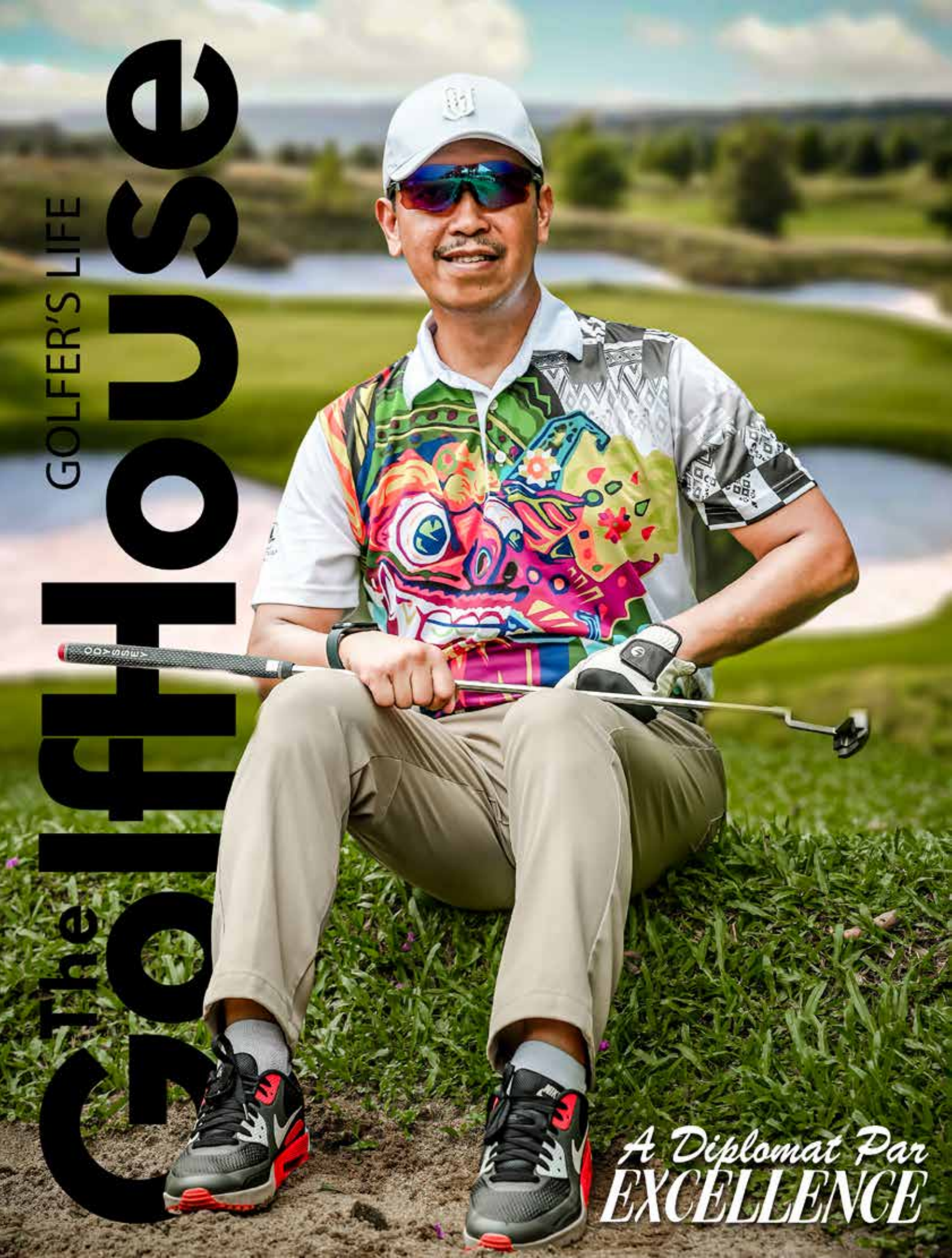
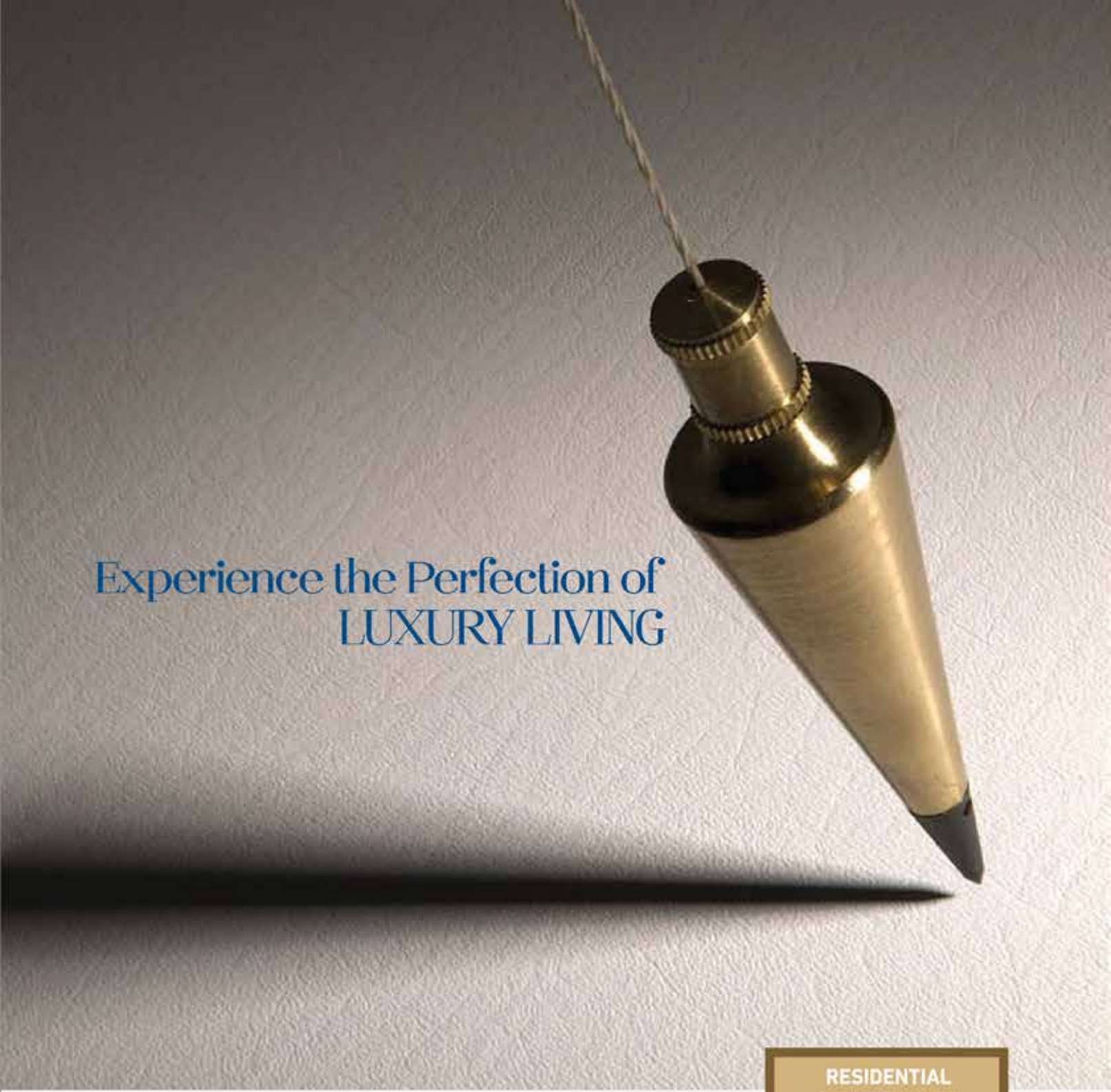

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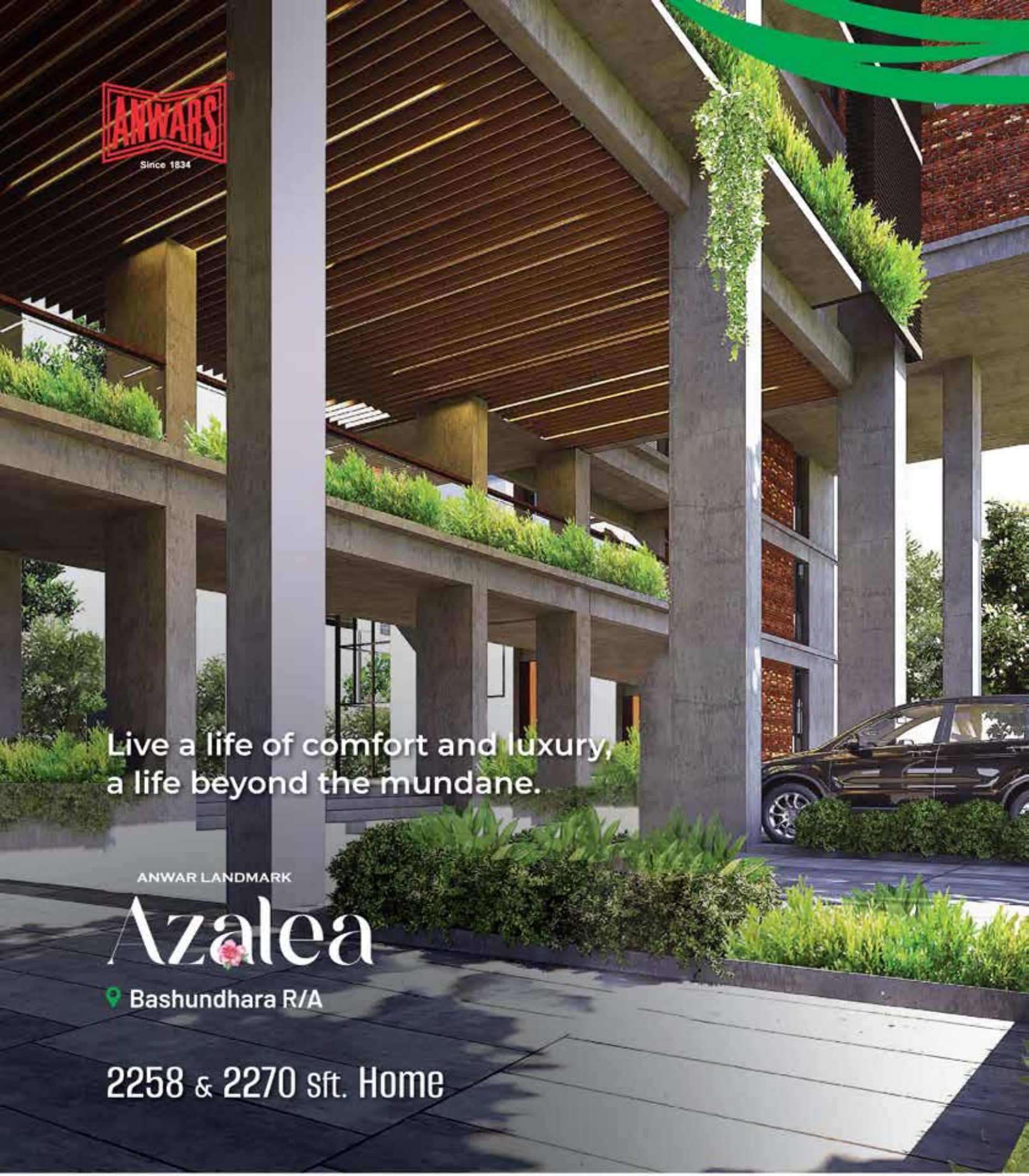
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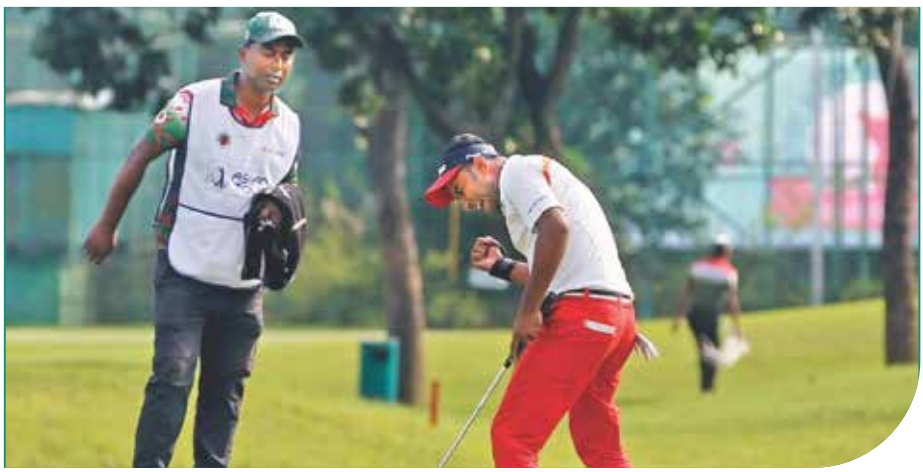


COVER CONCEPT & DESIGN
AMIRUL ISLAM

> We will hope that Siddikur and Jamal as well as all the athletes from the 16 other disciplines will give their best in Hangzhou and bring laurels for the nation in Asian Games.



EDITOR'S CHOICE



Jamal Hossain Mollah, the second most successful golfer of Bangladesh, is all set to represent the country along with Siddikur Rahman in the Asian Games in China later this month.

Foreword

Dear readers,

Golf may not be a top attraction in multi-sport events like the Asian Games, but the sport has been part of the roster of Asia's biggest sporting carnival since 1978. Bangladesh's participation, however, is relatively new as the country has only participated in the last two editions.

