

Foundation for the foreign language Hungarian media



The best articles
2018

A foundation for the foreign language Hungarian media

ABOUT

Foreign language Hungarian press is on an important mission since, on the one hand, Budapest and Hungary are important touristic and cultural centres in Europe, but we can also state with a clear conscience that the whole world knows and loves our country and the capital's iconic buildings.

One of the first things affecting a foreigner's forming opinions about the country and the capital, among other things, might be coming across an article in their mother tongue or in English that arouses their interest in Hungary.

If they become seriously interested, they will look for news on the Internet, in which foreign language Hungarian media, again, plays an important role. In a way, these press materials also contribute to building the image of the country, so news published in the English language, events, videos and photo galleries can actually be trailblazers to tourism that is so important for the Hungarian economy.

Out of these, image materials are especially significant since media consumers these days prefer visual experiences over a long article.

The mission of foreign language Hungarian press is also significant in the sense that Hungary, as a member of the European Union and NATO, is an important factor for foreigners who do not speak Hungarian.

Be it about politics, economy or business, news can have a serious effect on other countries or companies, so news about Hungarian politics or economy are of interest to experts, diplomats and investors speaking other languages.

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DAILY NEWS HUNGARY

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Hungarian girl fascinated the jury of America's Got Talent

Vivien Vajda (24) got into the next round thanks to four 'Yes' – according to magyarorszagam.hu. The jury stood there gaping after the Hungarian girl's performance done with a single jumping rope. The jury was sceptical at the beginning.

Since there are talent shows there are people who decide to step on the road of becoming a star in a foreign country. However, this can be very difficult for them because they have to present something extraordinary to convince the jury.

Vivien Vajda thought that there is more in her, so she decided to enter the contest of America's got talent. There she impressed both the jury and the audience.

with an incredible jump roping performance. To tell the truth, the jury was a bit sceptical when they heard what Vivien would like to present. However, after her production, they had to admit that Vivien is very talented. Even the always-very-critical Simon Cowell praised the production. Finally, they let her to the next round with four 'Yes'

The young Hungarian girl has already won 14 gold medals on world championships

In fact, 24.hu could interview the girl who said that everybody laughed at her when she was a child because jumping ropes were her biggest passion. Since then she has won many competitions from in all over the world.

She added that she does not rise above the others in the show. As a matter of fact, she talked very humbly about her successes. Vivien told 24.hu that she has been living in Brazil for long since her mother is Brazilian. Moreover, she chose the South-American country because they could find a sponsor there who financed her competitions and university studies. ...

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Budapest is the world's second most beautiful city

The American website World Chacha, specialised in the compilation of travel top lists, has chosen Budapest as the second most beautiful city in the world, ahead of Rome, Florence or even Paris, reports novekedes.hu.

The praise that Budapest receives worldwide seems never to end. In November, the Gellért Bath was declared to be one of the most enchanting Art Deco baths in the world by BBC.

Furthermore, Metro Line 4's Szent Gellért Square station was chosen among the most beautiful metro stations in the world, and the Chain Bridge received high appraisal too. Meanwhile, the Buda Castle has made it to National Geographic's top 10 castles in Europe. Just to name a few from 2017.

World Chacha recommends Budapest for its unique artistically tasteful architecture and for the matchless gastronomy scene. What should you visit in Budapest in the American site's opinion? Well, the Four Seasons Gresham Palace and the Postal Savings Bank, apart from the most popular places like the Parliament or Andrásy street.

Thermal baths with healing powers and classy décor are also given a shout-out, along with the ruin bars, which cannot be left out from the context.

World Chacha mentions the view that the higher points of the city provide, making sure to draw attention to the fact that you can see almost to the end of Budapest, as the buildings are not allowed to be taller than 96 metres. The commentary ends with the most heart-warming sentence a tourist can come across: "the best thing about this city is that most of its sights are accessed free of charge"

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Hungarian passport joins the most powerful in Europe

According to prnewswire.co.uk, Hungary joins the list of Europe's most powerful ranking passports with a visa-free score of 163 – ahead of Cyprus, Malta and Bulgaria.

Since January 2018, things have proven to be impressively optimistic for the Hungarian passport, as it secures visa waivers from Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Myanmar, Rwanda, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. With visa-free access to 163 countries, as per The Passport Index, Hungary joins the world's fourth most powerful ranking passports, alongside Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Belgium and Austria.

Empowered by Canadian financial advisory, Arton Capital, The Passport Index monitors the effectiveness of the world's passports in real-time.

"It's a great positive development for all current and future Hungarian citizens in terms of improved mobility and global freedom," said Armand Arton, founder and president of Arton Capital.

As one of the oldest countries in Europe, Hungary boasts a rich cultural heritage which bridges the gap between its European charm and historical Soviet influence. Long-known as the first communist-bloc country to open its borders with Western Europe, Hungary is now admired by many around the globe for its unique farmer markets, countless thermal springs, and exquisite shopping and dining experiences.

With nearly 10 million inhabitants, this ancient nation has finally redeemed its place on the map as an exceptional place to live, and a unique destination to visit. ...

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Yo-Yo-Yozsefváros: a Hungarian rap song at Jimmy Fallon's!

Just a month after America's Got Talent's jury was amazed by a Hungarian girl's performance, the US audience turns to Hungary again. Kate McKinnon, a famous comedian started rapping in Hungarian at Jimmy Fallon's, as Comment.blog.hu writes.

