



The News

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By Noele Bouazouni-Prier

The pressure is mounting a few hours before the kick-off of France-Morocco as part of the world cup semi-finals. A highly anticipated match with no doubt a record attendance in the stadium 'AlBait in Qatar. Nearly 69,000 spectators will be present, of which 55,000 Moroccan supporters. *Les Bleus* will be able to count on Adrien Rabiot. After being ill for a few days, the French midfielder is now better and should be on the field tonight.

Significant security measures will be set up throughout France on the sidelines of this semi-final. 10,000 police and gendarmes will be mobilized this evening in the country, including 5,000 in Île-de-France, to supervise the gatherings of supporters and avoid problems at the end of the game.

Also in the news: EasyJet planes will be flying during the Christmas period. The cabin crew members of the French subsidiary have lifted their strike notice. After a day of negotiations, the management has agreed to increase salaries for 2023. It will also pay a Macron bonus of 3 000 euros to each and every crew member. On the other hand, other airlines may be affected by strikes during the end-of-year holidays. This is the case of Air France where two staff unions call for a mobilization from December 22 until January 2.

And an unexpected development in the McKinsey case: Searches were carried out yesterday in the Parisian premises of the American consulting firm, but also at the headquarters of the Renaissance majority party. As a reminder, 2 investigations have been opened since the end of October for suspicions of concealment and favoritism. They target the financing of Emmanuel Macron's presidential campaigns in 2017 and 2022 and the links between the Elysée and the firm.

The call for energy sobriety was heard by the French. Gas consumption has fallen by 10 and a half percent since August 1. These figures were communicated by the manager of *GRT gaz*. The scenario of a cut on the network this winter seems ruled out for December.

And then the first snowflakes have fallen in France! 19 departments remain under orange weather alert this evening. This alert is extended from the Ile de France to the Grand Est. Brittany and Normandy are no longer concerned.