

## Sports

# Lyon reach Champions League last 16, Bayern top group

## Real Madrid suffer record-breaking loss

**PARIS:** Lyon clinched the final Champions League last-16 place as Nabil Fekir's second-half strike grabbed a 1-1 draw against Shakhtar Donetsk in a snowy Kiev on Wednesday, while Bayern Munich pipped Ajax to top spot in Group E.

Bruno Genesio's Lyon needed to avoid defeat against Shakhtar to progress from Group F with Manchester City, and a fifth successive draw in the competition achieved that aim.

"It was hard in difficult conditions. We gave ourselves a fright and it's a pity we didn't kill off the game in the first half," Lyon midfielder Houssem Aouar told RMC Sport. "The main thing is that we've qualified."

Shakhtar forged ahead midway through the opening period with what proved their only shot of the first half, just seconds after Lyon forward Bertrand Traore had been denied by Andriy Pyatov when clean through one-on-one with the goalkeeper. The Burkina Faso international was made to pay for his profligacy, as Junior Moraes slotted home after being picked out by Ismaili. Lyon continued to dominate, though, and finally equalised in the 65th minute as Nabil Fekir hammered a left-footed strike into the top corner following excellent play by Memphis Depay.

Bayern Munich went into their game at Ajax just needing a point to beat their opponents to first place in Group E, and Niko Kovac's men did just that in a thrilling 3-3 draw. The game burst into life in the second half when Dusan Tadic equalised Robert Lewandowski's early opener

just after the hour mark, with Ajax defender Maximilian Woeber sent off in the 67th minute for a dangerous lunge on Leon Goretzka.

But Bayern were also reduced to 10 men only eight minutes later, as Thomas Mueller was given his marching orders for planting his studs into the head of Nicolas Tagliafico. Ajax briefly moved top of the live standings when Jerome Boateng carelessly conceded a penalty, which was dispatched emphatically into the roof of the net by Tadic.

But Tagliafico brought down Thiago Alcantara, with Lewandowski slotting in the spot-kick, before Kingsley Coman looked to have settled matters with a wonderful 90th-minute strike.

Tagliafico went up the other end to equalise again, but Ajax failed to find a winner as Bayern just about held on. "That was an advert for football," smiled Kovac. "The most important thing was to finish top of the group and with 14 from 18 points we are happy."

CSKA Moscow stunned a much-changed Real Madrid with a 3-0 victory at the Santiago Bernabeu, but still finished bottom of Group G as Viktoria Plzen beat Roma. The Russian side, who also downed Real 1-0 in the reverse fixture, had to better Plzen's result to finish third and qualify for the Europa League.

But Plzen edged out Roma 2-1 in the Czech Republic to render CSKA's famous victory ultimately meaningless, despite inflicting the heaviest ever European home loss on the record 13-time



**KIEV:** Shakhtar Donetsk's Ukrainian goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov (R) vies for the ball with Lyon's Dutch forward Memphis Depay (L) during the UEFA Champions League, Groupe F football match FC Shakhtar Donetsk and Olympique Lyonnais on NSK Olimpiyskiy stadium in Kiev on Wednesday. — AFP

champions. "It's sad to say the least to beat Real Madrid, earn seven points, but finish bottom and get eliminated from Europe," said CSKA coach

Viktor Goncharenko. Holders Real had already progressed to the last 16 as group winners, with Roma through in second place. — AFP

## Hoarau brace beats Juventus but Italians take top spot

**BERN:** Guillaume Hoarau scored in either half as Young Boys inflicted a 2-1 defeat on Juventus in their final Champions League group game on Wednesday in Switzerland, but the Italians still took top spot in Group H after Manchester United lost by the same scoreline to Valencia.

The Swiss champions proved too hot to handle for the Cristiano Ronaldo-led Italians whose 26-match unbeaten away run going back to November 2017 ended in freezing temperatures in Bern.

