The News
September 18th, 6pm ©

by Emma Phillips

Another series of explosions hit Lebanon today. After hundreds of pagers exploded yesterday, today walkie talkies were the target. The Lebanese ministry of health has said that at least 9 people have died and 300 are injured. The attack has been attributed to Israel, which is yet to comment. Earlier today the head of Lebanon's diplomatic service said that yesterday's attack had sparked fears for a more widespread war in the Middle East. The UN has said that those responsible must be "held to account".

Gabriel Attal has said that raising taxes would be a bad move for the French public. The former prime minister was speaking to newspaper Le Point to address the latest comments from Michel Barnier concerning the taxation of the country's wealthiest taxpayers and most profitable companies. However, sources close to the prime minister's cabinet say that for now, there are no new tax measures are in the pipeline.

Emmanuel Macron has said that he does not plan to dissolve the Assemblée Nationale. The president was speaking to representatives from his party who were invited to the Elysée this afternoon. Some representatives had allegedly expressed doubts as to the progress of the new government. New prime minister Michel Barnier had pledged to announce the new line-up of ministers this week.

At the Mazan rape trial, Gisèle Pelicot expressed anger in court today, stating that she felt that she was the guilty party and that the 50 accused were the victims. Ms Pelicot was offended by the line of questioning of the defence lawyers and the head judge. Ms Pelicot waived her right to anonymity during the trial after her husband drugged her and organised scores of men to rape her while she was unconscious.

And finally, the Paris Olympic Games may be over but an aspect of the legacy will remain, as the Iéna bridge connecting the Eiffel tower to the Palais de Chaillot that was pedestrianised for the duration of the Games, will now remain permanently closed to traffic.