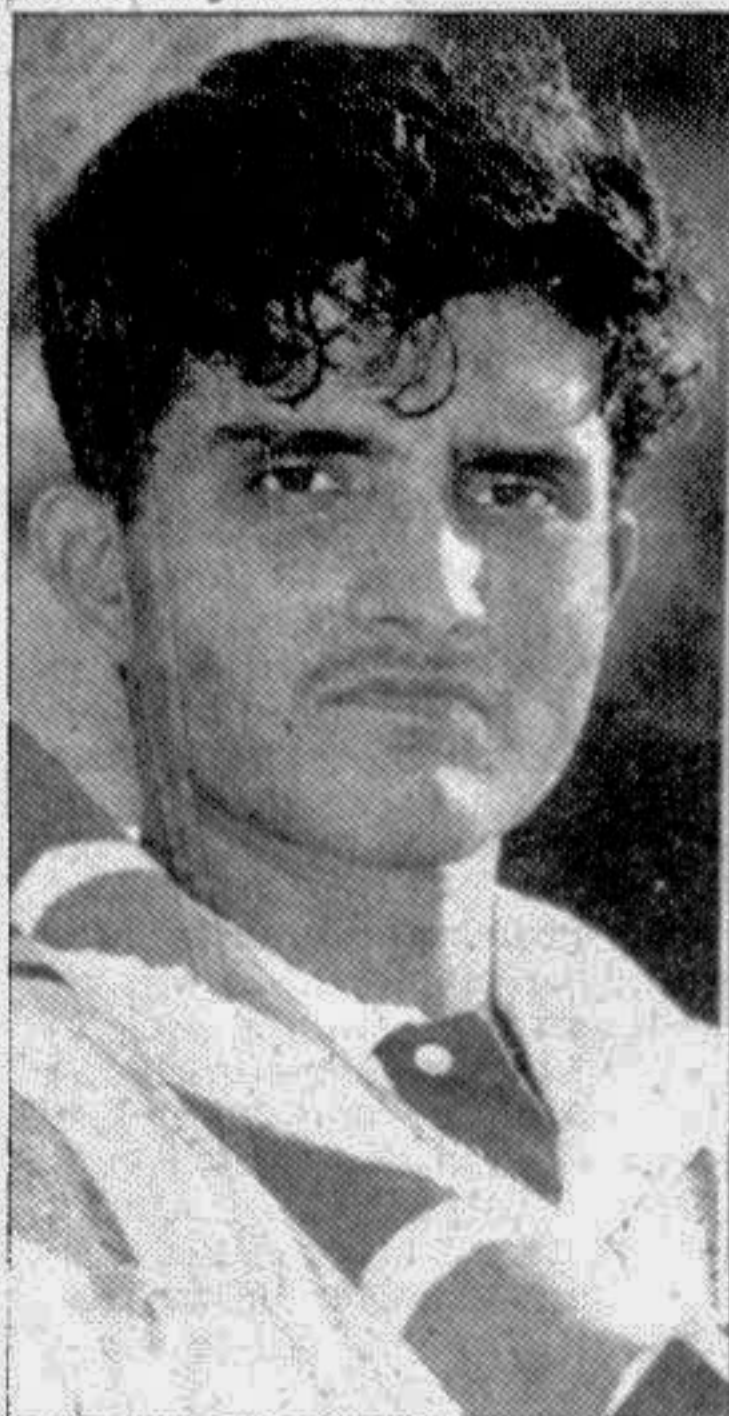


Surrey surge ahead in title hunt

LONDON, Sept 13: Surrey set up a dramatic finish to the English country championship by bowling Durham out for 91 to win their penultimate match on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Saurav relives sensation

TORONTO, Sept 13 (PTI): Saurav Ganguly confirmed his stature as the mainstay of Indian team in absence of Sachin Tendulkar by guiding India to a six-wicket win over arch rivals Pakistan in the first match of the Sahara Cup one-day cricket series, with a fine all-round performance here yesterday.



