

### India A go level

LOS ANGELES, Sept 17 (Internet report): Australia A failed to come to terms with a difficult wicket yesterday as they crashed to a five-wicket loss to India A in the second game of the five-match America Cricket Challenge here.

In a match reduced to 42 overs-per-side, Australia were dismissed for 129 in 35 overs and India achieved their target with 1.5 overs to spare. The result levelled the series at 1-1 with three to play.

For the second straight day heavy fog delayed the scheduled 8am start and Australia A coach Allan Border compared the pitch conditions to a "wet Sydney club wicket".

Sundries with 28 were the major contributor to an Australian innings in which only four players reached double figures after captain Adam Gilchrist won the toss and opted to bat.

Two changes were made to the side that won the series opener by 77 runs with batsman Corey Richards and bowler Gerard Denton replacing Andrew Symonds and Leigh Hansen.

Richards (22) and Denton (2-30) were the most successful batsman and bowler respectively in a match that was never fully recovered from losing opener Ryan Campbell to the opening ball of the match.

A third wicket stand of 39 between Richards and Michael Di Venuto (20) was the only notable partnership of an innings in which Damien Martyn also made 21.

"Di Venuto and Richards copped a bit of a battering but they soldiered on pretty well but had nothing to really show for it."

"Unfortunately 130 was probably 30 or 40 runs short of what we should be getting on these wickets."

Border said his bowlers appeared to be suffering from "early season woes" after they served up a rash of no-balls and wides.

### BCCI incurs losses

CHENNAI, Sept 17: The Indian cricket board, the richest sports body in the country, has reported a substantial decline in profit for the year 1998-99, reports PTI.

The surplus amount transferred from the income and expenditure account was 8.3 crore rupees, only 53 per cent of last year's profit of 15.9 crore rupees, according to the treasurer's report circulated to members for adoption at the 70th board AGM slated for September 21 and 22 in Jaipur.

However, the general fund account was up from around 16 crore rupees to around 18.10 crore rupees.

The board incurred major expenditures in hiring the services of former Aussie skipper Bob Simpson as consultant and young Aussie Andrew Kokinos as physical trainer.

Simpson was paid 31.48 lakh rupees and Kokinos received 35.42 lakh rupees for his services.

The working committee members over this expenditure and the board was forced to sack its reputed trainer within the country.

The treasurer's report does not specify any reason for the downfall in its profits. However, the senior team's tours had generated considerable surplus.

The highest surplus of 3.85 crore rupees came from the senior team's tour to Toronto for the one-day series, while the tri-series over at home also featuring Australia and Zimbabwe fetched a surplus of about 2.48 crore rupees.

The other tours that were financially rewarding were the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah in April 1998 (52.35 lakh rupees), the home tri-series featuring India, Bangladesh and Kenya (10.3 lakh rupees), India's Sri Lanka tour (76.40 lakh rupees), to Zimbabwe (20.00 lakh rupees).

The Wills International Cup in Dhaka (33.93 lakh rupees), the Champions Trophy in Sharjah in November 1998 (70.61 lakh rupees), to New Zealand (93.28 lakh rupees), the two matches against Pakistan at home (26.42 lakh rupees) and the matches in the Asian Test Championship (91.16 lakh rupees).

### Two SL athletes to miss SAF Games

COLOMBO, Sept 17: Sri Lanka's top medal hopes, Sugath Tilakaratne and Chintaka De Soya will not participate in the seven-nation South Asian regional meet in Nepal because of injuries and illness, a top sports official said Friday, reports AP.

