Muntari in glory hunt at World Cup

Muntari has also been impressive by how the new members of the side have fitted in. "What new guys have done is fantastic," he said. "(Kevin) Prince Boateng, Dede, they have done a great job. It's always been like that with the national team. "People have come in and done a great job." Uruguay have caught the eye this World Cup with their refreshing brand of attacking football. Their strike force of Luis Suarez of Ajax and Atlético Madrid's Diego Forlan have been potent, scoring five times between them in four games already. Muntari reckons the key to Ghana's victory will be keeping the pair in check. "These guys are incredible in the penalty area and score a lot of goals in Europe and already they have showed that in this World Cup," he said. "But we have to keep our guards here and prevented them from playing. If we do it well, we will have a real chance." (BBC Sport).

Ghana sustains African pride at World Cup

Asmoh Gyan of Black Stars of Ghana celebrating his score against USA. He will lead Ghana to a historic moment in the 2010 World Cup.

Ghana’s Black Stars are through to the quarter-final of the World Cup after defeating the United States 2-1 in extra time. Will Ross watched the game with fans in the Ghanian capital, Accra.

This was a long party which was briefly interrupted by an American goal. When the referee blew the full whistle at the end of extra time the unbridled dancing began across Ghana and beyond. But there had already been a few parties long before the end of the game.

Even before a ball had been kicked it was clear that the array of red, gold and green support- ers was primed for a celebration. You could have missed the game even if you tried.

There were screens everywhere - on crowded streets and in the packed bars. Young men armed with paint brushes and four colours were busy painting the flags. When the Black Stars are playing if you do not have flag to wave you can wear one on your face.

Quick prayers

At a popular drinking spot in Accra’s Osu I saw two lonely

As I see it

The football World Cup of 2010 so far went well despite negative publication in the western media as many in the so-called first world felt nothing good will come off the cup being held in Africa, South Africa in particular. The majority of Europeans, have, not only negative imp- ressions of Africa, but largely ignore, as they think Africans live in the jungle sharing shelter with wild ani- mals. Many are being fooled by the Tarzan and Jane mov- ies that were shot in the jungles of Africa, way back when movies were shot in black and white films.

The success of South Africa has given hope to other coun- tries in the continent looking to host international sports events as a way of boosting their economies and progress- ing with major infrastructure projects.

The next World Cup will be staged in 2014 in Brazil while the 2016 Olympics will be held in Rio. I certainly feel that the not-so-many European countries’ supporters that came to witness the world beautiful game of football in South Af- rica will honestly carry the message objectively to the rest of the world.

This is where regrets will play a big role for those who where to made to believe that crime in South Africa is ever on the increase and security “worries” were the main factor to substantiate the dirty tricks of some media houses in Eu- rope.

Germany would agree with me on this point because their players were preparing to come with bulletproof jackets to South Africa, as it was believed that the host was the most “unsafe” country. What a lot of rubbish!

Africans are peaceful minded people. They love their culture and tradition. It goes with saying that when we (Af- ricans) are playing football we sing. It is a force of nature. We sing as we breathe. That portrays a moment to show the diversity and cultural richness of Africa. It is going to be watched by a lot of people who don’t perceive Africa and South Africa the same way we do and it will help to change those perceptions.

Come the July 11, the first World Cup on the African soil will be a celebration of both the African continent, the rest of the world and the beautiful game of football. This is the very first time that the World Cup comes to South Africa and Africa and large and the world will now get to see, experience and celebrate the excellence, the beauty and the expertise of Africa. To the South African people I would like to say lets welcome the world. Let’s show them peace and Africa’s diversity. Let’s celebrate and show them how wonderful we are.

Africa and the inhabitants who live in it are united. We are saying the World Cup in South Africa is about the world returning to where it all began - the original home, to the first place. It is about things going full circle. And there is no turning back.

Hats off to the 2010 FIFA World Cup Organising Com- mittee for the mammoth operation that turned to be the first ever World Cup staged on the African soil a suc- cess. There has been tremendous teamwork and communica- tion between the cities and provincial authorities and FIFA and the Local Organising Committee (LOC). There has been equally excellent communication in particular between the LOC and FIFA in terms of assessing the requirements for this event and delivering on it. All parties involved indeed worked hard and are set for and working hard to deliver a spectacular event.

Africa and South Africa grabbed a hold of the opportu- nity presented by the 2010 FIFA World Cup and made sure they use it to develop the game or it will be a wasted oppor- tunity.

This so far was a great achievement as the ones who are younger than eight-years-old have never seen this and now they can live it. Now this is a time of unity in purpose for all Africans to render their unflinching support to the Black Stars of Ghana; the time for gratitude of Africa, the Diaspora and all sympathizers for Ghana and the world in particular.

Ghana should win the 2010 World Cup, as they have all it takes, the upturn (determination) and grandeur.

Let us support Ghana 120 percent wherever we are. Let us show the prophets of doom that the time is now for Af- rica to claim its rightful place in the beautiful game of Af- rica. KENAKO.