

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Zsolt Szibetvári

Handover of excavated Roman-era Brigetio in Komárom. Excavations here have been ongoing for 30 years

UPCOMING EVENTS

11th world congress of all

Hungarians Natl Election Cttee meets over referendum initiative

Events related to Hungary's EU presidency

Events related to the wars in Ukraine, Middle East

Stats office publishes June construction industry figures

TOP STORY

SPEAKER MEETS AUSTRIAN COUNTERPART

Speaker of Parliament László Kövér has had talks with Wolfgang Sobotka, the president of the Austrian National Council, in Vienna.

The working lunch on Tuesday focused on the priorities of Hungary's EU presidency, economic and border protection cooperation, as well as stopping illegal migration. Kövér and Sobotka also touched on support for the EU integration of Western Balkans states, the conflict in Gaza, anti-Semitism in Europe and the war in Ukraine. They welcomed expanding cooperation between the two parliaments through regular meetings of the heads of parliaments and cooperation between expert committees and friendship groups. Kövér thanked Sobotka for Austria's help in border protection, especially for deploying policemen to the Hungary-Serbia border. At the same time, he said the European Commission's decision to levy fines against Hungary over issues regarding migration policy were "unacceptable". Sobotka said Austria supported the priorities of the Hungarian presidency, especially those connected to "ushering the Western Balkans into the European Union" and to fighting illegal migration.

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OFFICIAL: MORE THAN 11,000 UKRAINIAN CHILDREN GIVEN HOLIDAYS IN HUNGARY

More than 11,000 Ukrainian children have been given the chance to spend their holidays in Hungary since the start of the war two and a half years ago, primarily thanks to charity organisations, the state secretary in charge of church and ethnic minority relations said. Miklós Soltész, who is also the head of the National Humanitarian Coordination Council, visited a camp in Gyenesdiás, next to Lake Balaton, organised for Ukrainian children who lost parents during the war. He said that a total of 11,400 children have spent holidays in Hungary, including more than 4,000 this year. Hungary has gone "above and beyond" to help those who have suffered as a result of the war, and instead of providing support with weapons, ammunition and soldiers, "it has been using all means to work towards establishing peace", Soltész said.

LAKE BALATON MOST POPULAR DESTINATION FOR AUGUST 20 HOLIDAY BOOKINGS

One in three Hungarians travelling over the four-day weekend for the August 20th national holiday will stay at destinations around Lake Balaton, bookings site szallas.hu said. Siófok, on

the southern shore of the lake, boasts the most bookings. Other popular destinations for the long weekend are Hajdúszoboszló, a spa town, and Hévíz, home to Europe's largest thermal lake. Close to half of bookings are for three nights. One third of bookings are priced between 50,000 forints (EUR 125) and 100,000, while 21 percent are under 50,000 forints and around one-fifth are between 100,000 forints and 150,000.

HUNGARY 'STILL IN ECONOMIC GROWTH VANGUARD'

Hungary is among the top 8 growth performers in the EU, with the second quarter showing an increase of 1.3% year on year, the national economy ministry said on Wednesday, quoting Eurostat data. Hungary is ahead of Belgium, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Romania, Latvia and Germany on this score, as growth came in double the rate of the euro zone (0.6%) and much stronger than the EU average of 0.8%, it said. All this in spite of poor external factors, "Brussels' failed sanctions policy", and the war in Ukraine, which has dragged down Hungary's industry and consumer confidence, it added. The government will submit "a peace budget" to MPs this autumn, aimed at supporting small and medium-sized businesses and helping families, the statement said, adding that targeted measures and a swift end to the war would help towards securing 4% growth next year.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT DOWN 8.2% IN JUNE

Output of Hungary's industrial sector fell by an annual 8.2% in June, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said in a second reading of the data. Adjusted for the number of working days, output was down by 3.7%. There were two fewer work days in June 2024 than in the same month a year before. Month on month, output grew by a seasonally and working day-adjusted 0.5%. Output fell in most manufacturing sector branches, KSH said. Industrial exports contracted by 8.1% year on year. Domestic output fell by an annual 5.1%. The manufacturing industry, which gives 96% of the sector's output, fell by an annual 9.2%, while the output of the mining and energy sectors grew by an annual 7.4% and 9.5%, respectively, KSH said.

