



Asian Chess Federation

Newsletter * September 2020

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- Join FIDE Trainers Seminar
Be a licensed FIDE Trainer
- \$6,000 in cash prizes
Joytu Sheikh Hasina
International Open
- Abdusattorov Nodirbek and
Ning Kaiyu win the
Asian Online Juniors/Girls
- Rogelio Antonio and
Marat Primbetov win
Asian Online Seniors
- World Renowned Lecturers
at Asian Online Chess
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- Maldives Success Story
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Elected President
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- Emad Ghalayini 1953-2020



Asian Chess Federation president Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan (upper left) holds a Zoom meeting with ACF Secretariat, (clockwise from upper right) Treasurer Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh, Executive Director Casto Abundo and General Secretary Hisham Al Taher.

Asian Online Nations Cup for Men and Women

The Asian Online Nations Cup (and Regions) Chess Team Championship is scheduled 10-25 October 2020 on Chess.com with \$20,000 in cash prizes. The tournament will follow the traditional system of separate competitions for men's and women's teams. Each team is composed of 4 regular players, 1 reserve and captain. Federations should confirm entry by 25 September and register by deadline of 4 October 2020.

The competition will start with 9-round Swiss Prelims to select 8 qualifying teams. They will play knockout duels of 2 matches (white and black on top board) in the Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals.

Individual board awards will be given

for best performance in the preliminaries. And special prizes shall be given to category winners among Level 2, 3, 4 and 5 federations. The time control is 15 minutes + 5 second increments for the entire game. Games will start 10am (UAE time)

Oct 10 Men Rds 1-3
Oct 11 Women Rds 1-3
Oct 16 Men Rds 4-6
Oct 17 Women Rds 4-6
Oct 18 Men Rds 7-9
Oct 19 Women Rds 7-9
Oct 23 Quarterfinals M & W
Oct 24 Semifinals M & W
Oct 25 Finals M & W

In the knockout stage, each duel consists of two matches.

Download regulations.

Joytu Sheikh Hasina International Online Chess Tournament



The South Asian Chess Council (SACC) has the honor to invite players to participate in the \$6,000 Joytu Sheikh Hasina International Online Chess Tournament, 24, 25 and 26 Sept 2020 in Chess.com. Rds 1-3 Thursday 24 Sept 2020 Inauguration 14:30 (Bangladesh Time, GMT +6) Download Regs. 1st Round from 16:00 2nd Round from 17:00 3rd Round from 18:00



Rds 4-6 Friday 25 Sept 2020
4th Round from 14:00
5th Round from 15:00
6th Round from 16:00

Rds 7-9 Saturday 26 Sept 2020
7th Round from 14:00
8th Round from 15:00
9th Round from 16:00



FIDE TRAINERS ONLINE SEMINAR

September 25-27, 2020

Organized by the Philippine Academy for Chess Excellence with Sponsorship from the Asian Chess Federation

LECTURERS:



GM/ FST Eugene Torre

- Asia's 1st Grandmaster
- FIDE Senior Trainer (2012)
- Head Coach - Philippine National Team
- Founding President - National Chess Federation of the Philippines



GM/ FST Dejan Bojkov

- Bulgarian Grandmaster and chess author
- FIDE Senior Trainer (2012)
- Member - Medical Commission (MED)



IM/ FST Jesper Hall

- Swedish International Master
- Chairman of Educational Commission of European Chess Union
- FIDE Senior Trainer (2011)
- Taught GM Magnus Carlsen for 3 years
- Books: Chess Training for Budding Champions



GM/ FST Jayson Gonzales

- 9th Grandmaster of the Philippines
- FIDE Senior Trainer (2020)
- Founding President - Philippine Academy for Chess Excellence
- Technical Director - National Chess Federation of the Philippines



GM Melikset Khachiyan

- Armenian-American Grandmaster
- Councillor of Trainers' Commission
- 1st Coach of Levon Aronian



IM/ FST Vishal Sareen

- Indian International Master and chess writer
- FIDE Senior Trainer (2016)
- Founder/ Technical Director - DICE Chess Academy



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FIDE President Congratulates Asian Juniors and Girls

FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich congratulated the winners of the Asian Juniors and Girls Online Chess Championships organized by the Asian Chess Federation 27 May to 4 June 2020 on Chess.com.

