

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTV/Róbert Hegedűs

A saját életem a bizonyosság arra, hogy az újrakezdés rengeteg lehetőséget rejt magában.
My own life proves that a fresh start is full of opportunities.

Paralympic champion Luca Ekler, former athletics department head László Szalma during celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the national sports university (TF)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stats office reports Jan earnings data, Feb guest nights

Central bank presents Inflation Report

Events related to the wars in the Middle East, Ukraine

TOP STORY

SZIJJÁRTÓ: AFRICA'S STABILITY KEY TO EUROPEAN SECURITY

African stability is key to European security, and Kenyan support is vital in terms of combatting terrorism and hosting refugees, Péter Szijjártó, the foreign minister, said in Nairobi on Wednesday, adding that Hungary is making large contributions towards these efforts.

Hungary and Kenya this year are celebrating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties, Szijjártó said at a joint news conference held with Kenyan counterpart Wycliffe Musalia Mudavadi. He said ties were based on mutual respect. Hungary, he said, provides aid to Kenya, adding that the more stable and developed the country is the better the security situation. Hungary is launching a 6 billion forint (EUR 15.2m) lending scheme under which Hungarian companies are establishing two centres for the purpose of upgrading irrigation systems and fisheries in the country with the aim of improving the security of food supplies. Also, Hungary is providing 200 million forints for setting up an agricultural education and research hub for modernising Kenyan farming using Hungarian seed technology. Meanwhile, the minister welcomed Kenya's decision to build a nuclear power plant, saying the project would help to cut harmful emissions. The sides have signed a cooperation pact on nuclear education and training, with Hungary helping to train Kenyan specialists and sharing experiences in regulation.

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HUNGARY TO PROMOTE EU-KENYA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT DURING PRESIDENCY

During talks in Nairobi, Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó noted that the EU-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement was signed last year, and said Hungary would do its utmost to make sure it came into force during the six months of its EU presidency. The minister noted the expansion of the Education Hungary office, and said that as well as the founding universities of Pécs, Debrecen, IBS International Business School and the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Miskolc and Sopron universities have also joined the scheme that advises students interested in training opportunities in Hungary. Out of the 290,000 people studying in Hungarian higher education, 40,000 are foreign and Kenyans have access to 200 scholarships each year, he noted, adding that they could go on to help develop their country with the knowledge they had gained. Given the popularity of the programme, Hungary is considering expanding the number of participants, he said.

"All preconditions are given to develop economic cooperation between Hungary and Kenya," the minister told a Hungary-Kenya business forum held later in the day, adding that there were no open political issues between the two countries. Szijjártó said the business leaders in his delegation

to Kenya represented cutting edge technologies in farming, food safety, water management and administrative services, whose projects could contribute to Kenya's economic development. He said representatives of the two countries were set to sign a mutual investment protection accord, while preparations for an agreement aimed at avoiding double taxation were on the agenda.

The minister highlighted Kenya's stabilising role in the region, noting that country's efforts to fight terrorism and its accommodating hundreds of thousands of refugees.

MAGYAR DEMANDS RESIGNATION OF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, GOVT AT DEMO

At a demonstration in central Budapest on Tuesday evening, Péter Magyar demanded the resignation of Chief Prosecutor Péter Polt and the government, and called for a truly independent investigation of a case referred to in a recording he secretly made in his home of a conversation with his ex-wife, the former justice minister. Magyar had invited his followers to the demonstration after his hearing at the Chief Prosecutor's Office earlier in the day. The demonstration started in front of the office headquarters and then moved to nearby Vértanúk Square.

Magyar told the event that Hungary had sunk in the "deepest political, moral and legal crisis" since post-communist transformation as a result

of the cover-up of paedophile crimes, a scandal involving a presidential pardon, and corrupt bailiffs and government members.

He also said that the Chief Prosecutor's Office should interview several government members and the prime minister in connection with the recording he had presented during his hearing.

