

# Sports

PRIME TIME

sunday— (all times are kuwait local)

07:45 australia motogp ..... bein sports 6hd  
 08:00 tennis atp 1000 shanghai double final ..bein sports 9hd  
 09:30 omni sports .....bein sports 12hd  
 10:00 epl world .....bein sports 11hd  
 11:00 qatar superbikes - qss race 2.....bein sports 7hd  
 12:30 european volley championship.....bein sports 13hd  
 14:00 squash us open the finals .....bein sports 9hd  
 17:30 judo paris grand slam day2 ..... bein sports 7hd

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## Costa lifts Mourinho's spirit as Hammers win at Palace 3-1

# United back to form; City stay top

Sterling scores hat-trick

**MANCHESTER, United Kingdom, Oct 17, (AFP): Raheem Sterling's first-half hat-trick ensured Manchester City stayed top of the Premier League with a 5-1 mauling of Bournemouth on Saturday.**

Sterling, who had previously scored just twice for City since his £49 million (66.6 million euros) summer move from Liverpool, took advantage of uncertainty in the visitors' ranks after they lost goalkeeper Artur Boruc to an injury in the warm-up.

Adam Federici, Boruc's replacement, was badly at fault as Wilfried Bony scored only his third City goal since arriving from Swansea in January.

And although Glenn Murray did pull Bournemouth back to 2-1 midway through the first half, Sterling struck twice more, completing his hat-trick following a mix-up involving Federici and midfielder Andrew Surman before Bony

added another late on.

Bournemouth have suffered a series of injury setbacks since winning promotion to the top flight, losing top scorer Callum Wilson and summer signings Tyrone Mings and Max Gradel to serious knee injuries.

Manager Eddie Howe has also lost captain Tommy Elphick for the next 10 weeks because of ankle trouble, and suffered another setback with Boruc.

Howe's side were positive despite all of those problems, and had a very strong penalty claim rejected in the first five minutes, as Nicolas Otamendi caught Dan Gosling with a sliding challenge after Matt Ritchie's shot had been blocked.

### SOCCER

Yet City survived that scare and were 2-0 up inside the first 11 minutes as Federici endured a forgettable Premier League debut for the Cherries.

Federici was blameless as Sterling touched in a seventh minute opener — possibly from an offside position — after Pablo Zabaleta had charged forward to head Fernando's diagonal pass across goal, and Bony had touched on.

The Australian goalkeeper, though, made a horrendous mistake four minutes later, fumbling a straightforward Bacary Sagna cross delivered from the left, and allowing Bony to run the ball into the net.

It was to Bournemouth's credit that they did not fold there and then.

Federici made a fine flying save to tip aside a Kevin De Bruyne shot moments later, before Murray took advantage of some slack City defending to pull a goal back.

Murray, once of City's lower-league neighbours Stockport and Rochdale, strode forward as defender Elikuim Mangala backed off, and drove a shot past Joe Hart from the edge of the penalty area.

The home side responded quickly, though, as Sterling broke on to De Bruyne's perfectly-weighted pass, left



Manchester City's Raheem Sterling (left), scores his side's fourth goal of the game to complete his hat-trick, past Bournemouth's Andrew Surman, during their English Premier League soccer match at The Etihad Stadium, Manchester, England on Oct 17. (AP)

Steve Cook and former City captain Sylvain Distin on the floor with a couple of neat feints, and steered in his second goal.

Federici did brilliantly to tip a De Bruyne shot on to the bar after that, but his first half ended with more misery, as he got into a mix-up with Andrew Surman in dealing with a long ball, and Jesus Navas nipped in.

Federici denied Navas, but Sterling

steered the rebound between the keeper's legs for a first-half hat-trick.

### United 3, Everton 0

In Liverpool, Wayne Rooney scored against former club Everton while further finishes from Morgan Schneiderlin and Ander Herrera helped Manchester United to a comfortable 3-0 victory at Goodison Park on Saturday.

United had won just one of their previous seven visits to the blue half of Merseyside but Louis van Gaal's side were too strong for a home team who were well below par on an afternoon tinged with sadness.

The news broke earlier on Saturday that Howard Kendall, Everton's most successful — and consequently popular — manager had passed away that morning of a heart attack.

