



Santos left speechless

GOAL.COM

Portugal coach Fernando Santos said he had no words to describe Cristiano Ronaldo after the Real Madrid star scored a late winner against Denmark.

The Seleccao appeared to be heading for a draw in Copenhagen when the 29-year-old headed home in the final minute of added time to give his side a much-needed victory.

"Cristiano is Cristiano. He is a winner, and there are no adjectives to describe him," the former Greece boss told reporters.

"We knew that Denmark were very strong. I think they saw the match against France and changed from their normal tactics, from a 4-3-3 to 4-4-2 trying to control the match."

"Thank God, we managed to win and I hope it's the first of many victories. I believe we definitely deserved it - we were very good in the first half and hit the post."

"The team were always seeking victory, then. Cristiano took a cross from [Ricardo] Quaresma. He had other chances, but the ball wouldn't go in."

Portugal currently sit third in Group I of the Euro 2016 qualifiers, behind the Danes and surprise leaders Albania.

Honduras hold USA

AFP, Boc Raton

Maynor Figueroa headed home the equalizer in the 86th minute Tuesday to give

Honduras a 1-1 draw with the United States in an international football friendly.

The 31-year-old Premier League standout for Hull City leaped between US defender Jermaine Jones and American goalkeeper Nick Rimando and nodded in the tying goal.

Jozy Altidore, a striker for English side Sunderland, had put the Americans ahead with a goal in the 10th minute.

It was second match in five days in which the US squad surrendered a late equalizer, with Enner Valencia scoring in the 88th minute for Ecuador in a 1-1 draw Friday at East Hartford, Connecticut.



Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo (2nd from R) celebrates his all-important goal against Denmark during their Euro 2016 qualifier in Copenhagen on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Germany stumble again

Ronaldo sinks Denmark

AFP, Paris



World champions Germany stumbled again in their Euro 2016 qualifying campaign on Tuesday, drawing 1-1 with the Republic of Ireland on a night where Cristiano Ronaldo and a flying drone made headlines elsewhere.

Ronaldo's late header gave Portugal a 1-0 win in Denmark to kickstart their qualifying campaign, but the meeting between Serbia and Albania in the same Group I was abandoned after crowd trouble in Belgrade.

Germany had suffered their first qualifying defeat since 2007 at the weekend, losing 2-0 in Poland in Group D, but the World Cup winners were greeted by a huge fan mosaic at one end of the stadium in Gelsenkirchen which read simply 'Thank You', proving that such a defeat could not overshadow their heroics of July.

Nevertheless, only five of the players who started in the win against Argentina in Rio de Janeiro three months ago lined up at kick-off against Martin O'Neill's men.

One of the newer faces, Borussia Dortmund's Erik Durm, smashed a shot off the bar in the first half before a precise Toni Kroos strike in the 71st minute gave Joachim Loew's men the lead.

In Copenhagen, Cristiano Ronaldo headed in Ricardo Quaresma's cross in

the fifth minute of injury time to score his 51st international goal and give Portugal victory against their Danish hosts in their first competitive game under new coach Fernando Santos.

Meanwhile, Albania, who won away in Portugal in Group I last month, saw their match with Serbia in Belgrade abandoned after trouble started just before half-time with the score goalless.

A drone sporting the Albanian flag was flown over the stadium, sparking fury among Serbian fans and players and leading to clashes between the two teams on the pitch.

Serbian fans hurled smoke bombs and other missiles onto the pitch in protest in a game from which Albanian fans had been barred because of the sensitive relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Northern Ireland made it three wins from three in Group F with a remarkable 2-0 victory away to Greece in Piraeus, Jamie Ward and Kyle Lafferty finding the net either side of half-time for Michael O'Neill's side.

The result leaves Claudio Ranieri's Greece side, European champions in 2004, lagging behind with just one point so far, while a brace from Bogdan Stancu gave Romania a 2-0 win in Finland and Adam Szalai's solitary effort handed Hungary a 1-0 triumph in the Faroe Islands.

