

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTVA/Merton Mönus

Load testing of Budapest's Chain Bridge after asphaltting

UPCOMING EVENTS

President Novák attends Paris Peace Forum

Stats office reports on Sept construction figures, industrial output

EU foreign ministers meet in Brussels

Events related to war in Ukraine

TOP STORY

PRESIDENT NOVÁK URGES PEACE IN UKRAINE

“We must work to remove obstacles in the way of peace,” the Hungarian president told the 5th Paris Peace Forum on Friday.

In her address, Katalin Novák noted that Hungary had firmly condemned Russia's attack on Ukraine from the beginning, and said this position had not changed. Novák said that the longer the war drags on, the harder it will be to achieve peace, while greater destruction and suffering leads to an escalation of the war. She pointed to a lack of “genuine will” for a ceasefire and peace talks, as the warring sides do not acknowledge that fighting will not bring peace any closer. She regretted that there was “no sufficient and firm intent to mediate between the parties” while “disinformation hinders agreement and causes serious damage”. She said deliberate provocations were delaying a solution, and “Russian President Putin is talking about territorial claims laid by European states in an effort to create confrontation between countries”. Novák warned of an impending nuclear threat, adding that threats of compromising energy and food supplies were “unfair”. She also said there was no shared “strategic thinking”, adding that inciting ethnic tensions and attacks against minorities were “but deepening wounds and hindering understanding”.

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PRESIDENT NOVÁK CALLS FOR STRONG, SUCCESSFUL EUROPE

“What we need is a strong and successful Europe,” President Katalin Novák said after talks with Gérard Larcher, president of the French Senate, in Paris on Friday. Held ahead of the International Peace Forum, the bilateral talks focused on topical challenges, Novák said on Facebook. After their talks, Novák and Larcher issued a joint statement, Novák’s office told MTI. The meeting provided an opportunity to review topical EU-related and bilateral issues, the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the impacts of the war, the office said in a statement. Novák expressed hope that the two countries would in future deepen their relations in the spirit of pragmatism. Larcher highlighted Hungary’s “unique mission” within the European Union and the importance of relations between the two countries.

Novák also held talks with Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić, whom she referred to as “an old friend, a strategic partner”, and said she was looking forward to “welcoming Serbia as a European Union member”.

FOREIGN MINISTRY: NO HUNGARIANS HURT IN ISTANBUL EXPLOSION

No Hungarians were killed or injured in an explosion in Istanbul on Sunday, a spokesman for the foreign ministry told MTI. Máté Paczolay said the consulate

in Istanbul and the embassy in Ankara are in contact with the Turkish foreign ministry as well as national and local police. The consulate is available 24 hours a day to provide for Hungarians in need of assistance, he added. So far, three Hungarian nationals, staying in a hotel just 40 metres from the site of the explosion, have contacted the consulate, he said. None of them were harmed and they plan to leave the country in the coming days, as originally planned, he added. Consular and embassy staff continue to follow events closely, Paczolay said.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY READY TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING UKRAINE ON BILATERAL BASIS

Hungary is ready to continue supporting Ukraine on a bilateral basis, Péter Szijjártó, the foreign minister, said on Friday. He said Annalena Baerbock, the German foreign minister, had “kindly warned us today that we should not gamble in connection with the 18 billion euros worth of [EU] financial assistance earmarked for Ukraine”. In his post on Facebook, Szijjártó said his German counterpart “has seriously misunderstood the situation,” insisting that Hungary’s refusal to provide financial assistance in the form of long-term loans “is not a question of tactics, but a matter of principle”. “A common future for Europe is not in accumulating piles of debts,” he said. Szijjártó said “we are ready to continue to support Ukraine, and exactly in the form we have done until now: on a bilateral basis”.

PRESIDENT NOVÁK MEETS FRANCE’S MACRON

Hungarian President Katalin Novák attended a gala dinner hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace on Friday. “I trust that we will work together to bring down the obstacles on the path to peace,” Novák said in a post on Facebook on Saturday. On Saturday, Novák visited the National Museum of Immigration and saw the exhibition Paris and Nowhere Else, a show of 24 foreign artists who made international careers in the French capital. Among the featured artists were the Hungarians Victor Vasarely, Judit Reigl and Vera Molnár. Novák was guided through the show by Pierre Vasarely, Victor Vasarely’s grandson, along with the museum’s director and the exhibition’s curator.

ORBÁN: ‘OUR LEGACY IS HOW OUR CHILDREN WILL SHAPE THE COUNTRY’

“Our legacy is our children and how they will shape the country,” Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on Saturday, marking the 140th anniversary of the kindergarten he attended in Alcsútdoboz, a village west of Budapest. In a video posted on Facebook, Orbán thanked the staff of the Háromhárs kindergarten for their work. “Kindergarten means that children come first; Hungarians place the greatest importance on

their children and they are grateful to those who care for them," Orbán told the kindergarten's teachers. The prime minister said he had fond memories of the kindergarten he attended 53 years ago and had benefitted much there.

NÉZŐPONT: HUNGARIANS SEE BOTH RUSSIA, US AS BENEFICIARIES OF UKRAINE WAR

Fully 60% of Hungarian respondents said in a recent Nézőpont survey they thought Russia was benefitting from the war in Ukraine, while 75% said the United States was profiting from the war. Nézőpont asked 1,000 adults between September 21 and 29 which countries they thought to be the beneficiaries of the war in Ukraine, the pollster told MTI. Nézőpont said it was surprising that irrespective of political affiliation, Hungarians in general were in agreement that both Russia and the US were gaining from the war.

