

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Csaba Krizsán

Holy Mass in Győr paying tribute to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Stats office reports on Q3 2022 budget balance**

**Events related to the war in Ukraine**

## TOP STORY

### GOVT 'WORKING TO PROTECT ECONOMY, COMPANIES'

The government is working to protect Hungarian companies and the economy, the minister for economic development said on Monday.

Insisting that the sanctions imposed on Russia in response to the war in Ukraine had "hobbled European economy and driven it into the ground", Márton Nagy said Hungary's government had protected growth which may come to 5% in 2022, and aims to avoid recession in 2023. The government has "erected an over 2,000 billion forint (EUR 5bn) defence line" by cheap state-sponsored loans, subsidies and by expanding the interest moratorium, he said. The goal is a new industry policy laying the groundwork for a 21st century economy, he said in a video on Facebook. Companies must be revamped to curb their energy dependence and operate sustainably and effectively, he said. The government aims to increase competitiveness and cut red tape around companies, and to rethink the "system of strategic sectors," Nagy said. "2023 won't be easy, but we can be sure that the government will do everything possible to protect Hungarian businesses and the economy," he added.

## **OFFICIAL: GOVT COMMITTED TO RAISING TEACHERS' WAGES**

The government is committed to raising the wages of teachers as steeply as possible over the next three years, a state secretary of the interior ministry said on Monday. The government held the "the broadest ever" consultation in the sector last year, with up to 33,000 relevant questionnaires returned by teachers during the summer and the autumn and another 130,000 returned by parents in the winter, Bence Rétvári said in a video on Facebook. The government also held personal consultations with 400 teachers and principals in December, as well as roundtable talks on education, and meetings with the strike committee of teachers' unions, he said. The plan is to raise wages using central budget resources and EU funding, which will allow increasing teachers' wages by 21% this year, by 25% in 2024 and by 29% in 2025, Rétvári said. "The average monthly wage of a teacher will go up by 75% to 777,000 forints (EUR 1,940) in three years," he said.

## **MORE THAN 5,000 UKRAINE REFUGEES ENTER HUNGARY ON SUNDAY**

Fully 1,602 refugees entered Hungary at the Ukraine-Hungary border on Sunday, while 3,519 came to the country via Romania, according to the national police headquarters (ORFK). Police issued temporary residence permits valid for 30 days to 74 people. Altogether 18 refugees, 5 children among them, arrived in Budapest by train, ORFK said on Monday.

## **PMI AT 63.1 POINTS IN DEC**

Hungary's seasonally-adjusted Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) rose to 63.1 points in December from 56.0 in November, the Hungarian Association of Logistics, Purchasing and Inventory Management (Halpim) said on Monday. A PMI over 50 signals expansion in the manufacturing sector. Among the PMI sub-indices, the new orders index rose from the previous month and remained over the 50-point mark. The production volume index also climbed and was over 50. The employment index indicated growth for the fifteenth month in a row. Delivery times were shorter in December but the sub-index is still under 50. The gauge of purchased inventories rose and was above the 50-point mark, signalling a sustained recovery.

## **MAGYAR POSTA REOPENS 45 SHUTTERED OFFICES**

Magyar Posta has reopened 45 post offices in 32 localities, after agreements have been reached with the local authorities on operational costs, the company said on Monday. The company is now running 2,233 post offices nationwide, much more than the 1,600 required by law. Magyar Posta announced late in October that it would temporarily shutter 366 post offices in 210 settlements to reduce energy consumption. The company announced in December that it would reopen some offices, pending agreements with local authorities to "handle increased energy costs together".

## **NNK: AIR QUALITY 'DANGEROUS' IN THREE TOWNS**

Air quality due to pollution has remained "unhealthy" in and around Budapest and in the northeast whereas it is still "dangerous" in three towns in the north and the northeast, the National Centre for Public Health (NNK) said on Monday. In the towns of Tököl, Nyíregyháza and Putnok, concentrations of particulate matter (PM10) in the air have exceeded what is considered to be safe, NKK said in a statement. Besides Budapest, air quality is "unhealthy" in Vác, Salgótarján, Eger and Sajószentpéter and is "poor" in Debrecen, Miskolc, Kazincbarcika and Szeged.

## **NEARLY 200 CUBIC METRES OF RUBBISH CLEARED FROM BUDAPEST STREETS AFTER NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Some 197 cubic metres of rubbish was cleared from the streets of Budapest by the capital's waste management company after New Year's Eve. The amount of rubbish collected from the streets is equivalent to the annual waste generated by 33 average Budapest households, FKF told MTI. The company's workers began clearing the rubbish at 6am on Jan. 1. The work was carried out by 304 employees of FKF's public cleanliness division and 27 drivers. The rubbish collected will be disposed of in an eco-friendly manner and used to generate heating and electricity, FKF said.