

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Prime Minister Viktor Orbán addressing the Peace March in Budapest

UPCOMING EVENTS

Election campaign events

Events related to the wars
in the Middle East, Ukraine

TOP STORY

PEACE MARCH - ORBÁN: 'WE DO NOT WANT TO SHED BLOOD FOR UKRAINE, WE WILL NOT GO TO WAR'

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told participants of the Peace March in Budapest on Saturday that giving up on peace meant "choosing to die for the cause of Ukraine", but "we do not want to shed blood for Ukraine, we will not go to war, and we will not die for somebody else on foreign soil", he said.

In a speech delivered on Margaret Island, Orbán endorsed the candidates of the Fidesz-Christian Democrats alliance in the European Parliament election and said that Hungary could only stay out of the war if Hungarian voters backed up the government. "Do we want to shed Hungarian blood for Ukraine? No! We will not go to war, we will not die for somebody else on foreign soil," Orbán said in his speech. Addressing the Peace March, organised by the Civic Union (COF) and its foundation COKA, Orbán said it would be impossible to hide from the war, and that the only antidote to war was peace. "Our mission is to stay out of the war and preserve Hungary as an island of peace," Orbán said. He said evil was behind world wars and urged people not to give in. The time for exorcism has come, he added. "Either we win or they win. There is no third way, only a third world war," he said. Orbán said there was no solution to the war on the battlefield and called for a ceasefire and peace talks.

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ORBÁN: ELECTION MUST BE WON NEXT WEEK

The election must be won next week, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said addressing the Peace March on Saturday. An election victory and reinforcement from every country in Europe would pave the way for the establishment of a European pro-peace coalition in Brussels, he added, stating that a “transatlantic peace coalition” could be established in the autumn “if the Americans elect a pro-peace president”. We were “in the minority” at the start of the year, but could be “in the majority” by year-end, he said. Referring to the European Parliament and local elections to be held on June 9, he said “we must put the pedal to the metal”. “Victory will come only if we all go to vote. Only peace! Only Fidesz!”, he added. Orbán said there were already enough pro-war politicians in Brussels, so the candidates of Fidesz-Christian Democrats, headed by Tamás Deutsch, needed to “occupy Brussels”. “We need our own kind there, who don’t believe in war and violence, but believe in the power of love and solidarity,” he added. He said the 2022 victory of Fidesz-Christian Democrats in national elections had “raised the price of Hungarian shares on the political bourses of every capital in Europe”. Although those shares are in demand, they are not for sale, not to Brussels, not to Washington and not to George Soros, he added. In a message

to ethnic Hungarians in Transcarpathia, in the west of Ukraine, Orbán said the day was not far off when “your destiny will take a turn for the better”. He also sent his regards and wished a speedy recovery to “Slovakia’s pro-peace Prime Minister” Robert Fico, adding that Fico had been shot because he stood on the side of peace, “practically giving his life for peace”. He said Fico was “made of sterner stuff than most” and would return to put Slovakia and Hungary side by side in the fight for peace. Orbán said the ruling parties’ victory in the European Parliament election needed to scare the Brussels bureaucrats out of their offices. He noted that Fidesz-Christian Democrats had won all elections since the autumn of 2006, including parliamentary, local council and European elections. “We have won eleven times in one go. An absolute record, a KO, an undisputable victory,” he added. Orbán said that the Fidesz-Christian Democrats camp was the largest, most unified and most hardened camp in all of Europe, and the ruling parties were able to campaign most successfully, theirs being the largest election army.

“Never before have so many people lined up for peace, because the only purpose of the Hungarians’ election army is to preserve peace,” he said. “We are Europe’s largest legion of peace, we are Europe’s greatest peace-preserving force,” he added. Orbán said the Fidesz-Christian Democrats were again “on the verge of a huge victory”.

Orbán said Fidesz had a “great chance” to score a goal, but still had

to take the shot. Having a routine is an advantage in government work, but during a campaign “routine is poison, routine kills”, he added. He said a good campaign needed a common cause and a successful campaign required heart, while passion was necessary for a winning campaign. “Another week of hard work, the legendary Fidesz finish, and we will push the enemy off the field,” he said. He added that the task at hand was greater than ever before: to prevent Europe from rushing into war and to its ruin. He said Europe was making preparations for war and that “every day another stretch of the road to hell is inaugurated”, pointing to initiatives involving hundreds of billions of euros for Ukraine, the deployment of nuclear weapons in the middle of Europe, the conscription of young men into a foreign army, NATO’s Ukraine mission and units of European soldiers in Ukraine. “It appears that the pro-war train has no brakes, and the engine driver is insane,” he said, adding that stopping that train was at stake in the EP elections. He said the Hungarian government knew how to do this and noted that it had earlier decoupled the “Hungarian carriage” from the pro-migration “train” and rescued Hungarian children from the hands of gender activists. We won’t allow our children and our grandchildren to be shipped to the Ukrainian front, either, he said. “No migration, no gender, no war,” he added. Every vote cast for Fidesz-Christian Democrats in the European Parliament election “saves lives”, he said. Every vote for

