



The News

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by Emma Phillips

The tropical cyclone Garance has been described as “dangerous” by Météo France, as the Ile de la Réunion is bracing for the storm to hit. The island is on red alert and residents have been ordered to stay at home, with the exception of law enforcement and emergency services. Windspeeds of up to 200km/h have been forecast, with the storm expected to pass within 50km of the island overnight.

The special consultation between employers and unions that has been dubbed the “conclave” on pensions got underway today for what has been scheduled as weekly meetings until the end of May. However, the union Force Ouvrière soon slammed the door on negotiations, branding the process intended to reach an agreement on pension reform “a farce”. Unions still want to revisit the retirement age of 64.

Plans have been pulled for the A69 motorway linking Toulouse and Castres. The Toulouse administrative court ruled that there was no compelling reason that could justify the environmental damage that would be caused by completing the construction of the controversial motorway. The government has said that it will appeal the decision. Transport minister Philippe Tabarot called the situation “grotesque”, pointing to construction works that are two-thirds complete and have been brought to a halt overnight.

And finally, to football and the draw for the semi-finals of the Coupe de France will be taking place this evening. National 2 club Cannes are now the tournament underdogs and Ligue 2 club Dunkerque are also still in the running. Ligue 1 clubs Paris Saint Germain and Reims are the competition. The semi-final matches will be played on April 1 and 2.