



## The News ©

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*by Emma Phillips*

As the conflict in Ukraine moves into its 33rd day, there is perhaps hope that negotiations are advancing in a way that will see the end of the war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an interview with Russian media that his government was looking in great detail at the issue of the "neutrality" of Ukraine as one of the central points in discussions with Russia.

Meanwhile, on the front line, more fires have broken out in the areas surrounding the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The area is occupied by Russian forces. Ukraine has demanded the "demilitarization" of the area around the power plant.

Tensions remain high in Corsica a week after the death of the separatist Yvan Colonna. Yesterday, several hundred people protested in front of the riot police barracks, the CRS, of Furiani and Aspretto. The crowd accused some CRS of singing La Marseillaise on the day of Colonna's funeral. Several demonstrators threw molotov cocktails at the police, who responded with tear gas.

With two weeks to go before the first round of the presidential elections, today sees the start of official campaigning for the 12 candidates. From this point, every candidate in the running for the Elysee must be allotted the same amount of time to speak. Campaign publicity material will also be sent in the post from today.

The number of covid cases continues to rise in France. More than 110,000 new cases have been recorded in the past 24 hours. At this point last week, that figure was 81,000. However, the situation in hospital wards remains stable.

And finally, over in Los Angeles, the Oscars ceremony has just drawn to a close. "Coda" took home the award for Best Film. Coda is a remake of the 2014 French film, "la famille Belier". Best actor went to Will Smith, Jessica Chastain was named Best Actress and Jane Campion goes home with Best Director for "The Power of the Dog". The film "Dune" bagged six awards.