The FIDE President joined the awards ceremonies in the Zoom room together with Asian Chess Federation Secretary General Hisham Al Taher, as Chief Arbiter Abulrahim Mahdi announced the top three winners in the boys and girls divisions. Honored guest was FIDE Arbiters Commission Chairman Laurent Freyd.

Thanks also to Arbiters Shaun Press of PNG, Irina Gevorgyan of Uzbekistan, Anuar Ismagambetov and Gulmira Dauletova of Kazakhstan and Any Bayar of Mongolia for their help. Over 200 players from 43 countries joined the tournament.

Here are the top 3 boys and girls:



Juniors Medalists

1st: Abdusattorov Nodirbek	GM UZB
2nd Tahbaz Arash	IM IRI
3rd Vokhidov Sahmsidin	GM UZB

Girls Medalists

1st Ning Kaiyu	WIM CHN
2nd Munkhul Turmunkh	WIM MGL
3rd Arpita Mukherjee	WIM IND

Antonio, Primbetov Win Asian Seniors Online Over-50 / 65

GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. of the Philippines won the Asian Seniors Online Chess Championship for Over-50 while Marat Primbetov of Kazakhstan won the over-65 organized by the Asian Chess Federation 13 to 21st July on Chess.com.

Antonio, 58, finished alone in first place with a decisive 7.5 points from six wins and three draws in the 9 round Swiss. Five GMs and one IM competed in the field of 16 qualifiers from 7 Zonal championships among 246 players from 28 countries.

GMs Tahir Vahidov, 57, of Uzbekistan followed with 6.5 points while compatriot GM Alexei Barsov, 54, tallied 6 points to win the silver and bronze, respectively. Landing in the prize money with 5.5 points each in the following tie break order were 4th place Ricardo de Guzman, 59, of the Philippines, 5th place Chlettri Ram Bahadur, 53, of Nepal and 6th place GM Saidali Iuldashvili, 52, of Uzbekistan. WIM Liang Zhihua, 50, of China won the best woman prize in the Over-50 age group while Nadezhda Iskichekova, 69, of Kazakhstan won the best woman prize in the Over-65 age group. Primbetov, 70, scored 7.5 out of 9 rounds in the Over-65. FM Lkhagva Jambaldoo, 76, of Mongolia followed with 7.5 points for silver while Hossein Ardesheirpour, 65, of Iran scored 6.5 points for bronze.





Asian Online Chess Camp for Girls U-20 1st – 20th August 2020



Asian Chess Federation Online Chess Camp For Girls U20

The Asian Chess Federation, in cooperation with the Women's Commission, conducted the Asian Online Chess Camp for Girls Under-20 from 1st to 20th August 2020. It was the first such professional chess camp for girls.

The Organizing Committee was headed by Hisham Al Taher with Project Manager Sami Khader (photo below) and coordinators Ilaha Kadimova and Razan Alshoubi supported by FIDE PDC and Asian Chess Federation.



Asian Federations were invited to send players and the Committee Chairman gave special invitations to World Youth and Schools champions to motivate them more.

Sixty six girls from 30 Asian countries attended the seminars.

Many players sent commendations. We publish two representative comments.

From Australia:

Firstly, we'd like to thank the ACF for giving Saffron an opportunity to participate in the camp. She loved it and felt that it was the best chess experience of her life.

The average rating of the participants was reasonably high (the majority of girls were rated between approx. 1600-2300 with maybe a dozen or so who were 2000+). Saffron is generally quiet in group class situations (being the only girl in advanced groups, where the boys are often disruptive and loud) but felt emboldened enough to participate in classes throughout the camp. She felt that the camp covered a good range of topics (rook endings, pawn structures, opening preparation, attacking chess, positional play) and thought that all of the presenters were good (especially Jacob Aagaard and Vishy Anand). She was fairly comfortable with the level of classes and thinks that it would be best suited to ACF 1400+ rated players.

I hope that the Asian Chess Federation will consider running this camp on a permanent (annual?) basis, as I think it would help our Australian girls to keep playing and improving. Just being able to learn in a group of strong girl players was quite inspiring for Saffron.

