusty old racetrack known as Royal Liverpool and led the field in fairways hit en route to one of the finest performances of his career.

16. Claimed an unfathomable six consecutive USGA titles, the last three of them U.S. Amateurs, the last of those featuring a brutally difficult 30-footer on the 35th hole to finally pull even with Steve Scott. If Woods doesn't jar that birdie putt on the 17th green that afternoon, history meanders off its prescribed path. For all the putts Tiger has made since, none were bigger.

15. Strung together at least five consecutive PGA Tour victories three times, including seven straight in 2006-2007. Does this accomplishment really require an explanation?

14. Broke Byron Nelson's longstanding record for the lowest single-season scoring average (68.15) in PGA Tour history. Of all the



numbers that define Woods's remarkable achievements in 2000, several of which rank higher on this list, this one serves as the ultimate standard of excellence. He had very few bad days that year. Come to think of it, he didn't have many mediocre ones, either.

13. Won two of his first seven starts as a pro. Tiger not only hit the ground winning, he beat Davis Love III for his first career triumph and held off Payne Stewart down the stretch at the old Disney tournament two weeks later. As if to remind everyone about the new sheriff in town, Woods began 1997 by defeating Tom Lehman in a playoff at the season-opener at La Costa. Three of America's finest veterans, all vanquished by the Dude in the Red Shirt.

12. Won 14 of the first 26 World Golf Championships contested once the series made its debut in 1999. The WGCs were a much bigger deal before the FedEx Cup playoffs came along (2007). All the big names showed up. The golf courses were top-notch, and Woods beat the hell out of everyone on a regular basis. They still attract quality fields, but Tiger put the WGC franchise on the map.

11. Punctuated his comeback in grand style by winning the 2019 Masters. Most people would rank this victory well into their top 10, but the fact of the matter is, Woods wouldn't have claimed his 15th major title if everyone else in the hunt didn't dump their tee shots into Rae's Creek at the par-3 12th. Yes, it's a mysterious little hole, but it's not the Bermuda Triangle. A fabulous feelgood story featuring the most dominant player ever, a gift from the golf gods, and at the end of the day, Tiger did what Tiger does. Win.

8. Survived a 19-hole Monday playoff against Rocco Mediate to win the 2008 U.S. Open. He did it on one leg, as everybody knows, and that bum knee left Woods's game in shambles as he prepared to give it a shot at Torrey Pines. Haney recalls Eldrick losing balls by the sleeve while limping through a practice round about a month before the tournament. That bumpy putt to save par and force the playoff will forever remain the biggest stroke of his career.

7. Has currently amassed $120,851,706 in career earnings, $26 million more than Phil Mickelson, (283 more starts than Woods) and almost $50 million more than anyone else. That said, you could still make a case that Tiger is the most underpaid player in golf history.

6. Went almost seven months without shooting a round over par. This streak commenced in mid-2000 and ran into the beginning of the 2001 season, ending at 52. It serves as Woods's version of Joe DiMaggio hitting safely in 56 straight games in 1941, and by any estimation, is equally monumental. Furyk ranks second on the all-time list at 38 straight. This is one of several records in Tiger's possession that may never be broken.

5. Won his first 14 major titles after holding at least a share of the 54-hole lead. Given that the guy atop the leaderboard after three rounds wins about half the time on the PGA Tour, the mathematical probability of someone doing this is almost impossible to comprehend. That none other than Y.E. Yang ended Tiger's big-game invincibility at the 2009 PGA Championship is both amusing and slightly inaccurate. Someone in the Department of Extended Dominance finally decided that enough was enough.

4. Broke numerous scoring records to win the 2000 U.S. Open by 15 strokes. Frankly, the last four of these Tigeriffic feats are basically interchangeable. Woods's performance at Pebble Beach registers as the finest golf ever played by anyone over the course of an entire week. They don't give you a larger paycheck if you win by more than two touchdowns, but the residual rewards are worth more than the money. Long-term superiority cannot be purchased at a local store.

3. Made the cut at 142 consecutive PGA Tour events, a streak that lasted almost 7 ½ years. This record is slightly fabricated in that Woods was given credit for 14 tournaments at which there was no cut, but why nitpick? A truly astonishing feat, given the depth of fields in the modern game and the understanding that one lousy hole can bring all the high-level consistency to a halt. Inarguable testimony to Woods's unparalleled mental toughness, week after week, year after year.

2. Won the 1997 Masters, his first major as a professional, by 12 shots. Woods's most historic achievement for several reasons: his age (21), his ethnicity, the ridiculous margin of victory and the pressure that comes with the entire world wanting to see if you're as good as advertised. Tiger bludgeoned Augusta National, hitting short irons into both back-nine par 5s and making his opening-nine 40 look like a misprint. The loudest statement ever made by a competitive golfer.

1. Became the only man in the modern era to win four consecutive major titles. That whole rhubarb over whether a "Tiger Slam" was equal to a Grand Slam was just media-generated rubbish. Four straight major victories is a feat exempt of qualification. To win the first two by a combined 23 shots, then survive an epic, David vs. Goliath showdown in extra holes — then cap it off at the cathedral designed by Bobby Jones — stands as the definitive reason why Tiger Woods is the greatest golfer who ever lived.