Kendall had a hugely illustrious playing career at Goodison Park, winning the First Division title in 1970, before assuming the managerial mantle on three separate occasions.

He delivered the Football League title twice (1985, 1987), the FA Cup in 1984 and the European Cup Winners Cup in 1985 during a halcyon spell where Everton and near-neighbours Liverpool dominated the English football landscape.

Kendall's passing added a sombre touch to an occasion that Everton would have otherwise felt hugely confident of winning.

Van Gaal's side entered this match on the back of a 3-0 defeat to Arsenal prior to the international break which had halted their progress this term.

They had also lost their three previous visits to this ground, all without scoring. However, Everton had little to show for their efforts and United punished them with former prodigy Rooney twisting the knife in the second half.

Neither of these sides have really hit top gear so far this season — despite their impressive Premier League placings — and this match had a quiet opening.

Everton's Romelu Lukaku was the only man who looked like scoring as he caused problems for Chris Smalling and Phil Jones in United's defence while the visitors seemed extremely reluctant to test home goalkeeper Tim Howard.

Genuinely exciting moments remained non-existent until Schneiderlin ended the tedium and opened the scoring after 18 minutes.

Following a corner, Steve Naismith's clearance only fell to Marcos Rojo, whose shot deflected off Smalling and into the path of the unmarked Schneiderlin, who calmly passed the ball past Howard from 12 yards.

Until that point, Everton had enjoyed more possession but had done nothing with it and just as they started to try and work their way back into the contest, United scored a second — a goal that proved to be a real killer blow.

### Chelsea 2, Villa 0

In London, Chelsea forward Diego Costa played a key role in a 2-0 victory over Aston Villa on Saturday that eased the pressure on Jose Mourinho following the Premier League champions' woeful start to the season.

Costa scored the opening goal and then saw his shot deflected in off defender Alan Hutton as home supporters celebrated just a third league victory of the season by chanting Mourinho's name.

But, with the nerves around Stamford Bridge obvious, it had taken a dreadful double error from the visitors to allow Costa to ease the growing concern among home supporters by shooting his side into a 34th-minute lead.

Goalkeeper Brad Guzan had repeatedly looked uneasy when placed under pressure by the home side and his hurried kick was mis-hit in the direction of Joleon Lescott who failed to control the ball, gifting it to Willian.

The midfielder sprinted into the Villa area and waited for the goalkeeper to commit himself before squaring for Costa, recalled after serving a three-game suspension, to convert the ball into a gaping net.

The goal had been badly needed for Blues boss Mourinho because, until that point, Villa had created as many, if not more, chances as their hosts.

Just two minutes before the opening goal, Tim Sherwood's team had carved out their best to date, Jordan Ayew being allowed to surge down to the left-hand by-line from where his cross found Rudy Gesteira who poked an effort just wide, under pressure from John Terry.

It was the latest example of uncertain defending in the home defence, where Baba Rahman was making his first start, and looking unconvincing in the process.

Hutton skipped away from the left-back far too easily after 11 minutes, advancing into the area and seeing a low, driven shot kept out by the outstretched boot of Asmir Begovic.

There was also a low shot from Jack Grealish and direct free-kick from Ayew, both from the edge of the Chelsea area, which required Begovic to make routine saves.

Mourinho, keen to see a swift improvement to his team's worst start to a season in 37 years, had left out Eden Hazard, replacing him with highly-regarded teenager Ruben Loftus-Cheek.

### West Ham 3, Palace 1

In London, West Ham United went up to third in the Premier League as late goals from Manuel Lanzini and Dimitri Payet gave them a 3-1 victory at 10-man Crystal Palace on Saturday.

The Eagles dropped to sixth with the defeat as they struggled against Dwight Gayle was dismissed before half-time.

Carl Jenkinson had given the Hammers a first-half lead but France midfielder Yohan Cabaye equalised from the spot with a retaken penalty.

Gayle was given his marching orders for two yellow cards but Palace held out until two minutes from time when Lanzini struck. Payet put the gloss on the victory in stoppage time.

Palace boss Alan Pardew had named an unchanged side from the 2-0 win over West Bromwich Albion last time out.

For West Ham, Diafra Sakho started up front with Enner Valencia, back from a knee injury, and Andy Carroll on the bench.

