

It must have been difficult for Katy Perry to decide who to cheer for during England's World Cup match against the USA. An American with a British fiancé, comedian Russell Brand, her loyalties were clearly divided. So instead of choosing to back one side, Katy Perry showed her support for both by wearing a rubber dress which had one half made from a Union Jack flag and the other from an American flag.

-Agencies



Star  
**SPORT**

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**WRONG-FOOTED:** Ghana's Asamoah Gyan sends Serbia goalkeeper Vladimir Stojkovic on the other side as he converts a penalty during their World Cup Group D match at the Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria yesterday. It was this World Cup's first goal from the spot.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Ghana prevail on penalty

AFP, Pretoria

An Asamoah Gyan penalty six minutes from time gave Ghana a crucial 1-0 World Cup victory over 10-man Serbia in Group D at the Loftus Versfeld stadium here on Sunday.

Gyan's rasping spot-kick metted out the ultimate punishment for Zdravko Kuzmanovic's needless handball in the box after Serbia had lost Aleksandar Lukovic to two bookings.

And the noise which met Ghana's victory, the first by an African country at this year's World Cup, by

a partisan African crowd was truly deafening.

Ghana's victory puts them in pole position to emulate their performance in 2006 and qualify for the knock-out rounds in a tough group including Germany and Australia.

Chances were few and far between in a poor first half and every time either side played a pass with either pace or distance, the receiver was taking so long to bring the ball under control that the move lost its momentum.

What few chances there were largely came from dead ball situations.

Gyan fired a 25-yard free-kick over the bar on four minutes while

Serbia's Aleksandar Kolarov also curled a free-kick just over.

Things picked up after the restart as Prince Tagoe dinked a cross from the right to the back post but Andre Ayew, the son of Ghana legend Abedi Pele, headed wide from close range when it looked easier to score.

Up the other end Marko Pantelic played an identical ball into Nikola Zigic but the Valencia forward somehow played the ball back away from goal.

Gyan then clipped the outside of the post with a header from John Pansil's long throw into the six-yard box.

Ghana had been the

better side and their hopes of finding a winner

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**SCORE BOARD**

**SERBIA 0 - 1 GHANA**  
GHANA (PEN) 84

**Serbia (4-4-2):** Vladimir Stojkovic, Aleksandar Kolarov, Nemanja Vidic, Branislav Ivanovic, Aleksandar Lukovic, Dejan Stankovic, Nenad Milijasic (Zdravko Kuzmanovic, 62), Milan Jovanovic (Neven Subotic, 76), Milos Krasic, Marko Pantelic, Nikola Zigic (Danko Lazovic, 70)

**Ghana (4-4-2):** Richard Kingson, Hans Sarpei, John Pansil, John Mensah, Isaac Vorsah, Anthony Annan, Andre Ayew, Kwadwo Asamoah (Stephen Appiah, 73), Kevin-Prince Boateng, (Lee Addy, 90), Asamoah Gyan (Quincy Owusu-Abeyie, 90), Prince Tagoe

**Red Card:** Lukovic 74

**Venue:** Loftus Versfeld Stadium, Pretoria

**KEY STATS**

Serbia	Ghana
<b>Shots (on target)</b>	
14(2)	15(1)
<b>Corners</b>	
4	4
<b>Possession</b>	
50%	50%
<b>Yellow Cards</b>	
3	2

# Messi's spark, Korea's speed

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

For Bangladeshis the World Cup arrived only on Saturday as Lionel Messi invoked memories of Diego Maradona, who was not far away, and left millions wishing for more. Meanwhile, England's goalkeeping woes continued and South Korea

early warned that they force to in an event-day of the Messi was light; a class

Barcelona forward, so often criticised for his below par performances for the national team was absolutely imperious as he regularly terrorised the Nigerian defence with darting runs, purposeful dribbles and shots from every range. Argentina lined up in a hybrid 3-4-3/4-4-2 formation

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**Netherlands v Denmark** Time: 5.30pm Johannesburg

**Japan v Cameroon** Time: 8.00pm Bloemfontein

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**TODAY'S MATCHES**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think England should drop Robert Green?

Visit the sports page of [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net) to cast your vote

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[www.twitter.com/dsport](http://www.twitter.com/dsport)

**WORLD CUP POLL**

Can Germany get off to a flying start this time around?

Yes 72.6%

No 27.4%

**TOTAL VOTES: 84**

**NOKIA N97**

Algeria's goalkeeper Fawzi Chouachi tries in vein to stop the all-important goal from Slovenia's midfielder Robert Koren during their opening World Cup match in Polokwane on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

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