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S R I L A N K A O L Y M P I C W E E K L Y N E W S B U L L E T I N

SOCCKER WORLD DEBATES



IS LIONEL MESSI THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME?

Lionel Messi finally captured the one accomplishment that had eluded him for the entirety of his brilliant career: A World Cup victory.

In what was likely his fifth and final World Cup—and in his record-setting 26th game appearance at the World Cup, Messi led Argentina to a win over France in an unforgettable final in Lusail, Qatar. After clinging to a 2-0 lead through the first 80 minutes of the match, La Albiceleste yielded two goals to the French in a matter of two minutes, eventually sending the game into extra time. Messi and France's Kylian Mbappé then each scored in the extra period, sending the match to penalty kicks at 3-3.

Argentina was perfect in the penalty shootout, downing France 4-2 to claim the country's third World Cup championship and first since 1986.

Messi was spectacular in Sunday's final, scoring on a penalty kick in the 23rd minute and then again in the 108th minute following a chaotic sequence.

The 35-year-old then led off for Argentina in the penalty shootout and easily slotted his attempt past French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

The performance increased Messi's goal total at the 2022 World Cup to seven, just one goal shy of Mbappé, who netted a hat trick in the final. Messi also dished out three assists in the 690 minutes that he played in Qatar.

After 171 appearances in international play with Argentina, Messi finally secured soccer's crown jewel in his 172nd cap, but a World Cup title is just the latest of his vast accomplishments.

Now that he's had an opportunity to lift the World Cup trophy, the soccer world is largely in agreement that Messi is the sport's greatest player of all time.

It was a slow burn of a World Cup final, with almost one-way traffic in Argentina's favour for much of the game. As a spectacle, the first 79 minutes were nothing to shout about. France had been dealing with a virus in the team camp in the lead-up to the final, and given the way they played for most of the game, it appeared to have affected them.

Les Bleus did not look like the vibrant, positive side they were throughout the tournament; Argentina on the other hand started brightly going forward and were rewarded 21 minutes into the contest.

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A pattern had been building: get the ball wide out left to Ángel di María and let him trouble the French defence. And so it proved on this occasion, with Ousmane Dembélé looking very much like a winger out of position as he clumsily tripped his opposite number.

Messi – who else – stepped up to convert the resulting spot-kick, becoming the first man to score in every round of a FIFA World Cup since the round of 16 was introduced.

It didn't take another 15 minutes for a lacklustre France to find themselves two down as they were caught on a fast-moving counter-attack. Messi played a delicious through ball in to Alexis Mac Allister, who smartly squared it across the penalty box to Di María, who made no mistake past Hugo Lloris in the French net.

When Di María was taken off in the 64th minute, he received a hero's ovation from the Argentina fans in the crowd and his teammates on the bench. France's awful first half was summed up five minutes before half-time, as Deschamps hauled both Dembélé and Olivier Giroud off in a rare first-half double substitution.

The 2018 champions finally began to show some signs of life midway through the second period, with their first shot on target coming 67 minutes into the contest.

Mbappé's first real touch of the ball followed four minutes later.

He worked enough space for himself to get a shot off at Emiliano Martínez's goal – but the Argentinian goalkeeper was untested as it sailed over the crossbar.

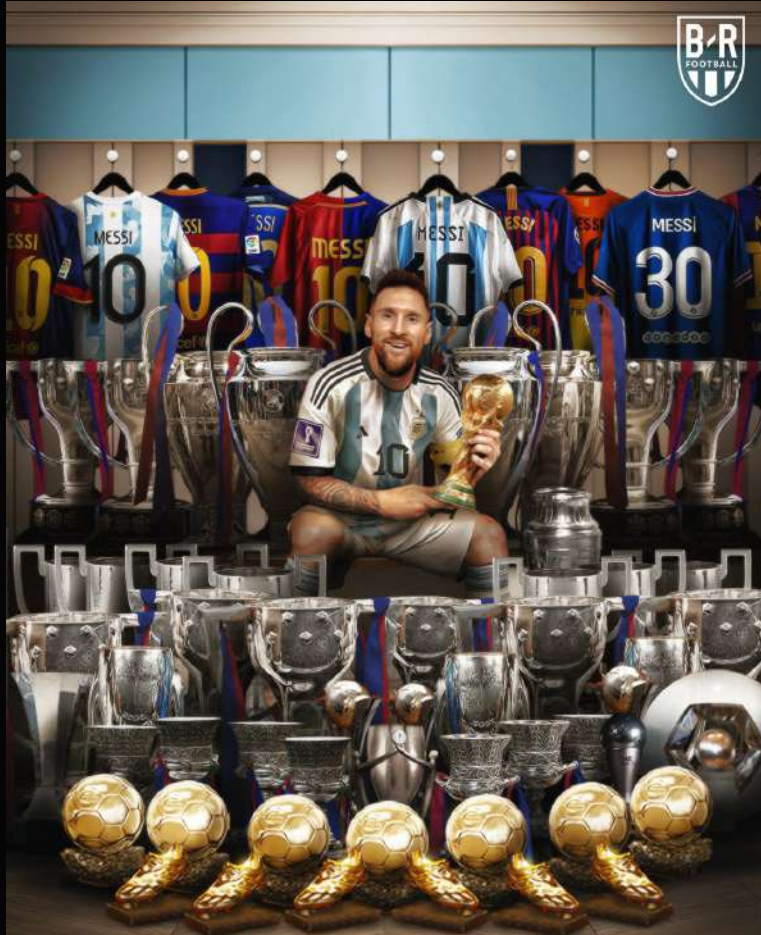
The ball found its way to Mbappé – who else – who volleyed past Martínez to level the match and quieten the Argentinian fans who had created almost all the noise in the stadium for the prior hour.

