- AFP/UNB photo

Flying start

for Seles

SYDNEY, Jan 14: Monica

Seles battled to a narrow

victory Sunday over Lindsay

Davenport in the final of the

Sydney International, reveal-

ing some chinks in her ar-

mur just a day before the

start of the Australian Open.

strain to win the bout 4-6, 7-

6 (9/7), 6-3 but said she had

not had such a hard-won vic-

tory since before her 1993

stabbing in Hamburg and was

unhappy with several aspects

port, runner-up twice in a

row after losing to Gabriela

Sabatini in 1995, fought hard

for the match, losing a

championship point in the

today and I gave her a lot of

easy shots and of course she

takes those chances," said

Seles, ranked co-number

one. "You can't do that

against a player like Lindsay.

best attitude to the match

and I was very mad about

that," she said, vowing to

leave off-court troubles be-

the first set, she became

frustrated and "as soon as you

do that you're fighting your-

self and not concentrating on

She said that after she lost

hind her in future.

"I didn't come in with the

"My serve was not good

second set tie-breaker.

Fellow American Daven-

Seles ignored a groin

reports AFP.

of her game.

Lanka shackle Windies

Walsh

Hooper

Simmons

b De Silva

b Dharmasena

b Jayasuriya

b De Silva

Bishop run out

Walsh not out

Total: (nine

Ambrose not out

wickets - 50 overs

160: 8-171: 9-176

BOWLING: O

Dharmasena 7

De Silva

16 runs.

Australia

West Indies 8

Sri Lanka 6

Javasuria

WEST INDIES

Richardson run out

Hooper c Gurusinha

Holder c Kaluwitharana

Browne c Pushpakumara

Gibson st Kaluwitharana

KALUWITHARANA ... 50

Extras: (lb-3, w-4, nb-8)

Pushpakumara 8 2 21

Upashantha 6 0 31

Fall of wickets: 1-18; 2-51; 3

65: 4-67; 5-114: 6-131; 7-

2 22

10 0 43

10 1 39

3

Result: Sri Lanka won by

Points table in the World

(West Indies second be-

cause of superior run-rate.

Sri Lanka must beat Australia

in final qualifying game Tues-

day to have any chance of

meeting Australia in final.)

STANDINGS

Series one-day competition

being played in Australia.

Simmons b Upashantha

Chanderpaul c Gurusinha

Campbell c Vaas b De Silva 20



PERTH, Jan 14: Sri Lankan hopes of reaching the finals of World Series one-day cricket

here Sunday when they beat the West Indies in a crucial game at the WACA Ground. reports AFP. Victors by 16 runs in front

of a poor crowd of 9,067 Sri Lanka are now level on six points with the West Indies in the three-nation competition ladder.

And they will qualify to meet Australia - leading with



OTTIS GIBSON ... 5 for 40 10 points - in the best-ofthree showdown starting at the Melbourne Cricket Ground next Thursday if they beat the host nation in Tuesday's last qualifying clash, also in Melbourne.

If Sri Lanka are beaten by Australia on Tuesday, the West Indies will line up in the finals, thanks to their better run-rate.

The West Indies, having completed their preliminary fixtures, must now wait anxiously for the outcome of the day-night encounter.

Batting first after being sent in by Richie Richardson when he won the toss for the West Indies, Sri Lanka totalled 202 - a target which looked well within the reach of Richardson's men. But they were restricted to 9-186. Only Chanderpaul (44) and

Roland Holder (38) made a significant impression on the Sri Lankan attacks the West Indies crashed to their fifth loss in eight games in the tournament. Sri Lanka were bitterly

disappointed with their

ANAHEIM, Cali-

fornia, Jan 14:

States survived

a shock from a

lively Trinidad

The

win it's opening CONCACAF

Gold Cup Group C match 3-2.

scored the winning goal in

the 53rd minute with a stun-

ning shot into the top corner

after a controversial free-kick

was awarded against

Trinidad's goalkeeper Ross

Russell for stepping outside

the penalty area with the ball.

ball to Eric Wynalda who teed

up Moore for a dramatic win-

ner that prompted the

striker, who plays for

Nucremberg in the German

Bundesliga, to turn two som-

Bochum in Germany, scored

both the other American

goals and three times went

close to completing his hat-

trick in the second half.

Wynalda, who stars for

Alexi Lalas touched the

Striker Oe-Max Moore

reports Reuter.

ersaults in joy.

