



The News

December 16th, 9am

by Emma Phillips

Ten people died including five children in a building fire in Vaux en Velin near Lyon last night. The source of the fire in the 7-storey residential building is still not known. According to the local Prefecture, four other people are fighting for their lives and ten others sustained mild injuries. The standard plan for dealing with numerous casualties has been implemented and an operational centre at departmental level has been set up. The Ministers of the Interior and for Housing, Gérald Darmanin and Olivier Klein are expected on site today.

With just a few hours to go until the country's schools break up for Christmas, the signal people of railway operator SNCF have chosen to go on strike. A total of 20 high speed TGV trains are expected to be cancelled in the strike that will go on until Monday.

Meanwhile in the country's airports, the strike from AirFrance is expected to go ahead from December 22 to January 2. And on the roads, the traffic website the Bison Futé has the country's roads with green level traffic all weekend except for orange levels in the Ile de France today.

A 62 year old man has been arrested in the Seine-et-Marne. He is accused of being the predator of the woods in a case which has haunted investigators for more than 20 years. The man is suspected of raping several young girls between 1998 and 2008 in the Paris region and near La Rochelle. His arrest was made possible thanks to genetic analysis carried out by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI. The suspect is now in police custody and has admitted to some of the offences.

Bosnia is officially a candidate for joining the European Union. The 27 member states have approved granting candidate status to Bosnia, which will nonetheless need to carry out major reforms to combat corruption and crime if it is to stand a real chance of ascending to the EU.

And finally to football and the countdown is on with just two days to go before the World Cup final between France and Argentina. The two teams are busy with their final preparations. In the meantime, we know WHO will have all the final calls during the

match, referee Szymon Marciniak. You may remember the Polish referee from the France-Denmark match during the group stage.