

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



Primary schools reopen across country

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**EU affairs ministers hold video conference**

**Hungary sends container homes to earthquake-hit C Croatia**

**Coronavirus updates**

## TOP STORY

# UKRAINE CALLED ON TO RESPECT MINORITY RIGHTS

Hungary expects Ukraine to respect the rights of its nationalities, including the Hungarian community, Péter Szijjártó, Hungary's foreign minister, said after an informal videoconference of EU affairs ministers.

Hungary has a vested interest in a strong, stable and democratic Ukraine, and it takes a stand for Ukraine's territorial integrity and independence, the minister said. Over the past few years Ukraine has regularly violated the Hungarian community's rights in culture, education, public administration and the media, he said on Facebook. Hungary "was shocked to learn" that leaders of that community had been exposed to intimidating procedures last week. Nor does it serve mutual trust that the Ukrainian authorities have launched an action to identify dual citizens, he said. Szijjártó asked Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who also logged into the conference, to respect minority rights and abstain from presenting the Hungarian community as one endangering Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Hungarians in Transcarpathia can always rely on support from Hungary and its government, he said. "We will take a stand in all international forums for Transcarpathia's Hungarian community and its rights," he said.

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## **SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY AGAINST ACP-EU PARTNERSHIP**

Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said the EU's new partnership agreement with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, replacing the Cotonou Agreement last week, would encourage migration. Hungary therefore opposed the related clauses, citing the health and economic risks posed by migration, he said on Facebook.

Concerning Ethiopia, the minister noted that Hungary had granted aid worth 2.5 million US dollars to that country's Christian community. He expressed hope that Ethiopia would preserve its peace and stability, and would not become a source of migration.

Concerning Lebanon, Szijjártó said that Hungary rejected all attempts by some European countries to exert pressure on the party that represents the Christian community of that country. Hungary insists that Europe, the European Union should take a stand for Christians, irrespective of where they live, he said.

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## **ORBÁN: HUNGARY AGAINST PLAN TO SET UP EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE**

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán welcomes the UEFA's position to resolutely oppose the plan to set up a European Super League, his press chief said in a statement. Orbán supports the

European unity of the sport and the principle of solidarity, the statement said. "Hungary's position is that the beauty and eminence of the world's greatest game comes from the fact that it belongs to everyone and cannot be monopolised by the richest," Orbán said. Hungary supports efforts by the UEFA, FIFA and Hungarian Football Association MLSZ to protect the integrity of the games, both on a national and a European level, he added. UEFA, the English Football Association and the Premier League, the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) and LaLiga, and the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) and Lega Serie already condemned the plan by a group of English, Spanish and Italian clubs to set up a Super League before it was officially announced on Sunday.

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## **OFFICIAL: VACCINATION DRIVE PROGRESSES TWICE AS FAST AS IN EU**

The vaccination drive in Hungary is progressing twice as fast as in other EU member states which proves that the scheme has been organised well, the state secretary heading the central team in charge of the vaccination programme said in daily Magyar Nemzet. So far over 3.25 million Hungarians have received at least their first jab and 1.4 million have been fully inoculated, István György told the paper. Fully 2 million of those inoculated received a Western vaccine and the rest a Chinese or a Russian one, he said. "The Eastern vaccines

are effective and safe, Hungarian authorities are running control tests on each consignment," György said. He said involving GPs in the vaccination drive and assigning buses to reach people in rural areas as mobile labs proved to be the right decision.

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## **MATOLCSY: HUNGARY CAN LEARN FROM UAE'S SUCCESS**

György Matolcsy, the governor of the National Bank of Hungary, has said Hungary should look to the United Arab Emirates as an example for achieving economic success. The UAE is a regional leader in some 100 indicators of development and is seen as the world's most efficient country, Matolcsy said in an op-ed piece published on the website Novekedes.hu. The key to its success is a vision of a country living in peace and security. Over the decades, the UAE's leaders had envisioned their country as one that is open to the rest of the world, guarantees equality for its people, governs itself by the rule of law and gives people equal opportunities when it comes to jobs, investments, education and bringing out their creative talents, he said. The UAE admits that its politics are controlled by its economy, and therefore has zero tolerance for corruption and uses the state for building a favourable business environment, allowing businesses to prosper, the governor added.

The UAE, and more specifically, Dubai has embraced a strategy based

on diversity, Matolcsy said. "The world of skyscrapers is home to media districts, an internet quarter, tech labs, state-of-the-art ports and airports, an aluminium processing corporation, a dynamic housing market, world-class hotels and restaurants as well as both an Islamic and Western banking sector," he said. Dubai made itself into a metropolis between 1971 and 2020, while the value of the dollar fell to one-eighth of its initial value, Matolcsy said. The example of the UAE and Dubai shows that nothing is impossible, the governor said.

### **HUNGARY RECORDS 197 COVID FATALITIES, 2,680 NEW INFECTIONS**

Fully 197 patients, generally elderly with co-morbidities, died over the past 24 hours, while 2,680 new infections were registered, [koronavirus.gov.hu](http://koronavirus.gov.hu) said.

So far 3,266,425 people have received a first jab, while 1,391,381 have been fully vaccinated. The number of active infections stands at 269,595, while hospitals are caring for 8,650 Covid patients, 1,052 of whom need respiratory assistance. There are 45,132 people in official quarantine, while 5,144,130 tests have been officially carried out. Since the first outbreak, 753,188 infections have been registered, while fatalities have risen to 25,381. Fully 458,212 people have made a recovery. So far, most infections have been registered in Budapest and Pest County, followed

by the counties of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Győr-Moson-Sopron and Hajdú-Bihar.

### **TEACHER UNION CALLS FOR DOWNSIZING CLASSES**

Class sizes should be reduced to a minimum after schools reopen, teachers' union PSZ said. In a statement detailing its demands for how the school year should continue, PSZ told MTI that social distancing should be made mandatory in classrooms and students who stay home should not suffer any negative consequences or setbacks.

Parents who do not feel that it is safe for their children to return to school during the pandemic should have the right until May 10 to decide whether they let their children go to school. Students who stay home should be given the opportunity to participate in classes online, it said, adding that teachers should not be made to teach in-person classes parallel to online ones on the same day. Classes should be rearranged and temporary schedules should be prepared with a view to avoiding having teachers teach the same class twice, PSZ added.

Also, teachers should be compensated for any overtime work resulting from child supervision duty. Parents on maternity leave whose children attend kindergarten should be asked to keep their children at home and the rule on mandatory kindergarten attendance should be suspended, PSZ said.

Classes and activities should be held outdoors whenever possible and institutions should get more cleaning staff to ensure continuous disinfection, the statement added.

PSZ also said it believed schools should have remained closed until the daily Covid caseload falls below 1,400. Hungary's kindergartens and grades 1-4 of primary schools reopened on Monday, while grades 5-8 and secondary schools will reopen on May 10. Hungary registered 2,680 new infections on Monday and so far, 3,266,425 people have received their first Covid-19 shot.

### **HUNGARY COLLECTS OVER 15,000 SIGNATURES FOR EUROPEAN INITIATIVE TO SAVE BEES**

Hungary has been the sixth European Union member state to collect a sufficient number of signatures needed for the success of a European initiative to save bees and farmers, the Hungarian nature protection association said. By collecting 15,750 signatures, Hungary has fulfilled its share of the total one million signatures needed for the campaign, it said in a statement. Nearly half of the total number of signatures have been collected so far, the association said. The European Citizens' Initiative calls on the European Commission to propose legal acts to phase out synthetic pesticides by 2035, to restore biodiversity, and to support farmers in the transition.