Yo-Yo-Yozsefváros: sang the whole studio of Jimmy Fallon's show along with Kate McKinnon, one of the most famous American humorists. The flawless performance of Kate, featuring Animal Cannibal's '90s song, Yozsefváros, deservedly went viral following its debut in the American media. You can watch the video on Daily News Hungary.

Kate, together with Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher spent quite some time in Budapest last year during the shooting of their new movie, The Spy Who Dumped Me. The movie features stars such as Gillian Anderson, Justin Theroux and San Heughan on the side of Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon. The comedy is about two girlfriends, who find out that one of their ex-boyfriends is a spy. If this would not be enough, they get into a dangerous hunt as the ex turns out to be the target of a hit man.

It was during the shooting of the film that Kate tried to learn Hungarian, as she explains in the interview on Jimmy Fallon's show.

However, she did not even succeed to order in a restaurant in Hungarian, despite having learned the language for one year. Her failure only confirms what we already know: that Hungarian is one of the most difficult languages to learn.

Nevertheless, we congratulate Kate's Hungarian teacher, Erik, who successfully taught the actress a verse of rap during their time together. ...

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8 interesting facts about Trianon, a Hungarian national tragedy

It is that time of the year again when Hungarians mourn the great loss that the Treaty of Trianon. June 4 is the 98th anniversary of Hungary losing 2/3 of its territory and about 1/3 of its population.

About the Treaty of Trianon

Hungary joined WWI as part of the long-ago Austro-Hungarian Empire. Even though the Hungarian leadership disagreed on the decision of the declaration of war against Serbia, it was its duty to follow the Empire's command. In the end, WWI costed 660,000 Hungarian military personnel's lives. On the top of being part of those countries who lost, Hungary had to pay a big price: the Treaty of Trianon included taking away 2/3 of Hungary's territory including those 13 million Hungarian citizens living there.

The meaning of the word 'Trianon'

Some people claim that the Hungarian motto "No! No! Never!" comes from the meaning of the word Trianon. It has a Latin origin and means "three nos". It is easy to conclude that there is a connection between the motto and the meaning of the word. However, Urbanlegends.hu revealed the truth according to which the motto has already existed in 1918, while, on the other hand, the Treaty of Trianon was signed only in 1920. Therefore, this interpretation seems to be false.

Trianon happened because of a divorce

George Clemenceau, the French character who played an important role in creating the conditions of the treaty, had a son who married a Hungarian woman. After their marriage declined and they ended up filing divorce, Clemenceau was said to be so angry with Hungary that led him to make the conditions even more strict. Hungarian historians contradict this hearsay and reason that Clemenceau did not like Romania either, but he still supported their territorial claims. ...

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New airport bus from Budapest City Center for EUR 2.8

The new airport bus 100E will run along the Deák square-Kálvin square-Liszt Ferenc Airport II route in every half an hour, reports Fonódó. Although the Centre for Budapest Transport (BKK) and the City Hall planned to announce it on Tuesday, Index already published its article about it on Monday. While Index only reports the news, other sources seem to know more about it.

The new bus is named 100E, and it will get going on July 8. It will set off in every half an hour from Deák square from 4:00 AM to 11:30 PM, and from Liszt Ferenc Airport II from 5:00 AM to 0:30 AM. It will only have one permanent stop between the two termini: Kálvin square. In addition to this, the first services will also stop at Astoria, but only in the small hours.

Dávid Vitézy publicly argues with this detail on his Facebook. He hopes that this decision will be revised and the airport bus will also stop where its route intersects the busiest bus-axis of the city. Apart from this, the BKK's former managing director thinks

100E is the best thing that the failure of the renovation of Metroline 3 could trigger: a direct central bus service from the airport to the FINA World Championship just to save the guests the experience of the metro. However, it is questionable if this concept will work with the buses following each other in only every 30 minutes. It would be great if this service remained after the World Championship as well – at least until the metro gets renovated – though the real solution would be the building of the spur of the railway line, which is still in the planning stage.

However, bus-blogger Kristóf Kengyel believes "it will run not only during the World Championship, but also afterwards. The buses running on this route will get a custom-designed »Budapest« image" according to his Facebook. ...

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New airport bus from Budapest City Center for EUR 2.8

As qubit.hu reports, American government's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) divides languages into five groups based on difficulty. The classification is not based on scientific, but pragmatic aspects. The institute which is responsible for the language training of American diplomats delegated to foreign countries, simply takes into consideration the time it takes the American learners to acquire a new language.

In this list Hungarian was put in the category IV, meaning that according to English (American) native speakers, it is a foreign language of almost nuclear difficulty. As FSI reports, one must study Hungarian for one year, putting everything else aside in order to acquire the language (it is not clear how these categories relate to language certificate levels).*

In Category I, that is, the languages easiest to acquire for Americans are, mainly North Germanic (Scandinavian) languages, such as Danish, Norwegian or Swedish, and Romance languages, such as French, Italian, Spanish or Portuguese.

According to FSI, an American learner of English mother tongue can acquire these languages within about half a year, with 23-24 weeks, 575-600 class hours. These languages are also members of the Indo-European language family, like English, which may make them easier to learn.

Only the German language was put in Category II, with its 30 week and 750 hours of learning time. In Category III there are the Indonesian, Malaysian and Swahili languages, with 36 weeks (900 hours) of learning time.

