

Germany gets a lifeline

● **Stoppage-time stunner from Toni Kroos snatches late win for Germany**

● **Superb Toivonen lob had Sweden ahead at the break**

Reuters | Sochi, Russia

A dramatic stoppage-time goal from Toni Kroos gave holders Germany a 2-1 win over Sweden yesterday to keep alive their hopes of qualifying for the World Cup last 16.

Kroos curled in a superb strike from an indirect free kick to grab the three points for the four-times world champions who are now level with Sweden in Group F on three points and behind Mexico who have six.

Sweden took the lead in the



Germany's midfielder Toni Kroos celebrates after winning at the end of the Russia 2018 World Cup Group F football match between Germany and Sweden

GERMANY 2 1 SWEDEN

48' Reus Toivonen 32'
90'+5' Kroos

90'+5'

the minute at which Toni Kroos scored the goal that saved Germany's World Cup dreams

32nd minute when Ola Toivonen finished confidently after Germany's Toni Kroos gave the ball away in midfield.

Marco Reus equalised in the 48th minute, meeting a low cross from Timo Werner, and despite having Jerome Boateng sent off in the 82nd minute, Germany kept going and Kroos earned them a famous win.

The Swedes played with fire

as the Germans racked up the chances in the opening minutes, but having weathered that storm they gradually began to threaten on the break, and Marcus Berg was denied a good shout for a penalty when he appeared to be bundled over by Boateng.

With Germany getting in behind Sweden's full backs at will and fizzing passes across the box, it looked like it might be only a matter of time before they scored, but Toivonen's goal gave Sweden breathing space.

Manuel Neuer saved the Germans from being 2-0 down at halftime, diving acrobatically to deflect Berg's header from Sebastian Larsson's stoppage-time free kick.

Reus got Germany back in the game early in the second half as the Germans launched a massive offensive and when Boateng was sent off for his second yellow card eight minutes from time the Germans continued to push on.

Chechen leader makes Salah honorary citizen

Reuters | Moscow

Chechnya leader Ramzan Kadyrov has made Egypt's talismanic striker Mohamed Salah an honorary citizen of the southern Russian region at a farewell banquet held for the eliminated World Cup side.

Chechnya has been hosting the Egyptian team's World Cup training camp and Kremlin-backed Kadyrov has seized on opportunities to appear alongside Salah, whose goalscoring exploits for Liverpool and Egypt have made him an international superstar.

Musa warns Argentina he is not their hero

AFP | Volgograd, Russia

Nigeria's Ahmed Musa became 'Lionel Musa' on social media in Argentina on Friday after his two goals against Iceland which not only put the Africans back on course for a last 16 place, but also restored the World Cup hopes of the South Americans.

However, the Nigerian has warned his new-found hero status in Argentina is likely to end abruptly on Tuesday when the two countries meet in a decisive Group D game in St. Petersburg.

Neymar fully recovered

AFP | Sochi

Neymar has now "totally recovered" from the foot injury that required surgery and saw him miss the end of the club season, Brazil's team doctor said yesterday.

However, winger Douglas Costa will miss the side's final World Cup Group E outing against Serbia on Wednesday.

Russia sees record in penalties

Reuters | Samara, Russia

There have already been more penalties awarded in the first 28 games of Russia 2018 than in the entire World Cup four years ago in Brazil.

Carlos Vela's penalty in Mexico's match with South Korea yesterday was the 14th of the tournament in the first 28 games, meaning there has now been a penalty once every

two games.

11 of the penalties have been successfully converted.

Belgium's Eden Hazard also scored from the spot after the video assistant referee (VAR) advised that he had been fouled in the penalty area during Belgium's 5-2 win over Tunisia yesterday.

In Brazil four years ago, there were only 13 penalties in the entire tournament. The World Cup record, set in 2002, stands

at 18.

The role of VAR goes a long way to explaining this trend, with six penalties so far being awarded following a video review and VAR has also confirmed referees' decisions on the field on several occasions.

A penalty was also disallowed in Brazil's win over Costa Rica on Friday after VAR deemed there not to have been a foul on Neymar.

Serbia wants referee on trial

AFP | Kaliningrad, Russia

Serbia's coach has reacted to his team's World Cup defeat to Switzerland by calling for the referee to be put on trial in the Hague, in a reference to the war crimes tribunal for the ex-Yugoslavia.

Serbia were furious when German referee Felix Brych failed to award a penalty in Friday's game after Aleksandar

Mitrovic was wrestled to the ground in the penalty area by Swiss defenders Stephan Lichtsteiner and Fabian Schär.

Despite opening the scoring through Mitrovic in the fifth minute, Serbia lost 2-1 after Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri netted for Switzerland.

"We were robbed," Mladen Krstajic told Serbian reporters yesterday, when asked about

Brych's decision.

"I wouldn't give him either a yellow or red card, I would send him to the Hague. Then they could put him on trial, like they did to us."

The Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is a UN body that prosecutes the perpetrators of war crimes committed during the wars in the former Yugoslavia.

FIFA World Cup Video Assistant Referee

Video Assistant Referees (VARs) aim to help referees reach more correct decisions. The system was introduced to most top European leagues, and was trialled in England's FA Cup, in the 2017-18 season

VARs CAN BE USED IN FOUR SCENARIOS

- 1 Goals:** Check for infringement that would disallow goal. Match already paused so no impact on game
- 2 Penalty:** Double-check no wrong decision is made with award (or non-award) of penalty kick
- 3 Red card incidents:** Ensure no obviously wrong decision is made when sending player off
- 4 Mistaken identity:** VARs can identify correct player to discipline, if referee is unsure

REVIEW CAN BE INITIATED BY REFEREE OR VARs

- 1** Referee informs VARs (or VARs recommend to referee) that decision or incident should be reviewed
- 2** Video footage reviewed by VARs, who advise referee via headset what video shows
- 3** Referee accepts information from video footage and takes appropriate action
- OR** Referee decides to review video footage at side of pitch before taking appropriate action

Referee makes final decision, VARs have no power to overrule

Sources: FIFA, Bundesliga, Sky News Pictures: Bundesliga © GRAPHIC NEWS

WORLD CUP PREDICT AND WIN

Yesterday's lucky winner is **Kamelia**. Winner will be contacted



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Send a photo of the filled in form to whatsapp No. 33609505 or email: mail@newsfobahrain.com.

Alternatively you can participate in the contest on our website www.newsfobahrain.com

Winner's photo will be published in The Daily Tribune.

Entry should be submitted before 2pm