

wednesday — (all times are kuwait local)

08:30 serena vs giorgi/tennis bein sports 9 hd
 09:30 england vs india/cricket bein sports 13 hd
 10:00 nba summer league/basketball . bein sports 1 hd
 10:30 klaasen vs venus/tennis bein sports 9 hd
 12:30 kasatkina vs kerber/tennis bein sports 9 hd
 13:15 tour de france/cycling bein sports 12 hd
 14:00 federer vs mannarino/tennis ... bein sports 8 hd
 21:00 croatia vs england/soccer .. bein sports max 2 hd

Sports

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Umtiti sends France into WCup final

Belgium fall short

SAINT PETERSBURG, July 10, (AFP): Samuel Umtiti headed France into the World Cup final in Saint Petersburg on Tuesday with a 1-0 win, consigning Belgium's 'golden generation' to another bitter disappointment.

France's own supremely talented young squad will aim to make amends for defeat on home soil in the final of Euro 2016 in Sunday's showpiece against England or Croatia.

In a World Cup replete with set-piece goals, a corner again proved decisive when Umtiti timed his run perfectly to meet Antoine Griezmann's

Croatia vs England beIN MAX 1HD, 2HD, 3HD
 21:00 local

delivery six minutes into the second half.

France were thankful for fine saves from goalkeeper Hugo Lloris either side of half-time.

Belgium's Kevin De Bruyne warned Kylian Mbappe was ready to take the world by storm on the eve of the game and the most expensive teenager in the history of football showed why inside the first 60 seconds.

He skipped past Jan Vertonghen with ease and only a last-ditch tackle by Vincent Kompany prevented Griezmann from latching onto his cross.

Thibaut Courtois rushed from his goal just in time to save Vertonghen again from Mbappe's pace on 12 minutes, but it was Belgium who started the better in possession.

One of the Red Devils' many French connections was the biggest danger as Eden Hazard, who began his career with Lille in Ligue 1, pulled the first attempt of goal just beyond the far post.

The Chelsea forward's next effort was arrowing into the top corner until it flicked off Raphael Varane's head and deflected just over.

Lloris and Courtois played a huge part their sides' quarter-final wins and it was only thanks to two of the best 'keepers in the world the game remained goalless at half-time.

First, Lloris flew to his right to turn Toby Alderweireld's shot on the turn behind.

At the other end, Mbappe demonstrated the subtler side to his game to play in Benjamin Pavard, but Courtois used his massive 6ft 5ins (199 centimetre) frame to deny the Stuttgart full-back his second goal of the tournament.

Didier Deschamps' men ended the opening period on top, but again Oliv-



Belgium's defender Vincent Kompany (left), vies for the ball with France's forward Olivier Giroud during the Russia 2018 World cup semifinal football match between France and Belgium at the Saint Petersburg Stadium in Saint Petersburg on July 10. (AFP)

ier Giroud looked short of confidence as the focal point of the French attack. Giroud has not scored in eight games and is yet to even have a shot on target in Russia.

His best chance arrived via more good work from Mbappe with a cushioned cross, but the Chelsea striker could only slice horribly wide on his favoured left foot.

Giroud did at least have a part to play in the decisive opener as, after his shot was deflected wide, Griezmann's corner was flicked in at the near post by Umtiti.

Once in front, France had even more space to exploit Mbappe's pace, but it was a majestic piece of skill that nearly created a goal as a backheel that again freed Giroud only for Mousa Dembele to block.

Roberto Martinez introduced an extra attacker in Dries Mertens in an attempt to turn the tide and he nearly had an immediate impact as his cross was headed inches wide by Marouane Fellaini.

That was as close as Belgium came to taking the game to extra-time, though, as Lloris parried a long-range piledriver from Axel Witsel.



France's defender Lucas Hernandez (right), is fouled by Belgium's midfielder Kevin De Bruyne during the Russia 2018 World Cup semifinal football match between France and Belgium at the Saint Petersburg Stadium in Saint Petersburg on July 10. (AFP)

But for Courtois, France's margin of victory would have been even greater as he made saves from Griezmann and Corentin Tolisso in stoppage time.

For the generation of Hazard, De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku, beating

Brazil in the quarter-finals was meant to be the breakthrough on route to winning a major tournament.

Instead, it proved to be another false dawn as France march on to Moscow.

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England fans make late dash to Russia

LONDON, July 10, (RTRS): Dozens of English soccer fans began heading for Moscow in a last-minute rush on Tuesday in an effort to be part of a potentially historic sporting moment as England take on Croatia in the World Cup semi-finals.

