

Synopsis (October 28, 2019)

General News

CZECHIA DROPS TO 32ND PLACE IN WEF GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT

The Czech Republic has dropped by three positions to 32nd place in the World Economic Forum's 2019 Global Competitiveness Report. Despite that, Czechia remains the most competitive economy in Central Europe, suggests the rating. It finished behind Estonia, but ahead of the other Visegrad Four countries, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary. WEF report outlines grim prospects for the world economy and notes that "ten years on from the global financial crisis, the world economy remains locked in a cycle of low or flat productivity".

Economic Briefs

NEW FOOD BOXES REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND HELP PEOPLE IN NEED

Reducing food waste and getting food to those in society who need it most – those are the two main goals of 10 new food donation boxes that have been placed in Tesco supermarkets in and around Brno by the organisation Food Banks. Shoppers can donate any long-lasting food, hygiene products, or household goods, which are regularly collected by staff and distributed to charity organisations, homeless shelters, orphanages, care homes for the elderly or mothers in need, or organisations that support drug addicts. In 2018, over 260 tonnes of food and other products were distributed, of which Tesco stores donated 80 tonnes. According to Pavel Kosorin, Director of Food Banks for Brno and the South Moravian Region, "We work with more than 80 organizations. All of them are verified to make sure that the food gets to the right places."

Foundation Stone Laid For Tramline Extension To University Hospital and Campus

A ceremony was held on Monday to mark the tapping of the foundation stone of the large-scale construction project to extend the tramline from Osova to the University Hospital and Campus. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Czech Ministry of Transport, Brno Mayor Markéta Vaňková (ODS), and representatives of the Brno Public Transport Company (DPMB), the project contractor, and other prominent guests. Vaňková welcomed the beginning of the construction: "The construction will be of huge benefit to the area of Starý Lískovec and Bohunice, where Masaryk University students and staff and patients of the University Hospital Brno travel daily. The construction will be completed in 2022, and other technical requirements, preparation of the surrounding terrain, and trial operations will take place.

Business

Czechs must build nuclear plants even if in breach of EU law, says PM

The Czech Republic will have to build new nuclear power plants to replace aging coal and nuclear capacity even if they are in breach of European law, Prime Minister Andrej Babis said on Wednesday. The government wants

CEZ to lead the nuclear projects but the 70% state-owned electricity producer has demanded state guarantees the plants would be both viable and deliver returns to shareholders. The EU nation generates more than a third of its electricity from nuclear energy and Babis has advocated nuclear power as a low-carbon alternative to coal, which now produces about 50 percent of power.

Sports

Messi to play against Prague for the first time ever as FC Barcelona takes on Slavia Praha

One of the greatest players of all-time, Lionel Messi will play in the Czech Republic for the just the second time in his career, and for the first time against a Prague team, tomorrow night as FC Barcelona visits Slavia Praha for a Champions League match. The 32-year-old Messi has played his entire career for FC Barcelona, where he has racked up a record six Best FIFA Men's Player and a record six European Golden Shoes, awarded to the top goalscorer in each European league. Also a member of Argentina's national football team, Messi led his home country to the World Cup final in 2014, ultimately losing to Germany. But Messi has never before played a game against Prague's top teams, largely due to their absence from Champions League group play over the past decade. Prague fans will get the chance to see one of the world's top players tomorrow night, October 23, as Messi and Barcelona take on Slavia Praha at Prague's Sinobo Stadium.