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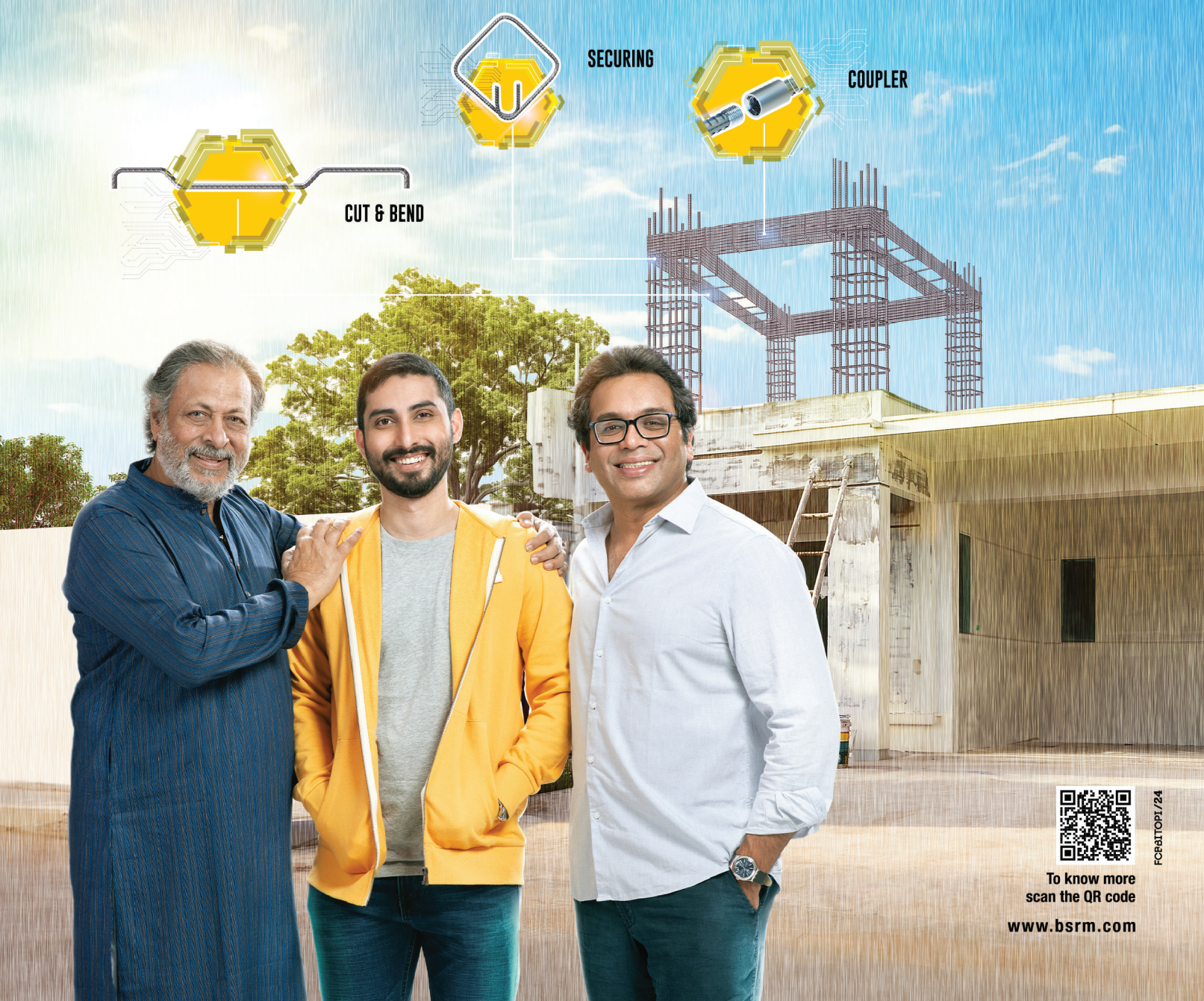

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COVER CONCEPT & DESIGN
AMIRUL ISLAM

The BPGA recently held its election, announcing a new president to lead the association. In other news, Dhaka's golf scene is expanding with the upcoming Air Force Golf Link, adding to the excitement for local golfers.



EDITOR'S CHOICE



The serene landscape of Bangladesh Air Force's Bangabandhu Base in Dhaka has been further enhanced with the inauguration of the Air Force Golf Link, a premier addition to the city's golfing scene. The prestigious event was graced by Chief of Air Staff Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan, who unveiled the inauguration plaque, marking the beginning of a new era in golfing excellence.

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GOLFER'S LIFE

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Editor's Note

Dear readers,

It is a matter of great joy and excitement for all golf lovers that Dhaka is getting a third golf course inside the metropolis. Following the 18-hole Kurmitola Golf Club and the nine-hole Army Golf Club, the megacity is set to add a third golf course to its repertoire – the Air Force Golf Link.

Although still very much a work in progress, once finished, this nine-hole golf course will add a new golfing destination for the golf enthusiasts of the capital and its surrounding areas. This golf course is unique since it is being developed close to the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, and just beside the Bangabandhu Air Base, offering golfers a unique view of airplanes taking off and landing.

The development of the course was met with challenges, but the authorities took them head-on and achieved their goal – a third golf course in Dhaka. We hope this new golf course will add a new dimension to the growing golfing scene of the country and attract new audiences with its unique features.

In related news, the Bangladesh Professional Golfers' Association (BPGA) recently held its election, and it is with great pleasure that we announce the election of Major General Masud Razzak (retd) as the new president. Major General Masud Razzak's leadership is expected to bring significant positive changes to the BPGA and further enhance the development and promotion of golf in Bangladesh. His extensive experience and dedication to the sport will undoubtedly be a great asset to the association and its members.

We look forward to seeing the impact of his leadership and the continued growth of golf in our nation.

Nazrul Hosen Ayon
Editor

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AIR FORCE GOLF LINK WILL BE A UNIQUE ADDITION TO THE COUNTRY'S GOLFING DESTINATIONS

The chief of Air Force felt that this course should be renovated to keep the heritage. There is still a lot of work left to do here, including preparing the greens and everything.

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BPGA GETS NEW PRESIDENT & EC

The president emphasized the importance of focusing on developing and enhancing local tournaments with the tagline "Bigger Better BPGA".

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NEW BPGA PRESIDENT AIMS FOR HOLISTIC GROWTH & GLOBAL OUTREACH OF BANGLADESHI GOLFERS

The term "professional" here refers to golfers who have chosen golf as their profession. Our primary mission is to enhance the facilities available in the country for professional golfers.

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A lifelong sports lover, Kamrul Hasan Khan has seamlessly blended his passion for athleticism with a distinguished career in banking. From his early days spinning tops and flying kites to excelling in cricket and badminton, his sporting spirit has driven his professional journey.

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ZAHIDUL ISLAM NEW MD OF BIMAN

ahidul Islam Bhuiyan has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

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AIR FORCE CHIEF UNVEILS

AIR FORCE GOLF LINK

The serene landscape of Bangladesh Air Force's Bangabandhu Base in Dhaka has been further enhanced with the inauguration of the Air Force Golf Link, a premier addition to the city's golfing scene. The prestigious event was graced by Chief of Air Staff Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan, who unveiled the inauguration plaque, marking the beginning of a new era in golfing excellence.

The inauguration ceremony was a momentous occasion, marked by various ceremonial traditions. Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan, a symbol of leadership and excellence, participated in a solemn prayer, seeking blessings for the success and prosperity of the new venture. Following this, the Chief of Air Staff led the ceremonial release of balloons and festoons.

Wing Commander Mohammad Abu Sadek, a distinguished officer of the BAF, presented an orientation brief on the Air Force Golf Link, providing insights into its facilities and features. This briefing served to acquaint attendees with the amenities and opportunities offered by the new golf course, further elevating its appeal among enthusiasts and aficionados.

The highlight of the event was the prize-giving ceremony, where the Chief of Air Staff himself presented trophies to the deserving winners of the AFGL Resumption Golf Tournament 2024. The tournament featured 27 golfers, each showcasing their skills and sportsmanship on the pristine greens of the Air Force Golf Link.