And with professionals not allowed until the last edition, Bangladesh's participation was more of a token one rather than with any realistic hope of winning any medals. This time, though, with the amateur-only rule withdrawn, Bangladesh is sending its two best golfers – Siddikur Rahman and Jamal Molla – both in good form, to Hangzhou.

Although it will be a tough ask to compete against some of the best golfers of the continent, Bangladesh will look for an outside chance of getting on the podium or at least sneaking into the top 10.

We will hope that Siddikur and Jamal as well as all the athletes from the 16 other disciplines will give their best in Hangzhou and bring laurels for the nation.

Cheers!

Nazrul Hosen Ayon
Editor

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GOLFER'S LIFE

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GOLFER'S LIFE
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TOP 100 COURSES IN ASIAPACIFIC

the finest courses in Asia-Pacific is long overdue. Not only does the region boast an eclectic mix of architecture, it's also home to some of the finest tracks built this century.
To say the course-building business in the lands where the sun rises first is booming would be an understatement.

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JAMAL EXCITED TO REPRESENT BANGLADESH IN ASIAN GAMES

Jamal Hossain Mollah, the second most successful golfer of Bangladesh, is all set to represent the country along with Siddikur Rahman in the Asian Games in China later this month. The 38-year-old is excited as this will be his first multi-event participation after the South Asian Games. The multiple-time PGTI and BPGA winner is training hard for the Asian Games and believes the kind of form he is carrying he could bring laurels for the nations. Following are the excerpts of an interview he gave to TheGolfHouse magazine recently.

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WALK YOUR WAY TO A BETTER SWING

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A DIPLOMAT PAR EXCELLENCE

Heru H Subolo has been serving as the Indonesian ambassador to Bangladesh since December, 2021 after having served in various capacities in Australia, USA, Norway and other places. Having made the switch from a private job to that of a diplomat, Subolo adapted to the profession like a hand in glove. And he has shown his innate skill in his profession during his time in Dhaka, building a great rapport with the local professionals in many spheres, not to mention those at the golf course. In a freewheeling interview with TheGolfHouse, the veteran diplomat spoke on many issues of diplomacy and golf.

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The project started with its design phase in February, 2022. It was a 60 days construction periodwhich was handed over on September 30, 2022

TOP 100 COURSES in ASIA-PACIFIC

OUR COURSE RATERS POP THE LID ON GOLF'S FIRST-EVER RANKING OF MUSTPLAY TRACKS BEYOND THE COMFY CONFINES OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE. WHAT THEY FOUND IS PURE MAGIC.

GOLF magazine's inaugural ranking of the finest courses in Asia-Pacific is long overdue. Not only does the region boast an eclectic mix of architecture, it's also home to some of the finest tracks built this century. To say the course-building business in the lands where the sun rises first is booming would be an understatement.

Australia scored big, placing 38 courses in our ranking. And it's no surprise that the West Course at Royal Melbourne finished in the top spot—it has, after all, held the top spot in the Southern Hemisphere ever since we started doing world rankings four decades ago. Having said that, its





Rank: 1
Royal Melbourne (West)
Black Rock, Australia



Rank: 4
Hirono
Miki-Chi, Japan



Rank: 12
The Club at Nine Bridges
Jeju Island, South Korea

margin of victory over Kingston Heath (No. 2), a world-class course in its own right, was impressive, as it finished more than six points (!) higher than its Aussie counterpart. To put that in perspective, Pine Valley, in our last ranking of Top 100 Courses in the U.S., beat out runner-up Cypress Point by less than two points.

Regardless of whatever metrics you value when judging design, Royal Melbourne nails it. Like Shinnecock Hills—Melbourne's closest equivalent here in the States—it's a marvel for how effortlessly the course flows across its landscape.

The gift of time is a luxury rarely afforded to modern architects, but it allowed Royal Melbourne, carved out over several years using "horse-drawn plough and scoop," to emerge harmoniously from its sandy, scrubby environs. It's the rarest of rare: a course with no faults.

Six courses in Oz made the top 10. Royal Melbourne, Kingston Heath, the East Course at Royal Melbourne (No. 8) and Victoria (No. 9) are all situated in Australia's famed Sandbelt region. For those who like to travel to great courses that are clustered together, there are few—if any—better areas in the world to head to than there.

Such was the experience of GOLF panelist Pete Phipps, a North Carolina resident who made his first trip to Australia and New Zealand in January of this year. He toured 15 courses in 12 days. In addition to noting how the architects had taken full advantage of the region's sandy soil, he came away mightily impressed by Australia's golf culture, writing, "You go days without seeing a cart. You can carry your own bag everywhere, though most members prefer a trolley. The pace of play is steady. The clubhouses and locker rooms are done with great taste. While the Sandbelt courses show off amazing architecture and history, they do it without the pretentiousness or stuffiness that you experience at elite clubs in other countries."

Having lived in Australia for six years, I fully agree with Pete's glowing assessment. Back then, most weekends at my home club of Newcastle GC (No. 29), two hours north of Sydney, we played the Stableford format, a scoring system that keeps play moving at a fine pace.Trust me: There's a commonsense approach to golf in Australia you don't often see. Although it may take a 13-hour flight to get there, a trip Down Under is worth the effort for the complete playing experience.







Rank: 73
Stone Valley
Hai Ninh, Vietnam



The Land of the Rising Sun

Japan has the second most courses in our Top 100 ranking with 15. Its Big Five—Hirono (No. 4), the Fuji Course at Kawana (No. 6), Tokyo GC (No. 19), Naruo (No. 21) and the West Course at Yokohama (No. 26)—are the cornerstone for one of the game's epic trips. True, you need to take a bullet train southwest to Osaka to play Hirono and Naruo and south from Tokyo to enjoy Kawana, but time, like the train, flies.

Similar to Australia, where Alister MacKenzie played such an outsize role in defining what constitutes great architecture, another Brit, C.H. Alison, played a pivotal role in the 1930s in shaping golf in Japan. His works at the country's two best courses (Hirono and Kawana) influenced future Japanese architects, such as Koymo Ohtani, who went on to build today's version of Tokyo GC.

Gil Hanse and Neil Cameron's fantastic renovations at Tokyo a few years ago included work on the course's famous greens. There are two per hole, originally one with warm-weather grass and the other built to survive in cooler temps.

Advances in agronomy over the past 80 years has rendered this approach moot. The two-green model remains at Tokyo GC, asking wildly different—and fun—questions of the player

TOP 100 COURSES BY COUNTRY

Australia	38
Japan	15
New Zealand	10
China	10
Vietnam	10
South Korea	7
Thailand	6
Indonesia	1
Malaysia	1
Myanmar	1
Nepal	1
Singapore	1
Sri Lanka	1



Kiwi Kindness

Alex Russell, the famed Australian architect who assisted Alister MacKenzie at Royal Melbourne before building other gems of his own, designed Paraparaumu Beach (No. 17) in 1948, which held the mantle as New Zealand's finest course throughout the last century. It remains a delight, played over some of the game's most lusciously rumpled land. And with a green fee of $120, it's a fabulous bargain.

Drive 100 miles north from Paraparaumu up the west coast and you'll find Waverley GC (No. 82). An honesty box is sometimes the only option you have for paying the roughly $20 green fee. Known colloquially as a "country course," its greens crew includes sheep that roam the jumbled landforms. "Turf heads," focused mainly on perfectly manicured conditions, need not visit, but for those who view small-town golf as integral to the fabric of the sport, Waverley is a reaffirmation that golf need not be expensive to be exhilarating.

Elsewhere on the North Island, two American business titans, Julian Robertson and Ric Kayne, have put New Zealand front and center for the best golf built this century. Kauri Cliffs (No. 34), which opened in 2000, is as pretty a setting as I've ever seen. Robertson quickly followed its success with Tom Doak's Cape Kidnappers (No. 11) in 2004, where holes cling to the cliffs some 460 feet above the Pacific.

Like Robertson, Kayne became bewitched by New Zealand's impossible beauty and had Doak

build Tara Iti (No. 3) in 2015. Pictures of its green fairways twisting through white, sandy dunes instantly captivated golfers worldwide. New Zealand's seasons are reversed from North America's, meaning that when you poke your nose out and see nothing but snow in January in Minneapolis, the allure of Tara Iti, bathed in bright sunshine and warmth, becomes especially acute.

Given Tara Iti's resounding success, Kayne subsequently hired Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw—and Doak again—to build a pair of publicaccess courses four miles south down the coast from the private Tara Iti. The Doak course opens in October, but Coore & Crenshaw's Te Arai South (No. 7) opened last year to rave reviews. Based on its finish here, we expect it to be a strong contender for inclusion in our 2023 World Top 100 due out in November.

In Other Parts of Asia

While Australia, Japan and New Zealand courses comprise nearly two thirds of our ranking, exciting builds are percolating all across Asia. Vietnam's coastline, in particular, is being put to fantastic use. Panelist Paul Rudovsky, who has played over 1,500 courses, was smitten by his time in Vietnam and its people. Rudovsky is our resident course statistician and, citing a study by the R&A, writes, "Vietnam has grown from 78 courses in 2018 to 86 in 2020, and there are an additional 27 new courses that will have opened by year end 2025. So, in seven years, Vietnam is projected to go from 78 to 113 courses— a growth of 45 percent!"

Similar to Paul's sentiments on the Vietnamese, I was mightily impressed on my one visit to South Korea. For sure, Koreans embrace golf almost spiritually. You can see it in how neatly they present their courses and work with nature.

Though we only rank courses themselves, if you're into design in general, the architecture of the clubhouses at the finest courses in South Korea, including Nine Bridges (No. 12), South Cape (No. 14) and Whistling Rock (No. 37), will knock your socks off.

Course construction in China is a bit different—it tends to ebb and flow with the government's desires. At the pinnacle stands Coore & Crenshaw's Shanqin Bay on the island of Hainan.

Though its original 17th hole—one of the best on property—was removed a few years ago, a permanent replacement has now taken hold. The addition helped this coastal stunner move into 13th place on our list.

In terms of genuine outpost golf, try Himalayan GC (No. 23) in Nepal. Major Ram Gurung, a Gurkha who served in the British Army for 30 years, designed it in 1994. As he told my brother, "My main theme when laying out the course was simply to flow with nature and, where possible, bring into play a golfer's senses by the sound and sight of rivers and canyon edges." The roar of the Bijayapur River that runs through the canyon is thunderous as it carries snowmelt from the Annapurna range from several hundred feet above on the rim of the canyon. Take care when crossing this river in several spots—this is "adventure golf " of the highest order.

The More Things Change...

As in the States, titans of architecture—from Alister MacKenzie to C.H. Alison to Tom Doak, Jack Nicklaus, Coore & Crenshaw—dominate this ranking. To appreciate the global design empire that Jack Nicklaus built over six decades, 10 original designs are featured here, the most by any architect. Aussie Mike Clayton (with varied partners) and Arizona-based Brian Curley (who has flown across the Pacific more than 500 times) are two other architects found frequently throughout this ranking.

Restorations, like our titans, play a big role in this ranking too. MacKenzie's and Ebert's work at Hirono directly led to its top-five finish, and the West Course at Yokohama might have been a hundred spots lower if not for what Coore & Crenshaw did there in 2015. MacKenzie's Titirangi (No. 52) has been allowed to open up and breathe thanks to work by Clyde Johnson.

As evidenced by the photographs on these pages, Asia-Pacific is a gorgeous part of the world and its golf offerings are as diverse as its landscapes. Talented architects have been taking advantage of what's here for the better part of a century. You need to as well.

The ease of modern travel makes this region more attainable than ever. We trust that this ranking will help with future trips. Akin to golf in the United Kingdom, a proper letter of introduction gains you access to a majority of the region's finest courses, which makes this ranking even more meaningful and practical. It's a long flight, but you'll return with lifetime memories. What are you waiting for?





Rank: 7
Te Arai (South)
Tomarata,
New Zealand

JAMAL EXCITED TO REPRESENT
BANGLADESH IN ASIAN GAMES

Jamal Hossain Mollah, the second most successful golfer of Bangladesh, is all set to represent the country along with Siddikur Rahman in the Asian Games in China later this month. The 38-year-old is excited as this will be his first multi-event participation after the South Asian Games. The multiple-time PGTI and BPGA winner is training hard for the Asian Games and believes the kind of form he is carrying he could bring laurels for the nations. Following are the excerpts of an interview he gave to TheGolfHouse magazine recently.

How is everything with you?
Alhamdulillah fine. I'm doing training everyday according to the time-table.

What is your current routine?
I start at 6:30am and do exercise till 8:00am. Then after breakfast, I hit around 300 balls till 12:00am, and then do the chipping and putting.

So what is your next assignment?
I'm going to China for the Asian Games. The golf event will take place from 28 to October 1. I will be accompanied by Siddikur Rahman bhai.

How long have you been training for the Asian Games?
It's been six months or so since we've been getting prepared for the Asian Games. We are playing in events which are part of our preparation.

What will be the format of the competition in the Asian Games?
We will play individually. There will be team events too, but you need to have four members to make a team. There will be teams from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and other countries. But we will play individually since only the two of us are going.

You have never played in China, have you?
No, I haven't.

Will be a bit challenging to perform on an unknown course for you?
It will be challenging, but if I can give my best I can do well. I'm doing proper training and form is with me, so hopefully I can do well.



