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# Thongchai takes charge

THAI star Thongchai Jaidee charged to the clubhouse lead at the Worldwide Selangor Masters yesterday after breaking the day-old course record with a superb eight-under 63 in the second round.

The two-time Asian Tour No. 1 was in irrepressible form at Seri Selangor Golf Club, rolling in one eagle, seven birdies and dropping one bogey for a two-day total of nine-under 133.

Malaysian Ben Leong, winner of the last two events on home soil in recent weeks, and compatriot Iain Steel are leading the chasing pack on 136 along with Australian Adam Blyth and Chawalit Plaphol of Thailand.

Ben, who played with Thongchai, shot an outstanding 65 to trail by three strokes while Steel overcame an early double bogey for a second straight 68.

An afternoon downpour forced officials to abandon play for the day at 4.15pm. Only 58 players completed their second rounds, with the rest of the field to resume their rounds at 7.50am today. First round leader Chinnarat Phadungsil of Thailand, who shot a 64 on Wednesday, was amongst those affected by the adverse weather.

The day, however, belonged to Thongchai, a two-time Malaysian Open champion who calls the country his second home.

"I played really well and putted nicely," said the former paratrooper.

Leading scores, 2nd rd: 133 Thongchai Jaidee (Tha) 70-63; 136 Chawalit Plaphol (Tha) 68-68, Iain Steel (Mas) 68-68, Adam Blyth (Aus) 66-70, Ben Leong (Mas) 71-65; 138 Craig Smith (Wales) 70-68; 139 Chang Tse-peng (Tai) 74-65, Lin Wen-tang (Tai) 69-70; 141 Lam Chih Bing (Sin) 75-66, Noh Seung-yul (Kor) 68-73, Mitchell Brown (Aus) 70-71, Rannachai Jannong (Tha) 73-68; 142 Kim Young-jin (Kor) 71-71, Amardeep V. Johl (Ind) 69-73, David Gleeson (Aus) 70-72, Prom Meesawat (Tha) 74-68, Denny Chia (Mas) 68-74, Athaphon Prathummanee (Tha) 71-71.