Baliddawa shines

By Silvano Kibuuka

Gayaza Junior School player Solange Baliddawa (10) has proved to be a strong prospect in the game of chess after grabbing a bronze medal at the Women's Day chess tournament dubbed 'Queens of Chess' that was played at Gloria Gardens in Namugongo on Sunday.

Baliddawa says her immediate target is to win a silver medal in the next major engagement, the Father Grimes National Schools Championship due in Mbarara in May.

"I want to elevate my talent in the next big national tournament," noted Baliddawa, a P5 pupil at Gayaza Junior School.

She started her chess career with Great Thinkers Chess Academy at the age of six and currently plays under the Future Stars Sports Program at Gayaza Junior School.

For the past three years, Baliddawa has been a podium finisher at the Father Grimes Tournaments, except in 2025. She has also been competitive at the Women's Day Queens of Chess tournaments and in the national league.

Last Sunday, she won four of the seven matches played in the rapid chess tournament to claim the only bronze medal for her school.

In her three-year career, Baliddawa has also attained an international rating of 1431.

She is still chasing continental junior champion Sana Omprakash, who competes in the Under-18 category and is currently rated at 2002.

Her parents, Dr. Hannington Baliddawa and Faith Baliddawa, have pledged full support to help their daughter achieve her dream of excelling both academically and in chess.

PHOTO BY SILVANO KIBUUKA



Baliddawa with her medal