



Asian Chess Federation

P.O.Box 66511, Al-Ain, UAE, asianchessfederation@yahoo.com
Tel: +971-3-7633387, Fax: 7633362 URL: www.asianchess.com



Report to FIDE General Assembly 26 Feb- 1 March 2020, Abu Dhabi, UAE

0. Obituaries:

P.T. Ummer Koya (IND), former FIDE Vice President

1. Administrative Matters:

For the record, the following were elected presidents of National Federations in Asia in the previous year:

Mr. Nouzab Fareed was elected as the President of Fiji Chess Federation.

Mr. Hussain Shiyan was elected President of the Maldives Chess Association

Mr. Davlatali Said has been elected President of Tajikistan Chess Federation

Mr. Tom McCoy was elected President of the Papua New Guinea Chess Federation.

Ms. Yumiko Hiebert is new President of the Japan Chess Association.

Mr. Badih Khaled is the new President of the Lebanese Chess Federation

Mr. Akhramsyah Muammar Ubaidah Bin Sanusi is new President of Malaysian Chess Federation.

Mr. Zeferino Tilman was re-elected President of the Timor Leste Chess Federation

Mr. Beibut Atamkulov was elected President of Kazakhstan Chess Federation..

Mr. Ali Abbas was re-elected President of the Syrian Chess Federation.

2. Asian Paralympic Committee

Asian Chess Federation signed Agreement with the Asian Paralympic Committee in Dubai. The Asian Paralympic Committee is the only official representative of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) in Asia, and the owner of the Para Games in the region.

Chess was included in the 2018 Asian Para Games in Indonesia. ACF Secretary General Hisham Al Taher met March 2019 with APC president Majid Rashed of the UAE at the Asian Paralympic headquarters in Dubai and lobbied for more medals for our event. Chess will be in the Asian Para Games Hangzhou 2022 in China. Chess will also be in the 10th ASEAN Para Games, April 2020 in the Philippines.

3. Asian Games 2022 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China

As part of ACF objective to include chess in all multi sports events ACF is trying to include chess in the various Asian Continental and Regional Games with a maximum number of medals. Chess is permanently included in the Asian Indoor Games. Chess has been in editions of the Asian Indoor Games in 2007 in Macau, 2009 in Hanoi, Vietnam, in the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 2013 in Incheon, South Korea, and in 2017 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Olympic Council of Asia gave clear direction that chess is an indoor game and should be in the Asian Indoor Games.

In Regional Games, chess has regularly been in the Southeast Asian Games and was be in the SEA Games 30 November- 9 December 2019 in Subic Freeport, Philippines.

ACF Secretary General Hisham Al Taher met and discussed many times with OCA Director General and Technical Director Dr. Husain Al-Musallam to include chess in the Asian Games. Mr. Al Taher visited in February 2017 the headquarters of the Olympic Council of Asia in Kuwait for formal meetings and further discussions. OCA advised about criteria and exceptions for inclusion of sports in the Asian Games.

On 7th April 2017 in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, we met with Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, president of the Olympic Council of Asia, and lobbied for the inclusion of chess in the Asian Games 2022.

In December 2017 the National Olympic Committee of China confirmed to the Chinese Chess Association that Chess, Xiangqi and Go shall be included in the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games. Special thanks to Mayor of Hangzhou, Mr. Wang Guoping, member of the Organizing Committee and head of the Hangzhou Mind Games Center, who pushed for the inclusion of chess.

Throughout this period Chinese Chess Association was communicating with the Asian Chess Federation and submitted on 28 February 2019 the final plans for the venue and tournament hall which ACF approved.

As a formality, OCA General Assembly on 3rd March in Bangkok, Thailand finalized the sports in the Hangzhou Asian Games, including chess. This was relayed in a letter on 11 March 2019 from OCA President Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

Asian Chess Federation thanks everyone who contributed in their individual/official capacity to achieve this goal.

4. Pakistan Chess Federation

Asian Chess Federation arranged a meeting with Sheikh Sultan among conflicting parties in the Pakistan Chess Federation.

Background: On 8th July 2017, the Pakistan Sports Board supervised elections for the Pakistan Chess Federation, electing the following persons:

Senator Kalsum Praveen - President;
Mrs. Sadia Waheed – Secretary General;
Mr. Adnan Ghazi – Finance Secretary

The FIDE recognized group headed by President Abdus Salim filed suit in court which decided in favour of Mr. Abdus Salim. Since then the two groups have been back and forth in court and chess in Pakistan has stagnated.