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MASTERS
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"SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT AUGUSTA IS MY FAVOURITE PLACE TO BE"

LEE WESTWOOD

When it comes to any and all things Masters, Lee Westwood really does know what he's talking about. Since his first appearance in 1997, the 48-year-old Englishman – he turns 49 two weeks after this year's 'toonamint' concludes – has done just about everything in golf's so called 'rite of spring.' Apart from donning golf's most famous garment, the Green Jacket, of course.

He's played alongside the best two players of all-time at Augusta National in Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. And this month he has a chance to surpass both as the oldest player to win the coveted Green Jacket when he makes his 21st start at Augusta National.

Runner-up in 2010 and 2016, the former World No. 1 pulled up third in 2008 and has recorded three other top-ten finishes. Only four times in his 20 previous drives up Magnolia Lane towards the famous clubhouse has he missed the halfway cut.

To discuss all ofthe above and a bit more, Westwood recently sat downwithGolfAustralia's JohnHuggan to chat abouttheMasters.



WESTWOOD ON DEBUT AT AUGUSTA (INSET) PLAYED ALONGSIDE JACK NICKLAUS IN THE FINAL ROUND.

Your Masters debut came in 1997. Everyone talks about how exciting that is. Were you the same?

The first time I went to the Masters was the first time I had ever been to the United States. I played in Cordoba, Argentina two weeks before.It was a tournament organised by Eduardo Romero. Darren (Clarke) and I went down there.Ironically, that was the first time I had ever played with Angel Cabrera, who would go on to win the Masters in 2009.

Anyway,I flew from there to BuenosAires, then to Sao Paolo.The tournament had finished on the Saturday, so I wentto the Brazilian Grand Prix.As you do. One day later,I flew from there toAtlanta.I was in Georgia ten days before the Masters even started.I could have been Japanese.They are normally the only people who show up for things that early.

I practised at Chateau Elan for most of that week. ButI was getting bored. And I wanted to get to Augusta. By the Thursday I was too excited.I had to get there and at least have a look at the place.I actually got there on the Friday – ridiculously early – having told them in advance I was coming. You have to do that.

Bob Kletcke, the head pro, met me and showed me around the place.I was with him when I got my first sight of the course.I was struck by how green the grass was and how white the buildings are.I stood at the top of the hill behind the clubhouse and there was virtually no one there. Just a few members. There was no signage, only a few ropes. There were yellow flags fluttering on the 9th and 18th greens.I could see the 10th tee and the fairway vanishing down the hill.It looked really steep.

Because there was no crowd there,I was struck by the huge open area of grass that sits between the 8th and the 9th and the 18th.I don't want to call it a field.I'm not sure that's appropriate at Augusta. But it's a massive expanse of grass with greens and tees dotted around. There is no definition or structure.It is kind of thrown down and that's it. Not what I was expecting at all.

So, you could say I was a bit eager to get there. But that gave me a chance to take it all in before the crowds started pouring in. That's important,Ithink. There is such an aura about the place it is easy to get overawed the first time you walk in.I know I was.

Well, not that much. You played well enough to get yourself back the next year. And you played the final round with someone a bit special did you not?

I did.It used to be the top-24 finishers got automatic invitations to the next Masters. I was right on the borderline.I shot 71 on the Sunday playing with Jack Nicklaus and finished T24. But only because Nick Price made seven or eight on the 15th hole Ithink. That got me into the '98 Masters.I must thank him for that one day.

The night before I played with Jack I went to a memorabilia stand and bought a picture of him holing that famous putt on the 17th green when he won his sixth Masters in 1986. He's wearing the yellow shirt and kind of following the putter and the ball to the hole. On the way round I asked him if he would sign it. He said, "sure, just catch me in the clubhouse." So,I did and he did."To Lee, Enjoyed our day. Nice round. Jack Nicklaus."I still have it, of course.

He actually started badly. We were going up the 5th hole when he said he was really sorry about the way he was playing.I couldn't believe he was apologising.Itold him not to worry (laughs). He is one of the few people who never needs to apologise for the way he plays at Augusta.

He got better, of course. When he pitched in for eagle on the 8th the roar is still the loudest, I've ever heard on a golf course.

Where is that picture now?

We're in-between houses so it is in storage. ButI know where it will go.It always has pride-of-place. He was so great to play with, not intimidating at all.I really enjoyed it.It was a nice way to spend four-and-a-half hours on Sunday afternoon at the Masters. To go there for the first time and shoot under par playing with Jack in the last round was a big boost to my confidence. And to ensure I was going back the next year was great.

