

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Csaba Krizsán

Giant Szekler gate inaugurated in Sokorópátka, in northwestern Hungary

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Szijjártó meets Jordanian counterpart in Budapest**

**Events related to the war in Ukraine**

## TOP STORY

# GULYÁS: HUNGARIAN NATION HAS NO BOUNDARIES

The basis of national cohesion is that every Hungarian must know and experience that the state of Hungary has borders, but the Hungarian nation does not, Gergely Gulyás, the head of the Prime Minister's Office, said at a commemoration held on the occasion of the Day of National Cohesion in Sátoraljaújhely, in northern Hungary, on Sunday.

Speaking at the event organised by the Rákóczi Association, Gulyás said it is the duty of the Hungarian state, the motherland, to support every Hungarian to stay and prosper in their homeland, while also making every Hungarian a home. "The great lesson from Trianon is that we must stand by each other even when we are torn apart," the minister said. Gulyás said young Hungarians must discover and get to know the Carpathian Basin in order to feel at home in it.

"Every Hungarian is responsible for every Hungarian, and Hungary bears responsibility for the fate of Hungarians living beyond the country's borders," he said. "The task of the Hungarian state is to open the gates, support the initiatives that can help us preserve our mother tongue and strengthen our cohesion. This is why we need Hungarian kindergartens, schools and universities, this is why we need the Mathias Corvinus Collegium, the Kőrösi Csoma scholarships, a support system for ethnic Hungarian businesses, and this is why the community-building work of the Rákóczi Association is also indispensable," Gulyás said.

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## DAY OF NATIONAL COHESION MARKED IN HUNGARY

The Day of National Cohesion, the anniversary of the 1920 Trianon Peace Treaty, which concluded the first world war and ceded two-thirds of Hungary to neighbouring countries, "shows us how important it is to preserve our national unity and Hungarian identity", István Simicskó, parliamentary group leader of the co-ruling Christian Democrats, said in a statement sent to MTI on Sunday.

Referring to the "Trianon dictate", Simicskó called it "perhaps the largest disaster of the nation", and said Hungary "did not have much of a say" in the negotiations. He said the decision had been the result of "the short-sightedness of the great powers and the greed of neighbouring countries". After the treaty, Hungary was left "weak and divided up", he said. The Day of National Cohesion, however, focuses "on the vitality and unity of Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin rather than on the tragedy", he said. "There lives a much weathered nation in the middle of Europe which keeps proving to the world that ... it can overcome the hardships and is able to protect its values and fight for its interests," Simicskó said.

Tamás Menczer, state secretary at the foreign ministry, told a commemoration held in Piliscsaba, outside Budapest, that "only a strong country can fight for ethnic Hungarians

in other countries", adding that the government's strategic objectives were instrumental in those efforts. Among the objectives, he mentioned the protection of jobs, pensions, and the government's utility price cap programme, as well as support for families. On another subject, Menczer said ethnic Hungarians could benefit from balanced relations with neighbouring countries and from efforts "to build a successful central Europe together, where ethnic minorities will connect rather than separate these countries".

Bence Rétvári, state secretary at the interior ministry, spoke at a commemoration in Zebegény, north of Budapest, and said "in war times Hungary must stay outside the conflict and fight for Hungarian communities by all means." "Those that do not care for ethnic Hungarians in other countries will not care for Hungarians in this country, either ... we must always focus on Hungarians and each Hungarian must stand up for all other Hungarians," he said. Hungarian leaders 103 years ago "failed to stand up for the Hungarians ... we must learn that historic lesson," he added.

Zsolt Molnár, party director of the opposition Socialists, attended a commemoration at Budapest's Rákoskeresztúr Cemetery, and told a press conference after the ceremony that "a nation can be successful if it is undivided over historic issues", adding that "those sowing divisions have a serious responsibility because they will weaken national cohesion".

He said his party believes that "Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin will live together with other nations in peace and understanding for at least another one thousand years". "We, Hungarians, share a responsibility, a life, and future," he said.

Árpád János Potápi, state secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, said June 4 had been a day of mourning for a long time, but since 2010 "we have also been saying that we can gain strength from Trianon," at a commemoration in Dombóvár, in southwestern Hungary. Looking back at the hundred years that have passed since the Treaty of Trianon, Potápi said, "we can see that Hungarians have survived and are thriving despite all the odds." "They cut the country to pieces, tore families apart, weakened us, put enormous burdens on our shoulders, yet, we have recovered and have a vision for the future," he said.

