

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Zoltán Balogh

Plenary session of the 5G Coalition in Budapest

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Plenary session of parliament**

**Opposition Budapest mayoral candidates' debate**

**Friedrich Ebert Stiftung organises forum on wage convergence in Hungary**

**14th Kecskemét Animation Film Festival opens**

## TOP STORY

### STATE TO SUPPORT 5G ROLLOUT

The state must play a role in building the country's 5G telecommunications network, László Palkovics, the minister of innovation and technology, said at a meeting of the 5G Coalition.

"If we coordinate with service providers, the economy, the market, then the development of the infrastructure can be significantly faster," Palkovics said. He noted that the importance of 5G networks extends well beyond telecommunications, serving as a technological catalyst for a number of innovative fields, such as the Internet of Things and self-driving vehicles.

He said building 5G networks poses a different kind of challenge compared with the construction of earlier networks, requiring more small base stations operating in a broader spectrum range. He said the best solution for building the 5G network was a mixed model in which state and market players are responsible for different areas of infrastructure construction. Issues such as the density of base stations and their operation could be clarified quickly. These issues go to the heart of the government's 5G strategy planned to be adopted in July, he added.

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## **MOST OF HUNGARY 5G SERVICES AVAILABLE BY 2020**

László Palkovics, the minister of innovation and technology, said at a meeting of the 5G Coalition that Germany generated 6.5 billion euros in revenue from the auction of the frequency band related to 5G, and construction of its network is expected to be ready by the end of 2022. This process in Hungary can be concluded faster thanks to Hungary's more advanced frequency management, he said, adding that the first 5G services will be launched in the third quarter of this year, and high capacity innovative services are expected to be available after 2020 in the 26GHz band. Dedicated frequencies for universities and industrial companies will be hived off, and the ministry started broad consultations with various stakeholders last week with a view to meeting their needs in the 26GHz and 2300 MHz bands, Palkovics said. A single state registration and planning system will be employed to coordinate the development of 5G.

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## **PARLT DECLARES 2020 YEAR OF NATIONAL COHESION**

Parliament approved a proposal to declare 2020 a Year of National Cohesion to mark the 100th anniversary of the post-WWI Trianon Peace Treaty. The proposal tendered

by parliament's national cohesion committee was passed with 166 votes in favour, five votes cast by the opposition Democratic Coalition against and one abstention. Under the proposal, commemorations and programmes will be organised in Hungary in the Carpathian Basin and elsewhere in the world with the aim of strengthening the cohesion and identity of Hungarian communities.

Under the treaty signed on June 4, 1920, two-thirds of Hungary's territory and 60% of its population were ceded to neighbouring countries.

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## **SZIJJÁRTÓ: AGAINST EU INTERESTS TO POSTPONE ALBANIA, NORTH MACEDONIA ACCESSION TALKS**

The lack of a decision to open accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia by the competent EU ministers on Tuesday goes against the interests of the European Union, central Europe and Hungary, Peter Szijjártó, Hungary's foreign minister, has said. Szijjártó told a press conference that central European countries had a strong and united position in support of enlargement, but agreement had not been forthcoming due to resistance on the part of some western member states. "No physical or legal obstacle was in the way of making the decision to open accession negotiations today," he said. Szijjártó said it was "shameful" that "tactical games" concerning

timing were being played, adding that it was clear that delaying the release of the European Commission's enlargement package had been deliberate, and time had now run out.

The minister said this state of affairs would harm the bloc's security, competitiveness and economy, as well as undermining the credibility of both EU enlargement policy and governments open to integration. Szijjártó insisted that at EU foreign ministerial meetings it was common to "whine" about Russia, the Arab monarchies and China trying to wield influence in the western Balkans. But, he added, whether they succeeded or not depended on the EU and whether it was willing to boost its influence in the region. Hungary, he emphasised, would continue its strenuous efforts to help countries of the region in their integration endeavours.

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## **HUNGARY, REPUBLIKA SRPSKA AGREE TO INTENSIFY TIES**

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik on Tuesday agreed to intensify relations between Hungary and Republika Srpska, Bosnia's autonomous Serb Republic. Speaking to the press after talks in Budapest, Orbán said he had agreed with Dodik that Budapest and Banja Luka, the capital of the Serb Republic, will also work to establish intensive political and economic ties. The prime minister said Hungarian-Serb relations could only be healthy

and strong if Hungarians living in Serbia and Serbs living in Hungary both feel at home in each other's countries. Hungary will continue to support Bosnia-Herzegovina's efforts to strengthen its unity and to improve its relations with the European Union, Orbán said.

