

Algerian Reflections (2) by Dr Lyndon Bouah

South Africa gets off to a sensational start!

South Africa got off to a sensational start in round one of the African Championships in Oran, Algeria. WIM Jesse February beat Woman Grandmaster Mona Khaled. I cannot remember when last a South African player has defeated WGM Mona Khaled but she has certainly announced her intentions in dramatic fashion.

WIM Jesse February is seeded ninth with a rating of 1823 whilst WGM Mona Khaled has a rating of 2189.

In the Open section young Jack Van Zyl Rudd beat IM Ali Frhat from Egypt. Frhat who is a seasoned campaigner lost to Jack. Jack has a rating of 2125 while Ali is on 2420. A huge rating difference but Jack took the bull by the horns and dismissed age and rating difference.

On table on GM Bassem Amin 2672 drew with FM Khalil (2230). Today Jack plays GM Amin so a real baptism of fire for Jack. We wish him well.

SA Champion IM Daniel Cawdery beat Khaled Boudaoud (2139). Freddy Odendaal lost to IM Ali (2349).

There are five grandmasters and 8 international Masters competing in this event in the Open section. The five grandmasters are

GM Amin Bassem (Egypt) 2672 (African champion 2015)
GM Adly Ahmed. (Egypt) 2620. (African champion 2005)
GM Haddouche Mohammed (Algeria) 2492
GM El Gindy (Egypt) 2448 (African champion 2003)
GM Hesham Abdelrahman (Egypt) 2385 (defending champion)

Let's follow the games starting at 15:00pm today.

Enjoy the working day.

Regards,

Dr Lyndon Bouah
Reporting from Cape Town