#### ZZ's top

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closest Brazilians were a pair of forwards, Ronaldo and Rivaldo The sound said it all, 75,000 Andres Cantors shrieking

"GOOOAALLL!!!" Zidane whose parents came to France from Algeria and who grew up on the mean streets of Marseille, became the first to score twice in a World Cup final since England's Geoff Hurst got three against West Germany in

"It is remarkable I scored two goals with my head, which is not my strong point," Zidane

Brazilians were stunned. Once Germany and Italy were eliminated from the other side of the bracket, they thought their fifth title was se-

"The two goals came from set pieces and upset the balance of the game," Taffarel said. "We didn't have the strength to re-

After Zidane's second goal, there were more renditions of "La Marseillaise" in the gleaming Stade de France than good scoring chances by Brazil

In a first-round game, Zidane was ejected for kicking Saudi Arabia captain Fouad Amin, and FIFA suspended him for two games, including the quarterfinal against Paraguay. French captain Didier Deschamps scolded Zidane for hurting the team.

"His influence is so important," Deschamps said then. "We expect a lot from him, and he can make the difference."

Sure did. Moments after Deschamps lifted the trophy, forward Christophe Dugarry went over to Zidane and kissed his head. Kissing his head might become one of France's favourite pastimes.

Players and fans were leaping with joy and cried as Brazil handed over the world's most coveted trophy. When it comes to soccer's championship, for next four years. France has cornered the market.

#### A French

From page-13 dine Zidane wrote his name in

wit! brilliant headers to give his country an invincible lead in the most important match of the century. His selfless service for his nation, his ability to rise to the occasion, his adroit capacit, to play the ball and his knack for scoring crucial goals put him head and shoulders above many of the much publicised superstars of the game.

Apart from Denilson's effort which struck the crossbar. France made Brazil's much vaunted offensive line-up utterly innocuous. The superstars of the super-team lost their way on so many occasions. Marcel Desailly and Lilian Thuram, the engines of France's Bastillelike defence, did much to explode the myth of Ronaldo and Rivaldo. Indeed, the fearsome DO's of Brazil (namely Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Edmundo) became DOn'ts for the vanquished.

Brazil have not been humiliated in such a manner for a long time. The scoreline of the final did not reflect the true picture. In the end, the French could have bagged five or six.

Without any malice towards the great footballing nation. Brazil were artificially inflated to a very high rating in the 1998 World Cup. The spotlight directed towards their stars became a cause of concern, even of frustration for many of the talents in other teams. Even in the run up to the finals, the glare of publicity was so intensely fixed on the South Americans that it seemed as if all their qualifying matches would be one-sided and that a fifth title would be handed to them on a plate. Yet from the shadows, France managed to topple Brazil from their high horse.

#### Shellshocked

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after Sunday's final started. As it became clear Brazil were not in World Cup form, by half time trailing 0-2, normally exuberant Brazilians were in despair. In the industrial city of Sao Paulo, they stomped out of bars

and tossed away green and yellow Brazil banners in disgust. Supporters in one bar in Sao Paulo's miduic class Vila Magdalena neighbourhood even

started cheering for France. "I think it was great France

won because our game was so bad we didn't even get one goal. It's pathetic," said Sao Paulo resident Barbara Correa. One man collapsed on the

Copacabana sand as the second half started, wailing he couldn't bear to watch any more. Like many other men in this macho land, he found himself weeping openly and being soothed by a more stoic female partner.

Some took comfort in remembering that they already had won four titles and they had been playing against the home team.

"We are still the best in the world. One World Cup isn't going to change that," said Aldair Dantasde Melo, 21, a student in the remote colonial town of Pirenopolis.

"Don't forget we're the only ones who've won it four times, he said as several people cried softly nearby and leaned on

each other for support. Others in Brazil's central western state of Goya saddled up

for a long horseback ride home well before the game ended. But the shock was not as bad

as in 1950 when Brazil lost the World Cup final to Uruguay in front of a home crowd in Rio. the nation was traumatised then but seemed resigned and accepting on Sunday.

"Being runners up seems like nothing to us, but to get to the World Cup final is a lot and we only lost to the hosts," Pele, one of the world's greatest soccer players, told Globo television.



RISING TO THE OCCASION: French superstar Zinedine Zidane jumps atop advertisement board after scoring the opening goal on July 12.

