



## What to WATCH

**TEN 2**  
Pakistan vs England  
3rd Test, Day 3  
Live from 01:30 pm

**TEN 1**  
BBL  
Hobart vs Perth  
Live from 02:15 pm

**SONY SIX**  
LPL  
Jaffna vs Colombo  
Live from 03:30 pm  
Galle vs Dambulla  
Live from 08:00 pm



## 'It's our destiny'

AGENCIES

Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez said it was "destiny" to win the World Cup after starring in the nail-biting penalty shootout victory over France in Sunday's final.

Martinez, 30, saved from Kingsley Coman in the shootout to help Argentina to a 4-2 win after the thrilling final ended 3-3 in extra-time.

The Aston Villa keeper, with three clean sheets, won the Golden Gloves award for his outstanding display guarding the post for the Albiceleste making crucial saves in crunch situations that helped Argentina to make it to the final and eventually win the World Cup.

"It was a very complicated match, they came back to equalise in the game but it was our destiny to suffer," said the Aston Villa keeper.

"All that I have dreamed of has been achieved. I have no words for it. I was calm during the penalty shoot-out, and everything went as we wanted.

"I left very young for England. I dedicate this victory to all my family."

Argentina were made to suffer before landing their first World Cup title in 36 years, having twice squandered a lead, including in extra-time before edging past defending champions France 4-2 on penalties in the final on Sunday.

"It was a game where we suffered," said Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, who saved one penalty in the shootout on Sunday but had also saved two more spot kicks in their quarter-final against Netherlands.

On a night of high drama and fluctuating fortunes, Argentina squandered a 2-0 lead in regular time before going back in front in extra-time with Lionel Messi's second goal. But then Kylian Mbappe completed his hat-trick to level 3-3 in the 118th minute with France's second penalty that forced the shootout.



Mbappe converted his third penalty against Martinez but as Coman and Aurelien Tchouameni missed, Lloris was never close to saving the Albiceleste's attempts, leaving Mbappe head in shirt, unable to celebrate his unbelievable hat-trick on the biggest stage.

"Two crappy shots and they (France) levelled. They give them another penalty, they scored. Thank God later I did

my thing, what I dreamed of," Martinez said.

"There could not have been a World Cup that I have dreamed of like this. I was calm during the penalties."

Martinez saved Coman's effort and Tchouameni fired wide to give Gonzalo Montiel to chance to win it, which he gleefully took.

For Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni it was a nail-biting finish to a turbulent tournament and he could not hold back his tears following the final whistle.

"I cannot believe that we have suffered so much in a perfect game. Unbelievable, but this team responds to everything," Scaloni said.

"I am proud of the work they did. It is an exciting group. With the blows we received today, with the draws, this makes you emotional. I want to tell people to enjoy, it's a historic moment for our country."

It was the third world title for Argentina and the first since the late Diego Maradona won the trophy almost single-handedly in 1986.

Argentina have now won six of their seven World Cup shootouts, including the quarter-final against the Netherlands a week ago when they also blew a 2-0 lead, while France have lost three of five, but with two of those defeats coming in finals.

France have conceded all the last 14 penalties against them in shootouts, with the last person to miss Luigi Di Biagio in the 1998 World Cup quarter-final.

After France's shootout defeats in the Euro 2021 last 16 and 2006 World Cup final, it was a coherent end to a logic-defying final.

### THE LATERAL VIEW

## The Dreams of our Fathers

IRISH ZAKER

I am not even a little ashamed to admit that I was wrong about the third-place decider.

It was not some consolation fixture for heartbroken teams. The boys from Morocco and Croatia came to play, and play hard. This meant something to them.

And while there was no celebratory dancing between mothers and sons from the Maghreb, we were treated to the lovely sight of Luka Modric hugging his father, perhaps for the last time in his national colors.

Seems like the Atlas Lions don't have sole proprietorship of filial jubilee. It's beautiful, nonetheless.

I have also been wrong in the past about World Cup frenzy (in case you haven't noticed, being wrong is a self-repeating pattern for me).

Being a club football fan who spends the lion's share of my time being made whole -- but mostly broken to pieces -- by a team in red half-way across the world, I used to deride those who turn their attention to football once every four years during the world's biggest show.