Chennaiyin edge Goa

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Chennaiyin FC edged past FC Goa 2-1 in the fourth match of the ongoing Indian Super League (ISL) played at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in Fatorda, Goa, on Wednesday evening.

Balwant Singh (32') and Elano Blumer (42') gave the southeners a two-goal cushion in the first half, while Gregory Arnolin (65') managed to pull one back for the Goan franchise.

Robert Pires started at the home team's captain in a starting line-up that included Portuguese midfielder Edgar Marcelino as the playmaker and players like Andre Santos and Ranti Martins being benched.

On the other side, player-manager Marco Materazzi benched himself along with India international Jeje Lalpekhlua while opting to start with Brazilian Elano Blumer in the attack and Mikael Silvestre at the helm of his defense.

Chennaiyin's Denson Deodadas brought down Robert Pires in the fourth minute. Marcelino sailed the resultant free-kick but which was not met by any of his FC Goa teammates.

The first chance for the visitors fell to them in the form of a free-kick in the 12th minute that Elano however hit the wall and following some clumsy clearance, went out for a Chennaiyin corner which was out of reach for Mendy despite the Frenchman rising highest to meet.

For the goal, Dhanachandra Singh sent in a cross from the left and Elano couldn't keep his balance and the ball went to Balwant Singh's feet. Amidst claims for a penalty, the Mohun Bagan striker became the first Indian to score a goal in the ongoing ISL.

Serbia-Albania tie abandoned

AFP, Belgrade

A Euro 2016 qualifying match between Serbia and Albania was abandoned after a drone carrying a political message was flown over the stadium late Tuesday, sparking mayhem among Serbian supporters.

The match between the Balkan rivals was scoreless when it was stopped in the 41st minute after the drone flying a "Greater Albania" flag flew over the Partizan Stadium in Belgrade and was brought down by a Serbia player.

The incident triggered clashes between the two sets of footballers as some of the 20,000 home fans tried to assault Albanian players.

The brother of Albania's Prime Minister Edi Rama was arrested over the mayhem, Serbia's interior ministry said.

Olsi Rama was accused of controlling the drone from his seat in an executive box in the stadium, the ministry said, according to Serbia's RTS state television station.

The prime minister's brother denied he had been arrested, or had any involvement in the drone incident, and later returned to Tirana.

Serbian fans hurled smoke bombs and other missiles onto the pitch in protest in a game from which Albanian fans had been barred by the Serbian Football Federation on Sunday.

The incident comes just days before Edi Rama is due to make the first visit by an Albanian premier to Serbia for 68 years.

Rama's visit, set for next Wednesday,

James lifts Colombia

AFP, Harrison

James Rodriguez scored in the 74th minute to give Colombia a 1-0 victory over Canada on Tuesday in an international football friendly.

The Real Madrid striker, who was the top goal scorer in this year's World Cup, rescued the South American squad from a spirited display by the 120th-ranked team in the world.

It was Colombia's second victory in five days after a 3-0 triumph over El Salvador on Friday at the same suburban New York pitch, home of Major League Soccer's New York Red Bulls.

Radamel Falcao, a striker for Manchester United on loan from Monaco, was pulled in the 67th minute. His best scoring chance came early in the second half when he split two defenders and lofted a shot over the crossbar from atop the penalty area.

The match was the closer of an international friendly twin bill that opened with Ecuador defeating El Salvador 5-1.

Two goals each from Enner Valencia and Joao Plata powered Ecuador.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from experienced, innovative and resourceful private sector developers for development and management (short-term basis) of the proposed multi-storey building on build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis on 1 bigha (approx.) plot of land bearing "Plot no. 26, Corner of Road no. 3, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205."

The project will consist of an institutional-cum-office block with an overall built-up area of 1.35 lakhs sq ft including 2 basement floors plus ground floor plus 13 floors to be shared with the Alliance Française de Dhaka. The property will remain solely with Alliance Française de Dhaka. The BOT operator is expected to benefit from rental revenues only.

Only the capable developers who have the skills and knowhow to handle and ensure the quality as well as standards with both local and international areas of expertise are requested to participate.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
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THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS 15 NOVEMBER 2014