GOLF & BEYOND

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KURMITOLA GOLF CLUB: WHERE LEGACY MEETS TOMORROW

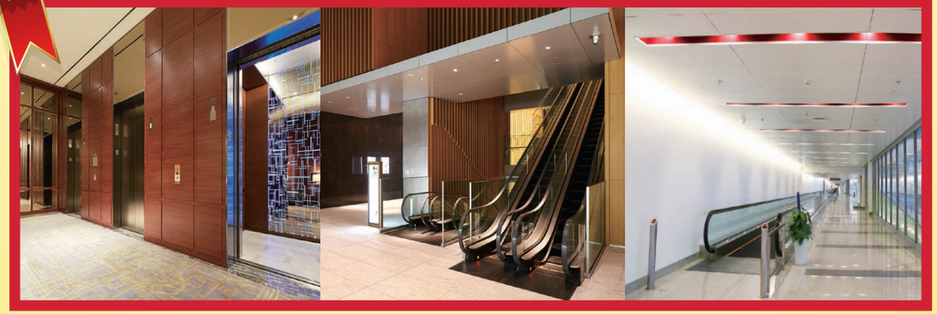


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EDITOR'S *Note*

Our Journey Towards a Dream

Dear Readers,
Step by step, Golf & Beyond has proudly reached its sixth issue. This journey has been filled with challenges, but through perseverance and the unwavering support of our readers, writers, photographers, advertisers, golfers, golf clubs, and well-wishers, we continue to move forward. To all of you, I extend my heartfelt gratitude.

From the beginning, Golf & Beyond has aimed to be more than just a magazine. Our vision is to help position Bangladesh golf on the international stage. We believe golf is not merely a sport-it is a bridge that connects nations through diplomacy, business, tourism, culture, and friendship.

This issue is particularly significant as it is being published just before Tiger Golf Club's Vietnam Golf Tour. We hope this edition will contribute to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Vietnam through the spirit of golf and further promote the concept of golf diplomacy.

We are also delighted to feature the inspiring story of Jamal Hossain, one of Bangladesh's promising young golfers. His dedication and determination remind us that with the right opportunities and support, many more Bangladeshi golfers can achieve international success.

The future of Bangladesh golf depends on a shared commitment from the Bangladesh Golf Federation, golf clubs, corporate partners, and the entire golfing community. Together, we can build a stronger foundation for the next generation and create golfers capable of competing on the world stage.

Every issue of Golf & Beyond is another step toward that dream. Let us continue this journey together-promoting golf, inspiring young talent, and proudly representing Bangladesh across the globe.

Our journey has only just begun.

Md. Zahirul Islam
Editor

MESSAGE *from the* PUBLISHER



It gives me immense pleasure to present the sixth issue of Golf & Beyond (July–September 2026), another important milestone in the journey of our magazine. What began as a vision in late 2024 has steadily evolved into a respected platform celebrating golf while also highlighting cricket, travel, tourism, and the people and stories that connect these worlds.

At Tiger Golf Club, we believe that golf is more than a sport–it is a powerful medium for friendship, discipline, unity, and inclusivity. Golf & Beyond reflects these same values. Through feature stories, exclusive interviews, insightful analyses, biographies, travel narratives, and engaging human-interest articles, we strive to promote not only the game of golf but also the rich social and cultural values it inspires.

This issue features Kurmitola Golf Club as our cover story, highlighting the remarkable transformation of one of Bangladesh's most prestigious golf courses through ongoing development initiatives. We believe this is a timely opportunity to showcase the country's growing golfing infrastructure, emerging talent, and expanding presence on the international golfing stage.

As we continue this journey, our commitment remains unchanged–to deliver high-quality, engaging, and meaningful content that serves golf enthusiasts while introducing the beauty and potential of Bangladesh's golfing community to readers at home and abroad.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our readers, contributors, editors, advertisers, and all members of Tiger Golf Club for their unwavering encouragement and support. Your confidence continues to inspire us to grow and reach new milestones.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Golf & Beyond.

Warm regards,

Brig Gen (Retd) Md. Manzur Qader
Publisher, Golf & Beyond
Vice President, TGC

CONTENT

GOLF & BEYOND

Cover Story
Kurmitola Golf Club:
Where Legacy Meets Tomorrow
GB Report 10

Golf Insights
Fairway Fables:
Golf's Most Fascinating Stories
Air Commodore Munim Khan Majlish (Retd) 20

Cricket
The Tamim Iqbal Era:
Can Bangladesh Cricket Finally Turn the Corner?
Rasadur Rahman 32

Golf Tips
Playing Golf Safely During
the Rainy Season
Dr. Nazrin Parvin 36

Golf Essentials
Essential Equipment Every
Golfer Should Know
Nasim Majumder 38

Golf Caddie
The Caddie Who Witnessed
Six Decades of Bangladesh Golf
GB Report 50

Sports Tourism
The Road to Bangladesh's Sports Tourism Growth
Kamran Siddiqui 53

Golf Economy
How Golf Can Drive Jobs in Bangladesh
Zakaria Polash 56

International Golf
Wyndham Clark's Road to Redemption
GB Desk 59

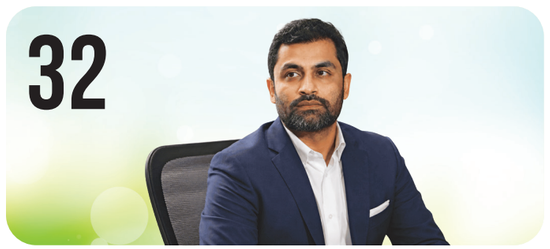
International Golf
Haeran Ryu: The New Queen of Women's Golf
GB Desk 59

KGC in Action 16
TGC Corner 41
Photo Gallery 46
Interview 6, 24, 28









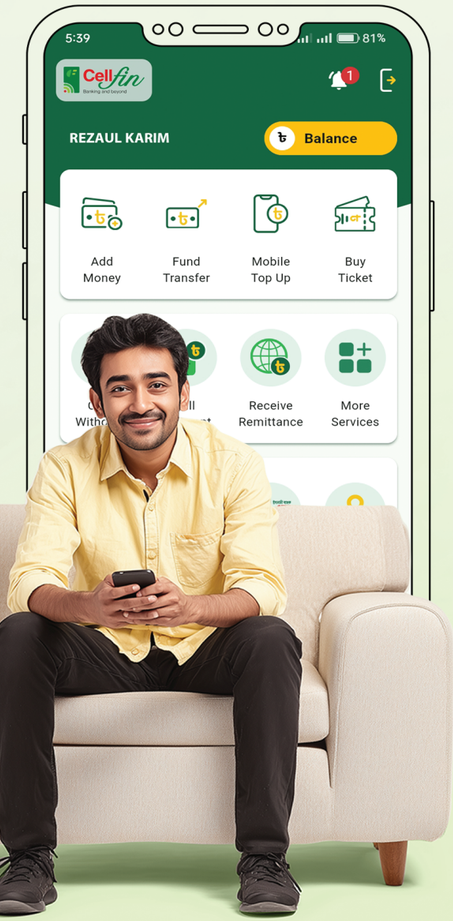


ইসলামী ব্যাংক
বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি. | ইসলামী শরী'আহ মোতাবেক পরিচালিত

সেলফিন
এক অ্যাপে সকল ব্যাংকিং

ব্যাংকিং, ই-কমার্স কিংবা পেমেন্ট
সবকিছুই এখন সেলফিন অ্যাপে।
ঘরে বসেই উপভোগ করুন দ্রুত,
নিরাপদ ও স্মার্ট ব্যাংকিং সেবা।

ডাউনলোড করতে
স্ক্যান করুন



BANGLADESH-VIETNAM: BEYOND THE FAIRWAY

This exclusive Golf & Beyond interview captures a rare early-morning round (27 March 2026) between Editor Md. Zahirul Islam and His Excellency Nguyen Manh Cuong Vietnam's Ambassador to Bangladesh. The discussion highlights the growing Bangladesh–Vietnam partnership in trade, culture, and sports, with a special focus on golf diplomacy. Topics include economic ties, cultural exchanges, and Tiger Golf Club's planned Vietnam tour, aiming to strengthen people-to-people links (friendship matches, cultural programs, and B2B meetings)

GNB Editor: Excellency, thank you for joining our morning tee time. As Vietnam and Bangladesh look toward closer ties, how do you view our current relationship and its future potential?

Ambassador of Vietnam: Good morning. I view Bangladesh as a close friend and partner. Our two countries share a similar development vision, and we see great potential in economic and cultural cooperation. Bilateral trade, while still modest, is growing steadily. Both sides aim to double trade (earlier targets aimed for $2 billion), and we are working on priority sectors like agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and technology. Beyond economics, we agree it's important to deepen cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Events like today's round help foster mutual understanding and friendship.

GNB Editor: Indeed. Golf has become a tool of diplomacy worldwide. What benefits do you see from sports and cultural exchanges between our nations?

Ambassador of Vietnam: Sports diplomacy brings our people closer. As one Vietnamese press release noted, both sides "agreed to promote cultural exchanges, tourism, and business connection, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and bringing the two countries' people closer together". I wholeheartedly agree. Exchanges like our match today and our festivals (e.g., Vietnamese cultural events in Dhaka) help our citizens learn from each other. They open doors for tourism and investment. In sports specifically, we can share expertise–for





example, Vietnam's golf industry is growing, and Bangladesh's passion is rising. These interactions strengthen our partnership beyond official meetings.

GNB Editor: Looking ahead, we understand Tiger Golf Club of Bangladesh plans to visit Vietnam this July. Could you share what has been discussed about this Vietnam golf tour?

Ambassador of Vietnam: To my knowledge, Tiger Golf Club's tour to Vietnam was discussed positively (details are being finalized). The idea is to host "friendship matches and social events "with Vietnamese golfers and officials. We also hope to arrange business and cultural visits alongside the golf–for instance, meeting local chambers or firms to explore trade in textiles, tea, and hospitality. Such a tour would include a photo session and a "cultural evening "combining Pitha and Vietnamese treats. This will be an opportunity for "people-to-people diplomacy" in action: strengthening friendship, promoting our cultures, and supporting the B2B connections discussed between our governments.



GNB Editor: Those are exciting plans. How do you envision the impact of this golf collaboration on broader Vietnam–Bangladesh ties?

Ambassador of Vietnam: Sports can be a bridge to business. Golf tours and friendship matches translate into stronger trust and familiarity. When Vietnamese and Bangladeshi players and officials share a fairway, they also share ideas–like Vietnam's experience building tourism or Bangladesh's textile industry. These interactions can lead to joint ventures or investments (for example, in sustainable agriculture and education, which we discussed during my Sylhet visit. Ultimately, our goal is that these exchanges contribute to Vietnam's vision 2045 and Bangladesh's Vision 2041 of development. Each handshake and exchanged business card on the course could help us reach our shared economic and social goals.