# Stars shine bright

PARIS, July 13 (AFP): It's hard to keep a good man down and despite the compulsive preoccupation with tactics and teamwork, the genuine stars always rise to the surface at the World Cup.

A case in point is Zinedine Zidane, the 26-year-old midfielder, who displayed his talents to the full in the World Cup final on Sunday.

The midfielder scored twice in France's final victory over Brazil, and finally demonstrated his true worth. He dominated midfield and was involved in just about every dangerous move. Described as irreplaceable

by coach Aime Jacquet when he was banned for two matches for stomping in the game against Saudi Arabia, he played through the quarterfinals, semifinals and final, demonstrating his playmaking genius at every turn. In the final he overshadowed

a Brazilian team packed with talent in which Ronaldo for once failed to shine. Despite the tingle of anticipation whenever he touched the ball, he was swamped by a blanket of French shirts at every turn. Suffering from knee and an-

kle injuries he was never likely to repeat his semifinal performance against Holland when he surged past defender Philip Cocu to score in what the legendary Pele described as the most beautiful move of the

match. Croatia's Davor Suker, who spent most of the year on the substitutes' bench and Real Madrid, was another World Cup

He scored six World Cup goals to win the 'Golden Boot' award for the highest scorer in the tournament.

Suker-sub was transformed into Suker-star in Croatia's run to the semifinals and ultimate defeat to France. Suker has scored 34 goals in 41 appearances for Croatia. Another World Cup star is

Christian Vieri of Italy, who said "Goals are like children. They are all beautiful." The Australian-raised striker scored five of them here before Italy bowed out to France on penalties after a scoreless 120 minutes in the quarterfinals. Another striker to shine in

France was Holland's Patrick Kluivert. He headed the late equaliser in the semifinal against Brazil and very nearly scored a 'golden goal' in extra time.

England's teenage sensation Michael Owen got rave reviews for his goal against Argentina in the second round. The match ended in a 2-2

draw and England lost the penalty shootout. It was one of the best matches of the tournament and if David Backham's sending off was the low point, Owen's goal was the high point and accorded him instant star-

Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta confirmed his status as an unstoppable goal machine. scoring five in five games.

He scored a hattrick in Argentina's 5-0 thrashing of Jamaica, his second in successive World Cup finals and the only one in France '98.

Batistuta belongs to the elite club of hattrick heroes that in-

### Zidane a la Kempes knew he would," Jacquet said.

PARIS, July 13 (Reuters): Zinedine Zidane earned his billing as national hero in Sunday's World Cup final, scoring two goals in France's 3-0 demolition of defending champions Brazil

The shy, retiring man the hosts had pinned all their hopes on in their bid to lift the trophy for the first time, had not quite lived up to his reputation in earlier games. His skill and vision had

played an important role in France's run to the final, but a red card in the side's second group match against Saudi Arabia meant he missed the next two games.

When he came back, he showed only glimpses of his class and some were already saying that he could not deliver when it mattered most.

"I was satisfied with my World Cup already but there was something missing and that was a goal," said the brilliant playmaker, regarded as the natural heir to Michel Platini.

"I wanted to score a goal and several players had told me before the match that I would," he added. 'They hoped I would and I felt I had to. I scored two. It's amazing.

The inspirational midfielder headed in twice from first half corners to become the first player to score two goals in the final since Argentina's Mario Kampes in 1978.

"I'm usually not that good with my head, he said while most of the players in the French squad said they would need time to realise what had happened to them, Zidane said he was perfectly aware of what he had achieved.

"I scored two goals in the World Cup final," he said. "I know what it means. It's fabulous."

After losing three finals in as many years — in the UEFA Cup with Girondins Bordeaux in 1996 and then two in succession in the European Cup with Juventus - Zidane heard some say that he was a not a man for great occasions. "That's not true," he said. "I

like important matches, I like

the pressure". Coach Aime Jacquet, who makes no secret of the fact he had built his team around Zidane, said he was not surprised that his star had shone at last. "He brought us light, like we

"The thing I didn't expect is that he would give us two headed goals. But the unpredictable is what makes football so great."

Jacquet was criticised at the European Championship two years ago for sticking to Zidane even though he was exhausted after a long season and failed to make any impact.

Whatever happens to him from now on, the man they call 'Zi Zou' knows he will stay in history.

"The cup is ours," Zidane said, "nobody will take it away from us."

