

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Zoltán Balogh

The Csepel Művek factory's industrial water purifier at the Open Factory Weekend in Budapest

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Plenary session of parliament**

**Foreign ministry, Eötvös Loránd University sign cooperation pact**

**Health-care sector marks Semmelweis Day**

**Parliament's justice, sustainable development committees hold joint session**

## TOP STORY

### KOVÁCS: TIMMERMANS 'UNACCEPTABLE'

The Hungarian government would regard the appointment of Frans Timmermans as European Commission president "unacceptable".

The reason why is that the candidate was backed by the Social Democrats and billionaire George Soros, Zoltán Kovács, the state secretary for international communications and relations, said in a statement, responding to reports that Timmermans was on course to become the next EC chief. "During the commission [headed by Jean-Claude Juncker], it became clear that Frans Timmermans was George Soros's man. If they installed him as commission president, then clearly George Soros's puppet would be heading the commission." This way, Soros would ensure that his interests regarding both migration and financial and economic policies were safeguarded, he added.

The state secretary said the Hungarian government would do everything it could to prevent such an outcome. Visegrad Group leaders are in agreement that only candidates for European Union leadership positions who understand central Europe's problems and identify with its viewpoint would be acceptable to them, Kovács said earlier at a press conference, adding that the V4 had reinforced its sense of unity and the basic principles they represent.

---

## **ORBÁN: EPP WOULD BE MAKING 'HISTORIC MISTAKE' BY BACKING TIMMERMANS FOR EC CHIEF**

The European People's Party would be making a "historic mistake" in helping to elect Frans Timmermans as European Commission president, news portal Origo cited Prime Minister Viktor Orbán as saying in a letter addressed to EPP leader Joseph Daul. According to the portal, Orbán wrote that he was aware his Fidesz party currently had no say in the EPP's policies, after the suspension of its membership in the centre-right grouping earlier this year. However, citing "the seriousness of the current situation", Orbán told Daul that German and French leaders had made a deal regarding the top EU leadership positions, which would see Timmermans becoming EC president.

The prime minister said that if the EPP backed this agreement, it would be "making a serious, in fact, historic mistake", arguing that the party would be giving up its European Parliament election victory. Such a move, Orbán wrote, would be "humiliating" and would "completely undermine the EPP's prestige and dignity in the world of international politics". The deal would also hurt the party's dignity in the eyes of its voters, Orbán added.

"This leads to our own destruction," the prime minister wrote, asking Daul to do everything in his power to avert "such a defeat". Orbán added that he

will also discuss the matter with the other EPP prime ministers.

---

## **KOVÁCS: EU CANDIDATES WHO ALSO IDENTIFY WITH C EUROPE'S VIEWPOINT 'ACCEPTABLE'**

The V4 prime ministers held a meeting in Prague and agreed on the principles for choosing leaders and the positions they would represent in Brussels at the summit of EU leaders on Sunday.

Zoltán Kovács, the state secretary for international communications and relations, told a press conference that V4 priorities included stopping migration, promoting a Europe of nation states and Christian culture underpinning the EU. He said top-tier candidates such as Manfred Weber and Frans Timmermans were unacceptable and neither could count on V4 support. European People's Party candidate Weber, he added, had insulted other European states besides Hungary.

Commenting on a report in German paper Die Welt that EU leaders had agreed at the G20 summit in Osaka on Friday that Weber should not be the next European Commission president, Kovács said such reports must always be treated with caution. Kovács underlined that the V4 had not supported the Spitzenkandidat system for five years, since this method of selecting the EC chief did not reflect the will of the European people. He added that it was in everyone's interest to make a decision on the EU leadership as soon as possible.

