

LILY ALLEN'S
NEW ALBUM
IS OVERHYPED
AND ANNOYING

Finn McRedmond
Opinion



“ In the most shocking, startling, and not at all choreographed move, Conor McGregor has found God... Praise be the PR maven

Dave Hannigan
Sport



SCHOOLHOUSE
TO HOME
A WICKLOW
WOODLAND
MAKEOVER

Residential
Property

Israel says it is committed to ceasefire
as IDF attacks kill 104 people in Gaza

Drone strikes follow killing of Israeli soldier by gunmen at Rafah tunnel

Hamas describe Israeli air strikes as 'blatant violation' of ceasefire

MARK WEISS
in Jerusalem

Israel said it remained committed to the Gaza ceasefire framework yesterday despite killing more than 100 people in strikes across the enclave.

The strikes followed the killing of an Israeli soldier by gunmen. Israel also blames Hamas for delaying the return of Israeli hostages' bodies.

Despite the renewed ceasefire, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) carried out a drone strike on a site in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, which it said targeted a weapons and drone storage site that was being used by militants for an "imminent" attack.

According to the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza, 104 people, including 46 children, were killed in the Israeli attacks that began on Tuesday night after the Israeli soldier was killed in Rafah. Israel said the soldier died after gunmen emerged from tunnel shafts and opened fire on troops in the area under Israeli control. Hamas denied any link to the gunmen.

Residential blocks, homes and school buildings were hit in Gaza City and Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip, Bureij and Nuseirat in the centre, and Khan Younis in the south.

The IDF said 30 "terrorists holding command positions" within Palestinian militant groups had been killed.

"There is and will be no immunity for anyone in the leadership of the terrorist organisation Hamas – neither those in suits nor those hiding in tunnels," defence minister Israel Katz said in a statement.

The militant group de-



■ A boy sits amidst the rubble of a house destroyed in an Israeli strike in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: EYAD BABA/GETTY

scribed the Israeli air strikes as a "blatant violation" of the ceasefire, while also noting several Israeli strikes in recent days and the closure of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

UN high commissioner for human rights Volker Türk said the reports of so many people being killed were "appalling". He called on all sides not to let the opportunity for peace "slip from our grasp".

In response to Israeli air strikes, US president Donald Trump said that nothing would jeopardise the Gaza ceasefire, adding that Israel has a right to "hit back". If Hamas militants do "not behave", he warned, "they will be terminated".

Qatari prime minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, who has acted as a mediator, said the attack on the soldier and subsequent Israeli air strikes were "very disappointing and frustrating for us". Speaking at a conference in New York he said that the mediators are pushing Hamas and all Palestinian factions in Gaza to "to get to a point where they

acknowledge that they need to disarm".

Israel believes that Hamas is deliberately holding up the return of the remains of the hostages to avoid moving to the second phase of the ceasefire, when it will be required to disarm.

Hostages

Hamas said it would transfer the bodies of two more hostages – of the 13 remaining in Gaza – but it was not clear when this would take place.

Hamas claims it cannot locate all of the bodies because some are buried under rubble. The Red Cross issued a state-

ment criticising Hamas for staging the recovery of the remains of a hostage in Gaza on Tuesday, saying it is "unacceptable to stage a fake recovery when so much depends on the implementation of this agreement".

The statement came in response to IDF drone footage showing what it said were Hamas operatives placing the partial remains of a previously released hostage in a pit before covering it with earth and then alerting the Red Cross to say a body had been found.

Far-right ministers in the governing coalition have called on prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu to resume the war.

→ Trump says ceasefire not at risk as Israel bombards Gaza: page 7

Breast cancer
diagnoses rise 26%
in women under-50

Charity urges women outside screening age to examine breasts for abnormalities

SHAUNA BOWERS
Health Correspondent

The number of women aged 20-49 being diagnosed with breast cancer increased by more than a quarter over a 10-year period, figures show.

Now a charity is running a public awareness campaign urging women, particularly those outside of the screening age, to examine their breasts for abnormalities or changes.

The risk of developing breast cancer increases with age, with the disease most commonly being diagnosed in women aged 50 or older who have been through menopause, the HSE says.

Data from the National Cancer Registry of Ireland showed there were 677 breast cancer diagnoses among women aged 20-49 in 2013, and this rose to 852 by 2022 – a 26 per cent increase.

The BreastCheck screening service, which offers free screening for women who are asymptomatic, is designed for those aged 50-69.

Helen Forristal, director of nursing services at the Marie Keating Foundation, said every young woman in Ireland needed to check their body to ensure early detection of the disease.

"We are unfortunately seeing a younger cohort of women being diagnosed with breast cancer. It's much younger now," she said.

"In my own work, I met a 22-year-old lady who had

metastatic breast cancer, which is very young and completely outside of the screening age.

"There is no way a screening service could cover young girls of that age.

Ms Forristal said the way in which people lived their lives had changed, which can lead to increased "modifiable risks" for this form of cancer.

"Overweight and obesity can be problem for breast cancer. That would be one. Being inactive. We're sitting more; I'm more sedentary in my job than I ever was," she said.

"Alcohol would be a predisposing factor for breast cancer. It's responsible for one in eight breast cancers in Ireland."

A HSE spokeswoman said the number of women being diagnosed with breast cancer was increasing across all ages, not just younger women.

"Improved detection methods and many aspects of our daily life such as diet, overweight and obesity, alcohol and exercise, are likely influences on the increase," she said.

"The increase has not disproportionately affected those under 50 and, while further analysis would be required, there is no clear indication of an increasing rate in breast cancer specifically in under-50s in Ireland."

→ Case study – Too young for screening: page 3

Officials offer land for Garda station in Citywest

CONOR GALLAGHER
Crime and Security Editor

The Department of Justice is considering handing over part of the newly acquired Citywest site to An Garda Síochána for a new station following recent violence in the area.

Last month, the State formally completed the purchase of the Citywest Hotel site in Saggart, Dublin, for €148 million. It was bought to be used as a per-

manent International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) centre. The State had rented the site since 2020, initially for Covid-19 testing and later for accommodating asylum seekers and Ukrainian refugees.

A number of violent protests took place outside the centre last week following the alleged sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl by a Citywest resident who had previously been subject to a

deportation order.

The suspect is before the courts.

Several dozen people alleged to have been involved in the rioting, which saw a Garda vehicle set alight and horses ridden into Garda lines, have also been arrested.

Community engagement

On Tuesday, a community engagement team from the Department of Justice met local

representatives from the Saggart area to discuss the centre and the recent violence.

According to several attendees of the meeting, department representatives said they are prepared to hand over part of the site for a new Garda station to police both the local area and the centre.

It will be up to Garda management, however, to make a final decision, sources said.

Local representatives have

long called for a 24-hour Garda station for Saggart. It is currently policed on a part-time basis from the Garda station in Rathcoole, which lacks cells and interview rooms.

In response to queries, a Department of Justice spokesman said community members and elected representatives have raised suggestions about using the Citywest site to provide local services, including a new Garda station for Saggart.

Weather

Today will be wet and windy with spells of heavy rain, leading to localised flooding. Highs of 11-14 degrees.

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