



The News

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by *Emma Phillips*

The French ambassador in Tehran has been summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Ambassadors of Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom have also been instructed to report to the Ministry as the Iranian regime has complained of the “support” from Western countries for the ongoing protests there. The European Union has said that it is ready to put forward ‘new, tougher sanctions’ in response to how the protests have been repressed, with more than 500 opponents killed, according to a human rights NGO. The Iranian government has also responded with demonstrations in support of the regime across several of the country’s major cities.

The manager of the bar Le Constellation in Crans Montana remains in pre-trial detention. The decision has been confirmed by the Swiss courts concerning the French individual, involved in the New Year's Eve fire that killed 40 people. The couple that run the establishment are suspected of manslaughter through negligence. The manager could soon be released on bail.

Jordan Bardella is calling on the right to ‘join forces’ ahead of the municipal elections. The statement from the head of the Rassemblement National party came during his New Year's address to the press this afternoon. The RN will field a record number of candidates in the elections in March.

The Louvre remained closed today for a second day. The Paris museum has been affected by strike action for the past month. A vote at a general meeting this morning decided that the strike will continue, with Louvre employees maintaining their demands, including better working conditions.

And finally, Zinedine Zidane took to Instagram today to pay tribute to ‘a very endearing, wholehearted guy’ after the death of Rolland Courbis. While coach to the former star midfielder at Bordeaux, Courbis was the person who gave Zidane his nickname, Zizou. Today, Zizou joined the French football world in paying his respects to Rolland Courbis, the former player turned coach and consultant, who has died at 72.