Chief Guest


TOURNAMENT: 2024
Date : 03 May 2024


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May 2024
Chief





Praying cessation during the Air Force Golf Link inauguration

The serene landscape of Bangladesh Air Force's Bangabandhu Base in Dhaka has been further enhanced with the inauguration of the Air Force Golf Link, a premier addition to the city's golfing scene. The prestigious event was graced by Chief of Air Staff Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan, who unveiled the inauguration plaque, marking the beginning of a new era in golfing excellence.

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Among the winners, Air Com Mahfuz clinched the runner-up trophy, displaying exceptional prowess with a gross score of 93 and a net score of 72. AVM Bodrul secured the trophy for the second best gross, impressing with a gross score of 93 and a net score of 72. Ng Core Chowdhury emerged as the runner-up, showcasing commendable performance with a gross score of 93 and a net score of 72.

However, the highest honor of the day, the trophy for best gross, was awarded to Brigadier General Mohiuddin, whose outstanding performance, marked by a gross score of 93, stood as a testament to his skill and dedication to the sport.

The Air Force Golf Link promises to be a haven for golf enthusiasts, offering world-class facilities amidst breathtaking surroundings. As it sets out on this journey of excellence, guided by the vision of the Bangladesh Air Force, it is poised to become a premier destination for golfing enthusiasts, fostering camaraderie, competition, and a love for the game.



PROSPECTUS OF AFGL

Air Force Golf Link (AFGL) was inaugurated on 05 February 2015 in BAF BBD by the then respected Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari, BBP, ndu, psc. There were 04 greens in AFGL and Golfing was in very limited scale. Afterwards, AFGL was not in use for long time (couple of years) and has become totally non-functional.



Chief of Air Staff himself presented trophies to the deserving winners of the AFGL Resumption Golf Tournament 2024



Resumption of AFGL

In the month of February 2024, with the kind consent of respected Chief of Air Staff, resumption process of the AFGL has been initiated by respected Air Officer Commanding, BAF Base Bangabandhu, Air Vice Marshal Md Badrul Amin, OSP, BUP, ndc, afwc, psc. Mentionable that enormous effort was taken by 201 MU BAF for resumption of AFGL where Admin Wing of the base provided continuous support. Moreover, MT Sqn, FM Sqn and MES (AIR) also provided extensive support. Subsequently, Resumption Ceremony of AFGL was conducted on 03 May 2024. Respected Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan, BBP, BUP, nswc, fawc, psc has resumed the AFGL as the Chief Guest.

Design of AFGL
Under the able guidance of Air Officer Commanding, BAF Base Bangabandhu, Wing Commander Mohammad Abu Sadek, psc has prepared and implemented the overall design of Air Force Golf Link (AFGL), design of all the Greens, Tees, Fairways, Lakes, Ponds, Bunkers, Driving Range, and Tree Plantation. The AFGL is a 9-hole Golf Course with a total Par of 35, instead of 36 due to limited land/space.



Design of all the AFGL Greens, Tees, Fairways, Lakes, Ponds, Bunkers, Driving Range, and Tree Plantation.

Safety Measures iro Design
During designing of the AFGL, existing BAF Taxi Track, Link Road of HSIA and BAF Shaheen College Kurmitola was sincerely considered so that possibilities of Golf Ball to spread onto those areas remain as the least. Mentionable that despite very limited total land, a good amount of land has been kept vacant toward Taxi Track, just to ensure flight safety. Appropriate Net will be fixed in future, towards BAF Shaheen College Kurmitola to ensure safety of this esteem College. In addition, main entrance has been planned towards London Road (closer to ISSB) to make it easier for all members especially civilian members to access the Golf Link while restricting access to the Air Movement/tech area.


Some of the Greens have got aircraft shape

Greens
A total of 08 Greens have been prepared for AFGL. As such, there will be 01 shared Green i.e. 5&7. Moreover, Green No 1 & 3 are collocated. Special shaped Greens have been designed for AFGL. Out of 08, 03 Greens have got aircraft shape and 01 Green has got propeller shape. Mentionable that there are 02 parallel island Green which is the most attractive part of AFGL.



There will be two parallel island Green which is the most attractive part of AFGL

Fairways
Length of all (09) the Fairways are little bit less due to limited land/space. However, all of the 09 holes will be challenging due to multi types of hazards. There are some hazards which are not available in any other Golf Courses in Bangladesh like 02 parallel island Green, long grassy Bunker, stones of different shape.

Bunkers
To make the course more challenging and enjoyable, there are 02 types of Bunkers in AFGL i.e. Grassy Bunker and Sandy Bunker. Shape of those Bunkers are attractive.

Tees
There are 08 Tees in AFGL. As such, there is a 01 shared Tee i.e. 3&8 which has got propeller shape.

Club House
To facilitate the Golf members especially diplomates, foreigners and civil businessmen, a Club House is going to be constructed in AFGL comprising standard/modern facilities/amenities. The facilities/amenities will include Restaurant, Swimming Pool, Gym, Sauna, Jacuzzi, Barber Shop etc.



Benefits of AFGL

AFGL will ease the life of all ranking BAF offr and their family iro enjoying Golf in Dhaka. Due to existing enormous rush/crisis in KGC & AGC and due to very attractive location (beside HSIA) of AFGL, it is expected that huge number of Golfers (both civilian and military) will be interested to become member of AFGL. AFGL will be helpful to increase the civil military relationship i.e between BAF offr and civil bureaucrats businessmen (local and overseas). A modern Club House will be constructed in the South-Eastern side of AFGL comprising standard/ modern facilities/amenities to facilitate the Golf members especially diplomates, foreigners and civil businessmen. However, AFGL will be one of the rare attractive Golf Club/Link where whole Golf Course will be visible from the Club House.

Driving Range

To ensure the practice for Golfers especially for beginners, a Driving Range has been prepared in the northern side of base PT ground. To have the safe Golfing practice, there is a plan to construct modern fencing in future covering three sides of the Driving Range especially to protect Shaheen College building. Moreover, to beautify the Driving Range and the Golf Course as a whole, different tree of flower have been planted.

Waterbody

02 X beautiful Lakes namely “B” and “S” have been prepared in AFGL. In addition, couple of ponds have been prepared to beautify the course as well as to make the Golfing more challenging and attractive.







Air Force Golf Link Membership fees

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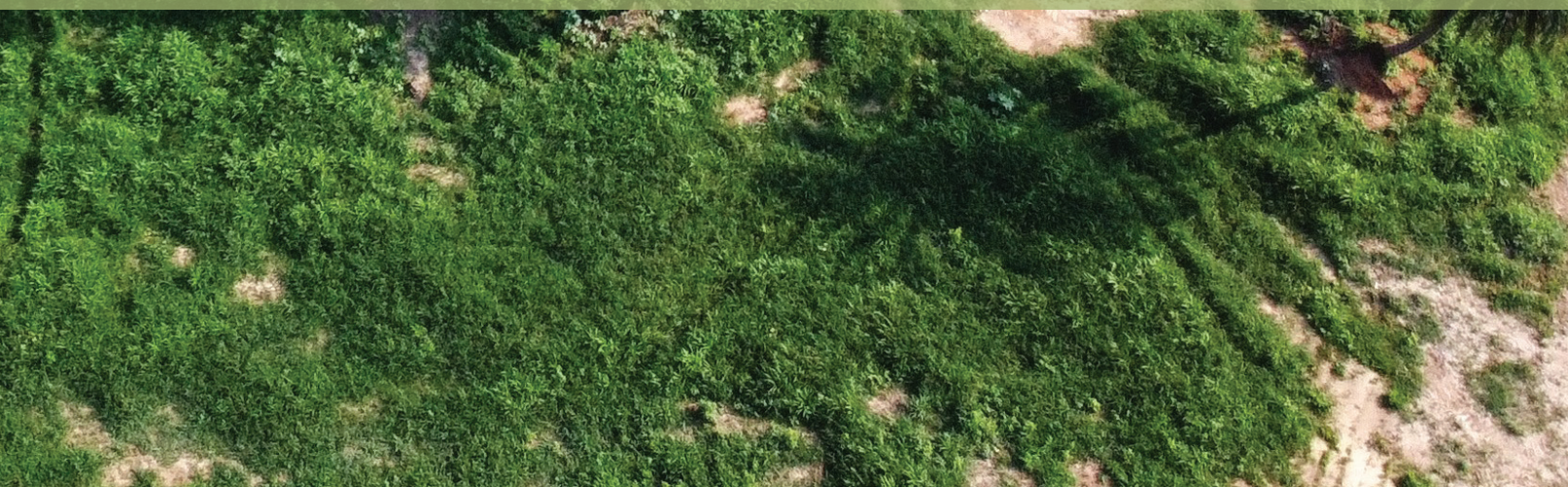