Prior to his meeting with Orbán, Dodik met representatives of Hungary's Serb population in Szentendre, near Budapest. The Republika Srpska president said Serb representatives had told him that the Hungarian state was doing everything it could to improve their situation. He added that there were no unresolved issues between Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina. "We want to continue on the path to European integration," Dodik said, thanking Hungary for supporting Bosnia's EU aspirations. He praised improving Hungarian-Serb relations, which he said could open the door to cooperation for Bosnia's Serbs, too.

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## **ORBÁN MEETS ETHIOPIA CHRISTIAN LEADERS**

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán met Christian leaders from Ethiopia for talks on the impact of migration on Europe and Africa as well as on persecuted Christian communities, the prime minister's press chief said. The talks were attended by Cardinal Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, head of the Ethiopian Catholic Church, Samson Bekele Demissie, director-general of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church's family organisation, as well

as Girma Borishie Bati, director of the development committee of the Mekane Yesus Evangelical Church. The Ethiopian guests voiced their churches' commitment to help young Ethiopians prosper in their country rather than try to emigrate and "become playthings in the hands of human smugglers". They praised Hungary's scholarship programme, under which many Ethiopian graduates returned to their homeland, Bertalan Havasi said. He said the cardinal thanked the Hungarian government for its aid to a refugee camp and a hospital for the poor in Ethiopia.

The government's aim is to prevent migration instead of supporting and managing it, Tristan Azbej, the state secretary for aiding persecuted Christians, told Ethiopian church leaders. The government's interest is that nobody should be forced to leave their place of birth and anyone forced to flee should be able to return to their homes, he said, adding: "This is in everyone's interest and it is also the humane solution." Azbej, who is also in charge of the "Hungary Helps" scheme, said that in the past two years the Hungarian government helped 35,000 people in Africa and the Middle East. "Without support, these people would have been forced to leave their homes," he added.

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## **NOVÁK HAS TALKS IN GERMANY**

Germany has "many pro-Hungarian politicians" that share the Hungarian

government's position on such issues as migration, Katalin Novák, state secretary for family and youth affairs, said of her talks in Frankfurt. The Hungarian government believes that Europe "must be protected even if it comes to building border fences," Novák said, adding that her government's pro-family policies "offer an alternative to Europe against the pressure of mass migration". The Hungarian government's efforts to preserve Christian culture and its "commitment to Judeo-Christian roots" will contribute to making Europe stronger, she insisted.

Novák held talks with Lucia Putrich, European and federal affairs minister of the Hessen government, on challenges for the European Union and family policy issues. The state secretary also gave a lecture focusing on the Hungarian government's family policies at an event organised by the Friedrich A. von Hayek Society.

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## **OPPOSITION'S BUDAPEST MAYOR PRESELECTION TO BE CONCLUDED ON JUNE 26**

Budapest residents can cast their votes in the opposition's preselection for a joint candidate for the post of Budapest mayor in the upcoming municipal election, daily Népszava said. One of three candidates -- Gergely Karácsony of the Socialist-Párbeszéd alliance, Momentum's Gábor Kerpel-Fronius, and independent Olga Kálmán, supported by the leftist

Democratic Coalition -- will challenge incumbent Mayor István Tarlós in the municipal election scheduled for the autumn. The Civic Election Committee, which organises the preselection, is planning to announce the winner on June 26, Népszava said.

### **GOVT OFFICIAL: BANGLADESH FIGHTING TERRORISM, ILLEGAL MIGRATION**

Bangladesh is going to great lengths to fight terrorism and illegal migration, a Hungarian official has said. At the same time, the country is handling the accommodation of Rohingya refugees well, the PM's office state secretary told MTI, summing up his talks in Dhaka. Balázs Orbán, parliamentary and strategic state secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, is heading a Hungarian delegation to Bangladesh. With territory only 1.5 times that of Hungary's and a population of 160 million, Bangladesh faces severe challenges, he said on Tuesday. Yet its political system is stable and its economy has been growing by 7% each year for a long time, he added. The main purpose of the Hungarian delegation's visit is to maintain high-level contacts with Bangladesh's government, he said, noting that he had met the state secretaries of foreign affairs, the interior, the deputy minister for disaster management and the chief of police. Orbán said Bangladesh is going to great lengths to prevent radicalisation within the Muslim

community that accounts for 90% of its population.

At the same time, the country is looking after more than one million Rohingians who fled to Bangladesh from neighbouring Myanmar, he noted. He visited the Rohingya camps in the south of the country and said conditions were very good by international comparison. The government will expand its Hungary Helps scheme to Bangladesh, Orbán said, adding there are already bridgeheads to facilitate related operations such as a Hungarian medical team in Dhaka.

