



The News

April 19th, 8am ©

by Sarah Heath

President Macron wants to turn the page on pension reform after weeks of protests against it. He is undertaking his first official trip today since the enactment of the law, and will visit the Bas-Rhin, to visit a wooden construction company. The trip is based around the theme of re-industrialization but may be disrupted by joint workers' unions protesting at the site.

The unions' unrest against pension reform is still very much rumbling on. Railway workers are calling for a strike tomorrow which means that only 4 TER and 2 Intercities out of 5 will be in operation. However, TGV services should remain largely unaffected.

In the rest of the news, a story brought to light by the Secretary of State for Youth, Sarah El Haïry. There have been accusations of sexual harassment, racism and humiliation taking place during universal national service. It has been alleged that two supervisors have had an inappropriate attitude towards volunteers and tutors in incidents reported last summer in the Hauts de Seine.

In Nice, the Ministry of the Interior was condemned yesterday by the administrative court for the state of repair of the police custody cells of a police station. Conditions have been described as "detrimental to human dignity". From now on, the State has three months, under the threat of a fine, to clean them up. In 2021, prison inspectors had noted "unworthy reception conditions" in 17 police custody areas across France.

An 84-year-old man has been arrested in the United States after shooting a 16-year-old black teenager last week in Missouri. The victim, who was seriously injured, was coming to pick up his brothers at a friend's house when he rang the wrong doorbell. The president, Joe Biden, will invite the teenager to the White House when he has fully recovered.

And finally, an impressive figure to report: there are now 232 million Netflix subscribers across the globe. The platform unveiled its results last night albeit showing a declining net profit. The streaming platform also announces the end of its DVD rental service by mail which was launched 25 years ago.