

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Torchlight march in Budapest commemorating the Hungarian anti-Soviet revolution of October 23, 1956

MTVA/Marton Mónus

UPCOMING EVENTS

President commemorates 1956 in US

Hungarian part speaker meets Croatian counterpart

Plenary session of parliament

Stats office releases 2nd reading of August retail data

TOP STORY

ORBÁN: EUROPE THE HOME OF NATIONS

Europe's greatness, strength and prestige are to be found in nation states that compete and at the same time cooperate with one another, the prime minister said at a state commemoration of Hungary's anti-Soviet uprising of 1956.

Brussels today is ruled by those who want to replace the alliance of free nations with a European empire controlled not by leaders elected by the people but by Brussels bureaucrats, Viktor Orbán said in front of Budapest's House of Terror Museum. There are many European countries today where those who believe in a European empire are in power, he added. Orbán warned that there was a growing number of military-aged men arriving in Europe from other continents and other cultures, and that "in our lifetime they will shape Europe's major cities to their own image." Slowly but surely Europe's natives will end up in the minority, he said. Orbán said those looking to turn the European Union into an empire were all in favour of migration. They have made the admission of migrants the measure of "Europeanness" and expect every member state to become multicultural, he added. "We believe that every nation is unique in its own way and can brightly light up the part of the world that has been entrusted to it," Orbán said. This was why, he said, Hungarians had revolted in 1956.

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ORBÁN: EUROPEANS MUST CHOOSE FUTURE IN MAY

The European parliamentary elections in May will decide the direction Europe will go in and the people of Europe must choose their future, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said at a state commemoration of Hungary's anti-Soviet uprising of 1956. "We Hungarians must not stay silent, either," Orbán said. "Let's choose independence and a cooperation of nations over global governing and control. Let's reject the ideology of globalism and support the culture of patriotism," the prime minister added. Europe compares to no other continent, the prime minister said. It is the home of nations, not "a melting pot", he added. "We adore our culture which preserves and protects our freedom," Orbán said. "We believe in strong families, we consider our traditions and history exceptional, we celebrate our heroes and above all we love our country. We don't want to and we won't give it up to any empire or global form of government."

ORBÁN: HUNGARIANS DON'T GAMBLE WITH THEIR COUNTRY

Hungarians are not the type to gamble with their country, but if necessary they can fight when there is no hope, although they prefer to have heroism and common sense on their side, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said at a state

commemoration of Hungary's anti-Soviet uprising of 1956. Orbán said "the freedom fighters of 1956 had made a sensible decision". The Soviets withdrew from Austria, the Hungarian communists were focused on each other and the free West was urging Hungarians to rise up and promised help, the prime minister said. "On one side there was the hopelessness of certain decay and on the other the once-in-a-lifetime last chance," the prime minister said. "They had to try and they did. The only way we Hungarians know how. With death-defying bravery, by putting our bad disputes behind us, in complete unity and with a pure heart."

ORBÁN: PEOPLE OF EUROPE FACE TEST OF STRENGTH

Hungary had a communist dictatorship for 34 years after 1956 and after the Soviets left, "we felt we could relax, our history, culture and ideology were finally in harmony ... and we could once again occupy our place in Europe," the prime minister said at a commemoration of Hungary's anti-Soviet revolution. But now, Viktor Orbán said, the people of Europe and "with them, we Hungarians face a test of strength not seen for a long time". It is not an external military threat, not American or Russian efforts that endanger Europe but the threat comes from within, he added. Who would have thought that "the notion of an empire which has brought Europe to

ruin several times could return, with others wanting to tell us whom we should live with in our own country, attacking Hungary, Poland, and threatening Romania, Slovakia and even Italy with fabrications," Orbán said.

"Around a decade and a half ago, we Hungarians joined the Europe of nations ... accepting the invitations of Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac and not the conquest of Napoleon or the Third Reich," Orbán said. Hungarians have suffered enough from empires and they "sooner or later chase the governors away", he added. "Let us remember the freedom fighters of 1956 ... and choose a future of patriotism and national pride," he concluded.

