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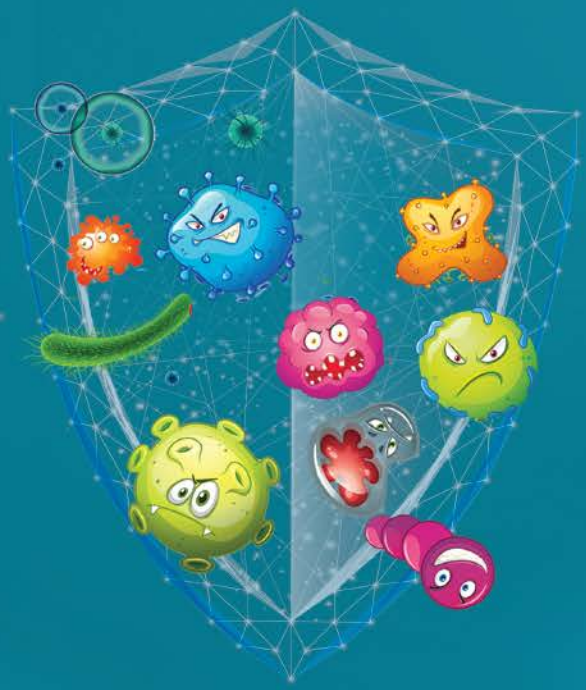
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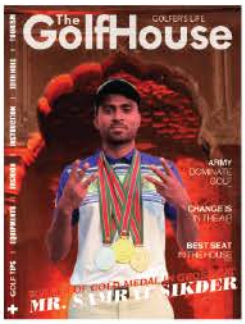


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We cover the golf events and the ones who shone as well as the ones who did a magnificent job by organising the event despite the challenges posed by the pandemic

EDITOR'S CHOICE



My ultimate target is to play in the PGA Tour, but everyone knows that's very tough. If I can play regularly in the Asian Tour, that will be a great thing for me.

Forward

Dear readers,
Here we are back with another issue of your favourite golf magazine TheGolfHouse.

This one is a special issue as we cover, in detail, the biggest sporting extravaganza of the country, the Bangabandhu 9th Bangladesh Games. We cover the golf events and the ones who shone as well as the ones who did a magnificent job by organising the event despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

We celebrate the Augusta Masters, one of the most prestigious events in world golf, and Hideki Matsuyama, who became the first Japanese professional golfer to win the title in the tournament's 87-year history.

There are also our regular segments such as club activities, tips and tricks, equipments and a lot more.

So enjoy your game and stay safe.

Nazrul Hosen Ayon
Editor

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The GolfHouse
GOLFER'S LIFE

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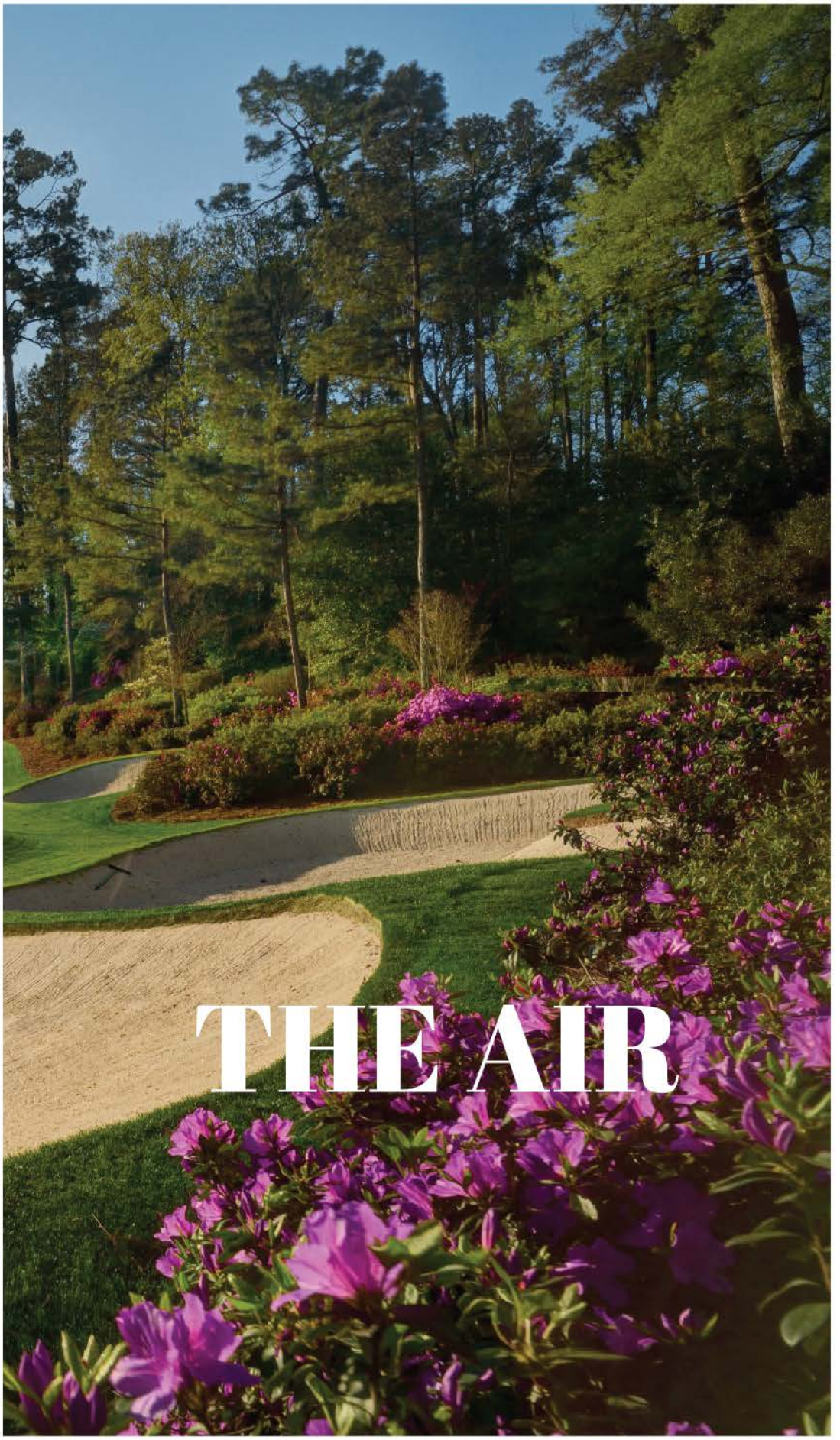
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CHANGE IS IN

AUGUSTA NATIONAL'S ONGOING QUEST TO BE



THE AIR

THE PERFECT COURSE By DEREK DUNCAN

When Augusta National purchased several acres behind its 13th tee from neighboring Augusta Coun-try Club in 2017, there was little mystery as to why. The tantalizing par 5, playing 510 yards, has been relegated to a drive and short-iron approach and no longer puts Mas-ters contestants in those heart-in-the-throat second-shot scenarios it was meant to. Extend-ing the tee at the 13th, something projected to happen any year, is the logical way to reestablish the hole's integrity.Such a substantial alteration to one of golf's most famous holes, potentially lengthen-ing it as much as 80 yards, might seem like a drastic move. But drastic moves are in character with Augusta National's heritage, and it would be just the latest impactful adapta-tion the club has made during the past 40 years—and particularly in the past 20—to counter the in-creases in power, proficiency and distance in the professional game.The most fundamental architec-tural modifi-cations of the original Alister MacKenzie and Bobby Jones design were completed by the 1950s (including the relocation and reconstruction of greens, the simplification of bunker forms and the building of a new 16th hole). Subsequent changes have focused on three objectives: pre-venting the course from being overwhelmed by modern tour pros and equipment; enhancing the live and televised specta-tor experience; and maximiz-ing improvements in agronomics and maintenance. To these ends, Augusta National has added more than 500 yards to the course since 1999 (for a total of 7,475), planted trees to narrow fairways, reshaped mounds and hollows around greens and introduced a second cut of rough. The fact that these revisions haven't produced drastic

scoring fluctuations is probably proof that they have been effec-tive—scoring averages per decade, beginning in the 1980s, are 73.97, 73.40, 73.89 and 73.22.

The revisions since 1999 also demonstrate a philosophical nimble-ness: To preserve certain historical continuities, Augusta National has sacrificed others. The narrowing of select holes through tree planting places a premium on straight driving that is at odds with the shot-shaping that defined play at the Masters since the be-ginning. Much of the adven-ture-some spirit, exploited by players like Arnold Palmer and Seve Ball-es-teros, has been lost in making the course more durable against the modern game.

Historians love to illustrate—and lament—all the ways Augusta Na-tional has deviated from the design MacKenzie called "The World's Wonder Inland Golf Course." But the following changes enacted over the past several decades have had an equally profound effect on the course's character and playability.

