



The News

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by Emma Phillips

A first case of the new Omicron variant has been confirmed in France. The case was detected last night on Réunion island. The 53-year-old patient had travelled to Mozambique and made a stopover in South Africa. The man is suffering from muscle pain and fatigue and has been placed in solitary confinement. On Sunday, 8 other "possible" cases of this variant were also identified in France.

Eric Zemmour will today make his candidacy official for the next presidential election. A video is due to be rolled out across social media this afternoon. The controversial figure will also be this evening's guest on the 8 o'clock news on channel TF1.

France will finally pay tribute to Joséphine Baker today. Forty-six years after her death, the artist and Franco-American activist will enter the Pantheon. She will be the sixth woman to be given the honour. Emmanuel Macron will oversee this afternoon's ceremony, which gets underway at 5.30pm.

Ambulance workers will be on strike today, with rallies planned across France, including in front of the Ministry of Health from 12.30pm. Staff that man the ambulances have expressed their frustration at being left out of the latest health consultation, the Ségur de la santé. They also want their profession to no longer be classed among technical staff and workers, but that instead they be considered as full-fledged caregivers.

An investigation for open sexual assault has been opened against the journalist Pierre Ménès. According to newspaper Le Parisien, at the match between PSG and Nantes at the Parc des Princes last November, Ménès behaved inappropriately towards a hostess by touching her chest. Ménès was dropped from the channel Canal + last spring in the wake of a documentary that pinpointed his sexist behaviour.

And finally, Lionel Messi has received another honour for the history books. Last night, PSG's star player from Argentina received his seventh Ballon d'Or, a feat never achieved in any other player's career.