Cheers, Kate Archer

And from Malaysia

1. Their most memorable session was with GM Judit Polgar who had shared her experience when she was actively playing chess.

2. The 5 main topics that the girls found interesting were: How to play against isolated pawn, Opening repertoire (learning from candidates matches), Rook endings (the Lucena & Philidor positions), Positional play, The 8 Attacking principles

3. The 5 most valuable lessons were: Don't be hasty/be patient, Evaluating the position before committing a move, Learning Endgame theory, - Reading opponent's "body language", Proper diet and physical exercises

4. They both agreed that the Malaysian Chess Federation should organize similar camps

5. Additional topics that they would like to be included in future camps are Middlegame and Endgame theories.

In short, the girls would like to participate in more similar events as the learnings have been very valuable. Aside from the additional topics that they have requested, they found the sessions were perfectly organized. And of course, they thanked MCF for selecting them for the session, and to ACF for organizing. *Continued p 5*



GM Victor Bologan

(Continued from page 4)

Among the lecture topics were: Building up an Opening Repertoire (Victor Bologan); Rook Endings and Calculation of variations (Artur Jussopow); Learn from World Champions (Viswanathan Anand); Excelling in chess (Judit Polgar); Positional Play and Attacking Principles (Aagaard); Defense / Isolated Pawns / Hanging Pawns / Central Pawns (Lev Psakhis).



GM Judit Polgar



Online FIDE International Organizers Seminar

The Asian Chess Federation, in cooperation with the Oman Chess Committee, organized the International Organizers Seminar held Online via Zoom from 15 to 19 July 2020. Sixty five students from 16 federations participated in the seminar, namely BRN, OMA, UAE, YEM, QAT, IRQ, KSA, LEB, KUW, ALG, EGY, MAR, TUN, LBA, SOM, and FRA. The seminar included the following subjects: Regulations of Events Commission (Mission, Members, Events Regulations, Bid Procedure) Ratings and

Titles, Events Management.

At the end of the seminar, the students took the exam and 52 of them passed and will be given an IO Norm according to the FIDE regulations. The lectures were given by FIDE Lecturer IO/IA Mahdi Abdulrahim (UAE), Chairman of the FIDE Rules Commission and Chairman of ACF Arbiters Commission.

The seminar was moderated by Hisham Al-Taher, Secretary General of the Asian Chess Federation.

The opening session was attended by Victor Bologan, FIDE CEO, Ozgur Solakoglu,

Chairman of the FIDE Events Commission, Hisham Al-Taher, Secretary General of the Asian Chess Federation, Ahmed Al Bulushi, Chairman of the Oman Chess Committee, and Mehrdad Pahlawanzadeh, Treasure of the Asian Federation. The students praised the level of the course and the huge amount of information that they benefited from. Thanks and gratitude were extended to the Asian Chess Federation and the Oman Chess Committee for the successful organization. Thanks to the FIDE Events Commission in particular for supporting the seminar

Maldives Chess Association Success Story

You may recall the old Maldives Chess Federation which was inactive for many years and did not have any FIDE rated tournament. A group of Maldivians complained to the Ministry of Sports which ordered fair elections last year for the reorganized Maldives Chess Association. Hussain Shiyan was elected president, shown above left with Asian Chess Federation president Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan. With the support of the Asian Chess Federation and other sponsors, the Maldives Chess Association has achieved phenomenal growth. Visit asianchess.com for full story,

As part of the Asian Chess Federation's drive to follow up on the programs of development of the game in various Asian countries under the precautionary measures of the pandemic Covid 19, in accordance with the directives of Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa bin Shakbut Al Nahyan, President of the Asian Game Federation, Hisham Ali Al-Taher, Secretary General of the Asian Chess Federation, held a Zoom meeting with the Maldives Chess Association in the presence of Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh, Treasurer of the Asian Chess Federation. Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa bin Shakbut Al Nahyan, President of the Asian Chess Federation, has directed towards providing appropriate support in recognition of the outstanding activity of the Maldives Chess Association.

Shiyan narrated how he organized the following Executive team:

They focused on development of chess as a sport in Maldives.

