



Asian Chess Journal

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Record number of countries in Asian Amateur Chess Championship



His Excellency Arif Al Awani (right), Secretary General of the Abu Dhabi Sports Council, addresses the press conference announcing the Asian Amateur Chess Championship together with Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa bin Shakhboub Al Nahyan (center), President of the Asian Chess Federation and President of Al Ain Chess and Mind Games Club, and Hisham Al Taher, club Managing Director and CEO and General Secretary of the Asian Chess Federation (left).

The Asian Amateur Chess Championships were held 13-22 December 2024 at the Danat Al Ain Resort Hotel in Al Ain, UAE. The event, organized by the Al Ain Chess and Mind Games Club under auspices of FIDE and the Asian Chess Federation, attracted a record 31 countries.

Mohamed Saeed Laily of the UAE won gold, Mukhammadrizo Umarov of Uzbekistan silver and bronze to FM Zhuban Bigabylov of Kazakhstan. M. Farhan of India won the Open Under 1700 while silver went to Ateeq .

Alremaeithi Abdulla of the UAE. Third went to Bonuonuo Gong of China. WFM Nadezhda Antonova of Tajikistan topped the Women;s Under 2000 alone with 7 points followed by Eisa Mohamed Anoud of the UAE with 6.5 points for second place and countrymate Rashed Ahlam with 6 points for third place. R. Sananda of India topped the Women's Under 1700 alone with 7.5 points followed by compatriot Ruhani Raj Asudani with 7 points for second place and Nursaya Zhumabek of Kazakhstan with 6.5 points. Visit asianchess.com.

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12 Year Old Wins Asian Amateur Rapid Chess Championship



Twelve-year-old Egor Vlad Lovakov, playing under the neutral FIDE flag, won the gold medal. Al Romaithi Ahmad of the UAE won the silver while Bin Yazeed Muhahid of Maldives won bronze. Visit asianchess.com



In the women's division, Shakhnoza Sabirova of Uzbekistan finished alone with 6 points to win the gold medal followed by WFM Rashed Ahlam of the UAE with 5 points and better tie break for the silver medal and WFM Nadezhda Antonova of Tajikistan also with 5.5 points for the bronze medal. Visit asianchess.com

Emiratis Dominate Asian Amateur Men's & Women's Blitz Chess



Emirati men and women proudly display their flag as they dominated both divisions of the Asian Amateur Blitz Chess Championship held 19 December 2024 at the Danat Al Ain Resort in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. Visit asianchess.com



Top placers in Men's U2000 blitz are gold medalist Hamad, Essam (UAE) 8 points, silver medalist Umarov, Mukhammadrizo (UZB) 7.5 points and bronze medalist Mohamed, Saeed Laily (UAE) 7 points.



Top placers in Women's U2000 blitz are gold medalist WFM Al Maamari, Wafia Darwish 7,5 points, silver medalist Anoud, Eisa Mohamed of UAE 7 points and bronze medalist Smaraki, Mohanty of India with 6,5 points

India triumphs at 45th Chess Olympiad, winning both Men's and Women's



The Indian men's team of Gukesh D, Praggnanandhaa R, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi, and Harikrishna Pentala, with Srinath Narayanan as the captain, led throughout the tournament, winning 10 matches and drawing just one. The Indian women's team of Harika Dronavalli, Vaishali R, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal, and Tania Sachdev, with Abhijit Kunte as the captain, demonstrated excellent composure and delivered

This Olympiad became the biggest in history, with 188 teams in the Open and 169 teams in the women's section. Not all of them contested for the highest places, but to mark their achievements, special prizes in rating categories were awarded to many Asian teams.

Open, Group A: China, Serbia, Armenia

Women, Group A: Spain, Armenia, Georgia

Open, Group B: Turkmenistan, Latvia, Kazakhstan

Women, Group B: Philippines, Montenegro, Latvia

Open, Group C: Ecuador, Zimbabwe, Tajikistan

Women, Group C: Turkmenistan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka

Open, Group D: Sri Lanka, Liechtenstein, Pakistan

Women, Group D: Hong Kong, China; Thailand, Mozambique

Open, Group E: Myanmar, Qatar, Eswatini

Women, Group E: Cameroon, Cayman Islands, Netherlands Antilles

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Volodar Murzin and Humpy Koneru new FIDE World Rapid Chess Champions



Following a dramatic finish in the Open and Women's competitions, the chess world got a new chess king and queen in the Rapid. India's Humpy Koneru clinched her second FIDE World Rapid Crown, while 18-year-old Volodar Murzin made history as the second-youngest person to win the Open Rapid.

