

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Gábor Kiss

Sunrise in Ajton, Kolozs County in C Romania

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parlt welfare, legislative cttees meet

Events related to the war in Ukraine

LMP presser on wind energy

HAC hosts Celebration of Science events

TOP STORY

SZIJJÁRTÓ: RIGHT-WING WINS IN ISRAEL, US WOULD 'RAISE HOPE' FOR PEACE, STABILITY

A stable Israeli government led by Benjamin Netanyahu and a Republican win at the US midterm elections later this week would raise hope for peace in the Middle East, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said in Jordan on Wednesday.

Reacting to the Tuesday elections in Israel at a panel discussion at the Amman Security Forum, Szijjártó welcomed what he called a "realistic chance for Netanyahu's return", noting that Netanyahu was the leader to sign the Abraham Accords which normalised Israel's relations with several Arab states.

He said the midterm elections in the United States next Tuesday also looked "promising". A stable Netanyahu government in Israel and Republican majority in the US Congress would be the "most promising and hopeful development" for peace and security in the Middle East, he said. The region's security has a direct effect on European security, Szijjártó said, calling for the continuation of the peace process "started by former president Donald Trump".

The Abraham Accords was the first tangible result in the peace process after years of failed attempts, he said, adding that Trump's achievements in promoting dialogue between Israel and four Arab states should be acknowledged. "The moral is that we need real leaders who are strong and brave enough to open communication channels between parties that are in grave conflict," he said.

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HEAD OF ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HONOURS ORBÁN

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán met Patriarch Raphael Bedros (Peter) Minassian XXI, head of the Armenian Catholic Church, in his office on Wednesday, the prime minister's press chief told MTI. The patriarch presented the Holy Cross Medal of Gratitude to the Hungarian premier, Bertalan Havasi said.

According to the laudation, Hungary and personally Orbán have provided valuable support for oppressed and persecuted Christians all over the world.

"Your unconditional commitment to Christians and support for protecting their lives and their moral and social values are highly appreciated," it said. Citing King St. Stephen's admonitions of thousand years ago in his acceptance speech, Orbán stressed the importance of the Hungarian state supporting Christianity and the church at all times, Havasi reported.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY 'ALMOST ALONE' IN PROMOTING PEACE

Hungary is essentially alone among Western countries when it comes to promoting peace in Ukraine, Péter Szijjártó, the foreign minister, said in Jordan on Wednesday. Most other countries employ the rhetoric of escalation, Szijjártó said,

participating in a panel discussion at the Amman Security Forum. The war in Ukraine affects the entire world, he said, noting the energy crisis and emerging food crisis.

Hungary feels both the direct and indirect effects of the conflict, he said. "More than one million refugees have come to the country from the East, while the southern border is under siege ... with the authorities preventing 230,000 illegal attempts to cross the border this year alone." Szijjártó insisted that "failed European Union sanctions" were making the situation worse and had not brought the Russian economy "to its knees". The minister said Hungarian spending on energy imports of 7 billion euros last year would balloon to 19 billion euros this year and to 29 billion euros in 2023.

Unstable regions witnessing a decline in living conditions because of the Ukraine war are susceptible to extremist ideologies and violence, and thus there is a threat of new waves of migration and the associated spread of terrorism, he said, adding that Hungary had a vital interest in promoting peace in Ukraine -- one of the few countries to do so. Szijjártó noted that Hungary is almost alone in refusing to supply weapons to Ukraine, and it is not involved in the EU's training mission either. But this stance opens the government to political attacks and denigration by "the international media", he said. The war in Ukraine could well get out of control if further escalation takes place, the minister added.

SZIJJÁRTÓ PRESENTS DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO CARITAS JORDAN

Hungary has delivered to Jordan medical supplies worth 250 million forints (EUR 613,000) with the aim of improving the health care of Christian communities in the country, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said in Amman on Wednesday. "We hope to improve the care of local Christians and Christian refugees from Syria," Szijjártó said at the event, where he handed the equipment over to the organisation. "The world faces serious security challenges, but even in this situation we must not forget that many communities are still severely persecuted worldwide," he said. Hungary as a thousand-year-old Christian state feels responsible for helping persecuted Christians, one of the most persecuted faiths in the world, he said. The Hungary Helps programme supports ten projects in Jordan, valued at 900 million forints, aiding local Christian communities, Szijjártó said, pledging to keep up the support.

