

PRIME TIME

thursday — (all times are Kuwait local)

- 12:20 basketball bein sports 1hd
- 15:50 cricket bein sports 13hd
- 16:00 basketball bein sports 10hd
- 17:00 tennis bein sports 8hd
- 17:00 tennis bein sports 9hd
- 20:15 soccer bein sports hd
- 21:45 boxing bein sports 11hd
- 22:50 boxing bein sports 11hd

Sports

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Jesus, Firmino get the goals for hosts

Brazil advance to Copa final as Messi fails again with Argentina

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil, July 3, (RTRS): Brazil advanced to the Copa America final with a 2-0 win over old rivals Argentina on Tuesday in a pulsating and, at times, bad-tempered match decided by a goal in each half from Gabriel Jesus and Roberto Firmino.

Both sides tried to impose themselves physically early on but it was Jesus who gave Brazil the lead after 19 minutes when Firmino sent in a low cross for the unmarked striker to side-foot home from close range.

The two combined again on the counter-attack after 71 minutes to make it 2-0 after great work from Jesus left Firmino with the simplest of tap-ins.

Brazil, who have lost twice in 42 games under coach Tite. Captain Dani Alves said their goal was within reach.

"There is one more step to go before we fulfill our objective," he added.

"The standard here is very high there are no easy teams. You have to work and fight for what you want and we worked for this."

Argentina have not beaten Brazil in a major competitive fixture dating back to 2005 and that run rarely looked like ending in front of 52,000 fans at the Mineirao Stadium in Belo Horizonte.

Sergio Aguero hit the bar with a header in the first half and Lionel Messi struck the post 11 minutes into the second period but the visitors had little



Messi



Argentina's Marcos Acuna (right), and Brazil's Gabriel Jesus fight for the ball during a Copa America semifinal soccer match at Mineirao Stadium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil on July 2. (AP)

woodwork, it flashed across the six-yard box, there were penalties that weren't given," said Messi, who like coach Lionel Scaloni complained about the refereeing.

"Today it just didn't happen."

Argentina bow out after scoring just five goals in five games and are still looking for their first major title since lifting the Copa America in 1993.

"We knew that it would be difficult because of the players they have," Brazil's Casemiro said.

"It's about details. We knew it would be scrappy and that there would be wind-ups and time wasting. But we have to congratulate our strikers who did a great job. When they got chances, they scored."

Meanwhile, Messi and Aguero lashed out at the officiating after their semifinal defeat and questioned why video technology was not consulted in two penalty appeals that were waved away.

The video assistant referee (VAR)

system has been used heavily at the tournament, to such an extent that organisers CONMEBOL had to defend its use with fans complaining about lengthy stoppages.

The system has had a huge impact on results, ruling out three Uruguay goals in their quarter-final exit to Peru as well as strikes for Chile in their last eight game with Colombia.

The group stage also saw numerous goals chalked off after lengthy stoppages for reviews, while several penal-

ties were awarded even when there had been no appeals for a foul.

On Tuesday, however, VAR was conspicuous by its absence and Messi, who is not known for verbal outbursts, was furious that it was not used.

"Referees gave so many stupid fouls in this Copa America but today VAR wasn't consulted once," he told reporters.

"This should be looked into and I hope CONMEBOL do something with these referees who unbalance the pitch by favouring a team.



Haiti forward Herve Bazile (7) shields Mexico defender Edson Alvarez from the ball during the second half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match on July 2 in Glendale, Ariz. (AP)

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luck in front of goal and were never on top for any length of time.

While the tournament has been plagued by lengthy stoppages for the video assistant referee (VAR), Tuesday's officials preferred to let the game run, though Argentina were incensed VAR did not come into play when Arthur felled one of their players at a corner.

Messi, who has still not won a major title with Argentina, was more influential than in his first few matches here but was still a pale shadow of the player who has won everything with his club side.

"We had chances, the ball hit the

England storm into WC semis

India batsman Rayudu retires

DURHAM, England, July 3, (RTRS): England stormed into the semifinals of the Cricket World Cup for the first time since 1992 after Jonny Bairstow's second consecutive century helped secure a comprehensive 119-run victory against New Zealand on Wednesday.

Bairstow smashed 106 to help England to 305-8 in their final group game at the Riverside Ground though the total could easily have been bigger but for a middle order collapse.

New Zealand wobbled early in their

chase, losing both openers cheaply, before a couple of run-outs effectively derailed their chase and they were all out for 186 in 45 overs.

England will face either holders Australia or twice champions India in the semifinals at Edgbaston.

New Zealand could not qualify on Wednesday but, given their superior run rate, Pakistan would need a freak result against Bangladesh on Friday to leapfrog the Black Caps.

After England captain Eoin Morgan won the toss and elected to bat, Bairstow

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and Jason Roy threatened to replicate their Edgbaston heroics where the openers had raised 160 to set up their campaign-reviving victory over India.

Against a New Zealand attack miss-

ing Lockie Ferguson, who is nursing a tight hamstring, Bairstow and Roy looked unstoppable, scoring freely to bring up England's 100 in the 15th over.

Jimmy Neesham ended the 123-run partnership in the 19th over when Roy, having made a run-a-ball 60, perished at short cover.

Bairstow needed 95 balls to bring up his 100 as he and Joe Root kept the scoreboard ticking over.