Jamal Hossain Mollah, the second most successful golfer of Bangladesh, is all set to represent the country along with Siddikur Rahman in the Asian Games in China later this month.

You have never played in the Asian Games. In China, you will stay with the whole of the Bangladesh contingent. So you must be pretty excited?
Indeed, I'm feeling good about being part of a large contingent and being able to represent the country. But everything depends on how I perform. If I can do something good for the country, I will feel really good.

We hope you do well too since you have been in good form in the Indian circuit.
I was doing pretty well in India, was in fourth position in the Order of Merit and finished second in the last event I played last month. But I had to return home without playing in the following event due to dengue to my child.

When will you leave the country for the Asian Games?
We will probably leave on the 23rd of September and return on the 2nd of October. So I will miss another event on the PGTI. But I will fly for India on the 3rd of October to play in another event.

Are there any events ongoing at home?
A. No there haven't been any local events for a long time. There are issues with the association (BPGA), and the professionals are suffering due to it. We need events to sustain ourselves. Let's hope the issue will be resolved soon and we will get back to playing at home.



WALK YOUR WAY TO A BETTER SWING

Turn, rotate, wind-up, shift, sway, resist; they are all words you may have heard to describe what you should be trying to do in your golf swing. I use these words on a daily basis to help students understand what they are trying to feel in their golf swing and to accelerate progress and improvement to their technique.

Turn, rotate, wind-up, shift, sway, resist; they are all words you may have heard to describe what you should be trying to do in your golf swing. I use these words on a daily basis to help students understand what they are trying to feel in their golf swing and to accelerate progress and improvement to their technique. As the coach, I cannot always be present when you, the student, practices, so I try to provide concepts that will help you understand what you need to feel when you are by yourself.

The simplest way I have found for golfers to understand the motion of their lower body is to have students imitate walking on the spot without lifting their feet from the ground. If you try it, you'll notice that your right knee goes backwards and your left knee goes forward and then vice versa.

This movement also causes your hips to rotate and you should notice how the right hip goes backwards and upwards as the left hip goes forwards and downwards.

This motion mimics the movements that are present in a good golf swing.

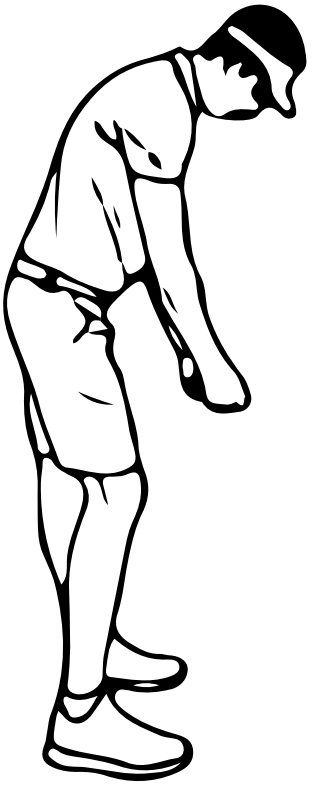
Now all you need to understand is the role of your arms and wrists which is to swing the club back and forth. There is no lifting involved and definitely no pushing to try to make the swing wider.

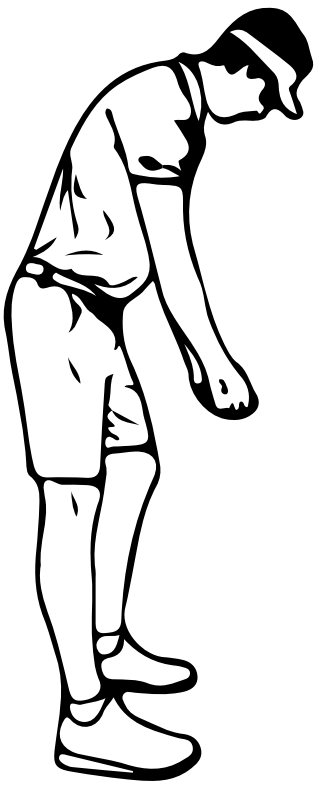
When this movement is made correctly, your body stays in the same position and doesn't move too far left or right.

Follow the following three steps for a simple exercise to improve your swing:

1

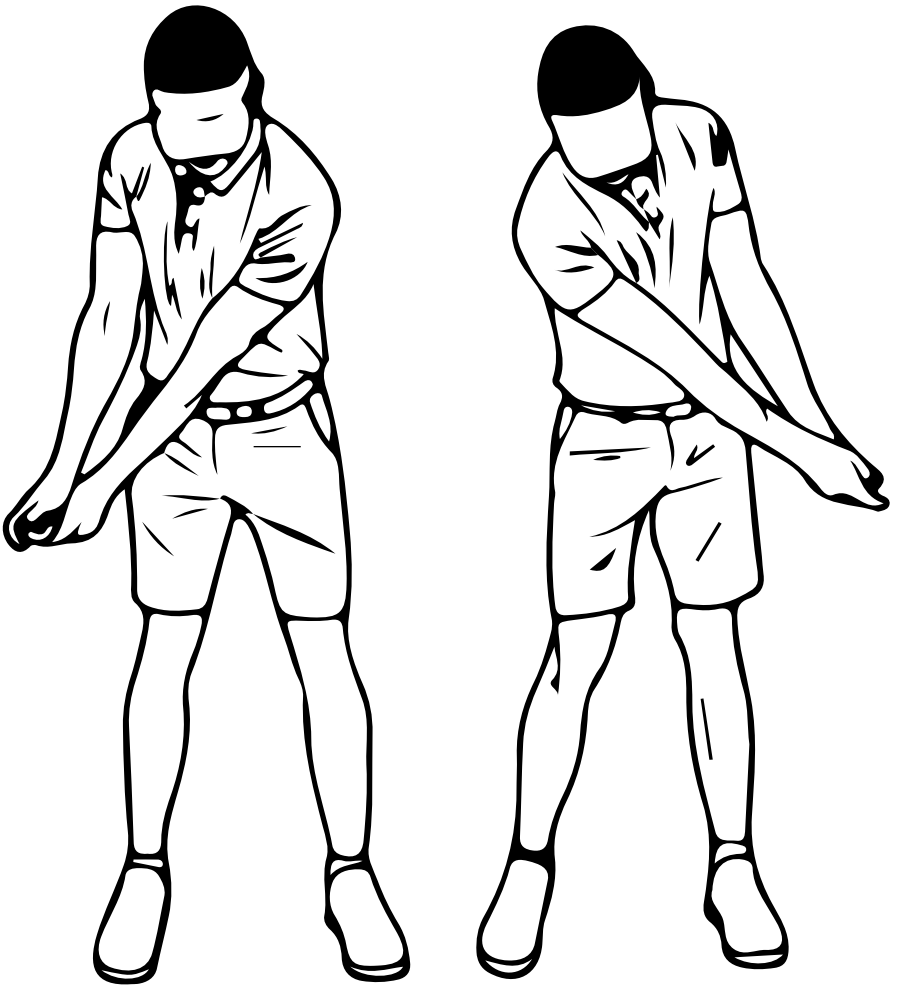
Walk on the spot in your golf posture, see how your knees go back and forth.

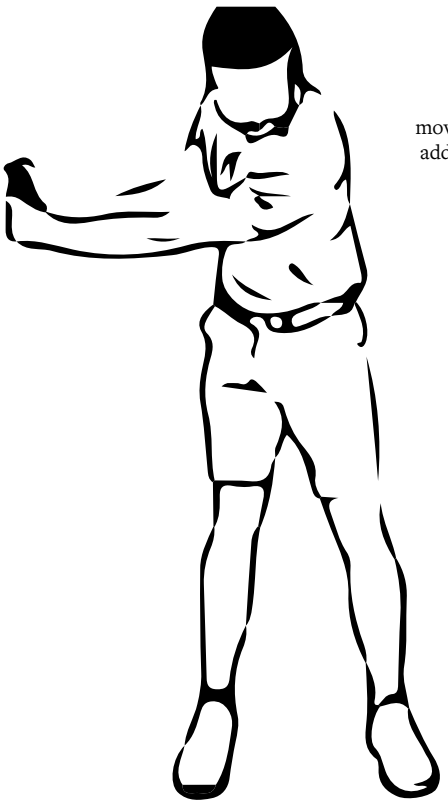




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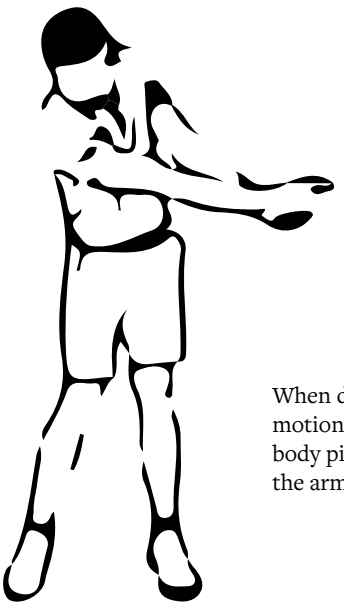
Retain the triangle of your shoulder and arms and make small movements back and forth as you continue to walk on the spot.





3

Continue with the movement in step two and add a small wrist hinge to lengthen the swing



When done correctly this will create a ¾ motion that will give you the feeling of your body pivot and should start to synchronize the arms, wrists, and club with it.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

BANGLADESH ECONOMY *is in a healthy state*

EDIMON GINTING IS THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR OF ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IN BANGLADESH. THE INDONESIAN NATIVE HAS STUDIED AND WORKED ACROSS ASIA, NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA. A GLOBETROTTER OF SORTS THROUGH HIS PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS, GINTING IS ENJOYING HIS TIME IN BANGLADESH, IMMERSING HIMSELF TO THE FOOD AND CULTURE OF THE COUNTRY WHILE BEING HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH BANGLADESHTHE ECONOMY. IN A FREEWHEELING INTERVIEW WITH THEGOLFHOUSE, THE SEASONED ECONOMIST SPOKE OF HIS CAREER, HIS PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE AND HIS IMPRESSION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ECONOMY OF BANGLADESH.









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Q&A

Tell us about your first golfing experience?
I started playing golf in Washington DC when I was working for the IMF in 2004. But at that time my two sons were very small; the older one was 10 years old and the younger one was four years old. So, I couldn't quite do it because my boys were more important priority. So, I couldn't continue. I actually picked it up more here in Dhaka after moving here seven months ago.

How do you manage time for the game despite your busy schedule?
Every busy person has a schedule, so the trick is to and you put golf into the schedule. It is very important for . Wmy work-life balance and hence is very important and the only way you can play golf is by scheduling. I make Golf ais part of life.

Golf is called a life game. What is it about this game that attracts you most?
At this age, as you said, I have a very busy schedule. Golf is great for good for rejuvenating you're your physique and also good for the your mind. The combination is really right for me. Golf and Kurmitola is also a great place to meet great friends. The powerful combinations that are really right for me.

Any message for TheGolfHouse magazine, which is the first golf magazine of the country?
I think you've done a great job. You are pioneer. Golf is a great game and growing in popularity. Spread the beauty of golf to many more people.For people like me golf is very important. Which special power would you most like to possess?
I think the best power in this world is kindness. That is the one I always want to have and I want that more. Because you will never regret to have more kindness.

If you could travel in time, would you go backwards or forwards?
Always Fforward, because I have no regrets. I'm very grateful as a person. God has given us full peace. I enjoy life with gratitudea lot.

Main passion outside of golf?
My passion is my profession. I'm an economist, so my passion is always economics, economic development to be more precise. But to grow your passion, you need to be healthy physically and metally. As I said, think in a way golf gives me that needed balance. But if you ask me about my undeveloped passion, I like 'm a very good singinger and musician. I play guitar, and now learn to I play drums. And now I'm also

singing. I'm pretty good at it even if I don't show off.

What is your favourite food?
Depends on where I am. Now that I'm here I've fallen in love with mutton biriyani. Every time I order foodsomething, mutton biriyani is always on top of the list.there's always that item.

What is your favourite destination?
On this, I am a bit sentimental. My hometown in Indonesia is always my favourite destination. It's is very beautiful called Lake Toba in North not in Sumatra. There's one very beautiful lake there called Lake Toba. I've travelled a lot to in the USA, Asia, Australia and to in Europe. I've seen many beautiful placeslakes but Llike Toba remaind that number one one is the most favourite for me. It makes me feel always want to goat home.

Do you have any regrets in life?
No regrets in life. Sometimes you have disappointments; you don't achieve meet everything that you want to achieve, but that's part life, part of growing up. I'm happy with whatever I have got because I have and whatever I've achieved. I believe in almighty. And I believe despite trying done my best for it. if I don't get something, that's not for me. As long as you work hard and believe in the almighty, there shouldn't be any regrets.

Any message for young professionals?
Things are getting difficult. There are a lot more great opportunities in Bangladesh going forward. But things are also not easy. With this the pandemic and now the Ukraine-Russia war, we face things seem to be becoming more increasing uncertainties. Young professionals needs to recognize the changing reality and invest more time to innovate,shouldn't take things easy. In short, Tthey should work hard, play hard, and to make the most of the new reality and chances that come with it.

