

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/Róbert Heeredüis

Visitor at a painting by Renoir at a retrospective exhibition in the Museum of Fine Arts

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events related to the war in Ukraine

Finance ministry reports on Aug budget figures

TOP STORY

PM: OPPONENTS 'TARGETING HUNGARY SOVEREIGNTY'

Hungary's opponents want to use the crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine to force a return to the era of former prime minister Ferenc Gyurcsány, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told a meeting of MPs of ruling Fidesz and Christian Democrats.

The coming year will be about these opponents trying to "bring Hungary to its knees and take away its sovereignty", the daily Magyar Nemzet cited Orbán as telling the meeting in Esztergom, in northern Hungary, on Wednesday. "The stakes this year are extremely high because the Soros empire, bolstered by the governing Democrats in the US are launching an attack against the right-wing media ... in the majority of European countries," Orbán said. "It's clear that in America, where this matters, they want to send [former US president Donald] Trump straight to prison so that he doesn't threaten the power of [US financier George] Soros and the Democrats," he said. "The globalists need the European Commission and the US president, and Hungary is the thorn in their side on the way there." He said the reason for this was that "Hungary is the freest country in Europe today". There is a fence on the country's border and there is family policy instead of immigration, he said. Schools are free of "gender ideology", Hungary does not deliver weapons to Ukraine and does not want to get dragged into the war, he said.

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ORBÁN: HUNGARIANS 'FREE TO DECIDE THEIR FATE'

Hungarians today are free to decide their fate without any outside influence, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told a meeting of the ruling parties' parliamentary groups. The prime minister identified the "Soros empire, the Brussels bureaucracy and their allies" as Hungary's opponents from whom the country's sovereignty had to be defended. "They're the ones who will attack our economic sovereignty, want to eliminate our cultural sovereignty and want to take away our political sovereignty," he said.

Orbán said the attacks against Hungary's economic sovereignty came in the form of a push to have utility price caps scrapped and protecting multinationals so that they are free to raise prices "and make a profit off the Hungarian people". Hungary's opponents also want to strip the country of the power to protect families, he said. "And if all this wasn't enough, they want to let GMO-contaminated grain onto the Hungarian market at dumping prices," Orbán said. "And they also want to tell us where we can buy our energy from and for how much." Hungary's cultural sovereignty is under threat from the push to force migrants onto Hungary and set up "Europe's largest migrant ghetto here", the prime

minister said. "They want to force their gender ideology onto us, and they also want to be the ones to tell us how our universities should function and what can be taught there, even shutting out Hungarian students from joint European scholarship programmes in order to reach their goals," he said. The "obviously unlawful" withholding of funds from Hungary is an attack against the country's political sovereignty, the paper cited Orbán as saying.

Meanwhile, Hungary is being forced to make payments to Ukraine, "moreover they would admit Ukraine into the EU without any debate even though it meets none of the criteria set for other member states", he said. The prime minister also cited the "shameless foreign intervention in Hungarian public life" through monies sent from abroad.

The fight for Hungary's freedom will not just be decided in Brussels or in the US, but also in Hungary itself, in the cities and towns, the prime minister said. The supporters of the global elite are to be fined not only among the Brussels elite or the American Democrats, but they are also there in a host of Hungarian cities and towns, he said, pointing out the example of "uncontrolled Budapest where traffic jams, dirt and chaos reign". "And there's also the pseudo-civil groups and the self-proclaimed independent local media that have sprung out of nowhere and aim to create tensions

and scaremonger against nationally-minded local councils," Orbán said. They are all financed from Brussels or through the "Soros network" to set up "garrisons" where nationally-minded forces are in power, he added. The prime minister said that at stake in next year's European Parliament and local elections was preserving Hungary's sovereignty.

KOC SIS: PROTECTING SOVEREIGNTY AT STAKE AT NEXT YEAR'S EP ELECTIONS

What's at stake at next year's European Parliamentary elections is "whether we can protect our sovereignty" or not, the group leader of ruling Fidesz said on Thursday. Máté Kocsis told a press conference during a break at the Fidesz-Christian Democrats group meeting in Esztergom, in northern Hungary, that as long as the current "corrupt Brussels elite" stays in power and the national right-wing in the West cannot get stronger, there will be no major change.

