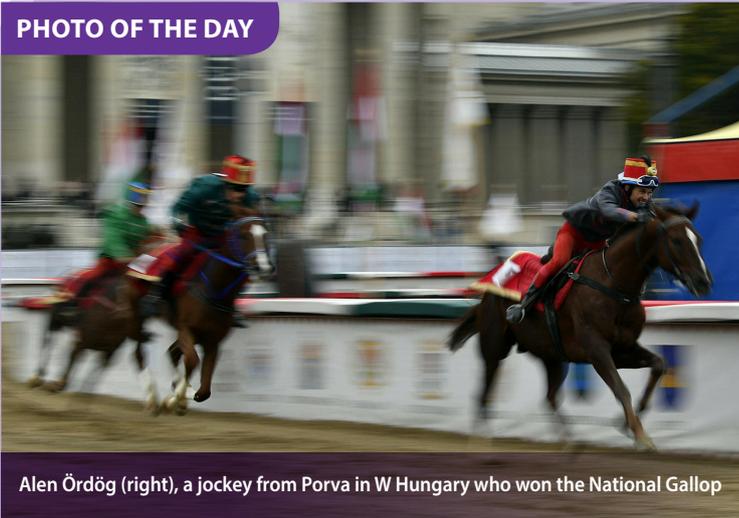


## PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Zoltán Máthé

Alen Ördög (right), a jockey from Porva in W Hungary who won the National Gallop

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Parliament meets**

**Coronavirus updates**

**Áder opens central European  
green financial conference**

**EU foreign ministers meet  
in Luxembourg**

## TOP STORY

# ORBÁN OPENS KERTÉSZ INSTITUTE IN BUDAPEST

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on Saturday opened Budapest's new Kertész Imre Institute.

In his opening address, the prime minister said that "Kertész, a man of vast intellect, could not be labelled in a single category and it was no question that his legacy should be in Budapest, rather than in Berlin, because this was his city".

Orbán included several quotes by Kertész in his address, and said that "anti-Semitism is contagion, an ideological epidemic, a pastime for filthy souls that turns into murder", and criticised Hungary's Left for "running an anti-Semite" in Sunday's interim parliamentary election in Tiszaújváros, in northeastern Hungary. The prime minister also quoted Kertész as saying that "a species of animal called a multicultural society doesn't exist". According to Kertész, Orbán said, the problems of European civilisation should be resolved within that very civilisation because "imported solutions won't work, whether it is ideology or people". "A liberal spirit, originally all good intentions, have led intellectuals to nihilism and the masses to uncertainty through the faithlessness of the postmodern," he said.

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## **CORONAVIRUS - TWENTY-ONE FATALITIES, REGISTERED INFECTIONS UP 1,068 IN HUNGARY**

Twenty-one Covid-19 patients have died in the past 24 hours, while the number of registered coronavirus infections in Hungary has risen by 1,068 to 37,664, [koronavirus.gov.hu](http://koronavirus.gov.hu) said on Sunday.

The number of fatalities stands at 954, and 10,848 people have made a recovery. There are 25,862 active infections and 1,252 Covid-19 patients are being treated in hospital, 138 on ventilators. Altogether 22,215 people are in official home quarantine and 825,570 tests have been carried out.

Most infections have been registered in Budapest (12,545), followed by Pest County (4,791) and the counties of Győr-Moson-Sopron (2,252), Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén (1,898), Hajdú-Bihar (1,734), Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg (1,706), and Csongrád-Csanád (1,658). Tolna County has the fewest infections (355).

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## **ORBÁN: COVID NUMBERS EXPECTED TO FURTHER INCREASE IN COMING WEEKS**

The government's aim is to encourage GP practices to create a community, to eliminate empty practices and improve the level of services, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on Saturday after meeting the action groups

coordinating coronavirus-related measures.

Orbán said on Facebook that the past two weeks had seen a rise in coronavirus numbers and this is expected to continue in the upcoming weeks in line with international trends. He said projections showed that sufficient numbers of hospital beds were available, with the transfer of medical staff to continue. A total of 106 doctors and 170 nurses have been transferred so far and the numbers can be increased if necessary, he added.

Orbán said that talks with the medical chamber would be continued next week concerning regulations for GPs. The government will provide the financial support for GPs to create a community of practices and improve the quality of local services, Orbán said. Once that is completed, talks between the chamber and the operative body coordinating coronavirus-related measures will focus on "defining the relationship between private and public health services".

Orbán also said that the autumn break in schools will be held as usual, between October 23 and 31, and the situation at Hungary's borders was in order.

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## **STATE SECY OF PM'S OFFICE TESTS CORONAVIRUS POSITIVE**

Bence Tuzson, a state secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, said on Friday that he had tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Tuzson said on Facebook that after Monday's test came back positive, he self-isolated and notified all he had been recently in contact with. His family and immediate environment "seems to be healthy", he said. Tuzson, who continues to work online while experiencing mild symptoms, called on Hungarians to adhere to epidemiological regulations.

