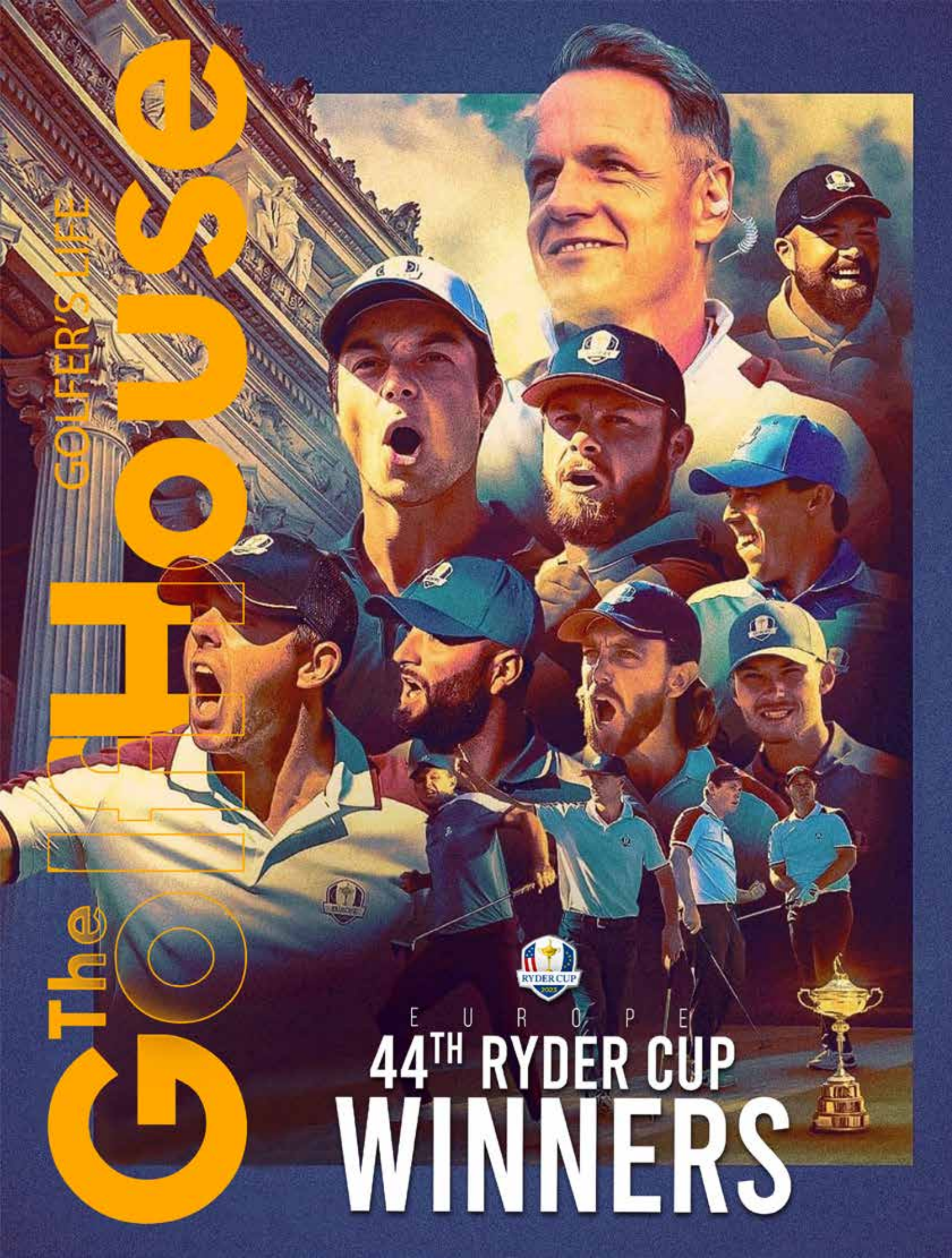

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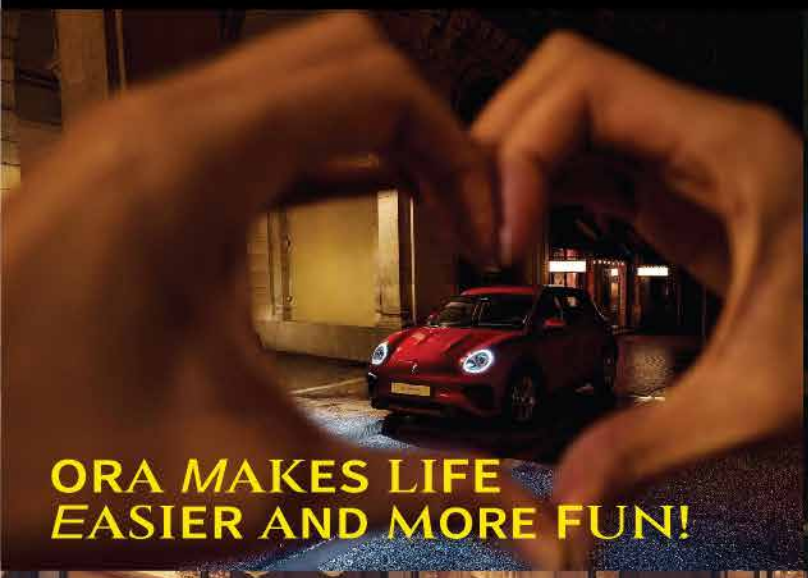
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You may have already known that the PGA Tour and the Saudi-backed LIV Golf – the two bitter rivals entangled in a tug of war over the ownership of golfers and golfing administration over the last two years – have decided to bury the hatchet and join hands for the greatest good of the game.

EDITOR'S CHOICE



Kurmitola Golf Club hole 3 green inaugurated by Maj Gen Zahirul Islam.

Foreword

Dear readers,

As I write this, the golfing world stands on a crossroads. You may have already known that the PGA Tour and the Saudi-backed LIV Golf – the two bitter rivals entangled in a tug of war over the ownership of golfers and golfing administration over the last two years – have decided to bury the hatchet and join hands for the greatest good of the game.

The development has been greeted with euphoria by some quarters but with skepticism by others. We'll have to keep in mind that this move is part of a bigger geopolitical shift of power as Saudi Arabia looks to turn itself into a global power – not just in the field of sports but also in politics, culture and global finance.

The exodus of top European footballers to Saudi Arabia is only part of that greater scheme. While the golfing world as well as the sporting world continue to skew towards Asian and more specifically Saudi riches, we can only watchand observe.

Stay with The Golf House and enjoy the latest news and updates from the golfing world.

Nazrul Hosen Ayon
Editor

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GOLFER'S LIFE

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Kildare parkland. Here you will play the acclaimed O'Meara Course before venturing to the nearby K Club, which hosted the 2006 Ryder Cup and this year'sIrish Open.The tour then heads for Cork on the south coast, where you will play one of the world's most photographed courses at Old Head.

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A man with lofty ambitions over a green golf club

We started playing golf around 15 to 16 years back at the Army Golf Club. Initially, we did not understand how to start the game. But the golf enthusiasts and the seniors were there, who pushed us to become members.
Golf clears your mind and keeps you physically fit. Young people may think that it is a sport for old people, but the reality is that golf is not about physicality only, it is also about passion as well as technique.

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Cho Minn Thant

Working alongside the Chairman and the board of directors, he oversees the tour's strategic direction, a job that has exploded since the arrival of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. Armed with the PIF's injection of cash, Cho has overseen a rapid expansion in the Asian Tour's prize funds and global reach alongside LIV Golf.

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7 Contenders to be the next European

Luke Donald masterminded a 16.5-11.5 victory over Zach Johnson's beleaguered US side at Marco Simone to extend their unbeaten home run beyond 30 years.
Next, a re-energised European side will head to the New York bear pit bidding to secure what would be a famous away victory.

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Games as Siddikur finishes 16th

The Bangladesh Golf Federation (BGF) was established in 2001. Since then ithas been working under the National Sports Council of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.About 39000 golf courses are available throughout the world. Bangladesh has only 14 golf grounds.

ENJOY SOME CRAIC IN 2024

Playing golf in Ireland is one of those experiences you will treasure for the rest of your life.

The PaRnz golfing holidays team is hosting a tour to the Emerald Isle in July 2024, which features rounds of golf on seven spectacular Irish courses and luxury accommodation throughout the tour.

The tour – from July 6 to 17 – starts on the outskirts of Dublin staying at Carton House, where the hotel is an historic mansion featuring two championship courses set within 1,100 acres of beautifu sweeping Kildare parkland. Here you will play the acclaimed O'Meara Course before venturing to the nearby K Club, which hosted the 2006 Ryder Cup and this year'sIrish Open.

The tour then heads for Cork on the south coast, where you will play one of the world's most photographed courses at Old Head.

There is also a round scheduled on an AlisterMacKenzie original design at Cork Golf Club.

Winding north, the tour will take in Adare Manor, the five-star golf resort that will host the 2026 Ryder Cup, before reaching the Atlantic coast and the Greg Normandesigned Trump International Doonbeg.

You will play here as well the world-famous , which is a short drive away.

The tour package includes 11 nights' luxury accommodation, seven rounds of golf and the chance to travel onto Scotland to watch the 152nd Open Championship at Royal Troon, with a special Turnberry add-on bonus package.







A MAN WITH LOFTY AMBITIONS

Over A Green Golf Club

Air Vice Marshal Md Badrul Amin, President of the Shaheen Golf and Country Club in Patenga speaks about the facilities of the green golf club and the challenges of maintaining the course in a freewheeling interview with TheGolfHouse magazine. He also spoke of his vision about golf, his lessons from life and other aspects. The excerpts of the interview are given below:






RADIANT



I WOULD HOPE EVERYONE COMES FORWARD TO SPONSOR AND PATRONISE THE SPORT FOR THE PROFESSIONALS

Q&A

Tell us about your personal golfing history; when and where did you start playing golf?
We started playing golf around 15 to 16 years back at the Army Golf Club. Initially, we did not understand how to start the game. But the golf enthusiasts and the seniors were there, who pushed us to become members.

Thereafter, we filled up the forms and started playing. I started playing around 10 years ago and gradually became addicted to golf. You can call me a keen golfer now.

Which are your favourite golf courses?
The golf course at Shaheen is my favourite, but Kurmitola is also a favourite because It is an international standard course.

Do your family members play golf too?
My wife sometimes participates while my daughters also try sometimes but due to their studies they cannot give much time. But certainly, they are interested in golfing. And I try to promote all the family members to at least walk on the green and enjoy the scenic beauty.

How can we encourage young people to start playing golf?
Golf clears your mind and keeps you physically fit. Young people may think that it is a sport for old people, but the reality is that golf is not about physicality only, it is also about passion as well as technique.

So we try to motivate youngsters to come and enjoy the game and the atmosphere. We also try to facilitate their practice by making the field free and providing them with golf kits and gears. Members of the Army or Air Force also play here.

Did you pursue any other sport before coming to golf?
I used to play squash, volleyball, basketball and sometimes even cricket. But once I started playing golf, I can't play any other sport because golf takes two to three hours. But we also patronise other games as well in a different fashion at our club.

I BELIEVE THERE IS A GOOD PROSPECT FOR GOLF TOURISM IN BANGLADESH. WE ARE TRYING TO SET UP A MINIMUM FOUR-STAR HOTEL BESIDE OUR GOLF COURSE SO THAT PEOPLE CAN COME AND STAY AND ENJOY THE GREENERY APART FROM PLAYING GOLF.



What is your golfing routine?
I try to make time to play golf in the midst of my commitments at the Air Force. Normally, I like to be on the golf ground in the afternoon onwards and continue till sunset. After that we have a small gathering for a meal and have a chat with the others. It is about making friends and spending good time with family members at the club.

