



The News

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by Sarah Heath

There has been a setback for the government's plans for pension reform. Last night, MPs voted against Article 2 which proposed a "senior index" to encourage companies to retain older employees at the end of their careers. However, it has been very challenging for the government to convince the Assembly, and they are trying at all costs to at least secure the support of the Republican Party. In order to achieve this, Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne yesterday announced a new concession on longer careers. Employees who started working at the age of 17 will not have to pay contributions for more than 43 years, which is one year less than planned.

In the meantime, unions are already preparing a new day of protests against these pension reform proposals. The SNCF has announced disruption on the railways, but much less than on previous occasions. 4 out of 5 TGVs will be in circulation and 1 out of 2 TER, and the circulation of traffic will be almost normal for the RATP. In terms of air traffic, Orly airport will see 30% of flights being canceled.

10,000 doctors took to the streets of Paris yesterday. They were on strike to demand increased consultation rates and are also opposing proposed reforms which would facilitate a patient's access to other health specialists, such as physiotherapists.

Pierre Palmade spoke for the first time since his accident via his sister, and says he is filled with "shame". In a press release, the comedian said he realized the horror of what he had done and will accept all the consequences of his actions. The lawyer for the victims stated that 2 of the injured, the father and the 6-year-old child, are still in intensive care, and that the pregnant woman, having lost her baby, is devastated.

Almost 1 year after the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the situation is declared "extremely difficult" by Volodymyr Zelensky. The Ukrainian President confirmed yesterday that Vladimir Putin's troops are gaining ground again, particularly near Bakhmout.

And finally to football, where PSG lost last night at home against Bayern Munich in the first leg of the Champions League. They lost 1-0. The return match is in Munich in 3 weeks time.