

President Barack Obama in a congratulatory phone call told the US World Cup heroes Thursday that the West Wing of the White House had erupted in cheers when Donovan scored the dramatic goal. Obama wished the US squad luck in their round-of-16 knockout clash with Ghana on Saturday, and told them that "the country was cheering them on."

Star
SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY JUNE 26, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar



PHOTO: AFP

Spanish striker David Villa celebrates his fantastic strike with teammates Xavi and Xabi Alonso during their final Group H match against Chile at the Loftus Verfeld stadium in Pretoria yesterday.

Spain, Chile make Round 2

AGENCIES

European champions Spain reached the last 16 of the World Cup on Friday with a 2-1 win over Chile, who also qualified from Group H as runners-up at the expense of Switzerland, who parted 0-0 with Honduras.

David Villa grabbed his third goal of the competition in the 24th minute to put Spain ahead in Pretoria and Andres Iniesta added the second in the 37th minute with Chile's Marco Estrada red-carded for a foul on Fernando Torres in the build-up.

Rodrigo Millar scored a consolation early in the second half as Chile bagged second place.

But Spain, who now meet neighbours Portugal, must now sweat on the fitness of Fernando Torres as Villa's sidekick went off ten minutes after the restart, giving way to Cesc

Fabregas.

Liverpool's Torres came to South Africa two months on from ankle surgery and has looked off the pace so far.

Villa put Spain ahead with a long-range shot into an empty net after Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo had raced out of his area, and Iniesta doubled his side's lead towards the end of the first half.

Marcelo Bielsa's side pulled a goal back at the start of the second period through substitute Rodrigo Millar's deflected effort, but it was not enough to remain on top of the group.

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SCORE BOARD

CHILE 1 - 2 SPAIN
MILLAR 47 VILLA 24
INIESTA 37

Chile (3-3-3-1): Claudio Bravo, Waldo Ponce, Mauricio Isla, Arturo Vidal, Gary Medel, Gonzalo Jara, Mark Gonzalez (Rodrigo Millar, 46), Marco Estrada, Jean Beausejour, Alexis Sanchez (Fabian Orellana, 65), Jorge Valdivia (Esteban Paredes, 46)

Spain (4-3-3): Iker Casillas, Gerard Pique, Carles Puyol, Joan Capdevila, Sergio Ramos, Andres Iniesta, Xavi Hernandez, Xabi Alonso (Javi Martinez, 73), Sergio Busquets, David Villa, Fernando Torres (Cesc Fabregas, 55)

Red Card: Estrada 37

KEY STATS

Chile	Spain
Shots (on target)	8(2)
Corners	3
Possession	31%
Yellow Cards	2

ROUND OF 16

- Uruguay v Korea (Sat 26 June)
- USA v Ghana (Sat 26 June)
- Germany v England (Sun 27 June)
- Argentina v Mexico (Sun 27 June)
- Netherlands v Slovakia (Mon 28 June)
- Brazil v Chile (Mon 28 June)
- Paraguay v Japan (Tues 29 June)

ROUND OF 16

Uruguay v South Korea Time: 8.00pm Port Elizabeth
USA v Ghana Time: 12.30am (Sunday) Rustenburg

TODAY'S MATCHES

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TODAY'S POLL

Will Lionel Messi score against Mexico?

WORLD CUP POLL

Did Italy's early exit surprise you?

Yes 66.7%
No 33.3%

TOTAL VOTES: 84

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Round 1 goodbyes, Round 2 battle field

The French soccer spirit ashamed football standards. The Bafana Bafana made history being the first host nation to go out, but they went out with pride. The Italians showed grit and fight in the last match but it was too late. The inspiration of Roger Milla couldn't save Cameroon and the Danish contingent sparked in bursts only to be deceived. No more Thierry Henry, no more Samuel Eto, no more Andrea Pirlo, no more Bendtner, and maybe no more Drogba.

So what the World Cup 2010 has too many stars to miss the others. And the second round is to start from today with the lone African contender, Ghana against the spirited USA who topped Group C despite the presence of England. While Diego Forlan will carry the South American supremacy against the never say die attitude of the South Koreans.

Assamoah Gyan has already impressed with his skills and needs to get support from Muntari and Boateng to take the Black Stars to the Quarter Finals for the first time in Ghana football history. On the other hand, Landon Donovan who has already been one of the outstanding stars of the World Cup 2010, will surely fight till the last seconds with Dempsey and Michael Bradley. USA finished third in 1930 and who knows maybe they might be on course to do it again.

But eyes will be on South Korea, where the Manchester United inspirations of Park Ji Sung just might tip the balance.

Portugal defender Fabio Coentrao (R) fights for the ball with Brazil midfielder Felipe Melo during their Group G match in Durban yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

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