

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Zoltán Fischer

PM Orbán in talks with Turkish counterpart in Samarkand

UPCOMING EVENTS

Novák at Paris peace summit

War in Ukraine

TOP STORY

ORBÁN: OTS 'FORUM OF PEACE'

Hungary sees the Organisation of Turkic States as a "forum of peace" when it comes to the war in Ukraine, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said at a summit of the Turkic grouping in Samarkand on Friday.

Hungary, which has observer status in the organisation, is the only remaining eastern people in Europe, and being a neighbour of Ukraine, the effects of the war on the country are "huge and immediate", Orbán said in his address. "More than a million refugees have entered the country, inflation is sky-high and we've never seen food and energy prices as high as they are now," he said. Hungary's aim is for a ceasefire to be declared in Ukraine and for peace talks to get under way as soon as possible, he said. This is also the only way to overcome the energy crisis, he added. The biggest problem is that in Europe the voices of those who want peace is nowhere near as loud as the voices of those who want to heighten tensions, Orbán said. The European Union is an "escalation spiral" and international organisations are becoming increasingly politicised, limiting the possibility for meaningful dialogue based on common sense, he added. Orbán also said the EU's sanctions had hurt Europe more than Russia, weakening the European economy.

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PM ATTENDS OTS SUMMIT IN SAMARKAND

Attending a summit of the Organisation of Turkic States in Samarkand, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said in his view Europe did not have a “will of its own”, and was expected to support the foreign policy of the United States. This, he said, meant that the EU would be facing a serious economic situation for several years to come.

Orbán thanked Turkey for its mediatory efforts to avert a food crisis, saying that such a crisis would generate another mass migration wave directly affecting Hungary. The prime minister noted that Hungary had prevented some 250,000 people from crossing its southern border illegally so far this year. He also thanked the summit’s other participants for their steps and remarks towards promoting peace. Orbán also praised Turkey for its role in securing Hungary’s energy supply. Hungary is already paying a high price for energy, and the key to its energy security is the natural gas pipeline running through Turkey, which is the only east-west pipeline operating at full capacity, he said.

He thanked Azeri President İlham Aliyev, saying Azerbaijan was “Hungary’s only real option” when it came to diversifying its energy sources and importing gas from a country other than Russia. Baku, he added, also supported the initiative to bring green electricity to Europe in the form of a

partnership between itself, Georgia, Romania and Hungary. Hungary’s interest lies in maintaining cooperation between the East and the West, Orbán said, stressing Hungary’s support for the work of the Organisation of Turkic States. Hungary will work to “make the Turkic vision a reality over the coming decade”, he added.

Orbán also said that Hungary will join the proposals aimed at facilitating and speeding up trade, and it supports the establishment of a Turkic investment fund. The prime minister thanked the summit’s participants for their support for setting up an Institute for Drought Prevention in Hungary.

Commenting on Orbán’s address, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasised the importance of hearing about the situation in Europe. President Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyzstan thanked Hungary for its active participation in strengthening the integration of the Turkic world at both the regional and international levels. The Organisation of Turkic States comprises Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. Hungary and Turkmenistan have observer status in the grouping.

Summit participants planted trees in Samarkand later on Friday, near central Registan square, a world heritage site. Mirziyoyev praised the cooperation of member states, and the importance of “preserving the invaluable Turkic heritage.” He praised Samarkand as a “centre of peace and security, education and science.” Orbán praised the city’s development

and said Hungary would be happy to participate in a “world Turkic youth summit” proposed by Mirziyoyev at the summit.

ORBÁN: OTP POISED TO ANNOUNCE PURCHASE OF BIG UZBEK BANK

Hungarian bank OTP is poised to announce the purchase of a big Uzbek bank, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on Thursday. Also, it is expected that a Hungarian pharmaceutical investment in a production base there, as well as agreements on water management, the food industry and nuclear energy, will also be announced, Orbán said in a video uploaded to Facebook. The prime minister noted that he was heading a 60-member business delegation, and held bilateral talks with the Uzbek president and his government on business opportunities.

Earlier in the day, Orbán held talks with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov in Samarkand.

ORBÁN, ERDOGAN PLEDGE TO KEEP JOINT GOALS GOING

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán held bilateral talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the PM’s press chief said on Friday. The two leaders agreed that the summit of the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS), held in the

Uzbek city in the past days, had been successful. Orbán said that despite the war in Ukraine, Turkey and Hungary will not give up their joint goals. "We are committed to strengthening bilateral trade and economic ties, and we will expand military cooperation," Orbán said. Erdogan wowed Turkey would "remain a safe background to Hungary's energy security". Orbán and Erdogan agreed that the war should be concluded with an immediate ceasefire and peace talks.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: OTS BRINGS COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE TO HUNGARY

Cooperation with the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS) brings Hungary a big competitive edge, Hungary's minister of foreign affairs and trade said on Friday in Samarkand. Europe is now grappling to ensure its current and future energy supplies, Péter Szijjártó said at the OTS summit. "If we look at the facts without political and ideological bias, it is clear that energy supplies cannot be ensured without the Turkic states," he said. The gas pipeline reaching Hungary and Europe via Turkey, Bulgaria and Serbia is the only safe and technically sound route to the region operating at full capacity these days, he said. "An operational TurkStream is key to Hungary's energy security," he said. Hungary will also import "green electricity" from Azerbaijan, in line with an agreement between that country and the EU to import electricity via Georgia, Romania

and Hungary, he said. The OTS summit adopted a decision on setting up an investment fund, in which Hungary will also participate, he said.