AIR FORCE GOLF LINK

WILL BE A UNIQUE ADDITION

to the country's golfing destinations'



THE SERENE LANDSCAPE OF BANGLADESH AIR FORCE'S BANGABANDHU BASE IN DHAKA HAS BEEN FURTHER ENHANCED WITH THE INAUGURATION OF THE AIR FORCE GOLF LINK CLUB, A PREMIER ADDITION TO THE CITY'S GOLFING SCENE. THE NINE-HOLE GOLF COURSE IS STILL VERY MUCH A WORK IN PROGRESS BUT PROMISES TO BE A UNIQUE ADDITION TO THE COUNTRY'S GROWING GOLFING DESTINATION WITH IT'S UNIQUE FEATURES AND AMAZING VIEWS. AIR VICE MARSHAL MD BADRUL AMIN SPOKE IN DETAIL ABOUT THE GOLF COURSE'S VARIOUS ASPECTS AND WHAT IT OFFERS TO THE DEFENCE OFFICIALS AS WELL AS CIVIL POPULATION.



AIR VICE MARSHAL BADRUL AMIN

Air Officer Commanding, AOC BAF Base Bangabandhu (Kurmitola)



AIR VICE MARSHAL BADRUL AMIN

Air Officer Commanding, AOC BAF Base Bangabandhu (Kurmitola)

Could you provide information about the Air Golf Link?

Golf started here about 10 years ago. Today we turned it into a nine-hole golf course, which the Air Force chief inaugurated today. For unavoidable reasons, golf was halted after it's initial introduction here 10 years ago. The chief of Air Force felt that this course should be renovated to keep the heritage. There is still a lot of work left to do here, including preparing the greens and everything. Since this is an operational base, we have designed it as a 35-par nine-hole golf course.

The lush green of the golf course is directly related to the operational activities of the base, in a way that it will breathe life into the activities of the base. Our mental and physical wellbeing apart from the joy of playing golf was considered when developing this golf course. It will take time to be completed along with a practice range and a clubhouse, so that the civil society can also enjoy the facilities here and foster the bond with the Air Force personnel.

What motivated the creation of this golf course?

We felt the need for boys and girls and the Air Force officials to play golf, which was the main motivation behind this golf course. We felt that was needed so that the golfers could breathe in fresh air amid a green surrounding.

What challenges were encountered during its restoration?

The design has been prepared afresh to make it a full-fledged nine-hole golf course. We faced various challenges while implementing this, both internal and external. There are golf courses beside international airports in many countries. But we were not prepared for this. So there were a lot of negative talks surrounding it, but there were also positives which outweighed the negatives. There are turmacs close by, so we had to consider the boundaries and the trajectory of the balls, etc while designing the course. This base was established during the British period, so we found chunks of concretes and bricks protruding out of the ground when preparing the soil, which took us a lot of time.



THE CLUB'S STANDOUT FEATURE IS THAT THE ENTIRE COURSE CAN BE VIEWED FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

Why might golfers prefer this course over others?
This golf course is very close to the runway of the international airport, and the golfers will watch the airplanes flying nearby, not above their heads. The view will be unique, but it won't distract the golfers' concentration with any noise. People will come to enjoy this sight and will get to know more about Air Force base and the airport.
We are planning to design the course in such a way that the whole course will be visible from the clubhouse, which will be a unique feature. The course will have challenges too in terms of bunkers, water bodies, etc like other standard golf courses.

Is there any message you would like to share with the readers?
There won't be any friction between the operational activities of the Air Force base with that of the club, instead the club will help stimulate the activities of the base. This will reinvigorate the operational activities of the base, which will in turn help safeguard national safety and security.





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BPGA GETS NEW PRESIDENT & EC

IN A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE GOLFING COMMUNITY IN BANGLADESH, MAJOR GENERAL MASUD RAZZAQ (RETD) HAS BEEN ELECTED AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BANGLADESH PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS ASSOCIATION (BPGA). THIS ELECTION TOOK PLACE DURING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HELD AT THE KURMITOLA GOLF CLUB IN DHAKA RECENTLY. ALONGSIDE HIM, BRIGADIER GENERAL MD MAHBUBUL ISLAM (RETD) WAS ELECTED AS THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR THE UPCOMING TWO-YEAR TERM, WHICH SPANS FROM 2024 TO 2026. THE EVENT WITNESSED AN IMPRESSIVE VOTER TURNOUT, WITH 90 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS CASTING THEIR BALLOTS.



The newly elected executive body also includes Md Mustafizur Rahman as the Secretary General, Lieutenant Colonel Faridul Mahmood (Retd) as Joint Secretary, and Md Monowarul Islam as the treasurer. The elected members of the executive committee (EC) are Bashir Ahmed, Brigadier General GM Quamrul Islam (Retd), Major Mahmudur Rahman Chowdhury (Retd), Abul Kalam Azad, Mohammad Nurul Kabir, Mohammad Siddikur Rahman, Md Jibon Ali, Md Ismail Hossain, Md Sagor, and Dr. Afshan Anis.
The elections, conducted through a democratic process, marked the end of a successful tenure for the outgoing committee, which had been in charge from 2018 to 2024. The members of BPGA praised the previous committee for its commendable contributions to the organization.
BPGA newly elected president Major General Masud Razzaq (Retd) expressed a strong commitment to collaborating with the Bangladesh Golf Federation (BGF) and all golf clubs to enhance the overall activities of the association. It was also decided that the BPGA would engage with various stakeholders and institutions to improve the wellbeing of professional golfers in the country.

The president emphasized the importance of focusing on developing and enhancing local tournaments with the tagline “Bigger Better BPGA”.

In his acceptance speech, Major General Masud Razzaq (Retd) acknowledged the achievements of the outgoing executive committee and extended his best wishes to the new team. He outlined his vision for the future of BPGA, stating, ″BPGA has been created to ensure a platform for the professional golfers of Bangladesh. We started organizing golf tournaments exclusively for the pros. If we create more opportunities for them to earn their living through golf, only then we can see more and more amateur talents turning into pros.″
He further elaborated on his plans, saying, ″As the new president of BPGA, we will also work closely with the Golf Academy and arrange coaching and training for young talented professional golfers. We need corporate houses to come forward and support BPGA.”

The Bangladesh Professional golfers’ Association (BPGA) established in 2008 serves as the national governing body for the professional golf in the country. This organization is steadfastly committed to support professional golfers, developing the game and integrating with the global golf community.





The Pictures are from BPGA election and oath taking ceromony






Thailand




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Committee 2024
GA”



NEW BPGA PRESIDENT AIMS FOR HOLISTIC GROWTH & GLOBAL OUTREACH *of Bangladeshi golfers*

The Bangladesh Professional Golfers' Association (BPGA) is dedicated to enhancing the professional landscape of golf in Bangladesh. The newly elected president of the BPGA, Major General (retd) Masud Razzak, discussed the association's current initiatives, emphasizing organizational restructuring, sponsorship acquisition, mental health support, and a unified approach with other golf institutions in an interview with The GolfHouse. His vision is to elevate the BPGA to new heights, ensuring better facilities, international exposure, and comprehensive support for professional golfers in the country. The excerpts of the interview are as follows









GOLF HAS THE POTENTIAL TO PRODUCE MANY SUCH BANGLADESHI CHAMPIONS.

Bangladesh Professional Golfers' Association (BPGA) is working hard to improve professional golfers and golf overall in Bangladesh. As the newly elected president of the association, how do you see its activities?

The term "professional" here refers to golfers who have chosen golf as their profession. Our primary mission is to enhance the facilities available in the country for professional golfers. We are committed to seeking out and utilizing all available resources, both domestically and internationally, to advance golf under the Bangladesh flag.

Which areas are the current committee focusing on?

At present, I believe we need to revisit the organizational structure of the BPGA. My team and I require additional advice and suggestions. Therefore, I plan to establish an advisory committee comprising all former presidents and general secretaries of the BPGA. This will be our first priority. Additionally, we need to focus on various other aspects, and we will address these areas progressively.