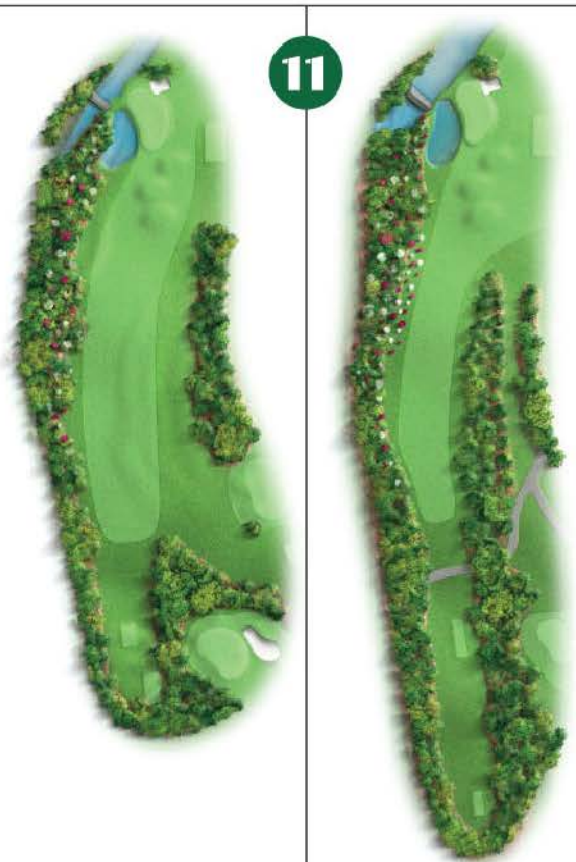


THE PAR4 SEVENTH

If Alister MacKenzie returned today, he would not recognize the seventh. The hole he designed was actually gone by 1938 when architect Perry Maxwell moved the green back to an elevated ridge and built deep bunkers into the front face. But for the next 50-plus years it played (along with the third) as the only other short par 4, a 360-yard reprieve after the battlefields of four, five and six. That was largely abandoned in 2002 when the seventh was lengthened to 410 yards and truly obviated before 2006 when the tees were pushed to 450 yards. With nearly 100 yards in extra distance and pines lining the landing area, it's the most claustrophobic driving hole on the course.

If the tournament committee wanted a harder par, they got it: In the 17 Masters between 1983 and its lengthening, more than 800 birdies were carded; in the past 15 tournaments, as a 450- yard hole, there have been 500.

> THE 11TH HAS EVOLVED INTO ONE OF THE HARDEST HOLES ON THE COURSE.



THE PAR4 11TH

Even aer Robert Trent Jones made major modifications to the 11th in 1950, shiing the tee 40 yards back and to the le of the 10th green and damming a stream to create the current greenside pond, it remained a challenging but not particularly formidable hole statistically. The green was raised and refortified several times during the 1990s, but players could still aggressively drive the ball over the crest of the hill into attack position from a garden spot that was nearly 100 yards wide be-tween the trees.

Aer the 2001 Masters, when Phil Mickelson had just 94 yards remaining for his second shot, the club embarked on a lengthening mission with architect Tom Fazio. They stretched the 11th to 490 yards (from 455), and during the next five years boosted it again to 505 yards and installed pines that closed off the right half of the hole, creating a more pronounced le-to-right drive.

The narrowing, by nudging drives off the right side, eliminated the previous range of approach angles and forced the line of play more directly along the edge of the pond. The 11th went from being a tough par 4 to regularly being the most card-destroying—in 11 of the past 18 Masters it has been Augusta Na-tional's hardest hole (and never out of the top three) with a stroke aver-age of 4.36. It was always said Amen Corner begins with the second shot on 11. Now it begins with the drive.



THE PAR5 15TH

Like the 11th, the 15th was once a bomber's paradise. Though a stand of pines always prevented players who hit down the le from going for the green in two, they could navigate nearly as far right as they wanted, even into the 17th fairway, and potentially have a shot. Big hitters knew they could catapult drives off a series of mounds on the right side of the fairway for extra yards.

Before the 1999 Masters, nearly 20 pines were planted in the right rough, and the mounds were removed. As those trees have grown during the past 20 years, they have formed a barrier that, bracketed by the now fully mature pines on the le, creates a narrow gateway to the green. These and other tweaks, including slope adjustments around the green, have had little effect on scoring (eagles occur at roughly the same rate as in the 1990s), but the players are hitting into the green from about the same places on the same line. The 15th remains exciting as an inflection point in the tournament drama, but it's a less multi-dimensional hole than it was when incoming shots came from an array of distances and directions.

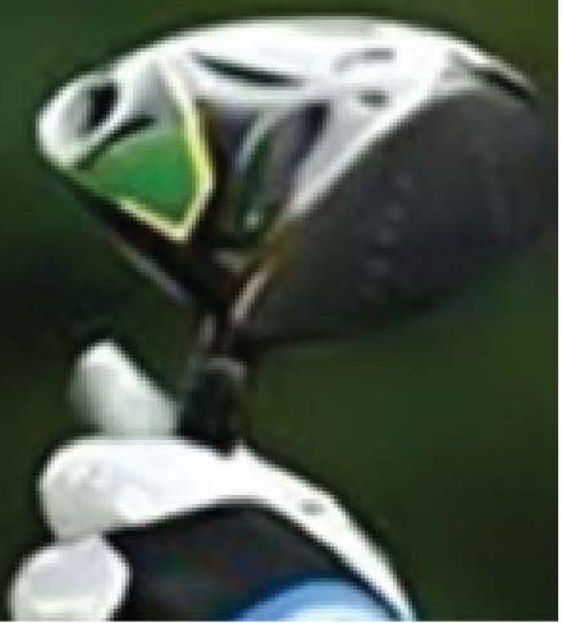


PHOTOGRAPHS: DOM FURORE (13TH), BEN WALTON (15TH); ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRIS O'RILEY

THE CONVERSION TO BENTGRASS GREENS

One of the most critical alteations made in the past 40 years might not be noticeable to the eye. In 1980, the club converted its greens to Penncross bent, replacing the old strain of Bermuda (which was overseeded with rye) that was becoming impossible to make play fast. The intended effects became evident as players marveled at the quickness of the greens, and only one winner the rest of the decade finished in double figures under par (Ben Crenshaw in 1984, at 11 under) compared to five of the previous six champions. As the grass matured, the staff could achieve a new standard of speed and uniformity, to the point that the greens were sometimes too fast because of the severe contours. If conditions were hot and dry, the greens became rock hard, and it was not unusual for putts to coast entirely off the surfaces. If they were softened by rain, approach shots might spin backward off the greens. As a result, green surfaces with the most pronounced transitions, including four, six, eight, nine, 14 and 18, had to be rebuilt to reduce the slopes. The green contours continue to be massaged and updated with improved strains of bent, but the exacting Augusta greens we now know trace back to that first 1980 conversion.

‘I’M CONFIDENT OF DOING WELL IN THE USA’




Titleist



Towards the end of last month, Siddikur Rahman, Bangladesh's premier golfer, flew to the United States of America to try his luck in the Korn Ferry Tour, the second-tier golf tour in the country. The two-time Asian Tour winner will play in a couple of events while also undergoing training on fitness and mental strength. The ace golfer caught up with TheGolfHouse for an interview prior to his departure.

Where are you going and when are you going?
I'm going to Dallas, USA to play in the Korn Ferry qualifiers. Those qualifiers are still about two months away, so I can train there in the meantime. I will have training on my short game. My mental coach will fly from Canada to join me there. I will play in a few tournaments there.

You had applied for funding from Bangladesh Olympic Association. Have you got any reply?
I haven't yet got any reply from the BOA regarding the financial help. So I'm going to USA on my own. Had I got support from the BOA, I would have been able to stay for a longer period. But now my plan is to stay in the USA for one-and-a-half to two months.

What took you so long to come to this decision since you had been plan-



ning to go to USA for quite some time?
True I planned this quite some time ago, but I didn't get the green signal from the authorities where I will train. There were a lot of restrictions due to the pandemic. Now I have everything sorted out. My trainer assured me everything is fine now and that I can go. It's been almost a-year-and-a-half since I've played. But now that things are looking better, I'm going there and let's hope for the best.

Since you've been out of the game for some time, how hard will it be to cope up again?
It will undoubtedly take some time, but I wasn't sitting idle. I worked on my physical and mental aspects and went for training whenever the golf clubs were open. And I'm going there with time on my hand. So I don't think it will be an issue.

PGA Tour and even Korn Ferry Tour are much more difficult compared to the Asian Tour. So how confident are you about your target of playing in the American tours?
Those are indeed very difficult. However, I feel I have been pretty successful at the Asian Tour. I have played in some European Tour events and did well there. It will be challenging but I am confident about doing well there.

What happens if you qualify? Will you extend your stay?
If I qualify, I will be eligible to play for one year in 2022. Then I will have the permit to play there. So in that case I would stay longer. That is my plan for now. If I play very well there and finish in top 25, I will be eligible to play on the PGA Tour.

You missed out on the Olympics and your ranking has gone down massively due to the break from international events. Do you feel frustrated about it?
Actually I don't have any regrets. I played in the Rio Olympics in 2016 and if the Tokyo Olympics were held last year, I might have had a chance. But I feel there is no point in participating just for the sake of it. If I can prepare myself for a medal, then the participation will be worth it. I hope I will prepare myself well for the Korn Ferry Tour and I expect all our countrymen to pray for me.



