

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Sándor Palocz/Gyula Bartos

President Katalin Novák addresses the inauguration of a new church and community centre to the First Hungarian Reformed Church in Toronto

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parl's defence and law enforcement cttee meets

Plenary session of parliament

Stats office reports on Aug foreign trade

Events related to the war in Ukraine

TOP STORY

SZIJJÁRTÓ: 'TRUMP'S METHOD' NEEDED IN UKRAINE

Former US President Donald Trump's method to promote peace should be applied in connection with the war in Ukraine, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said in New York on Friday.

The foreign ministry cited Szijjártó as saying on his way to the United Nations Security Council session that following years of unsuccessful attempts to achieve peace in the Middle East, it was Trump's approach that resulted in the signing of the Abraham Accords. The US government managed to convince countries to rebuild their channels of communication following long decades when they were at war or at least in deep conflict with each other, he added. "This is the key [to success] in Ukraine, too", he said. "In order to achieve peace, the belligerent parties should open channels of communications because peace will never be restored without negotiations." The minister also stressed the need to start Russian-American negotiations on the matter. Szijjártó noted that the purpose of setting up the UN had been to promote global peace and this must be kept in mind even today. Considering that the UN General Assembly has a Hungarian chairman, Hungary has an opportunity to contribute to the start of dialogue between the sides that stand against each other, he added.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: EUROPE FACING MOST SEVERE SECURITY CRISIS SINCE WW2

Europe is facing the most severe security crisis since the second world war and the continent would not be able to handle an additional security risk, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said before a United Nations Security Council session in New York. It is all the more reasonable to make progress towards security in the Middle East, because instability in that region has a direct impact on the security of Europe, by way of terrorist threats and illegal migration, he added. "Peace and stability in the Middle East is in Europe's fundamental interest," the minister said. Szijjártó also addressed the issue of the global food crisis, which he attributed to the armed conflict in Ukraine. The sudden halt in Ukrainian and Russian grains supplies resulted in food supply crises in several parts of the world, he added. Shortage of food can trigger violence and terrorism which then generate new waves of migration, he said. Szijjártó called it an important development that a new intermodal terminal had recently opened in Fényeslitke on the Hungary-Ukraine border, with a capacity twice the previous largest terminal's in Europe. Some 800 tonnes of grain per hour can pass through and continue on its way to ports in the northern Adriatic and further to global markets, he added.

KÖVÉR EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES OVER SEOUL STAMPEDE

Speaker of Parliament László Kövér on Sunday sent a letter of condolences to his South Korean counterpart Kim Jin-pyo over a stampede in Seoul that claimed over 150 lives. "The Hungarian parliament stands with the Republic of Korea in these tragic moments," Kövér said in his letter. The accident, in which many locals and foreigners died, happened during Halloween festivities on Saturday. According to information from the Hungarian embassy in Seoul, no Hungarians were involved in the disaster.

PRESIDENT NOVÁK MEETS PREMIER OF ONTARIO

President Katalin Novák met Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, on the fourth day of her Canadian tour. During the talks, focusing on ethnic minorities, the Hungarian president shared her recent experience in the Hungarian communities of Toronto, and the difficult situation of Transcarpathian Hungarians, further aggravated by the Ukraine war. Novák thanked the government and parliament of Ontario for recent legislation under which October was declared Hungarian Heritage Month to be observed each year. Hungarian Heritage Month programmes included cultural, business and scientific events in Ontario, concluded with a gala

evening addressed by Novák. The talks in the Ontario Legislative Building were attended by Michael Tibollo, Ontario's minister for mental health, Peter Bethlenfalvy, the province's finance minister of Hungarian origin, Kinga Surma, the infrastructure minister, and Rudy Cuzzetto, the lawmaker who submitted the proposal for Hungarian Heritage Month. Novák also had talks with Victor Fedeli, the minister of economic development, and paid tribute to Hungary's anti-Soviet revolt of 1956, at a plaque in the legislative building.

