

## MAN WITH A LARGE HANGOVER

LONDON, July 15: British Bookmakers William Hill said Tuesday they are searching for a man who failed to collect 57,000 pounds (about 100,000 dollars) worth of winnings following France's World Cup triumph, reports AP.

The lucky punter placed a 16 pound accumulator bet in a Hill's shop in Surbiton, Surrey, on July 4 last year involving five winning selections culminating with France lifting the FIFA trophy.

Hill's spokesman Graham Sharpe said: "He has 57,537 pounds to pick up, but he has yet to turn up to collect."

He added: "We have no idea who he is — he hasn't been seen in the shop since placing the bet over a year ago, perhaps we are looking for a Frenchman with amnesia or, at the very least, a large hangover."

"If it was my bet I'd have been hammering at the betting shop door first thing on Monday morning."

The other selections on the winning ticket were: Arsenal to win the FA Cup, at odds of 8/1; Chelsea to win the Cup Winners Cup (5/1); Nottingham Forest for English division one (6/1) and Notts County for division 3 (11/11).

## Inter blast Brazil

MILAN, Italy, July 15 (AP/Internet): The owner of Ronaldo's Italian team criticised Brazil on Tuesday for allowing the star striker to play in the World Cup final after he had convulsions.

"The Brazilian federation behaved in an absurd manner," Inter Milan owner Massimo Moratti said. "Its actions could have had much more serious consequences."

"Now I only hope that Ronaldo has the chance to rest because he was put under unusual pressure."

Brazil's team doctor said Monday that Ronaldo went into convulsions for about 30 seconds just hours before Sunday night's final and was feeling "emotional stress."

Dr. Lideo Toledo said he took the 21-year-old player to the hospital for a battery of neurological and cardiac tests.

Ronaldo's name was not on Brazil coach Mario Zagallo's starting lineup sheet issued an hour before the final. However, he did start the game.

"It was a serious mistake to have Ronaldo play in those conditions," Moratti said.

The two-time FIFA Player of the Year was unimpressive and Brazil was routed 3-0 by France, which benefited from two goals by Zinedine Zidane.

## One car crash victim dies at hospital

PARIS, July 15: One of the 150 people injured when a car ploughed into crowds on the Champs-Elysees celebrating France's World Cup football victory died in hospital on Tuesday, hospital officials said, reports AFP.

A spokesman for Paris hospitals refused to give details on the victim of Monday's car crash, who died in Beaujon hospital in Paris.

Thirty-five people are still in various hospitals in the capitals as a result of the accident, ten of whom are in a serious condition.

The accident happened when a car driven by a woman identified as Nelly N., a 44-year-old primary school teacher who had been receiving psychiatric treatment, ploughed into crowds packing the Champs-Elysees overnight Sunday to celebrate France's World Cup final win.

The driver, who wandered away from the scene after the accident, turned herself in to police a few hours later. Police said she had apparently panicked at the crowds on the Champs-Elysees.

## Clemente to stay

MADRID, July 15 (Reuters/Internet): Javier Clemente will remain Spain's coach until at least the 2000 European championship despite the side's poor showing in the World Cup.

The Spanish football federation (RFEF) gave its backing to Clemente despite widespread public calls for him to be sacked.

President Angel Maria Villar said on Wednesday the RFEF would honour the remaining two years on Clemente's contract and he could continue as Spanish national coach until the European championship "at least."

Spain lost 3-2 to Nigeria and drew 0-0 with Paraguay before finding their form with a 6-1 thrashing of Bulgaria. But it was not enough for the team to qualify for the second phase of France '98.

Clemente is currently on holiday and may yet still resign.

He said shortly after the World Cup he would make no more comments about his position until late August, just before the start of the European championship qualifiers.

The majority of Spaniards who responded to polls run by the national media said they wanted Clemente to go.



EIFEEL TOWER ERUPTS: The night sky over Paris is set alight by tricolour fire works on July 14 during pop star Jean-Michel Jarre's live concert on the occasion of France's World Cup triumph and Bastille Day. — AFP photo

## 'Les Bleus' celebrate another red letter day

PARIS, July 15 (AFP/Internet): Bastille Day, marking the revolution that brought democracy to France, always comes on July 14. This year it came two days after France's smashing World Cup triumph.

In other words, another chance to party.

With the nation still aglow from the victory over Brazil, President Jacques Chirac was fully upstaged at his own annual garden party by — who else? — the beloved "Les Bleus."

The name of the team means the Blues, after the jerseys. But it was a "multicoloured" team Chirac chose to salute, noting how a squad that includes immigrants and immigrants' children was helping France overcome its differences.

"A country needs, at certain moments, to come together, around an idea that makes it proud of itself," Chirac said before presenting the team to the crowd.

