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An affair to remember

Ahmedabad golfers left spellbound in the first Night Golf Tournament organised by TAEGA

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With glowing balls, glow sticks and torchlights it was a unique experience for many

It was an affair to remember for Ahmedabad golfers as they teed up for the AB Jewels Night Golf Tournament at Kensville Golf and Country Club on the outskirts of the city.

The sight of playing golf with glow sticks under the moonlight and torchlights in hand while the glowing balls fell from the dark sky transcended the 45 golfers to a magical land.

The experience left Shradha Mehta, who has started playing golf just recently and is competing only in her second tournament, mesmerised.

"I have started playing golf recently and this is just my second tournament. The excitement level was always there but playing golf under the moonlight with glowing balls is a surreal experience," the captain of the winning team told Mirror.

"It was such a lovely sight as there is a lot of fun and the challenges too are unique," an excited Mehta added.

Echoing his team leader's sentiment, Tiku Maulik Shah said, "It was a unique experience. It is happening in the city for the first time and we all are very excited about it."

Talking about the sparkling experience Shah, who won in the best stableford individual category, said, "The challenge was there as the target was not as visible as in day time and sometimes you have to assume things that are not the case when you play in day. The challenge is more about mental make-up."

For Anand Dave, the extraordinary experience was all about overcoming apprehensions. "It was overwhelming to start with and there was a lot of questions in the mind," said the winner of chipping contest. "It was pitch dark and apart from the ball nothing else could be seen. But it was an amazing sight to see the flight of the ball," he added.

Talking about the challenges, Dave said, "The challenge was to remain in the fairways as there can be dangerous snakes and other creatures in the roughs at night." "But I thought the biggest challenge came in the greens where we are used to read the line and analyse the slope. At night, there is nothing to read. It's an amazing challenge," he recalled.

While the golfers gave The Ahmedabad Elite Golfers Association (TAEGA) the credit for an enchanting experience, its co-founder Siddharth Naik spoke about the travails of organising the tournament.

"The whole idea was to make it unique, make it alluring," Naik said. Talking about the process, he said, "It took a lot of planning as it is a new concept. We got help from internet but since this is new to the country we had to secure equipment from China without having much idea about it."

"Since the labourers are alien to the equipment we had to be there and that throw another challenge," he added.

However all the effort duly paid off when TAEGA saw the enthusiasm among the golfers. "We wanted to surprise them (golfers) and in the end it is very satisfactory to see the curiosity among the golfers. They are all very excited and there is no

comparison for the success of the event,+Naik added.

Though cost is a factor, TAEGA was determined to make it an annual event. %s will be an annual event and we plan to use the full 18-holes next time,+Naik said.

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