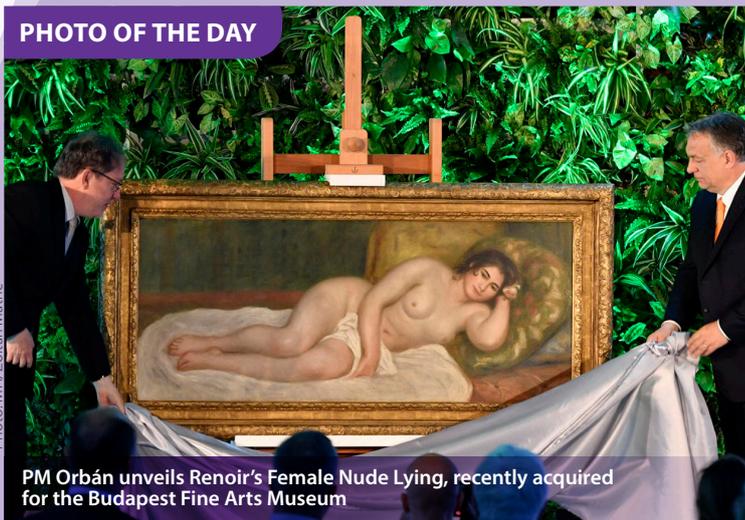


## PHOTO OF THE DAY



PM Orbán unveils Renoir's Female Nude Lying, recently acquired for the Budapest Fine Arts Museum

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Áder meets Czech counterpart in Budapest

Hungarian-Czech business forum

Stats office releases prelim data on Q1 GDP

Presser on Museums' festival

## TOP STORY

# ORBÁN: TRUMP 'STRONG, TARGET-ORIENTED' LEADER

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán called US President Donald Trump a "strong and target-oriented leader" in a video message posted on his Facebook page on Tuesday, a day after meeting the president.

Trump is a strong, "clear-headed" and "target-oriented" leader who "exactly knows what he wants", Orbán said. In the wake of their meeting in Washington, DC, Orbán said Trump had been "well-prepared" and "knew everything about Hungary that had to be known". His aim was to develop good cooperation between the two countries, Orbán added.

"I think we did a lot in this respect in the talks that were based on mutual respect and held in an excellent atmosphere," the prime minister said.

He added that he had nostalgic feelings being in the Oval Office once again, after 18 years. Orbán met Bill Clinton there in 1998 and George W. Bush in 2001. Orbán also said that Trump was a very different leader than his predecessors.

The strategic alliance between Hungary and the US has been successfully strengthened in every respect, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said after returning to Budapest from Washington, DC. Orbán said the world faced great changes and "we'll soon feel the headwinds of that". He added: "We made a good assessment of the situation sometime in the early 2010s."

## **SZIJJÁRTÓ: TRUMP, ORBÁN MEETING OPENS NEW CHAPTER IN BILATERAL TIES**

The meeting between US President Donald Trump and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has opened a new chapter in bilateral relations, and proved that Hungarian-US ties entered a "new dimension", Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said.

The Monday meeting was rich in gestures showing "mutual sympathy" between the leaders, Szijjártó said. The 40-minute closed-door meeting was much longer than the "ten minutes or so" usually allotted to such talks, he said. In a rare gesture, Trump also showed his guest "all the way to the White House exit" afterwards, he said. The talks were held in a "relaxed, sincere" atmosphere, Szijjártó said. The minister, who attended the closed-door meeting as well as the subsequent plenary talks, said that Trump had been very interested in European affairs. Orbán and Trump discussed issues regarding Ukraine at length and agreed that Volodymyr Zelensky, the country's recently elected new president, may give hope for Ukraine renewing its relations with the European Union and Hungary.

Trump appreciated Hungary's recent economic achievements, Szijjártó said. Albeit on different scales, the two countries' economies show similarities in their falling unemployment rates

-- the numbers of job holders are at a peak in the US and the highest ever since the fall of communism in Hungary, he said. Those numbers demonstrate that Trump and Orbán both have successful economic policies, Szijjártó said. The leaders agreed that that data has "made many jealous," as it can be gleaned from the attacks of the international press, Szijjártó said. However, they established that both of them have their respective people's trust, he said.