Plastic fans, I called them. They don't understand football, only Brazil and Argentina, I accused. They probably think that Maradona and Pele are still playing, I scoffed.

What a self-important rotten sod I was!

Time, it seems, is the best healer of self-possessed idiocy. I have grown not only to abide

Bangladeshi "World Cup" fans, I've grown to adore them. The passion, bordering on manic frenzy, is appreciable for the spectacle value alone. But there is more.

As I had written before, the World Cup experience in Bangladesh is not just about Messi, Ronaldo, or whoever is the latest star playing for the favourite nation. It is about shared memories and shared passions. We watched the World Cup with our parents, we watch them with our friends, and will continue to watch them with our children. Other than the religious holidays, it is one of the few cultural experiences that bind us together as a society.

When Messi scores a goal, we are not just celebrating what is happening now, we are also reliving in what happened before. One part an adult today, another a child being thrown into the air by a guardian when Maradona danced past five Englishmen in 86.

I miss "teaching" my father about all the players on show with knowledge I gleaned from my obsessive engagement with club football. I miss being happy for him when Brazil won, and consoling him when the Selecao lost.

Even though my tired old Liverpool supporting heart cannot be brought to fully root for another team on the international stage, every time I see a Brazil and Argentina fan go crazy, I am reminded of what I don't have anymore. Not in a sad way but a sweet way. Not in melancholy but in rejoice. Not in morose remembrance but joyful celebration of memories made and loved ones lost.

And that is why, to me, the World Cup in Bangladesh is one of the best things ever.



## Epic final's defining moments

AFP, Doha

Lionel Messi finally won the World Cup as Argentina beat France 4-2 on penalties after a thrilling World Cup final finished 3-3 after extra time in Qatar on Sunday.

**The key moments from the game at Lusail Stadium**

» 23rd minute: Argentina take a 1-0 lead through a Messi penalty. Julian Alvarez pokes the ball out wide to Angel Di Maria, who skips past Ousmane Dembele and is caught inside the area by the backtracking France winger. Argentina are awarded their fifth spot-kick of the tournament, which Lionel Messi strokes

home after committing Hugo Lloris to go the other way.

» 36th minute: Argentina make it 2-0 after picking France apart with a devastating counter attack finished off by Angel Di Maria. Alexis Mac Allister clips a first-time pass to Messi, who flicks out wide to Alvarez. Mac Allister continues his run and is played through by Alvarez, squaring for Di Maria to slot past Lloris.

» 41st minute: France coach Didier Deschamps opts for a double substitution before half-time, knowing the final is getting away from his team. Olivier Giroud and Dembele are replaced by Marcus Thuram and

Randal Kolo Muani.

» 80th minute: France cut the score to 2-1 as Kylian Mbappe scores from the spot. Kolo Muani gets in behind Nicolas Otamendi and is fouled from behind by the Argentina centre-back. Mbappe drills low to the right of Emiliano Martinez, who gets a hand on it but cannot keep out France's first shot on target.

» 81st minute: Mbappe strikes for the second time in as many minutes to bring France level. Kingsley Coman dispossesses Messi and finds Adrien Rabiot. He floats a ball towards Mbappe, who nods down to Thuram and then volleys the return pass first-time low

into the corner.

» 90th minute: Messi is denied at the death. The Argentina star has one final chance to win the game deep into stoppage time but his powerful 20-metre effort is tipped over by a flying Lloris.

» 109th minute: Messi puts Argentina back in front at 3-2. Lautaro Martinez backheels Gonzalo Montiel's hack upfield to Messi. He lays off for Enzo Fernandez to play in Martinez, whose shot is superbly stopped by Lloris -- but Messi is on hand to tuck away the rebound from close range.

» 118th minute: Mbappe completes his

hat-trick with another spot-kick as France equalise at 3-3. Mbappe's strike is blocked by the arm of Montiel and the striker goes the same way as his first penalty, burying it into the corner.

» 120th minute: Kolo Muani has the chance to win the World Cup for France after latching onto a long ball over the top, but Martinez heroically sticks out his left leg to send the final to penalties.

» **Shootout:** Martinez plunges to his right to save France's second attempt from Coman. Aurelien Tchouameni drags France's third effort wide. Montiel converts the winning kick as Argentina score all four of their penalties.

