

Sports

# Messi's Argentina thrash Uruguay, Brazil lose 100% qualifying record

## Neymar's return fails to inspire the Selecao

MONTEVIDEO: Lionel Messi opened the scoring as Argentina thumped neighbors Uruguay 3-0 in an entertaining World Cup qualifier on Sunday. Goals from Rodrigo De Paul and Lautaro Martinez rounded off a successful night for Lionel Scaloni's team in Buenos Aires as they maintained their unbeaten start to the qualification campaign and closed the gap at the top of the single South American table to six points behind Brazil, who drew 0-0 with Colombia.

"We played a great match, I think we're improving a lot," said Messi. "It was a tough match and we had to win it. Uruguay sit back and are dangerous. Once we scored the first goal we started to find spaces and many appeared."

The first half was a classic end-to-end thriller with both sides hitting the woodwork before Argentina opened the scoring. Uruguay's Luis Suarez looked lively early on and had three gilt-edged chances, all from the corner of the six yard box. Two, including an acrobatic volley, were parried by goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, while his third effort came back off the near post.

For Argentina, Giovanni Lo Celso skewed wide from 10 yards and Lautaro Martinez was narrowly unable to direct De Paul's cross on target. Lo Celso then broke from deep and rounded goalkeeper Fernando Muslera, but his shot crashed down off the bar onto the goalline before bouncing away to safety.

Messi had a low shot from the D

deflected inches past the post and then broke the deadlock in bizarre fashion. His chip into the box with the outside of his left boot was missed by Nicolas Gonzalez, whose presence seemed to deceive Muslera, the goalkeeper also missing the ball as it nestled in the bottom corner.

Muslera flirted with disaster moments later when he dribbled past Martinez in his area but Uruguay's nerves were rattled and Argentina doubled their lead with another scrappy goal. Messi's pass was deflected into the path of Martinez

Messi in the last minute.

### Neymar returns

The returning Neymar could not inspire Brazil to victory as hosts Colombia ended their perfect start to the qualification campaign in Barraguilla. The Selecao had won their first nine qualifiers, scoring 22 goals to lead the table by eight points before kick-off.

Coach Tite's side are still almost certain to qualify for next year's finals in Qatar as they maintain a 13-point lead over fifth-placed Colombia, with the top four progressing automatically. "Neymar did well as the team's leader," said Tite, but "he was well marshalled" by a Colombian side that has "more technical qualities than other teams."

Brazil started brightly and dominated the opening quarter as Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina made saves from Neymar and Lucas Paqueta. Neymar's cute reverse pass then put Paqueta in one-on-one with Ospina but on the stretch he poked the ball wide. Neymar was at the heart of much of Brazil's attacks but when he teed up a teammate on the edge of the area, it was defensive midfielder Fred who appeared on the scene, and it was no surprise to see him blaze over the bar from 18 yards.

Colombia grew more adventurous in the second half and Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker saved efforts from Mateus Uribe and Juan Quintero, while Radamel Falcao had the ball in the net

### Bolivia, Venezuela, Chile win

whose miss-kick fell kindly for De Paul to stroke home. Martinez then had a chance to put the game to bed in first half stoppage time but shot straight at Muslera. He did secure the win, though, on 62 minutes when left unmarked at the back post to tap in De Paul's cross.

The second half did not match the thrill-a-minute first but Argentina controlled the game. It could have been worse for Uruguay but Muslera made a fine double save from Angel Di Maria and



**BUENOS AIRES:** Argentina's Lionel Messi (left) celebrates with Argentina's Nicolas Gonzalez after scoring against Uruguay during the South American qualification football match for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at the Monumental stadium in Buenos Aires on Sunday. —AFP

20 minutes from time but it was disallowed for a foul on Militao. Raphinha almost fashioned a winner for Brazil when he picked out fellow substitute Antony with a perfect in-swinging delivery, only for Ospina to make a brilliant reaction save from point-blank range.

It was a good day for the bottom two teams in the group as Bolivia beat Peru 1-0 and Venezuela defeated Ecuador 2-1. Ramiro Vaca's goal eight minutes from

time gave Bolivia victory despite fellow substitute Henry Vaca sent off on 75 minutes. Goals from Darwin Machis and Eduard Bello either side of a penalty from Enner Valencia were enough to give Venezuela a rare win. In the late match, goals from English-born Ben Brereton and Mauricio Isla gave Chile, who had Charles Aranguiz sent off, a 2-0 win over Paraguay, who had Omar Aldieret dismissed. — AFP

## Formula one heads into unknown with title race balanced

ISTANBUL: The Turkish Grand Prix may have been a dull, processional race but it was also a taut game of worn-tire poker and after it ended, the players continued to try to bluff each other. With six of the 21 rounds to race, Max Verstappen of Red Bull has retaken the lead in the drivers' championship by six points over reigning champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes. The battle has not been so close since 2016 when Hamilton edged Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg by five points.