Michael Laudrup was the outstanding player for Denmark. The Danish captain collected his 103rd cap and then retired after defeat to Brazil in the quarterfinals. Under his influence Denmark played some wonderful football and earned the respect and admira-

cludes England's Geoff Hurst,

who hit three in the 1966 final,

Germany's Gerd Muller, who

has the World Cup record of 14

goals in total, and Just

Fontaine, who fired home 13

goals in Sweden in 1958.

tion of Brazil coach Mario Zagallo. Nigeria's Jay-Jay Okocha was another midfielder who caught the eye. In his second World Cup already, the 24-yearold Fenerbache player confirmed what many who saw him in USA '94 already knew. He was among the most gifted players on the field in France

In defence Marcel Desailly of France is a monster talent while in goal the pre-eminent personality of the tournament was Jose Luis Chilavert of Paraguay, the man who embodies the team and leads from the back.

#### WC accident

PARIS, July 13: Some 52 people were injured, 10 seriously, after a car ploughed into a crowd of World Cup revellers on the Champs Elysees early today, a spokesman for the Paris fire brigade said, reports Reuters.

Police estimated that nearly 1.5 million people had poured into the central Champs Elysees avenue to celebrate France's historic victory over Brazil in Sunday's World Cup final.

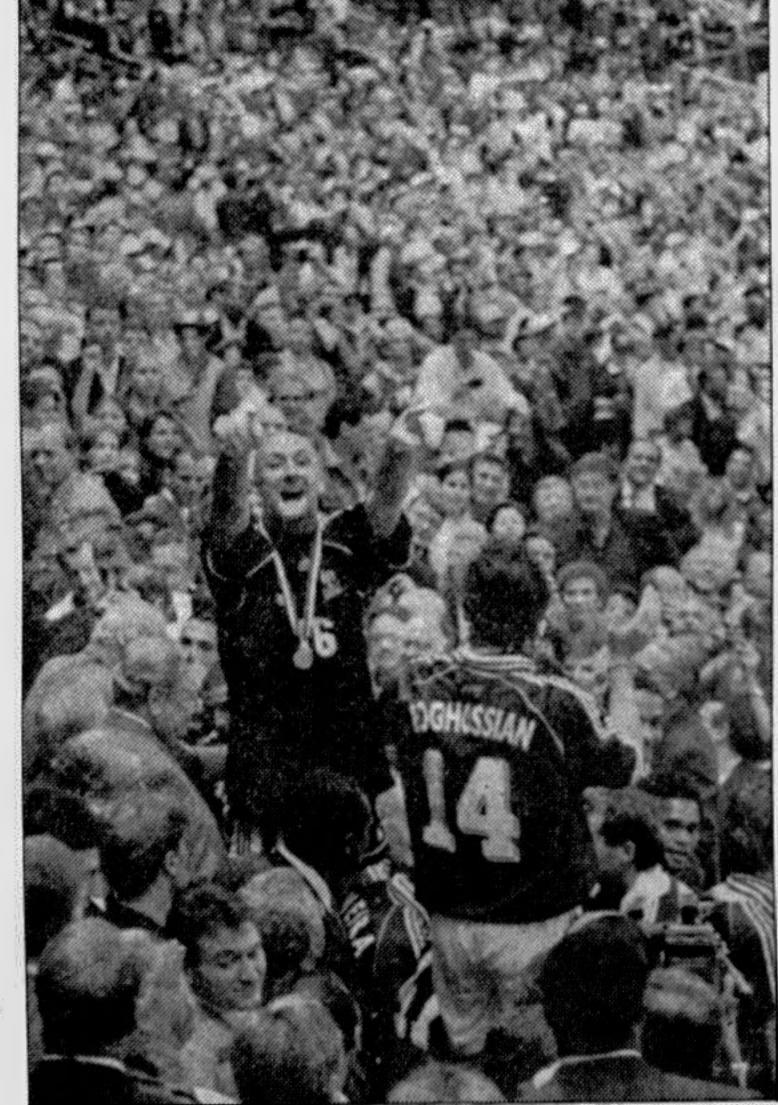
sealed off part of the wide boulevard as ambulances raced to the scene. The impromptu World Cup street party in the heart of Paris

After the accident, police

was probably the biggest outdoor celebration in the French capital since liberation day in A human tidal wave of fans

took over the main city centre roads, with only the occasional car braving the mass of chanting, flag waving supporters. Before the accident, the police had reported only a few mi-

nor incidents.



