

Benson & Hedges Cup cricket results

LONDON, May 7 (Reuters): Results in Benson and Hedges Cup (50 overs) cricket matches on Tuesday:

Northamptonshire beat Scotland by 5 wickets at Northampton.

Scotland 160-9 in 50 overs.

Northamptonshire 165-4 in 32.4 overs.

At Edgbaston: Yorkshire beat Warwickshire by 5 wickets.

Warwickshire 233-8 in 50 overs.

Yorkshire 235-5 in 46.3 overs. (M Vaughan 88, D Lehmann 67).

At Walsall: Lancashire beat Minor Counties by 35 runs.

Lancashire 210-7 in 50 overs.

Minor Counties 175 in 43.3 overs.

At Glamorgan: Glamorgan beat Ireland by 6 wickets.

Ireland 202-9 in 50 overs (W Cronje 85).

Glamorgan 203-4 in 30.3 overs (M Maynard 50).

At Derby: Derbyshire beat Worcestershire by 20 runs.

Derbyshire 231 in 49.4 overs (K. Barnett 59, V. Clarke 52, D. Leatherdale 4-33).

Worcestershire 211 all out in 48.5 overs (T Moody 77).

At Durham: Leicestershire beat Durham by 19 runs.

Leicestershire 287-4 in 50 overs (A. Habib 111, V. Wells 90).

Durham, set at revised target of 282 in 48 overs after rain interruption, 263-9 in 48 overs (J. Morris 62, N. Speak 59).

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Independence Cup from Friday

Pakistan begin peace tour



NEW DELHI, May 7: Pakistan cricket captain Rameez Raja offered an olive branch to Indian fans yesterday, saying his team was keen to make friends on its current Independence Cup tour.

"We are on a peace mission, to rejoice in the celebrations of the 50th year of India's independence," said Raja, who leads a 14-man squad for the four-nation limited-over tournament starting on Friday.

"But we are also here to take back the cup and confirm Pakistan's standing as one of the world's best teams."

Raja, 32, who is on his fourth visit to India — but first as captain — said the tournament was an ideal opportunity for the two arch-rivals to come closer.

"This visit of ours should be considered as the beginning of cordial relations between the two countries," he said, adding that his team felt no extra pressure playing in India.

"I've always believed that India brings out the best in us. Even when we lose, we play to our fullest potential. This is one comfort we have come here with."

"Secondly, we have come here with an open heart, and hopefully we can make friends through cricket."

Political tensions have prevented India and Pakistan from playing a Test series on each other's soil since 1989, even

though Pakistan came to India for last year's World Cup quarter final at Bangalore.

Pakistan's defeat in that match created a furor back home, with the media and fans blaming the partisan Indian crowd for the loss.

break prior to taking on India.

The top two teams in the league will contest in the best-of-three finals at Mohali (May 24) and Calcutta's Eden Gardens (May 27 and 28).

Raja was not worried that Pakistan are without five front-line bowlers in regular captain Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Muhammad Zahid and Shahid Nazir, and experienced opener Aamer Sohail.

"We will obviously miss them, but not as much as during a Test series," Raja said. "In one-day cricket, everything depends on how well you play on that day. Even the mightiest team can have an off-day."

"Our batting remains strong and that's important in one-day cricket. The whole thing comes down to the fact that we must bat well to win, but well in three games to qualify for the finals."

Akram, Younis and Mushtaq opted out to fulfill their commitments in English county cricket, while Zahid and Nazir were injured during Pakistan's recent Test tour of Sri Lanka.

Sohail is serving a two-year ban for accusing fellow players, including Akram, of match-fixing — a controversy.

"Nothing has been proved really. But I found it strange that Sohail did not speak out when he was part of the team," the skipper said.

"All this does affect the morale of the team. The boys felt it a bit at the start, but they have now got over it."

Tournament organisers have, however, taken care not to schedule the showpiece India-Pakistan League clash on May 21 at Bangalore, but given it to the neighbouring coastal city of Madras.

Pakistan open the round-robin league against New Zealand at Mohali on Friday and play world champions Sri Lanka at Gwalior next Monday, before enjoying an eight day

experience burnout at 18.

said, "This was a big disappointment, especially because I was ahead."

But she added "I came back believing in myself and just because of a couple of bad defeats it's not the end of the world."

Rubin said, "When I turned it around, she didn't serve very well and had a lot of double faults — and that kept me in the first set. The double faults hurt her, and I didn't expect that."

Rubin, making her first appearance in this tournament

admitted "It wasn't a pretty match, but I'm just happy to get through."

The American now meets Spain's Conchita Martinez, who has won this event every year for the past four years.

Pierce signalled her arrival with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Italian Sandra Cecchini.

Nathalie Tauziat was the only seed to bow out. The 15th seeded Frenchwoman went down in three sets to Belgian Dominique van Roost.

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Nat'l chess on

Sports Reporter

Five players — Saidul Islam Masum, Rezaul Haque, Shawkat Hossain Pallab, Abu Sufian Shakil and Kayes Hasan — got off to flying starts as the 23rd national chess championship began at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the inaugural day of the 15-round meet, Masum tamed Saifuddin Lovit, Reza beat Abdullah-Al-Rakib, Pallab defeated Din Mohammad, Shakil overpowered Arifuzzaman Sikder while Kayes won his board against Sheikh Nasir Ahmed.

In another board, Ruhul Kabir Shiplu and Ali Amjad Mintu shared the point with a dull draw.