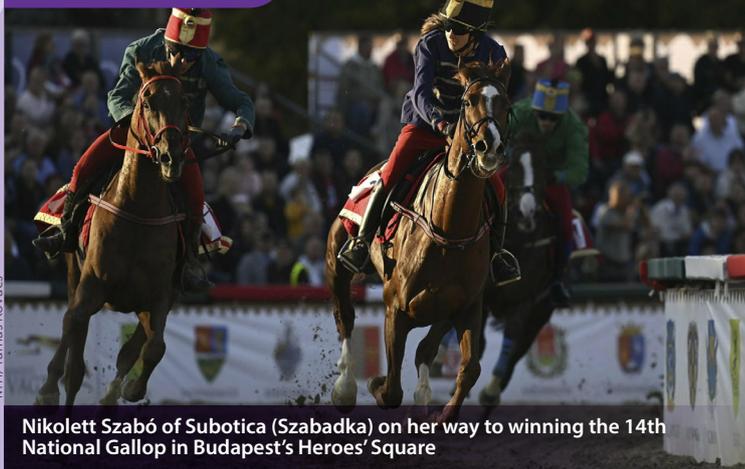


PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTV/Tamás Kovács

Nikolett Szabó of Subotica (Szabadka) on her way to winning the 14th National Gallop in Budapest's Heroes' Square

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plenary session of parliament

EU health ministers hold informal meeting in Kranj

World Hunting Expo events

Coronavirus updates

European Parliament holds plenary session

TOP STORY

ORBÁN: C EUROPE NEEDS GREATER INFLUENCE IN EU

Central Europeans need more clout in European Union policymaking because the German-French axis has become outdated, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said in an interview with Czech conservative daily Lidové Noviny.

The Central European region enjoys the highest economic growth rate in Europe, Orbán said in the interview published on Saturday, adding that without it Europe would fall into stagnation. Conventional wisdom used to be that central Europe needed Westerners to function, he said. But the situation has turned on its head, he said, adding that it was no longer inconceivable that Europe's future success would be shaped by Visegrad Group countries. "That's what I call new reality in Europe," he added. The prime minister said Hungary must remain a part of the European Union since the common market was in the country's interest. But central European interests now must be taken into greater consideration than before and in proportion to its economic performance, he said. "Set against our real economic performance and weight, our influence in EU decision-making is disproportionately small, and this has to change," Orbán said. As regards the protection of traditional national identity, Orbán said whoever managed to be more persistent should win.

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ORBÁN: 'WOKE MOVEMENT FOLLOWS SAME INTELLECTUAL PATTERN AS MARXISM'

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, in an interview with Czech conservative daily Lidové Noviny, said the "woke movement" in the West was increasing in popularity. The words used, he added, may be new but they followed "the same intellectual pattern as Marxism". Whenever there is a prolonged period of liberal governments that neglect culture, traditions, history and religion, Marxism grows more popular, Orbán said. "We, in central Europe, are vaccinated against Marxism." The prime minister added that for Westerners, Marxism was an intellectual matter. "But central Europeans know that the Marxist basis for organising the economy and society results in dictatorship; Marxism and democracy cannot work together." Orbán said he had hoped the EU accession of central European countries would add an anti-Communist, anti-Marxist and anti-Leninist culture to current pan-European culture. "But they did not want this."

Orbán said the West had grown out of Christianity, becoming inseparable from the enlightenment and rationality. That combination had resulted in the most competitive and successful form of life in the world, he said. "But it's being lost

now because we are giving up the historic foundations of Christianity." Commenting on a recent visit by Pope Francis to Budapest, Orbán said people who believe in Christianity as a part of the future and not only of the past should join forces. There are many power groups that want to push the European continent to a post-Christian era, he said, which is especially popular among Brussels bureaucrats, he added. Since the Vatican is still the greatest Christian power in global politics, Orbán said he had humbly asked the Holy Father to help Christians survive.

Commenting on Hungary's child protection laws, Orbán said Hungary had approved legislation stating that parents have the exclusive right over their children's school and sex education, and LGBTQ activists or representatives of any other ideologies had no business in this area. Brussels wants to change this and their position is that LGBTQ activists must be allowed in schools, he added. Orbán said the Hungarian legislation did not apply to adults above 18 years of age and only concerned the protection of children.

Orbán said French president Emmanuel Macron's recent call for an independent EU foreign policy was an "exciting and interesting idea". Hungary would be glad to participate in debates regarding strategic autonomy and sovereignty, he added. He said existing differences between V4 members' positions regarding the approach to Russia may be resolved.

One of the most important tasks for the EU would be to give European security and military guarantees to Poland and the Baltic states, he added. Commenting on disputes concerning gas supplies, Orbán said the reality was that Europe could not function without Russian gas.