---

## **JOBBIK ACCEPTS OUTCOME OF BUDAPEST LOCAL ELECTION OPPOSITION PRIMARY**

The opposition Jobbik party has said it accepts the outcome of the Budapest local election primary and will support the winner, Gergely Karácsony, and no other candidate. The nationalist party said in a statement late on Saturday that it had taken part in organising the opposition primary in the capital since it firmly believed a single opposition candidate should stand against the ruling Fidesz party in the whole country, including in Budapest. The statement added that Karácsony was the left-wing mayoral candidate and therefore Jobbik is not taking part in the campaign to promote him. But the party will not back any other candidate, it added.

The second round of the primary was held between June 20 and 26. Fully 68,240 Budapest residents participated. Karácsony garnered 33,355 votes.

---

## **LMP CALLS ON GOVT TO BRIEF PUBLIC ON ALLEGED HOME-CARE SUBSIDY ABUSES**

Green opposition LMP has called on the government to reveal details about alleged abuses of subsidies for people tending to permanently sick family members at home, which the government has cited as one of the reasons against increasing the

subsidy. At a press conference, lawmaker Péter Ungár cited Prime Minister's Office chief Gergely Gulyás as alluding to alleged abuses around adult home care as one of the reasons why the cabinet has no plans to increase the current 58,000 forint (EUR 180) and 38,000 forint monthly caregiver subsidies. Ungár said this reasoning and the argument that raising the subsidy to 100,000 forints a month -- and eventually to the level of the minimum wage -- would put too much strain on the budget were "nonsense". Ungár said increasing the subsidy would cost 20-25 billion forints a year, which he said the state could "easily afford" by diverting funding from its "unnecessary expenditures" such as spending on "government propaganda" or "glossy sports".

### **POLICE SUSPECT GYÁRFÁS OF ENTICEMENT IN FENYŐ MURDER**

Concluding their investigation into the 1998 murder of Hungarian media mogul János Fenyő, police said that there is a suspicion beyond reasonable doubt that Tamás Gy. had ordered the crime. The National Investigation Bureau (NNI) on Thursday forwarded the case to the Budapest Prosecutor's Office, the police.hu website said. According to police charges, Tamás Gyárfás, a media entrepreneur

and former head of the Hungarian Swimming Association, hired Tamás Portik, the one-time head of an oil company involved in illicit deals in the nineties, to liquidate his business rival, Fenyő, who was killed by multiple gunshots in a traffic jam in downtown Budapest on February 11, 1998.

The investigation stalled until 2010, when DNA evidence led police to arrest Jozef Rohác, a Slovak citizen who was later sentenced to life in prison for the Fenyő murder and the bombing in Budapest's Aranykéz street, which claimed four lives. In 2017, further evidence led investigators to reopen the investigation. This time, police say they successfully identified the enticers, Tamás Portik and Tamás Gyárfás. The latter was detained and heard as a suspect in April 2018, police said. Portik, currently serving a 13-year prison term for his role in the Fenyő murder and other crimes, was also heard. Gyárfás denies any wrongdoing.

### **ORBÁN PRAISES POLICE FORCE AT GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Hungary's police force has proven on many occasions that it is capable of holding its own in any situation, the prime minister told a graduation ceremony of new officers at the National University of Public Service. "We have police officers, who, if need

be, are ready to go down to the border to protect Hungarian families," Viktor Orbán said. Hungary can be proud that its police officers are capable of guaranteeing everyday security and have halved the country's crime rate over the past ten years, he said.

Orbán said that if the police remained committed to their service, Hungary would continue to be one of the safest countries in Europe. The prime minister thanked the parents of the new officers for instilling in their children a love for their homeland and order.

### **BRUSSELS HOSTS HUNGARIAN CULTURAL AND GASTRONOMIC FESTIVAL**

A two-day Hungarian festival started on Saturday in Brussels showcasing the country's food, wine, spirits and handicrafts, as well as presenting folk-music concerts, dance performances, film screenings and programmes for children. The HUNGAsTRY festival held for the third time in the central Cinquantenaire quarter also includes hussar and Rubik's cube shows. The Hungarian Permanent Representation of the European Union is presenting Hungarian Olympic successes over the years and Győr, in western Hungary, is exhibiting the Baroque city's sights and specialties.