GOVT OFFICIAL: HUNGARIAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OUTSTANDING IN H1

The performance of Hungary's pork, poultry and milk industry grew at an outstanding pace in European Union comparison in the first half of 2024, and sheep and cattle exports also grew significantly, the state secretary for agriculture and rural development said. Growth of pork and poultry slaughter was the 3rd highest in the EU, and milk purchases were the 4th highest, Zsolt Feldman said, citing

EU data. The number of poultry slaughtered grew by 14% and that of pigs by 8%, he added. Live cattle exports were up by 12% in the first five months of the year, and sheep exports were up by 25%, he said.

Feldman said farmers were able to better use the opportunities offered by an improving economic environment thanks to government measures to boost funding for the sector and “the largest modernisation programme since the change of regime” in 1989. The government’s Rural Development Programme has channelled 491 billion forints (EUR 1.2bn) into investments in animal husbandry, besides record funding paired with EU funding flowing into the sector, Feldman said.

BUDAPEST MAYOR PETITIONED REGARDING DAMAGED HOLY CROWN DECORATIONS ON MARGARET BRIDGE

The St. István Institute has sent a letter to the mayor of Budapest calling for the fastest possible restoration of the Holy Crown decorations that were vandalised a year ago on Margaret Bridge, the institute said. In the letter sent to Gergely Karácsony, the institute said it was appalled to see “just ahead of celebrations of our Holy King, the founder of our state ... that the leadership of Budapest has still not been unable to restore the most important national symbols decorating one of the busiest bridges of Budapest frequented by foreign tourists.” They

said damage last year to the Holy Crown decorations, which carried “historic messages carved in stone”, had caused “public outrage”.

The institute has launched an online public petition in cooperation with CitizenGo Magyarország which can be signed on that partner organisation’s website.

BUDAPEST CENTRAL EUROPEAN FASHION WEEK ADDS SUSTAINABILITY CATEGORY

The 14th Budapest Central European Fashion Week (BCEFW) is debuting a new category to promote environmentally-friendly practices, the Hungarian Fashion and Design Agency (HFDA) has said. The biannual event, which connects industry players from Hungary and neighbouring regions, fosters trade ties and raises international profiles, is launching a Conscious Fashion Initiative over the weekend of Aug 31-Sept 1. The guiding principles of that initiative are diversity and equality, sustainability in design, fair and safe working conditions, consumer engagement, transparency and education.

WITHOUT AIR SHORTLISTED FOR EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS

Hungarian film Without Air, the first feature film of director Katalin Moldovai, has been shortlisted

for the European Film Awards, the National Film Institute (NFI) said. The film, supported by the Incubator Programme, shows the story of a literature teacher against whom parents file a police report for recommending her students to watch Total Eclipse, a film on French poets Arthur Rimbaud and Paul Verlaine, the NFI said. Written by Zita Palóczy and Katalin Moldovai, the film was produced by Attila Béla Kovács and András Muhi. The main characters are played by Ágnes Krasznahorkai, Tünde Skovrán, Soma Sándor and Áron Dimény, among others. The film has won awards in Toronto, Arras and Warsaw, among other festivals. The European Film Awards ceremony will be held on Dec 7 in Luzern, Switzerland.

TUESDAY AVERAGE 8 C HOTTER THAN USUAL

Tuesday’s temperature was on average 8 degrees Celsius hotter than usual on this date, in some places even 10-11 C hotter, the weather service said. HungaroMet said on Facebook that around 35 C was measured in several places in southern Hungary in the morning hours of Tuesday. The hottest temperature recorded on Tuesday was 40.7 degrees in Kelebia, which was a record high. At night the temperature did not drop below 27 C in the city of Pécs. Only in north-eastern Hungary was the morning temperature cooler.