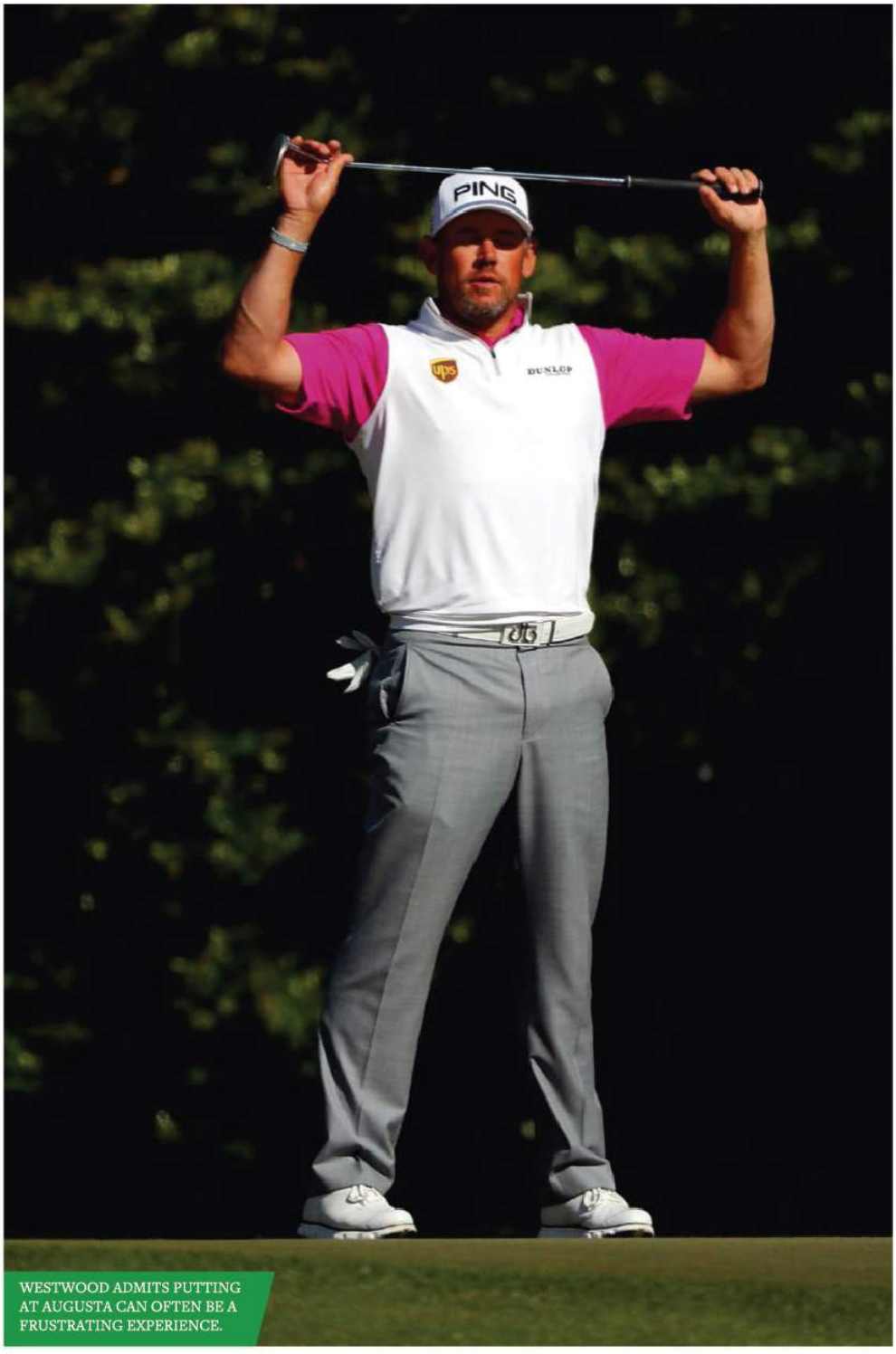
Once you get a taste of the Masters you want to keep going back. But it was especially nice to play with Jack. Watching him win in '86 was very inspiring to me when I was a kid. He whetted my appetite for playing golf really.

Early on, did you seek out people to play practice rounds, guys that could help you learn the course?

I did.I played with Nick Price.I played



> AUGUSTA NATIONALIS THE SORT OF COURSETHAT CHANGES CHARACTER WITH THE CHANGES IN THE PIN POSITIONS. IT'S JUSTLIKE THE OLD COURSE AT ST. ANDREWS IN THAT RESPECT.
>
> –LEE WESTWOOD



WESTWOOD ADMITS PUTTING AT AUGUSTA CAN OFTEN BE A FRUSTRATING EXPERIENCE.

with Bernhard Langer.I played with Seve once too. But here's the thing. You don't learn that much from practice rounds at Augusta. You learn much more from playing it in competition.I've gleaned the most valuable information from playing in the tournament itself. The course changes so much from even Wednesday to Thursday.

The pin positions are key. A yard or two change can make a massive difference. So, it's hard to replicate what you are faced with from Thursday onwards. That's one reason why you get a lot of repeat winners round there. There is no substitution for 'real' play. That's why guys like Fred Couples did well there year after year. Bernhard too. Jose Maria Olazabal. Faldo. Guys like that. There's nothing like the heat of battle.

Speaking of which, you've played well at Augusta on a number of occasions.When you have played well, what in particular have you done well?

That's a good question.I do know that when I've been successful,I've putted well. And to do that you need a lot of imagination.Ifeel like you have to play the par-5s well. Generally speaking,I've done that. And clearly your short game has to be at least good, if not better than that.

Still, the thing about Augusta – especially if you've been there a few times as I have – you can get round there in a decent score even when your game is not quite there.

It's all about missing in the right areas. You have to know where not to hit it. And if you do, you can, to use one of my favourite words, "nurdle"it around. That's a cricket word in England, when someone scores runs through placement rather than slogging away at every ball. Actually, you used to be able to do that more back in the day than you can now. These days, the course is so long you really have to be flushing your shots.

If you're not ripping it on holes like the 5th and 11th, you're going to struggle. Then there's the 7th.I used to be able to hit an iron off that tee, then a wedge to the green. Now I have to rip a driver to leave a 9-iron approach. Augusta National is not the drawing, fading, shaping, fiddly place it once was. They have turned it into a big hitter's course with less shaping required.

Take the 9th and the 14th. You used to have to really turn it over right-to-left off those tees. Not anymore. Now you can just hit it straight, or even a fade. The 2nd is the same. You used to have to shape the drive off the bunker on the right. You can still do that, but you don't absolutely have to.If you hit a fade there, chances are the ball won't even reach the trap. That's a big difference.

