

SUMMER FOOD+ DRINK MAGAZINE

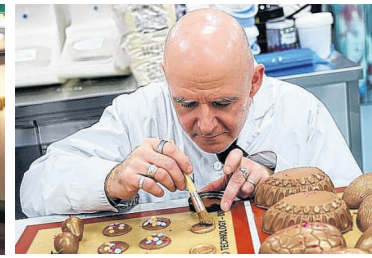
Inside today



100 GREAT PLACES TO EAT IN IRELAND



IRELAND'S BEST
ICE CREAMS



CONOR POPE
THE PASTRY CHEF



FAVOURITE FOODS
FOR HOT DAYS



JOHN WILSON'S
WINE HOLIDAYS

Fire on the hill Firefighters battle large gorse blaze in the Dublin Mountains



Firefighters at the scene of a large-scale gorse fire in the Dublin mountains yesterday brought in a helicopter to help fight the blaze. The fire, which began overnight, is centred on the Piperstown Road area, near Glenasmole. Firefighters fought the fire since 2am yesterday. The fire brigade has appealed to the public to avoid the mountains. PHOTOGRAPH: DAMIEN STORAN

Man arrested after Iranian woman's body found

Scene in Clifden preserved as chief suspect (30s) remains hospitalised

HUGH DOOLEY,
ÓRLA RYAN
and CONOR LALLY

The remains of a woman killed in Co Galway were discovered after the chief suspect turned up wounded at a centre for international protection applicants (IPAS) in Clifden and then led gardai to the victim's body.

The victim, named locally as Masuma Sohrabi, from Iran, is understood to have been wounded in the neck by an assailant using a knife or bladed weapon.

The arrested man had also suffered a neck wound, though no third party is suspected for his injuries. Yesterday he arrived at the IPAS centre before 9am where the woman and her two children were staying. The alarm was raised and when gardai arrived the wounded man, also a foreign national, took them to a nearby location near Waterloo Bridge where the woman's remains lay. He was then arrested but has been hospitalised for treatment for his wounds. Detectives must wait for doctors' approval before they can formally interview him.

Gardaí believe the victim left the accommodation in Clifden on Wednesday, possibly to meet the man, whom she knew. The victim's two children remained at the IPAS centre, being cared for by family friends. When the woman failed to return, she was reported missing. A search was

under way but abandoned after the subsequent events.

The suspect, who is in his 30s, was arrested under section four of the Criminal Justice Act 1984 and was still receiving medical treatment late last night.

In a statement, the Garda said investigators were following a definite line of inquiry and were not looking for anyone else in connection with the woman's death. They said the fatal attack did not happen in the emergency residential premises.

Pathologist
The scene had been preserved for an examination by gardai and the woman's remains were left in situ for much of yesterday pending the arrival of a pathologist to carry out a preliminary examination of the body at the scene. They were then due to be removed for a postmortem.

It is understood she worked at a hotel in the area and her children attend a local primary school. Scoil Mhuire issued a statement yesterday describing the situation as "an incredibly sad and difficult time".

"We have become aware of the sudden and tragic passing of a member of our school family. Our hearts go out to her children, her family and all those who loved her."

The statement said psychologists from the National Educational Psychological Service were available to support pupils and staff.

Energy bills climb despite Iran peace talks

Electric Ireland announces price increases of up to 8% as oil prices reverse course

Trump yet to endorse US-Iran deal offering framework for 60-day ceasefire extension

CONOR POPE

More than a million Irish households will see their annual energy bills climb by hundreds of euro as a result of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, with Electric Ireland announcing price increases of up to 8 per cent.

The hikes had been widely anticipated and came just hours before reports began to emerge from the United States that the Trump administration and the

Iranian regime were inching towards a deal which could see a degree of stability restored across global energy markets.

According to multiple sources, negotiators on both sides have now agreed on a framework for a 60-day ceasefire extension deal and a pathway to negotiations aimed at reaching a long-term deal to end the war. However, US president Donald Trump has yet to sign off on the proposals.

The tentative agreement

came after Iran targeted a US air base in Kuwait following US strikes on what Washington called an Iranian drone operation and will see negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme held during that period.

The reports prompted oil prices to reverse course and trade lower on hopes of a potential reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, but any prospect of a deal will come too late for 1.1 million Irish consumers of Electric Ireland who will be hit with an 8 per cent increase in the cost of electricity from the State's largest provider from July 1st.

Electric Ireland also announced a 7.7 per cent hike in the cost of domestic gas, with the cumulative impact of both increases leaving many households worse off by more than €250 a year.

Electric Ireland said it had a

"comprehensive hedging strategy in place which has limited the impact of rising wholesale energy prices to date".

