



The News

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by Sarah Heath

In the current circumstances of ongoing strike action, filling jerrycans with petrol has been made illegal. This latest measure is being enforced by préfets at the request of the government. This is the result of difficulties in supplying service stations because of strikes which continue today at Total and Esso Exxon Mobil. While a slight improvement has been recorded in the Hauts-de-France and Île-de-France, both of which were seriously affected, the situation is now deteriorating along Atlantic coastal areas.

The thorny issues of pension reform is at the heart of discussions at Matignon this week. The Prime Minister will welcome leaders of all parliamentary parties from Thursday. The government hopes that reforms will be adopted before the end of the winter. One proposed measure is to raise retirement age to 65.

Another reform is on the table at the Assembly today. MPs will vote at the end of the afternoon on the reform of unemployment benefits which includes the possibility of calculating benefits according to the labour market. This proposal has been strongly contested by Nupes but which is likely to be adopted with the approval of the Renaissance and Republican MPs.

Also in the news, former president Francois Hollande stated yesterday that, "there has been no relaxation" in the fight against a possible terrorist threat. He spoke in Nice yesterday at the trial of the attacks on July 14 2016 and gave his assurances that all security measures had been taken.

A total of 107 people have died after Hurricane Ian tore up parts of the southern United States. In one of the deadliest storms in history, deaths are still being confirmed nearly two weeks after the disaster. An announcement yesterday from the local authorities stated that most fatalities were in Florida, a high percentage of whom were elderly.

And finally in football where there will be a new coach for Stade Brest who currently lie in last place in Ligue 1. Michel Der Zakarian has been sacked after Sunday's defeat against Lorient. There has yet to be confirmation of his replacement.