What should the Bangladesh government do in order to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 & Ukraine-Russia war to the economy?
What I think in regards to COVID-19Covid, Bangladesh government has done a great job, and it has been recognized internationally. otherwise we wouldn't be talking like this now. On the external shocks emerging from the Ukraine-Russia war, there a parallel with The economy is just like a person against the effect of COVID-19Covid to a person. For COVID-19, If you don't have comorbiditiesy, you may get it, but data tells us that its impact is less serious or mild. the impact of external factors like the Ukraine war is not big for you. Bangladesh economy is like a healthy and does not have comorbidities. person. During Covid the economy was not hit too much because there is no comorbidity here. The economy is quite healthy in my view. It is quite resistant. While government needs to be vigilant, Bangladesh economy will be resilient to the negative impact of the Ukraine-Russia war.

How do you evaluate the activities by the Bangladesh government compared with other south Asian countries?
I think Bangladesh economy has done well in the last 15-20 years a great job. The Government leader here has put a lot of thinking and policies to advance on development. In a country where you put politics ahead of economic developmenteconomy, the country tend to you go slower. Bangladesh in the last 15-20 or so had is putting economic development ahead of politics, and that is why it is growing faster.. I think it is growing fastest in South Asia.

Where do you see the Bangladesh economy in 10 years?
Mathematically, if the country can grow 7 per cent a year consistently, it will become an upper-middle income country by 2031. This is the target of the government. If the economy grows 7 per cent a year, the size of the economy will grow double every 10 year. And that's7% gowth achievable. But as I said, the global environment is things are getting harder and the same policies may not get the country there. So, Government will you need to implement transformative new policies, focusing more on competitiveness, logistics, and human resources development. on exports, on logistics. If you improve infrastructure and logistically easier, it will be more competitive. People are working hard here, but we need to develop their skill to meet the job demands. At the same time, Tthe government needs to embrace the concept of be more sophisticated and smartersmart government across the board.



Titleist



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

A DIPLOMAT PAR EXCELLENCE

Heru H Subolo has been serving as the Indonesian ambassador to Bangladesh since December, 2021 after having served in various capacities in Australia, USA, Norway and other places. Having made the switch from a private job to that of a diplomat, Subolo adapted to the profession like a hand in glove. And he has shown his innate skill in his profession during his time in Dhaka, building a great rapport with the local professionals in many spheres, not to mention those at the golf course. In a freewheeling interview with TheGolfHouse, the veteran diplomat spoke on many issues of diplomacy and golf.







Q&A

Upon arriving in Bangladesh, what prompted you to get involved with Golf?
Golf is often considered a social sport. I see golf as part of my weekly routine exercise but also an opportunity to network and build connections with different layers of society here in Dhaka. Other than that, the availability of golf courses and facilities not very far from my home also encourage me to try out this great sport.

How did you get introduced to golf?
I got interested in golf because it is often associated with leisure, business networking, and socializing due to its atmosphere and opportunity to spend time outdoors. Golf is also known for its etiquette, sportsmanship, and the challenge it presents to me to play with my knowledge, skills that I get at the course and my own self.
Golf keeps me fit and engaged. It is also unpredictable and an inherently imperfect game. It is a game of shanked drives, missed putts, sudden gusts of wind, unfortunate bounces, and imperfections in the turf. I experienced that sometimes I could play good and not so good at the same course, which is very interesting.

You are the president of Tiger Golf Club. What are the club's current activities?
Every Saturday, we have our regular golfing event for all members and conclude with brunch together. Our brunch serves as a medium for all members to get together while having breakfast, as well as to announce any activities in the future and to update members about the current status of our club. We managed to have overseas golf tournaments, such as to Antalya, Turkiye last year. This year we had one in Bali in February and another one will be in Kathmandu this October, Insha Allah. In the overseas golf tournaments, we combine sport with business and leisure/tourism and connect with the local government, so that the members benefit in many aspects; healthy life, entrepreneurship connections and enjoying tourists spots and contributing to the local economy. TGC, with the members' support, also supports social activities such as providing basic needs and donations to caddies, and also humanitarian support for last year's Turkiye Earthquake victims. To expand the benefits of its membership, an MoU between TGC and Intercontinental Hotel Dhaka was signed in July 2023, and soon members will have extra benefits to enjoy in all Intercontinental Dhaka rooms and facilities. We are currently expanding our social media to reach out more promotions of our activities too.

How did you start your career as a diplomat?
I started my career when I joined Foreign Ministry of Indonesia in 1991. Before that, I worked in a private sector company focusing on energy. I am lucky and feel so blessed. Becoming a diplomat is a prestigious and rewarding career path that involves representing our country's interests abroad, engaging in international relations, and working to promote peace, cooperation, and understanding among nations. Since starting my career in 1991, I have served in our consulates and embassies in Houston, Oslo, Washington DC and Sydney. And now I am here, happily stationed in Dhaka but I also serve our bilateral relations with Nepal.

How much have you enjoyed Bangladesh and its hospitality so far?
My family and I very much enjoy representing my country in Bangladesh. Living in Dhaka feels like being part of an extended family and surrounded by friends. As a foreigner living in this country, I experience a welcoming atmosphere and find it easy to make connections and build relationships with layers of society. People are very supportive, hospitable, and caring towards each other.

You have been involved in many golfing activities here in Dhaka over the past two years. Which event stands out for you personally?
There are many golfing activities, especially tournaments sponsored by big companies in Dhaka. However not many I can attend due to schedule constraints. Events like the President Cup or the golf tournament sponsored by the Runner Group stand out for me personally.



What do you think of the course in Kurmitola?

Kurmitola Golf Course has a strategic location which is situated not very far from the Gulshan area where I live. It is also a great course, offering 18 holes, even though I mostly play only nine holes. The golf course is regarded for its lush green fairways, well maintained greens, and challenging layout and quite a lot of ponds/water. KGC has a vibrant golfing community too. The club provides good clubhouse, pro shop and coaching services, enhancing golf experience. I enjoy playing golf here, but off course, I look forward to trying out beautiful golf courses in other areas in Bangladesh during my term here.

Your golfing nightmare?

Water hazards (laughs). Facing water hazards makes me experience self-doubt, a lack of confidence which can affect my swing. But I am so lucky that my companion and friends in TGC always support me and even bring me some spare balls. Although at breakfast time after playing golf, I was charged 100 taka for every ball I lost. The good thing is I always stay motivated during the game. I feel lucky to have many beautiful hearts in TGC.



Which sports are most popular in your country?
Badminton is arguably Indonesia's most successful sport. Indonesia has won gold medals in badminton in many international championships and Olympic Games. However, there are also some other popular sports such as football, futsal, basketball, volleyball and also the native Indonesian martial art pencak silat, and many more.

As you know, Bangladesh has an inspiring story of growth and development, aspiring to be an upper middle-income country by 2031. What significant changes have you witnessed since taking up your position in 2021?
I have been impressed that Bangladesh has been making significant strides in economic growth and development with focus on reducing poverty, improving infrastructure and promoting sustainable development. The country has been working towards achieving its goals outlined in its Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 documents. And I think with current progress and development, it would be possible to attain what their dreams are.

Indonesia is a tourist destination. Tell us a bit about the tourism industry there.
Indonesia has a vibrant and diverse tourism industry, a vast archipelago and offers tourists a wide range of attractions and activities; romantic beach holidays for example. Be wowed by gorgeous beaches such as those in Bali, the tranquil Gili Islands of Lombok. Hiking is also very popular, as you may climb numerous active volcanoes, including Mount Bromo and Ijen Crater in East Java, Mount Rinjani in Lombok, and Mount Batur in Bali. Adventure and sports also become the most demanding of special tourism, including some of the best dive spots in the world such as Raja Ampat in Papua. Indonesia's rich cultural heritage is worth investigating, from the historic temples of Borobudur to the traditional dances of Bali. Attending festivals, going to museums, wellness tourism and tasting the local cuisine are all great ways for tourists to become fully immersed in the culture. Tourism has been one of the main drivers of economic growth, job creation, and foreign exchange earnings in Indonesia.

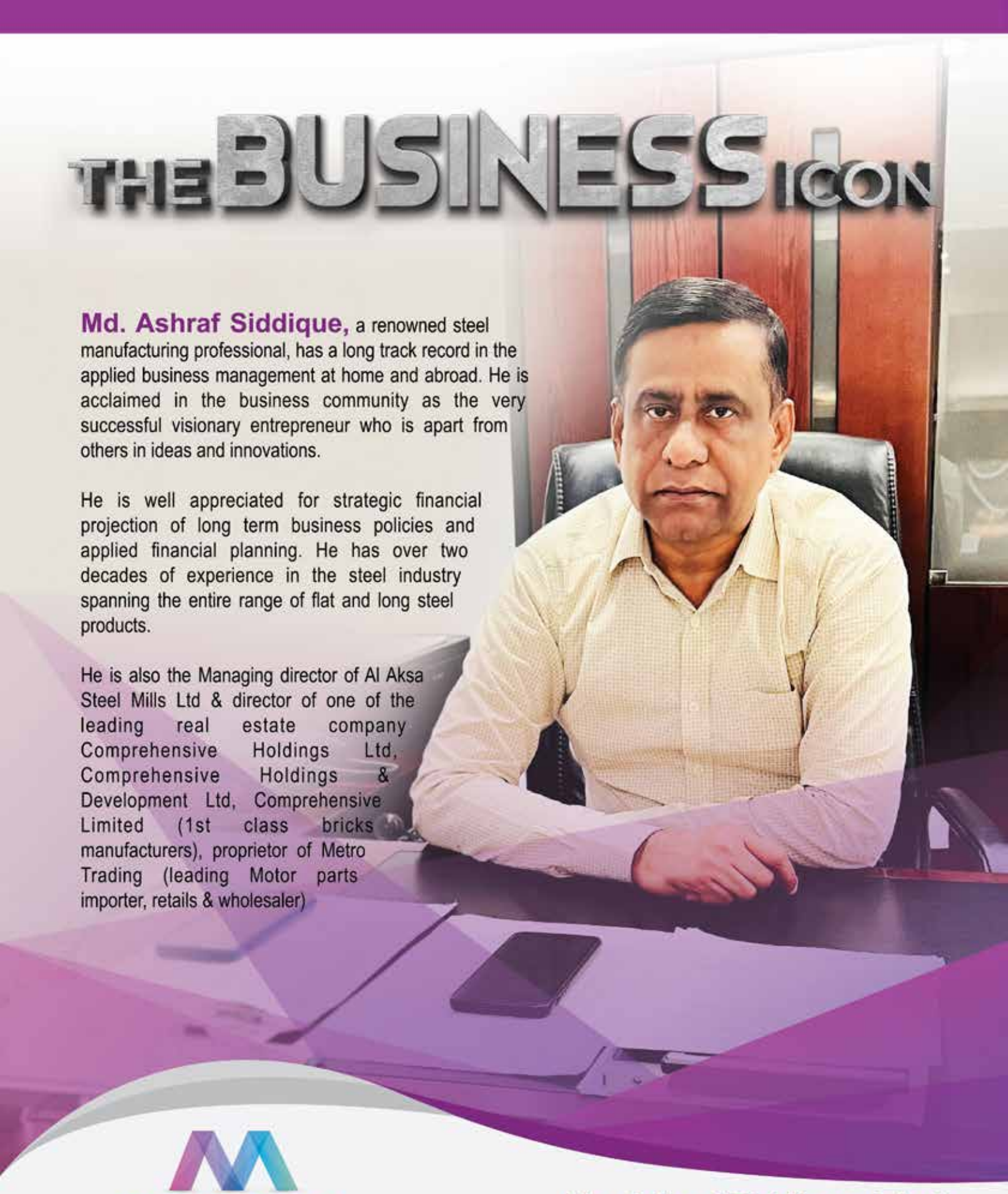
What are your hopes for Indonesia-Bangladesh relations moving forward?
I hope that the Indonesia-Bangladesh relationship continues to strengthen and to deepen in various areas. Some potential areas of cooperation and development, among others could include; enhancing trade ties with more sectors to cover, as well as promoting investment to boost economic growth and create more opportunities for business in both countries. Encouraging more people-to-people exchanges through tourism and cultural interactions, in order to strengthen mutual understanding and appreciation of each other's traditions and heritage. It is essential to continue engaging in open dialogues, diplomatic efforts, and mutual respect to foster a strong and productive relationship that benefits both countries.

Dhaka has been your home for the past two years. What things about Bangladesh will you miss the most after you leave?
I can tell you that since I arrived here, I think Bangladesh is a country with many unique and captivating aspects. Some of the things that I might miss, among others, are warm hospitality that makes my life in Dhaka feel welcome and at home. I enjoyed various traditional events, and festivals, not to mention the decorated wedding invitations and amazing food. I will also miss bustling markets and bazaars that provide an exciting shopping experience. Me and my family have favourite menus including mutton kacchi biryani and roast chicken with pulao rice. Even though my home chef can learn it, I guess the taste will be different.

What is the secret to the success of your career?
Always be willing to learn and be resilient. My biggest challenge is to be in a positive mindset and committing to stay focused and be motivated. I'm very fortunate here in Bangladesh to be able to develop strong professional networks and at the same time to build relationships across layers of walk of life. My involvement in TGC ensures a healthy balance between work and personal life.

Do you have a life's lesson that you would like to relay to youngsters for their careers?
There are some valuable life lessons that I experienced that might be beneficial for youngsters; embrace failure, it's a natural part of growth. Learn from your mistakes, adapt and keep moving forward. Discover what you love and pursue it passionately. Be resilient because life can be challenging. And last but not the least, invest in meaningful relationships. Genuine connections enrich your life and provide support during tough times. Don't forget to always ask the Almighty for His blessing.

