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Deals of the Week

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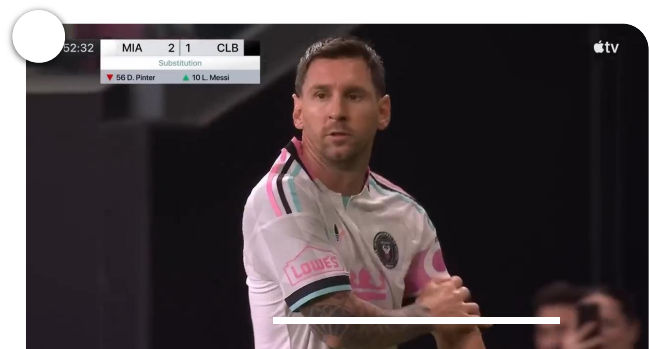
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Crew play Miami to a 2-2 draw as Lionel Messi returns

French President Emmanuel Macron

Crew play Miami to a 2-2 draw as Lionel Messi returns

Crew play Miami to a 2-2 draw as Lionel Messi returns

French President Emmanuel Macron has denied having a domestic dispute with his wife Brigitte after a video appeared to show her shoving his face



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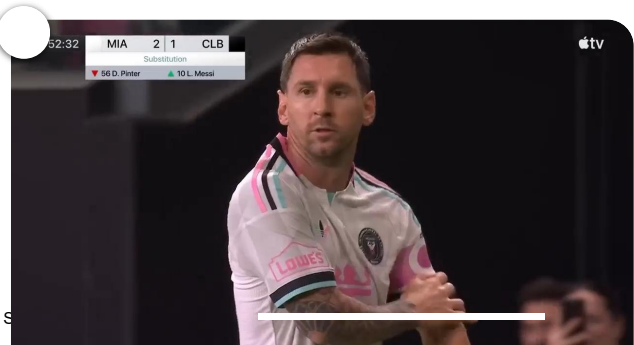
Appearing shocked, the French leader immediately noticed the doors open



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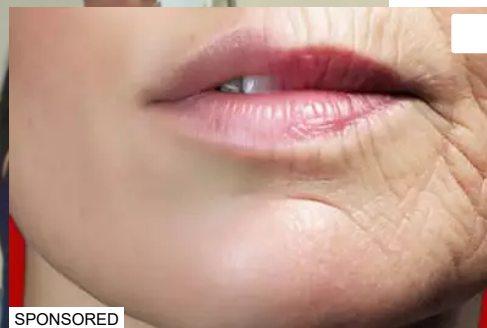
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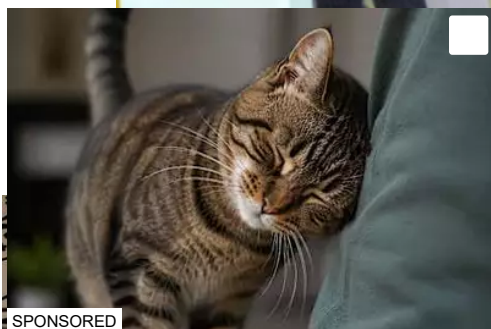
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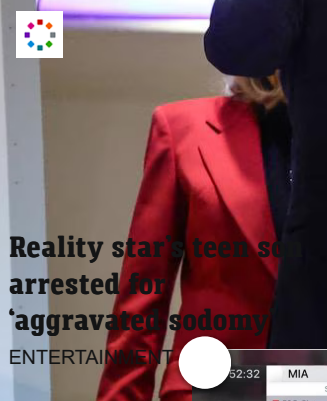
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ENTERTAINMENT



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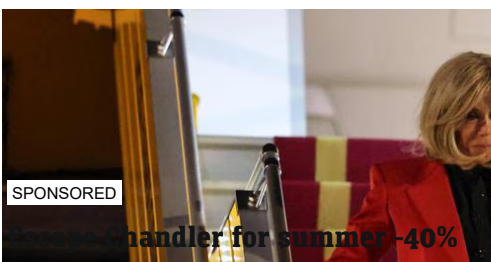
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President Emmanuel Macron waves to the waiting Brigitte Macron as they arrive at Noi Bai International Airport. Ludovic Marin/AFP

