



The News

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by Emma Phillips

François Bayrou warned today against falling into the “dangerous trap” of debt, insisting that the “survival of the country” is at stake. The prime minister was speaking earlier at a meeting on public finances, bringing together ministers, members of parliament and social partners. He has assured that he will not be raising taxes but that France should brace itself for major budget cuts. The main points of the 2026 budget will be outlined before the public holiday on July 14th.

A spate of coordinated attacks on prisons over the last few days has led to an investigation being opened by the national anti-terrorism prosecutor’s office. A dozen prisons have faced attacks this week, which saw the torching of vehicles and fire from automatic weapons and including the prison in Toulon last night. The minister of justice, Gérald Darmanin was at that prison today and insisted that the French republic would not back down when faced with such intimidation.

Pierre Palmade is set to be released from prison with an electronic tag tomorrow morning. The court of appeal in Bordeaux has granted the appeal from the actor and comedian to adjust his sentence. Palmade was sentenced to five years in prison, two of those custodial, last November for causing a road accident while under the influence of drugs. He has been in prison since December. The public prosecutor’s office has said it will appeal.

To football now and Paris Saint Germain are just one step away from the Champions League semi-finals as they play Aston Villa in the second leg of their quarter final match later this evening. Paris won the first leg 3-1. The second leg kicks off at 9pm.

And finally, six years to the day since the fire at Notre Dame in Paris, the specialist craftspeople involved in restoring the cathedral are being celebrated this evening in a ceremony with the president at the Elysée Palace. Emmanuel Macron will be awarding around a hundred people representing all of the trades that were required with the Légion d'honneur or the Ordre national du Mérite. Notre Dame opened its doors to the public again four months ago.