SAURAV GANGULY... p-o-m

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first match of the Sahara Cup one-day series between India and Pakistan in Toronto Saturday. Includes batting and bowling statistics for both teams.

Manoj in the news again

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Former all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar, whose match-fixing charges had raised a hue and cry in Indian cricket, has fired another bouncer by threatening to sue cricket board for non-release of his benevolent fund, reports PTI.



The Australian Commonwealth Games 4x200 metres freestyle relay team of (L-R) Ian Thorpe, Matthew Dunn, Michael Klim and Daniel Kowalski sporting their gold medals at Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Australia already atop

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 13: Australia swept nine titles and smashed a swimming world record here today as they knocked England off the top of the Commonwealth Games all-time medal record, reports AFP. The Aussie swimmers took all five golds disputed. The men set a new world record in the 4x200 metre medley... with 15-year-old Ian Thorpe getting his name in the record books after narrowly failing to get the 200m freestyle time on Saturday night.



European soccer scene

No problems for big boys

UNDATED, Sept 13 (Inter-Net/AP): AC Milan made a strong start to their 1998/99 Serie A campaign, champions Barcelona recorded their first victory in the Spanish First Division, Aston Villa went top of the English Premiership... Bayer Munich's winning streak continued in Germany while in Holland, PSV Eindhoven secured a much-needed win during Saturday night's league action in Europe.

ITALY German Oliver Bierhoff celebrated his Milan Serie A debut by scoring twice as the former European champions kicked off their season with a convincing 3-0 win over Bologna. Bierhoff, top scorer in Italy last season with 27 goals which helped Udinese finish third and qualify for the UEFA Cup... Milan, hoping to turn things around after two horrible seasons, looked confused early on against a tough Bologna side...

SPAIN Barcelona bid division newcomers Extremadura 1-0 in the second round of the domestic season. But the 23rd minute goal from Portugal's Luis Figo was hardly the pounding Extremadura might have expected at Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium.

ENGLAND Paul Merson scored on his debut as Aston Villa opened out a three-point lead at the top of the Premier league by beating Wimbledon 2-0 at Villa Park. Merson made the breakthrough in the first half, after Wimbledon's Carl Leaburn was sent off. Ian Taylor sealed the three points with the home side's second.

SIX NO TRUMPS A K Sayeedul Huq SLAM BIDDING (Hand 192) Table with North, South, East, West hands and bidding sequence.

OTHER PREMIERSHIP RESULTS Charlton 1 (Mendonça 89, pen), Derby 2 (Wainhouse 5, Banião 60). Chelsea 2 (Zola 1, Poyet 35), Nottingham Forest 1 (Darcheville 69). Newcastle 4 (Shearer 8 38, pen, Marshall 90, og, Ketsbaia 90).

Worth more than gold

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 13 (AFP): Canadian seamer David Joseph will take home a prize he considers more valuable than a Commonwealth Games gold medal - the ball with which he dismissed Sachin Tendulkar. Joseph celebrated Saturday after removing the Indian batter for two with a vicious inswinger.

Inter interested in Shearer?

LONDON, Sept 13 (Reuters/InterNet): Inter Milan are interested in buying England striker Alan Shearer from Rued Gullit's Newcastle. British newspapers reported on Sunday.

Reds keep cruising

TOKYO, Sept 13 (Reuters/InterNet): After conceding their first goal of the second stage, Urawa Reds rallied on Saturday to beat Vissel Kobe 2-1. Shinji Ono and Masahiro Fukuda had goals for Reds. With the victory, Reds stay atop the J-League standings with a perfect 4-0 record in the second stage.

Pete's pain-filled exit

NEW YORK, Sept 13 (AP/InterNet): Another tale of big-match woe visited Pete Sampras and this time it stunted his chances for another US Open final with a shot at the record book. Sampras' bid to win his 12th Grand Slam singles title was hampered by a strained muscle in his upper left leg and halted in the semifinals Saturday by Patrick Rafter.



PETE SAMPRAS

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer Table with crossword clues and solutions. Includes CRYPTOQUIP puzzle.