French players mingle with fans and dignitaries at the stands of the Stade de France after the final. -AFP photo

The left-leaning Liberation said that the mentality of the winner forged by French team manager Aime Jacquet was allied with the hope of emerging from the long tunnel of eco-

nomic depression and escaping

won more than a trophy in

beating Brazil 3-0 in the World

said the triumphant procession

of the Les Bleus through the

competition to Sunday's final

had given France new self-con-

fidence, new ambition and new

the final, France had gained

something more precious than

a cup... a fine and strong image

of itself," said the right-wing

tions France had something

extra to demonstrate. It had a

secret mission to give a lesson

in confidence, ambition and

their enthusiasms... there is

still a future for French confi-

dence, for French ambition, for

French unity- and not just in

"And the French showed

unity to the French....

the stadium.

"In this festival of the na-

"Even before the whistle for

Newspaper commentators

Cup final, reports AFP.

unity.

Figaro.

#### Curtain falls

the hum-drum of daily life.

From page-13

into the World Cup with impressive records in qualifying but made few friends on the way to losing in the second round.

Nigeria started with a thrilling come-from-behind 3-2 victory over Spain but couldn't maintain that form. The Olympic champions went out in the second round after being totally outplayed 4-1 by the Danes, who went on to lose 3-2 to Brazil in the quarterfinals.

Iran went out in the first round but had the huge satisfaction of beating their political foes, the United States, 2-1 and eliminating the Americans

from the championship. After beating Scotland 3-0, Morocco looked on course for the second round only to hear that Norway had upset Brazil 2-I with two late goals to put the North Africans out.

Of the other first-round losers. Belgium went home unbeaten but without a win either while Japan, Tunisia and Colombia scored only one goal each before taking an early plane home. Saudi Arabia, South Korea,

South Africa, Jamaica, Scotland and Austria always looked like going out in the first round. But at least the Reggae Boyz rookies from Jamaica won their first ever World Cup game. ending Japan 2-1. The real disasters were

Spain, Bulgaria and the United Spain were hailed as a likely

contender but went out despite crushing Bulgaria 6-1 in their final match. The Bulgarians. semifinalists four years ago. showed their age and scored only one goal in three games before going tamely out. After advancing to the sec-

ond round in 1994, the Americans hoped to show that the arrival of Major League Soccer had improved their credibility even further. Squandered chances meant that the team lost all three games and coach Steve Sampson quit to become one of six World Cup managerial casualties.

#### What went wrong From page-13

When Teixeira, president of the Brazilian football federation, was given the news by the former Brazilian international goalkeeper Gilmar Rinaldi, he hurried down to the dressingroom. Zagallo was adamant that Edmundo should play in place of Ronaldo. But Teixeira. told that the striker now felt well enough to play after all, summoned the high command of the Brazilian squad - Zagallo, Zico, America Faria. LidioToledo and Marco Antonio Teixeira - to an emergency summit in which he is said to have overruled the coach.

While the meeting was going on, the players were warming up in the dressing-room and not, as in earlier games, on the

Zagallo emerged to announce that Ronaldo would be playing after all, and Edmundo was told to stand down.

Approximately 30 minutes before kick-off, the medical team issued a bulletin, in English, explaining that Ronaldo had been to hospital for an examination of his right ankle, and had been cleared to play 45 minutes before kick-off. There has been talk

throughout this World Cup that Ronaldo has needed painkilling injections before each match and that he was unable to cope with the pressure. Roberto Carlos pleaded for Ronaldo to be left alone.

"He's under more pressure

than anybody else in the world and all that's happened today has left him very distressed," said the Real Madrid defender. "I have a wife, family and children to go home to, but he

doesn't have that. "Ronaldo doesn't have the support you need. I urge everyone just to leave the boy alone." But Bebeto hinted that his strike partner's injury problems were not the only cause for

concern. "Before the game we were worried about his condition and the way he was thinking." said Bebeto. Meanwhile, in an Internet

poll carried out by the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper, 36 per cent of voters blamed the defeat on the disunity of the team and their preoccupation with money and contracts. Twentyone per cent blamed Zagallo, while three per cent said El Nino was to blame.

## United press PARIS, July 13: The French press agreed unanimously today that the national football team Ronaldo's no-show

SAINT-DENIS, France, July 13 (AP/ Internet): The World Cup was Ronaldo's stage. Hero or villain, the leading role was sure to be his.