ORBÁN: EU APPLYING DOUBLE STANDARDS ON MIGRATION

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, in an interview with Czech conservative daily Lidové Noviny, said Europe was applying double standards on the issue of migration. Referring to fences built by Hungary and the Baltic states, he said whenever a liberal government did something it was always good, but when a conservative one did the same it was always the opposite. Orbán said the EU does not have to let in Afghan migrants because they should stay in their region and Europe should help the countries of that region cope with the burden of Afghan migrants. However, if Germany wants Hungary to open a corridor for Afghans to reach Germany, Hungary will be willing to do so, he added. He said that after the big migration wave of 2015 acts of terrorism had intensified, adding that there was a connection between the two, and the latter always grew commensurate with the former. Brussels, he said, was again attempting to pressurise member states into relocating migrants. "We'll have to veto [this] again and again..." Orbán added.

ORBÁN: EU RECOVERY FUNDS TO ARRIVE SOONER OR LATER

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, in an interview with Czech conservative daily Lidové Noviny, said Brussels was dragging its heels on its decision over EU recovery money, but the funds would arrive sooner or later. In the meantime, Hungary has raised a large amount of money, 4.5 billion euros, on the market with interest of below 1%, he said, adding this “good deal” would enable the country to implement developments needed for recovery. “Hungarian projects are up running without a cent from Brussels,” he said.

Commenting on the introduction of a 15% global corporate tax, Orbán said he did not support international decisions that interfered in the tax policies of a sovereign state.

Regarding domestic politics, he said the Fidesz government was locked in a battle with its predecessor to prevent the “regime” of Ferenc Gyurcsány from making a return. He said voters had not forgotten that period of the former Socialist-liberal prime minister. “This is why we won three times in a row and that’s why we’ll win a fourth time.” Drawing a parallel between the political forces allied against himself and those against Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, Orbán said central European countries all faced a similar situation, insisting that whenever the “big powers” turned against a government in central

Europe, they promoted forces that sympathised with them and served their interests. Orbán accused the “Soros Network” of backing forces, including the “Brussels bureaucracy”, that were protesting against Czech and Hungarian sovereignty. “Today Brussels favours servile governments,” he said, “not leaders who fight for the independence of their own country.” Regarding the Czechs and Hungarians, he said the two peoples were different in that Hungarians were more akin to Christian spiritual traditions and national sentiment -- and this was reflected in the bearing of their leaders. “No one can argue, however, that Andrej Babiš is one of Europe’s greatest fighters,” he added.

On the topic of the German elections, Orbán said Germany was experiencing “something novel”, and the big question now was whether or not the election outcome would lead to a predictable, reliable Germany led by a great chancellor.

SZIJJÁRTÓ OFFERS HUNGARIAN HELP TO ROMANIA AFTER HOSPITAL FIRE

Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó offered Hungary’s help to Romania on Saturday in the wake of a hospital fire in the western Romanian city of Constanța. Szijjártó said on Facebook that “misfortunes never come singly”, and at a time when an increasing number of people need hospital care in Romania as a result

of the coronavirus pandemic, the epidemic hospital of Constanța was ravaged by fire on Friday. He said he had sent a letter to Romanian counterpart Bogdan Aurescu offering his condolences as well as Hungary’s help. “The Hungarian health system has the capacity, and if you need help in looking after patients, you can rely on us,” Szijjártó said. The Romanian interior minister said seven patients died in a fire at the Constanța epidemic hospital’s intensive care unit where patients were on ventilators.

VIROLOGIST PROJECTS EPIDEMIC TO SPEED UP IN OCTOBER

The coronavirus epidemic is likely to speed up in October and the flu could also reappear, virologist Miklós Rusvai said over the weekend. When the weather turns cold and wet, symptoms of the common cold, infections in kindergartens and schools become increasingly frequent and based on the symptoms, it is difficult to tell whether infections are caused by the flu, allergy or the coronavirus, Rusvai told public news channel M1. The situation is always more serious if the flu and the coronavirus appear simultaneously, he said. During the past season, there was no flu epidemic, with only 10 confirmed cases reported, partly because mask-wearing considerably hindered the spread of infections, he added. Citing the results of British research showing that 99% of patients who needed intensive care for Covid

had not been vaccinated, he said even if vaccines could not completely prevent infection, they could prevent it from becoming deadly. New mutations of Covid have been reported since the discovery of the Delta variant but none of them are cause for concern because of their ability to spread fast or because vaccines don't give protection against them, he said.