Category 4 has the most languages: 42 languages are listed here by FSI altogether, such as Albanian, Turkish, or Zulu. One needs to study these for 44 weeks and net 1100 class hours. Slavic languages belong here too, for example, Russian, Serbian, Slovakian, Slovenian, or exotic languages, like Armenian. ...

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A dead man travelling by tram unnoticed for more than 6 hours in Budapest

Borsonline.hu reports the shocking news of a Hungarian man (73) dying on tram 17 in Budapest due to sudden cardiac failure. The incident happened last Wednesday when no one noticed the death of János Szabó who was on the way to his workplace. His widow unfolds the shocking story.

What happened?

On the day when the tragedy happened, everything started as usual, states the wife of János Szabó. János, clean-shaven and well-dressed, set out to his workplace since besides being a pensioner, he worked for Szerencsejáték Zrt., the most significant Hungarian lottery operator and gambling services provider in the country. As the couple lives in Erd, János travelled by train to the capital every day.

Just like always, the train of János arrived at Déli Railway Station around 7:45 a.m. from where the workplace of the man was only two stops away. János usually travelled by tram 17 to Széna Square after which he walked to his workplace. As the widow of János reports, 2 minutes after her husband had sat down on the tram, he died. He was dead by around 7 a.m. since he did not get off the tram after the two stops.

It was only around 2 p.m. that someone spoke to the conductor of the tram at Frankel Leó Street, telling him that someone might be sick or in fact is not alive since he is quite pale. The conductor immediately stopped the vehicle and called for the ambulance, recalls the terrible memories Jánosné Szabó.

"I was called by the police with the news that my husband had died several hours ago. My first reaction was that it could not be him given that the name János Szabó is quite frequent. When the officers read out the personal identity information of my husband, I did not think about the worst. I refused to accept that it happened to him. I said that someone might have stolen his bag and his documents and during the day, this person might have died. It was only when they described how he looked like that I realised, it is him." ...

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10 iconic Hungarian food and drinks you must try in Budapest

World of Food & Drinks assembled a list of the top 10 things everyone should try in Budapest, and also added where to find them when one visits Hungary's capital. The list contains the most iconic traditional Hungarian dishes and drinks to die for. Recipes for many of these dishes can be found in Daily New Hungary's "recipe of the week" series.

Soups

1. Fisherman's soup (Halászlé)

Hungarian Fisherman's soup is similar to fish paprikash, but with more water. This delicious spicy soup is usually made from carp caught in the river Danube. The recipe relies on the traditional paprika powder, which gives the soup's bright red colour. Most famous versions of fisherman's soup are: fisherman's soup of Baja, Szeged and the Tisza region. You can try this soup in many places in Budapest, for example at Horgásztanya Restaurant.

2. Goulash (Gulyás)

Goulash is one of the (if not the No. 1) most famous Hungarian dishes. Goulash is a rich stew made of meat and vegetables, and with lots of paprika. Traditionally, it is made from beef, but you can also find goulash made from pork or chicken. You can try the goulash in almost every restaurant in Budapest, but for a unique dining experience, you can go to Vagon restaurant or Gettó Gulyás.

Main courses

3. Chicken Paprikash (Csirke paprikás)

Chicken paprikash has everything that characterises Hungarian cuisine: paprika, pepper, onion, garlic, green, pepper, tomato, meat and sour cream. This dish has a creamy sauce which the chicken meat is simmered in for over an hour. Traditionally, it is served with egg dumplings called nokedli. You can try this really popular Hungarian dish at Paprika Jancsi, Budapest. ...

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Happy 1018th birthday Hungary: what and how do Hungarians celebrate?

The 20th of August might as well be the most significant national holiday of Hungary with festivals, celebrations and fireworks everywhere. But what is it really about? Read a quick recap of the must-know facts about the background of and traditions connected to St. Stephen's day.

What do we celebrate exactly?

A little history lesson may be necessary when it comes to the 20th of August, but do not worry, we will keep to the essentials. On the other hand, should you be interested in the details, read this previous post about the historical background of Hungary's foundation.

On the 20th of August, which happens to be the earliest national holiday of Hungary, we celebrate the Christian foundation of the state, king St. Stephen, as well as the new bread.

Stephen's father, Géza, Grand Prince of the Hungarians was the one who started to steer the country towards Christianity. He avoided wars with the religious neighbours and invited priests to the country. He also raised his son, Vajk in this spirit: Vajk was christened and took up the name Stephen, how we know him today. A struggle for the throne followed the death of Géza, but in the end, Stephen managed to beat Koppány who was supporting pagandom in Hungary. Afterwards, to enhance the country's independence from the Holy Roman Empire, he asked and received the Hungarian Crown directly from the Pope.

Stephen I was crowned king of Hungary in 1000, which marks the foundation of our state. Among his acts to spread Christianity was the declaring of the 15th of August, the Assumption of Mary, a holiday. Later, in 1018 he also died on this day, so for a long time, he was commemorated on the 15th.

The date changed when King Ladislaus I of Hungary (King László in Hungarian) initiated his canonisation. Ever since then Saint Stephen's holiday has been on the 20th of August, although it became a national holiday only much later. ...

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The Best Brunch Spots in Budapest

Funzine've collected not one, not two, but nine brunch spots where you can kick off your morning in the capital city. Check them out!

Araz
If you are ready for an international gastronomic adventure, Araz is the place to go.

Buddha-Bar Budapest
Fancy brunches come in all sizes and shapes, but Buddha-Bar Budapest is truly outstanding.

