

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Polish President Andrzej Duda in Budapest

MTVA/Noémi Bruzák

UPCOMING EVENTS

52nd Eucharistic Congress events

Coronavirus updates

26th mayors' summit in Szarvas

Cbank online presser on loaning mechanism

17th Intl CineFest film festival begins in Miskolc

TOP STORY

ORBÁN: HUNGARY STANDS BY POLAND

Hungary backs Poland amid “the attack from Brussels”, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said, meeting Polish President Andrzej Duda in Budapest.

Talks focused on current issues, especially on the European Commission’s request that the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) impose a fine on Poland until it suspends disciplinary chamber for judges of its supreme court, the PM’s press chief said. Orbán called the move an “unprecedented abuse of power”. The EC attacked the constitutional institutions and identity of a sovereign state, Havasi cited Orbán as saying. Meanwhile, Poland continues to protect the EU’S outer borders from growing illegal migration, Orbán said. The procedure is “outrageous, totally unacceptable and pulls apart the unity of the EU”, Orbán said. Hungary issued a statement late on Wednesday, declaring support for Poland. It will also look into ways to back Poland during the court proceedings, Orbán said.

The Hungarian government has decided to adopt a resolution in support of Poland and to “condemn ignoble attacks by Brussels”, according to Justice Minister Judit Varga.

JUSTICE MIN: GOVT ADOPTS RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT POLAND

The Hungarian government has decided to adopt a resolution in support of Poland and to “condemn ignoble attacks by Brussels”, Justice Minister Judit Varga said on Facebook. The European Commission, she said, had launched a “harsh attack on Poland” interfering with the administration of justice and legislation of a sovereign member state in an unprecedented way. She added that the procedure was “shocking” and “unacceptable”. The minister argued that the Polish government had indicated its intention to drop a contested rule concerning the disciplinary council of the Polish Supreme Court, but the Commission “ignored the Polish pledge, questioned the Polish government’s commitment and initiated imposition of a coercive fine”. “We fully support Poland and take solidarity with our Polish friends,” Varga said, adding that “we will consider ways to support Warsaw in European court procedures.” She added that “the national judiciary of any member state must not fall victim to empire-building endeavours in Brussels”.

ÁDER: HUNGARIAN STRETCH OF THE VIA CARPATIA MOTORWAY TO BE COMPLETED BY YEAR-END

The Hungarian stretch of the Via Carpatia, a transport corridor connecting the Baltic and Aegean

Seas, will be completed before the end of the year, President János Áder said after meeting his Polish counterpart. The Hungarian section will cover 230km of the 3,300km motorway, Áder told a press conference he held jointly with Andrzej Duda. Áder said central Europe had been at an infrastructural disadvantage prior to 1990 and the years that followed, noting the region’s underdeveloped railway, energy and digital networks. The Polish president said that Poland takes responsibilities of protecting the European Union and Schengen borders “very seriously”. Duda said he had provided detailed information to his Hungarian counterpart about the crisis at the Poland-Belarus border and assured Áder that Poland would use all possible means to protect the borders. Duda also thanked Áder for the assistance in border control Hungary had offered, adding that Hungary’s experience was welcome.

POTÁPI OPENS FUEN CONGRESS IN TRIESTE

The protection of national minorities means protecting their national identity, the state secretary in charge of policies for Hungarian communities abroad said at the opening of the congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) in Trieste. The FUEN represents national minorities who attach great importance to the ideas of the nation and the homeland, Árpád János Potápi said. The Hungarian government

considers the FUEN the most important international organisation dedicated to the protection of national minorities, he added.

The state secretary noted that the European Commission had rejected the Minority SafePack initiative urging European Union protection for national minorities in the bloc despite it having been backed by the European Parliament, the Court of Justice of the European Union and more than one million EU citizens. The Hungarian government and the FUEN have challenged the commission’s rejection of the initiative at the EU court, he added. Potápi said the world and Europe were changing, with values that were once protected now being seen as “negligible”. Judeo-Christian culture and the value of families are being relativised in the EU, making it all the more important for the FUEN to have a value-based long-term vision, he said. These values are represented by the national minorities who have learned how to survive the most trying periods in history, he added. Potápi said the ongoing conference on the future of the EU gave Hungary and the FUEN the opportunity to share this vision with the rest of the bloc.

SZIJÁRTÓ: GOVT TO PREFINANCE EU FUNDING TO BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY BREXIT

The government has decided to put out a bid worth 22 billion forints (EUR 63m) to help Hungarian companies

impacted by Brexit this year and advance community funding that will only become available between 2022 and 2025, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said. In a Thursday statement, the foreign ministry quoted Szijjártó as saying that the European Union would “delay” those payments over a period of four years. “We have decided to advance the funds from national coffers and provide a bid opportunity to companies facing difficulties because of Brexit,” Szijjártó said, adding that the tender would be put out next week.

