

DHAKA THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1998

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 (11/1).

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's 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.

"I have one more year to go



EIFFEL 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,

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

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

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

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

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 Osvaldo 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."

"I have one more year to go

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 784 points.

The new rankings reflect the results of the World Cup, with France moving from No. 17 to No. 2 with 7018. Germany dropping one place to No. 3 and Croatia — surprise World Cup semifinalists — jumping from 52nd 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. 54.

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 (CHL)	3666
3. Petr Korda (CZE)	3344
4. Carlos Moya (SPA)	2970
5. Patrick Rafter (AUS)	2878

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