

IT'S SUMMER MAGAZINE

36-page special
Inside today



“ You have to wonder what kind of pressure impels a parent to send fully identifiable pictures of their children into the public gaze

Kathy Sheridan
Opinion



CLEVER WAYS TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR HOME INSURANCE

Joanne Hunt
Business

Trump puts pressure on Israel and Iran to hold ceasefire

Netanyahu claims victory and says war removed threat of nuclear annihilation

US president appears confident truce will hold as he arrives at Nato summit

JACK POWER
Europe Correspondent

A tentative ceasefire between Israel and Iran appeared to be holding last night, after initial accusations from both sides of violations in the hours after it came into force.

US president Donald Trump put pressure on Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu publicly and privately to stick to the brokered ceasefire agreement.

Over the course of the day, Mr Trump issued several demands on his social media platform Truth Social, directing Israel to refrain from striking Iran.

Israel and Iran traded accusations that the other had violated the terms of the truce in the 12-day war that had threat-

“ They have been fighting so long and so hard that they don't know what the fk they're doing**

ened to destabilise the Middle East. After a small number of early instances of alleged violations, the ceasefire between the two sides appeared to hold.

The tensions in the Middle East and the shaky ceasefire were expected to feature prominently in the discussions of leaders at a Nato military summit in the Netherlands.

Mr Netanyahu said last night that Israel in its 12 days of war with Iran had removed the threat of nuclear annihilation and was determined to thwart any attempt by Tehran to revive its programme.

“If anyone in Iran tries to revive this project, we will work with the same determination and strength to thwart any such attempt. I repeat, Iran will not have nuclear weapons,” he said in video remarks issued by his office.

He called it a historic victory that would stand for generations.

He said Israel never had a better friend in the White House than President Trump.

Speaking before travelling to the summit, Mr Trump described Israel and Iran as two countries “that have been fighting so long and so hard that they don't know what the f**k they're doing”.

Mr Trump, who arrived at the Huis ten Bosch royal palace for a dinner with other heads of state last night, seemed confident the two sides would adhere to the truce, following a phone call with Mr Netanyahu.

‘Great honour’

In an online post, the US president said “both Israel and Iran wanted to stop the War equally! It was my great honour to Destroy All Nuclear facilities & capabilities, and then, STOP THE WAR”.

The conflict began on June 13th when Israel launched a sustained bombing campaign, which it said was necessary to curtail Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran retaliated with its own barrage of missiles, many of which were prevented from hitting their intended targets, due to Israel's Iron Dome air defence system.

Mr Netanyahu's government succeeded in getting the US to support the campaign, resulting in Mr Trump ordering US bombers to strike three Iranian nuclear facilities at the weekend. The full extent of the damage, particularly to Iran's underground Fordow site seen as key to its nuclear programme, remains unclear.

An early US intelligence assessment indicated that the military strikes did not destroy the core components of Tehran's nuclear programme and were likely to only set it back by months, CNN reported last night, citing three people briefed on it.

“This alleged assessment is flat-out wrong,” CNN quoted White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt as saying.

➔ War in the Middle East: pages 8&9. Editorial comment: page 13



LIVING UNDER DUBLIN'S M50

KITTY HOLLAND VISITS A HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT
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PHOTOGRAPH: DAN DENNISON

Domestic violence reports at highest level in 50 years

MARY CAROLAN
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Women's Aid received the highest number of disclosures of domestic violence and abuse in its 50-year history last year.

More than 41,000 women reported abuse by their partner or ex-partner.

The 2024 figure for disclosures, up 17 per cent on 2023, included reports of assaults with weapons, constant surveillance, relentless put-downs and humiliations, taking and sharing of intimate images online,

complete control over all family finances, sexual assault, rape and being threatened with theirs or their children's lives.

Five women, the report notes, died in violent circumstances in 2024.

The number and nature of the abuse disclosures was “utterly appalling” but “just the tip of the iceberg”, said Women's Aid chief executive Sarah Benson.

“Fear, stigma and the debilitating impact of the abuse itself, but also persisting social attitudes to domestic violence,

prevent victims from coming forward.”

Much work needed to be done to break the silence to encourage those in need to get the support they deserve, she said. Domestic violence must be tackled by champions across society and men are needed “to lead as allies in prevention of male violence”.

Women's Aid, she said, was concerned about the “inconsistent” response from members of An Garda Síochána to record numbers of domestic violence and abuse contacts, including

more than 65,000 contacts to the force last year.

While there was “excellent progress” in areas such as the National Protective Services Bureau, 44 per cent of women said they found the Garda response unhelpful when they sought support.

Young women, Ms Benson said, were reporting very high levels of intimate partner and other forms of gender-based violence. A continuing increase in online or technology-facilitated gender-based violence showed the harm of online por-

nography but there was “little meaningful accountability” for online platforms and perpetrators. The report said the housing crisis and issues with the family and criminal law processes adversely impacted on the ability of victim-survivors to access justice and safety, with greater challenges for those with disabilities and migrant backgrounds.

One in three women in contact with Women's Aid services were being subjected to domestic abuse from their ex-partner, said Eavan Ward, the organisa-

tion's head of regional services. Separating from a controlling and abusive partner was difficult and a time of heightened risk, she said.

The annual impact report for 2024, published today, shows that Women's Aid national and regional frontline services were contacted 32,144 times in 2024, up 12 per cent on 2023. There were 46,765 disclosures of incidents of domestic violence and abuse – 41,432 against women and 5,333 against children – up 17 per cent on 2023.

Farmers accuse vegan food makers of ‘hijacking’ sausages

CONOR POPE

Irish farmers have welcomed tentative moves by the European Parliament to restrict “cynical” vegetarian and vegan food producers from using words such as sausage, burger and schnitzel to sell their products.

The European Commission is drafting new rules covering EU-wide agriculture and MEPs are using the overhaul to lobby for changes to how vegetarian and vegan products are sold to customers.

The “hijacking” of traditional farming terms was “deliberate and cynical” and could constitute “a breach of any trade descriptions act”, said Irish Creamery and Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA) president Denis Drennan.

French MEP Céline Imart is proposing an amendment banning plant-based products be-

ing labelled with a long list of terms linked to animal products.

It is the latest salvo in the long-running battle involving farmers, their representatives, the commission and vegetarian food producers.

‘Irritation’

The differing perspectives have also been aired at the European Court of Justice, which has ruled that plant-based foods can use terms traditionally associated with meat once consumers are not misled.

The court has also ruled that non-dairy products cannot be described as milk and cheese.

Farmers have continued to fight for the naming rights to certain products.

Mr Drennan said the “hijacking” of farming terms “constituted an admission by the corporations involved that they were

unable to convince consumers other than by such camouflage”. He said it was “a matter of considerable irritation to farmers to see the very people and corporations who want to replace our naturally produced meat and dairy very deliberately using the terms they know are generally understood to refer to traditional dairy and meat products”.

Isin Coghlan, climate policy analyst and former chief executive of Friends of the Earth, expressed bafflement at the ICMSA's comments restricting vegan food producers from using words such as sausage or burger, and said any such move would be “a step too far”.

“Everyone knows that vegetarian sausages don't come from pigs and I don't see how a vegan sausage or veggie burger is damaging meat producers,” he said.



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Sports Wednesday

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