

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTVA/Attila Kovács

Butterflies in the Budapest Zoo's newly opened Butterfly Garden

UPCOMING EVENTS

EU foreign ministers hold meeting

Justice minister inaugurates facilities raising prison capacity

Plenary session of parliament

Coronavirus updates

TOP STORY

GULYÁS: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

The government is introducing international travel restrictions with the aim of preventing a new wave of the coronavirus epidemic, the Prime Minister's chief of staff said.

Gergely Gulyás told a press conference that Hungary must prevent the virus from being imported from abroad. The government does not currently plan to introduce any additional restrictive rules within the country but it will tighten border controls from Wednesday, he said. "Hungary is today among the safest countries in Europe," he said. But given new outbreaks around the world, the government is putting the health and safety of Hungarians foremost and is doing everything possible to prevent the virus's return, he said.

The operative board in charge of containing the epidemic has advised the government to classify countries into "red", "yellow" and "green", based on the severity of the situation in each, Gulyás said, adding that it is continually monitoring infection data from abroad. There are "worrying signs" from neighbouring countries, he said. "The better we are able to protect our borders and restrict entry to the country, the better we can uphold the conditions for a safe and free life in Hungary," he said.

HUNGARY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS CONDITIONAL ON EPIDEMIC STATUS IN SENDING COUNTRY

The travel restrictions from Wednesday will depend on the status of the epidemic in the country the person entering Hungary has arrived from, the prime minister's chief of staff said. Special rules will apply to Hungarian citizens and their relatives, Gergely Gulyás said. Hungarian citizens can freely enter from a country classified "green". Entry from "yellow" or "red" countries will entail undergoing a health check at the border and 14 days in quarantine unless two consecutive negative coronavirus tests taken 48 hours apart within the previous 5 days can be proven. Hungarian citizens coming from a "yellow" country depart quarantine after a single coronavirus test, while those from "red" countries will need two negative tests to do so. The same rule applies to non-Hungarian citizens from "yellow" countries, but those from "red" ones will be forbidden entry altogether.

Transit and freight traffic are exempt but will have to follow an officially designated corridor. At the same time, health examinations may be carried out if needed. The government will keep the list of countries and their classification under review, and it is possible the

number of countries in the yellow or red category may be expanded. Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania and Sweden are currently "yellow" EU countries, while from outside the EU the United Kingdom, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Japan, China and the United States are the same. Among European countries, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belarus, Kosovo, North Macedonia, as well as Moldova and Montenegro are "red". Asia, Africa and South America are also classified as "red". In Croatia, still classified as "green", the number of infected people is low but increasing, he noted.

The PM's chief of staff said the government will bear the costs of testing until Aug. 1. After this date, unless people are prepared to enter into official home quarantine for 14 days when they return home from a country marked yellow or red, they will have to pay for the test.

FIVE NEW CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS IN HUNGARY

Five coronavirus infections have been registered in Hungary over the past 24 hours, bringing the total number to 4,234, koronavirus.gov.hu said on Sunday morning. The number of deaths was unchanged at 595, while 3,036 people have made a recovery. The number of active infections stands at 603. Fully 128 coronavirus patients are in hospital, five on a ventilator. Budapest is the location of 38% of

active infections, 60% of fatalities and 46% of recoveries. Currently 2,322 people are under official house quarantine and 294,425 tests have been carried out. The threat of an epidemic is still present, so epidemiological preparedness and basic protection measures are still needed, the website said. Wearing a face mask is still compulsory in shops and on public transport. Budapest has the most infections (1,992), followed by Pest County (640) and the counties of Fejér (379), Komárom-Esztergom (308) and Zala (262). Tolna County has the fewest infections (13).

ÁDER BRIEFS VON DER LEYEN ON RIVER WASTE ON SZAMOS, TISZA

President János Áder wrote a letter to the President of the European Commission with the observation that large amounts of plastic and other waste are flowing into Hungary on the Tisza and Szamos rivers, from Ukraine and Romania, respectively. In the letter to Ursula von der Leyen, Áder said that despite previous promises by those countries, the flooded rivers flowing into eastern Hungary continue to bring large amounts of waste, harming the ecosystem as well as the fishing and tourism industries, and posing epidemic-related challenges. Áder noted he had already written to Volodymyr Zelensky and Klaus Iohannis, his Ukrainian and Romanian

counterparts, asking them to address the issue. Hungary has already removed 938 cubic meters of waste from the Tisza and 846 cubic meters from the Szamos since June 13, Áder said.

KOCSIS: FIDESZ TO PROPOSE LAW AMENDMENTS TO BETTER TACKLE PAEDOPHILIA

The ruling Fidesz party plans to propose to parliament a wide-ranging package of legislative amendments based on a review of all child protection laws, with a view to preventing paedophilia and other forms of child abuse such as the production, collection and dissemination of child pornography, the head of the Fidesz parliamentary group said. Referring to the recent case involving Gábor Kaleta, Hungary's former ambassador to Peru who received a suspended prison sentence for possession of child pornography, Máté Kocsis said the case highlighted various shortfalls in current Hungarian regulations. Kocsis called the court ruling "problematic" and "weak", and he said it was incomprehensible that the prosecutor's office had not appealed for a stiffer sentence.

Kocsis said he is personally heading a new working group to review Hungary's child protection system. The group will comprise child protection specialists, lawyers, criminal law experts, the

heads and staff of the relevant ministries, as well as Fidesz and Christian Democrat lawmakers. "Paedophilia crimes are such that the very thought of them should be punishable," he said.

ELECTRICITY DEMAND FALLS BY 10% IN MAY

Demand for electricity in Hungary declined by around 10% in May compared with a year earlier, the daily Magyar Nemzet said, citing Hungarian energy regulatory authority data. The paper attributed the decline to measures to contain the coronavirus epidemic as well as to the statistical fact that there were two fewer working days in May compared with the same month last year.

Load fell by 560 megawatts (MW) on average in May. The Paks nuclear power plant provided 55% of domestic electricity production, while lignite-fired and gas turbines provided 10% each. Solar power accounted for 7.8% on average, though this rose to 18-25% during the peak period when the weather was fair.

ÁDER AWARDS HIGH DECORATION TO GERMAN FOUNDATION HEAD

President János Áder has decorated Brun-Hagen Hennerkes, founder and head of Germany's Family Business Foundation, with the Order

of Merit of Hungary, Middle Cross, in recognition of his efforts to promote investments in Hungary by companies belonging to the foundation, as well as of his support for Hungarian family businesses. The decoration was handed over by László Palkovics, Hungary's innovation and technology minister, during talks in Berlin on Friday. Palkovics said that family-based businesses employ over 50% of Germany's work force, and mentioned Knorr-Bremse, Festo, and Henkel, for example. "We would like to see such companies emerge in Hungary and a higher proportion of German family-based companies, too," the minister told MTI by phone.

GOVT SPOX: NATL CONSULTATION SURVEY TO SHOW PEOPLE'S SUPPORT FOR EPIDEMIC MEASURES

The government's "National Consultation" survey will show which measures against the novel coronavirus epidemic have the most support among Hungarians, Alexandra Szentkirályi, the government's spokeswoman, said, adding that the results would provide an important indicator when it comes to handling a second wave. In a video posted on her Facebook page, Szentkirályi called the recent jump in case numbers in Montenegro, Croatia, Serbia, Slovakia, Austria, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria "worrying".