

# Records fall at Messi's feet in win

**Dallas:** Argentina once again shone brightly in the halo of Lionel Messi, who scored both the goals in his team's 2-0 win over Austria in the Group J clash on Monday.

With back-to-back wins, the reigning champions booked their passage to the Round of 32 in style.

All of Argentina's five goals in this World Cup have come from Messi. Not just that, he became the all-time top scorer at any World Cup, men's or women's, when he scored his 18th Cup goal — Argentina's second of the day.

## GROUP J

He was tied with Brazil women's striker Marta after earlier netting the opener against Austria.

With his 17th goal, he became the all-time leading scorer in men's World Cup history, surpassing Germany striker Miroslav Klose.

Messi has also now extended his scoring streak to six consecutive World Cup matches.

He opened the tournament with a hat-trick against Algeria when he became the oldest player, at 38, to

score three goals in a World Cup game and the first to appear at six editions of the tournament.

On Monday, Messi crowned a flowing Argentina move, starting the attack before arriving unmarked in the penalty area to sweep a first-time finish into the bottom corner from Facundo Medina's low cross.

For his second, a relentless Messi found a way to squeeze the ball into the Austrian net in stoppage time, reacting quickest after a scramble in the box.

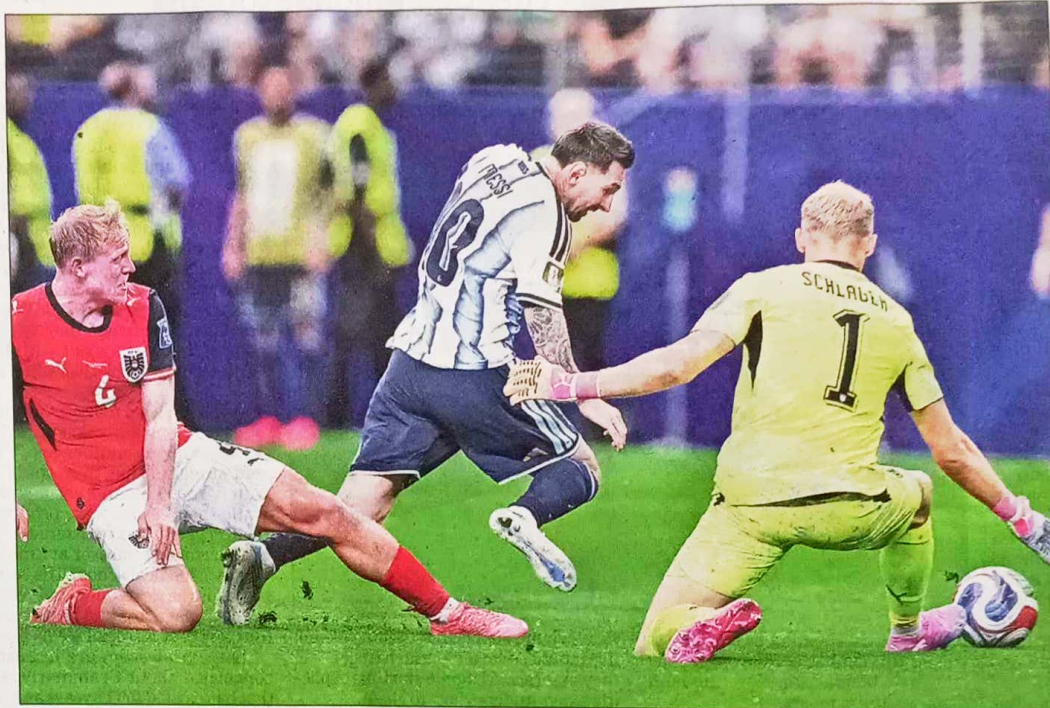
The Argentine talisman, who turns 39 on Wednesday, had earlier missed a golden opportunity when he sent a penalty wide after Lautaro Martinez was fouled.

Argentina's game wasn't pretty at times on Monday, but when you have Messi, even the ordinary transcends into the extraordinary realm.

Austria were competitive, but lacked creativity in attack and so failed to break down the Argentine defence.

Argentina play Jordan in their last group game on Sunday morning (IST).

With inputs from Reuters



Argentina's Lionel Messi tries to dribble his way past Austria's Xaver Schlager and Alexander Schlager (right) during their Group J match at the Dallas Stadium on Monday. Messi's brace gave Argentina a 2-0 win. (Reuters)