## ORBÁN: EUROPEAN POLITICS NEED PEOPLE 'WHO WANT SOMETHING'

European politics need people "who want something, who still have the energy, dedication and passion", Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said after talks with Santiago Abascal, the leader of Spain's Vox party, in Budapest on Friday. While there is an increasing amount of "blah-blah" in European politics, statements repeated over and over again but followed by no action, Europe is increasingly losing its competitiveness, Orbán said.

Those who think along similar lines must work together; the cooperation

between Hungary's ruling Fidesz and Vox had been confirmed at the talks with Abascal, he added.

"We would like to see a right-wing turn in Europe, too," he said. Abascal reiterated the need for cooperation between those that fight for a much stronger Europe. He said he deeply condemned the "persecution and blackmail" that Brussels employed against Hungary.

"Ideological discrimination is the real danger to European unity," he said. It could also create a precedent because currently Hungary and Poland are in focus but Brussels bureaucrats could target any other country in the next moment, he added.

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## **ORBÁN ATTENDS ERDOĞAN'S INAUGURATION IN ANKARA**

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán left Budapest for Ankara to attend the inauguration of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Türkiye's re-elected president, on Saturday afternoon. According to information from the prime minister's press office, Orbán "found it important to accept President Erdoğan's personal invitation, since his election victory is crucial for the security of Hungary and Europe".

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## **SZIJJÁRTÓ: NO SOLUTION TO WAR ON BATTLEFIELD**

"Everyone should finally realise that this war has no solution on the battlefield," Foreign Minister Peter Szijjártó said on Facebook on Saturday.

Szjijártó said Viktor Orbán had been attacked by Ukrainian politicians after he once again stood up for achieving peace as soon as possible. "There is nothing new about this. Pro-peace politicians regularly face attacks and criticism. But we will not give up! We continue to insist that the most important task now is to save human lives," Szjijártó said. The longer this war lasts, he said, the more people will die. "Everyone should finally realise there is no solution to this war on the battlefield! The solution is at the negotiating table! That is where lives can be saved," the foreign minister said.

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## **PACE'S EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES MEET IN BUDAPEST**

The European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance (EC/DA) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) met in Budapest on Friday to discuss, among other topics, migration and the outlook for further strengthening conservative unity. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Hungarian Justice Minister Judit Varga said European conservatives supported the Hungarian government's efforts in the migration crisis. Last year alone, the Hungarian authorities prevented 270,000 people from entering the territory of the European Union's passport-free Schengen zone illegally, she said.

Ian Liddell-Grainger, the group's British leader, said conservatives were becoming increasingly stronger in

Europe. Though the United Kingdom has left the EU, it has not left Europe, he said. Zsolt Németh, the deputy leader of the Council of Europe's conservative group, said their aim was for conservatives to move into second place in the field of European party families.

Responding to a question on the role of populism, Liddel-Grainger said the political trend could contribute to Europeans' understanding of "migration, freedom and the future of Europe". Németh added that the party family European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) included a growing number of governing parties.

Regarding Hungary's approaching European Council presidency, Justice Minister Judit Varga said the country was well-prepared and would focus on issues like increasing the EU's competitiveness, handling demographic challenges and the future of the bloc's cohesion policy. Later in the day, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán met a delegation of PACE's European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance.

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## **CULTURE MINISTER MARKS DANUBE DAY IN TRANSYLVANIA**

Culture and Innovation Minister János Csák attended the opening ceremony of this year's Danube Day in Rimetea (Torockó), in central Romania, on Saturday.

In his address, the minister noted that 2023 saw the bicentennial of three events: it was in 1823 that poet Ferenc Kölcsey finalised the text that later

became Hungary's national anthem, while poet and revolutionary Sándor Petőfi and playwright Imre Madách were born in the same year. "They are the roots of Hungarian culture ... a tight weave, and when we talk about cohesion ... it is taking care of that fabric ... our shared treasure," the minister said.

"We must preserve our mother tongue, and not just the spoken language, but the language of dance and music ... that unparalleled cultural treasure that we have in our hands," Csák said. "Culture gives us an identity; without culture we would be like dust blowing in the wind. Preserving our culture and our identity will make us strong," he added.