THE BUSINESS ICON



Md. Ashraf Siddique, a renowned steel manufacturing professional, has a long track record in the applied business management at home and abroad. He is acclaimed in the business community as the very successful visionary entrepreneur who is apart from others in ideas and innovations.

He is well appreciated for strategic financial projection of long term business policies and applied financial planning. He has over two decades of experience in the steel industry spanning the entire range of flat and long steel products.

He is also the Managing director of Al Aksa Steel Mills Ltd & director of one of the leading real estate company Comprehensive Holdings Ltd, Comprehensive Holdings & Development Ltd, Comprehensive Limited (1st class bricks manufacturers), proprietor of Metro Trading (leading Motor parts importer, retails & wholesaler)

MONTAHA STEEL
NEW GENERATIONS TMT BAR

Mr. Ashraf Siddique Iqbal
Chairman
Montaha Steel Mills Ltd



FOOTJOY CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF INNOVATION

The shoe specialists are toasting their centenary and reflecting on a heritage unmatched in the golf industry – and it all began with models like the one above

FOOTJOY'S early origins can be traced back to 1857 when Frederick Packard broke away from his father's boot workshop to start making shoes of his own, but it was 1923 when Packard and Harvard graduate Perley Flint set the FootJoy brand on its way.
FootJoy became the No 1 Shoe on the PGA Tour in 1945 – and have maintained that position ever since to the present day.
A major breakthrough came in 1927 when a sales rep convinced Walter Hagen to kit out the US Ryder Cup team in FJ shoes.
After the successful matches against GB&I in Worcester, Massachusetts one player – Johnny Farrell liked the shoes so much he went on to wear them at the 1928 US Open where he defeated Bobby Jones in a 36-hole play-off. The business was eventually bought by Bill and Dick Tarlow who, in 1957, decided to focus solely on making golf shoes. Gloves were introduced in 1979 and FootJoy apparel entered the market in 2012. StaSof has been the #1 Glove on Tour since 1983 while FootJoy outerwear is the choice of more PGA Tour players than any other brand. Footwear franchises such as Classics, DryJoys, DNA, Pro|SL and Premiere Series have continued to dominate the worldwide professional tours while being the overwhelming shoes of choice for club golfers. FootJoy's focus has remained on golfspecific technology to help maximise traction, stability and comfort while offering styles for all tastes.
The introduction of Premiere Series and FJ Traditions have combined a classic style with modern performance benefits. Those in favour of an athletic look have relihhed models such as FJ Fuel, Flex and HyperFlex. FootJoy has widened its appeal through collaborations with fashion icons such as Jon Buscemi, Todd Snyder and Garrett Leight.
"Our rich history and heritage is something that really sets us apart and is something we are all extremely proud of," said FJ brand director, Russell Lawes.
"We're humbled by our past but incredibly excited about our, and golf's, future," said Lawes.
To mark the 100-year anniversary FootJoy have launched a limited- edition red, white and blue Premiere Series Wilcox shoe, which was worn by FJ ambassadors at the US Open.

BEST BALLS FOR MID -

Many of us would benefit from using a golf ball that offers a little bit more distance and a consistent



Titleist AVX

I have never considered playing a Titleist that is not a Pro V1 – until now. I am looking for something really responsive in my short shots. The feel is sublime and I was able to get it spinning just as I would expect from my Pro V1. This was a genuine surprise. This feeling passed over into the putts I hit from both long and short range. The AVX was also one of the longest balls I tested. And the front-to-back dispersion was incredibly good

PROS
Incredible feel on putts and chips

CONS
Struggling to find one

Callaway Supersoft

According to Callaway, this model is: super long, super straight, super soft. Just super in fact. That's quite the set of claims for a ball retailing at under a dozen so no wonder it's proving to be one of the most popular balls in golf. When putting, I thought I'd have to hit it a bit harder to get it to the hole but that wasn't the case and I enjoyed distance control with long putting.

PROS
As responsive and high-performing as more costly models

CONS
Higher swing speed players may find it difficult to control with a driver

HANDICAPPERS 2023

flight with control around the greens. Here are the best we have tested in this category



Wilson Staff Model

I don't want too much fuss when I look down on a chip and the branding on the Wilson Staff Model is nicely understated without offering too many distractions. With a 7-iron, I was finding some really pleasing and consistent carry numbers. I would have no problem recommending this ball to a mid-handicap golfer – the only compromise I found was in feel around the greens.

PROS
Loved it on longer shots and pitches

CONS
-and putt with

Callaway Supersoft

According to Callaway, this model is: super long, super straight, super soft. Just super in fact. That's quite the set of claims for a ball retailing at under a dozen so no wonder it's proving to be one of the most popular balls in golf. When putting, I thought I'd have to hit it a bit harder to get it to the hole but that wasn't the case and I enjoyed distance control with long putting.

PROS
Great sound and feel around the greens

CONS
Higher swing speed players may find it difficult to control with a driver



Wilson Staff Model
I don't want too much fuss when I look down on a chip and the branding on the Wilson Staff Model is nicely understated without offering too many distractions. With a 7-iron, I was finding some really pleasing and consistent carry numbers. I would have no problem recommending this ball to a mid-handicap golfer – the only compromise I found was in feel around the greens.

PROS
Loved it on longer shots and pitches

CONS
Not my favourite to chip and putt with

Titleist Tour Soft
I am a long-time Pro V1 user but this was the second-longest ball I tested with driver. It generated more ball speed and an extra seven yards of carry thanks to lower long-game spin. Probably the most notable difference between this and a premium golf ball was the drop-off in spin when it came to half shots and shots around the green.Overall, this is a solid performing golf ball which I think I could put in play tee to green.

PROS
Long with driver

CONS
Didn't generate as much short-game spin as some other models



Wilson Staff Triad
Wilson Triad golf balls "will fly longer and straighter, hold greens better, and roll truer". Wow – can they also cure diseases? It feels like it absolutely crunches off the face with a driver and with a 7-iron I was pretty pleased with the overall carry and the way it flew. I like the bold Wilson logo on the front too. Trust in Triad, we're told. I think I do, Wilson. I think I do.

PROS
Great feel with an iron and superb stopping distances increases confidence with approache

CONS
Alignment logo could be bolder

WHAT IS IMPORTANT WHEN BUYING A NEW GOLF BALL?

Feel
Golf ball feel is a personal preference. Different balls on the market will feel softer or firmer depending on their compression and structure. It is crucial to test balls when putting, chipping and hitting long game shots to check you like the performance across all areas.

Distance
How far you want to hit the golf ball is a crucial consideration when picking a brand and model. Getting the right compression relative to your swing speed and strike will help you get the maximum distance out of a golf ball. You also need to consider if getting maximum distance is important to you or if you would rather give up some yardage to gain in other areas.

Spin
Generally, lower handicappers are looking for a ball that spins more so they can get more control around the greens. In this case, getting a ball with a urethane cover is really important as it will give you the most spin and control.

Price
Not everyone wants to spend £50 a dozen on golf balls. When picking the right golf ball for you, consider how much you want to spend relative to what performance you want.

HOW DO WE TEST GOLF BALLS?
We are passionate about producing accurate and thorough reviews and make sure our testing process is rigorous so we get a good understanding of how each model performs. We headed to Woodhall Spa to collect launch monitor data with our in-house TrackMan and Flightscope. We tested each golf ball on the putting surface and around the greens before collecting data on 50-yard pitch shots, with a 7-iron and with a driver.

What golf looked like in...



Kiwi Bob Charles won his sole Major at The Open, beating Phil Rodgers by eight shots in a 36-hole play-off.

The 1963 Ryder Cup was one of the most lopsided in history, with the USA beating GB&I 23-9.

1963

Vijay Singh was born in 1963, as were Dame Laura Davies and Meg Mallon.





Jack Nicklaus won two Majors in a calendar year for the first time, claiming The Masters and US PGA Championship.

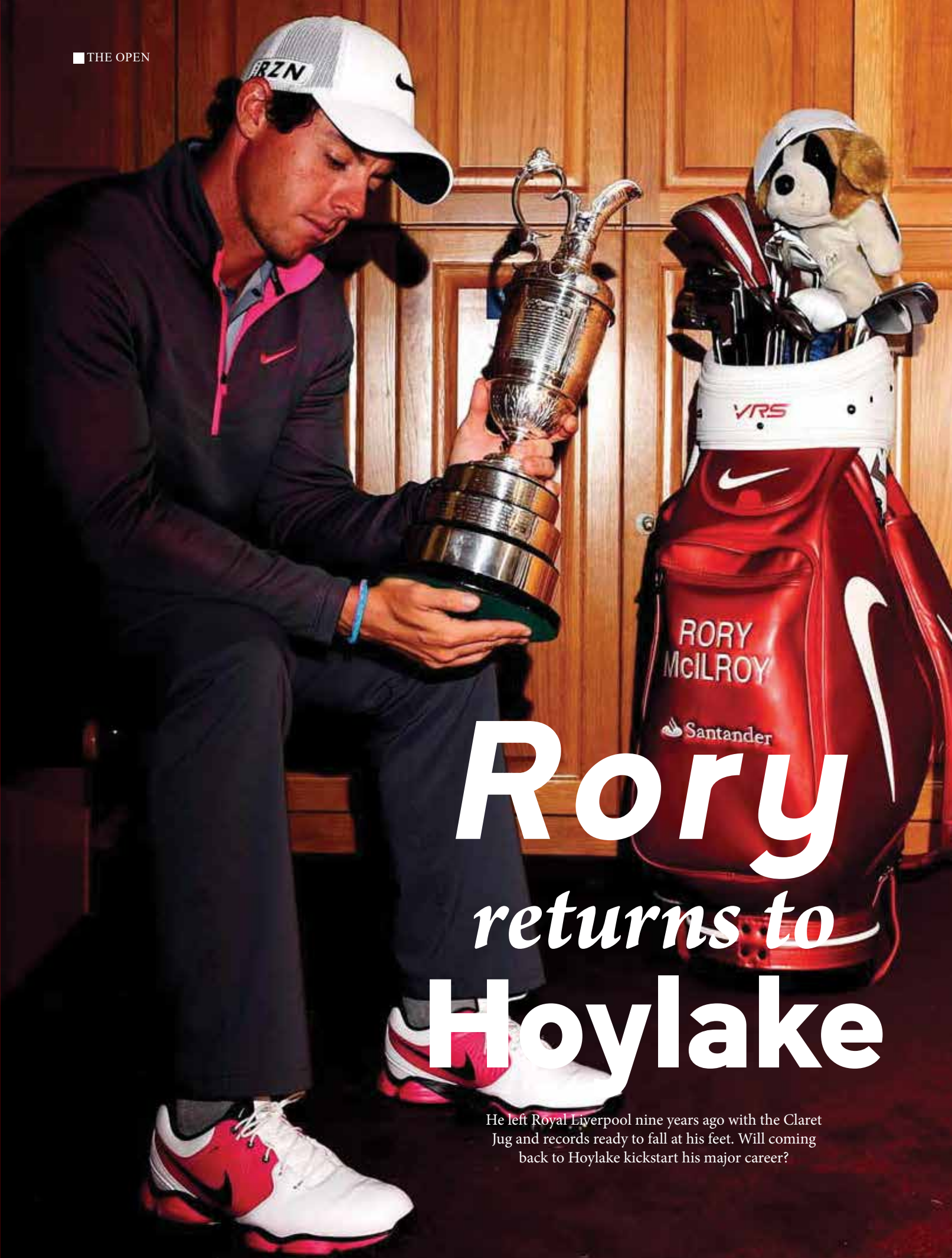
ELSEWHERE..

John F. Kennedy was assassinated on Friday, November 22 in Texas.

Famous films to come out included The Great Escape, Cleopatra, From Russia With Love and High and Low



The Great Train Robbery took place in Buckinghamshire, England.



Rory returns to Hoylake

He left Royal Liverpool nine years ago with the Claret Jug and records ready to fall at his feet. Will coming back to Hoylake kickstart his major career?

When Rory McIlroy left Royal Liverpool clutching the Claret Jug, and just three weeks later won the PGA Championship in the darkness at Valhalla, he was the anointed one – the man to take the mantle of Tiger Woods and dominate golf.You could have polled every pundit, scanned every social media feed. You would not have found anyone predicting he'd return to Hoylake nine years later still waiting to add to his major tally.

It's the most perplexing of droughts. McIlroy has won 14 times on the PGA Tour and a further four on the DP World Tour since 2014. But despite 18 top 10 finishes, and a host of near misses, the big four tournaments have eluded him. Can coming back to Merseyside kickstart his charge? Expectation, and the pressure he puts on himself to succeed, has appeared to hold him back in those events that matter the most. Nowhere has that been more evident than at Augusta, the one the 34-year-old needs to complete the Grand Slam. But those struggles to win the Masters, and what he said when missing the cut on his latest attempt, reveal a wider angst about the way McIlroy has performed across the game's biggest tournaments. "All I think about is winning, winning, winning, to try to win that green jacket," he said after another top-10 finish at the PGA Championship at Oak Hill.