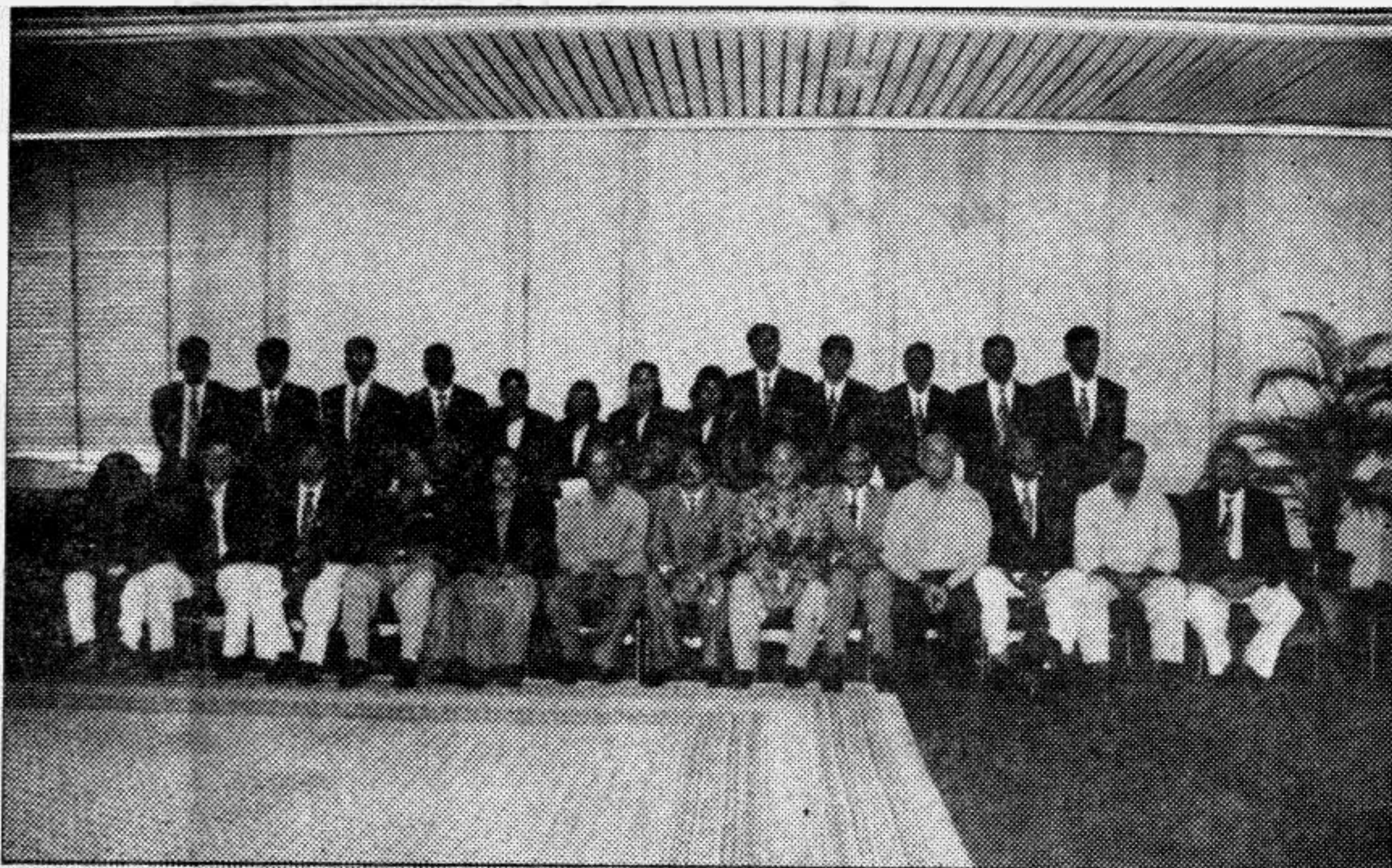
"Tilakaratne is nursing a leg injury while De Soya has contracted chicken pox," said Sunil Gunawardana, the coordinating secretary to the Sports Ministry.

"Between the two athletes, Sri Lanka was expecting to bag the medals for several sprint events, including the 100, 200, 400 and 4x400 meters events," he said.

Tilakaratne and De Soya, both gold medalists at the last South Asian Federation Games and the Asian Games, will be fit after a month.

Sri Lanka is sending a contingent of 63 participants led by Sriyani Kulawansa, who was the only Sri Lankan athlete to reach the semifinal stage in the recently concluded World Athletic Championships in Spain.

The Games are scheduled to start later this month.



The SAF Games-bound Bangladesh swimming squad with the officials. —Star photo

## 'Prince of Calcutta' home

From Our Correspondent.



