

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Zsolt Czeglédi

DIY ships collecting waste from River Tisza at Tiszafüred

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Parliament meets**

**EU foreign ministers meet in Luxembourg**

**Debrecen-WizzAir cooperation presser**

## TOP STORY

# ORBÁN MEETS ESTONIA CONSERVATIVES

The Hungarian prime minister had talks with senior conservative politicians of Estonia in Budapest.

Viktor Orbán met Jaak Madison and Siim Pohlak of the Conservative People's Party of Estonia (EKRE) the prime minister's press chief told MTI.

EKRE is a conservative, anti-migration party that strengthened significantly in the country's general election in March and now forms part of the governing coalition. Madison, who also heads the Estonian-Hungarian friendship group, has been elected MEP at the May European parliamentary election. Pohlak is expected to succeed him as head of the group, Bertalan Havasi said. The Estonian politicians agreed with Orbán that voters in Europe and elsewhere in the world have stepped up support for parties protecting national and Christian values and opposing migration. The Hungarian and Estonian government, as well as EKRE and Hungary's ruling Fidesz party, will boost cooperation in an attempt to protect traditional European values, Havasi said. EKRE stood by Hungary when it was exposed to political attacks by liberal, pro-migration forces, the prime minister's press chief said.

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## **VARGA: HUNGARY'S GDP GROWTH SURPASSES EU EXPECTATIONS**

Hungary's economic output regularly surpasses the European Union's expectations, Finance Minister Mihály Varga said at a meeting of EU finance ministers (Ecofin) in Luxembourg. He said that the European Union expects the Hungarian economy to grow by 3.7% this year. The government's GDP growth target, however, is 4.1%. Varga said that Hungary's 2020 budget bill will continue to provide a predictable environment for economic players. It targets an annual economic growth of 4% and a budget deficit of 1% of GDP. The public debt will continue to drop next year and may fall below 60% of GDP by 2022, he said. Hungary considers it unacceptable that the scope of the EU's European Semester report has expanded over the past few years to include areas that have nothing to do with economic governance, such as judiciary issues, Varga said.

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## **ORBÁN PAYS TRIBUTE TO MARTYRED 1956 PRIME MINISTER**

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán lay flowers of commemoration at the tomb of Hungary's martyred PM Imre Nagy in eastern Budapest's Rákoskeresztúr cemetery, marking the 30th anniversary of Nagy's reburial.

Orbán was accompanied by his wife Anikó Lévai.

Nagy, Hungary's prime minister at the time of the anti-Soviet revolt of 1956, was executed after the fall of the uprising, on June 16, 1958. Nagy and other martyrs of communist retaliation were buried in unmarked graves. His reburial on June 16, 1989, was a symbolic act in Hungary's transition to democracy.

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## **ORBÁN DISCUSSES 2020 AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS WITH LEN HEAD**

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán met Paolo Barelli, the head of the European swimming league LEN, to discuss the preparations for two European aquatics championships Budapest will host in 2020, the organisation's newsletter said. Orbán and Barelli talked about the water polo championships to be held in January and the European championship for swimming, synchronised swimming and diving in May. They also touched on further events Hungary might host, the newsletter said. "Hungary is lucky to have a leader so committed to sports as Viktor Orbán," LEN's statement cited Barelli as saying.

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## **SLOVAK CRIMINAL ROHÁČ CONFESSES TO 90S BUDAPEST MURDER**

Slovak criminal Jozef Roháč confessed to the 1996 murder of millionaire

businessman József Prisztás in a repeat trial of the case. In his testimony, which he gave via a live feed from a Szeged prison, Roháč said he had been hired for the murder by the Ukrainian mafia through a criminal group of Dunajská Streda (Dunaszerdahely), in Slovakia. He carried out the killing for 15,000 German marks.

Explaining his decision to confess to the murder, Roháč said he had done "many bad things" over the course of his life, but wanted to do the right thing from now on, and he did not want others to go to prison because of him. He told the court that he had already confessed to the murder to the authorities but no one had been willing to reopen the case and he had not been allowed to speak to the media. He said he then came up with the idea of confessing to the crime to his younger brother over the phone and sending a recording of the conversation to Hír TV. Roháč said his confession was supported by his knowledge that a shell casing had been left in the plastic bag he had used to "disguise" his gun silencer.

Roháč said he had been commissioned to carry out the killing by an underworld associate of his named József Hamala. Prior to the planned date of the murder, Hamala invited Roháč to Budapest and drove him to the scene of the eventual crime. He said he made his move on Prisztás when he was about to get in his Cherokee Jeep. Roháč said he shot Prisztás in the head at a distance of half a metre and rode away from the

scene on a bicycle. As he was leaving, he could hear the man who was with Prisztás -- one of those currently serving jail time for his role in the murder -- shouting expletives at him. Roháč then jumped into Hamala's car which had been parked nearby and they drove away. "Those were times when people were hunting each other, when criminals were at war with one another," Roháč said.

In 2016, the Budapest Court of Appeals sentenced in a binding ruling Tamás Portik, the one-time head of an oil company involved in illicit deals in the nineties, to fifteen years behind bars for instigating Prisztás's murder. At Friday's hearing, Portik and two others sentenced for the murder thanked Roháč for confessing to the crime. Ferenc Fazekas, who was at the scene at the time of the murder, confirmed to the court that it was he who had shouted at Roháč, and begged the court to suspend his 10-year sentence in light of the new circumstances.

Roháč is currently serving a life sentence for his role in the Budapest Aranykéz street bombing that claimed four lives in 1998 and media mogul János Fenyő's murder on Feb. 11 of the same year.

The trial is set to continue on Sept. 16 at the Budapest Municipal Court.

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### **LMP READY TO BACK BUDAPEST MAYOR PRESELECTION WINNER**

Opposition LMP's Budapest organisation agreed to support the winner of the opposition's preselection in the upcoming mayoral election, under an agreement with the opposition Momentum, Socialist and Párbeszéd parties, LMP executive Máté Kanász-Nagy told MTI. In return for LMP's gesture, the three other parties will support one LMP candidate in each of the city's districts, the executive added. Further cooperation talks will be coordinated by a three-strong committee from LMP's side, Kanász-Nagy said.

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### **KARÁCSONY HOPING FOR HIGH TURNOUT AT MAYORAL PRESELECTION**

A recent plenary debate between opposition candidates for the post of Budapest mayor has "mobilised residents" and "will hopefully contribute to high turnout" in the second round of the preselection, Gergely Karácsony, candidate of the Socialist-Párbeszéd party alliance, told a press conference.

Such public debates, he said, could greatly contribute to "restoring the

weathered spirit of democracy to Hungary". In a democracy "candidates trust one another's good intentions, they trust that the others seek to develop the city rather than destroy it and they strive to settle issues in open debates", he said. Karácsony insisted that losing contenders in the pre-election must support the winner, no matter who it is. He added that he would do so, and would expect the others to support him afterwards should he win.

The debate was attended by Karácsony, Gábor Kerpel-Fronius (Momentum) and Olga Kálmán (independent, supported by the Democratic Coalition).

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### **RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES IN BUDAPEST, ACROSS COUNTRY**

The National Weather Service measured a temperature of 35.8 Celsius in Budakalász, north of Budapest, on Saturday, 0.8 C higher than the earlier record read at several localities in 1987. The heat record of Budapest was also broken with 34.7 Celsius measured in Újpest, a northern district, surpassing the previous record of 34.2 C read in 1986.