WINNER OF GOLD MEDAL IN GROSS CAT

MR. SAMRAT SIKDER


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Golf Pride





I'm feeling very good today. I'm grateful to Allah, to KGC for giving me the opportunity and to my family for the support they have given me. My gross score and net score, both are four-under. I'm basically from Jashore but I played for KGC. I've won one gold and two bronze medals in these Games.

My ultimate target is to play in the PGA Tour, but everyone knows that's very tough. If I can play regularly in the Asian Tour, that will be a great thing for me.

I want to turn pro next year. I previously won the eight-nation amateur championship last time around with a score of five-under. There are young players who played in this event, have potential. They should continue to play. I started like them and now I play for the national team and have myself in world ranking. This is a big achievement for me and I want the youngsters to follow that.



ARMY DOMINATE GOLF

BANGLADESH ARMY EMERGED CHAMPIONS IN THE GOLF TEAM EVENTS IN THE BANGABANDHU 9TH BANGLADESH GAMES, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE KURMITOLA GOLF CLUB IN DHAKA FROM APRIL 7 TO 9.


YEARS
NGLADESH GAMES GOLF 2020
GOLF CLUB, DHAKA, DATE: 06-09 APRIL 2021


SRIXON




BANGABANDHU 9TH
GAMES GOLF 2020


VENUE: KURMITOLA GOLF CLUB, DHAKA, DATE: 06-09 APRIL 2021







BANGABANDHU 9TH BANGLADESH GOLF CUP 2020

Galleries









BANGABANDHU 9TH BANGLADESH GAMES WAS A GRAND SUCCESS

Brigadier General Md Tajul Islam Thakur
Secretary General, Bangladesh Golf Federation



Brigadier General Md Tajul Islam Thakur, Secretary General of Bangladesh Golf Federation, expressed his satisfaction at the successful arrangement of the golf event of the Bangabandhu 9th Bangladesh Games.

In an interview with TheGolfHouse, he also said that among various sporting disciplines in the country golf has been hit from the pandemic due to the support andcontribution of the federation and other stakeholders.

Q&A

THE CURTAIN ON THE BANGABANDHU 9TH BANGLADESH GAMES FELL RECENTLY. SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE EVENT AND THE WINNERS.

To celebrate the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the golden jubilee of our glorious Independence, Bangabandhu 9th Bangladesh Games was arranged from 01 to 09 April 2021. Bangladesh Olympic Association took the lead role in organizing this event where a total 31 sports disciplines were conducted.

One of the most important objectives of this event was to find out the best players in each discipline as national representatives at regional and world forum. I can confidently say that the intended objective has been achieved and we could discover a good number of promising players in different disciplines with new national records. I am quite sanguine that our future is bright and we would see these winners bringing laurels and fame for our country in future.

HOW WAS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE GOLFERS IN THE EVENT? ARE YOU SATISFIED?

The golf event was organized by the Kurmitola Golf Club under supervision of Bangladesh Golf Federation. The tournament commenced on 6th April and the closing session took place on 9th April 2021. A total of 27 teams featuring 104 golfers from different golf clubs and institutions participated in the event. We are truly happy to see the keen interest taken by everyone during this pandemic situation. We are also satisfied with their performance. Besides, we have identified a good number of promising golfers and I am sure that with good care we will be able to unearth golfers like Siddiqur Rahman in future.

AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF BGF, YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO RUN THE SHOW IN BANGLADESH GOLF. SO WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES AT THIS MOMENT?

Golf is a game of passion and we are lucky to have many passionate golfers in our domain. Given with the fact that most of our valued golfers play golf to pass quality time in the course yet we are focused on branding golf at national level.

Our first priority is to promote root level promising golfers. BGF directly patronizes this initiative with support from the Golf Academy and the clubs. So far, we were quite successful in achieving our goal and we will continue to pursue this as our top priority in near future as well.

Our second priority is to maintain the golf courses at different clubs so that golf can be played with its aristocracy



and world class standard. Truly speaking, we are striving to bring all the courses at that standard. Yet, our effort is on and hopefully we will be able to do this under all inadequacies.
We will also pursue to continue golfing in all circumstances. Covid pandemic has presented a very different situation ahead of us. But we vow to continue maintaining safety protocols so that clubs remain vibrant at all time.

THIS IS A DIFFICULT TIME. THERE HAS BEEN ONLY ONE PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENT IN THE COUNTRY IN THE LAST YEAR. SO HOW WILL THE GOLFERS, CADDIES, BALL BOYS SURVIVE?

Covid pandemic has truly brought an upsetting trend in our lives all over the world. Golf is no exception to that. Eventually, we could arrange only one professional tournament last year though we planned more at the beginning.

You have rightly pointed out that the tournaments directly contribute to the golfers, caddies and ball boys. Conversely, absence of regular tournaments hits them hard. But given the fact that all golf clubs are primarily administered and run by military authority, military stood by them during these difficult times. We have not enforced any layoffs and continued to pay them regularly. Additionally, we are arranging different schemes of monetary grant, distributing food stuffs to help them survive the difficult times. With all these efforts their survivability was not a big issue. We are happy to see them in full strength despite the fact that tournaments are not in full swing yet.





GOLF IS A GAME OF PASSION AND WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE MANY PASSIONATE GOLFERS IN OUR DOMAIN.

WHAT HAS BGF DONE TO HELP LESS PRIVILEGED GOLFERS, CADDIES AND BALL BOYS?

BGF is highly committed to promote the less privileged golfers, caddies and ball boys. Our national golf representatives are basically born from this less privileged group. So we take multiple steps to look after them.
We get an annual grant (though meager) from R&A (The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews), the highest governing body of Golf. The money is spent for the less privileged golfers including promising young golfers. Bangladesh Golf Academy arranges their training, food and education expenses so that they become professional golfers in due time. In addition, we give scope to all caddies/ball boys to practice in the respective clubs with the club expenses so that they also grow as professional golfers. We arrange tournament for them as well. The professional armature tournament is also arranged annually for them.

HAS BGF ASKED FOR ANY COVID FUND FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN THIS REGARD?

Golf is invariably an expensive game. But the maintenance of course is more expensive. As the golf course was closed amidst the corona pandemic, personnel associated with the game had quite a big setback in their livelihood. The courses could be maintained from the associated funds or from Army's budget.
We did not ask for any fund from the government but we asked for some financial help from Bangladesh Olympic Association and received some grant from them.
To support the poor caddies/ball boys financially, concerned clubs have arranged money and food stuffs from different sources. BGF even took the initiative to collect food stuffs centrally from formations and then distribute those to the caddies and ball boys. We are very happy to see that our boys were not hit hard like other sports.

WHAT DO THE MEMBERS AND PATRONS OF GOLF FEEL ABOUT THIS AND HOW ARE THEY REACTING?

You know golf is a game of aristocracy. Our valued members are very much considerate and they exactly understand the underlying situation of this corona pandemic. Though playing golf is their passion, yet they have displayed absolute adherence to the nationally imposed restrictions and bindings imposed by the golf authority. Even to the extent, we have seen golfers restraining themselves from coming to clubs when the golfing was made open few weeks back. All the members and patrons of golf are waiting eagerly to see normalcy in golfing life.

WHEN CAN WE HOPE TO SEE GOLF EVENTS STARTING IN FULL SWING? MOST OF THE OTHER SPORTS EVENTS ARE RUNNING WITH OR WITHOUT SPECTATORS.

Golf is a non-contact game. It is quite safe to play even in this pandemic situation with certain safety protocols. As nationwide lockdown was declared, we put some restriction on golf as well. However, we almost drove the game in full swing later and had our tournaments on. Once the ongoing lockdown will be pulled, we are planning to reopen the courses with certain restrictions. In future, with improved situation, we are planning to organize tournaments following our golf calendar. We are also planning to organize professional tournaments as soon as the travel restriction is lifted on international flights. We hope to see a Covid free environment soon and normalcy in our day-to-day life both at golf and other sports.



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HAPPY WITH GOLFERS' PERFORMANCE

Brig Gen GSM Hamidur Rahman (Retd)
Chief Executive Officer, Kurmitola Golf Club



In an interview with TheGolfHouse, Kurmitola Golf Club's Chief Executive Officer Brig Gen GSM Hamidur Rahman (Retd) expressed his satisfaction of the club golfers in the Bangabandhu 9th Bangladesh Games.

He also spoke about the activities and efforts undertaken to continue golf and help golfers during the pandemic

Q&A

GOLF CLUBS WERE CLOSED FOR A LONG TIME. CLUBS OPENED IN DECEMBER AND AGAIN CLOSED DOWN IN APRIL DUE TO THE SECOND WAVE OF THE CORONAVIRUS. HOW DID KGC SURVIVE THIS CHALLENGE?

The closure was for about nine months. KGC mainly found three challenges: firstly, continuing the maintenance work, then strain on income and lastly the economic condition of the caddies and ball boys. However, we evolved a system for maintenance work by least possible personnel. For the cadies and ball boys, we constantly strived hard for their help. Many organizations, golf members, defence organizations regularly helped them in terms of cash and kinds. Though it was very hard on us, we could sustain it.