Change would also involve European leaders setting out on the path to peace instead of war, he said. War should not be financed and supported but all available means must be used to stop it, he added.

In the European Union's country-specific recommendations, the bloc is trying to "dictate member states' decisions", he said, and rejected it as an "attempt to eliminate economic sovereignty". The EU

has recommended that Hungary scrap extraordinary taxes financing the utility price cuts and defence, and the interest rate moratorium protecting families, he said. "They also expect us to allow Ukrainian grain from questionable sources into the country, citing support for Ukraine," he said. The attempt to "eliminate [Hungary's] cultural sovereignty" is rooted in a debate on migration, he said. Hungary had apprehended more than 1 million migrants since setting up its border protection system, he added.

EU measures also aim to "force gender ideology" on Hungarians, despite last year's referendum "with unprecedented support" where 3.5 million people expressed their views on the matter, he said.

On the matter of political sovereignty, Kocsis insisted that the European Commission and EU institutions funded leftist Hungarian organisations and NGOs with "more money than the Soros empire". The EU is using the money of European citizens to fund Hungarian leftists, he said. Regarding Hungary's ratification of Sweden's NATO membership, Kocsis said the ruling parties' parliamentary groups had been unable to support Sweden's NATO accession as they are waiting for an explanation on the "defamatory" film made on Hungary by Sweden's public television. Kocsis said the two parliamentary groups had watched the film, in which "shocking lies" are told.

KOCSIS: GOVT TO LEAVE INTEREST SUBSIDIES IN PLACE

The government will not change interest subsidies for loans and will not raise the windfall tax on banks, Kocsis said in response to a question by MTI. He added that this was the group's position and all statements that differ from it should be regarded as personal opinions. Lending needs to be increased in 2024 and this requires subsidised loans and banks, he added.

In a speech the prime minister told the groups on Wednesday that the budget deficit will be kept on the path of decline and agreements with the chamber of trade and industry, as well as with the banking association, will be respected.

Kocsis said inflation was on a decreasing path and credit rating agencies recognised that the Hungarian economy stands on stable and strong foundations, while lending must be accelerated. Tax increase would go against this, so it would not be realistic, he added. Commenting on central bank governor György Matolcsy's remarks on the government's economic policy, he said there was a debate between the government and the central bank governor in certain economic policy issues.

Hungary's parliament will table a new draft law on the protection of children in the autumn session

and simultaneously, a legislation package will be submitted, designed to protect the country's sovereignty. The proposal aims to "make the job of those selling out the country abroad more difficult", Kocsis said. The proposed legislation package will contain an amendment enshrining the protection of sovereignty in the Fundamental Law, and regulations obliging all organisations running in elections to submit to the laws on party financing, he said. The Penal Code will also be amended, to make sure that "whoever sells out their own country abroad has to answer for their deeds before court at home," he said. He added that this was the case "in all serious European countries", citing the example of France. Fidesz lawmakers re-elected Kocsis as leader of their parliamentary group for another three years.

PRESIDENT NOVÁK IN UNSC: HUNGARY READY TO TAKE PART IN ANY PEACE INITIATIVE FOR A LASTING CEASEFIRE IN UKRAINE

Hungary supports and is open to take part in any peace initiative that creates a feasible environment for a lasting ceasefire in Ukraine and creates a roadmap towards a sustainable and just peace, President Katalin Novák said in the United Nations' Security Council in New York on Wednesday. In her address, delivered by the head of

the Hungarian state in the UNSC for the first time in several decades, Novák said that Hungary welcomed the Ukrainian peace initiative and was open to join the process. The personal presence of Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian president, in the UN is also an indication that “the moment has come to be serious about peace”, she said. Novák said she counted on Zelensky “to take action and facilitate the restoration of rights of ethnic Hungarians in Ukraine” as he personally promised at their meeting in Kyiv before and also in New York.

