



The News

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by Emma Phillips

Jordan Bardella has said that the current government failed to respect the Rassemblement National's red lines and that he considers the 2025 budget as it stands dangerous for France. The president of the extreme right party has spoken up just as the Assemblée Nationale prepares for this afternoon's debate on the votes of no confidence tabled by the RN and the NFP leftwing alliance. It is expected that the collective votes from the right and left will oust the government, meaning today is the last day on the job for the government under Michel Barnier. The prime minister's decision to force through the 2025 budget using article 49-3 of the constitution to avoid putting the bill to the final vote is what has led to this situation.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Gabriel Attal is already looking ahead to when Michel Barnier will no longer be in office. As president of the parliamentary group, Ensemble pour la République, Attal is calling for other parties to "take a step towards each other" in a bid to find a political arrangement in which the far-right Rassemblement National is no longer the party that can dictate government policy. Attal is urging for an alliance covering the political spectrum from the Parti Socialiste to the Républicains, with an agreement that no-confidence votes would not be tabled against each other.

The public prosecutor will be recommending the sentences today for the six people on trial for the attempted extortion and illegal confinement of footballer Paul Pogba two years ago. The six includes Pogba's brother Mathias, who posted videos on social media promising revelations about the player. He denies any involvement in the blackmail but is suspected of putting pressure on his brother to make a payment of 13 million euros to two other individuals.

And finally, to handball and the European Women's Championship, France will play their first match of the main round tomorrow against Romania then they take on Montenegro, Sweden and co-hosts Hungary. France will have to finish in the top two of Group I in order to secure a place in the semi-finals.