



## The News

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*by Sarah Heath*

More than 6,500 people have been evacuated due to the imminent threat of major fires currently burning in the Gironde. Two separate fires broke out yesterday afternoon near Landirass and Teste de Buche. The occupants of five campsites near the Dune du Pilat had to make their way to safety. Flames have already ravaged nearly 1,400 hectares.

These outbreaks of fire are directly linked to the heatwave. The Gironde – as with four other départements in the south-west as well as the Drôme and the Ardèche – are still on orange alert this morning. Very high temperatures are again expected right across France today. Temperatures of 38 degrees are forecast in Nantes, 37 degrees in Bordeaux and Rennes, and 36 degrees in Paris.

After tough debate, the health bill was approved yesterday by MPs. However, for now, the measure which provided a possible return of the requirement of a health pass at France's borders, is being discounted. There may be an extension to the collection of health data, in particular covid tests and vaccination.

The Sri Lankan president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa left his country early this morning to take refuge in the Maldives in the face of the major social movement that has shaken the country for more than 3 months. Demonstrators are denouncing the government's management of the severe economic crisis which has gripped Sri Lanka. The president had promised to resign today.

Images of the Carina and Astral Ring nebulae, Stephan's Quintet and even traces of water on an exoplanet have been dramatically brought to planet Earth by NASA yesterday. These stunning new images of our universe have been taken by the James Webb space telescope. These pictures will also allow scientists to learn a great deal more about space.

And finally, almost a month and a half after the Champions League final, the Senate today delivers its long-awaited report. It will shed light on the fiasco during the final at the Stade de France on May the 26th.