



The News

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by Sarah Heath

Several dozen people gathered last night in Lyon to pay tribute to Mohammad, the young Iranian student, who decided to end his life in protest over the repression in Iran. He had explained the reasons behind his suicide in a video which was published a few minutes before he jumped into the Rhône. The video has been seen more than 1 million times on Instagram. Mohammad's body was recovered on Monday evening by emergency services.

The man suspected of having fatally knocked down a 14-year-old with his vehicle in Montpellier, has been charged. The fatal accident took place on the evening of the semi-final of the football World Cup between France and Morocco. The 20-year-old suspect was arrested yesterday in Perpignan.

The government's call for energy saving is being taken on board by French citizens. Electricity consumption for public lighting recorded a historic drop of 20% during the first two weeks of December. It is quite simply the largest drop ever recorded by the network manager, Enedis. RTE, the company responsible for electricity distribution, has reported that electricity consumption across France fell by 7.4% last week compared to the average of previous years for the same week.

This drop could also be explained by the very mild temperatures in recent days and this should continue. Météo-France has promised a very warm New Year's weekend when temperatures will be on average, 9 degrees above the seasonal norm.

It is extreme temperatures which are also a cause for concern in the United States. After the destruction of Storm Elliott with freezing temperatures, the mercury will now be higher than normal for the season in the coming few days. This is a radical change since a large part of the country was hit hard by "the blizzard of the century", causing the death of some 50 people.