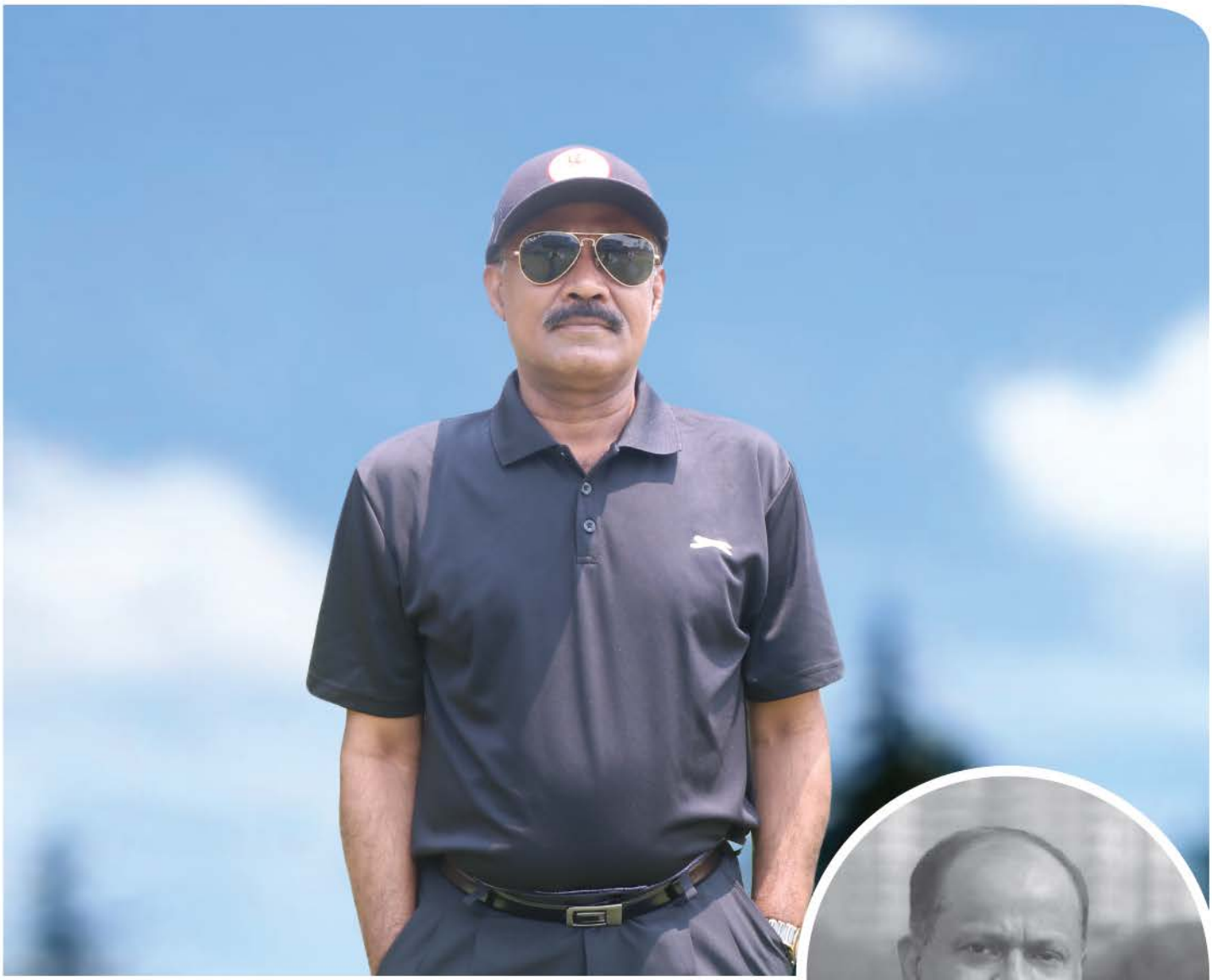
HAS THERE BEEN ANY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AT THE KGC DURING THIS TIME?

KGC always gives importance to development of golf in Bangladesh. During the last one year, we nourished the national team here. In addition, Army Team was also given full facilities of training. Furthermore, we recently bought few modern equipments for better maintenance of the course.

AS THE VENUE PARTNER, HOW CHALLENGING WAS ORGANIZING THE BANGABANDHU 9TH BANGLADESH GAMES WHERE AROUND 160 PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED?

The mega event was indeed a challenge for us mainly due to the Covid-19 situation; you may remember that countrywide general lockdown started from 5 April, 2021. As such we had to ensure Covid-19 safely protocol 100 percent for all persons engaged in the

THE MAIN CHALLENGE WAS TO KEEP THE STAFF SAFE FROM COVID-19 WHILE KEEPING THE COURSE MAINTAINED



event. Almighty was kind as the event was successful without any Covid-19 or other issues.

HOW DID YOU ENSURE SAFETY MEASURES LIKE PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND ALL THAT?

Time to time, Bangladesh Government issued safety protocol. In accordance, Bangladesh Golf Federation also gave elaborate action oriented instructions for us. Accordingly we applied few safety and physical distancing protocols since December 2020. Avoidance of multi-touch, cent percent use of mask, use of sanitizers were the backbone of our safety effort.

HOW WAS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE KGC GOLFERS IN THE EVENT? ARE YOU SATISFIED?

KGC earned two gold, one Silver and two bronze medals. In this competition, KGC earned the highest number of medals, so I am quite happy with the performance.

WHAT PHILANTHROPIC/CHARITY ACTIVITIES DID KGC UNDERTAKE DURING THE PANDEMIC?

The charity activities we undertook were monetary help to caddies and ball boys, Eid bonus and arranging food and safety items for them as well as for KGC staff.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES THAT YOU FACE IN MAINTAINING THE COURSE DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Yes, there were quite bit of challenge in maintaining the course during the pandemic. For due reasons, we could not afford to engage 100 percent staff throughout the period. The number of daily labour also reduced to one fourth. But with the hard work and dedication of all members, we could successfully maintain the course. The main challenge was to keep the staff safe from Covid-19 while keeping the course maintained.

DO YOU HAVE ANY MESSAGE FOR THE MEMBERS?

Only message for our respected members is stay home to stay safe. May Allah bless us all.



BOGURA GOLF CLUB
IS A WONDERFUL GOLFING ESTABLISHEMNT AND RECREATIONAL SPOT

BRIGADIER GENERAL MOHAMMAD HABIB ULLAH,
CHAIRMAN OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE CLUB


RZN VRS


PING



How has the pandemic impacted the activities of the Bogura Golf Club?

The club opened to public in December, alongside the other golf clubs in the country, following the first wave of the pandemic. So things were just beginning to get normal before this second lockdown forced us to close the club again. However, in the preceding months, we arranged some small in-house events as well as two big events in the club. We arranged these events adhering to proper health and safety guidelines. So this second wave of Covid-19 is a setback to our club as well as the rest of the country.

How many teams from this club are participating in the Bangabandhu 9th Bangladesh Games?

We have fielded two men's teams and one team made up of the underprivileged. We were supposed to have a ladies' team too but one of the players got Covid-19, so we had to abandon that plan. We formed the teams two months ago and the prepared well for the event.

What is the number of members of this golf club?

We have a total of 400-500 members out of whom 120-140 are regular.

As the chief of development committee, what activities have you undertaken to improve this golf club?

We have taken undertaken various development activities. If we talk about the structural issues, we have been working on the green – to make the grass thinner. We have renovated or are in the process of renovation of the tee box, use of water sprinkler, redesigning the bunkers, reshaping the water hazards, etc.

The signature item of the club is a miniature zoo, which we have named Aronnyo Bilash. There are various kinds of birds there. There is a hillock before the 7th tee, which we named Chandro Bilash. You can see the sun set from this point. You can have a cup of tea there and socialise with your fellow members. So this place is also a very good one for socialization.

Lastly, we have undertaken projects to improve golfing skills of caddies by hiring a professional trainer. We have installed banners depicting the rules and regulations of the game and the safety guidelines for Covid-19 at various spots of the course. The development activities are a continuous process and we are pursuing this with a lot of goodwill.

Why should golfers come here to play?

BGC is a wonderful small club outside Dhaka. On the one hand there are challenges such as hazards and bunkers, on the other there are wonderful facilities here which should attract golfers. Furthermore, Bogura is a historic city. You have archaeological sites here. So a trip to the BGC or Bogura in general could serve various purposes such as business, education and entertainment. If you come here on a rainy day you will be amazed by the beauty of the club and its surroundings.

How did you come into golf?

It is interesting really. When I used to watch golf on TV, I used to think this is not a very useful sport. But then I saw there was a whole golfing community and I was missing out on that aspect of socialization. It is a very friendly community that you get when you play with your fellow golfers. You can make friends and spend your time after office at the golf club. And then you can play the sport regardless of your age. My interest grew after I started taking my children to the club. Seeing them enjoy the game and do well in it encouraged me to take it up. It was around 2014 that I started playing even though I had been involved with official golfing activities since 2007-08.

