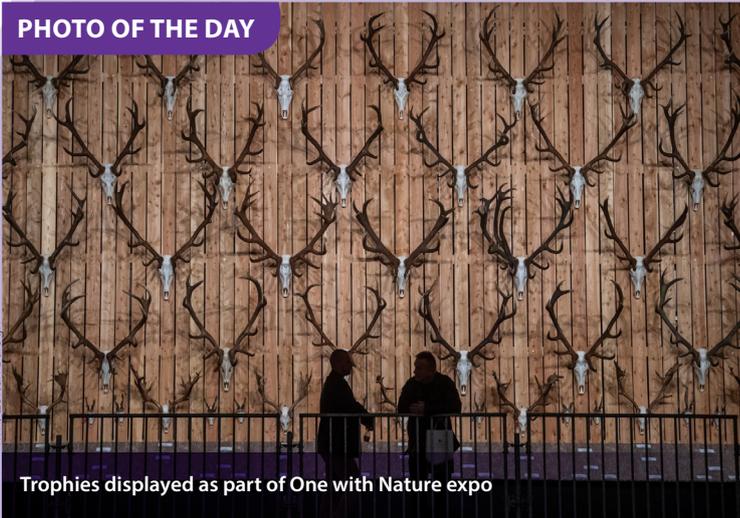


PHOTO OF THE DAY



Trophies displayed as part of One with Nature expo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coronavirus updates

Presser on Cziffra memorial year intl events

World Hunting Expo

Stats office publishes 2nd reading of industry August 2021 data

TOP STORY

V4 LEADERS CALL FOR EU TO BACK EGYPT

Strengthening Egypt is in the European Union's "vital interest", Viktor Orbán said after a meeting of representatives of the Visegrad Group and Egypt in Budapest.

The prime minister told a press conference held jointly with Slovak counterpart Eduard Heger, Poland's, and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi that migration was much worse now than in 2015, and the EU could not cope without external partners such as Egypt, "one of the most obvious allies". At the meeting, Morawiecki reported on the migration pressure at Poland's eastern border, Orbán said, adding that the pressure on Hungary's southern border was also increasing. "We are besieged," the prime minister said, adding that if Egypt cannot pursue its current policies to rein in migration towards Europe, "we will all be in big trouble". Egypt not only needs its border controls reinforced, the country's economy should also be stabilised so that "local youth are offered opportunities of a good life," Orbán said, adding that it was also in Europe's interest. Orbán called on the EU to convene the EU/Egypt Association Council as soon as possible, accept Egypt as a strategic partner and approve its proposals against terrorism.

ORBÁN: 'LIFT EU RESTRICTIONS PREVENTING EGYPT FROM PURCHASING BORDER EQUIPMENT

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has proposed that the EU adopt Egypt's list of terrorists and terrorist organisations, as well as calling for EU restrictions preventing Egypt from purchasing equipment for border protection to be lifted. After a meeting of representatives of the Visegrad Group and Egypt in Budapest Orbán also told a news conference that no ship carrying illegal migrants had left the coasts of Egypt since 2016. "If there is a will and good leadership, migration at sea can be restricted or even prevented." Talks will continue in the afternoon, focusing on economic cooperation, Orbán said, adding that such cooperation was a Hungarian priority. Hungary's Eximbank has opened a separate chapter to ensure that "Hungary not only exports goods but is setting up factories in Egypt". Such businesses could offer jobs to local youth, while Hungary could also contribute to European efforts aimed at stabilising the Egyptian economy in the long run, he added. Orbán also said that the Egyptian president's visit was an honour, adding that "ties are friendly and brotherly".

SZIJJÁRTÓ: ENABLING EGYPT TO PROTECT BORDERS IN EU'S INTEREST

The European Union has a vested interest in Egypt being able to protect its borders and maintain stability in order to prevent waves of migrants from reaching the territory of the EU, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó told the press after a summit of Visegrad Group countries and Egypt. However, the EU maintains two regulations that are opposed to that goal. The EU is preventing the transfer of 120 million euros in funding, allocated for Egypt under the arrangements of the European neighbourhood policy, he added. "We urge the European Commission to transfer this 120 million euros to Cairo as soon as possible and drop all fake and artificial political preconditions tied to this financial support," he said. The EU also maintains restrictions that prevent the sale of certain technologies to Egypt, he said. Yet, many of these technologies would be needed for Egypt to be able to keep thousands of kilometres of borders under control, including a long Mediterranean maritime border, a long stretch of border with Libya and a southern border which is under threat, he added. Drones and surveillance technologies would be required to securely control these borders and Hungary will therefore

initiate that the EU withdraws the restrictions and enables the acquisition of technologies required for successful border protection by Egypt, he said.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: PREPARATIONS FOR PAKS EXPANSION ON TRACK

