

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Runners in Sunday's Budapest Marathon

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Hunting Expo events

Coronavirus updates

TOP STORY

GULYÁS: POLAND TOP COURT DECISION 'MISINTERPRETED'

A recent, "clear" decision by the Polish constitutional court is "being misinterpreted in Europe", the prime minister's chief of staff said, arguing that "the dispute is not over whether European Union law has precedence over national legislation but in which areas it has precedence".

Gergely Gulyás said that Poland's top court has given an answer "to a bad practice of recent years" under which European institutions "seek to extend their scope of authority to areas in which member states "have never conferred any powers" to those institutions, he said.

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán signed a government resolution Saturday morning welcoming the judgement by Poland's constitutional court and requesting that EU institutions respect the sovereignty of member states. The resolution states that "the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Poland was prompted by bad practice of the European Union institutions, which disregards the principle of subsidiarity and seeks to deprive the rights of the Member States, rights never conferred to the European Union, by stealthy extension of powers without amending the Treaties of the European Union". "The primacy of EU law can take precedence only in areas where the European Union has competence, the framework of which is laid down in the Treaties of the European Union," it states.

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KARÁCSONY WITHDRAWS FROM OPPOSITION PRIME MINISTERIAL PRIMARY, BACKS MÁRKI-ZAY

Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony on Friday announced that he is withdrawing from the opposition's prime ministerial primary election and will back Péter Márki-Zay, leader of the Everyone's Hungary Movement (MMM), in the second round of the nomination contest. At a news conference in front of Parliament, Karácsony, who ran as the joint candidate of his Párbeszéd party, the Socialists and green LMP, asked his supporters to vote for Márki-Zay in the second round of the primary. Karácsony finished runner-up in the first round behind the Democratic Coalition's Klára Dobrev and ahead of third-placed Márki-Zay.

Despite garnering 170,000 votes in the first round, Karácsony said he was now calling for support of a "centre-right politician with whom I have disputes on issues such as taxation". He praised Márki-Zay as a "fair and honest man who is ready to serve, and who loves his country more than he loves power". "If I hadn't taken this step, [Prime Minister] Viktor Orbán would stay and our political differences would not matter," he said. "Those who do not make sacrifices at times like these are not patriots," he said.

Márki-Zay said he would join the Budapest mayor's 99 Movement "as a show of respect" for Karácsony, who

"had shown that he puts the country above all else". Márki-Zay, who is serving as mayor of the southern city of Hódmezővásárhely, said Dobrev's support was also needed for a change of government at next spring's election. Should Dobrev win the nomination, however, she couldn't garner "the three million votes needed to topple Orbán", he said. "Unfortunately, I am your only hope today," Márki-Zay summed up his message to voters. Márki-Zay expressed hope that „Orbán would not mobilise masses for supporting Dobrev” in the primary. „Those who cast their vote for Dobrev will actually vote for Orbán,” he said.

FINANCE MINISTER: HUNGARIAN INTERESTS ASSERTED IN TALKS ON GLOBAL MINIMUM CORPORATE TAX

Hungary has succeeded in pushing through its interests at the international talks on the global minimum corporate tax, Finance Minister Mihály Varga said on Friday. The corporate tax in Hungary will remain 9%, Varga said in a Facebook post. The global tax will be collected using "a targeted solution" that takes into consideration genuine economic activity, he said. "That means that corporate assets and payroll costs will be deductible using a special method of calculation, so those companies that are conducting activities with genuine, not fictitious, assets and payroll costs,

can avail of a preference," he explained. Hungary also successfully negotiated a ten-year transition period, the minister added. "We have achieved serious results, we can easily call this a Hungarian success -- we have been right to stand up for our interests," Varga said.

NOVÁK: DAYCARE SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG MOTHERS RETURNING TO WORK

Young mothers returning to work are eligible for a subsidy of up to 40,000 forints (EUR 111) a month, if they wish to place their child in a privately-run creche, the minister in charge of family affairs said. Katalin Novák said mothers of children under the age of three are eligible for the subsidies until the end of next year.

VARGA PUTS 2022 GDP GROWTH AT 5.5-6%

Finance Minister Mihály Varga said next year's GDP growth could reach 5.5-6% at a business forum organised by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) on Friday. The 2022 budget, approved by lawmakers in June, was drafted assuming a GDP growth of 5.2% next year. Varga reiterated that 2021 GDP growth is expected to reach 7-7.5%. Hungary's economic output has returned to 2019 levels, which is an "excellent result", considering that the tourism industry, which accounts for 8-10% of GDP, has still not fully recovered, he said.

Varga counted higher energy prices, a pickup in inflation, a worsening pandemic and a shortage of raw materials among the downside risks to the economic outlook. He said monetary policy tightening is “appropriate” in light of inflation data, but warned against making the same mistake as after the 2008-2009 crisis, when supportive monetary and fiscal policy “were rolled back too quickly”.