And sure enough, he was the pivotal figure in the final, even though he was a virtual noshow.

The two-time FIFA world player-of-the-year felt so bad a few hours before the game that Brazilian coach Mario Zagallo pulled him from the lineup. The move upset his teammmates, and Zagallo put him back in. But the damage was done.

"We were apathetic in a game when we couldn't be apathetic," goalkeeper Taffarel said. "Ronaldo was one of the causes, but we just didn't play well."

The Brazilians seemed indifferent and hesitant against the French attack. The players seemed to be looking to Ronaldo, who tried a run or two and gave up. In the end Sunday it was France 3-0, and Brazil's excuses began with its marquee player.

"It was a great trauma for us," Zagallo said. "Ronaldo shouldn't have played. We gave the lineup without Ronaldo. and that rattled our team psychologically. They were stymied, inhibited because Ronaldo wasn't going to play."

But what exactly was the matter? FIFA said he had gone to the hospital for X-rays on his left ankle, and that doctors cleared him to play just before the game. Team doctor Lidio Toledo

said Ronaldo felt dizzy after lunch. Press officer Nelson Borges acknowledged that the player had vomited. Zagallo said Ronaldo felt "indisposed" but asked to play at the last minute.

"I kept thinking, 'Should I play him or not?" Zagallo said. "We were very apathetic, and even with him in, the group already was affected."

Team captain Dunga said it was the uncertainty that got to the players. But with the best of international soccer in its lineup, why was the team so dependent on one 21-year-old striker?

It's been that way throughout the tournament. The spotlight has rarely wavered from Ronaldo.

Even when the team wins, Brazilians judge him. Had he measured up? Had he performed like the world's best?

Until Sunday, the answer

It wasn't just the skimpy scoring, four goals in the first six games, one on a penalty kick - not bad for any other player, but not for Ronaldo. And the dominance wasn't there, the unstoppable upfield charges, the explosion, the weaving, high-speed dribbles. Sure, he had moments.

There were the two goals against Chile, a pair of assists against Denmark, an inspired half against the Netherlands. But glimmers of greatness weren't enough for Pele's successor, soccer's poster boy. Zagallo said Ronaldo was

too static, and against double coverage that was deadly. He had to move more, use the edges of the field. Sometimes he did,

Rumours flew about the reason for his spotty play. Ronaldo had tendinitis in his knee. He was overweight. He was depressed over an impending breakup with his fiancee, Brazilian model Suzana Werner. Maybe even that the pressure of the World Cup was too great.

Ronaldo denied them all. Still, life in a fishbowl took some getting used to for the kid from Bento Ribeiro, a poor dis-trict on the gritty north side of Rio de Janeiro.

It was a rocket ride to the top. At 16, he was bought by Cruzeiro, where his 50 goals in as many games was a better average than Pele's. In 1994, he was on the national team, watching from the bench as Romario, Bebeto and company

won a fourth title. Transfers and titles came in quick succession. From Cruzeiro it was on to PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands, Spain's FC Barcelona, Inter Milan of Italy.

Success hasn't spoiled him.

"Nothing has changed in my head," he said. "I'm well off financially, but my behaviour is

Ronaldo is Brazil's present and future. If he stays healthy. he almost certainly has at least two more World Cups in him. maybe three. But he shuns the superman tag.

"People always expect me to resolve everything," he said. "But nobody wins anything



IT WON'T HELP: A dejected Ronaldo being consoled by teammate Bebeto after the final. -Internet photo

## World Cup looks East same number in Japan. Blatter

PARIS, July 13: (AP/ Internet): Sake instead of champagne. Kimchi in place of crepes. Goodbye Eiffel Tower, hello DMZ.

The next World Cup will be as different from the edition that ends Sunday as East from West - the places it's held, the cultures involved, the way the teams are picked, even the nature of the host.

Two countries, not one, will stage the 17th world championship of soccer in 2002, and they're not exactly bosom bud-

Japan and South Korea, the twin turbines that drove Asia's economic boom and are now going through hard times, were chosen to share the World Cup in a decision born of soccer politics and global marketing.

FIFA, soccer's international federation, made the unprecedented choice of co-hosts because it didn't want to upset either nation and their deeppocket consumers as soccer seeks to spread from its traditional strongholds in Europe and Latin America. Officials have made it clear that this is a one-time alternative to the onecountry tradition.

Japan and South Korea break tradition, too, because neither is a soccer power, unlike France which invented the World Cup in the 1920s.