Who are your favourite golfers?
Talking about favourites, certainly Tiger Woods comes first. If you talk about our local stars, obviously Siddikur Rahman and Jamal Mollah are there. If we patronise them, certainly that is going to encourage the others to excel or to earn fame and name for the country.

Any memorable or nightmarish experience in golf?
When you're on the golf course, you must wear the cap, not just because it protects your face from the sun but also from the ball and other objects. I don't have any nightmarish incidents but once I got hit by a ball on the ankle. There are incidents when you see crows flying in and snatching the ball like a fighter plane. These are interesting experiences.

Give us a lowdown of the Shaheen Golf and Country Club.
Out of the 14-plus golf courses in Bangladesh, Shaheen Golf Course is the only one beside a river, the Patenga. It is managed by the Bangladesh Air Force. The course was under a mushy land and a shallow jungle. We are very much grateful to our seniors who started beating the ground around and pushed this ground to become a golf field over the last 15 to 20 years. It has been given a good narrow shape, making it a challenging golf course . So I really appreciate the effort that has been made in the past. We are carrying it forward, and we are trying to improve the fairway and the green, and all the spaces around. We are also trying to plant some fruit trees.

What are the challenges that you face in maintaining the course?
In case of weather issues or any depression, water logging takes place due to high tide and low tide conditions. For that we have selected some grasses which can actually take the load of the salt water around and sustain. Despite that the grass gets disturbed due to the saltwater from the river, which makes golf course maintenance very expensive. Due to financial constraints,we cannot prepare everything the way we want to.

There has been some development work in recent times. Kindly elaborate the different amenities of the club.
This is a narrow but challenging one as far as the golf courses are concerned. But we are trying to improve our golf greens day by day because greens have. Last few years, we have been trying to do top-soiling, grass protection and grass levelling in different places, but due to continuous rain it sometimes becomes very difficult. to be a standard one.

What is your vision regarding this golf course?
The vision of this golf course would be to make it a narrow and challenging one, placing some trees, considering the index numbers.

Say something about the facilities of SGCCP.
We have almost 1200 to 1300 members, some of whom are regular. We have members from civilian society as well as defence forces. We have a hall where they arrange programs and we have an accommodation facility which we call Nilkonthi. Members can avail the swimming pool facilities. We have a cafe and a restaurant and we are trying to establish a bar for our foreign guests.

What facilities does the club offer for caddies and ball boys?
One unique thing about our club is we pay our

caddies and ball boys on a monthly basis. We also give some of them permanent jobs in the Air Force. They are also given festival allowance and other allowances. We have ensured these things from the beginning of the club. We are in the process of introducing a Provident Fund and incrementing their salaries with the passage of time and according to their capacity. At the same time we take care of their medical services as well. We organise various events for them too.

What do you think is the prospect of golf tourism in Bangladesh?
I believe there is a good prospect for golf tourism in Bangladesh. We are trying to set up a minimum four-star hotel beside our golf course, so that people can come and stay and enjoy the greenery apart from playing golf. We are also planning for one such golf course in Shamshernagar in Sylhet where there is already a good hotel.

What is the future of golf according to you?
The future of golf is certainly very bright. But as you know golf is a very expensive sport and we struggle to run professional events regularly. I would hope everyone comes forward to sponsor and patronise the sport for the professionals.

Do you have any message for the members or those who want to join the club as members?
I would ask those people to just come and have a look around and see the green and feel the atmosphere. I believe two things are enemies of golf: hesitation and giving up. So I would say do not hesitate to start and do not give up after a few astray shots. This sport can keep the young generation away from their digital devices.

What is the secret to the success of your career?
The secret to the success of my career is that I believe in work. Whatever task I'm given, I never shirk or shy away from that. And I do it graciously and honestly. I never hesitate.

Do you have a life's lesson that you would like to relay to youngsters for their careers?
For the last 35 years, I've been in the Air Force. I'm here because I'm alive; I'm here because I am serving. So just believe in yourself and do things graciously. Do what you are supposed to do, you don't have to do extra. Just do it properly, do it with honesty and you'll be successful.





EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Cho Minn Thant

ASIAN TOUR CEO

Raised and educated in Australia – where his family moved when he was aged four – Cho Minn Thant has worked with the Asian Tour since 2007. Appointed Chief Operating Officer in 2016, he became CEO three years later.

Working alongside the Chairman and the board of directors, he oversees the tour's strategic direction, a job that has exploded since the arrival of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

Armed with the PIF's injection of cash, Cho has overseen a rapid expansion in the Asian Tour's prize funds and global reach alongside LIV Golf. To discuss all of that and more, Cho sat down with John Huggan at the Close House Golf Club in north-east England, venue for just one part of the Asian Tour's growing 'International Series' of events.

Okay, let's get right to it. In the jigsaw puzzle that is men's professional golf right now, where does the Asian Tour fit?

Well, we're talking one day after the DP World Tour schedule for 2024 came out.I haven't looked at it too closely, but there are swings, bonuses, some destinations they normally visit have gone and there are new ones too. We are in the process of putting our schedule together for next year. Obviously, the LIV Golf schedule has a big role to play in what we do. We look at what they are going to do first. Then we schedule the International Series events Then we schedule our regular events.So, it is a three-layer process for us.

So where do we sit? It was quite obvious at the Open Championship that, since the announcement the PGA Tour and the Saud Public Investment Fund are potentially going to be working together, a lot of the agencies, player managers and sponsors have reached out saying we can be friends again. We don't have to choose sides and can explore ways of working with all concerned.

Had those sorts of bodies and people disappeared because you lacked a relationship with the PGA Tour and the DPWorld Tour?

Yes. Companies that do most of their business with the PGA Tour and the DP World Tour – but who had small projects with us – went away for a couple of seasons. But now they are talking to us again. That's a big positive for us.

Can you give us some examples?

Just agencies that represent brands and players. Octagon for example. And companies like BMW and Porsche.It's an open playing field again, which is obviously good for the Asian Tour.In terms of are we going to incorporate ourselves back into the golf ecosystem, the short answer is 'not yet.' We're still building our schedule independently. It looks like LIV are also building their schedule for next year independently as well. We are very much still in the LIV camp though.

Given how soon 2024 is going come around, it doesn't seem too surprising that not too much is going to change. But is it safe to say that may not be the case in 2025?

I hope so.I hope we can starttalking to the other tours and start planning our schedules properly.I wouldn't go as far as to say we will begin co-sanctioning with the DPWorldTour straight away. But obviously that would be mutually beneficial.We are in the UK for two weeks, and they have a few events in south-east Asia and the MiddleEast. So, we should be collaborative for sure.It makes too much sense.

What sort offootprint is the Asian Tour looking to have in Australia going forward? They have such great courses and players. So, it's a wasted resource right now.

Right now, we only have one event cosanctioned with the Australasian Tour, the New Zealand Open. That has been very successful. But we have a lot of players who compete on both tours. There is a lot of crossover ... maybe 25-30 players. So, it would make sense for us to feature there. They are very close to us. But it really depends on the market and whether sponsors in Australia embrace working with the Asian Tour. And whether Asian companies want to go sponsor events in Australia. There is nothing on the horizon just yet. But we are starting to talk more with the Australian Tour. We are holding the first stage of our qualifying school there. They were very collaborative with us in choosing the date for that event(October). We are looking forward to that.It's an experiment and something we haven't done before. Hopefully it will be well received as it does save the guys having to fly to Asia for stage one.

It would seem to be a marriage made in heaven. You have the resources of a big tour and Australia has so many wonderful courses and players.

They do have a lot of talent there.I'd love to see it happen.If you look at the state tourism authorities there, they all want Asian tourists to go down there.It makes sense from a tourism standpoint too. So yes,I'd love to start having some of those conversations. But it's not happening yet.



LIV GOLF CEO GREG NORMAN FOUND A CLOSE ALLY IN THE ASIAN TOUR BOSS.

Back to the prospect of a LIV/PGA Tour coming together, how has your relationship changed between the day before their announcement and the day after?

Nothing straight away.I did get a ton of phone calls asking if this was real and was it actually happening. ButI was on the phone with the PIF people – who kept it under wraps very well – who reassured me their commitment to the Asian Tour remains and can only get stronger. We're not concerned.

I get your point though. Many were asking if the PIF works with the PGA Tour, do we get a little forgotten? Are we going to be redundant? But that will not be the case. LIV is not going to be swallowed up by the PGA Tour and will still remain an entity.In turn, the Asian Tour is still going to be a feeder to LIV. We're confident the funding will remain. And even increase in years to come.

In an ideal world, is there a chance something that takes in everywhere except America could evolve to challenge the PGA Tour? Could there be a viable alternative to America?

That was what we were working on five, six years ago. There was a very public offer from the PGA Tour to partner with the Asian Tour. Then there was an offer from what was then the European Tour to work with the Asian Tour and form a 'rest of the world tour.' But over the last two or three years the PGA Tour and the DP World Tier have essentially become one. So, the previous conversations were turned on their heads.

I still think there is a lot of good golf outside America. Not everyone wants to go there to play professional golf.It's not for everybody. Take Anirban Lahiri. He lived in the States for six or seven years and had some success. But it turned out not to be for him. So, playing the LIV tour and our International Series events worked for him on a personal level. That's why it has to be a good thing to have a strong series of events outside the United States.

Before the PGA Tour started talking to the PIF, it did seem that they felt threatened by just about anything that might upset the status quo they had created. But now that things have changed, have the prospects of you working with them improved?

Sure. But yes and no. The idea of a merger isn'tthe correct way to look atit. It's probably going to be a business working relationship. I don'tfeel like LIVis going to go anywhere anytime soon.In the shortterm we are still going to see LIVoperate as is. The players haveongoing contracts they need to honour. And arguably,they don't have either the time or the inclination to play LIVand the PGA Tour.I don't see too many going back anytime soon.

That was one of the supposed motivations for going to LIV – to play less.

Exactly. But what we are all looking for is a way for the LIV players to get into the majors. Martin Slumbers said at the Open he wanted to find ways to make the world rankings more accurate. That's a good indication.

I'm of the opinion we should just get rid of the world rankings.

Or include everyone.

Yes, or make them meaningful. Besides, the only events that really need them are the majors. Even then, they could manage without them. They filled up their fields easily enough before the rankings came along in the mid-1980s.

Totally. They could do so again.It's obvious we are doing something right in Asia. Tom Kim emerged from there. There are many players in Europe and America who started their careers in Asia. We should be getting the recognition we deserve, say the top-three of our Order of Merit, or more, into the majors.

All of them?

Well, the Masters does whatever they want (laughs). But gone are the days when you looked at a player from Asia and felt sure he was going to miss the cut at the majors. They are contending now. It's almost routine that someone is up there.

I did notice that the exemption into the Open that used to go to the winner of your Order of Merit was not reinstated this year. And I can't get a straight answer from the R&A as to why not.

We have asked why. Technically speaking, there are other ways for our players to get into the Open. That's always the answer we get.

Yes, I've also received that e-mail.

(laughs) They say that they examine the entry criteria every year. I've read that too. (laughs) Let's just say we feel like our Order of Merit winner is deserving of playing in a major. All four of them.

It does lack logic. Presumably the Open wants the strongest field possible. So why is it that someone who played consistently well over a whole year is 'ranked' behind a guy who has a hot week or day in some random event?

I hear you.In theory, the Order of Merit winner deserves a spot.

Moving right along, where do you think the Asian Tour is going to be in five years? And is that different from where you would like to be?

If we are talking about pure numbers,I'd like to see the tour have about 30 events annually. I'd like to see us co-sanctioning withAustralia maybe three or four times a year.I'd like to continue growing in the Middle East.I'd like to see our minimum purses be atleast $1m.I'd like to see the average purse around $2.5m.