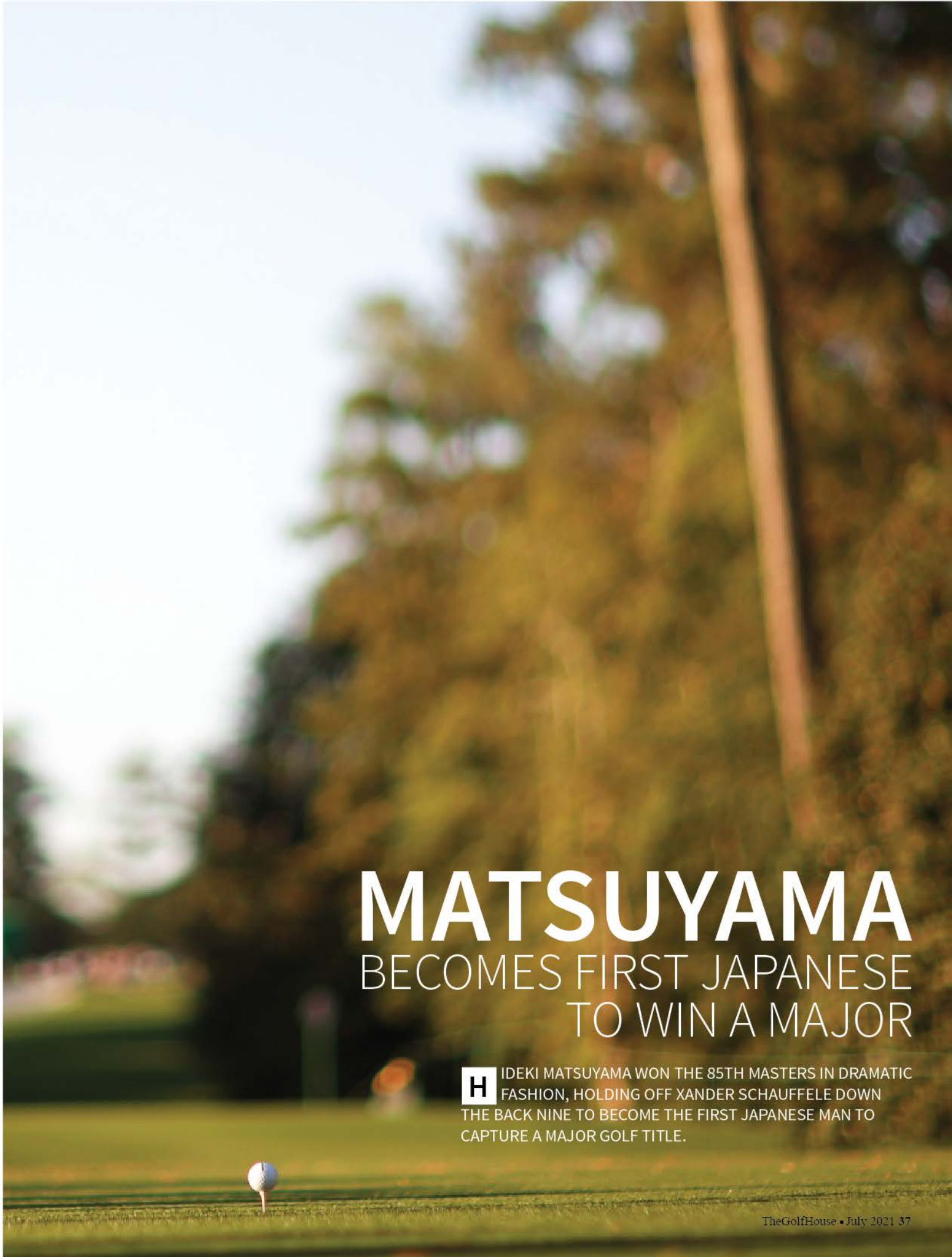
So the game runs in the family now?

Yes, my children, they all play golf. My 11-year-old daughter and nine-year-old son are learning the game. They are playing in the sub-juniors. My two older sons also play regularly; they have played in various golf clubs in the country.

Thank you for your time.

You are welcome.





MATSUYAMA
BECOMES FIRST JAPANESE TO WIN A MAJOR

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA WON THE 85TH MASTERS IN DRAMATIC FASHION, HOLDING OFF XANDER SCHAUFFELE DOWN THE BACK NINE TO BECOME THE FIRST JAPANESE MAN TO CAPTURE A MAJOR GOLF TITLE.



Carrying the hopes of a nation on his shoulders, Matsuyama calmly grinded out clutch pars and struck for crucial birdies in a pressure-packed march at Augusta National, hanging on over the final holes for a historic one-stroke victory.

Matsuyama took the green jacket symbolic of Masters supremacy, a top prize of $2.07 million (1.74 million euros) and a place for the ages in Japanese sports history.

"I'm really happy," he said through a translator. "Hopefully I'll be a pioneer in this and many other Japanese will follow. I'm happy to open the floodgate and many more will follow me." After seeing his seven-stroke lead with seven holes remaining shaved to two shots with three to go,

Matsuyama watched Schauffele find water off the 16th tee on the way to a triple-bogey disaster.

"I felt like I gave him a little bit of a run and made a little bit of excitement for the tournament until I met a watery grave there," Schauffele said. "I'll be able to sleep tonight. It might be hard but I'll be OK." Matsuyama settled for bogey but closed with par at 17 and a bogey at 18 to fire a one-over-par 73 and finish 72 holes on 10-under 278. "My nerves really didn't start on the second nine," Matsuyama said. "It was from the start today to the very last putt."

American Will Zalatoris was second in his Masters debut on 279 after a closing 70 with US three-time major winner Jordan Spieth and American Schauffele sharing third on 281. "It was a fun week," Zalatoris said. "I know I can play with the best players in the world."

Matsuyama became only the second Asian man to win a major title after South Korea's Yang Yong-eun at the 2009 PGA Championship.

Matsuyama, ranked 25th, hadn't won since the 2017 WGC Akron tournament, but 87 starts later, he matched the victory from his only other 54-hole outright PGA lead, at the 2016 WGC Shanghai tournament.

The best prior majors by Japanese men were Isao Aoki's runner-up effort at the 1980 US Open and Matsuyama's share of second at the 2017 US Open.

No prior Japanese player had finished better than fourth at the Masters.

Japan's two previous major golf titles belonged to women, Chako Higuchi from the 1977 LPGA Championship and Hinako Shibuno at the 2019 Women's British Open.

The tension of the moment was on display at the start, Matsuyama hitting his first tee shot well right into trees on the way to a bogey. He shook it off at the par-5 second, blasting out of a greenside bunker and tapping in for birdie.

Matsuyama saved par at the fifth on a 20-foot putt and used a deft touch with short irons to set up birdies at the par-5 eighth and par-4 ninth. Matsuyama made bogey at the par-3 12th and hit a tree off the tee

MASTERS LEADERBOARD



FINAL ROUND		
1	Matsuyama	-10
2	Zalatoris	-9
T3	Schauffele	-7
T3	Spieth	-7
T5	Leishman	-6
T5	Rahm	-6
7	Rose	-5
T8	Conners	-4
T8	Reed	-4

at the par-5 13th but recovered for birdie as Schauffele made his move. Schauffele was three-over after five holes but birdied at seven and eight and reeled off four birdies in a row starting at the 12th.

"I fought hard. It was a messy start," Schauffele said. "Hideki was robot-like for 13 holes."

Tension grew as Matsuyama found the water over the green at the par-5 15th and made bogey while Schauffele had a tap-in birdie to pull within two shots with three holes to play. "Hideki gave me a little hope there," Schauffele said.

But Schauffele's tee shot met a watery fate at the par-3 16th and he made triple bogey, his first in any major after 1,041 prior holes. "I was coming in hot," Schauffele said. "Went a little hyper-aggressive at 16."

Matsuyama, 29, would close with three bogeys in the last four holes but blasted from a bunker at 18 to six feet and two putted for bogey to win. Matsuyama's thoughts were on his family back home in Japan.

"I was thinking about them all the way around today," he said. "I was playing it for them."

One by one, Matsuyama's rivals fell back, early stumbles leaving their rallies too little and far too late. Zalatoris, trying to be the first player to win the Masters in his debut since Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979, was second at the turn but bogeys at 10 and 12 dropped him back.

Spieth had three bogeys in the first six holes and not even four back-nine birdies could give him a chance.

England's Justin Rose, the 2013 US Open champion, had three bogeys in the first five holes and fired a 74 to finish seventh on 283, one back of Spain's third-ranked Jon Rahm and Australia's Marc Leishman.
---AFP



SOLE

FIT YOUR FOOTWEAR TO YOUR GAME

BY KEELY LEVINS







XANDER SCHAUFFELE, NO. 4 IN THE WORLD, tests his golf shoes with the same vigor as he does his golf clubs. "If I hit a few shots with a club that I don't like, I toss it out. Same thing with my shoes," he says. "If I slip once or feel looseness in the heel or lateral motion, it's done." If tour pros choose their shoes with such care, perhaps you should, too. The good news? With so many options, you don't have to sacrifice style or function.



IF TRACTION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO YOU

▶ Maybe it's your style of swing, or you're afraid of slipping, or you often play in wet condtions, but if you're not taking any chances when it comes to traction, these two spiked options are a great place to look.

1 FOOTJOY
HYPERFLEX

The lacing is placed along the outside of the shoe to create a secure fit and relieve pressure at the top of the foot.