Sponsorship is a big issue for professional golfers. Many of our pros don't have regular sponsors. Does BPGA have any plans in this regard?

Golf is often viewed as a sport for the privileged. I believe professional golfers should also be privileged, receiving education and adequate financial support to play without distractions. Our predecessors have secured prominent sponsors for tournaments, and I intend to continue this legacy. I will form a marketing team to identify potential sponsors. Moreover, I will ensure that 20 top professional golfers receive personal sponsorships to help them focus on their game and compete internationally. For others, sponsorship levels will be based on their performance, and we will take a holistic approach in this endeavor. Inshallah, we will strive to do our best.

How does the BPGA plan to enhance mental health support for golfers, considering its importance in their performance?

Mental health is crucial in sports, especially in golf, where a psycho-physical balance is essential. We will have physical trainers to prepare golfers for professional-level tournaments. Additionally, we will provide mentoring, psychological support, and

meditation to help golfers maintain mental and physical well-being. This comprehensive approach is our priority, and you will soon see the implementation of these measures, including hiring psychiatrists, physical trainers, and mentors.

What is your overarching vision for the BPGA's future?
With great pride, our team envisions making the BPGA bigger and better. Although BPGA is already established, we aim to elevate it further. Our slogan, "Bigger, Better BPGA," encapsulates our ambition to achieve this vision by improving and expanding the association's reach and impact.

As the president, you are the bridge between BPGA, BGF, and the Bangladesh Golf Academy. How do you plan to facilitate effective coordination among these entities?
Coordination among the Bangladesh Golf Federation (BGF), BPGA, and the Bangladesh Golf Academy, along with the Kurmitala Golf Club (KGC), is crucial. The KGC is the home for our professionals, and we cannot function without integrating these entities. We aim for a holistic approach where all organizations complement and coordinate with each other, ensuring mutual support and continued collaboration.

Is there any additional information or points you would like to share?
Thank you for this opportunity. I would like to convey a message to all my friends, predecessors, golfers, and valued sponsors: Please support us in developing golf in Bangladesh. Our golfers have the potential to carry our flag internationally, just like Siddikur Rahman, the only Bangladeshi golfer to participate in the Olympics. Golf has the potential to produce many such champions. With the right intentions and capable individuals, we can achieve remarkable results, Inshallah. Thank you very much. Let's strive for a "Bigger, Better BPGA."

The KGC is the home for our professionals, and we cannot function without integrating these entities.



MAJOR GENERAL MASUD RAZZAK (RETD)
President, BPGA


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Banker CREDITS GOLF FOR SUCCESS

A LIFELONG SPORTS LOVER, KAMRUL HASAN KHAN HAS SEAMLESSLY BLENDED HIS PASSION FOR ATHLETICISM WITH A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN BANKING. FROM HIS EARLY DAYS SPINNING TOPS AND FLYING KITES TO EXCELLING IN CRICKET AND BADMINTON, HIS SPORTING SPIRIT HAS DRIVEN HIS PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY. WITH OVER TWO DECADES OF EXPERIENCE IN THE BANKING INDUSTRY, INCLUDING SIGNIFICANT ROLES AT EASTERN BANK PLC, HSBC, PRIME BANK, AND MUTUAL TRUST BANK, HE NOW SERVES AS THE DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR & CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER OF MODHUMOTI BANK PLC. IN AN ENGAGING CONVERSATION, HE SHARES INSIGHTS INTO HIS PROFESSIONAL PATH, THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF GOLF ON HIS LIFE, AND THE STRATEGIC PARALLELS BETWEEN SPORTS AND BANKING.

Could you tell us something about you and your professional journey?
I would like to describe myself as a sports lover since my very childhood and I did play all available sports around me. Be it spinning a Top, Flying Kites, playing Dangguli, Shatchara, Marbles, Football, Badminton, Cricket, Table Tennis, Lone Tennis, and Swimming. Interestingly, I used to be a decent player in all the sports I played. I understand my attitude towards sports along with the atmosphere I grew up helped me to love sports a lot. My School and the Locality that I grew up in, had a great sporting culture which helped forming my sporting attitude. In my childhood, I was punished at home a lot of times for being so obsessed with sports and not doing enough justice to my studies. To me, Sports is a great way to stay connected and build new relationships. I did my undergrad in Pune, India and I was living in an apartment of a housing society in Pune along with a few of my friends. There also we become so much a part of them through sports. I used to play in their cricket team and eventually, all of us became a part of their people.

My professional career started as a Management Trainee Officer at Eastern Bank PLC.where I worked for ten years. Then I moved out to HSBC, Bangladesh and worked for six years. I also worked in two other Private Commercial Banks, Prime Bank and Mutual Trust Bank for the next five years. Currently, I am working as the Deputy Managing Director & Chief Business Officer of Modhumoti Bank PLC.

When did you start golfing and who introduced you to the game?
Back in 2015, one of my teammatesat HSBC, Mr. Rais Uddin Siddique started playing Golf and when we used to visit one of our





KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

DMD, Modhumoti Bank PLC.

customers, Mr. Mostafa Tanveer Palash who was a keen golfer, they would always talkabout golf with all their excitement which made me curious about this game. One day we both went to Mr. Palash and as usual, they started speaking about golf and asked me to start playing the game. I said I don't have my golf set to start with. At that very moment, Palash Bhai surfed Amazon and found a Taylormade golf set for me. I bought that set online and somehow managed to bring that to Bangladesh. I started going to the driving range ofthe Army Golf Club (AGC) with my new set and took some lessons from a Pro for around one month. I then started playing on the course. I still can recall the first day on the course at AGC when two of my first shots went out of bounds to Airport Road and I became extremely frustrated. But at the next hole, I made a Birdy. Since then Golf has become a part of my life and I enjoy playing this game a lot.

Golf is often considered a game of strategy and precision. Can you discuss how these attributes translate to your role in banking, particularly in decision-making and risk management?

Every sport has its own strategy and level of precision; however, the main difference in golf isthat,unlike many team sports, golf is eccentric. Most of the time, you play against yourself to try to beat your previous record. This makes it a lot of fun to work hard and try to do better than the last time you played. To win in any other game you need to defeat the opponent but due to the scoring system in golf, you need to defeat yourself meaning doing better than your par score. One more unique feature of the game is you can even play this game alone.

It is very important to have a game strategy and for every hole you play, one needs to plan the course and then play the shots choosing the right club according to their ability.

