

SCOURGE OF 'DODGY BOXES' IN LIVE SPORTS COVERAGE

Denis Walsh
Sports Monday



Some of the consequences of the new phase of the data centre boom may begin to be felt in rural Ireland

Una Mullally
Opinion



UNACCOMPANIED UNDER-16S RYANAIR'S ISSUE WITH FLYING MINORS

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US can offer Ukraine Nato-style protection, says envoy

White House official says Russia has dropped opposition to collective defence

European leaders and Zelenskiy in talks with Trump over security guarantees

DANIEL McLAUGHLIN and ELLEN COYNE

The leaders of Ukraine and several other European states will discuss potential future security guarantees for the war-torn country with US president Donald Trump today.

The meeting follows a summit held in Alaska on Friday between Mr Trump and Russian president Vladimir Putin, and claims by a White House envoy that Russia has dropped its opposition to the West providing Nato-style defence pledges to Kyiv.

US special envoy Steve Witkoff said: "We were able to win the following concession: that the United States could offer article 5-like protection, which is one of the real reasons why Ukraine wants to be in Nato."

The article 5 clause of Nato's founding treaty enshrines the principle of collective defence, the notion that an attack on a single member is considered an attack on them all.

He told US television yesterday that this is a "game changing decision" and "the first time we had ever heard the Russians agree to that". He did not provide details of what was discussed.

There are concerns among Ukraine's supporters that Volodymyr Zelenskiy could face significant pressure in Washington today, given his February talks with Mr Trump in the Oval Office descended into a shouting match.

Group of leaders

However, this time he is expected to be accompanied in Washington by the leaders of Germany, France, Italy, the UK and Finland, along with Nato secretary general Mark Rutte and European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen.

Mr Trump's relations with European leaders can be prickly, and it is notable that the group includes several who he reportedly likes: Italy's Giorgia Meloni, Britain's Keir Starmer, Finland's Alexander Stubb and Mr Rutte of Nato.

European leaders who make up the "coalition of the willing" yesterday agreed Russia would face more sanctions and wider economic measures if it does not stop its bombardment of Ukraine.

Speaking after the virtual conference, which was co-chaired by Mr Starmer and French president Emmanuel Macron, Mr Zelenskiy said: "It is important that America agrees to work with Europe to provide security guarantees for Ukraine."

"We need security to work in practice like article 5 of Nato," he said. Mr Zelenskiy said he also considers EU accession to be "part of the security guarantees".

Sustained support

Taoiseach Micheál Martin, who also participated in yesterday's conference, said Ukraine needs "strong, credible, long-term security guarantees", which means EU membership and sustained support from Europe and the US.

The Alaska summit was widely seen as a victory for Mr Putin, because Mr Trump scrapped a threat to impose more heavy sanctions on Russia and dropped demands for an immediate ceasefire in favour of Moscow's call for an overarching agreement to end the war.

After the summit, which was lauded by the Kremlin, Mr Trump publicly urged Kyiv to "make a deal" while reportedly telling Mr Zelenskiy that Russia was demanding the full withdrawal of Ukraine's forces from its Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Inside

■ Ukrainians in Ireland: 'Trump claims he has reached success. We don't see any' [page 4](#)

■ Trump's push for quick deal is a win for Putin [Daniel McLaughlin, page 6](#)

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Mancunian reunion Oasis rock Croke Park

Liam and Noel Gallagher of Oasis, onstage at Croke Park, where the band played to 160,000 fans over two sold-out nights at the weekend.

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■ Croke Park concert a 'once-in-a-lifetime' nostalgia trip
■ Barnstorming Oasis set knocks it out of the park

Photograph: Dan Dennison

Holohan drops presidential bid to avoid 'abuse'

Former CMO says he wants to protect his family from 'distress' of a presidential run

ELLEN COYNE

Political Correspondent

Former chief medical officer Tony Holohan has announced he will not now seek a nomination to run for the presidency because he wants to protect his family from the "personal abuse" of a campaign.

Prof Holohan said he could not expose his family to "distress, criticism or abuse at a time when we are all still rebuilding our lives".

He had been strongly considering trying to enter this year's presidential race, after a poll commissioned by his supporters last week put him at 15 per

cent. But in a statement to The Irish Times, Prof Holohan said that, "after a lot of careful consideration and reflection, I have decided not to seek a nomination to contest the election".