2 ADIDAS
ZG21

The Adidas tour staff weighed in on the positioning of spikes and traction elements to guarantee plenty of grip in the lightest cleated shoe (13 ounces) Adidas has made.

IF YOU WANT LESS WEIGHT

▶ Walkers and their feet know the value of a lightweight shoe. In fact, wearing a shoe that's just one ounce lighter means you're carrying and lifting as much as 562 fewer pounds over the course of 18 holes.

3 PUMA
IGNITE FASTEN8

The mesh upper helps make this shoe lightweight, and the TPU saddle wraps around the foot to add stability.

4 NEW BALANCE
FRESH FOAM PACESL

The lightweight foam midsole has more support toward the arch and more cushion at the outside of the foot. $100

5 ASICS
GEL COURSE ACE

The lightweight midsole has ample cushioning to give these shoes the comfort and support of a running shoe with golf-ready traction.



IF YOU NEED MORE CUSHION

▶ Walking nine, 18 or 36 holes could have you looking for a bit more support. A quality midsole–the section of the shoe between your heel and where the traction elements are– can be the difference between feet that ache after the round and feet that don't. These two models feature thick, foam midsoles to offer maximum comfort with every step.

6 SKECHERS
GO GOLF

torque pro
The midsole and insole provide thick cushioning without sacrificing responsiveness.

7 NIKE
AIR MAX 90 G

The Air Max combines off-course cool with plenty of cushion. The air pocket at the heel provides extra comfort.

IF YOU PREFER WATERPROOF SHOES

▶ Playing in the Northeast and Pacific Northwest comes with the unfortunate truth that you will spend more than a few rounds slogging through the rain. However, even if you're purely a fair-weather golfer, you are still likely to encounter morning dew once in a while. Keep the elements out with these stylish waterproof options.



8 ECCO
BIOM H4

A Gore-Tex lining protects against water and wind, but the breathable construction keeps your feet from overheating.

9 TRUE LINKSWEAR
LUX KNIT

If you think a mesh upper can't be waterproof, think again. This lightweight upper has been treated to keep water out.

IF YOUR SHOES GO ON AND OFF COURSE

▶These shoes have traction elements on the outsoles instead of spikes and uppers made to look more like street shoes than the classic leather golf shoes of the past. They can easily transition from the course to wherever your plans have you headed afterward. Here are two options no one will suspect are golf shoes.

10 CUATER
THE WILDCARD

These minimalist, all-white kicks offer versatility away from the course, but traction elements on the sole keep you steady on it.

11 GFORE
KNIT DISRUPTOR

The first knitted golf shoe in the Disruptor line features a cushy insole for extra comfort in a style you can wear around town.

NO MORE BAD CHIP

Chipping is part of the Golf game that suppose to be quite simple, however (most golfers/ a lot of golfers) make it harder by adding unnecessary movement. If this picture looks familiar to you, then you are the person who uses your wrist a lot during chip shots. This movement will cause you two possibilities, either you thin the ball on the impact position or you chunk the ball. To prevent those possibility/mistake, I recommend you this drill:



When you are in the correct position, you will have space between the stick and your side. This simple drill will improve your chip around the green. By improving your chip, you will get a bigger chance to make an up and down (one chip and one put), create more possibility to make the chip and get a better score result.

Ilustrasi : Tristan A.M.

GRIP IT AND RIP IT!!

Grip is something most of the golfers underestimate in my opinion. All the different level of golfers that I teach from juniors to pros, I have noticed that golfers are very focused on how to improve swing path and plane.

However, they don't spend much time trying to improve clubface which has a lot to do with how you grip the club. How you hold on to the club will determine the consistency of your clubface at impact and pattern. Once you have a clubface pattern you will be able to build a swing path around clubface which will give you a consistent ball flight.

Now let me show you how to grip it properly:

FALSE GRIP

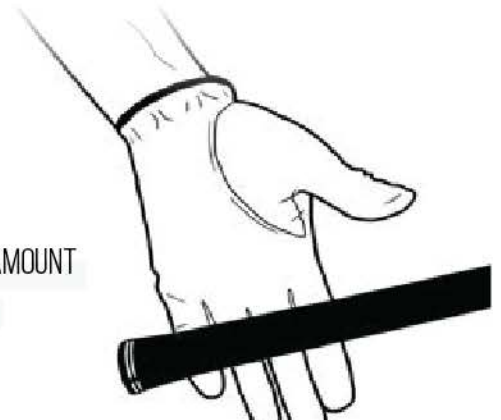


1 GRIPPING IT IN THE PALMS

2 GRIPPING IT TOO MUCH IN THE FINGERS



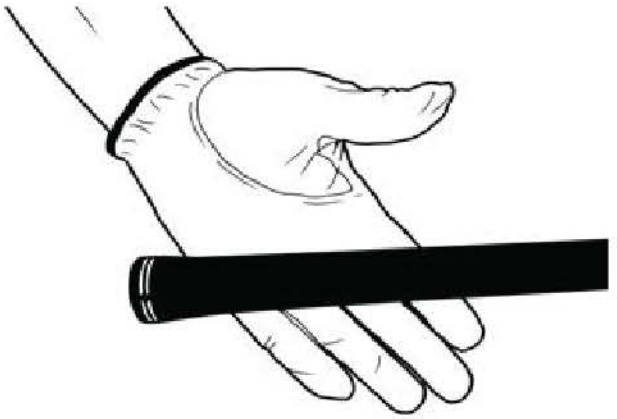
3 SEPARATION BETWEEN THE THUMB AND POINTER FINGER.



4 TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE AMOUNT OF KNUCKLES WILL SHOW.

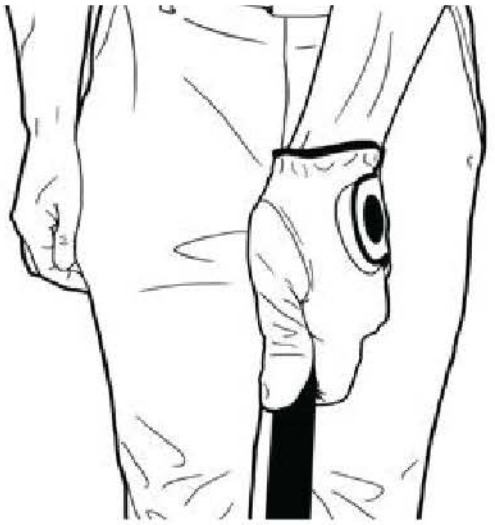
Illustration : Tristan

CORRECT GRIP



1 GRIP IS NICELY BALANCED BETWEEN THE PALM AND FINGERS.

2 CLUB IS GOING DIAGONALLY THROUGH MY HAND.





3 THUMB AND POINTER FINGER ARE MORE TOGETHER WHICH CREATES A V SHAPE.

4 TWO KNUCKLES SHOWING WOULD BE A NEUTRAL GRIP.

THE HANDS ARE THE ONLY BODY PART THAT IS CONNECTED TO YOUR CLUB, THE BETTER GRIP YOU HAVE MORE CONTROL YOU WILL GET IN YOUR SWING.

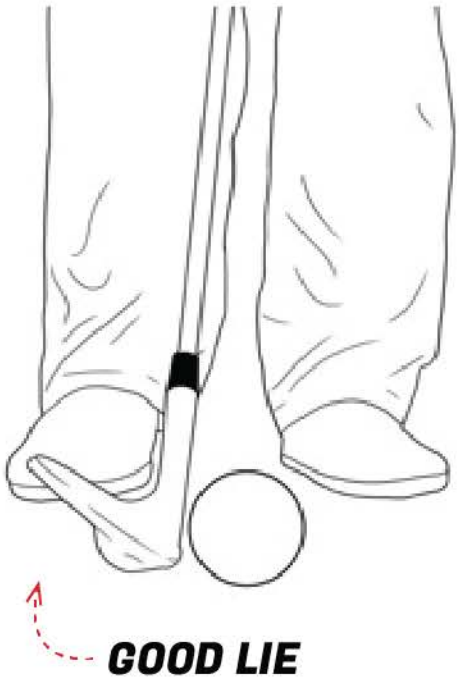
SHORT GAME WEDGES

As we move closer to rainy session, you are going to be faced with new difficulties during a round of golf, green speeds changing, bunker conditions changing from being soft and fluffy to hard and the rough becoming wet and heavy.

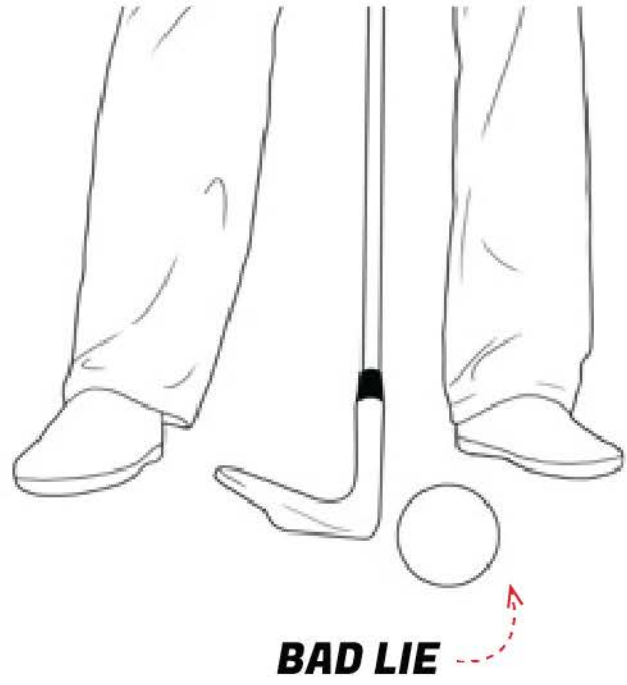
The extra water in longer rough makes it harder to generate club head speed as there is more resistance through impact. This would affect your wedge play around the green, especially when the ball is sat down.

