

PRIME TIME

sunday — (all times are kuwait local)

- 08:00 boxing bein sports11hd
- 09:15 triathlon bein sports9hd
- 12:00 shooting bein sports 10hd
- 13:30 basketball bein sports hd
- 14:00 tennis bein sports9hd
- 15: 50 soccer bein sports 3hd
- 17:30 basketball bein sports hd
- 17:50 rugby bein sports 13hd

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Messi on fire as Barca extend lead

Getafe boost Champs League hopes

SEVILLE, Spain, Feb 23, (RTRS): Lionel Messi scored his 50th career hat trick to fire Barcelona to a 4-2 win at Sevilla on Saturday after the champions had twice fallen behind, giving the Catalans a 10-point lead at the top of La Liga.

Sevilla, who have only won once in the league in 2019, took the lead midway through the first half through veteran winger Jesus Navas but were soon pegged back by an unstoppable volley from Messi.

Leganes vs Valencia beIN SPORTS

3HD

14:00 local

Atletico vs Villarreal beIN

SPORTS 3HD

18:15 local

Valladolid vs Betis beIN SPORTS

3HD

20:30 local

Levante vs Real beIN SPORTS 3HD

22:45 local

Girona vs Sociedad beIN SPORTS

3HD

23:00 local (Monday)

The home side capitalised on sleepy defending from Barca to re-take the lead before halftime as Gabriel Mercado pounced in the area.

Barca coach Ernesto Valverde made two attacking changes at the start of the second period by introducing Ousmane Dembele and Sergi Roberto and got the intended reaction when the France winger laid the ball off to Messi just inside the area and the Argentine lashed it into the top corner.

Messi, who has struggled for form in recent weeks due to a niggling injury, looked on a mission to grab the winner and after twice coming close he completed his treble to put Barca ahead in the 85th minute, reacting quickly to a poor Sevilla clearance to dink the ball over goalkeeper Tomas Vaclik.

Luis Suarez made sure of the points by scoring deep in stoppage time, chipping Vaclik after being played through by a pass from Messi.

Barca lead the standings on 57 points after 25 games while second-placed Atletico Madrid have 47 but can reduce the gap back to seven when they host Villarreal on Sunday.

Sevilla fell to fifth, slipping out of the Champions League places behind Getafe.

Sevilla had endured a humiliating 3-0 loss at struggling Villarreal last week but before the game Valverde warned of the Andalusians outstanding record at their Sanchez Pizjuan, where they had thrashed Real Madrid 3-0 and beaten Barca 2-0 in the Copa del Rey this season.

They took the lead through a lightning quick counter-attack as Wissam Ben Yedder marauded down the pitch and played in Navas, who took one touch to control and the other to slide the ball through the legs of the diving Gerard Pique and beyond the outstretched Marc-Andre ter Stegen into the bottom corner.

Sevilla's intensity prevented Barca from replicating their usual slick passing game and it took a superb goal from Messi to pull them level, the Argentine swivelling to meet a cross from Ivan Rakitic on the volley, leaving Vaclik with no chance.



Participants pose for a group photo after the conclusion of the Kuwait drag race championship on Friday. — See Page 25

KUNA photo

Spot-kick mayhem as Bournemouth draw with Wolves

Kane scores on return but Spurs fall at Burnley

BURNLEY, England, Feb 23, (RTRS): Harry Kane scored on his return from injury for Tottenham but his side fell to a surprise 2-1 defeat at Burnley, which severely dented their Premier League title hopes on Saturday.

Ashley Barnes' 83rd minute winner for Burnley, after Kane had cancelled out Chris Woods' opener, extended their unbeaten run to eight games and moved them up to 13th place in the league with one of their best results since returning to the top flight.

But for third-placed Spurs, who trail leaders Manchester City and Liverpool by five points, this may prove to be a loss that leaves them with too much ground to make up.

At an unseasonably sun-splashed Turf Moor, Kane returned to the Spurs line-up for the first time since suffering an ankle injury against Manchester United on Jan 13 with England manager Gareth Southgate watching from the stands.

But he will have left East Lancashire also impressed by Burnley central defensive pair of James Tarkowski and Ben Mee who kept the England captain and the Spurs attack well under control.

Spurs made a slow start to the

lunchtime kick-off game and it was not until the 16th minute that they threatened when Kane worked some space for himself, on the edge of the penalty area, but his left-foot effort was comfortably wide of Tom Heaton's post.

Burnley were harrying and closing down well in midfield, with Ashley Westwood and Jack Cork particularly busy, and Spurs struggled to find their rhythm or any real openings for their captain.

Barnes went close to an opener in the 33rd, Jeff Hendrick pulling the ball back and the Burnley striker's first time effort flashed just over the bar.

The effort would surely have impressed the watching Austrian national team coach Franco Foda, given Barnes' eligibility for the country through his paternal grandmother.

Burnley's disciplined defending ensured the teams went in level at the break but four minutes after the resumption, Kane fired another warning, a dangerously dipping and swerving shot from 30 metres out bringing out the best in Heaton.

Burnley took the lead in the 57th minute with a glancing header by Wood, who rose ahead of Juan Foyth to angle in a Dwight McNeil corner.



Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min (left), and Burnley's Jack Cork in action during their English Premier League soccer match at Turf Moor in Burnley, England on Feb 23. (AP)

post and the striker fired in his fourth goal in as many games.

Members of the Spurs coaching staff furiously protested against the referee after the final whistle.

Bournemouth 1 Wolves 1

In a Premier League game of three fiercely-contested penalties, Joshua King scored one and missed another as Bournemouth drew 1-1 with Wolverhampton Wanderers who also netted from the spot.

Referee Roger East was only named as officiating last week after stepping in as last-minute replacement, but he ended up taking centre stage with his decisions.

First he awarded Bournemouth a penalty on 16 minutes when King, who went on to score from the spot, fell under minimal contact from Joao Moutinho.

Moments later East again infuriated Wolves, who claimed they should have been awarded a penalty when Chris Mepham headed on to his own arm.

But the visitors were eventually awarded a spot-kick when the referee harshly penalised Adam Smith for a challenge on Raul Jimenez, who fired home the equaliser.

Referee East was again back in the spotlight when he awarded a third penalty to Ivan Cavaleiro's challenge on Ryan Fraser although TV replays suggested contact was outside the area.

This time King hit the post and Bournemouth also went close through Jordan Ibe, who crashed a shot against the bar, and Dominic Solanke, who should have done better when free on goal.

Bournemouth's Jefferson Lerma was fortunate to only receive his 10th booking of the season for elbowing Moutinho in the face and will serve a three-match ban.

Despite the controversy, neither manager criticised the referee. "It is a very difficult task for referees."

"I don't want to talk about VAR, as long as the officials are fair nobody can complain," Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo said.

"You cannot judge anything from the reaction of players to incidents," Bournemouth's manager Eddie Howe said: "My initial reaction to the first one was that it was a penalty. You're always slightly biased, but I thought theirs was harsh on us."

"The third one, there is a debate over whether it is inside the box. I haven't seen it again."

"We should score and win, Joshua King has been a reliable taker for us but it wasn't to be."

For all Bournemouth's poor away form, they have not lost in the league to anyone outside the top six at Vitality Stadium this season and moved into 10th place, six places and two points behind Wolves.

Results/Standings Page 27



Barcelona forward Lionel Messi (right), and Sevilla's Rog fight for the ball during the La Liga soccer match between Sevilla and Barcelona at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium in Seville, Spain on Feb 23. (AP)