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Fidesz-Christian Democrats increases the weight of the pro-peace side and affirms Hungary's decision to stay out of the war, he added. "We can only stay out of the war if ours will be the biggest election victory in Europe," he said. If the left-wing wins, he added, it would only be a matter of time before the war caught up with Hungary. Orbán said the pro-war side was "beyond common sense" and wanted to beat Russia, just as was attempted in the first and second World War, and was even ready to clash with the entire East. He likened the intoxication of war to a drug that removes all responsibility and said the pro-war side was "uninterested in the future of your children". "They can't be won over, so we won't win them over, we will defeat them," he added. He said the founding fathers of the EU were right in believing the continent could not bear another war. As for Hungary, "we can gain nothing in war but stand to lose everything", he added. He noted that the lives of one and a half million Hungarians had been lost in the first and second World War and wondered "how strong our country would be" if they hadn't died. "I will say it slowly, so they understand in Brussels, too: We will not enter the war. We will not march east for the third time, we will not return to the Russian front, we've been there before, and we have no business there," he said. "We will not sacrifice Hungarian youth for the profit of wartime speculators," he added. Orbán said that George Soros had written the "script" for a victory

over Russia using Western weapons and Eastern European troops, then replacing the lives lost with migrants, 30 years earlier. He added that the Hungarian left wing were "payrolled" by Soros.

PEACE MARCH ARRIVES ON MARGARET ISLAND

A Peace March, organised by the Civic Union (CÖF) and its foundation CÖKA, arrived at a meadow on Margaret Island a little before three o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday.

As the first Peace March participants arrived at the meadow, the end of the procession was still in front of the parliament building, stretching along the Danube embankment road to Jászai Mari Square and across Margaret Bridge. The participants marched behind a "NO WAR" banner. At the front of the procession were Tamás Deutsch, who heads the European Parliament list of ruling Fidesz-KDNP, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén, National Agriculture Chamber head Balazs Györfy, CÖF-CÖKA spokesman Zoltán Lomnici, editor-in-chief of weekly Demokrata András Bencsik, the publicist Zsolt Bayer, the political scientist Tamás Fricz, CÖF founder László Csizmadia, the journalist István Stefka, the businessman Gábor Szeles, the presenter Ádám Fásy and the frontman of the band Edda Attila Pataky. Many of the participants carried signs reading "Go Hungary!", "Fidesz", "Vote! June 9." "No war, No gender and No migration" as well as ones

with the names of cities and towns. There was also a European Union Civil Cooperation Council flag in the crowd. The crowd sang the national anthem and the Kossuth Nóta, a patriotic song, during the march. They also chanted "Go Hungary! Go Hungarians!" and "Go Fidesz!". The national flag, the Szekler flag, the German flag and the Swiss flag also appeared in the crowd.

OPPOSITION PARTIES WEIGH IN ON ORBÁN SPEECH

List leaders of opposition parties in the European Parliament election responded to a speech by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán delivered at the Peace March in Budapest on Saturday. In a statement, Klára Dobrev, the EP list leader of DK-MSZP-Párbeszéd, called Orbán "the only pro-war politician in Europe" and said he had signed a "dirty deal" with Russian President Vladimir Putin on gas that required Hungarians to pay "the highest gas prices in Europe". "Viktor Orbán is financing Putin's war in Ukraine with Hungarian money," she added. Anna Donáth, the head of Momentum, said Orbán had "taken a stand for Russia's total victory and Ukraine's defeat behind a peace banner". Anybody who is pro-peace backs Ukraine, not Russia, she added in a post on Facebook. Donáth said supporting Ukraine to defend itself and win its fight for freedom would lead to peace. LMP co-head Péter Ungár said Orbán was mistaken to say the EP election was a vote of confidence in

the government. The EP elections are about issues within the scope of the European Parliament, such as the green transition, not World War III, he added.

