

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Péter Komka

Postal Museum inaugurated in UNESCO World Heritage site Hollókő

UPCOMING EVENTS

Election campaign events

Events related to the wars in the Middle East, Ukraine

Stats office publishes Q1 investment figures, March wages

TOP STORY

SZIJJÁRTÓ: VOTERS CAN CHOOSE PEACE ON JUNE 9

Voters will have a chance in the June 9 EP elections to tell the European politicians “talking crazy” that they have had enough, and to choose peace, the Hungarian foreign minister has said in Amman.

Péter Szijjártó told a joint press conference with Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi that both Hungary and Jordan faced grave security challenges in their respective regions, while neither were to blame for the regional tensions surrounding them. “Neither of us are in any way responsible for the emergence of these conflicts, yet we are still among those paying the price for them,” Szijjártó said, according to a ministry statement. “Hungarians are rightfully fed up with this,” he said. “The Hungarian people want peace, and the entire country, the entire nation is baffled by the dangerous and crazy things certain European politicians say... Certain European politicians want to send troops to Ukraine, while others are fantasising about the deployment of nuclear weapons.” “Either one of those will result in a world war, and those of us in the direct vicinity of the conflicts will be the ones paying the price of that, too,” he said. The foreign minister expressed Hungary’s appreciation for Jordan’s role in preserving the region’s stability and in the fight against terrorism and extremism.

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SZIJJÁRTÓ EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES OVER DEATH OF IRAN'S PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER

Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó has expressed his condolences over the deaths of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian who died in a tragic accident on May 19. Szijjártó said in his letter of condolence posted on Facebook and addressed to acting foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani that "I remember during my visit on December 16, 2021 my meeting with Mr President Raisi and talks with Foreign Minister Abdollahian who always supported the strengthening of traditionally friendly Hungarian-Irani relations". "I will never forget that he was always available when I asked him for a meeting and he expressed respect for Hungary," he added. Szijjártó said his thoughts were with the loved ones of the deceased and wished good health and strength for the responsible work of the acting Iranian foreign minister in this difficult period.

EU AFFAIRS MINISTER: 'EU USES ARTICLE 7 PROCEDURE AS A POLITICAL TOOL'

EU institutions use the Article 7 procedure and the rule of law proceedings in general "as a political tool", Hungary's EU affairs minister said in Brussels on Tuesday after attending a ministerial

meeting. Speaking to reporters, János Bóka commented on "the timing" of the European Commission's recent decision to close the Article 7 procedure against Poland, saying that it had been made "just a few weeks ahead of the EP elections". The minister said he had sent a letter to Věra Jourová, European Commissioner for Values and Transparency, asking several questions about the EC's "evaluation in connection with the situation in Poland". Bóka said he had pointed out several concrete instances of the Commission "applying political double standards", adding however that the EC had not given a "meaningful" response to any of his questions. Speaking about the preparations for the upcoming summit of the leaders of EU member states in late June, Bóka said that the EU affairs ministers were in agreement at their Tuesday meeting that the summit's agenda must include discussions about Ukraine's security situation, competitiveness and foreign relations as well as setting a "strategic timetable" for decisions to be taken on highly important issues during the next EU cycle. Hungary was among the several countries that proposed to put on the summit's agenda the issue of migration and its "external dimensions" as a separate topic, Bóka said.

HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR EMPHASISES NEED FOR PEACE ON HUNGARY'S NATL DEFENCE DAY IN WASHINGTON

Hungary supports all international initiatives aimed at bringing an end

to the conflict in Ukraine, Szabolcs Takács, Hungary's Ambassador to the United States, told a ceremony in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, marking Hungary's National Defence Day. In his address to officials and diplomats, Takács pointed out the need for peace and a ceasefire in the interests of Ukraine and its people, and called for urgent peace talks. The ambassador said it was especially important that NATO remain a defence alliance focused on deterrence, which he said meant that it had to stay out of the conflict in Ukraine. He said Hungary was doing its part in upholding Euro-Atlantic security, noting that it was now spending 2.43% of its GDP on defence, and had tripled its defence budget in less than a decade.

Takács hailed the "success story" of NATO's first 75 years and noted that 2024 also marks the 25th anniversary of Hungary's accession to the alliance. He underscored Hungary's commitment and expressed its intention to expand military cooperation with the Ohio National Guard. Tuesday's ceremony at the Hungarian embassy was attended by Major General John C. Harris, Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard. Harris told MTI that the strength of the cooperation between the Hungarian Armed Forces and the National Guard stemmed from its continuity over 31 years. He said there were currently several members of the Ohio National Guard taking part in a joint exercise

in Hungary. The ceremony was also attended by Sonata Coulter, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of State's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, and Brigadier General Timothy M. Brower, the National Guard Bureau's Vice Director for Strategy, Policy, Plans and International Affairs.

