

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Péter Komka

Plane and condensate with moon backdrop, photographed from Salgótarján

UPCOMING EVENTS

Áder at Arraiolos Group conference in Rome

Coronavirus updates

Novák presser after meeting of body in charge of restarting community life post pandemic

Stats office releases 2nd estimate on industrial output in July

Hungarian Banking Association presser on sustainability

TOP STORY

GULYÁS: HOPE FOR MINDSZENTY BEATIFICATION

After the beatification of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński of Poland, hopes are that Hungary's Cardinal József Mindszenty may be next in line, the prime minister's chief of staff has said.

Mindszenty, who was appointed bishop in 1944, raised his voice against both Nazi and communist oppression in Hungary. He was appointed to Archbishop, then Cardinal of Esztergom after the second world war but sentenced to life imprisonment on false charges by the communist regime in 1948. He took refuge at the US embassy after the 1956 uprising, and lived there until 1971 when he was allowed to leave the country. He died in Vienna in 1975.

Gergely Gulyás told MTI that Wyszyński and Mindszenty "showed the same exemplary strength in standing up against the communist regime," and noted the Polish cardinal's role in creating the modern Polish state. Mindszenty's actions bolstered the Hungarian Catholic Church in similar historical circumstances, and so "his beatification may also take place sooner or later." Regarding talks with Polish politicians, Gulyás said the two governments had "shared values and interests which prompt the strongest possible cooperation within the European Union's framework and beyond".

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EU ENLARGEMENT COMMISSIONER CALLS FOR 'NEW KIND OF PARTNERSHIP' WITH TURKEY

The European Union must establish a "new kind of partnership" with Turkey both in terms of economic cooperation and their joint handling of migration, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi said in an interview to Magyar Nemzet. Referring to his visit to Afghanistan last week for talks on efforts to prevent a new migration wave from that country, Várhelyi said: "One key difference from the situation in 2015 is that right now it's still not too late to prevent a crisis. But this means we must take the right steps, learn from the lessons of 2015 and concentrate on prevention." Other differences compared with 2015, he said, were that Turkey had strengthened the protection of its borders, but the Afghanistan crisis now presented new challenges to Turkey and Europe. The current crisis "has shown that there is no other way but to work together with Ankara."

Várhelyi said the EU must enhance cooperation with the Western Balkan countries, too, on the issue of migration. The commissioner said he had recently held talks with the leaders of all the Western Balkan states that are taking in migrants and highlighted the security aspects of immigration. The Afghanistan crisis had, he said,

also demonstrated "the serious consequences of not being strong and consistent enough in our geopolitical decision-making". "Let's imagine what would happen if the accession process of our Western Balkan partners were drawn out even further and -- for some geopolitical reason -- what ends up happening is not what we promised," Várhelyi said. "And geographically, the Western Balkans is much closer to us than Afghanistan. This means Europe's priority must be to integrate this region."

As regards the EU-Western Balkans summit scheduled for October, the commissioner said he looked forward to seeing which parts of the EU's economic development plans for the region could start being implemented. "The aim is to support long-term stability and peace in that region," he said. Concerning the accession process of Albania and North Macedonia, Várhelyi said both countries met all criteria for accession talks. Regarding Serbia, he said it was up to EU member states whether almost all accession chapters could be opened before the end of the year.

GOVT EXTENDS REPAYMENT MORATORIUM FOR VULNERABLE BORROWERS

The government has decided to extend the moratorium on loan repayments for vulnerable borrowers until June 30, 2022. Pensioners, families planning and raising children, public

workers and people whose incomes have fallen compared with last year will be eligible for continued participation in the moratorium from November, Finance Minister Mihály Varga said in a video posted on Facebook. Corporate borrowers who wish to continue participating will have to show a decline in revenue of at least 25%, he added. To give borrowers enough time to notify their banks that they intend to keep participating in the moratorium, the current blanket moratorium will be automatically extended until Oct. 31.