United

modest total the sizzling start by opening batsmen Romesh Kaluwitharana and Sanath

Jayasuriya.

In an electrifying 65-minutes onslaught, they cracked 80 from 83 balls, raising the prospect of an enormous to-

But the plunder ended as quickly as it began as fast bowler Otis Gibson stepped in with a marvellous 5-40 his best one-day international figures in his 10th game at this level.

In an amazing first five overs, Gibson ousted Jayasuriya (28), Asanka Gurushinha (5), Kaluwitharana (50) and Hashan Tillekeratne (0) in a space of only 20 deliveries as Sri Lanka nosedived to 5-92 in the 20th over.

Kaluwitharana's knock was another little gem, with his round half-century coming from only 55 balls.

It included an explosive six off paceman Curtly Ambrose over backward squareleg and five scorching fours

Sri Lanka's partial recovery was engineered by Roshan Mahanama, batting at number six, who fashioned a skilfully measured 50 (four fours) from 81 balls.

His major low-order ally was fast bowler Chaminda Vaas, with a valuable 21 from 28 balls before he became Gibson's fifth victim in the last of the paceman's destructive 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Series limited-overs match between the West Indies and Sri Lanka at the WACA Ground today: SRI LANKA

Kaluwitharana b Gibson Gurusinha c Browne b Gibson De Silva run out Tillekeratne c Browne b Gibson Mahanama b Bishop Ranatunga b Hooper Dharmasena hit wicket b Walesh

Jayasuriya lbw b Gibson

Upashantha not out Pushpakumara run out Extras: (lb-4, w-4, nb-5) Total: (all out, 50 overs) 202 Fall of wickets: 1-90; 2-89; 3-90; 4-91; 5-92; 6-121;

7-161; 8-176; 9-193; 10-202

CONCACAF Gold Cup

Vaas c Ambrose b Gibson

Rain plays havoc at Hamilton BOWLING: Ambrose HAMILTON. New Zealand. Jan 14: New Zealand were Bishop Gibson

154 for four at the end of a frustrating, rain-hit second day of the first Test against Zimbabwe today, reports Reuter.

Only two-and -a-half hours play was possible as rain delayed the start and then fell at regular intervals throughout the day.

Wickets were drawn early after another heavy shower forced the players off. A total of only four hours' play out of a possible 12 has been spent on the field after two days. New Zealand, resuming on

68 for two after being put in to bat, lost Adam Parore in the short session of 25 minutes between lunch and tea. He was caught behind off Health Streak for 16. Just before the drinks break, Roger Twose was bowled by Eddo Brandes for 42 with the score on 143.

At the close Nathan Astle, in his first Test, was on 16 and Chris Cairns on seven. For Zimbabwe, Streak has

two for 39 off 19 overs and

Brandes one for 34 off 10.3. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play today, the second day of New Zealand's rain-affected Test match against Zimbabwe:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 68 for two) Spearman c A flower b Streak Twose b Brandes

Fleming run out (Olonga) Parore c A flower b Streak 16 Astle not out Cairns not out Extras: (lb-5, b-4, nb-14,

Total: (for four wickets) 154 Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-67; 3-115: 4-143. Bowling

Streak 39 30 9 Strang Olonga 42 10.3 Brandes 2 34

Novak's maiden ATP triumph

Novak Sunday won his first ATP tournament title when Zealand Open, reports AFP.

54 and eighth seed in the tournament, was too strong for Steven, New Zealand's top tennis player and fifth

cause rain disrupted the programme Saturday.

Steven had the worst of the draw, playing the second semis and then coming on court to face Novak about an hour later under lights. "I had about five minutes

to think about the final. I left my best tennis in the semis but I'm not taking anything away from Jiri. He played great tennis," said Steven, who holds a ranking of 42.

Steven reached the final of the 303,000 dollar tournament by beating Frenchman

Guy Forget in the semifinals and that was a tough match. Forget took the first set on a tie-break and Steven had

Steven. Novak had an equally stern opponent in the semifinals. Argentinian Javier Frana won the first set before No-

6-4. 7-5. Novak picked up the trophy and a cheque for 43,000

Aussie Open from today MELBOURNE, and do it again," he said. pras in last year's semifinals,



Jan 14: Defending champion Andre Agassi hopes to prove his tournament

fitness by making short work of his low-ranked first-round opponent when he opens his Australian Open campaign on Monday, reports Reuter. Agassi, like top-seeded ri-

val Pete Sampras and women's favourite Monica Seles, goes into the year's first Grand Slam event with a cloud over his form after missing a series of tournaments late last year with a niggling chest injury.

