

SPORTS
sports

New-look Germany edge Dutch in Euro thriller

Joachim Low's side let 2-0 lead slip before Nico Schulz scored late winner

● Belgium claim win over Cyprus

● Croatia slump to defeat

AFP | Paris

Germany's Nico Schulz sealed a thrilling 3-2 win over the Netherlands in a see-saw Euro 2020 qualifier as Joachim Loew's new-look line-up survived a severe test on Sunday.

Elsewhere, World Cup finalists Croatia stumbled to a 2-1 defeat in Hungary, and Eden Hazard celebrated a century of caps with the opening goal in Belgium's 2-0 win over Cyprus.

A revamped Germany raced into a 2-0 lead in Amsterdam with thrilling strikes from Leroy Sane and Serge Gnabry but the hosts struck back with a second half header from Matthijs De Ligt before Memphis Depay pounced for an equaliser on 63 minutes.

The four-time world champions were put under immense pressure from a Netherlands camp seeking a winner but the visitors, who were booed by their own fans in a 1-1 friendly draw against Serbia last



Netherlands' defender Denzel Dumfries (front) vies with Germany's defender Nico Schulz

Wednesday, snatched victory in the 90th minute through 25-year-old Schulz. The Hoffenheim midfielder, who made his international in August, tapped home a loose ball after a tireless Sane had taken the defence with him on a run into the box.

The win comes after Loew took an axe to Germany's squad ahead of the qualifying campaign in the aftermath of last year's calamitous World Cup elimination, when he told Bayern Munich trio Thomas Mu-

eller, Jerome Boateng and Mats Hummels they had no future in the national side.

Bayern stopper Manuel Neuer may also come under pressure for his place after De Ligt beat him with a flying header just after the restart. Neuer, 32, was also slow to react as Depay pounced for the equaliser.

Dutch 'keeper Jasper Cillessen was left with little chance after Gnabry ended his mazy run by outwitting Virgil Van Dijk before sending a rasping long-range

effort into the bottom corner in the early action.

Modric powerless

Chelsea star Hazard celebrated his 100th cap by scoring the opener in their 2-0 win over Cyprus in Group I with Michy Batshuayi grabbing the second as Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois went largely untested in the Belgian goal.

Ballon d'Or winner Luka Modric was powerless to stop beaten World Cup finalists Cro-

atia from slipping to a 2-1 defeat to Hungary in Group E on Sunday as Mate Patkai notched a 76th minute winner in Budapest.

Croatia had struggled against Azerbaijan in their opening qualifier last Thursday before escaping with a 2-1 win, but they made the perfect start in the Hungarian capital when Ante Rebic put them ahead on 13 minutes.



Captain Eden Hazard marked his 100th cap for Belgium

But Hungary pulled level through Adam Szalai's fifth goal in as many games and with a quarter of an hour left, 31-year-old Patkai scored his first international goal to pull off a famous victory.

Scotland got back to winning ways with an uninspiring 2-0 win at perennial makeweights San Marino, following an embarrassing defeat at Kazakhstan in their opening qualifier.

Bayern Munich sign partnership with Singapore Sports Council

AFP | Berlin

Bayern Munich will found a sixth football school in Asia after agreeing a youth development partnership with the Singapore Sports Council (SportsSG), the Bundesliga giants announced yesterday.

Former Bayern player Klaus Augenthaler was present at a signing ceremony at Singapore's Jurong East Stadium on Sunday, as the club pledged to "close future co-operation" with SportsSG, the government agency in charge of sport.

The partnership will involve education programmes, coaching exchanges and participation in the international youth series, "FC Bayern Youth Cup", the club said in a statement.

"Football is becoming ever more popular in Singapore and we are proud to be able to work with SportsSG," said Joerg Wacker, Bayern's Head of Internationalisation and Strategy.

"In the centre of this partnership are a wide-reaching exchange of expertise and our ongoing support of the development of youth football in Singapore."