## **ORBÁN ATTENDS UNVEILING OF NEWLY PURCHASED Renoir PAINTING**

A painting by Auguste Renoir was unveiled in presence of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in the new complex of the National Restoration and Storage Centre (OMRRK) in Budapest. The Female Nude Lying was recently purchased by the Hungarian state for the Budapest Fine Arts Museum, Orbán said. The OMRRK is part of the Liget Project, a new museum quarter in City Park. A facility like OMRRK has never existed here before, László Baán, director of the Fine Arts Museum and the National Gallery, said at the event. The storage centre that contains tens of thousands of artefacts from three museums is among the world's top facilities in terms of its size and quality, he said. The Renoir was purchased for 12.3 million dollars and will be on display in the Fine Arts Museum from May 24.

## **SZIJJÁRTÓ CALLS ON UN, EU TO STOP PUTTING PRESSURE ON HUNGARY**

The European Union and the United Nations should stop pressuring Hungary to adopt "failed" models concerning migration as the "Hungarian model" has in recent years become an international success story, Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said at a meeting of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in New York. "Migration-based" economic and social policies have regularly failed in Europe in recent years, the minister said. They have led to "parallel societies" which exacerbated social tensions and security risks, he said, while failing to yield the expected economic benefits. Migration has failed to solve labour shortages in western European countries, he said. Meanwhile, Hungary has achieved an economic growth allowing a large-scale support scheme of families, Szijjártó said. The Hungarian government sees the support of families as the right answer to the demographic and labour market challenges Europe, and in particular its central region, are facing, he said. The Hungarian model, "through enormous efforts", has preserved the country's security and helped to "take the help where the troubles are", the minister said. The Hungarian government finds it unacceptable that Brussels or New York puts the country under pressure, Szijjártó said.

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## **SZÁZADVÉG: TRUMP MEETING SHOWS ORBÁN'S LEADING ROLE IN EUROPE**

Monday's meeting between Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and US President Donald Trump "shows that Orbán is a defining leader in the European Union", Petra Halkó, analyst for think-tank Századvég, told public television M1. Halkó said the timing of Orbán's invitation had been deliberate. "It sends the message that the Hungarian prime minister and the US president held a meeting of great strategic significance in the final straight of the European parliamentary election campaign," the analyst said. "The message is that Viktor Orbán's policy is worthy of attention and following," she added.

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## **ORBÁN MEETS NIGERIAN CHURCH LEADERS**

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán met Christian leaders from Nigeria for talks on the migration crisis and persecuted Christian communities. Bertalan Havasi, the prime minister's press chief, quoted Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah and Dacholom Datiri, head of the Church of Christ in Nations, as calling it "tragic" that millions leave Nigeria "because of a lack of national cohesion, religious violence and poverty" and then "have to live in various parts of the world suffering from humiliation and many committing crimes".

At the talks, Orbán said that it was in the African countries' interest "not to lose their citizens" and added that Europe and other developed parts of the world have obligations, too. He noted the Hungary Helps programme, which has contributed to the reconstruction of many schools, hospitals and other community institutions in conflict-hit areas. The talks were attended by Tristan Azbej, state secretary in charge of aid for persecuted Christians.

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## **BENKŐ: SECURITY OF WESTERN BALKANS PRIORITY FOR HUNGARY**

Maintaining the stability and security of the Western Balkan region is a priority for Hungary and cooperation is also important for NATO and the European Union in order to stop illegal migration, Hungarian Defence Minister Tibor Benkő told MTI. Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of EU defence ministers in Brussels, Benkő said Hungary has sealed its southern borders to protect Christian culture, and prevented all from entering its territory illegally. That is a big contribution to Europe's war on terror, too, he said, saying that the number of terrorist attacks has grown with mass migration.

On another subject, the minister said Austria has added its signature to the letter of intent on setting up a Regional Special Operations Component Command (R-SOCC) in Hungary. By signing the letter of intent, Austria,

which is not a member of NATO, joins the command's founding countries, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia and Slovenia, Benkő said. The command which will provide special operations training for the region's soldiers, will be based in Szolnok, in central Hungary, he added. The minister said the partnership was an "excellent example" of how NATO and the European Union complement and strengthen each other through cooperation. The decision to set up the command in Hungary is an acknowledgement of the country's contributions to the military alliance, he added. He said ministers at the meeting discussed EU support for the G5 Sahel, adding that the central European countries were in agreement that problems need to be resolved where they arise, rather than in Europe. Hungary will increase the number of its soldiers serving in such missions, mainly in Mali, to 20 by the end of the year, he added.

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## **SEMJÉN: BRUSSELS'S MIGRATION POLICY 'UNFAIR, UNLAWFUL, ANTIDEMOCRATIC'**

The migration policy pursued by "Brussels bureaucrats" is "unfair, unlawful and antidemocratic", the deputy prime minister in charge of Hungarian communities abroad, church policy and national and ethnic minorities, said. Addressing a conference organised by the Századvég Foundation in Budapest, Zsolt Semjén said Brussels's migration

policy was unfair because “they forgot to ask us about it and now that there’s trouble, they want to force it onto us”.