The number two seed, sporting a bald pate and a bandana, faces Argentine Gaston Eltlis, who is ranked 132nd in the world, after an indifferent performance in the Colonial Classic exhibition event here last week.

The 25-year-old Las Vagan, who finished third in the Classic behind winner Michael Chang and Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, said he was happy with his fitness and felt no after-effects of the injury to a pectoral muscle.

"I though I was moving very well and striking the ball cleanly," Agassi told reporters, adding that he would benefit from the experience he gained in competing at the Open for the first time last year.

"I have become used to what to expect as far as the weather and courts are concerned. The fact that I have done it before helps, give me confidence that I can go out

Sampras, who regained

THE GIGGLE IS BACK: A beaming Monica Seles proudly holds aloft the Peters International trophy after her hard-

his number one spot from Agassi with triumphs at Wimbledon and the US Open last year, is arguably even less fit than his compatriot after missing the Classic with a bad bout of influenza. Sampras arrived in mid-

fought triumph over fellow American Lindsay Davenport in the final in Sydney yesterday.

week, hastily arranged and lost an exhibition against world number four Boris Becker on Friday but pronounced himself well and ready to win his second Open and eighth Grand Slam title. Sampras, 24, plays Aus-

tralia's 90th-ranked Richard Fromberg in his opening match on Tuesday. "I feel well, "Im hitting the ball well and I'm getting into a groove," Sampras told re-"It's always a little bit

scary in your first-round match and you hope to go in there and just get by.

Once past Fromberg, Sampras, who had not played in competition since last month's Davis Cup final, is likely to face another early test in Australia's rising young star Mark Philippoussis, who have him a tough four-set match in the US

World number five Chang believes that both Agassi and Sampras are vulnerable. "Although Pete and Andre

played very tough tennis last vear, it does not mean that they are unbeatable," said Chang after winning the Classic on Saturday for the second year.

Chang, who lost to Sam-

erupted as the final whistle

blew in the stadium, the first

time the continent's premier

soccer event has been staged

Masinga, who arrived in the

country only 24 hours before

the match, grabbed the open-

ing goal after just 14 min-

England-based striker Phil

in South Africa.

is seeded to meet Agassi in this year's last four. Women's top seed Monica

Seles will be anxious to get past her first-round match on Tuesday against qualifier Janet Lee after a difficult three-set victory over Lindsay

can, who came close to losing her unbeaten record in Australia, had the injury strapped up in the second

she was confident she would be fit for the Open, her second Grand Slam event since her comeback last August after an April 1993 stabbing by an obsessed Steffi Graf fan.

it will be alright, the trainer said it should be okay," Seles, 22, told reporters in Sydney before flying to Melbourne for treatment ahead of her match against Lee.

Seles, the joint world number one with Graf who is missing the Open after undergoing foot surgery, made her return to the circuit in

Australia's 112th-ranked Pe-

Williams added a second

eight minutes from half-time

after a scrappy goalmouth

scrabble as Cameroon failed

John Moshoeu played a

deft one-two with Leeds'

striker Masinga, who back-

heeled the ball into

Moshoeu's path for a goal of

fielder Marc-Vivien Foe im-

pressed in a Cameroon side

fielding six players from their

squad at the 1994 World Cup

Only French-based mid-

to clear their lines.

arrogant quality.

finals.

finals match.

the play. Seles said Davenport, ranked number 12, had an 'amazing future ahead of her" and tipped her as a fu-

ture number one player. She said Davenport played some very hard groundstrokes and served well too. adding that she played the

style of tennis that could beat Davenport, 19, who described the match as the best of her career, said she had

gone into the finals hoping only to avoid a 6-0, 6-0 wipe-

She said the tight call would encourage other, in

Halard-Decugis' double catch

Coach Jules Nyongha gambled by playing two teenagers - the uncapped Marie-Jose Tchango and Pierre Nlend Wome, who at 16-years-old became the youngest player to appear in a Nations' Cup

Wome was replaced before the end of the first-half and Tchango shortly after the

President Nelson Mandela officially opened the tournament, saying: "The countdown is over. For the next three weeks soccer nations in Africa will bless our young democracy with the best display of skills this continent can offer."