ORBÁN: TRANSYLVANIA REFORMED KINDERGARTENS, SCHOOLS KEY TO HUNGARIANS' SURVIVAL

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán greeted Transylvania's Hungarian Reformed Church community in a letter on Monday, marking the completed renovation of the Reformed College of Târgu Mureş (Marosvásárhely), in western Romania, the prime minister's press chief said. "The time for joy and thanksgiving has come," Orbán wrote in his letter. "The huge amount of work that has been done and the years-long struggle have paid off: the Reformed College of Târgu Mureş has been restored to its former glory." The prime minister thanked Transylvania Hungarians for their perseverance, work and prayers. He said the Reformed Church community had followed their conscience

despite all the difficulties they had faced. "Because we Hungarians were already fighting for our survival when the Reformation first made its way to Hungary and Transylvania," he said. "The homeland that had been ripped into three parts lay in ruins and hope for prosperity and glory was all but lost when the Word of God preached and read out in the mother tongue was able to fill people with strength again." New congregations and schools were set up, including the Reformed College of Târgu Mureş, which over its five centuries of existence produced many eventual scientists, teachers as well as church and secular leaders, Orbán added.

"As we look around today on the anniversary of the Reformation, we see that Reformed kindergartens and schools are being built and renovated in Transylvania," the prime minister said, adding that those institutions were crucial to the survival of Hungarians. He said all the conditions at the Reformed College of Târgu Mureş were in place for the school to have more graduates committed to their homeland like their renowned predecessors.

SZIJJÁRTÓ URGES CEASEFIRE, RUSSIA- UKRAINE PEACE TALKS

The Hungarian government urges "peace as soon as possible" and is calling for a ceasefire and negotiations about peace, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said in connection with

the war in Ukraine in an interview to US broadcaster One America News Network (OANN), published on Facebook on Sunday. Noting the conflict's impact on Hungary, Szijjártó said that many of the one million Ukrainian refugees that had fled to Hungary had stayed in the country and were provided equal access to health services and education. The government has ensured direct subsidies to businesses employing refugees, he added. Szijjártó also noted soaring energy prices in Europe, adding that while Hungary's energy imports had totalled 7 billion euros last year, the country would pay 19 billion euros this year and 29 billion next year to cover its energy demand. "That's why we urge for peace," he added. The debate in Europe on the conflict offers "very limited" hope for peace because "everybody speaks in the voice of war and escalation", he said, adding that during the latest meeting of his EU counterparts "I was the only one who used the word peace". Szijjártó said Hungary, a major energy importer, tries to prevent the European Commission from making proposals that could reduce the volume of gas or oil on European markets and thus further increase prices. The Hungarian government is firmly against such proposals as putting a cap on gas prices or similar measures, he said. The Hungarian government firmly condemns the war, he said, but noted Hungary's close proximity, and added "for us it is always bad news where anywhere else in the world, like in

Washington, for example, decisions are made that bring the risk of further escalation". Concerning critical remarks about Hungary maintaining ties with Russia, Szijjártó said "we talk to the Russians because Russia is a reality and will be reality regardless of how the war ends", adding that cutting lines of communication would equal giving up the hope for peace. Referring to the EU's sanctions against Russia, Szijjártó said they were "failing totally", with soaring raw material and food prices. The war has not ended, and "the European economy is the one on its knees and not the Russian one", he said. Meanwhile, Szijjártó said: "I can't prove it, but my feeling is that if the presidential election here, in 2020, had played out in a different way, then this war might not have broken out". Should the West have "strong leaders, who can talk to the Russian president about finishing this war and making peace finally, that would be a much better situation," he said.

"If President Trump had won the election in November 2020, then I guess this war would not have broken out," he insisted. Szijjártó said the immediate goal should be to prevent a direct conflict between NATO and Russia or else it could lead to developments "none of us would like to experience". He noted the Hungarian government's advocating a "cool-headed approach" and its decision, as the only NATO member, not to send weapons to Ukraine. Hungary is also the only EU member that has declined to contribute to an EU training programme for the



Ukrainian military. "Someone has to be able to speak in the voice of peace, because if we don't have such an actor, then it will be much more complicated to come to real peace talks," he said. Concerning an upcoming G20 summit, Szijjártó said the conference would provide an opportunity for the Russian and US presidents to be at the same physical location. "It would be very, very complicated for both of them to explain ... why on earth they would not meet" and talk to each other, Szijjártó said.

PRESIDENT MEETS MEMBERS OF HUNGARIAN DIASPORA IN CANADA

Hungarians are liked and recognised in the Canadian province of Ontario, and the Hungarians here can count on Hungary as much as on Canada, President Katalin Novák said in Toronto on Saturday.

Attending the closing night of Hungarian Heritage Month in Toronto, Novák said she felt it was her duty to be aware of Canada's Hungarians, to care for them and to be proud of them. She said she was committed to working for Hungarians to be better understood and recognised in the world. Novák said October was a special month for Hungarians, the "month of freedom", when Hungarians celebrate the acts of great Hungarians who won the world's recognition, but the world was not brave enough to help the people who started the uprising in October 1956 to complete their revolution.

