

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTV/Robert Hegedűs

Ministerial awards presented on Semmelweis Day in interior ministry's Marble Hall

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**EU leaders' summit ends in Brussels**

**Events related to the wars in Ukraine, Middle East**

## TOP STORY

# DEFMIN: AZERBAIJAN RESPECTED PARTNER

Azerbaijan is an "esteemed partner in military and defence areas and in terms of the defence industry", the defence minister said in Budapest.

Cooperation between Hungary and Azerbaijan is "extremely diverse" involving such areas as pharmaceuticals, food production and farming, Kristóf Szalay-Bobrovinczky said after meeting Zakir Hasanov, his Azerbaijani counterpart, for talks. Noting the two countries' strategic partnership established last year, Szalay-Bobrovinczky said energy was a key area and called Azerbaijan "one of Europe's most important partners to ensure its energy security". He said the upcoming Hungarian EU presidency would pay increased attention to cooperation between the bloc and its eastern partners, with special regard to Azerbaijan. The two ministers discussed the war in Ukraine, Szalay-Bobrovinczky said, adding that both countries were "committed to achieving an immediate peace and de-escalation of the war". Concerning the South Caucasus, Szalay-Bobrovinczky said peace in the region depended on relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, adding that "Hungary strives for a constructive balance".

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## **SZIJJÁRTÓ EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES OVER SLOVAKIA TRAIN CRASH**

Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó has expressed his condolences to his Slovak counterpart over a train crash that occurred at Nové Zámky (Érsekújvár) on Thursday. In his letter to Juraj Blanár, Szijjártó expressed his sympathy with family members of the five victims and wished a speedy recovery to those who had been hospitalised with injuries. In the accident, a high-speed train on its way from Prague to Budapest crashed with a bus in a railway crossing. The consular services have not reported Hungarians involved in the accident.

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## **MENCZER: WEBER, EPP APPROVE 21 'ANTI- HUNGARY RESOLUTIONS'**

Manfred Weber "and the European People's Party he has pushed to the left approved 21 anti-Hungary resolutions" in the European Parliament, the communications director of the ruling Fidesz-Christian Democrat alliance, Tamás Menczer, said. In a video on Facebook, Menczer said Hungary had been "attacked" over the establishment of its Sovereignty Protection Office and LGBTQ rights and had been accused of "not being a democracy". The purpose

of the attacks, he said, had been to prevent the country from gaining access to the European Union funds it is entitled to. Menczer said Hungary's left-wing opposition MEPs had all voted in favour of the resolutions against Hungary. He said there was a "clear alliance between Manfred Weber and the Hungarian left", which had now been joined by Peter Magyar, MEP and deputy leader of the Respect and Freedom (Tisza) party. "They're attacking us because we say no to the war, migration and LGBTQ propaganda," Menczer said, vowing that Hungary would not change its stance despite the attacks.

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## **NATL ECON MINISTER DISCUSSES BATTERY RECYCLING WITH SUNGEEL HITECH EXECs**

Márton Nagy, the national economy minister, met executives of South Korea's SungEel HiTech, a leader in lithium-ion battery recycling, at his office in Budapest on Thursday. Nagy discussed battery recycling, the situation of the EV battery industry and the green transition with Soo Chul Park, the managing director of SungEel HiTech Europe and SungEel HiTech Hungary, and Dong Wook Chu, the director of SungEel Hitech Hungary. They were joined by Geun Ki Mun, a deputy director at South Korea's

Ministry of Economy and Finance. SungEel HiTech has nine plants around the world. It has two bases in Hungary where it employs over 200 people.

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## **GOVT OFFICIAL: CHINA LARGEST FOREIGN INVESTOR IN HUNGARY**

Hungary's largest green-field investments are connected to China that has become the largest foreign investor in the country, a state secretary of the foreign ministry said in Gödöllő, near Budapest, on Thursday. Speaking at the Fujian Investment Forum, Levente Magyar said that the visit of a delegation from China's south-eastern province was "part of an invisible series". Chinese ties have a "special role" in Hungary's foreign policy, as shown by high-level visits such as the one paid by President Xi Jinping earlier and now by the Fujian governor, he said.

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## **POTÁPI ATTENDS MEETING OF CARPATHIAN BASIN HUNGARIAN BUSINESSES**

Ethnic Hungarian businesses in the Carpathian Basin contribute to the strength of Hungary's economy, Árpád János Potápi, the state secretary in charge of policies for Hungarian communities abroad, said at the 9th meeting of Hungarian firms in neighbouring countries held in Mezőkövesd, in northern Hungary. The state

secretary said the funds the Hungarian government helped such firms with will “reappear in the central budget as tax revenues”. Hungary benefits from a “unified business environment” emerging in the Carpathian Basin, he said. Highlighting the meeting, Potápi said participants would “strengthen the feeling and experience of national cohesion within the private sector”.

### **HUNGARY MAY JOBLESS RATE 4.3%**

Hungary’s jobless rate was 4.3% in May, edging down from 4.4% in April, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said. The rate covers unemployment among people between the ages of 15 and 74. In absolute terms, there were 212,000 unemployed in May. The number of jobholders was 4,749,000 in May, 36,000 more than twelve months earlier. In the March-May period, the average number of employed in the age group was 4,745,000, 41,000 more than in the same period a year ago. Commenting on the data, Sándor Czomba, the state secretary for employment policy, said employment and the number of economically active people had both increased compared with the same period last year, while the number of registered jobseekers is at an all-time low. The state secretary said economic activity continued to expand, which

helped boost employment and economic output. He attributed the drop in unemployment to the fact that those entering the labour market were able to find work almost immediately. He noted the government’s aim of increasing the labour activity rate in the 20-64 age group from the current 81 percent to 85 percent by mobilising the domestic labour market reserves of around 300,000 people.

### **INDUSTRIAL PPI DOWN 0.2% IN MAY**

Factory gate prices in Hungary dropped by an annual 0.2% in May, falling for the tenth month in a row after rising for years, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said. Prices for domestic sale fell by 3.9% but export prices were up 1.7%. Month on month, factory gate prices inched up 0.2% as prices for domestic sale slipped by 0.9% while export prices rose by 0.7%. In January-May, factory gate prices dropped by an annual 3.2% as prices for domestic sales decreased by 5.5% and export prices slipped 2.1%.

### **GUEST NIGHTS UP 13% Y/Y IN MAY**

Guest nights at commercial and private accommodations in Hungary rose by an annual 13% to 3.7 million in May from the same period a year earlier, the Central Statistical Office (KSH)

said. The number of guest nights spent by domestic travellers rose by 5.1% to 1.7 million, while guest nights spent by foreign visitors rose by 21% to 2.0 million. Revenue of commercial accommodations climbed 20% to 88 billion forints (EUR 221.8m). In January-May, guest nights spent by domestic travellers rose by an annual 4.9%, while foreigners’ guest nights rose by 13%, KSH said.

### **GOVT CALLS ON MOTOR FUEL COMPANIES TO BRING PRICES UNDER AVG OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**

The government called on motor fuel companies to bring prices at the pump under the average in neighbouring countries, in line with the practice in earlier months, in a statement issued by the national economy ministry. If prices don’t fall, the government is prepared to intervene on the market, it added. Petrol prices in Hungary were level with the average in neighbouring countries during the week, but diesel prices were higher, data compiled from the EU Weekly Oil Bulletin by the Central Statistical Office (KSH) and published on Friday show. The price of petrol in Hungary averaged 606 forints (EUR 1.53) per litre during the week, the same as the average in neighbouring countries. The price of diesel stood at 624 forints per litre, 13 forints higher than the average in neighbouring countries.