ITALY'S STRIKE DUO NEED TO DELIVER AGAINST MALTA

PARIS: Not even the return of Cristiano Ronaldo could arrest Portugal's ailing form on Saturday, as the forward was watched as he laboured through France's 1-0 win.

Following their shocking loss to Albania in their Euro 2016 qualifier, the replacement for the 2016 Guinness World Record holder for fastest goal scored in a World Cup qualifying match, had been left on the bench for the first time ever.

Italy won 3-0 in Athens, as the former Euro 2012 winner and current Serie A champion scored their first goal, before grabbing the only goal of the second half.

That was followed by an own goal from defender Mats Hummels, who was sent off for handling the ball on the line. The Germans were reduced to 10 men and could not find a way back into the game.

The result means Germany are on four points from five matches, while Albania are on five points from six. The Germans need to win their remaining two matches to keep their hopes alive of qualifying for the Euro 2016 tournament.

The next match for Portugal is against Albania on Tuesday, with both teams knowing they must win to have any chance of qualifying for the competition.

PORTUGAL'S GOES CONTINUE, FRANCE PREVAIL IN FRIENDLY

BULGARIA: World champions Germany will be determined to bounce back with home victory over Israel on Tuesday, as they prepare to face Armenia in their Euro 2016 qualifying match.

Germany have not won a match since they lost 2-0 to Poland in the qualifying group, but they are confident of overcoming Israel, who are currently bottom of the group.

Germany have a number of injury concerns, with goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, defender Mats Hummels, midfielder Mario Götze and defender Sebastian Rudy all ruled out.

They will be looking to the likes of Bastian Schweinsteiger and Sami Khedira to lead the side to victory.

WAVARI: Poland's Arkadiusz Milik (left) and Germany's Mats Hummels go for a header during a Euro 2016 Group D qualifying soccer match. — AP

DENMARK DRAW WITH ALBANIA

DENMARK: Despite Dennis Rommedahl's best efforts, Denmark could only draw 0-0 with Albania in their Euro 2016 qualifier.

The result means Denmark have not won a match since the 2012 European Championship, and they will need to improve if they are to qualify for the tournament.

Despite Rommedahl's best efforts, the Danes failed to break down the Albanian defence, and Rommedahl was sent off after picking up his second yellow card in the match.

The Danes equalised in the 81st minute when Niclas Bendtner slotted the ball into the net, but Albania equalised shortly afterwards.

The result means Denmark are now third in their group, with Albania second and Greece third.

DENMARK: The Danish team line up for the national anthem before their Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match against Albania at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen. — AP

ITALY SELLS Android SAFARI: An Italian law enforcement agency has sold a prototype of the Android-based Safari browser to the Swiss government.

The browser was developed by Italian police to crack encrypted websites used by organised crime groups.

The sale is part of a larger effort to combat cybercrime, as Italian authorities have been targeting organized crime groups that use encrypted communication channels.

The Safari browser is based on the open-source Chromium project and includes features such as malware detection, URL filtering and a built-in anti-phishing mechanism.

The sale of the prototype to the Swiss government is part of a larger effort to combat cybercrime in Europe.

PREVIEW: The Italian team line up for the national anthem before their Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match against Albania at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome. — AP