Anita Altorjai, the head of public media provider Duna Mediaszolgálat, noted it was the ninth Danube Day organised by the Hungarian public media, "opening the doors of the Danube House wide open". She added that the exhibitions, concerts and literary events this year all focused on Petőfi's figure.

She also noted that preserving the spiritual heritage of ethnic Hungarian communities, presenting their historical and cultural values and presenting them to other communities in the Carpathian Basin and in the Hungarian diaspora was one of the most important tasks of the public media.

**COHESION DAY - HAC: US HUNGARIAN COMMUNITY NUMBERS 1.4 M**

According to the latest census in the United States, over 1.4 million

American citizens have declared themselves to be "Hungarian or of Hungarian origin", the head of the Hungarian American Coalition said in an interview given to the Hungarian public media on the occasion of the Day of National Cohesion.

Andrea Lauer Rice said the Hungarian community in the US had 100 organisations, 78 churches, 33 Hungarian schools, 25 scout organisations, and 12 cultural centres. She added that nearly all states had a Hungarian community. Lauer Rice, who is the US head of the Hungarian Diaspora Council, said the council was "a kind of global Hungarian network" with members learning from and helping each other. Concerning challenges facing US Hungarians, Lauer Rice mentioned issues around involving the younger generations, with special regard to those not speaking Hungarian. She noted that one million people out of America's 1.4 million strong Hungarian community no longer spoke the mother tongue, "typically being second, third, or fourth generation Americans". "However, they are fully aware of their roots and it is important that the Hungarian heritage is passed onto them through organisations of the diaspora," she added.

**GOVT OFFICIAL: EP RESOLUTION PROPOSAL ON HUNGARY POLITICAL OPINION 'SOLD AS FACT'**

The European Parliament's recent resolution expressing concern over

Hungary fulfilling the European Union's rotating presidency next year is "a political opinion which they are trying to sell as a fact ... and take in the direction of legislation", the state secretary for international relations and communications said on Friday. The interview on news portal Mandiner's "Reaction" podcast focused on political "attacks" against Hungary, especially an EP resolution adopted on Thursday, which said that Hungary was unfit to fulfil the European Council's presidency in the second half of 2024.

Zoltán Kovács said Hungary's left wing had been working for 13 years on preparing and promoting "these kinds of resolutions". But these are "political traps" which they would not be immediately released from, either, if they came to power, he added. Kovács said the presidency of the Council of the European Union was not a right that could be taken away, but rather an obligation. He said the European Parliament was trying increasingly harder to interfere in areas in which it has no authority under EU law.

"This is a political game in which it is important to knock down these little sticks like the European parliamentary resolution because they can later be referenced and lead to the drafting of law or legislation," Kovács said. "There is always some topical issue in connection with which they try to apply pressure," he said, adding that it was "obvious that an anti-Hungarian stance" had become "institutionalised" among left-wing MEPs over the last 13 years.





He noted the past “attacks” against Hungary over its media law and position on illegal migration, along with the consequences of Hungary “not falling in line on being pro-war”. He said the EP was “using every possible legal and political tool” against Hungary concerning its position on the war, even though the Hungarian people had made it clear that they want the government to be pro-peace. Regarding the war in Ukraine, the government has been saying “since day one” that it favours an urgent ceasefire and peace talks, “but each time Hungary deviates from the political direction of the EP’s left-wing majority, they bring out these reports and resolutions that present political opinions as facts, contain lies and serve political goals...” Kovács said. Their only purpose, he added, was to be referenced later. He said it would be a mistake for Hungary to change its approach of expressing its interests “whether they like it or not”.

He said it should also be made clear regarding the Russia-Ukraine war that the sanctions in place are not in central Europe’s interest, arguing that they hurt growth and sent inflation soaring. “This war won’t end in the foreseeable future, and thousands die every day,” Kovács said. He added that there was “minimal chance” that Ukraine could “achieve the kind of victory western Europeans imagine”, given their losses on the battlefield. Western Europe’s “daydreams driven by bottomless Russophobia and irrational narratives are pointing towards the death of

further hundreds and thousands every day, and not towards peace,” he said.