Golf diplomacy is strengthening Bangladesh-Vietnam relations through friendship, cultural exchange, business collaboration, and people-to-people connections, with Tiger Golf Club's planned Vietnam tour marking a significant milestone

GNB Editor: Finally, what message would you give to Bangladesh's golfers and readers about the future of our two nations' friendship?

Ambassador of Vietnam: I warmly invite all Bangladeshi golfers to visit Vietnam, experience our culture and courses, and build friendships. Our people share a spirit of resilience and hospitality. By playing together–whether at Kurmitola or on a Vietnamese green–we cement our countries' partnership. Let's continue promoting friendship both on and off the course, in business and community life. Together, Vietnam and Bangladesh can achieve much more than alone, on the fairway and beyond.



KURMITOLA GOLF CLUB: WHERE LEGACY MEETS TOMORROW

GB REPORT

Kurmitola Golf Club is entering a new era through strategic modernization and sustainable development, preserving its proud heritage while enhancing member facilities, operational excellence, and environmental responsibility for the future

Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) has long been celebrated as one of South Asia's most picturesque and professionally managed golf destinations. Over the decades, its immaculate fairways, championship-standard course, and vibrant golfing culture have earned admiration from golfers at home and abroad. Yet, as the club approaches a new chapter in its journey, the focus is shifting from preserving excellence to building the future.

Guided by a comprehensive development vision, KGC is embarking on a series of modernization initiatives designed to elevate member services, strengthen sustainability, improve staff welfare, and reinforce its position as Bangladesh's premier golf club. Rather than altering the character of the club, the projects aim to enhance every aspect of the KGC experience while preserving its heritage and natural beauty.

A Blueprint for the Next Generation

At the heart of this transformation is a long-term master plan that will provide an integrated roadmap for infrastructure development, land management, and future expansion. Following the necessary approvals, work on the master plan is now set to begin, laying the foundation for decades of orderly and sustainable growth.

The development programme extends well beyond physical infrastructure. It reflects a broader philosophy of creating a smarter, more efficient, and more welcoming club for members, guests, and the people who keep its daily operations running smoothly.

In his message for Golf & Beyond, Lt Gen Mohammad Shaheenul Haque, OSP, BSP, ndc, hdmc, psc, Vice President of the Club, said, "While preserving our rich heritage, we remain equally committed to preparing the Club for the future. Ongoing modernization initiatives will further enhance KGC's facilities and services for members and guests."

Elevating the Member Experience

Among the immediate priorities is the modernization of the clubhouse entrance experience. Plans include a redesigned registration desk, an upgraded Caddie Master Room, and a contemporary souvenir shop that will improve visitor reception, streamline operations, and strengthen the club's visual identity. Together, these facilities will provide a more seamless experience from the moment members and guests arrive.

Member comfort is another major focus. Existing male and female changing rooms will be renovated to meet modern hospitality standards, while the lobby area will receive a contemporary makeover aimed at enhancing the overall ambience of the clubhouse. The planned improvements reflect KGC's commitment to offering facilities comparable to those of leading golf clubs across the region.

Modern Infrastructure for a Modern Club

Outside the clubhouse, the proposed Maitree Sharani Gate at the Banani DOHS end is expected to become a distinctive architectural landmark, creating a stronger external identity for the club. A tensile parking shed is also planned to protect members' vehicles from Bangladesh's harsh weather while improving convenience and the visual appeal of the parking area.

Operational efficiency is receiving equal attention. The kitchen's cooling system will undergo a major upgrade to improve working conditions, hygiene, and overall efficiency.

> *Every development initiative is designed to preserve KGC's heritage while creating a world-class, sustainable golfing destination for future generations*

Meanwhile, toilet and ablution facilities at Holes 6 and 14 are scheduled for reconstruction, ensuring greater comfort for golfers throughout the course.

Driving Sustainable Growth

Perhaps the most forward-looking aspect of the development programme is its emphasis on environmental sustainability. The activation of the club's existing solar power system is

expected to reduce electricity consumption, lower operational costs, and support environmentally responsible management. By integrating cleaner energy into daily operations, KGC is positioning itself as a modern sporting institution that values both performance and sustainability.

Reflecting on the Club's broader transformation, A. S. M. Mohiuddin Monem, Chairman of the Development Committee, says every decision is guided by a simple question: "Will this make KGC stronger for the next generation without losing what generations before us worked so hard to build?" It is a philosophy rooted in stewardship rather than change for its own sake.

"KGC earned its reputation through decades of unwavering commitment to excellence," says Mr. Monem. "Our responsibility today is not simply to preserve that legacy, but to strengthen it. Every initiative we have undertaken–from the master plan and upgraded member facilities to sustainable energy solutions and the new Jame Mosque–has been carefully designed to protect the Club's unique character while creating a truly world-class environment for our members, guests and future generations."

Leadership Rooted in Legacy

KGC continues its journey under the leadership of General Waker-Uz-Zaman, SBP, OSP, SGP, psc, Chief of Army Staff, Bangladesh Army, who serves as the Club's President. Guided by his stewardship, the club is managed by a team of experienced professionals committed to preserving its proud heritage while advancing its long-term vision of excellence. Widely regarded as one of South Asia's most scenic and meticulously maintained golf courses, KGC has earned a reputation for offering an exceptional golfing experience.

A Championship Course amid Natural Beauty

A 126-acre golf course stretching 6,687 yards as a par-72 championship layout, KGC features 18 meticulously crafted holes divided into the front and back nine. Tree-lined fairways, immaculate greens, gentle water features, and carefully preserved landscapes create an environment that is both strategically demanding and visually captivating. Designed by renowned British golf course architect Frank Pennink and comprehensively redesigned in 2004 by Thailand's Dr. Sukitti Klangvisai, the course blends natural beauty with international design standards.



Kurmitola Golf Club is embracing sustainable growth, world-class infrastructure, and visionary leadership, preserving its rich heritage while creating an exceptional golfing destination for members, guests, and future generations

Today, KGC also maintains reciprocal partnerships with numerous prestigious golf clubs at home and abroad, reflecting its growing global recognition. The course is complemented by three practice greens, multiple refreshment points, and playing conditions that remain excellent throughout the year, making it equally attractive for competitive tournaments and recreational rounds.

Facilities beyond the Fairways

While golf remains at its heart, KGC has evolved into a comprehensive lifestyle destination for its members. Its facilities include an indoor golf simulator, a 200-yard, 25-bay driving range, a physiotherapy centre, a swimming pool, a gymnasium, locker and changing rooms, golf carts, a Pro Shop, conference and meeting rooms, banquet facilities, a mosque, two VIP suites, and eighteen deluxe guest suites.





The clubhouse also offers a range of restaurants and catering services for members and guests. Its spacious banquet hall, capable of accommodating around 700 guests, regularly hosts tournament dinners, corporate events, and social gatherings, supported by modern audiovisual facilities.

To nurture the next generation of golfers, KGC also organizes training programmes for beginners, reinforcing its commitment to expanding the game's reach in Bangladesh.

Putting People at the Centre

The ongoing development vision also recognizes that a great golf club depends on the people behind the scenes. Plans to relocate and upgrade the caddie canteen and restrooms will provide improved welfare facilities, reinforcing KGC's commitment to supporting the staff who contribute significantly to the club's reputation for excellence.

KGC Jame Mosque: A Landmark of Faith and Sustainable Design

Complementing the infrastructure project is the construction of the new KGC Jame Mosque, a landmark that seamlessly blends contemporary Islamic architecture with environmental responsibility.

Designed to accommodate around 500 people during prayers, the mosque incorporates passive cooling, natural ventilation, and abundant daylight while maintaining a serene architectural identity. More than a place of prayer, it has been envisioned as a symbol of community, sustainability, and timeless design within the club.

The foundation stone was laid on 1 May 2025 by the Chief of Army Staff and President of KGC, General Waker-Uz-Zaman, SBP, OSP, SGP, psc, marking the beginning of a project envisioned to become a significant spiritual and architectural landmark within the club. Construction officially commenced on 11 July 2025.

The mosque project is being realized through the generous patronage of A. S. M. Mohiuddin Monem, Additional Managing Director of Abdul Monem Limited and Chairman of KGC's Development Committee, as a 'Sadaqa'e Jaria'. His noble effort was augmented





through constant supervision and all out support from the Club Authority which ultimately turned the vision into reality. The architectural vision was developed by architect M. N. Zahidul Islam Khan, a distinguished member of KGC, and his practice, ZHN ARCHITECHTS & INREN Ltd., serving as the design consultants.

Home to Bangladesh's Premier Golf Events

KGC remains the country's leading venue for competitive golf. Although members enjoy the course year-round, the official tournament season runs from mid-September to April.

Among its flagship events are the Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship (BAGC) and tournaments on the Asian Tour, both of which attract leading golfers from across the region and beyond. Throughout the season, the club hosts numerous competitions supported by Bangladesh's corporate sector, foreign diplomatic missions, and KGC itself, further strengthening its position as the nation's premier stage for championship golf.

A Shared Vision for the Future

Unlike many modernization projects that focus solely on new buildings, KGC's approach is holistic. It combines strategic planning, environmental stewardship, hospitality, operational efficiency, and human-centred development into a single long-term vision.

The phased implementation recommended by the Development Committee will ensure that projects are delivered according to operational priorities and available resources while maintaining uninterrupted club activities.

As Bangladesh's golfing landscape continues to evolve, KGC is positioning itself not merely as the country's premier golf destination but as a model for how sporting institutions can grow responsibly. With thoughtful planning, sustainable design, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, KGC is ensuring that its finest chapters are still ahead.









Message from the **Vice President**

It gives me great pleasure to know that Golf & Beyond magazine is featuring Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) as its cover story in the July–September edition. As one of Bangladesh's leading sporting institutions, KGC has, for decades, represented excellence in golf while fostering a vibrant community founded on sportsmanship, camaraderie, and respect for tradition.

With its beautifully maintained premier golf course, year-round tournaments, and training programmes, KGC continues to inspire golfers of all ages and abilities. The Club has also played a vital role in nurturing golfing talent in Bangladesh and promoting the country on the international stage through prestigious competitions and enduring partnerships.

While preserving our rich heritage, we remain equally committed to preparing the Club for the future. Ongoing modernization initiatives will further enhance KGC's facilities and services for members and guests. I congratulate the editorial team of Golf & Beyond for showcasing KGC's remarkable journey and wish the magazine continued success in promoting the game of golf.