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## **SZIJJÁRTÓ: JOUROVÁ REMARKS NOT TO AFFECT HUNGARIAN-CZECH RELATIONS**

Critical remarks about Hungary by Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency Vera Jourová have no affect on Hungarian-Czech relations, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said in an interview published by Czech daily Lidove Noviny on Saturday.

"I want to make it clear that we consider Vera Jourová's remarks as remarks by an EC vice president," he said. "We do not identify Jourová with the Czech Republic or the Czech government," he added in the interview made on Monday during his Czech visit. "Our excellent bilateral relations are not affected by this issue in any way," he said. Jourová has made some "very rude" statements that go way beyond what's acceptable, he added.

"Calling Hungarian democracy sick? That goes beyond all limits," he said.

Szijjártó said Jourová had collected her information from

liberal, opposition sources only and “completely disregarded the facts”. He added that it was high time the spirit of cultured dialogue and mutual respect should return to Brussels. Hungary’s foreign policy is based on mutual respect, he said, adding that Brussels was trying to punish Hungary by way of political attacks for the country’s position on illegal migration.

### **JUSTICE MINISTER: MOMENTUM MEP HAS INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH JOUROVÁ DESPITE DENIAL**

A leaked video recording of opposition Momentum MEP Anna Donáth shows her “boasting” about having regular informal consultations with European Commission Vice Chair Vera Jourová despite Donáth’s recent denial of such consultations during a public debate, Justice Minister Judit Varga said on Saturday. Varga said on Facebook that she had recently had a live televised debate with Donáth where the opposition MEP denied that she frequently consulted with Jourová about Hungary and that she had a role in the “coordinated attacks against Hungary by Brussels”.

At the same time, news channel HírTV has acquired and made public an internal Momentum video chat recording showing Donáth “boasting” about having informal consultations with Jourová “at least every three days in order to ensure that the Hungarian government’s decisions have

political consequences,” Varga said. In reaction, Donáth said on Facebook that “European commissioners are not uncontactable, unlike members of the Hungarian government, and one does not have to beg them to have a chat”. “Jourová and myself are in the same party family and we are both working to build a fair, humane, and safe state based on the rule of law,” she added. Donáth said that in March when the Hungarian government was “fighting” for the domestic and international approval of a law giving special powers to the government during the first wave of the epidemic Jourová asked for her opinion, as an elected MEP of Hungary, several times.

Meanwhile, Varga called on Donáth to “leave politics” over her “publicly denying” her communications with Jourová earlier, and insisted that the MEPs of the Hungarian opposition had “represented the values of Brussels” during the first wave of coronavirus and “spread fake news about the Hungarian government’s coronavirus measures under a pre-written scenario”.

### **JUSTICE MINISTER: EC RULE OF LAW REPORT IGNORES DETAILED SUMMARIES SUBMITTED BY HUNGARY**

The European Commission has ignored in its recent rule of law report detailed summaries, data and comparative analyses submitted by Hungary, the justice minister said on Saturday. Judit

Varga said on Facebook that EC Vice President Vera Jourová had rejected in a Friday interview Hungarian criticism concerning the report. Jourová also said that the commission’s main partners and sources for the preparation of the report had been ministries, public prosecutor’s offices and other state institutions, she added.

“On the other hand, the reality is that the Commission has ignored the detailed summaries, comparative analyses sent by Hungary with noble simplicity,” Varga said. She added that Jourová had also “forgotten to mention another important detail: the Commission’s report makes recurring references to certain NGOs”.

“It quotes the views of 12 NGOs exactly 14 times in the report. Of the 12 cited NGOs, 11 recently received financial support from the Open Society Foundation,” Varga said.

### **DK TO TURN TO EC OVER KURIA HEAD NOMINATION**

The opposition Democratic Coalition (DK) will turn to the European Commission in order to prevent the appointment of “(Chief Prosecutor) Péter Polt’s right-hand man” to head of the Kuria, Hungary’s supreme court, a party MEP said on Saturday.

Sándor Rónai told an online press conference on Facebook that “after the occupation of the chief prosecutor’s office, the Orbán government is trying to have Zsolt András Varga, Peter Polt’s right-hand man, to head the Kuria”.

“Neither we, nor Europe should watch without intervention the Orbán government violating all principles of the rule of law and the separation of the branches of power, trying to make a Fidesz prosecutor get power over the supreme court,” he said.

He said the EC had the right to call on the Hungarian government to “suspend an appointment which is in the style of a party-state”.

The party will also inform the Venice Commission about the developments, he added. Rónai said Varga had “a thousand ties to Péter Polt and Fidesz” and he had already been “a part of the Orbán regime when, during its first term in government, the prosecutor’s office let Fidesz criminals run free”. Varga was nominated by President János Áder on Monday, to succeed Péter Darák effective Jan. 1, 2021. Parliament’s judiciary committee approved his nomination on Thursday, while the National Council of the Judiciary (OBT) rejected his nomination the next day.

