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Cloudy with strikes of golf balls

Amateur players weather storm in closely fought open challenge

INCLEMENT weather which threatened to throw the three-day Penang Amateur Open Golf challenge into a disarray failed to dampen the spirits of participants at Bukit Jawi Golf Resort near Nibong Tebal, in south Seberang Prai, Penang.

The threatening overcast skies, which eventually opened up, forced the game to be suspended twice on the second day as lightning bolted over the greens.

The thunderstorm occurred shortly after the day's action started at the 36-hole course, but the skies cleared up later to the relief of the golfers who were all cooped up in the clubhouse.

They resumed play with gusto, sparking off a thrilling final day showdown in the recent tournament.

Malaysian Golf Association representative Nur Durriyah Damian was especially in her element as she shot an amazing five under par to take a five stroke lead into the final round, despite the Lake Course for the Women's showdown proving to be most treacherous since it has the most number of water hazards.

Despite carding a three over 75 in her final round challenge to return a three-day total of four under 212, it was still good enough for her to be crowned the Women's champion.

She finished four strokes ahead of second-placed Dianne Luke from Miri, Sarawak.

The Men's event, which was played on the Hill Course, proved to

be a thriller.

Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) golfer Faizul Hafiz Zulkefli, who stole the show in the rain-soaked second day challenge to take a one-stroke lead over Johor's Aarishna Shahsthy Balakrishnan into the final day challenge, bumbled in the last day to finish third.

Indonesian Cahyo Adhitomo, who trailed four strokes behind Faizul when going into the final round action, produced a stellar performance, which stole the hearts of local fans to pip Faizul and Aarishna to the Men's title.

He produced his best round in the tournament when he fired a two under 70 for a three-day total of seven over 223 while Faizul produced a five over 77.

Aarishna, who carded a four over 76 took the runner-up spot, finishing three strokes behind on a three-day total of 10 under 226 while Faizul, who also returned an identical score, had to be contented with third spot on count back.

The tournament, which was held at the Bukit Jawi course for the third successive year, attracted 130 participants.

A total of 100 golfers entered the Men's category, while 30 entered the Women's category.

The event attracted golfers from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Myanmar and the Philippines.

Final Scores:

Men:

223: Cahyo Adhitomo (80,73,70).

226: Aarishna Shahsthy Balakrishnan (76,73,76); Faizul Hafiz Zulkefli (76,73,77 ocb).

229: Tirta Tamardi (75,79,75).

231: Dicky Prionggo (76,77,78).

233: Bramantio Adi (73,82,78); Douglas Williams (77,76,80 ocb).

234: Mohd Firdaus Che Mohd Sabri (83,75,76); Mohd Faidrul Hilmi (77,79,78 ocb); Mohamed Ridhwan Johari (79,75,80 ocb).

235: Muhamad Al Azim Mohd Azmi (83,78,74); Amirul Aizat Abdul Bahar (77,80,78 ocb); Bryan Teoh Wiyang (76,79,80 ocb).

236: Mohamed Noorhakimi Cheya (83,77,76); Muhammad Irfan Harraz (74,82,80 ocb); Kiishaan Tharmalingam (81,75,80 ocb); Tan Chee Kean (74,79,83 ocb).

Women:

212: Nur Durriyah Damian (70,67,75).

216: Dianne Luke (69,73,74).

221: Ika Woro Palupi (69,79,73).

223: Inez Beatrice Wanamarta (75,74,74).

226: Loy Hee Ying (75,75,76); Hillferah Tan (75,75,76 ocb).

229: Rivani Adelia Sih tang (78,75,76).

230: Lareina Daniella Dr Gonzales (78,78,74); Ong Shi Qing (78,76,76 ocb).

231: Nur Elina (79,74,78)

233: Sindy Fidelia (78,73,82)

235: Chong Hong Yong (78,79,78).

236: Ginnie Ho Xin Ni (78,80,78)

237: Lim Ai Lynn (78,83,76);

Nur Musfirah Alham Armalis (76,77,84 ocb).

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Sweet success: Cahyo (left) and Nur Durriyah showing off their trophies after being crowned Men and Women champion respectively in the Penang Amateur Open Golf Challenge at Bukit Jawi Golf Resort, Penang.