

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/György Varga

Reconstructed spa centre of Zalakaros

UPCOMING EVENTS

30th Bálványos Summer University opens in Băile Tuşnad

Announcement of higher education admissions thresholds

Foreign minister addresses Bumchun Precision Hungary investment announcement

Presser on 50th Debrecen Flower Carnival

TOP STORY

AUDI ANNOUNCES HUF 41 BN EXPANSION IN HUNGARY

German car maker Audi will spend 41 billion forints (EUR 126m) on expanding its vehicle manufacturing infrastructure, engine development centre and electric motor unit in Hungary, the foreign minister said.

Péter Szijjártó said that Hungary's government is supporting the investment, which will create 250 jobs, with a 6.4 billion forint grant. Hungary expects the automotive sector, which saw a 12% growth in production value in January-May, to reach new records, he said. The country's economic policy has drawn new investors from the east and the west alike, he added. Regarding electromobility, Szijjártó noted that sustainability has become a defining factor in European decision making, prompting new areas of economic competition. The EU's target to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 is acceptable only if the necessary funding is ensured, the minister said. Standing on a "pragmatic" ground, Hungary sees both the future of the Earth and European competitiveness as important, he said. It supports an EU environmental policy that "will ruin neither the environment nor the continent's industry", he said. Audi Hungária chairman Achim Heinfling said the investment project will be completed by the end of 2020.

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PROSECUTOR: NEW LEAD OPENED IN SYRIAN TERRORISM SUSPECT'S INVESTIGATION

The Budapest prosecutor has opened a new lead in the investigation against a Syrian man who was arrested in Budapest in March in connection with murders committed by the Islamic State terrorist organisation.

The suspect, Hassan F, is now being prosecuted for crimes against humanity as well as terrorism, the Metropolitan Prosecutor's Office said.

In light of various investigations, some of them carried out abroad, the foundation of the charges against the suspect have strengthened and timing of the crimes more precisely defined, the statement said. The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation has questioned Hasan F. as a suspect based on evidence he was involved in crimes against humanity. The prosecutors suspect the Syrian man of having participated in a systematic attack on a population and unlawfully incarcerating people while causing them severe physical and psychological harm. The crimes carry a prison sentence from ten years to life.

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

DK TO INVESTIGATE NUMBER OF MISSING TEACHERS IN HUNGARIAN EDUCATION

The opposition Democratic Coalition (DK) will write to all school district heads to find out how many teachers are missing from Hungarian public education, with a view to working on a solution, a lawmaker of the leftist party said. Gergely Arató said all sectors of public education suffer from a shortage of teachers. "This is not unfortunate happenstance," he said. "It is the responsibility of the government which stripped teachers of their independence and humiliated them at every turn." Young teachers are expected to teach children for as little as 130,000-140,000 forints a month (EUR 399.5-430.2), he added.

PÁRBSZÉD CALLS FOR TEACHERS, FIREMEN, POLICE TO RECEIVE WAGE INCREASES

The opposition Párbeszéd party has called on the government to raise the wages of teachers, fire fighters, and law enforcement staff. MP Olivio Kocsis-Cake said that low pay had created such a serious shortage in disaster management and law enforcement that their operations were now jeopardised. The deputy slammed the government for going on holiday "when reports in the past few days have focused on serious problems in light of the low wages of teachers, police and firemen". The government should also take measures to ensure proper working conditions and equipment for fire fighters, he added.

NBH LEAVES BASE RATE AT 0.9%

Hungarian rate-setters left the base rate unchanged at 0.9% at a monthly policy meeting. The rates was also kept on hold at the previous policy meeting.

DOOSAN STARTS BUILDING HUF 31 BN COPPER FOIL PLANT IN HUNGARY

South Korea's Doosan laid the cornerstone of a 31 billion forint (EUR 95m) copper foil plant in Tatabánya, in north-west Hungary. Péter Szijjártó, the minister of

foreign affairs and trade, noted that the government is supporting the investment, which is creating 181 jobs, with a 4.7 billion forint grant. The plant will turn out 50,000 tonnes of copper foil a year when it reaches full capacity, enough to make batteries for some 2.2 million electric vehicles. Szijjártó said the investment was record-breaking for a South Korean company in Hungary, and he noted that the country was Hungary's biggest foreign investor in the first half of the year, with 350 billion forints invested in total.

"This is the first time in the last five years that South Korea has come top in terms of investment value and new jobs, rather than Germany," he said. Bilateral trade rose by an annual 50% in 2018 and by 41% in the first six months of 2019, he added. With the current investment, Doosan will be a major supplier to the European market, he noted.

Hyunsoo Dong, vice-president of Doosan Corporation, said its Hungarian plant, built on 144,000 square metres, would be geographically the closest to prospective customers. The site is big enough for the plant's capacity to be doubled later on, he added. Local Fidesz lawmaker János Bencsik noted that the Tatabánya Industrial Park was established 25 years ago. Besides the automotive industry, it is home to

world-class investors in health care and the green sector as well as plastic industries, he said.

CAP FUNDING IN FOCUS OF HUNGARIAN-FRENCH FARM MINISTERS' TALKS

New rules and funding for farmers under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) during the community's next budgetary period were in focus at the Hungarian-French farm ministers' talks in Paris. István Nagy and Didier Guillaume agreed that the current level of CAP funding must be maintained after 2020 to ensure that European farmers remain competitive on the global market, the Hungarian farm ministry said in a statement. Brussels' plans to spend CAP funds on supporting migrants instead of farmers is unacceptable for the Hungarian government, Nagy told his partner. Funding for Hungarian farmers is planned to be cut by 25%, he noted, adding that the government supported the petition signed by over 100,000 farmers for maintaining the current level of funding. The two ministers agreed that CAP funding rules must be simplified to allow farmers easier access to the funds. Hungary will with the other three Visegrad Group members and France jointly promote maintaining the CAP

funding and simplifying its rules during the next round of debates in Brussels in the autumn, the ministry said.

GOVT OFFICIAL: SOME 130,000 CHILDREN TO ATTEND GOVT FUNDED SUMMER CAMPS

The number of children participating state sponsored Erzsébet camps has risen to 130,000 this year, with the state taking over travel costs and also offering daycare camps for preschoolers, a government official told public news channel M1. Bence Rétvári, a state secretary of the human resources ministry, said the camps were "important factors in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad" as they offer Hungarian children opportunities to find common ground with ethnic Hungarian students across the borders. This year, hundreds of children come from the Hungarian ethnic minorities in Transylvania, Slovakia and Ukraine, he said. The children will be given the opportunity to work with devices such as LEGO robots and create 3D objects, Rétvári said. They can try their hands at several sports and participate at concerts and talent shows, he added. The government is spending 4.4 billion forints in 2019 on the Erzsébet camps, Rétvári said.