



The News

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by Emma Phillips

His name was Edson Arantes do Nascimento, but he was known as Pelé and it was under this name that he became a legend. The Brazilian king of football died yesterday at the age of 82. He is the only player to have ever won three World Cups, in 1958, when he was just 17 years old, and then in 1962 and 1970. He was voted the best footballer of the 20th century by Fifa. Fellow Brazilian football legend Neymar was one of the first to react after news of his death. Neymar said, "Before Pelé, football was just a sport. Pelé changed everything. He transformed football into art". The funeral wake for the king of the beautiful game will take place on Monday in Brazil, at the Santos FC stadium, where Pelé played for almost his entire career. The funeral itself will take place the next day.

Other football legends have reacted to Pelé's death. Zinedine Zidane called him the "eternal" king. For Cristiano Ronaldo, Pelé is "an inspiration, the reference point, yesterday, today and forever." Emmanuel Macron tweeted a photo of Pelé with the words: "The Game. The King. Eternity." For Lula, the president of Brazil who will be sworn in on Sunday, "Few Brazilians have carried the name of our country as high as Pelé".

The Constitutional Council has approved most of the finance law for 2023. Some members of parliament have criticized the repeated use of 49-3 to pass the text. The measure which refers to article 49-3 of the constitution was deployed a total of 10 times, enabling the government to adopt a bill without putting it to a vote. It can be used an unlimited amount of times in budgetary matters.

The SNCF has announced that trains will be running as scheduled this weekend, apart from in Nouvelle Aquitaine where local signal people will be on strike. The train times in the department will be affected until Monday.

And finally France is currently short of 20,000 packets of blood. An alert has been issued from the national blood establishment as stocks have reached their lowest ebb at the end of the year. The blood drive is calling out for 1,500 donations a day to bridge the gap. A single blood donation could save three patients' lives.