Suddenly it was Argentina on the ropes as France pressed, with La Albiceleste looking increasingly ragged and worried with every French attack. Martínez was called upon to save his team's blushes in stoppage time, producing a big save from point-blank range as the defending champions looked for a winner. Messi nearly had the final say in the seventh added minute, firing a fierce shot from outside the box which Lloris palmed over the bar. However, extra time was now inevitable.

France looked a completely different team, and that carried over into extra time. Argentina continued to find themselves on the

back foot – although, unlike France in the opening 80 minutes, they did have their chances going forward. Substitute Lautaro Martínez had perhaps the best of them, having been played in for a one-on-one chance that he scuffed wide right before the whistle to end the first extra period.

Lautaro Martínez was instrumental again after the break, staying onside from a Messi pass before firing a shot at Lloris that the French netminder could only palm back to the latter. While the ball appeared to be cleared off the line, goal-line technology indicated that Messi had once more put Argentina ahead.



Argentina seemed to take their feet off the gas in the second half, yet all the while still controlling the game and keeping possession of the ball. However, that was their undoing.

Things changed when Nicolás Otamendi hauled down Kolo Muani in the penalty area in the 80th minute, Mbappé stepping up and just barely squeezing the ball into the net through the hands of Martínez, who had guessed the right way and gotten a touch to it. Revitalised by the smallest of glimmers of hopes, France regained possession almost immediately from the restart – with Messi at fault for losing possession.

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But there was another twist to come – Gabriel Montiel blocking an Mbappé shot with his elbow in the area in the 117th minute. Mbappé calmly stepped up, went the opposite way to his first penalty, and sealed his hat-trick to once more level the game.

The two Martínezes were then involved in a frantic final minute of added time, with Emiliano making a big stop to deny Muani before, at the other end, Lautaro flashed a header wide with just Lloris to beat.

The match had gone from a dull affair to a classic World Cup final – and now penalties awaited, to be taken in front of the Argentina fans.

Mbappé took the first and – just like his first goal of the night – Emiliano Martínez got a hand to it, but not enough to keep it out. Messi responded with a cool, calm penalty rolled just out of Lloris's reach. Kingsley Coman was the first to miss, with his attempt – France's second – saved by a diving Emi Martínez low to his right. Pablo Dybala responded with a shot straight down the middle to give Argentina the lead once more.

Aurélien Tchouaméni then put his spot-kick wide past the left post, and when Leandro Paredes scored, – all the pressure was on Muani.



Muani powered it home down the middle, leaving the shoot-out in Montiel's hands.

He calmly sent Lloris the wrong way – and the celebrations could begin.

Know FIFA World Cup 2022 football results and scores from the matches in Qatar.



- (L-R)
Young Player of the Year:
Enzo Fernandez,
- Golden Ball winner:
Lionel Messi,
- Golden Glove winner:
Emiliano Martinez,
- Golden Boot winner:
Kyllian Mbappé

The teams in each group competed in a single-headed round-robin format in the group stage of the competition.

After the group stage, top two teams from each of the eight groups moved on to the knockout phase, which began with the Round of 16.

The final was played on December 18 while the third-place match happened on December 17.

The FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar saw a total of 32 top national teams from five different confederations vie for the title of football world champions from November 20 to December 18.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup followed a familiar format with the 32 teams divided into eight groups - Group A to H - of four teams each.

All matches of the FIFA World Cup 2022 were played across eight venues in and around Doha.

