

Portugal end Swiss winning run

Lisbon

European champions Portugal qualified for next year's World Cup with a convincing 2-0 home win over Switzerland on Tuesday, ending their rivals' perfect record in Group B after an own goal by Johan Djourou set them on their way.

With Bernardo Silva giving one of his best performances for his country, the Portuguese did not even need a goal from their captain Cristiano Ronaldo as they pulled level on 27 points with Switzerland and won the group on goal difference.

Djourou put the ball through his own net four minutes before halftime and Andre Silva sealed the victory in the 57th minute with his ninth goal of the campaign.

The Swiss had led the group since beating Portugal 2-0 in Basel in their opening match in September last year and gone on to win all nine matches before Tuesday's encounter



Cristiano Ronaldo (C) of Portugal vies with Stephan Lichtsteiner (L) of Switzerland during the FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers Group B match

in Lisbon, while Portugal had won their subsequent eight.

Aside from a penalty shootout defeat by Chile at the Confederations Cup in June,

the defeat by Switzerland was the only competitive game Portugal have lost since Fernando Santos took over as coach in September 2014.

Switzerland will now enter a playoff over two legs with another European group runner-up in November for a place in Russia. The draw for

the playoffs will be held next Tuesday.

Ronaldo should have scored his 16th goal of the qualifying campaign when he was sent

clear in the 78th minute but he over-elaborated as he tried to get around Yann Sommer and allowed the goalkeeper to claim the ball.

The Swiss were cool and comfortable for the first half hour, stringing together some neat moves in midfield, while Portugal were let down by poor crossing and struggled to get the ball to Ronaldo.

But after Silva had a rasping drive tipped away by Sommer, the hosts moved up a gear and went ahead with the help of some defensive misfortune for the visitors.

Eliseu fired in a low cross which Sommer parried, only for the ball to ricochet off Djourou into the net.

The hosts took control after the break and scored again with a superbly-worked goal. A quick exchange of passes freed Silva on the right and his low cross was turned in by Andre Silva at the second attempt to send the Estadio da Luz into raptures. (Reuters)

U-17 World Cup 2017

Gouiri brace hands France win over Japan

Guwahati, India

Arsenal target Amine Gouiri struck a brace as France notched up a 2-1 victory over Japan to secure a pre-quarterfinal berth in the FIFA U-17 World Cup on Wednesday.

Gouiri scored in the 13th and 71st to lift the former champions into the knockouts, while Japan found a consolation goal through Taisei Miyashiro in the 73rd minute at the Indira Gandhi International Stadium.

Japan, though, still are in contention from Group E having hammered Honduras 6-1 in their tournament opener.

The first goal came when Gouiri unleashed a right-footer off from the left side of the box off a Maxence Caqueret assist.

It was Les Bleuets that caused the Japanese problems in the early stages of the game, with Gouiri being the biggest



Amine Gouiri of France celebrates scoring a goal (Picture courtesy: FIFA)

threat.

The Olympique Lyonnais youngster opened the scoring on the 13th minute, as he sent a shot through the legs of Japan goalkeeper Kosei Tani.

Despite falling behind, Japan made their way back into the contest and had created chances.

The best of those opportunities was a free-kick from Keito Nakamura, which

took a big deflection off the France wall and flew just wide.

At the other end, Caqueret was unlucky not to see a long-range strike hit the target before the break.

The prolific Gouiri would score again just past the midway point of the second half, as he finished off a superb bit of inter-play with Yacine Adli in the Japanese box. (PTT)

England through to the last 16



(L-R) England's Jadon Sancho, Rhian Brewster and Philip Foden celebrate after scoring a goal

England are through to the last 16 of the Under-17 World Cup in India after a 3-2 win against Mexico.

Liverpool's Rhian Brewster, Manchester City's Phil Foden and Borussia Dortmund's Jadon Sancho had put England 3-0 up after 55 minutes in

Kolkata. Despite a late rally from Mexico, Steve Cooper's side held on for the win.

England, who beat Chile 4-0 on Sunday, have six points from two games and play Iraq on Saturday in their final group match. England youngsters have enjoyed a successful year

with victories at the Under-20 World Cup, the Toulon Tournament and European Under-19 Championship.

They also reached the final of the European Under-17 tournament and the European Under-21 Championship semi-finals. (BBC)