The News
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by Emma Phillips

In the United States, the time has come to choose the next president as the first polling stations are now open. Millions of Americans will be casting their vote today to decide between either Kamala Harris or Donald Trump succeeding Joe Biden as the next resident of the White House. 82 million voters have already cast their ballots ahead of time. The first results are expected to come in overnight, but the final result will probably not be known for several days.

The government is calling for a special support plan after the announcement of massive layoffs at Michelin. The group is due to close two of its plants in Vannes and Cholet, with more than 1,200 jobs at risk. This announcement comes just as retail giant Auchan is also slashing its workforce. As feared by unions, Auchan has confirmed that it will be cutting almost 2,400 jobs at its head office and in stores.

Speedier insurance payouts are expected for areas of the country that were hit by flooding in mid-October. Natural disasters were declared in nearly 400 municipalities across 11 départements, including Ardèche and Haute Loire. The cost of the damage has been estimated at between 350 and 420 million euros.

Meanwhile, in Spain, the prime minister has announced a 10.6-billion-euro emergency plan for the victims of the recent floods. The provisional death toll still stands at 217, a week after torrential rain hit the south-east of the country. In France, a minute's silence was observed this afternoon by representatives in the Assemblée Nationale.

And finally, eight minutes of silence were observed this morning in Marseille as the city paid tribute to the 8 victims of the building collapse in the Rue d'Aubagne, six years after the tragedy. The trial on the substandard housing that led to the collapse is due to open on Thursday. Sixteen defendants are expected to take the stand, including a building manager, a surveyor, a social landlord and the former deputy mayor who was responsible for buildings at risk.