



E-Catur Pinang

67/2026

21st Malaysian Chess Festival 2026
28th August - 6th September

The 21st edition of the Malaysian Chess Festival kicked off at the KL Gateway Mall on 28th August 2026 with a total of 9 events on offer. The Tournament Director was IA Abdul Hamid bin Abdul Majid and the Chief Arbiter was IA Jonathan Chuah Jin Hai. This FIDE-rated festival offer chess events for players from all walks of life - including the 21st Dato' Arthur Tan Merdeka Open Chess Championship, the SMS Deen Merdeka Open Rapid Team Championship, Daniel Yong Chen-I Memorial Merdeka Chess Challenge and Dato' Tan Chin Nam Seniors' Open Chess Championship.



The 10-day festival is Malaysia's premier and longest-running international open chess festival. The total prize fund is RM115,800. This year's event has attracted many foreign as well as local teams, as it is a chess Olympiad year. GMs, IMs and FMs from India, China, Australia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Iran, Uzbekistan, Singapore, Vietnam and Malaysia are here to use the festival as a valuable warm-up for the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in mid-September. Malaysia's top players have also joined in the fray. Kudos to the Dat Chess Centre Team for organising such a quality chess event.

The Dato' Tan Chin Nam Merdeka Junior (Under 12) Team Chess Championship was won by Cerebrill Marcus Chess A with 7 wins and 2 draws! Penang Cell (Lim Howe Luong, Evan Wong Zi Xuan, Chuah Qi Feng and Leong Jin Kai) secured a second placing with 6 wins and 3 draws. Penang SJKC Chung Shan B (Teoh Sao How, Henry Chin Pi Hang, Mah Nok Xii and Cheah Chee Keat) was in 6th Place and the team won the IGB Junior Challenge Trophy for the Overall Best School. Penang's Chilli Padi Gambit (Kuan Rhay Wen, Alicia Lee Xin Rui, Belle Tan Liang Yi and Rachel Ong Wen Qing) were adjudged the Best Girl Team. A total of 62 teams participated. PCA is proud of all of you!



Penang Chilli Padi Gambit - Best Girls' Team



SJKC Chung Shan B - Overall Best School



DATO' TAN CHIN NAM MERDEKA JUNIOR (UNDER-12)
TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2026
Final Ranking after 9 Rounds

R.	SNo	Team	Group	Games	+	=	-	TB1
1	1	CEREBRILL MARCUSCHESS A		9	7	2	0	16
2	7	PENANG CELL	State	9	6	3	0	15
3	2	TRAILBLAZERS		9	5	4	0	14
4	4	KL BANGSAR BOYS	State	9	5	3	1	13
5	3	GMJ RED HOT CHILI CHESS WARRIORS		9	6	1	2	13
6	18	PENANG SJKC CHUNG SHAN B	Govt, State	9	6	1	2	13
7	5	SELANGOR DOMINATORS	State	9	6	0	3	12
8	9	PUTRAJAYA LITTLE WARRIORS	State	9	6	0	3	12
9	19	CEREBRILL MARCUSCHESS B		9	6	0	3	12

Congrats Penang Cell!



2026 SMS Deen Merdeka Open Rapid Team

The 2026 SMS Deen Merdeka Open Rapid Team was one of the strongest Rapid Team Chess Championships ever held in Malaysia. A total of 66 teams participated in the 9-round event. The Olympic Team from Indonesia, Indonesia A (IM Cahaya Satria Duta, IM Hafiz Arif Abdul, IM Budhidharma Nayaka, IM Tarigan Gilbert Elroy) clinched the title with 7 wins and 2 draws.

CAKL (IM Chan Kim Yew, FM Ang Ern Jie Anderson, FM Kavin Mohan, FM Lim Zhuo Ren) was the Best Malaysian Team. Penang's OFA (Ooi Chern Ee, Capel Evan Timothy, Lim Chuin Hoong Ronnie, Hong Victor Wee Liam) was the third Best Malaysian Team.

Final Ranking after 9 Rounds

Rk.	SNo	Team	Group	Games	+	=	-	TB1
1	6	INDONESIA A		9	7	2	0	16
2	5	CAKL SELANGOR	M,St	9	6	3	0	15
3	7	GLADIATORS		9	5	4	0	14
4	8	INDONESIA C		9	6	2	1	14
5	4	USTPH TEAM A		9	6	1	2	13
6	2	BRAINBOX - FEEL MY HOLY ATTACK		9	6	1	2	13
7	11	USTPH TEAM B	Sc	9	6	1	2	13
8	23	DK CHESS ACADEMY	M	9	6	0	3	12
9	1	OFA PENANG	M,St	9	6	0	3	12
10	9	DIFFUSION BRIDGE		9	5	1	3	11