Points tables and standings for each group and all scores for the knockout rounds

| Group A | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|----|----|----|
| Position | Team | Played | Won | Draw | Lost | Points | GF | GA | GD |
| 1 | Netherlands | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 1 | +4 |
| 2 | Senegal | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | +1 |
| 3 | Ecuador | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | +1 |
| 4 | Qatar | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 | -6 |

| Group B | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|----|----|----|
| Position | Team | Played | Won | Draw | Lost | Points | GF | GA | GD |
| 1 | England | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 2 | +7 |
| 2 | USA | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1 | +1 |
| 3 | Iran | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | -3 |
| 4 | Wales | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | -5 |

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| Group C | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|----|----|----|
| Position | Team | Played | Won | Draw | Lost | Points | GF | GA | GD |
| 1 | Argentina | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | +3 |
| 2 | Poland | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 3 | Mexico | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | -1 |
| 4 | Saudi Arabia | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | -2 |

| Group E | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|------------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|----|----|----|
| Position | Team | Played | Won | Draw | Lost | Points | GF | GA | GD |
| 1 | Japan | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 | +1 |
| 2 | Spain | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | +6 |
| 3 | Germany | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | +1 |
| 4 | Costa Rica | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 11 | -8 |

| Group G | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|----|----|----|
| Position | Team | Played | Won | Draw | Lost | Points | GF | GA | GD |
| 1 | Brazil | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | +2 |
| 2 | Switzerland | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 | +1 |
| 3 | Cameroon | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| 3 | Serbia | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | -3 |

FIFA World Cup 2022 results: Round of 16 results

Netherlands (Memphis Depay 10', Daley Blind 45+1', Denzel Dumfries 81') **3-1** USA (Haji Wright 76')

Argentina (Lionel Messi 35', Julian Alvarez 57') **2-1** Australia (Enzo Fernandez OG 77')

France (Olivier Giroud 44', Kylian Mbappe 74', 90+1') **3-1** Poland (Robert Lewandowski 90+9')

England (Jordan Henderson 38', Harry Kane 45+3', Bukayo Saka 57') **3-0** Senegal

Japan (Daizen Maeda 43') **1(1)-1(3)** Croatia (Ivan Perisic 55') - penalties

Brazil (Vinicius Jr 7', Neymar 13', Richarlison 29', Paqueta 36') **4-1** South Korea (Palik Seung-ho 76')

Morocco **0(3)-0(0)** vs Spain - penalties

Portugal (Gonçalo Ramos 17', 51', 67', Pepe 33', Raphaël Guerreiro 55', Rafael Leão 90+2') **6-1** Switzerland (Manuel Akanji 58')

FIFA World Cup 2022 results: Quarter-finals results

Croatia (Bruno Petković 116') **1(4)-1(2)** Brazil (Neymar 105+1') - penalties

Netherlands (Wout Weghorst 83', 90+11') **2(3)-2(4)** Argentina (Nahuel Molina 35', Lionel Messi 73'(P)) - penalties

Morocco (Youssef En-Nesyri 42') **1-0** Portugal

England (Harry Kane 54'(P)) **1-2** France (Aurélien Tchouaméni 17', Olivier Giroud 78')

| Group D | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|----|----|----|
| Position | Team | Played | Won | Draw | Lost | Points | GF | GA | GD |
| 1 | France | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 3 | +3 |
| 2 | Australia | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | -1 |
| 3 | Tunisia | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | Denmark | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | -2 |

| Group F | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|----|----|----|
| Position | Team | Played | Won | Draw | Loss | Points | GF | GA | GD |
| 1 | Morocco | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 1 | +3 |
| 2 | Croatia | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | +3 |
| 3 | Belgium | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | -1 |
| 4 | Canada | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 7 | -5 |

| Group H | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------|-----|------|------|--------|----|----|----|
| Position | Team | Played | Won | Draw | Loss | Points | GF | GA | GD |
| 1 | Portugal | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 4 | +2 |
| 2 | South Korea | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| 3 | Uruguay | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 4 | Ghana | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | -2 |

FIFA World Cup 2022 results: Semi-finals results

Argentina (Lionel Messi 34'(P), Julian Alvarez 39', 69') **3-0** Croatia

France (Theo Hernández 5', Randal Kolo Muani 79') **2-0** Morocco

FIFA World Cup 2022 results: Third-place playoff result

Croatia (Josko Gvardiol 7', Mislav Orsic 42') **2-1** Morocco (Achraf Dari 9')

FIFA World Cup 2022 results: Final result

Argentina (Lionel Messi 23' (P), 108', Angel Di María 36') **3(4)-3(2)** France (Kylian Mbappe 80' (P), 81', 118' (P) - penalties



ASMC 2021/22 ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE



The eighth edition of the Olympic Solidarity Advanced Sport Management Course, which was conducted by the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee – Olympic Solidarity, was successfully concluded in August 2022 and its Awards Ceremony was held on a high note on 16 December at the ‘Hemasiri Fernando’ Auditorium of Olympic House.

