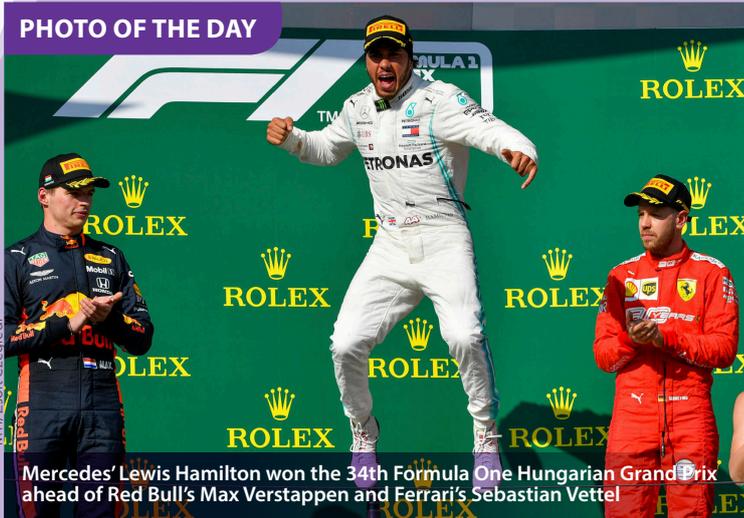


PHOTO OF THE DAY



Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the 34th Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel

UPCOMING EVENTS

Govt official addresses Rákóczi Alliance's all-Hungarian student camp opening

Sziget festival grounds presented to press

TOP STORY

OFFICIAL: GOVERNMENT'S TAX CUTS WORKING

The government's tax cuts are working, a finance ministry official told the daily Magyar Nemzet on Saturday, noting that while public burdens on businesses and households have been reduced, tax revenues have increased significantly.

According to the finance ministry's most recent budget report, tax revenues in the first half of 2019 were 840 billion forints (EUR 2.6bn) higher than during the same period last year. Revenues from corporate income tax, the social contribution tax, VAT, personal income tax, excise duties and contributions came to around 6,670 billion forints in the first six months compared with 5,830 billion forints this time last year, state secretary András Tállai said. VAT revenues were up by almost 400 billion forints while PIT revenues rose by about 100 billion forints, he added.

Tállai said that if a country's budget revenues are up after the government cuts taxes "then things are going in the right direction." He said this meant that businesses and private individuals had confidence in the government's decisions and believed that it was worth investing and living in the country. He added, at the same time, that the leftist opposition "still hasn't given up on austerity" and was campaigning for tax increases ahead of the autumn municipal elections.

HUNGARY-LATVIA CULTURAL COOPERATION WORKING PLAN SIGNED IN RIGA

A working plan for Hungarian-Latvian cultural cooperation has been signed in Riga by human resources ministry state secretary Csaba Latorcai during a three-day visit in Latvia. The working plan includes a three-year schedule for establishing links that will help cultural cooperation between the two countries, Latorcai told MTI by phone. With a focus on contemporary arts, it will give an opportunity to artists to introduce themselves in each other's countries through exhibitions, Latorcai said. The working plan also involves cooperation in literature and literary translation, theatre and joint projects in archives, he added. The respective governments will provide a framework for cooperation but it will be up to the various institutions and individual artists how much they utilise this, he said.

Latorcai said that during his stay in Latvia, he had also visited a Livonian community in Mazir. Livonian is a Finno-Ugric language so Livonians are related to Hungarians in terms of their languages, he added. Livonian is included in the UNESCO's endangered languages list, he said, adding that he attended an event commemorating the 80th anniversary of the opening of a Livonian Cultural Centre which was supported by Hungary.

LMP CALLS ON GOVT TO DECLARE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Green opposition LMP expects the government to declare a climate emergency in Hungary, the party's deputy group leader said over the weekend. Citing the extreme weather conditions of the past few weeks as well as record temperatures recorded in July, Erzsébet Schmuck called on the government to consider her party's proposals and take immediate action on climate change.

LMP wants Hungary to pledge to cut its carbon dioxide emissions by at least 50% instead of 40% by 2030, she said. Further, the party encourages the government to take on "firm and, if necessary, radical" climate change-related commitments at next month's climate summit in New York, Schmuck added. She suggested that the government should convene a climate round table meeting of scientists, representatives of various economic sectors, local councils, parliamentary parties and the non-parliamentary opposition Momentum Movement by the end of August.