The Koreans played in their fifth World Cup this summer, while Japan made its debut. Both were eliminated in the first round, although they showed signs of better things to

"The only difference is that we lack experience," said Hong Myung-bo, a South Korean defender. "Of course, the level of

SAINT DENIS, July 13 (AFP/ Internet): France coach Aime Jacquet's prediction that he would retire the day after his team won the 1998 World Cup

was spot on after France's 3-0

World Cup victory over Brazil

here on Sunday. Some thought Jacquet was putting too much pressure on his team. But there can be no doubting his methods now that France has won its first title.

The 80,000-strong crowd stadium, including French president Jacquet Chirac, celebrated with gusto following the win through two goals from Zinedine Zidane and a third from Emmanuel Petit.

Jacquet, often portrayed in the French media as a simple. slightly laughable figure, answered his critics in the best football in Asia is still inferior to that in Europe.

Because they are hosts. Japan and South Korea automatically are in the tournament. That puts a strain on the field, which will stay at the 32 teams it expanded to in France. With the winner of Sunday's championship game also guaranteed a spot, just 29 spots will be open to almost 200 nations. who must go through continen-

tal qualifying tournaments. That's where another big difference will probably appear. Emerging soccer nations are demanding more spots in the field, which is dominated by Europe (15 berths), South America and Africa (five apiece).

The South Pacific region, which includes Australia and New Zealand, is eyeing a guaranteed berth, rather than having to compete in a wild-card qualification. There's a proposal to hold spots open for nations who have never played in the World Cup. Even Europe and Africa, with their big fields, want more.

Sepp Blatter, FIFA's new president, said the continental qualifying system will be decided by the end of the year. He said it would be the trickiest piece of the 2002 puzzle.

"The fact that there are two hosts, and the defending champion, who get in automatically makes this especially difficult," he said. "It will require a very diplomatic solution. Whoever is in the field better

have their passports ready. There will be plenty of hopscotching over the Sea of Japan. For the first round, the field will be split down the middle, with 16 teams in four groups

possible way with this rousing

it outplayed Brazil. The four-

time champions from South

America never really looked

like breaching the French back

four, which conceded only one

goal in open play during the en-

bite and would have scored

more if its lone striker.

Stephane Guivarc'h, and his

substitute. Christophe Dugarry

had not made two incredible

class strikers, but Jacquet has continually said during this

16th World Cup that he didn't

mind who scored as long as

France may have no top

France's midfield had more

tire tournament.

misses.

France won.

Not only did France win, but

playing in South Korea and the

Ole down under SYDNEY, July 13 (AFP): Champagne was flowing freely as multi-cultural Australia

helped its large French com-

munity celebrate a highly popu-

it by about a week.

said he would like to maintain

the French practice of teams

playing their three first-round

for them," he said. "They are not

stuck in one place. They get to

international travel begins.

Half the Korea-based teams will

go to Japan, and half the Japan-

based teams to Korea. That pat-

tern stays through the semifi-

nals, before the winners travel

to Tokyo for the title game. The

first game will be played in

into this mix. The Seoul gov-

ernment has given organisers

permission to talk with North

Korea about fielding a joint

team and staging some games in

the communist capital of Py-

shrink, the length of the tour-

nament might. France 98, with

an extra eight teams, lasted 33

days. While that's just two days

longer than the 1994 tourna-

ment, Blatter would like to

tighten the first round to reduce

While the field may not

ongyang.

A third country could come

South Korea's capital. Seoul.

travel. They get to see things."

"The teams say it is better

With the second round, the

games in different cities.

lar World Cup victory today. Congratulatory messages poured into French diplomatic missions in Canberra and state capitals and the 3-0 victory over former world champions Brazil dominated news bulletins from the final whistle just before 7.00 am (2100 GMT

Sunday). French restaurants and businesses celebrated with blue, red and white flags and bunting a day ahead of the annual July

14 Bastille Day celebrations. Thousands of French people danced, whooped and shed tears of joy after watching the early morning final at parties in their homes or in hotels and pubs which opened specially for the match.

In Canberra, French ambas-

sador Dominique Girard said the local support for France confirmed Australia and France were friends again after their diplomatic brawl over French nuclear testing in the Pacific three years ago. Girard watched the match at

the French Language and Cultural Centre, Alliance Francaise, where the Brazilian and French flag were diplomatically placed either side of a large television screen.