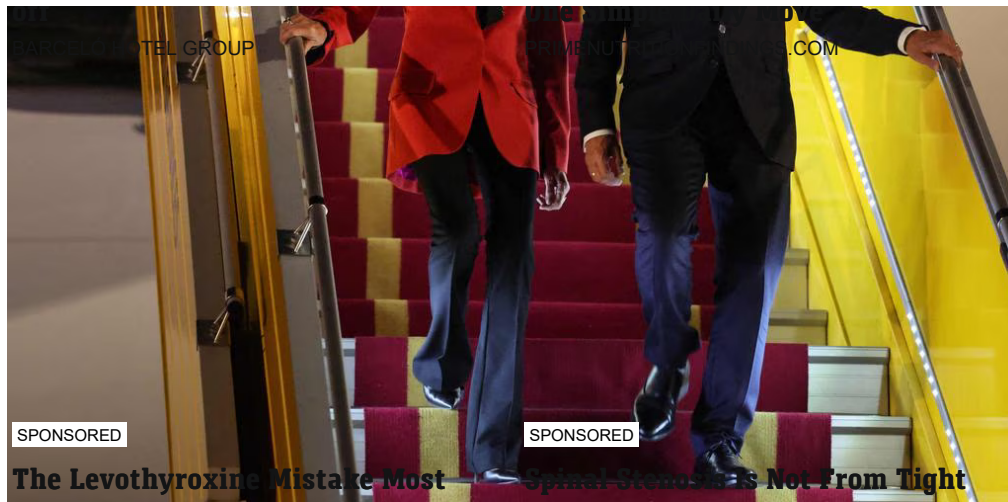


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The couple disembark the plane ahead of their Vietnam visit. Picture: Ludovic Marin/AFP

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SMOOTHSPINE

The clip of the fighting couple swiftly made headlines in France, with the Palais de l'Élysée initially rejecting it as probable “fake news”.

But Mr Macron himself later revealed the video was genuine, claiming the scene had been taken out of context and dismissing any speculation as “a lot of nonsense”.

“There’s a video showing me joking and teasing my wife and somehow that becomes a sort of geo-planetary catastrophe with people even coming up with theories to explain it.” Mr Macron said

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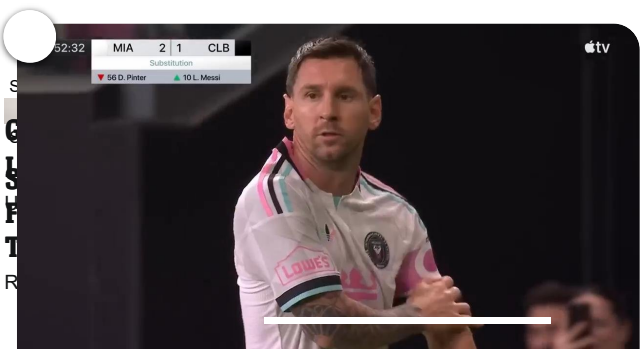
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“We are horsing around, having a joke, and it becomes a sort of geopolitical disasters.

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“It’s nonsense. People read all kinds of stupidity into things.”



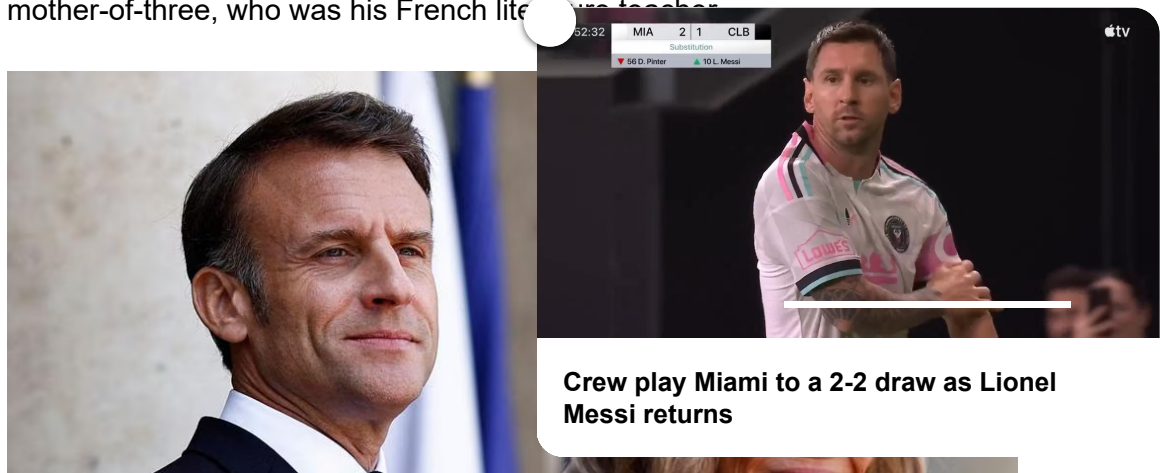
The Macrons were ‘horsing around, having a joke’, the President later said of the footage.
Picture: Ludovic Marin/AFP

The President’s office later echoed his suggestion, claiming the pair were “decompressing one last time” before their trip.

“It’s a moment of complicity. It was all that was needed to give ammunition to the conspiracy theorists,” his office said.

The same source added that “it was a moment of complicity” that “wasn’t enough to give the conspiracy theorists more to chew” – alluding to the negative media spread by Russia.

The politician was just 15 when he started a relationship with the then mother-of-three, who was his French literature teacher.