Semjén said the policy was also unfair because western member states wanted to keep skilled migrants while “dumping” unskilled migrants onto Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Croatia and Romania.

Semjén said the EU’s migrant policy was unlawful because it encouraged everyone to cross the bloc’s borders illegally. Finally, Semjén said the policy was antidemocratic because Brussels had failed to ask the European people whether they wanted to live in mixed countries filled with immigrants. Hungary, on the other hand, launched “national consultation” campaigns and held a referendum, he said, emphasising that the Hungarian people had chosen not to become a country of immigrants. Semjén said the primary duty of the leader of a country was to protect their state and provide help to those in need in poverty or war-stricken areas. Europe should be built on Christian civilisation, the diversity of nations and “national existence”, the deputy PM said. Those who attack Christian civilisation attack the very essence of Europe, he argued.

### **DK DEMANDS EU FUNDS BE DISTRIBUTED BY INDEPENDENT BODY**

The opposition Democratic Coalition (DK) demanded that the distribution of European Union funding should

be carried out by an independent European institution.

Klára Dobrev, who leads DK’s list at the European Parliament elections, cited a recent survey by Median of 1,200 people which suggested that 65%, including half of ruling Fidesz supporters, wanted EU resources to be distributed by an independent European organisation instead of the government in order to quell corruption. Dobrev told a press conference that DK had prepared several proposals to this end in the past three years. In the next EU budget period, a prerequisite of granting EU monies will be the introduction of anti-corruption measures and meeting constitutional requirements, she added. This may endanger Hungary’s economy, Dobrev said.

Asked to comment on Monday’s meeting of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and US President Donald Trump, she said Trump had already met all other EU leaders so Orbán was last in line. The meeting will not have any consequences for the future of Hungary or Europe, Dobrev added.

Ruling Fidesz said in response that Dobrev, the wife of former Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány and a former official overseeing the distribution of EU support, was personally responsible for Hungary’s losing part of the funding from Brussels. “One-third of EU monies was stolen and taken abroad under corrupt, previous left-wing governments”, Fidesz said in a statement.

“If it were up to Gyurcsány and Dobrev, and the other pro-migration politicians in Brussels”, migrants would receive more EU money and Hungarians less, Fidesz said, adding that those politicians sought to “financially punish” countries that reject migrants.

### **MI HAZÁNK SETS UP PARAMILITARY ARM**

The extra-parliamentary party Mi Hazánk has set up a National Legion for “defence education, preserving military traditions and helping to save lives and assets in case of a natural disaster”, the radical nationalist party’s leader announced. László Toroczkai insisted that the new organisation was not a legal successor to the banned Hungarian Guard but shared its ideology. He argued that “the factors that led to the establishment of the Hungarian Guard have not been eliminated but have multiplied”. “Determined people who want to do something for themselves have the right to organise their own defence,” he added.

Toroczkai noted the centenary of the National Army, which, led by Miklós Horthy, “purged the country of communists”. He added that just like in 1919, the country “is heading towards anarchy” and mentioned a “Gypsy party aimed at forming an independent Gypsy province” and “the town of Törökszentmiklós [in eastern Hungary], where a Gypsy clan keeps local residents in terror”. He said that

despite a recent police ban of a planned demonstration, Mi Hazánk would go ahead with the protest in the town.

The National League aims to fight “anarchy and criminals” as well as “support thousands of evicted Hungarians”, Toroczkai said, adding that League members would monitor evictions in future.

### **MOL REMOVING TAINTED OIL FROM DRUZHBA PIPELINE**

Hungarian oil and gas company MOL is removing 100 kilotonnes of tainted Russian crude from the Druzhba pipeline and putting it in storage, MOL has told MTI. The crude will be treated and mixed with clean oil to make it usable in future, MOL said. The crude is being removed to accelerate the start of deliveries of clean oil through the pipeline, MOL said, adding that other oil companies affected by the matter are taking similar measures.

A number of refineries in Europe suspended oil imports via the Druzhba, or “Friendship”, pipeline on April 19, after it was found to contain high levels of organic chloride, a material used to boost oil output which must be separated before shipment as it can destroy refining equipment.

An agreement was reached early in May by representatives of Russia’s energy ministry and energy companies MOL, Slovnafit, Transneft, Transpetrol and UkrTransNafta on resuming deliveries via the pipeline by the middle of May.

