



The News

February 20th, 7pm ©

by Emma Phillips

Two teenagers have been arrested in northern France on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack. The target of the attack that the plan had centred on was supposedly either a shopping centre or concert hall. Both suspects are 16 years old. The National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor's Office has said that one of the suspects had been harbouring "a fascination with prominent jihadist figures and propaganda". The suspect in question admitted to purchasing chemicals for the purpose of carrying out "combustion tests" at his home.

Tomorrow will see a march in memory of Quentin Deranque take place in Lyon, with heightened security in place. The 23-year-old nationalist activist died last weekend after sustaining injuries the previous week during clashes between far-left and far-right groups on the outskirts of a talk by a leftwing MEP. The Rhône prefecture has authorised tomorrow's march to go ahead, with the deployment of additional police. The fear of further violence had prompted several politicians to call for a ban on the march. Among the voices was that of the mayor of Lyon who represents the Green Party. So far, seven people are facing charges in connection with Quentin's death.

In the wake of the Storm Pedro, the Minister of Economy met with insurers today to call for an effort across the board in order to ensure that victims of damage receive compensation quickly. The storm hitting the country has led to flooding in the west and southwest, where three départements remain on red weather alert: Loire Atlantique, Maine et Loire, and Charente Maritime.

And finally, to the Winter Olympics where tomorrow further opportunities lie ahead for medals in Milan Cortina. Events where France could potentially excel include the mixed relay in ski mountaineering, the women's mass start in biathlon, skicross, the 50 km cross-country skiing event, and the men's mass start in speed skating.