

Arts Page 10

**Festive fun**  
Your guide to the best pantos and concerts

PLUS Philosophy the antidote to toxic certainty Analysis Page 9

News Page 3

**Sweetie Keane**  
Roy's boost for Shandon business

PLUS We were dancing on the tables till 5am Life/Style Page 11

Sport Page 22

**World Cup path**  
Ireland face play-off road trip

PLUS Will Prendergast start against Boks? Page 20

## Husband and wife fled home in attempt to escape knife attacker

■ Woman fatally stabbed in Cork suburb  
■ Man detained by gardaí

Liz Dunphy and Ann Murphy

The woman killed in a stabbing in Cork City had fled her home with her husband just seconds earlier in a desperate bid to escape their attacker.

However, 59-year-old Stella Gallagher collapsed on a green area a short distance from the detached home in Shrewsbury Downs in Ballinlough after her attacker caught up with her. Her 63-year-old husband Brian was stabbed in the driveway of the suburban home after the incident erupted inside shortly after 9pm on Monday. Both were stabbed a number of times.

The disturbance alerted neighbours, with one attempting to go to the aid of the couple. A WhatsApp message was circulated in the neighbourhood warning people to stay indoors and to lock their doors when the nature of the incident became apparent, and the alarm was raised with the emergency services.

Gardaí, including the armed support unit, and the National Ambulance Service arrived at the scene, treating the couple before they were rushed to Cork University Hospital. Stella died a short time later. Brian underwent emergency surgery and was in a stable condition as of last evening.

He was being cared for as an autopsy was carried out at the nearby Cork City morgue on his wife's remains.

A knife believed to have been used in the attack on the couple has been seized and forensically examined.

The 25-year-old suspect in the case was arrested at the scene and was still being questioned last night. He was known to the couple.

Sources said the man has additional needs. He was medically assessed before being questioned about the attack.

He was detained at the



Gardaí and forensics experts investigate at Shrewsbury Downs in Ballinlough, Cork, after a stabbing that left a woman dead and her husband seriously injured. Pictures: Dan Linehan

Bridewell Garda Station under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act, under which he could be held for up to 24 hours, excluding rest periods.

The couple worked as chemical engineers. Brian also held directorships while he and Stella were named in paperwork filed with the Companies Registration Office late last year for the registration of a business name. The nature of the business was described in the document as "trusts, funds, and similar financial entities".

They were parents to four grown-up children — three sons and one daughter.

The Gallaghers have been described as a quiet couple, and their neighbours were stunned by the incident.

A resident of the estate said he was shocked at what had unfolded in their quiet

neighbourhood.

"I heard shouting last night and saw a man run past," they said.

"I locked my doors. I'm still in shock. This is a lovely, quiet neighbourhood."

Taoiseach Micheál Martin described the incident as "very, very sad news for the neighbourhood".

"And I live in that neighbourhood," said Mr Martin. "This is totally unexpected and I can only think of the family and friends of the family who have been impacted by this awful incident."

The couple's detached red-brick home was sealed off yesterday to facilitate a forensic examination of the house and environs.

A neighbouring property and the green area where Stella collapsed were also examined yesterday.

A ground-floor window was smashed on the neighbouring house with a plant pot shattered below it, its bright red flowers collapsing from chunks of disturbed soil across the otherwise tidy footpath.

A senior investigating officer has been appointed to head up the investigation and an incident room has been established at Anglesea Street Garda Station.

A family liaison officer has been assigned to support relatives of the deceased and to inform them of any developments in the case.

Gardaí are appealing for witnesses, particularly anyone who was in the Shrewsbury Downs area between 8.30pm and 9.30pm on Monday and who may have home security or dash-cam footage.

It is the second violent



death to occur in Cork this week.

In an unrelated incident in the early hours of Sunday, 38-year-old Mark O'Connell from Fairfield Green in Farranree died after an incident outside a house in Hollyville estate in Hollyhill.

A man questioned about that incident was released without charge on Monday.

News: 2

## Harris takes up finance role after Donohoe resigns

Paul Hosford and Louise Burne  
Political Staff



Paschal Donohoe: Greatest of honours to be in Government.

Tánaiste Simon Harris has become finance minister in a mini Cabinet reshuffle after the resignation of Paschal Donohoe.

The departure of Mr Donohoe to assume the role of managing director of the World Bank sees Mr Harris take up the finance portfolio. Helen McEntee becomes the first woman to serve as foreign affairs minister, as well as the first female defence minister.

Galway West TD Hildegarde Naughton has been named education minister, while Emer Higgins has been promoted to the super-junior minister's position and will attend Cabinet as the disabilities minister.

Sligo-Leitrim TD Frank Feighan has been reappointed to ministerial ranks and will become junior minister in the Department of Public Expenditure.

Government sources told the *Irish Examiner* that several considerations were taken when deciding where to move Fine Gael ministers, including experience.

