

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Fencser Dániel Dósa on Olympic ad in a metro station a day before the start of the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events related to Hungary's EU presidency

Events related to the war in Ukraine

Băile Tușnad summer university events

Stats office publishes demography, employment figures for June 2024

TOP STORY

HUNGARY REJECTS EU MIGRATION PACT

Hungary does not intend to implement the European Union's migration pact, the prime minister's chief security advisor has said.

Speaking at the Bálványos Summer University at Băile Tușnad (Tusnádfürdő), in Romania, György Bakondi said Hungary was seeking allies to thwart the implementation of the agreement in Europe. Before the pact was accepted, Hungary's representatives had not managed to promote the position under which asylum seekers could only submit their applications outside the bloc's borders, and that illegal entrants should not apply for asylum, Bakondi said. "Introducing the pact would trigger irreversible developments," he said. Meanwhile, Bakondi insisted that the objective of the so-called Soros plan to have one million illegal immigrants enter Europe each year had been achieved last year. "Those executing the Soros plan have been promoting mandatory quotas since 2015, but since the systems of Italy and Spain are overburdened, they are seeking to redistribute migrants among other member states," he said. Countries that refuse to take in those migrants will be fined, Bakondi said, adding that the pact obliged Hungary to set up "migrant ghettos".

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EU AFFAIRS MINISTER: EU PRESIDENCY TO 'REPRESENT DEMAND FOR CHANGE'

The results of the recent European parliamentary elections reflect a "demand for change" and the Hungarian EU presidency is to "promote and represent that demand", EU Affairs Minister János Bóka said at the Bálványos Summer University in Băile Tușnad (Tusnádfürdő), in Romania. Speaking at a panel discussion, Bóka said the EU had given "ill-advised responses" in areas such as competitiveness, cohesion and agricultural policy, or demographic challenges. "Changes involve political conflicts; we will act responsibly if we act as an honest mediator but do not refrain from those conflicts," the minister said. He called for a fundamental change in the EU's approach, which he said should focus on the "value-added in integration". "The success of the EU should be evaluated on that basis... In the past five years the EU failed because acting together did not yield the value added that members could have achieved separately, on their own," he said.

AGMIN: FARMER-CENTRIC POLICY NEEDED IN EUROPE

Europe needs a farmer-centric agricultural policy, and farmers should not be told what to do or "placed under the pressure of green

ideologies", István Nagy, Hungary's agriculture minister, said at the Bálványos Summer University in Băile Tușnad (Tusnádfürdő), in central Romania, on Thursday. Speaking at a panel discussion on the subject, Nagy said that unless farmers were made the focal point of agricultural policy, Europe was running the risk of losing its competitiveness, "vision of the future", and food security. The Hungarian presidency of the EU Council, he said, provided an excellent opportunity to "raise our voices", as the presidency's priorities include building a crisis-proof, competitive, sustainable, knowledge-based and farmer-centric European agriculture, he said.

Recent farmers' protests have shown European citizens that the EU farm policy was being "ruined" by a host of regulations imposed on EU producers, even as Ukrainian produce was allowed into the bloc unimpeded, he said. The minister said that measures to simplify policy have started, "a step back from the utterly unrealistic objectives hobbling European agriculture". As the EU's new administration has yet to be set up, agriculture ministers now have the chance to make proposals to the incoming European Commission, he said.

OFFICIAL: EU HEALTH MINISTERS DISCUSS CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES, ORGAN DONATION

At a two-day informal council meeting in Budapest, EU health ministers

discussed joint action against cardiovascular diseases, as well as the issues of organ donations and transplantations, Péter Takács, the state secretary for health, told a press conference. The Hungarian presidency supports completion of the European Health Union as a way to respond to demographic challenges and strengthen the bloc's competitiveness, in addition to improving the health and well-being of European citizens.

He said cardiovascular diseases were still seen as the leading causes of death and were factors in the sustainability of health-care systems. Discussions focused on preventive measures and addressing the problems of smoking, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diet, lack of exercise, poor mental hygiene and environmental risks, as well as ensuring the availability of better treatment and rehabilitation options.

