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Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Monday that fighting in a long-awaited offensive against Russian forces was "tough" but claimed Kyiv was "moving forward." Kyiv on Monday said it had wrested seven villages in eastern and southern Ukraine from Russian forces since the weekend. This counter offensive is set to be deployed over several weeks or even several months, according to Emmanuel Macron.

Emmanuel Macron last night paid tribute to the memory of a major figure in contemporary Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, who died yesterday at the age of 86. Italy will observe a national day of mourning tomorrow. His funeral will be held at Milan Cathedral at 3 p.m. today.

Back in France, the trial of Gabriel Fortin begins today. The unemployed 45-year-old engineer, Gabriel Fortin, killed a manager at an HR department of the company Faun, an apparent revenge killing over his treatment in 2010 when he was fired. Earlier that day, Fortin allegedly murdered a representative of an unemployment office in Valence. Two days before, he is believed to have killed another HR manager in Wolfgantzen in eastern France, as well as attempting to kill another man, also an human resources worker. Fortin will have to answer for three counts of assassination and one attempted assassination.

More than one in five French adults exceeds the recommended alcohol consumption limits, according to a survey published by Santé Publique France. These figures are down slightly from the previous period of 2017-2020. To limit the impact on health, it is advised to consume a maximum of ten glasses per week, and no more than two glasses per day.

In basketball, Monaco is taking a big step towards the title of French champion of Betclic Elite. The Monegasques beat Boulogne Levallois yesterday 95 to 88. The Roca Team only needs one more victory to be crowned champion of France. The next match is on Thursday at 8:30 p.m. in Paris.