

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/György Varga

Aurora Borealis over Lake Balaton on May 10

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plenary session of parliament

**Events related to the wars
in the Middle East, Ukraine**

TOP STORY

SZIJJÁRTÓ: EP ELECTION TO DECIDE 'IF WE LIVE IN PEACE OR WAR'

The foreign minister has said in connection with the upcoming EP elections that "in these extraordinary times the person of elected officials could largely determine if we live in peace in the future or in war".

The foreign ministry quoted Péter Szijjártó as saying in Komárom, in northern Hungary, on Friday that the incumbent leaders of Europe had given "ill-advised responses" to the war in Ukraine. Their measures "complemented with ambiguous remarks" could lead to the conflict "expanding geographically and in time", he added. In war times "responsible political leaders must be most circumspect not only in their decision making but when they just say something ... in a war environment talking about sending troops or mentioning a nuclear war is the greatest possible mistake and the largest irresponsibility," Szijjártó said. He said the EU's sanctions against Russia had resulted in unprecedentedly high inflation in Europe. Hungary's annual energy spending of 7 billion euros had shot up to 17 billion euros, which resulted in "higher prices for all products ... that is how we ended up having 27% inflation rather than the usual one or two percent," he said. "And not because we are stupid or got the economic policy wrong or made three or four bad decisions, but only because of that misguided response of Brussels," he said.

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SZIJJÁRTÓ: PACTS WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT TO HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON HUNGARY DEVELOPMENT

Agreements concluded with the Chinese president during his visit to Budapest will have a positive impact on Hungary's development in the long term, the minister of foreign affairs and trade said on Sunday. The three-day visit Xi Jinping paid to Hungary leading a 400-member delegation is of historic importance from four aspects, Péter Szijjártó told public broadcaster Kossuth Radio. The last time a Chinese president visited Hungary was 20 years ago and the two countries celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year, he said. China is "way ahead" of the western economies in terms of the most basic trends in global economy, and the leader of the strongest country in the pro-peace camp of countries that form a global majority" paid a visit to Hungary at a time of war, Szijjártó said. With the visit, relations between the two countries have been elevated to a level of strategic partnership cooperation, a category in which the Chinese include only five countries, with Hungary being the only one from Europe, said Szijjártó.

The minister highlighted the decision by Chinese electric car manufacturer BYD and another three electric battery manufacturers

to build plants in Hungary. "With this, we've managed to achieve something that has not been witnessed in the history of the Hungarian economy for quite a long time, namely that Hungary is at the forefront of a technological revolution," Szijjártó said. In addition, he said that "companies participating in the electric automotive industry's technological revolution and playing a leading role in it consider Hungary as a location not only for production, but also for R+D and engineering". As regards cooperation to be extended to nuclear energy, Szijjártó said the main focus area will be on research and development, the nuclear industry's possibilities in health science and possibilities in environment protection and recycling. In connection with plans aimed at separating the Chinese and European economies which have been advocated by some left-wing politicians, Szijjártó said such plans must be prevented.

BÓKA: EU LAGGING BEHIND GLOBAL COMPETITORS

The EU today lags behind other global players in terms of world economic competitiveness, János Bóka, the minister for European Union affairs, said on Friday. Summarising an article he wrote in the Eurázsia Magazine, Bóka said in a post on Facebook that the EU faced structural problems,

explaining that whereas in the past it had guaranteed access to cheap energy and raw materials, today the global market and the connectivity between Western and Eastern technologies were under threat. Also, the "instinct" of European institutions, particularly the European Commission, to "overregulate" was leading to European industry policy becoming a "planned economy", the minister said. Thirdly, he argued that the central and eastern European region, "which in the past decade has been the fastest-growing region", was being "systematically held back" rather than being used as Europe's engine of growth. Bóka said developments over the past decades had shown that interdependence among economic players could also become a source of conflict, so it would be worth considering whether interdependence should be reduced or, in some cases, eliminated.

Hungary's government, he said, believed direct conflict between the major economic players could be avoided. "And this is in our fundamental interest, and accordingly, de-risking should also be reduced to a reasonable level," he added. The minister said Hungary had an interest in the development of a trade policy that was not directed against any given economic player, but served to broaden European economic interests and strategic autonomy, and was based on detailed and objective impact studies.

**MINISTRY OFFICIAL:
SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN
MINORITY IN HUNGARY
MORE IMPORTANT THAN
EVER BEFORE**