Lt Gen Mohammad Shaheenul Haque, OSP, BSP, ndc, hdmc, psc
Vice President
Kurmitola Golf Club





Message from the **Chairman, Development Committee**

It is a matter of immense pride and great satisfaction to see Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) featured as the cover story of the sixth edition of Golf & Beyond magazine. This recognition is a testament to KGC's distinguished legacy, its unwavering pursuit of excellence, and its enduring reputation as one of the region's most respected institutions for golf, hospitality, and member experience. For decades, KGC has stood as a symbol of tradition, excellence, and prestige. As Chairman of the Development Committee, I firmly believe that preserving this remarkable legacy demands more than stewardship–it requires vision, innovation, and the determination to build for the future. Our responsibility is not only to protect what previous generations have so thoughtfully created but also to strengthen and elevate the Club for those who will inherit it in the years to come.

Guided by this philosophy, we have embarked on a comprehensive long-term Master Plan that will shape the future of KGC through strategic planning, modern infrastructure, and sustainable development. This transformative journey encompasses a series of carefully phased initiatives, including the modernization of member reception facilities, changing rooms, the clubhouse lobby, caddie services, parking infrastructure, and other essential amenities designed to enhance both functionality and comfort. Beyond infrastructure, our vision embraces a broader commitment to sustainability and people. We continue to invest in staff welfare, optimize the benefits of our existing solar energy system, and create a contemporary club environment that is both environmentally responsible and warmly welcoming. Every development initiative is guided by a single objective: to enrich the experience of our members while preserving the timeless character and traditions that define KGC.

Among the projects closest to my heart is the construction of the KGC Masjid–a landmark initiative that reflects our shared values of faith, unity, and community. It has been both a privilege and a deeply personal honor for my family and me to contribute to this meaningful endeavor. I sincerely pray that this Masjid will continue to serve as a place of spiritual reflection, harmony, and service for generations to come. The remarkable progress we are witnessing today is made possible through the visionary leadership of our respected President, Vice President, the unwavering dedication of the Executive Committee, and the steadfast support and trust of our valued members. Their collective commitment has created the momentum that is transforming our shared vision into reality.

As we continue this journey, we remain focused on honoring our proud heritage while embracing the opportunities of tomorrow. With thoughtful planning, responsible development, and a shared commitment to excellence, I am confident that KGC will further strengthen its position as one of South Asia's premier golfing destinations and continue to set new benchmarks of excellence for the region.

A. S. M. Mohiuddin Monem
Chairman, Development Committee
Kurmitola Golf Club



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AIR COMMODORE MUNIM KHAN MAJLISH (RETD)

What a wonderful round of golf we had on a sunny winter morning at Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC). At Hole Number-3, all of us made PAR. I had a Birdie on Hole Number-6, and all my fellow companions made PAR. The most fascinating moment for me was scoring another Birdie on Hole Number-8. After having a great round of golf, we joined the breakfast session with fellow members of Tiger Golf Club (TGC). It used to be an interesting event for all of us to interact and share our experiences while playing that day, and to be charmed by the personalities of humorous individuals. When we were halfway through the delicious menu, Mr. Nasim reminded our Vice President about the compensation for losing a ball (Tk. 100 for each loss).





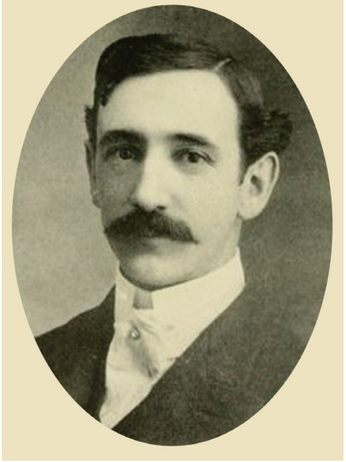
Golfer and Golf Writer Bill Collins (1928-2006); ***Photo:*** *PGA of America*

I was so happy that I did not lose any ball that day. To my utter surprise, Brig Gen Manzur Sir, who is an excellent anchor and conducts programmes very lucidly, asked whether anyone had made a Birdie or not, as the compensation for that was Tk. 500 per Birdie. I had to pay Tk. 1,000 for my two Birdies with a smiling face. Interestingly, I noticed Mr. Nasim make a chip shot that went up to the edge of the green but travelled back down towards the fairway again from the slope. I narrated the incident, and our VP gladly announced a penalty of Tk. 500 for such an unusual incident. All of us burst into hearty laughter and had a great golfing day over the weekend.

I often wonder why we term one under PAR as a "Birdie." Then I started exploring the internet and got the answer. The most widely accepted story dates the term "Birdie" to the late 1890s and early 1900s, when golf scoring terms were being standardized and popularized in writing. American golfer and golf writer Bill Collins initiated the standardization of a playful vocabulary in which PAR was the baseline "expected" score and Birdie meant finishing a hole in one stroke under PAR. The term "Birdie" was chosen because it carried a positive, upbeat feel in older sports slang, making the achievement sound like a little piece of good fortune. It was then broadly accepted because it was easy to pronounce, fun to repeat, and instantly communicated the exact meaning: one under PAR.

My beloved friend Mr. X often declares before taking the first tee shot at Hole Number-1, "Dosto, we will have three mulligans in nine holes." So, whenever his ball falls into the sweet water of the pond, he takes a mulligan. At the end of the first round, at Hole Number-9, he often declares a ball for achieving PAR, and he often gets that despite playing three mulligans on other holes. Despite playing a decent game without losing a ball, I often had to pose for the camera while handing over my favourite golf ball to the winner of the 9th hole. I often noticed many of our excellencies making shots directly into the pond, but others immediately used to shout, "It was a mulligan, no worries, take another shot."

Then I started enquiring why we call this a "Mulligan" in golf. A mulligan means a free "do-over" shot after a bad stroke, usually used only in friendly rounds and never allowed under the official rules or in tournaments. The most widely accepted story involves David Bernard Mulligan, a Canadian businessman and amateur golfer in Montreal in the 1920s. After hitting a poor driving shot, he immediately used to tee off another ball and declared it a "correction shot." His friends jokingly started calling such a second attempt a "mulligan," and the name spread throughout the golfing community thereafter. Today, the word "mulligan" is used beyond golf to mean a second chance or a fresh start in many games and even in everyday conversation.



David Bernard Mulligan (1890-1945); ***Photo:*** *Find a Grave*

> *"Golf is more than scores and swings-it is friendship, laughter, second chances, and unforgettable stories that make every round truly memorable*

We used to play nine holes after work in the afternoon. However, on Fridays and Saturdays, we intend to play in the morning so that we remain free to attend social programmes in the evening. "Hey, may we join you if you are alone, please?" I received such a friendly approach from a Korean couple on a Friday morning. I have always sought to make friends while playing golf since the beginning of my golfing journey. I gladly accepted their offer, and we played nine holes, exchanged ideas, shared stories, and, obviously, experienced immense happiness. After completing the front nine, one of the finest Korean couples living in Bangladesh proposed that I play another round on the back nine. We even played another round on the front



St Andrews Ladies Golf Club; ***Photo:*** *Forgotten Greens of Scotland*

nine after having lunch and spent an eventful day on the golf course. Suddenly, I asked myself, why does a proper golf course have 18 holes, and not 20 or some other number?

Golf courses commonly have 18 holes today mainly because of a historical "standardization" that made courses easier to organize for play and for tournaments. In the early days of golf (particularly in Scotland), courses often had fewer or more holes, and the layout could differ depending on the land and local customs. "Hole" originally meant more like a target or spot–not a fixed, standardized unit across the country.

A common opinion regarding how 18 holes became standardized is that the Old Course at St Andrews in Scotland, in the mid-19th century (around the 1850s), became the most influential model. St Andrews is famously known for its two loops of 9 holes ("out" and "in"). Golfers played those loops so often that the "two nines = full round" concept became popular and was widely adopted. I had one of my most satisfying rounds of golf in the recent past at Army Golf Club (AGC) last month. I played all Bogeys and finished with a gross score of 45 over nine holes. My friend Max started with a PAR and played a Birdie on Hole Number-4, startling me at the beginning. I tried to remain focused and eventually finished two under PAR and won the day's encounter. A fellow non-golfer asked me, "Do you play golf in marshy land? Why do you count your score as bogey?" We all laughed at his remarks, but they certainly struck my mind, and I wondered why we define the score as bogey and not something else.

My good friend Internet had all the answers immediately. The term "Bogey" entered golf around 1890 in England, particularly at Great Yarmouth Golf Club. A golfer named Charles (C.A.) Wellman reportedly compared the target score on a hole to the popular "Bogey Man"–an elusive character from a well-known song of the era. The nickname gained popularity quickly among golfers. By 1892, many golfers had personified this imaginary opponent as "Colonel Bogey," and competitions were sometimes even held against that imaginary figure. At that time, a bogey was actually what we now call PAR–the score a golfer was expected to make. Only later, in the early 20th century, did the meaning shift to one stroke over PAR. A fascinating twist is that bogey originally meant a good target score, not a bad one. Later, as golf evolved and the modern concept of PAR became standard, Bogey came to mean one stroke over PAR.



Just Bogey; ***Photo:*** *Golf & Beyond*



The Historic Clubhouse of Musselburgh Golf Club

We often challenge each other to make a hole-in-one at Hole Number-6 at KGC or Hole Number-4 at AGC. We always try to hit as accurately as possible, and as a result, the ball often falls into the two beautiful bunkers (which seem like holes but are bigger in size) around the green. We ultimately fail to achieve the desired hole-in-one and certainly envy those who regularly make such a score and receive recognition from the club, sometimes even the lucrative award of a car in tournaments. Oh! Why is the hole so small in size and not anything else?

> *From the origins of the 18-hole round and the evolution of the term "Bogey" to the famous 4.25-inch golf hole, this journey uncovers the fascinating history, traditions, and timeless stories that continue to shape the modern game of golf*

My study of the size of the hole reveals that the standard golf hole is 4.25 inches (108 mm) in diameter and at least 4 inches (101.6 mm) deep. In 1829, at the historic Royal Musselburgh Golf Club in Scotland, greenskeepers used a metal pipe to cut holes on the greens. The pipe happened to be 4.25 inches in diameter, and golfers became accustomed to that size. Earlier, hole sizes varied from course to course because holes were cut by hand. In 1891, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (R&A), one of golf's governing bodies along with the United States Golf Association (USGA), adopted 4.25 inches as the official hole diameter in its rules. Since the Royal Musselburgh hole cutter was widely respected and used, its size became the worldwide standard. Interestingly, one of golf's most famous measurements was not the result of any scientific research or careful calculation–it became the standard simply because a Scottish club happened to have a hole-cutting tool that was 4.25 inches wide.

