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All the departments of metropolitan France are now concerned by a drought alert. An alert was activated today in Paris, Hauts-de-Seine, Seine-Saint-Denis and Val-de-Marne, the only territories which had avoided it until now. The peak of the heat wave is expected tomorrow with temperatures often exceeding 35 degrees and peaks at 40 degrees locally.

Within this context, Marseille is strengthening its heat wave plan. To help residents cope with the heat, municipal swimming pools will be free until August 15. The Catalan beach will also be exceptionally open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until the alert is lifted.

Also in the news, the Senate is continuing to examine today the amending finance bill. It provides for the continuation of the price cap on energy and the fuel rebate, as well as the revaluation of the point of index of civil servants. Yesterday already, the senators approved the continuation of the 7.500 euro-limit of tax exemption for overtime.

Abroad, he was considered the mastermind of the attacks of September 11th. The leader of Al Qaeda was killed by the United States last weekend. Ayman Al-Zawahiri was shot dead in Afghanistan by a drone strike. "Justice has been served" declared the American president in his speech last night.

The first boat loaded with Ukrainian cereals is expected to arrive in Istanbul this evening after midnight local time, which is 11 p.m. French time. The ship will make a stopover in the Turkish city where it will be inspected before leaving for Lebanon. This is the first cargo leaving the port of Odessa since the start of the war in Ukraine.

And then happy birthday today to the panda twins of the *zoo de Beauval*! Yuandudu and Huanlili now weigh 23 and 28 kilos. You may have followed the live birth of these panda twins last year. The birth was very closely monitored as they are a rare and endangered species. Chinese scientists had even made the trip to assist the keepers.