Novák said the war in Ukraine directly threatened Hungary as a neighbouring country, pointing out that Hungarians were also fighting and dying on the battlefield. The war in Ukraine directly threatened the security architecture of Europe, she added. The Hungarian president urged cooperation in promoting peace and security in Ukraine. “We need organisations, countries and personalities who can invite the warring partners to peace negotiations,” she said, adding that “we acknowledge the United Nations and the UN Security Council as essential actors in this process”. “We need countries, we need strong nations, for example the United States, China and Türkiye that are capable or ready to set the table for a possible solution, are capable or ready to talk with both sides and have the potential to influence the continuation further,” Novák said.

She underlined the importance of personalities, saying that “I’m convinced that Pope Francis is someone who can facilitate peace in Ukraine”. “Our history gives us so many examples that a small group of people, or even a single person can have an effect or turn the flow of history.” In her speech, Novák emphasised the role of women leaders in promoting a solution to conflicts. “Women leaders who join their forces to contribute to peacemaking can have a substantial contribution to this process,” the Hungarian president said.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: UN SHOULD SPEND LESS ON BUREAUCRACY, MORE ON PREVENTING TERRORISM

The United Nations should spend less on bureaucracy and spend more on the global fight against terrorism which Hungary greatly contributes to, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said in New York on Wednesday. The ministry cited Szijjártó telling a meeting to support victims of terrorism under the arrangements of the United Nations General Assembly session that “we are now faced with the most serious threat of terror globally ever” despite all efforts, and 6,700 lives were lost last year as a consequence of terrorist attacks.

Terrorism creates a vicious circle with illegal migration, given the fact that terrorism is one of the major root causes for migration and one of the consequences as well, he said. “As

a consequence of terrorism, many people have to flee, and on the other hand, terrorists can hide in the migratory waves,” he added.

Europe is highly exposed to the phenomenon of illegal migration, migrants have created parallel societies in multiple places of the EU, and “the perception that we could successfully integrate these people proved to be a failure”, he said. “So it’s an utmost priority for us to prevent terrorism from spreading and to eliminate the terrorist organizations as quickly as it is possible,” he added. Szijjártó said this will only be possible if the efforts are being based on a global cooperation and the UN must take a lead. He said it was unacceptable that only 3% of the budget of UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) is being issued by the regular budget of the UN. “Maybe we should spend less on bureaucracy here and spend a little bit more on preventing terrorism and supporting the victims of terrorism,” he added.

The second biggest centre of UNOCT has been set up in Budapest and “we are continuously expanding and increasing its capacities”, he said. Szijjártó also said that there was a growing number of attacks against Christian communities all over the world. “I am proudly representing a country which has a more than thousand-year Christian statehood, and therefore, we are pretty concerned about these targeted attacks against the Christian communities,” he said. Hungary gives all of its support to persecuted Christians, with more



than 50 million dollars spent so far on a programme called Hungary Helps which helps them to remain where their communities had been staying, he added.

THINK-TANK HEAD: BORDER PROTECTION CURE FOR ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Border protection is the cure for the illegal migration organised by NGOs both at the southern border of the United States and in Europe, the head of the Center for Fundamental Rights told The Washington Times journalist Tim Constantine's Capital Hill Show. "This mass migration that we see in Europe and the United States as well is organised illegal mass migration," Miklós Szánthó told Constantine, according to a Thursday statement by the think-tank. "Look at the participants, look at the actors! There are the warlords in Africa or the South American drug cartels in Mexico, the human traffickers, the human smugglers. There are the so-called human rights NGOs, who act as some kind of travel agencies, who are trying to organise the trips of these migrants," Szánthó said. Although these NGOs regard themselves as civil organisations, he said, "in reality those are political actors, mostly financed by the Open Society Foundation, by the Soros network." Illegal mass migration becomes fully organised in such a

way that "at the end of the day, there are the progressive liberal elites of the Western European countries, who promote this idea of Europe without borders." "But we do know that a nation is not a nation without borders," Szánthó said. "And this is the Hungarian experience, and this is why we are trying to protect our borders on the south. And in that way we are also protecting the borders of Europe."