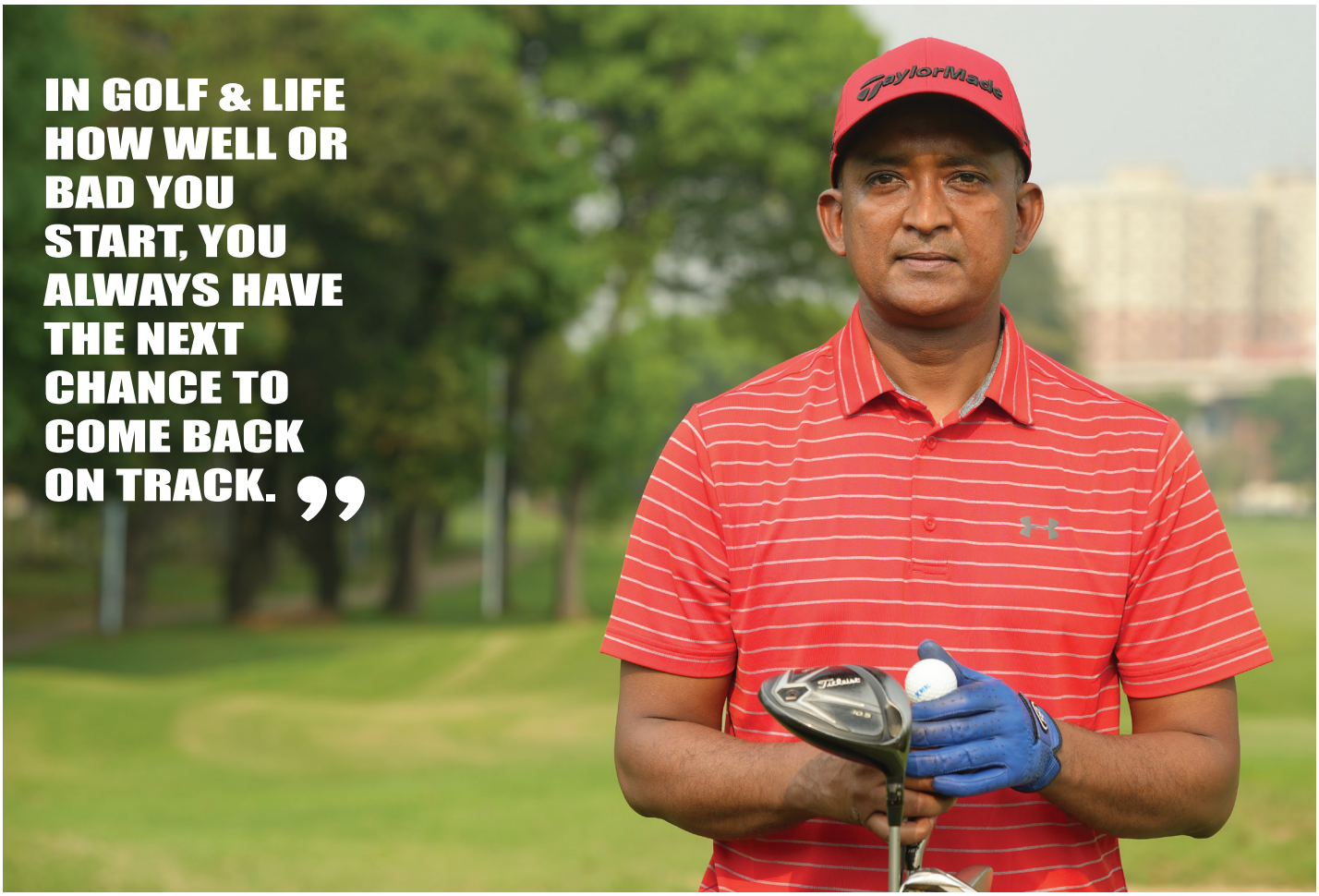
What golf has helped me in my personal and professional life is that it taught me that it does not matter how well or bad you start, you always have the next chance to come back on track. You need to be extremely patient and focused on your target. Even if you have a good skill set for any task, the outcome may not always be better; and patience is the key. The last important thing that I feel is good learning for me; it's just a game therefore enjoy it.

What is the best thing about golf?

Before starting golf I often used to think that this might be a boring sport, however, I now feel this is a very exciting sport. In the context of Dhaka city, this is a genuine privilege to be a golfer and be on a green for four to five hours. Golf is a good exercise, you need to stand on your feet for four to five hours in addition to a. 7/8 kilometers of walk. Nowadays, we see a lot of 'Vitamin D' deficiency related health problems because we have less opportunity to get exposed to the sun; playing golf in the morning helps to cover it up and the game is a great way to release stress and anxiety.

Over the last seven years, I have played with a lot of unknowns who are now good friends; golf helped me make new friends. When my regular golf buddies are not available, one of the easiest ways is to head to the course alone and the Startersetsme up with other players. By the end of the round, I make one or more new connections.

There are many of my corporate customers who play golf and it is a great opportunity to play a round with them. When I visit them in their office it is more of a formal meeting







of half an hour, however on the course that same person remains in an informal and sportsman mind, and spending two to five hours with that person makes your relationship stronger.

What is your golfing routine?
I am a weekend golfer as on the weekdays it's quite challenging for me to play due to my office timing. When I play I try to do some stretching exercises before my first tee-off and I take at least one free swing before playing any shot. Sometimes, I go to the Driving Range and hit 25 balls before getting on to the course.

Networking is an essential aspect of both banking and golf. Can you share how your involvement in golfing has helped you build relationships and further your career in banking?
I have been a Corporate Banking professional for most of my career and in all the banks I worked, I had a portfolio to handle where customer relationships had been the key element. Before I started playing golf, I did not know that many of my corporate customers played golf and when I met them on the course it helped me build better relationships with them.

Some of my best friendships and significant stories have happened on the golf course. I found this game brings people together unlike any other sport. Golf has especially been important for me to develop friendships with a lot of new people and connecting them into my network helped me remain updated. If I did not golf, I would never have been lucky enough to meet some very prominent people who have been important to me in growing my career.

What is the best memory you have related to golf?
There are many in the memory lane; however winning the Runner-up trophy inthe Priyo Prangon Golf Tournament 2018, winning Best Gross in the Prime Bank Cup Golf Tournament 2019 and winning the trophy in Bali, Indonesia in 2023 were really special.

How do you handle competition in the banking industry, and what strategies do you employ to stay ahead in a competitive market?
This is a vast topic and has lots of technicality within it. However, competition is a common phenomenon that bank faces daily, especially when we are operating in an industry where there are 60 banks. Competition is inevitable in any business however it needsbetter planning to handle the market and stay ahead. As banking is more of an intermediation business between depositors and borrowers, the lower cost of intermediation and rendering better service will always make the bank confront competition. Greater market competition in the banking industry indeed helps to lower the financial intermediation cost for the banks which eventually helps the customers. There are many other performance parameters on which we take regular stock and review those to stay competitive in the market.

Apart from you is there anybody from your family who is interested in playing Golf?
Yes, both of my sons started playing golf. Since the elder one is now staying abroad for his studies he does not play; the younger one is not very enthusiastic about golf.

How you will influence others to play golf?
Golf is a wonderful game and it has lots of positivity in it and players have a wide variety of motivations for getting into the game. No matter how you end up on the course, golf can be an enjoyable and lifelong sport. Regardless of skill level, you can play with a better player and still, you can win based on your handicap. Even players who are routinely better than their golfing buddies are always competing against themselves. If improvement and learning are major drives in your life, golf will be a game that can be embraced. Golf courses have absolutely beautiful landscapes and greenery with serenity which is very special for anyone living in Bangladesh. In recent times there has been an increased number of population suffering from Vitamin D deficiency and Diabetics; golf can be a better solution to these problems yet entails lots of excitement. There are many travel destinations involving golf and those could be the biggest incentive for starting golf. I keep on spreading the positivity of golf into my surroundings and I found the popularity of this game is increasing gradually in Bangladesh.

Say something about your golfing buddies?
I started golf with one of my childhood friends and a few of my colleagues later became good friends. Now, there are quite a few golf buddies with whom I play regularly.



> MANY OF MY CORPORATE CUSTOMERS PLAYED GOLF AND WHEN I MET THEM ON THE COURSE IT HELPED ME BUILD BETTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM.

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GOLF CLUBS NAMES AND USES (A BEGINNER'S GUIDE)



DRIVER

- Hits the ball farthest
- Can be less accurate
- Longest and biggest in size
- Used primarily for tee shots



FAIRWAY WOODS

- Ball travels far, but not as far as driver
- More accurate than driver
- Good off tee or in fairway



HYBRIDS

- Longer than irons, shorter than woods
- Easier to hit than both
- Great for beginners



IRONS

- Wide range of distances
- More control than woods
- Used for shots into the green or off the tee



WEDGES

- Shortest and most accurate
- Most lofted clubheads
- Used close to the green



PUTTER

- Shortest and most accurate most lofted club heads
- Used close to the green

REVIEWS



PING I230 IRON

GM verdict

Ping's i series of irons is aimed more towards the better player, and the range has been newly expanded with the addition of the latest i230. This new iron, along with the recent i525 model, has a fairly broad appeal in terms of its target player. Compared with the i210 that it replaces, which was launched four years ago, the i230 is said to be faster, fly higher and offer a better feel. The long-irons have also undergone a significant change.

Our major gripe with the i210 was that the long-irons were too large and offset, but in i230 these have been slimmed down to appeal more to the eye of the better player while also improving club delivery. At address, the i230 looks sleek and refined but also inviting. The topline and sole are thicker than on the i59 iron but not as large as on the i525 – it slots nicely in between and this look is more consistent through the set than in the i210.

The 7-iron remains at 33° and we tested the 5-, 7- and 9-irons on the Foresight Sports GCQuad launch monitor indoors with Titleist Pro V1x golf balls, before hitting shots on the course to truly immerse ourselves in the user experience.

This iron ticks the box for looks and it does the same for feel. It is consistently pleasing. Even poor swings felt responsive and, through the turf, the added sole camber allows for a brisk exit after the point of collision.