Eighteen-year-old underdog Volodar Murzin delivered a stellar performance in a fierce field made up of most of the strongest and seasoned players in the world. In the Women's event, Koneru Humpy, India's top-rated female chess player, secured her second World Rapid Championship title with a score of 8.5/11, adding to her 2019 victory in Moscow.

Following a spectacular performance featuring seven victories, six draws, and no defeats, 18-year-old Volodar Murzin won the 2024 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship. He is now the second-youngest player to win the title, after Nodirbek Abdusattorov's victory in 2021.

India's top-rated chess player and one of the most seasoned competitors in women's chess, Koneru Humpy, secured her second World Rapid Championship title, finishing the tournament with 8.5/11. She won her first gold in the 2019 edition, in Moscow.

Koneru's victory adds another feather to the spectacular success of Indian chess in 2024, after the country won gold in the Chess Olympiad this summer in both the Open and the Women's Competition, and Gukesh D won the title of World Champion in standard chess.

Ju Wenjun Wins Women's World Blitz



Ju Wenjun clinched the Women's Blitz crown by defeating Lei Tingjie in the final of the 2024 FIDE World Blitz Championship held 25 December 2024 to 1st January 2025 in New York, USA.

Ju dominated the early rounds, defeating defending Blitz champion Valentina Gunina in the quarterfinals and overcoming India's Vaishali Rameshbabu in the semifinals. Lei, by contrast, faced a tougher path, narrowly defeating Bibisara Assaubayeva in the quarter-finals and requiring tiebreaks to edge out Kateryna Lagno in the semis. The final match between Ju and Lei stretched to five grueling games, all of which ended in draws. In the second game of the tiebreak, Ju, playing with White, capitalized on an opening advantage and gradually increased the pressure, forcing Lei's resignation and securing the title.

In the men's division, the defending Blitz champion Magnus Carlsen started the day with an early loss to Hans Niemann, but then overcame him and raced by Jan-Krzystof Duda to reach the finals. On the other side of the bracket, Ian Nepomniachtchi displayed strength and resilience, defeating newly crowned Rapid Champion Volodar Murzin and outlasting Wesley So in a tense semifinal tiebreak. Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi shared the Open title after an intense tiebreak match. With the score standing at 3.5:3.5., Carlsen stood up and publicly suggested to his opponent that they propose to split the crown.

Al-Ain ACMG UAE become the new World Rapid Chess Team Champions



Al Ain Chess and Mind Games Club won the World Rapid Chess Team Championship, and with this historic achievement, the Arabs were presented with the first gold medals in the team championships organized by the International Chess Federation and included in its official agenda, so that the world leader won the championship cup, gold medals, and a cash prize of one hundred thousand euros.

At right Asian Chess Federation General Secretary Hisham Al Taher watches over the Al Ain team at play.

After three days and 12 rounds, featuring many of the world's top players, Al-Ain ACMG UAE emerged victorious with 21 matchpoints out of a possible 23, drawing three and winning nine matches. Visit asianchess.com.



Kazybek Nogerbek Wins World Juniors, Divya Deshmukh Rules World Girls



In photo are, from left, World Girls Champion IM Divya Deshmukh of India, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel and IM Kazybek Nogerbek of Kazakhstan.

IM Kazybek Nogerbek of Kazakhstan beat erstwhile solo leader GM Mamikon Gharibyan of Armenia in the final round to win the 2024 World Junior Chess Championship in Gujarat, India. Nogerbek prevailed in the Buchholz cut-1 tie break over GM Emin Ohanyan of Armenia who won the silver medal with similar 8.5 score. GM Luka Budsavljevic of Serbia won the bronze with 8 points and better tie break over Gharibyan and IM Tobias Koelle of Germany. In the World Girls Championship, top seed IM Divya Deshmukh lived up to her billing as she finished unbeaten with 10 points out of 11 rounds. Deshmukh beat WGM Beloslava Krasteva of Bulgaria in the final round Visit asianchess.com



China, Kazakhstan, India Top Asian Schools Standard Chess Championship

China, Kazakhstan and India topped the Standard medal tally in the Asian Schools Chess Championship held 1-8 December 2024 in Bangkok organized by the Thailand Chess Association under the auspices of FIDE and the Asian Chess Federation.

