

Sports

# Man City late shows books place in FA Cup semi-finals

## Southampton ease past Bournemouth to reach last four

LONDON: Manchester City's quest for an unprecedented quadruple of trophies remains intact after seeing off Everton 2-0 to reach the FA Cup semi-finals on Saturday as Southampton also booked their place in the last four.

City were far from their flowing best at Goodison Park, but goals in the final six minutes from Ilkay Gundogan and Kevin De Bruyne booked City's place in the semi-finals for the fourth time in five seasons. Pep Guardiola described the clash as the toughest his side have had since November as they recorded a 25th win in 26 matches in all competitions.

"It was the toughest game since the last international break we had. We have been incredible in terms of results and performances (over that period)," said Guardiola. "Tonight was so difficult, they have experienced players behind the ball with two up for the counter-attack. It was incredible commitment from my players. An incredible victory."

City won the domestic treble of Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup for the first time in English football history two seasons ago and are firm favorites to repeat that feat. Guardiola's men are 14 points clear at the top of the Premier League, face struggling Tottenham in the League Cup final next month and were drawn against Borussia Dortmund in the quarter-finals of the Champions League on Friday.

Oleksandr Zinchenko cleared Everton defender Yerry Mina's header off the line with the best effort either side mustered before half-time. Joao Virginia started in goal for The Toffees for just the second

time due to injuries to regular goalkeepers Jordan Pickford and Robin Olsen.

However, the 21-year-old Portuguese stopper produced a brilliant save early in the second-half to prevent Raheem Sterling converting Fernandinho's pinpoint low cross. Guardiola was forced to introduce Riyad Mahrez and De Bruyne off the bench in the final quarter.

But it was Aymeric Laporte who opened Everton up as he broke forward from center-back before Virginia brilliantly turned the Frenchman's initial effort onto the crossbar. Gundogan was following up, though, to head into an empty net and end the resistance from Carlo Ancelotti's men. De Bruyne then wrapped up the tie with a thundering finish in stoppage time as Everton appealed in vain for a high boot by Mahrez on Mina.

### Chance to 'write history'

Southampton cast aside their Premier League struggles to ease past Bournemouth 3-0 to reach the semi-finals. Ralph Hasenhuttl's side have slumped into the Premier League relegation battle after losing 10 of their last 12 top-flight matches.

But the Saints have been immune to those woes in the FA Cup and booked a place in the Wembley semi-finals thanks to Nathan Redmond's double after Moussa Djenepo's opener. While Premier League survival is the priority, Hasenhuttl insisted the FA Cup was a "big target" and he made just two changes against a Bournemouth team who sat sev-



LIVERPOOL: Manchester City's German midfielder Ilkay Gundogan (center) celebrates scoring his team's first goal with teammates during the English FA Cup quarter final football match between Everton and Manchester City at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England on Saturday. — AFP

enth in the Championship.

"I'm definitely happy, not only for coming to the next round but also for seeing a performance from my team that was very lively and by far one of the

better ones in the (recent) past," said Hasenhuttl. "I said in January that now is the time to take this chance because it's always a good chance for a smaller club like we are to write history." — AFP

## Zidane mystified by France continuing to exclude Benzema

MADRID: Zinedine Zidane admitted he is still baffled by Karim Benzema's exclusion from the French national team after the striker starred again in Real Madrid's 3-1 victory over Celta Vigo on Saturday. Benzema continued his scintillating form at Balaídos by scoring twice to make it 10 goals in his last 10 games, before he set up Marco Asensio to add a third in injury-time.

Many in Zidane's squad will now join up with their national teams on Monday but Benzema will remain in Madrid, with the 33-year-old still sidelined by France after his alleged role in a plot to blackmail Mathieu Valbuena in 2015. "How can you understand it? I don't understand it, you don't understand it, there are many people who don't understand it," Zidane said

after the game. "What he did today was spectacular." Zidane confirmed Sergio Ramos will join up with Spain, despite the defender missing the Celta win with a bruised tibia. Benzema's latest contribution came in the same week Zidane admitted a Madrid return could be "possible" for Cristiano Ronaldo this summer.

But speculation around Ronaldo makes light of Benzema's superb showings in recent weeks, with his five goals in Madrid's last three league games earning a crucial draw at Atletico, victory over Elche and now a win at Celta.

His hot streak appears to be Madrid's best chance of catching Atleti, who are still three points clear but look increasingly vulnerable to the momentum of their nearest rivals. "We're entering the

final stretch and we're happy with how we're playing and how we are physically," said Zidane.