"I then don't really think about just playing a tournament and the cadence that goes along with getting into rounds. "I go to the 2nd tee on Friday morning or Friday afternoon, and I see I'm already 10 back of Brooks or whatever. So then I'm thinking, 'oh, geez, I have no chance of winning', and things sort of crumble.

"It's just like being a bit mentally fragile because you're so focused on the one thing you're trying to do when, in essence, you just need to play a golf tournament and see where the chips fall at the end of the week."

McIlroy's talked about trying not to get fixated with feelings and vibes. Maybe you can blame his dabbling in politics, of being the de facto PGA Tour spokesperson in the battle with LIV Golf. Or maybe you can blame luck. Rory did little wrong at St Andrews last July, only for Cameron Smith to put together a back nine for the ages and wrestle the 150th Open from his grasp.

But maybe his performance at Oak Hill, where he finished tied7th while feeling well under par, can provide all the motivation he needs to cast off his major misery. Tiger Woods recently told Jon Rahm he had his A-game for just three of his 82 wins – and two of those were the 2000 US Open and Open Championship. For the Spaniard, who grabbed the green jacket, the message was clear: "You don't need to be firing on all cylinders to win". It's a lesson the Northern Irishman may have finally grasped. "I guess that I don't need my best stuff to compete," he said following his final round at Oak Hill. "I feel like I need my best stuff to win, but you know, I don't need my best stuff to compete and hang in there. "I need to be better," he signed off. A familiar refrain over the past decade.



RORY'S OPEN RECORD

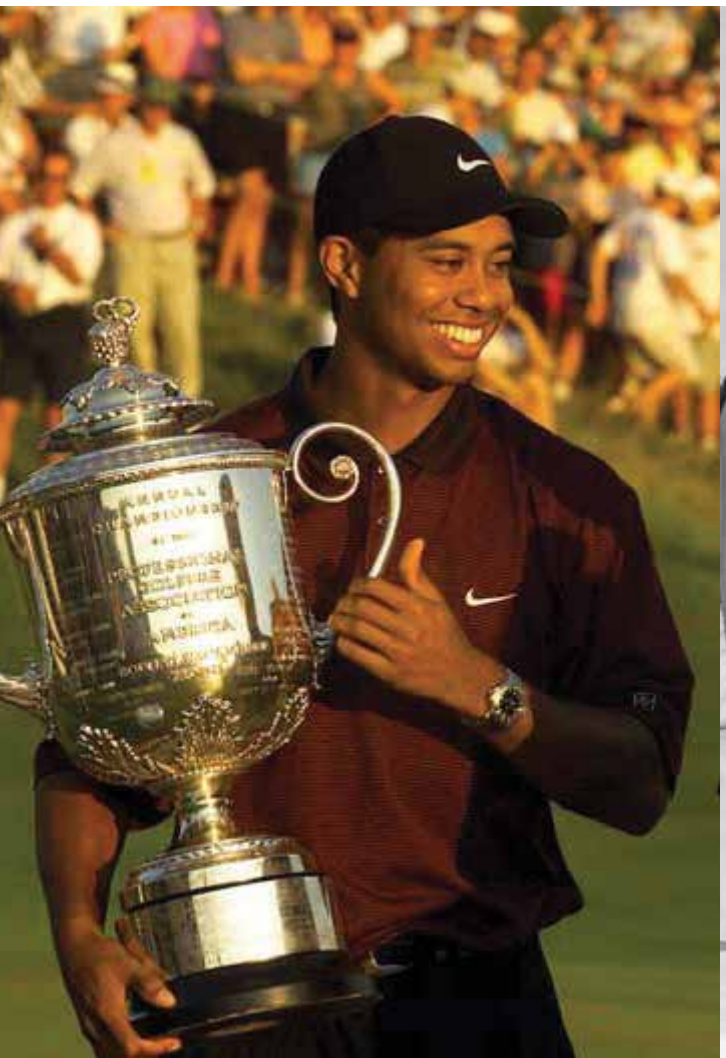
2007: T42 (low amateur) | 2008: DNP | 2009: T47 | 2010: T3 | 2011: T25 | 2012: T60 | 2013: CUT | 2014: WIN



2015: DNP | 2016: T5 | 2017: T4 | 2018: T2 | 2019: CUT | 2020: No Tournament | 2021: T46 Tournament | 2022: 3T46 Tournament













RORY'S MAJOR MISSES

2018 – THE MASTERS
Rory trailed Patrick Reed by three going into the final round, but when the leader failed to birdie the 2nd, the way was clear. Rory missed from 4-feet to tie Reed and the American pulled away.

2018 – THE OPEN
As overnight leader Kevin Kisner fell back at Carnoustie, Rory got within one of Francesco Molinari after eagling the 14th but could not close the gap on the toughest home stretch in golf.

2022 – US OPEN
A shot back at the halfway stage, McIlroy's third round 73 left him three adrift of leaders Matt Fitzpatrick and Will Zalatoris. A tied 5th finish was his best since winning at Congressional in 2011.

2022 – THE OPEN
Joint leader going into the final round of the 150th Open at St Andrews, Rory was overhauled by a magnificent stretch of back-9 golf from Cameron Smith, who birdied five holes in a row.

2023 – US OPEN
A shot behind going in, McIlroy birdied the opening par 5 at Los Angeles Country Club – and then did not pick up another shot for the entire day. Sixteen pars and a bogey left him agonisingly one stroke behind Wyndham Clark

ALL-TIME MAJOR WINNERS

18 Jack Nicklaus

15 Tiger Woods

11 Walter Hagen

9 Ben Hogan, Gary Player

8 Tom Watson

7 Harry Vardon, Bobby Jones, Gene Sarazen, Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer
6 Lee Trevino, Nick Faldo, Phil Mickelson
5 James Braid, JH Taylor, Byron Nelson, Peter Thomson, Seve Ballesteros, Brooks Koepka
4 Old Tom Morris, Young Tom Morris, Willie Park Snr, Willie Anderson, Jim Barnes, Bobby Locke, Ray Floyd, Ernie Els, Rory McIlroy



Exclusive interviews and an in-depth preview of this year's contest in Italy



It's nearly showtime again, folks, with golf's biggest team event rolling into town in Italy this autumn as September eases gently into October. It promises to be an enthralling contest as the heavyweights of European and American golf do battle for Samuel Ryder's famous gold trophy for the 44th time. In 2021 at Whistling Straits, Europe suffered its biggest defeat for a generation, going down 19-9.

The margin of victory was similar in 1981 at Walton Heath courtesy of the so-called American dream team, and some feel the current crop of Americans almost rivals that team for strength in depth. Bill Elliott ponders who might yet add their names to those already etched on their respective team sheets.

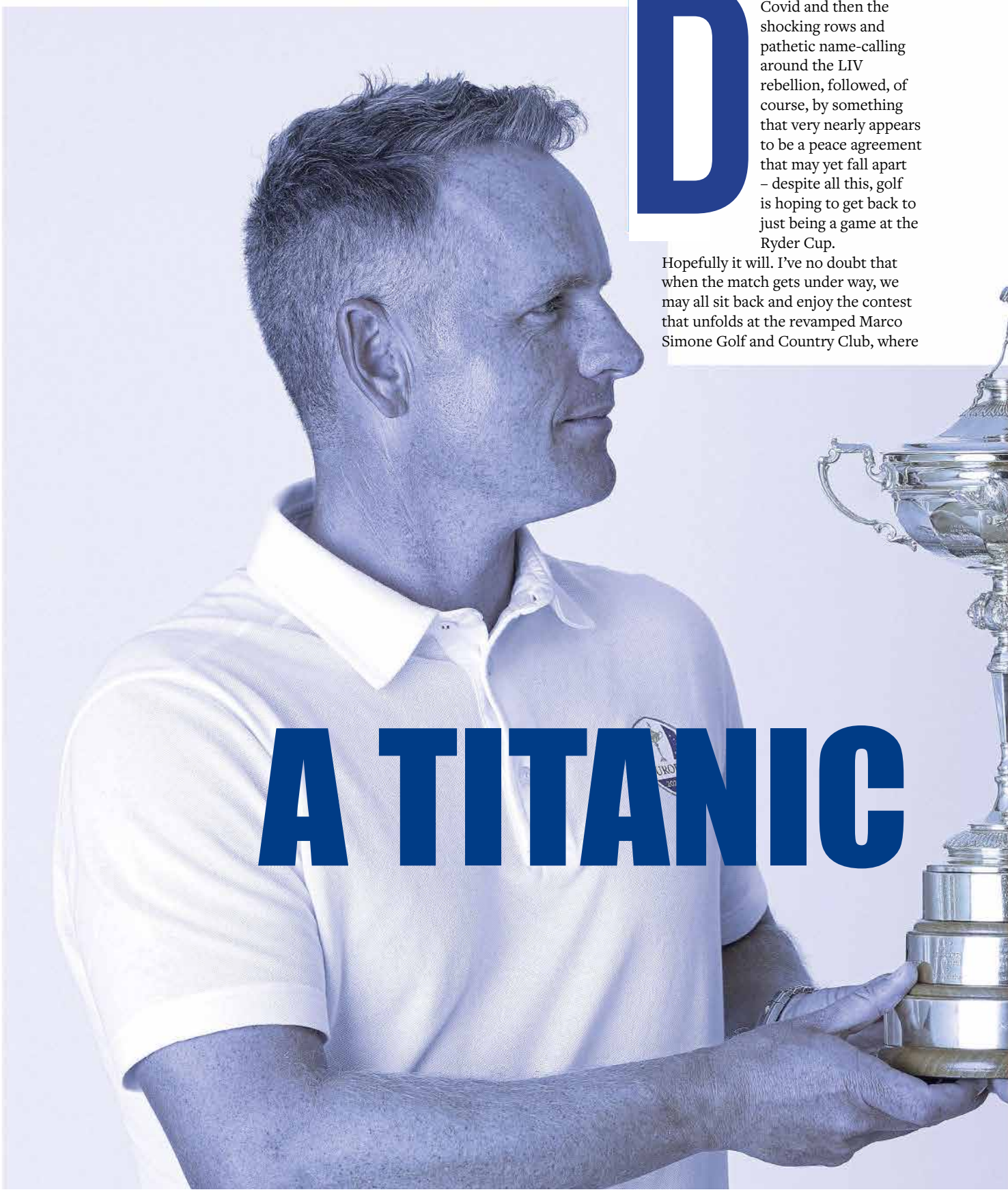
Among the key players for Europe is Matt Fitzpatrick, who amazingly boasts more Major Championship trophies than Ryder Cup points, having drawn a blank in both 2016 and 2021. He tells Mark Townsend that this is something he very much hopes to rectify in Rome! For the Americans, Scottie Scheffler was last man in last time, but first to book his place this time. We chat to the World No.1 about his successful debut in 2021.

Elsewhere, three winning European captains – Messrs Langer, Olazabal and Montgomerie – reflect on their rich Ryder Cup experiences and look ahead to this year's contest at Marco Simone in Rome, which also comes under the spotlight here on page 18.

Since the home team morphed from GB&I into Europe in 1979, things have been pretty even, with Europe leading 11.5-9.5, including seven wins from the last ten. But does the scale of the American victory last time suggest the tide has turned once more in favour of the USA, who still lead 28-15 overall since the inaugural match in 1927? Very soon we shall find out...



A TITANIC



Despite the interruptions offered by the accursed Covid and then the shocking rows and pathetic name-calling around the LIV rebellion, followed, of course, by something that very nearly appears to be a peace agreement that may yet fall apart – despite all this, golf is hoping to get back to just being a game at the Ryder Cup.

Hopefully it will. I've no doubt that when the match gets under way, we may all sit back and enjoy the contest that unfolds at the revamped Marco Simone Golf and Country Club, where

FOLLOWING THE DOMINANT US VICTORY AT WHISTLING STRAITS, LUKE DONALD IS

American fans can drool over an equally refurbished ancient castle that was doing what castles do 500 years before the USA creaked into existence.
Located ten miles outside the centre of Rome, Marco Simone's fairways trundle up and down one of the hills that embrace the Eternal City. The last three Italian Opens have been staged there, with Adrian Meronk, Bob MacIntyre and Nicolai Hojgaard the winners. It looks nice and also like a tough walk, up and down with a lot of water hanging around. Hopefully it has genuine



TUSSLE

HOPING HIS MEN BOUNCE BACK TO DEFEAT ZACH JOHNSON'S TEAM IN ROME



American fans had cause to celebrate at Whistling Straits

razor-sharp teeth hidden in its pretty face. What I know is that this is a curious Ryder Cup to ponder at this point.

The last 18 months have been uniquely challenging for men's pro golf, LIV's money slashing into the old idea that the game was a sport played by nice chaps in nice places. There has been too much name-calling, too much ill-advised nonsense, followed by a deal that confuses us all and might yet crumble. The future remains on the cloudiest side of uncertain.

There will be players at this Ryder Cup who are there because of LIV and others who are not for the same reason. In that sense, it remains an unnecessary mess.

However, when the actual play gets under way, it will still be fun and gripping for those of us who pay reasonably serious attention to the old game. We enjoy match play because of the cut and thrust involved, as well as the inevitable unveiling of the players' characters and hearts as the contest gains momentum.

There have been a lot of interesting quotes about what it is like to play in. Everyone wants to make the team and everyone says how nervous it makes them feel, their usual individual ambition trumped by the knowledge they are part of a team with all the pressure this brings.