She said it would be great if Hungarians today could turn towards

the future with all their might and called for an end to the war in Ukraine as soon as possible. Novák handed over the Hungarian Order of Merit to László Radványi, President of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, whose parents settled in Canada as 1956 refugees, and Michael Tibollo, member of the Ontario Provincial Government of Italian origin, who was one of the initiators of the enactment of Hungarian Heritage Month into law in Ontario. Novák also met Hungarian-born biochemist Katalin Karikó in Toronto on Friday. Karikó received the Gairdner International Award, one of Canada's most prestigious medical science awards, on Thursday.

PRESIDENT NOVÁK: HUNGARY, DIASPORA HAVE MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Hungary and the Hungarian diaspora have a mutual responsibility, President Katalin Novák said in Toronto on Sunday, at the inauguration of a new church and community centre to the First Hungarian Reformed Church. Ties between the mother country and the diaspora form an "umbilical cord" which ensures "spiritual, intellectual, and cultural connection" even through long distances. It "nurtures and connects us for good, in an inseparable way", the president said.

Hungary has an obligation to "listen to and take responsibility for" diaspora communities, while Hungarian communities have the obligation to

retain their Hungarian identity and their language, she said. Hungarians in other parts of the world should also take responsibility for Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin, the president said. "Those in need, whether in Hungary or in former parts of Hungary, are looking for help," she said, noting Canadian Hungarians' aid to Transcarpathia Hungarians after the Ukraine war had broken out. The new church was inaugurated by Bishop Zoltán Balog, head of the Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church. The First Hungarian Reformed Church of Toronto left its previous church in January 2019. The new church is part of a complex including the Hungarian Diaspora Mission Centre complete with halls and other facilities to serve Hungarians in Canada. The complex was built with a contribution from the Hungarian state.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: CHINA EASTERN AIRLINES TO RELAUNCH BUDAPEST- SHANGHAI SERVICE

China Eastern Airlines will relaunch its Budapest-Shanghai service on November 11, the Hungarian foreign minister said on Saturday. Péter Szijjártó said on Facebook that on November 18, a new service will be started to Chongqing, one of the centres of China's car industry and information technology sector. One of the fastest-growing regions of the Far East will become directly accessible from Budapest from next month, he

said. Next to Beijing and Shanghai, the third Chinese city will have a direct air link with Hungary, Szijjártó added. The pandemic has had a drastic effect on air links, especially with China, but efforts are being made to rebuild them, he said. Direct airline services are vitally important for economic relations because both businesspeople and tourists give preference to destinations accessible without any transfer, he added. The competition for Chinese tourists is huge between central European cities because they are among the highest-spending guests who greatly contribute to economic growth, said Szijjártó.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: APPLICATION FOR INTERREG BORDER AREA SUPPORT SET TO OPEN EARLY NEXT YEAR

Application for border area funding under the European Union's Interreg scheme is set to open early next year after the European Commission's recent approval of the development plans, Péter Szijjártó, the minister of foreign affairs and trade, said on Monday. The Interreg project helps fund developments along 2,215 km of border sections across seven countries and 19 counties in the central and eastern European region, Szijjártó said on Facebook, highlighting the importance of the programme for Hungary. Hungary cooperates with Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine as part of the

programme, Szijjártó said, noting that this meant that around half of the ethnic Hungarian population beyond the border was impacted by it. Despite its smaller budget, Interreg plays an important role in the development of border areas and in maintaining good neighbourly relations between Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine, he added. With Hungary again being in charge of the project, it submitted the programme plan for the next seven years to the EC in April this year, which was approved this month, the minister said. This means that together with Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine, Hungary can allocate around 60 million euros to various border region development projects until the end of 2029, Szijjártó said. The Hungarian-led scheme is the first among such initiatives whose beneficiaries include Ukraine, he said, adding that "this is perhaps what says the most about Hungary's neighbourhood policy".

SEMJÉN CONGRATULATES SLOVAKIA HUNGARIAN PARTY ON LOCAL ELECTION WIN

Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén congratulated Slovakia's ethnic Hungarian Alliance party on its results in the recent Slovak local elections, on Sunday. In his letter, signed on behalf of the Hungarian government, Semjén called Alliance's success "the

fruit of cooperation" between Slovakia Hungarians.

