



The News

March 17th, 6pm ©

by Emma Phillips

For the first time in nearly 30 years, the school Notre-Dame de Bétharram is being inspected by Bordeaux education authority. Over the next four days, inspectors will be at the private Catholic school that has been the subject of 150 complaints from former pupils. The conclusions from the inspection are expected within the next fortnight.

In the Assemblée Nationale, officials opened the debate today on a potential bill intended to “get France out of the narco-trafficking trap”. Measures include setting up a national prosecutor’s office for organised crime. The vote on the bill is scheduled for March 25th.

Two army service members were killed this morning when their vehicle was hit by a train at a level crossing near Arras. The causes of the accident are still unknown and a third service member suffered serious injuries. All train services between Lens and Arras have been suspended today and are due to resume tomorrow morning.

The special consultation dubbed the conclave on pensions continues on Thursday, as unions have come out as furious after François Bayrou gave a firm “no” yesterday to returning to a retirement age of 62. The union CGT is now threatening to leave negotiations, with Force Ouvrière having left early in the process.

The funeral of Emilie Dequenne will be held next week on March 26th at Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris. The Belgian actress died yesterday at the age of 43, from a rare form of cancer. Her family have said they will be launching an appeal for donations to cancer research.