Good progress has been made in preparations to expand the Paks nuclear power station, with the main constructor to submit ten new plans and permission requests to the authorities in the upcoming period, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said on Tuesday, on his way to Moscow to meet Alexey Likhachev, the director general of Russia's state atomic energy corporation Rosatom. It is important that progress is made according to preliminary plans so that Hungary can fulfil its obligations to meet European climate targets, the ministry said in a statement. Nuclear energy, it cited Szijjártó as saying, "is a clean, cheap and safe way to cover energy demands." Szijjártó said preparations were progressing well, with 519 licences already acquired by the main contractor, including an environmental permit. "A 300,000-page request for an implementation permit was completed last year, and recently the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority requested additional information for this documentation," he said. "This work will certainly be done in the next few months and, concurrently, we will submit ten new plans and

requests for permissions, including for the foundation slab and the reactor tank," he added.

Hungary has been using nuclear energy for nearly forty years, and experiences in the recent period have been especially positive, he said. Nuclear energy contributes to protecting the environment, preserving the achievements of the public utility cost reduction scheme and to securing the country's energy supplies, which is why the proportion of nuclear energy is being increased in Hungary's energy mix, he added.

Szijjártó said he would also discuss with Likhachev ways to make training capacities developed in Hungary become part of an international network. This is needed so that whenever the construction of a nuclear power station gets off the ground, wherever that may be, some of the engineers and professionals are trained in Hungary, he added. Most recently, Hungary's government signed a corresponding agreement with Bangladesh, and talks are under way with Egypt, he said.

ORBÁN CONGRATULATES NEW AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has sent a letter of congratulations to Alexander Schallenberg on his appointment as the chancellor of Austria. In the letter, Orbán said he was glad to have the opportunity to work with a politician "committed to the cause of Europe's

future while showing great respect" towards Hungary.

The prime minister called Austria a prime political and economic ally, and he assured Schallenberg of his personal commitment towards the development of Hungarian-Austrian cooperation "based on mutual trust and respect". Orbán said he trusted that bilateral cooperation would enhance regional competitiveness based on common European values as well as the bloc itself as a community of strong nations rooted in Christian traditions.

AGRICULTURE MIN: BRUSSELS ARM-TWISTING FARMERS

Mandatory and specific targets set down in the Green Deal, while advancing a political agreement on CAP reform, could also result in a decline in agricultural production, leading to drastic food price hikes, Minister of Agriculture István Nagy said at a Luxembourg meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council. Ordinary people and farmers should not have to pay the price of the EU's green targets, the minister insisted, noting that the agricultural sector was expected to aid the green transition by implementing new green requirements as part of the new Common Agricultural Policy.

Nagy said there was no doubt that agriculture must help towards achieving climate protection targets. But environmental and

competitiveness aspects, he added, should be balanced. Political agreement on CAP reform reached in June this year struck this balance, he said, adding that the overwhelming majority of agriculture ministers agreed that EU legislation was the sole basis for adopting CAP strategic plans. But the European Commission has since decided to force member states to accept ambitious and quantified targets set out in the Farm-to-Fork and Biodiversity strategies that are not yet part of any EU legislation. Nagy said several informal impact studies indicated that implementation of the strategies carried grave economic consequences such as a fall in production and drastic food price rises. Hence, Brussels is burdening the population and farmers with the costs of the green transition, he added. Social support is essential for the green transition's success, but this hinges on secure food supply and a viable farming sector, the minister said. Nagy said that according to the 2027 CAP agreement, 2030 targets cannot be set in concrete, yet this is precisely what the EC was proposing.

Meanwhile, Nagy also said sustainable forest management would help to achieve climate protection targets set down in the European Union's Green Deal, but national regulations were the best way forward. Forest management, he added, was overwhelmingly a national competence and he called on Brussels to respect the national forest management policies of EU member

states. The ministers agreed that forests are key in sustaining biological diversity and fighting climate change while at the same time expressing concern that insufficient emphasis was given in the strategy to the role of forests in the economy and society, he said.

Nagy underscored Hungary's commitment to increasing the country's wooded areas as well as to preserving its existing forests. He noted the government's objective to increase wooded and forested areas from 24% to 27% by 2030.

Forest management regulations can be implemented most effectively at national level, the minister said. With its proposals, the European Commission would overstep its powers laid down in the EU Treaties and curb the autonomy of member states, he said, adding that he was confident the EU would take the concerns and suggestions expressed at the council meeting into account when formulating its strategy in November.

PALKOVICS: HUNGARY AT WORLD'S BIGGEST INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS EVENT FOR FIRST TIME

Hungary is present for the first time at the world's largest event dedicated to intelligent transport systems, with a national stand at the ITS World Congress in Hamburg running from Oct. 11 to 15, the minister of innovation and technology, László Palkovics,

said. The national stand presents several new Hungarian smart mobility developments, including a project which creates a "digital twin" for any given transport situation thanks to cooperation between the ZalaZONE Vehicle Test Track, university research projects based on the ZalaZONE test track and the Hungarian public road company Magyar Közút Nonprofit. Whichever participant, including vehicle or person, wants to respond to a transport situation, the digital replica allows them to interfere in the process and "present a proper reaction", he added.