West Ham had the better of the early exchanges and took a deserved lead through right-back Jenkinson, who slotted home a pass from former Palace man Victor Moses.

The lead lasted only three minutes, though, as Jenkinson then gave away a penalty after clattering into Gayle.

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Chelsea's English defender John Terry (right), is challenged by Aston Villa's French-born Beninese striker Rudy Gesteira during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge in London on Oct 17. (AFP)

Jankovic edge past Venus in Hong Kong

## Nole mauls Murray, sets up Tsonga final

**SHANGHAI, Oct 17, (AFP): Novak Djokovic thrashed a misfiring Andy Murray on Saturday to set up a Shanghai Masters final against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga as the world number one guns for his 10th title in China.**

Djokovic's blockbuster semifinal with second-ranked Murray was hotly anticipated but the 6-1, 6-3 result was anti-climactic after Tsonga's thrilling upset of Rafael Nadal earlier.

The mercurial Frenchman recovered from an embarrassing 'babe' in the second set to win 6-4, 0-6, 7-5, pulling off one of his trademark athletic dives to bring up match point.

But Tsonga now faces the steepest of challenges against Djokovic, who moves into his 13th straight final on a 16-match winning streak, and has never lost a final in China.

Djokovic said his win against Murray was his "best match of the tournament" after a blip in this year's Montreal final, he brought up his ninth win in the past 10 matches.

Djokovic broke Murray five times as the Briton struggled to control his serve and his temper, double-faulting to yield

the first of three breaks in a forgettable first set.

Murray recovered with a break at the start of the second but crowd noises seemed to distract him when he double-faulted and then lost out in a helter-skelter rally as Djokovic broke back.

Murray's sixth double fault put him in deep trouble as he was broken to go 1-3 down, and although he saved a match point at 2-5, a thumping Djokovic backhand saw him off in the next game.

"Obviously disappointed with the way I played. I served poorly in the first set especially," Murray said.

"You can't afford to do that against Novak with the way he's playing just now, the amount of confidence he has in his game, and the conditions over here."

As they played, Tsonga was already celebrating one of his biggest wins this year, while Nadal was happy to see signs of life in his game after a disappointing season.

Jelena Jankovic on Saturday edged past Venus Williams in a two-setter Hong Kong Open's semifinals to face Germany's Angelique Kerber.

The Serbian former world number one stepped into the way of the seven-time

Grand Slam winner who had banked on Hong Kong to get the points she needs to make the top eight for Singapore WTA finals.

"It was a good match for me. I fought hard. Playing against Venus is never an easy task. She is such a great champion...I am glad I was able to beat her tonight," Jankovic told reporters after the 7-5, 6-4 match that lasted for two hours and four minutes.

Suffering from a thigh injury, 35-year-old Williams said at a post-match presser: "It's definitely disappointing."

### TENNIS

"It's probably one of the best matches of the year for her (Jankovic), not a lot of errors from her side. A lot of great defence."

She is also inclined to call it a season following the defeat that kept her 11th in the Road to Singapore rankings.

"I don't know...I have been playing with an injury. I need to start to think about next year. To extend my season for three more weeks may not be...good," she told reporters at the press conference.

"I have to figure out what the best thing is for me...how I can recover."

Venus had stood 4-5 down after three double faults in the ninth game of the first set.

3-0 up in the following set, the third-seeded American player was hit by a comeback from fourth-seeded Jankovic who went on to win seven of the following nine games to finish the match.

Jankovic is to play Kerber on Sunday who eased through her semifinals in a 6-2, 6-2 victory against Australian Samantha Stosur.

"She (Kerber) is a little bit (of a) different player to Venus. She is very very solid...I really have to play aggressive," Jankovic said.

World number 9 Kerber, the top seed left in the tournament, now only needs one more win to qualify for the WTA finals after cruising into the finals in just one hour and 11 minutes.

"I'm really happy about my performance today. I am actually not thinking too much about this one win tomorrow. It's another day. It's another match. I will just try to play good tennis and try to win the final here," Kerber said.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return shot against Andy Murray of Britain during their Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai, China on Oct 17. (AP)

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THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT

Published by: Arab Times Publishing House

Editor-in-Chief  
**AHMED AL JARALLAH**

Editorial Office:  
Airport Road, Shuwaikh  
P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait

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