To better this, you must first be good at spotting difficult and understanding what lies requires the different shots.
You have three checkpoints when determining the lie:

1. **How wet is the grass?**
   The wetter the grass, the more speed it will take out of your swing. This is important when playing during the wet season.
2. **What direction is the grain of the grass growing towards?**
   If you are playing your shot in the direction of where the grass is growing, the ball will then come out quicker. However if you are hitting against the direction of where the grass is growing towards, it will dramatically slow your swing speed down.
3. **How thick is the grass?**
   If you are playing on a course that has kikuyu, fescue, bermuda, paspalum or bent grass; it will reduce your club speed considerably compared to when you are playing on a course with blue grass or winter rye grass.



GOOD LIE



BAD LIE

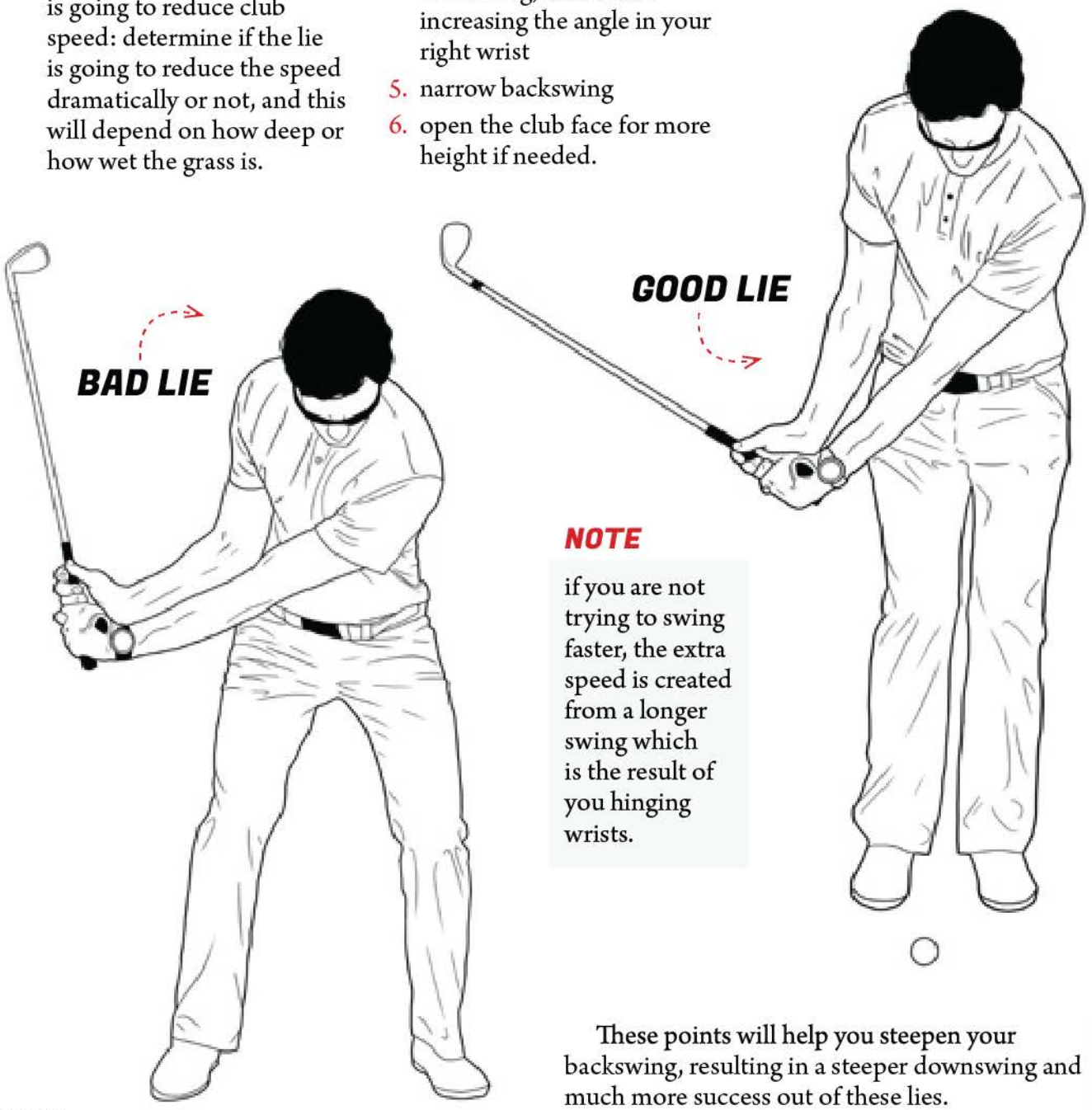
Ilustrasi : Tristan A.M.

Now that you know the difference between a good and bad lie, you need to understand how your technique should be different for each lie.

- Good or a normal lie: you would select your usual short game shot from that position.
- If your ball is in a lie that is going to reduce club speed: determine if the lie is going to reduce the speed dramatically or not, and this will depend on how deep or how wet the grass is.

What this shot requires is a steeper swing angle which is very easy to create when you are in the correct set up position:

1. take a wide stance
2. grip down on the club
3. push your weight forwards onto your front foot
4. hinge the club in the backswing, this means increasing the angle in your right wrist
5. narrow backswing
6. open the club face for more height if needed.



NOTE

if you are not trying to swing faster, the extra speed is created from a longer swing which is the result of you hinging wrists.

These points will help you steepen your backswing, resulting in a steeper downswing and much more success out of these lies.

Ilustrasi : Tristan A.M.

BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

A new memoir by Jack Nicklaus II shares lessons he learned from his father

As parents, we are often living lives filled with distractions, emotional challenges, and professional and personal disruptions. No matter what you face, take every opportunity you are given to listen to your children. My dad did that so well—even when his career was at its peak and he was traveling so much—and his actions toward me taught me to listen to my own children.





▶ golden boy Jack Nicklaus with Jack II, age 14, at the 1976 U.S. Open (left) and at home in Florida in 1966 (previous pages).

> When I finally finished, there was a short silence. . . . Then Dad said, 'Jackie, would you like to know how your father did today?'

On Father's Day in 1980, Jack Nicklaus was doing what he loved most-being a dad. And I-18 at the time-was being selfish. I had just completed my second round in a Palm Beach County Junior Golf Association tournament at Osprey Point Golf Course in Boca Raton, Fla., a few miles from our home in North Palm Beach. I was at the scorer's table that late Sunday afternoon signing my scorecard when somebody yelled over to me that my dad was on the telephone.

I was a little frustrated about the timing of the call because the tournament was still being played. At that moment, this junior golf tournament was the most important thing going on in the world. I had just graduated from high school and accepted a golf scholarship to play at the University of North Carolina. I picked up the telephone receiver. Dad asked me how I played.

Well, I hadn't scored very well, but I described my entire round, hole by hole, shot by shot, whether I lifted my head during a swing, misread a putt-whether it went left instead of straight, or if the ball slowed against the grain. Literally, I went on for 20 minutes.

Dad patiently and intently listened. He responded with questions about why I thought I might have made certain mistakes as I rehashed my 18 holes. When I told him I was having problems with my chipping, he promised we would work on it when we both got home. He was so interested, generous and genuinely wanted to hear about all of it. When I finally finished, there was a short silence. I was about to thank Dad for calling me and say goodbye.

Then Dad said, "Jackie, would you like to know how your dad did today?"

A little embarrassed, I quickly said, "Well, yes, how did you do today?"

"Well, I just won the U.S. Open." That was Dad.

The Golden Bear had just set a new tournament scoring record to win his fourth U.S. Open title, at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J., and he was on the telephone, some 1,200 miles away, asking me how my round went at a junior golf tournament.

HOMEWORK WITH DAD

After I committed myself to pursuing a career in golf, Dad worked with me to improve my game. He advised me on how to become a better putter, how to be better around the greens with my short game, how to be prepared and how to act like a champion. What he couldn't help me with were my greatest challenges because he didn't understand them. Pressure and anxiety weren't part of his makeup on the golf course. But they were part of mine. Golf is an individualistic sport. Golfers are responsible for what happens to them during a tournament.

Dad just went out and did it!

When I graduated from the University of North Carolina and turned professional, I started sessions with Dr. Bob Rotella. Bob was the well known director of sport psychology for 20 years at the University of Virginia. He focused on the mental aspects of golf, and his lengthy client list included Hall of Fame golfers like Tom Kite and Nick Price, in addition to more modern stars like Rory McIlroy and Padraig Harrington.