Asian Chess Federation Secretary General Hisham Al Taher met with representatives of both sides at the Asian Cities in Bangladesh and they agreed to settle the matter in a meeting with Asian Chess Federation president Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan, 12 September 2019 in Al Ain, UAE

Representing the group recognized by FIDE: Mr. Abdus Salim, President and Mr. Waqar Ahmad Madni, Secretary

Representing the group recognized by the Pakistan Sports Board: Senator Kalsum Praveen, president, Mr. Muhammad Amin and Mr. Rashid Iqbal Khawaja

The parties came together to united Pakistan chess and signed the attached Memorandum of Agreement.

5. Tournaments and Matches:

The Southeast Asian Games chess event were held 1-9 December 2019 in Subic Freeport, Philippines. Gold medalists were:

Rapid Chess (men)	MAS – IM Yeoh Li Tian
Rapid Chess (women)	SGP – WGM Gong Qianyun
Blitz Chess (men)	INA – GM Susanto Megaranto
Blitz Chess (women)	INA – WGM Aulia Medina Warda
ASEAN Chess	THA – FM Kong See Uaychai
Online Chess	PHI – IM Jan Emmanuel Garcia
Fischer Random (men)	VIE – GM Le Quang Liem
Fischer Random (women)	INA – WGM Irene Sukandar
Chess Problem Solving	PHI – GM E. Torre, GM D. Laylo, IM P. Bersamina

6. World Schools 2022

Asian Chess Federation requests that Asia be given priority to bid for the 2022 World Schools. The last time it was held in Asia was in 2015 in Thailand.

7. Appreciation

Asian Chess Federation expresses appreciation to FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich for the professional Development Program.

Asian Chess Federation thanks national chess federations who organized Asian championships in the previous year and thanks all participating federations for sending their players.

Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan
President



Annex: MOA ACF-Pakistan



Asian Chess Federation

P.O.Box 66511, Al-Ain, UAE, asianchessfederation@yahoo.com
Tel: +971-3-7633387, Fax: 7633362 URL: www.asianchess.com



Memorandum of Agreement

Asian Chess Federation president Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan met with contending parties of the Pakistan Chess Federation on 11 September 2019 at the Danat Hotel in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. For the good of Pakistan chess, Sheikh Sultan emphasized the need to find a solution to end the litigation which has been going on for many years.

In the spirit of goodwill and friendship, both groups shall merge under the FIDE-recognized Pakistan Chess Federation and the parties agreed to set aside litigation and henceforth unify with the following leadership hierarchy:

Senator Kalsoom Parveen as President
Mr. Abdus Salim as Chairman
Mr. Waqar Ahmed Madni as Secretary General
Mr. Amin Malik as Vice President & Delegate

It was further agreed that the new board shall meet to draft new Statutes with the view of elections in two years' time. The parties agreed to work together in this transitional period for the good of Pakistan chess and that three of the above-named shall be signatories of the Pakistan Chess Federation bank account.

Signed 11 September 2019 in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates:

Asian Chess Federation:

Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifah Al Nahyan
President

Hisham Al Taher
Secretary General

Pakistan Chess Federation:

Senator Kalsoom Parveen
President

Abdus Salim
Chairman

Amin Malik
Vice President & Delegate

Waqar Ahmed Madni
Secretary General

Pakistan Chess Federation

I. The Mission:

1. Mr. Hisham Al-Taher and Dr. Rashid Alanezi made a visit to Islamabad- Pakistan on 21 January to 24th 2020 in order to meet officials of Chess in Pakistan to explore the roots of the problem and try to solve it. The first meeting was with Senator Kalsoom Parveen, Pakistan Chess Federation President and her team. We later met with Pakistan Sport Board and with Mr. Hanif Qureshi and Amin Malik.
2. It is not the aim of the visit to blame the problems of Chess in Pakistan on anybody but rather to understand the situation and try to give suggestions going forward. It is not in the best interest of Pakistan Chess to look into the past, but to look for the future.