In golf, as in life, the fewer mistakes you make, the better your score–but somehow, the mistakes make the best stories. At the end of the day, golf proves that chasing a tiny ball into a tiny hole can create very big memories.

Air Commodore Munim Khan Majlish, BUP, BPP, psc (Retired)
Researcher, author and expert in aviation

AMBASSADOR'S REFLECTIONS

BANGLADESH-NEPAL PARTNERSHIP:

BEST CHAPTERS ARE YET TO BE WRITTEN



Golf has long served as a platform for friendship, dialogue and diplomacy beyond the fairways. Since arriving in Bangladesh in late 2022, Nepal's Ambassador to Bangladesh, His Excellency Ghanshyam Bhandari, has embraced that spirit through his active association with Tiger Golf Club. In this exclusive interview with Golf & Beyond, Ambassador Bhandari reflects on the growing golfing communities of Nepal and Bangladesh, the potential of golf tourism and sports diplomacy, and the expanding partnership between the two neighbouring countries.

Excellency Ambassador, you became a member of Tiger Golf Club from the very beginning of your diplomatic journey in Bangladesh. How has the experience been so far, and what has impressed you most about the club and Bangladesh's golfing community?

Well, it has been a truly rewarding experience. Beyond the game itself, my association with Tiger Golf Club (TGC) has given me the opportunity to connect with people from diverse backgrounds in a warm and welcoming environment. What has impressed me most is the enthusiasm and camaraderie of Bangladesh's golf community. Needless to say, golf has a unique way of bringing people together, fostering friendship, trust and mutual understanding–the values that are just as important in diplomacy. I commend the TGC for playing an important role in promoting these values and the very spirit of connection.

> *Bangladesh has a growing and vibrant golf community, and I believe the country has significant potential to develop a thriving golf tourism sector of its own.*

It is also encouraging to see the sport growing steadily in Bangladesh, with more young people and professionals taking up the game. Not least because of this, I believe golf has a very bright future here, and I am delighted to be a part of it.

Since assuming your role as Ambassador to Bangladesh, what have been your first impressions of the country? How do you see the long-standing friendship between Nepal and Bangladesh evolving in the years ahead?

Bangladesh has impressed me with the warmth, friendship and hospitality of its people. It is a country with rich cultural traditions and a strong sense of identity. The dynamism of its young population, its growing economic potential, and the ambition with which Bangladesh continues to move forward are remarkable.

Nepal and Bangladesh enjoy a long-standing friendship rooted in mutual respect, shared aspirations and close people-to-people connections. Our partnership has grown steadily over the years, and I believe the future holds even greater promise. Through stronger cooperation in trade, connectivity, energy, education, tourism and cultural exchanges, our two countries can further deepen this bilateral relationship for the mutual benefit of our peoples.



Nepal and Bangladesh share close cultural ties and are working to deepen cooperation in trade, tourism, energy and connectivity. Which areas do you believe hold the greatest potential for strengthening bilateral relations?

Nepal and Bangladesh have immense potential to expand cooperation across a wide range of sectors. Among them, hydropower, tourism, trade and investment, and connectivity offer particularly promising opportunities. The recent commencement of power trade between our two countries marks a significant milestone, and provides a strong foundation for building a more robust energy partnership.

Having said this, however, given the geographical proximity and the excellent relationship our two countries share, I believe the best chapters of our economic partnership are yet to be written. There are also significant opportunities in agriculture, education, information technology, and cultural exchanges. By fostering stronger business-to-business linkages and promoting greater people-to-people contacts, we can unlock new avenues of cooperation and shared prosperity.

Nepal is internationally renowned for its breathtaking mountain landscapes and has several picturesque golf courses set against the backdrop of the Himalayas. How do you see the potential for golf tourism, and what lessons can Bangladesh's emerging golf sector learn from Nepal's experience?

You are right. Nepal is gaining recognition as a niche golf destination, where world-class courses offer truly distinctive experiences amidst breathtaking natural landscapes. In Nepal,



we are promoting golf not only as a sport but also as part of a broader tourism experience that includes nature, culture, adventure and wellness. In this connection, I recall the TGC-organized golf tour in October 2023, which brought a group of approximately 40 golfers to Nepal and in which I was also a participant. That was an example of how golf tourism can help strengthen people-to-people ties.

Similarly, Bangladesh has a growing and vibrant golf community, and I believe the country has significant potential to develop a thriving golf tourism sector of its own. To enhance golf tourism between our two countries, we must build stronger linkages among golf clubs, tourism agencies and the private sector, creating new opportunities for collaboration and exchange.

Around the world, golf has become more than just a sport–it is also a platform for business networking and sports diplomacy. How do you see golf contributing to stronger people-to-people, business and diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and Nepal?

The future of South Asia depends on greater cooperation, mutual trust and stronger people-to-people connections, with youth leading progress together

Beyond the boundaries of sport, golf provides a platform for building lasting relationships and informal diplomacy. As a game built on discipline, friendship, and respect, it also promotes opportunities for networking and cultural exchanges. For our two countries, golf can serve as a bridge connecting leaders from government, business, and civil society as well as promising golfers. It can create space for dialogue, diplomacy, and mutual understanding in an informal setting. Such engagements can be instrumental to complement diplomatic efforts and strengthen business networks.

Golf is gradually gaining popularity in both Bangladesh and Nepal. Do you see opportunities for collaboration in areas such as golf development, coaching, youth exchanges, tournaments and sports tourism between the two countries?

Absolutely. There is considerable scope for collaboration, including through coaching programs, training exchanges, friendly tournaments and partnerships between golf clubs to further develop the sport in both countries. With this in mind, we are making efforts to establish formal agreements between golf clubs in Nepal and Bangladesh. I strongly believe that both countries can benefit from sharing expertise, organizing tournaments and exchanging visits. As the golf community continues to grow in our two countries, investments in quality courses, training facilities and international tournaments will also be critical.

Finally, what message would you like to share with the people of Bangladesh–especially young professionals, entrepreneurs and aspiring golfers–about the importance of regional cooperation, leadership and building stronger Bangladesh-Nepal ties through sports and people-to-people connections?

My message is one of optimism and partnership. I believe that only a few bilateral relations between two close neighbours embody the promise and potential such as the ones Nepal and Bangladesh do. Realizing them requires the collective efforts of not only our governments but also our young people, entrepreneurs, professionals and civil society.

I encourage our youth to build friendships across borders, embrace opportunities for collaboration and continue learning from one another. The future of South Asia depends on greater cooperation, mutual trust and stronger connections at the people-to-people level. Young professionals, entrepreneurs and athletes have a vital role in shaping that future.



CONFIDENCE, CONSISTENCY AND COMMITMENT

THE JOURNEY BEHIND A CHAMPION

Fresh from his triumph at the CAS Cup Professional Golf Tournament, Bangladesh's leading professional golfer Jamal Hossain continues to cement his place among the country's finest players. In this exclusive interview with Golf & Beyond, he reflects on his latest victory, the mindset behind his consistent performances, the challenges he has overcome throughout his career, and his ambitions of competing on golf's biggest international stages.

Congratulations on winning the CAS Cup Professional Golf Tournament. How challenging was the road to the title, and what was the toughest moment?

Every golf tournament is challenging because the country's best golfers compete. I don't focus on any particular challenge; for me, the key is to play consistently over four days. Although I won the title, I still feel I didn't perform at my absolute best and expected a better score. Winning a trophy presented by the Chief of Army Staff, however, was a dream come true and gave me extra motivation throughout the tournament.

Which opponent put you under the most pressure? What was your strategy in the final round?

I never play against a particular opponent. My biggest opponent is myself. I believe that if I can play my own

Believe in yourself, work hard, stay patient, and success in golf will follow through consistent practice and discipline





My biggest opponent is myself. If I can play my own game, the results will follow



game, the results will follow. After the opening round, I was confident I could improve over the remaining days. My strategy in the final round was simply to stay focused on my own performance. I also prepared by practicing two to three hours more than usual before the tournament.

How was your experience playing at Jolshiri Golf Course? What makes it unique?

Jolshiri is a beautiful course with tremendous potential. Since it is still relatively new, many of the trees are small. In another five to seven years, when they mature, I believe it will become one of the most challenging courses in Bangladesh. Right now, players can still hit shots over many of the trees, but that will no longer be possible in the future, making course management much more demanding.

You have been remarkably consistent over the past few seasons, including on the PGTI Tour. What has been the key to maintaining that form?

Mental freshness is extremely important in golf, and I get that strength from my family. My wife, in particular, has been my greatest supporter. Whenever I have a disappointing round, she reminds me that one bad day doesn't define a golfer and encourages me to bounce back. My family also takes care of my responsibilities at home, allowing me to focus fully on training and competition.

After Siddikur Rahman, you are widely regarded as one of Bangladesh's most successful international golfers. What has been the biggest struggle in your journey?

Financial limitations were my biggest challenge in the early years. Even after making the national team, I often couldn't afford to compete abroad. Everything changed when Runner Group came forward to sponsor me in 2010. Today, Paragon Group continues to support my career. I am also grateful to the Bangladesh Army for its encouragement. Without the support of my family, sponsors and institutions, reaching this stage would have been impossible.

What are your goals for the coming years?

My immediate goal is to qualify for the Asian Tour and achieve strong results there. Looking further ahead, I dream of competing on the PGA Tour.

How do you assess the current state of golf in Bangladesh?

Bangladeshi golf has improved significantly. Earlier, only two or three golfers competed internationally. Now, eight to ten players regularly participate in overseas events. I believe the future is bright, and our golfers will continue to bring more recognition to Bangladesh.

What advice would you give to young golfers?

Believe in yourself, work hard and never lose confidence. Success in golf comes through discipline, patience and consistent practice. Always strive to play your best, regardless of the circumstances.



THE TAMIM IQBAL ERA:
CAN BANGLADESH CRICKET FINALLY TURN THE CORNER?

RASADUR RAHMAN

Tamim Iqbal's leadership promises a long-term vision for Bangladesh cricket through stronger domestic structures, modern infrastructure, regional development, and sustainable reforms rather than immediate success or quick fixes

For much of the past decade, Bangladesh cricket has been a story of unrealized potential. Despite producing world-class cricketers, memorable victories over major teams and a passionate fan base, the country's cricket structure has often been criticized for inconsistent planning, weak grassroots development and administrative uncertainty.

Now, a familiar face has stepped into the boardroom with an ambitious vision. Former Bangladesh National Team captain Tamim Iqbal, who was recently elected president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), has made it clear that his administration is not promising miracles. Instead, he is promising a foundation for long-term change.

