

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Hungarian JAS 39 Gripen fighters in Baltic air space

UPCOMING EVENTS

**UN General Assembly session
in New York**

Events related to war in Ukraine

TOP STORY

HUNGARY FM CALLS FOR PEACE TALKS

Péter Szijjártó, Hungary's foreign minister, has called on the warring sides to use the week of the UN General Assembly session for launching genuine negotiations on putting an end to the war in Ukraine.

"As we are no longer in the eleventh but in the twelfth hour, the war in Ukraine should be ended as soon as possible," the minister told MTI in New York. Commenting on Russia's partial mobilisation, Szijjártó said all steps escalating the conflict are bad news and all steps that bring peace closer are good ones. "We, in Ukraine's neighbourhood, cannot say anything else but that we want peace and call on the major world policy players to finally negotiate with each other, reach a ceasefire agreement, and finally start talks that can bring peace and put an end to the totally senseless suffering of tens or hundreds of thousands, and even millions of people," Szijjártó said.

The minister noted that over the past few months Turkey had proved to be the single successful mediator by paving the way for relaunching grain deliveries that somewhat mitigated the global food crisis. Based on this achievement, the Turkish government would perhaps have a chance for mediation between the warring sides, Szijjártó said.

NOVÁK: HUNGARY IS A FRIEND OF ISRAEL, JEWISH COMMUNITIES

President Katalin Novák met the leader of the World Jewish Congress and the heads of several international and American Jewish organisations during the first day of her official visit to the United States, where she attended the opening event of the 77th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session. The situation of Hungarian Jews was among the topics discussed with President of the World Jewish Congress Ronald Lauder in the organisation’s headquarters in New York. Lauder welcomed Novák in Hungarian on Tuesday local time and they held talks behind closed doors.

Novák also met William Daroff, CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Eric Greenberg, Director of United Nations Relations and Strategic Partnerships at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and several other officials of the World Jewish Congress. Hungarian Ambassador to Washington, Szabolcs Takács, welcomed the participants at the meeting.

In a post she published on social media, Novák said the message she had conveyed to the Jewish leaders at the talks was that “Hungary is a true friend of Israel and of Jewish communities”.

In a message issued on the occasion of the opening of the 77th UN General Assembly session,

Novák highlighted the importance of peace. “As the head of the Hungarian delegation, I will do my best to bring us closer to peace. This is not only a Hungarian interest, this is in the best interest of all people”, she said.

On Tuesday afternoon, Novák attended and addressed a UN forum for female heads of government and state convened by Csaba Kőrösi, President of the UNGA. Novák held bilateral talks with the prime minister of Andorra. She is scheduled to address the UNGA on Wednesday afternoon local time and hold talks with Kőrösi, Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. According to MTI’s information, Novák is scheduled to attend a reception by US President Joe Biden on Wednesday evening.

NOVÁK: WOMEN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVT CAN SHOW AN EXAMPLE

Women are experts in crisis management, and as mothers they have the experience and ability to hold communities together, President Katalin Novák said at a United Nations forum in New York organised for female heads of government and state on Tuesday local time. Novák’s remarks were also made in connection with the war in Ukraine. Novák urged all women to get the opportunity to lead full lives not to have to choose between motherhood and a career. Women leaders can serve as an example in this regard, she added.

The president cited elements of Hungarian family policy which give women opportunities. She noted, for instance, that fathers and even grandparents are offered the opportunity to stay at home and receive associated benefits. Additionally, women with four or more children are exempt from personal income tax in Hungary, and the government plans to extend this to mothers with three children, she said.

The forum of female heads of state and government was convened by Csaba Kőrösi, the president of UNGA, chaired by former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, and attended by dozens of female leaders from around the world and addressed by, among others, the prime ministers of Iceland, Bangladesh and Uganda.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY IMPLEMENTING LARGEST HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN ITS HISTORY

Hungary is implementing the largest humanitarian action in its history, having received 1.5 million refugees from Ukraine as well as participating in the reconstruction of a school and medical facility in Kiev region, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said in New York. The Hungarian authorities are offering work to Ukrainian parents who want to stay in Hungary as well as education and health care to their children, the ministry quoted Szijjártó as saying at a donor conference on Ukraine held under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly.



More than 4,000 Ukrainian children started kindergarten or school in 1,250 institutions in Hungary in September, and every effort is being made to help them overcome language difficulties, he added.

Hungary is ready to fully rebuild a bombed school and doctor's surgery in Kiev region, the latter located in a multi-purpose building which also houses local council offices and a post office, he added. Additionally, the government has offered 1,000 scholarships to refugees from Ukraine who want to study in Hungarian higher education and special medical services to 130 children, Szijjártó said.