PAKS OPERATOR: HIGHER DANUBE TEMPERATURES NO SECURITY RISK TO NUCLEAR PLANT

Rising water temperatures measured in the Danube do not yet pose a security risk to Hungary's sole nuclear plant at

Paks, operator MVM Paksi Atomerőmű said at MTI's enquiry. The operator said water temperature was being monitored along 500 metres of the river in the plant's vicinity, and added that it was currently measured 24.2°C. According to the plant's security regulations power production should be reduced once water temperature measures 30°C.

Cooling the plant requires taking 100 cubic metres of water per second from the Danube, which is just above 10% of the output of the river at its record lowest level, the operator added. Currently, when the river's water is at an average level, the plant uses less than 5% of that, the company said. Cooling the plant "cannot have any negative impact on the environment including the flora and fauna", it added.

AIR SERBIA LAUNCHES BUDAPEST-NIS FLIGHT

Serbian carrier Air Serbia has launched a direct flight between Budapest and Nis, the operator of Liszt Ferenc International Airport said. The carrier will operate the flight with an Airbus A319, all year round, every Thursday and Sunday, Budapest Airport told MTI.

MI HAZÁNK ACCUSES INTERIOR MINISTRY OF COVERING UP PRIDE MARCH 'LEGAL VIOLATIONS'

Radical nationalist Mi Hazánk has accused the interior ministry of covering up "legal violations"

concerning the police protection of this year's Budapest Pride march. Dóra Dúró, the party's deputy leader, told a press conference over the weekend that she had submitted a written query regarding police security at the "LGBTQXYZ march" to the interior minister but had received no substantive response. Dúró read out the ministry's written response which said that "the effective execution of police duties prescribed by law is guaranteed by the budget." She said she had not even received a response regarding the costs of police security at last month's event. Dúró said this was "extremely impudent" on the government's part, arguing that when a Fidesz MP had submitted a similar question in 2009, the interior ministry at the time had released the relevant data. She called it discriminatory that "people were let into the Pride march solely based on looks and clothing", insisting that the police had assisted the organisers in this. She said the interior ministry had even refused to answer whether it was concerned by this practice.

ANALYST: BATTLE FOR POSITIONS HEATING UP AMONG OPPOSITION

Hungary's opposition parties have realised that their options are increasingly limited and their battles for what they believe to be attainable positions are "becoming ever fiercer", a

political analyst told public broadcaster M1 over the weekend. Örs Farkas said the opposition parties had been locked in a battle with each other for years. He said the situation was beginning to become "comical", as opposition candidates were "trying to give the impression that they are greatly needed while some of them were already rejected by voters in last year's general election". He said the ruling Fidesz-Christian Democrat alliance was in the advantageous position heading into the autumn local elections that they have held the majority of mayorships and local councils since 2006, arguing that their mayors were now close to the people.

SZIGET FESTIVAL TO FEATURE SOUTH KOREAN THEATRE, MUSIC, CIRCUS

The Sziget Festival, to be held between August 7 and 13 in Budapest, will feature one of South Korea's most popular groups Idiotape, the creative circus group BONGnJOULE and a street theatre performance by Elephants Laugh, the South Korean Cultural Centre said.

The electro-rock group Idiotape will play at the Europe Stage on August 9. Their music reflects influences from 1960s and 1970s Korean rock, as well as The Doors, Radiohead, Metallica and Pantera, the statement said. The contemporary male dance troupe

Modern Table will perform a piece entitled Darkness Poomba at the Theatre and Dance Tent on August 10 and 11. The Elephants Laugh troupe will perform at Sziget during their European tour. Their performance dubbed Muljil was inspired by the female divers of Jeju Island and they will present it at the Theatre and Dance Tent, on August 8 and 9. The creative circus BONGnJOULE will show a performance dubbed The Road to Heaven at the Cirque du Sziget outdoor stage daily between August 8 and 13.

Professional trainers from the K-Pop Academy will offer free singing and dance courses to those who wish to learn about Korea and its pop culture, the statement added.

BUDAPEST NIGHT RUN DRAWS 6,000 ENTRANTS

Some 6,000 people participated in the 6th Generali Night Run Budapest held late on Saturday. The run was part of the 2019 European Capital of Sport scheme and contestants could choose between three distances: 6, 9 and 21 kms. The half-marathon was won by Gáspár Csere from Hungary among men and Ganna Volkova from Ukraine among women. The run crossed the Buda Castle district including the tunnel and for the first time this year participants also crossed the Chain Bridge.