His message has been refreshingly realistic. "We're not doing anything that will completely transform Bangladesh cricket 360 degrees overnight, but this is a start," Tamim said while outlining his roadmap for the future.

A Different Kind of Leadership

Tamim's appointment marks one of the biggest transitions in Bangladesh cricket. Unlike many previous administrators, he arrives directly from the dressing room. Having represented Bangladesh in nearly two decades of international cricket, Tamim understands the system's strengths and weaknesses better than most. His credibility comes not from politics but from experience–having witnessed first-hand the gaps in player development, facilities and long-term planning.

But Tamim appears determined to avoid making unrealistic promises. Rather than speaking about instant success, he has consistently stressed patience, structural reform and sustainable growth. That alone represents a notable shift in tone.

A World-Class High Performance Centre in Vision

Among all the initiatives Tamim has announced, none stands out more than his vision of building a world-class High Performance (HP) Centre in Purbachal, which could bring a lot of potential cricketers into the pipeline of the national team. Tamim has openly described the project as his biggest dream.

The current High Performance setup inside the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium has long been considered inadequate for a modern cricket nation. While it has served its purpose over the years, it lacks many of the facilities available in leading cricket countries. Tamim wants to change that. Instead of simply accepting an existing architectural design, he revealed that he rejected it after taking office because it did not meet his expectations.



He has already spoken with the international design company responsible for the original plans and requested a complete redesign before construction begins. His vision goes far beyond practice nets.

A modern HP Centre could include advanced training facilities, indoor and outdoor wickets, sports science laboratories, rehabilitation units, strength and conditioning complexes, accommodation for players and specialized coaching infrastructure. It could become the heart of Bangladesh's future cricket development if completed successfully.

Looking Beyond the National Team

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of Tamim's plans is that they are not limited to the senior national side. One of his major proposals is restructuring domestic cricket by introducing a second-tier three-day competition under the National Cricket League.

The idea is simple but significant. Hundreds of talented cricketers currently have limited opportunities to progress once they fall outside elite domestic competitions. According to Tamim, the new structure could provide meaningful competitive cricket for another 150 to 200 players. That would considerably widen Bangladesh's talent pool.

In countries such as Australia, England and India, strong domestic structures ensure that international teams always have a pipeline of ready-made replacements. Bangladesh has often struggled in this regard. Tamim's proposal attempts to address exactly that issue.



> *'We're not doing anything that will completely transform Bangladesh cricket 360 degrees overnight, but this is a start,' Tamim said while outlining his roadmap for the future*

Cricket beyond Dhaka

Another longstanding criticism of Bangladesh cricket has been its excessive dependence on Mirpur. While Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium remains the country's cricket headquarters, many regional venues receive little meaningful cricket throughout the year.

Tamim wants to revive home-and-away domestic competitions. "If there is a ground in Khulna and it's suitable, why shouldn't we play there? The same goes for Barishal and Rajshahi," he explained.

Expanding cricket beyond the capital would not only strengthen regional participation but also help identify talent from districts that often remain overlooked.



Investing in Infrastructure
Infrastructure improvement forms another key pillar of Tamim's roadmap. Plans include installing a massive canopy over sections of Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium to improve spectator comfort. The board is also exploring solar energy installations at stadiums, reducing operational costs while promoting environmental sustainability.

Although such projects may not directly improve Bangladesh's batting or bowling overnight, they represent investment in the game's long-term ecosystem. Modern cricket increasingly demands professional facilities both for players and spectators.

Restoring Bangladesh's Reputation
Tamim has repeatedly acknowledged that Bangladesh cricket's image has suffered internationally in recent years. Administrative controversies, inconsistent performances and governance issues have damaged confidence both inside and outside the country.

He believes rebuilding that reputation cannot be achieved by one individual alone. Instead, he has called for collective responsibility across the board, the administration and the cricket community. This recognition itself is important. Successful cricket boards around the world thrive on transparency, professionalism and stability–qualities Bangladesh has sometimes struggled to maintain.

The Tamim Iqbal era will ultimately be judged not by promises made, but by the stronger, more sustainable cricket system it leaves behind

Why Expectations Must Remain Realistic
Despite the optimism surrounding Tamim's appointment, it is equally important to remain grounded. Building world-class facilities requires substantial financial investment. Restructuring domestic cricket demands careful planning. Improving coaching systems, talent identification and governance cannot happen within a few months.

Even Tamim himself has urged supporters not to expect instant transformation. His emphasis on gradual improvement may disappoint those hoping for immediate results, but history suggests lasting sporting success is rarely built overnight.

Countries like England and New Zealand spent years reforming their domestic systems before achieving sustained international success. Bangladesh's journey is unlikely to be any different.

The Road Ahead
Bangladesh cricket possesses experienced players, emerging youngsters and millions of passionate supporters. What it has often lacked is a consistent long-term roadmap.

Rather than focusing only on short-term results, Tamim Iqbal's administration is focusing on long-term solutions through a High Performance Centre, stronger domestic competitions, regional cricket development and better infrastructure.

In the end, success will depend on three things: enough funding, proper execution and staying committed to the plans for years to come. But for now, the early signs indicate a leadership focused less on quick fixes and more on building sustainable foundations.

That may ultimately prove to be Tamim Iqbal's greatest contribution–not simply winning matches, but creating an environment where future generations of Bangladeshi cricketers have every opportunity to do so.

The Tamim Iqbal era will ultimately be judged not by promises made, but by the stronger, more sustainable cricket system it leaves behind.

The writer is a senior sports journalist based in Dhaka

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PLAYING GOLF SAFELY DURING THE RAINY SEASON

DR. NAZRIN PARVIN

The rainy season offers pleasant weather and beautiful fairways, but it also increases the risk of injuries. Although Bangladesh-specific research on golfers is limited, international studies show that more than half of amateur golfers (56.6%) experience a golf-related musculoskeletal injury during their lifetime, with the lower back, wrist, and elbow being the most commonly affected areas. In Bangladesh, 18.6% of adults suffer from low back pain, making injury prevention even more important.



10 Health Tips for Rainy Season Golf

- Warm up for 10–15 minutes before playing.
- Wear waterproof golf shoes with good grip to prevent slipping.
- Protect your back by maintaining balance and avoiding overly aggressive swings.
- Keep your hands and grips dry to improve club control.
- Stay hydrated, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Stop play immediately if there is thunder or lightning.



Golf is one of the healthiest lifetime sports, but rainy-season safety is essential for staying healthy and enjoying the game for years

- Change wet clothes after your round to avoid muscle stiffness and illness.
- Keep your feet dry to prevent blisters and fungal infections.
- Maintain regular fitness, especially core strength and flexibility.
- Don't ignore persistent pain–seek medical advice early.

Doctor's Advice

Golf is one of the healthiest lifetime sports, but playing safely is just as important as playing well. During the monsoon, a little extra preparation can prevent injuries and help you enjoy the game throughout the season.

Remember: The best golfer is not only the one with the lowest score, but the one who stays healthy enough to enjoy the game for years to come.



Dr. Nazrin Parvin
National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital, Mohakhali, Dhaka

THE GOLFER'S ARSENAL

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT EVERY GOLFER SHOULD KNOW

NASIM MAJUMDER

Understanding your golfing arsenal is the first step toward enjoying the game and improving performance



Golf is a game where equipment becomes an extension of the player. Every club and accessory has a specific purpose, helping golfers achieve greater distance, improved accuracy, better control, and increased confidence. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced player, understanding your golfing arsenal is the first step toward enjoying the game and improving performance.



The Golf Clubs

A golfer may carry up to 14 clubs, each designed for a particular type of shot.



Driver: The longest club, used primarily from the tee to achieve maximum distance.



Fairway Woods: Ideal for long shots from the fairway or tee, offering distance with greater forgiveness than a driver.



Hybrids: Combining the best features of woods and irons, hybrids are easier to hit from rough, fairway bunkers, and difficult lies.



Irons (3–9): The workhorses of the bag, used for approach shots of varying distances. Lower-numbered irons generate more distance, while higher-numbered irons provide greater control.



Wedges: Precision scoring clubs used around the green. The Pitching, Gap, Sand, and Lob Wedges help execute approach shots, bunker play, chips, and delicate high shots.



Putter: The most frequently used club, designed to roll the ball smoothly into the hole and often considered the key to low scores.

The Essentials

Beyond the clubs, several items are indispensable during every round:



Golf Ball: Modern multi-layer balls are engineered to optimize distance, spin, feel, and control.



Golf Bag: Available as stand, cart, or staff bags, it carries clubs, apparel, accessories, and personal items throughout the round.



Golf Tees: Used to elevate the ball for the opening shot on each hole.



Golf Glove: Enhances grip, comfort, and control while reducing blisters.



Golf Shoes: Provide stability, balance, and traction during the swing.



Golf Towel & Club Brush: Keep clubs, balls, and hands clean for consistent performance.



Head Covers: Protect clubs from scratches and impact during transport.

Technology & Course Accessories

Modern golf embraces technology to enhance performance and course management.



Laser Rangefinder and GPS Golf Watch help golfers measure distances accurately and select the right club.



Ball Marker and Divot Repair Tool are essential for maintaining etiquette and preserving the condition of the greens.



Push/Pull Trolley and Golf Cart reduce fatigue while transporting equipment around the course.



Golf Umbrella, Cap or Visor, and Rain Gear provide protection against changing weather conditions.



Golf Ball Retriever, Scorecard Holder, and even a simple Pencil are practical additions that make every round more enjoyable.

Practice Aids

Improvement comes through practice. Alignment sticks, putting mats, and swing trainers help golfers refine their stance, alignment, tempo, and putting stroke, making practice sessions more productive.



Dress the Part

Golf attire combines comfort, performance, and tradition. Collared shirts, tailored trousers or shorts, golf shoes, and weather-appropriate outerwear ensure both freedom of movement and adherence to club dress codes.

Respect the Game

No golfer's arsenal is complete without the values that define the sport. Respect for fellow players, knowledge of the Rules of Golf, maintaining a good pace of play, caring for the course, and displaying honesty and sportsmanship are as important as any club in the bag.

Caring for Your Equipment

Regular cleaning of clubs and golf balls, keeping grooves free from dirt, drying equipment after play, inspecting grips, and storing clubs in a cool, dry place will improve performance and extend the life of your equipment.

Writers Note: A golfer's equipment reflects preparation, discipline, and respect for the game. While technology continues to advance, success in golf ultimately depends not on the equipment itself, but on the skill, judgment, and character of the player who carries the bag.

