

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTVA/Márton Mönus

Bread of the Hungarians ceremony at St. Stephen's Basilica

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events to mark Aug 20 national holiday

Events related to Hungary's EU presidency

Events related to the wars in Ukraine, Middle East

TOP STORY

STATE AWARDS HANDED OUT ON OCCASION OF AUG 20 NATL HOLIDAY

Csaba Lantos, the energy affairs minister, on Thursday handed over state awards to scientists, academics and business executives on the occasion of Hungary's August 20 national holiday.

In his speech to the ceremony, Lantos said that August 20 represented "successful nation-building, confronting dangers with courage, wise foresight and faith in the future". "The challenges haven't gotten smaller and the struggles haven't gotten easier," the minister said. He said the centre of gravity in the global economy was shifting increasingly quickly, warning that Europe would fall behind if it did not do everything possible to boost its competitiveness. Lantos said the energy affairs ministry was "on the frontlines", and its work had a direct effect on how Hungary would overcome the current difficulties and how successfully it would find its place in the changing global economy. The award recipients were presented with the Commander's Cross with Star, Officer's Cross and Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit as well as the Hungarian Golden Cross of Merit, the Hungarian Silver Cross of Merit and ministerial certificates of merit.

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PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: BUDAPEST DISTRICT MAYOR IN DETENTION FOR ALLEGED CORRUPTION

The mayor of Budapest's 3rd district, László Kiss, another local council leader and a former employee of the mayor's office have been placed in detention in connection with alleged corruption, the Central Investigative Chief Prosecutor's Office said. The chief prosecutor's office has interviewed another five persons as suspects in an ongoing investigation, three of whom have been placed in detention, the statement said. The office on Wednesday carried out a coordinated operation in connection with the case which involved searching local council properties and companies belonging to the local council, and seizing documents. Kiss is suspected of arranging regular business transactions after his 2019 election as mayor with a company owned by one of his acquaintances, after which he and several local council employees were receiving kickbacks. The local council allegedly signed overpriced and fictitious contracts to conceal the bribes, it added. The detention of the deputy mayor interrogated earlier in the case as a suspect has been extended until October 20.

HIDVÉGI TO TAKE UP MANDATE OF RESIGNED MP

The National Election Committee assigned in its decision the parliamentary mandate of Balázs

Gyórfy, recently resigned MP of the ruling parties, to former MEP Balázs Hidvégi. Under the law, the party winning the seat later vacated has the right to nominate a successor. In this case, Fidesz and the allied Christian Democrats nominated Hidvégi, 272nd on the alliance's joint party list in the 2022 parliamentary elections.

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR OUTPUT DOWN 1.4% IN JUNE

Output of Hungary's construction sector fell by an annual 1.4% in June, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said. Output in building construction was down 4.2%, and civil engineering output rose by 4.3%, KSH said. Month on month, construction sector output was down 6.4% when adjusted for seasonal and workday-effects, KSH said.

LANDMARK MCDONALD'S RE-OPENS AFTER HUF 1.8 BN UPGRADE

A high-traffic McDonald's in a landmark building on Budapest's Nyugati Square is re-opening after a 1.8 billion forint (EUR 4.5m) renovation, Progress Étteremhálózat, which operates the fast food restaurants in Hungary, said on Thursday. The restaurant, which draws several hundred thousand guests a year, was closed for more than six months. It has been expanded to accommodate over 280 guests. The Hungarian interior designer Géza Sass redid the inside of the restaurant

based on a design by Australian studio Landini. The general contractor for the project was Market Építő. Headcount at the Nyugati Square restaurant has risen from 168 to 218 as a result of the expansion, Progress Étteremhálózat told MTI. There are 113 McDonald's restaurants in Hungary. Progress Étteremhálózat had net sales revenue of 91.0 billion forints in 2023, public records show.

TWO BRITISH NATIONALS ARRESTED FOR DRUG DEALING AT BUDAPEST FESTIVAL

Police have arrested two British nationals at a music festival in Budapest on suspicion of drug dealing, the Budapest prosecutor's office said. Police observed the two men, aged 31 and 24, selling drugs to another man on the evening of Aug 8, the prosecutor's office told MTI. They witnessed the older of the two suspects returning from a stage to a tent that was being guarded by the other suspect and handing a packet containing a suspicious substance to the third man in exchange for cash. Meanwhile, the suspect guarding the tent took out another packet from which he poured a powdery substance into his hand before inhaling it through his nose. The two men were then placed under arrest by police. A search of their clothing and tent yielded more powdery substances, pills which were later found to be amphetamine, cocaine and ecstasy, and cash.

MOL BUBI BIKESHARE SCHEME MARKS 10M MILESTONE

Budapest's MOL Bubi bikeshare scheme has been used more than ten million times since an upgrade four years ago, the Budapest Transport Centre (BKK), which operates the system with the support of Hungarian oil and gas company MOL, said. The MOL Bubi

fleet boasts 2,460 bicycles and 211 docking stations.

Bubi 3.0 is set to launch in 2026 with a doubled fleet size and the addition of e-bikes.

PHOTO EXHIBITIONS TO MARK HUNGARY'S 20 YEARS IN EU

The European Union's representation in Hungary will stage outdoor photo exhibitions nationwide to mark the

20th anniversary of Hungary's joining the EU. The exhibitions will highlight major EU-financed development projects completed in each county as well as in Budapest since 2004, the representative office told MTI in a statement. The photos have been selected to cover a wide range of areas in everyday life and the economy, the organisers said. The photos will be displayed in 19 counties and at three sites in Budapest for three months, starting in mid-August.