Sports figures and politicians are hoping the event will achieve the same kind of racial reconciliation as the rugby World Cup, which South Africa hosted and won in May and June last year. Springbok captain Fran-

cois Pienaar went on to the field ahead of the match on Saturday with some of his World Cup team mates, carrying a banner proclaiming

their support for the "Bafana Bafana" — the soccer boys. Poet Mzwakhe Mbuli performed a song he had specially written for Bafana Bafana and the South African Air Force performed a flypast.

and outside the stadium.

Four military helicopters trailing the flags of the 15 participating nations flew over the stadium. More than 2,000 members of the security forces, including uniformed and plain-clothes policemen and

South Africa, who the Australian Open. launched wave after wave of attacks from the outset added a superb third goal 10 minutes into the second-half.

> HOBART, Jan 14: Julie Halard-Decugis had a plane to catch Sunday, and it showed when she took only 51 minutes to beat Japan's Mana Endo 6-1, 6-2, in the US 107,000 dollars Tasmanian International tennis final, reports AP.

The match at the Domain Tennis Centre was brought forward from noon local time to 11 am to make sure the players didn't miss the afternoon flight to Melbourne for the Australian Open which starts Monday.

Thanks to the Frenchwoman's serve, returns and ground strokes, which were as blistering as the 30-degree Celsius plus heat, there was never any danger of her missing the flight.

It was a disappointing finale for Endo, who was seeking her second Tasmanian title in three years. Endo said Halard-Decugis power game never allowed her into the

match. Schalken stuns

Younes

JAKARTA, Jan 14: Young Dutchman Sjeng Schalken Sunday beat Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui 6-3, 6-2 to take the Indonesia Open men's title here Sunday, reports AFP.

The 20-year-old finished the match with an ace that symbolised his tough play. "My play was good, concentrated, and I feel very happy," Schalken said. The Moroccan could not

match the play that saw him beat defending champion Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands in the semifinals on Saturday. El-Aynaoui made many mistakes while Schalken

made full use of his varied shots to impose his game. He fired down 11 aces in

soldiers, were on duty inside all and was never behind in games.

Dong rises to the occasion

TAIPEI, Jan 14: China's Dong Jiong shrugged off an overnight game and lack of sleep to overpower Malaysian Rashid Sidek 15-11, 15-4 and take the title in the 125,000 US dollars Chinese-Taipei Open badminton championship here Sunday. reports AFP. Looking none the worse

for his overnight semifinal against world number three Allan Budi Kusuma, the world ranked number six kept up the pace, moving skillfully around the court and giving his 27-year-old opponent no chances.

"I am really happy I won. There were so many top players, like Budikusuma . . . think the key to my victory this time was because I had better tactics and more enduring strength," Dong said after the singles final.

In the women's final, world number one and defending champion Ye Zhaoying of China went down to Indonesia s Susi Susanti surprisingly easily, 5-11, 2-11.

Susanti, looking for revenge for her defeat by Ye in the final last year, maintained a tough defence, while attacking aggressively, leaving Ye exhausted.

Like the men, both women had played until late Saturday in the semis.

I knew I was going to defeat her this time." Susanti said, adding she believed her defensive tactics had outwit-

ted Ye. The mixed doubles final saw Denmark's Michael Soegaard and Rikke Olsen beat the Chinese pair of Sun Man and Lin Jainjun 15-3, 7-15, 15-12.

A close call for the hosts Wynalda has 20 goals for the US squad, one shy of the

team record by Bruce Murray. The win put the Americans on track for a semifinal match up against Brazil, and Tobago on Saturday to which beat Canada 4-1 on Friday. Mexico are likely to the third first-round group in the tournament organised by CONCACAF, the umbrella soccer federation for North and Central Amer-

> ica and the Caribbean. The Americans, fielding most of their big-name stars who play overseas, were rocked early in the game and fell behind against a team led by big striker Dwight Yorke. who plays for Aston Villa of

England's Premier league. The first half was only six minutes old when Trinidad captain Russell Latapy pushed a beautiful ball inside the defence and Arnold Dwarika ran on to hit a low right-foot shot

Great Britain pip Malaysia

LONDON, Jan 14: Volker Knapp, the German coach of Malaysia's hockey team, had mixed feelings after the 1-0 defeat by Great Britain on Saturday in the first of two weekend internationals here. reports AFP.

