

Soccer Giants Out Of FIFA Quarter Finals



Quarter-finals			
<p>Quarter-finals</p> <p> Uruguay</p> <p> France</p> <p>Match preview</p>	<p>Tomorrow</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Quarter-finals</p> <p> Brazil</p> <p> Belgium</p> <p>Match preview</p>	<p>Tomorrow</p> <p>2:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Quarter-finals</p> <p> Sweden</p> <p> England</p>	<p>Sat., 07-07</p> <p>10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Quarter-finals</p> <p> Russia</p> <p> Croatia</p>	<p>Sat., 07-07</p> <p>2:00 p.m.</p>

By Athul Domichen

The knockout stage of the 2018 FIFA World Cup was completed this week and as the winners advance to the Quarter Finals, the world is still shocked at the lineup due to the absence of football giants such as Spain, Argentina, Portugal, Germany etc. Legends such as Lionel Messi of Argentina and Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal have had to pack their bags and leave and it has been a roller coaster ride of emotions for fans world over.

The drama began to unfold as Uruguay knocked Portugal out on Saturday (2-1). Next came Argentina versus France and after a fierce

battle, the latter emerged victorious (3-4). On Sunday, Croatia tied to Denmark (1-1) during fulltime and the deciding penalty shootout made Croatia the winner. Host Russia surprised Spain in a match that was yet again a tie (1-1) during the final whistle, ended in the 2nd penalty shootout of the day, and advanced to the quarter finals.

Viewers across the world were anxious to see whether another biggie Brazil will have the same fate of the knocked out giants but they advanced with their head held high scoring two goals against Mexico's zero. In what was one of the best comebacks that of a team in this World Cup, Belgium won (3-2)

against Japan, after the former was trailing (0-2) at one point in the game. The final goal was another last-minute wonder, reminiscent of the German victory against Sweden in the group stage. On Tuesday, Sweden beat Switzerland (1-0) and England beat Colombia in a penalty shootout. Six Colombian and two English players received yellow card in that intense and foul-ridden match.

The quarter finals will see Uruguay against France, Brazil against Belgium, Russia against Croatia, and Sweden against England over the weekend. The winners will advance to the Semi-finals which are to be held on July 10 and 11; the

third-place play-off is on Saturday, July 14. The final which will decide the world champion for this season of the World Cup will be held on Sunday, July 15.

The race for the Golden Boot, awarded to the most goals scored by an individual player, is led by England's Harry Kane with six goals. Belgium's Romelu Lukaku and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo have scored four goals each and only the Belgian could give a challenge to Harry Kane in the coming matches.

Artem Dzyuba and Denis Cheryshev of Russia, Diego Costa of Spain, Edison Cavani of Uruguay, Kylian Mbappe of France, and

Yerry Mina of Colombia are also on the top-scorer list with 3 goals apiece.

With Video Assistant Referee system in place for the first time in a World Cup, many of the inaccurate decisions by the main referees have been overturned and avoided. Most of the matches saw extensive use of the technology and public opinion has been in favour of the fairly new addition to world soccer.

World Cup 2018 has given a lot of surprises so far to viewers and enthusiasts all over the world. As the series moves to its final stages, let us wait and watch what more lies ahead and which nation will be crowned the champion.

Punjab Wants Death Penalty For Drug Dealers, Smugglers

CHANDIGARH: With the opposition mounting pressure on the Congress government to take action against rampant drugs abuse in the state, the Punjab cabinet on Monday decided to recommend death penalty for drug peddlers and smugglers

to the Central government. Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who chaired the special meeting of the cabinet on Monday to discuss the drugs issue, directed Director General of Police Suresh Arora to intensify the police crackdown on the drug menace.



The decision to recommend death penalty for drug peddlers and smugglers was taken at the cabinet meeting, and it was resolved to send a formal recommendation soon to the Union Government to this effect, an official spokesperson said here.

"The cabinet also decided to constitute a special working group under the Addition-

al Chief Secretary, Home, N.S. Kalsi to review and monitor, on a day-to-day basis, the action being taken to check and control drug abuse," the spokesperson said. The cabinet took stock of the cases of deaths resulting from drug overdose, which Special Task Force (STF) chief Harpreet Singh Sidhu admitted to be a matter of concern.

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