



The News

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by Emma Phillips

The government under Michel Barnier is now on the verge of downfall after both the extreme right party the Rassemblement National and the leftwing alliance Nouveau Front Populaire tabled votes of no confidence. These will now be the subject of debate in the Assemblée Nationale tomorrow from 4pm onwards, with the likelihood that the government will be overturned. Prime minister Michel Barnier has slammed what he called the “irresponsibility” of the government’s opposition after the government used article 49-3 of the constitution in order to pass the social security budget for next year without putting it to a final vote. The prime minister will be the guest this evening on the news programs of channels TF1 and France 2.

Unions are calling the country’s public service to go on strike this Thursday to protest potential measures that could soon apply, including workers having to go three days without pay in the event that they need time off sick. 65% of all staff in primary schools are expected to strike on Thursday and hundreds of schools will be closed.

Two feminicides were committed yesterday in France. In Aulnay-sous-Bois, a 29-year-old woman was killed yesterday evening. She had contacted police to report the violence but died shortly after officers arrived at the scene. Her partner is now in police custody. Meanwhile in Toulouse, two bodies were found in an apartment, likely the victim of feminicide and the perpetrator who then killed themselves. The association Nous Toutes reports that more than 120 women have been killed in France since the start of this year.

And finally, nearly 50 heads of state and government are expected in Paris on Saturday to attend the opening of Notre-Dame. The list includes Donald Trump, who will be on his first trip abroad since he was re-elected as US president in early November. All the spots for the congregation of the first mass that will be held this coming Sunday morning in Notre-Dame since the fire that caused extensive damage in 2019 are now gone, but there are still spots available online to simply visit.