GM Paragua keeps Indon chess lead

TARAKAN, Indonesia — GM Mark Paragua settled for a quiet draw with compatriot NM Roland Nolte to keep the sole lead, even as GM-candidate Jansen Gresales whipt FM Tre Meng Mok of Malaysia to move into contention after seven rounds in the first ASEAN Masters Chess Circuit here Tuesday.

Paragua, seeking to regain his stature as the country's top player, agreed to leave the point with Nolte, but still keep the lead with six points on five wins and two draws in the 11-round, category-7 tournament being organized by the ASEAN Chess Confederation in cooperation with the Indonesian Chess Federation.

Gonzalez, one of several players hoping to become the country's next GM, sidelined his Malaysian rival in 46 moves of the French defense to boost his total to 6.5 points out of a possible seven.

Gonzalez, also the coach of multi-titled Far Eastern University chess team, needs at least eight points to nail his third and final GM norm.

Nolte was not far behind with five points.

In the GM Group A (category 9) division, Wesley So downed compatriot NM Darly Nadera to climb into second place with 4.5 points on three wins, three draws and only one loss.

It's only setback came at the hands of top seed GM Dinh Thanh Trung who also scored 4.5 points.

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