GUEST NIGHTS UP 9.6% IN JULY

The number of guest nights at commercial accommodations in Hungary rose by an annual 9.6% to 2,862,000 in July, albeit from a low pandemic base, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said. The number of guest nights spent by domestic travellers increased by 8.1% to 2,290,000. The number spent by foreign visitors climbed by 16.2% to 571,000. KSH noted that guest night numbers were down around 36% from the same month in 2019. Guest nights spent by domestic travellers were 11% lower and guest nights spent by foreign visitors were 70% under the number in July 2019. Revenue of commercial accommodations in Hungary reached 48 billion forints (EUR 137.3m) in July, up 25.3% from the same month a year earlier.

HUNGARY RECORDS 345 NEW CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS, 3 DEATHS

Three Covid patients died over the past 24 hours of a Covid-related illness, while 345 new coronavirus infections were registered, koronavirus.gov.hu said on Thursday. So far 5,830,217 people have received a first jab, while 5,535,463 have been fully vaccinated. Fully 461,000 Hungarians have already received booster jabs. The number of active infections stands at 5,798, while hospitals are treating 215 Covid patients, 26 of whom need respiratory assistance. Since the first outbreak, 814,409 infections have been registered, while fatalities have risen to 30,080. Fully 778,531 people have made a recovery. There are 2,563 people in official quarantine, while 6,664,898 tests have been officially carried out.

FINANCE MINISTER: GOVT TO FUND MANUFACTURING OF CORONAVIRUS PHARMACEUTICALS

The Hungarian government is subsidising an expansion of pharmaceutical company Pannonpharma’s plant in Pécsvárad, southern Hungary, designed to manufacture drugs against the coronavirus, Finance Minister Mihály Varga said. The plant, built with a 1.6 billion (EUR 4.6m) forint investment, will produce an interferon-based gel designed to activate the immune system suppressed by the

virus, and a pill with the same active substance to eliminate coronavirus in the stomach and intestines. Varga said in a video message that a growing number of domestically produced, high-quality health-care products ensure Hungary’s independence from foreign manufacturers. The government’s health-care development scheme has already yielded results, Varga said. The Health Industry Development Programme has so far supported 82 investments worth a total of 86 billion forints (EUR 246.0m), 31 of which, totalling at 37 billion forints, have already been implemented, he said. The number of jobs saved by the investments may reach 5,700, he said.

PALKOVICS MEETS TÜV RHEINLAND EXECS

Innovation and Technology Minister László Palkovics has met executives of German testing and certification company TÜV Rheinland in Cologne to discuss further investments in Hungary. TÜV Rheinland wants to expand its self-driving testing activities at the ZalaZONE test track in western Hungary, the ministry said. The track and its surroundings could be expanded to accommodate infrastructure for testing farm vehicles and machinery, the statement said. Experience gained in the construction of a battery testing centre TUV Rheinland is building west of Cologne could be applied to a battery testing centre planned in Hungary, the ministry said.

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**WIZZ AIR TO LAUNCH
FLIGHTS FROM HUNGARY**

Hungarian discount airline Wizz Air is to launch two new and restart three earlier flights from Debrecen in eastern Hungary. András Sebők of Wizz Air told a press conference that the company will launch flights to Kiev and Brussels Charleroi from December 14-15. Flights to Tel Aviv and Moscow are scheduled to resume from the end of October, and a flight to Santorini, Greece, has already restarted during the summer season, he said. Tamás Schanda, a state secretary of the foreign ministry, said the government supported the move with a 300 million forint (EUR 858,000) grant.

**AIRPORT SHUTTLE
100E TO OPERATE
MORE FREQUENTLY, IN
EXTENDED TIMETABLE**

The 100E shuttle service operating between central Budapest and Liszt Ferenc International will run

more frequently and in an extended timetable starting from Saturday, Budapest transport company BKK said. The shuttle will run every 20 minutes instead of the current every 30 minutes during the day, BKK said. In the extended timetable, the first services will leave Deák Square at 3.30am and the airport at 4.10am. The last services will leave Deák Square at 12 midnight and the airport at 0.35am, BKK said. Travelling time between the city centre and the airport is around 30-40 minutes and the fare is 900 forints (EUR 2.6) one way, the statement added.

**BARTÓK'S LETTERS TO
LEGENDARY VIOLINIST
DEPOSITED WITH BARTÓK
ARCHIVE**

Béla Bartók's handwritten letters to the legendary violinist Zoltán Székely, who led the Hungarian Quartet, have been deposited with the Bartók Archive at the Institute of Musicology (BTK) in Budapest. The documents were handed over to the Hungarian

National Asset Management company on Sept. 8. Among the letters are Bartók's thoughts about one of his masterpieces, his second violin concerto which he wrote in 1937-38. The letters have been described in a catalogue for a Sotheby's auction held in 2017 as "highly important".

László Vikárius, the Bartók Archive's director, noted the significance of the long and fruitful relationship between the composer and violinist who studied composition with Zoltán Kodály. A number of masterpieces came about thanks to their increasingly warm friendship. Apart from his family correspondence, relatively few of his letters have survived in complete form. There are just over 40 letters to Székely, generally handwritten letters and postcards among other documents.

The letters will be used by the archive for research and publication, and on occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Bartók Archive which was inaugurated on September 26, 1961, highlighted items of the collection will be presented in a small exhibition.

