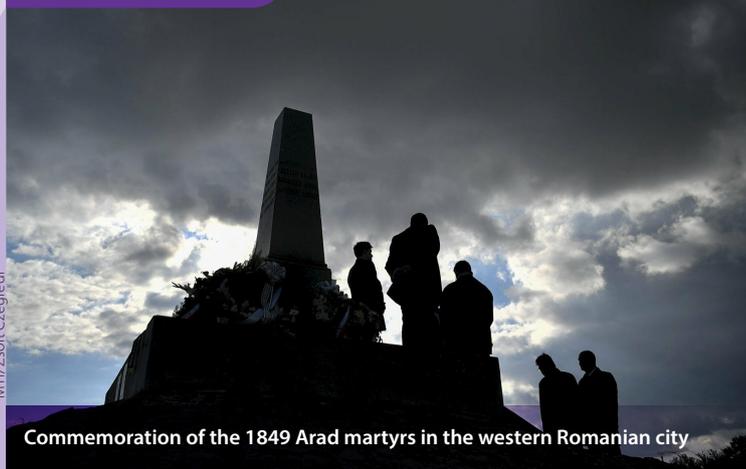


PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Zsolt Czegledi

Commemoration of the 1849 Arad martyrs in the western Romanian city

UPCOMING EVENTS

EU justice ministers meet in Luxembourg

Stats office releases preliminary Aug industrial output data

Gas delivery company FGSZ inaugurates new compressor station in SE Hungary

Local election campaign events

TOP STORY

ÁDER HONOURS 1849 MARTYRS

President János Áder joined commemorations of the leaders of Hungary's revolution and freedom fight executed by Austria in 1849.

The life and death of Count Lajos Batthyány, prime minister of Hungary's first independent government, reminds Hungarians of the value of a country's freedom and independence, Áder told the commemoration held at the Budapest mausoleum of the martyred prime minister. "Batthyány not only died for Hungary but also lived, worked and fought for it," Áder said. The revolution and freedom fight of 1848 were linked by the era of civic transformation, the president said. The few months that separated the revolution and the freedom fight saw the birth of a new homeland through the enactment of new laws and the achievements of Hungary's reform era, he added. This was the era in which Hungary restocked its treasury, established the conditions for political stability and embarked on new state developments, he noted. Batthyány's government was able to lay the foundations of Hungary's autonomy within a matter of a few months, Áder said, noting that this process had often taken decades or centuries for countries "that were luckier in their histories"

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TARLÓS: MARTYRS SHOWED 'DETERMINATION AND RESISTANCE'

Budapest Mayor István Tarlós told the commemoration held at the Budapest mausoleum of Count Lajos Batthyány, prime minister of Hungary's first independent government, that it was because of their patriotism, character, loyalty to their nation and desire for freedom that the Arad martyrs had been ready to "die bloody deaths". "Determination and resistance: that is the life testimony of the martyrs," Tarlós said, adding that October 6, 1849 had been a day of "deep mourning" for every Hungarian. Austria's "brutal retaliations" shocked not only the Hungarian nation but also the European public, the mayor said, adding that the curtailment of Hungary's national independence, however, had failed to thwart the spread of civic thought. After the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867, Hungary was given domestic political autonomy, but the territorial integrity of the multinational country was left intact, Tarlós noted.

The speeches were followed by a wreath-laying ceremony honouring Batthyány, the Arad martyrs and every victim of the revolution and freedom fight of 1848/49. Commemorations started in the morning with the national flag flying at half-mast in front of Parliament with a military salute. October 6 was declared a national day of mourning in 2001.

FIDESZ: MIGRATION QUOTA 'THREAT TO EU MEMBER STATES AND CITIES'

The European Union's migration quota system is a threat to EU member states and cities, the ruling Fidesz party's spokesman said. János Halász accused the outgoing European Commission of using its last few weeks to force the hand of member states and the new commission to be established in November. Dimitris Avramopoulos, the commissioner for migration, at the time of the signing of the quota agreement, urged all member states to take part in the distribution of migrants, and the head of the EC's migration directorate demanded the same in a meeting of the European Parliament's civil liberties, justice and home affairs (LIBE) committee on Thursday, Halász said. The outgoing commission is providing the relevant financial and political support, he added. The Malta quota agreement is to be presented to EU interior ministers next Tuesday, he noted, adding that member states had been urged to participate. The migrant quota "is on the table again and presents a real threat," the Fidesz politician said. "We'll do all we can to protect Hungary and Hungarian cities from the migrant quota," he said. The pro-migration opposition, he added, was eager to take the orders of the European left. "They would dismantle the fence, endorse the quota system and transfer migrants to Hungarian cities," he said.

