

American party girl Paris Hilton Saturday said she still loved South Africa despite being arrested for drug possession although the charges were later withdrawn. In a post on Twitter after the incident Hilton wrote: "Hey guys, there's a lot of crazy rumours going around. Just want you all to know the truth. Everything is completely fine. "I was assisting the police with the investigation and answering their questions. "Everyone was friendly. I love South Africa."



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SPORT

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PHOTO: AFP

Spain striker David Villa (L) is ecstatic after scoring the all-important goal late in the game against Paraguay during their World Cup quarterfinal at Ellis Park in Johannesburg last night.

Villa fires Spain into semis

AFP, Johannesburg

David Villa scored the only goal as European champions Spain beat Paraguay 1-0 at Ellis Park on Saturday to set up a World Cup semifinal against Germany.

Villa struck the winner seven minutes from the end of what had been a disjointed quarterfinal performance from the fancied Spaniards in a game that saw both goalkeepers save second-half penalties.

Germany, who lost to Spain in the Euro 2008 final, had earlier thumped Argentina 4-0 in Cape Town.

Paraguay made a good start to the match and created two chances in the first 10 minutes.

Jonathan Santana shot too close to goalkeeper Iker Casillas from 20 yards and then Cristian Riveros failed to hit the target with a header from Victor Caceres's pinpoint cross.

Spain were out of sorts with even Barcelona playmaker Xavi uncharacteristically wasteful with his passing.

However, he finally brought a spark to the European champions' play when he hit a dipping volley from 25 yards just over the bar.

Four minutes from the break Paraguay had the ball in the net as Nelson Valdez latched onto a long ball and slotted home into the bottom corner but his strike was ruled out for offside. Out-of-form Liverpool forward Fernando Torres

remained an isolated figure up front and it was not surprising that Spain coach Vicente del Bosque replaced him with Cesc Fabregas.

The game burst into life around the hour mark. Paraguay had a golden opportunity to take the lead on 59

minutes when Gerard Pique was penalised for hauling down Oscar Cardozo in the box.

But Cardozo missed the resulting penalty with Spain captain Casillas guessing the right way to make the save.

Spain then went straight up the other end and Antolin Alcaraz was adjudged to have tripped new Barcelona signing Villa in the area.

Xabi Alonso stepped up to bury the penalty but was ordered to retake it as Spanish players had encroached.

Second time around he changed sides but Justo Villar then guessed right and saved before Sergio Ramos's follow up was blocked on the line.

Spain, though, felt they should have had another penalty immediately as Fabregas tumbled under Villar's dive.

Villar then parried a curl-

ing effort from Andres Iniesta before del Bosque threw on a forward Pedro for defensive midfielder Alonso as he went searching for the win.

Spain finally got the breakthrough on 83 minutes after a typically swift passing move through the heart of Paraguay's defence.

Iniesta laid the ball to Pedro on the right and although his shot came back off the far post, it fell kindly to Villa whose own curled effort nestled in the net after coming off the woodwork.

SCORE BOARD

PARAGUAY 0 - 1 SPAIN
VILLA 83

Paraguay (4-4-2): Justo Villar (cap) - Dario Veron, Paulo Da Silva, Antolin Alcaraz, Claudio Morel - Cristian Riveros, Edgar Barreto (Enrique Vera 64), Victor Caceres (Lucas Barrios 84), Jonathan Santana - Nelson Valdez (Roque Santa Cruz 72), Oscar Cardozo

Spain (4-1-3-2): Iker Casillas (cap) - Sergio Ramos, Carles Puyol (Carlos Marchena 84), Gerard Pique, Joan Capdevila - Sergio Busquets - Xavi, Xabi Alonso (Pedro 75), Andres Iniesta - Fernando Torres (Cesc Fabregas 56), David Villa

Venue: Ellis Park, Johannesburg

KEY STATS

Paraguay	Spain
Shots (on target)	9(4) 15(5)
Corners	1 7
Possession	28% 72%
Yellow Cards	4 2

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Brazil gone, Argentina going

The world cup has lost the men in yellow and along with it the passion of football. Robinho sparked hopes till the first half with Kaka seeing a curled saved by the Dutch keeper and inspiring football from Fabiano, Maicon and Lucio. But that was the last story of Brazil in the World Cup 2010. The Dutch reorganized themselves and Schneider lead from the front. The equalizer came through a header followed by the winner. Emotions reigned supreme, Dany Alves saw the red and Brazil said adieu. All credit to the Dutch strategies

The second quarterfinal was about Uruguayan never say die attitude and the miss of the world cup for Ghana. Assamoah Gyan was the star of Ghana and he was the villain too. Missing out on a penalty, Gyan wasted the biggest opportunity for Ghana to go to the semi-finals. Sully Muntari scored a blunder and neutralized by a Forlon free-kick beauty. The final score was settled by the tie-breaker. Uruguay marches on. And the hero was Luis Suarez, who sacrificed himself seeing the red but saved a sure goal.

On the other side, Maradona's army was being pulverized by the German's breathtaking pace and precision. Mueller got a lucky break. Klose finished off a two goals and were leading Argentina by four goals to none. The Germans now have their sights on the World Cup. Maybe even, the Spaniards will not be able to hold them now.

Argentina striker Gonzalo Higuain (R) is under pressure from German midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger during their World Cup quarterfinal in Cape Town yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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