Nasim Majumder
Associate Editor, Golf & Beyond
Editor, Dhaka Rotary News, Rotary Club of Dhaka (Founded in 1937)
Secretary, South Asian Fellowship of Golfing Rotarians (SAFGR), Bangladesh
Director, ADN Technologies, ADN group, Bangladesh

TGC CORNER

Saturday Fellowship of the Tigers

The Saturday gathering of Tiger Golf Club has evolved into one of the Club's most cherished traditions and enduring symbols of fellowship. Almost every Saturday, members of the Club assemble, predominantly at Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka, and occasionally at other prestigious golf courses, to enjoy a friendly round of golf and the camaraderie that has become the hallmark of the Tigers.

Following the completion of nine holes, members convene over breakfast for an engaging and vibrant fellowship session. These gatherings transcend the game itself, providing a unique forum where friendship is strengthened, experiences are shared, and the spirit of togetherness is celebrated in an atmosphere of warmth, humour, and mutual respect.

The Saturday fellowship also serves as an important platform for many of the Club's activities and traditions. It is during these occasions that new members are formally welcomed into the Tiger family, overseas members are warmly received upon their visits to Bangladesh, and announcements are made regarding forthcoming tournaments, tours, and social programmes. The gatherings further provide opportunities to celebrate the golfing achievements, professional accomplishments, and personal milestones of members, while also honoring distinguished guests and bidding farewell to diplomats and friends at the conclusion of their assignments in Bangladesh.

More than a weekly golfing engagement, the Saturday Fellowship of the Tigers embodies the very essence of Tiger Golf Club-friendship, fellowship, inclusiveness, and an abiding commitment to nurturing bonds that extend far beyond the fairways. It is this unique tradition that continues to unite generations of Tigers and reinforces the Club's identity as a family bound together by a shared passion for golf and enduring friendship.





His Excellency Dinesh Trivedi, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh & His Excellency Nguyen Manh Cuong, Ambassador of Vietnam to Bangladesh receiving flower bouquet from the TGC leadership

New Captain of Tiger Golf Club



Tiger Golf Club (TGC) is delighted to announce that Mr. Million Park has been appointed as Club Captain of the TGC. On behalf of the Executive Committee and all members of Tiger Golf Club, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Park on this appointment.

Mr. Park within a remarkably short period earned the confidence, of the Executive Committee. His appointment is a fitting recognition of his passion for golf, fellowship, and mutual respect that define our Club.

Mr. Park currently serves as Secretary General of the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KBCCI) and Managing Director of MPK Designers Co. Ltd. We are confident that, under his capable leadership, Tiger Golf Club will continue to uphold its proud traditions of sporting excellence.

At the same time, Tiger Golf Club also extends its gratitude to our Immediate Past Club Captain, golfer Alberto Giovanetti, who serves as Counsellor and Head of Political, Economic and Communication Affairs at the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, for graciously serving as Club Captain for more than a year. We appreciate his involvement in the Club. Thank you, Albert. The Executive Committee wishes Mr. Million Park every success in his tenure as Club Captain.

A Fond Farewell to Jan Boog & Sawitree A-Kama

Tiger Golf Club hosted a warm and memorable farewell gathering in honour of its esteemed couple golfer members, Jan Boog and Sawitree A-Kama, on Saturday, 23 May 2026, at Kurmitola Golf Club. Following the Club's regular Saturday morning round of golf, members assembled for a fellowship brunch to celebrate the friendship, sportsmanship, and camaraderie that Jan and Sawitree have shared with the Tiger Golf Club family.



The occasion was marked by tributes, fond memories, and expressions of appreciation for their valued contributions to the Club's vibrant fellowship.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and all members, Tiger Golf Club conveyed its sincere gratitude to Jan and Sawitree for their friendship and active participation in Club activities. Members wished them every happiness, continued success, good health, and many enjoyable rounds of golf in the years ahead.

While bidding them farewell, the Club expressed the hope that their association with Tiger Golf Club will remain enduring and that they will always be welcomed back whenever they return to Bangladesh.

The gathering concluded with a delightful brunch, reflecting the warmth and fellowship that have become the hallmark of Tiger Golf Club.



Tiger Golf Club Set for Vietnam Golf Tour in July 2026

Continuing its proud tradition of combining golf, fellowship, and international friendship, Tiger Golf Club is all set for its much-anticipated Vietnam Golf Tour 2026, scheduled from 23 to 29 July 2026. An annual highlight of the Club's calendar, the overseas tours bring together Tiger members and friends from Bangladesh and several other countries, creating a truly international gathering united by a shared passion for golf, fellowship, and cultural exchange. This year's delegation comprises around 40 participants, making it one of the Club's most significant international tours in recent years.

The tour will commence with the group's arrival in Hanoi, where members will attend a briefing hosted by the Vietnam National Authority of Tourism.



A key feature of the visit will be a Business-to-Business (B2B) Networking Session, bringing together business leaders from Bangladesh and Vietnam to explore opportunities for trade, investment, tourism, and bilateral cooperation. This initiative reflects Tiger Golf Club's commitment to promoting not only golfing excellence but also meaningful professional and commercial relationships between the two countries.

Beyond golf, participants will explore some of Vietnam's most celebrated destinations, including Hanoi, the historic Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, the picturesque Trang an Eco-Tourism Complex, and the magnificent Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The golfing programme will feature two championip venue. The opening tournament will be played at BRG Kings Island Golf Resort in Hanoi, followed by the concluding tournament at Tuan Chau Golf Resort in Ha Long Bay. The tour will culminate with a Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony, celebrating sporting excellence, friendship, and the enduring spirit of Tiger Golf Club.

Tiger Golf Club expresses its sincere appreciation to His Excellency Nguyen Manh Cuong, Ambassador of Vietnam to Bangladesh, whose personal encouragement and unwavering support, together with the dedicated efforts of the Embassy of Vietnam in Dhaka, have been instrumental in coordinating this remarkable tour. The Club conveys its heartfelt gratitude to H.E. Ambassador Cuong for his outstanding cooperation in strengthening the bonds of friendship and goodwill between Bangladesh and Vietnam.

More than a golfing tour, the Vietnam Golf Tour 2026 reflects Tiger Golf Club's enduring vision of bringing people together through golf. By combining championship golf, international fellowship, cultural exchange, and business collaboration, the tour promises to create lasting friendships and unforgettable memories both on and beyond the fairways.

Luxury Accommodation

Pan Pacific Hanoi: A distinguished five-star luxury hotel overlooking the tranquil waters of West Lake, offering refined comfort, exceptional hospitality, and convenient access to Hanoi's principal attractions.

Wyndham Legend Halong Hotel: Elegantly positioned along the waterfront, this premium hotel offers panoramic views of Ha Long Bay together with world-class facilities and warm Vietnamese hospitality.



Journey Highlights

- Six unforgettable days in Vietnam's most iconic destinations.
- Tigers Tour to Vietnam featuring championship golf at BRG Kings Island Golf Resort and Tuan Chau Golf Resort.
- Business networking in an inspiring international setting.
- Exploration of Hanoi's rich cultural and historical heritage.
- Traditional cyclo ride through the famed Old Quarter.
- Authentic Vietnamese culinary experiences.
- Scenic cruise through UNESCO-listed Ha Long Bay.
- Luxury accommodation throughout the journey.
- Gala Dinner celebrating friendship, fellowship, and the spirit of golf.

"The true reward of travel lies not merely in the places we visit, but in the friendships we strengthen, the experiences we share, and the memories we carry home forever."

New Members Induction-Tiger Golf Club





Tiger Golf Club is delighted to welcome two distinguished diplomats from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dhaka as its new members:

Mr. Ingi Ghim-Diplomat, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dhaka (Left side).

Mr. Lee Hyun Kon-Second Secretary & Consul, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dhaka (Right side). On behalf of the all members of Tiger Golf Club, we extend our congratulations and a heartfelt welcome to both of you.

Members' achievements

Tiger Golf Club proudly congratulates Tiger Md. Zahirul Islam on achieving one of golf's rare accomplishments-an Albatross-at Hole No. 5 (Par 4) of Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) on 25 November 2025. In recognition of this extraordinary feat, he was presented with the prestigious Albatross Trophy by Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan, Chief of Air Staff of the Bangladesh Air Force, during the Closing Ceremony of the Runner President Cup Golf Tournament at Kurmitola Golf Club.



An Albatross, is recorded when a player completes a hole three strokes under par-most commonly by scoring two on a par-5 hole or, even more remarkably, by making a hole-in-one on a par-4 hole, as accomplished by Tiger Md. Zahirul Islam. Earlier, fellow Tiger golfer Mahsudur Rahman, FCA, a noted bodybuilder, also etched his name into the Club's history by recording an Albatross on Hole No. 14 (Par 5) at Kurmitola Golf Club.



Tiger Golf Club proudly congratulates Nuzar, daughter of Tiger Md. Nazrul Islam, on her achievement in securing the Runner-up Trophy in the Junior Division of the Runner President Cup Golf Tournament, recently held at Kurmitola Golf Club.

Nuzar was honored to receive her trophy from Mr Waker-Uz-Zaman, Chief of Army Staff of the Bangladesh Army, making the occasion even more memorable. The tournament was sponsored by Runner Group.

Lady Luck Smiles on a Tiger: Tiger Golf Club extends Congratulations to its golfer member Jishan Shamshad, Lady Captain of Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC), on winning the Special Prize in the Grand Raffle Draw, sponsored by Prime Bank Limited, during the Closing Ceremony of the Runner President Cup Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC).

The coveted prize-a couple's return air ticket on the Dhaka-Bangkok-Dhaka route-provided highlight to the tournament's grand finale.



Tiger Golf Club proudly congratulates Lt Gen Shafiqur Rahman (Retd.), former Chief of General Staff (CGS), Bangladesh Army, on his magnificent Hole in One, achieved on Saturday, 11 July 2026, at Hole No. 6 of the Kurmitola Golf Club. This remarkable feat marks the second Hole in One of Lt Gen Shafiqur Rahman's golfing career. Congratulations, Lt Gen Shafiq (Retd.), on your spectacular second Hole in One!



Photo Gallery



Farewell gathering at the KGC



Tigers at the Army Golf Club.