II. The Facts

1. The Election of Pakistan Chess Federation 2017

- 2.1. The Chess difficulties in Pakistan dated back to more than three decades which has negative impact on Chess sport in Pakistan. No grandmaster in Pakistan for so many years
- 2.2. Pakistan Sport Board (PSB) tried to hold the elections but two parallel groups claimed to represent provinces. The Board was unable to take a decision. Mr. Qureshi went to the Court to ask that the Board hold the elections without delay. The judge ordered the Board to hold the elections by an impartial body. The Board chose a respectable ex-Judge along with two officers from the Board to help him in his job (Elections Committee).
- 2.3. The Commission wrote to provincial association to give the names with voting rights in these association. It was surprising that he received parallel nominations each claim to be the legitimate representative of the provincial association. The judge decided to write to provincial Sports boards to give the committee the official bearers of posts in associations under their jurisdiction.
- 2.4. On 15th June 2017 a list of eligible voters was announced and displayed on the notice board of Pakistan Sport Board for three weeks. No objections were made.
- 2.5. The Elections were held on 8th July 2017. Two groups competed in these elections: the group of Senator Kalsoom Perveen and the group of Hanif Qureshi. Attendance sheet was signed by all the participants including candidates and voters. Voting for presidency resulted in the victory of Senator Kalsoom Perveen against Hanif Qureshi. The election for the posts of Senior First Vice President, General Secretary, the Finance Secretary were won by Senator Kalsoom by 6 votes against none for the other candidates from Hanif Qureshi who had refused to participate despite their presence. Four posts were declared winning unopposed. They were members of Hanifs group.
- 2.6. Mr. Qureshi again went to the court and submitted a petition objecting to the results of the elections but did not follow the case except in 2019 upon the visit of Nigel Short. The Court set a date of 3rd March 2020.

3. The Merger

- 3.1. After the election of the Board of Pakistan Chess Federation, FIDE took no action to recognize the newly elected body despite the fact that both PSB and the Board wrote to them. FIDE had already recognized another group a long time ago. FIDE had recognized Abdus Saleem President and Waqar Madani General Secretary. This group refused to recognize the newly elected Board despite the fact that it did not participate in the 2017 elections.
- 3.2. PSB refused to recognize Abdus Saleem, they started negotiations with the newly elected Board.
- 3.3. Upon intervention of Sheikh Sultan Al Nehayyan and with a desire to cooperate and save the future of the game the two parties agreed on a certain interim merger until next elections.
- 3.4. The merger was eventually recognized by FIDE.

III. Conclusion

1. The Chess problem in Pakistan has affected its ability to compete. All neighbouring countries have more than one grandmaster whereas none in Pakistan.
2. Two parallel groups claiming that each is the legal representative of the Chess bodies in Pakistan. The parallel groups were mysteriously co-existing. It could be attributed to lack of impartial supervision in each province where elections are held but different groups claim to be the legitimate representative of the association. This, in fact, is true in chess bodies in provinces as well as districts. In each Province there are different districts that produce electoral college of each Province. Such districts are weakly supervised due to lack of clear organizational rules and procedures, or because of interference or impartial supervision. It was also obvious during the last elections of Pakistan Chess Federation held in 2017.
3. Intervention of the government through its Boards whether in the federation level or even provincial level also played a role in such parallelism.
4. Each group thinks that the winning group will eventually ignore them, or even impose penalties against them to prevent them from participating. Therefore, they fight them by all possible means.
5. It is believed amongst challenging groups that the winner deals with the federation as their own property.

IV. Recommendations

After meeting with all groups who are involved in Chess in Pakistan and who are in deep differences, we recommend the following steps to be taken:

1. Immediately

- 1.1. The newly elected Board of Pakistan Chess Federation should lift all bans on players and ex-officials of Chess in Pakistan
- 1.2. It is very important that a step is taken to introduce the opposition group into some sort of decision making system whether in the Board or in any of the commissions, panel or committees of the Board.

2. Long term solution:

- 2.1. The Board of the Federation should adopt uniform statutes and regulations for Provinces and Districts to adopt. Such statutes and regulations should include clear rules for elections and clearly define the electoral colleges of provinces.

- 2.2. Elections conducted by districts and provinces should be observed by Pakistan Chess Federation, Pakistan Sport Board, Province Sport Bodies and representatives of ACF and/or FIDE.
- 2.3. Once the electoral college of Pakistan Chess Federation is clearly defined, the names are delivered to Pakistan Sport Board and Pakistan Chess Federation
- 2.4. The elections of Pakistan Chess Federation should be supervised by Pakistan Sport Board and representatives of ACF and/or FIDE.

Submitted by:

Hisham Al Taher
Secretary General
Asian Chess Federation

Dr. Rashid Alanezi
Legal Counsel
Asian Chess Federation