### **POLICE: UKRAINIAN CAPTAIN 'NOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE'**

The Ukrainian captain of the Viking Sigyn cruise ship was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the Danube collision, a Budapest Police Headquarters (BRFK) spokesman told journalists on Tuesday. Immediately after the accident, police tested the ship's captain for traces of alcohol and other substances and the results proved negative, the spokesman said, adding that the BRFK has established a 60-strong investigation team to clarify the circumstances of the collision and establish responsibility. The Viking Sigyn collided with the Hableány pleasure boat with 33 South Korean tourists on board on May 29. Seven tourists were rescued from the water after the collision and the rest,

including the crew of two Hungarians, died.

### **VISEGRAD GROUP COUNTRY CITIZENS BACK NEITHER WEBER NOR TIMMERMANS**

The majority of citizens of Visegrad Group (V4) countries support neither European Peoples Party lead candidate for the post of European Commission president Manfred Weber nor Socialist candidate Frans Timmermans, according to a Nézőpont poll. Fully 80% of Czechs, Poles, Hungarians and Slovaks back neither politician and 42% expressed a clear preference for the option of an alternative candidate. Only 11% expressed a clear preference for Weber while 9% did the same for Timmermans. Nézőpont said V4 leaders enjoyed a strong mandate in Brussels, based on the outcome of the EP election. Moreover, none of them were bound to any of the top candidates, it added. Nézőpont's survey was conducted between May 27 and June 7 in the Visegrad countries with a total sample of 2,000 people, 500 from each country.

### **PATAI: CENTRAL BANK STRIVING TO BUILD CLOSER HUNGARY-CHINA TIES**

The National Bank of Hungary is working to build closer business cooperation between Hungary and China, the central bank's deputy

governor said on Tuesday. Speaking at an event marking the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties with China, Mihály Patai noted that Hungary had issued renminbi bonds in China, and added that Hungary was also taking efforts to boost scientific cooperation.

Levente Magyar, state secretary at the foreign ministry, said that bilateral ties 70 years ago had been "dominated by a shared ideology" which had now been replaced by "economic, fiscal interests and values".

Zhu Yonglei, deputy leader of the municipal committee of the Chinese Communist Party in Shanghai, said that China is rapidly developing its international relations under its Belt and Road initiative, and added that it was in line with the Hungarian government's Eastern Opening policy.

## **HOUSE PRICES AROUND LAKE BALATON AVERAGE HUF 20-25M**

House prices around popular tourist destination Lake Balaton are nearing the levels seen in Budapest in some cases, rising above 500,000 forints per square meter for resale homes in some towns with 400,000 forints per square metre prices being near the average, real estate broker Duna House said.

Prices have risen the most in Fonyód and Keszthely, growing by more than 50% in the last year, to around 350,000 forints per sqm and 317,000 per sqm, respectively. Prices are highest in Balatonfüred where they average 41.5 million forints. Older resort homes sell for 511,000 forints per square metre, around 20% more than a year ago, with the prices of new homes even higher and those on the waterfront topping 1 million per sqm. Lake Balaton continues to be a favoured destination both for domestic and foreign tourists, reflected in real estate prices, said Károly Benedikt, an analyst for Duna House.

## **SIEMENS SELLS EAIRCRAFT BUSINESS TO ROLLS ROYCE**

German engineering giant Siemens on Tuesday signed an agreement on the sale of its electric aircraft propulsion business, which has a base in Budapest, to the UK's Rolls-Royce. Siemens said the transaction was expected to be closed late in 2019. The sides did not disclose the price of the deal. In addition to Budapest, the business operates at locations in Munich and Erlangen, in Germany. Siemens has partnered with

Hungary's Magnus Aircraft on the development a fully electric driven aircraft dubbed the eFusion.

## **FOREIGN VISITORS TO HUNGARY STAY LONGER, SPEND MORE**

Foreign visitors to Hungary stayed longer and spent more in the first quarter than in the same period a year earlier, a summary of data by the Central Statistics Office (KSH) shows. Foreign visitors spent 2.1 days on average in the country, with the average stay of those spending several days rising to 5.1 days in Q1 from 4.7 days in the same period a year earlier. Foreign visitors spent a combined 26 million days in Hungary during the period, up 14% from a year earlier. Spending by foreign visitors rose by 14% to 405 billion forints during the period. Foreigners made 8.8 million day trips to Hungary from a total of 12 million trips. The number of day trips increased by 15% and the number of longer visits was up 3.9%. Most day trippers came from Austria, Romania and Slovakia. The number of longer trips by foreign visitors came to 3.3 million. Trips by Austrian, Romanian and Slovakian visitors each accounted for about one-fifth of the total.