But one thing I'd like to see change is the disparity between the main tour and the development tour. We have big events on the International Series and the Saudi International. A lot of the Korean events are over $1m. But on the development tour, if you don't quite keep your card or get inside the top-30 at the qualifying school, you are playing $100,000 events. That's too big a difference.

How about standard of play?

I'd like to see our guys regularly competing at majors. First, they have to get into them of course.

I know they are all things you'd like to see. But have you seen a difference during your tenure in terms of how good your best players are and how many are competitive elsewhere?

...WHEN THIS POTENTIAL MERGER WAS ANNOUNCED. IT VALIDATED OUR DECISION TO PARTNER WITH THE SAUDIS. WE TOOK THE VIEW THAT BUSINESS IS BUSINESS

We see a lot of different winners on theAsia Tour now.And they come from all over. Our big events this year have been won by guys from Japan, America, Hong Kong. So, we are seeing a bigger variety of winners, which is exciting.

The best players are not that much different, but there are more of them now?

Exactly. Way more. The depth of our fields is so much deeper.Ilook back a few years and there were only a few potential winners. Now there are many. We have 25-30 guys who can win every week.

We are excited about being in the Middle East. We didn't have that three or four years ago. We now have Qatar, Oman and Saudi. And there could be another coming up later this year, too. All of which is great for our brand awareness outside Asia.

That means butting heads with the DP World Tour. But they have nothing to complain about given how often they have encroached on your territory.

Sure. The DP World Tour is in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Ras Al-Khaimah. But there are other Arab countries. We are happy going to places like Egypt and Morocco. They have been really good for our tour.

Is there any sense of vindication on your part, given the way the PGA Tour and the DPWorld Tour are now talking with the Saudis, just as you did previously?

That was the first thing that came to mind when this potential merger was announced. It validated our decision to partner with the Saudis. We took the view that business is business. Their political issues are totally separate to sport.I see Neymar just signed for a Saudi football club. Others have gone recently, following Ronaldo. Henderson from Liverpool is one. The Saudis are very much a part of world economics, and we were happy to embrace that fact. So yes, what is happening now does validate our decision from two-and-a-halfyears ago.

It's interesting you say that. One of the mistakes PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan made was to make his problems with LIV a moral issue.We can all change our minds in life, but not our morals. Doing that gave him nowhere to go.

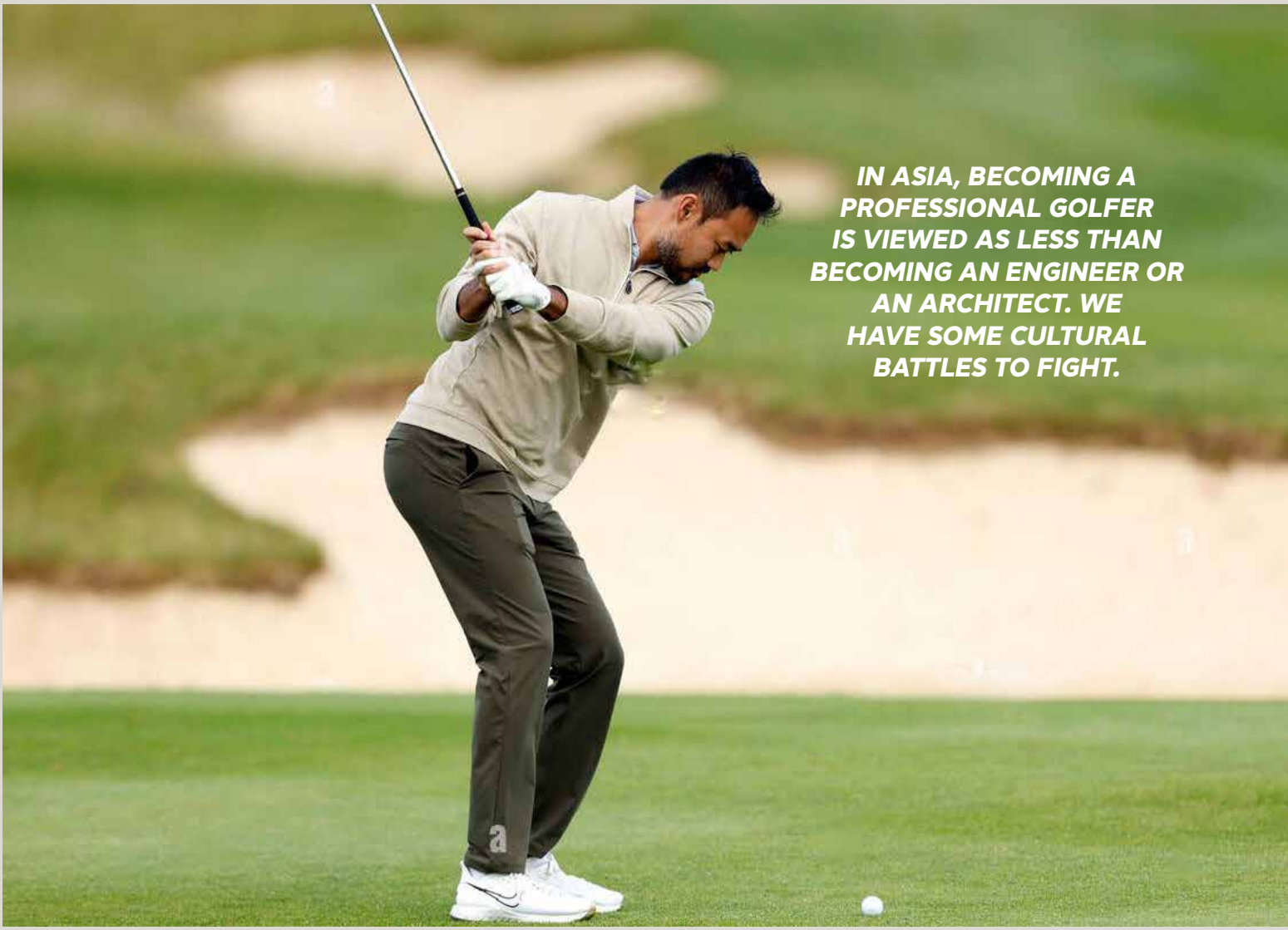
It was unanimous on our board and within our membership to move forward with it. We are in a far better place as a result. We wouldn't be anywhere close to where we are today had we not taken the money.

On a business level it would have been madness to walk away from that amount of cash.

Sure. The PGA Tour are clearly starting to realise they need to begin working with the Saudis. Many multi-national companies operate there.International hotel chains too. So, we did what we had to do in a business sense. We focused on that. it was never a moral decision.



THANT ADDRESSES THE MEDIA DURING THE LAUNNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.



Exactly how much difference have the Saudis made to your tour?

They have made a huge difference to the welfare of our members, which is what we are here for, after all. So, they are happy. They have had opportunities to qualify for LIV last year. It was the pilot year, but some did play there and earn life-changing money. That was so important after not having much income for two years because of Covid. Monumenta for them. I'm sure we're not going to move on that trajectory every single year. We went from $1m events to $1.5m last year. We have $2m International Series events this year. We'll keep going in that direction too. Given that, guys will be able to have lucrative careers on our tour. They won't necessarily have to go to Europe to make a better living.

I spoke with David Drysdale earlier today. He lost his card in Europe last year, went through Asian Tour school and got his card. He has nothing but good things to say about your tour.

Atthis stage in his life, he and hiswife caddie are getting to see a bit oftheworld more intimately than before.Thatis nothing but good.

Can you see a time when leading amateurs will turn pro and see the Asian Tour as somewhere they want to play immediately?

Yes. A part of me worries about the Asian players when and if that happens. We have so many strong international players now. Guys like Andy Ogletree, who have come through the college system in the U.S, won big amateur events but not quite found their feet there. They have come here and found success straight away. We will see more of those guys, which will test the Asian players, especially guys who are maybe not full-time tour players.

They might struggle against these former college stars. If we suddenly become more attractive we will get more South Africans, Australians and Americans coming over. The Thais are competitive. So are the Indians. We are finding others. But the veteran players who have just been keeping their cards are going to have a harder time.

Are we going to see players coming from 'unusual' places?

We've always had a few ofthose. Bangladesh and Myanmar for example.There are guys coming out of Bhutan and Nepal now.They have been getting professional coaching.And many have gone to college inAmerica. So, while they may be from obscure golfing nations,they have been1 educated and trained properly.

Let's talk about you for a minute. You grew up in Australia, in Canberra specifically.

My parents and my sister still live in Australia.I wasn't born there butI moved there aged four.I was educated there, allthe way through college.I have so many good memories. Itis a great place to grow up.Especially if you are into sport.I played cricket, soccer, some football.You name it,I did it.

Living in Asia now, the focus is so much on academia and less on sport. There are kids in Asia who don't get exposed to too much sport. It's easy to see how youngsters from elsewhere are dominant in sport.It is ingrained into their cultures.I'd like to see



PRO AM CHATTER WITH PHIL MICKELSON AND SAUDI PUBLIC INVESTMENT FUND GOVERNOR YASIR AL-RUMAYYAN.

more Singaporeans and Malaysians getting into golf.In Asia, becoming a professional golfer is viewed as less than becoming an engineer or an architect. We have some cultural battles to fight.

Having said that, places like Korea are coming around.To be a pro golfer there is almost held as highly as being a doctor.That means something now.In other places, being a professional sportsperson is for thosewho couldn't become a doctor or engineer Butthat's whywe are seeing an increase in Korean players on our tour and others around the world.

The Asian Tour often gets described as a 'sleeping giant.' Is that fair? And if so, why has that been the case?

I don't think we've quite awakened just yet. But we are almost there. The injection from Saudi has definitely increased awareness of our tour. Hopefully, corporates from places like Indonesia, China, Singapore and Malaysia will come on board as a result. Especially when it becomes clear that, more and more. Asian golfers are world-class. That's been lacking over the last couple of decades.

I've always thought an opportunity was missed maybe 40 years ago, a time when so many of the best players in the world were not American. The likes of Ballesteros, Faldo,Woosnam, Lyle and Langer could have led the way into what could have been a viable alternative to the PGA Tour?

I agree. We are currently in a position where we see players rise, become potential world beaters but then leave the Asian Tour. Tom Kim is perfect example.I want guys like him to become household names but stay on the Asian Tour. We're not quite there yet. But we'd like to see those guys come 'home' as often as possible. They are very much like family. My message would be 'don't forget where you came from.'

That's true of many Europeans who live and play in the U.S.Their bodies are in America, but their hearts are still in Europe.

Exactly.I do hear from players who have gone to America that they love to be home in Asia. It is such a different atmosphere. Hopefully, they will happen more and more.

Let's finish with another 'five-year' question.Where would you like the Asian Tour's relationship with Australia to be in 2028?

I'd like to be working with them for sure. There is an opportunity for us to capitalise on what is happening to us. I think LIV Golf was huge in Australia. The local government got behind it. The crowds were huge.

There is clearly an appetite for pro golf, especially when Cam Smith is playing. Maybe we should be capitalising on him now. His career won't last forever. Plus, not many people realise that the Asian Tour was one of the first places he played as a professional. He had one really great season on our tour and never looked back. So, we have that connection.

There have been others over the years. Payne Stewart. DavidToms. David Lipsky. Kurt Kitayama. They all played inAsia. What we need to see is guys like that staying longer.

2004	2006	2010	2012	2023
WON AS PLAYER	WON AS PLAYER	WON AS PLAYER	WON AS PLAYER	WON AS CAPTIAN
2-11	3-0-0	3-1-0	2-2-0	16.5 TO 11.5




RYDER CUP
EUROPE
44TH RYDER CUP
WINNERS

7 CONTENDERS TO BE

The Ryder Cup is back in Team Europe's hands and the next mission is now to retain the trophy on American soil at Bethpage Black in two years' time.
Luke Donald masterminded a 16.5-11.5 victory over Zach Johnson's beleaguered US side at Marco Simone to extend their unbeaten home run beyond 30 years.

