

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Former US President Donald Trump and PM Viktor Orbán in New Jersey

MTI/PM's press office/Beriko Vivien Cher

UPCOMING EVENTS

War in Ukraine

TOP STORY

SZIJJÁRTÓ: 'UKRAINE WAR'S DRAMATIC IMPACT FELT WORLDWIDE'

The “dramatic impact” of the war in Ukraine is felt around the world, the Hungarian foreign minister said on Tuesday.

Péter Szijjártó said on Facebook that “the war and related sanctions are posing extraordinary challenges to global economy, especially to the security of energy supplies.” Energy prices are soaring, supply chains are facing disruptions and hitherto stable energy supply lines are becoming increasingly uncertain, he said. On the sidelines of a review conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in New York, Szijjártó met Ayman Safadi, his Jordanian counterpart, and they agreed that if the war was prolonged, its consequences would be even more dire. “The worst is still ahead of us,” Szijjártó warned. Szijjártó and Safadi also agreed that international peace efforts should focus exclusively on brokering a peace agreement as soon as possible. Szijjártó said they also agreed that “cutting off the channels of communication would be a fatal mistake because it would make peace negotiations impossible”. He reiterated Hungary’s position calling for an immediate ceasefire and launching peace talks with no delay.

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ORBÁN MEETS TRUMP

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on Tuesday met Donald Trump, the former president of the United States, at Trump's estate in Bedminster, New Jersey, the PM's press chief told MTI. Foreign minister Péter Szijjártó, Balázs Orbán, the prime minister's political director, Zsolt Németh, the head of parliament's foreign affair committee, attended the meeting, as did Susie Wiles, the head of the Save America leadership PAC, political advisor Brian Jack and Save America communications director Taylor Budowich.

SOCIALIST MEP ACCUSES GOVT OF 'LYING' ABOUT TEACHER WAGE HIKES

Socialist Party MEP István Ujhelyi has accused the government of "lying" about the wage hikes demanded by teachers, saying he had been "surprised" to hear Hungarian officials say that Brussels was the one blocking the pay rises. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Ujhelyi said that a proposal submitted by the government almost two years ago on how it intended to spend the nearly 13,000 billion forints' (EUR 32.6bn) worth of European Union funding Hungary is entitled to in the 2021-2027 budgetary period "contained no mention of wage hikes for teachers". Ujhelyi said his party had warned back then that

the proposal would be rejected by EU institutions because it had been drafted without any consultations with those concerned. "There's a reason why Hungary and the EU have not reached an agreement," he said. Ujhelyi said teacher unions and interest representation groups had "won" their fight for higher wages, arguing that the government had amended its proposal to earmark around 400 billion forints for pay hikes for teachers. He said Tibor Navracsics, the minister in charge of the uptake of EU funds, had understood that "when asking for money it's important to consider the professional requirements set by European institutions". Ujhelyi insisted, however, that teachers had only secured a "half-time win", arguing that Hungary would only be given access to the EU monies if it settled "the issues around the rule of law". "Otherwise those promises will be nothing but funds available on paper and [the government] won't be seeing any of it," the MEP said. "Any single forint lost is the responsibility of [Prime Minister] Viktor Orbán and the Hungarian government."

MI HAZÁNK: 'CHEAP PAKS ENERGY COULD COVER TOTAL NEED OF HUNGARIAN HOUSEHOLDS'

The Paks nuclear power plant has the capacity to provide energy to cover the total need of all

Hungarian households, the leader of the opposition Mi Hazánk (Our Homeland) party said on Wednesday. "Using the cheap energy produced by the Paks plant, Hungary's energy crisis could be solved," László Toroczkai told a press conference. Mi Hazánk rejects all sanctions against Russia while supports importing natural gas from that country to Hungary, he said. The party at the same time rejects any EU mechanism involving the transfer any amount of imported gas to Germany, which "has totally ruined its energy policy situation with wrong political decisions", Toroczkai added. He pledged to organise nationwide demonstrations "if the government does not start managing the [energy] crisis using our proposals". Toroczkai said Mi Hazánk will on Thursday send a letter to the prime minister containing their proposals which include imposing "a digital tax" on the net revenues of tech companies that "somehow always find a way to avoid paying taxes". The party also proposes imposing a tax on casinos, international food delivery companies and the hundred most wealthy Hungarians, he said.

POLICE: 12,659 REFUGEES ARRIVE FROM UKRAINE ON TUESDAY

Fully 6,628 people crossed into Hungary directly from Ukraine on Tuesday, while another 6,031 from Ukraine crossed from Romania, the

national police headquarters (ORFK) said. Police issued temporary residence permits valid for thirty days to 274 people, ORFK told MTI on Wednesday. Holders of such permits must contact a local immigration office near their place of residence within thirty days to apply for permanent documents, it added. Budapest received 151 people, 42 children among them, by train, ORFK said.

**CORONAVIRUS - 21,840
NEW CASES LAST WEEK,
96 FATALITIES**

Fully 21,840 new Covid-19 cases were registered last week, while 96 people died in connection with the virus, koronavirus.gov.hu said on Wednesday in a round-up of last week's data. Altogether 6,413,971 have been vaccinated, with 6,200,631 having received a second shot, 3,889,453 a third, and 320,083 a fourth. Fully 1,987,321 Covid cases have been registered in Hungary since the start of the outbreak and 46,886 have died. Currently there are 42,061 active infections and 1,593 Covid patients are hospitalised, 19 intubated on a ventilator. Fully 1,898,374 people have made a recovery.

**HUNGARY JUNE RETAIL
SALES UP 4.1% YR/YR**

Hungarian retail sales in June grew by an annual 4.1%, down from 12% growth in May, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said on Wednesday. Sales in June were an annual 4.5% higher, based on calendar year-adjusted data. Food sales fell by 0.3%, while non-food sales increased by 2.5%. Vehicle fuel sales shot up by 23.6%. Retail sales were worth 1,429 billion forints (EUR 3.6bn), with food sales accounting for 45% of the total.

**OVER 43,000 APPLY
FOR HOME SOLAR PANEL,
HEATING UPGRADE
SUBSIDIES**

More than 43,000 households have applied for over 200 billion forints (EUR 505m) in government subsidies to install home solar panels and energy-efficient heating systems, Technology and Industry Ministry state secretary for energy Attila Steiner said on Wednesday. Interest for the subsidies, launched in December, was "unprecedented", Steiner said. Winners will get up to 2.9 million forints to install solar panels and as much as 11.3 million forints to

upgrade heating systems. The subsidies, which targeted mostly households with below-average income, are being pre-financed by the government pending the approval of Hungary's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) plan in Brussels, Steiner said.

**HIGHER SALES, FINANCIAL
GAIN BOOST RICHTER
EARNINGS**

Second-quarter net income of Hungarian pharmaceutical company Gedeon Richter climbed 173% year on year to 76.5 billion forints (EUR 193m), lifted by higher sales, improved margins and a net financial gain, an earnings report released ahead of the opening bell on Wednesday shows. Revenue increased by 24% to 192.9 billion forints, outpacing the rise in cost of sales, which was up 23% at 82.9 billion forints. Gross profit rose by 25% to 110.0 billion forints, while operating profit increased by 43% to 52.0 billion forints as spending on sales and marketing and R+D rose a little over 25%.

Richter booked net financial income of 28.7 billion forints for the quarter, compared to a 6.2 billion forint loss in the base period. Earnings per share came to 411 forints for the quarter.

