



PHOTO: REUTERS

IT DOESN'T GET ANY WORSE: The ball is quite obviously inside the line as Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer is beaten by a Frank Lampard shot in the 39th minute during England's Round of 16 game at the Free State stadium in Bloemfontein yesterday. Uruguayan referee Jorge Larrión and his assistants Pablo Fandino and Mauricio Espinosa denied the goal which would have made it 2-2.

End of American dream

REUTERS, Rustenburg

The American dream ran out of steam on Saturday as Bob Bradley's team exited the World Cup with a 2-1 extra-time defeat to Ghana. The U.S.'s strengths throughout this tournament have been their work-rate, self-belief and determined spirit but those proved not to be enough against the African team who also knocked them out of the tournament four years ago. Once again, a U.S. side which twice gave up early goals in the group stage, conceded before they had even got into their stride and yet again they came back after Bradley astutely changed things around at the break. A Landon Donovan penalty brought the Americans on to equal terms but this time it was their opponents who found the extra something to come back from a set-back - Asamoah Gyan's superb strike in extra-time giving Africa just their third ever quarter-finalists. The Americans, who fought back for draws against England and Slovenia, couldn't make it back one more time. Their legs looked tired, their play was

imprecise and somehow that fighting spirit that pushed them to a last minute win over Algeria just was not quite enough. The weaknesses of Bradley's side though go beyond conceding early goals and the draining effect of playing three days after the gruelling and emotional victory over Algeria. The U.S. midfield, with two defensive central operators and two attack-minded wide players in Clint Dempsey and Donovan, was over-run at times by the numerically stronger Ghanaian midfield. That uneven battle was not helped by Ricardo Clark's wayward performance, his yellow card and the subsequent need for Bradley to replace him, with Maurice Edu, in just the 31st minute. The U.S. coach addressed the problem by bringing in Benny Feilhaber to give him three genuine midfielders in the second half with Clint Dempsey moving into a full attacking role. The floating Donovan is the main creative spark in the U.S. team and in fact, with him not finding his touch, it highlighted just how much the Americans rely on him for that little bit of something out

of the ordinary. When Donovan doesn't deliver the U.S. are far too predictable going forward -- needing a sharp turn from Clint Dempsey or a burst of pace from Jozy Altidore -- neither of which were frequent features at the Royal Bafokeng stadium. The full-backs, Jonathan Bornstein or Steve Cherundolo, were solid defensively but didn't offer much of a threat from wide positions -- both found space on several occasions but were unable to deliver dangerous crosses or get to the byline. Up-front, for all their efforts, the American strikers didn't have the sharpness or the clinical finishing displayed by Ghana scorers Kevin-Prince Boateng and Gyan. For the U.S. to move from a decent qualifier from the group stages to a team that can really threaten to make the latter stages they need to address those limitations. A midfield playmaker, a genuine winger and an international class striker would transform them from a solid, workmanlike team into something that their fans could get really excited about. They have four years to find those players.

Ghana, Uruguay make history

MOHAMMAD ISAM

Uruguay reached the quarterfinal stage for the first time since 1970 after their hard-fought win over South Korea, but it was Ghana's win (by the same 2-1 margin) over USA that was the highlight of the first day of the World Cup's round of 16. The two sides will meet on July 2 at the massive Soccer City ground in Johannesburg with the hope that the West Africans could become the first from their continent to reach the semifinals of the tournament's 80-year history. And tellingly for the USA, it was the second time in successive World Cups that Ghana had defeated the Stars and Stripes, having effectively dumped them out of the tournament four years ago by beating them in the final group game. While Asamoah Gyan's world-class goal that sealed the game for Ghana would give him all the headlines, it was the form of goalkeeper Richard Kingson that stood out. His great saves made sure Ghana got to that stage of the match in the first place. Kingson made three great saves in regulation time, the pick of which was to deny Benny Feilhaber in a one-on-one. But it was the Black Stars who began in a stunning manner. Portsmouth's Kevin-Prince Boateng picked up the ball just inside his own half, slalomed past three defenders and unleashed a left-foot shot which flew past Howard to give Ghana the lead in the fifth minute. USA got into the game late in the first half and by the time they got the foot-hold, they made sure they equalised.