Next, a re-energised European side will head to the New York bear pit bidding to secure what would be a famous away victory.

But who will captain Europe in 2025? Will Luke Donald get a second chance as skipper, or will a new name take the captaincy? We have run the rule over the possible contenders for the top job...





Luke Donald
If anyone was to break the mould and become the first European captain to serve a second term since Bernard Gallacher in the mid 1990s, surely it will be Luke Donald. The 45-year-old Englishman has galvanised a European side that was floored after the shellacking at Whistling Straits two years ago. He is an unassuming but inspirational leader who says all the right things. He had a clear plan and stuck to it as he proved a far superior skipper than Zach Johnson in Rome. Crucially for Donald, if he does fancy a crack at the US side on away soil, he has the full backing of his players to stay on. "I think everyone sitting here would be very happy to have him again," said Rory McIlroy. Jon Rahm added: "Luke has done an unbelievable job and would be difficult to live up to. He's set the bar so high."

Edoardo Molinari
Labelled as Luke Donald's secret weapon, Molinari was the man strategically plotting the American demise in Rome. Affectionally known as "Dodo", the Italian is a trailblazing figure in European golf who is turning raw data into exhaustive analysis to help get the best out of players. It certainly appeared the US side were outthought at Marco Simone and much of the European success has already been credited to Molinari.

"Dodo is extremely important," Donald said. I spent a little bit more time with him just because of the statistics, because of trying to figure out ways to tell all my guys why they were going to win."
Europe's number cruncher clearly has a huge role to play in future Ryder Cups behind the scenes, but he could also be promoted to the top job if Donald decides to bask in his victory and step away from the role.





Nicolas Colsaerts
Colsaerts was another vital cog in Donald's backroom staff in Rome and is another figure who commands respect. The Belgian is very well spoken and would clearly relish the role of leading Europe at Bethpage Black.

He produced one of the finest rounds in Ryder Cup history at Medinah in 2012 with eight birdies and an eagle in his pairing with Lee Westwood as the duo downed Tiger Woods and Steve Stricker in the Friday fourball session. Colsaerts knows how to win on away soil and his passion for the contest is undeniable. He was seen whipping up the home crowd on the first tee throughout the week at Marco Simone and, like Donald, commands respect from the European players.

THE NEXT EUROPEAN *Ryder Cup captain*



Ian Poulter
The LIV Golf divide has left nailed-on future European captains thin in the grid following the exodus of a number of stalwarts. Poulter is currently ineligible for this contest, but the murky details of a peace agreement in golf's corridors of power have given the LIV golfers hope that they could return to the Ryder Cup again.
Nobody will be more desperate to represent Europe again than Poulter, who became the blue and gold firebrand in his 17-year Ryder Cup playing career. Before the emergence of LIV Golf, he appeared destined to be the ideal antagonist in New York and his chance to lead Europe could still come.



Lee Westwood
Westwood was viewed as one of the frontrunners for future captaincy before his LIV move, but was still fiercely competitive and wanted to represent Team Europe as a player. He felt it was too early to lead the team at Whistling Straits and ended up qualifying automatically after a resurgence in form. At 50, Westwood's playing days in this match are, of course, long gone, and it remains to be seen whether changing tours has also put paid to his chances of wearing the armband after a record 11 appearances for Team Europe.

Justin Rose
Rose will be considered one of the favourites to succeed Donald, but the Englishman cannot be ruled out for a seventh appearance at Bethpage Black. The oldest player in the 2023 Ryder Cup by seven years, Rose played the role of the experienced leader superbly in Marco Simone and the 43-year-old is surely a future Ryder Cup captain. He may have been beaten by an emboldened Patrick Cantlay in singles, but his steely determination alongside rookie Bob MacIntyre on Friday and Saturday was further evidence why he is a great of this contest.

His time may well come at Adare Manor in 2027, where Rose will be 47. But he is a fantastic contender who will surely be in the conversation when attention turns to the 2025 match.



Sergio Garcia
Garcia was so desperate to compete in Rome that he was willing to make a U-turn and pay outstanding fines of up to £700,000 to make himself eligible for the match. Of course, as it transpired, Europe did not need their all-time leading points scorer to surge to victory at Marco Simone.

It seems unlikely Garcia would get the nod as skipper at Bethpage Black, a venue he has been brutally booed at before during the US Open. But the idea of a Sergio Garcia vs Tiger Woods battle has already been floated by the 2008 winning US skipper Paul Azinger.

"Bethpage Black would be a perfect match-up for Tiger and Sergio García," Azinger said on NBC's coverage during the Sunday singles matches. "You never know two years from now where we're going to be."



7 CONTENDERS TO





Stewart Cink
The 50-year-old might not seem the most inspired choice, but as one of Zach Johnson's vice-captains in Rome, Cink could move up the ladder.

The Open champion is a cool figure with an abundance of experience, which could allow him to steady the ship after defeat.

As a player, Cink was a member of five Ryder Cup teams, although he did only win once, in 2008.



Matt Kuchar
One of the most underrated golfers in the last 25 years, Matt Kuchar has donned red, white and blue for Team USA on four occasions.

Kuch has only been a part of one winning side, but in the hustle and bustle of a New York Ryder Cup, he could settle the nerves.

The 45-year-old fulfilled vice-captain duties at Le Golf National, in 2018, so does at least know what it's like to be in the captaincy department.



Phil Mickelson
The stage seems perfect for LIV golfer Phil Mickelson, who would surely thrive in the chaotic contest in 2025.

It could be a change of the guard, as Lefty would bring a different attitude to a side who have lost 10 of the last 14 tussles.

The six-time major champion played in 12 Ryder Cups and looks a prime candidate to rally the troops in a bid to win back the trophy.

BE THE NEXT USA *Ryder Cup captain*



Steve Stricker
If the USA are after a safe option for the 2025 Ryder Cup, then look no further than 12-time PGA Tour winner Steve Stricker.

He captained the Americans to one of the most dominant Ryder Cup wins in history in Wisconsin two years ago.

Stricker was involved in Rome as a vice-captain, but also lifted the Presidents Cup as captain in 2017, so he could remain an integral part of the cog.



Davis Love III
A similar approach could be deployed, should the USA appoint Davis Love III.

He joined the fallen soldiers in Rome as one of Johnson's vice-captains but has led the team on two occasions.

As a four-time vice-captain, Stricker knows all about being involved at the top, and won the event twice as a player.

New York would suit the 59-year-old, too, as he is well known for having an 'unmatched' passion for the famous event.



Fred Couples
While the 2023 US captaincy team might not be the most popular, Fred Couples is another from it who will be in consideration.

The Masters champion played in five Ryder Cups, only losing two, and captained the Presidents Cup team to success on three consecutive occasions.

Players respect the 63-year-old, and it's a slight surprise he hasn't been given the nod previously.

His claims that Cameron Young would be on Team USA, before he was snubbed by Johnson, certainly raised eyebrows, however.







Ryder Cup *Galleries*





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PROTECTING YOUR SPINE

Modifications, considerations and injury prevention for golfers with spinal conditions

Golf is one of the few sports where intense physical exer- tion and contact are limited, yet it still causes over 60,000 injuries each year and is responsible for more injuries than rugby. These injuries are primarily the result of overuse from the repetitive compressive, torsional and shearing loads our bodies must withstand each time we swing a club. This is especially true of the spine, which is the most commonly injured area for golfers, as it acts as the central axis around which the entire swing motion revolves.

Additionally, golfers who are older or have pre-existing back conditions may be at a higher risk of experiencing low back pain or injury due to age-related changes in the spine or degenerative conditions. Fortunately, by implementing modifi- cations and taking certain precautions, golfers with a previous back injury, those who are recovering from spinal surgery or those who have been diagnosed with spinal stenosis, disc pathologies, degen- erative/arthritic-like conditions and/or sacroiliac (SI) joint dysfunctions can still enjoy the game while protecting their backs. Let's explore some essential tips and exercises for each condition mentioned above, starting with the basics.

General Guidelines For Maintaining Spinal Health And Avoiding Injuries

Things to AVOID:

- Standing and swinging on an uneven surface, which may compromise the spine's stability and range of motion.
- Climbing in and out of the sand trap.
- Excessive lateral sway or rotation in your swing.

Limit loading weight onto a leg that had symptoms but may have resolved or had symptoms prior to a surgery.

What to be mindful of:

- Weakness in the lead leg, as this might threaten the trunk's stabil- ity and exert too much strain on the spine.
- Poor hip mobility, specifically with rotation, as this can cause the lumbar spine to compensate to make up for the lack of rotation at the hips, causing the spine to endure unnec essary and excessive compressive, shearing and torsional loading.
- Decrease the length of the back- swing, especially for those who are just getting back into the game after having surgery.
- • Turn your toes approximately 30 degrees toward the target on the lead side to reduce the amount of internal rotation that is needed at the hip to adequately follow through in order to minimize stress on the lower back.
- Avoid playing out of the sand or difficult lies.

Exercises that strengthen the core will help to stabilize the spine during move- ment, which will allow you to maintain your posture throughout the swing. improve coordination and generate power safely.

1. Spinal Stenosis

Spinal stenosis is a condition characterized by the narrowing of the spinal canal, which can lead to nerve compression and pain. Golfers with spinal stenosis should focus on maintaining good posture throughout their game. It is crucial to avoid excessive rotation or extension of the spine during the swing. Instead, a more controlled and restricted swing with a shorter backswing and reduced follow-through can help alleviate stress on the back.

2. Disc Pathologies

Disc pathologies, such as herniated discs or degenerative disc disease, can cause pain and discomfort. Golfers with these conditions



Exercises for spinal stenosis:

- Gentle stretching exercises that promote lengthening of the ham- strings and lower back muscles, such as child's pose, can help improve flexibility and reduce stiffness.

- Avoid backward bending of the lower spine.

- Movements that promote flexion or bending forward at the spine encouraged. are Core-strengthening exercises, such as planks or abdominal bracing. can provide stability and support to the spine.

should prioritize minimizing rotational forces and impact on the spine. It is advisable to avoid heavy lifting and bending over excessively to tee up the ball or retrieve it from the hole.

Tips for golfers with disc pathologies:

- Consider using a golf cart instead of walking the course to minimize strain on the back.

- Experiment with different swing modifications, such as a shorter backswing or a more controlled follow-through, to reduce stress on the discs.

"DISC PATHOLOGIES, SUCH AS HERNIATED DISCS OR DEGENERATIVE DISC DISEASE, CAN CAUSE PAIN AND DISCOMFORT. GOLFERS WITH THESE CONDITIONS SHOULD PRIORITIZE MINIMIZING ROTATIONAL FORCES AND IMPACT ON THE SPINE."

- Choose golf clubs with more forgiving clubheads to help lessen the impact on the spine.

Exercises for disc pathologies:

- Core strengthening exercises, such as bird dogs or bridges, can provide stability and add support to the spine.

- Flexibility exercises for the hips, hamstrings and lower back can help alleviate tension and reduce the risk of

3. Spondylitis/ Spondylolisthesis/ Spondylolysis

These conditions involve the misalignment or instability of the vertebrae. Golfers with these conditions should focus on main-taining stability and minimizing excessive spinal movements during their swing. It is essential to avoid excessive bending or twisting of the spine.

Tips for golfers with spondylitis/ spondylolisthesis/spondylolysis:

further injury.

- Experiment with a more upright stance and a shorter swing to reduce the strain on the spine.