Champions: Indonesia A



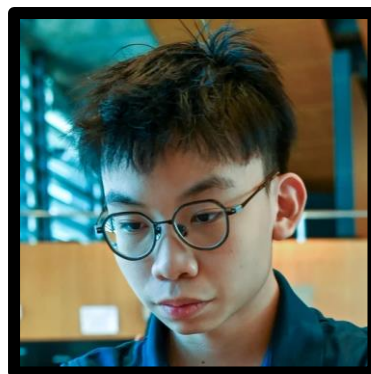


Team OFA (Old Frees Association)
with OFA Chess Convenor, Quah Seng Sun (3rd from left)



Merdeka Blitz Chess Championship

15 year old IM Jiang Haochen swept aside all opposition by emerging Champion in the Merdeka Blitz Chess Championship with a near perfect score of 8.5/9! Penang's IM Poh Yu Tian (pic right) was second with 7.5/9. IM Mohan Kushagra was third, also with 7.5/9.



THE MERDEKA BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Rk.	SN o		Name	FED	Rtg	Pts.
1	2	IM	Jiang, Haochen	CHN	2474	8,5
2	8	IM	Poh, Yu Tian	MAS	2344	7,5
3	10	IM	Kushagra, Mohan	IND	2334	7,5
4	3	GM	Iniyar, Pa	IND	2442	7
5	88		Carl N Daluz,	MAS	0	7



IM Jiang

The Malaysian Festival Blitz

Malaysian Festival Blitz event was won by IM Concio Michael Jr. of the Philippines (pic right) with a total score of 8/9. IM Bacojo Mark Jay of the Philippines (7.5/9) was second and IM Kushagra Mohan of India (7.5/9) was third.



Dato' Tan Chin Nam Seniors Open

Meanwhile, MN Hudallah (pic left) won the Dato' Tan Chin Nam Seniors Open Chess Championship with a comfortable score of 7/9. IM Guy West of Australia was second with 6.5/7. Ric Portugalera of the Philippines was third. Malaysia's FM Ismail Ahmad was fifth.

DATO TAN CHIN NAM SENIORS OPEN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Final Ranking after 9 Rounds

Rk.	SNo		Name	FED	Rtg	Pts.
1	4		Mn, Hudallah	INA	2051	7
2	1	IM	West, Guy	AUS	2278	6,5
3	5		Portugalera, Ric	PHI	1989	5,5
4	2	IM	Prasad, Devaki V	IND	2153	5,5
5	8	FM	Ismail, Ahmad	MAS	1830	5,5

21st Dato' Arthur Tan Merdeka Open

The premier event, the Classical Open of the 21st Dato Arthur Tan Merdeka Open Chess Championship was won by GM Guha Mitrabha of India (pic right) with a score 7/9. IM Jiang Haochen of China and IM Iljya Grogorjev of Russia were second and third. Penang's IM Tan Jun Ying finished at 17th (6/9) in a strong field of 10 GMs and over 20 IMs.



21st DATO ARTHUR TAN MERDEKA OPEN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Final Ranking after 9 Rounds

Rk.	SNo		Name	FED	Rtg	Pts.
1	3	GM	Mitrabha, Guha	IND	2540	7
2	8	IM	Jiang, Haochen	CHN	2457	7
3	11	IM	Grigorjev, Iljya	RUS	2432	7
4	12	IM	Ayush, Sharma	IND	2426	6,5
5	7	GM	Savchenko, Boris	RUS	2477	6,5
6	4	GM	Ilamparthi, A R	IND	2517	6,5
7	13	IM	Nguyen, Quoc Hy	VIE	2424	6,5
8	1	GM	Iniyar, Pa	IND	2609	6
9	25	GM	Nguyen, Duc Hoa	VIE	2374	6
10	5	GM	Siddharth, Jagadeesh	SGP	2513	6

Yang Jiayou of China (Starting rank 97!) easily swept aside all opposition by scoring 8.5/9 in the Daniel Yong Memorial Chess Challenger. His closest rival was 10-year old WCM Urantzaya Shagdarsuren of Mongolia who scored 7/9! Penang's Brighton Tan Ze Hao finished 12th (Starting rank 30) and Lim Howe Luong finished 14th (Starting rank 21). Both score a commendable 6/9.



Yang Jiayou (China)



WCM Urantzaya (Mongolia)

Photo Credit: Andrew Ooi @ Gila Catur

DANIEL YONG CHEN-I MEMORIAL MERDEKA CHESS CHALLENGER **Final Ranking after 9 Rounds**

Rk.	SNo		Name	FED	Rtg	Pts.
1	97		Yang, Jiayou	CHN	0	8,5
2	4	WCM	Urantzaya, Shagdarsuren	MGL	1837	7
3	1		Tiauson, Recarte	PHI	1925	6,5
4	36	AIM	Kurniawan, Alexander Philip	INA	1610	6,5
5	5		Kumaresan, Nhavin	MAS	1835	6,5



Photos Courtesy of Andrew Ooi @ Gila Catur



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