The ever intelligently thoughtful Padraig Harrington captured this recently when he told us: "Playing in the Ryder Cup is not a pleasant feeling. It's like riding a rollercoaster or bungee jumping. As it's happening, you're thinking, 'Why am I doing this?' Then, when it's finished, you're thinking, 'Oh, that was great.'"

Nearly 40 years ago as the Europeans triumphed at The Belfry, I asked an ashen-faced Nick Faldo if he was okay. He looked at me and said, "I'm happy we won, but I am totally exhausted. I've never felt so tired."

It's not just the physical effort of playing five times in three days, as Faldo had. It's the mental effort – the constant rinse-and-repeat rhythm of a Ryder Cup, on top of the pressure of representing a continent. For a natural loner like Nick, it was a hard ask and it's to his great credit that he rose to the challenge so brilliantly so often, even if his eventual captaincy was not quite up to the same mark.

THE BALANCE OF POWER

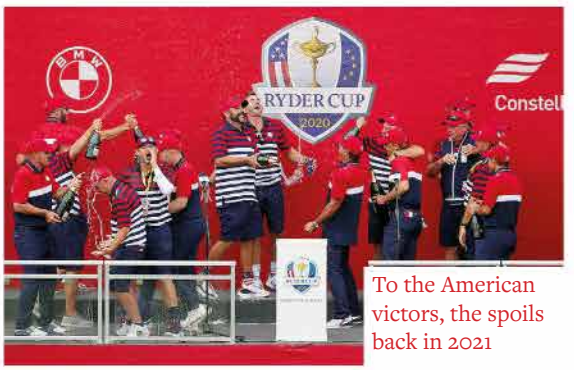
Naturally, it will be the same this time. Players who for the rest of their year are cocooned in their private mink-lined worlds, even when on public duties, have to ride a very different horse in this biennial steeplechase. Whether they like it or not, they are more publicly exposed than at any other time. Some rise to this, some don't and the rookies on both teams have no idea how they are going to respond when the action starts.



What they do know is that two years ago, the USA rolled over Europe with a superiority in almost every part of the game that, at times, could have bordered on an understandable arrogance. While the fact remains that Europe's troops have won seven of the last ten matches, the other fact is that this is a fresh start for Luke Donald's men.

"Whether they like it or not, the play ersare more publicly exposed than at any other time"

An era has slipped away and gone are the old lynchpins of Ian Poulter, Lee Westwood and Henrik Stenson (who surely should be renamed captain for 2025?), as well as the scurrying figure of Sergio Garcia. We'll never know if Donald would have picked any of them, but surely at least one would have brought experience as well as a game worthy of this new Italian arena.



To the American victors, the spoils back in 2021

As I'm writing this before Donald or Zach Johnson have named their six picks, there's little point trying to second guess either.

Much can still happen between now and September. It probably will. Brian Harman, the thinking golfer's 'big little man', has blown his way into the American platoon by winning The Open as though it was his 19th Major, not his first. Austria's Sepp Straka has no doubt done the same by clinching a share of 2nd place at Hoylake on top of serious PGA Tour success.

What does seem set in some kind of stone is the top-half cutting edge for both sides. For Europe, as I write, we have Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm, Tyrrell Hatton, Tommy Fleetwood, Viktor Hovland and MacIntyre. The Americans have Scottie Scheffler, Wyndham Clark, Brooks Koepka, Xander Schauffele, Patrick Cantlay and Harman. I'd just give the USA an edge here, but it's close enough to be properly interesting.

Standout picks for Donald apart from Straka – and surely already sized up for clothing – are Matt Fitzpatrick and Shane Lowry, plus probably Yannik Paul and Meronk. Johnson may have richer pickings to consider, with Keegan Bradley, Jordan Spieth, Collin Morikawa, Max Homa, Cameron Young and Sam Burns. Few will be surprised if all six play and there's no escaping the thought that, on paper at least, the skillsets of these potential bottom halves appear at least slightly weighted in favour of the Americans.What is certain is that both captains offer safe hands. Donald and Johnson are class acts as golfers and as men. Similar calm, quiet personalities belie strong minds and hard competitiveness.

Donald is a former World No.1 but he's never won a Major, while Johnson has two Majors, The Open and The Masters, but has never been higher than World No.6. These captains should add a mannered gloss to this Ryder Cup tussle. After the trials of recent times, this is exactly what pro golf needs right now.

It's not easy getting through the honour of being asked to lead a Ryder Cup team. Win and you're a hero; lose and the critics' knives are sharpened. Years ago, Sam Torrance told me he was thinking carefully about how he was going to lead and what criteria he was using to set up pairings, but how, most of all, he was working even harder on not overthinking the whole shebang. He managed to pull off this trick, but not every captain has. And, as ever, whatever plan the skipper goes into the battle with probably won't survive much past lunch on the first day.


Rory will be hoping for more than a solitary point this time round

MAKING HOME ADVANTAGE COUNT

That's the beauty of match play – the silken, occasionally brutal unpredictability, the slim slivers of good fortune that can swing a seemingly lost cause around and encourage momentum. All games include lucky breaks, but few have as many opportunities for a sudden reversal of fortune as golf.

It is not just the impact of these unexpected glitches or rewards on the receiver, but what it does to the opposition. A match-play contest is the truest reflection of the vagaries of all our lives.

The smart money will be landing heavily on the USA and the bookmakers' odds reflect this reality, but home advantage is indeed a serious advantage in a Ryder Cup and can top everything else. Having a home crowd cheering you on is worth, on balance, at least one hole per match and often this is critical to the outcome. Donald, meanwhile, will be making sure the course is set up to cater to his players' strengths.

Always a serious tilt in the direction of a home side. How many British and Irish fans make the trip to Rome has yet to be seen. These are hard times in many different ways and money is tighter than ever.

But if enough think, 'To hell with it, we're going' and then don't wear some kind of fancy dress (is it just me?) but watch, clap, cheer and keep the faith, Europe can rise to the occasion. Certainly McIlroy and his pals don't want to see anyone crying after this tussle unless it's for all the right reasons. Rory made this clear immediately after The Open when he said that humiliation two years ago needs avenging and that Europe's players are now focused on Rome and little else. We'll see.

It is, however, clear that the USA squad will carry justified confidence into the land of La Dolce Vita, but they will also know it won't be easy. It never is, no matter what the final scoreline suggests. Let's hope it lives up to the hype, the hope and the expectation. Let's hope it's close, very close, and that the winning team clinches victory in real style. Marco Simone Golf and Country Club is not the Colosseum. No-one is about to be slaughtered, but we who are about to watch, salute them. Enjoy the fun



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56 **Elegant corporate Serenity**
The project started with its design phase in February, 2022. It was a 60 days construction periodwhich was handed over on September 30, 2022

64 **Sesame & chilli broccoli with mushrooms**
Combine the broccolini, chilli and mushrooms in a large bowl; add the sesame oil and toss well to coat the vegetables.Season.



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Briefly tell us about "Sthapotto" and its background.
'STHAPOTTO' the atelier evolved in the year 2004 as a design studio. The atelier was attended by some energetic vibrant and serious architecture graduates as to pursue the practice with creative integrity and attitude. Later STHAPOTTO formed its new venture as STHAPOTTO Design & Development Ltd. in 2019. STHAPOTTO consider every project as an opportunity for new design and work experiments that leads to a creative design solution and fit out projects are designed and built to fulfill clients' needs and aspiration by maximizing flexibilities, efficiency and cost effectiveness.

What was the client's requirement for the project?
Client requirements for the project was to create a modern minimalistic office space that should include considerations for space utilization, branding, flexibility, recreational space, technology, employee well-being, collaboration spaces, privacy, budget friendly, compliance, security, aesthetics, scalability, safety, sustainability, local context, and feedback. These requirements ensure the design aligns with the company's goals and accommodates diverse employee needs in a global context.



When did this project start and how long did it take to complete?
The project started with its design phase in February, 2022. It was a 60 days construction periodwhich was handed over on September 30, 2022

How much area does this project cover?
14,000 Sft

As an architect, how do you use design elements to turn spaces into places where people want to reside?
As an Architect, we use design elements to transform spaces into desirable living places by considering factors such as functionality, aesthetics, comfort, lighting, and personalization to create environments that meet the needs and preferences of residents, making them want to reside there.

ell us about the idea and concept behind the project.
"Elegant Corporate Serenity" The interior design concept for Checkpoint Systems Ltd.'smodern multinational head office in Dhaka city is centeredaround creating a harmonious and dynamic workspace thatpromotes openness, tranquility, vibrancy, and employeewell-being. It celebrates natural light, incorporates flexiblezoning, and fosters creativity, relaxation, and mental peace.

What types of materials have been used in this project? Are they locally sourced?
Different types of boards like melamine board, Fire rated Gypsum board, Merin ply, regular ply, HPL board, Steel framing material, faring channel, Thai aluminum, Glass, Tiles, Marble, Sanitary items, Frosted paper with design, Printed PVC, Imported



and Factory-made furniture's, Carpets, lights and lighting fixtures, Plants and planter tubs etc. Most of the materials are being sourced locally.

What were the landscaping scopes in this project?

The landscaping scopes in this project included:

Green Plantation Wall at Balcony: Creating a green wall on the balcony for visual appeal and outdoor ambiance.

Indoor Plants in Reception Area and Workspace: Adding indoor plants for aesthetics and improved indoor air quality.

Green Plantation Shelves in Entrance: Incorporating green shelves at the entrance to enhance the welcoming atmosphere.

Green Carpet Plants in Entrance Corridor: Using green carpet plants to beautify and define the entrance corridor.

What sorts of plantations did you implement? Were they easy to source?

Mostly money plants (pothos) are used in this project. Also Spider Plants and Golden Pothos are also used.

Tell us about the type of structure implemented.

As it was an interior design and construction project, there is no civil structure used in this project.

Can you tell us about the space segmentation of the project?

Space segmentation in "Checkpoint City Office Interior Project"is tailored to the company's objectives, work culture, and the varied needs of its global workforce. Flexibility and adaptability are key principles to ensure the office can evolve as requirements change and to accommodate employees with diverse cultural backgrounds and working preferences.

Here's an overview of common space **segments in such a project:**

•Open Workspace Areas





•Private Offices
•Meeting and Conference Rooms
•Collaborative Spaces
•Reception and Waiting Areas
•Cafeteria/Kitchen
•Quiet Zones
•Recreational and Relaxation Zones
•Storage and Utility Areas
•Reconfigurable Spaces
•Circulation and Pathways

Tell us about the interior details – color palette, furniture, and lighting.

The project's interior design color palette is a study in modern elegance. White, the base color, provides a timeless backdrop for the workspace, signifying purity and professionalism. The black ceiling adds a touch of sophistication and depth.

To capture the essence of a vibrant working environment and youthful legacy, we've introduced accents of lively orange and refreshing light green. Orange ignites creativity and enthusiasm, while light green invokes a sense of growth and harmony, symbolizing the dedication to both team's development and ecological sustainability. These colors infuse the space with energy, creativity, and growth, reflecting the



commitment to innovation and the next generation of talent.
Additionally, red is strategically employed in electrical ducting, serving as a practical and safety-focused element that ensures efficient functionality while subtly complementing our color scheme.
Together, these elements create a dynamic and inspiring atmosphere for the office.
In this project. we've crafted a workspace that harmonizes modern functionality and aesthetics. Our workstations are both modular and effortlessly extendable, designed to adapt to the ever-evolving needs of our dynamic workforce.
Our choice of furniture and workstations embodies a modern and minimalist approach, emphasizing clean lines and simplicity.
Comfort is paramount, with cozy materials adorning the tops of drawer units, inviting employees to not only work efficiently but also unwind and relax in their designated spaces.
We've moved away from traditional cubicles, embracing an open and collaborative office layout that fosters communication and







The project's interior design color palette is a study in modern elegance. White, the base color, provides a timeless backdrop for the workspace, signifying purity and professionalism.

teamwork. Workstations are meticulously crafted from durable materials like particle board and MS box frames, ensuring longevity and sustainability.

Natural daylight takes center stage in our design, and we've maximized its utilization to create a bright and inviting working environment. Each workstation is equipped with adjustable lighting, ensuring that employees have optimal illumination for their tasks. Innovative hanging tube light boxes within the workstations not only provide practical lighting but also contribute a modern and stylish touch to our interior design.

Any particular construction detail you want to discuss – in terms of facade treatment?

In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on sustainability in interior design and construction, and this extends to the





facade treatment as well. Many multinational companies are increasingly adopting eco-friendly materials for their facades to align with their corporate social responsibility goals and contribute to a greener future.

One notable trend is the use of recycled and locally sourced materials in facade treatments. For instance, reclaimed wood, recycled metal, and sustainable stone are being incorporated to create visually appealing and environmentally friendly facades. These materials not only reduce the carbon footprint but also add a unique and organic texture to the building's interior.

Additionally, innovative technologies like green walls and vertical gardens are being integrated into the facade design. These not only enhance aesthetics but also improve air quality, regulate temperature, and promote employee well-being.

Any kind of constraint or challenge faced during the construction process?
As there was a previous office, we have to dismantle the existing partition wall, floor tiles and other used materials. Almost 6000 cft rubbish was removed from the floor. It was the biggest challenge.

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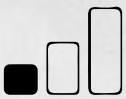
Sesame & chilli broccoli with mushrooms



prep + cooking time
25 minutes



Serves
4



level
easy

INGREDIENTS

700g broccoli, trimmed
2 long red chillies, deseeded and chopped
200g mixed mushrooms, sliced (**see tip**)
1 tbsp sesame oil
3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1 tbsp sesame seeds
2 tbsp oyster sauce

METHOD

1 Preheat a 7.3L capacity air fryer to 180°C for 3 minutes.

2 Combine the broccolini, chilli and mushrooms in a large bowl; add the sesame oil and toss well to coat the vegetables. Season.

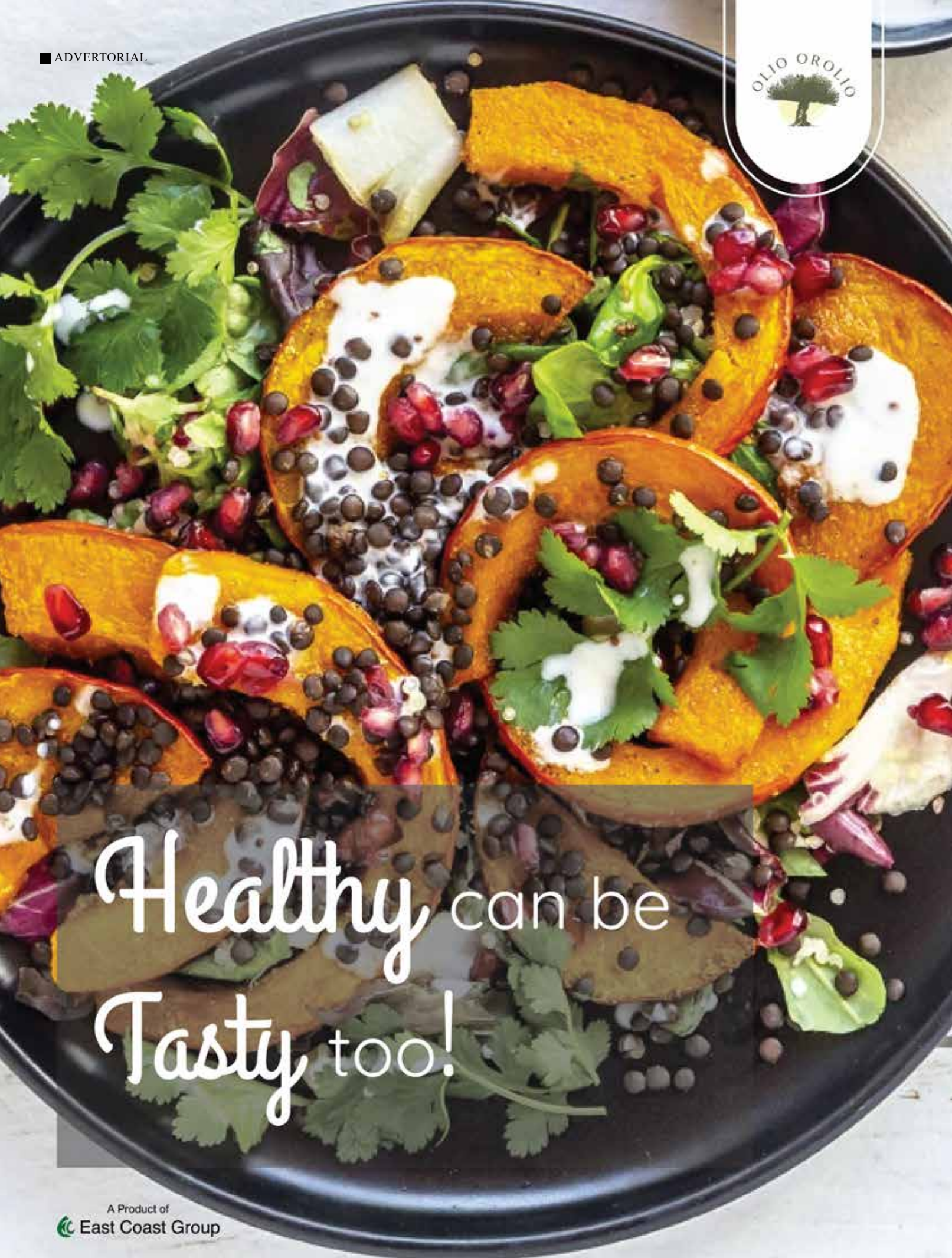
3 Taking care, place the vegetable mixture in the air fryer basket; cook for 10 minutes, tossing halfway through the cooking time, or until the vegetables are beginning to crisp at the edges.

4 Sprinkle the vegetables with the garlic and sesame seeds; cook for a further 3 minutes at 180°C until tender.

5 Serve the vegetables drizzled with oyster sauce.

Tip

We used shiitake, king, oyster and button mushrooms.


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Sweet Pumpkin Salad

Recipe Courtesy: Chef Farzana Anwar

Ingredients

- Medium size pumpkin - 1
- Paprika - 1 tbsp
- Black pepper - 2 tsp
- Olio Orolio Extra Virgin Olive Oil- 50 ml
- Cherry Tomato- 4-5 pcs
- Basil leaf - as per taste
- Brown Sugar - 1 tsp
- Yoghurt – 3 tbsp
- Silver Onion- 4-5 pcs
- Capers – 1 tsp
- Lettuce

Procedure

1. Take the pumpkin and cut into thin slices.
2. Take the slices into a bowl and add black pepper, paprika and roasted paprika.
3. Heat some Olio Orolio Extra Virgin Olive oil into a pan and cook the seasoned pumpkin slices.
4. Add chopped sweet basil leaf, cut-up cherry tomato pieces, capers, silver onion, black pepper into the frying pan.
5. For dressing, take yoghurt and mix with brown sugar, black pepper, roasted paprika, capers and chopped silver onions.
6. Roast pumpkin seeds with Olio Orolio Extra Virgin olive oil into a separate pan until it is brown
7. Serve the cooked pumpkin slices with lettuce, roasted seeds and the dressing.

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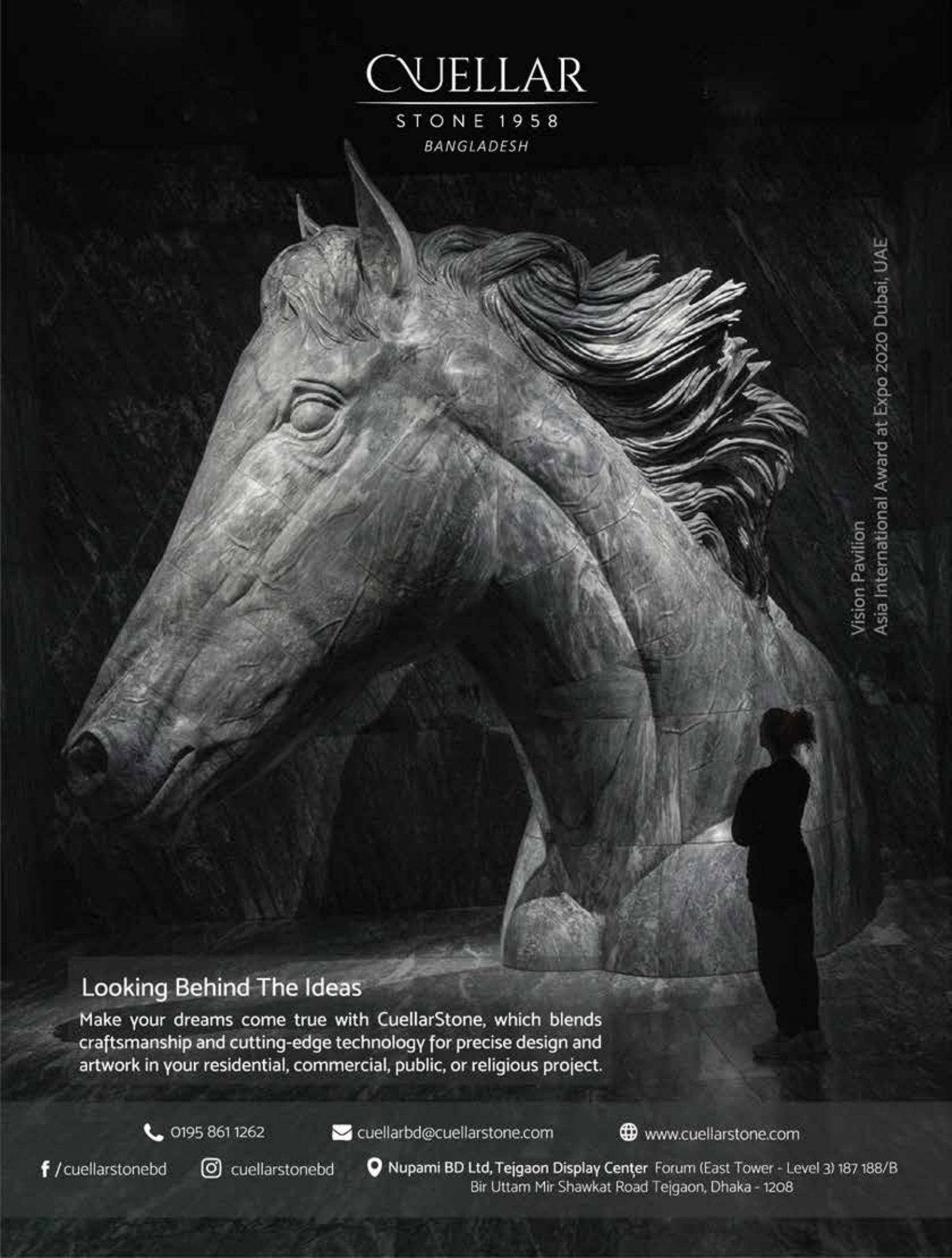
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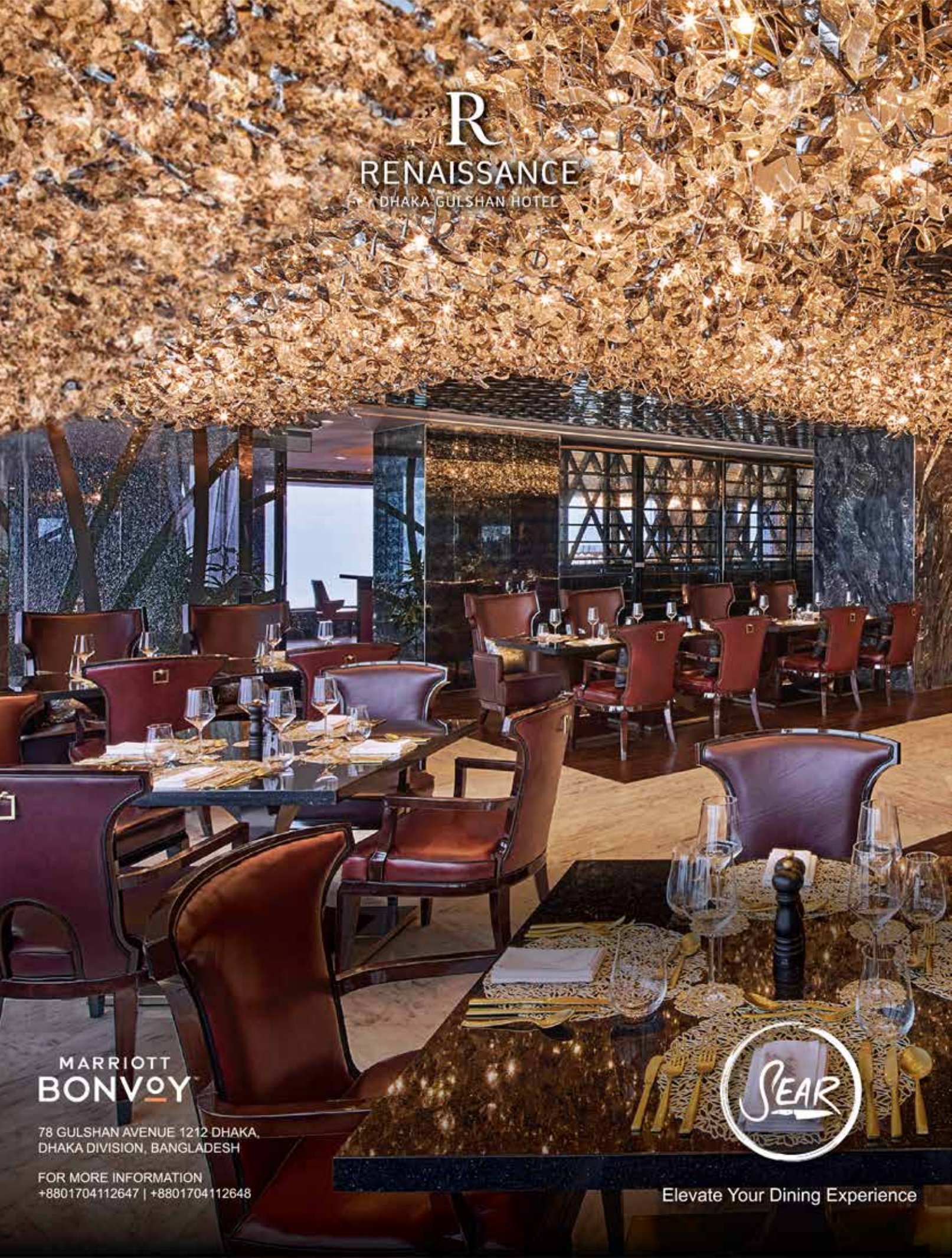
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