



The News ©

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by Emma Phillips

Today marks 3 weeks since the war started in Ukraine. The Russian offensive shows no sign of letting up. Ukraine's capital city, Kyiv, has been subjected to heavy bombing over the past few days. There is currently a curfew in place to try and protect people. Yesterday in Mariupol, a theater that was being used to accommodate more than a thousand civilians was targeted by gunfire. Ukraine's President? Volodymyr Zelensky says that this is a deliberate act by Moscow.

US President Joe Biden has agreed to send a billion dollars in additional military aid to Ukraine. For the first time, Biden has also publicly called out his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin as a "war criminal".

Gérald Darmanin's visit to Corsica continues today. The Minister of the Interior arrived to the island yesterday to meet with local elected officials. The visit comes after the past couple of weeks have seen tensions rise after the separatist Yvan Colonna was attacked in prison. Gérald Darmanin has suggested that the decision on Corsica's independence can come before the year is out.

Emmanuel Macron will be setting out his program for a potential second term today. With just three weeks to go until the first round of the presidential election, Macron will be giving a press conference at 3pm this afternoon in Aubervilliers. The President is expected to give details of pushing back the legal retirement age to 65, doing away with the TV license fee and tightening access to the RSA, the minimum level of benefits available to the country's poorest.

Several professions will be going on strike today across the country, to demand higher wages, more student grants and better pensions. Demonstrations are planned to take place all over France. Train running times will be disrupted.

And finally to football and there are now no French clubs left in the Champions League. Lille followed Paris Saint Germain out of the door last night after they lost at home 2-1 to Chelsea. Tonight sees action in the Europa league as Lyon plays at home to Porto and Monaco plays at home to Braga.