Meanwhile, Csaba Dömötör, a Prime Minister's Office parliamentary state secretary, told Kossuth Rádió that the left wing was not up to the task of blocking European Union pro-migration policies. The main opposition Budapest mayoral candidate, Gergely Karácsony, recently met Frans Timmermans, the European Commission's first vice-president, who has advocated spending EU funds on migrants as well as implementing a mandatory quota for relocating migrants, Dömötör said, accusing Timmermans and his associates of teaming up with left-wing mayors to promote pro-migration plans. He said there was "movement" in Brussels in connection with the dispute over migrant quotas, partly due to the change of government in Italy and its opposition to the policies of former Interior Minister Matteo Salvini. "The same old game is being played," he said. "First the talk is about a voluntary quota scheme and then a mandatory quota together with sanctions is put on the table. Anyone refusing to take part would then have to pay a heavy fine." Dömötör said Hungarian policymaking was based on public consultations and elections. Accordingly, Hungarians clearly rejected immigration and they would again have a chance to confirm this position by voting in the Oct. 13 local elections, he added.

MEP of ruling Fidesz Tamás Deutsch said the Timmermans-Karácsony meeting served to prepare a pro-migration deal that would give

way to hundreds or thousands of migrants to be moved to Budapest. Timmermans wants pro-migration mayors to move migrants into Europe and plans the same for Hungary, he said. Timmermans, he added, was an openly pro-migration politician who represented “hair raising” ideas about migration while being “the number-one ally” of US financier George Soros in Brussels. Rather than a European Union commissioner for the Netherlands, he is Soros’s commissioner in the European Commission, he said adding that Timmermans holds regular meetings with Soros, such as the one during the recent United Nations General Assembly session in New York.

Timmermans is a supporter of the “Soros plan” and especially of settling migrants in Europe in line with a mandatory quota, which is “partly why we prevented him from becoming the new European Commission president”, Deutsch said. Timmermans would punish countries that refuse to take in migrants by withdrawing EU funds from them and would award member states, cities and local councils that are willing to take in illegal migrants by granting funds to them, he added.

V4 FARM MINISTERS DISCUSS CAP, FORESTRY WITH FINNISH, BALKAN COUNTERPARTS

The future of the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and forestry issues were in the focus of a meeting

today of farm ministers of the Visegrad Group, plus Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania and Finland. The current predictable CAP system should not be replaced by an unstable one that is hard to implement, Hungarian state secretary of agriculture Zsolt Feldman said at the meeting in Prague on Saturday. Changes to CAP would entail a transition period of up to two years for farmers and member states to accommodate national legislation and the submission of a detailed funding strategy to Brussels, the farm ministry cited Feldman as saying in a statement.

The ministers also signed a declaration calling on European political bodies to take necessary measures to protect European forests. The declaration states that sustainable European forestry would be enhanced by implementing innovative solutions, funding and modernising the forestry sector, cutting red tape and cooperation by member states. Feldman said that farmers should be incentivised to be involved in forestry. He cited a Hungarian decision to increase funding for forest planting while supplementing lost revenue due to afforestation.

FARM MINISTRY: SERBIA LIFTS HUNGARIAN PORK BAN

Serbia has reopened its market to Hungarian unprocessed pork after a ban was placed due to African swine fever (ASF) being detected in the country in April 2018, the farm ministry said. The Hungarian veterinary authority conducted a year-long negotiation with

its Serbian counterpart on instituting regional exemptions to the ban with a view to containing the economic damage, the ministry said. Accordingly, Hungarian companies operating outside the infected regions are now allowed to export to Serbia, it said. Previous agreements avoided bans in Albania, Georgia and Hong Kong, while partial restrictions applied in the case of exports to Chile, Canada, the US, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Singapore and Vietnam, the ministry said. Talks with Serbia are under way to expand export permissions for processed pork products and live hogs, the statement said. The veterinary authority is also pursuing talks with South Korea, Japan and other countries to achieve similar agreements to the Serbian one, it added.

KARÁCSONY: ONLY LOCAL COUNCIL AUTONOMY ‘CAN COUNTERBALANCE GOVT POWERS’

It is only local councils based on the power of local communities that will be able to counterbalance the central government’s concentration of powers, Gergely Karácsony, the main opposition Budapest mayoral candidate, said at a conference. In a lecture given to the Hungarian Solidarity Movement, Karácsony said democratic competition in Hungary only appeared real from afar, and social and political competition “behind the scenes” was notably unbalanced. He said the government’s concentration of powers was virtually impossible to

eliminate by political means, so it was safe to say that the current system was a party state. Karácsony said that in a normal democracy, pro-government mayors braved conflict with the cabinet when necessary in order to protect their local community. Yet mayors of the ruling Fidesz party, he insisted, dared not speak out against government interests, even if such reticence risked their re-election prospects.