Taking advantage of extra match tickets released by organisers FIFA and additional seats provided on Moscow-bound flights from Britain, they converged on London's Heathrow airport with hope in their hearts.

"It's been crazy here in England, really exciting. Now I want to go and see what's going on in Russia," said one fan, Michael Roberts, 27, as he waited for his flight.

Another fan, Bradley Goldenberg, 46, was taking his son to share the moment.

"Whether we win or lose, we're creating history," he said. "We'll be there and it's a once in a lifetime opportunity seeing them in the World Cup."

Saturday's 2-0 victory over Sweden took manager Gareth South-

gate's team into a World Cup semi-final for the first time in 28 years, raising the prospect of England possibly winning the tournament for the first time since 1966.

England supporters have been notably sparse in Russia so far, deterred by warnings of possible violence and logistical difficulties.

But British Airways, which has seen a 700 percent increase in searches for flights to Russia on its website since England's penalty shootout win over Colombia last week, has now released hundreds more seats on Moscow flights by using bigger planes.

About a dozen England fans passing through Heathrow wore dark blue waistcoats over their T-shirts in tribute to Southgate who has taken to wearing a waistcoat on the touch-line along with suit trousers and a dress shirt and tie.

"I've got a funny feeling that the momentum is so good, and, you know, especially now that we're all going to turn up with special Gareth waistcoats, and that can only help can't it," said fan Lee Walkup, 50.

Kerber advances

Serena battles into Wimbledon semis

LONDON, July 10, (AFP): Serena Williams survived a major scare before sealing her 11th Wimbledon semifinal appearance, while Angelique Kerber remains the seven-time champion's main title rival after the German joined her in the last four on Tuesday.

Williams was in danger of a stunning quarter-final exit after world number 52 Camila Giorgi became the first player in this year's tournament to take a set off the former world number one.

But Serena bludgeoned her way out of trouble, winning 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to stay on course for an eighth All

TENNIS

England Club triumph.

It was Serena's 100th career main draw victory on grass.

The 36-year-old will play German 13th seed Julia Goerges on Thursday for a place in Saturday's final.

"I knew after the first set, 'all right, let's go three sets'. I'll just keep fighting," Williams said.

"This is only my fourth tournament back so I don't feel pressure, I don't feel I have to win this.

"I still have a long way to go to be where I was."

Serena is the first woman to reach a Grand Slam semifinal without facing a top 40 ranked opponent since 2013.

Williams is into the 35th Grand

Slam semifinal of her career and her first since winning last year's Australian Open. Having shaken off the rust following her lengthy lay-off after the birth of her daughter Olympia in September, Williams is on the verge of a 10th Wimbledon final appearance.

Her path to the title has been wide open from early in the tournament as Garbine Muguruza, Maria Sharapova, Simona Halep, Petra Kvitova, Venus Williams, Caroline Wozniacki and Sloane Stephens have all been eliminated.

Williams, a 23-time major winner, is hoping to join a select group of women who have won Grand Slams after becoming mothers.

Goerges advanced to the Wimbledon semifinal for the first time with a 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 win against Dutch 20th seed Kiki Bertens.

Goerges had suffered five successive opening round defeats at the All England Club before this year.

It also took her until her 42nd Grand Slam appearance to finally get through to the last four at a major.



US player Serena Williams returns against Italy's Camila Giorgi during their women's singles quarter-final match on the eighth day of the 2018 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London on July 10. (AFP)

"It is a great opportunity to play Serena here where she has won so many times and is a great champion. I think everyone here has a great chance so you have to take it," Goerges said. With Kerber also in the last four, it is the first time two German women have made the semifinal of a Grand Slam since Steffi Graf and Anke Huber at the 1993 French Open. The carnage at the top leaves 11th seed Kerber — beaten by Serena in the 2016 Wimbledon final — as the highest ranked player left.

Kerber takes on Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko in the other semifinal.

The 30-year-old clinched her third appearance in the Wimbledon semifinal with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Russian 14th seed Daria Kasatkina.

Kerber, who won the Australian and US Open titles in 2016, will be playing in the seventh Grand Slam semifinal of her career.

"We both played on a really high level. I was just trying to stay focused on my serve. It's great to be in the semis," Kerber said after she finally sealed the win on her seventh match point.

Ostapenko is the first Latvian woman to reach a Wimbledon semifinal as the former French Open champion beat Dominika Cibulkova 7-5, 6-4. Just four years ago, Ostapenko was winning the junior Wimbledon title and now the youngest player left in the women's singles is only one win away from the final.

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