

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Archers at the Feast of the Danube, marking the anniversary of the battle of Belgrade in 1456

MTI/Zoltán Máthé

UPCOMING EVENTS

NBH Monetary Council holds rate-setting meeting

Szijjártó announces S Korean Doosan's investment in N Hungary

Audi announces new investment

TOP STORY

SZIJJÁRTÓ: UN MIGRATION PACT 'DANGEROUS'

"It has once again been made clear that pro-migration forces want to make the United Nations' global migration compact, the world's most dangerous migration document, mandatory," Hungary's foreign minister has said.

At the UN General Assembly's recent vote on the implementation of the global migration compact adopted last December, 118 countries voted in favour of the document, five against it, with 13 abstentions and 57 countries not voting, Péter Szijjártó told MTI. Hungary, the US, Poland and Israel had already rejected the document, and they were joined in the most recent vote by Estonia. None of the Visegrad Group countries backed the compact's implementation, with the Czech Republic abstaining and Slovakia staying away from the most recent vote, he added, arguing that this again demonstrated the strength of the V4's unity. Anything approved by the UN becomes part of international law and judicial practice, Szijjártó insisted, underlining the need to fight "pro-migration proposals".

He said he had reached an agreement with Poland's interior minister and his Estonian counterpart on establishing a warning mechanism enabling their countries to "move against such pro-migration proposals in their early phases, whether they are drawn up in the UN or in Brussels".

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SYRIAN SUSPECTED TERRORIST TO STAY IN CUSTODY

A Budapest court has extended custody of a Syrian man arrested in Budapest in March suspected of participating in murders as a member of the Islamic State organisation. According to the court's statement on Monday, the man is believed to have participated in at least 10 brutal executions by the terrorist organisation in Syria in 2016. Under the court's ruling, he will remain in custody until the primary court rules on the case. The current court decision limits his custody to until Sept. 24, however. The suspect's attorney appealed for his client's release, arguing that the evidence presented by the prosecutor such as tapped telephone calls, information provided by the police of other countries, video footage of the killings as well as his own testimony did not support the charge.

The 27-year-old suspect was detained at Budapest's international airport after he produced false documents for himself and a woman in his company. His Islamic State connection was uncovered by the Hungarian and Belgian authorities.

APPEALS COURT: HUNGARIAN-SERBIAN ARRESTED IN PRAGUE ADMITS TO MURDER

A Hungarian-Serbian national arrested in Prague on multiple charges has

admitted to one of the charges of murder against him, the Budapest Appeal Court said. The man was arrested in Prague on March 1 and delivered to the Hungarian authorities on July 18. The police said they suspected the man, identified as Csaba D., of being involved in two murders, one in Amsterdam on July 30, 2018, and one in Budapest on September 19 of the same year. He is also suspected of committing fraud and other crimes, police said. Csaba D. is charged with attempting to sell sweetener, on the false pretense that it was cocaine, to a Hungarian "entrepreneur" in Budapest. When the prospective buyer tried to inspect the product, Csaba D. shot him, reports say.

The court said Csaba D. on Saturday admitted to the Budapest murder. His attorney insists his client had killed in self-defence. Csaba D. denies charges of fraud, however. Csaba D. is also suspected of shooting a Croatian national in the head in an Amsterdam cafe in July last year. The Croatian died as a result. The suspect remains in custody without possibility of bail.

HUNGARY, SERBIA PRESIDENTS ATTEND HUNYADI MONUMENT INAUGURATION

A monument to 15th century strategist and politician John Hunyadi was inaugurated in Zemun (Zimony) outside Belgrade, in a ceremony attended by the presidents of Hungary and Serbia. János Áder, the Hungarian

president, highlighted Hunyadi's victory in the 1456 Battle of Belgrade as the beginning of an era of peace and reconstruction. Hunyadi dedicated his whole life to protecting the homeland from the Ottoman Empire, he said. The bells of Christian churches in Europe rung at midday "have reminded all Europeans for 563 years of the courage, heroism, sacrifice and faith of the defenders of Belgrade", Áder said in his address.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić noted that Hunyadi, called Janko Sibinjanin in Serbia, is revered in both countries. "Hunyadi's dream has come true: Serbs and Hungarians are now fighting together, for shared goals," Vučić said.