Semjén said he trusted that Alliance representatives would "build a strong representation for [ethnic] Hungarians" in Slovakia.

POTÁPI: 'HUNGARIAN COMMUNITIES SUCCESSFUL IF THEY ARE POLITICALLY ORGANISED'

Hungarian communities are successful if they are politically organised as the example of ethnic Hungarians in Croatia shows, Árpád János Potápi, the state secretary in charge of policies for Hungarian communities abroad at the prime minister's office, said in Kopacevo (Kopács), in north-eastern Croatia, on Saturday. If they are politically organised and "the ethnic Hungarians can get representation in parliament, then the majority nation and politicians will also pay attention to them and, for various interests, they will work together, and can work together well," he said at the annual meeting of the Hungarian Democratic Community of Croatian Hungarians (HMDK). "Strengthening the system of political institutions is always in the interest of Hungarians, in order to be able to support and strengthen our nation and parts of our nation," he added. Potápi extended his congratulations to HMDK on the occasion of its 30th anniversary and described the party as the most important political organisation and interest representation of ethnic Hungarians in Croatia.

MI HAZÁNK ACCUSES GOVT OF ANTI- HUNGARIAN POLICIES

Opposition Mi Hazánk leader László Toroczkai on Friday accused the government of pursuing anti-Hungarian economic policies and supporters of the party held a protest in Szeged, in southern Hungary, blocking a lane of the main road connecting the city with Budapest. Toroczkai told a press conference that the "tragic crisis situation which has emerged" should not affect Hungarian workers and businesses as severely as it does. "This is primarily the consequence of the Hungarian government's economic policies," he added. He accused the government of "continually patching up holes", adding that "the government creates a crisis situation in order to appear as the one offering solutions". Toroczkai said the weakening of the forint was also caused by the government's economic policies. Mi Hazánk has asked the government to increase wages in order to prevent Hungarians from leaving the country to work abroad, he said. The Indian and Ukrainian guest workers arriving in Hungary keep wage levels low, he added. He said protests were under way in several points around the country and they want to show people that there were alternatives.

DK SHADOW PM CALLS FOR 'STRONG STATE', OUTLINES MEASURES AT CONGRESS

Klára Dobrev, an MEP of the opposition Democratic Coalition (DK), called for a strong state and outlined measures to support households and reinstate "the rule of law" at a party congress held in Budapest on Saturday. "Hungary is in big trouble, because it is weak; and it is weak because Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has systematically weakened it over the past 12 years," Dobrev, DK's shadow prime minister, told the party's 12th congress, calling for "a strong state ready to act, one that cares for the people". Dobrev said DK would double the quantity of natural gas and electricity supplied to households at discount prices, reduce the VAT on energy types and introduce a moratorium for families who have properly paid their utility bills. She noted a programme DK has drafted on "reinstating the rule of law" containing provisions on the public procurement system, the prosecution, the Constitutional Court, the independence of judges, press freedom and Hungary joining the European Public Prosecutor's Office which Dobrev said would "pave the way for reaching an agreement with the EU in a week's time to open access to community funds". Reinstating the rule of law, defining a timeline of introducing the common European currency and accessing EU funds would together help stabilise the forint," the MEP said. Dobrev pledged to increase teachers' wages, restore teachers' right to strike and reemploy teachers who have been sacked. She said DK would also increase wages for nurses and health-care sector specialists.

SOME 10,000 REFUGEES ARRIVE FROM UKRAINE ON MONDAY

Fully 5,144 people crossed into Hungary directly from Ukraine on Monday, while another 4,921 crossed from Romania, the National Police Headquarters (ORFK) said. Police issued temporary residence permits valid for thirty days to 166 people, ORFK told MTI on Tuesday. 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 72 people, 32 children among them, by train, ORFK said.

KATOWICE MAYOR GRANTED HUNGARIAN ORDER OF MERIT, KNIGHT'S CROSS

Mayor of Katowice Marcin Krupa has been decorated with the Hungarian Order of Merit, Knight's cross in recognition of nurturing Polish-Hungarian friendship, the local mayor's office said on Friday. The award granted by President Katalin Novák was handed over by Krakow Consul-General Tibor Gerencsér.

Katowice has been cooperating for years with its Hungarian sister city Miskolc and has been regularly hosting a Hungarian Festival since 2010. A memorial paying tribute to Poles aiding the 1956 Hungarian revolution was inaugurated in Katowice in 2017.