Nineteen candidates (16 males (including 1 Nepalese) + 03 female) successfully completed the 8th Advanced Sport Management Course (ASMC) and were recognized by the International Olympic Committee to be awarded the Diploma in Management of Olympic Sport Organisations. At the beginning, there were 24 candidates and only 19 completed the course.

The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Mr. K.D.S. Ruwanachandra, Secretary of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation and the former Secretary to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

The 8th ASMC was held from 26th June 2021 to 21st August 2022.

Facilitators of the course Facilitators of the course were:

- Mr. B.L.H. Perera Programme Director of Advanced Sport Management
- Course Facilitator in Organising an Olympic Sport Organisation/Managing Marketing/Organising a Major Sport Event.
- Mr. Maxwell de Silva Course Facilitator in Managing Strategically.
- Miss Kinithi Jayatissa Course Facilitator in Managing Human Resources.
- Mrs. Lalitha Mendis Course Facilitator in Managing Finance.

Advanced Sport Management Courses

Elaborating on the programme B.L.H. Perera added “In year 2007 the Olympic Solidarity of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) invited the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka to join a unique opportunity for Olympic Sport Organizations, including the National Olympic Committee, National Federations, and organizations responsible for the development management of Olympic Sport in Sri Lanka.

“In year 2009 NOC SL took the initiative to launch this opportunity by conducting well-structured sport management training by introducing ‘Advanced Sport Management Course’ by NOC SL in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the IOC Olympic Solidarity.”

The objective of the Advanced Sports Management Courses is to equip the participants with the knowledge and tools to help them to bring about change and improvements in their sports organization for volunteers and paid staff in sport organizations. In the first instance, participants can learn from what happens in other sports organisations and secondly to create a learning community within a particular sports organisation and is likely to bring about greater and faster improvements in operations.

Olympic Solidarity strongly encourages NOCs to promote women sports administrators by ensuring equal access to professional training opportunities for men and women.

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B.L.H. Perera added “The courses are managed by a Programme Director appointed by the Olympic Solidarity of the IOC who have been qualified by appropriate training. Programme Directors are assisted by a team of Course Facilitators and local experts who are responsible for the delivery of the programme.

“The Programme Director appointed is responsible for the overall organisation of the course. Their role is to develop the course programme (contents, structure, etc.) and to manage the course logistics. He / She should promote the course within the national sports system and, together with the NOC, select participants, may deliver some of the content of the course.

“Their main role, however, is to act as leaders in the development of a learning community, a platform for sharing of knowledge, experiences and ideas amongst the course participants.

“The Programme Directors should have experience in sport and be knowledgeable about the principles of sports management (the content of the book). They should have an academic qualification, e.g. MEMOS, or equivalent professional experience, and enjoy the respect of the national sports circles.

“Ideally, they should have teaching or training experience in the sports management domain and should be available to

spend a considerable amount of time (more than 100 hours) preparing and conducting a course. Educators who meet these criteria are particularly suited for this function.”

In year 2007 Mr. B.L.H. Perera was appointed as Programme Director, and lead the programme for 15 years for the NOC SL. In 2022 he took an initiative to nominate two candidates for training as programme directors: Ms. Eranga Fernando and Ms. Hansika Wijayagunasekara. Both who have completed the initial training at present and need course implementation training under direction of the Programme Director appointed to obtain necessary approval to operate as a ASMC Program Director under NOC SL. Programme Director candidates are selected by Olympic Solidarity based on the compatibility of their candidatures with the desired profile of a Programme Director, as well as their knowledge of Managing Olympic Sport Organisations.

During training, the following topics are discussed:

- Course philosophy and structure,
- Facilitation skills,
- Presentation techniques,
- Adult learning principles,



- Selection of course participants,
- Use of case studies,
- Participant assessment,
- Course administration and evaluation.

Course Structure

Advanced courses are based on the Managing Olympic Sport Organisations manual and are to comprise all six chapters. Each chapter requires five days of work, which include three distance-learning (self-learning) days (reading the particular chapter, completing the corresponding Learners' Guide and preparing a case study) and two residential (contact) days (general presentation and discussion of the chapter on Day I, and presentation of case studies on Day II). Each course requires a minimum of 15 residential (contact) days (90 hours) and at least 18 distance-learning (self-learning) days (108 hours).

In addition, time will need to be allocated to the completion of the final presentation on the impact of the learning process by each participant. Each course should be conducted over a maximum of 12 months. For the first time due to COVID 19 the 8th ASMC had to experience three on-line sessions component, and was not able to add the residential component. At present Sri Lanka offers 7 sessions with two full day course structures considering the benefits of applicants to utilize a weekend for a session.





*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

Life is a long distance race. You can win it
with hope and determination.
Let us break all barriers in lap 2023!



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