"This victory has shown the solidarity, the cohesion... that France had a soul, or more precisely that it was looking for a soul."

As if to prove him right, an estimated 150,000 people showed up for the Bastille Day military parade on the Champs-Elysees. Not as many as who came to the post-game victory celebrations, but twice the number that showed last year.

The Champs-Elysees was the scene of a wild, all-night celebration early Monday after France's victory. On Tuesday,

one of the bystanders struck by a car during the post-game party died.

Thirty-three others are still hospitalised from the accident, in which a woman apparently panicked when the crowd pounded her vehicle and she ploughed into a group of revellers.

Bastille Day commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison on July 14, 1789, setting off the French Revolution that toppled the monarchy.

As always, there were fighter jets and military helicopters overhead and tanks rolling from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Concorde. And, of course, fireworks at the Eiffel Tower.

But it was no usual Bastille Day at the Elysee Palace, where Chirac annually plays host to a garden party, often including youngsters from around the country.

On Tuesday, 6,000 invited guests welcomed the team to recorded strains of the rock group Queen's "We Are the Champions."

"Allez les Bleus!" the crowd shouted. And, in a now familiar chant based on the score of the final against Brazil, "One, two, three-zero!"

Despite Chirac's presence, there were calls of "Zizou for President!" Zizou is the nickname of French playmaker Zinedine Zidane.

Zidane, the son of Algerian immigrants, has been singled out not only for his stellar play but as a sort of poster child for

the multicultural team. Chirac wasted no time Tuesday saluting the "tricolored (red, white and blue) but also multi-coloured" team that has "given France a beautiful image."

He spoke of "a France that wins together," that "for once has distanced itself from internal squabbles and meanness."

Jospin along with President Jacques Chirac attended the 3-0 win over Brazil in the Stade de France and leapt to his feet cheering when the final whistle went.

But it remains to be seen whether the new sense of unity will last.

"I think things will be back to normal pretty soon," said Gilbert Rimbaut, a suburban soccer coach who attended Sunday's final.

Superstar Ronaldo presenting a national team jersey bearing his number (9) and signed by all the members of the World Cup '98 squad to President Fernando Henrique Cardoso during a reception at the Presidential Palace in Brasilia on July 14.



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## FIFA rankings Brazil remains the top team

ZURICH, July 15 (AP): Brazil remained on top of FIFA's world soccer rankings despite their 3-0 loss to France in the World Cup final. The French, meanwhile, moved up 15 places to No 2.

FIFA, soccer's world governing body, released the new rankings Wednesday — listing Brazil as the No 1 team for the 52nd consecutive month with 73.84 points.

The new rankings reflect the results of the World Cup, with France moving from No 17 to No 2 with 70.18, Germany dropping one place to No 3 and Croatia — surprise World Cup semifinalists — jumping from No 19 to No 4.

The biggest mover in the top 10 was the Netherlands, who moved 17 places from No 22 into a tie with Italy at No 8.

England's loss to Argentina in the second round had a major impact on their world ranking, which dropped from No 5 to No 10.

The United States, which finished last among the 32 World Cup teams, dropped eight places to No 19.

The biggest drop was recorded by Bolivia, who fell 21 places to No 34.

The monthly FIFA World Rankings of the top 20 national soccer teams for July. Previous (May) ranking in parentheses:

1. Brazil, 73.84 (1)
2. France, 70.18 (17)
3. Germany, 68.65 (2)
4. Croatia, 66.62 (19)
5. Argentina, 65.14 (6)
6. Czech Republic, 64.90 (3)
7. Yugoslavia, 64.17 (8)
8. Netherlands, 64.07 (25)
9. Italy, 64.07 (14)
10. England, 62.65 (5)
11. Norway, 62.26 (7)
12. Mexico, 62.04 (4)
13. Romania, 60.31 (22)
14. Spain, 60.21 (15)
15. Chile, 59.30 (9)
16. Morocco, 58.69 (13)
17. Colombia, 57.90 (10)
18. Denmark, 57.86 (27)
19. United States, 57.06 (11)
20. Egypt, 56.83 (17)

## Jospin puts the lid on it

PARIS, July 15 (AFP/Internet): Prime Minister Lionel Jospin tried Wednesday to put a lid on French World Cup celebrations saying that it was after all just a sports event.

"It's an immense sports event," Jospin told a cabinet meeting, "but after all it remains just a sports event."

Jospin also said that it was "a little over the top" to compare the celebrations that followed the World Cup final win over Brazil on Sunday to the scenes that greeted the liberation of Paris from the Nazis in 1944.

"They are both elements of history which are not of the same nature," Jospin was quoted as saying by his minister in charge of relations with parliament Daniel Vaillant.

