Navratna Ahmedabad surges up to second place on day two of Louis Philippe Cup

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Bengaluru: Defending Champions Navratna Ahmedabad who were tied fourth yesterday, jumped up to the second position on day two of fourth Louis Philippe Cup at Karnataka Golf Association. Anura Rohana carded the best round of four-under 68 for Navratna Ahmedabad while his teammates Mithun Perera and Shankar Das shot two-under 70 and level-par 72 respectively. Their two



days total is seven-under 281 after carding six-under 138 today, and remain five shots behind leaders TAKE Chennai. As per the format the scores of the best two players are taken into consideration as the team total.

Anura Rohana of Navratna Ahmedabad who shot four-over yesterday, didn't miss a single opportunity to make birdies today. The Sri Lankan said: "One bad bogey on eighth spoiled my round yesterday and I got very disturbed mentally. I went back to practice in the evening, which helped me coming back with a bogey free round today. My iron shots and driving shots were good but struggled a bit with putting. Me and my teammate Mithun apologised to our third partner Shankar Das for the damage yesterday and promised to come back stronger and here we are at the second position. My aim is to hit another four-under tomorrow and with the help of my partners, we hopefully defend the title."

Navratna Ahmedabad's Mithun Perera who made birdies on 8th, 12th and 13th, said: "I struggled to read the lines yesterday but happy with the overall round as I have made only one bogey on sixth today. In our team, everybody including Rohana and Shankar has a good long and short game and the good part is that all three of us shot under par rounds today. Hopefully the flags are not at difficult positions tomorrow and we are able to shoot seven or eight under, which might get us the trophy for the third time."

Local lad Khalin Joshi of TAKE Chennai lived up to the crowd's expectations when he returned with the best card of seven-under 65. Joshi's superb effort gave TAKE Chennai a five shot lead with teammates Chikkarangappa S and SSP Chowrasia both shooting one-under 71 each for the two-day team total of 12-under 276.

Abhijit Singh Chadha of Zion Hills Bengaluru brought the second best card of the day as he shot six-under 66 for his team who share the third place with Lagshya Mumbai at six-under 282 after the second day.

Dev-Ellora Pune stands fifth with the score of four-under 284. One shot behind is Jaypee Greens Greater Noida at 285 while the DLF, The Crest Gurgaon, the team of youngest pros, finished at the bottom with level-par 188.

Joshi who finished second at recently held Bangladesh Open, powered up the leader board with birdies on 2nd, 9th, 11th, 12th, 16th and a 10-feet eagle on 5th. The 23-year-old Joshi said: "I wish I could hole two more easy putts on 13th and 17th for birdies but overall I am happy with my game. I also putted fairly well then yesterday. I feel I can go deeper if my putter is good but I am not going to be greedy and play my game patiently."

"Flag positions were really tough today and the wind picked up after we reached the fifth hole and it stayed throughout the day. We are fortunate to have a five shot lead but won't say that we are in a comfortable place as anybody can shoot eight or nine under in this format. My partner SSP has been saying from day one that we need to play our own game so we will do the same tomorrow as well and hopefully close the day with a trophy," added Joshi.

Louis Philippe Cup 2015 - Team standings (Round 2): TAKE Chennai 12-under 276 (Khalin Joshi 65, Chikkarangappa 71, SSP Chawrasia 71); Navratna Ahmedabad 7-under 281 (Mithun Perera 70, Anura Rohana 68, Shankar Das 72); Zion Hills Bengaluru 6-under 282 (Rahil Gangjee 75, C Muniyappa 73, Abhijit Chadha 66); Laqshya Mumbai 6-under 282 (Jyoti Randhawa 69, Mukesh Kumar 76, Manav Jaini 73); Dev-Ellora Pune 4-under-284 (Siddikur 72, Om Prakash Chouhan 69, Sanjay Kumar 72); Jaypee Greens Greater Noida 3-under 285 (Gaganjeet Bhullar 73, Rashid Khan 71, Shamim Khan 72); DLF The Crest Gurgaon Level-par 288 (Shubhankar Sharma 72, Manu Gandas 74, Abhinav Lohan 73)

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