One senior source noted that Mr Harris is now the longest-serving Fine Gael minister in Cabinet. Enterprise minister Peter Burke has been in Cabinet since July 2024, with health minister Jennifer Carroll MacNeill promoted to the senior ranks in January 2025.

Consideration was also given to gender balance following criticism during the Government formation talks that very few women had been appointed.

Mr Harris told the Dáil he

was "particularly pleased... to have had the opportunity to promote three women".

A Fianna Fáil source said Mr Donohoe was the "glue" of the Coalition, noting how well he had worked with Fianna Fáil finance ministers Jack Chambers and Michael McGrath when formulating budgets. In his speech to the Dáil, Mr Harris said he is looking forward to working "closely" with Mr Chambers.

Mr Donohoe said the opportunity to serve in Government had been the "greatest of honours". He said his aim had been to "build a better and fairer Ireland", and claimed that through Brexit, covid and 10 budgets, the public finances had improved due to "the Irish people".

Agriculture minister Martin Heydon said "it came as a huge shock to us all" that Mr Donohoe had resigned.

Mr Donohoe, first elected to the Dáil in 2011, said he would seek to continue his public service "in a different way" in his role at the World Bank.

News: 5  
Editorial: 8  
Business: 12

## Bill on releasing Epstein files moves to senate

The US house of representatives has voted overwhelmingly in favour of a bill to force the justice department to publicly release its files on the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The move is a remarkable display of approval for an effort that had struggled for months to overcome opposition from US president Donald Trump and Republican party leadership.

Mr Trump had repeatedly urged his supporters to dis-

miss the matter as a "hoax" but both Mr Trump and speaker of the house, Mike Johnson, failed in their efforts to prevent the vote, and it will now go forward to the US senate.

Now the US president has bowed to the growing momentum behind the bill and even said he will sign it if it also passes the US senate.

The vote yesterday further showed the pressure mounting on members of US congress and the Trump admin-

istration to meet long-held demands that the justice department release its case files on Epstein, a well-connected financier who killed himself in a Manhattan jail while awaiting trial in 2019 on charges that he sexually abused and trafficked underage girls.

A separate investigation by the House Oversight Committee has released thousands of pages of emails and other documents from Epstein's estate, showing his

links to global leaders, Wall Street powerbrokers, influential political figures, and Mr Trump himself.

Pushing for more accountability, the survivors of Epstein's abuse cast the current effort in congress as a step towards accountability for Epstein's crimes after years of government failure under multiple presidential administrations.

Mr Trump has said he cut ties with Epstein years ago, but tried for months to move

past the demands for disclosure.

Many in the Republican base have continued to demand the release of the files. Adding to that pressure, several survivors of Epstein's abuse rallied outside the Capitol yesterday morning.

Bundled in jackets against the November chill and holding photos of themselves as teenagers, they recounted their stories of abuse.

■ Associated Press

World: 7

## Kinsale woman settles action over fall at nightclub that left her paralysed

Ann O'Loughlin

A woman who fell off a roof at a Kinsale nightclub 10 years ago, suffering a severe spinal injury, has settled a High Court action over the accident.

Ciarra O'Brien fell nearly 2.5m to the ground and has been left paralysed from the waist down.

Ms O'Brien was only 18 at

the time of the accident in 2015, and had finished her Leaving Certificate and attended her debts just the week before.

There was a beach-themed party at the club on the night.

Ms O'Brien had secured a part-time job at the venue, but it was reported that she was not working on the night of the accident.

The settlement is confidential but the court was told it reflects the apportionment of 80% liability against Ms O'Brien and 20% against the other side in the case.

Ciarra O'Brien, from Kinsale, Co Cork, had sued Kenny Weight Management Galway Ltd, with registered offices in Co Galway, the owners of The Moorings, Kinsale, at the time of the accident on August 22, 2015.

It was claimed there was a failure to erect a balustrade or barrier around the exposed perimeter or balcony.

It was further claimed there was a failure to ensure



Ciarra O'Brien was left paralysed in 2015, shortly after her debts.

people were prevented from having access to an area in which there was an unguarded balcony, and that there was inadequate or competent supervision for the area.

All of the claims were denied.

News: 6

## Judge sends Burke to prison

A High Court judge has ordered that Enoch Burke be sent to jail.

Ordering his immediate reimprisonment, Mr Justice Brian Cregan said there was no option other than to imprison Mr Burke for contempt of court "for repeated and flagrant breaches of the court order" directing him to stay away from Wilton's Hospital School.

Mr Burke will remain in prison until a review date is set by the court.

The judge said fines and the appointment of security guards had failed to deter Enoch Burke from breaching a court order.

News: 3

### HELLO IRELAND, ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE LEAP?

**NEW LEAPMOTOR C10**  
NOW AVAILABLE FROM  
**DAN SEAMAN MOTORS**  
FORCE HILL, KINSALE RD, CO. CORK  
WWW.DANSEAMANMOTORS.IE  
(021) 432 0266

**LEAPMOTOR**