Chinese delegation



medal statistics

Final Ranking after 9 Rounds

Rk.	FED	gold	silver	bronze	Total
1	CHN	2	3	2	7
2	KAZ	2	2	0	4
3	IND	2	1	3	6
4	MGL	2	1	0	3
5	VIE	1	0	0	1
6	SRI	0	1	2	3
7	IRI	0	1	2	3
8	PHI	0	1	0	1
9	MAS	0	0	1	1
10	INA	0	0	1	1
	UZB	0	0	1	1

Kazakhstan delegation



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and more awards photos

Indian delegation



Kazakhstan, China, India Top Asian Schools Rapid Chess Championship

Kazakhstan won five gold medals to top the Asian Schools Rapid Chess Championship on 9th December 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand followed by China and India. The 7-round event was organized by the Thailand Chess Association under the auspices of FIDE and the Asian Chess Federation.

medal statistics

Final Ranking after 7 Rounds

Rk.	FED	gold	silver	bronze	Total
1	 KAZ	5	0	4	9
2	 CHN	2	5	0	7
3	 IND	1	1	2	4
4	 PHI	1	0	1	2
5	 UZB	1	0	0	1
6	 TKM	0	2	0	2
7	 MGL	0	1	1	2
9	 VIE	0	1	1	2
10	 IRI	0	1	0	1
	 MYA	0	0	1	1
	 INA	0	0	1	1



Under 17 rapid championship



Girls Under 17 rapid championship



Under 15 rapid championship

Thailand Chess Federation president Sahapol Nakvanich awarding trophies and medals.

Visit asianchess.com for more photos and results of Asian Schools Rapid Chess Championship.



Girls Under 15 rapid championship

Kazakhstan, China, Iran top Asian Schools Blitz Chess Championship

Kazakhstan, China and Iran topped the Asian Schools Blitz Chess Championship on 10th December 2024 in Bangkok. The event was organized by the Thailand Chess Association under the auspices of FIDE and the Asian Chess Federation.



Asian Schools Blitz U17 winners

medal statistics

Final Ranking after 9 Rounds

Rk.	FED	gold	silver	bronze	Total
1	 KAZ	3	5	4	12
2	 CHN	2	1	1	4
3	 IRI	2	1	0	3
4	 PHI	1	1	0	2
5	 IND	1	0	3	4
6	 INA	1	0	0	1
7	 TKM	0	2	1	3
	 VIE	0	2	1	3
9	 MGL	0	0	1	1



Asian Schools Blitz Girls U17 winners

Visit asianchess.com for more blitz tournament awards photos and results.



Asian Schools Blitz U15 winners



Asian Schools Blitz Girls U15 winners

Gukesh D crowned FIDE World Champion

After almost a month of fierce competition, against an opponent who never gave in, 18-year-old Grandmaster from Chennai Gukesh D. raised the winner's trophy this evening, in the magnificent ballrooms of the Equarius Hotel Sentosa. It has been an extraordinary journey, one that has kept us all on the edge of our seats with each move, and each brilliant game. It has been a celebration of not just the players and their remarkable achievements, but also of the spirit of chess—its ability to inspire, connect, and transcend boundaries. The awards ceremony took place next to the “fish tank”, the extra sensorial cube in which the 14-game match has been played. Over 1000 authorities, chess fans and media saluted the champion in the line of the greatest players in history. Singapore provided the perfect backdrop for this championship, combining the city's stunning beauty with the warmth hospitality of its people. Months and months of meticulous planning and hard work resulted in an impeccably organized event. Visit asianchess.com. Read [how Singapore pulled off the World Championship](#).



Singapore Minister of State Murali Pillai (left), FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich and Singapore Chess Federation President Hsu Li Yang (right) award the champion's trophy to Gukesh.



Ding Liren of China (right) with Singapore Chess Federation CEO GM Kevin Goh.



Zonal Tournaments in Zone 3.8 Start World Chess Championship Cycle

Eight Asian Zonals kick off the World Chess Championship cycle, qualifying players to the FIDE World Cup in October (venue to be announced) and Women's World Cup in July in Batumi, Georgia.

The 77th Russian Championship 2024 (open) and the 74th Russian Women's Championship 2024 were announced as qualification tournaments for the FIDE World Cup and Women's World Cup 2025.

