

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



Spanish street theatre Sound de Secá drummers at Sziget Festival

MTVA/Marton Mornus

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sziget Festival presser - police**

**Stats office prelim report on consumer prices (July)**

**Stats office first estimate on foreign trade (June)**

## TOP STORY

# OFFICIAL: HUNGARY PREPARED TO HOST 'JUST ABOUT ANY' SPORTING EVENT

Hungary's sports facilities now make it possible for the country to host "just about any discipline of sport", the state secretary for sports said.

Speaking to public broadcaster M1, Tünde Szabó said it was a testament to Hungary's sports diplomacy that it had managed to secure the rights to host multiple Olympics qualification world championships this year. "It was one of our main goals to bring as many international sporting events to Hungary as possible," she said.

She noted that the series of world championship events hosted by Hungary this year began with the World Table Tennis Championships in April. This was followed by the World Fencing Championships in July and next on the schedule is the ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships to be held in Szeged, in southern Hungary, in two weeks' time, she said. At the beginning of next month, Budapest will host the World Modern Pentathlon Championships, the state secretary added. In addition, the Hungaroring race track has just hosted the 12th round of the 2019 FIA Formula One World Championship this past weekend, Szabó noted. She added that altogether, some 230,000 fans had attended the Grand Prix weekend.

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## **SOCIALISTS SPEAK OUT FOR HUNGARIAN SUZUKI FACTORY WORKERS**

The opposition Socialist Party has penned a letter to the president of Japanese auto maker Suzuki with the aim of protecting the rights of workers at the manufacturer's Hungarian plant and will submit an amendment proposal to parliament in the matter, two of the party's politicians said.

Imre Komjáthi, one of the party's deputy leaders, told a press conference that though Suzuki was a strategic partner of the Hungarian government, the partnership agreement did not address the protection of Hungarian workers. The Socialist Party will therefore submit a bill to parliament in the autumn which will only allow the establishment of strategic partnerships with companies "that not only tolerate but also support the establishment of trade unions", he said. Komjáthi noted that although a union was formed at the Suzuki factory in February, its secretary was laid off and escorted out of the building by security guards the following day. The employment lawsuit in the matter is still ongoing, he added. He said the fact that the worker in question has still not been allowed to return to the factory, as well as Suzuki's opposition to the formation of a union at the company went against both the constitution and the labour code.

Socialist MEP István Ujhelyi said that as vice-chair of the European Parliament's transport committee,

he had recently received a letter from Suzuki President Toshihiro Suzuki in which the president thanked him for his support of Hungary's Suzuki plant in connection with the decision-making mechanism concerning the European Union's carbon emission regulations. Ujhelyi said that in his response letter, he had indicated to Suzuki that Hungary's partnership with the Japanese carmaker would weaken if the factory infringed on the rights, interests, work environment and chances to form a union. The MEP said he also asked Suzuki to order a probe into the situation of the Hungarian factory, arguing that the treatment of workers there was "unacceptable".

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## **JOBBIK: HUNGARY HAS BECOME 'MIGRANT DESTINATION'**

Hungary has become a "migrant destination" despite "high-sounding pledges" by ruling Fidesz, György Szilágyi, lawmaker of conservative Jobbik, told a press conference. Szilágyi insisted that Hungarian authorities had registered a total of 135,355 immigrants between 2015 and 2018, and added that the annual number more than doubled in the period. He quoted Prime Minister Viktor Orbán as saying earlier that Hungary would face "recession and decay" if it becomes an "immigrant country". Orbán has urged to expel from the country "those organising migration", he added.

The ruling parties have "released tens of thousands of residency bond

holders and foreign guest workers onto the country", Szilágyi said, insisting that the Fidesz-Christian Democrat parties were "the number one organisers of migration". The government fails to ensure higher wages and jobs to encourage the hundreds of thousands of young Hungarians that sought employment abroad; instead, it will "import migrant labourers" and "keep wages low to the detriment of Hungarian employees," he said.