The President's office said the pair were 'decompressing one last time' before their trip began.
Picture: Sameer Al-Doumy/AFP

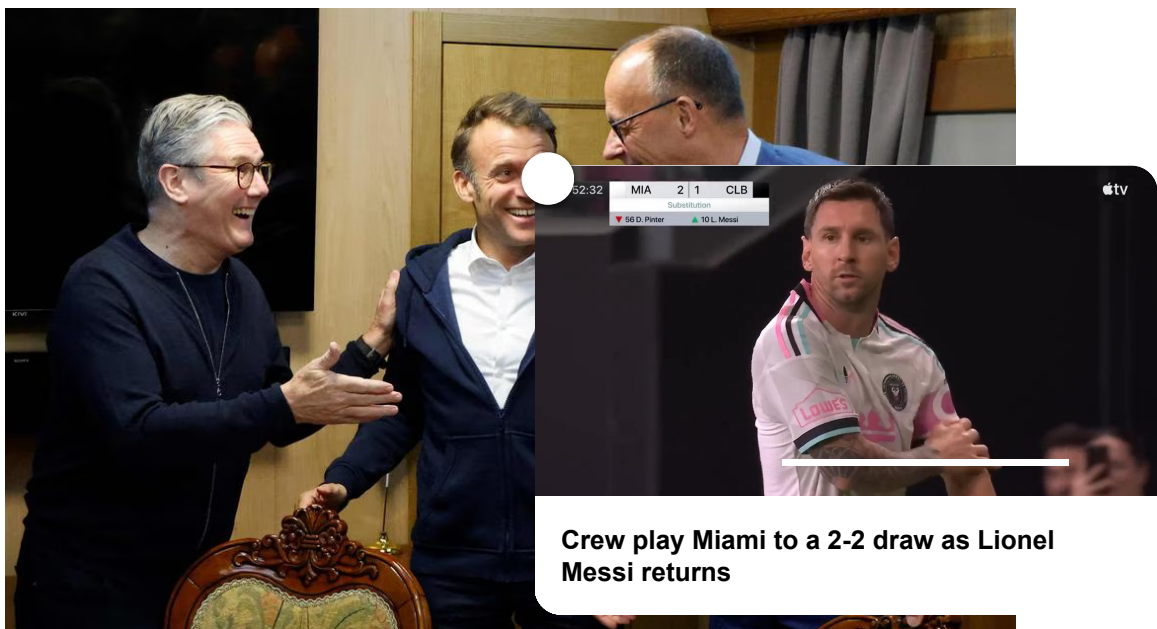
'Everyone needs to calm down'

This is the third time this month that the French leader has been the subject of viral video footage at a time when France says it is being targeted by repeated disinformation campaigns as Russia steps up attacks on Ukraine.

It was falsely claimed Mr Macron [took cocaine on a trip to Kyiv](#) alongside British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and images also emerged purporting to show Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dominate the French leader in a handshake.

On Tuesday, Mr Macron testily referred to the other incidents, including the images shot on the train to Kyiv where some accounts falsely claimed he shared the illicit drug. But the object he removed from the table when the media entered was a tissue.

Mr Erdogan, meanwhile, was filmed holding the President's finger at a summit.





Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer with Mr Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz.
Picture: Ludovic Marin/POOL/AFP



The white object at the centre of the speculation. Picture: Ludovic Marin/POOL/AFP

"None of these are true," Mr Macron said of the videos, adding that "everyone needs to calm down".

"In these three videos I took a tissue, shook someone's hand and just joked with my wife, as we do quite often. Nothing more."

He blamed manipulations on "networks that are quite well-traceable", specifically pointing the finger at "the Russians" and "the extremists in France".

Though Mr Macron stressed that all three were "authentic", the meanings attached to them were "misleading".

Russia's foreign ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova promoted the cocaine disinformation earlier, saying that Mr Macron had received "a right hook" from his wife.

She said the President's advisers would be asked to explain away the gesture by blaming "the Russians" and "the extremists in France".



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Russia.

“Maybe it was the ‘hand of the Kremlin’?” she said, with heavy sarcasm.

– With [The Sun](#)



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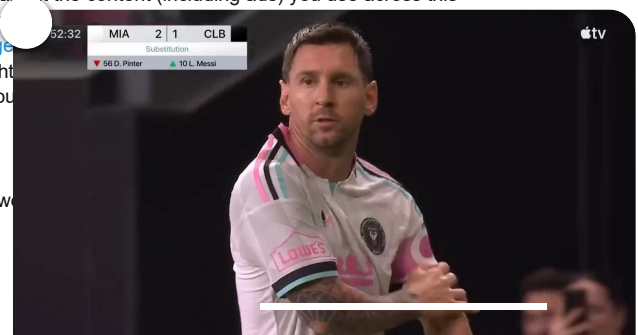




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