Looks
Visually, the i230 has a muscle cavity-style look and is clean and simple, if a little underwhelming. The cavity badge encloses the elastomer insert very tidily.

Feel/sound
The i230 combines a lively, stable feel with a fairly muted sound. It's certainly more forged-like than the clicky i59, but not quite as dense as the Blueprint iron.



The trajectory was mid-flight and stable, although you can gently shape shots when you want to. With spin over the 6,000rpm mark and a descent angle pushing 49°, you'll have no problem stopping the ball on the green.

In terms of distance, it settled at around 163 yards of carry but occasionally exceeded 165. Not jaw-dropping, but ample.
We had an old i210 9-iron to test and the i230 equivalent was a yard or two longer on average with 500rpm less spin.

This distance was long enough and, more importantly, on or around the number we wanted repeatedly on a tight dispersion. The long-irons were particularly user-friendly – the smaller head compared with i210 narrowed our focus and helped us achieve better contact, while the white bottom groove offers alignment assistance to help with initial direction. The trajectory didn't change much from long-iron to short-iron – a sign of a welldesigned set generating predictable flight windows.

If you want a lower or higher flight or more/less distance, there are also options for power and retro specs.

In truth, there wasn't much we disliked about the i230 iron. Some may want a softer feel, but we actually enjoyed the more lively sensation, getting us out of trouble when not swinging our best. It's very comparable to the Callaway Apex Pro or TaylorMade P770. It's no wonder tour pros are choosing this model over Blueprint or i59, as it makes the game easier while still offering consistency and decent shotmaking potential.



An elastomer insert allows significant weight to be relocated for a low centre of gravity and more distance

KEY TECHNOLOGY

1 An activated elastomer insert creates 21g of weight savings to lower the CG for more distance while enhancing feel and sound, aided by a multi-material cavity badge.
2 Tungsten toe and tip weights help deliver more forgiveness and tighter dispersion.
3 The precision-milled MicroMax grooves deliver consistent launch and spin in the long-irons and greater control in the short-irons and wedges, especially in wet or grassy conditions.

UP AGAINST



TaylorMade P770
Upgrades include up to 46g of tungsten, a thinner forged face and a progressive CG design to add launch in the long-irons.



Mizuno JPX923 Tour
A shallow-cavity iron now with a copper underlay for an even smoother sensation at impact.



Titleist T100
A variable-bounce sole design aids turf interaction, while denser D18 tungsten weights provide a solid feel and forgiveness.

" WITH THE CHANGES IN THE LONG - IRONS, i230 IS RI GHT UP THERE ALON S IDE THE MOST COMPLETE IRONS ETS FOR THE BETTER PLAYER"

MASTER YOUR SHORT GAME

Here is a simple way of adding different options to your short game. Golfers who are good in short game have the ability to hit different shots.

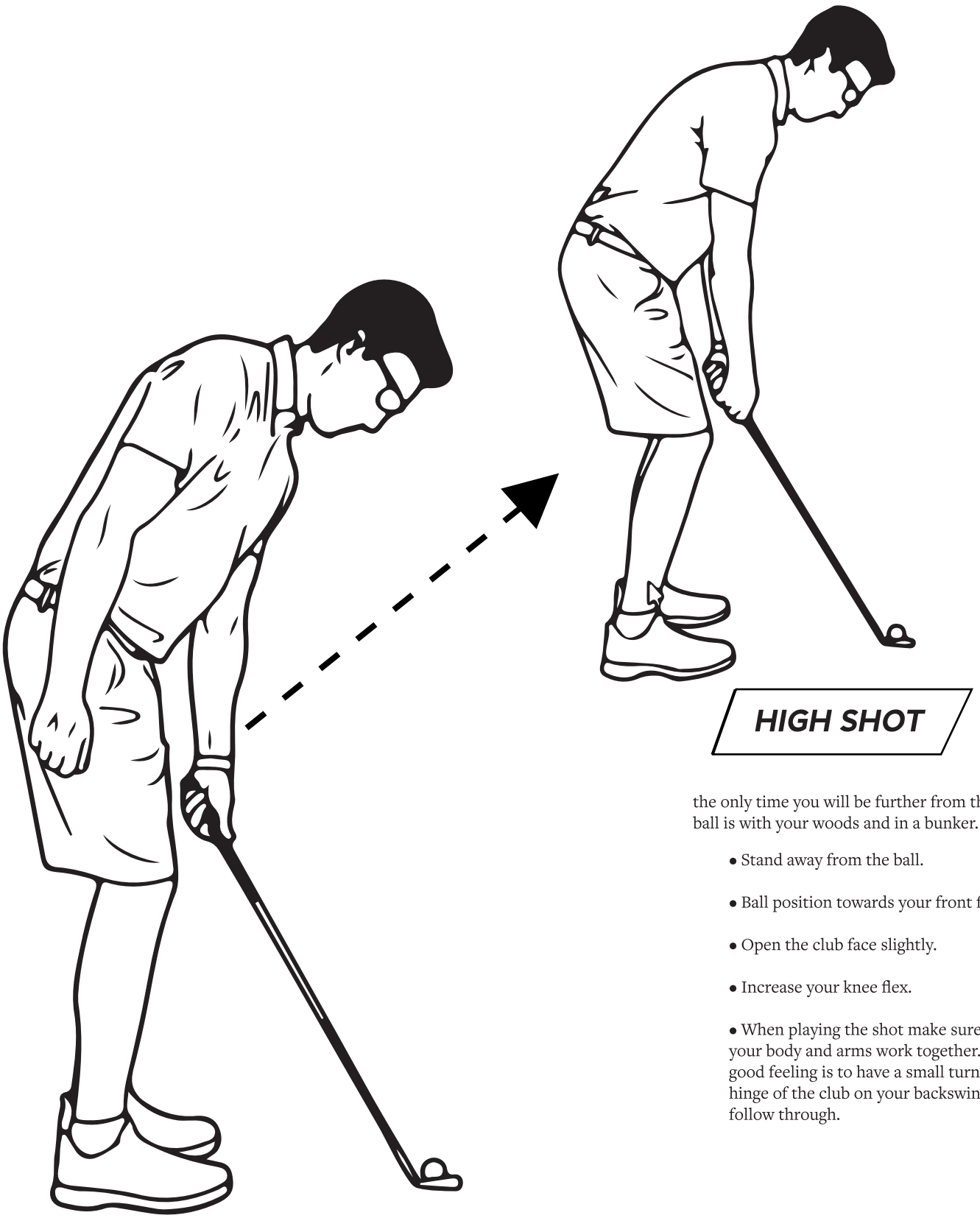


This means they can hit the ball with different trajectories and with different amounts of roll or spin. A simple way of changing how high or low you can hit the ball is to alter the distance you stand from the ball.

LOW CHIP

the only time you are closer to the ball is when you putt. The key points:

- Position the club as upright as possible, so the toe is touching the ground.
- Narrow stance with the ball towards your back foot.
- Grip the club and bow your top hand forwards; this may be similar to your putting grip.
- Keep your weight towards the target and your hands ahead of the ball.
- When playing the shot, keep your weight towards target and feel like the club is moving in a straight line back from the ball, then turn through impact



HIGH SHOT

the only time you will be further from the ball is with your woods and in a bunker.

- Stand away from the ball.
- Ball position towards your front foot.
- Open the club face slightly.
- Increase your knee flex.
- When playing the shot make sure your body and arms work together. A good feeling is to have a small turn and hinge of the club on your backswing and follow through.

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56 **STUDIO OF STHAPATI BANGLADESH**
-Studio of Sthapotic, Bangladesh was started off with a concept of modern architecture with a touch of Bengali culture and heritage.

68 **DUCK PASTRAMI**
Season with salt and pepper. On moderate heat in a Teflon pan, render the fat side down until golden brown. Lightly sear the flesh side. Brush with the molasses and pack with pastrami spice.

Monowara Hospital's Modern Renovation by
STUDIO OF STHAPATI BANGLADESH



Briefly tell us about "Studio of Sthapotic, Bangladesh" and its background?
Studio of Sthapotic, Bangladesh was started off with a concept of modern architecture with a touch of Bengali culture and heritage. We have been practicing interior designing for over twenty years now. Back then we took it in an outdated sort of manner and now we are planning to give Studio of Sthapotic a more modern look.
We focused on cultural trends and natural beauty. As a result, we incorporated many greens in all our project

What were the requirements of the project?
Monowara Hospital was a pretty big challenge as the client's requirement was to make it modern and elegant aside from being within a budget. Limited budget gives restrictions for us architectures because we get less options of elements to choose from.