You touched on it there.What are the absolute 'no-go' places?What are the top-three?

There's a lot more than that. There are no go places from the 1st tee onwards. You just can't go long of the green with the approach on that hole. But a lot depends on the pin positions.If the flag is front-left there, you can't miss left.I could go on and on.

Augusta National is the sort of course that changes character with the changes in the pin positions. It's just like the Old Course at St. Andrews in that respect. If you move the pin, say, 15 feet, that can often make a 60-yard difference in where the ideal drive should finish. You have to play for the right angle to the flag.

Generally, too, above the hole is bad (laughs).I can't think of any spots above the flag when you're thinking 'this is pretty good.'

So, what's the absolute worst scenario?

One you see a lot is the 6th, the par-3, where the green is high on the right and low on the left. Actually,I always feel like I have to take on a pin on the top-right. Sure, you might run back off the green, but the back-left pin is the really evil one.If you go two or three yards over the putting surface it's so hard to get up and-down.It's just brutally fast there. You can putt, but getting the ball to almost stop just as it gets to the green is so difficult.

Are the greens too fast?

No. They know what they are doing with the pin positions. People still make birdies and it is entertaining.It normally takes about 16-under-par to win. But the thing about

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LEE'S BATTLE WITH PHIL MICKELSON IN 2010 WAS HIS FIRST CLOSE CALL AT THE MASTERS

"ITHINK I HAD A FIVE-SHOT LEAD AT ONE POINT, BEFORE PHIL WENTEAGLE-EAGLE-BIRDIEIN THETHIRD ROUND ... I HAVE NO REAL REGRETS."

–LEE ON HIS MASTERS NEAR-MISS IN 2010.

the greens is positioning. There is always a spot that gives you a chance to hole the putt. There's a strategy to it. The big key at Augusta is not following one error with another.I'm always so knackered at the end of the week. Not physically but mentally. You are always thinking out there.

The 2nd hole is a great example ofthat.Ifthe flag is on the left side you can't miss the green on that side.The right bunker is okay though. Ifthe flag is on the right,the bunker isn'tthe worst place to be butitis obviously far better to be coming in from the left. So, depending on where the pin is,the best spots for the third shot can be as much as 80 yards apart.

What is your favourite hole? And your least favourite?

My least favourite is probably the 7th.It was such a good short par-4. Because of the bunkers long and short, the green is designed to accept short-iron approaches. There's an elevation change and you have to control your spin. But now,I see guys going in there with 8-irons or more. Someone told me that Bernhard Langer hit a hybrid in there last year. That's impossible.I have to think he was aiming at the front trap.

It's a bit disappointing. There is nothing wrong with a short par-4.I mean, even if you smashed a driver off the old tee, the second shot was still brutal.It was a horrible pitch if you got within, say, 30 yards of the green.

As for my favourite hole,I'm not sure I have just one. But my favourite walk is on the 11th when you reach the top of the hill and look down on the green and the 12th hole beyond. I have so many favourite holes,I have a hard time picking one.

I used to love the 13th when there was doubt in the player's mind about whether to go for the green in two.

I still have to hit maybe a 4-iron or a hybrid in there.I'm not really a big shaper of the ball. So, it's hard for me to turn a driver round the corner there.

Ilove the second shot to 15 more. And the third shot is no bargain if you lay-up. A wedge over water from a downhill-sidehill lie is not much fun. But there are a lot of shots like that, like the second shot on the 13th.It's horrible, especially if you are going in with a long iron. The shot Nick Faldo hit there in 1996 must be one the best ever on that hole. Everyone was thinking 'hit it quick,' but he went back and forward between clubs and got it right.

Is playing incontentionat theMasters any different from contentionanywhere else?

It is.In contention on Sunday afternoon at Augusta is my favourite place to be.I can't think of anywhere else, although The Open comes close.If it's a warm day and getting a bit dusty and the greens are starting to get a bit slippery, there is nowhere better than Augusta. Especially when you know the pins are in places that will let you get on a bit of a roll. When all of that is in place, everyone is getting excited.

It's the back-nine at the Masters.It's like you are going from one amphitheatre to another, one arena to another. Every hole is framed by the trees. You don't get that anywhere else.