BUDAPEST ASSEMBLY APPROVES ANNUAL POLICE REPORT

The Budapest City Assembly on Wednesday unanimously approved the annual report of the Budapest police headquarters' activities in 2023 showing that the number of crimes registered in the capital grew by 1.9% to 40,754 over one year. Budapest police chief Tamás Terdik told the meeting that there had been a considerable drop in the number of murders, with 35 murders registered in 2023, and none of them remained unsolved. There was a 3% increase in the number of thefts, though the number of car thefts dropped by 8%, he said. The number of burglaries dropped by 15% and the number of robberies by 8%, he said, adding that the number of burglaries was at an all-time low. Terdik said there had been a shift in criminal activities, with an increase in cybercrime.

Budapest police received 201,000 calls last year and the average response time was 12%, among the fastest in the country, similarly to previous years, he said.

MORE THAN 100 INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS TO ATTEND HUNGARIAN WINE SUMMIT

Over 100 international experts are scheduled to get an introduction to Hungarian wines in Budapest and during country tours at the Hungarian Wine Summit between April 21 and 25 organised by the Hungarian Wine Marketing Agency (MBU). Expansion in foreign markets is a real moving force behind wine trading, and the recently established agency is working towards this, the government commissioner in charge of wine marketing said on Wednesday.

Pál Rókusfalvy said a study of primary and secondary markets for Hungarian wines revealed that whites were most in demand abroad, representing 86 percent of exports last year.

Considerable efforts are under way in Germany and the UK to market Hungarian wines, and their presence is also growing in China, South Korea, Poland and the US, he added.

Presenting the Hungarian Wine Summit programme, MBU marketing director Anita Pusztai said nine master courses will offer an overview of the most important Hungarian grape varieties and 107 wineries will present 386 products to international wine traders, writers and sommeliers at Millenáris Park on the first day of the summit. This will be followed by a three-day study programme with four

optional routes including visits to wine cellars and regional tasting sessions, she added.

HUNGARY FEB JOBLESS RATE 4.6%

Hungary's jobless rate was 4.6% in February, up from 4.5% in January, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said on Wednesday. The rate covers unemployment among people between the ages of 15 and 74. In absolute terms, there were 226,900 unemployed in February, 4,900 more than in January and 31,100 more than twelve months earlier. The rolling three-month average jobless rate stood at 4.7% in February, up from 4.6% in January.

Meanwhile, the employment rate for the 15-74 age group was 64.7% in February, up from 64.4% in January. In absolute terms, there were 4,723,100 people employed in February, 24,600 more than in January and 32,000 more than twelve months earlier. The number of economically active people in the age group stood at 4,950,000, giving Hungary an activity rate of 67.8%, up from 66.8 percent twelve months earlier.

SZIGET FESTIVAL HEADLINERS TO INCLUDE HALSEY, LIAM GALLAGHER, SKRILLEX

Liam Gallagher, Halsey, Skrillex, Janelle Monáe, Raye and Tom Odell are among the nearly fifty

acts announced on Wednesday to perform at the Sziget Festival taking place in Budapest from August 7 to 12. Former Oasis singer Liam Gallagher will focus on the group's debut album *Definitely Maybe*, a seminal 1990s record published thirty years ago, the event's chief executive, Tamás Kádár, said in a statement. Other headliners performing on the main stage will include the US singer Halsey, a three-time Billboard Music Awards recipient and three-time Grammy award nominee, and US electronic dance music artist Skrillex, the winner of nine Grammy awards. The US pop'n'soul singer Janelle Monáe and the British singer-songwriters Raye and Tom Odell will also be among the headliners this year. The list of international performers to appear at other stages will include Marc Rebillet, Anfisa Letyago, Apashe with Brass Orchestra, Archie Hamilton, Ari Abdul, Camo and Krooked b2b Luude, Charlie Sparks, Colyn, Dyen, az Editors, Enrico Sangiuliano, Franc Moody, Goldband, Job Jobse, Kevin de Vries, KI/KI, Kiasmos, Lachesi, Len Faki, Loco Dice, LP Giobbi, Lucia Lu, Mannequin Pussy, MO, Modeselektor, Neil Frances, Nico Moreno, NTO, Rebuke, Sam Paganini, Sarah Story, Sven Väth, Teezo Touchdown, Tinlicker, Tkay Maidza, Venerus, Victoria and Whipped Cream.

Previously announced acts scheduled to appear at this year's festival include Fred Again, Sam Smith, Stormzy, Martin Garrix, Louis Tomlinson and Big Thief.