Jospin along with President Jacques Chirac attended the 3-0 win over Brazil in the Stade de France and leapt to his feet cheering when the final whistle went.

## Pete Sampras on top

PARIS, July 15: Latest men's ATP rankings released on Tuesday:

- |                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| 1. Pete Sampras (USA)   | 3825 |
| 2. Marcelo Rios (CHI)   | 3666 |
| 3. Petr Korda (CZE)     | 3344 |
| 4. Carlos Moya (SPA)    | 2970 |
| 5. Patrick Rafter (AUS) | 2878 |

## 'He is dead, dead, dead'

From Nizamuddin Ahmed

LONDON, July 15: It has been revealed today, three days after the World Cup final, that Brazilian superstar Ronaldo was thought to be dead hours before the fatal kick-off. Such revelations are adding to the mystery and one British television network questions last night whether Ronaldo was telling the whole truth.

"Paul Chevalier, the director of the hotel in which the team was staying in Paris is now saying that the atmosphere around the team was terrible as word spread in the early hours of July 12 that Ronaldo was dead. They were saying 'He is dead, dead, dead,'" added Mr Chevalier.

Ronaldo and his team have returned to Brasilia to a muted welcome from a few fans who were present at the airport. Ronaldo was seen limping down the steps from the aircraft and exchanging words with the reception party.

His club team Inter Milan have asked Ronaldo to take as a long a holiday as he wants before he returns to practice. It is now certain that multi-million pound footballing enterprise will not report to 'work' before August 5, a day after the much awaited friendly between Ronaldo's Milan and Michael Owen's Liverpool. The match is being billed by some British journalist as the clash to find

out the best striker in the world.

Don't take any notice of that early comparison. The trouble with that is any British property worthy of itself is considered a world-beater by the British journalist.

Whereas Ronaldo has proved his capabilities over the past five years, one World Cup goal against Argentina and some earlier Premiership flourishes was all that Owen needed to come shoulder to shoulder to him. No fault of Owen, though, and I kind of like the guy.

That is what they did to David Beckham of the Adams fame. Before the Simeone kick, most British journalists would mention Beckham and Owen in the same breath and how England manager Glenn Hoddle was making the worst mistake this millennium by making the two sit on the bench. Beckham's free-kick goal against Colombia took him to newer heights which is why the fall is hurting the midfielder so much. Today the blonde Manchester United idol is hiding from a hate mob and trying to come to terms with hate mail he and his family are receiving. Difficult for a man who is used to receiving fan mail and sharing them with Posh Spice Victoria. And is the British press giving him adequate protection? Not really, as one tabloid today showed a

photo of Beckham wearing a cap and sneaking in a crouching position from his garage to a van that his father had backed against it. He is having six policemen and a patrol car as other forms of protection. So, all I can say is "Careful Owen."

England meanwhile have slipped five spots to tenth in FIFA's ranking. But they are still desperate to be hosts of the World Cup as from 1966 experience they see it as their best chance to glory. There is talk here that if because of economic reasons South Korea reduces the number of its grounds from ten to six for the 2002 World Cup, which it is co-hosting with Japan, AND if Japan could not build another four new stadiums of capacities of 40,000 or more, England could move in as the hosts. There are two big ifs before England earn the right to qualify automatically for the next finals. The memories of those last minutes against Italy last October are only too fresh. England are also ruling out serious opposition from Germany who till now are strongly bidding for the right to host the 2006 World Cup. England now think that they have only to beat the South African bid. If the World Cup comes to Europe, then it will be in England, said an English report today.

## Zidane fans span the divide

LONDON, July 15: Kader Katia is delighted. The young director of the social centre of la Castellane, a council estate of 1,250 homes thrown up in the sixties on the north side of Marseille, experienced on Sunday evening what he calls the 'magic effect' of the World Cup.

He describes how the 14 nationalities listed on the centre's books became as one. Black Africans, North Africans, Portuguese, people from the Comoro Islands, all painted in blue, white and red, joined forces in this little corner of French soil to cheer the team of Deschamps, Thuram and, of course, Zidane, "the local kid".

The fact that politicians and journalists are interested in this aspect of things is normal. But the kids here, whether children of immigrants or not, but all children of la Castellane, they supported the French team quite simply because they live in France," says Katia, delighted that at last television had shown "a positive image of the quarter".

Blanc and Zidane are the local heroes. The first because he plays in the local team, Olympique Marseilles, and here the "Olyem" is sacred. The second because after having worn as a boy the shirt of Septemes-Vallons, a village near la Castellane, he tried out his studs as a teenager (under the colours of the Foresta club) on

the "carrelage", on the grand esplanade in the centre of the city.