"While a number of different factors have influenced my decision, my overriding consideration has been my wish to protect my family from the kind of personal abuse which is becoming increasingly normalised in Irish politics generally and in presidential elections in particular," he said.

"I understand the very tough

nature of modern politics and, while I am more than capable of defending my reputation and the decisions which I have taken over a long career during challenging times in public service, my family is not. I cannot now expose them to further distress, criticism or abuse at a time when we are all still rebuilding our lives."

Prof Holohan said he "earnestly" hopes the upcoming campaign will be marked by "civilised and respectful debate". He wished the next president success, and said they will

have his "full support".

Meanwhile, Fine Gael will meet today to consider the presidential election campaign as support grows inside and outside of the party for Heather Humphreys to run.

The former minister has said she is giving the matter "very serious consideration". She had ruled out the possibility in May.

Ms Humphreys, who did not contest last year's general election, has emerged as the favourite to replace former MEP Mairead McGuinness, who on Thursday announced she was

stepping down as the Fine Gael candidate on health grounds.

A number of Independent politicians have come out in support of Ms Humphreys running to succeed Michael D Higgins, including Ministers of State Michael Healy-Rae, Noel Grealish and Seán Canney who noted her "broad" appeal.

Fine Gael MEP Seán Kelly, a former GAA president, on Saturday said he was weighing up his options about seeking the party's nomination after this week's news about Ms McGuinness.

Just one staff member left in Defence Forces nursing unit

CONOR GALLAGHER

Security and Crime Correspondent

There is just one nurse remaining in the Defence Forces following a decision to let the service collapse and replace it with private contractors.

That is despite an internal 2012 report warning that outsourcing the Army Nursing Service (ANS) would be prohibitively expensive and less effective.

Nursing is the most depleted medical service in the Defence Forces but there are also severe shortages of other medical professionals. There are currently just six military doctors out of the required 28 and three dentists out of a required seven.

The ANS was established 101 years ago, shortly after the foundation of the National Army. According to a history of the service published by the Defence

Forces, it has had an average of 50 members at a time over the decades but was as high as 200 during the second World War.

Figures show the ANS has been in long decline. In 2008, there were 28 nurses in the service. However, following the economic downturn, it became policy to allow them to resign or retire without replacing them. According to figures from the Department of Defence, the ANS is now down to one nurse.

Working group

In 2012, a civil-military working group was established to examine the future of the service.

After visiting all brigades and formations, it was determined the Defence Forces needed to reform the ANS and grant it more authority.

There should be an initial allocation of 18 nurses across the country and a "lying-in facility"

for soldiers recuperating from illness or injury should be reintroduced in St Brigid's Hospital, a large military medical facility in Dublin, the group found. It said to maintain resilience, the Defence Forces required its own health service "independent of the national health system".

The ANS occupies an unusual space within the Defence Forces. Members are military personnel but they are not part of the rank structure and not usually subject to military law.

A Defence Forces spokesman said the latest report, which was carried out by external consultants "has made recommendations regarding the establishment of the future nursing service and its capabilities." However, as the report is awaiting ministerial approval, they declined to provide further details.

Weather

Generally dry start with sunny spells with showers later turning heavy at times. Highs of 18-24 degrees in light winds.

THE IRISH TIMES
24-28 Tara Street, Dublin 2.
D02 CX89
Telephone: (01) 9203900
Online: irishtimes.com
The recommended retail price of THE IRISH TIMES in the Republic of Ireland is €2.60
Subscriptions: Tel: (01) 9203901
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9 771393 351918 34
Vol. No. 52365. Monday, August 18, 2025

Home News

Indian community: A scaled-back celebration of India's Independence Day was held in Dublin after a spate of attacks Indian people. [Page 2](#)

Education: Teachers could go on strike if their concerns about Leaving Cert reforms are not addressed, the ASTI has warned. [Page 5](#)

World News



Gaza: Palestinians were gripped by fear yesterday after the Israeli military said it was preparing for the forcible displacement of a million people. [Page 6](#)

Business Today

Merger: Car dealer Eugene O'Reilly's family could be drawn into a dispute involving Irish building materials giant CRH in Ukraine. [Page 12](#)

Energy: Proposed spending on the State's electricity grid will be key to cutting dependence on fossil fuels, says an expert. [Page 12](#)

Sports Monday

Soccer: Altay Bayindir handed Riccardo Calafiori an easy header and Arsenal a 1-0 win over Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Rugby: The IRFU and Rugby Players Ireland have appointed Signify Group to safeguard players against online abuse and threats.

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