As a neighbour of Ukraine, Hungary is experiencing the negative effects of the war directly and has a vested interest in the armed conflict ceasing as soon as possible, he added. There is hardly a more suitable or broader platform for pushing the peace process than the UNGA, and Hungary's government will assess the success of the session based on whether it brings peace closer, the minister added.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: TERRORISM CONSTANT THREAT IN WAR'S SHADOW

The threat of terrorism, made worse by waves of illegal migration, is constant in the shadow of the war in Ukraine, and must not be forgotten, Péter Szijjártó, Hungary's foreign minister, said in New York. Terrorist organisations can infiltrate countries around the world on the back of the mass influx of migrants, it's vital that the international

community takes decisive action, the ministry said in a statement quoting Szijjártó, who held bilateral meetings as part of this year's UN General Assembly.

Meeting Vladimir Voronkov, the Deputy Secretary-General for coordinating the UN's anti-terrorist activities, Szijjártó said they agreed on expanding the regional office of the UN counter-terrorism office in Budapest. He noted that Europe has come under increased migration pressure, and he accused the European Union of continuing to encourage people to leave their homes and migrate to Europe. The minister said people "should not be persuaded to leave" but should receive support for remaining in their homelands.

Meanwhile, Szijjártó said Christians were the most persecuted religious community in the world and often the main victims of terrorism. Hungary will continue to provide every possible support to persecuted Christian communities, he said, referring to his meeting with Cardinal Parolin, the State Secretary of the Holy See.

Szijjártó has also met the foreign ministers of Egypt, Morocco, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Uzbekistan, among others, the statement said. The minister promised to lobby the EU so that Egypt and Morocco finally receive the necessary support for effectively curbing illegal migration. He said Uzbekistan was key to the stability of Central Asia, and he signed an economic agreement with Sierra Leone.

"It's clear that when it comes to the key challenges facing not only Ukraine

but the world, everyone is following the Hungarian position," he said. "From Asia through Latin America to Africa, many of my counterparts have given positive feedback on the practical, common-sense, patriotic foreign policy that Hungary has pursued in recent years..." he said.

JUSTICE MINISTER: TALKS WITH EC ON EU FUNDS FOR HUNGARY 'FORWARD LOOKING'

The talks with the European Commission on the release of EU funds to Hungary are "forward looking" and member states are fully open to working out a solution, the justice minister said on Tuesday in Brussels, after the meeting of EU affairs ministers. Speaking to Hungarian reporters, Judit Varga said that while the European Parliament "is putting political pressure on Hungary", the EC and the member states are seeking a solution within the framework of the rule of law procedure. Asked about criticism over "inadequate" amendment proposals submitted by the Hungarian government to alleviate concerns raised by Brussels, Varga said "it is a tradition of the Hungarian left not to represent Hungary's interests abroad either", adding that their representatives are unable to work in unity even in the interest of protecting Hungarian the people.

Regarding the principle that EU decisions should be unanimous, Varga said that, albeit the treaties do

not mention the necessity of a veto, they focus on a culture of consensus. She said the veto was a “refuge for countries the size of Hungary to ensure they can represent their basic national interests.”

“The strength of European decision making is in consensus. That is the key to decisions everyone can wholeheartedly back,” Varga said.

HUNGARIAN GRIPENS SCRAMBLED 6 TIMES TO INTERCEPT RUSSIAN AIRCRAFT IN BALTICS

Hungarian Gripen fighter jets policing Baltic airspace as part of a NATO mission were scrambled six times to intercept Russian military planes in the past two months, the commander of the Baltic Air Policing mission (BAP) said at the Šiauliai airbase in Lithuania on Wednesday. The Hungarian Gripens also performed 36 fast takeoffs in training exercises and other training duties during the period of their mission, Attila Vanyik, the mission’s first Hungarian chief, told a press conference.

He noted that the current mission involving 4 Gripens and 77 troops serving as part of the Quick Reaction Alert protocol with Czech support is Hungary’s third policing mission in the Baltic region, following missions in 2015 and 2019. The jets must intercept an unidentified aircraft within 15 minutes of receiving an alert, he added. He noted that an alert for the Gripens had to be called in all six instances owing to the appearance of

unidentified Russian planes, fighter jets, military transport planes and reconnaissance planes that entered international airspace around the Baltic airspace without submitting a flight-plan. These planes also failed to establish radio contact with air traffic control and had turned off their transponders, Vanyik said.

Nándor Kilián, commander of the Hungarian Air Force, told MTI that unidentified Russian planes often used the narrow Baltic Sea corridor of the St Petersburg-Kaliningrad route which qualifies as international airspace. He noted that since the Russian occupation of the Crimea in 2014, BAP had expanded the number of army bases for NATO fighter planes policing Baltic airspace to three. Besides Šiauliai, there are bases in Lithuania and Estonia, he said.

SURVEY - NÉZŐPONT: HUNGARIANS CONSIDER ENERGY SANCTIONS DANGEROUS FOR EUROPE

Hungarians consider energy sanctions imposed on Russia as a result of the Ukraine war dangerous for Europe, according to a recent survey by the Nézőpont Institute released on Wednesday.

