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Kiradech and Seung-yul top the leaderboard

PETALING JAYA: South Korean teenager Noh Seung-yul showed why he is considered a rising star of Asian golf when he moved to the top of the leaderboard on the second day of the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters at the Seri Selangor Golf Club here yesterday.

The 18-year-old holed an impressive bunker shot for an eagle en route to finishing with a three-under 68 for a two-day total of seven-under 135.

Joining him at the top was Thailand's Kiradech Aphibarnrat, who finished with a one-under 70.

The duo are a stroke ahead of South African James Kamte, who had a second round of one-under 70.

Malaysian Shaaban Hussin stayed in touch with a two-under 69 in the RM1mil Asian Tour tournament.

Australian Mitchell Brown, Taiwanese veteran Lu Chien-soon and Malaysia's S. Sivachandhran are tied for fifth on 137 going into the final two rounds.

Seung-yul, winner of the Midea China Classic and Rookie of the Year last season, put himself in position for a second Asian Tour title, thanks to his superb eagle and five birdies.

The burly Kiradech, a former world junior amateur champion, could have taken sole lead but double bogeyed the 18th hole after sending his ball into the water hazard.

While overnight leader Danny Chia, who is down with flu, tanked out with a six-over 77 yesterday, Shaaban raised local hopes with another steady performance.

The 29-year-old, playing on his home course, continued with his impressive form when he holed a 20-foot putt for an eagle on the sixth hole.

Shaaban was delighted that childhood friend and touring partner Siva Chandhran is also in contention.

The halfway cut was set at three-over 145. Danny and title holder Ben Leong, who carded a two-over 73, were among the 71 golfers who made the cut.