



Argentina talisman Lionel Messi broke the ice in a nervy encounter against Mexico, opening the scoring with a trademark strike in a 2-0 victory that kept the Albiceleste alive in the 2022 World Cup.

PHOTO: AFP



Messi magic keeps Argentina alive

AFP, Doha

Lionel Messi helped keep Argentina's World Cup bid alive with the first goal in a 2-0 victory over Mexico on Saturday.

Defeat to outsiders Saudi Arabia in their opening Group G match in Qatar had left Argentina on the brink, knowing another loss would spell the end of their tournament chances.

But the Albiceleste just edged a disjointed and tetchy affair against their fellow Latin Americans at the Lusail stadium in Doha.

And who else but the mercurial Messi should be the hero, firing home a low shot from 20 yards on 64 minutes, before Enzo Fernandez added a thunderbolt second goal for Argentina three minutes from time.

Messi's goal meant he tied fellow Argentine icon, the late Diego Maradona, on eight goals and 21 appearances at the World Cup for

Argentina.

It came a day after Argentines marked the second anniversary of Maradona's death.

The goals were two rare moments of quality in a poor and tense encounter where the occasion seemed to get to everyone, except seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi.

But Argentina still need to win their final group match against Poland to guarantee a place in the knock-out stages.

The first half was an entirely fractious and forgettable affair.

Mexico's back five and aggressive approach left Argentina with little space or time to construct anything.

And the Mexicans never had enough players forward to cause their opponents problems when trying to counter.

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DESERT FEST Why the outrage?



NABID YEASIN

This World Cup was promised to be the 'best-ever' by FIFA boss Gianni Infantino and that sentiment was echoed by different quarters, with the chief reason behind the assumption being all the

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No dialogue, PM hints

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hinted that no dialogue would be held ahead of the next general election.

"Bangladesh has multi-party democracy and an independent Election Commission. If any party wants to participate in the [next general] election, they can. If any party has no capability to take part in the election, they may opt out," she said.

The PM was addressing the sixth triennial council of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League, the women's



wing of the ruling AL, at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan in the afternoon, reports BSS.

"Many people say a dialogue should be held. But with whom it

will be held? Is it with the BNP, its convicted [chairperson] Khaleda Zia, or Tarique Rahman who wanted to kill me by carrying out the [August 21] grenade attack?" she said.

Hasina, also the AL president, questioned whether her party would have to hold talks with "the corrupt, embezzlers of orphans' money, money launderers, arms traffickers, grenade attackers, and killers of Ivy Rahman".

The PM said the people will hold an election even if any party boycotts it and that they would not accept vote-rigging.

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THE STRONGEST BANK IN BANGLADESH 2022

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The Strongest Bank by Balance Sheet in Bangladesh and Strongest Islamic Bank by Balance Sheet in Bangladesh, 2022

ISLAMI BANK RECOGNIZED AS THE STRONGEST BANK IN BANGLADESH

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Hats off to CSR champs

6 firms awarded by The Daily Star and CSR Window Bangladesh; 5 changemakers honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four companies, a bank and a mobile financial service provider along with five individuals were yesterday crowned at the second "A Better Tomorrow CSR Awards" by The Daily Star and the CSR Window Bangladesh in recognition of their extraordinary efforts to improve people's lives.

In recent years, Bangladesh has seen a huge growth in corporate



social responsibility (CSR) projects by both local and multinational firms.

The initiative led The Daily Star to team up with the CSR Window Bangladesh – a platform that

allows individuals, entrepreneurs, corporates, and non-governmental or social organisations to bring ideas to life that benefit communities at large – to recognise the impactful projects that can serve as benchmarks for the others.

MA Mannan, the planning minister, and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, handed over the awards to the winners at a gala ceremony held at

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