CÖF-CÖKA: PEACE MARCH TO BE HELD FOR PEACE, AGAINST WAR ON JUNE 1

A Peace March organised for June 1 will convey the message of "stop here and go no further" to European leaders "burning with war psychosis", the founder of the pro-government Civic Union (CÖF) and head of the associated CÖKA foundation told a press conference. László Csizmadia said the march will start out in a situation when "Paris, London and perhaps also Berlin envision a nuclear war, forgetting Hiroshima and Nagasaki". The message of the march will be that European Union voters can opt for peace on June 9, "stopping the horrors of the Russia-Ukraine war and choosing life over death", he added. The participants of the march will gather at the Pest side of Chain Bridge between 11am and 1pm, then move along the riverbank and cross over to Margaret Island, he said. In response to a question, Csizmadia said that according to information from Tamás Menczer, the ruling

parties' communications director, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán will participate in the march.

NAGY CALLS FOR MAINTAINING VOLUNTARY RATE CAP ON RETAIL CREDIT UNTIL JUNE 30

Márton Nagy, the national economy minister, met Radován Jelasy, chairman of the Hungarian Banking Association, to review macroeconomic and lending trends, his ministry said in a statement. Nagy and Jelasy concluded that having pushed down inflation, the government had successfully restarted economic growth this year and had every chance of boosting it in 2025. Economic growth is expected to reach 2.5% this year before rising to 4.1% in 2025 on the back of rising investments, steady exports, growing labour-market activity and dynamic real wage growth, they said. Lending trends, they said, had also taken a positive turn recently. The two officials reviewed a voluntary scheme under which lenders agreed to reduce their spreads on corporate credit over the benchmark three-month Budapest Interbank Offered Rate (BUBOR) to 0% from February 1 to May 1. At the meeting Nagy asked that, in the interest of protecting families and boosting lending, banks maintain the voluntary 7.3% cap on home loan APRs in effect until June 30 in spite of the recent increase in yields.

CZECH CAPTAIN OF CRUISE SHIP IN FATAL VERŐCE COLLISION UNDER POLICE SURVEILLANCE

The captain of a cruise ship, a Czech national, has been ordered to stay at his place of residence in Hungary until September 22 over charges of alleged negligence in a fatal accident on the Danube river that claimed two lives over the weekend, a Budapest regional court said. The captain was taken into custody on Monday after his ship had collided with a small motor boat near Verőce, north of Budapest, in the night of May 18. A man and a woman out of the eight passengers on board the boat died while another male passenger who swam ashore survived the accident. A search is still under way for the remaining five passengers, three men and two women. Police have launched proceedings against the cruise ship's captain over negligence leading to several deaths and other crimes. The Czech national has a residence registered in Hungary.

Meanwhile, Budapest police BRFK said that body of a young man, who was on board the small boat has been recovered. The body was discovered between Vác and Szódliget. The 19-year-old man is the third victim of the collision that has already claimed the lives of a man and a woman. A search is still under way for another two men and two women. Out of the altogether eight adults who

were on board the motor boat one male passenger sustained head and shoulder injuries but survived and swam ashore. He was later found disoriented on the river bank at Verőce. The man received urgent medical care and was taken to hospital.

YALE UNI CONFERS HONORARY DEGREE ON MATHEMATICIAN LOVÁSZ

Yale University has conferred an honorary degree on mathematician

and computer scientist Laszlo Lovasz, a regular member and former president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) in recognition of his pathbreaking contributions in combinatorics, MTA said on Wednesday. Nine individuals received honorary degrees from Yale this year, in a tradition that goes back to 1702, MTA said in a statement. Yale said in its laudation that Lovász is a "brilliant mathematician and theoretical computer scientist" whose "pathbreaking contributions in combinatorics, a branch of pure mathematics, have led to real-

life applications in computer science, engineering and technology, statistics, and science that serve and advance humankind". It added that over time Lovász had received nearly every award a mathematician can earn, including the Abel Prize, the highest award in mathematics. "We are honored that you have agreed to receive one more, from the university where you taught and conducted research for over a half decade, and which itself is honored to present you with the degree of Doctor of Engineering and Technology," Yale said.