Supporting the Ukrainian minority in Hungary and the representation of their rights is more important than ever before, the foreign ministry's state secretary for developing bilateral relations told a Hungarian-Ukrainian youth conference in Budapest on Saturday. Boglárka Illés called those two goals important, citing studies suggesting that the number of Ukrainian nationals settling and currently living in Hungary has increased to over 40,000 from few thousand earlier. The Hungarian government firmly condemns Russia's aggression against Ukraine, she said. Hungary has carried out the largest ever humanitarian aid operation since the outbreak of the war in neighbouring Ukraine, she said. While Hungary recognises Ukraine's right to defend itself, it provides help in every possible form to refugees fleeing the war, said Illés. Since February 2022, more than one million people have crossed the border to Hungary from Ukraine, she said, adding that over 5,000 Ukrainian children are ensured education and safe supplies in some 1,500 schools in Hungary. Hungary also provides support to more than half a million families in Ukraine in the form of developing and refurbishing schools and hospitals. Support must be provided, Illés said,

arguing that there should be a focus on the future "which is in the hands of our children and our youth". She thanked Liliana Grexa, spokesperson of the ethnic Ukrainian minority in Hungary's parliament, for initiating and organising the conference. "The war must be brought to an end as soon as possible, and Ukraine must be rebuilt..., and young people including the participants of this current event will play a huge role in that," Illés said. Grexa said the idea of taking steps to improve Ukrainian-Hungarian relations had occurred to her last December and she saw an opportunity in organising a forum for young Ukrainians and Hungarians to meet, exchange their views and so start a dialogue.

**DK: GREENPEACE REPORT
SHOWS SAMSUNG
BATTERY PLANT THREAT
TO GÖD, NEARBY TOWNS**

A Greenpeace report shows that fetotoxic substances in the wastewater near the Samsung battery plant in God near Budapest also threaten nearby towns including Dunakeszi, the environment and climate affairs shadow minister of opposition Democratic Coalition said on Sunday. Olivio Kocsis-Cake told an online press conference that toxic water had spilled onto arable land near the plant. In line with a court ruling, the Samsung plant in Göd should have stopped operations a long time ago but "the Orbán government continues to protect the factory with an obvious lie", he said.

The DK politician said that the head of the Prime Minister's Office attributed at a recent government briefing the factory's continued operations to postal delivery problems. DK demands that the government should immediately put a halt to the construction of new battery plants and calls for an investigation by independent experts of the operation of existing plants, he said. "We must not allow Far Eastern-owned battery plants that neglect Hungarian laws and regulations to contaminate the water reserves for residents, and make their properties lose in value," he added. László Szilágyi, the opposition's mayoral candidate of Göd, said that early this year it was revealed that 88 tonnes of fetotoxic substance had been leaked in the air in two years which "could cause serious problems in the area". The factory has since received a permit to expand by 43,000 square metres, he said.

**HUNGARY, CHINA TO
COOPERATE ON ROLLING
STOCK PRODUCTION**

Hungary's Acemil on Friday evening said it has signed a cooperation agreement with Chinese rolling stock maker CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive. The agreement extends to the procurement of locomotives and the joint creation of production capacities in Hungary, Acemil said in a statement. The sides agreed to set up four joint centres in Hungary for rolling stock production, maintenance, railway education and R+D. Acemil said it had previously also reached an agreement with CRRC Shandong,

the world's leading rail freight wagon manufacturer, on the joint assembly and production of freight wagons in Hungary. The talks and the signing ceremony were attended by representatives of the construction and transport ministry, railway company MÁV-Start, Rail Cargo Hungária, railway maintenance unit TS-MÁV Gépészet and MÁV Rail Tours.

HUNGARY, CHINA SIGN FILM INDUSTRY COOPERATION PACT

Csaba Káel, government commissioner in charge of the Hungarian film industry, and Mao Yu, head of the China Film Administration, signed a comprehensive agreement on film industry cooperation between Hungary and China, Hungary's National Film Institute (NFI) said on Friday. The agreement aims to promote professional cooperation in the film industry and pave the way for joint productions, NFI said in a statement. It also extends to film industry training and mutual promotion of Hungarian and Chinese films, the statement

added. NFI said China was one of the world's few film distribution markets where local productions outgross American blockbusters at the box office. China's film industry, they said, was in its "third heyday", adding that both countries' governments considered the film industry a strategic sector. The statement quoted Kael as saying that Hungary was currently the number one location for film production in continental Europe, adding that Budapest's geographical and film industry characteristics could make it "an excellent new hub" for East-West film industry relations. The delegation from the China Film Administration visited the NFI's Film Archives and Film Laboratory as well as the institute's studios in Fót, on the outskirts of the capital.

MINISTRY OFFICIAL ADDRESSES YUNUS EMRE STATUE UNVEILING IN LAKITELEK

Hungary and Türkiye are bonded by a friendship with deep roots

and a strategic alliance, the foreign ministry's deputy state secretary for security policy said at the unveiling of a statue of Turkish poet Yunus Emre in Lakitelek, in central Hungary, on Saturday. The 13th century poet had a great impact on Turkish literature, he used a language and vocabulary that was "close to the people" and contributed to the development of the Turkish language, said Henrietta Balajthy. Hungary and Türkiye commemorate the 100th anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties "in a due manner" by elevating their partnership to a special strategic level and with a Hungarian-Turkish cultural season, she said. Turkish Ambassador Gülşen Karanis Ekşioğlu said the new statue is a symbol of good morals and humane human values. The peoples of Hungary and Türkiye that share a common history are linked by common bonds of friendship, she said, adding that "Yunus Emre's philosophy can be found both in the Hungarian people's spirit and in Turkish poetry".