However, the provider's executive director Pat Fenlon said the conflict in the Middle East "continues to drive volatility in wholesale energy costs which have increased significantly".

Fears downplayed

Fears that other companies may follow Electric Ireland in raising prices were downplayed by Daragh Cassidy of price comparison and switching website bonkers.ie.

He said the latest news "was expected" and noted that last autumn "most of the major energy suppliers increased their electricity prices by between 10 per cent and 15 per cent due to sustained high wholesale

electricity costs and higher network charges for maintaining the electricity grid".

Electric Ireland did not follow the same line and instead announced an electricity price freeze for the winter months, alongside a small cut in gas prices. Cassidy said the increase that will be imposed later in the summer "effectively brings its electricity prices back into line with the rest of the market".

He said the announcement "will understandably worry households" but it was "not necessarily the start of another widespread round of electricity price hikes across the market. Even after this increase, for example, Electric Ireland's standard electricity rates will still be lower than most of the other suppliers in the market", Cassidy said.

The consumer outlook for do-

mestic gas is more concerning, with wholesale gas prices climbing by between 40 and 50 per cent in recent weeks due to the conflict in the Middle East.

Cassidy said this was "likely to put upward pressure on gas prices across the wider market".

→ Iran and US reach outline agreement to extend ceasefire after trading strikes: page 6

Dublin water use hit a record high this week

HARRY MCGEE

Dublin had a record high level of water consumption in a single day this week when a total of 685 million litres were used in the capital on Tuesday.

Water utility Uisce Éireann attributed the highest-ever figure for a single day's water use to the high temperatures of recent days but also warned that Dublin's water supply is reaching maximum capacity.

Demand in the Dublin region has risen sharply in recent years, up from an average of 575 million litres a day five

years ago to an average of 615 million litres a day in 2025, and an average of 640 million litres a day to date in 2026.

Yesterday Uisce Éireann said that water supply across the Greater Dublin Area is operating at or close to full capacity at peak times, reflecting the pace of population growth in the capital and increased demand across the region.

It said it is investing to continue to address these pressures by strengthening existing infrastructure and improving resilience across the network.

The utility has said that fu-

ture-proofing capacity in the region will be contingent on the completion of two of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of the State.

They are the Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) project, for which planning has now been fully approved; and the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region, which proposes to extract water from the Parteen basin in the Lower Shannon and pipe it 170km to the capital. Both projects are scheduled to be completed by 2032. The latest projections for the cost of the GDD project is be-

tween €1.9 billion and €2.3 billion while that of the water supply project is between €4.6 billion and €5.9 billion.

The drainage scheme will serve a large catchment area mainly in north Dublin but also including parts of Meath, Kildare and Wicklow. It will ensure there are adequate sewage systems in place for new housing developments, with additional capacity for a 500,000 population equivalent.

The utility has argued that water provision in Dublin is quickly reaching maximum capacity from current sources. At

present some 40 per cent of the volume of the river Liffey (the capital's main water source) is extracted to meet Dublin's water needs.

One of the arguments made by groups opposing the extraction of water from the Parteen basin is the high leakage rates in Dublin's water system. According to Uisce Éireann that rate has lowered in recent years from 45 per cent to marginally below 30 per cent.

→ Uisce Éireann to spend €14bn on infrastructure: Business This Week

Weather

Largely dry with sunny spells and isolated light showers. Highs of 17-23 degrees in light to moderate westerly winds.

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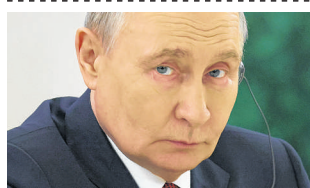
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Home News

Abuse trial: Jeffrey Donaldson referred to himself as a 'sinner' in a letter to one of the women who has accused him of sexual abuse. Page 2

Dublin City Council: CEO Richard Shakespeare called for Robert Watt to be hired to lead the capital's new regeneration body. Page 3

World News



Europe: Russia will not get to choose who represents Europe in any potential talks with Moscow over Ukraine, EU foreign ministers said yesterday. Page 8

Business This Week

Utilities: Energy provider SSE grew its revenue in the Republic by 36 per cent last year despite losing 50,000 customers.

Ires Reit agm: CEO Eddie Byrne said the firm was 'encouraged' by the current and future prospects for the business.

Sports Friday

Rugby: Leo Cullen has stated his belief that Leinster would not improve if he walked away after 11 years at the helm. Page 15

Soccer: Nathan Collins scored the winner and Jack Moylan was sent off during Ireland's friendly win over Qatar in Dublin last night. Page 12

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