Saturday Golfing at the Jolshiri golf club



Weekend golfing of the Tigers and guests



Early Bird Tiger golfers group. They start at around 5:15 am always



PM group of Tigers



Saturday Golfing with Chairman BIDA at the KGC



Friday Golfing followed by breakfasts of the Tigers at the Army Golf Club



Ambassador Tigers joined one private tournament



Tigers are in Savar golf course



TGC Vietnam Tour August 2026– tour briefing followed by Breakfasts at the KGC on 18th July, Saturday



Memory Lane – Antalya, Türkiye. 14 August 2022, Days to remember. One of the most exciting overseas golf tours undertaken by the Tiger Golf Club (TGC)



Winner receives ball from others



Tigers are in the famous Eastridge golf course of Manila, Phillipines



Tigers having break after 5 holes golfing at Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka



Nasim Majumder
Associate Editor, Golf & Beyond
Editor, Dhaka Rotary News, Rotary Club of Dhaka (Founded in 1937)
Secretary, South Asian Fellowship of Golfing Rotarians (SAFGR), Bangladesh
Director, ADN Technologies, ADN group, Bangladesh

THE CADDIE WHO WITNESSED SIX DECADES OF BANGLADESH GOLF

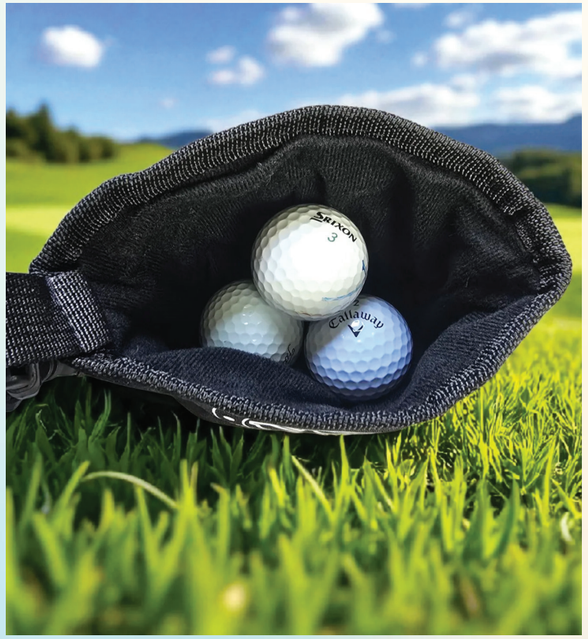
GB REPORT

For nearly six decades, Asu Mia has walked every fairway of Kurmitola Golf Club–not as a golfer, but as one of the people who know the course better than anyone else. From joining the club in 1968 to witnessing its transformation into an internationally acclaimed golfing destination, his remarkable journey reflects the evolution of golf in Bangladesh itself. In an exclusive conversation with Golf & Beyond, he shares the memories, milestones, and moments that have defined his extraordinary journey.



The story of golf's development in Bangladesh is inseparable from the history of Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC). Few people have witnessed that journey as closely as Asu Mia, the club's longest-serving caddie, who joined KGC in 1968 during the Pakistan era. Over nearly six decades, he has seen the club evolve from a modest golf course into one of South Asia's premier golfing destinations.





The Kurmitola he remembers was vastly different from today's bustling cityscape. The surrounding areas of Banani and Gulshan were largely open countryside, dotted with villages, bushes, and vacant land. Amid this quiet landscape, Kurmitola Golf Club gradually began to establish itself.

"When I joined, there were only about 30 to 35 caddies, and only a handful of members came to play each day," Asu Mia recalls. "Today, the club has around 600 caddies, while the number of members and golfers has increased many times over. Golf is no longer confined to a small elite circle. People from different professions, both at home and abroad, now regularly play here."

He describes the period following Bangladesh's Liberation War as the club's most challenging chapter. During the war, much of the course was left unattended and gradually became overgrown. In the years that followed, extensive efforts were undertaken to clear the land, plant new grass and trees, and restore the course through systematic maintenance.

According to Asu Mia, the club entered a new phase of development under the stewardship of the Bangladesh Army. Modern course management techniques,



improved turf quality, landscaping, irrigation systems, and international maintenance standards transformed the course. New trees replaced ageing ones, superior turf varieties were introduced, and the overall environment became more scenic and golfer-friendly.

He believes one of the most remarkable changes has been the growing popularity of golf itself. During the Pakistan era, opportunities to play were largely limited to a select group. Over time, however, the sport has become increasingly accessible, attracting a new generation of golfers, corporate professionals, and enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds.

Throughout his long career, Asu Mia has accompanied countless local and international dignitaries, senior military officials, diplomats, and renowned golfers. Among the most memorable experiences was serving as a caddie for former Pakistan Prime Minister and World Cup-winning cricket captain Imran Khan during one of his visits to the club.

The day I can no longer walk the course is the day I'll put down my caddie bag

He also takes immense pride in the professionalism of KGC's caddies. In his view, they now meet international standards in both technical knowledge and service quality. Many foreign golfers have praised their professionalism, course knowledge, and dedication, often describing KGC's caddies as one of Bangladesh's greatest strengths in golf.

Reflecting on nearly sixty years of service, Asu Mia believes the transformation of Kurmitola Golf Club extends far beyond infrastructure. It mirrors the remarkable growth of golf in Bangladesh itself. What was once a quiet course visited by only a few golfers has grown into an internationally recognised venue capable of hosting prestigious tournaments and welcoming players from around the world.

Still Walking the Fairways at 75

At 75 years of age, Asu Mia continues to report for duty at the golf course every morning. Guiding a golfer through an 18-hole round requires walking the entire course for approximately four to five hours. Because of his age, he now usually works one round a day, although he occasionally takes on a second round when needed. His daily income comes from the club's caddie fees as well as gratuities from golfers.

There is no fixed retirement age for caddies at Kurmitola Golf Club. As long as he remains physically fit, Asu Mia intends to continue doing what he has loved for almost six decades.

With a warm smile, he says, "The day I can no longer walk the course is the day I'll put down my caddie bag. Until then, Kurmitola Golf Club will always be my home."

THE ROAD TO BANGLADESH'S SPORTS TOURISM GROWTH

KAMRAN SIDDIQUI

Sports tourism has become one of the fastest-growing segments of the global travel industry, with major sporting events generating visitor arrivals, foreign exchange earnings and international exposure for host destinations.

Bangladesh has the potential to turn sports tourism into a significant contributor to its tourism economy by capitalising on its growing reputation in cricket, expanding international golf and surfing events, and showcasing unique traditional sports. However, experts say the country must overcome weak international branding, fragmented institutional coordination and a lack of long-term planning to unlock the sector's full potential.

While neighbouring countries such as India have increasingly positioned themselves as sports tourism hubs, Bangladesh has yet to establish a strong foothold despite possessing several competitive advantages.

Former Chief Executive Officer of the Bangladesh Tourism Board, Dr Javed Ahmed, believes the country has missed opportunities not because of a lack of sporting potential, but because of weaknesses in positioning itself as an attractive destination for international event organisers.



Sports tourism should extend beyond stadiums, combining Bangladesh's rivers, beaches, culture and heritage into unforgettable travel experiences for visitors





"Bangladesh has improved its infrastructure considerably, but we have failed to position the country effectively on the global stage," he said.

According to him, international sports federations and event organisers assess destinations based on multiple factors, including accessibility, accommodation costs, transport, traffic management and overall destination image.

Bangladesh, he said, often loses out because it is perceived as a relatively expensive destination compared with regional competitors, while Dhaka's chronic traffic congestion and limited international promotion further undermine its competitiveness.

He also noted that countries competing for international sporting events actively lobby global sports federations years in advance through dedicated agencies, whereas Bangladesh lacks such institutional efforts.

Experts argue that hosting major sporting events should not be viewed merely as a government expense. International tournaments create demand for hotels, restaurants, transport services, retail businesses and local tourism operators while generating substantial foreign exchange earnings through international visitors.

Dr Javed suggested establishing a national convention and events bureau, similar to those operating in Thailand, India and Sri Lanka, to attract international sporting events through long-term planning, professional bidding and sustained engagement with global federations.

While institutional reforms are essential, tourism specialists say Bangladesh also needs to broaden its sports tourism portfolio beyond cricket. Dr Md Anowar Hossain Bhuiyan, a faculty member of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management at the National University, said Bangladesh already possesses several sporting assets that could attract international visitors if packaged strategically. Cricket remains the country's strongest international sporting brand, but golf, hockey, surfing and other adventure sports also offer considerable opportunities for tourism development, he said.

Bangladesh's growing reputation in golf, in particular, presents an opportunity to attract affluent international golfers through high-quality tournaments and golf travel packages. Beyond modern sports, Dr Anowar believes the country's traditional sporting heritage could become a distinctive tourism product.

Traditional boat races, rural games and indigenous sporting festivals are deeply rooted in Bangladesh's culture but remain largely untapped as tourism attractions. Integrating these events with cultural festivals and promoting them internationally could create experiences unavailable in many competing destinations. He also suggested combining sporting events with river, coastal and marine tourism to create integrated travel experiences for foreign visitors.

"Sports tourism should not be limited to stadiums. It can be combined with our rivers, beaches, culture and heritage to offer visitors a complete destination experience," he said. However, he stressed that regular international-standard competitions, stronger sponsorship, government support and coordinated global promotion would be essential to transform these opportunities into sustainable tourism products. The experts' observations are consistent with academic research conducted on Bangladesh's sports tourism potential.

Bangladesh has strong sports tourism potential through cricket, golf, surfing and traditional sports, but stronger branding, strategic planning, institutional coordination and international event bidding remain crucial



A doctoral study titled "Unlocking the Potentials and Challenges of Sport Tourism through Major Cricket Events in Bangladesh" by Saud Ahmed of Glasgow Caledonian University found that Bangladesh possesses significant potential to develop sports tourism but is constrained by weak coordination among institutions responsible for sports and tourism. The research examined Bangladesh's experience following the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup, which helped showcase the country's capabilities as both a cricketing nation and an emerging tourist destination.

Based on interviews with policymakers from the Bangladesh Tourism Board, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Bangladesh Cricket Board, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and other stakeholders, the study concluded that unequal power relationships and insufficient coordination among key institutions continue to limit the country's ability to fully exploit sports tourism opportunities.

The findings suggest that closer collaboration between sports authorities, tourism agencies and policymakers could significantly strengthen Bangladesh's position in the global sports tourism market.

Industry observers say Bangladesh now has an opportunity to build on recent improvements in transport infrastructure, airport facilities and hospitality services. By developing a long-term national strategy, strengthening destination branding, bidding for more international tournaments and promoting both modern and traditional sports, the country could position sports tourism as a new pillar of economic growth.

As competition among destinations intensifies across Asia, experts believe Bangladesh's success will depend not only on hosting sporting events but also on presenting them as compelling travel experiences that encourage visitors to explore the country's culture, heritage and natural attractions alongside the games themselves.