Cafe Brunch Budapest
With a menu inspired by Hungarian and international cuisine, Café Brunch Budapest is the perfect place to hop into whenever the hunger hits you.

Brasserie & Atrium Restaurant (Corinthia)
Budapest's elegant Brasserie & Atrium Restaurant organizes thematic brunches every Sunday.

Danubius Hotel Gellért
The restaurant's head-chef, Gábor Müncz creates colourful, tasty meals which impress their guests with a mouth-watering smell.

Peppers! Mediterranean Grill
Sunday brunch at Peppers! is all about style, quality Hungarian ingredients and a cozy, Mediterranean atmosphere.

MiniZso Bagel
MiniZso Bagel is the little brother of KicsiZso, one of Buda's most reliable breakfast places.

Urban Tiger
An unparalleled Asian service, lovely prepared dishes and live music: doesn't it sound like the perfect setting for a Saturday brunch?

Villa Bagatelle
Based on their guests' feedback, Villa Bagatelle takes pride at being considered one of the best breakfast and brunch eateries in Budapest

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Beef Vadas: An Easy Peasy No-Fuss Hungarian Recipe

There is a finger-lickin' good Hungarian specialty that you must try: it is called hunter's stew (in Hungarian: vadas) and it's on the menu of many local and nearby restaurants around Budapest. Vadas is a simple and very tasty dish, why wouldn't you cook it at home? Here's the recipe!

Before we get down to business, here is what you should know about vadas in advance. It is a traditional, slow-cooked Hungarian dish with a piquant sauce of mustard, carrots and other vegetables. It is often served with bread dumplings. What about the meat, you might ask? The most popular variation is made of game, beef or pork, but poultry, (or no meat at all/tofu) is also a possible alternative. There's nothing complicated about it so don't worry, your culinary skills won't fail you.

Ingredients:

*800 g roast beef, 600 g mixed vegetables: 4 thickly sliced carrots, 1 thickly sliced parsnip, a small amount of celery and kohlrabi; 1 large red onion, 2 cloves of garlic, 2 bay leaves, lemon peel, salt to taste, freshly ground pepper mix, ½ cup dry red wine, sour cream
Hungarian mustard (mild), a pinch of sugar, lemon juice to taste, flour, red pepper*

Directions

Slice the meat, season it with salt and pepper. Heat one tablespoon oil in a bigger pan and cook both sides of each beef slice for 1-1 minute. If ready, place them on a plate. Use the rest of the oil to fry the vegetables (for 8-10 minutes) and add sliced red onion, garlic and bay leaves to the mix. The pre-cooked meat now goes on top of the veggies. Season it with lemon peel and add wine. Simmer it in its own juice (no extra water is needed) for around 1,5-2 hours. In the meantime, cook the side dish.

Place the now tender meat on a plate and remove the bay leaves. Using a handheld blender mix the vegetables and add a tablespoon of flour and ground red pepper. Stir lemon juice, mustard, sour cream and a pinch of sugar into the cooking liquid. Process it until smooth, then return the sliced beef to the pan and heat slowly. Cook it until it reaches the desired temperature (around 5 minutes), serve immediately.

Note: there are several ways to literally spice up your hunter's stew sauce. You can use juniper-berry, coriander and nutmeg for a more piquant taste.

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Street Food Selection – Budapest

When gastro revolution hit Budapest a few years ago, we didn't know what we are up for exactly. The tasty, ready-to-eat food fastly conquered our streets and hearts alike, and before we blinked twice, not only vans and hawkers but also restaurants started serving us with our favourite street food. Here's a great selection!

Vágódeszka

Located in the heart of the city, Vágódeszka (aka chopping board) will make you realize how awesome the famous Hungarian kolbász can be!

VegaCity

Just a stone's throw away from always busy Kálvin tér and Astoria, a friendly vegan restaurant awaits the health-conscious with a continuously varying lunch menu and a range of breakfast options in the heart of the city.

Wan Hao Restaurant

Located in the heart of the Chinese quarter, Wan Hao restaurant is awaiting you with delicious and healthy Chinese and Cantonese gourmet meals.

Waffle Dog

This dessert to go idea is simply amazing.

MiniZso

KicsiZso's "little brother" MiniZso Bagel is awaiting all street food fanatics with extremely delicious, gourmet bagels from 7.30 AM to 5 PM every weekday in Buda.

Bubba's Downtown

Bors GasztroBár

Black Cab Burger

Pöriző

Sushiroll

Rukkola

Arriba Taqueria

Pasta.

LángosBáró

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Meal of the Month: Catfish Stew with Cottage Cheese Pasta

When it comes to popular Hungarian meals, catfish stew is one you should not miss. The following recipe is surprisingly easy, why wouldn't you try it at home? Get your taste buds ready for a taste sensation, because coming their way is a rollercoaster party of flavours!

Ingredients (for 4 people)

80 dkg of catfish fillet, 1 bigger onion, 1 green or red paprika, 1 tomato, 2 teaspoons of Hungarian sweet paprika powder, 8-10 dkg flour, 1 cup of sour cream (15 dkg), salt and pepper to taste, a little oil

Directions

Cut the paprika, the onion and the tomato into smaller pieces, wash the fish fillets (remove the skin if needed, as well as the fat), then chop them into cubes. Season them with salt and pepper. Mix the flour with a teaspoon of paprika powder and coat each pieces. (Hint: If you like spicy food, add a little hot paprika powder too.) Now heat oil in a bigger bowl and fry the fish for about 1 minute on all sides. Once you are ready, take the fish out of the bowl and use the remaining oil to fry the sliced onion (until it becomes soft and golden).