They introduced the following local tournaments in Maldives • Tournaments for Kids and Youth • Tournaments for Adults and Professionals Chess players • Tournaments for cooperate organization • Support member club to organize tournaments • Have FIDE rated tournaments in Maldives

They nurtured Arbiters and Chess Trainers to develop chess in Maldives • Organize Arbiter program to certifies chess arbiter • Organize Trainers program in Maldives

They coordinated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to get a dedicated hall for Chess Development.

Total of 20 DGT boards was sponsored by Male' Water and Sewerage Company. With this had taken chess tournaments at a different level, where spectators were able to enjoy live chess tournaments. Development program also was conducted with collaboration registered club.

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Maldives Chess Association president Hussain Shiyan with Sheikh Sultan.



ACF Deputy President Bharat Singh of India (left) visited Maldives and signed an MOU with the Sports Council president (right) for development programs.



IA Casto Abundo (seated, center) conducted a FIDE Arbiters Seminar in Maldives.

Luxman Wijesuriya Elected President of Chess Federation of Sri Lanka



Mr. Luxman Wijesuriya was unanimously elected President of the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka unanimously at the Annual General Meeting of the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka on 29th of August 2020 at the CFSL Headquarters. The Neutral Election Committee elected at the CFSL Special General Meeting in 2019 December, Mr. Upali Gunasekara (Chairman), Mr. Aruna De Silva and Mrs. Nadeeka Perera, conducted the CFSL Elections.

There were no extra nominations for each post where a single nomination each was posted for 19 posts in the CFSL Executive Committee, giving full authority to Mr. Wijesuriya's team to take chess in Sri Lanka to the next level

Mr. Malith Akalanka of Sri Lanka Army was elected Secretary General and former Sri Lanka National Player Deepthi Hewageegana was elected Deputy President.

Luxman Wijesuriya was the Sri Lanka National Chess Champion in 1996 and 2000. He has represented Sri Lanka in National level for 25 years from 1983 to 2008 including 8 Chess Olympiads which is the highest among Sri Lankan players still. He won a Gold medal at the Asian Team Championship 1995 in Singapore. He is an International Arbiter and has also worked as an arbiter in most of the top World Chess events such as FIDE Chess Olympiad, Women's World cup and FIDE Men's & Women's Grand Prix.

Luxman being a leading Chess administrator after his retirement from the game, has done a great service to Chess in Sri Lanka during the last decade. The number of Registered Chess players have reached 170,000 in the country. CFSL organizes around 150 Chess Events per year.



Luxman Wijesuriya (left) with Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan

There are 11 International Ranking Events which gives more than 400,000/- cash awards in a year. Even last year's National Chess Champion was awarded Rs. 100,000/=. A foreign Grandmaster was brought as National Coach in 2018 period which changed the level of Chess in a big way. Harshana Thilakarathne managed to win the IM title from FIDE and Sasith Piyumantha won the Asian Under 16 Championship during last two years due to this development. He managed to get at least one Asian/Commonwealth Chess event per year. Last year CFSL organized the biggest Chess Event in Asia, the Asian Youth Chess Championship with around 300 foreign players from 23 Asian Countries.

He is working as the General Secretary in both South Asian Chess Council and Commonwealth Chess Association. He is a Vice President in