France forward Hoarau slotted in the first after half an hour from the spot at the Stade de Suisse, blasting in the second after 68 minutes to lift the spirits of his already-eliminated side who finished bottom of the group.

Paulo Dybala—who scored a hat-trick in Juve's 3-0 home win in Turin—came off the bench just after the second goal and pulled one back for Massimiliano Allegri's side ten minutes from time and had a sec-

ond disallowed in injury time. Juventus finish top of Group H on 12 points with United on ten, Valencia on eight and Young Boys with four. "We achieved our objective by winning the group, even on a night where everything seemed to go wrong, maybe we weren't focused enough," said Allegri.

"We missed so many opportunities and gifted a penalty, so at the end of the day it was only right that we lost." Ronaldo, the record scorer in the elite European competition with 120 goals, started the final group match despite Juventus already having secured a berth in the knock-out round as Allegri wanted to ensure his side avoided being drawn against Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester City or Paris Saint-Germain in the next round.

"Now the best part of the Champions League is coming," said Ronaldo, who has lifted the trophy five times. "Today we're not happy because we wanted to win in the first half. I could have scored several goals and if I did, the result would probably have been different."

"I feel good physically. The fact of playing every match is a decision that I take together with my coach." But veteran defender Giorgio Chiellini was rested ahead of next weekend's Turin derby in Serie A, as Allegri feared a potential injury on the artificial pitch in Switzerland.

Ronaldo had three chances to put Juve-

tus on the scoreboard in the first half, but the visitors were impacted by Juan Cuadrado going off injured after twenty minutes with Alex Sandro coming off the bench.

Minutes later Brazilian Sandro conceded a penalty for bringing down Cameroonian midfielder Moumi Ngamaleu in the box. Hoarau stepped up with Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny at full stretch getting his fingers to the ball as it clipped the post and bounced back into the net.

The hosts came close to scoring a second just after the hour mark but Szczesny held Christian Fasnacht's header. Hoarau again broke through after 68 minutes with Ngamaleu crossing to the French attacker who powered forward, cutting past Leonardo Bonucci to beat Szczesny.

Dybala came on after 72 minutes in place of Mattia De Sciglio with Ronaldo setting up the Argentine to pull a goal back eight minutes later. Two minutes into injury time, Dybala thought he had bagged the equaliser with a volley but the goal was disallowed as Ronaldo was offside.

"I saw it, Ronaldo was in the path of the ball and the goal was offside," said Allegri. "The important thing is that we won the group, even if it's thanks to Valencia beating Manchester United," said Dybala.

"The defeat hurts, because we came here looking for the win, but it should serve as a lesson for the future." — AFP

## Klopp keeps Liverpool feet firmly on the ground

**LONDON:** Liverpool can count on manager Juergen Klopp to keep their feet firmly on the ground if they begin to believe the hype that has accompanied their unbeaten start to the Premier League season, midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum said. The table-topping Merseyside club are the only remaining unbeaten side in the league after champions Manchester City suffered their first defeat of the season against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge last weekend.

Liverpool's solid defensive displays and steadily improving attack have raised hopes among fans that they might emulate Arsenal's "Invincibles" of 2003-04, who lifted the title after going through the season undefeated.

"I don't really think we are invincible and, if we think that, we have a manager that would put both feet on the ground," Wijnaldum told the British media.

"We know we have to do a lot to not lose games and even more to win it. We know we have to give a good performance every week to continue the run we are in." Liverpool take on a misfiring Manchester United side on Sunday with Jose Mourinho's sixth-placed side looking to keep pace with the teams above them. Wijnaldum said Liverpool would not underestimate United despite their struggles this season. "It is going to be difficult," the Dutch international said. "Things can happen, everyone can have a bad season... last season, with the same players, they finished second. One season goes well, one season a little bit more difficult. "It doesn't mean they have a bad team. They have good players, a good manager, and they know how to manage games and win games-or not to lose games." — Reuters