When did this project start and how long did it take to complete?
The civil construction started at the beginning of 2020 and the interior designing started in 2021

How much area does this project cover?
80000 sq ft in total



WE ALWAYS TRY TO CREATE A MODERN MINIMALIST LOOK SO THAT IT DOESN'T SEEM TOO CRAMMED OR OVERLY DESIGNED.

As an architect, how do you use design elements to turn spaces into places where people want to reside?

For the interior, we had to incorporate the core elements of a hospital as they are the vital aspects of a hospital. Additionally, the space we worked on was not very big and our motto was to keep it as spacious as possible. In most hospitals, the open and working areas are pretty clumsy and crowded, so we tried to maintain the spaces as efficiently as possible.

Moreover, we tried to control hygiene, by separating the operation theater from the other sections. This may prevent contamination of the other working areas. We made sure that the other patients do not need to come close to areas that are highly contaminated by giving proper restrictions. As for the furniture, we have customized them to give them a more classic look. This made our interior quite unique and interesting. The furniture is slick, modern and minimal.

Tell us about the idea and concept behind the project.

As an architect, I believe in efficiency and functionality before anything else. This ensures that our clients do not feel that it is too much. We always try to create a modern minimalist look so that it doesn't seem too crammed or overly designed. I have seen countless interior works that have way too



THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF THIS PROJECT WAS THE SHIFTING OF ONE BUILDING TO THE OTHER. AS EACH FLOOR WAS CONSTRUCTED



many elements such as false ceiling paneling, making the working spaces narrower.
Our concept of this project was mainly playing with colors, we carried out an intensive research on color schemes. This renovation was tough for us because we did not want to ruin Monowara's image of being the first private hospital of Bangladesh. So, we rebranded Monowara completely, by changing its color theme partially from a dark royal blue to a teal blue.

What types of materials have been used in this project? Are they locally sourced?
Except for the medical equipment, all the products used in this project are locally sourced. Another great aspect of Monowara is that he wanted this renovation done with local elements.

What were the landscaping scopes in this project?
Currently we are starting to work on landscape. The second phase of the work is still going on. We are reconstructing the old building and so we did some work on the rooftop and on the ground floor. After the reconstruction is over landscaping work is going to start.

What sorts of plantations did you implement? Were they easy to source?
As for plantations, we are planning to use local and foreign plants for planting. Our client is a nature lover so he wanted more of nature into this project. After the renovation work is complete, we are going to incorporate a vertical garden on the west facade.





Tell us about the type of structure implemented.

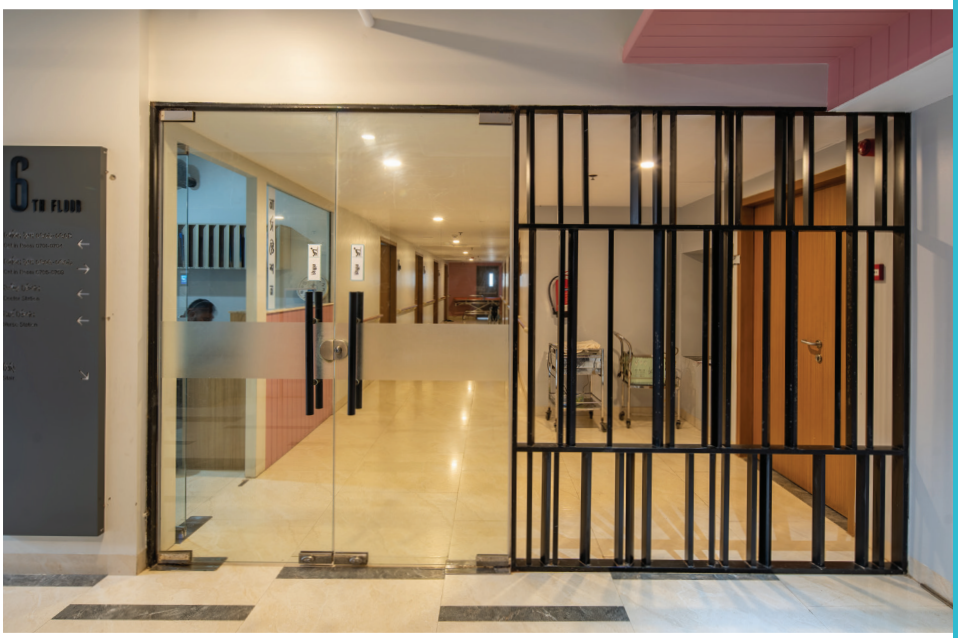
This building is a complete arsesis and we have bridges connecting in the middle, made of steel with a width of around 22 feet approximately. Three of the floors will have this connective bridge. Rest of the building is arsesis based

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

Hospitals generally have some fixed criteria for space segmentation by the book. Like I said, we gave great effort to provide the maximum amount of hygiene. The ward and the cabins are in the top stories and the kitchen is moved to the very top floor to make sure that the dump goes straight to the ETP plant.

There are two basements. The reception is on the ground floor. The first and the second floor is the OPD (outdoor patient department), the third floor consists of diagnostics, the fourth floor is our Neonatal Unit, and the fifth floor is for ICU (Intensive Care Unit). We have OT (operation theater) on the sixth floor and from seventh floor to onwards is designated for cabins and wards.

As an architect, I believe in efficiency and functionality before anything else. This ensures that our clients do not feel that it is too much.







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

The color palette was not the same for all units, we had different colors for each department. For example, for the female section we used more colors, for the male ward we used gray. As for the natal area we used a range of bright colors.

As for the lighting we explored far more on hospital lighting because we wanted to add lighting considering the patients and their well-being. So we used different types and intensity in different floors keeping the need in mind. For the OPD section we used flashy and bright lights. Conversely, in the cabins we used control lighting so that the patient can change the intensity of lumen according to the needs.

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

In terms of facade treatment, we used lacquer treatment before we applied the paint so that the paint doesn't get dull too soon. It's been more than 3 years now but the paint hasn't faded at all.

This only allowed us to work paints in a variety of ways for the façade. Monowara Hospital is a fifteen storied (150 feet) building, but you will not find any problem with its façade. There isn't any exposed brickwork, no fare-faced structure, nor any texture. The whole is painted with four different colors, this was extremely difficult because painting such a building with that many varieties of colors is not an easy feat. We tried to not make this project too vibrant or inordinately colorful. Furthermore we paid much attention to the blending of colors so that it is soothing to the eye.





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

The most challenging part of this project was the shifting of one building to the other. As each floor was constructed, we had to transfer the patients and the equipment to the floors while the construction was still going on. Construction work has a lot to do with dirt, so maintaining hygiene was a difficult thing to do.



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ZAHIDUL ISLAM
NEW MD OF BIMAN



Zahidul Islam Bhuiyan has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines. The Ministry of Public Administration recently issued a notification confirming his appointment.

Bhuiyan, an additional secretary to the Prime Minister's Office and a member of the BCS (Administration) 18th batch, brings extensive experience to his new role. He has served as the personal secretary to Salman F. Rahman, the Private Industry and Investment Adviser to the Prime Minister, for the past five and a half years.

Throughout his career, Bhuiyan has held various positions in field administration and played pivotal roles in several ministries, including industries, commerce, and expatriate welfare. Notably, he also served as First Secretary (Labour) at the Embassy of Bangladesh in South Korea.

Bhuiyan's diverse experience and dedication are expected to bring significant contributions to Biman Bangladesh Airlines, furthering its growth and development in the aviation industry.



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South Majesty, an opulent apartment project by South Breeze, graces the vicinity of Dhanmondi Lake, offering an exquisite blend of modern living and timeless elegance. Spanning 2500 square feet, this luxury residence seamlessly integrates functionality, aesthetics, and comfort.

Design Challenges and Solutions:
The project's compact footprint posed a significant challenge. However, our design team rose to the occasion, meticulously utilizing every available space. We tailored the layout to meet the client's specific functional requirements, ensuring that no corner went unused.