With Fulham's Clint Dempsey at the heart of their good work the Americans surged forward and they received their reward after 62 minutes. Dempsey was the architect, weaving his way through the Ghana defence into the penalty area where he drew the challenge and was brought down by defender Jonathan Mensah. Hungarian referee Viktor Kassai pointed to the spot and Los Angeles Galaxy's Landon Donovan stepped up to slide home his third goal in four matches. Bizarrely, Bob Bradley's side slowed down and that gave Ghana a way back into the game and big striker Gyan took full advantage. Earlier, in a rain-soaked pitch at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, Uruguay banked on an error from South Korea goalkeeper Jung Sung-Ryong to make it 1-0 through in-form striker Luis Suarez. Lee Chung-Yong cancelled out the lead in the 68th minute through another goalkeeping error, this time from Uruguay's Fernando Muslera. But Suarez, who plays for Ajax Amsterdam, sealed the game brilliantly. He scored an individual goal from inside the box, curling it past the hapless Korean 'keeper. One of Ghana and Uruguay will play in the World Cup semifinal, clearly showing how smaller nations are fighting for possession among the big boys.

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South Africa on top

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

South Africa were 46-2 at stumps on the first day of the final Test against West Indies on Saturday after their attack, led by Johan Botha and Dale Steyn, had helped restrict the home team to 231 all out. Off-spinner Botha was the most successful Proteas bowler with four wickets for 56 runs from 19.5 overs, as West Indies, electing to bat on a hard, true pitch at

Kensington Oval, were dismissed about 40 minutes before the scheduled close. Steyn supported with three for 37 from 13 overs, and Jacques Kallis took two for 36 from 12. Dwayne Bravo struck four fours and one six in the top score of 61 from 104 balls for West Indies, with left-hander Narsingh Deonarine being the only other batsman to offer prolonged resistance, making 46. South Africa then suffered an early setback, when opener Alvaro Petersen was caught at mid-wicket off Kemar Roach for

one, miscuing a hook at a short ball. And Hashim Amla, the most prolific batsmen in the preceding limited-overs matches, continued to struggle in the longer format, when he was caught at backward point for five, cutting Sulieman Benn's first delivery just before the close. Earlier, Deonarine and Shivnarine Chanderpaul thwarted South Africa, after they made a bright start before lunch. The South African new-ball pair of Morkel and Steyn removed West Indies openers Dale Richards and Chris Gayle cheaply.

Pawar takes over as ICC chief July 1

PTI, Singapore

Former BCCI chief Sharad Pawar will take over as International Cricket Council president on July 1, becoming the second Indian, after Jagmohan Dalmiya, to occupy the top post. The ICC annual conference week beginning on Sunday will culminate with Pawar taking over as the seventh ICC president, succeeding Englishman David Morgan, who concludes his two-year term at the end of the week, the governing body said in a statement.

Clark takes blame for USA

AFP, Rustenburg

Ricardo Clark admitted responsibility after his side's 2-1 defeat to Ghana in the last 16 of the World Cup on Saturday. The United States midfielder was caught in possession after five minutes, allowing Kevin-Prince Boateng to run through and drive past Tim Howard to open the scoring. With Ghana's passing superb in the opening stages, and the USA in danger of being out-played, Clark was booked for a crude foul on Boateng. His miserable night ended when he was withdrawn after 30 minutes for Maurice Edu. Clark was clearly disappointed, and US coach Bob Bradley made a point of hugging him on the touchline and explaining his decision. "He just said he took me off because I had a yellow and if I got another one I'd get sent off," Clark explained. "It wasn't the best performance from me. I had some good moments, but unfortunately one of my bad moments led to a goal on the counterattack. A player of my calibre and experience shouldn't be making those mistakes." The Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder received the ball on halfway, but seemed to stumble, gifting possession to Ghana's Kwadwo Asamoah, who helped the ball on to Boateng. "I kind of got the ball stuck in my feet," he said. "I think they played [the ball on] in the midfield. I got caught in my decision making, didn't react fast enough and the guy stole the ball. Unfortunately it led to the goal. I feel like I let