- Utilize supportive accessories such as back braces or lumbar support belts to provide extra stability and reduce the risk of injury.

Tips for spondylitis/ spondylolisthesis/ spondylolysis:

- Strengthening exercises for the core, including exercises that target the deep abdominal muscles (transverse abdominis) and back muscles (erector spinae), can help provide stability to the spine.

- Gentle stretching exercises for the hips, hamstrings and lower back can improve flexibility and reduce mus- cle imbalances.

4. Facet Joint Syndrome

Facet joint syndrome involves the degeneration of the facet joints in the spine, leading to pain and stiffness. Golfers with facet disease should focus on minimizing excessive twisting and extension of the spine during their swing.

Tips for golfers with facet disease:

- Use a shorter backswing and reduced follow-through to minimize strain on the facet joints.

- Experiment with a more upright stance and consider using clubs with larger, more forgiving clubheads to reduce the impact on the spine.

Exercises for facet joint syndrome:

- Low-impact aerobic exercises, such as walking or swimming, can help maintain overall fitness and reduce the risk of flare-ups.

- Flexibility exercises for the spine, hips and shoulders can help alleviate tension and improve range of motion.

5. Returning To Play After Spinal Surgery

Returning to golf after spinal surgery requires careful consideration and a gradual approach to ensure a safe and successful comeback. It's crucial to follow your doctor's recommendations and obtain clear- ance before resuming any physical activity.

Tips for golfers returning to play after spinal surgery:

- Obtain medical clearance: Before attempting any exercises or returning to golf, consult your surgeon or health care provider to ensure your body has adequately healed and is ready for physical activity.

- Start slowly: Begin with gentle exercises and activities to gradually reintroduce your body to movement. Walking, light stretching and basic core exercises can be good start- ing points.

- Gradual progression: Increase the intensity and duration of exercises and activities slowly over time. Avoid pushing yourself too hard, especially in the initial stages of your return.

- Modify your golf game: Initially, consider playing a shorter course or using a cart to reduce physical strain while you regain strength and stamina.

- Listen to your body: Pay attention to any signs of discomfort or pain during and after exercises or golfing. If you experience pain, stop the activity and consult your health care provider.



- Stay hydrated: Proper hydration is essential for recovery and overall health, so make sure to drink enough water during your golf outings and exercise sessions.

- Rest and recovery: Allow your body enough time to rest and recover between exercise sessions and golf rounds.

Exercises post-surgery:

- Adequate rest is vital for heal- ing and preventing overuse injuries. Avoid heavy lifting: Be cautious when lifting heavy objects, such as golf bags. Use proper lifting techniques and consider using a lightweight or carry bag, if necessary.
- Top of FormCore strengthening: Focus on core exercises that promote stability and strength in the abdom- inal and lower back muscles. Planks, bridges and gentle rotational exercises can help build a solid foundation for your golf swing.

- Flexibility exercises: Perform gentle stretching exercises for your hips, hamstrings, shoulders and thoracic spine to improve flexibility and range of motion. Avoid excessive twisting or bending during this phase.

- Balance and stability: Incorporate balance exercises to improve stability. which is crucial for a consistent golf swing. Try exercises like single-leg stands or standing on an unsta- ble surface.

Regardless of the specific condition, it is crucial for golfers with back pain to consult with a health care professional or physical therapist to receive personalized advice and guidance. They can provide tailored exercises and modifications based on the individual's needs and severity of their condition.

Golfers with back pain and those returning after surgery can still enjoy the game by implementing modifications and taking precautions. Prioritizing good posture, reducing rotational forces and avoiding excessive bending or twisting of the spine are key. Performing specific exercises to strengthen the core, improve flexibility, and maintain overall fitness can also contribute to a more comfortable and enjoyable golfing experience.
Remember, the primary focus while playing golf should always be on protecting the back, maintaining overall well-being- and, of course, having fun!



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WHY PLAYING GOLF IS NEEDED FOR PEOPLE



The Bangladesh Golf Federation (BGF) was established in 2001. Since then ithas been working under the National Sports Council of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.About 39000 golf courses are available throughout the world. Bangladesh has only 14 golf grounds. Golf was on trackin Bangladesh in the 1950s. At that timeclubs were not regulated by any apex body until the late 1990s. Then, BGF has taken responsibility as the main body of golf in Bangladesh. Recently, BGF has takennumerous initiatives to include different training programs for underprivileged golfers. At present, both amateurs and professionalgolfers in Bangladesh have left marks in the international arena.

Golf helpsphysical fitness. Research showed that regular playing of golf strengthens the spine and core muscles as well asencourages kids to involve other games. Golf is a low-intensity and non-contact sport. This activity provides vital cardiovascular exercise that endorses overall health benefits. Golf games are safe and gentle sports.

Golf motivates people to love nature. People get outside by this game, breathing in the fresh air and enjoying the sunshine. Most of the golf courses are maintained with beautiful landscaped, allowing anyone who plays to enjoy the beauty of the trees and flowers on-site, as well as a wide variety of birds and other animals that live in and around the courses.

Playing golf also benefits vision. A natural way to combat this is with regular outdoor activity and to focus on objects beyond away. Golf is a great way to accomplish both of these, helping this issue and preventing the development of nearsightedness in children. So golf enhances health as well as mental benefits for humans.

Golf can be played alone or with partners in small groups. Golf can be also played as a team sport, encouraging team spirit, relationship building, and healthy competition.As a result, Golf fosters friendships. It is a great opportunity to bond over, create memories, and build long-term friendships. Golf also builds business skills. In addition, Golf improves decision-making skills, etiquette, and working relationship with others.

Golf also teaches patience. Playing golf is an excellent lesson in the virtue of patience. Golf is not a fast-paced game, with players often needing to wait patiently for their turn. It can also take a lot of time and practice to see even small improvements in skill levels and golf scores. The patience learned from playing golf can translate to every other aspect of life too.It is clear that Golf enhances self-development and improves the relationship with others for people among their society.

Golf teaches responsibility and discipline. There are many rules to the game of golf, but the rules can be introduced slowly to golfers, at a pace that makes sense to their abilities. But learning the rules of the game teaches people to have self-discipline and follow rules even in other areas of their lives such as at home or profession.

Golf also teaches honesty. Due to the nature of the game, it would be easy for anyone to cheat a little by moving the ball or adjusting their score, but people will quickly learn the values of honesty and integrity by playing Golf the right way. Consequently, Golf improves honesty and dignity for people in theircommunity.

Nowadays, levels of stress are increasing, especially for those living in capital cities. Many factors contribute to stress, such as work and career competition, financial problems, and traffic. If stress is not managed it can lead to many problems. Moderate to high-intensity stress can cause psychological disorders that lead to anxiety, depression, and eating disturbances. Unfortunately, not many people have the access, time, or knowledge of the right methods to treat their stress. A study from the University of Maryland found that moderate exercise, such as playing golf, may reduce existing anxiety and can protect people against future anxiety and stress. Moderate exercise like golf is also more effective than quiet rest at reducing anxiety.

The Green Exercise Research Team at the University of Essex found that being exposed to nature improves psychological health by reducing stress levels, enhancing mood and self-esteem, and offering a restorative environment that enables people to relax, unwind, and recharge their batteries. People who suffer from stress usually exclude themselves from their friends. They avoid seeing their friends and need time alone. However, rather than excluding themselves, stressed people need a supportive environment. People under stress require the presence of others to give them support. Playing golf can toughen and beat the sense of loneliness. It allows us to share stories and get positive feedback from others in a relaxing and unconditional environment.

Physical exerciseproduces endorphins chemical in the brain that acts as natural painkillers. It can improve our ability to relax, sleep, and also reduce stress. Playing golf takes concentration. If we keep our mind on something engaging and exciting it can distract us from thinking about our problems. Not only that, having a sense of achievement about something like finishing the game can boost our self-esteem and confidence in dealing with our everyday problems. In conclusion, rather than using unhealthy ways of reducing stress, playing golf can be a positive option to combat stress. Playing golf is a combination of relaxation from being in nature, having a supportive environment by making friends with other people, having a touch of good competition to increase our self-worth, and getting our body fit to support our positive mind.

Golf is not yet popular among community people. However, several golf courses are visible in Bangladesh. Access to golf courses is limited for all people. It needs financial ability along with social status. Otherwise, it is impossible to access all people in golf throughout the world. Anyhowaccess to golf throughout the country will be helpful for good health and mental benefits, buildingrelationships, dignity, and honesty, level of confidant as well as reducing stress and anxiety of people in their real life.

Dr. Mohammad Zahangeer Alam is a Member of BOF Golf Club, Gazipur Cantonment

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KHO, YUBOL TAKE GOLF GOAL AT ASIAN

GAMES AS SIDDIKUR FINISHES 16TH

Thailand's Arpichaya Yubol snatched Asian Games women's gold after India's Aditi Ashok blew a seven-shot overnight lead, while rising star Taichi Kho made history for Hong Kong golf in the men's event.

Kho kept his nerve despite a charge by PGA Tour star Im Sung-jae for a one-stroke victory at 27-under par and Hong Kong's first golf medal ever at the Asian Games.

Im still secured team gold, a feat that will exempt him and his three teammates -- Kim Si-woo, Jang Yu-bin and Cho Woo-young -- from compulsory military service back home.

Thailand won men's team silver and Hong Kong took a second medal with the bronze.

Ashok, who shot an incredible 11-under-par 61 on Saturday, slumped to a final-round 77 on the par-72 West Lake International Golf Course in Hangzhou but still secured silver.

LPGA Tour rookie Arpichaya's final-round 68 took her to 19-under par and victory over Ashok by two strokes.

"When I hit the second shot on 18 I felt it was straight, but when I saw it land on the green, I cried a little bit," said the world number 206, who was mobbed by her equally emotional Thai teammates after holing the final putt.

The 21-year-old's four-under round also sealed the women's team gold for Thailand





on a 34-under aggregate, six clear of South Korea, with China taking bronze.

South Korea's Yoo Hyun-jo, who plays on the domestic KLPGA Tour, won the individual bronze after China's world number 13 Lin Xiyu tumbled off the podium with a one-over 73.

Yoo shot the round of the day, a seven-under 65, to finish three clear of Lin.

The top-ranked player in the field, China's world number two Yin Ruoning, finished in a tie for eighth after a disastrous triple-bogey seven at the first hole.

Ashok struggled all round and finally caved in after her fourth bogey of the day at 15.

"It wasn't a good day and I played bad," Ashok said.

Her next tee shot on the short 16th found water. It led to a double-bogey five, her seven-shot overnight lead was now a one-stroke deficit.

"I still felt I was in it at 16, but that one shot threw me out of it because when you hit the water it's just a penalty shot.

"There's no way of coming back from that."

Arpichaya birdied the next and coolly closed out with a par.

Kho, a 22-year-old Asian Tour rookie who won this year on just his fourth professional start, held a three-shot overnight lead in the men's event.

"I'm definitely gonna enjoy this," said Kho after a three-under final round 69 was enough to keep at bay the world number 27 Im, who shot a fabulous 65.

The Korean had a 25-foot birdie putt at the last to get to a tie at 27-under but it slid past by a whisker.

Taiwan's Hung Chien-yao took bronze.

Kho's wonderful lag putt on 18 left him with a two-inch tap-in for gold.

He brushed it in and then was soaked as all his Hong Kong teammates charged onto the green to celebrate, spraying champagne.

"They're all my best friends," said Kho.

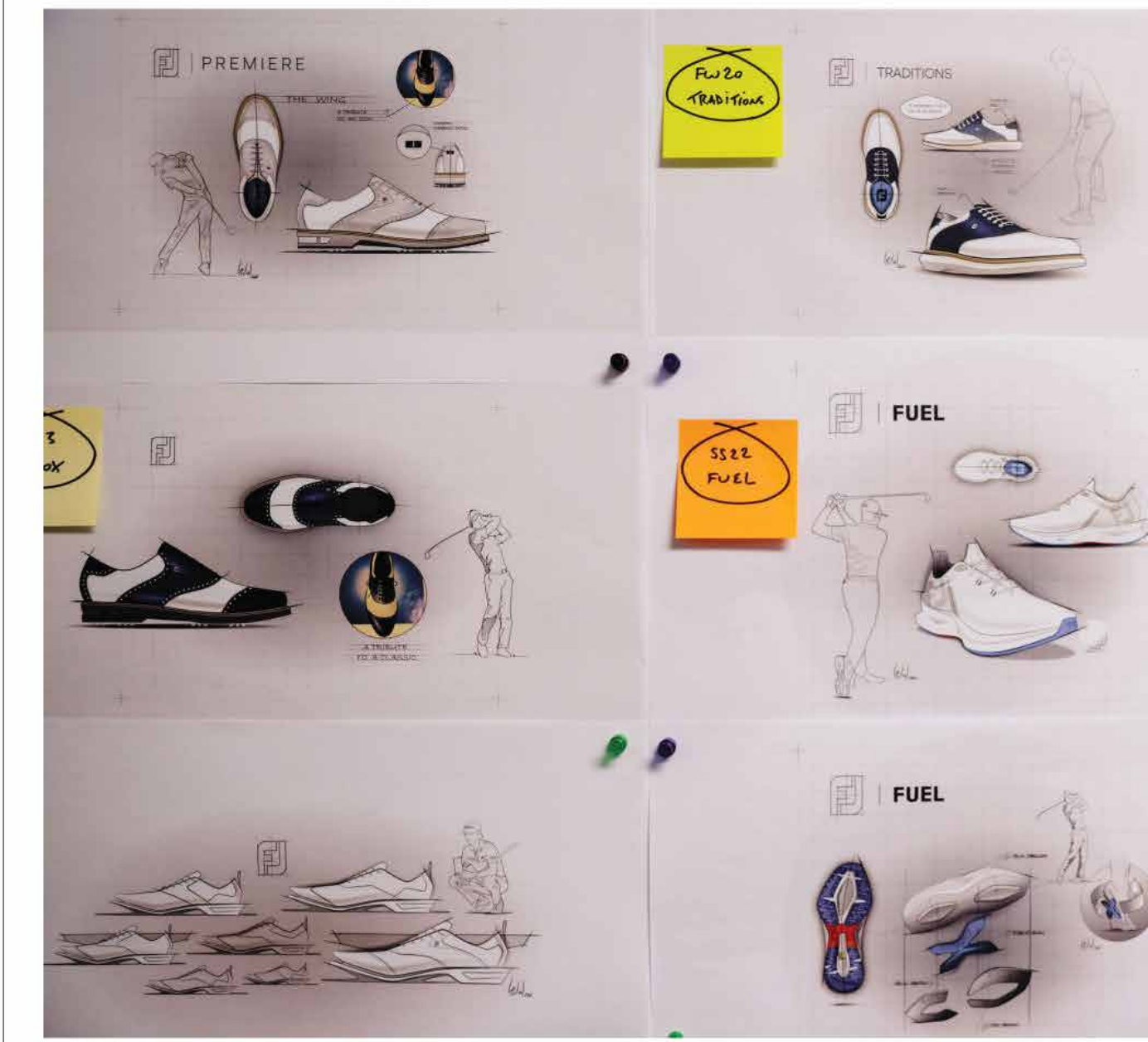
"We've been playing cards in the village all night.

"We're going to celebrate tonight, but I probably best not tell you how!"

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman finished 16th after settling for 13-under-par (275). Siddikur first played in the Asian Games in 2006 as an amateur golfer, finishing ninth. This time the local organising committee made the golf event strictly for professionals. Jamal Hossain Mollah – the only other Bangladeshi golfer in the competition – finished 35th with an even-pare (288) score.

"My expectation was to play my own game. I wanted to do a bit better as I thought playing 20-under-par would be good enough to become champion, but the gold winner played 27-under-par which was my beyond imagination," Siddikur said.

To mark shoe giant FootJoy's 100th anniversary, Neil Tappin flies out to its HQ near Boston to find out more about the brand's past and future, before setting up tent in the buzzing campsite it sponsors at The Open



Above: FJ shoes at the concept stage Right: The Open Camping Village

BREAKING the mould





It's 9pm on Open Tuesday and a light breeze whispers round the sprawling canvas village in which I'm sitting at the heart of the Championship's official campsite.

Royal Liverpool's historic links lies a few hundred yards away and there's a buzz about what's in store. In many ways, this canvas conurbation, with its festival-style atmosphere, epitomises the slow revolution taking place in golf.

From popstars to reality TV personalities, golf is drawing a new crowd, inspired less by history and tradition and more by fresh air and camaraderie. Around me are the people who will bring much of the atmosphere to Hoylake over the next few days.

Since The Open campsite first appeared at Troon in 2016 it has grown dramatically, with 770 tents now taking up to 2,000 golf fans and under-25s with a valid Open ticket staying for free. The R&A and headline campsite sponsor, FootJoy, have created the infrastructure and entertainment that have now made this a go-to accommodation option.

Hoylake also marks the crescendo of FootJoy's 100-year celebrations, with guest appearances from FJ players and influencers throughout the week, plus opportunities to see the brand's latest products. By embracing the campsite and adding to its unique atmosphere, FJ is making a bold statement about its own future in the game.

Here, we tell the remarkable 100-year story of FootJoy, from its earliest golf shoe designs to today's Open campsite, with a nostalgic look back on products from the past and a look forward to what the future has in store. To do this properly, we jumped on a plane to FJ's HQ in Brockton, just outside Boston in Massachusetts...

100 YEARS OF FOOTJOY

1923

Field and Flint Company launches the first 'FootJoy' with the tagline, 'The shoe that's different'.



1927

golf shoe worn by the US Ryder Cup team. Walter Hagen captains the side, which includes a player by the name of Johnny Farrell.



1928

Farrell (above centre) wins the US Open at Olympia Fields. The 27-year-old beats Bobby Jones in a 36-hole play-off. It's FootJoy's first ever professional win. There have been over 8,000 since.

1945

FootJoy earns the distinction of being the number-one shoe on the PGA Tour – a position the brand has held every year since.

1957

The Stone and Tarlow families purchase the Brockton factory and officially dedicate the company to the game of golf.

2012

FootJoy launches its first full line of men's apparel to complement the existing shoe, glove, outerwear and layering ranges. The new line features contemporary styles and a variety of performance fabrics.





2008

Production of the FootJoy Classics shoe finishes at the company factory in Brockton.

2009

Icon comes into play, the modern version of the Classic.

2004

FootJoy launches the Classics Tour model.

2006

A Boa closure system called Reel Fit is introduced into the FootJoy range for the first time.



2001

Contour Series arrives. Soon, this model will account for 15 per cent of all golf shoe sales in the US.

1997

The first DryJoys outerwear is launched. FootJoy also aligns itself with Softspikes. Up to now, all shoes have had metal spikes.

1989

DryJoys, one of the most successful franchises in golf's history, is launched.

1983

StaSof becomes the numberone glove on tour.

2014

A year after causing a buzz at the Presidents Cup, the FootJoy D.N.A. hits the shelves.

2018

The brand introduces its 1857 range of luxury men's apparel and shoes.





FootJoy golf shoes were 'born' a century ago. We look back at some of the most significant dates and products in the brand's illustrious history

THE FOOTJOY NAME

In the 1920s, the owners of the company decided to set the workforce the task of naming a series of new product features. Whoever came up with the best name would receive a very generous reward. The prize went to a seamstress in the factory, who came up with the name 'Foot-Joy'... and it stuck.

Remember this next time you slip on a pair of FootJoys. Golf is all about joy, after all.

1963

Julius Boros, wearing FootJoy Classics, beats Arnold Palmer and Jacky Cupit in an 18-hole play-off to win the US Open at Brookline.

1981

FootJoy's StaSof golf glove is born and the company also decides to enter the golf sock business.

" We' ll continue to inject that passion

Three of the top men at FootJoy explain how the quest to craft the world's best golf products drives the brand as much today as it did 100 years ago





How does it feel to be leading the FootJoy brand into the next 100 years? **Chris Lindner, president**(**centre in photo**)We always want to move the brand forward but in a way that's relevant to players around the world. Perley Flint, one of the lead innovators for FootJoy in the 1920s, had a great passion for the game and an entrepreneurial spirit. He was trying to design the world's best golf shoes and to propel the game forward. We're doing that in different ways now, but we're staying true to what FootJoy stands for.

Who were some of the first players to wear FootJoy?

CL: Walter Hagen selected FootJoy to be the shoe of choice for the first Ryder Cup team. Johnny Farrell, a key player on that team, fell in love with the brand. He went on to win the 1928 US Open in a play-off against Bobby Jones. That's a pretty cool story.

How do you set about updating a well-loved shoe?

Ken LaRose, SVP brand consumer experience (**left in photo**)
There's a certain level of expectation that if you're going to come up with the next great model, it's got to be better than the one golfers have loved for so long. There's always a little fear when we update our iconic franchises because our consumers are so loyal. However, the depths that we go to are insane. **Chris Tobias, VP global footwear** (**right in photo**)
Performance needs to evolve season in, season out. This is something we work on two to five years in advance. Golf is changing, consumers are changing and swing speeds are getting faster.

Can your tour ambassadors be quite demanding in what they want?

CT: We hear a lot of, 'It's great, don't change a thing!' You're talking about the best and most discerning golfers in the world. We'll do five to six visits with them over the product creation calendar. **KL:** It's fun to talk to them about their history with the brand. Justin Thomas remembers his first ever pair of FootJoys, as does Adam Scott. When we talk to them they become like kids again!

What have been the biggest leaps you've witnessed at FootJoy?

CL: One of the biggest advancements has been with new styles and trends. Whether it's the east or west coast of America, European influences or Korea – where we have over a hundred stores – we've been mining different insights from all over the world.

It feels like FootJoy has increased its offerings for women in recent years?

KL: We have our ambassadors on the LPGA Tour. Working with Jessica Korda, for example, on the fit, the cut of a skort – those changes come from conversations with her. We also invest in consumer insight projects, so we're getting a better approach to how we architect the women's game.

The style of golf clothing has changed a lot. Does this represent an opportunity to help broaden the sport's appeal?

KL: New players bring new requirements. What we've seen is that, depending on Models like the Premiere Series Tarlow seek to marry FJ's crazy love for the game with performance innovation the occasion (where you are, who you



are playing with), you might want to be 'modern classic' one day and more 'athletic' on another. FootJoy can credibly participate in those styles, because we invest in design, we invest in trend and we invest in understanding the marketplace.

CL: Look at where the growth of the game is coming from – juniors, women, different ethnicities. Not long ago we were talking about players suddenly wearing hoodies, which are now one of our hottest-selling items. As the game continues to welcome new voices and inspirations from outside of golf, it allows us to broaden our palate.

How does it feel when you see a FootJoy player winning a Major?

CL: It's humbling and testament to how hard the team works. It's everyone – our design, development and advanced concepts teams – coming together. I always think a lot about the millions of hours of work that went into the product.

What is the brand's long-term vision?

CL: Geographically, there are opportunities in every corner of the world as golf thrives. We have a great team working on new innovation and expressive designs for men, women and juniors around the world.

KL: We'll continue to inject that passion we have for the brand and embrace new consumers. It's important for us to celebrate that crazy love for the game and crazy love for FootJoy, then seek to marry that with performance innovation.