Add the rest of the paprika powder, pour water into it, and put the fillet pieces together with the chopped tomato and paprika into the bowl. Cook it for about 20-25 minutes before thickening it with the mixture of flour and sour cream. Thickening with flour: use 2 tablespoons of flour, mix it thoroughly with 1/4 cup cold water. Add the mixture to the soup base while constantly stirring, and cook it until thickened and bubbly (it takes about 5 minutes). Fun fact: the main ingredient, catfish is interspecifically variable in size; many have a maximum length of 12 cm, while just a few months ago a more than 2 metres long specimen got hooked in Baranya county.

Cottage cheese pasta: 3 slices of smoked bacon, 2 cups of sour cream (30 dkg), 1 package "csusza" pasta, 1 container, cottage cheese (25 dkg)

Wine Advisor:

This traditional dish best suits to a white Hungarian variety, a barrel-aged crisp Juhfark from the wine region of Neszmély or Somló. Cheers!

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Budapest Uncovered: Movie Theatres

The holiday movie season is upon us: although this winter we'll have to do without a new Star Wars film (we'll let you decide if that's a good or a bad thing), luckily there will be no shortage of Oscar baits and studio tentpoles. And what better place to get lost in the glitz and glamour of Hollywood than in Budapest's most prestigious motion picture palaces?

Uránia National Film Theatre, 1088 Budapest, Rákóczi út 21.

Opened first as an orpheum in 1895 on the lower two floors of a four-storey apartment building, it wasn't until 1917 that Uránia was officially designated as a cinema.

Corvin Film Palace, 1082 Budapest, Corvin köz 1.

Built in place of a former distillation plant and public bath, the Corvin Film Palace is a 1,200 seater historic cinema, designed by Emil Bauer, and handed over to the public in 1922 as the most modern film theatre of its time.

Puskin Cinema, 1053 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos utca 18.

Situated on busy Kossuth Lajos utca, Puskin Cinema (originally named Fórum) was once the most luxurious movie theatre in Budapest, and its ornate, antique-Art Deco interiors are still sights to see.

Művész Cinema, 1066 Budapest, Teréz körút 30.

Just a stone's throw away from Oktogon, you'll find the movie marquee of Művész Cinema, advertising the films (equal parts mainstream, equal parts arthouse pieces) played that week in a style that's reminiscent of the cinemas of 1980s America.

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The Trump and Kim story - Details about the historic meeting

Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un reach out to shake hands at the start of the first meeting between the US president -in-office and the Supreme Leader of North Korea.

The venue of the historic event was the Capella Hotel in Singapore. Sentosa, a tropical resort island is the home to luxury resorts, private marinas and a sprawling golf course. Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim – and of course their delegations – were staying in two separate hotels elsewhere in Singapore.

Singapore's government has designated a security zone around the entirety of the island, giving police the right to stop and search people.

The past

Kim Jong Un - the grandson of Kim Il Sung, the first and founding leader of North Korea – seems to be an innovator leader of the state. In early 2018 he agreed to participate in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, and marched with South Korea during the opening ceremony as Korean team. Following the Olympics, Kim Jong Un and President Moon Jae In – president of South Korea - conducted in April 2018 the long awaited inter-Korean summit. It was the first time since the end of the Korean War in 1953 that a North Korean leader entered the South's territory.

After all these historic events on 12 June 2018 Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump met for the North Korea–United States summit in Singapore, the first-ever talks held between a North Korean leader and a US President in office

The basic question is, how Trump and Kim reached the decision to have this meeting?

For those who have known the President for years, his handling of this summit meeting with North Korea has been trademark for Trump: focused on immediate personal and tactical advantage. During the campaign, Trump scandalized conservative foreign policy circles by saying he would have “no problem” speaking directly to Kim. He said North Korea was his top foreign policy challenge.

Trump has said he would walk away from the meeting if he senses Kim isn't serious about giving up the possession and development of his nuclear weapons. “I think within the first minute I'll know. I feel that Kim Jong Un wants to do something great for his people and he has that opportunity and he won't have that opportunity again.” Trump said.

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“Time Justifies Us” Interview with Sándor Balogh

Sándor Balogh, President of the African-Hungarian Union, is a businessman, an entrepreneur and a sports event organiser. For him, a day could last from 26 to 28 hours and a week could include 9 days, because of his varied activities. He established the African-Hungarian Union more than ten years ago. The organisation is presently Hungary's most prestigious civil organisation dealing with Africa. We asked the president about the achievements of this organisation.

In the past four years the world has changed a lot. Africa has got to the front-page, so to speak. It happened not only in Hungary, but also in other countries, and usually in a positive context. What was your experience in the African-Hungarian Union?

On one hand, we are concerned, just like everybody else in Hungary, about what has happened and is still happening in the world. Migration crisis has turned over many people's lives and filled a lot with fear. On the other hand, the events of the past few years have justified us. At the time of the Union's establishment, we issued a warning regarding political, economic or climate changes in Africa, that could upset the challenging balance there and would set off a crowd of millions. To tell the truth, in Europe, especially in her Eastern part, the basic opinion was that the situation could not affect us, because Africa is far away, and we have neither the tools nor the interest to solve the local problems of that continent. In summer 2015, all that changed overnight, when – as we might put it – reality knocked on the door of Central-Europe. An average Central-European viewer could see what happens when harvest is lost about 5,000 kilometres away. It could have an impact on our life.