RÉTVÁRI: HUNGARY HAS SPENT HUF 650 BN TO PROTECT SOUTHERN BORDER

Hungary has spent almost 650 billion forints (EUR 1.6bn) on protecting its southern border since 2015, and

the European Union has covered just 2% of the costs, an interior ministry official told lawmakers on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, 894 applicants for border patrol duties have signed their contracts and 636 have already passed the related exam, Bence Rétvári, parliamentary state secretary of the interior ministry, said in a briefing to parliament's national defence and law enforcement committee. Hundreds are being trained each week, he said, adding that by winter there would be 1,000 border patrollers, relieving soldiers of the burden of border duties. Rétvári qualified the new border patrol regiment a success, saying they boosted the deterrent effect at the southern border, a sign of which is that illegal migrants are stepping up their attempts to enter the country before the entire forces are deployed.

By Nov. 1, 234,000 people had tried to enter the country illegally, up from 122,000 last year, and 6,000 the year before that. This year, 1,624 human traffickers were caught, as against 1,277 last year, and 455 the year before, he said. Rétvári said that instead of turning away when confronted, they often physically challenged border guards, and serious physical violence had taken place at the border.

He noted that the border fence is being strengthened, and a new fence is being built on the Hóduna section.

POTÁPI: HUNGARIAN ALLIANCE NOTCHES UP 'HISTORIC WIN' IN SLOVAK ELECTIONS

The Hungarian Alliance party notched up a "historic win" in the local and county elections in Slovakia on Sunday, state secretary of the Prime Minister's Office responsible for policy for Hungarian communities abroad, Árpád János Potápi, said on Wednesday. Potápi noted that Hungarian parties in Slovakia had united a year ago, adding that this had "borne fruit".

He told a press conference that the Alliance had become a major party in southern Slovakia, and they were becoming a strong force nationally, too. It is highly likely that Hungarians in Slovakia will enjoy "very strong" parliamentary representation, he added. Potápi explained the need for unity with the fact that also the ethnic Hungarian community makes up 8.5% of Slovakia's population, no Hungarian party or one with Hungarian participation managed to win seats in parliament in the last general election.

HUNGARY POSTS EUR 1.6 BN TRADE DEFICIT IN AUG

Hungary posted a trade deficit of 1.580 billion euros in August, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said in a second reading of data on Wednesday. The gap, up from a 1.298 billion euro deficit in July, was the widest in a series of consecutive monthly deficits running

for more than a year. Exports rose by an annual 36.8% to 11.442 billion euros, while imports increased by 43.4% to 13.022 billion. Trade with other European Union member states accounted for 75% of Hungary's exports and 69% of its imports. It had a 442 million euro trade deficit with other EU members. Hungary's terms of trade deteriorated by 7.9% in August from the same month a year earlier as the forint weakened by 14% to the euro and 33% against the dollar. In the January-August period, Hungary's trade deficit was 5.055 billion euros. Exports rose by 18.6% to 91.917 billion euros, while imports grew by 29.3% to 96.972 billion euros.

PMI RISES ABOVE 50

Hungary's seasonally adjusted Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) rose to 56.4 points in October from just below 50 in September, Halpim, the company that compiles the index, said on Wednesday. A PMI under 50 signals contraction in the manufacturing sector. Among the PMI sub-indices, the new orders index rose from the previous month and showed expansion, while the production volume index also rose, indicating growth.

OVER 12,000 REFUGEES ARRIVE FROM UKRAINE ON TUESDAY

Fully 5,637 people crossed into Hungary directly from Ukraine on Tuesday, while another 6,977 crossed from Romania, the

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National Police Headquarters (ORFK) said. Police issued temporary residence permits valid for thirty days to 170 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 308 people, 119 children among them, by train, ORFK said.

DEBRECEN TO HOST FINNISH FILM FESTIVAL FOR 1ST TIME

Debrecen will host a festival of Finish film for the first time between November 8 and 10, the Finish Institute (Finnagora), the organiser, told MTI on Wednesday. The aim is to take the highly popular festival presenting new titles to outside

Budapest, Finnagora said. The festival will open with Tova, a film about renowned author, novelist and painter Tove Jansson, the creator of the Moomins books, and her life in post-war Helsinki. The programme includes the thriller The Blind Man Who Did Not Want to See Titanic, a winner of the Audience's Award at this year's Venice film festival. It also includes First Snow, The Night Forgives and the road movie Ladies of Steel.