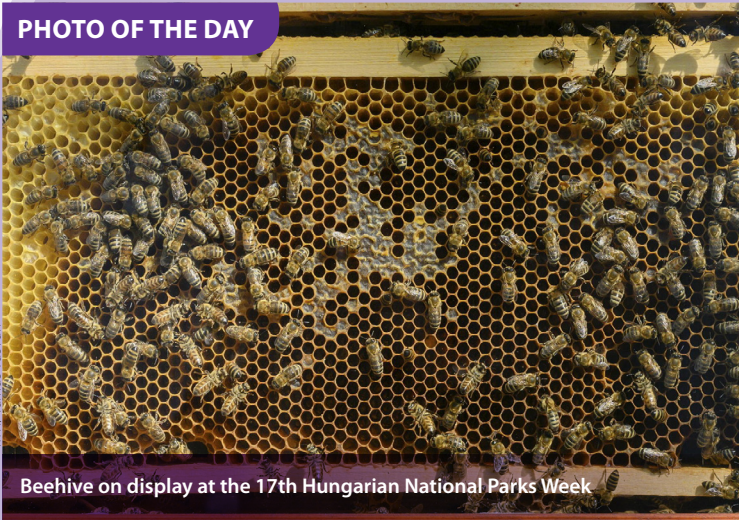


PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTVA/Tamás Vasvári

Beehive on display at the 17th Hungarian National Parks Week

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events related to the war in Ukraine

Events marking Pentecost

TOP STORY

FM URGES FASTER EU ENLARGEMENT IN W BALKANS

Hungary is a staunch supporter of the European integration of the Western Balkans, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said in Budapest on Friday, calling for the enlargement of the European Union to be speeded up.

The Western Balkans has always been important to Hungary, and the ongoing war in Ukraine has made the region even more important, Szijjártó told a press conference he held jointly with Staša Košarac, Bosnia's minister for foreign trade, according to a ministry statement. Peace, calm and security in the Western Balkans is in Hungary's national interest, Szijjártó said. The best way to achieve that is EU integration and economic development, he added. "Hungary is therefore a committed supporter of the EU integration of the Western Balkans and also supports the region's economic development," he added. The minister said the "snail's pace" of progress in EU enlargement could "easily cause instability and lead to the Western Balkans turning elsewhere". "Unfortunately, Brussels regularly proceeds to lecture the Western Balkans instead of applying a voice of mutual respect," Szijjártó said. "So often in Brussels they talk about the Western Balkans instead of talking with the Western Balkans, and this is rather irresponsible."

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SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH IN BOSNIA- HERZEGOVINA

Hungary is committed in its support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's European Union accession, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said on Friday, adding that there were Hungarian experts aiding the process. Hungary also promotes economic growth in the region, he said at a joint press conference with Staša Košarac, Bosnia's minister for foreign trade, noting that the government has launched an economic development programme in Bosnia's autonomous Serb Republic. Fully 768 local farmers and businesses have been supported with a total of 11 million euros through the scheme, which they could use to buy Hungarian agricultural machinery, Szijjártó added. An agreement has been reached on the launch of another round of support worth a total 17 million euros in early June, he said.

Szijjártó welcomed that bilateral trade turnover reached a record 600 million euros last year. The involvement of Hungarian businesses in the installation of solar farms in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be important to boosting trade, he added. Meanwhile, Szijjártó said both Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina were interested in the war in Ukraine ending as soon as possible.

Both countries see energy security as a priority, and the TurkStream gas pipeline is key for both of

them, Szijjártó said. He said that to guarantee the region's energy supply, the EU could no longer afford to be "passive" when it came to the capacity expansion and upgrade of southeast Europe's energy infrastructure.

FIDESZ MEP: EUROPEAN LEFT PREPARING TO PUT MORE PRESSURE ON HUNGARY

The European parliamentary left is preparing another "brutal" effort to put pressure on Hungary next week in an attempt to force it into the war, Balázs Hidvéghi, an MEP of ruling Fidesz, said in a video on Facebook on Friday.

MEPs together with the Hungarian "dollar left" are preparing another "deceitful" report condemning Hungary, Hidvéghi said. The draft text is full of "blatant lies" and calls on the European Commission not to give Hungary the funds it is entitled to, he added. Hidvéghi said it was "outrageous" that while the "dollar left" was protesting for wage hikes for teachers in Hungary, in Brussels it was working to prevent Hungarians, including teachers, from gaining access to the monies owed to them. The "dollar left" and Brussels want to force Hungary to give up its pro-peace position and drag it into the war, the MEP said. "But we are sticking to our pro-peace stance and letting Brussels know that we won't give in to pressure," Hidvéghi said. "We will give a proper response to every single

dishonest attack and won't let Hungary be dragged into the war."