Does it mean that more people have contacted you and asked for advice since then?

It does definitely. Today, there is a proverb which we have always emphasised: “Assistance should be given where the problem is, before the problem comes to us.” In reality, however, it is easier said than done, because Africa is not an easy place. In order to know what and where to do, so that it would mean real help and not only the image of charity, we need experts who have spent years in the field and are familiar with the local conditions as well as have personal connections. That is how we can help, and this is the area where our advice is required.

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Sport Is a Symbol of Culture and Peace

The LEN – European Swimming Association has organized its annual international congress in Hungary. Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament, also visited the Duna Arena in Budapest. A total of 52 member states participated in the congress. It was exciting to hear directly the leaders of European sport diplomacy the importance of Hungary's work in this area.

In the beginning of his speech, Paolo Barelli, President of LEN, emphasized the importance of Budapest in the perspective of aquatic sports. He did this not only because it is a wonderful city, but also because Budapest plays a central role in sports events, which is also true for the Duna Arena. The representatives and athletes from the member states of the European Swimming Association are always happy to visit Hungary. Therefore, the organization decided to have this year's congress in our country as well.

These were heart-warming words, as were the statements by Antoni Tajani, President of the European Parliament, who also praised the events organized in Hungary. The President emphasized that the Duna Arena is fantastic and very useful for Hungarian citizens.

Furthermore, the establishment is well suited for supporting European sports events. He believes that European sports support is important not only because of health promotion, but also creates more jobs and helps to preserve our values and cultural identity.

In her opening speech, Dr. Tünde Szabó, Secretary of State for Sports, said: In 2017, we organized the best FINA World Cup ever. It was an unprecedented national collaboration. Now, we are the hosts of a major sport diplomacy event. She added: "In our country, sport and the interest and support of our athletes are a true creed. We are committed to the development and renewal of sports science and sports healthcare."

Deputy Major of Budapest Alexandra Szalay-Bobrovniczky said: The popularity of Budapest is increasing. Moreover, the city has also been awarded the title of the European Capital of Sport. The title will be celebrated with an excessively rich program.

It should not go without saying that the European Swimming Association has supported the membership associations with a record level of financial assistance last year. In addition, the athletes received record high prizes from the association. Tamás Gyárfás, the Economic Manager of LEN, tried to bring this to everyone's attention.

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„I Feel We Speak the Same Language with Árpi”

Interview with Katinka Hosszú

At the end of the 200-meter-long medley swimming, Katinka Hosszú was the first one who hit the finish line and the Danube Arena just exploded. During the World Cup in Hungary, she scored four gold and three bronze medals. The fact that she performed so well after the recess of half a year surprised even her. We were talking about the new coach and the work with the Iron Lady.

First of all, we would like to congratulate to you for the new medals that your collection has been expanded with. We are very proud of you! How do you feel that you have scored your 400th medal in the World Cup series?

Of course it's great, who would not like it. However, I do not count my medals myself, I leave this to the press. Nevertheless, when I learned that this will be a special milestone, I wanted this important medal to be a gold one. I did my best!

The crowd was furious, the house was full and there were 5000 fans on the grand-stand. Could the atmosphere have been any better? People usually ask this rhetorical question. At the same time, one must realize that there is a great deal of pressure on you when swimming in front of the Hungarian audience. Do you feel this duality in yourself? Otherwise, are you only motivated by the Hungarian audience?

The Hungarian audience is very special. This was also recognized by foreign swimmers during the last year's World Cup and now as well. There is no such cheer and loudness anywhere else in the world! Competing in Hungary is always a big burden, especially to me. Everyone takes it for granted that Katinka always wins. Of course, during previous domestic competitions I have learned that I must only concentrate on swimming and on my own performance. Today, I can ignore the world around me very well. I have to admit that lately I have repeatedly wondered what is the point in what I do. I could spend my time with more meaningful things than watching the line in the pool eight hours a day. However, a competition like this is a serious reason to continue, because I receive a lot of love and feedbacks. Many people have said that I am their idol, that I give them strength and motivation for sport and everyday life. I am happy that I can give something to the people.

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4 Doctors, 35 Surgeries

Some weeks ago they were still on the way to Malawi, but today the 19 th Medical Mission's members of the African-Hungarian Union (AHU) are already made their way back. They have performed 35 surgeries overall during this time even though they were outnumbered.

According to the original plan four otolaryngologists and one anesthesiologist were part of the mission. Unfortunately, one of them got sick before the departure and stay behind. The mission to East Africa now was formed by a 3+1 team: Dr. László Paput, Dr. Nelli Nepp and Dr. Éva Orosz, as well as Dr. Csaba Loibl. This form meant they could have not used the good practice of the previous missions: they could have been divided in teams of two.

Albeit the hardest patient cases were waiting for them in Malawi with the sole otolaryngologist of Malawi. Among the many serious surgeries, they had to remove enlarged tumors in Blantyre in the central hospital named after Queen Elisabeth, where Hungarian doctors performed surgeries during the missions organized by AHU. Part of their mission was to train the doctors residing in the hospital.

The Hungarian doctors were a big assistance also outside the hospital walls. One morning the team stopped by a school in Jacaranda, which is also supported by AHU, where orphan kids attend the school. Dr. Nelli Nepp had to stay behind the team since many kids had to be checked out, while the other doctors started the operations in the hospital. More than 50 pupils and adults from the school staff were examined by our doctors.