BUST OF HUNGARIAN 19TH CENTURY STATESMAN KOSSUTH INAUGURATED IN BUFFALO

A bust of 19th century Hungarian reform statesman Lajos Kossuth was inaugurated in Buffalo, New York on Saturday, commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the United States and Hungary. The bust was inaugurated by István Pásztor, Hungary's Consul General in New York, Péter B. Nagy, special consul for the Hungarian diaspora, Péter Forgách, Hungary's honorary consul in Buffalo, and James, J. Maher, president of Niagara University. Hungary's consulate general in New York said the bust is meant to commemorate Kossuth's visit to Niagara Falls on May 22, 1852 and to pay tribute to the Hungarians who emigrated to the US in the 19th and 20th centuries. Kossuth's efforts to keep the ideas of the freedom fight of 1848-49 alive had a significant impact on the United States as well, the consulate said, adding that multiple US presidents, including Abraham Lincoln and Jonh F. Kennedy had

quoted Kossuth several times. In his speech at the inauguration ceremony, Nagy said the creation of the bust had been supported by Hungarians all over the US. At the ceremony, Maher was presented with the Hungarian Golden Cross of Merit on behalf of President János Áder for his contributions to the development of Hungarian-US education and cultural ties as well as his efforts to help Buffalo's Hungarian community preserve their identity and culture.

GOVT WELCOMES SLOVAK-HUNGARIAN PARTY ALLIANCE

Árpád János Potápi, state secretary for Hungarian communities abroad at the Prime Minister's Office, has sent a letter congratulating Krisztián Forró, leader of a Slovak-Hungarian Party, for forming an alliance with two other Slovak-Hungarian parties. Having forged an agreement after almost two years of talks, the three parties -- the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), Most-Híd and Spolupatričnosť (Togetherness) movement -- have come together to form a new party under the name of Aliancia-Szövetség (Alliance), with the inaugural congress held on Saturday. Forró, MKP's leader, is now also head of Alliance. Potápi said strengthening of Hungarian political cooperation in Slovakia carried "great responsibility and is now more important than ever".

"This is a fateful time for Hungarians: after a decade of divides, the

Hungarian community [in Slovakia] can become united again," he added. He said the Alliance would allow for the political diversity of Hungarians in Slovakia while ensuring united action. "Hungary is steadfast in giving every possible support to ensure the survival and prosperity of Hungarians abroad," the letter said.

HOLLIK: MORE THAN ONE MILLION HUNGARIANS SIGN RULING PARTIES' ANTI-GYURCSÁNY PETITION

More than one million people so far have signed the ruling alliance's "Stop Gyurcsány! Stop Karácsony!" petition launched on Sept. 1 ahead of next year's general election, Fidesz's communications head said on Sunday. The ruling parties aim to use the petition to reach out to everyone who believes that Hungary should not return to the politics of the past, István Hollik told public broadcaster Kossuth Radio. Referring to the opposition primaries, Hollik said that because Democratic Coalition leader Ferenc Gyurcsány "hasn't been able to win a general election for a long time now, he's now organised himself a little house championship". Hollik said the results of the first round of the primaries indicated that "Gyurcsány has again taken over the left", adding that Momentum Movement candidate András Fekete-Győr's last-place finish showed that "the left's attempt to reinvent itself has also failed."

“It’s obvious to everyone that Ferenc Gyurcsány is the leader of the left and that there’s nothing at stake anymore in the primaries,” he said. “The only question is whether the left will field Gyurcsány’s wife or Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony as its candidate for prime minister.”

In connection with a visit to Hungary by a delegation of the European Parliament’s civil liberties committee (LIBE) this week, Hollik said the delegation had included several liberal politicians “who constantly attack Hungary”. He said that although the EP’s rules of procedure prohibited MPs from the member state in question from being a part of such a visit, Momentum’s Anna Donáth had been part of the delegation. “They should first follow their own rules before assessing the state of the rule of law in other countries,” Hollik said. He said the delegation had turned

down an invitation from the pro-government Civic Union Forum to a presentation on rule-of-law violations during the anti-government protests on October 23, 2006.

GOVT LAUNCHES ONLINE SURVEY ON GREEN ISSUES

Hungary’s government is canvassing people’s views online on green issues, Zsolt Nyitrai, a prime ministerial commissioner, said in a video on Facebook over the weekend. So far, citizens have been consulted on 13 occasions and their ideas have been incorporated into policymaking, he noted. He said that unlike the left, the government took action rather than just talking about the environment.

Meanwhile, István Nagy, the minister of agriculture, made note in the promotional video of Hungary’s new afforestation scheme, adding

that more and more people were joining it. The area of woodland will grow from 24% to 27% of Hungary’s total landmass as a result, he said. The minister said the government was committed to preserving its natural resources, adding that thanks to projects over the past decade carried out on 320,000 hectares of national parks, “the state of our natural environment has improved”.

Attila Steiner, state secretary at the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, said the online survey covered issues such as waste recycling, state support for the installation of solar panels and electric transport, the continuation of the tree planting scheme, raising children in an environmentally conscious way, and getting big companies to pay the costs of climate protection. The 12-question questionnaire can be completed by the end of November.