Trent Boult returned to dismiss Root for 24 and England suddenly began losing wickets regularly with the pitch showing signs of slowing down.

Bairstow chopped a Matt Henry delivery onto his stumps and Jos Buttler miscued Boult to Kane Williamson at mid-off.

Even Ben Stokes struggled to get going and managed only 11 off 27 balls. Morgan made 42 before Mitchell Sant-

New Zealand vs England Scoreboard/Standings

LONDON, July 3, (Agencies): Scoreboard at close of play of match 41 between England and New Zealand on Wednesday.

ENGLAND

J. Roy c Santner b Neesham.....60
J. Bairstow b Henry.....106
J. Root c Latham b Boult.....24
J. Buttler c Williamson b Wood.....11
E. Morgan c Santner b Henry.....42
B. Stokes c Henry b Santner.....11
Woakes c Williamson b Neesham.....4
L. Plunkett not out.....15
A. Rashid b Southee.....16
J. Archer not out.....1
Extras: (7w, 8lb).....15
Total: (8 wks, 50 overs).....305

Fall of Wickets: 1-123 (Roy), 2-194 (Root), 3-206 (Bairstow), 4-214 (Buttler), 5-248 (Stokes), 6-259 (Woakes), 7-272 (Morgan), 8-301 (Rashid)

Did not bat: Wood

Bowling: Santner 10-0-65-1, Boult 10-0-56-2, Southee 9-0-70-1, Henry 10-0-54-2, de Grandhomme 1-0-11-0, Neesham 10-1-41-2

NEW ZEALAND

M. Guptill c Buttler b Archer.....8
H. Nicholls lbw Woakes.....0
K. Williamson run out (Wood).....27
R. Taylor run out (Rashid).....28
T. Latham c Buttler b Plunkett.....57
J. Neesham b Wood.....19
Grandhomme c Root b Stokes.....3
M. Santner lbw Wood.....12

T. Southee not out.....7
M. Henry b Wood.....4
T. Boult st Buttler b Rashid.....7
Extras: (2b, 6lb, 6w).....14
Total: (all out, 45 overs).....186

Fall of Wickets: 1-2 (Nicholls), 2-14 (Guptill), 3-61 (Williamson), 4-69 (Taylor), 5-123 (Neesham), 6-128 (de Grandhomme), 7-164 (Latham), 8-166 (Santner), 9-181 (Henry), 10-186 (Boult)

Bowling: Woakes 8-0-44-1, Archer 7-1-17-1, Plunkett 8-0-28-1, Wood 9-0-34-3, Root 3-0-15-0, Rashid 5-0-30-1, Stokes 5-0-10-1

Match result: England win by 119 runs

Umpires: Sundaram Ravi, Rodney Tucker

TV Umpire: Paul Reiffel

Match Referee: David Boon

Standings

	P	W	L	NR	T	NRR	Pts
Australia-x	8	7	1	0	0	+1.000	14
India-x	8	6	1	1	0	+0.811	13
England-x	9	6	3	0	0	+1.152	12
N. Zealand	9	5	3	1	0	+0.175	11
Pakistan	8	4	3	1	0	-0.792	9
S. Lanka	8	3	3	2	0	-0.934	8
Bdesh	8	3	4	1	0	-0.195	7
S. Africa	8	2	5	1	0	-0.080	6
W. Indies	8	1	6	1	0	-0.335	3
Afghanistan	8	0	8	0	0	-1.418	0

Note: x denotes semifinals

Standings read as played, won, lost, no result, tie, net run rate and points

Mexico pip Haiti, 'reach' Cup final

GLENDALE, Ariz, July 3, (AP): Raul Jimenez scored on a penalty kick in the 93rd minute and Mexico ended Haiti's impressive Gold Cup run in the semifinals with a 1-0 victory on Tuesday night.

Mexico dominated possession, yet could not find a way to put the finishing touches in Haiti's end, allowing Les Grenadiers to hang around and build confidence while playing to a scoreless tie in regulation.

Jimenez was awarded a penalty kick early in the extra time after Herve Bazile took him down at the edge of the penalty box. Jimenez slow-played the

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penalty kick, slipping it behind Jhony Placide after the Haitian goalie dove to his right to bring the crowd to its feet.

Haiti had a final chance to tie in the 119th minute, but Mikeal Gabriel Cantave's shot hit the crossbar and popped straight up in the air to Mexico goalie Guillermo Ochoa.

Mexico, a seven-time Gold Cup champions, arrived in the desert as an overwhelming favorite against the young, confident Haitian side.

Ranked No. 101 in the world, Haiti did not bow under the pressure of playing in their first Gold Cup semifinal or facing mighty Mexico in front of 64,000 fans who made it feel like a home match for El Tri.

Haiti beat Canada in the semifinals for their biggest win since qualifying for the 1974 World Cup and did not back down from Mexico, withstanding El Tri's constant pressure and counter-attacking when the opportunity arose.

With manager Gerardo Martino watching from a suite above — he was suspended after picking up two yellow cards — Mexico struggled to finish in the first half despite numerous chances. Placide also made a diving save on Jimenez's header late in the half to keep Les Grenadiers tied at halftime.



England's Jonny Bairstow celebrates after scoring a century during the Cricket World Cup match between New Zealand and England in Chester-le-Street, England on July 3. (AP)