Hungary’s government has sanctioned the partial release of national strategic oil reserves to supply MOL’s refinery in Százhalombatta, south of Budapest, for a period up to two months.

### **HEPA OPENS OFFICE IN TOKYO**

The Hungarian Export Promotion Agency (HEPA) opened an office in Tokyo, foreign ministry state secretary Levente Magyar told MTI by phone from Japan. Magyar said he had met with representatives of Japanese companies that plan investments worth “several hundred billion forints” in Hungary. The companies include ones in the automotive sector and in renewable energy, he added. He noted that more than 160 Japanese-owned companies operate in Hungary, employing tens of thousands of people.

Magyar said Asia was the largest export market for Hungarian food products and Hungary wanted to further improve relations and expand existing cooperations. He added that talks were under way with large Japanese food users, for instance with restaurant chains that would buy large amounts of Hungarian raw materials. This would seriously help Hungarian producers and also processing companies, he added. He also said that Japanese-Hungarian diplomatic links were 150 years old this year and to mark the anniversary, concerts, exhibitions and presentations were held in the two capitals.

### **FARM MINISTER: HUNGARY HELPING AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN NEED**

Hungary is providing tangible help to poorer countries in Africa so that locals can prosper in their homelands, the farm minister said in an interview to Tuesday’s Magyar Nemzet.

Nagy said agricultural developments in Africa would reduce hunger and migration. Emigration, however, only endangers agricultural production which provides jobs to almost three-quarters of the population, leading to even less adequate food production on the continent, he added. He noted that Hungary does not share the view of the United Nations and various western countries that migration is a better solution to hardship around the world than providing financial and other aid. Poor people lack food either because they cannot afford it or because they are unable to produce it due to the absence of decent technology and know-how, the minister said. Hungary, in line with its migration policy, has formulated detailed programmes for the development of farming in African countries, Nagy noted, referring to the launch of agricultural training schemes in Africa and particularly in Uganda. The development of African farming is a key area of the global economy and Hungary is right to join the process, Nagy said. The government strives to involve the local population in advancing developments and provides seeds, irrigation technologies and the reconstruction of food industry capacities, he added.

**ORBÁN INAUGURATES NATIONAL MUSEUM FACILITY**

“The identity of a nation and its civilisation is mostly reflected in culture,” Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said at the opening ceremony of the National Museum Restoration and Storage Centre. “We are proud of Europe’s Greek, Roman, Jewish and Christian heritage” and of the contributions Hungarians have made over the past one thousand years to that culture, Orbán said. “When we see that culture endangered there is an instant red light flashing in our minds and we will take immediate action”. “Hungarians cannot be made an ethnic or cultural minority in their own cities,” Orbán said, adding that “whenever they think that their cultural identity is challenged, alarm bells ring.”

Concerning the new centre, Orbán said that Europe had only two similar facilities, one operated by the British Museum in London and the other by the Ermitage in St. Petersburg. The project has been “the greatest museum-related development in Hungary in recent decades”, he said.

The centre will conserve over one million items and the building “makes Budapest even more beautiful, more modern, and greener”.

Referring to the collections, he said those one million items “are our living cultural heritage” rather than “dusty objects of a dead white culture as described by the left wing”. “Without the foundations of the past, we would be drifting rootlessly away in the storms of history,” Orbán added. Museums and their auxiliaries are “compasses of the mind”, he said. Orbán said that Hungary’s economy “has probably in the past one hundred years has never done as well as it is doing now”. Economic achievements call for long-term cultural changes, he added. The new centre has been built as part of the Liget Project, a huge museum complex in and near Budapest’s City Park. It will serve the collections of the Museum of Ethnography, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the National Gallery.

**HUNGARIAN GRIPENS INTERCEPT THREE PLANES IN BALTICS**

Gripen fighters of the Hungarian Armed Forces, together with

Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets of Britain’s Royal Air Force, intercepted three planes in the Baltics, the defence ministry said. The fighters were scrambled to identify an IL-22 aircraft accompanied by two SU-27 fighter jets. The Russian military jets had been flying in international airspace but had failed to establish contact with air traffic control.

The Hungarian Gripens and the British Eurofighter Typhoon jets identified the Russian planes before returning to their base, the ministry said.

On Monday, the Hungarian Gripens were scrambled for the first time since starting their airspace patrol mission of the three Baltic states. They intercepted a Russian AN-26 military plane which had entered the airspace unannounced. From May 1, the Hungarian Armed Forces is leading the airspace patrol mission of the Baltic states in partnership with Spain and Britain under NATO command. Hungary will carry out the mission with four JAS-39 Gripen aircraft and some 100 soldiers for four months.