After the spray had settled, the two teams started spinning. The mental games were also internal after Hamilton ended the race blaming Mercedes tacticians for his lowly fifth place. Much of race was driven under a cloud of uncertainty with rain constantly threatening but never falling heavily. Only the two drivers who started with grid penalties, Hamilton and Carlos Sainz of Ferrari, drove with consistent aggression.

Verstappen was content to plod round in second and grab the points he needed. The Dutchman said his greatest challenge was "staying awake". Mercedes won with Valtteri Bottas and picked 36 points to 33 by Red Bull. But the Austrian team had two podium finishers, with Sergio Perez third, and Verstappen took the lead in the drivers' championship.

"I think we managed to maximize the result," said Verstappen before suggesting he was the underdog. "I wish I had a bit more pace in the car," the Dutchman said.



**ISTANBUL:** Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen spins off during the qualifying session at the Intercity Istanbul Park in Istanbul on October 9, 2021, ahead of the Formula One Grand Prix of Turkey. —AFP

"But we are in the fight and we keep fighting, and we'll see in the coming races how competitive we are going to be."

Hamilton was furious after a late tire change which he thought cost him two places. "We shouldn't have come in," he said over team radio. "I told you!" Later he became a good team player. "We win as a team and we lose as a team. Overall, the car was great this weekend," the Briton said. "If we can continue to perform like that over the next few races, we'll be in a good position come the end of the season."

It is difficult to judge form for the final six races. The next three - in the United States, Mexico and Brazil - were not held last year. Qatar and Saudi Arabia are new and the last one, Abu Dhabi, has been redesigned to create more spectacle on a circuit with a reputation as boring. "I've stopped trying to anticipate whether it's historically a strong race for us or not," said Mercedes boss Toto Wolff.

Red Bull boss Christian Horner liked his team's chances. "We're going to Austin, where we should be in the mix, then

Mexico and Brazil, where we've always been strong," he said. "We don't know anything about Qatar, we don't know anything about Jeddah. Same with Abu Dhabi," he added. "So you can say it's 50-50."

### 'We're fighting'

Mercedes has dominated in Austin since 2014, taking pole every time and winning every year except 2018. "Austin's one of Lewis's strongest circuits and we know that he's very, very quick around there," said Horner.

At altitude in Mexico City engines lose performance, which, has usually favored Red Bull's better aerodynamics. Verstappen won in 2017 and 2018 and only lost to Hamilton in 2019 because of a penalty. The Dutchman won the last race in Brazil in 2019 but Hamilton has won there twice.

Verstappen also won in Abu Dhabi last year, but Hamilton won the previous two. Mercedes has won seven straight drivers' and constructors' titles, but Red Bull, and their engine supplier Honda, seem to have closed the gap. — AFP

## World Cup in 2022 'will be my last', says Neymar

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil star Neymar said Sunday that the 2022 World Cup will be his last as he "doesn't have the strength to put up with more football". "I think it will be my last World Cup," the 29-year-old told DAZN. "I will play it like it is the last because I don't know if I will still have the mental strength to put up with even more football."

Neymar, who has played in two World Cups and is his country's second top scorer of all time behind Pele, will be 34 when the 2026 tournament

rolls around. "I will do everything to get to the 2022 World Cup in great shape and will do everything to win for my country, to fulfill my biggest dream since I was little," added the Paris Saint-Germain star.

Neymar played in the 2014 World Cup on home soil and scored four goals. However, he was to suffer a back injury before Brazil were humiliated 7-1 by Germany in the semi-finals. Four years later, in Russia, Brazil were knocked out by Belgium in the quarter-finals.

So far, his international honors have been limited to the 2013 Confederations Cup and an Olympic gold medal in Rio in 2016. Injury ruled him out of the 2019 Copa America which Brazil won as well as the 2021 edition where Argentina triumphed in the final. — AFP



**BARRANQUILLA:** Brazil's Neymar (left) and Colombia's Yerry Mina are seen during their South American qualification football match for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at the Metropolitan stadium in Barranquilla, Colombia, on Sunday. — AFP

# Classifieds

## Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000	Kaifan	24849807
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Chest Hospital	24849400	Nuzha	22526804
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010	Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Adan Hospital	23940620	Qadsiya	22515088
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		Salmiya	25746401

## Clinics

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**NOTICE**  
October 10, 2021

Mr. Patson Paul Cardoz, son of Mr. Cardoz Paul, resident of H No 236 Araddi, Parra Bardez, Goa and Ms. Astrid Albertina Dias, daughter of Mr. Agnel Eutismo Dias, resident of Mandur Dongrim, Dactem Bhatt, PO Box Neura Ilhas, Goa both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).

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