SZIJJÁRTÓ EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO 1956 HEROES

The foreign minister expressed gratitude "to every hero of 1956" for their role in ensuring that Hungary "can today enjoy freedom", in a video message addressed to Hungarian communities beyond the borders and Hungarian diplomatic missions, marking the 62nd anniversary of the country's anti-Soviet uprising. Hungarian people in 1956 said no to tyranny and dictatorial rule, as they also said no to intimidation, the ministry's statement cited Péter Szijjártó as saying. "They said it was enough of others wanting to decide Hungary's future and dictating how they should

live their lives in their own country," he said. "The Hungarian nation is a nation of freedom fighters. This was shown in 1956, too, when Hungarian people had the courage to rise up against a vastly superior force and, despite the absence of the much awaited help from abroad, they fought until the end for Hungary's freedom," Szijjártó said. "We Hungarians will never accept that others should decide about our future. We owe that to the heroes of 1956," the minister said. The video message will be played during commemorations at embassies and consulates, the ministry said.

**HUNGARY
COMMEMORATES 1956
UPRISING, FLAG HOISTED
AT PARLT**

Hungary's national flag was hoisted in front of the Parliament building on Tuesday, in a state commemoration marking the 62nd anniversary of the anti-Soviet uprising which started on October 23, 1956. The ceremony was attended by President János Áder, House Speaker László Kövér, members of government, military and civilian officials and diplomats.

**OPPOSITION, NGOS CALL
FOR JOINING EUROPEAN
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AT
BUDAPEST DEMO**

Opposition parties and civil groups staged a demonstration in Budapest's Bem József Square calling

for Hungary to join the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). Independent MP Ákos Hadházy, the organiser of the demonstration, said that if the opposition managed to collect one million signatures in support of a campaign aimed at getting Hungary to join the EPPO, the government would agree to join. He said this would not result in the suspension of the transfer of European Union funds to Hungary, but would instead drive back corruption. Hadházy said opposition and civil activists would soon start collecting signatures for the suspension of home evictions.

Péter Márki-Zay, the mayor of Hódmezővásárhely, said the "Orbán regime" could only be ousted if the opposition joined forces. "We'll need 3,200 Hódmezővásárhelys in order to defeat the party-state in next year's local elections," he said, referring to the opposition cooperation that allowed him to win the city's interim mayoral election in February.

Tamás Harangozó of the Socialist Party said the European prosecutor's office would be used by the opposition as a weapon "in the freedom fight against the Orbán regime" before it leads the country to a dead end. Párbeszéd MEP Benedek Jávor said the government, which he called a "thief regime", was turning Hungary away from the EU for its self-enrichment. Democratic Coalition board member Judit Földi urged the elimination of the consequences of "destruction caused by the Orbán regime" and called for the creation of a liveable Hungary.

The demonstration was attended by a few hundred people. From Bem József Square, some two hundred protesters later headed over to the Budapest headquarters of Hungarian public broadcaster MTVA to demonstrate in support of independent news coverage. In a speech in front of the HQ, Hadházy said a "disinformation-filled dictatorship, or demagoguery" was the best way to describe the current state of affairs in Hungarian media. He said the April general elections had been "rigged", and therefore the current parliament was illegitimate.

**JOBBIK: NO COMPROMISE
WITH 'ORBÁN REGIME'**

Conservative opposition Jobbik rejects all compromise with the "regime" of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and will continue its fight to overthrow it, party leader Tamás Sneider said at an event commemorating the anniversary of the 1956 anti-Soviet uprising. "The greatest thief in the world" is building Bolshevism in Hungary, he told the event held in front of the Hungarian Radio building. He cited several parallels between events during the Communist era and the current period, including the emigrants who left Hungary after 1956 and those that left in recent years to work and live abroad. Sneider said that just as the Communists had been subservient to the Soviet Union, the current prime minister was "the most devoted servant" of Russia and President Vladimir Putin. He said the

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current “regime” would not soften and only those should join Jobbik who are willing to participate in the tough fight to overthrow it.

TORCHLIGHT MARCH COMMEMORATING 1956 REVOLUTION HELD IN BUDAPEST

A torchlight march was held in Budapest on Monday to commemorate the Hungarian anti-Soviet revolution on October 23, 1956. The march started from the Budapest University of Technology and ended at Bem József Square near Margaret Bridge. Addressing the marchers, Gergely Gulyás, head of the Prime Minister’s Office, said “history has shown that we can only preserve our freedom and Hungarian culture if we stand together.” Hungarians around the world have to know that they can count on the homeland, Gulyás said. “That is why we must do everything we can to protect the Hungarians in Transcarpathia,” he said. “By paying our respects to the sacrifice of those who came before us and by remembering the hell they lived through after the revolution was stifled, we set standards. Remembrance is a responsibility,” Gulyás said.