SZIJJÁRTÓ: WORLD AQUATICS TO RELOCATE HQ TO BUDAPEST

World Aquatics (WA), the international federation for water sports, will relocate its headquarters from Lausanne to Budapest, pending approval by its congress, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said on Friday. The foreign ministry cited Szijjártó as saying that an agreement had been signed with WA President Husain Al-Musallam on the federation relocating its headquarters to Budapest, with the final unanimous decision on the move to be approved by the WA congress. Hungary is a key player when it comes to world swimming competitions, not only because Hungarian swimmers regularly win gold medals at world championships and the Olympics, but also because it was one of the eight founding members of the International Swimming Federation in 1908, the minister said. Hungary houses the headquarters of two international sports federations and there are ten United Nations organisations headquartered in the country as well, he said, adding that all of those organisations were satisfied with the conditions. "It will of course be a huge recognition for Hungary if the global headquarters of the international swimming federation moves here to Budapest," Szijjártó said. The federation's leaders want at least

half of the HQ's staff to be Hungarian, he added. WA's relocation to Hungary will give a significant boost to sports tourism, the minister said.

HUNGARY JOBLESS RATE REACHES 3.9% IN APRIL

Hungary's jobless rate was 3.9% at the end of April, edging down from 4.0% in March, but rising from 3.5% twelve months earlier, data released by the Central Statistical Office (KSH) on Friday show. The rate covers unemployment among people between the ages of 15 and 74. In absolute terms, there were 190,100 unemployed, 4,900 fewer than in March but 19,800 more than twelve months earlier. In February-April, the unemployment rate was at 4.0%, falling from 4.1% in March, but rising from 3.5% twelve months earlier. The number of jobseekers between the ages of 15-74 rose by 27,000 to 197,000. Meanwhile, the average number of employed persons aged 15-74 in April came to 4.710 million, 29,000 more than the previous year. In the February-April period, the number of employed was 4.698 million, 14,000 more than a year earlier.

MFB, EXIMBANK BOND ISSUES SECURE USD 844M EXTRA FUNDING

A bond issue by Magyar Eximbank in April and one by state-owned

Hungarian Development Bank (MFB) in May has secured a combined 2.375 billion US dollars of funding, of which 1.531 billion US dollars will be used for refinancing and 844 million is available as extra financial resources, the Economic Development Ministry said on Friday. The new resources will be used for development programs supporting the strengthening of the Hungarian economy, increasing the competitiveness of businesses, and carrying out new investments and developments, the ministry said. On April 26 Eximbank issued a 1.25 billion US dollar bond. The yield on the security, which matures in December 2027, was 6.32% or 5.7% expressed in euros. On May 24 MFB issued a 1.125 billion US dollar bond. Yield on the five-year bond was 6.5% or 5.73% expressed in euros. The ministry noted that it exercises ownership rights over the two financial institutions and they do not plan to issue additional bonds this year.

OVER 10,000 REFUGEES ENTER HUNGARY ON THURSDAY

Fully 5,828 refugees entered Hungary at the Ukraine-Hungary border on Thursday, while 4,436 came to the country via Romania, according to the national police headquarters (ORFK). Police issued

temporary residence permits valid for 30 days to 57 people, ORFK said on Friday. Fully 47 refugees, 22 children among them, travelled to Budapest by train.

CHARGES RAISED AGAINST TUNISIAN HUMAN SMUGGLER USING INFLATABLE BOAT

Charges have been raised against a Tunisian man living in Poland who was smuggling migrants to Hungary partly by boat on the Mura river with the help of accomplices, the deputy spokesperson of the Zala County prosecutor's office said on Friday. Judit Janky said that the man had been working with an Iraqi citizen also living in Poland to arrange the transportation of a large number of migrants to the territory of the European Union between June and September 2020. The migrants who had no entry documents or residence permit were taken on an inflatable boat from Croatia to Hungary on the Mura river and then from Hungary transported to Slovenia and Austria, she added. The Nagykanizsa district prosecutor's office raised charges against the Tunisian man for human smuggling committed in a criminal gang and proposed a prison sentence and expulsion from Hungary.