Some serious diagnosis was given but most of the kids only needed a thorough ear wash, which was completed on the very next day. Two perforated eardrums in the absence of a quick operation was found. The doctors reached an agreement with the Malawian otolaryngologist to check on the kids with any symptoms twice a year. That afternoon the pupils hold a show to show their gratitude to the doctors. The distinguished guests of the show were not Miss Malawi, similar to the previous mission, but the French Ambassador to Zimbabwe and his wife. The doctors enjoyed the program very much.

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TROPICAL MAGAZIN

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On the fabulous landscapes of Transylvania

For a long time every year, in the beginning of August, I have taken 30-40 friends of mine to Transylvania. I have showed them my favourite places, I have made them try the chimney cake in Bălăușeri, the cabbage in the Laci Tavern in Târgu Mureș, the “csorba soup” in Odorheiu in the Pethő Restaurant and, I have told them about the feeling of “togetherness” that will capture every visitor from Hungary.

I had to select from among the must see sights for the 5-day-trip. If we listed every touristic offer of Transylvania, we would fill up several Tropical magazines. For us, Hungarians, the Transylvanian events represent, mean a lot. The Pentecostal Blessings of Șumuleu Ciucare already have scheduled pilgrim trains now. Those who take part in the excursion, will never forget the atmosphere. The dance of the Székely girls, the camp at Băile Tușnad, the dance festival in Izvoru Crișului are all great experiences for the participants.

Many people ask me whether I am afraid of the bears. Of course, a bear is not a game, but I have taken several photos and videos about them. They are frequently around Lake Saint Anne but it is advisable to book a guided bear watching, which is some kind of a Transylvanian safari.

When I was asked some years ago to make a touristic conception plan for the city of Gheorgheni I had no idea how many wonders this little city was hiding. Then, after a lot of official and private visits, all the miracles were revealed. For example, the churches that can already be visited with organized tours. In Gheorgheni, many churches testify of the importance of faith among the people here. Many religions and denominations left their marks on Gheorgheni's culture. Catholics, Calvinists, Armenian Catholics and Jews lived here together in peace. In the churches, there are some real specialties to discover. In the Armenian Catholic church, hundreds of years old clothes are hidden in the cabinets. At the place of the Roman Catholic church there was once an old Gothic church. The old synagogue talks about the tragedy of the Jewish who used to live here. In the approximately three-hour church tour, even the relatively new Orthodox church can be visited. It is a true religious-cultural delight. In the old town of Gheorgheni, Armenian, Székely, and Jewish traders were here even in the 13th century. The inhabitants of the city created relative prosperity with the production of wood, rafting and animal breeding. This region did not lack for wood. The wonderful Armenian merchant houses, the churches and the old-fashioned buildings give everyone the temptation to walk around either in the winter or the summer. All this is framed by the wonderful natural surroundings, the hills around the city. ...

Flavors, Prayers, Transylvania

Brief History

The catchphrase “Transylvania – Fairyland” can be attributed to the reign of Transylvanian Prince Gábor Bethlen and the golden age of Transylvania. In the spirit of humanism, Bethlen invited many craftsmen to the country (mostly from Venice) to carry out various construction works. This is how Transylvania became an economically, politically, culturally and artistically prosperous place that is rich in natural resources and enchanting architecture. It lies in the picturesque curve of the Carpathian Mountains. Transylvania is basically about coexistence, acceptance and tolerance. In the spirit of the Unio Trium Nationum (the unification of three nations), the Hungarian nobles in Transylvania, the Székelys and the Saxons concluded peace among themselves. Since the 17th century, there have also been a large number of refugees from Armenia who have been accepted by the community. Although the price that they had to pay for asylum was the religious union, the essential religious language remained Armenian and they were allowed to keep their ancient rituals, just like the Romanians did. Thus, the Church was the patron of cohesion and ethnic consciousness for a long time. The Székelys are hospitable and caring which can be sometimes too much. Perhaps the typical Székely nature can be attributed to the history of tolerance. It is certain that the visitor in Transylvania will not be left without food, drinks and love if they dine with a Székely family. After this brief historical review, let us look at the surprises this fancy jewelry box might hold if we decided to open the lid...

The flavor of the Carpathians

Transylvania has a tradition of mushrooming. There are many kinds of mushrooms in the mountains, of which truffles and flap mushrooms are in the highest regard. These mushrooms are exported in high quantities. Within the framework of the Transylvanian Truffles program, mushroom lovers have the opportunity to try truffle hunting.

Forests and fields provide excellent stuff that is worth to taste: rosehips (the jam is amazing), juniper berry, cranberry, blueberry, raspberry, mulberry, strawberry, pine-cone (the syrup is incredibly tasty), ramson, sorrel and herbs of course. So, it is a good idea to take an herbal trip as well. ...

One and a Half Months in Milky Whiteness

Interview with Gábor Rakonczay

44 days and 4 hours. Gábor Rakonczay reached the South Pole in this time. He was the first Hungarian who walked the entire distance from the coasts of Antarctica to the middle of the continent. In the vicinity of the South Pole, the temperature dropped below -20 degrees Celsius, sometimes reaching -30. If that hadn't been enough, more than usual snow had fallen, making the nearly 200-kilometer-long distance milky white, while the visual range was not more than 1 meter. Despite his minor frostbite injuries, Gábor Rakonczay is happier than ever.