Another topic was the future of organ donations and transplants, he said, noting that between 2009 and 2015 organ donations went up by 21% under the EU's organ donation and transplantation action plan. A new action plan is needed, he added. The ministers discussed how to eliminate inequalities between member states in this area and EU support mechanisms, Takács noted.

Regarding draft regulation on the European health data space, he said the aim was to create a secure space for accessing and sharing electronic health data in the EU while promoting research, innovation and policy development. As well as better patient

access to their health data, the planned directive aims to support the digital health market while ensuring data security and privacy, Takács said, adding that the measures should be introduced gradually. Full implementation is expected from 2030, he said.

AZBEJ: HUNGARY TO INTENSIFY CHAD MISSION

Hungary is stepping up its mission in Chad, sending medicine, a medical mission and agricultural experts to the central African country, Tristan Azbej, the state secretary for aiding persecuted Christians, has said. Hungary has recognised that the Sahel faces a crisis, and unless this was eased, Europe could face significant migration waves from the region, Azbej told public television channel M1. He said the Hungarian mission to Chad launched last year as part of the Hungary Helps humanitarian programme will be stepped up this year. Hungary is sending agricultural experts to present farming and food industry developments in the country, Azbej said. It is also sending medicine along with a medical mission to save lives after a recent deadly explosion at an ammunition depot in the country's capital, he added.

MINISTER: HUNGARY'S HIGHER EDUCATION 'COMPETITIVE, ATTRACTIVE'

Hungarian universities and colleges are "competitive and attractive", the

minister of culture and innovation told a press conference, noting that this year more than 90,000 freshmen have been won places. This year, 90,334 young people have passed the entrance examinations, "with every second to study in areas that will serve the Hungarian economy" such as technology, natural science, engineering, IT, agriculture, medicine, as well as teaching, Balázs Hankó said.

TOURISM AGENCY HAILS RECORD VISITOR NUMBERS

Hungary has seen the highest ever visitor numbers so far this year. In the first 200 days of the year the number of tourists was up by nearly 12% and the number of guest nights was up by 8% compared with last year, the Hungarian Tourism Agency (MTÜ) said. Up to the middle of the summer season over 8.8 million guests spent a total of 21.3 million nights at accommodations across the country, the MTÜ said. Fully 37%, or 8 million of guest nights were spent in Budapest, 13% on top of last year, including 6.7 million nights spent by foreign tourists, an increase of nearly 15% from 2023, the agency said. It added that 86% of Budapest's guests were foreigners, while 70% of the hotel bookings outside the capital had been made by domestic tourists. The Lake Balaton area has remained the most frequented resort outside Budapest, the agency said.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: NEARLY 14,000 HUNGARIAN FANS AT PARIS OLYMPICS, NINE CONSULS ON DUTY

As many as 13,831 Hungarians have purchased tickets to watch the Paris Olympics on site, the foreign minister said, adding that nine Hungarian consuls would be on duty during the Games. The most popular events to be watched by Hungarian fans include handball, water polo and canoe-kayak, Péter Szijjártó said. "To have this many Hungarian athletes, their escorts, and Hungarian fans present at the same venue at the same time, gives us ... a special task," he said, noting that seven consuls would be on duty in Paris and another two in Lyon. There are 180 Hungarian athletes competing in 21 events of the Games, said Szijjártó.

WIZZ AIR TO LAUNCH 4 NEW FLIGHTS IN LATE 2024

Hungarian low-cost airline Wizz Air is expanding its fleet and will launch new flights -- to Genova, Girona, Marrakesh from October, and Memmingen from December -- the company said on Thursday. Meanwhile, Wizz Air will also increase the number of flights between Budapest and Tel Aviv, Istanbul, Milan, Berlin, Madrid, Athens and Glasgow, the company said. The expansion will increase Wizz Air's market share to 41% in Hungary, and increase its Budapest-based fleet to 17 aircraft, the statement said.