SportsSG CEO Lim Teck Yin said there was a lot to be learned from Bayern.

"Their expertise will definitely help to inspire upcoming talents, encourage more players to train seriously and I hope that we will see sustained and increased interest in the sport over the years," he said.



CBA 8 A side tournament for Division D winners Alpha Fire and runners up TISCA Stars with their trophies

Alba Red, Cric Bahrain advance to last four

TDI | Manama

Alba Red beat Colts Cricket Academy by a huge margin of 157 runs and stormed in to the Semi Finals of the CBA-Alba Under 12 cricket tournament on Friday at Alba ground.

Batted first Alba Red has scored a record total of 205 for the loss of 6 wickets in 20 overs. Alba opens Sarvesh Nirmal (40) and Sai Sarthak (28) have added 81 runs for the first wicket. Then Sarvesh Nirmal and Aryan Ashwin (31) continued their efforts and added 57 for second wicket.

Later Captain Romir Adhiya made a quick fire 34 not out in 17 balls to take his team to a record total of 205 runs in 20 overs. Bhavya Gupta was most successful bowler who took 2 wickets for 23 runs. In reply Colts Cricket Academy was bowled out for just 48 runs.

Arnav Nair (2 wickets for 8 runs), Tirthankar (2 wickets for 1 runs) and Abdullah (2 wickets for 2 runs) bowled well with an excellent piece of medium pace bowling to bundle Colts Academy for just 48 runs. With this win Alba Red has entered in to the last four of the tournament.

F2 driver line-up all set for season-opener in Bahrain

TDI | Manama

The 20-driver line-up for the 2019 FIA Formula 2 Championship is now complete and the field is ready to take Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) by storm this weekend for the opening round of their season, being held in support of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2019.

The final additions to the roster of up-and-coming race stars were made in the past few days, and all 10 Formula 2 teams are ready to line up on the grid.

The season-opening meeting in Bahrain will have a 32-lap Feature Race covering 173.184 kilometres on Saturday and then the 23-lap Sprint Race over 124.476km will be held on Sunday.

Amongst the more prominent drivers competing in Formula 2 this year is Mick Schumacher, who is the son of seven-time Formula 1 World champion Michael Schumacher. He will be taking to the tarmac with Italian outfit Prema Racing, alongside Indonesian teammate Sean Galeal.

It was also announced that 20-year-old Schumacher will be making his debut in a Formula 1 car in Bahrain at a young driv-



F2 cars in action at BIC

ers' test, to be held April 2 and 3 right after the Grand Prix.

A few other big names competing this Formula 2 season include Williams test and reserve driver Nicholas Latifi from Canada, who will race for French team DAMS alongside Brazilian Sergio Sette Camara; Renault test driver Jack Aitken from Great Britain, who competes for Spanish team Campos Racing with Frenchman Dorian Boccia; and former Formula 1 test driver Nikita Mazepin from Russia, who drives for French outfit ART Grand Prix

alongside Nyck De Vries from the Netherlands.

There is one lady driver on the grid this season, Colombian Tatiana Calderon, who races for British squad BWT Arden alongside Anthoine Hubert of France.

From the other teams, Carlin are set to race with Louis Deletraz from Switzerland and Nobuharu Matsushita of Japan; UNI-Virtuosi Racing from Great Britain will compete with Guanyu Zhou from China and Luca Ghiotto from Italy; and Sauber Junior Team by Charouz

from the Czech Republic with Callum Ilott from Great Britain and Juan Manuel Correa from the US.

The grid is completed by MP Motorsport from the Netherlands with Jordan King from Great Britain and Dutch teammate Mahaveer Raghunathan; and Trident from Italy who will race with Giuliano Alesi of France and Ralph Boschung of Switzerland.

The new Formula 2 campaign is set to feature 12 meetings in all, each running in conjunction with a Formula 1 Grand Prix.