



The News

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by Emma Phillips

Staff of the national rail network SNCF will be on strike from this evening. The strike is set to last until Monday morning and has been called by the unions Sud Rail and CGT Cheminot. Train schedules will be severely disrupted with only half of TGV, Ouigo and Intercité services running over the weekend. The SNCF has pledged to keep all services to the Alps running.

Nicolas Sarkozy is contesting the decision from the Paris Court of Appeal. Yesterday, the former President was sentenced to a year in prison, with six months suspended, in the corruption and influence peddling case known as the “affaire Bygmalion”. The Court of Appeal found Sarkozy guilty of the “illegal financing” of his 2012 presidential campaign. He says he will challenge the decision before France’s highest court, the Court of Cassation.

Another woman has been killed as the result of domestic violence in the Var, the third since the beginning of the month. The 29-year-old woman had been in a coma since the end of January after she was violently beaten by her partner. She finally died of her injuries yesterday. The events took place in Grimaud, near St-Tropez. The man has been remanded in custody.

Emmanuel Macron has told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Israel’s operations in Gaza “must cease” and that the death toll there was “intolerable”. The two heads of state had a phone call yesterday during which Macron expressed France’s “firm opposition” to the Israeli offensive in the town of Rafah, in southern Gaza, saying that it “could only lead to a humanitarian disaster of a new magnitude”.

And finally to football and the Champions League and last night Paris Saint Germain got the job done. PSG won 2-0 last night against Real Sociedad in the first leg of the round of 16. The second leg is in three weeks’ time on March 5th in St-Sébastien.