Kamran Siddiqui *is a journalist based in Dhaka*



HOW GOLF CAN DRIVE JOBS IN BANGLADESH

ZAKARIA POLASH

Golf in Bangladesh is more than a sport. From caddies and greenkeepers to tourism, hospitality and digital services, it has the potential to become a diverse employment ecosystem, creating skilled careers, social mobility and long-term economic opportunities

On a pleasant winter morning at a golf course, the player normally gets all the attention. One person admires the swing, another discusses the score, and someone inevitably explains how one missed putt ruined an otherwise perfect round.

But look beyond the golfer, and the picture becomes much larger. A caddie reads the wind, a ball boy gathers practice balls, greenkeepers prepare the course, and coaches, mechanics, caterers, drivers and event workers keep the game moving. The golfer may be the star of the photograph, but a whole workforce stands just outside the frame.

This is the part of golf we rarely discuss. Golf is not only a sport or a leisure activity. Properly developed, it can become a small but diverse employment industry for Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, the most familiar golf-related occupations are probably those of caddies and ball boys. Yet even these jobs are often misunderstood.

Bangladesh has already shown how this work can become a pathway to greater opportunity. Siddikur Rahman began as a caddie before becoming an Asian Tour winner and the first Bangladeshi athlete to qualify directly for the Olympic Games. Mohammad Sajib Ali also started by carrying bags at Kurmitola Golf Course at the age of 11 or 12, gradually learned the sport, and later competed in around 20 countries. Such journeys should inspire structured talent development, not romanticise child labour. Any modern pathway must protect education, respect legal working ages, and provide formal training.

The story of Mohammad Asu Mia reveals the other side of the picture. He joined Kurmitola Golf Club at the age of 21 and was still working there at 73, having served as a caddie and helped maintain the course. His concern was not about trophies, but whether ageing caddies would receive support when they could no longer work.

Together, these stories capture both the promise and the weakness of golf employment in Bangladesh: it can create social mobility and lifelong work, but without training, welfare and formal protection, it may not provide lasting security.

Bangladesh has courses, but not yet a golf employment industry

The Bangladesh Golf Federation currently lists 17 affiliated golf clubs, spread across locations including Dhaka, Savar, Bhatiary, Cumilla, Bogura, Jashore, Rangpur, Cox's Bazar and several other areas. What Bangladesh does not appear to have is a comprehensive national account showing how many people earn directly or indirectly from golf.



Golf entrepreneur Khabir Uddin Ahmed estimates that an individual player may generate work for three or four support personnel, while a foreign golfer can require a much larger service team. His Arunima Golf Course employs around 80 permanent workers, with staffing levels rising during international events. He also sees potential in training Bangladeshi golf-service professionals for overseas courses: "All we need is to upskill and engage dedicated people in this area."

We know that clubs employ caddies, ball boys, grounds workers, office staff and hospitality personnel. We know tournaments create temporary work. We also know that professional golfers, coaches, sponsors and equipment businesses are active. But we do not yet count this activity as a connected economic sector.

The contrast is striking. A study supported by the R&A found that the UK golf industry supports nearly 64,000 full-time equivalent jobs, while the broader US golf economy supports more than 1.65 million jobs.

These include not only club employees, but also workers in tourism, accommodation, retail, manufacturing, events, media and technology. The point is not to compare scale, but perspective: mature markets treat golf as an industry; Bangladesh still largely treats it as a pastime, a sport played in clubs.

That difference matters.

The objective should not be to produce only another Siddikur Rahman. Bangladesh needs a career ladder through which a ball boy may become a certified caddie, a caddie may become an assistant coach, and a grounds worker may become a trained greenkeeper or turf specialist. Golf's real value lies in combining accessible entry-level work with skilled, long-term careers.



Economists might describe golf as potentially job-elastic, meaning that an increase in participation, facilities or events can create a relatively large increase in employment.

We must remember that a golf course is a living landscape. It needs turf specialists, irrigation technicians, horticulture workers, tree-care teams, equipment mechanics, water-management personnel and environmental officers.

These can become skilled, year-round occupations rather than occasional manual jobs. The objective is not merely to employ someone to cut grass, but to train a turf-management professional.

Golfers rarely arrive, play and immediately disappear. They eat, drink, attend meetings and organise events. Hence, a busy, public-facing club can function like a small hospitality establishment.

A tournament needs far more than golfers. It needs referees, scorers, registration staff, camera crews, photographers, graphic designers, commentators, social media teams, transport coordinators, medical support and hospitality workers.

Digital golf can create another layer of jobs through tee-time booking, membership systems, course maps, live scoring, swing analysis, content production and club-management software. Last but not least, golf is part of the broader ecosystem of golf tourism, where golfers typically spend money beyond the course.

They need hotels, restaurants, transport, guides and travel planning. Just imagine the employment potential such spending can generate.

In this context, it is worth noting that the London School of International Business (LSIB) offers specialised programmes in this field. These include the Advanced Certificate in Golf Tourism Management and the Undergraduate Certificate in Golf Tourism and Hospitality Management. These self-paced programmes focus on golf operations, event planning and sustainable tourism.

Disclaimer!
Golf will never employ as many people in Bangladesh as the garments, agriculture or construction sectors. That is not the point. Its value lies in creating a diverse ecosystem of service, technical, tourism and sporting occupations. Together, they can provide both immediate income and long-term career opportunities.

So, the next time somebody says golf is simply a rich person's game of walking after a little white ball, perhaps offer them another cup of tea and tell them, with a smile, that the ball may be small, but the business around it does not have to be.



Zakaria Polash *is an author and researcher. He is the CEO of Winnex Consulting Ltd and General Secretary of the South Asia Foundation.*

U.S. OPEN CHAMPION

WYNDHAM CLARK'S ROAD TO REDEMPTION

GB DESK

A year ago, Wyndham Clark walked away from the U.S. Open in frustration. After missing the cut at Oakmont in 2025, the American golfer vented his anger by damaging lockers inside the clubhouse–an incident that drew widespread criticism, led to a temporary ban from the historic course, and raised questions about his temperament. Twelve months later, the story had changed completely. At the 2026 U.S. Open at the legendary Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in New York, Clark produced one of golf's most compelling redemption stories. Despite surviving a tense final round and playing before a crowd largely rooting against him, the 32-year-old held his nerve to capture his second U.S. Open title, further cementing his place among the game's elite.



From controversy to champion–Wyndham Clark completed one of golf's greatest redemption stories with a wire-to-wire U.S. Open victory at Shinnecock Hills.



A Champion Under Pressure
Clark dominated the championship from the opening round, becoming only the ninth player in U.S. Open history to win wire-to-wire. It was the first such victory since Martin Kaymer achieved the feat at Pinehurst in 2014.

Entering Sunday with a commanding six-shot lead, Clark appeared to be cruising toward victory. But Shinnecock Hills, renowned for testing the world's best golfers, had other plans.

Within five holes, his lead had been cut to a single stroke as fellow American Sam Burns charged into contention with a brilliant final-round 67. Clark, meanwhile, struggled to find his rhythm, carding a three-over-par 73–his highest closing round in a U.S. Open victory.

The atmosphere made the challenge even greater. Most spectators hoped to see World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler complete the elusive career Grand Slam. Some cheered Clark's mistakes, while one fan shouted, "Don't choke, Wyndham," before being escorted from the course.

The Defining Moment
With Burns closing in, Clark produced the shot that defined the championship. After a wayward drive on the par-five 16th, he recovered brilliantly with an eight-iron that barely held the back edge of the green before holing a superb 30-foot birdie putt.

The birdie restored a crucial two-shot cushion with only two holes remaining. Clark finished at four-under-par 276, one stroke ahead of Burns. South Korea's Tom Kim claimed third place at one under par, while Scheffler finished tied for fourth.

Learning From Failure
Clark's greatest achievement was not simply his golf but his growth. Following last year's emotional outburst at Oakmont, he openly accepted responsibility, apologised for his behaviour, paid for the damage, and worked to rebuild both his game and his reputation. That maturity was evident at Shinnecock.

Even as his commanding lead disappeared, Clark remained composed, trusted his swing, and delivered the shots that mattered most.

After the victory, he admitted the crowd had overwhelmingly supported Scheffler. "Man, they definitely didn't want me to win," Clark told the international media. "I get it. They were rooting for Scottie. He's the best player in the world. But today, it's my day."

During the trophy presentation, he again addressed the New York fans with humility. "New York didn't really like me–I love you guys," he said with a smile. "Some of it's self-deserved. I did some unfortunate things last year that I really regret. Hopefully I can win you guys over eventually."

More Than a Trophy
Clark's triumph completed a remarkable turnaround. Just a month earlier, he had ended a two-year winless streak with a stunning final-round 60 at the CJ Cup Byron Nelson. His second U.S. Open title in four years lifted him back into the world's top 10 and confirmed that his 2023 breakthrough was no fluke.

More importantly, the victory was about far more than another major championship. It represented resilience, accountability, and the determination to learn from failure. At Shinnecock Hills, Wyndham Clark proved that golf's greatest victories are often won not only with skill, but with character.



Ryu managed only two birdies and relied on patience rather than brilliance. Her experienced caddie, Martin Bozek, repeatedly encouraged her to stay calm and trust her putting.

After going more than five hours without a birdie, she finally made one on the 18th hole to force a playoff before producing another birdie on the first extra hole to defeat Henderson.

Years in the Making

Behind Ryu's success lie years of steady development. Born on 23 March 2001, she was one of South Korea's leading amateur golfers before turning professional in 2019. She quickly established herself on the Korea LPGA Tour, winning five titles and earning the 2020 KLPGA Rookie of the Year award.

After securing her LPGA Tour card through the 2022 qualifying series, she won the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship in 2023 and was named LPGA Rookie of the Year.Although she came close in several majors during 2024 and 2025, her breakthrough finally arrived in spectacular fashion in 2026. Her Women's PGA Championship victory was especially remarkable, as she recovered from a 10-shot first-round deficit to claim her maiden major title.

A New Force in Women's Golf

According to Bozek, growing self-belief has been the key to Ryu's recent success. "She just needs to know she's as good as anybody out here," he said. "Every time she gets into these pressure situations, she becomes more comfortable."



The Evian victory was Ryu's fifth LPGA Tour title and her 10th professional victory overall. It also lifted her to World No. 3, the highest ranking of her career.

More importantly, she has emerged as a genuine challenger to World No. 1 Nelly Korda and the other leading names in women's golf. With two major titles already secured this season, attention now turns to the AIG Women's Open, where she will attempt the extraordinary feat of winning three majors in five weeks.

Whether or not she completes that historic hat-trick, one thing is already clear: Haeran Ryu is no longer simply one of South Korea's brightest talents. She has established herself as one of the defining figures in women's golf, and at just 25, her remarkable story may only be beginning.

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