First of all, how are you? You've burned 10% of your body mass during the walk. You have frostbites on your face, and of course you have not seen your family for a long time.

Thank you, I feel great! Although a journey like this in Antarctica goes hand in hand with the things described above, the positive experiences, the goal and the idea that I could be on the South Pole are more decisive.

Before you started the journey, you had asked for advice from Zoltán Ács. He is one of the Hungarians who have been to the South Pole (Krisztina Kovalcsikné Bátor is the other). The training camp in New Zealand and the Greenland expedition provided practical experience of what kind of circumstances await you at the South Pole. Despite all this, was there anything that came unexpectedly or surprised you?

Zoli Ács was very friendly and helpful. The primary preparation was the 630-kilometer-long Greenland crossing that took 29 days. When I left, I knew that the most difficult two months of my life was waiting for me. There was nothing that came as a surprise. However, these 44 days did not go easy.

Covering the 24 hours of the day, you marched the necessary distance within 8-12 hours a day, then you set up your tent for the evening. It certainly was not necessary to take sleeping pills because of the exhaustion. In such extreme circumstances, how can you sleep?

The tent protects you from the wind. Since the sun was shining during the night, the accommodation worked as a thermal trap. So it was much warmer in the tent than outside and it was perfect for relaxation. ...

Interview with Sándor Balogh, Economic Ambassador of Gyergyószentmiklós

Sándor Balogh feels at home in the international business world. He is a businessman, chairman and founder of the African-Hungarian Union and the International Trade and Cultural Center. Additionally, he is the Vice-Chair of the International Department of the National Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers and Co-President of the Moroccan-Hungarian Business Council. He also plays an important role in several sections of the Budapest Chamber of Commerce. He inspired entrepreneurs in several regions of Transylvania, and gave them lectures about business opportunities.

HTCC, which he founded, provides assistance for businessmen and enterprises who seek expansion opportunities in the global market as well as visibility in countries with less known business cultures and economies. HTCC prepares its partners for the special business conditions and unknown markets in remote continents. Local knowledge is the unbeatable advantage of the 17 representations in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Their associates working on location abroad have established decent acquaintances with the governmental and business sectors. They are aware of the local business opportunities and know how to negotiate in certain countries.

Why was the network of the Hungarian Trade and Cultural Center established?

By the time the idea emerged, my closest colleagues and myself had spent decades in the Hungarian foreign trade. We have seen that Hungarian entrepreneurs are not willing to go farther than 700 kilometers from their place of business. Even though they have products and services that would be in serious demand in distant markets, even in comparison with the saturated European Union. Seven is not some kind magical figure; 700 kilometers is roughly a day's journey by car. According to the popular expression: they do not like to leave their comfort zone. So the idea was to widen this comfort zone, to create places that are physically far from Hungary but still provide the homelike feeling and the security that is expected by Hungarian entrepreneurs. It is not only that such houses have Hungarian-speaking staff, but the people who work there know both the Hungarian and the local business culture and regulations. They are part of the connection network that is able to solve problems efficiently in both Hungary and at the place of their business. It should be added that this task is different in each case, so it requires increased flexibility and creativity from us and those who work on the field. ...

From the Deserts Till the Rainforests – The Most Exciting National Parks of Southern Africa

People usually travel to Eastern and Southern Africa to discover the unique fauna. Since, all the emblematic animals of Africa – the Big Five – live there. You can find and see hunting lions and leopards, zebras running in troops on the savannah or bathing elephants. But where is it exactly? The largest national parks of East Africa are well-known: the great migration of the Serengeti, the strange inhabitants of Masai Mara, the wonderful Ngorongoro crater, these all seem familiar to everyone. But now, we would like to present those parts of Southern Africa that are less well-known, but they are absolutely worth taking a trip.

Pilanesberg National Park – South Africa

The popularity of the fourth largest national park of South Africa is based on the proximity to Sun City. Not to mention that the air is the healthiest here – there is no malaria risk at all.

This park is the home of many wild animals – but that was not always like that. More precisely, this park has always been the home for animals, but some species, due to the large-scale of hunting and the fact that the population of the surrounding villages has grown, were almost completely destroyed. Then came Sun City, and the crowd of tourists too, who often wanted more than just having fun and playing in the casinos. They wanted the real African wildlife. It was just the perfect time, when they explored a shattered volcano, that could be rounded perfectly by a fence. The animals were settled in the 1980s. At that time, more than 6000 creatures were brought, which was the largest animal implantation ever. The project was successful, the Pilanesberg National Park is the fourth largest and one of the most visited national wildlife reserves in the world since then. But, it is understandable why. Everything can be found there, what South Africa can offer. The 55.000-hectare park forms a nearly complete circle, as it is located on the surface of a 1200 million years old volcano, with a small lake in the middle. Besides the Big Five (elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion, leopard), you can find numerous other animals as well: cheetah, giraffe, hippopotamus, crocodile, zebra, gnaw, hyena and more than 300 different species of birds live here. But the inside of the crater is completely different than, for example, the forests and grassy deserts of Krüger, where the wildlife is easy to detect. This is plain bush – or bushveld, as the local Africans call it, which has the second meaning, to pay attention to the animals might be popping out of the scrub. The African Skansen of Lesedi were also built according to the needs of tourists. Since, an average traveler hardly has a chance to visit a real African village. ...

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