



PHOTO BY JULIUS KAFULUMA

# Sana shines as Ugandan stars surge in the Africa Chess Championship

By Julius Kafuluma

Uganda's Sana Omprakash edged closer to history after defeating Nigeria's WCM Deborah Ere Ebimolo to climb to the summit of the Africa Youth Chess Championship (AYCC) U18 girls' table.

Deborah, determined to recover from her loss the previous evening, entered the round hoping for a turnaround against the in-form Ugandan. But Sana maintained her composure, outplaying the Nigerian star to take command of the category. She now leads with 5.5 points

and needs just two more points from the remaining rounds to secure what would be Uganda's first-ever AYCC gold medal.

In the U18, Edwin Pido kept his medal hopes alive with an impressive fourth victory—this time over South Africa's Lirafu Siyambonga—moving to four points from six games.

Uganda's other strong contender for gold, Juliet Asaba, also delivered a win against her Botswana opponent to rise to five points. She faces a tougher test in the next round when she meets Women's Candidate Master opposition.

There was a moment of sweet redemption in the U14 category as Daniel Odokonyero outwitted South Africa's Parag Jugmohan—the same player who had earlier beaten fellow Ugandan Omara Sankara. Odokonyero's win puts him firmly back in the race with 4.5 points.

In the U10 Open, Elvis Tumusiime extended his remarkable momentum, securing a third straight victory after a hard-fought battle against Zimbabwe's Jiri Julian. In the U10 Girls section, Talia Atubet produced a spirited performance.