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## **HUNGARY SECOND MOST SUCCESSFUL AT EUROPEAN MACCABI GAMES**

Hungary was the second most successful country after the US in terms of medals won at the European Maccabi Games held in Budapest, Tamás Deutsch, president of sports club MTK and chairman of the board of patronage of the games, said on Wednesday.

The 15th European Maccabi Games has been the biggest multisport event in Hungary, with 2,311 athletes from 42 countries participating, including record-many 208 Hungarians, Deutsch told a press conference. The US won 75 gold, 43 silver and 37 bronze medals and the total 100 medals won by Hungary made the country the most successful European country at the games. They were followed by Germany, the UK and Latvia, he said.

Deutsch said the games had been organised with state support of 4.9

billion forints (EUR 15m) but it resulted in 1.5 billion forints in tax revenues and 5 billion forints revenues for economic players.

He added that the government had reiterated its promise to build a Jewish sports centre in Budapest and its construction is expected to start within the next few years.

### **INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT FALLS BY 1.4% IN JUNE**

Industrial output in Hungary dropped by an annual 1.4% in June according to unadjusted data, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said in a first reading of data. Industrial output rose by 4.1% according to workday-adjusted data, KSH added. In a month-on-month comparison, industrial output was down a seasonally- and workday-adjusted 1.8%.

The decline in industrial production was broad-based in June. The pace of output growth slowed in vehicle manufacturing and the food, beverages and tobacco products segment while output in the computer, electronics and optical products segment decreased, KSH said. In the first six months of the year, industrial output was up 5.4% from a year earlier.

Analyst Gergely Suppan of Takarékbank said the disappointing June industrial output data show that Hungary's industry follows the weakening European and

German business trends while still outperforming those, with support from the growing production of new car models, the installation of new export capacities and strong domestic demand. Takarékbank's analysts forecast full-year industrial output growth of 5.5-6% in 2019 compared to 3.6% last year. Péter Virovác of ING Bank said the latest industrial output data suggest a slowdown in the pace of economic growth, with industrial output growth decelerating to 5.5% in the second quarter. All signs show that GDP growth must have peaked in the first quarter and a gradual slowdown in the pace of economic growth is already under way, he added.

### **BOY REPORTED MISSING IN GERMANY FOUND IN BUDAPEST**

A twelve year-old boy reported missing in Germany was found by Hungarian police at Budapest's Keleti railway station late on Tuesday, the police said on its website. The boy said he had left home without telling his parents just to see the world, police. hu said. Hungarian officers spotted the unaccompanied boy at the underground level of the train station and found that he only spoke German and had no travel documents. The boy told them that he had travelled from Germany by train because he wanted to see the city but had no acquaintances in Budapest and his

parents did not know his whereabouts. Police contacted the German authorities and the boy's father travelled to Budapest on Wednesday to collect his son and return home with him.

### **PLACIDO DOMINGO, SON CONCERT TO INAUGURATE NEW SZEGED HALL**

World-renowned Spanish tenor Placido Domingo will appear on stage together with his son for the first time in Hungary on August 28, in Szeged, in southern Hungary. Their concert featuring acclaimed Puerto Rican soprano Ana Maria Martinez as special guest will be a highlight event of the international Placido Domingo Classics festival, the organisers told MTI.

The concert also featuring Hungary's MÁV Symphony Orchestra with American conductor Eugene Kohn will be held to inaugurate the city's new youth and sports hall Szent Gellért Forum, they said. At the opening event of the Placido Domingo Festival on August 24, Grammy Award winning Baritone of the New York MET, Edward Parks, and Hungarians singers Nikolett Gallusz, Pál Feke and Katalin Ágoston will perform titles from popular musicals.

The festival was established in New York in 2017 to honour Placido Domingo for his artistic achievements and humanitarian work. The festival's chief patron is Parliamentary Speaker László Kövér.