AGRARIAN LEADERS OF EIGHT COUNTRIES MEET IN BUDAPEST

István Nagy, Hungary’s minister of agriculture, held talks with agrarian leaders of seven central European countries on challenges to the region on the Budapest fairground Hungexpo. Addressing top officials of Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, Nagy called for closer cooperation in agricultural research and joint actions so that the member states could implement the EU’s common agricultural policy under national control, in line with their national characteristics. Brussels’ will often runs counter to local agrarian interests, he said, adding that the EU partners should understand that rural regions “are not the periphery but the very heart of the European way of life,” he said. The minister said that food waste and loss were declining in Hungary but still amounted to 88 million tonnes a year in the European Union. The best way to reduce it, he said, would lie in the digitalisation of the food chain.

JUSTICE MIN: EU INSTITUTIONS MUST RESPECT NATL IDENTITIES

“EU institutions must respect national identities and the political and constitutional system of Member States,” Justice Minister Judit Varga said in a post on Facebook. Varga responded in the post to the European Commission’s announcement on Thursday expressing “serious concerns” over a decision by Poland’s constitutional court establishing that some provisions of the EU’s founding treaties are inconsistent with the Polish constitution.

“According to the majority opinion of the Polish Constitutional Court, EU membership does not mean that the Court of Justice of the European Union can overrule national constitutions or that Poland has transferred its sovereignty entirely to the European Union,” Varga said in the post. She welcomed the court’s decision, adding that “Brussels’ imperial ambitions must be stopped”. She said Hungary, like Poland, “believes in the fundamental value of sovereignty and self-determination too”. “We fully understand the Polish response, which has been triggered by the EU institutions’ bad practice, thus violating the principle of delegation of powers,” she added. “The time has come to block the stealthy transfer of EU powers!” she said. “They can’t constrain national sovereignty!”

HUNGARIAN HOUSE SPEAKER INAUGURATES HALL OF RESIDENCE FOR CSÁNGÓ STUDENTS IN ROMANIA

Hungarian House Speaker László Kövér inaugurated a residence hall in Romania’s Miercurea Ciuc (Csíkszereda), designed to house 56 Csángó students, members of an ethnic Hungarian group in Romania’s Moldavia region. At the ceremony opening the residence hall constructed with a grant from the Hungarian government, Kövér said the Csángó minority, a 250,000-strong group of whom some 60,000 are estimated to still speak an archaic form of Hungarian, had been stripped of the “right and opportunity” to study and exercise their faith in their mother tongue. By restoring that right, “the feeling of national identity and belonging can be raised again into consciousness,” Kövér said. Hungary and Hungarians in Romania’s Transylvania region have a duty to “help restore the soul of their Csángó brothers,” he said.

The restoration of mother-tongue education started in the city of Miercurea Ciuc (Csíkszereda) in 1990 as Csángó students were integrated into Hungarian-speaking education there, Kövér said. The House Speaker said he hoped that the residence hall would become a model institution and serve as inspiration for similar facilities in other cities.

Kövér also delivered five portable ventilators to the Harghita County emergency hospital in Miercurea Ciuc, to be used while transporting coronavirus patients to the hospital. Kövér called on the Szekler community to accept the vaccine. "There are risks to taking the vaccine, but they dwarf in comparison to the risks of not being vaccinated," he said.

MÁTÉ KANÁSZ-NAGY: LMP IS ASSURANCE FOR REPRESENTATION OF GREEN ISSUES

LMP and the party's Green Guarantee programme, is the assurance for representation of green issues, the opposition party's co-leader said at an online press conference on Sunday. Máté Kanász-Nagy asked voters to support the opposition's unified front even though there is no green

candidate among those competing in the second round of primaries to pick the opposition's joint challenger for prime minister in the 2022 general elections. "LMP's Green Guarantee programme is the kind of programme that provides an answer to Hungary's social, economic and environmental crisis," he added.

He said Hungary must be made free of nuclear energy for a sustainable future and to protect it from the effects of climate change. He added that if there is a change in government, Paks II contracts will not only be "probed", they will immediately be cancelled.

Kanász-Nagy said the party aims to raise salaries of people working in the public, social and cultural sectors, in health-care and in education. The party wants to introduce a multi-rate tax system in which earnings up to the minimum wage are tax free, and people whose earnings are average

take home "tens of thousands of forints" more than they do at present, he added.

Kanász-Nagy said LMP believes every family and every child is equal and aims to "significantly raise" family benefits. He added that the party wants to channel state and European Union funding to Hungarian SMES rather than "supporting assembly plants and multinationals".

INDIA TO HONOUR HUNGARY IMMUNITY CERTIFICATE

Hungary and India have agreed to mutually recognise each other's Covid immunity certificates, the foreign minister said on his social media page. Hungarian and Indian nationals may travel from one country to the other without restriction from next week, Péter Szijjártó said.