E-Catur Pinang **76/2026**

Asia-Pacific Deaf Chess Championship 2026

The FIDE-rated Asia Pacific Deaf Chess Championship was held at the 1st Avenue Mall from 4th to 9th October 2026 as part of the inaugural Asia-Pacific Deaf Multi-Sport Championships in Georgetown. Some 510 athletes are in idyllic Penang to compete in five sporting events, namely athletics, badminton, bowling, chess and table tennis.

Six countries had registered for the chess championship - Bahrain, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kazakhstan and host Malaysia. There were three main events, namely Blitz (Individual - Men and Women), Rapid Play (Mixed Team) and Standard (Individual - Men and Women). The mixed team event consisted of 4 players (2 Men and 2 Women players with a reserve each). A total of 18 Gold, 18 Silver and 18 Bronze medals were offered in the championship.

Team Malaysia was represented by Leong Ee Hern, Rafizal Baharom, Goh Sheng Wei and Ezwany Osman. The Ladies team comprised Yoshni Ramakrishnan, Chua Pei Wen and Nur Farzana Zanirah.

Simon Andersson (standing, 2nd left) & Mohd. Nazrul Azwa, (standing, right) the Assistant Secretary-General of the Malaysian Federation of the Deaf with Team Malaysia.

The event is managed by the Asia Pacific Deaf Sports Confederation (APDSC). PCA is supporting the event with the necessary technical expertise and equipment. APDSC Director of Sports (Chess), Simon Andersson and APDSC Secretary-General David Francis Peters were present to oversee the smooth running of the event. The main sponsor is the Penang State Government throught a RM250K grant.

Our thanks and appreciation to Lim Poay Sim (Chief Arbiter), Lim Yik (Deputy CA - Blitz), Lim Zhun Wing (Deputy CA - Standard - Men), Haslinda Ruslan (Deputy CA Standard - Women), Zaiyana Mohamed Hussain (Deputy CA - Team Rapid), Tan Jia Jin, Yew Chor Hian, Ivie Yong, Goh Jie Yi, Looi Xin Hao, Steven Hoh, Wendy Lim, Mun Lai San, Adam Safwan, Dalene Ooi and Amos Lai. PCA Secretary, Ooi Gim Ewe was the Tournament Coordinator. Our gratitude also goes to the 1st Avenue Mall management, especially Tay Chih Hern for providing the use of 2 mini-halls and other necessities. Not forgetting the interpreters, Sharifah Huda Binti Syed Ibrahim, Calista Tay and Lim Chia Wei.

In the Blitz event, 14-year-old Leong Ee Hern struck Gold when he won 10 of his 11 games. Indonesia's Muhlis had identical scores but lost to Ee Hern in their personal encounter. Ganguly Ankit of India was third. Well done Ee Hern!

In the Women's event, Indian player, Shrieya Y.S. emerged as the Champion. Her compatriot, Nagappa Masagi Ambika won the Silver medal. Balzan Dzhumagayeva from Kazakhstan secured the Bronze medal. The mixed team event was won by India in a thrilling match between India and Kazakhstan. The Kazakhs took the Silver and Malaysia, the Bronze.

PCA President, Madam See Swee Sie making the ceremonial first move
to start the Asia Pacific Chess Deaf Championship 2026

APDSC Sports Chess Director, Mr. Simon Andersson giving the daily briefing

Malaysia’s Leong Ee Hern (right) won the Blitz Gold Medal.

Team India

Team Indonesia

Team Kazakhstan with Madam See Swee Sie

Bahrain

Team Kuwait with Madam Bashaer Al-Zaid, Chairwoman of the Women's Committee in the Arab Chess Federation (centre)

A large crowd watching the competition

BLITZ
TABLE
6

PACIFIC
BLITZ
TABLE
7

Bashaer Al-Zaid, Chairwoman of the Women's Committee at the Arab Chess Federation met up with Madam See Swee Sie, Secretary General of the ASEAN Chess Confederation

Dr. Ong Shin Ruenn, President of the Malaysian Deaf Sports Association (left) &
Mr. Harry Chai, Director of the Penang Sports Council with the winners of the Blitz Event

Dr. Ong and Puan Wan Nor Iza binti Mohd Nor, Pengarah Jabatan Belia dan Sukan
with the Winners of the Mixed Team Competition

Mr. Lim Heng Tuck APDSC Treasurer (left) with our 2 Gold Medalists

Dr. Ong, Puan Nor and Madam See with officials

A souvenir for Puan Wan Nor Iza from Penang Chess Association

Team Malaysia: 2 Golds, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze

Mr. Nazrul Azwa addresses the players in international sign language as Chief Arbiter, Mr. Lim Poay Sim, MCF Deputy President, Dr. Zaidan Zuklipli and Mr. Shukri Harun, Director of the PARA Division, National Sports Council of Malaysia.

Mr. Shukri Harun makes the first move as Dr. Zaidan Zuklipli looks on.

APDSC Welcome & Appreciation Dinner

Arrival of Guest of Honour, YB Daniel Gooi, State Exco for Youth, Sports & Health