



## The News

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*by Sarah Heath*

The trial begins today at a Paris Court over the spectacular escape from Réau prison by Rédoine Faïd, in 2018. Eleven other people, including two of his brothers, are also facing charges relating to the escape.

And staying on a similar topic, two other detainees are actively being sought by police. The men escaped from a detention centre in Villeneuve-sur-Lot in the Lot-et-Garonne. They were both convicted of acts of violent extortion. Early reports suggest that they took advantage of an outdoor sports session to escape through a fence which had been cut.

President Macron is visiting the Pyrénées-Atlantiques today. The Head of State will be at a high school this afternoon and will be reviewing the "2 hours more sport at college" system. Yesterday, during an interview with the videographer, Hugo Décrypte, on TikTok, the President of the Republic justified his government's decision to ban the wearing of the abaya in educational establishments.

The French Red Cross is launching an appeal for help after the association said yesterday that it was facing financial difficulties. The reason is the increasing number of people needing their help, as well as its operating costs. They have forecasted an overall deficit of between €45 and €50 million this year. This appeal comes just one day after a similar one was launched by the Restos du Coeur.

This charitable organisation has however been kept afloat by the Arnault family, owners of the luxury group LVMH, who will make a donation of €10 million to ensure it is able to continue operating. The announcement came from Bernard Arnault yesterday. The financial bailout has been welcomed by the association which has been struggling with financial difficulties and which has announced that it will have to reduce the number of its beneficiaries this coming winter.

And finally, one of France's major attractions, the Puy du Fou has beaten its attendance record with two and a half million visitors in 2023. The announcement was made by the park in a press release which went on to say that it has never welcomed so many people in one single year. The season, which began in April, will end on November the 5th. Last year, 2,340,000 people visited the park and it welcomed 2,300,000 in 2019 before the Covid pandemic which closed the park down.