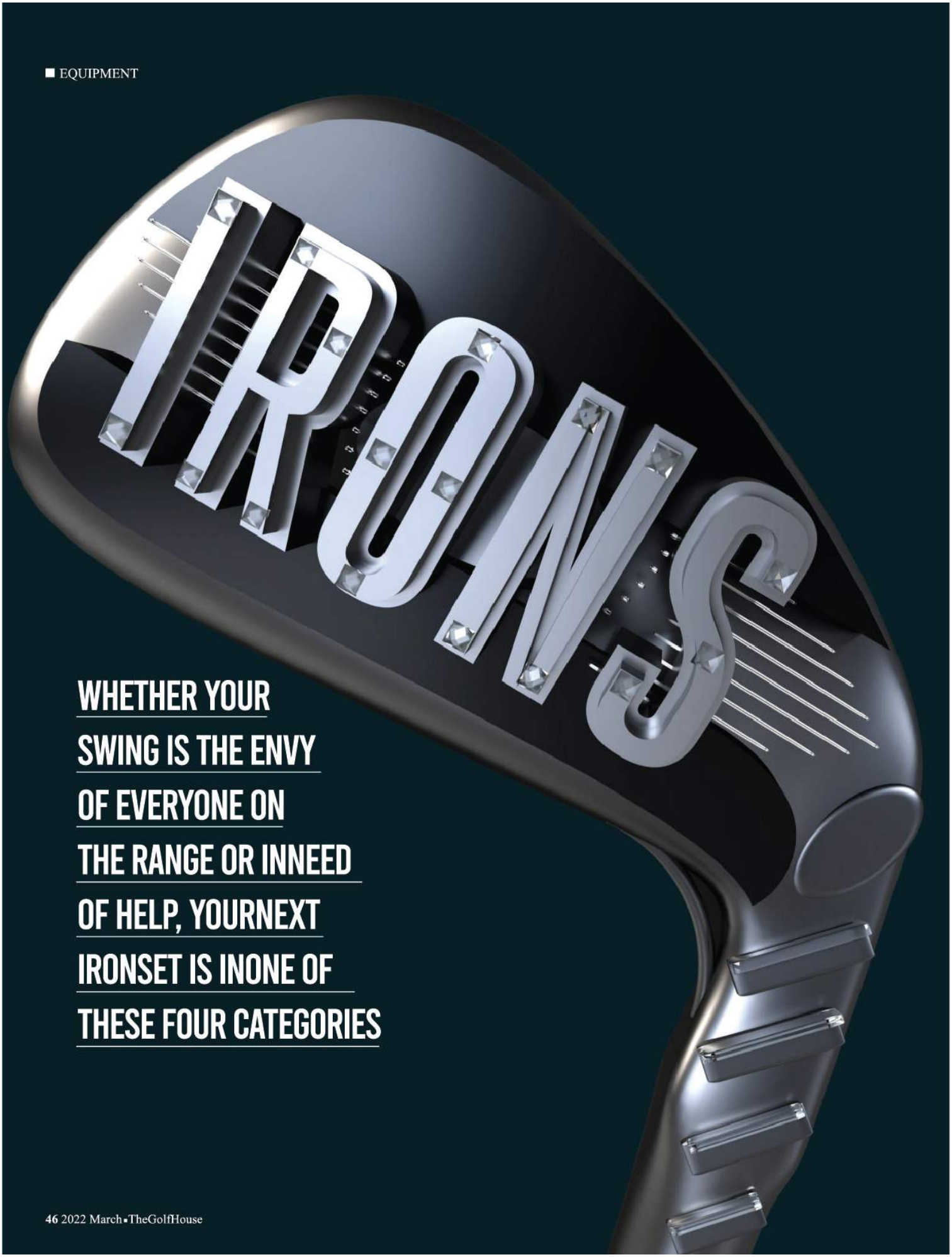


You were the victim – if I can call it that of Phil Mickelson's famous shot from the trees on 13 in 2010. But what everyone forgets is that he then missed the putt.

I don't forget that though (laughs). What people really forget is that we walked off the green with the same score.Ilaid up short of the creek before Phil hit – we were a couple of yards apart in the trees. Phil was faffing around before his ball eventually came out.I was watching itfrom the side and immediately thought, 'that's in the ditch.'It never looked like going anywhere but in the ditch. But somehow it landed on the front edge and rolled up to about four feet. Then he missed for the eagle. Right after I holed from 15-feet for my four. So, we actually halved the hole.

Ilook back on that day with fondness really. I didn't do much wrong.I shot 71 playing nicely.I put him under some pressure.I birdied the 17th before he made a nice putt to stay two clear. Then he hit it into the left trees, but made a good putt again for par.It was just one of those things. His name was always written on the trophy that day Ithink. That was a great Masters for me though.I enjoyed it.Ithink I had a five-shot lead at one point, before Phil went eagle-eagle-birdie in the third round. ButI was playing great that week.I have no real regrets. When Phil was going crazy I didn't do much wrong.Ithink I only dropped one-shot during his run. Then, in the last round, he got a bit lucky around the turn. He got away with a few stray shots. And that proved to be the difference in the end.

He carved it into the trees on the 8th but the ball came out and he ended up making birdie. It could have been a seven or anything. On the 9th he found the trees on the right but had a shot and was able to make par. On the 10th he hit it in the trees on the right and had to get up-and-down for par. Then he did the same on the 11th. On those four holes Phil could have been four- or five-over but walked off one under. But that's his game. I actually played with him the week before in Houston. He shot 63 in the third round. My caddie at the time, Billy Foster, said he was the man to beat at Augusta. And he was right. Damn him (laughs).



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CALLAWAY
APEX PRO

WHAT IT DOES: This could be the clubhouse leader in forgiveness for this category. The Apex Pro works for a wider range of players than most. The "flash face" architecture in each clubhead, designed with the aid of artificial intelligence, offers an individual face design for each iron and brings fast ball speeds and improved spin consistency. This helps better players attack the flag stick with more confidence.
WHY WE LIKE IT: Apex Pro is a combination of all the things good players want in an iron, such as a forging from 1025 carbon steel. Urethane microspheres also damp out any vibration from the cupface—essentially, the face wraps around the topline and sole—which provides plenty of distance. The hollow-body construction boasts faces designed via artificial intelligence that have different variable-thickness patterns for each club. This makes sense when you consider a 4-iron shot impacts the ball much differently than a ball-club collision with a 9-iron. The use of tungsten (up to 90 grams) lowers the center of gravity to provide the right amount of lift, especially in the long irons—an important consideration for a target audience that actually still hits long irons.



