

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Zoltán Balogh

Primatologist Jane Goodall at Budapest's Sziget Festival

UPCOMING EVENTS

Szeged Open Air Festival presser

KSH releases tourism figures for June

TOP STORY

MI HAZÁNK CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF COCA-COLA OVER GAY ACCEPTANCE ADS

The Mi Hazánk party has called for a boycott of Coca-Cola over the company's recently-launched advertisement campaign promoting gay acceptance.

László Toroczkai, the leader of the radical nationalist party, said that Mi Hazánk would organise protests on a weekly basis and encourage supporters to join its boycott on Coca-Cola products unless the US-based soft-drink maker "stops promoting homosexuality". Toroczkai held a press conference in front of the US multinational's premises in Dunaharaszti near Budapest, and insisted that the company was campaigning for same-sex marriage in two countries and was a supporter of a local gay pride festival in a number of countries. Mi Hazánk believes a soft drink company "has no business involving itself in politics or interfering in other people's private lives and its job is not to try to strengthen forms of social deviance", Toroczkai went on to say.

The politician called on Coca-Cola to "return to its own field of business". The company, he said, should "not attack families, traditional values or society". As his party's first act of protest, Toroczkai poured Coca-Cola products offered up by Mi Hazánk's supporters out onto the pavement in front of the company's premises.

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POLICE CHIEF: EVERY EFFORT MADE TO KEEP SZIGET FESTIVAL SAFE

Police will make every effort to ensure that visitors to the Sziget festival in Budapest feel completely safe, the Budapest police chief said. Plainclothes police officers will be present at the festival grounds to prevent crime and interfere if necessary, Tamás Terdik told a press conference. Police in uniform, together with civil guards, have been instructed to secure visitors' movement and to also make sure that traffic accidents are avoided as much as possible in Óbuda, the vicinity of the festival. A police information point has been set up on the Sziget grounds to serve festivalgoers and also offer entertaining programmes, he said.

AMERICAN AIRLINES TO LAUNCH DIRECT CHICAGO-BUDAPEST FLIGHT NEXT SUMMER

American Airlines will launch a direct flight between Chicago and Budapest next summer, the company said. Flights will operate four times a week between May 7 and October 24 using Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners, it said in a press release on its website. Direct air links between Budapest and Chicago were first established last year when Polish airline LOT launched its own nonstop flight between the two cities.

That flight operates twice a week year-round. However, starting next year, LOT will only operate the flight during the summer season. AA returned to Hungary last year when it launched a direct flight between Budapest and Philadelphia. Prior to that, the last time the carrier had operated a Budapest service was in the summer of 2011, between New York and Budapest. After the bankruptcy of Hungarian airlines Malév, the service was not renewed.

HUNGARY TRADE SURPLUS NARROWS TO EUR 556 M IN JUNE

Hungary had a 556 million euro trade surplus in June, narrowing by 437 million euros from the same period a year earlier, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said in a first reading of data. Exports fell by an annual 6.1% to 8.979 billion euros. Imports slipped by 1.7% to 8.423 billion euros.

HUNGARY CPI SLOWS TO 3.3% IN JULY

Hungary's annualised consumer price index stood at 3.3% in July, slowing from 3.4% in the previous month, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said. Headline inflation was lifted by an 8.5% increase in the price of spirits and tobacco products and a 6.0% rise in the price of food. Consumer durable prices fell by 1.4%, clothing prices were up 1.9%, household energy prices increased by

1.1% and prices in the category of goods which includes vehicle fuel edged up 0.4%. Service prices climbed 2.8%.

Seasonally-adjusted core inflation, which excludes volatile fuel and food prices, was 3.7%, and inflation adjusted for goods and services used by pensioners was 3.5%. In a month-on-month comparison, consumer prices inched up 0.2% as the price of spirits and tobacco products rose by 1.4% and service prices increased by 0.5%.

BUDGET DEFICIT 35.3% / FY TARGET AFTER JULY SURPLUS

Hungary's cash flow-based budget, excluding local councils, ran a 352.7 billion forint (EUR 1.1bn) deficit at the end of July, the finance ministry said in a preliminary release. The deficit hit 35.3% of the 998.4 billion forint full-year target. The ministry noted that the budget had a 37.2 billion forint surplus alone in the month of July, "as a result of the government's policy founded on increasing employment and reducing taxes and thanks to the performance of the economy". At the end of July, the central budget deficit came to 446.7 billion forints, while separate state funds had a surplus of 73.5 billion forints and the social insurance funds were 20.5 billion forints in the black.

The 2019 deficit target of 1.8% of GDP, calculated using European Union accounting rules, "remains achievable", the ministry said.