



The News

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by Emma Phillips

US officials have arrived in Moscow to try and persuade Russia of a 30-day ceasefire with Ukraine. Ukraine accepted the ceasefire plan in talks with the US in Saudi Arabia earlier this week. For now, a Kremlin spokesperson has confirmed that talks are planned with the US, but that no one should “get ahead of themselves”. Russia has reiterated this week that any foreign military presence in Ukraine under the guise of peacekeepers would be totally unacceptable. As the conflict continues this week, the Russian military claims to have recaptured Sudzha - a key town in the Kursk region that had been held by Ukraine since last year.

The bishop of Bayonne has spoken this morning on the scandal of the physical and sexual assaults alleged to have taken place over several years at the Notre Dame de Betharram school in southwest France. The bishop admitted that the church had “known things and concealed them” but that a protocol for protecting young people had been set up in the last 25 years. More than 140 complaints have been filed with the Pau public prosecutor's office for events that took place between the 1950s and 2000s. Today, bishop Marc Aillet said that he empathised with the suffering of the victims, and encouraged them to speak out.

Gérald Darmanin is cracking down on anyone convicted of a crime and who was born outside of France. The minister of justice wants foreign-born people who are convicted in France to be deported and serve their sentences in their countries of origin. According to the ministry of justice, 25% of inmates in French prisons are foreigners and two-thirds of those are non-Europeans.

Several arrests have been made today as part of an investigation into active corruption within the European Parliament. Several addresses were raided in Belgium earlier today as part of a probe into alleged corruption “under the guise of commercial lobbying” including remuneration for political positions and excessive gifts to have taken place since 2021.

And finally, to football and the Europa League tonight. In the second leg of the Round of 16, Lyon will play at home to Bucharest. Lyon goes into the match tonight with the upper hand after winning the first leg 3-1. Tonight's match kicks off at 9pm.

