

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Noémi Bruzák

Hungarian Maltese Charity Service's Trabant car cruise in Budapest

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finance Ministry releases detailed budget report for Jan-July

Conference of Reformed Intellectuals in Balatonszárszó

20th Agriculture and Rural Development Forum opens in Kecskemét

Mission cross of the 2020 International Eucharistic Congress arrives in Pécs

TOP STORY

NEW MEDIA 'KEY IN ADDRESSING EVENTS OF '89'

As the fall of communism in 1989 has not been sufficiently addressed in art, 21st-century media will be "indispensable" in helping to revive the memories of the events that led to the regime change, the head of the PM's Office has said.

In the thirty years since the transition to democracy, there has been a general failure to properly analyse the events of 1989, Gergely Gulyás said at a roundtable discussion in Cluj (Kolozsvár), Romania. Further, works of art such as films that might have brought the events of the regime change to the "broader masses" and young people have yet to be made, he added. Meanwhile, Gulyás said Hungary had failed to punish the perpetrators of communist-era crimes. Comparing the histories of central European countries, he said one upside, however, was that the prolonged influence of the communist secret services after the fall of the regime in Romania had been avoided in Hungary.

Attorney András Schiffer, a former leader of Hungary's green LMP party, said it was "totally legitimate" to criticise the current regimes, adding, at the same time, that comparing them to the communist regime was inappropriate, pointing out that those aggrieved by the state may seek legal remedy, go public with their stories or leave the country.

LIBERALS SUPPORT KARÁCSONY FOR BUDAPEST MAYOR

Hungary's Liberal Party announced it would support Gergely Karácsony, the joint Budapest mayoral candidate of the Socialist, Párbeszéd and Democratic Coalition (DK) parties, in the municipal election scheduled for October 13. "Apart from Karácsony, merely pro-Fidesz candidates have remained in contention for the post," Ádám Sermer, the liberals' former candidate, told a press conference in front of the Parliament. Karácsony said that the "diverse camp of those wanting change in Budapest" has now become "complete and even more colourful".

Voters who want change in the city have now one candidate to vote for while those satisfied with the current situation can vote for either Fidesz candidate István Tarlós or other candidates backed by the ruling party, Karácsony said.

Karácsony presented the opposition's mayoral candidates in Budapest districts. DK's Erzsébet Németh Gy, running for mayor in district 17, noted that the talks with the liberals had been initiated by her party. Socialist Kata Tüttő, the opposition's joint mayoral candidate for district 5, said she would make the district in the city centre climate neutral within 15 years. She vowed to fight depopulation, saying that while

the city is riddled with a housing crisis and exorbitant rents, properties in the district function as hotels or stand empty. "If nothing changes, the heart of the city will become an empty, filthy jungle of ornamental stone", she said.

Incumbent Budapest mayor István Tarlós told MTI that Sermer's resignation had not come as a surprise and neither had the fact that the Liberals were now supporting Karácsony. Tarlós took Karácsony to task for accepting the Liberal party's demand for drug liberalisation.

HUNGARY IN TALKS WITH THAILAND OVER PORK EXPORTS

Representatives of Thailand's farm ministry and Hungary's foreign ministry had talks in Budapest on the licensing of Hungarian pork exports to Thailand in the context of Hungary's success in combatting swine fever. Gyula Budai, the government's trade commissioner, proposed that any future export ban due to an outbreak of swine fever should only apply to the affected region rather than to the whole country. He noted in a statement that in December last year, Bangkok eased an export ban of poultry in connection with bird flu because it was satisfied as to the strictness of Hungarian veterinary measures. "We now await the decision of the Thai authorities with confidence," he added.

With a population of 69 million, Thailand is Southeast Asia's second biggest market, Budai noted. It is in the best interest of Hungary's farmers that agreements with Bangkok should be maximally favourable, he added. In the case of a positive decision, Hungary's market for pork could expand by tens of billions of forints in Southeast Asia, he said. Hungary is the first country that Thailand is planning such cooperation with. Although the country is well catered to in terms of its supply of pork, there is nevertheless demand for high-quality, GMO-free Hungarian pork, particularly premium quality mangalitsa, he added.

EXHIBITION ON SUPPORT FOR EAST GERMAN REFUGEES IN 1989 OPENS

An exhibition on Hungarian help to East German refugees 30 years ago opened in the Hungarian National Museum. Organised by the museum and the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service, the photographs, artefacts and documents on display cover the history of the refugee camp set up in a Budapest churchyard on August 14 and the events that led to the opening of Hungary's western borders to East Germans heading for the West in September. German chargé d'affaires Klaus D. Streicher noted that the charity and other helpful civil organisations provided care for 48,600 refugees over three months in the refugee camp that operated next to Zugliget church.

FIRST LADY VISITS STATE-SPONSORED CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP

Visiting an annual state-sponsored children's summer camp in Zanka, in western Hungary, First Lady Anita Herczegh said that every child deserved to enjoy a carefree summer holiday. Herczegh spent time with children from the Szent Anna orphanage of Gheorgheni (Gyergyószentmiklós), in northern Romania, who are spending their summer holiday at the government-funded Erzsébet camp. Andrea Orsolya László, the head of the orphanage, said 18 of the Gheorgheni home's 42 children were staying at the camp, adding that plans were to bring 30 children next year.

SEPARATED SIAMESE TWINS IN STABLE CONDITION

Both of the Bangladeshi Siamese twins conjoined at the head who were successfully separated by a team of Hungarian doctors early in August are in a stable condition, the Foundation for Defenceless People that organised the operation told

MTI on Wednesday. Rokaiya, who had been kept in a medically induced coma after suffering a viral infection, has opened her eyes on her own, the foundation said in a statement. Rabeya, who has been awake for two weeks, is speaking in complete sentences and eating through her mouth and her mother can hold her, they added. Both twins are in a stable condition after suffering a viral infection, which had made Rokaiya's condition critical, the foundation said. Doctors expect to be able to draw long-term conclusions from the twins' conditions in about 3-6 weeks, the statement added.

The twins were separated in a 33-hour operation on August 1-2 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in what was the final step in a series of medical procedures dubbed "Operation Freedom". The first phase of Operation Freedom, including groundbreaking work to separate the blood flow of the brains, was conducted by a Hungarian team led by István Hudák in Bangladesh in August 2018. Preparatory surgery to separate the twins was performed in Hungary on January 25 this year. During the operation led by Dr Gergely Pataki, the tissue expander system was implanted. The marathon operation in Dhaka earlier this month was carried out by a team of 35 Hungarian doctors

and assistants led by András Csóky from Budapest's Honvéd Hospital.

HUNGARIAN TRIBUTE BAND TO PERFORM AT WORLD'S BIGGEST BEATLES FESTIVAL

Hungarian Beatles tribute band The Bits will be performing at this year's International Beatle Week, the world's biggest Beatles festival, in Liverpool. The Bits were invited by the famous Cavern Club, the venue in Liverpool where the Fab Four made their name. The tribute band will perform nine concerts at various venues during the festival between August 23 and 26, including the Cavern Club, band leader Zsolt Derecskei told MTI. "We play songs from the entire Beatles catalogue in the original four-man line-up," Derecskei said in a statement. "Even songs that The Beatles never performed at their concerts." What started as a gathering of friends in the 1980s, International Beatle Week now attracts thousands of tourists and Beatles fans. Organised every year at the end of August, the week-long festival features concerts by some 80 bands from all over the world. Fans will be able to keep up with The Bits' Liverpool tour on Facebook.