SOCIALISTS, PÁRBESZÉD LAY WREATH AT IMRE NAGY STATUE

The opposition Socialist and Párbeszéd parties laid a wreath at the statue of

Hungary’s martyred Prime Minister Imre Nagy in Budapest, marking the 62nd anniversary of the 1956 anti-Soviet revolution. Párbeszéd co-leader Gergely Karácsony told reporters after the wreath-laying ceremony that Nagy had “restored people’s faith” that Hungary could become an independent country of freedom and equality where workers could control their own factories and where freedom and equality were compatible values. Socialist Party leader Bertalan Tóth underlined the importance of values that keep society together, adding that patriotism, which he said was one of these values, had been at the core of Nagy’s message. Nagy traded his past beliefs for the hope of the future and supported the revolution, giving his life for freedom and his country, Tóth said. Karácsony and Tóth said their parties will do everything in their power to ensure that Nagy’s statue stays in Vértanúk Square in central Budapest.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: GOVT APPRECIATES CZECH PM STANDING UP FOR HUNGARY

Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó voiced the Hungarian government’s appreciation of Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš standing up for Hungary. In a statement, Szijjártó reacted to an interview Tomáš Petříček, the new Czech foreign minister, gave to liberal Czech weekly Respekt in which he said the European Union should not have launched a sanctions procedure

against Hungary before next year’s European parliamentary elections and the formation of the next European Commission. Petříček told the paper that EU member states should protect liberal democracy together and that last month’s debate in the EP on whether or not Hungary had “turned away” from liberal democracy had been a necessary one.

Szijjártó said: “We appreciate the momentum and the desire to live up to expectations that has come with starting the job of foreign minister.” He said the government was looking forward to hosting Petříček in November, adding that “so far Hungarian-Czech ties have not been characterised by back-and-forths and we hope they won’t be in the future, either.”

Szijjártó stressed that cooperation among the Visegrad Group countries would continue to be at the focal point of Hungary’s foreign policy. “We greatly appreciate Prime Minister Babiš standing up for Hungary, and this is what we consider the standard,” he said.

LMP: HUNGARY WON’T ALLOW ITS FREEDOM TO BE TRAMPLED

The co-leader of green opposition LMP said at the party’s commemoration of the 1956 anti-Soviet uprising that the freedom of Hungary is threatened time and again but Hungarians will not allow their rights, “voice and thoughts” to be stifled. Speaking at

a memorial of the revolution, László Lóránt Keresztes said that “those who opposed the regime thirty years ago have become soldiers of treason, theft and destruction”. “They have learnt and now implement everything they used to fight against,” he said, adding that “the unnamed operators of the Communist regime now sit among the ranks of [ruling] Fidesz”.

The leaders of the country boast of patriotism but in reality are reinstating the Communist regime they grew up in, he said. The incumbent “Bolshevik-type” government has brought a “grievous tragedy to our nation,” the emigration of several hundreds of thousands of Hungarians, similarly to the situation after the revolution in 1956, he said. Hungary must however “step into the 21st century” and “remove the thieves betraying and robbing our country.” Today’s youth has to use knowledge and information instead of weapons, although those in power are trying to strip them of those tools, Keresztes said.

DK: FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC STATE STILL ONGOING

The executive deputy head of the leftist Democratic Coalition (DK) said at the party’s commemoration of the 1956 anti-Soviet uprising that the fight in 2018 was being fought for the same goals as the revolution had been: for the rule of law and an independent, democratic state. Csaba Molnár, who

is also an MEP of the party, spoke to the press after laying a wreath at the statue of Hungary’s martyred prime minister Imre Nagy in Budapest. He said Nagy and his companions had wanted freedom of the press, religion and association. The same freedoms are missing today, Molnár said. “There is no freedom of the press, freedom of association and the Hungarian people’s fate is decided in Moscow meeting rooms,” he insisted.