ELECTION 2024: KARÁCSONY PLEDGES IMPROVED LIVING STANDARDS, VITÉZY PROMISES DEVELOPMENTS INSTEAD OF PARTY POLITICS

Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony, the mayoral candidate of opposition Párbeszéd-Greens-DK-MSZP, said late on Friday that his main goal was to improve living standards for Budapest residents, while Dávid Vitézy, the mayoral candidate of opposition LMP and the With David Vitézy Association for Budapest, said Budapest needed developments rather than being used as a battleground for party politics. A debate of mayoral candidates held on the Partizan Youtube channel was not attended by Alexandra Szentkirályi, the ruling parties' candidate. Karácsony said he was a politician open to green, left-wing, liberal values, as well as conservative values, adding that Budapest and Hungary should become greener and more equal. He said a starting point for his measures as mayor was the human desire to live a fuller, healthier and longer life.

Vitézy said he was not a party politician, adding that his programme offered an opportunity to replace the party politics that dominated Budapest. He criticised Karácsony for

failing to fulfil his election promises, and using his position as mayor for advancing his own political goals.

Karácsony said that the coronavirus pandemic, the energy crisis and government austerity measures in recent year had taken 365 billion forints from city coffers. He said that despite the poor condition of roads, the public transport system in Budapest had developed dynamically, and he called the rollout of a combined public transport pass "of historic importance".

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF PARLT LACKS QUORUM

An extraordinary session of parliament called by opposition parties on Friday lacked quorum as the governing parties stayed away. MPs could only make remarks ahead of the agenda during the session which last for around 45 minutes.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: GOVT DOES NOT ALLOW HUNGARY TO BE 'SUCKED INTO NATO'S WAR MADNESS'

Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said after an informal meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Prague on Friday that "some statements showing a total lack of sober judgment" had been made but the government will not allow Hungary "to be sucked into NATO's war madness". The ministry cited Szijjártó telling a press conference that "the war express has pulled out of the penultimate station" and it

is questionable if there was still a chance to stop it. "I think there is only one emergency brake left that we can rely on, which is the June 9 EP election, in which European people, among them Hungarian voters, can make it clear for their governments that they do not want to live in war in Europe in the long term," he said. Szijjártó said the atmosphere of the meeting had been "as if we were in the last phases of preparation for war". He said several "dangerous proposals" had been made, for instance that the Ukrainian army could aim US weapons at Russian targets, and western experts would be dispatched to Ukraine for training soldiers. "We believe that with all these proposals and ideas, NATO will make more, and increasingly large steps in the direction of getting involved in the war, whereas two and a half years ago we decided together that NATO must not be part of the war," he said.

HUNGARY'S EU PRESIDENCY TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

Hungary will place special emphasis on ensuring accessibility for people living with disabilities when it takes the revolving presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of the year, the Government Information Centre said on Sunday.

A common goal of Hungary's EU presidency is to support equal opportunity, especially for people living with disabilities. All events

organised by the Hungarian presidency will be accessible to people living with physical and sensory disabilities, ensuring the broadest range of participation and equal access.

PAPPIN: HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY TO OFFER ALTERNATIVE TO CURRENT EU POLICIES

The Hungarian presidency of the Council of the European Union to start on July 1 can offer a good alternative to current EU policies, the president of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA) said on Friday. Gladden Pappin said in his opening address at a conference dubbed Sovereignty and Integration - 20 Years of Hungary in the EU that the European continent had once again become the scene of ideology-based battles. He said that in recent years, Europe's economic competitiveness declined and its social cohesion significantly weakened. The EU needs a new concept and policy which could make the community a stronger and more significant player in the world, Pappin said, adding that he expected positive changes as a result of the Hungarian presidency.

SEMJÉN: STRONG HUNGARY GUARANTEE OF SURVIVAL

Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén said the guarantee of Hungarians' survival was a strong Hungary, one

with a will to continue and proud of its language, culture and history, marking the Day of National Cohesion in Zebegény, northern Hungary, on Saturday. Semjén, the head of the co-ruling Christian Democrats, said that Hungary also needed to be strong enough to protect its national interests as well as compatriots living outside of the borders. Parliament declared June 4 the Day of National Cohesion in 2010. June 4 was selected to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Trianon in 1920.

POTÁPI: STRONG HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATION NEEDED IN ROMANIA AND BRUSSELS

Árpád János Potápi, the state secretary in charge of policies for Hungarian communities abroad, said keeping the network of institutions for Hungarians living outside of the country's borders operating required a strong Hungarian representation in Transylvania, too, speaking at Danube Days in Rimetea (Torockó), in central Romania, late Saturday.