CT: We work with several universities and have an advanced concept team and an innovation lab that complement our product engine. We have our Manchester Lane facility and the Titleist Performance Institute to ensure we're always at the cutting edge of technology and maximising all the different inputs around how to make your golf game better.



FJ refines fits and cuts with tour pros like Jessica Korda



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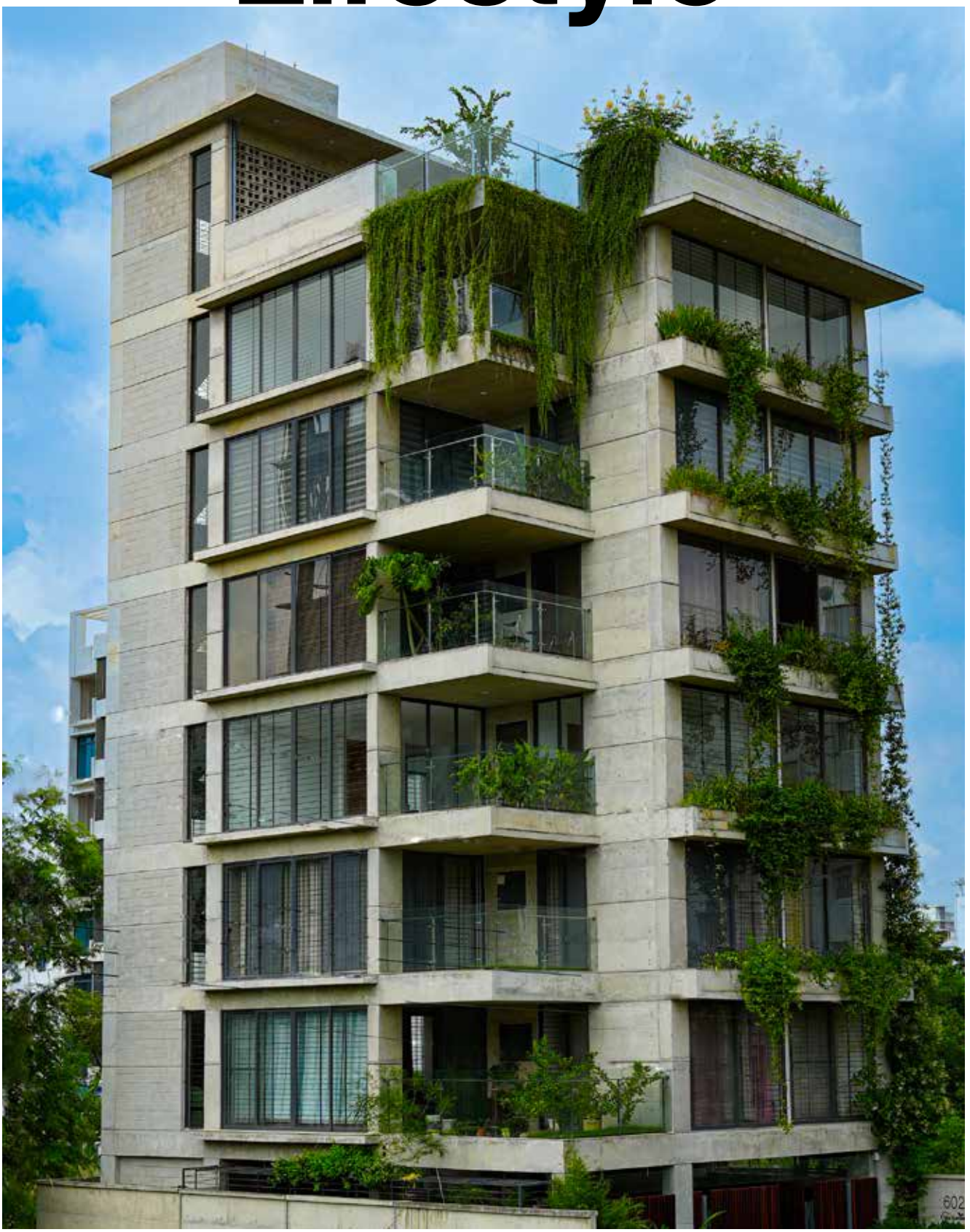


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50 **Residence Sky Gardens**
From my past experiences, I noticed that projects like this small size are often neglected, and the plot owners don't really have much ambition or expectations; rather they care more about the low cost only.

58 **Kaitenzushi Revolving Canvas**
"SUSHI GO KAITENZUSHI" the only conveyor belt sushi lounge in Dhaka has been introduced by SAMRAT group. This one of its kind Sushi Place is housed on the ground floor of Anabil Tower and can be seen right from the Kemal Atartuk Avenue.





FALGUNI MALLICK IS A RENOWNED ARCHITECT AND THE FOUNDER OF "FALGUNI MALLICK AND ASSOCIATES". THE GOLF HOUSE LIFESTYLE IS DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH HIM ABOUT ONE OF HIS SPLENDID ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTIONS THE "SKY GARDENS" LOCATED IN BASHUNDHARA.

Bashundhara

RESIDENCE

Sky Gardens

Text by: Sadia Shamaun

Briefly tell us about "Falguni Mallick & Associates" and its background.
Leaving my teaching career from Khulna University, I started my journey with "Falguni Mallick & Associates" in the year 2006. From then this architectural consultancy firm took shape. Our firm is Dhaka based although we work across the country. We consider ourselves fortunate to have been able to design projects of large scale like the Rupayan Township Projects. Moreover,we designed hospitals, hotels, institution buildings, industries, apartment buildings etc.

What were the requirements of the project?
From my past experiences, I noticed that projects like this small size are often neglected, and the plot owners don't really have much ambition or expectations; rather they care more about the low cost only. But for this project, I sated high ambition for a resort-like living environment.

When did this project start and how long did it take to complete?
We started this piece of work in 2019 and took us two years to complete.

How much area does this project cover?
This particular project is typically small, around 1400 sq ft

sizeapartment (on 3 katha plot), located in Bashundhara.

As an architect, how do you use design elements to turn spaces into places where people want to reside?
Before anything I asked myself,may I create a relaxed living environment within this tight condition, where the spaces are used efficiently. We also take the workers' wellbeing into account and ensure that they have it easy.

Tell us about the idea and concept behind the project.
We named this project "Sky Gardens". As Dhaka is too much built, I tried to set a very simple and minimalist building induced with greeneries. We have rendered a hanging sky garden with each dwelling unit.

What types of materials have been used in this project? Are they locally sourced?
The building is basically made of concrete, glass and wood. For partition walls, brick has been totally replaced by concrete hollow-block. The honest expression of the construction materials and construction methods is the aesthetic base of the project.

What were the landscaping scopes in this project?
Considering the minuteness of the plot size, there was minimum area left for landscape scopes. We incorporated 100 sq ft hanging garden connected with the central living spaces of each unit. We added a front cornice area on the southern façade which is filled with greeneries, the set-back areas on ground are filled with plantations. Thus we named this project 'Sky Gardens'.

What sorts of plantations did you implement? Were they easy to source?
Like always I prefer indigenous plants over exotic breeds because of their high chance of survival.Thusthroughout the project we used indigenous plants that are readily available and will last long.

Tell us about the type of structure implemented.
It's a simple R.C.C. frame structure building.

Can you tell us about the space segmentation of this project?
'Sky Gardens' is a seven storied building. The







ground floor is the parking lot and utility. There are six floors with single units. The rooftop is for gardening and terrace. Each of the units have 3 bedrooms with an open dining and living area freely connected with a corner hanging garden. Two of the bed rooms on southern front is also fused with a green bay. We tried to keep the living and dining open making it look larger and easier to appreciate the gardens those are inhabited within.

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

I believe interior details such as color palette, furniture and lighting provide psychological impact. Colors stimulate our feelings and evoke emotions. I chose graycement as the basecolor palette because it associates with mud and sand. This material tone has a psychological link with our mud house. Our building has a brutal unfinished look minimizing colors and plasters. Those imperfections have an expression of hand crafting - a sympathetic human touch.

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

We kept a vegetated green facade making it more welcoming, allowing cool air inside so that the greenery is within reach from the living spaces, rooms and balconies. It is a south facing plot. Thus we planned to keep the frontal side free of walls to create an open look screened with greeneries. This way the groves can be nursed by the natural sunlight. Simultaneously the building remains cool. We even pushed the guard room inside the parking lot to make more room for plants on the front set-back.

Any kind of constraint or challenge faced during the construction process?

Such a small size building is most often very challenging to design because of the limited space available for creating functional work spaces. Therefore, we had suffered obstacles and faced challenges to make this project spark.

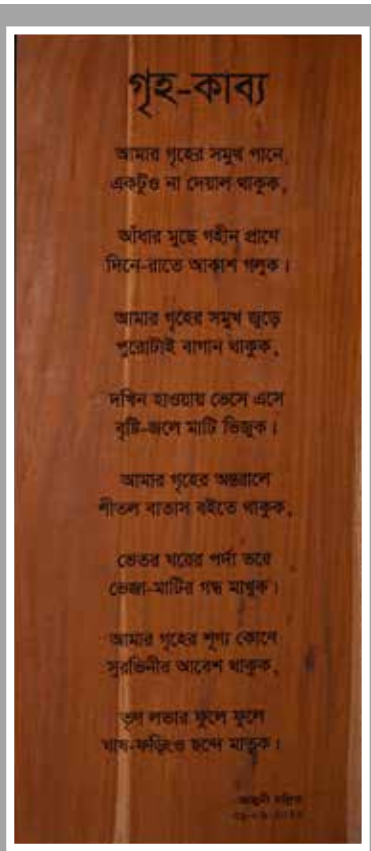


> ***We named this project “Sky Gardens”. As Dhaka is too much built, I tried to set a very simple and minimalist building induced with greeneries.***











