



## The News

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 8am** ©

*by Emma Phillips*

A second French national has been killed in Lebanon. The announcement comes from the Quai d'Orsay as Israel continues its bombing against Hezbollah. Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot arrived in Beirut yesterday. He had been due to hand over emergency medical aid to the Lebanese Minister of Health in the evening, before a working meeting on the situation of French nationals. He is also due to meet Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati today.

In Austria, last night saw a political bombshell as the far-right stormed to victory in the parliamentary elections. The Freedom Party beat Chancellor Karl Nehammer's conservative party. Founded by former Nazis, The Freedom party may find it difficult to govern as no other party will go into a coalition with it, as they consider it too extreme.

In France, the extreme right has a date with the justice system. The trial of Marine Le Pen and her party opens today at the Paris Criminal Court. The former head of the Rassemblement National will be appearing along with 24 other defendants for suspected embezzlement of European Parliament public funds. The case could even see Marine Le Pen struck off as eligible for running for president of the country.

Meanwhile, Gerald Darmanin is already looking ahead to the next presidential election. Yesterday, the former Minister of the Interior launched "Populaire", a think-tank for the 2027 presidential race. To mark the occasion, Darmanin invited three former prime ministers to Tourcoing: Edouard Philippe, Elisabeth Borne and Gabriel Attal. Two days before Michel Barnier's general policy statement is due, Darmanin also warned that "Many of us will be unable to support a government that raises taxes".

And finally, to rugby. Last night saw UBB put an end to Toulouse's winning streak. The Union Bordeaux Bègles won 16-12 against Stade Toulousain, putting the Bordeaux outfit at the very top of the Top 14 table.