

PHOTO OF THE DAY



President Katalin Novák in a Lynx combat vehicle at the opening of the Adaptive Hussars 23 international military exercise

MTI/Szilárd Kosztescsák

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plenary session of parliament

Stats office reports on Sept foreign trade, retail sales, commercial lodgings

Events connected to the wars in Ukraine, Israel

TOP STORY

HUNGARY-SLOVAKIA TIES 'SET FOR BEST CHAPTER'

Hungary and Slovakia are prepared "to write the best-ever chapter of their cooperation", Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said after meeting Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico in Bratislava on Tuesday.

Slovakia's recent election led to the formation of a "patriotic government which undertakes the enforcement of national interests and pursues sovereign politics", Szijjártó said, according to a ministry statement. Since cooperation between governments like this is easier, "I think we stand on the verge of a particularly beautiful period and huge opportunities when it comes to the future of Hungarian-Slovak relations," he said. Szijjártó said the two governments apply similar approaches to the key issues concerning the future of Europe, noting they both wanted peace in Ukraine, did not see weapons deliveries as the solution and wanted to bring a halt to illegal immigration waves. One main focus of bilateral talks in the coming period will be boosting cooperation against migration, he said, adding that both countries had a negative view of the EU's migration package. He said preparations for Fico's upcoming visit to Budapest will soon get under way. Szijjártó also met his Slovak counterpart, Juraj Blanár, Economy Minister Denisa Saková and Regional Development Minister Richard Raši.

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SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY-SLOVAKIA TIES HISTORICALLY MOST SUCCESSFUL UNDER FICO'S PREMIERSHIP

Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said after meeting Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico in Bratislava on Tuesday that in Hungary and Slovakia's experience, their bilateral ties had been the most effective and successful when Fico was prime minister of Slovakia. He noted the agreement signed nine years ago which resulted in "success stories" such as the bridges over the River Ipoly, the bridge over the Danube and cross-border infrastructure developments. "We're prepared to base the cooperation of the coming period on similar foundations, where the aim is for both countries, both nations to benefit from this good cooperation, to coordinate our border-region developments and make use of all the opportunities in our economic cooperation," Szijjártó said. He welcomed that the two countries will inaugurate another bridge over the Ipoly at the end of the year and the beginning of next year. Meanwhile, Szijjártó said another key link was that both Budapest and Bratislava approached the issue of energy supply from a place of "common sense" rather than from an ideological perspective. "Both countries use nuclear energy, and we refuse to back down on this," Szijjártó said. "We don't accept double standards or negative discrimination

against nuclear energy, as it forms an important basis of the energy supply and energy security of both countries."

In response to a question, Szijjártó said the Hungarian government was developing ties with almost all of its neighbours knowing that they do not agree on every single issue, adding that this was also true in the case of Slovakia.

DEFMIN OPENS ADAPTIVE HUSSARS 23 EXERCISE

Hungary's government sees the security of Hungarians and preserving peace as its priority, the defence minister said in Hódmezővásárhely on Tuesday, at the opening event of the Adaptive Hussars 23 international military exercise held in the presence of President Katalin Novák. Kristóf Szalay-Bobrovniczky said Hungary was building a military capable of facing all security challenges in close cooperation with its allies. In the current "era of dangers", Europe faces war, illegal migration and the threat of terrorism, Szalay-Bobrovniczky said. The national security service has warned of the possibility of "trained soldiers of terrorist organisations, and with them the threat of terrorism, at the borders of Hungary," he said. At the same time, the Armed Forces and defence industry are thriving, with new factories, successful recruitment, and performance showing "the Armed Forces have reached a new level", he said. Adaptive Hussars 23, a complex international exercise with participants

from Italy, Türkiye, Croatia and the US, is taking place in several parts of the country, involving much of the Armed Forces and public administration, he said. The exercise is about testing and developing the country's defence capabilities, he said. The initial phase involves some 1,000 troops, 340 of whom are foreign and 170 Hungarian. Besides Hungarian and foreign military units deployed to Hungary, the exercise involves some 4,500 members of Hungarian public administration, he said. Adaptive Hussars 23 is the largest exercise of the Hungarian Armed Forces this year, "a test of everything we have built and created so far. We will see where we stand and what and how we should bolster further," he said. The exercise will improve cooperation between various branches of public administration and soldiers, while public servants will have a better knowledge of how to help each other in joint tasks, he said.

In military life "we must always hope for the best but prepare for the worst. We must be ready to do what needs to be done for our family, our localities and the country..." Szalay-Bobrovniczky said.