**UNIONS CALL ON ÁDER TO RETURN LAW ON HEALTH-CARE EMPLOYMENT TO PARLT**

An association of trade unions of medical university employees on Friday called on President János Áder not to sign a recent law on health-care employment and send it back to parliament for reconsideration, arguing that the legislation was incompatible with Hungary’s constitution.

The OSZSZ association of the trade unions of four Hungarian medical universities said that the new law on the status of health-care employees, which also regulates a major raise in doctors’ wages, violates the right to free employment and entrepreneurship while barring employees and their interest associations from concluding agreements with the employers.

The right to conclude collective agreements with employers is enshrined in the constitution, OSZSZ said. Earlier, the doctors’ union MOSZ and the Liga union association sent similar requests to Áder.

**SOCIALISTS: GOVT TO FINANCE ECONOMIC PROTECTION FROM BRUSSELS LOANS**

The opposition Socialists said Hungary’s government was planning to finance most measures of its economic protection scheme from loans received from Brussels. Socialist MEP István Ujhelyi said on Facebook on Sunday that the cabinet had submitted a 15-point application to the European Commission’s job retention credit scheme and Hungary expects to receive 180 billion forints (EUR 500m) from it.

“I support the scheme and I am glad that the government has finally submitted its request,” Ujhelyi said. At the same time, he said the Hungarian government’s application was not enough to help all employees in need of support. Despite former claims that

the European Union was not offering any help to Hungary’s protection efforts, the government is requesting money for protecting the health of state officials and for protective gear to hospitals and health workers, Ujhelyi said. According to Ujhelyi, the cabinet’s application shows that they want to help ruling Fidesz’s “cronies” in the field of tourism rather than SMEs in Budapest that have been “left without real help in the crisis”.

**HUNGARIAN CHURCHES CALL FOR PEACE IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH**

Two religious organisations representing Hungary’s main churches have called for a peaceful resolution to the armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Hungarian Catholic Bishops’ Conference and the Ecumenical Council of Hungarian Churches issued a joint statement on Friday saying that they learnt with regret that on October 8 Azeri forces had seriously damaged the Holy Savior Cathedral in the town of Shusha.

“We share the pain of our Armenian Christian brothers,” they said, adding that the attack could seriously contribute to the escalation of the armed conflict appearing to be more of a religious ethnic conflict. They appealed to religious leaders, Christians and Muslims, asking them to make every possible effort towards preventing any further destruction, ending the armed fight and working out a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

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According to press reports, the historical cathedral, a national symbol of Armenia, was shelled on Thursday.

## **NÉZŐPONT GAUGES HIGHER VOTER SATISFACTION WITH FORMER BUDAPEST MAYOR THAN SUCCESSOR**

Budapest residents expressed a higher level of satisfaction with the work of István Tarlós, the city's former mayor, than with incumbent Gergely Karácsony's efforts so far, pollster Nézőpont said citing a recent survey on Saturday.

Forty-six percent of an 800-strong sample chose Tarlós in their answer to the question "who has been the best leader of Budapest so far", while only 26% selected Karácsony.

Authors of the Nézőpont report noted that Karácsony was a popular politician "whose image is not damaged by current issues" but warned that "popularity may not lead to satisfaction and automatic re-election". Forty percent of respondents said they would like to see Karácsony reelected, while an equal 40% said they would not. Forty-eight percent

said they liked Karácsony and 42% said they did not - the same ratio as reflected by the results of last year's mayoral election.

Karácsony's unchanged popularity is "interesting" in view of the city management's "passing few spectacular or important decisions", the pollster said.

## **NESTLE HUNGARIA STARTS HUF 50 BN EXPANSION AT PET FOOD PLANT**

Nestle Hungaria laid the cornerstone of a 50 billion forint (EUR 139.6m) expansion at its pet food plant in Buk, northwest Hungary, on Friday.

Péter Szijjártó, Hungary's minister of foreign affairs and trade, said at the event that the investment, the company's biggest ever in Hungary, would raise the plant's capacity by 30% and create 160 jobs.

Nestle has invested more than 2 billion euros in Hungary, and it counts more than 1,000 Hungarian SMEs among its suppliers, he added.

The total costs of the expansion will be around 140 million euros, Nestle Hungaria managing director Péter Noszek said.

## **HUNGARIAN CONSORTIUM IN TALKS TO BUY BUDAPEST AIRPORT**

A consortium of Hungarian companies and businesspeople is conducting negotiations about buying Liszt Ferenc International operator Budapest Airport from its three foreign owners, public news channel M1 said on Sunday citing a report by financial news agency Bloomberg.

M1 said that chances for buying back the airport, privatised 15 years ago, could now be better since the coronavirus pandemic has curbed airport valuations.

The airport operator has three owners: GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, a Canadian pension fund and AviAlliance, an airport management company which in turn is owned by another Canadian fund, Bloomberg said.

Senior analyst of Századvég Gábor Regős told M1 that it made a considerable difference whether the country's air transport hub had Hungarian or international owners considering that profits totalled 30 billion forints (EUR 84m) last year.