DEUTSCH: HUNGARY HAS 'GOOD CHANCE' OF GAINING ACCESS TO EU FUNDS

Talks between the European Commission and the Hungarian government are "encouraging"; there is a "good chance" of reaching an agreement and Hungary gaining access to EU funds that have been "withheld for political reasons", the head of the Fidesz delegation in the European Parliament said on Sunday. The next

seven to ten days will be decisive in terms of the expected outcome of the talks, as Hungarian and European left-wing political forces have not given up their attacks, "conducted in the most sordid manner", on national, conservative, right-wing Christian democratic governments all over Europe, Tamás Deutsch told public broadcaster Kossuth Radio. He noted that EP Vice President Katarina Barley, a Social Democrat, recently suggested that the EU should "financially starve" Hungary and Poland. Leftist forces are leading a "seedy political campaign to undermine European cooperation and unity" and want to thwart an agreement between the EC and the Hungarian government, he said.

Addressing the impact of war-related sanctions, Deutsch chided "bureaucrats in Brussels" for "adding fuel to the fire" instead of taking diplomatic measures in the interest of a cease-fire and peace talks. He said Hungary would "refuse to even discuss" any potential sanctions on energy that are contrary to Hungary's national interests. He also said that a proposal for the EU to borrow to help Ukraine was "out of the question". Hungary remains open to aiding Ukraine, but strictly on a bilateral basis, he added.

HOUSE SPEAKER ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO OMAN

Speaker of Parliament László Kövér is paying an official visit to Oman, Parliament's press chief has said. Kövér is visiting the Gulf country at the

invitation of the chairman of Oman's Consultative Assembly, Zoltán Szilágyi said in a statement. Kövér is the first Hungarian parliamentary speaker to visit the Sultanate of Oman. The aim of the visit is to strengthen bilateral political, economic, education and cultural ties, and to establish ties between Hungary's Parliament and Oman's Consultative Assembly. Kövér will hold talks with Consultative Assembly Chairman Sheikh Khalid Al Mawali, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al-Said, State Council Chairman Sheikh Abdul Malik Abdullah Ali Al Khalili and Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al Busaidi. The speaker will be accompanied on his visit by Fidesz MP László Horváth, who heads parliament's Hungarian-Gulf Countries Friendship Chapter and its Hungarian-Omani Friendship Group.

GULYÁS: HUNGARIAN NATL UNITY MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT OF LAST 12 YEARS

Gergely Gulyás, the prime minister's chief of staff, called the establishment of national unity the government's "most important accomplishment" of the past twelve years and acknowledged the "outstanding role" of the Hungarian media beyond the country's borders in that endeavour, addressing the second Carpathian Basin Hungarian Media Conference in Visegrád, in northern Hungary, on Saturday. Gulyás said Hungarian media beyond the borders was

“indispensable” to achieving national unity. He thanked the Hungarian media in Transcarpathia, working in extraordinary conditions amid the war to keep the local Hungarian population informed.

Addressing a decision to remove a statue of a Turul, a mythical bird that is a national symbol of Hungarians, from the Mukachevo (Munkács) Castle in western Ukraine, Gulyás called the measure “unacceptable” and said Ukraine was unappreciative of the fact that Hungary was undertaking “the largest humanitarian aid operation in its history”. Gulyás pointed to surveys showing that over 50% of people now get their news from online sources, while around 40% get it from television and the rest from print media. He acknowledged that media must function as a business, but said journalists who “work actively and well” should not be allowed to be laid off because of a lack of support.

Árpád János Potápi, the state secretary in charge of policies for Hungarian communities abroad, noted that 1.15 million ethnic Hungarians had taken oaths of citizenship, adding that

more than 318,000 ethnic Hungarians had voted in the last general election, 94% of whom had backed the current government.

HUNGARIAN GRIPENS SCRAMBLED AFTER BOMB THREAT

Hungarian Gripen fighter jets were scrambled in the afternoon on Saturday because of a bomb threat on a civilian aircraft passing through local airspace, the Defence Ministry told MTI. The Gripens escorted the passenger aircraft from the time it entered Hungarian airspace from Romania until it landed at Debrecen International Airport, in the east of the country. The aircraft took off in Poland and was bound for Israel.

CLOSE TO 11,000 REFUGEES ARRIVE FROM UKRAINE ON SATURDAY

Fully 5,802 people crossed into Hungary directly from Ukraine on Saturday, while another 4,852

crossed from Romania, the National Police Headquarters (ORFK) said. Police issued 30-day residency permits to 176 people, ORFK told MTI on Sunday. Budapest received 144 people, 43 children among them, by train, ORFK said.

DEBRECEN U INAUGURATES STATE- FUNDED E-SPORTS CENTRE

The University of Debrecen, in eastern Hungary, on Friday inaugurated an e-sports centre established with state support. Chancellor Zoltán Bács said the 300 million forint (EUR 738,000) centre will serve mainly educational purposes and be used by students in the IT, economics and engineering departments, but will also be open to e-sports players from local sports clubs outside of instruction periods. András Hajdu, dean of the IT department, said computer graphics, artificial intelligence and data management courses will use the e-sports centre.