PERFORMANCE ★★★★½
INNOVATION ★★★★½
LOOK·SOUND·FEEL ★★★★★
DEMAND ★★★

PLAYER COMMENT
"THESE ARE DEADLY ACCURATE AND CONSISTENT. THE FEEL ACROSS THE FACE IS THE SAME ON EVERY HIT. SOME CLUBS GET JUMPY ON GOOD HITS BUT NOT THESE."

CALLAWAY
APEX TCB

WHAT IT DOES: At first glance, this replacement for Callaway's X Forged CB appears strikingly similar to its predecessor. However, the Apex TCB has distinct differences. Chief among them is a decid edly classic look, with a relatively straight leading edge, thin topline and a hosel transition that would appear to come straight from the tour. (It actually did. The feedback provided by the company's tour staff played an important role in the shaping of this iron.) The result is a more compact shape and less offset than the X Forged CB. What hasn't changed is the 1025 carbon-steel body and a face plate that uses varying thicknesses to promote consistent performance over a larger area of the hitting surface.
WHY WE LIKE IT: When targeting players who can discern small dif ferences, doing so subtly instead of explicitly makes a difference. Callaway has done that here. Although the club has a visible external weight, the internal metal-injection-molded tungsten weight, invis ible to the eye, helps locate the center of gravity in each iron with pinpoint precision to achieve the proper ball flight for each club. The lofts also are a degree weaker to help with distance control.



PERFORMANCE ★★★★½
INNOVATION ★★★★½
LOOK·SOUND·FEEL ★★★★½
DEMAND ★★

PLAYER COMMENT
"DEFINITELY JUICED. I WAS GETTING SIGNIFICANTLY LONGER NUMBERS. THE FACE CRADLED THE BALL NICELY. THE DAMPING OF VIBRATIONS WAS ALMOST LIKE A CUSHION."

COBRA
KING TOUR

WHAT IT DOES: Doing extremely cool technological things in an iron for better players is no easy accomplishment. After all, low handicappers tend to want irons that have a minimalistic look. That's why the use of a metal-injection-molding process in these irons is noteworthy. The head is made from a mix of 17-4 stainless steel (80 percent) and a softer 304 stainless steel (20 percent) that goes through an extremely hot sintering process to deliver a tighter grain structure than conventional forging. This also nearly elimi nates the need for hand polishing, reducing the chance for human error. The result is greater consistency from iron to iron.
WHY WE LIKE IT: Cobra has a tendency to make irons that look futuristic but not here. They've toned down the pioneering looks and classed it up a bit. The use of tungsten to position the center of gravity more in line with the center of the clubhead rather than toward the heel is valuable for an audience segment that finds the sweet spot more often than most. As a neat bonus, the Lamkin grips with Arccos sensors can keep track of your shots and offer data that can improve your strategy on the course.



PERFORMANCE ★★★★½
INNOVATION ★★★★
LOOK·SOUND·FEEL ★★★★½
DEMAND ★★★½

PLAYER COMMENT
"A HOME-RUN LOOK. IT HAS SOME OFFSET, BUT YOU DON'T SEE IT. A COMPACT HEAD, WITHOUT LOOKING TINY. THEY'RE TRUE. AT CONTACT, I COULD PREDICT THE BALL FLIGHT."

MIZUNO
JPX921 TOUR

WHAT IT DOES: When designing a smaller clubhead, figuring out where weight is needed and how to move it there is a big part of the puzzle. This iron features less weight in the toe than the JPX900 Tour and JPX919 Tour. The saved weight is then moved to the pe rimeter of the clubhead to increase forgiveness on off-center hits and to make center strikes feel pure by lowering the sound pres sure. Mizuno has given considerable thought to the details here, like progressive sole shaping in which the longer irons have wider, weightier soles to help get the ball airborne and like how the scor ing clubs have narrower soles to shape shots more easily.
WHY WE LIKE IT: The company is legendary for its jewel-like and tour-proven forged irons, and the JPX921 Tour only enhances that reputation. A compact, muscle-cavity blade forged from 1025E car bon steel, it's sure to attract attention from those at the top of the skill pyramid. However, suggesting this iron is just another solid exercise in metallurgy would be a tad unfair. Mizuno also studied vibration patterns to develop a thicker cavity pad that lets players feel impact for a fraction longer



PERFORMANCE ★★★★½
INNOVATION ★★★★★
LOOK • SOUND • FEEL ★★★★½
DEMAND ★★★½

PLAYER COMMENT
"THE PERFORMANCE WAS SPOT ON. IT DOES EVERYTHING REALLY WELL. GOOD SWINGWEIGHT AND STRONG FLIGHT. THE SOUND AND FEEL ARE ABOVE REPROACH. REALLY GOOD STUFF."

MIZUNO
MIZUNO PRO 223

WHAT IT DOES: Even in the players-iron category, golfers are clamoring for more ball speed. The Mizuno Pro 223, the replacement for its MP-20 MMC, uses hidden slots in the soles of the 4- through 7-irons to add giddyup but does so in a precise way. For example, the slot in the 4-iron is five millimeters wide to help produce a lower center of gravity for a higher ball flight, and the slot on the 5- and 6-irons is five millimeters wide in the center but narrows to three millimeters in the heel and toe. (Mizuno believes forgiveness is more beneficial in clubs that are harder to get airborne.) Then the slot on the 7-iron is narrower to make for a seamless transition to the 8-iron.
WHY WE LIKE IT: This iron should challenge the notion that Mizuno's MP line is only for traditionalists. The compact clubheads might be classic in appearance, but the technology is progressive. In addition to the slots, the face thickness is just 2.4 millimeters to help create enough speed for those who need it after hitting their drives from the back tees. The beveled trailing edge also reduces turf drag. Call this a nostalgic look with more than enough technology for today's better player.