Drawing investment to Hungary is a key strategy to stave off European recession, and eastern investors in the country overtook western ones in 2018, he said. Szijjártó noted that the past 12 years have seen trade revenue between Hungary and the Turkic states growing two-and-a-half-fold, to 4.5 billion dollars.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: TURKEY 'STRATEGIC PARTNER'

Hungary views Turkey as a strategic partner politically and when it comes to trade and economic cooperation, Péter Szijjártó, the foreign minister, said on Friday. Bilateral trade turnover last year approached 4 billion dollars, a record high, Szijjártó said on Facebook after reviewing economic cooperation with Trade Minister Mehmet Mus ahead of a Hungary-Turkey economic joint committee session in December. He noted that both countries are building nuclear power facilities with the same technology, adding that this may open up a new area of cooperation. The only east-west gas pipeline running at full capacity in Europe passes through Turkey, ensuring the security of Hungary's energy supply, the minister said, adding that Turkey's energy security role had grown significantly. With one of the most open economies in the world, free trade is vital to Hungary,

Szijjártó said. "We have an interest in the customs union between the European Union and Turkey working smoothly."

ORBÁN: HUNGARIAN- POLISH FRIENDSHIP 'EXEMPLARY'

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán greeted his Polish counterpart, Mateusz Morawiecki, and the Polish people in a letter marking Poland's national holiday on Friday. "November 11th is a special day, a symbol of the realisation of a dream: a free and sovereign country. We Hungarians pay our respects to the self-sacrifice of Polish patriots fighting for their country, and see the restoration of Polish independence as an instance of historic justice," the letter said. The "brotherhood" of the two nations, based on shared historic experiences, is "exemplary", Orbán said. "The links between us are much stronger than the attempts to divide us."

SPEAKER MEETS SLOVENIAN OFFICIAL

Speaker of Parliament László Kövér met a delegation of Slovenian lawmakers in charge of ethnic Slovenians abroad led by chairwoman Suzana Lep Šimenko in Budapest on Thursday, parliament's press office told MTI. It is good to see that the lawmakers of another country also consider it important to care for their ethnic communities living beyond the border, Kövér

said. The wellbeing of Slovenians in Hungary and Hungarians in Slovenia, guaranteeing conditions for their long-term prosperity and enforcing their right to national identity, are pledges for the future of the two countries and the region as a whole, he added.

FINMIN: EC RAISES HUNGARY 2022 GROWTH FORECAST

The European Commission has raised its projection for Hungary's GDP growth this year to 5.5% from its summer forecast of 5.2%, the finance minister said on Friday. The projected growth rate is higher than the European Union average of 3.3%, Mihály Varga said on Facebook. Varga said Europe's sanctions against Russia could push the continent into a recession next year, but Hungary's government was working to avert a crisis in the deteriorating economic environment. The government is protecting jobs, ensuring the country's energy security, keeping utility bills low and family benefits in place while preserving the value of pensions, the minister said. Thanks to the government's cost-saving measures,

the budget has the resources needed to finance these programmes, he added.

MAGYAR IN TALKS WITH UKRAINIAN COUNTERPART ON DEVELOPING HUNGARY-UKRAINE BORDER SECTION

Hungarian and Ukrainian officials have discussed proposals to build a motorway connection and open a new border crossing alongside associated border transport investments with the aim of fulfilling a long-standing aim to improve accessibility for passengers and the transport of goods. Very few of the many proposals discussed in the last ten years have been jointly implemented, Levente Magyar, the foreign ministry's parliamentary state secretary, told journalists after meeting Mustafa Nayyem, Ukraine's deputy infrastructure minister, on Friday at the Beregsurány-Astei (Asztély) border crossing.

"Today the Ukrainian side has expressed a real and sincere intention to speed up [its] implementation," Magyar said. Building the first motorway link between Ukraine and

Hungary is the most important task, he said. Several tens of kilometers of motorway must be built on the Hungarian side of the border, he said, adding that on the Ukrainian side the priority was building a road section bypassing Berehove (Beregszász). Further shared tasks include the construction of a new bridge across the River Tisza at Záhony as well as opening a border crossing between Nagyhodos and Velyka Palad (Nagypalád), Magyar said. Hungary and Ukraine will seek financial support from the EU for those projects, too, he said.

SOME 10,000 REFUGEES ARRIVE FROM UKRAINE ON THURSDAY

Fully 5,097 people crossed into Hungary directly from Ukraine on Thursday, while another 4,620 crossed from Romania, the National Police Headquarters (ORFK) said. Police issued 30-day residency permits to 161 people. These can be renewed until final permits are awarded, ORFK said on Friday. Budapest received 24 people on train, 9 children among them, ORFK said.