### **HOUSE SPEAKER EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES TO INDIAN COUNTERPART OVER TRAIN DISASTER**

House Speaker László Kövér sent telegrams to Jagdeep Dhankar, speaker of the Upper House of India’s Parliament, and Om Birla, speaker of the Lower House, expressing his condolences over the train crash that took place in the state of Odisha on Friday. According to the telegrams sent to MTI by the press office of parliament on Sunday, Kövér expressed his heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to relatives of the victims, and wished a speedy and full recovery to the injured. “In this hour of mourning, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families,” Kövér said in the telegrams. On Friday evening, at least 288 people died and more than 850 were injured when a passenger train was derailed and another train coming from the opposite direction crashed into its carriages in the eastern Indian state of Odisha.

### **DEPT PM MEETS GARIBASHVILI IN TBILISI**

Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén met Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili and Deputy Prime Minister Thea Tsulukiani for official talks in Tbilisi on Friday, the prime minister’s

office said. Semjén also held talks at the centre of the Georgian Orthodox Church, the statement said.

### **SZIJJÁRTÓ WELCOMES AGREEMENT BETWEEN HUNGARIAN-AZERI ENERGY COMPANIES**

The agreement between Hungary’s MVM CEnergy and Azerbaijan’s SOCAR will ensure the delivery of 100 million cubic metres of natural gas to Hungary before the end of the year, the minister of foreign affairs and trade said on Friday. The agreement has further secured Hungarian energy security, Péter Szijjártó said on Facebook. Diversification means involving multiple sources to guarantee secure supplies, rather than “switching one dependency to another”, Szijjártó said. “The delivery starting now may be the foundation of a long-term agreement that could ensure 2 billion cubic metres of gas from the Caucasus to Hungary every year,” he added.

### **ORBÁN DISCUSSES HUNGARY’S DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT WITH DEUTSCHE TELEKOM CEO**

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán discussed the outlooks, challenges and achievements related to digital developments in Hungary with Timotheus Höttges, chief executive of German telecommunications giant Deutsche Telekom, in Budapest on Friday, his press chief said. Orbán

and Höttinger were in agreement that digitalisation was of “key importance” to maintaining Hungary’s and Europe’s competitiveness and continue to consider each other “strategic partners” in the endeavour. Promoting investments and supporting infrastructure development is of fundamental importance to meeting the European Union’s 2030 Digital Decade targets, they said.

### **SZIJJÁRTÓ ANNOUNCES HUF 4 BN INVESTMENT OF DMG MORI IN BUDAPEST**

The number of high value-added investments is growing in Hungary, and R&D spending exceeded 1,000 billion forints (EUR 2.7bn) last year, the minister of foreign affairs and trade said on Friday, announcing an investment of German-Japanese machine manufacturer DMG MORI in Budapest. The 4 billion forint investment will be supported by an 870 million government grant, and

will create 50 jobs in a research and development project focusing on developing a software for machine manufacturing, Péter Szijjártó said.

### **HUNGARIAN, CHINESE PEOPLE SMUGGLERS APPREHENDED BY AIRPORT POLICE**

Proceedings have been launched for alleged people smuggling against three Hungarian and two Chinese citizens, airport police said on the police.hu website on Friday. The suspects apprehended recently had been supplying counterfeit identity cards, passports and driving licences to Chinese people since last October and they have also been regularly involved in transporting them, the statement said. The documents enabling the holder visa-free entry to the European Union were sold for several tens of thousands of euros each, it added.

In addition to trading with British, Slovenian, Greek and Portuguese

documents, the suspects were transporting Chinese citizens to Liszt Ferenc Airport in Budapest. Police have seized cash totalling in value nearly 100 million forints in pound sterling, euros, Norwegian crowns, Czech crowns and Chinese yuan, high-value cars and counterfeit documents during house searches held at seven locations simultaneously. Airport police have taken into custody five people and initiated their arrest.

### **UKRAINE CRISIS - OVER 13,000 REFUGEES ENTER HUNGARY ON SATURDAY**

Fully 6,585 refugees entered Hungary at the Ukraine-Hungary border on Saturday, while 6,845 came to the country via Romania, according to the national police headquarters (ORFK). Police issued temporary residence permits valid for 30 days to 61 people, ORFK said on Sunday. Fully 49 refugees, 21 children among them, travelled to Budapest by train.