Falguni Mallick
Principal Architect
Falguni Mallick and Associates

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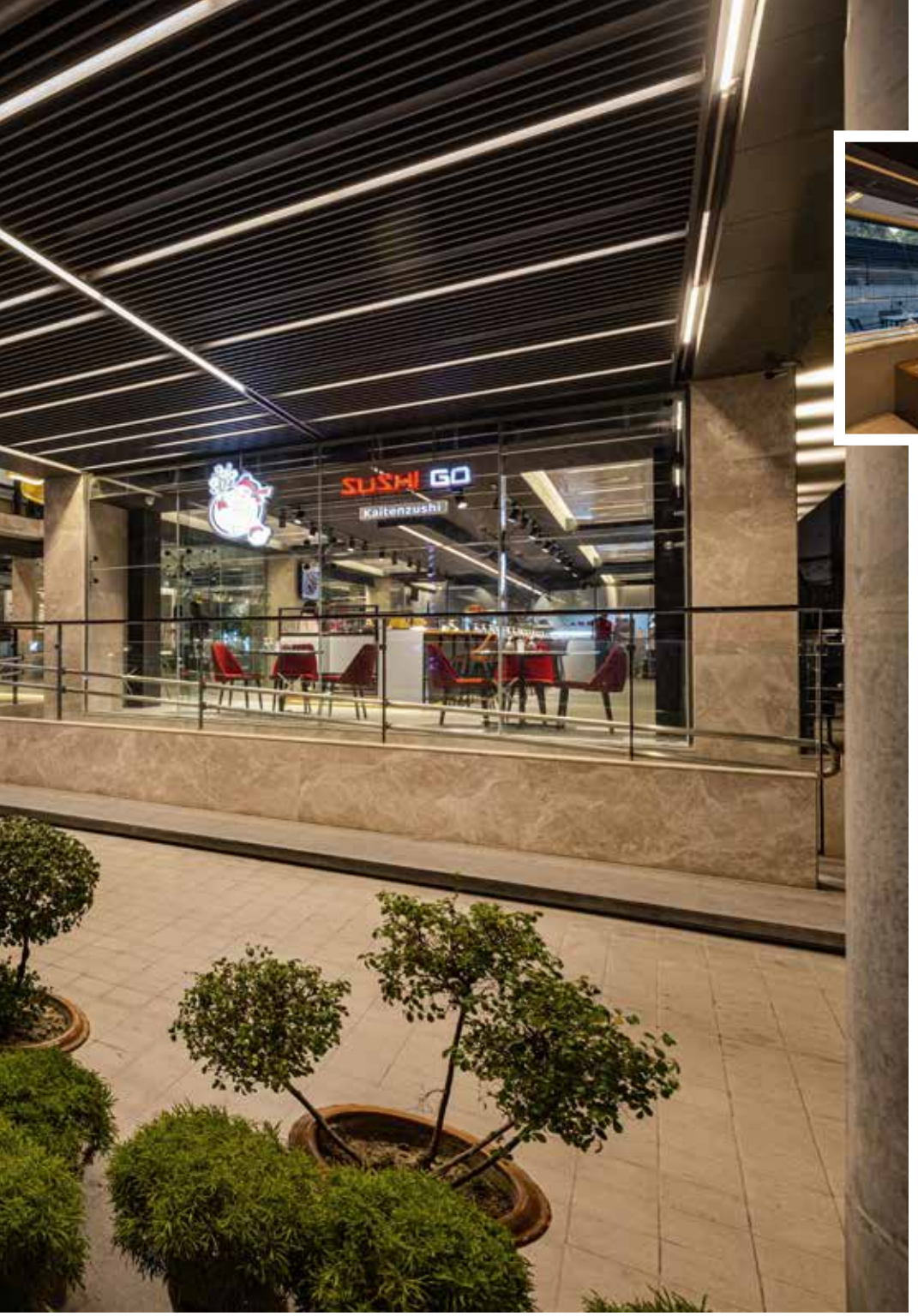
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The idea was to provide a very contemporary open layout for ease of accessibility and dining.

KAITENZUSHI

Revolving Canvas





"SUSHI GO KAITENZUSHI" the only conveyor belt sushi lounge in Dhaka has been introduced by SAMRAT group. This one of its kind Sushi Place is housed on the ground floor of Anabil Tower and can be seen right from the Kemal Atartuk Avenue.

The project was commissioned to KALEEK Consultants Limited on September 2021.

The primary feature and main challenge of the project was the 13.0-meter-long Conveyor Belt. Because of its rare presence in a city like Dhaka, the entire layout was designed to allow the Conveyor belt along with its moving colorful plates housing variety of sushi to be able to be seen from the avenue.

The entire Length of 21.0 meter of the space was used to place the Conveyor belt, followed by a see-through kitchen and service area that upkeeps all the preparation and services.

A wooden textured table top was installed around the periphery of the Belt to allow the customers to grab and devour. The table supports were delicately engineered and kept at a minimum to be mostly hidden, thus keeping the Conveyor Belt as a dominating as possible. This dominance has been further enhanced by a thin line of down light emitted from all along the ceiling over the Conveyor Belt.

Two varieties of seating were introduced on either side of the Conveyor belt. On the side of the lobby, a more formal seating arrangement was done to synchronize with the passing by office crowd, whereas on the outdoor side a more informal arrangement of Bar seating with high bar stoolswasarranged.

The entire section around the Conveyor belt was elevated to allow for warm diffused light to run around, enhancing the mobility of the colorful plates above. This elevated part has been finished with wooden textured laminates and is seen to be well contrasted with the grey rustic tiles underneath. The matte tiles were installed at interlocking pattern with striking grout lines in between to acknowledge the modernity of the site and theTri State.

The ceiling was done with a combination of dark matte paint finish and white ACP to allow contrast and reduce boredom from the linear proportion of the space. Track Lights were installed at defined interval with warm colors to enhance the enchanting environment.

The Fixed seatings were made of Black Metal Frames, finished with high quality fabric. The back rest of the seating were finished with metal frames with metallic nets in between that reminds the user about the semi outdoor nature of the space and enhances connectivity with the trespassing automobiles across the street. Imported Bar stools were placed to use the table on the other side that came with a rustic brown leather finish.

The overall experience of Sushi Go was exceedingly dynamic. The Architects' main purpose was to enhance Transparency and Tranquility along the length of conveyor belt with variable seating arrangements for varying aged customers. The seatings were deliberately arranged to enhance visual connectivity between the users, allowing them not to just have a meal but also a MEMORY DOWN THE CONVEYOR BELT!!











Project Name: Sushi Go Kaitenzushi
Location: Ground Floor, Anabil Tower, Gulshan 2, Dhaka – 1212
Project Area: 170.0 sq.m
Project Duration: 09 Months
Interior Design Consultant: KALEEK Consultants Limited.
Construction & Supervision: KALEEK Consultants Limited
Hospitality Consultant: Iftekhar Ahmed Khan
Principal Architect: Khandoker Farhat Alam
Prioty Kazi Ar Rafiur Rahman
Project Architect: Prima Dhar
Sk. Sefat – E – Ishtiak
Project Engineer: Shahinur Alam Md. Humaun
Site Engineer:Emdad Hossain
Photography: Md Shanjir Hossain / Photo4life

Breakfast

If you've been out foraging for blackberries, use them to bake our energy-boosting, fibre-rich muffins – the ideal grab-and-go breakfast for a hectic Monday. They're made with wholemeal flour and naturally sweetened with dates and bananas. You can also add pecans for a satisfying crunch.

Blackberry & banana breakfast muffins

SERVES 12 PREP 10 mins
COOK 20 mins EASY

350g plain spelt wholemeal flour
2 tsp ground cinnamon
3 tsp baking powder
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 very ripe bananas (160g peeled weight)
80g pitted dates, chopped
2 eggs
285g plain yogurt
4 tbsp rapeseed oil
2 tsp vanilla extract
225g blackberries
30g pecans, roughly broken (optional)

1 Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/ gas 4 and line a 12-hole muffin tray with paper cases. Tip the flour, cinnamon, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda into a bowl and mix to fully combine.

2 Mash the bananas and dates together well in a second bowl, then beat in the eggs, yogurt, oil and vanilla to combine.

3 Toss the blackberries into the flour mix, then stir in the yogurt mix until you have a thick batter. Work quickly, as adding wet ingredients activates the raising agent.

4 Scoop the batter into the muffin cases – if you have a large ice cream scoop, this works well. Fill the cases almost to the brim. Scatter over the pecans, if using, and bake for 20 mins until firm and golden. Leave to cool on a wire rack.

Will keep in an airtight container for two days, or in the freezer for up to three months.

PER SERVING 222 kcals • fat 8g • saturates 1g • carbs 28g • sugars 10g • fibre 5g • protein 7g • salt 0.6g




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Tuna Fish Salad

Ingredients

- Canned Tuna Fish- 100 gm
- Boiled Potato- 50 gm
- Boiled long beans- 50 gm
- Tomato- 50 gm
- Cucumber- 50 gm
- Lettuce- 30 gm
- Capsicum- 50 gm
- Lemon juice- as per required
- Mustard paste- 1 tsp
- White pepper powder- 1 pinch
- Olio Orolio Extra Virgin Olive Oil- 2 tbsp
- Salt- as per taste
- Sugar- 1 pinch
- Boiled egg- 1 pc

Procedure

1. Begin by placing a generous amount of lettuce in a bowl.
2. Remove the seeds from a quarter of a cucumber, half a tomato, and a capsicum. Cut them into cubes and add them to the bowl.
3. Add half a cup of boiled potato pieces into the mixture.
4. Next, season the mix with salt, white pepper powder, tuna fish, yellow mustard paste, and lemon juice.
5. Drizzle Olio Orolio Extra Virgin Olive Oil over the ingredients in the bowl and toss them together.
6. Transfer the mixture onto a plate, and garnish it with your preferred vegetables and a halved boiled egg.

Recipe Courtesy: Chef Jewel Rozario

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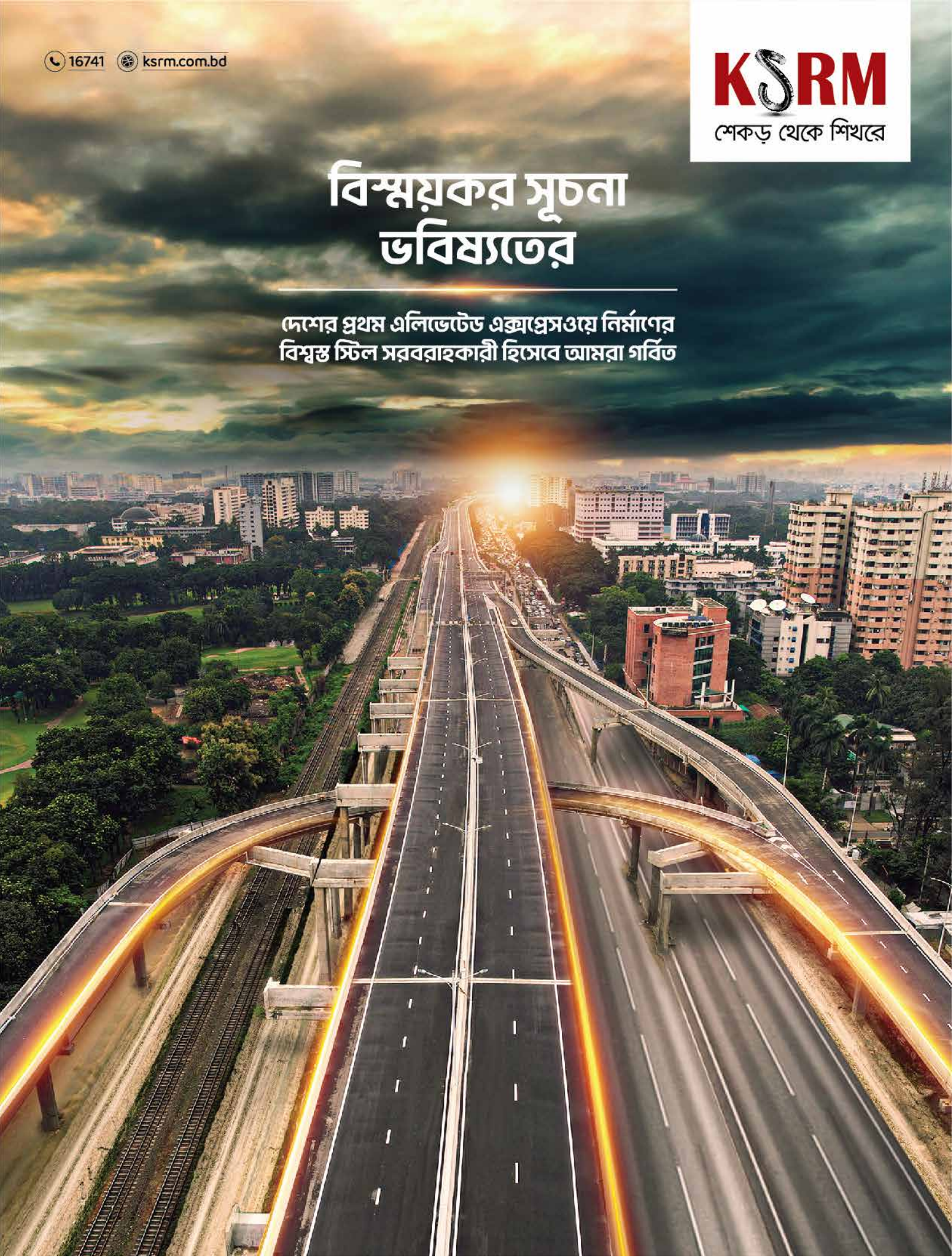


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