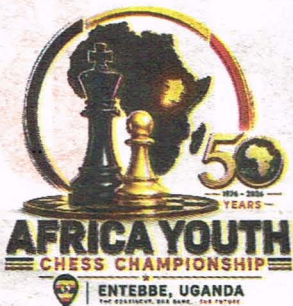


AYC MEDAL HUNT STARTS

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL NSUBUGA



By Michael Nsubuga

Several Ugandan players are assured of walking away with medals in various categories of the Africa Youth Chess Championship currently underway at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe.

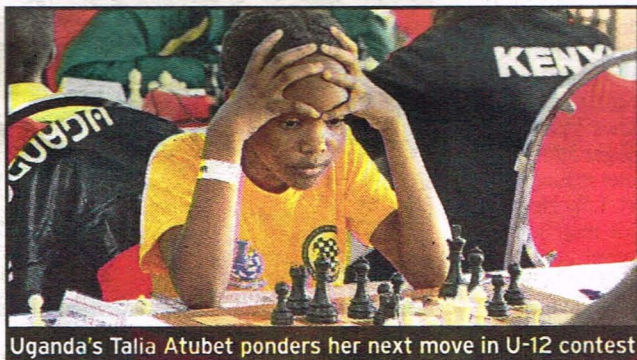
Gold medalists in the under-12, under-14, and open categories will receive the FIDE Master or Woman FIDE Master titles.

Silver and bronze medalists in these categories will earn the Candidate Master or Woman Candidate Master titles. Gold medalists in the under-8, under-10, and under-12 categories will also qualify for the 2027 FIDE World Cup.

After eight rounds in the U-8 category, Jacinta Mbabazi was poised for a medal, having earned maximum points by defeating Aretha Karabo Kembabazi (Uganda), three Kenyans (Zoey Njeri Ngugi, Luana Kalya Kanda, Aaliyah Jasmine McKenzie),



The U-14s girls in action during the Africa Youth Chess Championship yesterday



Uganda's Talia Atubet ponders her next move in U-12 contest

South Africans Coetzee Niki, Gabriels Amrienta, Mlaba Khethelo, and Egyptian Kamel Romaisaa.

Medal prospects in the open category for this age group were limited, though Matayo Barigye and Samuel Kaweesi, both with six points, still had a chance to compete for bronze.

Egyptian Mahmoud Sameir Zeineldin led with 7.5 points, followed by Namibian Adam Wahengo with 7.

In the U-10 category, Katrina Katushabe, with 6.5 points, remained in contention for gold or silver, trailing leader Fatma Said Tawfeik (Egypt) by half a point. Melisa Edinansi

had 6 points.

In the open category, Elvis Tumusiime was also a strong contender for gold, trailing Hamza Ahmed Ezaat (Egypt, 8 points) by one point and tying with Kenyan Jeremy Aden Duke.

Talia Atubet remained well-positioned, sharing the U-12 girls' category lead with Kenyan Winnie Kaburo at 7 points each. Chanelle Manuela Okurut Icuret and Solange Anaia Baliddawa followed with 6 points.

In the open category, Ugandan Ronald Wabwire was in a close contest for gold with Kenyans Nathanie Manyeki, Muli Faraja Mumo, and Namibian Arena Candidate Master James Dien, all tied at 7 points after eight rounds.