

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Kristóf Milák swims best time in the 200m butterfly heats at the Paris Olympics

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events related to Hungary's EU presidency

Events related to the war in Ukraine

Stats office publishes industrial producer prices for June, house construction figures for H1

TOP STORY

SZIJJÁRTÓ CALLS ON EC TO TAKE STEPS AGAINST UKRAINIAN OIL RESTRICTIONS

Hungary and Slovakia has called for action by the European Commission regarding Ukraine's decision to restrict crude oil deliveries, Péter Szijjártó said.

"Why has the EC not taken any steps for more than a week?" Hungary's minister of foreign affairs and trade asked in a Facebook entry posted on Tuesday. "Brussels is silent", even though the measure is putting the energy security of two member states at risk, and is "a crystal clear violation of the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement," Szijjártó said. Brussels is either too weak to push through the interests of two member states against a membership candidate, "or the whole idea was conceived in Brussels rather than Ukraine, and it is the European Commission, rather than the Ukrainian government, that wants to blackmail two pro-peace countries opposing weapons deliveries," the minister said. Szijjártó said: "The European Commission and personally Ursula von der Leyen must immediately show their true colours: was the oil delivery ban requested from Brussels? If it wasn't, why has the EC not taken action for over a week?"

SZIJJÁRTÓ: 'BALTIC PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN RESTARTED' AGAINST HUNGARY

The "Baltic propaganda campaign" against Hungary has been "restarted", as Baltic states accused the country of putting the security of the Schengen Area at risk by allowing Russian and Belorussian nationals to participate in its National Card programme, the minister of foreign affairs and trade said on Facebook on Tuesday. Contrary to that "childish lie", Russian and Belorussian nationals continue to need visas to enter the Schengen Area and can obtain residence permits only through lawful procedures, Péter Szijjártó said. Meanwhile, issuing residence permits and similar procedures are national competencies, so "Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian authorities have similar rights," he added. "It would be much better if my colleagues in Baltic countries informed their citizens correctly rather than launching new smear campaigns," he said.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: 'BAD' TO WATCH POLAND'S DIPLOMACY 'SINK INTO MUD OF LIES'

Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said late on Monday that he had great respect for Polish diplomacy, so it was "bad to watch it sinking into a mud of lies". He said on Facebook that he

would "reiterate for the thousandth time" that during Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's recent peace mission, the prime minister was representing Hungary and not the European Union. Szijjártó said it was not wise to talk about isolation in the case of a prime minister and government that were the only ones left in Europe still able to maintain relations both with the West and the East. "We're waiting for our Polish brothers to return to central Europe," he said.

MENCZER: BRUSSELS WANTS TO FLOOD HUNGARY WITH MIGRANTS

Brussels wants to "flood" Hungary with migrants, "but it will not succeed", the communications director of ruling Fidesz-Christian Democrats said on Tuesday.

Tamás Menczer said on Facebook that a European Court ruling imposing a 200 million euro fine on Hungary on the ground that the Hungarian migrant system does not meet EU regulations was "politically motivated". Menczer said Hungary had complied with the directive to close its transit zones, even though it would have preferred not to, and then the EU refused to accept Hungary's move to receive asylum requests at a representation in Belgrade. "There's an obvious political motivation in the background: Brussels wants to flood Hungary with migrants. Well, it won't succeed," he added. Menczer said he was "absolutely

certain" that Hungarians would not be made to pay the fine. Hungary has been protecting the external borders of the EU at a cost of 2 billion euros already, he added.

HUNGARY GDP UP 1.5% IN Q2

Hungarian gross domestic product grew by an annual 1.5% in the second quarter, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said in a first reading of data.

Adjusted for calendar-year effects, GDP grew by 1.3%. Quarter on quarter, GDP edged down a seasonally and calendar year-adjusted 0.2%. KSH said GDP was boosted the most by the construction sector and real estate transactions, as well as by the balance of product taxes and subsidies. Commenting on the data, Mihály Varga, the finance minister, said that the Hungarian economy continued to expand, and "growth prospects give cause for optimism". In a video posted on Facebook, he said fresh data were positive despite "unfavourable external conditions" such as the war in Ukraine and economic malaise in the country's main export markets in Europe, which, he said, was a drag on industrial output. The finance minister noted recent government measures to consolidate the budget. "An additional 1,000 billion forints (EUR 2.5bn) in the budget has increased room for manoeuvre, so the growth outlook is getting more

stable despite external difficulties,” Varga said.

Meanwhile, thanks to a successful campaign to curb inflation and hike pay, real wages have increased by 10% on average, he said. An uptick in consumption reflects increasing confidence in the economic outlook, coupled with economic growth projections by the IMF and European Commission putting Hungary among next year’s frontrunners. International credit rating agencies have also affirmed Hungary’s growth outlook, Varga said, adding that the government will carry on working to maintain fiscal balance while keeping the economy on a growth path.

ECONMIN: ‘PEACE BUDGET’ NEEDED TO RESTART ECONOMY

Economic growth was lower than expected in the second quarter, resulting from external factors bearing down on industry experiencing a bout of weak exports, the national economy minister said, adding that Hungarian economy’s foundations were stable, however. Commenting on data for the second quarter, Márton Nagy said he expected that after the US presidential elections this autumn the government would be able to submit a “peace budget” to parliament, giving a push to the economy with the help of an action plan targeting

SMEs and families, which would help to generate 4% growth in gross domestic product next year. He said this would be achieved inclusively by strengthening the middle class and enabling increasingly broad layers of society to benefit from the economic boom to be brought about by the return of peace.

CENTRE FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TO LAUNCH ANTI-WOKE ACTION COMMUNITY

The Centre for Fundamental Rights will launch a project dubbed Wokebusters, a right-wing “rapid response unit” functioning as “an international communications hotline”, as well as an online and offline political action community, the organisation’s director said. Miklós Szánthó told a press conference that anti-globalism must be raised to an international level “against liberal, communist woke phenomena”. Right-wing forces around the world must be organised along strategic lines, and the Hungarian right wing “plays a key role in this”, he added. International spokesman of Wokebusters, Gavin Wax, the head of the New York Young Republican Club, said the conservative ideologies of the world must be organised into an alliance, and Wokebusters was a counterattack against left-wing organisations. “You can also see how

at the Olympics they’re going against our traditional values and norms. In the United States, we can achieve unity by lining up behind Donald Trump,” he added.

DK ASKS MAGYAR WHETHER HE PLANS TO SUPPORT OR FOIL KARÁCSONY

The opposition Democratic Coalition (DK) wants Tisza Party leader Péter Magyar to reveal whether he plans to support the work of Gergely Karácsony, the mayor of Budapest, or foil it, DK lawmaker Erzsébet Gy Németh said. Thanks to DK’s support, Karácsony stayed on as mayor in the June local elections, she told an online press briefing streamed on Facebook, adding that the Budapest administration’s success may “now be at stake”, depending on the attitude of Magyar, who she noted was originally allied to the ruling right-wing Fidesz party. The DK politician said Magyar advocated a right-wing, Christian, conservative world view similar to Fidesz’s, and “far from the free and social democratic” outlooks of citizens in the capital. Before meeting Karácsony on Thursday, Magyar should make clear whether he supports the mayor or not, and whether the Tisza Party would allow Budapest to function, she said.