### Kroos' persistence pays off

Benzema had two early chances, the first after Vinicius Junior skipped around Celta goalkeeper Ivan Villar and the second when the ball spilled loose in the area, but both shots were blocked. His two goals both owed a lot to Toni Kroos, who glided past three Celta shirts on the edge of the area in the 20th minute before feeding Benzema, who swivelled and shot crisply into the far corner.

Kroos' incision set up the first and his persistence created the second 10 minutes later, as he robbed Renato Tapia and Benzema profited by curling in with his left foot. Celta grew stronger towards the end of the half, Santi Mina flicking wide and then heading in after being left completely unmarked from a free-kick, conceded by Kroos.

Madrid lost some control in the sec-



VIGO: Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema celebrates with Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior after scoring a goal during the Spanish League football match between Celta Vigo and Real Madrid at the Balaídos stadium in Vigo on Saturday. — AFP

ond half and needed Thibaut Courtois to save an Iago Aspas header, even if Vinicius and Benzema might have extended the advantage on the counter-attack. Aspas' free-kick late on might

have flown in had the ball not grazed Casemiro's fringe on its way onto the post but Madrid breathed a sigh of relief and then celebrated, Asensio tapping in Benzema's cross in injury-time. — AFP

## Sevilla goalkeeper scores dramatic equalizer against Valladolid

MADRID: Sevilla's goalkeeper Bono scored an incredible 94th-minute equalizer to rescue a 1-1 draw against Real Valladolid on Saturday. Bono went up for a corner in injury-time and finished brilliantly with his left foot at the end of a mad scramble in the area to earn Sevilla a point. The result damages Sevilla's hopes of rejoining La Liga's title race, but the team and staff were celebrating at the end, ecstatic at avoiding defeat in the most unlikely of fashions.

Bono is the first Sevilla goalkeeper to score a goal in La Liga but the second goalkeeper to

score in the Spanish top flight this season, after Eibar's Marko Dmitrovic successfully took a penalty against Atletico Madrid in January. "It was the last play of the game and it gives us a taste of happiness," Sevilla coach Julen Lopetegui said. "A goal from a goalkeeper is nothing normal."

Bono was in the right place at the right time after Luuk de Jong's header was kept alive by Oscar Rodriguez, only for his cross to hit the outside of the post. But the ball was cut back again by Youssef En-Nesyri and while Jules Kounde was unable to shoot, he poked it into the path of Bono, who struck hard with his left foot through the crowd of players and into the net.

The Moroccan swung his shirt around his head, for which he was shown a yellow card, and ran towards the Sevilla bench, where he was mobbed by teammates and staff. Valladolid had earlier taken the lead just before half-time, Fabian Orellana scoring a penalty for the hosts, who stay 16th in the table. — AFP



VALLADOLID: Sevilla's Moroccan goalkeeper Yassine Bounou Bono scores during the Spanish League football match between Real Valladolid and Sevilla at the Jose Zorrilla stadium in Valladolid on Saturday. — AFP

# Classifieds

## HOSPITALS

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Rawda	22517733
Amiri Hospital	22450005	Adaliya	22517144
Maternity Hospital	24843100	Khaldiya	24848075
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700	Kaifan	24849807
Chest Hospital	24849400	Shamiya	24848913
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Shuwaikh	24814507
Adan Hospital	23940620	Abdullah Salem	22549134
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300	Nuzha	22526804
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000	Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9	Qadsiya	22515088
Clinics		Dasmah	22532265
Kaizen center	25716707	Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
		Shaab	22518752
		Qibla	22459381
		Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082



## WE ARE HIRING

- STORE MANAGERS
- BUTCHERS
- ASSISTANT BUTCHERS
- CASHIERS
- CALL CENTER AGENTS
- KITCHEN HELPERS

- Age group from 21 to 35 years preferred.  
- Must have valid residence of Kuwait, visa 18 transferable only eligible. Fluency in Arabic speaking desirable  
- Immediate joiners preferred.

- Interested candidate please email your cv at [careers@thebutcherykw.com](mailto:careers@thebutcherykw.com)
- You can also share your cv on our LinkedIn career page.



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

The Embassy of Canada in Kuwait seeks a full time

## RECEPTIONIST

The ideal applicant must speak English, French and Arabic and be legally residing in Kuwait.

To apply, please follow the link [www.kuwait.gc.ca](http://www.kuwait.gc.ca), complete the online application form and upload a CV and a covering letter by the Closing date: 31 / 03 / 2021

Please note that only those chosen for further consideration will be contacted.