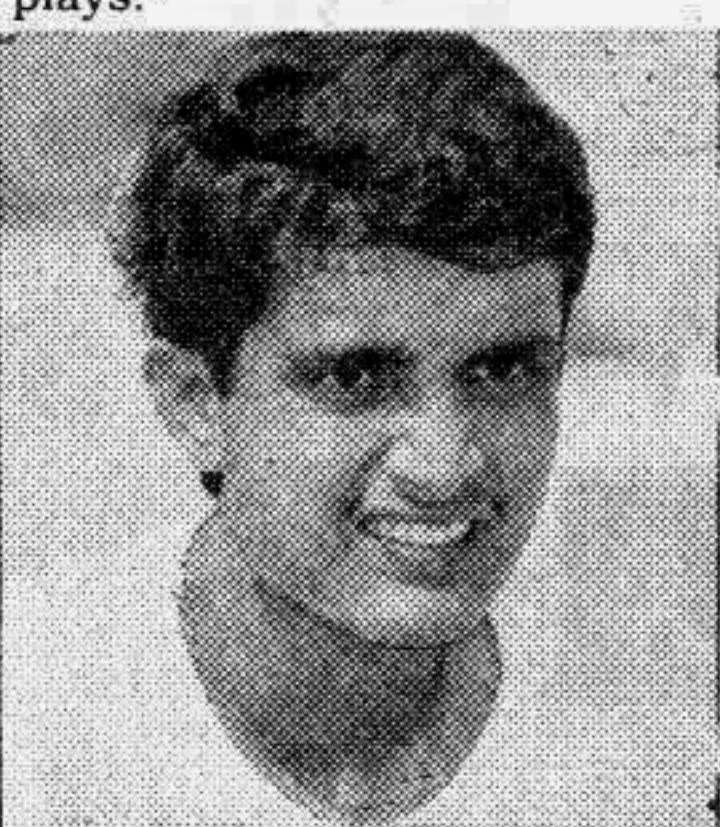
CALCUTTA, Sept 17: Saurav Ganguly, who led the Indian team in the victorious series at Toronto in the city Thursday evening amidst a huge reception. The Indian captain for the three match series was quite touched at the 'welcome home' he received.

There were close to 2,000 fans at the airport to receive the 'Maharaja of Bengal'. Ganguly however, seemed quite unaffected by the adulation. "I had a job to do, which I have managed with the help of the other members of the side. I couldn't have achieved this distinction alone. I wish they were here to share the accolades with me today," said the stylish left hander.

Later on sitting at his residence, Ganguly talked at length about the performance of the side in Toronto. He feels that Nikhil Chopra has come of age. "Actually, I thought that this time he would be the 'man of the series'. He really bowled very well. I was a bit surprised when I heard my name on Sunil Gavaskar's lips," said Ganguly. Talking about the performance of the youngsters, Ganguly said, "Nikhil has gone a long way in establishing his position in the team. Other than that I would like to mention about Debashis Mohanty. The medium pacer troubled everybody including Brian Lara. He has got this ability to take an early wicket."

"Some people have called

him lucky. But then as a captain, I would definitely like to have such luck on my side. However, above all, he has talent. Luck alone wouldn't have helped him to get an early wicket in every match that he plays."



SAURAV GANGULY

Among the other players that Ganguly talked about were Andhra's young wicketkeeper M.S.K. Prasad and Baroda's Jacob Martin. "What I liked about Prasad was his spirit. When I asked him whether he would like to open he said that he had no problems. Martin also displayed tremendous guts. The Toronto wicket was not exactly tailor made for batsman. However, he impressed everyone with his guts and technique."

Ganguly made it clear that he enjoys captaincy. "Pressure brings out the best in me. And I have really enjoyed my stint at Toronto. I would not shy away from the job if given the oppor-

tunity once more."

Pankaj Roy had led India in one Test which he lost. Ganguly, who has already established himself as the greatest Bengali cricketer of all times on both sides of the border, has left Roy behind on this count also.

The left hander, however, has a candid message. "I will feel very happy, if my success inspires more Bengali cricketers to take up the sport."

Talking about his decision to change the batting order during the third match, Ganguly said, "I kept Rahul at number five as he was the most experienced member of the team after me. He gave stability to the batting order and what an innings he played."

"I decided to open simply because the batting conditions were difficult and I wanted to protect the youngsters as much as I could."