He said that what was at stake in the Oct. 13 municipal election was whether what was left of social autonomy could be safeguarded, and whether citizens succeeded in choosing the leaders who represented their interests. Karácsony said the opposition should strive to win the elections with a view to promoting the reinvigoration of local community self-determination rather than to act as a counterweight to the central government per se. The opposition mayoral candidate said that right-wing populism was based on manipulating certain lonely and fearful sections of society. The left wing must demonstrate that municipal politics, harnessing solidarity, are about communities where people are respected and safe, he added.

DK: PUBLIC PROSECUTOR FAILING TO PROBE ELECTION FRAUD

The opposition Democratic Coalition (DK) has sent a written request to Péter Polt, the public prosecutor, to state why the prosecution service had failed to investigate "obvious election fraud" in

the context of Hungary's upcoming local elections. Gergely Arató, DK's deputy parliamentary group leader, referred to an Index news portal report of an unrealistically large number of voters registered in households in Záhony, in eastern Hungary, and a related complaint lodged by the Socialist Party upheld by the local election committee of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County. Referring to the ruling party, he said experiences during the 2018 general election campaign showed how "Fidesz vote-buying" worked at the Ukrainian border. Arató insisted that thousands of Ukrainian citizens in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County had registered at fake addresses in order to vote for Fidesz mayoral candidates and MPs in exchange for receiving Hungarian pensions and health care. He said that it amounted to an admission on the part of the government nothing had been done to combat the practice of fake registrations.

KÖVÉR: SZEKLERLAND DESERVES 'RESTITUTION' FROM BUDAPEST, BUCHAREST

Speaker of Parliament László Kövér has argued that Szeklerland and Szeklers deserved historical restitution from Budapest and Bucharest. The Szeklers could expect "a good word" from both capitals because both Romania and Hungary were in debt morally to Szeklerland and the Szeklers, Kövér said during the inauguration ceremony of a renovated building of the Education Centre of the University in Odorheiu Secuiesc (Székelyudvarhely). He

said that in the course of one thousand years, Szeklerland and its people had given Hungary more than they had received in return. In Romania's case the timeline was one hundred years. Neither Romania nor Hungary, he said, wanted to lose control over their own economic resources or their value-creating workforce. So it was incumbent on both countries to take action to prevent this from happening in Szeklerland, he added. Kövér referred to the past mistakes of Budapest and Bucharest which had resulted in the gross neglect of Szeklerland in terms of the development of infrastructure and the input of capital.

He said the self-government of Odorheiu Secuiesc had been ahead of the Hungarian state when in 1998, three years before Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania was established, it hosted an external branch of the Hungarian university, expanding higher education in Odorheiu Secuiesc, he said, adding that the time had come for the Hungarian state-maintained Sapientia University to launch degree courses in Székelyudvarhely.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR: HUNGARY IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF BELT AND ROAD POLICY

Hungary is a "key component" of China's Belt and Road strategy within the group of the Visegrad Four countries, the Chinese ambassador told public news channel M1 on Friday evening. China announced its new economic policy in 2013, and Hungary launched its foreign policy strategy of

Eastern opening the same year, Duan Jielong told the channel, marking the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties. This has led to a significant improvement in Chinese-Hungarian relations, the ambassador said. Hungary always considered China an important partner and provided a lot of help and support to it, he added. The ambassador highlighted the strategic agreement Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán had concluded with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Belt and Road conference in Beijing in 2017.

SZEGED UNIVERSITY GETS WORLD-CLASS NEUROSURGERY OPERATING THEATRE

At the handover of a world-class neurosurgery operating theatre at the University of Szeged, the minister of innovation and technology declared that Hungary's health industry was poised to achieve "outstanding results".

László Palkovics said Hungary's health industry was growing by 5-6% a year, and more than a third of patent applications came from this sector. He said rampant Hungarian economic growth was linked to high-tech manufacturing and the services sector, adding that Hungarian exports have the highest high-tech value-added component in the EU.

Palkovics said a medical education was based on bridging education, research and clinical care. Practical training is becoming more and more important, he said, adding that the right tools, such as the new surgical complex in Szeged, were needed. He noted the government's decision to separate funds for medical research and scientific health research.

BÉLA KÁDÁR PAINTING TO BE AUCTIONED AT VIRÁG GALLERY

Béla Kádár's painting Concertina, acquired from a private collection in the US, will be

auctioned along with some 200 other pieces at the Judit Virág Gallery's auction on October 20, the organisers said. At the auction in the Budapest Conference Centre, works of Armand Schönberger, Béla Czóbel, Hugó Scheiber, Lajos Gulácsy, József Rippl-Rónai, Róbert Berény and László Paál will be under the hammer, the organisers said.

Kádár, who was an acclaimed painter in Germany and the US in the 1920s, took Concertina to the US where it was shown in New York, Philadelphia, San Diego and Phoenix. It was bought by a private collector in the 1970s and will now be brought back to Hungary "after extensive preparations", the gallery said. Other works up for auction include Kádár's Composition (Girls with still-life), Scheiber's Sturm Ball, Schönberger's Absinthe drinkers and others.