



The News

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by Emma Phillips

François Bayrou is on a visit to Saint-Quentin-Fallavier prison this afternoon along with Minister of the Interior, Bruno Retailleau and the Minister of Justice, Gérald Darmanin. Prison officers are awaiting the government's response to a spate of attacks against prisons across the country in recent weeks.

Up to 600 jobs are in danger of being cut after ArcelorMittal announced earlier that it would be making job cuts at seven sites in the north of France. The steel manufacturer has said that the decision was driven by a lack of competitiveness in the steel market in Europe and the transfer of certain operations to India.

In Réunion, three more people have died in the ongoing outbreak of chikungunya on the island, bringing the total death toll to nine. The announcement comes from the weekly update issued by Santé Publique France. Nine other deaths, including that of a baby, are also under investigation to determine whether they were chikungunya related. Minister for Health, Yannick Neuder has said that up to 120,000 people may have contracted the viral disease.

The Elysée Palace has issued a series of statements on social media to deny any prospect of dissolving parliament ahead of the autumn. The website Bloomberg has reported today that Emmanuel Macron is exploring the possibility of dissolving parliament and holding snap elections as soon as the autumn. The President has insisted that this is not the case.

And finally, the sound of applause rang out in Rome earlier today as the coffin containing the body of Pope Francis arrived to Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Pope Francis's body will now lie in state in front of the Papal Altar during three days of public mourning before his funeral on Saturday. Tens of thousands of mourners are now filing past the coffin to pay their last respects.