

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Zoltán Balogh

Danila Kozlovsky's film on Chernobyl being shot at Origo Studios

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stats Office first estimate on industry output in June 2019

European Maccabi Games presser

TOP STORY

SYRIAN MIGRANT'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION EXTENDED

A court in Nyírbátor has extended the detention of Ahmed H, a Syrian national convicted under terrorism laws, until "conditions are in place that allow for his departure", the daily Magyar Hírlap said. The Syrian man can be kept in custody no later than until September 15, based on the current ruling.

Ahmed H. was convicted for inciting a riot at Röszke on the Hungary-Serbia border in September 2015 and spent 40 months in prison. He was released from prison on January 19 this year after serving two-thirds of his term, taking into account time spent in pre-trial detention. Ahmed H. was sentenced to five years in prison in a repeat procedure in 2018 for illegally crossing the border as part of a rioting crowd pelting the police with stones, which the court regarded as complicity in terrorist activities. Asked by Magyar Hírlap, a local court in Nyíregyháza, in eastern Hungary, said that Hungarian authorities are waiting for authorities in Britain as well as in Cyprus where Ahmed H. and his family lived before, to state whether they are ready to take him back. But the procedure to obtain the documents allowing the extradition of Ahmed H. has been stalling now for more than six months by those countries' authorities, the paper said. Ahmed H. still does not have valid travel documents, the paper said, adding that "no country has so far agreed to take him in".

DK SEES 'NATIONAL HEALTH CRISIS'

The opposition Democratic Coalition (DK) has demanded that the government should declare "a state of national health care crisis" and that large amounts should be reallocated in the central budget to benefit the sector. Imre László, a DK lawmaker, quoted press reports suggesting a state of emergency at a Budapest hospital due to a lack of specialists, and insisted that "in other countries ministers or governments would step down in the wake of such developments" while in Hungary "such cases have become an everyday routine". László insisted that the government's "destructive policies have now affected all areas of the sector", adding that previous governments had "spent more on health care even at the time of the global crisis".

"We must stop denying: the sector is past its collapse," he said.

LMP CALLS FOR SECURING HEALTHY DRINKING WATER TO ALL

The green opposition LMP demands that the government should increase support available to local councils for the purpose of securing drinking water, the party's deputy group leader said on Tuesday. At present the right of access to healthy, clean water is not guaranteed nationwide, Márta Demeter told a press conference.

The quality of drinking water keeps deteriorating as the water supply network has become outdated, she said. LMP believes the situation could be improved by cancelling public utility taxes payable by local councils and increasing allocations for maintenance support which have been unchanged for years, Demeter said.

Group leader László Lóránt Keresztes said more than 100,000 people in Hungary have no access to healthy drinking water. The situation is likely to worsen in the medium term because the entire system is on the verge of collapse, he added. With twice as many faults reported today than in 2012, a quarter of drinking water is going to waste, he said.

WIZZ AIR TO LAUNCH BUDAPEST-ODESSA FLIGHT

Hungarian low-cost airline Wizz Air said it will launch a direct flight between Budapest and Odessa in November. The flight will be operated with an Airbus A320 every Tuesday and Saturday, the carrier said. From Budapest, Odessa will be Wizz Air's second destination in Ukraine. The carrier has so far operated direct flights to Kiev.

MONETARY COUNCIL HOLDS NON-RATE-SETTING MEETING

The Monetary Council of the National Bank of Hungary (NBH) held a non-

rate-setting meeting on Tuesday. The rate-setters discussed economic and financial trends at the meeting. Rates were not discussed, in line with the agenda, the NBH said in a press release. The Council's next rate-setting meeting will take place on August 27.

KARÁCSONY SLAMS DEPT MAYOR FOR ALLEGED BUSINESS TIES WITH RUSSIAN GROUP

Gergely Karácsony, opposition candidate for Budapest mayor, on Tuesday demanded that Alexandra Szalay-Bobrovniczky should be stripped of her post of deputy mayor, and quoted press reports suggesting that Szalay-Bobrovniczky's husband has a joint venture with a Russian group that has supplied metro cars for the city. According to Karácsony, the reports "explain why the government insisted on the Russian supplier, which tendered a worse and more expensive bid" and why "the city has not followed up on all the technical complaints" against the new trains. "Budapest residents had to pay 9 billion forints more and put up with carriages without air conditioning just to make (ruling) Fidesz's oligarchs even richer," he added.

Karácsony called on Mayor Istvan Tarlos to initiate that the municipal assembly should withdraw Szalay-Bobrovniczky from her post.

Gábor Kerpel-Fronius of the Momentum party said that the opposition, if its parties won the

upcoming municipal elections, would ensure that “such public procurement projects are transparent and can be tracked” and that relevant contracts and supplier information are made public.

AROUND 10% OF EMPLOYED HUNGARIANS COMMUTE BETWEEN REGIONS

Around 10% of employed Hungarians between the ages of 20 and 64 commuted from one region to another for work last year, data

compiled by Eurostat show. The rate of commuters was highest in Central Transdanubia, at 12.2%, followed by Northern Hungary, where it stood at 8.3%. The rate was 7.6% in the capital and 6.4% for the Northern Great Plains region.

HUNGARY COLA CONSUMPTION REACHES ANNUAL 300M LITRES

Some 300 million litres of cola with a value of over 50

billion forints was consumed in Hungary in the twelve months to June, data from market research company Nielsen show. Sales volume was up by an annualised 7%, while turnover climbed by 10%, Nielsen said. Sales of sugar-free cola accounted for one-third of sales volume, but those sales increased at three times the rate of sales of cola containing sugar. Branded colas accounted for more than 90% of sales.