The monument was erected where Hunyadi's troops had arrived on the River Danube before the famous battle.

GOVT OFFICIAL: SIEGE OF BELGRADE HUNGARY'S BIGGEST EVER MILITARY VICTORY

The victory against the Ottoman Empire at the siege of Belgrade in 1456 was Hungary's greatest victory in its wars against the Turks and possibly "even its biggest ever military victory", a defence ministry state secretary said, marking the anniversary of the battle. "In the battle that lasted nearly three weeks, Hungary was defending not just itself but all of Europe and the Christian world," Szilárd Németh told a press conference by the statue of 15th century strategist and politician

John Hunyadi in the Buda Castle. The determination shown by the heroes of the battle is an example not just to Hungarians but the whole of Europe, Németh said, adding that the government was convinced that the key to restoring Europe's security was stopping migration, protecting the continent's Christian culture and respecting nations.

HUNGARIANS OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOUR OF VACCINATION

An overwhelming majority of Hungarians are in favour of vaccinating, a survey by the Századvég economic research institute released on Monday shows. Fully 74% of the survey's respondents said vaccination was vital for preserving health, Századvég said. Altogether 15% said they were "more in favour that not" of vaccination, with only 9% expressing a negative attitude towards the practice. Hungarians consider vaccination even more important in the case of children, with 93% saying they should be vaccinated as early as possible. Only 5% of respondents disagreed.

COMMISSIONER: ALL LIGET PROJECT FACILITIES TO OPEN BY 2023

All of the new facilities designed under the Liget Budapest museum quarter

project will be opened by 2023, adding substantial green areas to the City Park, the ministerial commissioner for the project said. Construction of two-thirds of the buildings has either been completed or is under way, László Baán told MTI. Next to open will be the House of Millennium in the autumn with an exhibition presenting "The First Golden Age of Budapest and the City Park" in the fully restored, 130-year-old former Olof Palme House, Baán said. The construction of the new National Gallery, the House of Hungarian Innovations and the Városliget Theatre, will begin at the end of this year and in early 2020, he said. Construction of the House of Hungarian Music and the new facility for the Museum of Ethnography will be completed within a year.

ALMOST 10,400 SUSPICIOUS FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS REPORTED IN 2018

Financial service providers reported 10,379 suspicious transactions to the authorities in Hungary last year, the daily Magyar Nemzet reports. Fully 221 transactions were suspended under rules on preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and 130 of those resulted in criminal proceedings, according to National Tax and Customs Authority (NAV) data. The value of these transactions came to about 2.1 billion

forints (EUR 6.4m). Magyar Nemzet noted that the government recently mandated the establishment of a body of experts to observe and make recommendations on measures to combat money laundering and the funding of terrorism. Gábor Gion, who will chair the Anti-Money Laundering Coordination Council, told the paper the body was expected to hold its inaugural meeting in the autumn.

BUDGET DEFICIT 39% / FY TARGET AT END-JUNE

Hungary's cash flow-based budget, excluding local councils, ran a deficit of 390 billion forints (EUR 1.2bn) or 39.1% of the 998.4 billion forint full-year target at the end of June, the finance ministry confirmed in a detailed release of data.

Revenue from personal income tax rose by 105.4 billion forints over the same period a year earlier, while revenue from payroll tax climbed 260.1 billion forints in the period. Revenue from VAT totalled 397.4 billion forints higher and excise tax revenue increased by 45.3 billion forints. Revenue was lifted by higher wages and employment, which, together with tax preferences, have boosted consumption, the ministry said. The 2019 deficit target of 1.8% of GDP, calculated using the EU's accrual-based methodology, is "realistic and achievable", it added.