PERFORMANCE ★★★★½
INNOVATION ★★★★½
LOOK • SOUND • FEEL ★★★★½
DEMAND ★★★★

PLAYER COMMENT
"EASY TO TURN THE BALL OVER OR TO FADE IT. SUPER ACCURATE—LIKE THROWING DARTS AND HITTING THE BULL'S-EYE. BETTER PLAYERS CAN TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS CLUB."

PING
I59

WHAT IT DOES: The design goal of this iron was straightforward: Create a club that could serve tour players with a slightly lower launch, better feel and tighter dispersion. Distance was not the objective. Delivering consistency for a player willing to sacrifice a couple of yards for repeatability was the goal. The key to achieving this is the aerospace-grade aluminum insert that allows roughly 30 grams of material from the center of the club to be redistributed to the perimeter in the form of toe- and shaft-tip weights. This raises the forgiveness level to nearly that of the company's i210 irons. Every iron in the set has a specific insert that reinforces the face while minimizing face deflection to produce consistent distance and trajectory.
WHY WE LIKE IT: An elegant club with a lot of technology, Ping's latest players iron is perfect for the golfer who wants no surprises. The desire for consistency doesn't stop with the insert. A 100-percent inspection on nine processes guarantees reliability. A new groove design tightens the spacing to reduce flyers in short irons and maintain spin on the long irons. The grooves are a tad shorter heel to toe—something Ping says makes players focus better on the shot.



PERFORMANCE ★★★★½
INNOVATION ★★★★★
LOOK · SOUND · FEEL ★★★★½
DEMAND ★★★

PLAYER COMMENT
"THERE'S SO MUCH STABILITY. THE BALL GOES STRAIGHTER BECAUSE THE CLUB DOESN'T JIGGLE THROUGH THE HIT. EVERY SHOT FELT CUSHIONED, TOO.

PXZ
0311T GEN4

WHAT IT DOES: Injecting polymer inside irons has been a PXG tradi tion since the company's inception. Finding a formula that produces the sweet feel the PXG promises coupled with enough spring-like effect to boost distance, however, had proved elusive—until now. The company uses a material it calls XCOR, a proprietary polymer that is more compressible than what the company previously used. This allows the polymer to work in conjunction with the thin steel face to produce more ball speed. The company's weighting system also underwent a transformation. Because fitting is not one-size fits-all, every Gen4 iron has a weight in the low-center portion of the clubhead that can be adjusted during the fitting process to be heavier or lighter to dial in swingweight.
WHY WE LIKE IT: It's perhaps a tad unfortunate that PXG's founder and CEO Bob Parsons is such an enthusiastic pitchman for his com pany. Sometimes Parsons' cries of "the science of sexy" and many of the other superlatives he touts overshadow the engineering strength housed in his company's clubs and the steadfast commitment PXG makes to fitting—both of which are highly beneficial to golfers.



PERFORMANCE ★★★★½
INNOVATION ★★★★
LOOK · SOUND · FEEL ★★★★½
DEMAND ★★½

PLAYER COMMENT
"A CLASSY, UNDERSTATED LOOK. THEY FIGURED OUT HOW TO HAVE IT FEEL SOFT OFF THE FACE YET LEAVE YOU WITH FEELIN YOUR HANDS. IF YOU STEP ON IT, YOU GET THE EXTRA DISTANCE."

SRIXON
ZX7

WHAT IT DOES: The ZX7 is a single-piece clubhead made from 1020 carbon steel with tungsten weights in the 3- through 7-irons to miti gate a loss of ball speed on mis-hits. Srixon engineers shifted weight to the perimeter and behind the sweet spot to improve forgiveness and to enhance the feeling that comes from a well-struck shot with a forged club. The sole has a higher bounce angle toward the leading edge that tapers on the trailing edge for better turf interaction.
WHY WE LIKE IT: These irons are part of the reason Brooks Koepka signed an endorsement deal with the company. The ZX7 balances the right amount of help with the right amount of leave-me-on-my-own. Although this kind of tech talk might not get golfers' pulses racing, better players will appreciate the attention paid to the sole geometry and groove design. The sole widths of the ZX7 increase as they in crease in loft. Why? The wider soles are advantageous for better play ers who tend to get steeper in their angle of attack when hitting short irons. On the face, two groove geometries (wider on the 3- through 7-irons and deep and closer together on the 8-iron through pitching wedge) are used to create more consistent launch and spin.



PERFORMANCE ★★★★½
INNOVATION ★★★★
LOOK·SOUND·FEEL ★★★★½
DEMAND ★★★

PLAYER COMMENT
"MIS-HITS HUNG IN THERE WITH THE YARDAGE. SUCH A HIGH LAUNCH, I COULD HIT MOON SHOTS WITH THE LONG IRONS, WHICH WAS SURPRISING FROM SUCH A BLADE-LIKE LOOK."