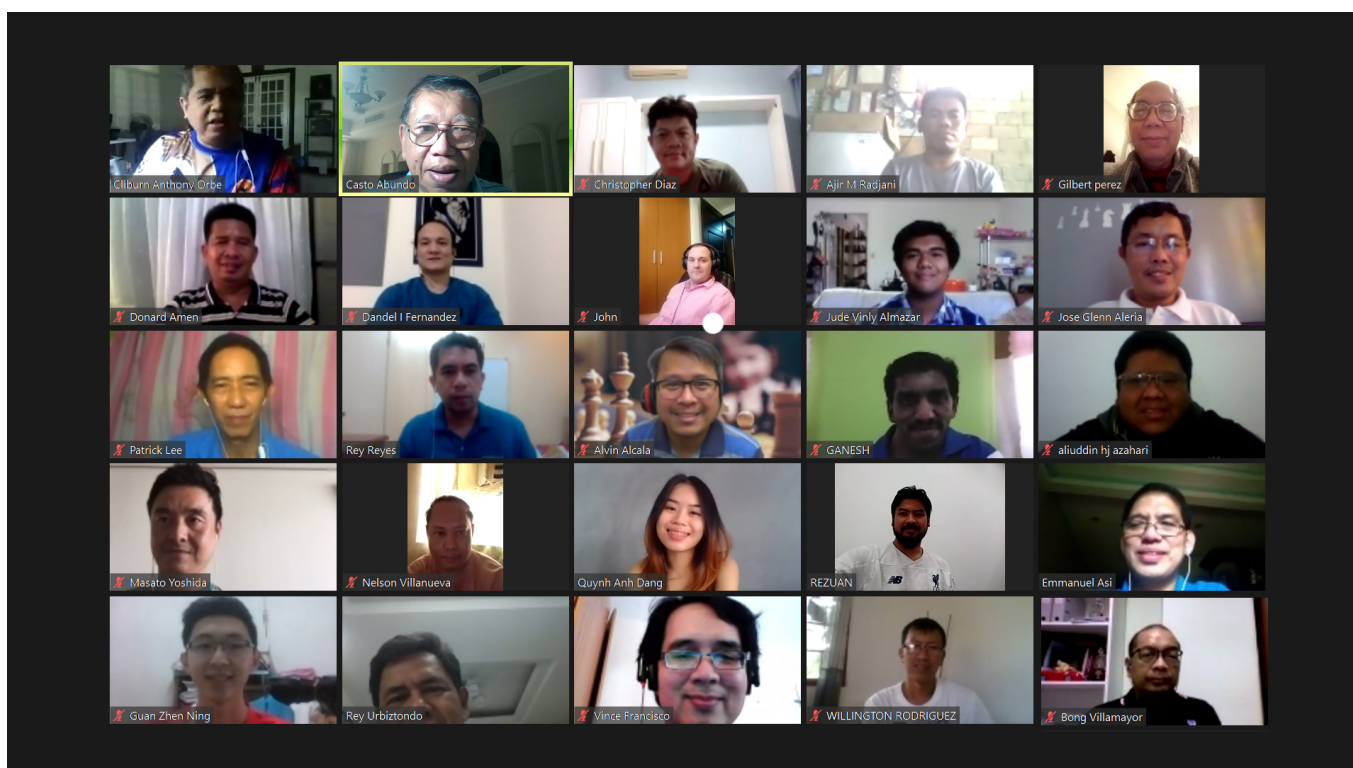
the Asian Chess Federation as well.

Malith Akalanka, the Hony. Secretary is also a long serving Chess enthusiast who worked hard to promote Chess in the country. He is also an International Arbiter and is one of the founding members who started the Dhamso International Chess Championship. He is a distinguished officer of the Sri Lanka Army.

Mr. Deepthi Hewageegana who is the CEO of a leading company in Colombo, United Tractors, also played for the National Chess team which participated in Asian Chess Championships in Dubai 1996 and in Genting Island, Malaysia 1989. He was continuously serving in the National Selection Committee for Chess and coming to the bigger position this year.

We have no doubt that the new team with a lot of young blood will do the best for the Chess in the Sri Lanka.

Online FIDE Arbiters Seminar for Southeast Asia



The 82nd Internet based FIDE Arbiters' Seminar was held from 10-12 July 2020. It was organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines in cooperation with the Asian Chess Federation under the

auspices of FIDE.

The Lecturer was IA/IO Casto Abundo (PHI), FIDE Lecturer and the Assistant Lecturer was IA/IO Patrick Lee (PHI). The Language of the Seminar was English.

Twenty five (25) arbiters from eight Asian federations participated in the Seminar and took the examination test held after the end of the lectures.

Emad Ghalayini, 1953-2020

With deep sorrow we learned of the demise of a long-time friend of chess, Mr. Emad Ghalayini.

Emad was one of the original founders of chess in the UAE. As Technical Secretary of the UAE Chess Federation, he helped start chess clubs around the UAE - in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah to start the chess movement here.

He made his mark in Asian and World chess. Emad organized the Asian Cities Chess Team Championship in Dubai and he was Chief Organizer of the World Juniors Chess Championship 1985 in Sharjah and Chief Arbiter of the 1986 Chess Olympiad in Dubai. Emad was given the Meritorious Service Award in 2014 by Sheikh Sultan and former FIDE President Kirsan Iljumzhinov.