So on Sunday evening Zidane - or Yazid as he is known in Marseille - didn't make any new friends here. Because everyone here knows him already. And he knows everyone at la Castellane. When he comes back to visit his brother Farid, or the numerous friends of the Zidane family (his parents live at the nearby village of Penne-Mirabeau), he never fails to call at the headquarters of the Jeunesse Nouvelle Vague, a young people's football club of which he is honorary president.

"When he comes, we sit on a bench and talk about everything. He has remained very unassuming," says Richard Mendi, a friend since childhood.

For local young people he is a model, and not only "because he is the best in the French team," which may not always be the case; but, above all, as a kid kicking a ball around told us: "Zizou has shown we're not shit."

One could say something else. The two goals of Zidane in the World Cup final did more for the equal rights of citizens than a thousand speeches from the left denouncing racism and the policies of Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front.

On Monday morning, la

Castellane, a district that is devastated by unemployment and where the suicide rate among young people is the highest of any in Marseille, was "en fête" and gave the impression of being quietly proud and of having discovered a new conviviality.

Not many people watched the final at home on television on Sunday evening. They had gone down, taking something to eat and drink, to Mourepiane, where a giant outdoor screen had been set up. Or they gathered in the snack bars of la Castellane, run by young people, or before the screens in the city car parks.

"The most extraordinary thing," says Katia, "was to see the old people mingling with the young. The pensioners had made a banner saying, 'Thank you Zizou, you made us dream.' It was wonderful, that's all you can say. Then, all generations and all cultures mingled, tens of thousands of Marseillais, from the poor northern suburbs and from the smart beach area of the Prado, converged on the Old Port. To sing the 'Marseillaise', of course, in different languages and with different rhythms."

And the sky was full of cries, of "vivats", of "yovouv", of "olais" and "oles". And you could see more tricolour flags than were flown at the liberation of Marseille.

## Brewer seeks curbs on 'ambush' marketing

PARIS, July 15 (Internet): American brewer Budweiser is keen to remain a World Cup sponsor but wants FIFA to do more to stop "ambush" marketing of the world's premier sporting event, a top executive told

Reuters.

"As the rates and the cost of sponsorship go up... these people need to return value back to the sponsors," Tony Ponturo, sports marketing vice president at Anheuser Busch, makers of

Budweiser, said in an interview.

Ponturo held his first meeting on sponsoring the 2002 World Cup with FIFA, soccer's ruling body, and its marketing arm ISL the day after the semi-final between France and Croatia last week.

FIFA and ISL would like to agree an eight-year deal covering the 2002 tournament in Japan and South Korea, and the 2006 championships. Ponturo said Budweiser was open to the deal "at the right price."

Twelve companies each paid around \$28 million to sponsor France 98, a figure that rises to around \$48 million if all promotions and advertising campaigns are included.

Ponturo said the event was unparalleled in helping Budweiser expand beyond its U.S. home market, which still accounts for 90 per cent of its sales.

"What we are trying to do is to expand our business around the world. For us there is no better vehicle to do that than the World Cup," he said.

Being a sponsor brings the right to use the World Cup logo in advertising, product logos and merchandising.

But some industry analysts believe the deals represent poor value for money, with sponsors' messages drowned in an ocean of advertising and promotions that piggyback on the World Cup.

A study published last week by advertising agency BBDO in Germany found only 18.3 per cent of 1,000 people polled knew that German sports equipment firm Adidas (ADSG.F) was an official World Cup sponsor. Even fewer recognised the other sponsors.

Adidas was "ambushed" by Nike (NKE.N), sponsor of Brazil's star player Ronaldo, which set up a mini-theme park in Paris during the tournament to rival Adidas' own park next to the Eiffel Tower.

## Wenger considers coaching Japan

TOKYO, July 15 (Reuters/Internet): Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has confirmed he would be interested in returning to Japan to coach the national team when his contract with the English premier league side expires.

Asked by the Daily Yomiuri newspaper if he would return to coach Japan's national team Wenger said, "It's not impossible; nothing's impossible in football."

"If the Japanese want me to coach their team at the next World Cup then that's a big honour, a great honour for me. At the moment there's no proposal to do so but, if one came, I would think about it very seriously at the time."

"I have one more year to go

on my contract with Arsenal and I will at least give them this year."

Leading candidates to succeed Takeshi Okada as the Japan coach are Mario Zagallo, the coach of World Cup finalists Brazil, and Argentine Ossie Ardiles, currently in charge of J-League team Shimizu S-Pulse.

The Rio-based Brazilian daily newspaper O Globo ran an unsourced story this week saying Zagallo was negotiating with Japanese officials on a proposal that was "too good to refuse."

But Junji Ogura, the Secretary General of the Japan Football Association, was quoted by Kyodo News as saying the chance of Zagallo being Japan's new coach was "close to zero."