He also is not ready to accept the West Indian Ricardo Powell as the latest superstar in cricket. "The first few matches are always easy. Then the bowlers measure you out. Powell has already demonstrated a weakness outside his off stump. I will not be surprised if bowlers start working on it very soon."

The southpaw also made it clear that he was not unduly worried when Powell was leading his charge. "If you had watched the match, you had definitely seen me smiling. I knew that he would commit a mistake sometime or the other. That is why, I was asking everybody to relax."

## Carl makes Greenidge proud



LONDON, Sept 17 (Internet/Reuters): West Indies legend Gordon Greenidge terrorised opponents with his bat, but his son Carl impressed as a bowler on his County Championship debut for Surrey yesterday.

Only 21, Carl was bowled at The Oval before rain halted proceedings shortly after 2pm, but that was plenty of time for Greenidge to help the champions reduce Yorkshire to 50 for five.

The 21-year-old took three for 32 in 10.1 overs, surprising several Yorkshire batsmen with his deceptive pace.

Surrey captain Adam Holoake won the toss and was soon rewarded when Martin Bicknell had Yorkshire opener Michael Vaughan lbw to the second ball of the match for no score.

And Surrey, doing their best to make up for Wednesday's total washout, were quickly in the wickets again.

Matthew Wood, who took 11 off one Greenidge over, was deceived by a slower ball from Bicknell and holed out to Greenidge at mid-on for 12.

Yorkshire's 14 for two soon became 14 for three when Yorkshire captain David Byas became Greenidge's first Champi-

onship victim, lbw for two.

Umpire Nigel Plews, standing in his final first-class match before retiring, took his time over the decision and Byas could consider himself slightly unlucky.

But Greenidge's next two wickets owed nothing to luck. Wicketkeeper Richard Blakey was beaten by both pace and length by a delivery that cut into him a touch. The ball trimmed his off bail, Blakey was out for nine and Yorkshire were 25 for four.

Two balls later Gary Fellows was out in similar fashion, bowled for a duck by another fast, pitched-up Greenidge delivery. At that stage Greenidge had three for six in 22 balls.

Lancashire, meanwhile, hoping to finish runner-up, captured six Somerset wickets for 238 after making 322. They began their game on 199 points to Surrey's 256.

Third-placed Leicestershire, 10 points behind Lancashire, reached 274 for seven against Durham after their first day's play was rained off.

Warwickshire improved their chances of finishing in the top half of the table and qualifying for the First Division next season by beating Leicestershire to 176, Warwickshire knocked off the 69 runs needed to win for the loss of three wickets.

The 18-team County Championship is being split into two divisions for the first time next season.

### BRIEF SCORES (DAY 2 OF 4)

**At Derby:** Hampshire 362-8 dec (A Ayres 86, J Lane 67, R Smith 64, A Mascarenhas 51) v Derbyshire 143-3

**At Cardiff:** Glamorgan 227 (M Powell 67) 27-0 v Northamptonshire 204 (R Warren 72)

**At Canterbury:** Gloucestershire 247-4 (K Barnett 79 no, I Harvey 73 no) v Kent

**At Leicesters:** Leicestershire 274-7 (D Steiger 98, V Wells 57, N Killeen 5-58) v Durham

**At Trent Bridge:** Nottinghamshire 349-10 (J Gallian 118, G Welton 76, R Robinson 66, D Thompson 4-54) v Essex 97-2

**At Taunton:** Lancashire 322 (G Lloyd 144, J Crawley 64, A Caddick 8-113) v Somerset 228-6 (M Trescothick 78, G Rose 62 no)

**At The Oval:** Yorkshire 50-5 v Surrey

**At Edgbaston:** Warwickshire (17pts) beat Sussex (4pts) by 7 wks; Sussex 99 (T Munton 7-36) 176 (P Cotter 73, A Giles 5-63) v Warwickshire 207 (N Smith 71, T Frost 66, J Lewry 5-59) 71-3

**At Worcester:** Worcestershire 465-9 dec (V Solanki 155, E Wilson 116, D Cattrell 60, P Tunnell 5-107) v Middlesex 56-0

Umelo took the women's long jump and the Nigerians also won the men's and women's 4x100 metres relays.

Kutre Deleche, Ethiopia's world championship bronze medalist, was an easy winner in the women's 1,500 metres.