Aesthetic Fusion:
In pursuit of a distinctive character, we harmoniously merged contemporary and neo-classical styles. The central spaces—where elegance meets practicality—feature clean lines, subtle ornamentation, and a refined color palette. This fusion creates an individualistic pattern that sets this apartment apart.

Luxurious Amenities:
Three Fully Equipped Bedrooms: Each bedroom exudes comfort and sophistication, providing a serene retreat for residents. Modern Kitchen: The heart of the home, the kitchen boasts state-of-the-art appliances and ample storage. Laundry Room: Convenience meets functionality, making laundry chores a breeze. Dedicated Study Room: Ideal for remote work or focused study, this room offers tranquility and productivity. The adjoining rest area ensures a comfortable work-life balance.

Central Gathering Space:
The open central area, thoughtfully divided by visual screens, serves three distinct



functions: Formal Living: A sophisticated space for hosting guests and engaging in meaningful conversations, Dining: An elegant dining area where culinary delights come alive, Family Living: Defined by a raised wooden deck, a large TV, and plush sofa seating, this area encourages quality family time.

Memorable Moments Await:
Imagine evenings spent gathered around the TV, laughter echoing through the room, and cherished memories unfolding against the backdrop of South Majesty. This luxurious abode promises not just comfort but an elevated lifestyle.



















Architects

Samantha Hossain Sheetal
&
Umayed Samee

Project Location
South Majesty, Dhanmondi, 6
Interior consultant
Frame in
Photography by
Tuhin Hossain
Completion year
2023

DUCK PASTRAMI

with Grain Mustard Sauce,Brussels Sprouts & Sweet Potatoes

Yield: Four Portions

Ingredients

Duck Pastrami

- 4, 6-ounce Moulard or Peking Duck Breast
- 1 quart Honey Brine (recipe follows)
- 1½ cup Pomegranate Molasses
- 1½ cup Pastrami Spice (recipe follows)
- Salt and Pepper (to taste)

Honey Brine

- 1 quart Water
- 1½ ounce Pink Curing Salt
- 3 ounces Honey
- 3 ounces Kosher Salt
- 3 ea. Juniper Berry
- 3 sprigs Thyme (fresh)
- 1 teaspoon Black Peppercorns
- 2 ea. Star Anise
- 1 ea. Bay Leaf
- 2 teaspoons Ginger (peeled and grated)

Pastrami Spice

- 2 Tablespoons Peppercorns (coarse cracked)
- 2 Tablespoons Coriander (coarse cracked)
- 1 Tablespoon Pink Peppercorns
- 1 Tablespoon Italian Parsley (coarse chopped)



Sweet Potato Puree

- 2 ea. Sweet Potatoes
- 2 Tablespoons Butter
- 1 Tablespoon Honey
- ½ teaspoon Cloves (ground)
- ½ teaspoon Juniper Berries (ground)
- ½ teaspoon Star Anise (ground) Salt and Pepper (to taste)

Grain Mustard Sauce

- 2 Tablespoons Shallots (minced)
- 1 teaspoon Garlic (minced)
- 1 Tablespoon Butter
- ½ cup Dry Sherry Wine
- 2 cups Fortified Chicken Stock
- ½ cup Heavy Cream
- 2 Tablespoons Cornstarch (dissolved with water)
- 1 Tablespoon Whole Grain Mustard
- 1 Tablespoon Dijon Mustard Salt and Pepper (to taste)

Brussels Sprouts

- 2 cups Brussels Sprouts (chiffonade)
- 2 Tablespoons Olive Oil
- 1 teaspoon Garlic (minced)
- 2 Tablespoons Onion (minced)
- 2 Tablespoons Celery (minced)
- 2 Tablespoons Carrots (minced)
- 1 teaspoon Thyme (fresh, minced)
- 1 teaspoon Caraway Seed (coarse ground)
- ½ cup Toasted Walnuts
- Salt and Pepper (to taste)

Garnish

- 8 ea. Brussels Sprout Leaves (blanch and shock)
- 8 ea. Sweety Drop Peppers
- 2 Tablespoons Pickled Mustard Seeds (optional)
- 32 ea. Corn Shoot Leaves (optional)

Preparation

Duck Pastrami

Season with salt and pepper. On moderate heat in a Teflon pan, render the fat side down until golden brown. Lightly sear the flesh side. Brush with the molasses and pack with pastrami spice. Roast the duck at 375°F on a rack until an internal temperature of 145°F. Allow to rest for five minutes and slice length- wise on on a diagonal.

Honey Brine

Combine all the ingredients and bring to a rolling boil. Chill. Remove a thin layer of fat from the duck breast. Lightly score with a cross-hatch pattern. Brine the duck breast in the honey brine and refrigerate for six hours. Pat dry.



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2ND WESTERN
PRESIDENT'S CUP GOLF

The 2nd Western Engineering President's Cup Golf Tournament commenced recently . Major General Khan Firoz Ahmed, OSP, ndc, afwc, psc, Military Secretary at Army Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment and President of the Army Golf Club, officially launched the tournament. The inauguration was graced by several notable figures including Mr. Bashir Ahmed, Managing Director of Western Engineering Private Limited, Brigadier General Syed Ahmed Ali, PBGM, ndc (Retd), CEO of the Army Golf Club, Brigadier General Shah-Noor-Jilani, BSP, ndc, psc, Chairman of the Tournament Committee, and Lt. Colonel Saiful Islam, afwc, psc, G, Member Secretary, among other dignitaries.

The tournament attracted a diverse group



TOURNAMENT TEES OFF

of 817 amateur golfers competing across five categories: Senior, Junior, Regular, Ladies, and Veteran. This year's event saw an impressive turnout, including international participants, highlighting the growing prestige of the tournament in the global golfing community.

The award distribution ceremony was held at the Army Golf Club, with General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, SBP (Bar), OSP, NDU, PSC, PhD, the Army Chief of Bangladesh, presiding as the chief guest. He expressed his admiration for the participants' skill and sportsmanship and highlighted the tournament's role in promoting golf in Bangladesh.

The winners of the tournament were announced with much fanfare. Mr. Shaheen





Babu emerged as the overall champion, displaying exceptional prowess on the course. Other category winners included Brigadier General Jahangir Kabir (Retd) for the Veteran category, Colonel Abdul Hannan Sharif (Retd) for the Senior category, Shaila Ahsan for the Ladies category, and Master Mehran Tasin Rahman for the Junior category.

The presence of distinguished guests and the high level of competition underscored the significance of the President's Cup as a premier event in the golfing calendar. The Army Golf Club, with its well-maintained greens and excellent facilities, provided a perfect venue for the tournament, ensuring a memorable experience for all participants and attendees.

Bashir Ahmed, in his address, expressed his gratitude to the organizers, participants, and sponsors for their contributions to the tournament's success. He also emphasized the importance of such events in fostering camaraderie and a spirit of healthy competition among golfers.

The 2nd Western Engineering President's Cup Golf Tournament has not only elevated the standards of amateur golf in Bangladesh but also reinforced the country's potential as a host for international golfing events. The success of this year's tournament sets a promising precedent for future editions, encouraging greater participation and enthusiasm for the sport.


ARMY GOLF CLUB
ARMY GOLF CLUB









The Pictures are from the prize giving ceromony of 2nd Western Engineering President's Cup Golf Tournament 2024




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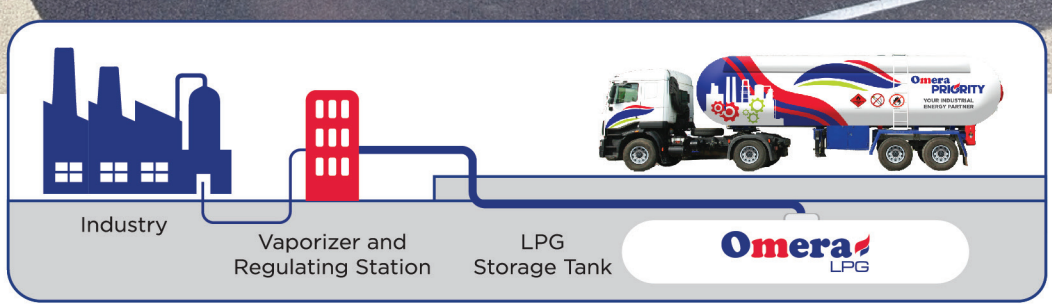



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