my team down. I take full responsibility on the goal. I apologised for the goal (to the coach)." Even a few minutes after the game, as Clark admitted culpability, it seemed it was an incident that he would play over and over in his mind, something that will haunt him. He admitted that what made it all the worse was that he hadn't been able to stay on to try to rectify the mistake. "Of course I wanted to stay on," he said. "But it's up to the coach." The introduction of Edu seemed to tip the game in the USA's favour, particularly after the introduction of Benny Feilhaber at half-time allowed Clint Dempsey to move into a more central position. It was Dempsey who won a penalty after 61 minutes, beating John Mensah and then being tripped by Jonathan Mensah. Landon Donovan scored from the spot. "I did think we'd win after the penalty-kick," Clark said. "We were applying the pressure and could have had two or three goals but it didn't happen. Ghana are a good team. They wouldn't have made it this far if they were not." Jonathan Mensah similarly thought the game was slipping away from Ghana when Donovan equalised. "When they came up 1-1, we had to make sure we weren't down, we had to fight to get another goal and we did," he said. "When the game was over 90 minutes we knew we had to pick ourselves up and fight and that's what we did. We talked to each other in the group, got together and that was what gave us the spirit and strength."



MESSI ARRESTED, MISSED LAST NIGHT'S GAME, ARGENTINA PROBABLY LOST! Two boys, clad in Lionel Messi jerseys, are rounded up by police in Ramna Park during the day-long hartal yesterday. They were playing football in the park when some political activists turned up for agitation and the police arrested the two along with the protesters.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Banned insecticide, 4 Computer geek, 8 Sharpen, 12 Reaction to fireworks, 13 Eye layer, 14 Unusual, 15 Ultra-modern (Pref.), 16 Home of MIT, 18 Thin porridge, 20 Held a meeting, 21 Road Runner's sound, 24 Type of golf club, 28 Phnom Penh's country, 32 Authentic, 33 Undivided, 34 Zeroes, 36 Meadow, 37 Barber-shop prop, 39 "Wichita Lineman" singer, 41 Massage, 43 Addict, 44 Conk out, 46 Humorous, 50 Soft cheese, 55 Commotion, 56 Enthusiastic, plus, 57 Formerly, 58 Agent, briefly, 59 Chiming sound, 60 Approach, 61 Type measures, 5 Actress Mendes, 6 Sleep phenom, 7 Slight touches, 8 Author, 9 Owned, 10 Work unit, 11 Shirt shape, 17 Un-cooked, 19 Recede, 22 Learning (Abbr.), 23 Rice recipe (Var.), 25 Take out of context?, 26 Food critic, 27 Mideastern airline, 28 Tilt, as the head, 29 In due time, 30 Unit of cultural information, 31 Charitable donations, 35 Ghost, 38 No-goodnik, 40 Sis' counterpart, 42 Poorly lit, 45 Black, in poetry, 47 Filly's mom, 48 The same, in a bibliography, 49 Long-running true-crime TV show, 50 Taxi, 51 Past, 52 Calendar abbr., 53 Compass dir., 54 HDTV maker.

Cryptquip puzzle grid with letters: L G B T H T M G X G P H Q V P J R D G H Q X V R A P D B V P H D M J B M L X D M B V R A X M G H D E V ? H E W X V V R D J B M G X E R R T T B X B R W D E .

CRYPTOQUIP
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IN ORDER TO UNDERGO BASIC TRAINING TO BECOME A SAILOR, COULD A PERSON ENROLL IN BOAT CAMP?
Today's Cryptquip Clue: T equals D

What to WATCH
ESPN
2010 FIFA World Cup ROUND OF 16
Netherlands v Slovakia
Live from 8:00pm
Brazil v Chile
Live from 12:30am (Tuesday)
STAR Sports & SuperSport5
Wimbledon Championships Round Of 16
Live from 5:00pm
TEN Sports & SuperSport2
West Indies v South Africa
Third Test, Day 3
Live from 8:00pm
DAY'S EVENT
Premier Div Hockey League
Mohammed v Mariner Youngs
Time: 4:30pm
Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium