



The News ©
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by Emma Phillips

As the Russian offensive in Ukraine reaches its ninth day, tensions remain rife. Overnight, Russia bombed the nuclear power plant in Zaporidja, the largest in Europe. Kyiv has confirmed that the security of the site is “guaranteed”. Ukraine has accused the Kremlin of resorting to "nuclear terror" and seeking to "repeat" the Chernobyl catastrophe. Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has accused Vladimir Putin of seeking to directly threaten the security of all of Europe. He is urgently calling for a meeting of the UN Security Council.

However, on the 9th day of the war, Vladimir Putin shows no sign of letting up. He welcomed the ongoing operation in Ukraine, claiming it was to liberate the country from neo-Nazis. The Russian President spent an hour and a half speaking to Emmanuel Macron yesterday, talks which the French President said ultimately only heightened fears for the worst for the remainder of the conflict.

Yesterday Emmanuel Macron also formally announced his candidacy for the upcoming presidential elections. The announcement was made in the form of a letter to the French people which was published in the regional press nationwide. The deadline for candidacies is 6pm this evening, as is the deadline for voters to register on the electoral lists.

Also in the news, the policy on wearing masks is due to relax considerably from March 14th. Although they will still be required on public transport and in health facilities, masks will no longer be required in shops or in other enclosed public spaces. Prime Minister Jean Castex has also announced that the vaccine pass will also no longer be a requirement from this date.

And finally, the Paralympic Games get underway today. The opening ceremony will be starting shortly before 1pm at the Beijing stadium. After racking up 20 medals in the last Paralympic Games, France is aiming to come in the Top 5 of this year’s games.