Chess Federation of Russia (Zone 3.8) held Men's and Women's Zonal championship 16-29 August 2024 in Barnaul, Altai Krai, Russia.

In the open, the Top-5 players qualified for the 2025 FIDE World Cup. In the women's competition, the top 3 players qualified for the FIDE Women's World Cup.

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Top 3 in the 77th Russian Championship. Qualified to the World Cup are GMs Vladislav Artemiev, Andrey Esipenko, Danil Dubov, Evgeniy Najer and Arseny Nesterov.



Top 3 in the 74th Russian Women's Championship. Qualified to the Women's World Cup are GM Kateryna Lagno, IM Daria Charochkina and GM Aleksandra Goryachkina

Karthik Venkataraman, Nandhidhaa P Win Men's and Women's Zone 3.7 Zonal

Karthik Venkataraman emerged as the winner of the 61st India Chess Championship thanks to a crucial final-round victory over Guha Mitrabh. Organized by the Haryana Chess Association at RPS International School, Gurgaon, the 11-round Swiss tournament boasting a prize fund of thirty lakhs rupees (approximately USD 35,000) brought together 341 players from all across India. Visit asianchess.com.

WGM Nandhidhaa P V scored an unbeaten 9/11 to win the 50th National Women's Championship 2024. This is her first National Women title. WIM Priyanka K (TN), IM Padmini Rout (PSPB) and WGM Kiran Manisha Mohanty (LIC) scored 8.5/11 each. They secured second to fourth place according to tie-breaks. Nandhidhaa defeated WGM Priyanka Nutakki (AP) in the final round to become the champion. Visit asianchess.com.



Champion GM Karthik Venkataraman receiving his trophy.



l to r: GM Surya Sekhar Ganguly, GM Karthik Venkataraman and IM Neelash Saha



WGM Nandhidhaa P V wins 50th Women's Championship

Asian Chess Championship for Players with Disabilities held in Kyrgyzstan

The 2nd Asian Chess Championship for Players with Disabilities closed 18th November in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. A total of 79 players from seven countries, namely India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russians under neutral FIDE flag, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

The event was organized by the Kyrgyz Chess Union under the auspices of FIDE and the Asian Chess Federation supported by the FIDE Planning and Development Commission. Categories of disability were

Visual Impairment: (men and women with disabilities with full or visually impaired (legally considered to be blind);

Physical Impairment: (men and women with disabilities with a lesion of the musculoskeletal system and others with physical disabilities);

Hearing Impairment: Category B (men and women with disabilities with full or weakened hearing loss (legally considered to be deaf).

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Open – Visual impairment category: gold Suhrob (TJK), silver Jumadullayev Kuanishbek (KAZ) and bronze Kimsanboyev Axadxon (UZB).



Open Physical Impairment: gold medalist Venkata Krishna Karthik K (IND), silver medalist Samarth J Rao (IND) and bronze medalist Kozhamuratov Marat (KAZ)



Women – Visual impairment: gold medalist Kasymbaeva Gulzat (KGZ) and silver medalist Kuzmina Irina (FID)

GM Grebnev and WIM Shukhman win Asian Juniors and Girls Chess Championships

Defending champion GM Aleksey Grebnev of Russia, playing under the FIDE flag, drew with IM S. Aswath of India to finish alone with 7.5 points and win the Asian Juniors Chess Championship held 11-19 October 2024 at the Knights Templar Hotel in Tagaytay City, Philippines. IM Mukhdalai Amilal of Mongolia won the silver medal with 7 points. Aswath settled for the bronze medal with 6.5 points.

A total of 32 juniors and 22 girls participated from thirteen countries, namely Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Russia under FIDE flag, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Vietnam and host Philippines. The event was hosted by the Tagaytay Chess Club under the auspices of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, Asian Chess Federation and International Chess Federation in cooperation with the City of Tagaytay, Philippine Sports Commission and Philippine Olympic Committee and supported by the Planning and Development Commission.

