



The News

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by Sarah Heath

The battle over pension reform continues in the Assembly and there are still around ten thousand amendments to be examined by MPs. Today they will be looking at phasing out schemes which include those for employees of the RATP, the electricity and gas industries and the Banque de France.

These pension reforms are still being rejected. Yesterday, there were 757,000 people in the street according to the Ministry of the Interior but almost 2 million according to the CGT. The SNCF has announced that traffic is still very disrupted today with only 2 out of 3 TGVs in circulation and an average of only 1 TER and 1 Intercity out of two.

Overall, the protests yesterday against the reforms were largely non-violent although some clashes broke out in certain cities. In Paris, tensions took place between demonstrators and the police and around 30 people were arrested. Tensions also broke out in Rennes, where 13 people were arrested and, in Nice, a BFM journalist was attacked by 3 people aged between 18 to 23, who were arrested.

A 6-month suspended prison sentence and a €10,000 fine have been handed down to François Grosdidier. The mayor of Metz was sentenced yesterday for "unlawful taking of interest". The elected official allegedly used his parliamentary influence to finance the association "Valeur Écologie", a think tank for which he was president in 2011.

The death toll from the earthquake in Turkey and Syria continues to rise. Relief workers from all over the world are on site to help the search and rescue operations.

And finally, LeBron James has become the best scorer in NBA history. The American basketball player scored 38 points last night with the Lakers, which takes him to 38,390 points in total since the start of his career. At the age of 38, he dethrones Kareem Abdul-Jabbar who had held the record since 1984.