OFFICIAL: HUNGARY-UK DATA-PROTECTION ACCORD TO INCREASE SECURITY

The data protection agreement between the Hungarian and British governments is expected to contribute towards bolstering the security of

Hungarians, Csaba Dömötör, state secretary at the prime minister's cabinet, said in a parliamentary debate on Tuesday. Dömötör said the new agreement was another step towards reinforcing the country's security "at a time of multiple crises and dangers" in connection with the wars in Ukraine and in the Middle East. Dömötör said the Hungarian government had already signed similar agreements with 30 other countries concerning the exchange and protection of classified information. The current agreement lays out rules applying to security cooperation, sharing, copying, translation and scrapping of classified documents, identifies the authorities involved, and establishes procedures to be applied when such documents are mishandled, the state secretary said. Under the agreement, Hungary and the UK agree to ensure equally stringent protection in respect of information exchanged under the accord, which also further strengthens cooperation between the two countries in the areas of defence, law enforcement, as well as in the fight against organised crime and terrorism, Dömötör added.

GOVT OFFICIAL EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES TO TRANSCARPATHIA LEADERS OVER WAR LOSSES

Levente Magyar, a state secretary of the foreign ministry, visited Transcarpathia on Monday and expressed his condolences to the region's leadership

over heavy losses sustained in the war. In a speech opening the meeting with the Transcarpathia general assembly and representatives of the military administration, Transcarpathia Governor Viktor Mikita thanked Hungary for its continuous help throughout the war. Magyar said the talks focused on joint projects. "The list of things Hungary and Ukraine have done together to mitigate war damage and ease the suffering is already long," he said. Both sides also looked into the future, preparing for trade and cooperation in peacetime, he said. He highlighted a Hungarian-Italian-Ukrainian investment aiming to establish a railway corridor linking Ukraine and the Italian coast, saying Hungary was supporting the Ukraine leg of the investment, among other projects. Ukraine and Hungary have recently won significant EU funding for the upgrade of a border crossing to ease the pressure on the Záhony-Cop (Csap) crossing, he said. Magyar thanked Mikita for his support of the Hungarians living in Transcarpathia, saying he had done everything in his power to preserve peace in the region. Lawmaker Julija Hrisina of the ruling Sluha narodu (Servant of the People) party also attended the meeting, and thanked Hungary for financing 100 ventilators for Ukrainian health-care institutions, adding that traditional cooperation between Transcarpathia and Hungary had strengthened after the start of the war.

In the afternoon, Magyar laid a wreath at the memorial site for the

soldiers who died in the war, and said he had been "shaken" by fast-growing number of graves. The war is becoming more intense, "and that supports the Hungarian narrative that peace is a priority," he said.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: ETHNIC HUNGARIAN ALLIANCE PERFORMED WELL IN SLOVAK ELECTION DESPITE 'HEADWIND'

Slovakia's ethnic Hungarian Alliance party performed well in the country's election despite "incredible headwind" and achieved the best results of the past decade and a half, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said in Bratislava on Tuesday. The ministry cited Szijjártó telling a joint press conference with Alliance leader Krisztián Forró that the results also made it clear which political force truly represented ethnic Hungarians in Slovakia. "Comparing the 4.4% with the combined 0.3% received by the other two parties clearly answers the question which some artificially keep open," he said. "We will count on joint work with Alliance in developing Hungarian-Slovak cooperation and we will also count on cooperation with Alliance when preparing proposals to improve the situation of ethnic Hungarians in Slovakia," he added. The government considers ethnic Hungarians a link and resource in terms of bilateral relations between the two countries, he said.

HUNGARIANS SEE BETTER TIES IF TRUMP WINS

Relations with America are likely to improve if Donald Trump wins the US election next November, according to a public opinion survey published on Tuesday. Fully 47% see a Trump win as beneficial for Hungary, while 22% believe the same in the case of a continued administration of Joe Biden, the Real-PR 93 survey published by Magyar Nemzet said. Altogether 31% of respondents did not have an opinion on the issue.

FIDESZ MEP: NARROWING OF MINORITY RIGHTS IN UKRAINE 'UNACCEPTABLE'

The narrowing of minority rights during the implementation of European Union reforms in Ukraine is "unacceptable", ruling Fidesz MEP Andrea Bocskor said on Tuesday. The European Parliament's foreign affairs and development committee has held coordination talks with Olivér Várhelyi, the European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, about the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) involving development assistance to Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and countries of the southern partnership. Bocskor said in a statement that one of the conditions for EU candidacy is guaranteeing the rights of national minorities, and Ukraine's minority law failed to do this sufficiently. "This

is unacceptable," she said, expressing hope that this would be reflected in the European Commission's assessment of the EU enlargement proposal to be published on Wednesday.