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Chief Arbiter IA Patrick Lee (left) awards trophies and medals in standard chess. From left are IM Artem Uskov of Russia (best u16) playing under FIDE flag, silver medalist IM Mukhdalai Amilal of Mongolia, gold medalist GM Aleksey Grebnev, bronze medalist IM S. Aswath of India, Charles Chong (best u18) of Philippines and tournament coordinator Mike Lapitan of Tagaytay Chess Club



Chief Arbiter IA Patrick Lee (left) awarding medals in Asian Girls standard chess championship, from left, Ainul Madhiah Mohd Afif of Malaysia (best u16), bronze medalist WIM G. Tejaswini of India, gold medalist WIM Anna Shukhman of Russia, playing under FIDE flag, silver medalist Halder Sneha of India, Dhanashree Khairmode of India (best u18) and tournament coordinator Mike Lapitan of Tagaytay Chess Club.

Visit asianchess.com for Rapid Chess Championship Results and [Blitz Chess Championship](http://asianchess.com).

Congratulations to Winners of Asian Rapid Chess Team Championship

The inaugural Asian Rapid Chess Team Championship has been successfully held 21st to 25th August 2024 in Hong Kong.

At right, Asian Chess Federation General Secretary Hisham Al Taher (center) and Hong Kong Chess Federation president K.K. Chan award the prize of HK\$100,000 to the champion team, Schnappi Krokodil of China.

In a ceremony marking the start of the championship, Professor Herman Hu, Vice President of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, was in attendance as the Guest of Honor, with his participation highlighting the tournament's significance in the sporting arena.

After three exciting days and 11 rounds of chess, the competition showed off amazing talent, hard work, and teamwork. Every move highlighted the players' skills and passion, making this championship one to remember.

A big congratulations to the top teams. This event couldn't have happened without the hard work of the organizers, the support from our special guests, and the energy of all the participants. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Asian Rapid Chess Team Championship 2024 a huge success.

Visit asianchess.com for more photos and list of board medalists.



Champion: Schnappi Krokodil of China (photo above)



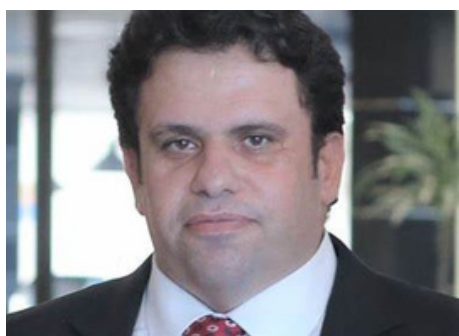
2nd Place: Jabar Juara of Indonesia



3rd Place: The Formula of Chess of Russia

Gombojav Zandanshatar Elected President of Mongolian Chess Federation

H.E. Gombojav Zandanshatar has been elected President of the Mongolian Chess Federation. WGM Enkhtuul Altan Uzlii is FIDE Delegate.



IM Sami Khader Elected President of Royal Jordanian Chess Federation

IM Sami Khader has been elected President of the Royal Jordanian Chess Federation.

WGM Shadi Paridar Elected President of Iran Chess Federation

WGM Shadi Paridar has been elected President of the Chess Federation of Islamic Republic of Iran. Paridar is a chess professional, Player and Manager for many years..



Rawad Hammoud Elected President of Lebanese Chess Federation

Rawad Haoumd was elected president of the Lebanese Chess Federation at its General assembly on 26 Jan. 2025.

Anmar Ebrahim Ahmadi Elected President of Bahrain Chess Federation

Anmar Ebrahim Ahmadi has been elected President of Bahrain Chess Federation.



Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov is New Chairman of the Uzbekistan Chess Federation

H.E Abdulla Aripov, the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, has been elected Chairman of the Uzbekistan Chess Federation. Alisher Sadullayev, who led the federation since May 2022, will now serve as the first deputy chairman. Visit [FIDE directory](#) for full set of officers.



Mohammed Al-Masoudi wins the presidency of the Saudi Chess Federation

Al-Masoudi will head the Chess Federation, with a broad membership of Dr. Ali Al-Dalbahi, as Vice President, Dr. Khaled Al-Maliki, Dr. Muhammad Al-Tamimi, Dr. Nasser Al-Nafie, Muhammad Al-Dahimi, Najla Bin Hijna, Samia Al-Essa, Abdullah Al-Baqmi, and Abdulaziz Al-Hafi. Visit [asianchess.com](#)

Sahapol Nakvanich Elected President of ASEAN Chess Confederation

Sahapol Nakvanich, president of the Thailand Chess Association, has been elected president of the ASEAN Chess Confederation.

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Dharmendra Kumar Elected President of South Asia Chess Council

Dharmendra Kumar of India was elected president of the South Asia Chess Council. Visit [FIDE Directory](#) for full set of officers.