"We played in two different styles and did not settle down. We missed chances towards the end but so did Britain," he said admitting that England had better balance and more experience.

Malaysia, displaying plenty of skill but lacking in cohesion and motivation were sustained by their experienced players, Maninderjit Singh in deep defence, Shanker Ramu and Calvin Fernandez on midfield and Mirnanwan Nawai the best of the three forwards.

Noor Saiful Zaini, the mainspring of their attack in earlier campaigns, made little headway.

A number of rough edges in the Malaysian team will need to be polished for the task that lies ahead as Malaysia prepare to join great Britain, India, Holland, Spain, Canada, Belgium and Belarus in the Olympic qualifying tournament in Barcelona which starts on January 19. The top five teams will qualify for Atlanta.

In a match which did not rise to any particular heights Britain scored the only goal in the 29th minute when Calum Giles converted their second penalty with a push shot that should have been

Malaysia's early moves showed promise. In the 10th minute Nawai at outside left slipped past the full back Jon Whyatt and released a shot which the goalkeeper Simon Mason just managed to save. Nine minutes later he forced a short corner from which a hard shot by Maninderjit Singh was again blocked by

past Kasey Keller.

The United States tied it in the 14th minute when Lalas went up for a Tab Ramos corner and headed the ball towards the far post. where Eric Wynalda rose unchallenged to head into the

roof of the net. The same combination put the Americans ahead in the 34th minute when Marcello Balboa's shot from a Ramos corner was blocked on the line and Lalas pushed the ball back to Wynalda to score

from 10 yards. But the Trinidadians came back and Dwarika grabbed his second goal two minutes before halftime, running on to a pass across the goal by Evans Wise and shooting high over

The nine-team tourna-Honduras in Los Angles.

The United States and El Salvador are tied for first place in Group C and will play a deciding match in Anaheim Tuesday. Mexico leads Group A and Brazil and Canada each have three points in Group B. although the Brazilians beat

the Canadians 4-1 Friday.

ment continues Sunday with Mexico facing Guatemala in San Diego and Brazil playing

AUCKLAND, Jan 14: Jiri he beat Brett Steven 6-4, 6-4

in the final of the New The Czech player, ranked

Both had played semifinal matches earlier Sunday be-

Novak said the result was the best in his life.