MEDALS TABLE				
Country	G	S	B	T
S Africa	44	42	36	122
Egypt	38	48	28	113
Nigeria	43	16	19	78
Tunisia	16	13	16	45
Algeria	10	17	22	49
Kenya	6	4	7	17
Ethiopia	3	0	2	5
Angola	3	0	1	4
Cameroon	2	10	16	28
Zimbabwe	2	5	8	15
Senegal	1	5	3	9
Madagascar	1	2	3	6
Gabon	1	1	0	2
Seychelles	1	0	6	7
Ghana	1	0	3	4
Lesotho	1	0	0	1
Mauritius	0	5	6	11
Ivory Coast	0	1	4	5
Botswana	0	1	1	2
Niger	0	1	1	2
Togo	0	0	1	1
Mali	0	0	2	2
Namibia	0	0	2	2
Cape Verde Islands	0	0	2	2
Uganda	0	0	1	1
DR of Congo	0	0	1	1
Caf	0	0	1	1
Malawi	0	0	1	1
GO	0	0	1	1
Swaziland	0	0	1	1

### Kiefer in semis

TASHKENT, Sept 17: Nicolas Kiefer, the only seeded player left in the President Cup tennis tournament, beat American Cecil Mamiit to earn a semifinal spot yesterday, reports Reuters.

Kiefer will now play Czech veteran Daniel Vacek, who beat Paradom Srirachaphan of Thailand 7-5, 7-6 (8-6) after his tough three-set victory over top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov the day before.

Bastl, who is ranked only 154th in the world, knocked out seventh-seeded countryman Marc Rosset on Wednesday before eliminating Frenchman Anthony Dupuis 6-2, 6-4.

Ninety-second ranked Wesleys took care of 114th ranked German Axel Pretzsch 7-6, (10-8) 6-0.

### Pushpakumara rattles Aussies

COLOMBO, Sept 17: Sri Lanka's Board XI were 29 for three in reply to Australia's first innings score of 224 at the close of the opening day of their three-day match today, reports Reuters.

### SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings		
Slater c Dilshan b Gallage		15
Blewett c S Perera		
b Pushpakumara		28
Langer c Silva b N Perera		45
M Waugh lbw b Pushpakumara		9
Fonting c N Perera		0
b Pushpakumara		9
Katich run out		40
Healy run out		32
Warne b Pushpakumara		27
Miller c Jayewardene b N Perera		1
Fleming c Jayewardene		6
b Pushpakumara		6
Muller not out		3
Extras: (lb-4, w-2, nb-12)		18
Total:		224

Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-62; 3-67; 4-81; 5-144; 6-156; 7-190; 8-191; 9-203

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gallage	10.5	1	40	1
S Perera	11.1	1	48	0
Pushpakumara	18	1	37	5
Kalpage	13	4	40	0
N Perera	14.3	0	55	2

### BOARD XI: First innings

Gunawardana lbw Muller	1	0
Dilshan b Fleming	1	0
Jayantha c Healy b Fleming	2	0
Silva not out	18	0
De Saram not out	1	1
Extras: (lb-1, w-2, nb-4)	7	0
Total: (For three wickets)	29	0
Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-8; 3-10		
To bat: N Perera, P Jayewardene, R Kalpage, S Perera, R Pushpakumara, I Gallage		

### Warne signs for Hants

LONDON, Sept 17 (Internet report): Australian Test star Shane Warne has agreed to play for Hampshire next season.

Leg-spinner Warne, who was man-of-the-match in the World Cup final victory over Pakistan at Lords this summer, has signed a one-year contract thought to be the most lucrative in the history of English cricket.

Hampshire chief executive Tony Baker said: "With the county's move to a new ground next season, this is a wonderful way to emphasise the extent of our ambitions going into the new millennium."

The deal is subject to the approval of the Australian Cricket Board, although they have given their blessing to Warne's international teammate Glenn McGrath to play for Worcestershire.

It could mean two of the world's top bowlers playing in the Second Division of next year's two-tier County Championship.

Worcestershire are already condemned to finishing in the bottom nine of the current competition and Hampshire need to beat Derbyshire in this week's final round of matches to clinch a First Division berth.

McGrath's two-year contract is reported to be worth around £100,000 a season and Warne's deal is set to eclipse that.