DK leader Ferenc Gyurcsány told the party’s commemorative event that the reason DK had been established on October 23rd was to demonstrate that its founders were on the same side as Nagy. One cannot be “a little bit in the opposition or very much in the opposition,” Gyurcsány said. In line with the essence of democracy, “it is not possible to stand close to [ruling] Fidesz or very far from Fidesz, only against Fidesz,” he added. DK identifies with a European, civic and constitutional standard in line with which those in the government should be branded “crooks” without hesitation because “they are indeed crooks in a political and also a criminal sense,” he added.

TRÓCSÁNYI DISCUSSES MIGRATION, TERRORISM, NGOS IN JERUSALEM

Justice Minister László Trócsányi held talks in Jerusalem focusing on terrorism, migration, NGOs and legislation affecting these areas. After talks with Israeli counterpart Ayelet

Shaked, he told MTI that he had presented Hungarian legislation on the transparency of NGOs receiving financial support from abroad. Israel introduced similar legislation two or three years ago and he said he was in agreement with Shaked that organisations that aim to play political roles and are linked with international networks were not typical parts of civil society. Trócsányi said he also briefed his counterpart on Hungary’s transit zones and the procedures that apply to them. The sides were in agreement that terrorism was a common enemy and it is necessary to apply the toughest means to fight it, he added. He said they also discussed the practice of appointing judges in their respective countries and together decided to organise a joint conference in Budapest next year where the responsibility for an effective administration of justice would be discussed.

MEP MESZERICS QUILTS LMP

Tamás Meszerics, MEP of opposition LMP, has decided to quit his party, Erzsébet Schmuck, an LMP lawmaker, said over the weekend. News portal Index quoted Meszerics as saying that LMP has “recently taken a new strategic direction without prior consultations”. According to the portal, Meszerics also voiced concern of “serious political risk” associated with LMP’s recent decisions, and said that he could “not advocate” those decisions before

voters. Meszerics has been LMP's MEP since 2014.

KÖVÉR: EP ELECTIONS COULD LAUNCH NEW PHASE IN LIFE OF EU

Next year's European parliamentary elections could bring about the start of a new phase in the life of the European Union, Parliamentary Speaker László Kövér said in an interview to daily Magyar Idők. Kövér told the paper that next May's elections would not only change the composition of the European Parliament but also that of the European Commission.

The new phase the EU could then embark on will be one where the questions of the resettlement of migrants and the establishment of a united states of Europe are no longer on the agenda, he said. Kövér added, however, that the EP elections would not mean the end of the fight for "real European values".

The speaker said the Hungarian government believes the EU to be "the best way for Hungary to enforce its interests, but right now the EU is tearing itself apart". He said those

who see themselves as "trustees" of the EU were the ones "steering the continent into a disaster" in part with their immigration policies, and in part by "breaching written regulations" and "pushing the EU in the direction of federalism".

Kövér said politicians like French President Emmanuel Macron, liberal EP group leader Guy Verhofstadt and European Commission First Vice President Frans Timmermans, "not to mention certain European People's Party politicians", were the "EU's gravediggers". Central Europe in a broader sense, meaning Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, northern Italy, the eastern part of Germany and Bavaria were the continent's main hope for survival, he insisted. Either western Europe can draw strength from this and turn back on "the wrongful path it started down on" or it will continue to try to integrate the tens of millions of people it has taken in and still wants to take in who "have no desire whatsoever to conform to the culture of their new home", Kövér said.

He said the meaning of history was the survival of the nation and culture

"that makes our homeland our home". "This is what 1956 is about for us as well," the speaker said.

GOVT OFFICIAL: ENERGY OFFICE REPORT SHOWS BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF UTILITY COST CUTS

The report of the Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority (MEKH) on private citizens' falling debts in utility payments shows that the 2013 cuts of utility costs continue to help the everyday life of Hungarians, state secretary Szilárd Németh said. Between 2013 and 2018, private arrears on electricity declined by 45%, on gas by 75% and on district heating by 35%, Németh, who is also deputy head of the ruling Fidesz party, said. The MEKH report said on Saturday that private citizens' debts have fallen to 33 billion forints (EUR 102.1m) by 2018 from 73 billion in 2013, when the government launched its utility cost cut programme. The government utility cost cuts have left some 1,400 billion forints with private consumers, saving the average family about 170,000 forints a year, Németh said.