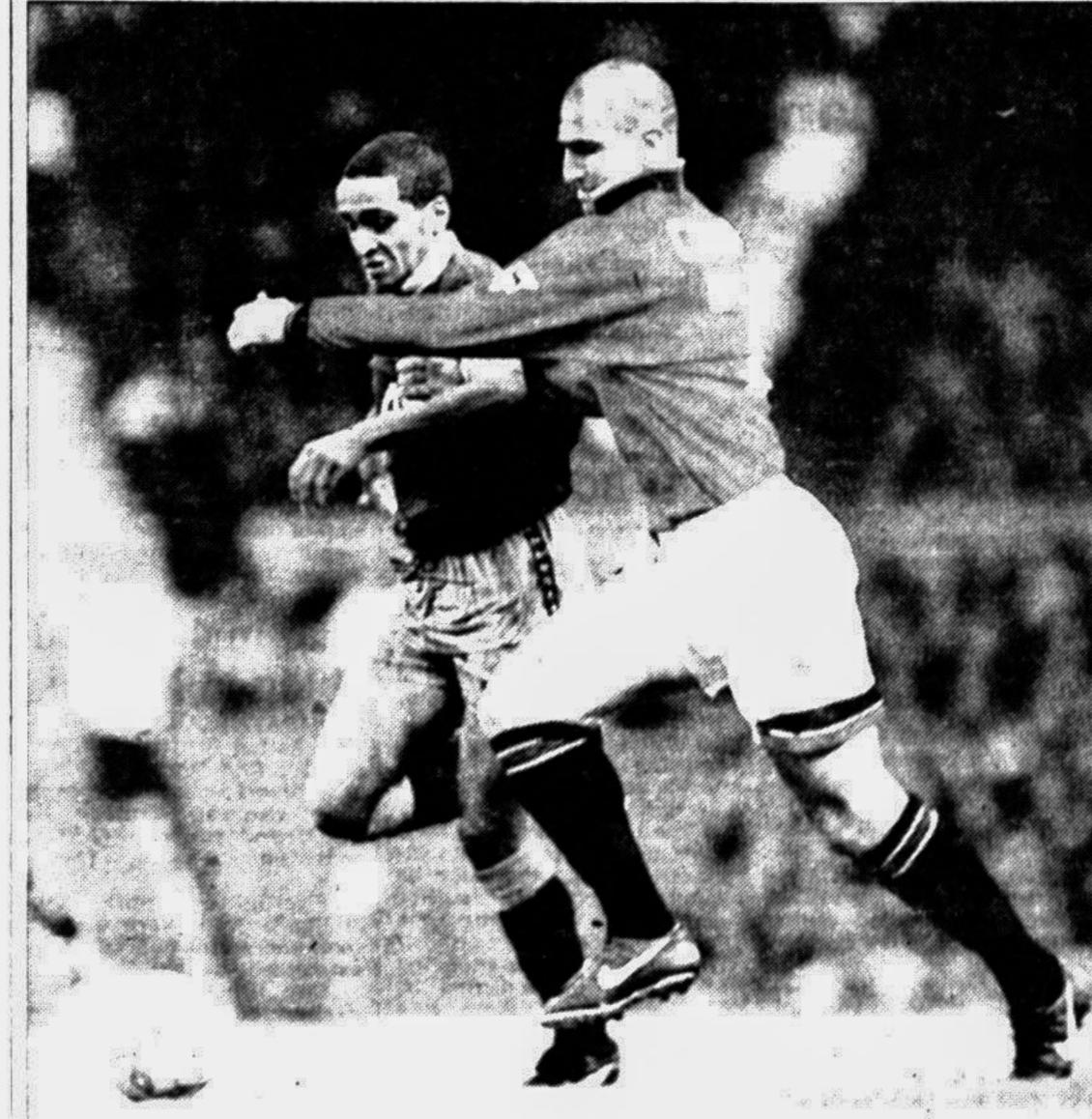
to fight back against clever play to win 6-7 (7/5), 6-4, 6-

The unseeded Forget had relied on his excellent service through the tournament, but it seemed to desert him in the last two sets against

vak took control to win 3-6,

turn from sporting isolation

The crowd of 70,000



Manchester United's ace playmaker Eric Cantona (R) exerts every strength to take control of the ball from Aston Villa's Gary Charbs during their English Premier League clash at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Jan 13. The match ended goalless. - AFP/UNB photo

Davenport in Sunday's Peters International final during which she suffered a slight groin strain. The Yugoslav-born Ameri-

But Seles said afterwards

"Hopefully with one day off

Sydney after being sidelined by tendinitis in a knee and a strained foot. Women's defending champion Mary Pierce of France, whose year went wrong after she won her first

tra Schwarz.

JOHANNESBUR G. Jan 14: Hosts South Africa made a dream start to the African Nations' Cup finals on Saturday with a 3-0 threshing

of twice winners Cameroon, reports Reuter. It was the biggest winning margin for South Africa in 34 internationals since their re-

in 1992.

utes, scoring from close range after evading the Cameroonian defence. It was Masinga's record-

equalling seventh goal for his country. Striking partner Mark

Biman sports Sports Reporter The fifteenth annua sports competition of Ban-

gladesh Biman will commence this morning at the Razarbagh Police Lines ground. Abdul Mannan, State Min-

ister for Air and Tourism.

will inaugurate the two-day

meet at 9 am as chief guest of the opening ceremony. The annual sports meet of the national flag bearers will end tomorrow afternoon.

Australia, Fiji open with wins ADELAIDE, Jan 14: Australia beat Vanuatu 9-1 Saturday and Fiji defeated the Solomon Islands 4-0 in Opening-round matches in an

Olympic qualifying soccer

Striker Joe Spiteri led Australia with three goals, while Mark Viduka and Gabriel Mendez scored two goals each. In the opening game, Fiji scored four goals in 11 min-

utes, with three goals from

tournament, reports AP.

striker Livai Duguca. The tournament resumes Monday with Saturday's losers. Vanuatu and the Solomons, playing each other, and New Zealand making its debut against Fiji. The winners of the dou-

ble-round tournament ad-

vance to play the runner-up

in the CONCACAF zone. The

winners of the play off will

qualify for Atlanta.

Grand Slam utle, opens her campaign on Tuesday against

Dire start for the Lions