The News
May 24th, 9am ©
by Sarah Heath

Damien Abad has been defending himself on sexual assault claims as alleged by Médiapart. The Minister of Solidarity declared his innocence and said: "I have never raped a woman in my life", after having been accused of two counts of rape in 2010 and 2011. He insists that he will not resign which has resulted in an anti-sexual violence organisation planning demonstrations this evening in the Place Saint-Augustin in Paris, not far from the Interior Ministry.

Elisabeth Borne will take part in her first breakfast meeting at Matignon this morning with MPs and senators. Discussions will focus on the government's priorities in the run-up to the législatives including the economy, the environment, health and education.

After 3 months of war in Ukraine, the situation in Donbass is deteriorating as the region continues to be hit hard by Russian bombardments. Volodymyr Zelensky has strongly denounced these attacks and asks for international help. The Ukrainian president spoke via video link to world leaders who have congregated in Davos asking for more support for his stricken country. So far, twenty-two countries have pledged to provide additional weapons to Ukraine.

Back to news in France where there have been two new confirmed cases of monkey pox as revealed in an announcement last night from Public Health France. This brings the total number of cases in France to three.

Strike action continues today at the RATP. After a difficult first day yesterday on the Ile-de-France bus and tram networks, traffic will again be "very disrupted" today as drivers take action to highlight their working conditions.

And finally to tennis news and the success of four French players yesterday who have made it to the second round at Roland Garros. Corentin Moutet beat Stan Wavrinka, and in the women's category, Elsa Jacquemot, Leolia Jeanjean and Diane Parry – who beat defending champion Barbora Krejcikova – also all qualified. Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic have also made it through.