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by Emma Phillips

After two weeks of negotiations, France's Green party and the left wing La France Insoumise will be campaigning together in the upcoming legislative elections. The parties will be joining forces under the slogan "A New Grassroots Ecological and Social Union". This union is expected to expand to include the Socialist and Communist parties in the coming hours. Today, negotiations continue with the party of Jean-Luc Mélenchon.

A rise in wages and retirement at 60. These were just some of the demands from protesters at yesterday's traditional May day demonstrations. Organisers say that there were 210,000 people marching throughout France yesterday, while the Ministry of the Interior puts the number at just over 116,000. In Paris, some street furniture was damaged and there were some clashes with police. Around 50 people were taken into custody.

The police themselves will be protesting today against the charges of wilful homicide brought against an officer who killed two men last week on Paris' Pont Neuf. The officer supposedly opened fire when a car with the two men inside sped towards a police patrol. The protest is organised for noon at Saint Michel in Paris, while other protests will also be taking place in Lille, Marseille, Strasbourg and Bordeaux.

As the war in Ukraine reaches its 68th day, the Russian offensives are intensifying in the east of the country. Yesterday, 8 civilians were killed in the regions of Kharkiv and Donetsk. In the port city of Mariupol, which has been laid under siege, a hundred people were killed during an evacuation from a factory, bound for territory controlled by Ukraine. Other evacuation operations are planned today.

And finally, the month of Ramadan ended yesterday. The Islamic holy month of fasting came to an end yesterday after an announcement from the Great Mosque of Paris. Ramadan's end is celebrated today with the festival of Eid al Fitr.