Bob once gave me a homework assignment, and it might seem odd, but it was 10 questions to ask Dad. One of the questions I recall was how Dad concentrated

on the course when there was so much going on around him. In fact, most of the questions focused on concentration and how Dad consistently performed at such a high level over the course of his career. Dad's concentration showed in his performances at the elite level. For instance, Dad holds the record for most under-par rounds in the PGA Championship (53) and the record for the most rounds in the 60s in the PGA Championship

PREVIOUS PAGES AND THIS PAGE: BETTMAN/GETTY IMAGES



► riding shotgun Jack II was on the bag for Jack at the 1986 Masters and in 1987 (left).

> Dad won't admit it, but he was clearly messing with my head. He knew I was whipping him!

(41). He played in 156 consecutive majors (1957 U.S. Open to the 1998 U.S. Open).

I asked Dad the questions, but he never answered them. Dad is rather old school and was reluctant to embrace the benefits of working with a sport psychologist. He wasn't convinced that Bob could help me. "If I have to concentrate, I just do it," Dad said. "If I need to shout, I just do it."

Dad you aren't really helping me!

To which he shrugged his shoulders and said, "That's the best answer I can give you."

What I learned in that moment is that like many elite athletes, Dad couldn't explain to me what he did that made him special. We all know how few greats actually become great coaches because often what they do, how they think, isn't transferable knowledge. What I proved was that it wasn't transferable genetically. That was the last time I tried to get Dad to help me with Bob's homework questions.

Golf has always been considered the thinking man's game. There's much more to golf than striking the ball. Dad's concentration routine enabled him to fixate on his shots and what he wanted to accomplish. Dad's focus on the task at hand is legendary and is credited as a major part of his success, especially in the majors, where he became very difficult to beat. At the majors, Dad led outright or shared the lead after three rounds 12 times in his career and went on to win 10 of those tournaments.

Although Dad wouldn't help me with the homework questions, the exercise led to several really impactful conversations- conversations that went far beyond golf. He shared with me the idea that I would be better at any and everything I would do in life if I would stay locked in on the moment, not worrying about what happened previously or what would happen next. It is almost cliché to say you have to focus only on the things you can control. But I didn't have to hear Dad say the cliché. I could watch him live it out. This is a lesson he has worked for 40 years to teach me.

And one I will work for the next 40 years to teach my children.

IN THE ARENA

I was still playing professionally and in my early 20s when I was partnered with Dad for a round at the Memorial Tournament. I'm not sure what year it was, but Dad had finished on the cut line, and an uneven number of players in the field advanced. Because the round featured twosomes, Dad needed a playing partner, and he asked me. Even though I was only playing alongside my father and was not competing in the tournament, I was honored but nervous because I had never played in front of galleries that large and under a spotlight that bright.

Because Dad and I were the first twosome off the tee, we served as the pacesetters for the golfers behind us. We had to play relatively fast to ensure a good flow behind us. I got off to a nice start. We got to the sixth hole, and I was two under par. Dad, on the other hand, was two over par.

I was probably too nervous to say anything to Dad, but I knew I was playing well. As we walked off the sixth green, I will never forget, Dad said, "You know what? We are not out here to shoot a score. We are out here to be pacesetters. Come on, let's hurry up, let's get moving."

Now I was even more nervous. Sure, I was just playing golf with Dad, but my dad was Jack Nicklaus. This was his arena. And he wanted us to pick up the pace.

On the seventh tee, I hit a duck hook into the woods. I bogeyed the hole while Dad birdied it. Now, I am one under par, and Dad is one over par. I bogeyed the next hole to fall to even; Dad parred to remain one over. Then I double-bogeyed No. 9, and Dad birdied. In the span of three holes, I went from a four-stroke lead over Dad to a twostroke deficit. All this happened after Dad told me to hurry up! I bet you can see where this going. But wait, it actually gets better.

As we walked to the 10th tee, Dad put his arm around me and said, as serious as he could be: "You know what? All these people out here, they

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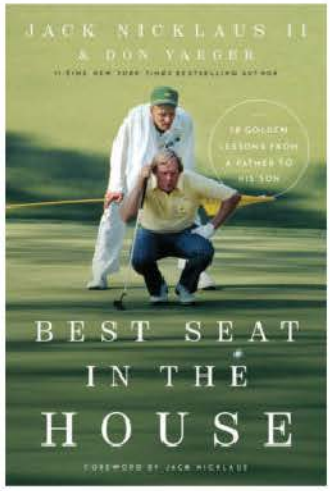
> By living lives in service of each other, Mom and Dad were incredible role models for us, the five kids.

really came to watch a show. Why don't we give them a show? Let's just slow down and enjoy this." Dad won't admit it, but he was clearly messing with my head. He knew I was whipping him! He knew he wasn't playing well, so he wanted to play fast. That disrupted any rhythm or confidence I might have had. But then when he started to play well, it was time to slow down. And that messed with my head even further. Dad beat me by a couple of shots, but that was still a big moment for me. He has always been Dad-and always will be Dad regardless how he's doing-but that's another example of how he put his blinders on when there's an opportunity to compete.

GIVE AND TAKE

Many believe marriage is a 50-50 proposition. My parents, who will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary in July 2021, have calculated their own equation for a long marriage. Mom and Dad believe a successful relationship is 95 percent "give" to 5 percent "take" both ways.

That might not sound possible, but they have proven otherwise. Two key elements are required to make this work: (1) Neither party can keep a scorecard of places where they've given "in" to the other for purposes of comparison. (2) Both have to be committed to the 95 percent give, 5 percent take model. This can also sound quite complicated. How could both of them give 95 percent?



It took writing this book for me to realize that my parents began every discussion about family plans with each of them thinking first of the other. By doing that, they found a relationship rubric that didn't just allow both of them to live fulfilled lives. It allowed them to raise five pretty successful children. As I have sat down with my parents to discuss their success, they've shared how the model has changed over time. But it always began with empathy for the other before their individual needs.

Even though Dad knew his craft as a professional golfer would keep him on the road often, his greatest responsibility was to return home as fast as possible. He vowed never to be away from home longer than two weeks at a time. (I know that might sound crazy to some, but in his profession it's not uncommon to be gone many weeks at a time.) Other than a 17-day trip to South Africa for a series of exhibitions with Gary Player, I don't think Dad ever missed that mark when I was young. That's amazing. Through the entirety of his marvelous achieveachievements, despite the phone calls from presidents, visits with kings and the adulation from crowds, Dad made being a husband the most important piece of his life. Being a dad was second. When Dad returned home, he didn't talk golf. His focus was on us. Dad saw golfers on the PGA Tour who had no family life outside of golf and often wondered how they did it.

By being so in sync and living lives in service of each other, Mom and Dad weren't just a great team. They were incredible role models for us, the five kids. Now they are relationship role models to 22 grandchildren and even to many friends in the community.

Dad is always quick to credit Mom for all of her support, but he's barely through any sentence about her without Mom interjecting how grateful she was for the hard work he did to provide for us. Dad was the disciplinarian when he was home, but Mom managed the children and the household while he traveled the globe to play golf. Don't think for a second Mom didn't discipline us when Dad was gone.

There were words I uttered as a kid that today wouldn't raise an eyebrow. They might be words kids hear or see on the Internet or television every hour of the day. If I said God's name in vain, Mom marched me into the bathroom where I had to take a bite from the bar of Dial soap. Call me a slow learner, but Mom washed my mouth out with soap several times. If you haven't had the experience, it tasted awful! If we did something wrong, Mom took care of it immediately. She did not, as I am told some mothers do, wait until the father comes home to lay the law down. I would later learn Mom did this intentionally because she didn't want the first conversation when Dad came through the door to involve what he had to do to straighten us out.

Mom believed Dad needed to come home to a happy family to be successful. This entire conversation might sound completely old-fashioned to some younger couples today, but I can only point them at one number—61. And that wasn't my Dad's lowest score on the golf course.

As Dad has gotten older, the percentage pendulum has swung. Today, Dad makes many life adjustments to fully support Mom's many endeavors. Dad laughed when he said he was lucky to get by the first 50 years in their marriage.

"The first 50 years are the hardest," Dad joked.

Taken from Best Seat in the House by Jack Nicklaus II and Don Yaeger. Copyright ©2021 by Jack Nicklaus II and Don Yaeger. Used by permission of Thomas Nelson.

GET WELL SOON



Tiger Woods, first tee, final round, 2020 Masters.
Photograph by Ben Walton

CTG PORT INDEPENDENCE DAY CUP GOLF HELD



Mujib Borsho 4th Chattogram Port Independence Day Cup Golf Tournament was held recently at the Shaheen Golf and Country Club in Potenga. A total of 144 golfers including 17 female golfers and 19 junior golfers participated in the event. Commander M Minhazuddin won the overall category where Commander Imtiaz Uddin Md Sabir came second. Farzana Mahbub emerged ladies winner while Kamrun Nesa Ehsan finished second in that category. Ishika Tabassum won the junior category of the event.

Chattogram Port Authority Chairman Rear Admiral M Shahjahan witnessed the daylong event and distributed prizes among the winners. High officials of Army, Navy and Air Force were present at the occasion.
--- TGH Desk

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