Palkovics said the development project had attracted considerable interest. The project implemented under the arrangements of Austrian-Hungarian research cooperation is up and running with the installation of the system on the M76 motorway, he said.

LMP CALLS ON GOVT TO PROTECT HUNGARIAN EMPLOYEES IN W EUROPE

The opposition party LMP is calling on the government to support stricter European Union regulations on recruitment services and temporary work contracts, and to protect the interests of Hungarian employees in western Europe. LMP lawmaker Péter Ungár told an online press briefing on Tuesday that the EU principle of the free movement of labour did not work in practice when it came to offering the same conditions and wages to employees, regardless of which

country they originate from. He cited court rulings in Germany revealing that different conditions were offered to workers in areas such as elderly care, agriculture and meat processing. The way to resolve disputes would be stricter regulations on recruitment and temporary work contracts, he said. Unless these are regulated at an EU level, western European employers will abuse the rules and pay eastern European workers below the minimum wage, he added. He called on the government and all Hungarian MEPs to stand up for the interests of Hungarian workers employed by western Europeans.

HUNGARY RECORDS 455 NEW CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS, 17 DEATHS

Seventeen patients died of a Covid-related illness over the past 24 hours, while 455 new coronavirus infections were registered, koronavirus.gov.hu said on Tuesday. So far 5,911,737 people have received a first jab, while 5,682,396 have been fully vaccinated. Fully 911,000 Hungarians have received a booster jab. The number of active infections stands at 10,269, while hospitals are treating 733 Covid patients, 110 of whom need respiratory assistance. Since the first outbreak, 829,911 infections have been registered, while fatalities have risen to 30,320. Fully 789,322 people have made a recovery. There are 6,692 people in official quarantine, while 7,079,804 tests have been officially carried out.

Trace amounts of the coronavirus in waste water, an indicator of pandemic trends in the coming weeks, is growing in Hungary, the national public health centre (NNK) said on Tuesday. The concentration has been growing in the cities of Kecskemét, Nyíregyháza, Pécs and Szeged but it has been falling in Salgótarján, NNK said. Seventeen locations had moderate levels of virus in the samples, while five had low amounts, it said.

OFFICIAL CALLS FOR SUPPORTING SMES' INTERNATIONAL VENTURES

Providing support to the international ventures of small and medium-sized enterprises is crucially important, a state secretary of the ministry of foreign affairs and trade said at the general assembly of the Berne Union held in Budapest. Levente Magyar highlighted the Hungarian government's subsidies provided to businesses during the coronavirus pandemic in the past year and a half. Hungary has the 34th highest export ratio among countries of the world, the official said, noting SME's increasing contribution to that achievement.

BU chief Michael Ron said that export loan insurers were optimistic concerning world trade returning to pre-pandemic levels, adding that global FDI was showing signs of recovery. BU, founded in 1934, has export loan agencies as members from 43 countries.

IMF RAISES HUNGARY 2021 GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO 7.6%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised its forecast for GDP growth in Hungary this year to 7.6% in its latest World Economic Outlook released on Tuesday. The forecast was raised from 4.3% in the previous WEO published in April. Finance Minister Mihály Varga has said GDP growth could reach 7-7.5% this year. Meanwhile, the IMF lowered its forecast for GDP growth in 2022 to 5.1% from 5.9% while bumping up its forecast for annual average inflation in Hungary this year to 4.5% from 3.6%.

PÉCS UNIVERSITY OF ACQUIRES EQUIPMENT TO EXAMINE GENES

The University of Pécs in southern Hungary has purchased state-of-

the-art equipment for mapping the genetic characteristics of the population as well for drug development. The 2.2 million euro purchase is being funded by a grant from the EU and the Hungarian government.

HUNGARIAN-GERMAN ARTS FESTIVAL STARTS IN BERLIN

The Bridging Europe festival, organised by the Budapest Palace of Arts (Müpa) and the Konzerthaus Berlin between October 11 and 16, will feature concerts, literature and films, organisers said on Tuesday. The first phase of the festival took place between September 17 and 30 in Budapest, in a new take on Müpa's eight-year tradition of thematic festivals, organised in cooperation with Iván Fischer's Budapest Festival Orchestra, they said.

The events in Berlin include lieder concerts, films and photo exhibitions. Fischer will conduct the Budapest Festival Orchestra at a concert featuring Croatian pianist Dejan Lazić. A concert of celebrated Hungarian guitarist Ferenc Snétberger will conclude the festival, the organisers said.