TAYLORMADE
P•7MC

WHAT IT DOES: TaylorMade has perhaps the most high-powered tour staff in golf, with players such as Dustin Johnson, Collin Morikawa, Rory McIlroy and a host of others, so it stands to reason that the company would produce a forged iron worthy of such talent. The forging process uses a 2,000-ton press to decrease the grain size in the 1025 carbon steel used for the clubhead. Why is that important? It leads to fewer inconsistencies that need to be addressed by hand polishing, thus creating a repeatable clubhead shape for a player type that appreciates such things.
WHY WE LIKE IT: Although muscle-back blades are primarily for golfers with mad skills, the P•7MC (muscle cavity) offers a players iron look with just the right amount of forgiveness. Based off the company's P•750 irons, enhancements include moving mass behind the face to support the point of impact. This coupled with a forged carbon-steel face and hosel provide a syrupy feel. For those who care about such things, the compact head, thin topline and progres sive offset offer the kind of tour-level look that makes you feel as if you have the game of DJ, Collin or Rory.



PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
INNOVATION ★★★★½
LOOK·SOUND·FEEL ★★★★★
DEMAND ★★★★★

PLAYER COMMENT
"CONSISTENCY IS KEY, AND THE LAUNCH MONITOR PROVED OVER AND OVER THESE HAVE THAT. THE CLASSIC YET NEW-AGE DESIGN SCREAMS THAT YOU HAVE ARRIVED AS A PLAYER."

TITLEIST
T100

WHAT IT DOES: The loyal Titleist customer (not to mention its tour staff) have a repetitive desire when it comes to the com pany's players irons: Make them better, but don't mess up what you have. This creates a design tightrope Titleist deftly navigates here. The T100's distinctive back bar is now thicker. To offset that, a higher-density tungsten (up to 70 grams) is brazed to the body rather than welded (brazing reduces weight by not cre ating weld beads) to optimize launch conditions and to foster forgiveness so that mis-hits more closely resemble center hits.
WHY WE LIKE IT: The thicker back bar allows performance enhance ments to take shape in a form and feel that better players recognize and appreciate. However, this club's technological unsung hero is the sole design courtesy of in-house knowledge gleaned from the company's Vokey Design wedges. Using information Titleist learned in the creation of lower-lofted wedges, the T100's sole now features less relief in the heel and more in the toe for better tran sition through the turf. That allows players to maintain clubhead speed through the hitting area.



EBL 30TH BGCC AMATEUR GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD



The EBL 30th BGCC Amateur Golf was recently held at the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club in Chattogram. Around 125 golfers participated in the two-day event. Rakibur Rahman Tutul won the tournament in general category while Captain Manzurul Hossain Khan finished as runner-up. Major SM Mazharul Islam scored the best-net of the tournament. Mrs Kamrun Nahar Munmun emerged as ladies' winner. Major General Saiful Abedin, president of BGCC, witnessed the event and distributed prizes among the winners. Sponsors Eastern Bank Limited's Managing Director and CEO Ali Reza Iftekhar was also present at the occasion.





7TH SHAH CEMENT-AKS CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT CONCLUDES





The 7th Shah Cement-AKS Cup Golf Tournament was held at the Kurmitola Golf Club recently. National Defence College Commandant Lieutenant General Mohammad Akbar Hossain witnessed the event and distributed prizes among the winners. Shah Cement Industries Limited's Head of Brand Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil was also present at the occasion. Around 665 golfers from different golf clubs of the country participated in the event, which was won by Commander Kamruzzaman. Salman Khan became runner-up while Shaila Ahsan emerged as the ladies' winner.



KURMITOLA HOSTS TRUST BANK DEFENCE SERVICES CUP GOLF





The Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka recently hosted the Trust Bank Defence Services Cup Golf Tournament. Around 500 golfers of the defence services took part in the event. Bangladesh Army's Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Ataul Hakim Sarwar Hasan witnessed the event and distributed prizes among the winners. The event was witnessed, among others, by Trust Bank's Managing Director and CEO Humaira Azam. Major Saif-ul Alam Mohammad Al Amin won the men's title where Brigadier General Shah Noor Jilani became runner-up. Mrs Kusum Farid emerged as the ladies' winner.





BRIG GEN KAZI IFTEKHARUL ALAM WINS

2ND DHAKA MERCANTILE COOPERATIVE BANK GOLF TITLE









The Shaheen Golf and Country Club recently hosted the 2nd Dhaka Mercantile Cooperative Bank Golf Tournament. Air Chief Marshal Sheikh Abdul Hannan, the chief of Bangladesh Air Force, distributed prizes among the winners of the event. A total of 198 golfers including 26 female golfers and 22 junior golfers participated in the event.
Group Captain Zafar Chowdhury, chairman of Dhaka Mercantile Cooperative Bank, and high officials of Army, Navy, Air Force, the bank and the golf club were also present on the occasion.
Brigadier General Kazi Iftekharul Alam won the title Hossain Mohammad Shoyeb became runner-up.
Afrin Hossain and Farzana Mahbub grabbed the two top prizes respectively in the ladies' section. Master Raim Al Mabruk emerged as the junior winner.

KSRM GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD
AT COX'S BAZAR GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB



The first KSRM Independent Cup Golf Tournament-2022 has been completed at Cox's Bazar Golf and Country Club.organized the tournament from March 24 to March 26. Cox's Bazar Golf and Country Club President Major General Md. Fakrul Ahsan BSP, NDU,psc withnessed the event. KSRM Director (Plant) Commodore (Retd.) MS Kabir was also present there along with others. The end of the ceremony was later announced with raffle draw and the distribution of prizes to the players.

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