

PHOTO OF THE DAY



A child rider at the 17th Equestrian Festival of Szeklerland in Gheorgheni, Romania

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tranzit Festival

Events related to Hungary's EU presidency

Events related to the wars in Ukraine, Middle East

Middle European Mathematical Olympiad

TOP STORY

MINISTER: 2030 CLIMATE TARGET REACHED

Between 1990 and 2023 Hungary reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 43%, the energy minister said, adding that the country had overachieved its 2030 climate policy target of a 40% reduction.

The energy ministry quoted Csaba Lantos as saying that last year alone, emissions had been reduced by 9.5%, adding that the energy sector accounted for the largest reduction with 11%. "Emissions by major power and heating plants were reduced by one fifth through increased consumer awareness and a mild winter weather," the ministry said in a statement. It noted that Hungary's fossil energy production had been reduced by 18%, and solar energy production had increased by 47%. Referring to August figures by Eurostat, the ministry said that in the first quarter of 2024, Hungary was in the first third of European Union members in terms of reducing their emissions. "The results spectacularly indicated Hungary's commitment to meeting climate targets and the significant progress the country has made towards a sustainable economy," Lantos said. He said the government's efforts to promote the production and storage of green energy, increase energy efficiency and make industry and transport greener had contributed significantly to the results.

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FIDESZ MEP RESIGNS OVER 'DRUNKEN BRAWL'

Balázs Győrffy, MEP of ruling Fidesz, said on Friday he was ready to "take all responsibility and consequences" of a "drunken brawl" last night, which he said had led to his physically assaulting a woman. "What I have done is unacceptable and I am terribly sorry ... I resign from all my positions in public life, such as my mandate in the European Parliament and as president of the National Chamber of Agriculture," he said, adding that he would also quit the Fidesz party. "I want to apologise to everybody, especially the assaulted; I apologise to my family, all those that have supported me and my political community," he said on Facebook. Ruling Fidesz said in response that "the party has clear rules and values; those that violate them can no longer be a member of the community." "There is no excuse for Győrffy's conduct; anybody acting so unacceptably must leave immediately," the party said in a Facebook post. "We will not tolerate violence especially if women are the target," it said.

GOVT OFFICIAL COMMEMORATES EUROPE- WIDE DAY OF VICTIMS OF TOTALITARIAN REGIMES

Bence Rétvári, state secretary at the interior ministry, attended a commemoration marking Europe-

Wide Day of Remembrance for the victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, held at the House of Terror Museum in Budapest. "Anti-Semitism and violence by the radical left are again on the rise in Europe," Rétvári said in his address. He said "Europe's immune system has weakened" and the community could no longer rein in anti-Semitism or illegal migration. Rising anti-Semitism is a consequence of the conflict in the Middle East and of illegal migration, the state secretary said. As an example for extreme leftist violence he mentioned antifa attacks committed in Hungary two years ago, adding that "a perpetrator of the people hunt" was now a member of the European Parliament. The memorial day "warns us that such values as the family, Christian culture, and sovereignty must be firmly promoted," Rétvári said. It was initiated jointly by Hungary, Poland and Lithuania in 2011, when Hungary held the rotating EU presidency for the first time, he said.

HANKÓ: HUNGARY TO FINANCE FURTHER SAPIENTIA REFURBISHMENT

The Hungarian government will provide 560 million forints (EUR 1.4m) for the refurbishment of another property belonging to the Hungarian Sapientia University of Transylvania, Culture Minister Balázs Hankó said in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár), in north-western Romania. The building, a historical monument in the centre of

Cluj, will serve as an accommodation for guest professors and will host specialised courses after renovation, the minister said. "Our mission is to ensure that Hungarian youth in the Carpathian Basin can acquire competitive skills and preserve their Hungarian identity at the same time," Hankó told a press conference at the building. The single-storey building was purchased by the Sapientia Foundation from a grant provided by the Hungarian government in 2021.

HUNGARY JOBLESS RATE 4.2% IN JULY

The number of economically active people in Hungary in the 15-74 age group went up by 20,000 to 4,765,000 year-on-year in July while the jobless rate stood at 4.2% last month, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said. The number of jobless people was 209,000 last month, KSH said. During the period of May-July the number of employed was 4,764,000 on average in the 15-74 age group. The monthly employment rate for the 15-64-year age group went up by 0.3 percentage points to 75.1%. While the number of people working abroad inched up to 109,000, the number of those included in a fostered-work scheme went down by 12,000 to 57,000, KSH said. KSH noted that data from the National Employment Service (NFSZ) show there were 224,000 registered jobseekers at the end of July, down 1.4% from twelve months earlier. It said that seeking a job took on average 9.7 months.

Commenting on the data, the national economy ministry's state secretary said that the figures indicated that Hungary was the seventh among EU member states with the lowest unemployment rate. The July data show the effectiveness

of programmes aimed at boosting activity in the labour market, Sándor Czomba said in a statement. He said the government's goal since 2010 had remained to increase the number of employed, adding that the number of registered job-

seekers continued to be "at a historic low." "The government's aim is to mobilise the close to 300,000 labour reserve in the domestic market to increase employment in the 20-64 age group to 85% from 81% at present," Czomba said.