The phone survey of 1,000 people conducted in mid-September shows that 66% believed sanctions generally hurt Europe more than Russia and they also disagreed with the energy market sanctions, the think-tank said. Only 22% said they did not agree with

the statement that the sanctions hurt Europe more than Russia, it added.

Some 62% said it would be a mistake to extend the sanctions to gas imports, 58% said they disagreed with the oil embargo, and only 27% supported it, Nézőpont said. Only 12-15% said they had no opinion on the issue of sanctions, it added.

OPPOSITION APPEALS TO TOP COURT AGAINST SMALL BUSINESS TAX CHANGES

Parties of the parliamentary opposition have appealed to the Constitutional Court to scrap a recent law changing regulations concerning the small business tax (kata), the head of Momentum told a press conference broadcast online in front of the top court building in Budapest. Ferenc Gelencsér said the passage of the law had violated the constitution. He said the new legislation had involved fundamental changes for hundreds of thousands of taxpayers, stripping them of a predictable business and introducing unnecessary and unjustified discrimination between them. Gelencsér insisted the government had “raised the tax for 400,000 people overnight just to make up for the funds it had squandered before the general election”.

Gelencsér said the kata system had called for reform, but added that the government could have resorted to “simpler, constitutional and secure” means at its disposal.

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LMP: IF GOVT CAN AFFORD PAY HIKE FOR POLICE, THEN TEACHERS SHOULD ALSO GET HIGHER WAGE

The opposition LMP party has repeated its demand that the government raise teachers' wages. "If there are enough funds in the budget to pay for a pay rise for police, then there is no reason to tie a hike for teachers to the arrival of EU funds," MP Máté Kanász-Nagy told a press briefing.

Also, he said government communications were contradictory, with the prime minister's chief of staff stating that teachers' wages can be raised even if the EU holds back funding and the minister for regional development insisting funds will be forthcoming. The government would be able to pre-finance a pay increase for teachers if the latter were true, he added.

LMP wants people working in education to get a 45% wage increase and salaries to be adjusted to inflation twice a year. Also, teachers should work fewer hours, he said.

12,307 NEW COVID CASES LAST WEEK, 48 FATALITIES

Fully 12,307 new Covid-19 cases were registered last week, while 48 people died in connection with the virus, koronavirus.gov.hu said on Wednesday in a round-up of last week's data. Altogether 6,417,738 have been vaccinated, with 6,203,972 having received a second shot, 3,896,501

a third, and 340,651 a fourth. Fully 2,082,750 Covid cases have been registered in Hungary since the start of the outbreak and 47,457 have died. Currently there are 33,564 active infections and 923 Covid patients are hospitalised, 14 intubated on a ventilator. Fully 2,001,729 people have made a recovery.

UKRAINE CRISIS - SOME 10,000 REFUGEES ARRIVE FROM UKRAINE ON TUESDAY

Fully 5,449 people crossed into Hungary directly from Ukraine on Tuesday, while another 5,008 from Ukraine crossed from Romania, the national police headquarters (ORFK) said. Police issued temporary residence permits valid for thirty days to 169 people, ORFK told MTI. 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. Fully 40 people, 20 children among them, arrived in Budapest by train, ORFK said.

BUDAPEST AIRPORT TAKES 'CARGO HUB OF THE YEAR' AWARD

Budapest Airport, which operates Liszt Ferenc International, has received the "Cargo Hub of the Year" award by Air Cargo News, it said. Budapest Airport said in a statement that it beat Brussels Airport Company, Singapore's Changi Airport Group and Liège Airport in

the running for the award. The award ceremony was held in London on Friday. Budapest Airport inaugurated its 50 million euro air cargo handling complex, dubbed BUD Cargo City, in 2020.

NYUGATI RAILWAY STATION ADDED TO EUROPEAN FILM ACADEMY'S TREASURES OF EUROPEAN FILM CULTURE LIST

Nyugati railway station in Budapest has been added to the European Film Academy's Treasures of European Film Culture list, the National Film Institute said. The list started by the academy in 2015 highlights symbolic locations of European cinema with 35 locations such as the Potemkin Steps in Odessa, the Cafe des Deux Moulins and La Samaritaine in Paris, the Notting Hill Bookshop in London and Trevi Fountain in Rome.

"Budapest Nyugati railway station is a key element of the eclectic fabric of Pest's densely built-in inner city, and it has featured in various films," the academy said. "The architectural design is the work of Austrian architect August W. de Serres, while the structure of the hall was designed by Theofil Seyrig, working for Gustav Eiffel's engineering firm, together with Hungarian engineer Viktor Bernardt," it noted.

Among the films that have featured the railway station among their locations are István Szabó's *Sunshine*, *Spy Game* directed by Tony Scott, Steven Spielberg's *Munich*, and *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* by Tomas Alfredson.