Hampshire say they expect to meet the cost of his financial package through a number of commercial opportunities together with a considerable increase in gates and membership.

Warne, who was captain 30 this week, is currently captaining the Australians on their tour of Sri Lanka in the absence of broken nose victim Steve Waugh.

He has been arguably the world's most successful bowler over the past decade, taking more than 300 Test wickets and topping 200 in one-day internationals.

### Red Star coach leaves

BELGRADE, Sept 17: Red Star Belgrade coach Miloljub Ostojic has quit his post two days after his side's 0-1 defeat by French side Montpellier in the UEFA Cup, first round first leg match, reports AFP.

Ostojic has been reportedly disappointed by a series of poor showings by the 1991 European champions, which he has coaxed since taking over from Vojin Lazarevic just three months ago.



Winners of the Junior Challenger series pose with the Tennis Federation president Alamgir Faruque Chowdhury (3rd from R) after the finals at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

### French preview

## Marseille's back against the wall



PARIS, Sept 17: Marseille coach Roland Courbis goes into Sunday's home match with newly-promoted

Troyes knowing that defeat could be the final nail in his coffin as coach to France's best-supported team, reports AFP.

The club that were pipped to the title by Bordeaux on the last day of the last season is languishing in the bottom half of the French First Division after only winning one game so far in domestic competition this season.

But all is not lost for Courbis. Marseille lifted their spirits in midweek with a 2-0 Champions League victory over Sturm Graz of Austria.

And the 1993 European champions received another boost Thursday with the news that their French World Cup winner Christophe Dugary had been found innocent of taking nandrolone and would escape a six-month ban.

But Sturm Graz are the weakest side in Marseille's Group D and Courbis knows that defeat against Troyes, who pulled off a shock 1-0 against Nantes last week, could be the last straw.

The club's notoriously impatient fans have already called for his head - notably after the comprehensive 3-1 defeat by local rivals Montpellier last weekend - but it remains to be seen if the European triumph

might persuade them to give Courbis his head.

Leaders Paris St Germain, meanwhile, welcome back playmaker Ali Benarbia for their trip to Alsace to face Strasbourg.

Benarbia moved to PSG in May just after inspiring Bordeaux to the title.

With Nigerian Jay-Jay Okocha also finally beginning to show why PSG paid Fenerbahce 11 million pounds for his services after the World Cup there is much optimism at the capital's only top flight club.

Lens host Le Havre while Nantes will look to bounce back from their Troyes setback at home to Rennes, who beat Monaco last week to knock the principality outfit off the top of the league.

Monaco are reassured by the return of French World Cup winning goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, who missed the Rennes match but returned against St Johnstone in the UEFA Cup in midweek. They should see off Metz while Montpellier hope to continue in winning vein at Nancy.

Sedan, 3-0 winners at Lens last week, host Bastia in their Ardennes field.

On Saturday there are two fixtures the first pitting together two clubs with a lot to prove and the second pairing two sides experiencing something of a renaissance.

Champions Bordeaux host

Lyon with both clubs under some pressure. Lyon in summer recruited Tony Vairelles from Lens, Brazilian Sonny Anderson from Barcelona and Pierre Laigle from Sampdoria for a small fortune.

They lie second to PSG but are yet really to shine and were surprisingly eliminated by Slovenians Maribor in the Champions League preliminary round.

Bordeaux, meanwhile, made an indifferent start to their title defence and look to be missing Benarbia's input.

Last year's Championship winning strikeforce of Sylvain Wittord and Lilian Laslandes, who scored 37 goals between them last term, are yet to catch fire in 1999-2000 even though they are currently the first choice line up for the French national team.

However, in the other Saturday match St Etienne, back in the first division after a three-year absence, travel to Auxerre who are also enjoying life.

The Burgundy outfit only escaped relegation on the last day of last season but are third behind PSG and Lyon this term and seem to be inspired by the return of their French World Cup winning striker Stephane Guivarc'h after an unhappy spell in England and Scotland.

Astonishingly it is Auxerre coach Guy Roux's 39th season in charge at the Stade Abbe Deschamps.

Bundesliga preview

## All is not well at Hertha



COLOGNE, Germany, Sept 17: Hertha Berlin's highly expected fans ought to have been looking forward to Saturday