HUNGARY RECORDS 873 NEW CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS, 12 DEATHS OVER WEEKEND

Twelve patients died over the weekend of a Covid-related illness, while 873 new coronavirus infections were registered, koronavirus.gov.hu said on Monday. So far 5,840,588 people have received a first jab, while 5,545,538 have been fully vaccinated. Fully 512,000 Hungarians have already received booster jabs. The number of active infections stands at 6,502, while hospitals are treating 266 Covid patients, 34 of whom need respiratory assistance. Since the first outbreak, 815,605 infections have been registered, while fatalities have risen to 30,098. Fully 779,005 people have made a recovery. There are 2,630 people in official quarantine, while 6,715,858 tests have been officially carried out.

GOVT TO SUPPORT RAIL CARGO TRANSPORT

The government is allocating 30 billion forints (EUR 85.6m) to supporting rail freight transport. Single wagon transport, where smaller amounts of cargo from multiple facilities are organised into shipments based on their destination, is used by over 700 companies in Hungary, including those from strategic sectors such as pharmaceutical, energy and forestry companies, the innovation and technology ministry said. Around one-fifth of goods transported via rail in Hungary are shipped in single wagon shipments, the ministry said. Government support to the sector currently making losses on the market will preserve thousands of jobs and keep some 10-12 million tonnes of goods in an environmentally friendly transport mode, the ministry said. Government grants, available through the railway company MÁV, will come to a total of 3.7 billion forints this year and 6.4 billion annually until 2025 afterwards.

DK VOWS TO SET UP ANTI-GRAFT AGENCY

Democratic Coalition (DK) MEP Klára Dobrev, the party's candidate for prime minister, has promised to set up an anti-corruption agency

and a police unit dedicated to investigating corruption if she heads the next government after the 2022 general election. Dobrev said more and more of ruling Fidesz's politicians were "getting rich and accumulating palaces, land, real estate and everything else" without being able to account for their wealth in their asset declarations. She cited a report by news portal 24.hu of Péter Szentgyörgyvölgyi, the Fidesz mayor of Budapest's fifth district, "doubling his land holdings" in the Bakony hills, in western Hungary, "which, according to his asset declaration, he couldn't afford". Dobrev said that if she became prime minister in 2022, her government would order investigations into politicians who fail to account for their accumulation of wealth. Politicians who cannot prove the source of their wealth would have their assets frozen until the conclusion of the legal proceedings, she added.

SZIJJÁRTÓ INAUGURATES NEW INVESTMENTS IN E HUNGARY

The Hungarian government implemented the largest investment support programme of all time last year, Péter Szijjártó, the minister of foreign affairs and trade, said at the inauguration of an expanded packaging plant in Debrecen, in eastern Hungary. The 6.5 billion forint

(EUR 18.6m) investment increased the capacity of Hoffman Neopac AG's manufacturing plant, enabling the company to preserve 176 jobs and add another 25, Szijjártó said. The government supported the investment with an 843 million forint grant, he added. "The value of investments grew by 10.8% in the second quarter of 2021, with investments currently totalling 1,700 billion forints nationwide," Szijjártó said at the inauguration event.

Economic development and environmental protection go hand in hand in the government's economy strategy, Szijjártó said. The Debrecen plant fulfils both requirements as it will manufacture tubes from recycled materials, he said.

Another big project will involve a 65 billion forint (EUR 185m) investment backed by 13 billion forints of state support, creating 440 new jobs near Debrecen, in eastern Hungary. Chinese company SEMCORP is to complete a factory for manufacturing separator foils for lithium-ion batteries by the end of 2022, Szijjártó said at the ground-breaking ceremony. He said "trade winds are blowing from the East" in many modern industries of the new global economy, including the electric car industry. The new 97,000sqm plant will be SEMCORP's first manufacturing unit outside China, representing a "new chapter in the success story of Hungarian-Chinese economic cooperation", he added.