KARÁCSONY: TEMPORARY HIRING OF GUEST WORKERS HARMS ECONOMY

Employing guest workers through hiring companies will negatively impact the labour market in the long run, the mayor of Budapest said on Tuesday, adding that the city of Budapest will not allow such practices for its own companies. Gergely Karácsony said on Facebook that "it cannot be a good job in which there is no actual relationship between employee and employer ... where one company just lends employees to another". This will make employers vulnerable, curb their rights and prevent low earners from closing the gap, he insisted. Employee rights should be reinforced, while wages need to be raised, he said. "Hungary does have labour reserves and it would be a crime to give those up," he said. Referring to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's remarks made in parliament, suggesting that Budapest had just employed 13 foreign nationals as bus drivers, Karácsony said the statement was "nowhere near reality". He also said the government "should explain why they now promote the employment of tens of thousands of guest workers from third countries after long years of inciting against them". He added, however, that "the problem is not with foreigners ... the greatness of Budapest lies in its diversity and it will

stay like that." The practice itself does not promote a relationship between employer and employee, and exposes employees become to their rights being curbed, he said.

LMP CALLS FOR TIGHTENING HUNGARY'S ANTI-GMO STANCE

Hungary's firm stance for GMO-free food products should be further tightened to guarantee food safety, opposition LMP said on Tuesday. Antal Csárdi, LMP's deputy group leader, told a press conference that the party is proposing that parliament adopt a declaration on the matter. Csárdi said several parliamentary groups were divided, with Momentum and Jobbik-Conservatives not voting for an earlier proposal declaring Hungary's opposition to the EU's pro-GMO recommendation, which "would allow such produce to flood European markets ... by eliminating member states' right to weigh the decisions individually". Momentum's party family in the EU, Renew Europe, "is neoliberal and extremely pro-market, and a vocal proponent of giving free rein to genetically modified produce", he said. LMP is proposing a declaration that would take a stance for a GMO-free Hungary "independent of party affiliations", Csárdi said. The declaration would clearly oppose new GMO technologies, he said. Hungarians have a right to know whether their elected representatives take a stance for a GMO-free Hungary, he said. Meanwhile, the debate has gained new momentum in the EU as "chemical

industry players and seed producers are planning to launch a new technology that would prevent consumers from knowing whether the food they buy is genetically modified," he said.

PÁRBSZÉD FILES COMPLAINT OVER WASTE MANAGEMENT AT SAMSUNG PLANT

The opposition Párbeszéd-Zöldek is filing a complaint over suspected violation of waste management rules by the Samsung plant in Göd near Budapest and asked the chief public prosecutor to investigate it, the leader of the party's European parliamentary list said on Tuesday. Benedek Jávor told an online press conference that according to an environmental review, the plant's operation had been "practically continually irregular" in recent years and it was still impossible to ensure that it could operate without violating environmental threshold values. The party has previously called on the authorities to withdraw the factory's operational permit, Jávor said. A response Samsung SDI has given to

numerous concerns failed to address issues concerning air pollution, noise and water use, he added. As a result, Párbeszéd believes the plant's lawful operation cannot be guaranteed, he said. Samsung SDI has failed to clarify what happens with the 40,000 tonnes of waste produced, partially including hazardous waste, he added.

CLOSE TO 8,000 UKRAINIAN CITIZENS ENTER HUNGARY ON MONDAY

Fully 4,544 Ukrainian citizens entered Hungary at the Ukraine-Hungary border on Monday, while 3,652 came to the country via Romania, according to the national police headquarters (ORFK). Police issued temporary residence permits valid for 30 days to 45 people, ORFK said on Tuesday.

HUNGARY SEPT INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT DOWN 7.3% YR/YR

Hungarian industrial output in September fell by 7.3% year on year, after dropping 5.2% in the previous

month, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said on Tuesday. Adjusted for the number of working days, September output fell by an annual 5.8%. Gains were seen in electrical equipment and automotive production, while declines were registered in the output of computers, electronics and optical equipment as well as of food, drinks and tobacco. Month on month, output rose by 1.2%, based on seasonally and working day-adjusted data. In the January-September period, output dropped by 4.9% year on year.

BIRD FLU DETECTED IN E HUNGARY

A highly pathogenic strand of bird flu, H5N1, was detected at a duck farm in Hajdúnánás, in eastern Hungary, food safety authority Nébih said on Tuesday. Culling has already started at the farm keeping 22,500 animals, Nébih said. Nébih has called on farmers to adhere to epidemiological regulations and keep the animals in enclosed spaces in at-risk locations.