Let there be no illusions: only Hungarians will advocate for Hungarians, Potápi said in a speech on the closing day of the event. On June 9, it's your turn to show the true strength of Transylvanian Hungarians and ensure a strong Hungarian representation in both Romania and Brussels, he added, referring to European Parliament

and local council elections. He acknowledged Anita Altorjai, the head of public media provider Duna Médiaszolgáltató, and all of the public media staff whose work contributed to preserving the spiritual and cultural heritage of Hungarian communities abroad. Altorjai noted that Hungary's public media had purchased and renovated the Danube House in the settlement ten years earlier to host events and cultural programmes. A decade later, the importance of the Danube House and Danube Days is clear, she added. "We are one nation, we speak one language and our common roots are in the Carpathian Basin," she said, marking the Day of National Cohesion, declared by Hungarian lawmakers in 2010. Szilárd Deák-Székely, the mayor of the settlement, acknowledged Duna Médiaszolgáltató for the programmes organised in the Danube House throughout the year. In Torockó, "it is good to be Hungarian", he added.

SPACE COMMISSIONER CALLS HUNGARY, ESA COOPERATION "SUCCESS STORY"

Orsolya Ferencz, the foreign ministry's commissioner for space science, has called Hungary's membership in the European Space Agency (ESA) since 2015 a "real success story". Speaking to public current affairs channel M1, Ferencz summarized the Hungarian Incentive Scheme programme which was launched

in cooperation of ESA and the foreign ministry and had come to a close. Under the programme the Hungarian space sector could learn about opportunities provided by ESA, she said. "Those opportunities have played a key role in a faster development of the sector, in making it more competitive and more prepared for future ESA programmes," she said. Ferencz called Hungary's cooperation with ESA "a pillar" of Hungary's space strategy, noting the space agency was an official partner in the Hungarian to Orbit (HUNOR) astronaut programme. Geraldine Naja, ESA's Director of Commercialisation, Industry and Competitiveness, said at a press conference on the incentive scheme that "the excellent cooperation between ESA and the foreign ministry has played a highly important role in Hungary's significant improvement in space research". She said the HUNOR programme to be carried out in partnership with ESA offered Hungary "an immense opportunity" for Hungary in future.

FINMIN: MOODY'S DELIVERS FAVOURABLE ASSESSMENT OF HUNGARIAN ECONOMY

Moody's Ratings gave a favourable assessment of Hungary's economy in a periodic review of the country's sovereign rating, Finance Minister Mihály Varga said in a post on Facebook in the early hours of Saturday. Varga noted that Moody's

had not taken a rating action and said Hungary's current rating remained in force with a stable outlook.

In its analysis, Moody's gave a positive evaluation of the government's reduction of the budget gap and public debt, he said. Moody's also acknowledged the Hungarian economy's strong growth outlook, pointing to expanding investments as well as strengthening exports and consumption, he added. "In spite of the war in neighbouring Ukraine and the deterioration of the European Union's competitiveness, all three big credit rating agencies put Hungary in the investment grade category and rate it two notches higher than at the beginning of the last decade," he said. The National Economy Ministry said in a statement that confidence in Hungary remained unbroken in spite of the escalating wartime situation. Hungary's assessment on international money markets is favourable and Hungarian government securities remain popular, evidenced by successful bond auctions and inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI), it added. Germany's biggest carmakers are ploughing money into investments in Hungary, joined by high-tech EV industry players, such as China's BYD and CATL, it said. Hungary's financing position is stable and secure, and the government is committed to disciplined fiscal management as well as reducing the budget gap and state debt, it added.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: TDK INVESTING HUF 26 BN IN SZOMBATHELY

TDK could create 250 jobs with a 26 billion forint (EUR 67m) investment in Szombathely, western Hungary, Péter Szijjártó, the minister of foreign affairs and trade, said at the inauguration of a building at the Japanese-owned company's base in the city on Friday.

The investment programme is adding 12,000sqm of production area at the base, he said. TDK is bringing production of electronics for the automotive industry that aren't made anywhere else in Europe to Szombathely, the minister added. He said Hungary had faced "tight competition" in attracting the investment, adding that it was supported with 6.7 billion forints from the state. In a press release, TDK said it was bringing production of sensors to the base that were not made elsewhere in the European Union as the manufacturing base for the products at a TDK base in Indonesia reached its capacity limit.

HUNGARY SUPPORTS RESTORATION OF CENTURY-OLD HUNGARIAN CEMETERY IN US

A century-old cemetery in the US state of Georgia, the final resting place for Hungarian vintners who emigrated there, was re-opened on Saturday,

following a restoration undertaken with support from Hungary. Deputy state secretary of the Prime Minister's Office Péter Szilágyi acknowledged the Hungarian Community Church of

Georgia for coordinating the restoration which was supported by the state secretariat for national policy, Bethlen Gábor Fund Management and various companies and private individuals.

Around 200 wine-making families from Hungary emigrated to the area in the west of Georgia at the invitation of an American businessman in the 1880s.