



## The News

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*by Emma Phillips*

Emmanuel Macron is calling on support for “general de-escalation” in the Middle East. The president met with his Iranian counterpart, Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly yesterday and urged him to use his influence to help dial down the mounting tension in Lebanon. Macron is due to address the UN today and an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council has also been scheduled, at France’s request.

On the ground, the Israeli army and Hezbollah continue to exchange fire, with Hezbollah claiming that they were able to fire a missile at the Mossad HQ near Tel Aviv that was intercepted by Israel.

A young man was arrested in Geneva yesterday in connection with the death of Philippine, the student at Paris Dauphine university whose body was found in the bois de Boulogne on Saturday. The 22-year-old Moroccan national has been accused of killing Philippine. He was supposedly already known to police and had been convicted of rape in 2021. He had been issued an OQTF, an order to leave the French territory.

The number of abortions in France rose by almost 4% last year. Nearly 245,000 women underwent a voluntary termination of pregnancy in 2023.

The situation in New Caledonia seems to be gradually improving after last night passed without any major incidents. Yesterday marked the anniversary of France taking possession of the islands in 1853, a day that had been a source of concern for local authorities. There has been ongoing unrest in New Caledonia since the spring and a voting reform that would do away with the policy of votes only being granted to pre-1998 residents of the islands.

And finally, there’s no need to be désenchantée anymore, singer Mylène Farmer will finally be taking to the stage at the Stade de France on Friday. Several tents have already sprung up outside the stadium as eager fans are willing to brave the cold in order to bag the best spot to see the woman herself in a couple of days’ time. Mylène had been due to appear last year, but the show was postponed due to the unrest following the death of Nahel the teenager at the hands of police.