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YEAR 231

Latest motorbike tragedy claims life of Cappamore man

MOTORBIKES have claimed yet another young life in Limerick. John Whelan, Lack-

amore, Cappamore, was killed early on Saturday morning when the bike he was driving collided with

a pedestrian in Doon. Gardai in Tipperary confirmed this morning that Mr Whelan, who was

in his early 30's, died at the scene. The pedestrian was taken to Limerick

Regional Hospital, and later transferred to Croom Hospital. The incident happened

at Cooga, Doon when Mr Whelan's red Honda 50 collided with the pedestrian.

HOSPITAL TO GET A £24 MILLION BOOST

By EUGENE PHELAN

HEALTH Minister Michael Noonan today sanctioned a further £24 million extension to Limerick Regional Hospital.

It was one of his last Ministerial acts before Friday's General Election and will be an obvious boost to his campaign to get re-elected in Limerick East.

The cost of phase two will be about £13.15 million and work is scheduled to begin in August by John Sisk & Son.

"Phase two will cost in the region of £24 million after equipping and furnishing.

"Taken with the cost of phase one it will bring the total commitment to the hospital to over £40 million," he added.

Minister Noonan said that the fact that the building will begin before the end of the summer was evidence of his commitment to getting the second phase of the development under way without delay.

"This reflects the importance this Government attaches to the role the Regional Hospital has to play in providing acute services for the population of the Mid-Western area," said Minister Noonan.

The new wing to the hospital will include a new paediatric unit, a new laboratory, a new designed hospital concourse, physical medicine rehabilitation, a refurbished radiology department, a refurbished accident and emergency department and a refurbished central sterile supplies department.



Democratic Left candidate John Ryan has breakfast in Bewley's, Cruises Street, this morning with Minister Pat Rabbitte. (LL)

Rabbitte predicts surprise result in Limerick East

By TRISH O'DEA

THERE are two Left seats in Limerick East and John Ryan will take one of those seats, according to Minister Pat Rabbitte.

Visiting Limerick,

Minister Rabbitte was very confident of victory for Democratic Left in Limerick saying: "There are three government seats here and I believe that will be the result on election day.

"In every election there are surprises", he

continued, "In this election I believe, and the party believes, that the surprise will be the election of John Ryan in Limerick."

Speaking about the PDs continued references to 'the Celtic Tiger' Minister Rabbitte

said that Mary Harney had become 'the Celtic Thatcher'.

On their manifesto plans for cutting 25,000 public service jobs, Minister Rabbitte said the PDs "never stop bleating about more gardai and prison offi-

cers".

He pointed out that, as the PDs plan to exclude health and education from their cuts, they will be cutting 25,000 of 60,000 jobs, and added that this could not be done.

Councillor John Ryan

admitted that he himself was "surprised" by the strength of support he is getting on the doorstep.

Responding to the news that the weather is due to break on Friday, Cllr Ryan joked: "We might see some rain-bows on Friday so."