



The News

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by Emma Phillips

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said that “the first step of a long and difficult journey” had been made towards the end of the war in Ukraine. The statement came following talks between the US and Russia in Saudi Arabia today. Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelensky was not invited to the talks and reacted by stating he would not accept a deal made about Ukraine without Ukraine’s involvement and that he would not recognise parts of Ukraine occupied by Russia. The Ukraine president has also postponed his visit to Saudi Arabia that had been planned for this week until mid-March.

TV presenter Stéphane Plaza was handed a one-year suspended sentence today for violence towards a former girlfriend committed between 2018 and 2022. The presenter said that he intends to appeal.

The court decision on whether construction plans for the A69 motorway can go ahead is now due to be issued on February 27th. The development comes following a hearing at the Toulouse administrative court this morning. The decision may see the authorisations granted by the local Prefecture overturned.

Richard Ferrand is due to take questions tomorrow in the Assemblée Nationale, as the former president of the lower house has been put forward by Emmanuel Macron to head the conseil constitutionnel. Today, representatives to the lower house from the party Les Républicains said that they planned to vote against Ferrand’s nomination, while party representatives in the Senate are yet to give their opinion.

And finally, planning for the 2030 Winter Olympic Games is now officially underway. The Organising Committee for the games was inaugurated this afternoon in Lyon. The COJOP will be chaired by former mogul skiing champion Edgar Grospiron.