



The News

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by Sarah Heath

The number of people taking to the streets to protest against pension reforms went into sharp decline yesterday. While unions claimed that 900,000 demonstrators turned up, the Ministry of the Interior counted a little over 280,000. The head of the CFDT said that, "The match is ending". Tomorrow, MPs will examine the bill from the Liott group which aims to repeal the reform in a final political showdown. The president of the National Assembly, Yaël Braun Pivet could fall back on Article 40 of the Constitution to prevent MPs voting on this bill.

The man in charge of managing the Marianne fund, Christian Gravel, who is a préfet and secretary general of the inter-ministerial committee for the prevention of delinquency and radicalisation, has just resigned. The actions he has taken which are being questioned, were highlighted by a report by the General Inspectorate of Administration which denounces preferential treatment in the allocation of funds created to fight against separatism after the assassination of Samuel Paty.

It is reported that 23 towns are under water in Ukraine after the destruction of the Kakhovka dam yesterday. Both the Russians and the Ukrainians reject any responsibility. However, Volodymyr Zelenski put forward reassuring words to his countrymen in the aftermath. The Ukrainian president assured that the strategic destruction of the dam did not put into question any counter-offensive plans by the Kiev forces.

In Canada, forest fires are now out of control. In the province of Quebec alone, 160 wildfires are still active and local residents are being evacuated. As a consequence, huge areas are being covered with smoke on both sides of the US/Canadian border, even reaching as far as New York. According to Canadian authorities, the poor air quality presents a "very high risk" to the population.

In tennis news at Roland Garros, yesterday's games saw the first round of players qualifying for the semi-finals: Novak Djokovic won against Karen Kachanov meaning the Serbian joins Carlos Alcaraz in the last four. And among the women, Sabalenka and Muchova are also through.

Today's games include Zverev facing Etcheverry, the clash between Holger Rune and Casper Ruud who are 6th and 4th in the world, Ons Jabeur faces the Brazilian Beatriz Haddad Maia, and the number one women's seed, Iga Swiatek takes on Coco Gauff.