

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTV/Tamás Kovács

School year starts

UPCOMING EVENTS

Foreign minister attends Bled Strategic Forum

Stats office publishes June foreign trade figures

NBH presser on 2019 Financial Consumer Protection Report

Defence minister on Hungary's military development scheme

Local election campaign events

TOP STORY

ROGÁN: FIDESZ OFFERS EXPERIENCED MAYORS

Voters at the municipal elections on October 13 will have to choose between mayors who have already proven their skills and unsuitable candidates, Cabinet Chief Antal Rogán said.

The opposition's joint candidate for Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony, who has been mayor of Budapest's 14th district for five years, has "filled many posts in many forms, starting his career in the liberal SZDSZ party and the green LMP to become prime ministerial candidate of the Socialists. In the meantime, he neglected his district, almost bringing it to ruin," Rogán told commercial channel HírTV.

Unlike Karácsony, Budapest Mayor István Tarlós is a well-tested and experienced mayor who "does not shy away from getting into conflict even with the government if the interests of the city so dictate," he added. The ruling Fidesz-Christian Democrats have well-tested and experienced mayors in almost all towns and villages who are doing their job well, Rogán said. The cabinet chief said there was an ongoing ideological battle with the left wing wishing to reshape the world to reflect its own priorities which are "currently packaged in green ideology". The right-wing alternative, in turn, is taking shape in the fight against migration, he said.

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JUSTICE MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH FINNISH EUROPEAN AFFAIRS MINISTER

Hungarian Justice Minister Judit Varga discussed issues concerning the next European Union budget with Finland's minister for European affairs Tytti Tuppurainen in Brussels. Speaking to MTI after her talks, Varga called Finland's ongoing EU presidency "highly ambitious", pointing out that they intend to conclude the negotiations on the 2021-2027 budget before the end of the year. Hungary's government, however, prioritises quality over speed, she added.

Concerning the draft budget, the minister rejected the "unacceptable double standards" she said the proposal contained. Varga also pointed out that if the budget were passed, the central European member states would see the biggest reductions in cohesion funding, which she said completely went against the principles and goals of the bloc's cohesion policy. Meanwhile, she said the EU was also planning to introduce a "backwards bonus system" that would award additional funds to countries that, for instance, are behind on meeting their pledge to cut their carbon dioxide emissions. "Good students, like Hungary, on the other hand, would not see a single cent" of these monies, Varga added.

BUDAPEST MAYOR APPOINTS COMMISSIONER FOR GREEN ENVIRONMENT

Budapest Mayor István Tarlós appointed a municipal commissioner to oversee issues around the city's green infrastructure. In his justification of the appointment, Tarlós said that "hysterical" remarks concerning the retention of trees and green areas in the city had "exponentially" increased in recent months, adding, at the same time, that it was necessary to ensure that objectives as laid out in Budapest's climate and green infrastructure development strategies were met. Commissioner József Szabó, head of municipal parks manager Főkert, will be tasked with overseeing the implementation of those objectives as well as "giving fast and justified responses" to such remarks and providing "truthful" communication.

BUDAPEST TO HOST DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMIT FOR THIRD TIME

Budapest is going to host a demographic summit for the third time after 2015 and 2017, with politicians, scientists, church dignitaries and public personalities giving presentations and exchanging their experiences on current trends, the state secretary for family and youth affairs said. The event

dubbed Budapest Demographic Summit III will be held at Várkert Bazár on Thursday and Friday with participants from every continent, Katalin Novák told a press conference. The purpose of the event is to discuss demographics, one of the greatest challenges of the current era, because the future depends on what type of people Europe will be populated by and whether Europe will remain Christian, she said.

Hungary is determined to address the problem of population decline, a challenge faced by the industrial nations, and has kept the issue on the agenda ever since 2010. Hungary's response is a strong pro-family policy rather than encouraging mass migration, the state secretary said. The Hungarian model has stood the test of time and deserves to be shared with others, she said, adding that "this is why Budapest has become the capital of families for the third time."

FINNISH PM TO VISIT BUDAPEST FOR TALKS AT END OF SEPTEMBER

Antti Rinne, the prime minister of Finland which currently holds the European Union presidency, will visit Budapest on September 30, the press chief of the Hungarian prime minister said. Rinne will meet Hungarian counterpart Viktor Orbán in the prime minister's office, to be followed by a joint press conference, Bertalan Havasi said.

SEMJÉN: NUMBER OF CHURCH SCHOOLS DOUBLED SINCE 2010

The number of church-run educational institutions and the number of students in such schools have doubled since 2010, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén said at the year-opening event of the local Catholic secondary and primary school and kindergarten of Kapuvár, in western Hungary. A total of 220,000 children study in Hungary's 1,067 church-run schools, he said.

Semjén said that since 2010, some 120 churches have been built and 2,800 revamped. Contrary to Western Europe, no church in Hungary has been closed or converted to shopping malls and mosques. Eurostat figures show that Hungary offered the highest amount of church support compared to GDP in the European Union, he added.

Semjén said that before the nationalisation of church-run schools in 1948, some 60% of all schools were operated by churches. The Hungarian state respects the inalienable right of people to send their children to church-run schools and believes that such institutions benefit the whole of society, he added.

DK MEP WELCOMES VON DER LEYEN'S PUSH FOR FAIR EU MINIMUM WAGE

Democratic Coalition MEP Klára Dobrev has welcomed a pledge by

European Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen to push for fair minimum wages across the European Union during her presidency. At a press conference on Monday, Dobrev said that she had sent von der Leyen a congratulatory letter after her election as EC president. In her response, Von der Leyen vowed to put forward a proposal in the first one hundred days of her presidency that could guarantee a fair minimum wage for every EU citizen. In response to a question, Dobrev said the European minimum wage could amount to 60-70% of the average wage.

SZIJJÁRTÓ ATTENDS BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO PLANT INAUGURATION IN HUNGARY

The Hungarian unit of British American Tobacco (BAT) inaugurated a 7.5 billion forint (EUR 22.6m) plant at its base in Pécs, creating 100 jobs, at a ceremony attended by Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó. The plant will produce nicotine pouches, initially on one production line but by 2020 an additional 5 production lines should be installed. The production is meant fully for foreign markets with production volume set to more than triple by next year. BAT Regional production manager Bernd Meyer said they chose Pécs as the location of the investment because of the skill of local workers. BAT has invested 40 billion forints in its tobacco factory in Pécs since acquiring

it in 1992. BAT Pécsi Dohánygyár had after-tax profit of 5.1 billion forints on revenue of 138 billion forints last year. The Hungarian unit of BAT employs 800 people.

SZIJJÁRTÓ ANNOUNCES HUF 1.3 BN ALDI INVESTMENT

ALDI International IT Services will invest 1.3 billion forints (EUR 3.9m) in establishing its second service centre in Hungary in Pécs, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said at a press conference. The company, providing IT services for the local unit of German discount chain Aldi, will receive a 300 million forint government grant for the investment, Szijjártó said. The investment will create 70 jobs raising Aldi IIT's headcount to 150 in Hungary. The centre in Pécs will provide support service in Hungarian, German, English, Italian, French and Slovenian. ALDI IIT supports operations of ALDI South in 3,800 stores and 55 logistics centres.

HUNGARY PPI EDGES UP 0.3% YR/YR IN JULY

Industrial producer prices were up 0.3% in July from the same month a year earlier, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said. Prices for domestic sales were up 2.8% while export prices inched down 0.9%. In a month-on-month comparison, industrial producer prices were up 0.3% as domestic prices were down 0.1% and export prices were up 0.5%.