MI HAZÁNK: WHO MUSTN'T BE ALLOWED TO BECOME 'WORLD GOVERNMENT'

Rather than "slavishly building the system", Hungary's leadership should resist efforts to turn the World Health Organization into a "world government", the deputy leader of opposition Mi Hazánk said on Thursday. A political declaration on the prevention of pandemics is being discussed at the ongoing United Nations General Assembly session, but this document "is not only worrying, but also presents terrifying prospects for the restriction of freedoms", creating the framework for a "world government", Dóra Dúró told a press conference. This is but the first step of a mechanism in a legal guise that will lead to next year's WHO pandemic preparedness treaty, Dúró said, speculating that the process would end with more vaccination drives that would "completely eliminate freedom".

Under the new system, the head of the WHO would have the authority to declare a health emergency without anyone else's approval, and the organisation would have control over certain national resources and the power to overrule certain national decisions, she warned. This would obviously weaken national sovereignty, Dúró said, insisting that the WHO "has by now clearly become a corporation of the pharmaceutical industry, representing the interests of its financiers and serving their goal to generate profits".

ONE POLICE OFFICER DEAD, SEVERAL OTHER OFFICERS INJURED IN ESZTERGOM BLAST

An investigation is ongoing in Esztergom, northern Hungary, at a site where a wanted man triggered a blast of a gas cylinder during a police operation, the Central Investigation Prosecutor's Office (KNYF) told MTI late on Wednesday. In the blast that occurred on the city's outskirts, one police officer, a member of counter-terrorism force TEK, died and four police officers and firefighters were seriously injured, KNYF said in a statement. Seven other police officers and firefighters sustained light injuries, it said, adding that "there are no civilians among those injured". According to preliminary information, the perpetrator also died in the blast, KNYF said.

Investigators say a TEK unit arrived at the site to conduct an operation at around 7pm. They raided the building after a man, listed on a criminal warrant, declined repeated calls to cooperate and, according to preliminary information, decided to explode a gas cylinder, KNYF said. An inspection with the involvement of several investigative authorities is still ongoing at the site, KNYF said. President Katalin Novák expressed her deepest condolences to the family members of the police officer who died in the blast. In a post on Facebook, she wished those injured a speedy recovery.

**BLUE PLANET FOUNDER
ÁDER ON UPCOMING
PLANET BUDAPEST 2023
EXPO**

Hungary has nothing “to be ashamed of” in terms of green transition and as regards climate protection, former president János Áder told the news portal Index, in an interview published ahead of the upcoming Planet Budapest 2023 expo on Thursday.

He told the portal that the expo, the largest international sustainability event in central Europe, will feature 140 Hungarian participants.

Áder, the founder and chairman of the Blue Planet Climate Protection Foundation which has organised the event, told the portal that in his address at the United Nations’ climate conference in 2021 he had raised the issue of an urgent need for global action to prevent a climate catastrophe. “But, as data suggest, no changes have taken place ever since in effect,” he said. Carbon dioxide emission continues to go up year by year and “in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, the world today is in a poorer state,” Áder added. The agreements in place cannot be enforced because “everybody is afraid of losing competitiveness”, Áder said, insisting that the only solution was an agreement by the G20 countries that defines which activities are supported and which one would be sanctioned. He said he saw the Russia-Ukraine war as hindering the conclusion of a broad agreement, arguing that beginning climate talks

with Russia, a major polluter, was under the present circumstances “inconceivable”.

Speaking about Hungary’s achievements in green transition and climate protection, Áder noted that the country was ranked among those 21 that had significantly reduced their CO2 emissions since 1990 while simultaneously raised their GDP. In terms of switching to alternative energy sources, he noted the doubling of solar energy capacity in each year since 2017.

The Budapest expo will be held between September 27 and October 1.

**CLOSE TO 12,000
UKRAINIAN CITIZENS
ENTER HUNGARY ON
WEDNESDAY**

Fully 6,707 Ukrainian citizens entered Hungary at the Ukraine-Hungary border on Wednesday, while 5,271 came to the country via Romania, according to the national police headquarters (ORFK). Police issued temporary residence permits valid for 30 days to 130 people, ORFK said on Thursday.

